

RADIOCARBON UPDATES

Obituary

As many of our readers know, Hans Oeschger of the University of Bern died on 25 December 1998. A former Associate Editor of *RADIOCARBON*, Professor Oeschger was a pioneer in radiocarbon measuring technology and one of the world's foremost researchers in climate studies. We have scheduled for our next issue an obituary and memorial with an emphasis on Professor Oeschger's contributions to radiocarbon work, written by his Bern colleagues. In the meantime, we join with the scientific community in expressing our sadness at his passing and honoring his contributions to our field.

Awards

NERC Grant Award to Dr Gerry McCormac, The Queen's University of Belfast: "Inter-Hemispheric C-14 Offsets: Temporal Variations"

A previous study funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC ref: GR9/02597 to Dr Gerry McCormac) of the United Kingdom and the New Zealand Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (ref: UOW-508 to Drs Alan Hogg and Tom Higham) to investigate the hemispheric offset in ^{14}C using tree-ring dated wood from the British Isles and New Zealand demonstrated that a hemispheric offset exists and that there are temporal variations in its magnitude. The initial study funded by NERC covered the 200-yr period AD 1720 to AD 1940 and used paired samples of oak and cedar from the British Isles and New Zealand, respectively.

Recently the NERC have awarded a grant (GR3/11941) for £123,328 to the group at Queen's University, Belfast, led by Dr Gerry McCormac to extend the period of measurements back to AD 1000. These measurements and measurements made by the group from Waikato University will create a Southern Hemisphere calibration curve that is linked to the Northern Hemisphere dataset and will determine the extent to which hemispheric offsets alter with time.

Change of Address

Paula Reimer has left the University of Washington in Seattle to take up a postdoctoral fellowship in the Belfast Radiocarbon Laboratory where she will be working with Dr Gerry McCormac on the abovementioned interhemispheric ^{14}C offsets and reservoir corrections. She is also involved in a stable isotope project on sediment cores from Lough Neagh, Northern Ireland. The radiocarbon calibration program CALIB will continue to be supported and is available from the University of Washington webpage <URL:<http://depts.washington.edu/qil>>.

New address:

Radiocarbon Lab
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Queen's University of Belfast
Belfast BT7 1NN, Northern Ireland
Phone: +44 1232 273980
Fax: +44 1232 315779
Email: p.j.reimer@qub.ac.uk

New Laboratory Listing

We recently received notice of a second radiocarbon laboratory at the National Centre for Scientific Research “Demokritos” near Athens, Greece. It has been performing dating using liquid scintillation counting since 1994. The new laboratory listing is:

LIH Dr. Nicolaos Zouridakis
Laboratory of Isotope Hydrology
Institute of Physical Chemistry
National Centre for Scientific Research “Demokritos”
153 10 Aghia Paraskevi Attikis
POB 60228
Greece
Tel: +30 1 6503969; Fax: +30 1 6511766

Associate Editor Retirement

As part of his (very) gradual transition to retirement from academic duties, Doug Harkness of the NERC Radiocarbon Laboratory in East Kilbride is stepping down from his duties as an Associate Editor of *RADIOCARBON*. During his period of service he co-edited both the Proceedings of the 15th International Radiocarbon Conference and our special-topic issue on ^{14}C and Soil Dynamics. We thank Doug for his assistance and good sense he has provided us over the past few years.