



Sociedad Española de Mineralogía

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ANNUAL SEM MEETING IN MADRID

The 30th meeting of the Spanish Mineralogical Society was held in Madrid from September 13 to 16. The meeting was organized jointly by scientists from the Complutense University (UCM) and the Polytechnical University of Madrid, the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), and the Geological and Mining Institute of Spain (IGME). Financial support was provided by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, the Spanish National Research Council, and industrial sponsors.

The meeting was preceded by a biominerals and biomineralization workshop on Monday, September 13. The 46 participants listened to six lectures by Wolfgang Schmahl (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität of Munich), Erika Griesshaber (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität of Munich), Alberto Pérez-Huerta (University of Alabama), Paolo Montagna (Columbia University), Concepción Jiménez-López (University of Granada), and Alejandro Rodríguez-Navarro (University of Granada). These lectures are collected in the 7th volume of the *Seminarios de la Sociedad Española de Mineralogía* series.



The meeting opened on Monday evening with a welcoming ceremony in the Mining Engineering School Auditorium, followed by an icebreaker reception at the Gómez-Pardo Foundation. Tuesday and Wednesday (September 14 and 15) were devoted to the scientific sessions. The scientific program included four plenary lectures and nine special sessions (oral and poster) arranged around the following topics: general mineralogy and petrology, ore deposits mineralogy, biomineralization, environmental mineralogy, cultural heritage and applied mineralogy, crystal growth, and mineral–fluid

interaction. The plenary lectures were given by Lia Addadi (Weizmann Institute of Science), David Millward (British Geological Survey), Santiago Leguey (Autonomous University of Madrid), and Mercedes Suárez (University of Salamanca). A total of 146 participants attended the meeting, which comprised 53 oral and 58 poster presentations. The oral sessions were held at the Auditorium of the Gómez-Pardo Foundation and in the Mining Engineering School (UPM), while the posters were on display at the IGME. Concurrently with the poster sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, guided visits to the impressive collections of minerals and fossils housed at the IGME and the Mining Engineering School were arranged for small groups. On Tuesday evening, participants had the chance to attend the projection of the film *The Mystery of Giant Crystals*, directed by Javier Trueba and written by Juan Manuel García-Ruiz.

The SEM Young Scientist Prizes for the best poster and oral communications were announced during the conference dinner on Wednesday evening. The award committee unanimously decided to give *ex aequo* prizes to Andreas Götz (LMU of Munich) and Idael Francisco Blanco-Quintero (University of Granada) for their outstanding oral presentations: “Sea urchin teeth – A mechanical, chemical and crystallographic characterization of a highly optimized biogenic composite material” and “Ba-sequestering phases in the subduction environment (Eastern Cuba Mélanges): Implications for arc magmas,” respectively. Gloria



Andreas Götz, Gloria Venegas, and Idael Blanco showing off their SEM Young Scientist awards

Venegas del Valle (Astrobiology Center, CSIC-INTA) was recognized for her interesting poster entitled “Caracterización mineralógica de la alteración supergénica de El Jaroso mediante espectroscopía Raman.”



Some of the participants to the La Cabrera field trip

A postmeeting field trip to La Cabrera (Guadarrama Range, Madrid) was held on Thursday, September 16. The field trip, led by Rafael Lozano and Ramón Jiménez, included visits to numerous mineralized sites associated with the granites and pegmatites of La Cabrera, as well as to the open-air Stone Museum (El Berruoco, Madrid). Further information about the meeting will be posted on the SEM website (www.ehu.es/sem).

A NEW SEM PRESIDENT

During the SEM general assembly in Madrid on September 15, Carles Ayora was elected as the new president of the SEM for a period of four years. He takes over from Manuel Prieto, who has generously served the Society since 2006. Carles Ayora holds a PhD in geological sciences (University of Barcelona, 1981) and is currently a research professor at the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research (IDAEA) of the Spanish Research Council. His main areas of interest are experimental water–rock interaction, modeling, and the coupling of hydrogeological and geochemical processes. Manuel Prieto’s presidency was marked by actions to make the SEM more modern and dynamic. Among the challenges for the new president will be to enlarge the SEM’s field of activities and to foster cooperative interactions within Spain’s geochemical community.