

FRONTIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN ANTARCTIC GEOSCIENCES

29 – 31 August 2004 * Certosa di Pontignano (Siena), Italy

Conveners:

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Agenda

1. Overview of research activities in Antarctica and offshore
 - a. National Antarctic programmes: programmatic goals according to discipline(s) and geographic region of primary activity
 - b. Current research activities, with major findings; and future directions, as determined from planning workshops and long range planning.
2. Collaborative international programmes and joint technological implementation
 - a. International Polar Year: developing research initiatives for IPY
 - b. Antarctic drilling programmes (e.g. ANDRILL; glacial lake exploration)
 - c. Exploration of the Antarctic lithosphere: Tectonic boundaries and lithospheric structure of continental interior, continental shelves, and Antarctic ocean basins
3. Maintaining a strong role of Geology/Geophysics in Antarctic research
 - a. Trends in funding and national programme priorities
 - b. Strategies and science objectives
 - c. Outreach and education: Dissemination of objectives and findings in public and political sectors

Volunteered oral and poster presentations from workshop participants.

We invite your input on organization of the research sessions.

4. Theme session I. Geological and geophysical investigations focused on crustal structure, evolution of Antarctic crust, and paleoenvironments
5. Theme session II. New techniques and technologies: Instrumentation, Analytical methods (e.g. isotope systems and methods), and Numerical Modelling
6. Theme session III. Multidisciplinary approaches: Opportunities at the interfaces between disciplines
7. Theme session IV. Geodynamics
8. Discussions and small working groups (throughout the workshop)

The workshop will serve as a forum for discussion of shared scientific objectives and future directions for national and international collaborative research, including International Polar Year. We expect to identify and discuss ways to maintain a strong role for earth sciences in future research in Antarctica, as priorities for research in climate and life in extreme environments increase.

Workshop results:

Synthesis of scientific goals and outstanding problems in Antarctic research, together with themes of discussion and abstracts of volunteered presentations will be presented in a Workshop Summary on the conference website.

Presenter information

We welcome research presentations by all participants. Please propose title and presentation format in the space provided on the registration form. *Volunteered talks should be planned at 15 minutes, followed by 5 minutes for questions. Poster presentations will be on display for viewing and discussion in a Monday afternoon session and throughout the workshop.* Decision about presentation format will rest with the organizers and will take in to account the time available and participant response to theme sessions.

Daily schedule for the workshop

Sessions will begin at 10 a.m. on Sunday, 29 August, and at 9 a.m. on the other days.

Three oral sessions will be scheduled each day (two morning, one afternoon). The oral session on day 1 will be paired with a poster session. discussion among small working groups on days 2-3. *We invite your input on themes for the oral sessions.*

Preliminary Timetable

S	Sunday, 29 August	M-T	Monday, 30 August	Tuesday, 31 August
10,00	Welcome	09,00	4. Research I	6. Research III
10,15	1. Overview by region	10,40	Break	Break
11,15	2. Collab international prog	11,00	5. Research II	7. Research IV
12,00	Discussion		Discussion / small groups	Discussion
12,30	Break followed by luncheon	13,00	Lunch	Lunch
14,30	3. Maintaining strong role...	14,00	Excursion to Siena	8. Discussion / small groups / wrap-up
15,15	Discussion	15,00		Conclusion
15,45	Poster session and social hour	15,45		
18,00	Open hour followed by dinner	~22,00	Return to Pontignano	

On one afternoon, we plan a field excursion in and around the hilltop city of Siena, to acquaint participants with the geological environs and geological considerations for construction of the medieval city. Of particular interest are the engineering of the Duomo and water delivery systems to the town. The excursion will conclude with wine tasting in the famed *Enoteca Italiana* (<http://www.enoteca-italiana.it/>), situated within the Fortezza Medicea (hilltop fortress of Siena, dating from the 16th century). More information about Siena can be found online (page in English language) at www.comune.siena.it/turismo/webasp/home.asp?Lingua=ENG .

Breakfast, luncheon, and dinner meals will be provided in the dining room at the Certosa, and are included in the cost of workshop registration. Morning and afternoon breaks for coffee or tea will take place beneath the arching porticos of Pontignano's courtyard.