

UK IODP Annual Meeting 2020 Report

We would have liked to have held the UK IODP Annual Meeting 2020 in person at the Natural History Museum this year, as originally planned. However, circumstances dictated that we postpone and reconfigure the meeting into an online setting, so on the 27th - 28th August we welcomed ~220 registered participants to the virtual meeting, held on Zoom. The meeting was convened by Dr Rebecca Bell, Dr Kirsty Edgar, Prof. Richard Herrington, Prof. Lisa McNeill, Mr David McInroy and Dr Jude Coggon.

The convenors were pleased to receive a great selection of abstracts from UK scientists, which enabled them to produce an exciting and diverse programme of talks and posters, spread over three sessions. Keynote speakers Dr Ake Fagereng (Cardiff University), Dr Roz Coggon (University of Southampton) and Prof. Tina van de Flierdt (Imperial College) delivered fantastic presentations and the programme was completed with 12 further talks (including five from students and two from Early Career Researchers (ECRs)) and 20 stimulating posters (eight of which were presented by students and eight from ECRs). We were presented with research from all five of the world's oceans, on samples from equator to polar regions, mantle to pelagic sediments, and from ridge to trench. Topics covered varied from tectonics and rifting to paleoclimate, mud volcanoes to meteorite impact craters, and origin of life to biome shifts in response to climate change.

Organising useful poster sessions that could be run in a digital format was a new challenge for the convenors. Posters were shared online in advance and each presenter was given two minutes in the main session to advertise their key message. We then split posters into two separate Zoom “rooms” that participants could move between at will, to facilitate questions and discussion within the time constraints of the meeting. Overall this format was well-received.

In addition to the research presented, we learned more about the “Downhole Logging for IODP Science” ECORD Summer School,

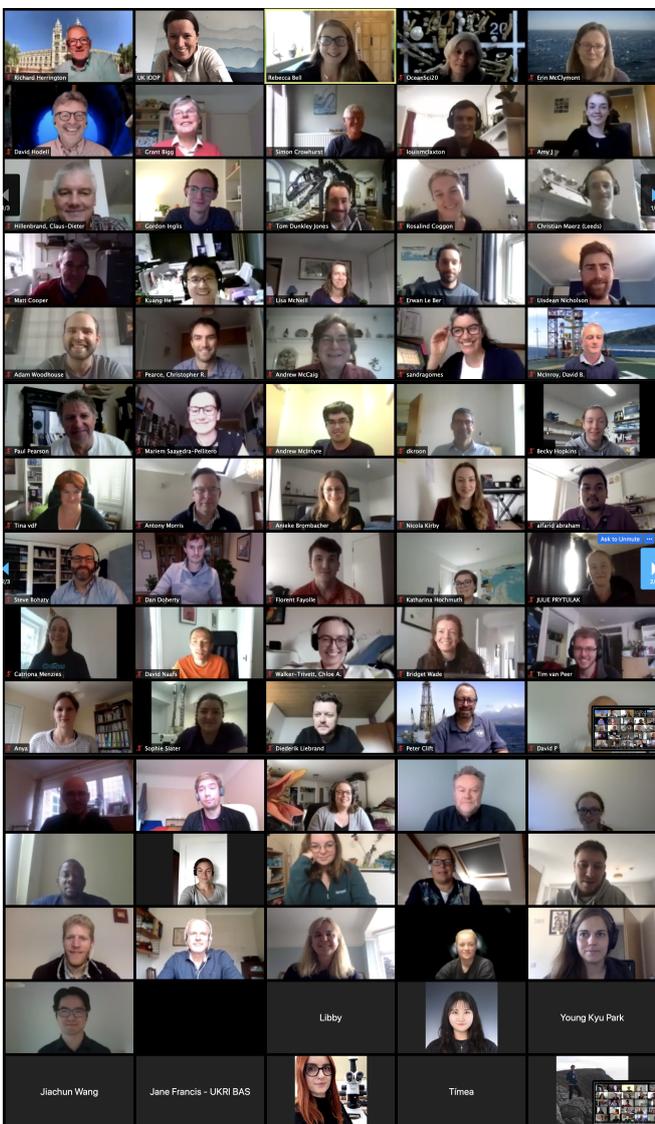


hosted annually at Leicester University, and the New IODP 2050 Science Framework. In the Friday afternoon session Steve Bohaty and Dave McInroy provided updates from the JR Facilities Board and the ECORD Science Operator, respectively, generating a lively Q&A session. We finished the meeting with a social session, dividing participants into randomly assigned “breakout groups” of six to seven people, giving an opportunity for networking and to meet new people.

The meeting was generously sponsored by the Marine Studies Group and the Geochemistry Group and representatives of each awarded prizes for the top student presentations. The feedback from the judges emphasised the high calibre of all student presentations and the great work that these scientists are producing.

If you have any feedback or suggestions regarding the meeting then please do send your comments by email to jude.coggon@southampton.ac.uk.

Participants in the final session on the Friday afternoon



Student Prize Winners

Best talk:

Louis Claxton (University of Oxford)

Honourable mention:

Laura Frahm (Imperial College)

Best poster:

Mohd Al Farid Bin Abraham (University of Bristol)

Poster runners up:

Rebecca Hopkins (University of Southampton)

Nicola Kirby (University of Birmingham)