

Question 2

What mechanisms and activities can you come up with to get young palaeoscientists more involved in the community?

Mechanisms

Might young scientist representatives be invited to join significant workshops or meetings or sit on relevant panels as non voting observers?

e.g.

- Young scientists representatives within AGU/ EGU etc?
- Young scientists at Ocean Drilling Programme meetings, IPICS, relevant disciplinary meetings etc?

Mechanisms

- A listserv for the attendees of the YSM to continue discussions and debates after the meeting could be helpful.
- Could an 'opportunities' section be worked into the PAGES website for advertising field opportunities or opportunities for collaboration etc?
- Mentoring programme pairing senior and junior palaeoscientists for career development advice – advice on preparing proposals, data interpretation, specific methodologies etc.
- Skills transfer 'top down' is a very important opportunity.

Activities

- **Skills clinics** as part of meetings like YSM on particular topics (such as MATLAB or Stats advice etc.)
- Senior scientists **panel discussions** so we can ‘pick your brains’ both on science topics and for career advice, project planning, proposal writing etc.
- **Feedback and encouragement** were seen as particularly important – might groups like PAGES (AGU/EGU etc) nominate someone from each sub-discipline who would be happy to be the Young Scientist’s contact for that theme.

Note on YSM's relevance to this question.

What was your main motive for attending?

- Exposure of work.
- Diversity of the programme – it was a great chance for an overview of the science.
- Smaller scale meetings generally have more chance for quality feedback.
- It was a chance to represent your group/region/country at an International meeting.
- Opportunities for skills transfer.
- To catch up (finally) with an unavailable supervisor!

How might YSM contribute more* with regards to community participation?

One issue raised:

- Geographical challenge of attending the meeting for non US/European participants.
- Funding was the biggest challenge for all but notably a greater challenge for non US/European participants.

Is there anything more that can be done to facilitate access from southern hemisphere?

- Hub locations to ease travel?
- Regional PAGES 'sub groups' to encourage involvement and participation – e.g. South American sub group?
- Support or advice to set up palaeoscience networks in countries /regions that have problems to travel long distances.

Resources

- Resource collection – might it be possible to put together ‘idiots guide’ webpages with useful links to resources on a particular topic?
- Nominate a regional or focus related mentor who can field questions via an online discussion group ‘Google group, Facebook etc’.
- Would a YSM attendee led newsletter on the highlights of the meeting be a possibility?