The IUGS-IFG Raymond Murray Award
In 2020, the IUGS-IFG Award for Forensic Geology, was renamed the IUGS-IFG Raymond Murray Award. A coin/medal has been designed in honour of ‘Ray’ featuring his portrait, and which also appears on a certificate. Ray’s family have been informed and support the award. The next Raymond Murray award is planned to be presented at the IUGS-IFG Annual General Meeting, to be held in Italy, in 2025. A formal voting system will be established later in the year so suitable nominations can be proposed by members of the IUGS-IFG Committee.

SWISSAID, African Gold Report
Gold smuggling causes African countries to lose billions of dollars every year. A new report from SWISSAID provides unprecedented figures on this market over the period 2012-2022. Between 2012 and 2022, the UAE imported 2,569 tonnes of undeclared gold for export to African countries, worth more than $115.3 billion. This is what the Swiss foundation SWISSAID reveals in a new report published on May 30 and illustrating with new figures a well-known phenomenon in the African mining sector.

Money laundering and trade based on laundering in gold.
The Sunday Times, a UK newspaper, reported on money laundering and trade-based laundering in the global supply chain. This includes a network or organisations linked to drug money, money laundering in Dubai and gold mining operations. [Link to article](https://www.thetimes.com/uk/crime/article/cocaine-inc-how-british-drugs-cash-is-turned-into-solid-gold-in-dubai-cmrvjsgwg#:~:text=As%20part%20of%20a%20new,and%20whole%20goldmining%20operations%20in)

Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC), GEO trace meeting, Florida, USA
An in-person meeting of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC) Group was held on 12 to 14 May 2024, at the Hyatt Regency, Jacksonville, Florida, USA. The OSAC Geo trace materials sub group met at this venue as part of the wider OSAC organisation to discuss key areas of importance for geological materials in criminal investigations and held wider discussions with the Trace working group. The sub groups consists of Fibres, Geo, Glass, Hair, Interpretation, Physical fit, Polymers and Terminology. IUGS-IFG Treasurer, Lorna Dawson, was invited to attend as an affiliate member of the Geo trace material sub group and contribute to the Geo trace group activities. Alastair Ruffell, Training Officer, IUGS-IFG also joined on-line for some of the Geo trace sub group sessions. Libby Stern also attended some sessions remotely.

The status of the latest three documents was discussed in the sub group - XRD document ‘Guide for Forensic Analysis of Geological materials by powder X Ray Diffraction’; Soil Collection document ‘Standard Guide for Collection of Soils and Other Geological Trace Evidence for Criminal Forensic Applications’; and the ‘Electron Microscopy Diffraction Scanning’ document. At the meeting the Geo sub group also liaised with the Anthropology, Wildlife and Interpretation forensic sub groups to discuss areas of common interest and outline potential new Standards and Standards development and improvement. In addition, research needs were discussed and proposals were drafted for consideration on a range of topics, including the opportunity to use emerging technologies to utilise geological databases for forensic use and bias in transfer and persistence. This collaboration between OSAC and IUGS-IFG enables sharing of best practice and opportunities for cooperation.