

The Clay Minerals Society

www.clays.org

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



A Summer to Remember for the Clay Science Community

The highlight of summer 2025 for the clay science community was undoubtedly the XVIII International Clay Conference, where the Clay Minerals Society (CMS) held its annual meeting in conjunction. It was thrilling to witness the breadth of topics covered—36 technical sessions in total—reflecting the vibrant and expanding

scope of clay science.

The conference welcomed 660 delegates, including 530 in-person attendees and 130 online participants from 56 countries. This impressive turnout and the volume of presentations signal a renewed surge of interest and innovation in the field. Congratulations to the organizing team, led by Dr. Steven Hillier, a long-standing CMS member and former president, for orchestrating such a successful event.

For those who presented at the 2025 ICC, we warmly invite you to submit your manuscripts to *Clays and Clay Minerals*, the journal of CMS.

To continue the conversations, debates, and discoveries sparked in Dublin, we invite you to join us at the 2026 CMS Annual Meeting in Provo, Utah, USA, on July 7–11. Details are available on the official CMS conference website: <https://clayconferences.org/>. As always, CMS will offer travel grants to support student attendance. CMS award recipients will present their lectures, and the meeting will feature workshops and field trips. Plus, the scenic surroundings of Provo offer plenty of opportunities for exploration and adventure.

We look forward to welcoming you to Provo!

Warm regards,

Youjun Deng, CMS President

STUDENT AWARD 2025 SPOTLIGHTS

A total of six students were awarded the CMS student research grant: their names were cited in *Elements'* August issue. **Erratum:** In that issue, we mistakenly listed Elias F.C. Neto (Texas Tech University, USA) instead of Madigan Blake (University of Texas at Dallas, USA). We sincerely apologise for this error. In this issue, we are featuring Rafique Uddin, and we will continue to feature the awarded students in *Elements*.

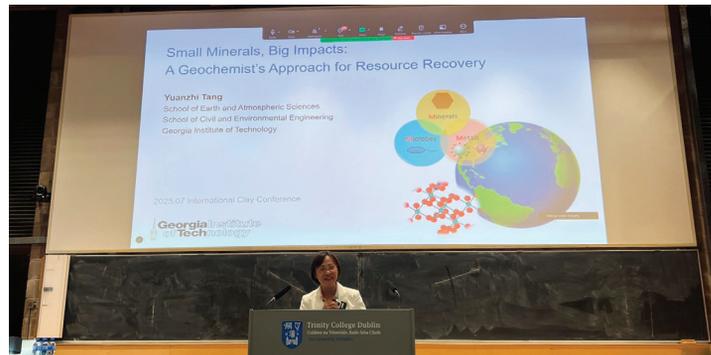


Rafique Uddin is a PhD candidate at the Global Centre for Environmental Remediation (GCER), University of Newcastle, Australia. His research explores clay mineral-based phosphate fertilizers with a focus on understanding the mechanisms of clay and phosphate-solubilizing bacteria interactions. The CMS Student Research Grant will support molecular-level investigations to provide key insights into these processes. His findings aim

to valorize abundant raw clay resources, especially those from Australian deposits for agricultural applications, offering novel and impactful solutions. Rafique expresses gratitude to his supervisors, collaborators, and technical team for their invaluable support of his research.

CMS'S ACTIVITIES IN ICC2025, DUBLIN

CMS had business activities in the 18th International Clay Conference, Dublin (13–18 July 2025). A stall was set up for the delegates to visit and interact with the office manager, Mrs Mary Gray. The AGM of CMS also occurred during the conference, and the new EC committee was formed



Prof. Yuanzhi Tang presented the prestigious CMS Jackson Award Lecture.



Prof. Chris Greenwell delivered his CMS Pioneer Lecture during the conference.



Prof. Hailiang Dong gave the Plenary Bailey Lecture.

for governing CMS in 2025–2026. Three CMS professional awards were presented and all of the awardees delivered their plenary lectures. Prof Yuanzhi Tang delivered her Jackson Award recipient lecture on 14th July, Prof Hailiang Dong delivered his Plenary Bailey Lecture on 15th July, and Prof Chris Greenwell delivered his CMS Pioneer Lecture on 17th July 2025 during the conference. CMS had a great time at the closing ceremony with a photo session of the student travel awardees.

SAVE THE DATE! CMS ANNUAL MEETING 2026

The 63rd annual meeting of the Clay Minerals Society will be held at Brigham Young University (BYU), which is located in Provo, Utah, USA, at the front of the strikingly beautiful Wasatch Mountains. The immediate area is also the home of some fascinating halloysite, and other clay deposits. Keep your eye on <https://clayconferences.org/>.

