



Association Internationale pour l'Étude des Argiles

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AIPEA CLAY CONFERENCES



As you probably know, our community is on the move: The last meeting of the Euroclay series was successfully organized last July in Bari (Italy) by Saverio Fiore and the Associazione Italiana per lo Studio delle Argille, and the final International Clay Conference will be organized in July next year (18–25 July 2025) in Dublin by Steve Hiller, Kevin Murphy, and the Clay Minerals Group of the Mineralogical Society of the UK and Ireland (<https://icc.aipea.org/>). From 2027 onward, these

two historical conferences will merge to give rise to a new series of conferences simply titled CLAY. This unified series of CLAY conferences will be held every other year, ideally with hosts and locations alternating between ECGA-affiliated societies and National Clay Groups (NCGs) worldwide. The first conference of this new series will be CLAY 2027 organized by the Sociedad Española de Arcillas in Madrid (Spain) in June 2027. As proposals to organize the CLAY 2029 conference will be due before the July 2025 Dublin ICC conference, it is thus time for potential organizers to begin planning and inquiring about possible venues for this future conference. As clay scientists, do not hesitate to attend these different gatherings as they testify to the vivid character of our community.

They are also great opportunities to share your research results, to benefit from the experience of other participants, to discuss and enrich that of others with your own experience and expertise, to create or broaden your network, and to generate new projects.

Bruno Lanson, AIPEA President

AIPEA NETWORK OF EARLY CAREER CLAY SCIENTISTS



In 2021, AIPEA established an Early Career Clay Scientists (ECCS) Committee for scientists within 5 years of completion of their PhD. The creation of the committee triggered the establishment of a network of ECCS, which has been very active since then. The core event to allow early career scientists to meet regularly is the online bi-monthly webinar series, an idea of ECCS Committee member Guanzheng Zhuang. Each webinar is organized by the national clay group

representative, comprises one to four talks, and lasts about 1 hour. There are 30–50 connections per event. Since the launch of the event in February 2023, we have had an amazing opportunity to discover research on clay minerals from different parts of the world: from the Korean Clay Science Society, Indian Clay Group, Spanish Clay Society, The Clay Science Society of Japan, Italian Association for the Study of Clays, Croatian Clay Group, and German-Austrian-Swiss Clay Group (DTG). The next event is planned on May 24 and will be organized by the representatives of the Clay Minerals Society. Indeed, an online event like this series is very relevant for an international network to meet regularly.

The ECCS Committee also organizes workshops for early career researchers during clay conferences. Previously, activities were carried out during the International Clay Conference in Istanbul, Turkey in 2022 and the Euroclay 2023 conference in Bari, Italy. The topics of the workshops were suggested by network members such as “Becoming a supervisor,” “Writing a research grant proposal: where to start,” “Clay Scientific Societies: interest in becoming a member,” and “Meet the editors of the clay science journals.” The committee also serves as a contact point to collect and share the information from national clay groups about available grants and other support to early career researchers to attend conferences and to disseminate information about conferences and other announcements. Last but not least, the committee manages the AIPEA Research and travel grants for early career scientists attributed every four years during the International Clay Conference and, starting in 2027, the CLAY conference series.

Liva Dzene, Chair, AIPEA ECCS Network



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