



Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

www.minersoc.org

MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY LAUNCHES GEOMICROBIOLOGY NETWORK



At the March 2014 meeting of the Mineralogical Society's Council, the new Geomicrobiology Network was formed and will operate in the same way as the Society's special interest groups. The Society for General Microbiology has also committed to supporting the network for an initial three-year period, to be reviewed at the end of that period.

We are lucky to host a strong geomicrobiology community in the UK, but until now, there has been no dedicated forum to support it. At the interface between geology and the biosciences, it has traditionally fallen between the core interests of several learned societies. Research areas include astrobiology, bioenergetics, bioleaching, biomineralisation, bionanotechnology, bioremediation, bioweathering, deep biosphere, environmental genomics, geomycology, microbe-metal/radionuclide interactions, microbial fuel cells and structural biology.

A preliminary scientific meeting of the new network (with support from the Environmental Mineralogy Group, the Mineralogical Society, the Society for General Microbiology, the Geological Society of London, and the British Mycological Society), held in Manchester in April 2012, had the aim to build a sustainable network that could better support this rapidly moving research area. The next such meeting will take place on 10–11 September 2014 in Newcastle, UK. Details are available at www.minersoc.org/gmb.html. Keynote speakers will include F. Widdel (Bremen), Steve Larter (Calgary), plus one other.

The Geomicrobiology Network will also work to improve the interface between UK academia and industry (nuclear, petroleum, environmental sectors) and major EU groups in our field.

The recently appointed committee consists of Chair J. Lloyd, Treasurer Geoff Gadd, Secretary Vern Phoenix, and committee members Barrie Johnson, Lynn Macaskie, Tom Clarke, John Parks, Ian Head, Charles Cockell, Vicky Coker and Joanne Santini. The group will also appoint a communications person and a student representative.

SOCIETY LAUNCHES NEW AWARD: BEST PAPER IN HONOUR OF R. A. HOWIE

An award will be made annually to "the lead author of the 'best paper' published (in English) in a mineralogical journal (*sensu lato*) within three years of the award of his/her PhD". The nomination process is outlined below.

The award will take the form of a bursary (£1000) to attend an international conference (to be agreed with the Society) to present a paper which will be entitled the "R. A. Howie Memorial Lecture". The money will be paid on receipt of an official confirmation of registration for the conference.

The R. A. Howie Memorial Lecture Award is named in honour of Prof. R. A. Howie (1923–2012), who was a distinguished professor of mineralogy at Kings College London and Royal Holloway University, London.

Nominations can be made by any scientist (including a co-author) but not the nominee him/herself and must be supported by a fellow scientist familiar with the nominee's work.

Further information is available at www.minersoc.org/best-paper1.html.

CLAY MINERALS GROUP AND ENVIRONMENTAL MINERALOGY GROUP



Research in Progress Meeting

22 September 2014, Durham University, UK

This meeting, postponed from March of this year, will now take place in the autumn. Oral and poster presentations are welcome in the following areas:

- (1) Advances in understanding the structure of clays and environmental minerals
- (2) Reactivity at clay and environmental mineral surfaces
- (3) Interaction of organics and inorganics with clays and environmental minerals
- (4) Role of clays and environmental minerals in biogeochemical cycling of natural species and contaminants
- (5) Applications of clays and environmental minerals, including clays and related minerals, in hydrocarbon research

Please visit www.minersoc.org/cm-g-emg-rip.html for more details. Note that there is no registration fee for this event. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

EUROCLAY 2015

Plans for this major international meeting are gathering pace. Check our website at www.euroclay2015.org for updates about the programme, fieldtrips, social programme, and scientific programme.

ALAN DYER, 80th-BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Long-time member Prof. Alan Dyer celebrated his 80th birthday this year with a special session in his honour at the British Zeolite Association conference (www.bza.org). Pictured are (back row, left to right) Jenny Readman, Alan Dyer, Paul Anderson, Rodney Townsend, Jorg Kaerger, (front row, left to right) Craig Williams, Linda Campbell, and Risto Harjula.



GATTA WINS EMU MEDAL



Diego Gatta was awarded the 2013 European Mineralogical Union Medal for Research Excellence during the 2014 EGU conference held in Vienna. Dr Gatta is a member of the Editorial Board of *Mineralogical Magazine* and former winner of the Mineralogical Society's Max Hey Medal.

TWITTER

Finally, make sure to "follow" us on Twitter (@MinSoc_UK). Have you seen our "Mineral Monday" event yet? It's great fun. Thanks to Council member Dr Claire Corkhill for her help in running the account.

