

## SUBCOMMISSION ON TRIASSIC STRATIGRAPHY: EXECUTIVE VOTE

**Christopher McRoberts**, STS Secretary, *Geology Department, State University of New York at Cortland, Cortland, New York, 13045 USA*

According to ICS/IUGS statutes, every four years, the subcommissions should hold an election for its executive. The previous term for the executive of the STS was set to expire in December 2015 and a call for nominations and election new executive for the period 2016-2020. A solicitation for the new executive (Chair and vice Chair) was sent via email to the existing STS voting and corresponding membership. The call for nominations resulted in single nomination for Chair of the Subcommission, Mark Hounslow (Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University, UK) and two nominations for Vice Chair: Zhong-Qiang Chen (China University of Geosciences at Wuhan) and Wolfram Kürschner (University of Oslo).

Balloting was conducted via email to voting members between December 8 and December 18, 2016. The results of the first round of balloting is as follows: 22 ballots were returned (from 23 voting members) resulted in a 96% return rate.

M. Hounslow for STS Chair  
18 Yes votes, 1 No vote, 3 Abstentions

Z.-q. Chen for STS Vice Chair: 10 Yes votes  
W. Kürschner for STS Vice Chair: 12 Yes votes  
0 Abstentions

Mark Hounslow was duly elected as Chair of the STS with 81.8% of returned ballots. Z.-q.Chen received 45.5% of cast ballots and W. Kürschner received 54.5% of cast ballots. The leading vice chair candidate, W. Kürschner, failed to achieved the 60% majority to successfully complete the election as stipulated in ICS statutes.

A second round of balloting was necessary to affirm the leading candidate of the first ballot, and was held via email to voting members between December 18 and and December 30, 2016. The results of the second round of ballots is as follows: 20 ballots cast (23 voting members) resulted in a 87% return rate.

W. Kürschner for STS Vice Chair  
18 Yes votes, 1 No vote, 1 Abstention

Wolfram Kürschner was duly elected as Vice Chair of the STS with 90% of returned ballots.

## REPORT OF THE NORIAN/RHAETIAN BOUNDARY WORKING GROUP

**Marco Balini**, STS Chair, *Department of Earth Sciences "Ardito Desio", University of Milan, Via Mangiagalli 34, 20133 Milan, Italy*

Leo Krystyn, who chaired this Working Group for many years, in 2014 step back from this position because he was directly involved in the group working on the candidate section Steinbergkogel (Austria). I took on the coordination of the WG, that was re-activated on October 20, 2014. The 20 members were requested to confirm their interest on taking part of the GSSP selection procedure, then on December 16, 2014, the WG members were requested to suggest possible new members. Fifteen members answered the call and suggested 8 possible new members. On the basis of the number of votes, Manuel Rigo, Dave Taylor and Simonetta Cirilli were invited to join the WG. They accepted the invitation between February and March, then the final composition of the Working Group includes the following 24 members:

Bachman, Gerhard, *Halle, Germany;*  
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Balini Marco, *Milano, Italy;*  
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Hounslow Mark, *Lancaster, U.K.;*  
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Kolar-Jurkovsek Tea, *Ljubljana, Slovenia;*  
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Krystyn Leopold, *Vienna, Austria;*  
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Kuerschner Wolfram, *Oslo, Norway;*  
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Lucas Spencer, *Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA;*  
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McRoberts Christopher, *Cortland, New York, USA;*  
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## STS Report

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 Taylor Dave, Portland, Oregon, USA; Blitz124@comcast.net  
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With the new members, the WG does not conform with the composition of 20 members suggested in the ICS Statute, but the base of the Rhaetian stage is one of the most complex of the Triassic system, then it is reasonable to involve some more specialists. This is a rather common practice, followed also by other Subcommissions of the ICS.

At the end of December 2014 Manuel Rigo informed me that a second proposal of GSSP, with Pignola-Abriola as candidate section (Lagonegro basin, Southern Italy), was submitted to Lethaia. The review process and the technical editing of the accepted manuscript took quite a lot of time, then Rigo et al. proposal was presented as talk during the session S 17 of STRATI 2015 congress in Graz, Austria. The pre-print of the paper was available only in September, 2015.

The congress STRATI 2015 (July 19-23, 2015, Graz, Austria) was advertised since 2014 as the most important opportunity to discuss the Norian/Rhaetian boundary. The GSSP candidate section Steinbergkogel was visited during the pre-congress field trip FT 5 2 "End-Triassic crisis events recorded in platforms and basins of the Austrian Alps. The Triassic/Jurassic GSSP and the Norian/Rhaetian GSSP candidate". Unfortunately no one of the members of Rigo's group attended the field trip, then the discussion on the N/R boundary took place during the session S17 and the Business meeting of the STS (see the report). Four talks out of 17, and 3 posters out of 6 were on Norian-Rhaetian stratigraphy. The talks included the updated proposal for Steinbergkogel (Krystyn et al.) and the new proposal for Pignola-Abriola (Rigo et al.).

The second proposal of GSSP for the Rhaetian stage, by Rigo et al., is based on a prominent negative shift of ca. 6‰ of the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ , while Krystyn et al. proposal for Steinbergkogel is based on the FAD of the conodont *Misikella posthernsteini*. The latter event was already formally voted as primary marker event by the N/R boundary WG, several years ago.

At the end of STRATI congress, I asked Rigo to organize

a field trip to Pignola-Abriola, because this section has not yet been visited by many specialists. A first option was for October 2015, but it was delayed to 2016, because there was not time enough to advertise WG.

## BUSINESS MEETING OF THE STS, GRAZ, JULY 22, 2015

**Marco Balini**, STS Chair, *Department of Earth Sciences "Ardito Desio", University of Milan, Via Mangiagalli 34, 20133 Milan, Italy*

Participants: Marco Balini, Claudia Agnini, Annachiara Bartolini, Aymon Baud, Jacopo del Corso, Bruno Galbrun, Silvia Gardin, Piero Gianolla, Steve Hesselbo, Dennis Kent, Ali Murat Kilic, Leo Krystyn, Marco Levera, Gerhard Mandl, Michele Mazza, Jozsef Palfy, Camille Peyberne, Sylvain Richoz, Manuel Rigo, George Stanley, Tong Jinnan, X. Zhang.

Agenda: At the beginning of the meeting, M. Balini proposed to change the original agenda, consisting of 3 points (1. from the chair; 2. Albertiana and 3. State of the art of the discussion on Norian/Rhaetian boundary), and to dedicate the whole business meeting to the discussion of the item #3. This suggestion was accepted by all the participants.

Report: The meeting started at 12,30. All the participants accepted the proposal to dedicate the meeting to the discussion on the Norian/Rhaetian boundary.

In the first part of the meeting L. Krystyn and M. Rigo illustrated with the help of Powerpoint presentations a summary of the data from the two GSSP candidate sections, Steinbergkogel and Pignola-Abriola. Krystyn gave a short presentation, while Rigo illustrated Pignola-Abriola proposal in details, because his presentation during session S17 was strongly influenced by technical problems.

The second part of the meeting was devoted to the discussion of the following items:

a) the two different proposal of marker events (FAD of *Misikella posthernsteini* at Steinbergkogel and a negative shift of the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$  at Pignola Abriola);

b) the different views of the correlations of Steinbergkogel with Pignola-Abriola, especially as regard the calibration of magnetostratigraphy.

The discussion of the latter point was quite lively. Krystyn and Rigo showed two different interpretations of the morphology of *Misikella posthernsteini*, within the lineage *M. hernsteini*-*M. posthernsteini*. At the end of the meeting M. Balini proposed to the leaders of the groups working on Steinbergkogel and Pignola-Abriola to submit their views to the next Albertiana and also suggested Rigo to organize a field trip to Pignola-Abriola.

No further point were raised, then the meeting ended at 14:00.