

THE 27th V.M. GOLDSCHMIDT CONFERENCE

GOLDSCHMIDT2017: BREAKING RECORDS!

The 27th Goldschmidt Conference of the European Association of Geochemistry (EAG) and the Geochemical Society (GS) took place 13–18 August in Paris (France) and, while preparations for Goldschmidt2018 in Boston (Massachusetts, USA) are already under way, we'd like to share with you some highlights, and a few statistics, from the recent Paris conference.



The glittering Eiffel Tower during the dinner cruise.

Goldschmidt2017 certainly broke several records, including the highest number of attendees (4,630) and abstracts (4,264). The conference's success is the product of the hundreds of volunteers who served on the various committees (Science, Organising and Local) and who acted as theme chairs, convenors, mentors, and bloggers. We warmly thank all contributors for their time and commitment, and we would like to say a special "Thank you" to our fantastic team of student helpers.

The dedication and leadership of three people, however, stand out: Antje Boetius (Principal Convenor and Chair of the Organising & Science Committees), Bernard Marty (EAG President), and Marc Chaussidon (Chair of the Local Organising Committee).

Goldschmidt2017 Statistics

Number of attendees	4,630
Students	33%
Number of abstracts	4,264
Parallel sessions	20
Sessions	143
Oral presentations	2,189
Posters	2,177

Participants came from 85 countries, some as far as New Zealand! The 20 most represented countries were:

USA	847
France	698
Germany	515
Great Britain	498
China	441
Australia	183
Switzerland	174
Japan	170
Canada	125
South Korea	102
Russia	77
India	69
Sweden	61
Spain	60
Belgium	57
Denmark	56
Netherlands	54
Brazil	53
Israel	53
Norway	38

EARLY CAREER SCIENTISTS PROGRAM AND SUPPORT

We thank Adina Paytan for her efforts in setting up an extensive program aimed at Goldschmidt2017's junior delegates.

This year, the program included:

- Nine lunchtime workshops, which were attended by 371 students
- 'Meet the Plenary' event, which allowed groups of students to share lunch with the plenary speaker of the day
- The Mentor Program, which comprised 168 mentors and 214 mentees

New for 2017 were the Pop-up Talks presented by passionate young researchers. This initiative was developed by junior scientists Steffi Lutz, Kimberley Bitterwolf and Alexandra Holland. To find out more, please read the blog post 'Love Triangles and Spies – Geochemistry in 3 Minutes', by Claire Cousins.

The Goldschmidt Conference has a strong tradition of supporting the attendance of delegates from countries with low-income economies, and, in 2017, the Grant Program enabled 58 junior scientists to attend. We thank the Geochemical Society and publisher Elsevier for their financial support to this program. Another 27 grants were awarded to US-based students thanks to generous contributions from the National Science Foundation (USA) and NASA.

MEDALLISTS AND PLENARY LECTURES

Recognition of scientific excellence is at the heart of EAG and GS values, and this is perfectly illustrated by the 14 awards presented at this year's conference—another record! We congratulate all the medallists. The full list of medallists is available at <https://goldschmidt.info/2017/medals-view>. Interviews with some of the medallists can be found on the EAG Blog page for Goldschmidt2017 (<http://blog.eag.eu.com/category/goldschmidt2017/>).



The Geochemical Fellows award ceremony.

This year's Goldschmidt also marked the launch of a new award, the Robert Berner Lecture, created by students and friends of the late Professor Robert Berner (1935–2015) of Yale University (USA) to commemorate his intellectual legacy in geochemistry. The inaugural Robert Berner Lecture was awarded to Joshua West (University of Southern California, USA).

Goldschmidt is always keen to find outstanding plenary speakers: people able to bring new perspectives to a large audience. This year's speakers, and their lectures, included:

- Matthieu Gounelle, "From Prodigies to Meteorites (1492–1803)"
- Paul Falkowski, "How Corals Make Rocks"
- H el ene Langevin-Joliot, "Pierre and Marie Curie and Radioactivity"
- Laurie Reisberg, "Highly Siderophile Elements: A Window into the Earth's Mantle"
- Shuhei Ono, "Clumped Isotopologue (¹³CH₃D) Fingerprinting of Methane Sources"

PRESS COVERAGE

Substantial efforts were put into communicating our science to the general public and, through the teamwork of Press Officer Tom Parkhill and EAG Councillors Vinciane Debaille, Siggí Gíslason, Emily Pope and Dominik Weiss, Goldschmidt2017 received extensive international press coverage. Articles appeared in, for example, the *Times*, *Agence France Presse*, the *Washington Post*, *El Pais*, *El Mundo*, the *Guardian*, *Science*, the *Australian*, *BBC News* and were broadcast on German State Radio.

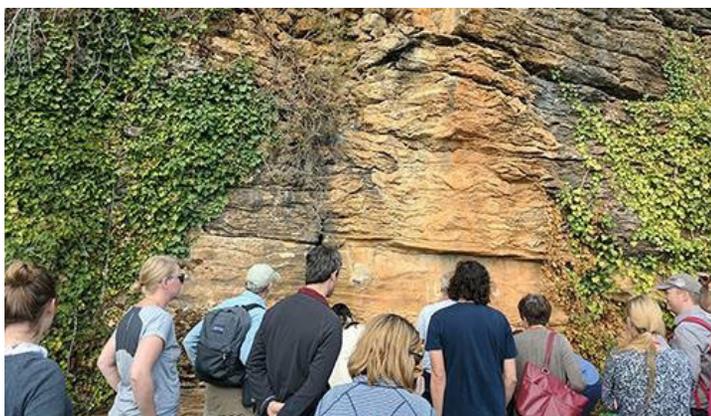
Here are some highlights:

- *BBC News* – “Radioactive ‘pooh sticks’ trace carbon’s ocean journey”
- *The Washington Post* – “The first animals evolved during the absolute worst time on Earth”
- *Science* – “Record-shattering 2.7-million-year-old ice core reveals start of the ice ages”
- *Sky News Australia* – “Mars rover to focus on alien life”
- *National Geographic, Spain* – “Roma se convirtió en una superpotencia gracias a la plata ibérica”

GOLDSCHMIDT WILD ORBIT CINEMA

A science video competition was a first at Goldschmidt2017, and we’d like to thank Adrienne MacArtney for this wonderful initiative. More than 90 submissions were received and, after a first round of selections, 15 of the best short science films were screened throughout the conference. An average of 60 delegates attended the daily lunchtime screening, and special workshops and discussions on how to make a science movie were also organised. The 15 movies selected can be watched at <http://wildorbitfilms.com/finalists2017/finalists2017.html>. Two external judges chose the three best movies: *Biology Meets Subduction* (by the Deep Carbon Observatory), *Atoms to Volcanoes* (by Terry Thomas) and *Paleodul* (by Gonzalo Moreno). Congratulations to the winners!

WORKSHOPS AND FIELD TRIPS



Field trip in Burgundy, France

Goldschmidt2017 broke yet another record with 14 pre-conference workshops, which were attended by 361 scientists. These workshops covered an array of subjects, from geochemical modelling, to understanding noble gases, to the environmental geochemistry of boron, and many more.

Another 84 delegates participated in the four pre- and post-conference field trips, mixing science with the discovery of local treasures (local wine, delicious food and beautiful landscapes!).

We take this opportunity to thank all of the workshop and field trip organisers.



Dinner cruise on the River Seine

SOCIALS

As per Goldschmidt tradition, a full and diverse social program was offered to attendees. Attendees were able to discover Versailles at night and with fireworks, to walk through the Marie Curie Latin Quarter, to enjoy the traditional ice-breaker, to dance at the Goldschmidt Rocks party, to dine on the River Seine while discovering the wonders of Paris, and to enjoy special museum tours of the Louvre or the Musée d’Orsay. A total of 1,543 social tickets were sold this year, probably another record!



Goldschmidt Rocks party

SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS

The success of the Goldschmidt Conference is also possible thanks to the support of our sponsors. We are particularly grateful to our Platinum sponsor Thermo Fisher Scientific, our Palladium sponsor Agilent Technologies, and our Gold sponsor Oxymore. And we were most excited to welcome 40 exhibitors, all of whom are thanked for sharing their expertise with the delegates.

SOCIAL MEDIA, BLOG, PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

A team of seven intrepid bloggers was assembled to blog the conference. We thank Deirdre Clark, Martin Mangler, Sami Mikhail, Claire Cousins, Clare Stead, Tadhg Dornan and Foteini Drakou for sharing their experiences in their 17 blog posts. This year, Bernard Marty (EAG President), Eiji Ohtani (EAG Urey Award), Julie Prytulak (EAG Houtermans Award), Francis McCubbin (GS Clarke Award), Shuhei Ono (EAG-GS Paul Gast Lecturer) and Li Zhang (Shen-su Award) were interviewed by Sami Mikhail. These fascinating interviews can be found on the EAG Blog (see <http://blog.eag.eu.com/>).

Goldschmidt2017 was also active on social media, posting 1,234 tweets.

Finally, another record was possibly broken with the number of conference photos taken: 1,039 in all! The photos are all available online and, as always, videos of the plenary talks can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/user/goldschmidtconf>.

Our final thanks go to the conference’s organizer, White Iron Conferences, and to all the delegates of Goldschmidt2017 who made it such a memorable event. The European Association of Geochemistry and the Geochemical Society look forward to welcoming you to next year’s fantastic 28th V.M. Goldschmidt Conference, which will be held 12–17 August 2018 in Boston (USA).