**Gordon Research Conference**

**Crystal Engineering**

**11th – 15th June 2012**

Gordon Research Conference (GRC) is an organization managed by and for the benefit of the scientific community providing an international forum for the presentation and discussion of frontier research in the biological, chemical, and physical sciences, and their related technologies where leading investigators from around the globe discuss their latest work and future challenges in a uniquely informal, interactive format.

Having now attended a GRC, I wholly agree with the above statement. There were three sessions of talks per day in which the invited speakers presented their most recent (and unpublished) work followed by a 20 minute discussion session, enabling the attendees to further discuss and share experiences in the specific area and ask questions to aide further understanding. The different sessions were split into specific subject area; since the conference was focussed solely on the crystal engineering field of crystallography, all sessions were relevant, though I personally found the Polymorphism and Crystal Structure Prediction and Design, Synthesis, and Properties of Co-crystals the most interesting with talks directly relating to my research and ideas presented that I can utilise to further my project. A presentation delivered by Susan Bourne from the University of Cape Town was a prime example of a talk in which I could gain knowledge and inspiration from with her presenting new results in systems very similar to the ones I study.

Along with the talks, there were daily poster sessions, in which I presented a poster entitled ‘Cocrystallisation, salt formation and tautomerism of adenine:dicarboxylic acid adducts’ (see picture below). All poster sessions were well attended numerous discussions of results and ideas to move projects further were had. One of the rules of a Gordon Research Conference is that all work presented is to be unpublished and discussions regarding my poster and similar results found within another academic group has resulted in the commencement of a joint project and research paper.

The conference was held on Waterville Valley resort in New Hampshire, a resort offering number of activities such as mountain biking, swimming, tennis and mountaineering which were all utilised by delegates of the conference in the afternoon breaks altogether making the conference very enjoyable.

