



**GORDON RESEARCH CONFERENCES
FINAL PROGRESS REPORT
International Society for Microbial Ecology (ISME)
2024 Geobiology Gordon Research Conference
January 14 - 19, 2024
Publically Releasable**

The Gordon Research Conference (GRC) on Geobiology was held at the Grand Galvez in Galveston, Texas from January 14-19, 2024. The meeting covered a variety of scientific topics and the content presented was highly rated by participants.

The funds provided by International Society for Microbial Ecology (ISME) assisted in supporting early career researchers to attend this meeting. The ISME organization permitted the funds to be used for international countries outside of the United States. The funds supported participants from countries outside of the United States including China, Chile, Argentina, Japan and Italy. Five participants received travel support which allowed them to travel and attend the meeting.

The Geobiology GRC was a premier, international scientific conference focused on advancing the frontiers of science through the presentation of cutting-edge and unpublished research, prioritizing time for discussion after each talk and fostering informal interactions among scientists of all career stages. The conference program included a diverse range of speakers and discussion leaders from institutions and organizations worldwide, concentrating on the latest developments in the field. The conference was five days long and held in a remote location to increase the sense of camaraderie and create scientific communities, with lasting collaborations and friendships. In addition to premier talks, the conference had designated time for poster sessions from individuals of all career stages, and afternoon free time and communal meals allowed for informal networking opportunities with leaders in the field.

Geobiology investigates the co-evolution and interdependencies of life and Earth. This knowledge can be applied to solving societal problems and searching for life beyond Earth. We explore the role of microbes and multicellular life in geochemical transformations, the environmental factors that test the limits of microbial activity, the signals of this biological activity in the geologic records, and the potential for geobiological systems to mitigate anthropogenic problems and inform astrobiology. The major goal of the conference was to facilitate interactions among different sub-disciplines such as geochemistry, geomicrobiology, paleontology, sedimentology, astrobiology, environmental/biological engineering, and Earth system modeling and bring them together to understand the ongoing co-evolution of life and the environment. We invited contributions that describe current questions and challenges in the field, present novel tools, techniques and approaches, or uncover novel insights about the past and the present, and how they inform our future.

A final program can be found below however is also linked here: <https://www.grc.org/geobiology-conference/2024/>

Thank you for your generous contribution to this meeting and please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions.

Best Regards,

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