Royal Astronomical Society

Dr Ke Zhu – Early Career Award (G)

Dr Ke Zhu's work covers an impressively wide range of topics and techniques investigating the formation processes and histories of a wide range of meteorite types from both Mars and asteroidal parent bodies.

His most prominent and original work has been to combine ultraprecise measurements of stable isotopes, radiogenic and isotopic anomalies of Cr to study solar system origin and evolution.

Combining these approaches represents a major step forward in cosmochemistry and therefore had been the source of many important discoveries, including the mechanism of volatile loss from Vesta and providing the first estimates of the temperature of evaporation, the dynamics of transport of outer solar system material to the inner solar system, dating chondrules in enstatite chondrites, dating the oldest solar system volcanism with implications for early planet differentiation or discovering that the Martian crust was isotopically heterogeneous as a consequence of its meteoritic bombardment by water-rich, carbonaceous-like materials that meteorites delivered a large amount of water to Mars.

Dr Zhu's work has produced a remarkable amount of new data to shine light on the processes of the early solar system as evidenced by his outstanding publication record. For these reasons, Dr Zhu is awarded the 2026 Early Career Award.

Burlington House
Piccadilly
London W1J 0BQ
+44 (0)20 7734 4582
www.ras.ac.uk