

May 2011 Newsletter of the AGU Near-Surface Focus Group

1. AGU Fall Meeting 2011 News
2. AGU's Council Governance and the Mission: Alignment Project
3. Report from SAGEEP 2011, April 10-14th, Charleston, South Carolina
4. Reminder: NovCare, May 9, 2011, Cape Cod
5. Reminder: IWAGPR, 6th International Workshop on Advanced Ground Penetrating Radar, Aachen, Germany

Recent announcements of interest to the NS community (conferences, academic positions, graduate student opportunities etc.) can be found at the AGU NS-Focus Group Web Page: <http://nsg.agu.org>

AGU NS Membership as of May 2011:

Primary affiliation: 740 members; Secondary: 2591 members

1. AGU Fall Meeting 2011 News

A new record for the Fall Meeting – AGU received 892 session proposals!

A total of 8 session proposals were submitted to Near-Surface as the primary affiliation.

Conveners will be notified by 6 June if their session proposal has been accepted. All approved sessions will be posted on the Fall Meeting site prior to the beginning of abstract submissions on 8 June.

2. AGU's Council Governance and the Mission: Alignment Project (from Louise Pellerin, NSFG Chair)

The AGU Council is comprised of the Section Presidents and Presidents-elect and the Focus Group Chairs and Co-chairs. The Council mission is to promote discovery in Earth and space science for the benefit of humanity. The vision is to galvanize a community of Earth and space scientists that collaboratively advances and communicates science and its power to ensure a sustainable future. The strategic objectives to achieve our mission and vision are:

- Expand training, recognition and reward of AGU scientists in communicating science to nonscience audiences
- Strengthen AGU's ability to operate in an interdisciplinary manner; develop mechanisms to support interdisciplinary collaboration among members
- Enhance engagement and involvement of students and early career scientists
- Increase participation of underrepresented populations
- Optimize effectiveness of technology and technology resources
- Empower and enable AGU scientists to undertake interdisciplinary research to address key societal issues
- Improve responsiveness to members
- Increase transparency of governance, finance and operations
- Improve governance effectiveness, efficiency and visibility
- Enhance diversity and inclusiveness

The Council's Mission: Alignment Project (M:AP):

- Broadly solicit insight into how the science is reconfiguring itself and how it is anticipated to change
- Consider implication for AGU structures and how AGU fulfills its purpose and achieves its bold vision, and
- Make recommendations, as a Council, about how AGU might want and need to:
 - Preserve and strengthen member value of affiliation
 - Modify science structure and honors and recognition processes
 - Organize to facilitate and 'deliver' the science to the outside world, in order to:
 - Bring completion to the governance changes currently being implemented.
 - Rethink the way it disseminates research

Work on M:AP is ongoing. Data has been acquired from discussions and an online member survey (~600 responses) regarding the strategic question of “How does AGU science need to be organized, recognized and rewarded, disseminated and promoted, given our strategic plan, stakeholder expectations of AGU, and what is being asked of science and our members?” The M:AP team is divided into subgroups to discuss the Council’s top 3 priority topics

1. Affiliation / Organization (sections, focus groups, etc.)
2. Honors and Recognition / Fellows
3. Council role / composition / how it gets work done (Pellerin serves on this subcommittee)

The subgroups met on 30-31 March. The results are to be used to help the Council identify priority topics so the entire Council is in position to make important decisions as the new AGU governance moves forward

3. Report from SAGEEP 2011, April 10-14th, Charleston, South Carolina (from Greg Baker and Lee Slater)

The 2011 SAGEEP conference was well attended with a record (or near-record, depending on the final number) of 320+ attendees from 18 countries, and offered four concurrent sessions with a record total number of papers (270; 206 oral presentations and 64 posters) having a high technical content. This year, members of the academic community—most notably from the AGU, SEG and EAGE communities—came in force to join with the professional community of EEGS to make an impressive meeting on environmental and engineering geophysics. The meeting had a number of novel sessions and presentations of high interest to the AGU NSG community. Notable were (1) the day long session that defined the state of the art in airborne electromagnetics, being chaired by both European and U.S. experts in the field, and (2) the all-day session on the nuclear magnetic resonance method, a promising evolving technology with many potential applications in hydrogeophysics. The meeting was also notable for its two keynote talks by emerging early career scientists. James Irving (University of Lausanne) gave an impressive keynote lecture as the Geonics Early-Career Awardee on stochastic inverse methods in hydrogeophysics. Stephen Moysey (Clemson University) gave an inspiring invited keynote talk on his work in India through the Geoscientists Without Borders (GWB) program. The general consensus of the AGU NS members present at this meeting was that SAGEEP now has a lot to offer our community as a Spring meeting focused on the state of the art in Environmental and Engineering Geophysics. Members of AGU NSG are strongly encouraged to consider participating in SAGEEP 2012 in Tucson Arizona and supporting the growth of SAGEEP to return to the premiere specialized meeting in all focus areas of environmental and engineering geophysics. The call for Session Proposals will come out shortly, with a deadline in early September 2011 for the Spring 2012 conference.

4. Reminder: NovCare, Novel Methods for Subsurface Characterization and Monitoring, May 9, 2011, Cape Cod (from Remke van Dam)

We remind you that NovCare 2011: Novel Methods for Subsurface Characterization and Monitoring - From Theory to Practice, will be held May 9-11, 2011, on Cape Cod, MA. This three-day topical conference will draw together environmental researchers and practitioners, providing a rare opportunity for stakeholders from academia, industry, and government, to explore, experience, and discuss the latest developments in subsurface characterization and monitoring.

Invited speakers include Drs. Richelle Allen-King (U. at Buffalo), Olaf Cirpka (U. of Tübingen), Denis LeBlanc (USGS), Lee Slater (Rutgers U.), Scott Tyler (U. of Nevada, Reno), Garth van der Kamp (Environment Canada), Harry Vereecken (Forschungszentrum Jülich), and Gary Weissmann (U. of New Mexico).

Visit <http://www.novcare.org/> for further details.

5. Reminder: IWAGPR, 6th International Workshop on Advanced Ground Penetrating Radar, June 22 – 24, Aachen, Germany

The International Workshop on Advanced Ground Penetrating Radar is a biannual series of international scientific symposia devoted to the advancements in GPR techniques and applications. The conference is aimed at presenting a wide range of scientific and technical information of high standard to scientists, engineers and end-users of GPR technology. The goal of the workshop is to spread knowledge about GPR technology and its use, as well as, to provide a unique possibility to participants to exchange ideas about the advances in their work and discuss their results. All papers presented at the conference will be published in the workshop proceedings. The official language of the conference is English.

We look forward to seeing you in Aachen.

Jan van der Kruk, Klaus Reicherter and Sebastián Lambot

Early bird registration by: May 7, 2011

Registration deadline: June 10, 2011

To contribute material to the NS-letter send an e-mail to:

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DEADLINE: Material must be received 2 full business days prior to the first of each month.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS: All members are welcome to submit content of interest to the NS community. Please keep messages brief and provide contact information and (if available) a web address for additional information. AGU requests formatting of e-mail messages to be as simple as possible (no bold characters (use ALL CAPS instead), no color font, or other special formatting of text and paragraphs). E-mail attachments cannot be distributed