

Remarks from the Chair

By Shuhai Xiao

I hope you have a great start in 2016. I would like to take a few moments to quickly review our activities in 2016 and plans for 2016. More information about these activities and plans can be found in the annual report, which is attached to this newsletter.

First, I am pleased to announce that the Second Ediacaran Stage (SES) and Terminal Ediacaran Stage (TES) working groups have been officially established. These working groups are chaired by Dr. Chuanming Zhou (SES) and Dr. Guy Narbonne (TES). Second, we had a big show-up at STRATI 2015 in Graz, Austria. The joint symposium “Precambrian Stratigraphy” at STRATI 2015 was a success, with over half of Ediacaran Subcommittee voting members present in the symposium, an open meeting, and an associated business meeting. Jim Schiffbauer, Marc Laflamme, and Simon Darroch put together a hugely successful Pardee Symposium on “Earth-Life Systems at the Dawn of Animals” at Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Baltimore. Drew Muscente, Natasha Bykova, Jesse Broce, and Jim Schiffbauer organized a topical session on “Geobiology of Critical Transitions: Integrating Fossils, Proxies, and Models”, with many presentations focused on Ediacaran stratigraphy and Earth-life history.

Looking forward to 2016, several important workshops and symposia are in the preparation. There will be two symposia relevant to Ediacaran stratigraphy at the 35th IGC in Cape Town (8/27/2016–9/4/2016): “The Dawn of Animals: Cryogenian to Cambrian” (organized by Douglas Erwin, Rachel Wood, Marc Laflamme, and Shuhai Xiao) and “Cloudinids and Allied Metazoans” (organized by Dermeval Do Carmo, Hong Hua, Paulo Cesar Boggian, Bernd Erdtmann and Claudio Gaucher). Additionally, an IGC field trip sponsored by the subcommittee and led by Patricia Vickers-Rich, Guy Narbonne, and Marc Laflamme to

examine the Ediacaran succession in Namibia has been in the preparation.

Palaeo Down Under 2, co-sponsored by the Ediacaran Subcommittee and organized by the Association of Australasian Palaeontologists (AAP), will be held on July 10–15, 2016, at the University of Adelaide in South Australia. The conference is preceded by a Field Excursion to examine key Ediacaran sections in the Flinders Ranges on July 1–9. Both the Namibia and Australia field excursions will help the TES working group to assess criteria for the subdivision of correlation of the Terminal Ediacaran Stage.

In order to start the discussion on a geological time scale of the Ediacaran Period, several of us have been working on a white paper laying out the challenges and prospects which is currently in review with *Episodes*.

The Subcommittee executives have been discussing the possibility of establishing a new category of membership: honorary members. We are hoping to establish this new category in 2016 to honor those who have made important contributions to Ediacaran stratigraphy as past voting members of the Subcommittee or its predecessor.

I hope you enjoy reading the 4th newsletter of the Ediacaran Subcommittee. Newsletters are considered as gray literature where people share information in informal ways. Whereas one can share information in numerous venues, including Facebook, Twitter, and many other social media, the *Edies* is specifically tailored for the community of Ediacaran researchers. Thus, I continue to value the *Edies*, and would like to thank you for your contributions and thank Marc for his effort to compile the information.

Finally, on behalf of the executives, I would like to thank you for allowing us to serve a second term.

Notes from the Secretary

By Marc Laflamme

Welcome to our fourth newsletter. 2015 was an exciting year, with several high profile meetings and conferences including the Pardee Keynote Symposium P3: “*Earth-Life Systems at the Dawn of Animals*” at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD, organized by corresponding members James D. Schiffbauer, Simon A.F. Darroch, and myself. The interest in our science was evident, with a “standing room only” policy for most of the symposium. We also had a great turnout at the STRATI conference in Graz, Austria, which also allowed us to have a Subcommission meeting with a good turnout of voting and corresponding members.

I’d also like to take this moment to ask for a favor from our members. As we enter our second term, I would be delighted if we could solicit a potential LOGO for our Subcommission, something to aid in our continued efforts to publicize the work of our Subcommission. Should you have any suggestions, or possibly know of students who would be interested in designing something to suit our needs, please contact me.

TES Working Group Members

Voting Members:

Guy M. Narbonne (Chair)
Malgorzata Moczydlowska-Vidal, (Secretary)
Jose-Javier Alvaro,
Luis A. Buatois,
James G. Gehling,
Dmitri V. Grazhdankin,
Soren Jensen,
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Marc Laflamme,
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Corresponding Members:

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Jean-Pierre Duda,
Stephen Dornbos,
Doug Erwin,
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Gabriela Mangano,
Michael Meyer,
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SES Working Group Members

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Marc Laflamme
Pengju Liu
Alex Liu
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James Schiffbauer
Erik Sperling
Adamson Peter William
Patricia Vickers-Rich
Sebastian Willman
Xunlai Yuan
Maoyan Zhu
Rajita Shukla
Harshita Joshi
Meera Tiwari
Charlotte G. Kenchington

LIST OF MAJOR PUBLICATIONS OF SUBCOMMISSION WORK

1. Álvaro, J.J., Shields-Zhou, G.A., Ahlberg, P., Jensen, S., Palacios, T. (2015). Ediacaran-Cambrian phosphorites from the western margins of Gondwana and Baltica. *Sedimentology*, doi:10.1111/sed.12217
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