

Dr. Robert B. Finkelman, retired in 2005 after 32 years with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), is currently a Research Professor at the University of Texas at Dallas. He is an internationally recognized scientist widely known for his work on coal chemistry and as a leader of the emerging field of Medical Geology. Dr. Finkelman has degrees in geology, geochemistry, and chemistry. He has a diverse professional background having worked for the federal government (USGS) and private industry (Exxon), formed a consulting company (Environmental and Coal Associates), and has lectured and provided mentorship at colleges and universities around the world. Most of Dr. Finkelman's professional career has been devoted to understanding the properties of coal and how these properties affect coal's technological performance, economic byproduct potential, and environmental and health impacts. For the past 13 years he has devoted his efforts to developing the field of Medical Geology. Dr. Finkelman is the author of more than 600 publications and has been invited to speak in more than 50 countries. Dr. Finkelman has served as Chairman of the Geological Society of America's Coal Geology Division; Chair of the International Association for Cosmochemistry and Geochemistry, Working Group on Geochemistry and Health; founding member and past chair of the International Medical Geology Association; President of the Society for Organic Petrology; member of the American Registry of Pathology Board of Scientific Directors and is currently 2nd Vice President of the GSA's Geology and Health Division. He was a recipient of the Ninninger Meteorite Award; recipient of the Gordon H. Wood Jr. Memorial Award from the AAPG Eastern Section; a Fellow of the Geological Society of America; and a recipient of the Cady Award from the GSA's Coal Geology Division. Dr. Finkelman was also awarded a U. S. State Department Embassy Science Fellowship for a three-month assignment in South Africa. He was recently a member of a National Research Council committee looking at the future of coal in the U.S.