

Beckham receives the 2018 Beilby Medal and Prize

Dr. Gregg Beckham, a recently promoted Senior Research Fellow at NREL, and the Lignin Valorization Team Lead for the Center for Bioenergy Innovation (CBI), has received the Royal Society of Chemistry, Society of Chemical Industry and Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining Beilby Medal and Prize.

Gregg was awarded the prize for the development of hybrid biological catalysts and recycling processes to convert biomass and waste plastics to useful chemicals and high-value materials.

One of Gregg's first breakthroughs was working on lignin valorization using biological and chemical catalysis to convert this organic material into a variety of renewable fuels, chemicals, and materials. A "biological funneling" approach was used by the bacteria to break down lignin to produce valuable molecules.

The Beilby Medal and Prize has been awarded annually since 1930 to a scientist or engineer for work that has exceptional practical significance in chemical engineering, applied materials science, energy efficiency, or a related field. Winners are recognized for the originality and impact of their research, or for their contributions to the chemical sciences industry or chemistry education. The awards also acknowledge the importance of teamwork across the chemical sciences, and the abilities of individuals to develop successful collaborations.

