

Memories ...

Many thanks to everyone from the PAGES community who contributed their stories and photos from days of yore!
Enjoy taking a short walk down PAGES' Memory Lane.

Where it all began ...

Anne-Christine Clottu Vogel, former SCNAT Secretary General

PAGES was indeed launched in 1991, but the strategic meetings leading to the creation of PAGES took place in 1988. Hans Oeschger, the University of Bern, the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) played an important role together with IGPB and ICSU. I remember the very first preparatory session for the launch of PAGES in July 1988, in the "Haus der Universität", because I was invited as an SCNAT representative and as a co-laborator of Hans. He was the first co-chair of PAGES (with Herman Zimmerman of US NSF). From the beginning, PAGES was supported in Switzerland due to the personality and fame of Hans, who endorsed its importance. He was also the key to American engagement. It is wonderful that SCNAT and the University of Bern have continued to bring PAGES to life for 30 years with the support of Swiss federal funds. PAGES still has a major scientific role to play at a time when memory and the long term are less considered.



Figure 1: May 1995, in front of the old PAGES International Project Office, on the Barenplatz, Bern, Switzerland. PAGES people in the photo are: Herman Zimmerman (PAGES Co-Director; left), Rosenda Teta (PAGES Secretary; next to Zimmie), and visiting guest scientist Steve Colman (right) (Image credit: Steve Colman).



Figure 2: Workshop participants of the PEP meeting "Late Quaternary Paleoclimates in the Americas", 30 September - 2 October 1993 in Panama City, Panama. A young Marie-France Loutre (second from the left) attended as a PhD student; little did she know at the time that she would return to PAGES 22 years later to join the International Project Office staff as Executive Director!

Workshops fuel publications

Michael N. Evans, PAGES SSC 2016-2021, co-chair 2018-2020

PAGES workshops often reflect hospitality and scientific dedication that transcend their shoestring budgets, and produce results long after they convene. I remember the PAST2K/PMIP3 workshop in Madrid in November 2013, hosted by Laura Fernandez, Elena Garcia and Fidel Gonzalez-Rouco. The workshop began daily with strong coffee and homemade pastries. It included personalized, handmade, reusable nametags, nightly dinners bursting with further discussion at our hosts' favorite local restaurants, and a most memorable facilitated bilingual public outreach event. The discussions fueled at least three subsequent PAGES publications, any number of offshoot collaborations, and great ideas for hosting workshops in a similarly warm and productive way.



Figure 3: Workshop attendees at the memorable Madrid workshop in 2013 (Image credit: Davide Zanchettin).

Table dancers in South Africa

Heinz Wanner, PAGES co-chair 2005-2010

In May 2008, the PAGES SSC and EXCOM held its annual meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, and contributed to the 4th IGBP Congress. After several long sessions, the participants enjoyed a fantastic evening reception in a huge tent in the countryside. After a fine meal, enriched with superb South African wine, several PAGES members met on the dance floor in front of a talented local band. Without any doubt the highlight was reached when prominent PAGES members (precisely said: only men – and not the youngest!) started their show as more or less elegant table dancers, cheered on by the whole IGBP audience.

**Figure 4:** Who do you think danced on the tables?! PAGES SSC members at the 2008 meeting in Cape Town.**In memory of Mohammed Umer**

Pierre Francus, PAGES SSC 2007-2012

The picture is dedicated to the memory of Mohammed Umer who was a member of the PAGES Scientific Steering Committee between 2006 and 2011. Mohammed was not lucky when traveling to SSC meetings. He was seldom in time, and almost never succeeded in arriving at the right place. His luggage was frequently lost. However, eventually, Mohammed always made it to the meetings. His kindness and wisdom will be remembered by many.

**Figure 5:** Serious science being done at the beachfront during the 4th PAGES OSM in Goa, India.**PAGES defined my research outlook!**

Thamban Meloth

My cherished involvement with PAGES was initiated with my participation at the first Swiss Climate Summer School at the beautiful village of Hasliberg in July 1999. I was one of the eight early-career researchers who were generously supported by PAGES and START, under an initiative called REDIE. It was one of the most memorable summer schools I have ever attended. The interactions I had at the school opened up a world of opportunities and cemented my relationship with PAGES. My continued involvement with PAGES meetings and the 2k Network led me to organize the 4th Open Science Meeting in Goa in 2013. What an exotic meeting it was!

**Figure 6:** Mohammed Umer (1959-2011), PAGES SSC 2006-2011.**Years of collaboration**

Lucien von Gunten, PAGES Science Officer 2011-2019

Choosing only one special memory, from the more than eight years I had the chance to work for PAGES, is truly impossible. But what was always present in memorable occasions were the marvelous people, and this feeling that all just came together in a magic PAGES moment. This was regularly the case when different scientific communities met, sometimes for the first time, to work on a common goal. The excitement of the participants at the prospect of all the new opportunities for joint projects unfolding during the meeting was exhilarating and often laid the base for long-lasting collaborations.

**Figure 7:** Lucien von Gunten attended many memorable workshops and meetings during his time as Science Officer for PAGES.**Long-lasting connections**

Antonio Maldonado Castro

In 2005, two Chileans were granted a scholarship by PAGES to attend the 4th International NCCR Climate Summer School in Grindelwald, Switzerland. For me, the experience was unique, even though my English level was not very high, so I could not take full advantage of the experience, but some of the networks I formed there are still in place. Everything that opened my mind to that experience, I wanted others to have, so we organized two courses/workshops in South America, financed by PAGES, focused on students from South America, but bringing world-class researchers to Chile.

**Figure 8:** Duncan Christie and Antonio Maldonado Castro in the Swiss Alps (Grindelwald). Image credit: Antonio Maldonado Castro.**On the occasion:
PAGES' 30th birthday**
Michael N. Evans

Probabilities:
Yesterday for what can be:
Not indicative.

Forced change is one thing;
But the climate meanders
On top of that: fact.

Climate system is
Coupled and nonlinear
Add people and stir.

Persistence of risk:
Memory, slow processes.
Cascades and overlays.