

UMD News

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TWENTY-FIRST RARE EARTH RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Duluth -- Beginning Monday, July 8, approximately 175 scientists from 21 countries and 24 states will gather for a five-day conference at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center to discuss basic and applied multi-disciplinary research that is centered on the "f-elements" of the chemical periodic table.

What does this mean for the average person? Applications of research on these "rare earth" elements have brought us the color in our TV's and the magnets in the hard drives of our computers. They are also found in steel, welder's goggles, x-ray film, optical polishing materials, MRI contrast agents, magnets, and florescent lamps. The cutting edge research discussed in Duluth will lend itself to applications that will enhance our future.

One feature of the conference is the presentation of the 8th Annual Frank H. Spedding Award. This year's recipient is Professor Gregory Choppin from Florida State University who, in addition to his work in rare earth chemistry, was a key participant in the discovery of 3 elements found on the Periodic Table.

A broad range of disciplines will be represented during the conference – chemistry, physics, metallurgy, geology, and biochemistry; participants are from both educational institutions and industrial companies from around the world. Primary sponsors are Rare Earth Research Conference Inc. and the University of Minnesota Duluth Departments of Chemistry and University College.

For more information call Lynne Olson at UMD's University College (218) 726-6296.

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