EGU GALILEO CONFERENCE

The European Geosciences Union’s Galileo Conference “Exploring New Frontiers in Fluid Processes in Subduction Zones” was held 24–29 June 2018 in Leibnitz (Austria). It was co-organized by Carmen Sanchez-Valle (Münster, Germany), Timm John (Berlin, Germany), Nadia Malaspina (Milano Bicocca, Italy), Katharina Vogt (Münster, Germany), Simone Tumiati (Milano, Italy) and Yury Podladchikov (Lausanne, Switzerland). The conference brought together different disciplines and many of the key players in the field of fluid-mediated processes in subduction zones. The four main themes and the keynote speakers were as follows: “Experimental/ Theoretical Studies of Fluid Properties – The Fluids Perspective”, with Ronit Kessel (Jerusalem, Israel); “Natural Observations – The Rock Perspective”, with Marco Scambelluri (Genova, Italy); “Thermodynamic Modelling of Fluid–Rock Interactions – The Equilibrium Perspective”, with Dimitri Sverjensky (Johns Hopkins, USA); “Coupling Geochemistry and Geodynamics – The Dynamic Perspective”, with Cian Wilson (Carnegie, USA).

The Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology (SIMP) offered travel grants to three PhD students, giving them the opportunity to participate in this state-of-the-art conference and hear about future perspectives in defining strategies for an efficient integration between experimental and theoretical studies of fluid–rock interactions, field observations and geodynamic models for fluid migration. The interactions between the leading researchers and the participants that arose out of the oral and poster programmes, the breakout discussion groups, and a round table were among the main highlights of the event.

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THE LINCEO AWARD FOR GEO SCIENCES

The Linceo Award for Geosciences (Premio Linceo per le Geoscienze) for 2018 goes to Mauro Prencipe, an associate professor at the University of Turin (Italy). Mauro has contributed to spreading the application of quantum methods to model the chemical and physical properties of minerals under non-ambient conditions. Mauro’s work is essential for anyone who wishes to investigate mineral phases using computational ab initio methods.

The Accademia dei Lincei was founded in 1603 by Federico Cesi and is the oldest scientific academic organization in the world. One of its first members was Galileo Galilei (http://www.lincei.it).

The organizing committee would like to thank all the participants for this fruitful and excellent meeting. We are already looking forward to the 38th Annual Meeting of the Spanish Mineralogical Society, which will be held in the beautiful city of Ronda (Málaga, Spain) in 2019.

Professor Francisco Velasco (left) receiving his SEM Honorary Member Award from SEM President Juan Jiménez (right) during the award ceremony of the 37th Annual Meeting of the Spanish Mineralogical Society.

During the meeting, Professor Francisco Velasco (University of the Basque Country) was made an SEM Honorary Member for his outstanding contribution to the field of mineralogy, particularly on the topic of ore deposits. He is admired and respected by students and colleagues alike. The SEM thanks Francisco Velasco for his dedication to the profession and for his inspiring teaching.

The invited speaker at the meeting was Professor Joaquín Proenza (University of Barcelona, Spain). He presented the plenary conference lecture “Mineral Deposits and Energy Transition: A Perspective from Unconventional Rare-Earth Deposits”.

As has become traditional, two awards were given for the best student presentations. This year, Raquel Arasanz Pujol, with Juan Jiménez (SEM President) and Emilia García Romero (organizing committee and SEM Treasurer).

The 37th Annual Meeting of the Spanish Mineralogical Society (SEM) was held 12 July 2018 in Madrid (Spain). The meeting was devoted to recent studies on crystallography, mineralogy, geochemistry and petrology and their applications. It brought together 70 participants from a range of Spanish universities and research institutes, including some industry professionals.