

Prof. Anders Meibom of the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris has been awarded the European Mineralogical Union Research Excellence Medal for 2008. This annually awarded silver medal is given to young scientists who make significant contributions to research and who are active in strengthening European scientific links. Previous recipients from France include prof. Christian Chopin of the ENS Laboratoire de Géologie in Paris and prof. Philippe Gillet, former Director of the ENS in Lyon, now Directeur de Cabinet for the French Research Ministry.

Prof. Meibom receives the award for an extremely broad research effort that spans cosmochemistry, geochemistry and biomineralization. At the age of 39 prof. Meibom has (co-)authored more than 70 papers, hereof 10 in the prestigious journals Science and Nature. His scientific contributions include: 1) The discovery in primitive meteorites of pristine metallic phases formed by condensation in the solar nebula during the formation of the Solar System, more than 4.5 billion years ago. 2) The first high-precision measurement of the nitrogen isotopic composition of the Sun from a high-temperature solar nebula condensate. 3) Studies of geochemical heterogeneity in the Earth upper mantle with implications for the origin of oceanic basalts. 4) Studies of biological control over the composition of biominerals, especially those formed by corals, with dramatic consequences for how coral skeletons can be used to reconstruct global climate change.

[Prof. Anders Meibom](#) was born in Denmark in 1969 and obtained a PhD in physics from the University of Southern Denmark in 1997. At the age of 37 he was appointed full professor (PR1) at the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle. He is now leader of the National NanoSIMS Service, which provides chemical and isotopic analyses of unprecedented high spatial resolution to a broad spectrum of natural scientists, primarily from French institutions.