

## Editorial

Is PAGES a closed club? Clearly the answer to this question is a matter of opinion, and a matter of degree. As the new executive director at the PAGES International Project Office, my own opinion is that PAGES needs to make a proactive and concerted effort to ensure that it serves as a transparent and useful institution that is perceived of as such by the international Earth system science community. Here are a few of the actions PAGES is now taking in this regard:

### Communication and Outreach

Of the 80 countries that receive the PAGES newsletter, 30 are represented by only 1 or 2 individual scientists in our database. Surely, if there are 102 active paleoenvironmental scientists in Switzerland, there must be more than 2 in Turkey. We are now contacting all of the scientists based in underrepresented countries on our mailing with the plea to send us the names and addresses of their colleagues. This is only a first step to ensuring that these individuals can benefit from PAGES activities and, conversely, that PAGES can benefit from their research.

### Research Activities

The European Union operates (supposedly) on the principle of "subsidiarity," which is meant to ensure that rules and regulations are only made in areas where there is a genuine need for pan-European legislation. PAGES will adopt a similar litmus test for its research activities. Each PAGES promulgated research activity will be expected to demonstrate a clear need for international coordination in order for the research to be done well. In addition to clarifying their rationale and goals, the leaders of PAGES research activities will be expected to identify proposed products and outcomes, and set timelines for achieving these.

### Workshops

PAGES provides funding for approximately 10 meetings per year. Roughly half of these are planning workshops with the goal of furthering specific PAGES activities. This moiety of PAGES workshop funding is top-down in nature and is meant to further targeted research objectives. The remainder of PAGES workshop funding is bottom up in nature. These latter meetings are funded in response mode based on requests from individual scientists in the international community. PAGES has developed new guidelines for its workshop support that are meant to ensure that PAGES funding will strongly prioritize bringing together (1) scientists who have not participated in PAGES workshops in the past (2) young scientists and (3) scientists from developing countries. All PAGES supported workshops are expected to be open to self funding participants.

Given the increasing realization that human activities are influencing the global climate and global environmental systems, a clear need exists for coordinated international attention to past climatic and environmental changes of most relevance to the future. The PAGES program, because of its strong community recognition and its light, flexible and science driven nature is ideally suited to fill this need. The only way the PAGES organization can work though, is as a completely inclusive one.

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## Inside PAGES

### Changes in the SSC

The PAGES Scientific Steering Committee welcomes two new members in 2001:

**Ryuji Tada** started his academic career as a field geologist in 1976. He received his doctoral degree from the Faculty of Science, University of Tokyo in 1981 on the study of diagenesis of siliceous sediments. During a stay in U.S. from 1983 to 1985, he became interested in topics such as Milankovitch cycles and geochemical cycles. In 1989, he participated in an ODP Japan Sea cruise, and started work on late Quaternary paleoceanography and paleoclimate, especially in north Pacific region including the Japan Sea. His current interests are the origin and mechanisms of millennial to centennial scale variations of the Asian monsoon and their impacts on global climate.

**Carole L. Crumley** holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology, specializing in archaeology and ecology (1972), from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is Professor of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and Fellow of the Carolina Environmental Program. She is a member of the U.S. DIVERSITAS Committee and vice chairman of the U.S. Committee of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences. She studies the evolution of land use in Burgundy (France) at several temporal scales, employing an interdisciplinary framework that integrates geomorphology, climate history, and biogeography with archaeological and documentary evidence and information from contemporary inhabitants. Her current research focuses on challenges to the region's historic sustainability posed by international agricultural, trade, and tariff agreements.

PAGES thanks the two members rotating off the committee, **Yugo Ono** of Hokkaido University Sapporo, Japan and **Anne DeVernal** of the University of Quebec in Montreal, Canada for their support over the past several years. Both continue their active research careers and involvement