

INSIDE PAGES

New SSC Members

PAGES SSC welcomes three new members in 2000:

Julie Brigham-Grette is a very active and distinguished geologically-based paleo-scientist whose interests lie mainly within the longer timescales of relevance to PAGES. She brings an expertise in chronology, high latitude paleo-environmental change and both marine and continental archives. Her contacts with Russian scientists are also greatly welcomed.

Daniel Olago, is a young researcher with an excellent academic record reflecting work on both PAGES timescales, as well as strong links with the East African Lakes (IDEAL) project. He will help reinforce PAGES links with African paleo-scientists. His close association with the PAGES/START 'node' in Nairobi is also of great potential value to PAGES and we very much look forward to having him join the PAGES SSC.

Ashok Singhvi's expertise is in the paleo-environmental record from arid and semi-arid lands in India and neighbouring regions. He has also been in the forefront of developing luminescence-based chronologies for sediment sequences from these kinds of challenging environment. He is very active in international co-ordination and promises to enhance PAGES' involvement with scientists in both the Indian sub-continent and nearby areas to the west. Both in terms of scientific expertise and regional interests, he therefore complements the existing representation on the SSC in valuable ways.

PAGES Workshop Support

PAGES workshops serve to synthesize information, coordinate ongoing research, define new avenues of research, and organize community participation in the implementation of relevant research. Workshops are generally open to broad community participation, though PAGES funding for each is limited. PAGES also sponsors smaller workshops devoted to defining and launching specific projects, as well as topical working groups to advance areas of PAGES-related science. Further details, including proposal guidelines and a list of past and planned PAGES workshops are available on the PAGES website (www.pages.unibe.ch/workshops/workshops.html).

The proposal deadline for the 2000 PAGES SSC meeting, at which workshops for the years 2000 and 2001 will be discussed, is January 15, 2000.

At the same time three members rotate off the SSC:

Jonathan Overpeck having finished two terms on the SCC, the later as both Vice-Chair and a member of the executive committee, is stepping down while at the same time assuming a new academic position as director of the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth at the University of Arizona, Tucson. Peck will keep an active profile at PAGES, concentrating his efforts on leadership of the PAGES/CLIVAR Intersection activity.

Govind Pant, steps down from the SSC this December having brought his contribution to PAGES to fruition by agreeing to host the 2001 SSC meeting and workshop on paleoenvironments of South Asia at the Institute of Tropical Meteorology, of which he is director, in Pune, India in February 2000.

Timothy Partridge has finished two terms on the PAGES SSC and steps down after playing an important role both as a representative of PAGES related research in South Africa and also as a link between PAGES and INQUA.

WORKSHOP REPORT

Isotopes in Paleoclimate Research

LEICESTER, UK, 28 APRIL 1999

The Natural Environment Research Council has identified Global Change as one of the five main issues on which its research should be focused in the next 5 to 10 years, and the need to know about natural climate variation over a range of timescales is regarded as a key area for development. Since isotopic techniques are likely to continue to play an important role in gaining this knowledge, the NERC Isotope Geosciences Laboratory organized a forum attended by over 250 delegates from all the major universities and research institutes in Britain, as well as many from overseas.

The first of seven presentations was given by Neil Roberts and comprised an overview on the use of stable isotopes in studies of Quaternary paleoclimate. Nick Shackleton then reviewed his work since the 1960's on isotopes in foraminifera from marine cores. Alayne Street-Perrott described the role of paleoclimate records in the lacustrine environment. Frank McDermott discussed current research on paleoclimate records in speleothems. David Peel's talk centred on the ability of the polar ice sheets to preserve evidence both on past climate, and information about changing atmospheric composition and climate forcing in the past. The final scientific presentation was by Mark Pollard, who gave an overview of research into dendroclimatology. Frank Oldfield and Tom Edwards then outlined briefly the mission of PAGES and the aims and ambitions of the ISOMAP group, concentrating on the opportunities and problems posed by each type of continental archive, the challenges of quantitative calibration, and the most successful results achieved so far.

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