

"Future Directions in Tectonics" – Workshop Invitation

Future research in tectonics is the focus of an NSF-sponsored workshop to be held in Madison, Wisconsin on May 20-22, 2016. We aim to assemble a diverse range of earth scientists to identify pertinent and promising areas of new research, recognize and prioritize infrastructure needs that are necessary to making scientific progress, and articulate the societal relevance of 21st century research in tectonics, deformation processes, and all other endeavors that are commonly funded through the NSF Tectonics program. The vision articulated at the workshop will be captured in a white paper, the first of its kind since 2004, that will inform our science community, funding agencies, elected officials, and the general public. Such white papers, when representative of the community, can be of significant help to funding agencies such as NSF in setting priorities for future programs.

We need your participation in order to make this effort a success. Please set aside time next spring to help shape the future of tectonics research!

When: May 20-22, 2016, tentatively scheduled from noon Friday to noon Sunday.

Where: Weeks Hall, campus of University of Wisconsin – Madison

Workshop participation: The goal is to be as inclusive as possible and all who are interested are invited to attend. We aim for a highly diverse group of scientists, spanning all related disciplines, backgrounds, and career stage (including advanced graduate students). Financial support for travel/lodging is available for a limited number (~65) of participants. Workshop discussions may also be streamed online.

Applications for participating and receiving financial support can be made online beginning December, 2016. The tentative deadlines for receiving applications and notifying participants are February 8 and 29, 2016.

Pre-workshop input will be solicited via an on-line forum (coming December, 2016) as well as town hall meetings at national GSA and AGU meetings. The GSA town hall meeting is scheduled for 4:00-6:00 PM Monday, November 2, 2015, in the Hilton Baltimore (Holiday Ballroom 3). The AGU town hall meeting is scheduled for 6:15-7:15 PM Monday, December 14, 2015, in 2007 Moscone West.

The community is also invited to prepare short pre-meeting whitepapers on specific research directions, processes or case studies, future technological advancements, or anticipated opportunities for the coming decade of tectonic research. These whitepapers will be due around April 1, 2016. Guidelines will be announced in December, 2015.

Post-workshop participation will also be sought via: 1) Discussion groups (e.g. webinars); 2) Town hall meetings at 2016 GSA and AGU meetings; and 3) An open comment period on the draft of the white paper.

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