Inside PAGES

New SSC members

PAGES is pleased to introduce three new members of its Scientific Steering Committee (SSC). Collectively they will strengthen the committee's modeling and sea level expertise.

Pascale Braconnot from heads the Climate Modeling team at Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement in Gif-sur-Yvette, France. Her scientific interest concerns the role of the ocean in climate and changes in the tropical hydrological cycle, focusing on the Afro-Asian monsoon and the El Niño-Southern Oscillation.

Hugues Goosse is a climate modeler at the Université catholique de Louvain in Belgium, with a strong interest in decadal to multi-centennial climate variability and on the application of data assimilation methods in paleoclimatology.

Yusuke Yokoyama is Associate Professor at the Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute of the University of Tokyo, Japan. His research is on proxy-based sea-level change and the development of dating methods to interpret sea-level and other palaeoclimate records.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the members who recently rotated off the SSC, Takeshi Nakatsuka, Pierre Francus and José Carriquiri, for their invaluable support and contributions during their time on the PAGES SSC.

Goa meetings

The 4th PAGES Open Science Meeting (OSM) and 2nd Young Scientists Meeting (YSM), which were held in February 2013 in Goa, India, fostered scientific exchange and collaboration amongst participants from around the world. If you weren't amongst those attending, you may still participate retrospectively in the events: View sessions and abstracts on the website, and stay tuned for presentation, poster, photo and video uploads (www.pages-osm.org).

PAGES umbrella programs

In April, PAGES, the Forum for Climate and Global Change ProClim, and the Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research, will jointly host the annual meeting of the Scientific Committee of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme in Bern, Switzerland. The dominating topic will be the shaping of and transitioning to the Future Earth super-program (see Program News, *PAGES news* 20(2)), which may become the "next big thing" in terms of Global Change science organization.

Support for meetings

During its meeting in February, the PAGES SSC granted support for a total of nine scientific and educational meetings. The next deadline for applying for PAGES meeting support is 1 May 2013. Support can be sought for workshop-style meetings relevant to PAGES Foci and Cross Cutting Themes. The three eligible categories are PAGES Working Group meetings, workshops with a design towards training or education, and an open call for other PAGES-relevant workshops. Application guidelines and forms can be found on the PAGES website (My PAGES > Meeting Support).

Next newsletter issues

The next two issues of PAGESnews will focus on ENSO and Dust. While the ENSO issue is closed, suitable articles for the Dust issue may still be included. Contact Ute Merkel (umerkel@marum.de) before 30 April 2013. As always, you are invited to submit Science Highlights, Program News, and Workshop Reports for the Open Section of PAGESnews. Find author guidelines on the PAGES website (My PAGES > Newsletter).

Editorial: Past4Future – learning from interglacials

The EU Framework Programme 7 Collaborative Project Past4Future aims to generate knowledge from climate change during past interglacials that can improve our ability to predict the future.

Dorthe Dahl-Jensen[1], Emilie Capron[2] and Emma Stone[3]

[1]Centre for Ice and Climate, Niels Bohrs Institute, University of Copenhagen, Denmark; ddj@gfy.ku.dk
[2]British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge, UK; [3]School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol, UK

Global warming strongly influences the future prospects of both citizens and policy makers. The change of climate calls for innovative decisions on food production, risk management, and energy policy. Uncertainties concerning the interplay between natural climatic and environmental variations and man-made changes remain a major obstacle for defining plausible trajectories of climate change in the coming decades. This is important for decisions on mitigation, adaptation, and risk reduction and our capability to monitor the efficiency of climate policy frameworks to reach desired climate targets.

By studying past climate changes when the Earth was as warm or warmer than at present we can gain knowledge about natural climatic and environmental variability on decadal to multi-millennial timescales and relate them to the recent changes originating from anthropogenic influences. Paleorecords show that the climate system has changed abruptly in the past (e.g. Alley et al. 1997; Dansgaard et al. 1993; Steffensen et al. 2008), but the extent of such changes during warm periods has still to be fully investigated. Understanding the climate dynamics and variability during warm time periods, and the likelihood of abrupt changes within the system, requires improved insight into interactions between forcings such as freshwater