1.) New scientific structure for PAGES - feedback

PAGES is in the process of revising its scientific scope and organizational structure. An advanced draft has been formulated by the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC). It contains four sets of scientific questions of prime interest to PAGES, four new topical Foci to address these questions, and four new cross-cutting Themes that are of relevance to all four Foci and beyond. The Foci and Themes will be home to community-driven scientific activities, similar to today. The new drafted structure forms part of the current proposal for PAGES funding that was submitted to the U.S. and Swiss National Science Foundations this month.

The draft structure has been posted for comment on PAGES website. We encourage you to provide your feedback by the end of January 2006. Please go to:
http://www.pages-igbp.org/science/research/newstructure.html

2.) PAGES News 2005/3

PAGES News 2005/3 is now available online:
http://www.pages-igbp.org/cgi-bin/WebObjects/products.woa/wa/type?id=2

This special newsletter issue is a joint production of PAGES and CLIVAR, therefore with a hybrid layout and information on both programs. The PAGES/CLIVAR Working Group decided to publish this joint issue on “Forcings”, acknowledging that this topic sits at the base of our understanding of climate change. PAGES/CLIVAR hopes to enhance interaction and collaboration within and between both scientific communities.
3.) Welcome of new PAGES SSC members
At the end of the year, major changes in membership will take place in the PAGES SSC. After 6 years of service, Ashok Singhvi (India) and Dan Olago (Kenya) will rotate off. Olga Solomina (Russia), who has been elected to the Scientific Committee of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), will also leave the PAGES SSC. We gratefully acknowledge the tremendous work that these three scientists have done in integrating the paleoscientific communities of India, Africa and Russia, and in shaping the new vision of PAGES. We thank them for their fruitful collaboration with the PAGES IPO and community.

In their place, PAGES welcomes four newly elected members: Bette Otto-Bliesner (USA; paleoclimate modeling) Indra Bir Singh (India; sedimentology/geomorphology) Mohammed Umer (Ethiopia; paleoenvironment/palynology) Cathy Whitlock (USA; paleoecology)

Details on PAGES SSC are available at:
http://www.pages-igbp.org/people/sscleaders.html

4) PAGES workshop support
PAGES renews its open call to workshop organizers interested in applying for support. The next deadline is 31 May 2006. Notification of decisions will be towards the end of June. More information and application guidelines can be found at:
http://www.pages-igbp.org/services/wsfunding/index.html

5) Happy New Year!
The PAGES team at the IPO in Bern wishes you all the very best for 2006 and looks forward to continued interaction with you in the new year.

PAGES e-news:
Thorsten Kiefer; kiefer@pages.unibe.ch
Christoph Kull; kull@pages.unibe.ch
Leah Christen; christen@pages.unibe.ch

http://www.pages-igbp.org