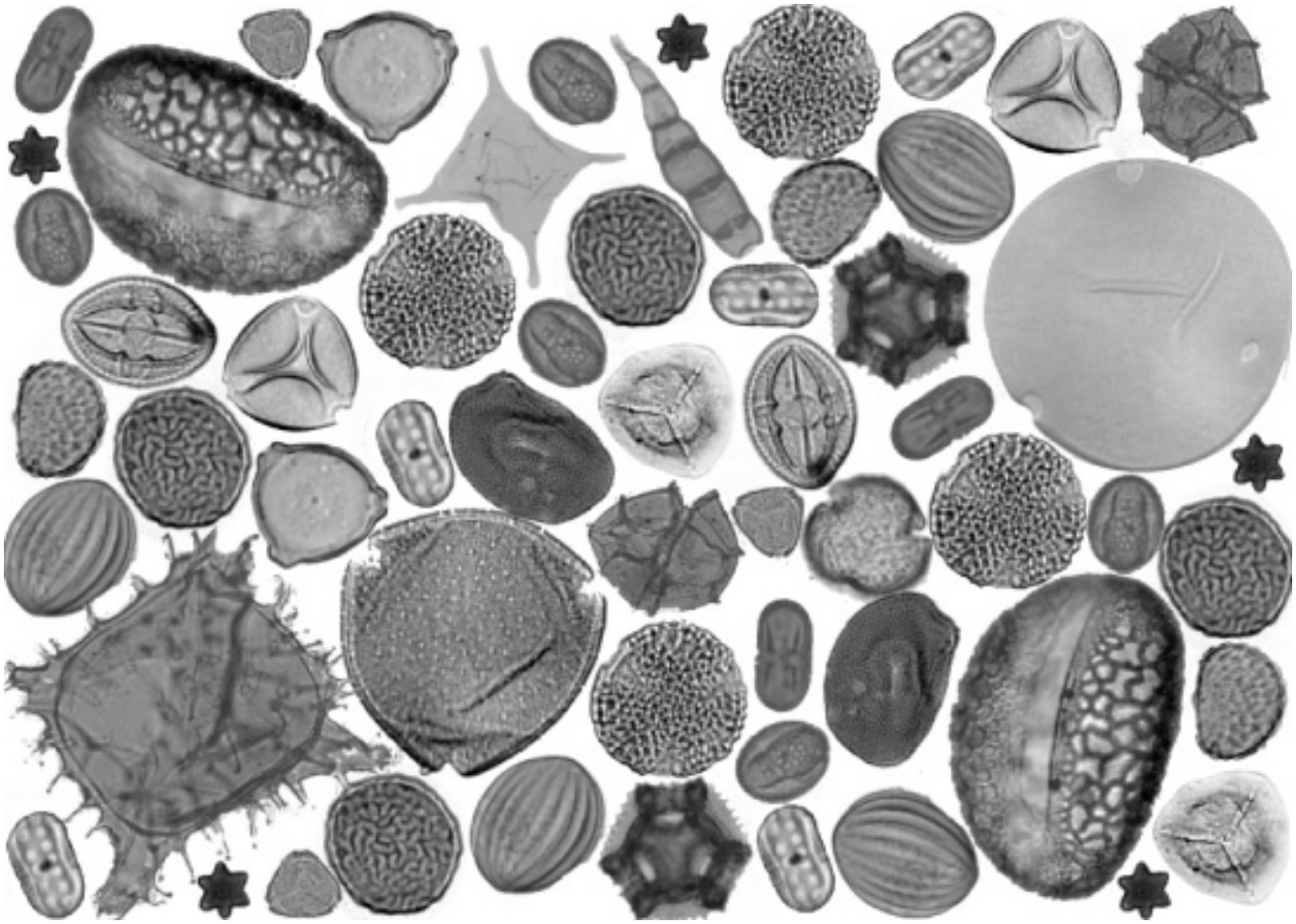
AASP – The Palynological Society

Promoting the Scientific Understanding of Palynology since 1967



NEWSLETTER

March 2026

Volume 59, Number 1

Published Quarterly

AASP – TPS NEWSLETTER

Published Quarterly by AASP – The Palynological Society

March 2026, Volume 59, Number 1

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AASP
The Palynological Society

The American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, Inc. - AASP –The Palynological Society - was established in 1967 by a group of 31 founding members to promote the science of palynology. Today AASP has a world-wide membership of about 200 and is run by an executive comprising an elected Board of Directors and subsidiary boards and committees. AASP welcomes new members. The AASP Foundation publishes the journal Palynology (quarterly), the AASP Newsletter (quarterly), and the AASP Contributions Series (mostly monographs, issued irregularly), as well as several books and miscellaneous items. AASP organises an Annual Meeting which usually includes a field trip, a business luncheon, social events, and technical sessions where research results are presented on all aspects of palynology.

AASP-TPS Scientific Medal recipients
Professor William R. Evitt (awarded 1982)
Professor William G. Chaloner (awarded 1984)
Dr. Lewis E. Stover (awarded 1988)
Dr. Graham Lee Williams (awarded 1996)
Dr. Hans Gocht (awarded 1996)
Professor Svein B. Manum (awarded 2002)
Professor Barrie Dale (awarded 2004)
Dr. David Wall (awarded 2004)
Dr. Robin Helby (awarded 2005)
Dr. Satish K. Srivastava (awarded 2006)
Professor Estella B. Leopold (awarded 2013)
Professor Vaughn M. Bryant (awarded 2016)
Professor David Batten (awarded 2018)
Dr. Robert Fensome (awarded 2024)
Dr. James Riding (awarded 2024)

AASP-TPS Honorary Members
Professor Dr. Alfred Eisenack (elected 1975)
Dr. William S. Hoffmeister (elected 1975)
Professor Leonard R. Wilson (elected 1975)
Professor Knut Faegri (elected 1977)
Professor Charles Downie (elected 1982)
Professor William R. Evitt (elected 1989)
Professor Lucy M. Cranwell (elected 1989)
Dr. Tamara F. Vozzhennikova (elected 1990)
Professor Aureal T. Cross (elected 1991)
Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 2002)
Professor Vaughn Bryant (awarded 2005)
Professor Alfred Traverse (awarded 2005)
Professor Bernard Owens (awarded 2011)
Dr. John E. Williams (awarded 2013)
Mr. Paul W. Nygreen (awarded 2013)
Professor Norman Norton (awarded 2016)
Professor George F. Hart (awarded 2020)

AASP-TPS Board of Directors Award recipient
Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 1994)
Dr. Thomas D. Demchuk (awarded 2014)

AASP-TPS Medal for Excellence in Education
Professor Aureal T. Cross (awarded 1999)
Professor Alfred Traverse (awarded 2001)
Professor Bill Evitt (awarded 2006)
Professor Vaughn M. Bryant (awarded 2013)
Professor Geoffrey Clayton (awarded 2016)
Professor Sophie Warny (awarded 2021)
Professor Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe (awarded 2023)

AASP-TPS Distinguished Service Award recipients
Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 1978)
Dr. Norman J. Norton (awarded 1978)
Dr. Jack D. Burgess (awarded 1982)
Dr. Richard W. Hedlund (awarded 1982)
Dr. John A. Clendening (awarded 1987)
Dr. Kenneth M. Piel (awarded 1990)
Dr. Gordon D. Wood (awarded 1993)
Dr. Jan Jansonius (awarded 1995)
Dr. D. Colin McGregor (awarded 1995)
Professor John H. Wrenn (awarded 1998)
Professor Vaughn M. Bryant (awarded 1999)
Dr. Donald W. Engelhardt (awarded 2000)
Dr. David T. Pocknall (awarded 2005)
Dr. David K. Goodman (awarded 2005)
Professor Owen K. Davis (awarded 2005)
Dr. Thomas Demchuk (awarded 2009)
Professor Reed Wicander (awarded 2014)
Professor Fredrick Rich (awarded 2016)
Dr. James B. Riding (awarded 2016)
Professor Martin B. Farley (awarded 2019)
Professor Jennifer O'Keefe (awarded 2023)

AASP – TPS NEWSLETTER

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ISSN 0732-6041

Volume 59, Number 1
Jan Hennissen, Editor

The AASP – TPS Newsletter is published four times annually. Members are encouraged to submit articles, "letters to the editor," technical notes, meetings reports, information about "members in the news," new websites and information about job openings. Every effort will be made to publish all information received from our membership. Contributions which include photographs should be submitted two weeks before the deadline. Deadline for submission for the next issue of the newsletter is June 1, 2026. All information should be sent by email. If possible, please illustrate your contribution with art, line drawings, eye-catching logos, black & white photos, colour photos, etc. We DO look forward to contributions from our members.

A Message From Our President

Hi everyone!

Early-bird registration for our annual meeting in Trelew closes on 1st May 2026. This meeting is in partnership with Simposio Argentino de Paleobotánica y Palinología and promises to be a fantastic conference.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Patagonia on 8th September 2026 for the ice-breaker at the Egidio Feruglio Paleontological Museum.

If you follow the society on social media, you will see some changes through 2026. Following conversations as a board and with our publishers Taylor and Francis, we are in the process of recruiting a student member to handle this side of our online presence. Giv-en our science has significant visual appeal, from glamorous field locations to the intricate beauty in the perfect specimen, we are also exploring a move onto Instagram. The aim of this is to increase our online presence and raise awareness of AASP – The Palynological Society.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has put themselves forward for election to the board.

Managing Editor's Report

by Jim Riding

My colleague Matthew Pound and I had an extremely useful annual business meeting with Matthew Warke of Taylor and Francis during late January 2026.

The discussions were wide-ranging, and I am very pleased to report that the journal is doing well across the board.

Palynology Volume 50, Part 1 was published online during early February 2026 and includes 15 items over 216 pages.

These articles comprise two Editorials, one Obituary and 12 Research Articles.

The full contents are listed below. We are obviously now 'filling' Part 2, which will be issued during May 2026. Thank you all for your continued support of Palynology.

James B. Riding

Managing Editor, AASP – The Palynological Society

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26th February 2026

The contents of *Palynology* Volume 50, Part 1 (February 2026)

Editorials

1. Riding, J.B. Fifty years of *Palynology*. Article number 2605618, 3 p.

2. Gravendyck, J., Herendeen, P., Head, M.J., Kvaček, J. and Riding, J.B. A proposal for the mandatory registration of formal scientific names of fossil plants and algae. Article number 2569409, 4 p.

Obituary

3. Riding, J.B., Foster, C.B., Hannaford, C., Macphail, M., Mantle, D.J., Playford, G., Stevens, J. and Wood, G. Robin Helby (1938–2024) – a giant of Australasian palynology. Article number 2583021, 17 p.

Review Article

3. El Ghazali, G.E.B. Heteroaperturate pollen grains: unique features and structures. Article number 2498678, 8 p.

Research Articles

4. Julio-Catarino, L., Ramírez-Arriaga, E., Canto, A., Sotuyo, S., Gómez-Lizárraga, L.E. and González-Rodríguez, A. Pollen morphology of Mexican *Dalbergia* (Leguminosae: Papilionoideae: Dalbergieae) species and their systematic implications. Article number 2530062, 18 p.

5. Lokteva, V., Kirakosyan, G., Camina, S.C., De Backer, T., Grigoryan, A., Danelian, T. and Serobyan, V. Chitinozoans from the upper Frasnian (Upper Devonian) of Armenia: biostratigraphical and palaeobiogeographical implications. Article number 2537704, 17 p.

6. Vieira, M., Mahdi, S. and Dodsworth, P. New Paleocene (Thanetian) dinoflagellate cyst species from the Norwegian North Sea and their regional biostratigraphical application. Article number 2534831, 20 p.

7. Anderson, R.S., Markgraf, V., Gaglioti, B.V. and Jiménez-Moreno, G. Modern pollen and climate calibration along an elevational gradi-

ent in northern Arizona, USA. Article number 2533948, 16 p.

8. Çelemli, O.G. A palynological contribution to the taxonomical classification of Rorippa species native for Türkiye. Article number 2542826, 13 p.

9. Naseem, S., Suneetha, V., Basha, S.K., Ganesh, P. and Patan, S.V.K. Morpho-palynological studies of *Momordica cymbalaria* (Hook, Fenzl) using LM and SEM and its taxonomic significance. Article number 2539822, 13 p.

10. Stephenson, M., Shen, C., Shen, S., Carniti, A.P., Fan, J., Yang, J. and Ye, J. Large language models in palynological taxonomy: a pilot study. Article number 2547645, 10 p.

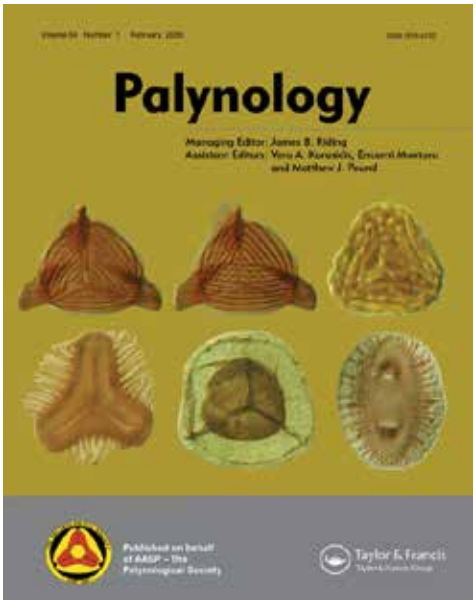
11. Hamzah, N.M., Ariyanti, N.S., Raffiudin, R., Priawandiputra, W., Hasbullah and Ilhamsyah, D. Melissopalynology and the forage plants of the stingless bee *Heterotrigona itama* in Belitung, Indonesia. Article number 2549985, 17 p.

12. Kürşat, M., Yılmaz Sancar, P., Demirpolat, A., Başer, B. and Civelek, S. Contribution to the knowledge of the palynology of *Rhynchocorys* and its systematic significance. Article number 2550648, 10 p.

13. Mitra, D., Chowdhury, M., Singh, N., Basumatary, S.K. and Tripathi, S. Pollen morphological analogue of some Himalayan angiosperm species from Arunachal Pradesh, Northeast India. Article number 2552471, 29 p.

14. Gasparino, E.C., Cerdan, I.P., Dutra, F.V., Vieira, J.A. and Sampaio, D. Pollen morphology of *Ternstroemia* Mutis ex L.f. (Pentaphylacaceae): describing morphological variations in a stenopalynous taxon. Article number 2562506, 13 p.

15. Walter, O.J., Ibrahim, Z.O., Ikegbunam, N.C., Subair, B.K. and Onyekwere, C.F. Melissopalynological and volatile organic compound characterization of Nigerian honey (*Apis mellifera* L.) from three ecological zones. Article number 2566829, 16 p.



AASP – TPS 50th Anniversary Jewelry Collection

Exclusive, Custom-made 50th Anniversary Jewelry

Limited Edition and availability

Special thanks to John Firth and Ingrid Romero for palynomorph images.

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of AASP – The Palynological Society with a beautiful, sterling silver palynomorph necklace. The Society board worked with jeweler and designer, 'Science-inspired jewelry', to create these one-of-a-kind, unique necklaces in honor of our golden anniversary. There are a limited number available of two designs, a pollen grain ***Macrolobium multijugum*** (a) and a dinoflagellate cyst of ***Diphyes recurvatum*** (b).

Each necklace comes with a commemorative information card that includes a picture and description of the palynomorph. **The society is selling them now for $60.00 OR one *M. multijugum* + one *D. recurvatum* for $100.00.** This is a wonderful way to support AASP-TPS and is a great conversation starter!

All jewelry can now be purchased at palynologyshop.org which is a tab on the AASP-TPS website (palynology.org).

AASP FOUNDATION CENTURY CLUB

What?

The Century Club of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Foundation is an organization founded by the Trustees of the Foundation in order to provide persons with the opportunity to support activities of the AASP Foundation.

Why?

1. To develop an established level of giving that will continue to provide a solid financial base for the Foundation.

2. To provide unrestricted funds to support the various publishing activities of the Foundation.

3. To provide a meaningful organization and method of recognition of dedicated "friends" of the AASP Foundation.

How?

Your tax-deductible contribution of $100 or more to the AASP Foundation entitles you to belong to the Century Club. The 2025. "membership" drive is on now. Your contribution may be made by personal check or by a pledge which is ***payable on or before*** **December 31, 2026.**

Join!

To join the Century Club, simply complete the attached Contribution/Pledge Form and mail to the address listed below.

The AASP Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit, public organization registered in the United States. This means that contributions to the AASP Foundation are fully deductible on your U.S. Federal Income Tax return. Also, many employers have a matching gift program whereby they match your personal gift to not-for-profit organizations. It is well worth the effort to explore this possibility concerning your gift to the AASP Foundation.

2026 AASP Foundation Century Club Contribution Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contribution Enclosed: $_____ I wish to pledge: $_____

AASP-TPS Board Elections

AASP-TPS board elections are coming up! Look out for the survey which will be sent out in the Spring where you can vote for the positions of President, Director-at-Large, Student Director-at-Large, Secretary, Managing Editor, and Treasurer on the Society's board. Below are the biographies of all candidates.

President

Manuel Vieira
President

Manuel Vieira was born in the city of Guimarães in Portugal. He completed his degree in Biology and Geology at the University of Minho in 2003, where he was awarded the School Merit Prize. He later completed his PhD in Geology in 2008 through a joint programme between the University of Minho and the NOVA University Lisbon.

During his PhD he developed advanced analytical expertise through a research association at the University of Vienna. There, under the guidance of Reinhard Zetter, he specialised in the combined Light Microscopy - Scanning Electron Microscopy (LM-SEM) technique for palynomorph analysis.

His doctoral research focused on the Pliocene palynology of the Iberian Atlantic margin and contributed to improving the chronostratigraphy and palaeoenvironmental reconstruction of the region. Using revised chronological constraints, he studied the Rio Maior site in the Tagus Basin in western Portugal, together with several smaller outcrops. Through combined light and scanning electron microscopy analyses, this work documented, for the first time, nine important palynomorph taxa from late Pliocene (Piacenzian) sediments in southwestern Europe.

After completing his PhD, Manuel began working as a consultant biostratigrapher based in Manchester, UK. During this time he contributed to numerous industry projects across the North Sea (UK and Norway), the Shetland Basin, the Faroe Islands, India, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Morocco, the Falkland Islands, and Greenland, primarily focusing on Cretaceous and Paleogene palynology.

His professional career includes nearly a decade at Shell in Aberdeen, where he worked as a stratigrapher within the Specialist Geology Team. For the past four years he has been based in Oslo, Norway, working for Aker BP.

In parallel with his industry career, Manuel has maintained a strong connection with academia. He is an active member of the research centre GeoBioTec at the Department of Earth Sciences of NOVA School of Science and Technology in Lisbon, where he has co-supervised several postgraduate students. He has also developed a long-standing research collaboration with David Jolley at the University of Aberdeen, focusing on palaeoceanography and palaeoclimate reconstruction. This work includes investigating the palynological record to better understand past rapid climate events and variability, and to help constrain their triggering mechanisms.

He also maintains a long-standing scientific collaboration and friendship with Friðgeir Grímsson at the University of Vienna, working on pollen taxonomy and plant evolution.

These collaborations with many valued col-

leagues have resulted in publications in several international journals, with a particularly strong contribution to the society journal Palynology.

Manuel has been a member of AASP – The Palynological Society for many years, although he has not previously served on its board. However, he has extensive society experience through his work with The Micropalaeontological Society, where he served as Chairman for Palynology from 2015 to 2019 and later as Treasurer from 2019 until the end of 2024. These roles were extremely rewarding, allowing him to contribute to the society while building strong connections with colleagues across the community.

He is therefore very excited about the opportunity to serve AASP – The Palynological Society and to contribute to its continued development.

Director-at-Large

Tony Butcher

Director-at-large

I'd like to put myself forward for the position of Director-at-Large of the AASP-TPS - a society that I have been a member of since my PhD days back in the early 2000s, and which has helped me build both a network of colleagues in palynology and the ability to support my students today.

I graduated with a BSc in Geology from the University of Portsmouth in 1998, and was primarily interested in solving geological problems with fossils - this led me to a PhD working on Silurian chitinozoan biostratigraphy supervised by Dr David Loydell. Three years of postdoctoral research followed, funded by ENI (and coordinated by David) looking at chitinozoans, acritarchs and carbon isotopes in a North African cores, before starting as a Senior Lecturer at Portsmouth in 2008. I've continued to work closely with David on projects integrating graptolite, chitinozoan, and carbon isotope data, and have published on strata from North America to North Africa and the Middle East, written the chapter on chitinozoans for the Geologic Time Scale 2020, and was involved in establishing the new base-Aeronian GSSP in the Czech Republic.

My primary role here at the University of Portsmouth is as the programme lead for our BSc (Hons) Palaeontology degree, which has an ever-increasing cohort of students. While most of them are dinosaur-mad, I make it my goal (along with our other resident micropalaeontologist) to turn at least some of them away from the dark side towards palynology, with a steady (albeit small) rate of success - sadly, most still love dinosaurs more than dinoflagellates.

While specialising in chitinozoans, I find myself supervising final-year dissertation projects on everything from Wealden spores to Chalk dinoflagellates and Pleistocene pollen, putting the students in touch with specialists when needed (many of whom I know thorugh the AASP) and starting them towards building their own networks. We make full use of the AASP Undergraduate Student Award, nominating the student achieving the highest grade in a palynofacies project they undertake in a second year module.

Due to my management role and undergraduate teaching, I don't have as much time as I'd like to devote to research, but I do still continue to support the next generation of palynology PhD and MRes students on diverse projects, and collaborate on research projects with colleagues around the world.

I am keen to become a Director-at-Large and support the AASP-TPS due to the continuous efforts that the society (and its community) put into supporting young researchers

at the start of their career (through travel and research grants), and encouraging potential palynologists through the undergraduate awards. With fewer and fewer places now teaching palynology, and the diminishing pool of people entering the field, it's more important than ever to maintain (and look to expand) these efforts.

Haytham El Atfy
Director-at-large

I want to put myself forward for the position of Director-at-Large of the AASP-TPS – a society that helped me build a network of colleagues in palynology.

Since 2023, I have been a Research Associate (Akademischer Rat) with the Paleoebotany Group at the Institute of Geology and Palaeontology at the University of Münster, Germany. I am also a professor at Mansoura University (Egypt), where I received a BSc in geology and an MSc in palynology.

I received a PhD in geosciences (palynology and organic geochemistry) from Goethe University, Frankfurt (Germany), in 2014, and gained experience in industrial palynology while working with GUPCO (BP) in Egypt. I was a Research Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the University of Tübingen (Germany) from 2019 to 2022.

My research interests span all aspects of palynology and its applications in dating, paleoenvironmental and paleoclimatic reconstructions, and hydrocarbon exploration, particularly of the Mesozoic (mainly Cretaceous) and Cenozoic, and, to a lesser extent, the Paleozoic.

I'm truly honored to be nominated as Director-at-Large for AASP - The Palynological Society. I'm excited about the opportunity to stay engaged with our society and to meet many of you at the upcoming annual meetings.

Carlos Sanchez
Director-at-large

I am a geologist and palynologist currently working applying biostratigraphy to hydrocarbon exploration in Cretaceous and Cenozoic basins in Colombia in the biostratigraphy laboratory of the Colombian Institute of Petroleum and Transition Energies (ICPET), part of the state-owned company ECOPETROL.

I obtained my BSc in Geology from the University of Caldas (Colombia) in 2003, where I focused on the study of metamorphic rocks and microtectonic analysis. However, I have always been interested in palaeontology and palaeoclimatology. This interest led me to work with Dr Carlos Jaramillo, first at the Colombian Petroleum Institute as a Young Researcher, and later as an intern at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama.

After that, I moved to Missouri to pursue my PhD in Geology and Geophysics at the Missouri University of Science and Technology under the supervision of Dr. Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe, where I studied the palynological content of sediments obtained from acidic and hypersaline lakes in Western Australia, with the aim of improving hypotheses about the origin of these lakes and the climatic and ecological factors that may have influenced their development.

Besides my duties as bioestratigrapher, I am also interested in studying the palaeogeographic distribution of fossil pollen species and developing new biostratigraphic indicators using abundances of non-pollen palynomorphs.

I am honoured to be nominated as Director-at-large for AASP and look forward to continuing to serve and contribute to our society in any way I can.

Qiang Yao
Director-at-large

My path into palynology began when my Ph.D. advisor, Dr. Kam-biu Liu, introduced me to the field and showed me how microscopic pollen grains could illuminate large-scale environmental change. What started as training in pollen identification and Quaternary reconstruction gradually became a deeper fascination with reading Earth's history from sediment archives.

During my subsequent work at Louisiana State University, I became especially drawn to coastal mangrove systems and natural hazards, where pollen records intersect with geomorphology, hurricane disturbance, sea-level variability, and wetland resilience.

These experiences shaped my commitment to using palynology not only as a descriptive tool, but as a quantitative framework for understanding how ecosystems respond to climate variability and extreme events over long timescales.

My research focuses on revealing ecological and climatic trends from pollen and associated microfossils preserved in lake, deltaic, and coastal sediment archives. By integrating quantitative pollen analysis with sedimentology, geochemistry, charcoal stratigraphy, sedaDNA, and drone-based remote sensing, I work to link vegetation dynamics with sediment transport processes, storm overwash deposition, geomorphic change, and ecosystem recovery trajectories.

A central motivation in my work is addressing long-standing methodological bottlenecks in pollen–biomass relationships, particularly the challenge of translating pollen percentages into meaningful estimates of aboveground biomass and vegetation structure in complex coastal environments.

To approach this, I am developing regional scale modern calibration datasets, surface-sediment training sets, statistical transfer functions, and spatial modeling frameworks that better constrain how pollen production, dispersal, and preservation influence quantitative reconstructions.

Now at Auburn University, I continue refining pollen–biomass frameworks while expanding my work into pine-dominated systems of the southeastern Coastal Plain.

In these forests, I am working to improve quantification of pine biomass and to sharpen species-level identification by integrating traditional palynology with emerging tools such as environmental DNA. By combining pollen morphology, morphometric analysis, eDNA markers, and modern vegetation surveys, I aim to enhance taxonomic resolution and strengthen the interpretive power of palynological records in fire-prone and disturbance-driven landscapes.

Throughout my career, I have been motivated not only by the science itself but by the responsibility to strengthen and promote palynology in the United States.

I value working closely with students to develop innovative experimental designs, build modern calibration datasets, and test new analytical pipelines that contribute to methodological advancement of palynology. By passing on these skills and expanding the analytical toolkit of our field, I hope to contribute to a strong, collaborative, and forward-looking palynological community.

Student Director-at-Large

Amira Chalabe

Student Director-at-large

Amira C. Chalabe is a doctoral fellow at the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (INGEOSUR-CONICET) in Bahía Blanca, Argentina.

Her current research interests include the palynofacies and palynostratigraphy of Middle Jurassic rocks.

Amira obtained a B.S. in Geology in 2019 from the Universidad Nacional del Sur in Argentina, where she began her training in palynology with a student scholarship.

In 2020, she commenced a Ph.D. in Middle Jurassic palynology of the Neuquén Basin under the supervision of Dr. Marcelo Adrián Martínez and Dr. Daniela Elizabeth Olivera.

In 2025, she received the Frances Parker Grant from the Micropalaeontological Society, to travel to London and work at the Natural History Museum of London under the supervision of Dr. Stephen Stukins.

During her time at the NHM, she worked with palynological samples of Dr. Stukins thesis. She is also currently a single-time assistant A in the subject "Introduction to Geology" at the Universidad Nacional del Sur.

Yoanna Katreva

Student Director-at-large

I am motivated to take on the role of Student Director-at-Large, driven by the conviction that I can contribute to our society by fostering open communication, promoting collaboration, and continuing to support the student scientific community.

My first experience of being part of and taking the lead in a scientific community came during my time at the university, when I was elected President of the Archaeological Society. This role made me realize that scientific progress depends not only on individual excellence in science but also on teamwork, dialogue, and strong networks.

I hold Bachelor's and Master's degrees in archaeology from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski in Bulgaria. During my Master's degree, I gained hands-on experience in pollen analysis focused on archaeological features and the biostratigraphic records they preserve of human-driven vegetation change during the Holocene.

I have recently been accepted into a PhD programme in Botany at the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. My research will focus on changes in vegetation patterns in mountainous and semi-mountainous regions of Bulgaria, with particular emphasis on how large- and small-scale events during the Holocene have influenced those ecosystems. Previously, I worked for almost four years in the Department of Palaeobotany and Palynology at the same institution.

This experience allowed me to participate in various research projects, scientific mobility programs, conferences, and administrative activities. It also provided me with practical insight into the importance of a well-organized scientific institution.

I attended my first AASP meeting at the 56th Annual Conference in Montpellier, France, where I was introduced to a welcoming, diverse, and inspiring palynological community. It would be an honour to work with the young members of our association, and to encourage open communication and collaboration

within our network. I would love to further put my effort in shaping an environment where peers become colleagues and colleagues become friends, supporting one another as we grow together in the scientific world.

Treasurer

Marie McNeill
Treasurer

Marie McNeill (Thomas) is a Geological Advisor at Chevron, based in Houston, Texas, USA. With eight years of education as a biologist and biostratigrapher, plus a decade of experience in the petroleum industry, Marie offers both a well-rounded technical background and business-oriented, growth-driven mindset as a candidate for the AASP-TPS Treasurer position.

Before joining the petroleum industry, Marie studied modern biology and Quaternary palynology. She received a Bachelor of Science degree with Honors in Biology and Geology (2011) from Millsaps College in Mississippi where she studied salamanders in glacial refugia in forests around the southeastern U.S.

After her undergraduate degree, she proceeded to Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to pursue a Ph.D. in Geology. Her dissertation focused on palynology of Quaternary sediments in the Gulf of Papua, offshore Papua New Guinea. She graduated in 2015 and joined Hess as both a biostratigrapher and exploration geologist.

At Hess, Marie worked as an exploration geologist in multiple deepwater basins, including the U.S. Gulf of America, Guyana, Suriname, eastern Canada, Malaysia, Mauritania, Senegal, and Equatorial Guinea. She also provided multi-disciplinary biostratigraphy support and interpretation (including palynology, nannopaleontology, and micropaleontology) for numerous teams. Following the 2025 Chevron-Hess merger, Marie joined Chevron as an applied biostratigrapher within the company's Exploration group, supporting the company's global ventures.

Marie served as the AASP-TPS Awards Committee Chair from 2020 to 2025 and has been a member of the society since 2011.

If elected Treasurer, she hopes to maintain the society's recently restructured, robust financial system, expand the society's assets, and uphold strong support for members, especially students.

Secretary

Stephen Stukins
Secretary

After studying a BSc in Geological Sciences at University of Leeds I undertook the MSc in Micropalaeontology at University College London in '05-'06. It was at UCL I first discovered palynology and went on to use it in my final project studying the onset of the Toarcian OAE from the Yorkshire coast under the supervision of Susanne Feist-Burkhardt and Andrew Henderson.

I then ventured on to the University of Aberdeen for my PhD, supervised by David Jolley, Duncan McIlroy (Memorial University of Newfoundland) and Adrian Hartley. This research project, funded by Statoil (UK), took me to Argentina where I studied the palynology and sedimentology of the Middle Jurassic of the Neuquén Basin from its stunning outcrops.

Following my doctorate I worked for PetroStrat Ltd in Conwy, North Wales, where I trained and worked on Mesozoic sections from West Africa and various sectors of the North Sea. Then the opportunity arose to join the Natural

History Museum, London, where I have been since January 2012. During my time at the NHM I have been able to broaden my involvement in palynology and micropalaeontology, such as: exploring ways to promote and digitise the John Williams Index of Palaeopalynology; hosting The Micropalaeontological Society conference on the past, present and future of the IODP; and instigating new research proposals for working with the museum collections and on material collected during numerous field visits.

I currently teach Applied Biostratigraphy on the Petroleum Geoscience MSc courses at Royal Holloway University and Imperial College London.

Managing Editor

Jim Riding
Managing Editor

Jim is an Honorary Research Associate at the British Geological Survey (BGS), based in Nottingham, UK, specializing on the Mesozoic and Cenozoic.

After studying geology at the University of Leicester, Jim persued an interest in palynology which developed as an undergraduate. This started with the famous MSc course in palynology at the University of Sheffield directed by Roger Neves and the Charles Downie.

He left Sheffield for BGS, which was then known as the Institute of Geological Sciences, joining the Palaeontological Department run by the legendary Carboniferous palaeontologist and geologist W.H.C. (Bill) Ramsbottom in the Northern England office, based in Leeds, West Yorkshire. Here, he worked closely with Ron Woollam on the Mesozoic palynology of onshore and offshore UK; much of the work in those days was on the North Sea.

The Leeds office was closed, and Jim and colleagues relocated to the BGS headquarters at Keyworth, immediately south of Nottingham.

He was awarded a PhD by the University of Sheffield for a thesis on the Jurassic dinoflagellate cyst floras of northern and eastern England. His current palynological interests are wide-ranging and include the Mesozoic-Cenozoic palynology of the world (especially Europe, Australasia, Antarctica, west Africa, the Americas, Russia and the Middle East), paleoenvironmental palynology, palynomorph floral provinces, forensic palynology, preparation techniques, the history of palynology and the morphology, systematics and taxonomy of dinoflagellate cysts. The Britsh Antarctic Survey, a sister organisation to BGS, have used Jim as a consultant palynologist for many years, and he visited the Antarctic Peninsula for fieldwork during the Austral Summers of 1989 and 2006.

Jim undertook a one-year secondment in 1999-2000 to the Australian Geological Survey Organisation (now Geoscience Australia), Canberra, Australia where he worked on the taxonomy of Australian Jurassic dinoflagellate cysts with Robin Helby and Clinton Foster.

Jim was awarded a DSc by the University of Leicester in 2003. He served as a Director-at-Large of AASP be-tween 1999 and 2001, was President in 2003, and became Managing Editor in 2004.

Awards Committee - Student Update

by Rafael Cabral

In 2025, I was honored to receive the Student Travel Award, which supported my participation in the 57th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists (AASP), held in Rabat, Morocco, from April 22 to 26. At this meeting, I presented an oral contribution entitled *Assessment of modern pollen, non-pollen palynomorphs and vegetation relationships in the cultural landscapes of central Tunisia: A tool for enhancing paleoenvironmental reconstructions in semi-arid environments*.

This presentation was based on research conducted during the first year of my PhD project, which aims to characterize vegetation dynamics in central Tunisia in relation to major climatic forcings (e.g., the African Humid Period and Holocene Rapid Climate Change events) and anthropogenic activity, and to identify key tipping points in landscape evolution during the Holocene.

To better interpret past records in the region, I set out to acquire modern pollen and Non-Pollen Palynomorph (NPP) spectra to investigate the relationships between modern pollen, NPP and vegetation in the landscape mosaic of the Tunisian Dorsal, which was the topic of my oral communication. The congress provided my first opportunity to present my work to a large and international audience of palynologists, and it served as a valuable platform for scientific exchange.

The discussions that followed my presentation were particularly enriching. Several participants offered constructive feedback and methodological guidance that directly informed the article manuscript I am currently preparing based on this work. Others encouraged me to expand the spatial scope of my study by increasing the number of samples.

As a result, my dataset has since been significantly enlarged and now encompasses the whole of central Tunisia, ranging from arid steppe environments in the lowlands to Mediterranean forest ecosystems at higher elevations. In addition, I received assistance in identifying several fungal spores, which motivated me to continue a review of the mycological literature.

Now in the second year of my PhD, I am continuing to work on a central component of my project: the analysis of a 17-m-long sediment core retrieved from a sebkha in central Tunisia (Kairouan Governorate). To date, I have produced 111 palynological spectra from this record.

Preliminary results were presented at the 29th Réunion des Sciences de la Terre, the national conference of the Société Géologique de France, held in November 2025 in Montpellier (France). This research is complemented by an ongoing radiocarbon dating effort based on pollen concentrates, for which I have been actively involved in pollen extraction.

Overall, I retain very positive memories of the exchanges and advice received during the AASP meeting in Rabat.

The opportunity to attend this congress, made possible by the Student Travel Award, has had a lasting and significant impact on the direction and development of my PhD research, both scientifically and methodologically.

Awards Committee News

by Marie McNeill

Society Awards Nominations for 2027

AASP–The Palynological Society has several awards that recognize outstanding service to the Society or to the discipline of palynology. The basic nomination procedure is similar for most awards (main letter of nomination accompanied by letters of support, which include documentation of the accomplishment). Details of the procedures for each award can be found at https://palynology.org/student-support/professional-awards/award-procedures/

The deadline for submission of society awards nominations is March 1 of each year. A complete list of previous winners can be found on the third page of this newsletter.

Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes individuals who have generously supported the AASP–TPS with their work and resources over several years, and whose efforts have advanced the Society. Typically, recipients have held society office, participated in committees, or dealt with publications or meetings. There have been twenty recipients of this award, most recently Jen O'Keefe in 2023.

Honorary Life Membership

This is the oldest AASP–TPS award, with the first awards dating to 1975. This award is either bestowed upon individuals who have made a fundamental contribution to the discipline of palynology, or to people who have given devoted service to the AASP–TPS. Honorary Life Membership has been awarded to seventeen individuals, most recently to George Hart in 2020.

Medal for Excellence in Education

This medal recognizes leaders in palynological education. Nominees are expected to have considerable experience and accomplishment in aspects of academic education involving palynology. The medal has been awarded 6 times, most recently to Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe in 2023.

Medal for Scientific Excellence

The Society's highest award for achievement in the science of palynology is the Medal for Scientific Excellence. The official description lists "fundamental contributions to the development of the science of palynology" as the main criterion. Recipients should have a substantial research history in the field. The medal has been awarded fifteen times in the history of the Society, most recently to Robert Fensome in 2023 and James Riding in 2024.

Medal for Scientific Merit and Outstanding Promise

This newly established award recognizes individuals in their mid-career who have made important contributions to the science of palynology and who show the promise of continued excellence in the discipline. Typically, nominees will have no more than 15 years' experience beyond their M.Sc. or Ph.D. graduation (excluding time spent in industry or on leave).

2026 Student Research Awards

Call for Applications

AASP–The Palynological Society is pleased to announce its program of Student Research Awards. For 2026, there will be two awards of $3000 (US) each, to support research in any area of palynology. Student Research Awards are to be used for costs directly connected to carrying out research, such as fieldwork and laboratory expenses, but not for travel expenses to attend a meeting. Typically, these awards are provided to students in the preliminary stages of their doctoral research, but MSc. and advanced undergraduate students may also apply.

Basis of awards: The qualification of the student, the novelty and imagination of the proposed project, and the likelihood of significant contribution to the science of palynology are factors that will be weighed in the selection process.

Application procedure

The application form can be downloaded from this webpage: https://palynology.org/student-support/student-awards/student-research-grants/

Part A of this form is to be completed by the student, and Part B by the student's faculty supervisor. Applications must be accompanied by a photograph of the student (.jpeg format) for publication in the society's newsletter.

Additional material will not be considered.

The applicant's supervisor must submit both parts A and B of the form to the Awards Committee Chair, either as Word document or as a PDF:

Dr. Marie L. McNeill
AASP–TPS Awards Committee Chair
aaspawards@gmail.com

Please ensure that you have completed both parts A and B of this application form.

The deadline for applications is April 15, 2026. Late or incomplete applications, as well as those that exceed the stated word limits in sections A or B will be disqualified. As per society awards policy only students who are registered AASP–TPS members are eligible to apply (https://palynology.org/join/#join). Applications from non-members will not be accepted.

Student Travel Award 58th Annual Meeting, Trelew, Argentina, 2026

AASP–The Palynological Society is pleased to announce its Student Travel Awards program for 2026. These awards are designed to support travel for student members who intend to present a talk or poster at the 58th annual meeting of AASP - The Palynology Society in Trelew, Argentina.

Application procedure

The application form can be downloaded from this webpage: https://palynology.org/student-support/student-awards/student-travel-awards/

Part A of this form is to be completed by the student, and Part B by the student's faculty supervisor. Applications must be accompanied by a photograph of the student (.jpeg format) for publication in the society's newsletter.

The applicant's supervisor must submit both parts A and B of the form to the Awards Committee Chair, either as Word document or as a PDF:

Dr. Marie L. McNeill
AASP–TPS Awards Committee Chair
aaspawards@gmail.com

Please ensure that you have completed both parts A and B of the application form.

The deadline for applications is May 1, 2026. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. As per society awards policy, only students who are registered AASP–TPS members are eligible to apply (https://palynology.org/join/#join). Applications from non-members will not be accepted.

Undergraduate Student Awards

To support the teaching of palynology at the undergraduate level and to encourage and reward student achievement, AASP–The Palynological Society offers the Undergraduate Student Award. Each award consists of one year's free membership to the Society. This free membership includes access to digital issues of the Society's publications, the journal Palynology, and the quarterly newsletter; discounted registration fees at Society meetings; and eligibility for Society awards.

The awards are made annually to students nominated by faculty members teaching courses with significant palynological content. One student with meritorious achievement in some aspect of the course can be nominated per year, per institution.

The following institutions have approved courses from which undergraduate students may be selected: University of Southampton, Louisiana State University, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, University of Portsmouth and Morehead State University.

Additionally, course instructors who are members in good standing of AASP–TPS, and who teach an appropriate course, may nominate their course using the Registration Format found below. This should be cut-and-pasted into a word document and sent to the Awards Committee Chair at: aaspawards@gmail.com.

Upon course approval, instructors may nominate a student to receive the award by sending the name, institutional address, and email address of the recipient to the Awards Committee Chair and Society Secretary (s.stukins@nhm.ac.uk) at any time of the year. Additionally, faculty must send the name of the winner, a paragraph about their achievements, and a photograph to the newsletter editor (aaspnews@gmail.com) for inclusion in the March (awards between July and December) or June newsletter (awards between January and June) each year.

Undergraduate Student Award, Course Registration Form

- Nominating faculty member:
- University/Higher Education Institution:
- Course Name:
- Course Description and level:
- Average number of students registered in the course annually:
- Number of hours of palynological instruction:
- Criteria used to determine the winning student:
- Date:

The 58th AASP-TPS Annual Meeting Update

by Paula Narvaez

Abstract Submission is Now Open!

Don't miss the opportunity to share your latest research at the joint SAPP–AASP 2026 Meeting in Trelew, Argentina.

Each participant may submit a maximum of two abstracts. However, there is no limit to the number of abstracts on which an individual may appear as a co-author.

Abstracts must be submitted exclusively by email. Download the abstract template from our website https://palynology.org/58th-aasp-tps-and-19th-sapp/ and follow the formatting instructions.

Please send your abstract to: trelew2026@gmail.com

Deadline: May 1, 2026

Participants may submit their work to thematic sessions or to general sessions covering broader areas within the discipline.

Explore our Thematic Sessions:

1. Forensic Palynology

Chair: Leticia Povilauskas (Universidad Nacional de La Plata – Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo)

Abstract: This thematic session will include studies related to criminal cases involving palynological evidence and environmental context, such as clandestine burials, determination of causes of death, homicides, femicides, among others, as well as sampling protocols used at crime scenes. In Argentina and worldwide, Forensic Palynology is an emerging field gaining visibility through high-profile criminal cases and contributing to judicial investigations.

2. Neogene Marine Palynology in the Americas

Chair: Damián Cárdenas (Universidad Nacional de Colombia)

Abstract: Neogene marine palynomorphs—mainly dinoflagellate cysts and acritarchs—represent valuable proxies for biostratigraphy and paleoceanography, particularly in shallow to marginal marine sequences. Although marine palynological studies have traditionally been conducted in Europe, increasing reports have emerged from the Americas over the last decade. This session focuses on the use of marine palynomorphs to date, correlate, and interpret Neogene strata across North, Central, and South America.

3. Rise and Fall of Ancient Floras: Extinction and Recovery across Global Biotic Crises

Chairs: Viviana Barreda, Luis Palazzesi (Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales), Stephen Stukins (Natural History Museum), and Paula Narváez (IANIGLA)

Abstract: This session explores how terrestrial and marine ecosystems responded to major biotic crises throughout the Phanerozoic, including Late Devonian reorganizations, the Permian–Triassic extinction event, the Triassic–Jurassic crisis, and the Cretaceous–Paleogene boundary, as well as smaller-scale perturbations. It aims to gather macrofloristic, palynological, and multidisciplinary studies addressing extinction patterns, survival, and origination of lineages, changes in community structure, vegetation-climate relationships, and methodological advances in the fossil terrestrial and marine record.

4. Paleo-events and Extinctions in Palynology and Paleobotany during the Paleozoic

Chair: Mercedes di Pasquo (CICYTTP-CONICET-ER-UADER)

Abstract: Spores, pollen, fossil plants, as well as marine and freshwater groups, illustrate the evolution of life on Earth and provide essential paleoecological data for reconstructing environments together with paleogeography and paleoclimate. Floristic changes provide evidence of regional climatic conditions and their relationship with global changes, marked by extinctions and appearance of new taxa that help define events of different magnitude through time.

5. Dinoflagellate Cysts: Approaches and Applications

Chair: Luis Sebastián Agüero (Instituto Geológico del Sur–UNS–CONICET)

Abstract: Dinoflagellate cysts are a fundamental component of the palynological record and have been widely used in geological and paleobiological studies. Their morphological diversity, stratigraphic distribution, and preservation potential make them particularly valuable for reconstructing Earth's history across different temporal and spatial scales. We welcome contributions spanning taxonomy, biostratigraphy, paleoecology, paleoceanography, paleoclimatology, and paleoenvironmental reconstructions.

6. Evidence of Biotic Interactions in Past Plant Communities

Chairs: Bárbara Cariglino (CONICET–MACN) and Giovanni C. Nunes (MEF)

Abstract: The study of interactions between plants, arthropods, fungi, and other microorganisms is fundamental for understanding terrestrial ecosystem dynamics. In the fossil record, these relationships are documented through traces of herbivory, oviposition, galls, mining, tunnels and galleries, or even microorganism remains preserved in situ, allowing the behavior reconstruction of extinct organisms and plant defense mechanisms. This session aims to integrate available information to interpret paleoecological scenarios and trophic network evolution in response to past environmental changes.

7. Mesozoic Flora and Paleo-enivronments of the Southern Hemisphere

Chairs: Stephen Stukins (Natural History Museum), Amira Chalabe (CONICET-UNS), and Paula Narváez (IANIGLA)

Abstract: The Mesozoic was a prolonged interval of relatively warm and equable climates punctuated by rapid events. This session aims to bring together studies from the Southern Hemisphere to understand how Mesozoic floras inform us about environmental and climatic conditions, contributing to an integrated picture of Mesozoic environments and floral dynamics.

8. Fungi and their Interactions: a Billion-Year R-evolution

Chair: Noelia Nuñez Otaño (CICYTTP-CONICET)

Abstract: Mycology is essential for the study and reevaluation of extant and fossil fungal taxa. Ecological analysis of fungal communities in palynological and paleobotanical contexts enables environmental and climatic reconstructions. Recent modifications to the International Code of Nomenclature have promoted taxonomic revisions using the nearest living relative method. With nearly one billion years of evolution, fungi highlight the need for deeper systematic and ecological studies.

9. Heritage in Focus: Challenges in Preservation, Management, and Applications of Paleobotanical and Palynological Collections

Chairs: Agustina Yañez (Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales), Gonzalo Marquez (Museo de La Plata), Stephen Stukins (Natural History Museum), and Sophie Warny (CENEX, Louisiana State University)

Abstract: Paleobotanical and palynological collections constitute essential scientific heritage and key reference resources for comparative and multidisciplinary research. This session addresses challenges in their preservation, restoration, data curation, digitization, loan management, and legal frameworks, while highlighting their expanding applications, including emerging machine learning approaches. By showcasing current advances and institutional experiences in museums and related repositories, the session seeks to promote best practices, strengthen collections management, and enhance the visibility, accessibility, and scientific use of these invaluable materials.

10. Tracking Thermal Evolution in Sedimentary Basins: Organic Matter as a Geological Archive

Chairs: Amalia Spina (University of Perugia), Andrea Schito (University of Barcelona), Longyi Shao (China University of Mining and Technology), and Marco Vecoli (Saudi Aramco)

Abstract: Organic particles, including dispersed organic matter and palynomorphs, provide a unique archive of burial, diagenetic, and thermal evolution. Their structural, optical, and geochemical transformations offer critical insights into basin development, hydrocarbon generation, preservation potential, and the long-term evolution of sedimentary successions. This session focuses on the integration of classical and emerging approaches to reconstruct the thermal history of organic matter, bridging scales from microscopical observations to basin-wide interpretations.

11. Disentangling Drivers of Vegetation Change

Chairs: Sonia Leonor Fontana and Raúl Yuca Rivas (Universidad Nacional de La Plata)

Abstract: Palynological and plant macrofossil studies have documented vegetation changes in response to natural forces, human activities, and internal community dynamics. Understanding long-term vegetation dynamics provides an essential reference for current anthropogenic pressures. This session aims to bring together researchers working on vegetation reconstruction to analyze how different stressors influence plant diversity and ecosystem services.

12. Deciphering Affinities: the Role of the Fossil Record in Phylogenetic Reconstructions

Chairs: Mario Coiro (Senckenberg Research Institute and Natural History Museum) and Sebastian Molano (Museo Paleontológico Egidio Feruglio)

Abstract: This thematic session will focus on phylogeny and systematics that make use of the fossil record, emphasizing the integration of morphological, anatomical and/or stratigraphic data to reconstruct evolutionary relationships. We welcome contributions proposing hypotheses of affinity for fossil taxa and addressing the evolutionary and biogeographic history of extinct and extant lineages, including studies that emphasize methodological approaches in phylogenetic inference. The session aims to foster exchange on the role of fossils in understanding evolutionary patterns through geological time.

Talks and posters

Sessions may include one extended talk (optional) and three to five shorter presentations, selected from the submitted abstracts. Additional contributions may be included as posters.

Presentation time (including Q&A) will be 30 minutes for the extended talk and 20 minutes for regular presentations. These times may be slightly adjusted to fit the final schedule.

Rooms and AV Equipment

Standard conference rooms will be assigned to General or Thematic Sessions, with necessary AV equipment and on-site technical support.

The organizing committee is currently evaluating the implementation of live automatic subtitles (Spanish/Portuguese to and from English) to facilitate bilingual participation.

Early-Bird Registration

Take advantage of the early-bird registration rates by registering before the deadline. We encourage participants to secure their place early and be part of this exciting scientific meeting.

We look forward to welcoming you to Patagonia for an inspiring week of science, collaboration, and exchange.

Deadline: May 1, 2026

The registration fee (USD) covers access to all academic activities of the meeting, morning and afternoon coffee-breaks, and ice-breaker reception.

	Category 1		Category 2	
	Member	Non-member	Member	Non-member
Professionals	USD 110	USD 190	USD 165	USD 270
Postdocs and ECR*	USD 80	USD 145	USD 125	USD 210
Graduate students	USD 55	USD 100	USD 90	USD 150
Undergraduate students	USD 40	USD 70	USD 60	USD 100

Category 1	Participants affiliated with institutions in South American countries or with a Category 1 Human Development Index (HDI) ≤ 0.880, according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Official ranking
Category 2	Participants affiliated with institutions in countries with an HDI > 0.880, according to the UNDP. Official ranking
Member	Active membership in any of the following scientific societies:

https://palynology.org/

https://alpaleobotanicapalinologia.blogspot.com/

https://www.apaleontologica.org.ar/

https://botanicaargentina.org.ar/

For Early Career Researchers (ECR) only: students and post-docs

The registration also includes an Early Career Networking gathering for all students and post-doctoral fellows.

ECR Luncheon: If you are an ECR and interested to join this event, please add this item to your registration so that we can get a head count. It is free.

Support Student Participation – Donate USD 100

We invite all members of our community to help strengthen the next generation of palynologists and paleobotanists. By contributing USD 100, you will directly support student grants that provide essential assistance for food, accommodation, or travel. With your support, we can offer more grants and expand opportunities for early-career researchers who might otherwise be unable to attend the meeting. Help us continue building an inclusive and inspiring event for all.

For questions or further information please write to: trelew2026@gmail.com

Check our website https://palynology.org/58th-aasp-tps-and-19th-sapp/ for the latest information regarding the event.

See you in Trelew!

Organizing Committee

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