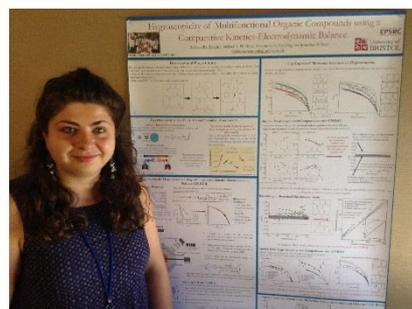


Aleksandra Marsh: Conference Report

Towards a Molecular Level Understanding of Atmospheric Aerosol (MLUAA), Chaminade, CA, USA, 28th August - 2nd September 2016

I would like to thank The Aerosol Society, UK, for awarding me an Early Career Scientist Travel Award to enable me attend this very valuable conference and present a talk and poster on my work. Furthermore, thanks to the conference organisers Kevin Wilson and Alex Laskin for both organisation of this excellent conference and the invitation to present my work.

The MLUAA conference had 75 attendees, who all stayed at the same hotel, thereby allowing for extensive discussion of conference talks and posters during meal times and breaks. Furthermore, this provided an incredibly supportive atmosphere for giving my first presentation at an international conference.



The week-long conference had a packed schedule with 55 talks and 4 poster sessions. I was allocated a talk on Wednesday afternoon and a poster on Wednesday evening. My talk '*Hygroscopicity of Multifunctional Organic Compounds using a Comparative Kinetics Electrodynamic Balance*' was very well received at the conference and as a result many junior and senior research scientists came to discuss my research during the evening poster session. The main motivations of my research work were to reduce uncertainties in hygroscopic growth and understand the links between molecular complexity and hygroscopicity. Furthermore this research can be used to improve current thermodynamic models for aerosol, which currently neither allow modelling of compounds containing amine or nitrogen groups nor consider the impact of molecular structure on water uptake.



During the conference I spoke with many aerosol scientists, some of which I have been involved with collaborative research efforts in the past and many new researchers. Furthermore the conference facilitated new collaborations with international researchers as a result of my presentation. I had lengthy research discussions with Adam Trevitt, Ulrich Krieger and Andreas Zuend.

I enjoyed talks and posters by many conference attendees including Veronica Vaida who spoke about photo induced chemical reactions at interfaces; Mathew Berg who spoke about 'Particle Characterisation through Digital Holography.' I also enjoyed talks by Barbara Finlayson and Benny Gerber who spoke about experimental and theoretical formation of ionic liquids respectively. The breadth of subjects discussed at the conference have allowed me to generate many new experimental ideas and have allowed me to contextualise my research work with that of others within the field of aerosol science.

Once again I thank The Aerosol Society, for their financial support which enabled me to attend this very valuable and rewarding conference.