



## **Annual Report of the IAH Groundwater and Energy Commission for 2017**

The Groundwater and Energy Commission (GWEC) is starting to gain some momentum. After the initial meeting of the GWEC in Montpellier, France in 2016, we had slightly larger presence at the 44th IAH Congress held in Dubrovnik, Croatia. There were energy-themed talks scattered over a number of sessions, including talks on impacts of oil and gas development, deep hydrogeology and geothermal energy. At the GWEC meeting in Dubrovnik, we had 13 attendees from 11 countries at that meeting. That was approximately double our numbers from our meeting in France in 2016. Discussion at the meeting focused around unconventional oil and gas, geothermal energy and carbon sequestration.

One of our current initiatives is a review of unconventional oil and gas impacts on groundwater. We have thus far been able to engage researchers from Australia (Wendy Timms), Canada (Grant Ferguson), the United Kingdom (Ian Davey and Rob Ward) and the United States (Bridget Scanlon). We are looking to broaden our coverage of this issue globally from areas where development has occurred or has been considered, including areas with moratoria. In a related effort, Scanlon and Ferguson are currently undertaking a broader review of co-produced fluids and disposal practices. We plan to publish this work in *Hydrogeology Journal* and are considering proposing a special issue on groundwater in energy in the near future. Several attendees at Dubrovnik expressed interest in having the GWEC undertake work on geothermal energy. This certainly fits within the scope of the commission and we hope to pursue work in this area.

In 2018 we will have a presence at Resources for Future Generations 2018 in Vancouver, Canada, Use of the deep subsurface in London, U.K., GeoEdmonton in Edmonton, Canada. We are also currently in discussions with the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists to have a presence at their future meetings.