

ISCS UPDATE

DEC 2024

FROM THE EXECUTIVE

In 2024, the International Subcommittee on Cambrian Stratigraphy (ISCS) was rebuilt and continues the important work of defining series and stages. The executive team (**John Paterson** [Chair], **Jessica Creveling** [Vice Chair] and **Marissa Betts** [Secretary]) acknowledge the efforts of the outgoing subcommittee, and extend sincere thanks to those who have volunteered their time to be part of the new voting membership and working groups. This year we have focused on bringing these teams together, with key discussions already underway. In 2025, we aim to make progress, particularly with the base of Stage 10, but also with possible definitions for the older stages.

NEWSLETTER

This (ideally quarterly) newsletter is designed to keep Corresponding Members updated with progress the ISCS is making, and provide a conduit for communicating with the wider community. All are welcome to be Corresponding Members of the ISCS and receive these newsletters. Please pass them on to those who would be interested and encourage Cambrian workers to get in touch with the executive to make sure they are on the mailing list (marissa.betts@une.edu.au). If you have news you would like to share with the community (e.g. conferences/sessions, workshops, field trips, talks, events) please let us know and we will include it in the newsletter.

FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

A key aim has been to build working groups that have both gender balance and geographic balance. New membership is in line with the view that any GSSP needs to be defined using multiproxy data, with members having expertise in key fields e.g. palaeontology, stratigraphy, chemostratigraphy, tectonics, chronostratigraphy and geochronology.

Stage 2 Working Group

In 2024, the new Cambrian Stage 2 Working Group has been established, with **Glenn Brock** (Macquarie University, Australia) and **Guoxiang Li** (Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences) as co-leaders. The first meeting of the new group will take place by the end of 2024.

Stages 3-4 Working Group

A new Working Group for Cambrian Stages 3 and 4 has been established, with **Sara Pruss** (Smith College, USA) and **Mark Webster** (University of Chicago, USA) as co-leaders. This WG has already met over Zoom, with members beginning to weigh in on existing criteria for establishing the base of Stage 3 and the base of Stage 4.

Stage 10

In April 2024, the Voting Members were sent a questionnaire to complete before meeting via Zoom to discuss the best way forward for Stage 10. The questionnaire and discussions focused on whether the FAD of the agnostid arthropod *Lotagnostus americanus* or the FAD of the conodont *Eoconodontus notchpeakensis* (just below the onset of the HERB/TOCE isotope excursion) would best define the base. Despite the results of previous ballots held by former members of the Subcommittee, plus the considerable literature available for both options, the consensus amongst current Voting Members was that a new Stage 10 Working Group, including specialists with expertise on agnostid and conodont taxonomy and biostratigraphy, should be established – a search for leaders and other members is currently underway.

CAMBRO TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Currently, the Series 2 - Miaolingian boundary is stated as ~509 Ma on the official Chart. However, some relatively recent work has suggested this may be ~506 Ma. Is there enough evidence to support this being changed on the Chart? One for a lab group (or Christmas party) discussion perhaps!

Happy holidays,
John, JC and Marissa