

EGU 2014: A great event for early-career researchers

This year, there was more on for young scientists (YS) at the EGU General Assembly than ever before, with Union-wide and division specific sessions for YS throughout the week, a selection of YS social activities on in the evenings and many opportunities to network during the meeting. These kicked off with the Young Scientists' Corner at the Opening Reception. Big, bold and blue, this 'corner' was hard to miss and was a great spot for first-timers to break the ice and get to know fellow conference participants.

EGU 2014 also saw a fantastic new feature for the YS community – the Young Scientists' Lounge. Set up with squishy sofas, desks, all-important internet points and coffee on tap, the Lounge was a bustling hub from Monday on. Filled with young researchers meeting, musing over the conference programme and preparing for their next presentation, there was never a quiet moment. Lucy Clarke, YS representative for the Geomorphology Division, described it as “a fantastic resource, giving YS a place to go to and be able to work and meet other people without feeling intimidated” – a feeling echoed by many at the conference. The Lounge was one of the better received initiatives this year and you can be sure to see it again in 2015!

The EGU is committed to fostering the next generation of geoscientists and this is where the 2014 YS programme really came to the fore. Back by popular demand, Hydrological Sciences and Geomorphology once again ran their meet the masters workshops, which offer YS the opportunity to talk to senior scientists in their field and address their academic concerns with experts in their area. The Young Hydrologic Society met to stimulate YS participation in the hydrological sciences, young geomorphologists were given tips and tricks to analyse environmental data and a host of YS were given hints on how to publish the perfect paper – and that is only a snapshot!

These sessions were supported by a suite of Union-wide short courses, with a strong focus on careers and communication. The short course on finding funding was filled far beyond capacity and sessions on how to make a science video and successfully share your science with school kids both had an excellent turn out. Keep your eyes on [GeoLog](#), the EGU blog, for resources from these short courses and others that took place at the Assembly. Sarah Blackford and Helen Goulding, masters in making job applicants stand out from the crowd, also hosted two cracking careers sessions to help YS add value to their research experience and make an outstanding impression on paper and in person (check out some of their top tips [here](#) and [here](#)).

Some YS, however, are already at the top of their game, and you'd have a tough job finding better examples than the winners of the EGU 2014 Outstanding Young Scientists Awards. This year, 14 fantastic YS were awarded for their excellence in the Earth, planetary and space sciences at [Union](#) and [division](#) level, each giving a fascinating lecture on their findings during the conference. Nominations for next year are open now, so if you know an inspiring scientist who



Top: entrance to the YS Lounge at the EGU 2014 General Assembly. Bottom: YS mingling over coffee at the meeting. Credit: Stephanie McClellan

should be rewarded for their work, make sure you [put their name forward](#) by 15 June.

We also gained a near-full complement of Young Scientist Representatives, with many new and eager faces taking on the role of representing young scientists in each of the EGU's scientific divisions. For the first time, the EGU YS reps met under one roof to share their ideas, discuss exciting actions for the future, and take on feedback from YS to make next year's Assembly even better. “I think this was the start of a new direction for EGU for the years to come,” said Matthew Agius, YS rep for Seismology, following the meeting. Wouter Berghuijs, YS rep for Hydrological Sciences, added: “Now that all the young scientist representatives of different divisions know each other, there is a great opportunity for collaboration.”

Scientists during the conference were overwhelmingly positive about this year's YS events and knowing that they had representatives they could talk to (we're still looking for a few more to [join the team](#) though!). All in all, EGU 2014 has been an amazing occasion for YS, with an array of excellent activities, successful short courses and a brilliant boost to YS representation in the Union. With a committed team of YS set to get ready for EGU 2015, we can't wait for the next Assembly.

Sara Mynott

EGU Communications Officer and young scientists
contact person at the EGU office