

<http://meteoriticalsociety.org>

## 2024 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society (MetSoc 24) was held from 28 July to 2 August 2024, at the Palace of the Academies in Brussels, Belgium. This was the first MetSoc meeting in Belgium, at the heart of Europe, and also the first since the pandemic to be in-person only. The organization was a joint effort between the Université Libre de Bruxelles, the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, and the Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, and was ensured to run smoothly thanks to the large volumes of Belgian chocolates. In total, 505 participants from 33 different countries attended the conference, including 329 professionals (scientists + exhibitors), 137 student participants, and 39 guests. A total of 470 abstracts were accepted for 314 oral, 150 poster, and 6 print-only presentations. Oral presentations were scheduled in three parallel sessions from Monday (29 July) to Friday (2 August) while two poster sessions took place on Tuesday and Thursday in the late afternoon, with many good discussions over drinks, including the Impact Ale beer, brewed specifically for the conference.



The conference kicked off on Saturday 27 July and Sunday 28 July with the pre-conference workshop chaired by Aurore Hutzler (ESA) and Tomohiro Usui (JAXA) at the Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences in Brussels, dedicated to the advanced curation of extra-terrestrial samples in an increasing international community. Around 100 participants attended the workshop. On Sunday, this was followed by the welcome reception that took place at the magnificent city hall of Brussels. The Barringer lecture was presented on Monday evening by Véronique Dehant of the Royal Observatory of Belgium in the art-deco theater of the Plaza Hotel in Brussels followed by drinks and a walking dinner. Her talk, entitled “Does the Red Planet have a heart? Results from the Mars InSight mission” was dedicated to the deep interior of Mars. The talk was attended by a large audience.

On Wednesday morning, the presentation of Society Awards and distinguished lectures occurred. Monica Grady, recipient of the Leonard Medal, gave a lecture about “A Voyage in Space and Time.” John Spray, recipient of the Barringer Medal, presented on “Bulk Versus Discrete Deformation in Rocks: A Question of Scale?” Richard Greenwood received the Service Award, while Elishevah van Kooten was awarded the Nier Prize. On Wednesday afternoon, the attendees could enjoy some of the cultural hotspots in and around Brussels: the Atomium and the mini-Europe park, the European Parliament and the House of Europe, a walk in the historical center of Brussels, the discovery on boat of the beautiful city of Ghent, or a visit to the Waterloo battlefield where the fate of Europe was determined. The conference banquet took place on Wednesday evening at the Museum of Natural Sciences. The participants could enjoy a walking dinner and some dancing amongst the famous dinosaur gallery.

The conference concluded on Friday mid-afternoon, when around 130 attendees said their goodbyes over ice cream and the last cans of Impact Ale during a farewell party.

The conference program and abstract volume can be accessed on the website of the Lunar and Planetary Institute: [https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/metsoc2024/technical\\_program/](https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/metsoc2024/technical_program/).

We would like to thank the local organizing committee: Hasnaa Aoudjehanne Chennaoui (Hassan II University of Casablanca), Dina Cabrita (ULB), Bernard Charlier (ULiège), Philippe Claeys (VUB), Max Collinet (UNamur), Sophie Decrée (BINS), Jean-Guillaume Feignon (VUB), Pim Kaskes (ULB), Lisa Kramer Ruggiu (VUB), Katarina Miljkovic (Curtin University), Olivier Namur (KULeuven), Gabriel Pinto (BINS), Trygve Prestgard (VUB), Maxwell Thiemens (VUB), Maria Valdes (the Field Museum), and Flore Van Maldegheem, (UCopenhagen)—and also our many Belgian colleagues who greatly helped us to improve the conference experience: Marleen De Ceukelaire, Thierry Leduc, Thomas Goovaerts, and Karine Triquenaux. We also thank Hasnaa Aoudjehanne Chennaoui who chaired the scientific program committee, composed of Maizey Benner (UArizona), Bernard Charlier (ULiège), Max Collinet (UNamur), Luigi Folco (UPisa), Jérôme Gattacecca (CEREGE), Richard Greenwood (Open University), Pierre Haenecour (UArizona), Philipp Heck (Field Museum), Ming-Chang Liu (LLNL), Takachi Mikouchi (UTokyo), Olivier Namur (KULeuven), Lidia Pittarello (Naturhistorisches Museum Wien), Uwe Reimold (UBrasilia), Maria Schönbächler (ETH Zurich), Anuj Singh, (UAllahabad), Haoxuan Sun (IPGP), and Akira Yamaguchi (NIPR). Pierre Haenecour chaired the travel award committee that provided travel grants to 67 attendees to participate in Brussels, for a total of US \$84,000. This was made possible thanks to the support of the Barringer Crater Company, The Brian Mason Fund, Elsevier, the Macovich Meteorite Collection, the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum, NASA, the O. Richard Norton Fund, The Planetary Studies Foundation, and of course, the Meteoritical Society early career and TIM travel awards. Renée Dotson and Jamie Shumbera from LPI have been of invaluable help on the abstract submission and program design. Our sponsors, FWO and FNRS, CAMECA instruments, Nu Instruments, and Thermo Scientific, are greatly acknowledged for their financial support. The Meteoritical Society Council is thanked for its trust and guidance. Finally, we would like to sincerely thank the beating heart of the conference—the large number of master students, PhD students, and postdoctoral researchers from all Belgian universities who volunteered to make this conference possible.

**Vinciane Debaille and Steven Goderis**

Co-chairs of the MetSoc 2024 Local Organization Committee

## SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS

The Society gives five major awards each year. For more information on individual awards, please see the Call for Nominations and the Society webpage. Congratulations to the highly deserving awardees, and thank you to all our members who took the time to nominate our colleagues for consideration and who serve on award committees.



**The Leonard Medal** is given to individuals who have made outstanding original contributions to the science of meteoritics or closely allied fields. The Meteoritical Society presents the 2024 Leonard Medal to **Monica Grady** for her major contributions to understanding the light element geochemistry, abundances, and origins of extraterrestrial materials such as presolar and

solar carbonaceous phases in chondrites, which contribute to the volatile inventories of the terrestrial planets and the evolution of Mars. Full citation: <https://doi.org/10.1111/maps.14230>.



**The Barringer Medal** is given for outstanding work in the field of impact cratering and/or work that has led to a better understanding of impact phenomena. The Meteoritical Society presents the 2024 Barringer Medal to **John Spray** for his highly innovative theoretical and applied research on a range of topics, from high strain rate deformation of crustal rocks to meteorites and regolith formation, and for which he has combined field, analytical, and experimental aspects. Full citation: <https://doi.org/10.1111/maps.14232>.



**The Nier Prize** is given for significant research in the field of meteoritics and closely related fields by an early career scientist under the age of 35 or whose PhD was awarded <7 years ago. The Meteoritical Society presents the 2024 Alfred O. Nier Prize for a distinguished young scientist to **Elishevah van Kooten** for her broad-based perspective that uses well-chosen observations and a team approach to constrain longstanding puzzles about the origins of the first planetesimals, and for developing advanced new high-precision analytical methods in two different isotopic systems. Full citation: <https://doi.org/10.1111/maps.14226>.



**The Service Award** honors members who have advanced the goals of the Society to promote research and education in meteoritics and planetary science in ways other than by conducting scientific research. The Meteoritical Society presents the 2024 Service Award to **Richard Greenwood** for his extensive education and public outreach work, and his service to the Society and community, and on his large contribution to classification and curation of extraterrestrial samples. Full citation: <https://doi.org/10.1111/maps.14231>.



**The GORDON MCKAY AWARD** is given each year to the student who gives the best oral presentation at the annual meeting of the society. The award honors the memory of Gordon A. McKay and is supported by the McKay Fund, which was established in 2008 as a part of the Meteoritical Society's endowment. The McKay Award for the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society in Brussels goes to **Daniel Sheikh** (Portland State University, USA) for the talk entitled "Application of Electron Backscatter Diffraction (EBSD) to Investigate the Petrogenesis and Shock Deformation History of a Pink Spinel" and to **Leah Shteynman** (Arizona State University, USA) for the talk entitled "Zircon to Reidite and Back Again: Using Nano-Scale Fabrics to Constrain Transformation Mechanisms." The award comes with a prize of US \$1,000 and a certificate.



**The WILEY-BLACKWELL AWARD** is presented for outstanding presentations by students at the annual meeting of the society. Wiley-Blackwell are the publishers of *Meteoritics and Planetary Science* and, for the 86<sup>th</sup> meeting in Brussels, they sponsored five awards of US \$500 each. The winners for 2024 include **Sian Boulty** (Royal Holloway,



Sian Boulty



Shiori Inada



Moshammat Mijum



Anna Musolino



Anna Zappatini

University of London, UK) for the presentation "NIMROD UK Radar Data Use in Tracking and Locating UK Meteorites Falls," **Shiori Inada** (University of Tokyo, Japan) for the presentation "Theory of Kinetic Isotope Fractionation During Evaporation," **Moshammat Mijum** (Purdue University, USA) for the presentation "Effects of Subsample Heterogeneity and Diffusion Kinetics on the Cosmic Ray Exposure Ages of Enstatite (E) Chondrites," **Anna Musolino** (UNIPI, Italy and CEREGE, France) for the presentation "Evaluating the Use of Decomposed Zircons for the Identification of Impact and Airburst Glasses," and **Anna Zappatini** (University of Bern, Switzerland) for the presentation "Al-Khadhaf: A Camera-Observed H5-6 Fall from Oman."

## CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

Please consider nominating a colleague for one of the Society's awards. Nominations should be sent to the society secretary at ([metsosec@gmail.com](mailto:metsosec@gmail.com)) by 15 January (31 January for the Pellas-Ryder Award and the Service Award). For more information and details on how to submit a nomination for any of these awards, please see the latest Newsletter at the Society website or email the secretary.

## UPDATED ANNUAL MEETING CALENDAR

<b>2025</b>	(87 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting) 14–18 July Perth, Australia
<b>2026</b>	(88 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting) 9–14 August; Frankfurt, Germany (EU)
<b>2027</b>	(89 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting) 26–30 July Flagstaff, Arizona, USA
<b>2028</b>	(90 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting) 30 July–4 August (tentative); Antofagasta, Chile

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Please renew by **March 31, 2025**; after that date, a \$15 late fee will be assessed. You can renew online at: <https://meteoritical.org/society/membership>.