

PAGES e-news, vol. 2003, no. 1

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- 5) **Guest Opportunity:** Visiting scientist at the PAGES IPO, Summer 2003
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**1) PAGES OSM**

The second PAGES Open Science Meeting "Paleoclimate, Environmental Sustainability and our Future" has been delayed until autumn 2005 due to fears that SARS concerns would mean a low participation rate if the meeting were to go ahead in 2004. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. The new dates are 10 to 12 August 2005. The meeting will benefit from being held alongside and after the IAMAS (<http://www.iamas.org>) International Association for Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences Congress being held in the same venue from 2 to 11 August.

**For further information contact:** Leah Christen  
([leah.christen@pages.unibe.ch](mailto:leah.christen@pages.unibe.ch))

**2) PAGES session at AGU fall meeting 8-12 December, San Francisco, USA. Abstract Submission Deadline: 4 September 2003 14:00 UT**

**GC02 Rates of Change in the Earth System**

Much of paleoenvironmental research has focused on (quasi-) equilibrium climate states of the past, such as the Eemian (roughly between 140,000 and 117,000 years before present) or the Last Glacial Maximum (21,000 years before present). Here the terms "climate state" and "climate system" include the whole Earth system as inferred by climatologists, geologists, and ecologists, among others. By making comparisons with the

present-day climate state, we have been able to infer the magnitude of climate-sensitivity parameters. However, only nonequilibrium or transient climate states, such as the last deglaciation, allow us to assess the magnitude of the inertia in the Earth system. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, forcing factors (greenhouse gas concentrations), climatic variables (temperature, hydrological balance, glacier mass balance, sea level), and the biosphere (biodiversity, alpine timberline, land cover change). Estimates of past rates of change can provide us with a long-term perspective on recent changes and help us to appreciate their magnitude. Furthermore, they give us a taste of how rapid climate change may operate in the future. State-of-the-art Earth system models require a variety of field-based estimates for the inertia of the climate system in order to make reliable predictions for the future. Modeling and/or field-based submissions to this session should specifically address how fast some aspect of the Earth system changed in the past and compare this rate with available estimates of modern and/or future change.

**For further information contact:** Keith Alverson, PAGES International Project Office, Bärenplatz 2, Bern, 3011, Switzerland. Tel: +41-31-312 3133, Fax: +41-31-312 3168, email: [alverson@pages.unibe.ch](mailto:alverson@pages.unibe.ch)

### **3) Website Science Highlights**

The PAGES website includes a science highlights section <http://www.pages-igbp.org/shighlight/shighlight.html> which is updated regularly. In this section, we highlight new research results, summaries of ongoing PAGES research activities, as well as fieldwork reports. With this tool, we would like to stimulate faster information flow and enhanced cooperation within the PAGES community. This will help to increase collaboration and discussion among researchers. Please feel free to submit your material to PAGES. The Science Highlights section is an excellent platform to present your research to the international scientific community. About 500 people each month visit this particular section of the PAGES website, as the most recent web statistics show.

Details about submission:

<http://www.pages.unibe.ch/shighlight/submit.html>

**For further information contact:** Christoph Kull  
(kull@pages.unibe.ch)

#### **4) PAGES IPO**

PAGES IPO is moving out of its current offices this summer. Our new address as of 1 September 2003 will be Sulgeneckstrasse 38, 3007 Bern, Switzerland. Telephone, fax and email will remain the same. The new office is larger than our current premises, which will enable us to offer visiting scientists a dedicated office in which to work while at the IPO (see item 5).

**For further information contact:** Selma Ghoneim  
(ghoneim@pages.unibe.ch)

#### **5) Visiting Scientist Opportunity**

PAGES does many things to try to knit the international, interdisciplinary paleoenvironmental community together. One of these activities is hosting visiting scientists in the International Project Office as a way to proactively enhance the interaction between the IPO and the many researchers involved in PAGES projects. Recent and planned visitors have included sabbatical visits from senior scientists, postdocs, and graduate students. They have come from home institutions in Canada, China, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Mexico, Morocco, Russia, South Africa, and the USA. PAGES has benefited enormously from these visitor's substantial efforts in hosting workshops, guest editing topical issues of this newsletter, editing books and special issues arising from PAGES' activities, developing new initiatives, and enhancing PAGES' visibility in their home countries. Senior visitors have benefited from an opportunity to get away from their home institution for a period to focus on a PAGES project or develop new interactions and lines of research. Younger scientists benefit from taking on interesting and challenging tasks that would not normally arise in their research and making many new contacts within the international PAGES network. We are now working hard in many different ways to improve our ability to host visiting scientists in the future. Scientists interested in taking the opportunity to spend some

time at the PAGES International Project Office in Bern, Switzerland to contact us.

Details about visits: [http://www.pages-](http://www.pages-igbp.org/ppeople/staff/guests/guestscientists.html)

[igbp.org/ppeople/staff/guests/guestscientists.html](http://www.pages-igbp.org/ppeople/staff/guests/guestscientists.html)

**For further information contact:** Keith Alverson  
([alverson@pages.unibe.ch](mailto:alverson@pages.unibe.ch))

## **6) PAGES SSC**

PAGES is guided by an international Scientific Steering Committee (SSC). Members are chosen from active scientists who represent the major disciplines in the paleosciences and provide geographic representation. SSC members normally serve for a period of 3 years, with the potential for renewal for a second term. There are currently many geographic regions underrepresented on the SSC. As such, there is a strong need for nominations of scientists from the southern hemisphere and developing countries. Please consider nominating a colleague to correct this imbalance. This is an important position, with the potential for substantial influence on PAGES policy and activities.

Details about nominations:

<http://www.pages.unibe.ch/ppeople/sscleaders/nominations.html>

**For further information contact:** Keith Alverson  
([alverson@pages.unibe.ch](mailto:alverson@pages.unibe.ch))

## **7) PAGES-MRI Session at the EUG 2004, 25-30 April in Nice, France:**

**CL18 Paleoenvironmental reconstructions from high elevation sites.**

**Abstract Submission Deadline: 11 January 2004**

This session will feature reconstructions based on a range of diverse paleoenvironmental proxies such as pollen, macrofossils, diatoms, lacustrine Zoological indicators, alpine glacial records, dendrochronological records and geomorphological expressions of past environmental change. Contributions are invited that focus on high-resolution paleoenvironmental reconstructions from sensitive high-elevation sites. Particularly welcome are contributions that

combine two or more proxies for paleoenvironmental change in mountain regions.

Details about submission:

<http://www.copernicus.org/EGU/ga/egu04/index.html>

**For further information contact:** Mel Reasoner  
([reasoner@sanw.unibe.ch](mailto:reasoner@sanw.unibe.ch)) or Christoph Kull  
([kull@pages.unibe.ch](mailto:kull@pages.unibe.ch))

## **8) Virtual Newsletter**

In the interest of saving paper and postage, PAGES is now offering members the option of receiving the PAGES Newsletter as a pdf file by email instead of the printed version. If you would like to have the Newsletter emailed to you, please send an email with the subject "virtual newsletter" to Leah Christen ([leah.christen@pages.unibe.ch](mailto:leah.christen@pages.unibe.ch)). Back issues are always available to download from our website at <http://www.pages.unibe.ch/products/newsletters.html>.