

"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 set future research priorities and inform our science community, funding agencies, elected officials, administrators, and the general public.

Rationale Defining future research and educational directions (and needs) in tectonics will allow us to articulate the relevance of our science, providing a solid outline of our contributions to society. Most critically, it will justify the support needed to sustain or increase productivity, as well as facilitate communication regarding community goals and needs for moving forward - including research facilities, (cyber)infrastructure, and human resources - and identify obstacles and bottlenecks in our work flow. Finally, it will help us build a stronger community, where we can work together. Meeting these goals will provide our representatives within funding agencies with the information they need to justify allocation of funds for future research in the broad area of tectonics. **Why participate?** Your participation is essential to your community, and the only way to ensure that you and your research are fully represented is to participate in one or more of the ways described below. Initiatives like this also lead to new directions and collaborations. At all stages in the process, we will be thinking creatively of new directions that might increase our research productivity as individuals and as groups.

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

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

Workshop participation: 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, but others are welcome (expected total participation will be <100). Workshop discussions may also be streamed online.

Applications for attending the workshop with or without travel support should be submitted by **February 19th** at: <http://goo.gl/forms/ozAhTec0My>. Notification of application status will be made by **March 18th**.

Additional input from the community:

Pre-workshop input has been solicited via town hall meetings at the national GSA and AGU meetings in 2015. Suggestions on format and discussion topics may also be provided via an **on-line forum** at: <http://goo.gl/forms/OpLAuWPuw9>. The community is also invited to **submit pre-meeting "idea papers"** that outline the perceived top research priorities, grand challenges, and opportunities for the coming decades in tectonics. Short papers (1 page for single author, 2 pages for group) should be sent directly to directions.sgt@gmail.com by **April 8th**. Workshop agenda will be announced by May 6th.

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

We hope you are able to join us in helping shape the future of tectonics!

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