

Senior Travel Bursary Report – Gordon Research Conference (GRC) on Biomineralization 2008

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In August 2008, I was privileged to be awarded a Mineralogical Society Senior Travel Bursary for travel to the Gordon Research Conference on Biomineralization. This prestigious event occurs only every two years, and represents the frontier of research in biogenically-produced minerals. The travel bursary contributed to the cost of my conference registration fee and enabled me to present a poster entitled “EBSD As A Tool For Investigating Coral Diagenesis”. The main aim of this presentation was to show the use of Electron Back Scatter Diffraction (EBSD) as an excellent technique for identifying secondary cements in coral skeletons in situ prior to high-resolution geochemical analysis. This has led to publication in *Coral Reefs* as well as further manuscripts, currently in progress, that investigates the geochemistry and growth of these materials. The GRC on Biomineralization attracted a number of delegates from North America, Europe and Asia and provided an excellent opportunity for discussion as well as attending a variety of presentations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mineralogical Society for awarding me with the Senior Travel Bursary this year, as without it, I would not have been able to participate in what was an excellent experience for my early academic career. I look forward to any upcoming events within the Society and the prospect to take part in further discussions at the frontier of mineralogical science.

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