

ISCS UPDATE

MAR 2025

FROM THE EXECUTIVE

In December 2024 the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) put out the call to all Subcommissions for updates to the numerical ages on the international chronostratigraphic chart. After some consultation with Voting Members, the Cambrian Subcommission Executive decided to change the age of the base of the Miaolingian/Wuliuan from ~509 Ma to ~506.5 Ma, based on data in recent publications by Karlstrom et al. (2020, *Geology*, 48: 425–430), Sundberg et al. 2020 (*Geology*, 48: 441–446), and Landing et al. (2023, *Geological Magazine*, 160: 1790–1816). Some other boundary dates were also updated to reflect the ages published in GTS2020 (Gradstein et al. 2020). The new chart (v.2024/12) can now be downloaded from the ICS website.

FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

Stages 3-4 Working Group

The Stage 3-4 Working Group met on 1st Jan, 2025 to discuss progress on defining the base of the stages. Over the last few months we have been compiling ideas, comments, and relevant literature in a shared folder, which formed the basis of the discussion at our meeting. Although the local FAD of trilobites has long been touted as a potential base to Stage 3, our group believes that there may be a need to move away from this idea and embrace being able to use some combination of more biostratigraphically useful fossils and chemostratigraphy (both coupled with geochronology, in ideal circumstances). In response to this, a new verbal proposal was discussed to move the base of Stage 3 to a higher stratum than the FAD of trilobites. We will continue to discuss. For the base of Stage 4, we likely need more information on brachiopods (in consultation with brachiopod experts) for this time interval, and perhaps some additional small shelly taxonomy. Over the next few months, the members of the working group will work on the possibilities for a younger base of Stage 3 while also looking at some existing data (and perhaps generating a “wish list”) of what data we would like to see to better discuss the base of Stage 4.

- Sara Pruss and Mark Webster

Stage 2 Working Group

Our goal is to integrate a range of multiproxy methods to identify a chronostratigraphic stratum from a suitable stratotype section to define the base of Cambrian Stage 2. The geographic balance of the

expertise covers all relevant Cambrian palaeocontinents and in line with our view that any GSSP needs to be defined based on multiproxy data we have global expertise across palaeontology, stratigraphy, chemostratigraphy, tectonics, chronostratigraphy and geochronology. Gender balance is 74% Male to 26% Female for the WG, which is less than ideal but we consider the current mix of expertise relevant to the main goal to select a suitable Stage 2 GSSP. The first meeting of the Stage 2 WG is planned for March, 2025.

- Glenn Brock and Guoxiang Li

Stage 10

We have a new Stage 10 Working Group that has just been assembled. Working to finalise the progress already made on Stage 10 is a priority for the ISCS in 2025. Watch this space.

VALE

John Malinky (1955 - 2025): Dr. John Malinky was well-known as a specialist in hyolith palaeontology. His studies include hyoliths from the Cambrian, Ordovician and Devonian, of Laurentia, Western Avalonia, Baltica, West Gondwana and the Siberian Platform, with special emphasis on palaeogeographic distribution of Cambrian taxa and a penchant to clarify taxonomic problems of old collections. Despite of difficult job situations during his career and serious, growing health problems for more than a decade, he dedicated his life to hyoliths and remained positive in mind and active as a researcher until literally his last days.

- Gerd Geyer

NEWS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

If you have some news you would like to share with the community via this newsletter (e.g. information about upcoming events/meetings/sessions/symposia/fieldtrips etc) please let us know. Email marissa.betts@une.edu.au