

PAGES 3rd Open Science Meeting: Retrospective views on our planet's future

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Following the PAGES Open Science Meetings (OSMs) in London (1998) and Beijing (2005), PAGES held its 3rd OSM in the northwestern USA. Over 4 days in early July, the town of Corvallis, Oregon, was overrun by 300 scientists from 6 continents and 30 countries with a broad interest in past climatic and environmental changes. Under the meeting theme of "Retrospective views on our planet's future", paleoscience of various shades was presented and discussed at extensive poster sessions, plenary sessions, and (presumably) during social side events. The program included (i) poster and oral sessions structured along the focus elements of PAGES new Science Plan, (ii) "hot topic" discussions on such subjects as the role of paleoscience in IPCC, past ocean acidification, Sahara drying, and abrupt sea level rise, and (iii) a public lecture given by Jim Hansen on "Global warming time bomb: The path from science to action".

Beyond the cutting edge science that was presented, the OSM was a milestone for PAGES in several ways. For the first time, all the talks were recorded and can be viewed online or ordered gratis on DVD. It was also the first time an OSM was held in conjunction with a Young Scientists Meeting, and the first time a PAGES soccer championship was played (resulting in a glorious win for the modelers over the proxies team).

Another innovation launched at the OSM was the PAGES "Paleodata Portal".

This single, coordinated search engine was created together with PANGAEA (Network for Geoscientific and Environmental Data) and the NOAA World Data Center for Paleoclimatology, with the aim to speed up and simplify searches for relevant paleodata. A test version of the Portal is now online at <http://www.pages-igbp.org/dataportal>. During the current trial stage, the Portal is harvesting metadata sets from PANGAEA and NOAA WDC. In the next phase, PAGES will invite other data centers and smaller thematic databases to join the initiative.

Alongside the scientific program, lunchtime chats and a plenary discussion on future directions for past global change science provided invaluable feedback on the direction and operation of paleoscience in general, and for PAGES in particular. With regard to the scope and organization of PAGES science, there was agreement that there needs to be stronger involvement of modern process scientists, such as climate dynamicists, to achieve a more detailed process understanding of how the Earth System operates. Moreover, strong arguments were made that the focus on paleoecological characteristics of global change should be expanded in order to more directly contribute to such aspects of societal relevance. In terms of products, the community emphasized that PAGES should support synthesis of data and model results as a valuable basis for understanding climate and environ-

mental processes, and to feed into assessments such as those of the IPCC. A longer-term vision expressed was the idea to raise a multi-national pool of money (similar to the way IODP operates) in order to fund research on key questions in past global change science in an internationally coordinated manner. Such large-scale funding would allow the urgent questions to be answered more quickly and concordently.

With regard to organizational aspects of PAGES, it became clear that the activities of PAGES and opportunities for participation need to be communicated more effectively. So, we might shed some of our caution in spamming you with emails, and send e-news and updates more regularly. We will also explore the use of new internet media. A desire was also voiced for more clarity on how to get involved in PAGES, and how to contribute ideas for workshops and working groups. A stronger formalization of proposal processes was a concrete suggestion that will now be implemented.

Encouraged by the flood of enthusiastic feedback, PAGES is planning to hold its 4th OSM and 2nd YSM in 2013.

Further information

- Online poster exhibition: <http://www.pages-osm.org/osm/abstracts/posters.html>
- Program and videos: <http://www.pages-osm.org/osm/videos.html>
- Young Scientists Meeting: <http://www.pages-osm.org/ysm/>
- Paleodata Portal: <http://www.pages-igbp.org/dataportal>



The PAGES Paleodata Portal enables users to search several different paleodata centers at once, thereby simplifying and speeding up the data search process.

A test version of the Portal is now online and is currently harvesting paleodata sets from PANGAEA and the NOAA World Data Center for Paleoclimatology.

PAGES encourages other data centers to allow their data to be accessed through the Portal, and welcomes feedback and suggestions on the test version.



NOAA

<http://www.pages-igbp.org/dataportal>

