



Monte Verità Conference

# Iron Biogeochemistry

## From Molecular Processes to Global Cycles

Ascona, Switzerland, March 3-8, 2013

Centro Stefano Franscini

co-sponsored by the ESF Research Networking Programme FIMIN

<http://www.bayceer.uni-bayreuth.de/fimin/conference/>

Iron is an essential element for life and the fourth-most abundant element in the Earth's crust. The biogeochemical cycling of iron is coupled to the cycles of many other elements including carbon, sulfur, phosphorus, and trace elements such as arsenic. Iron is a redox-active element, and therefore, it is involved in many redox processes in the environment. Many microorganisms gain energy by reducing or oxidizing iron, and these processes have important implications for biogeochemical cycles and the speciation and solubility of other elements. The redox state and mineralogy of iron in rocks, sediments, and (paleo-)soils can also be used as indicators for past climate conditions. Large progress was made in recent years in many aspects of iron biogeochemistry. Some examples include the structure and reactivity of nano-crystalline iron minerals, electron transfer processes between bacteria and the surfaces of such minerals, ecology of iron reducing and oxidizing bacteria, iron mineral transformations, and biomineralization of iron.

This conference is an initiative of the ESF Research Networking Programme 'Functionality of Iron Minerals in Environmental Processes' (FIMIN) and intends to bring together world-leading experts, young researchers, and PhD students interested in various aspects of iron biogeochemistry and its applications in related research fields. It will feature 17 invited keynote lectures, 13 contributed presentations by younger scientists, three poster sessions, and 2-3 method-oriented workshops. The program will allow for ample discussion time and individual exchange between the participants, with the aim to stimulate new interdisciplinary and international collaborations.

### Confirmed Invited Speakers:

- Karim Benzerara, CNRS Paris, France
- Ed Burton, Southern Cross University, Australia
- Jeff Catalano, Washington University, USA
- Jon Chorover, University of Arizona, USA
- Owen Duckworth, NC State University, USA
- Colleen Hansel, Harvard University, USA
- Thomas Hofstetter, Eawag, Switzerland
- Andreas Kappler, University Tübingen, Germany
- Juraj Majzlan, University Jena, Germany
- Satish Myneni, Princeton University, USA
- Lee Penn, University of Minnesota, USA
- Simon Poulton, Newcastle University, UK
- Robert Raiswell, University of Leeds, UK
- Eric Roden, University of Wisconsin, USA
- Yeala Shaked, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
- Brandy Toner, University of Minnesota, USA
- David Waite, University of New South Wales, Australia



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**Call for Abstracts:**

We invite oral and poster contributions to the Monte Verità Conference 'Iron Biogeochemistry - From Molecular Processes to Global Cycles' relating to the following **key topics**:

- Iron minerals, surface structure, and biogeochemical reactivity
- Iron and biogeochemical redox processes
- Formation of iron minerals by organisms
- Iron as an essential micro-nutrient
- Coupling between iron biogeochemistry and cycles of other elements

**Nature of the Conference:**

We expect about 70-90 participants ranging from PhD students to leading experts. The conference will begin with a reception on the evening of Sunday March 3, 2013, and will end after lunch on Friday, March 8, 2013. There will be an excursion Wednesday afternoon in the Lago Maggiore region.

The conference will keep an unhurried pace and is designed to encourage discussions after talks, during breaks and in the evenings. In the spirit of Monte Verità conferences, participants are expected to stay for the whole period of the conference.

**Expected Contributions and Important Dates:**

Besides invited keynote lectures there are time slots provided for shorter oral and poster presentations. These presentations will be selected based on a **review process**.

**Deadline for online submission of abstracts:**      **October 1, 2012**  
**Acceptance notification:**                                **November 20, 2012**  
**Registration deadline:**                                    **December 20, 2012**

**Registration Fee and Financial Support for PhD Students:**

The conference registration fee is 250 SFr; full board and lodging for the entire conference will be approximately 1000 SFr. A number of travel grants will be available for PhD students on a competitive basis (see conference website for further details), and PhD students are encouraged to apply.


**Organization Team:**

- Ruben Kretzschmar, ETH Zurich, Switzerland
- Stefan Peiffer, University of Bayreuth, Germany
- Thilo Behrends, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
- Stephan M. Kraemer, University of Vienna, Austria
- Birgit Thies, University of Bayreuth, Germany

**Scientific Advisory Board:**

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