



**INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE HISTORY OF  
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES (INHIGEO)**

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**INHIGEO CIRCULAR 2023, Number 2  
June 2023**

Dear INHIGEO members and friends,

welcome to a new INHIGEO Quarterly Circular! As always it is full of the latest information concerning conferences, publications, outreach activities, deadlines and contact details. Thank you very much for your nominations to this year's membership ballot. We have received 25 proposals from 18 countries! They are currently under review by the INHIGEO Board. New members will be announced at the INHIGEO Business Meeting in Cracow in August.

The last three months have seen another two Webinars organized by Maddalena Napolitani and Victor Monnin. They have been splendid events and I invite you all cordially to attend more of these inspiring webinars.

Soon, there will be the 2023 INHIGEO Annual Symposium in Poland, and we hope to see many of you there: Travel safely!

With kind regards and best wishes to all of you!

Martina Kölbl-Ebert  
INHIGEO Secretary General

## Conferences

### **48<sup>th</sup> INHIGEO Annual Symposium, Kraków (Poland), 31 July – 4 August 2023**

This INHIGEO conference will be held at the headquarters of the AGH University of Science and Technology, Kraków. There will be a 1-day mid-conference fieldtrip and a 5 days pre-conference fieldtrip (25–30 July).

Contact: [inhigeo@pgi.gov.pl](mailto:inhigeo@pgi.gov.pl)

For more information please see the 2<sup>nd</sup> circular:

[https://www.inhigeo.com/Second\\_Circular\\_2023.pdf](https://www.inhigeo.com/Second_Circular_2023.pdf)

### **Agenda to the INHIGEO BUSINESS MEETING 2023 Kraków, Poland**

Friday, 4 August 2023

1. Welcome
2. Regrets/apologies
3. Arrangement of the agenda (requests for modification)
4. Minutes of the previous meeting, Les Eyzies (2022) – discussion / matters arising
5. President's report – discussion / matters arising
6. Secretary-General's report – discussion / matters arising
7. Editor's report – discussion / matters arising
8. Publication and Outreach Coordinator's report – discussion / matters arising
9. IUGS topics
10. IUHPST/DHST topics (International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology / Division of History of Science and Technology)
11. Future meetings of the commission; IGC 2024 in Busa/Korea and fieldtrip to Japan
12. Finalization of 2023 ballot
13. Vote of thanks for organizers of the 2023 INHIGEO meeting

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### **6<sup>th</sup> Argentinian Congress and 1st Latin American Congress of History of Geology / VI Congreso Argentino y I Congreso Latinoamericano de Historia de la Geología**

Tucuman, Argentina. October 5–6, 2023.

Deadline for registration: July 31, 2023.

Contact: [histogeo2023@gmail.com](mailto:histogeo2023@gmail.com)

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### **Aspects of the history and progress of the geology of Ireland**

HOGG meeting Dublin, Ireland. August 15–18, 2023

One-day conference at Trinity College Dublin, with three days of field and archive visits. Low conference fee of €17 (payable on first day). Further details and registration at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/aspects-of-the-history-and-progress-of-geology-in-ireland-tickets-605969981527> . Any other enquiries email to [duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com](mailto:duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com)

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## IGC 2024

The 37<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress (IGC 2024) takes place August 25–31, 2024, at BEXCO, Busan, Republic of Korea. The congress website is <http://www.igc2024korea.org/>

INHIGEO has submitted five session proposals and one workshop for the congress:

- **Geosites and georoutes in the history of geological sciences** (chaired by Ezio Vaccari and Martina Kölbl-Ebert)
- **Anthropocene, history and the geosciences: contributions to contemporary debates** (chaired by Claudine Cohen, Ernst Hamm and Andrea Candela)
- **History of geoscientific travels in Asia and beyond** (chaired by Ezio Vaccari, Toshihiro Yamada and Carol Bacon)
- **History of women in geology: trailblazers, leaders and those in the shadows** (chaired by Kathleen Histon and Martina Kölbl-Ebert)
- **General contributions to the history of geological sciences** (chaired by Martina Kölbl-Ebert and Ezio Vaccari)
- Workshop on **Hidden histories in the geological sciences** (as an open forum organized by Maddalena Napolitani and Victor Monnin)

There will also be an INHIGEO fieldtrip to Japan (information courtesy of Michiko Yayima and Toshihiro Yamada):

### Northern Kyushu excursion in Japan

Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>:

07:00 gathering at the Busan Port, Republic of Korea

08:30 departure for Hakata, Japan

11:35 arrival at Hakata Port

after lunch visit to Imari (pottery), Hirado (Christian church)

stay at Sasebo

Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>: Shimabara Geo Park

Sasebo to Shimabara via Isahaya

Shimabara Geo Park, Mt. Unzen volcano area

stay at Shimabara onsen (hot spring)

Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>: Nagasaki City

Shimabara onsen to Nagasaki

sightseeing in Nagasaki (Dejima, Atomic bomb site, Gunkan island, etc.)

stay at Nagasaki

Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>:

saying goodbye after breakfast

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## **47<sup>th</sup> INHIGEO Annual Symposium, Les Eyzies (France), 2022**

Recordings of the talks from those who have agreed to their diffusion, are available at the addresses below:

INHIGEO 2022 – All communications (17-21/09/2022)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrHyJcVtILnl4-CpXWuoX9-451OS7xk3R>

INHIGEO 2022 – History of Neogene geology (21/09/2022)

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrHyJcVtILnntOZB0PQb6yr\\_O\\_YaXz07O](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrHyJcVtILnntOZB0PQb6yr_O_YaXz07O)

INHIGEO 2022 – Prehistory & Geology (17/09/2022)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrHyJcVtILnnFDpL3r6LONN1Xs1WfoOH8>

INHIGEO 2022 – History of geology: Varia (20 & 21/09/2022)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrHyJcVtILnlgFTRIYW92SR5fteRUNWn>

INHIGEO 2022 – French case studies in the history of geology (18/09/2022)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrHyJcVtILnnzAfI0auzzFVdR7DCfiKZ7>

INHIGEO 2022 – History of geology: Concepts - (18/09/2022)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrHyJcVtILnlqf0QRrTS0AfDSqJu0dx2J>

G. Godard

on behalf of the Organizing committee (C. Cohen, F. Dreyer, G. Godard, P. Richet)

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## **INHIGEO Publications**

### **Episodes**

A new paper on the History of Geology has recently been published online in Episodes and may be downloaded from the link below:

IUGS-60<sup>th</sup> Women in the early years: Vera Lafferty and the beginnings of Episodes

Author: Susan Turner

<https://www.episodes.org/journal/view.html?uid=2325&vmd=Full>

This is the first paper in a new series solicited by INHIGEO for publication in the journal Episodes on the history of women within the International Union of Geological Sciences since its foundation in 1961.

A review of the award winning (see below) new book by INHIGEO member for China Jiuchen Zhang has also recently been published online in Episodes and may be downloaded from the link below:

Book review by Chao Liu

Title: Humanity Earth: The history of human understanding of the Earth

Author: Jiuchen Zhang

<https://www.episodes.org/journal/view.html?uid=2329&vmd=Full>

If you are interested in contributing a paper or book review to Episodes please contact the INHIGEO Publications and outreach coordinator. <https://www.inhigeo.com/board.html>

## Other Publications

Hungarian IMHIGEO member Dezső Gurka has recently edited a volume “Mineralogische Konnotationen im 18. und 19. Jahrhundert: Die Wirkungsgeschichte der Freiburger Bergakademie in Mittel- und Osteuropa”. It can be downloaded for free via this link:

[https://tudasaramlas.btk.elte.hu/images/pdf/library/gd\\_mineral](https://tudasaramlas.btk.elte.hu/images/pdf/library/gd_mineral)

Other books from this series (including volumes in German and English language of the years 2015, 2019 and 2021) are available from the following website:

<http://tudasaramlas.btk.elte.hu/en/sources>

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## Anniversaries Series for the IUGS Website and E Bulletin: new papers published

Victor R. Baker (USA):

### **Hypothesizing mega-flooding 100 years ago:**

### **J Harlen Bretz and the cataclysmic late Pleistocene mega-flooding origin of the Channeled Scabland**

At the beginning of the nineteenth century a great debate emerged between two opposing groups of geologists in their study of the past causes operating on the Earth: “catastrophists” versus “uniformitarians.” The uniformitarian fluvial paradigm began to be questioned in 1923 with the publication of two papers by J Harlen Bretz on the Channeled Scabland.

IUGS E-Bulletin 196, April 2023;

[https://www.inhigeo.com/anniversaries/Baker\\_V.\\_Bretz\\_J\\_H.\\_Hypothesizing\\_megaflooding\\_100\\_years\\_ago.pdf](https://www.inhigeo.com/anniversaries/Baker_V._Bretz_J_H._Hypothesizing_megaflooding_100_years_ago.pdf)

Michiko Yajima (Japan):

### **Japanese paleobotanist 110 years ago: Kono Yasui (1880–1971): The first Japanese woman to receive a doctoral degree in science**

Japanese women had not been permitted to attend school until 1854 and those who wanted to study natural sciences had to become medical doctors and teachers. Then the Japanese government established two additional institutes called Women's Higher Normal School, in Tokyo and in Nara and this is where Kono Yasui began her scientific studies.

IUGS E-Bulletin 197, May 2023;

[https://www.inhigeo.com/anniversaries/Yajima\\_M.,\\_Kono\\_Yasui\\_Japanese\\_paleobotanist\\_110\\_years\\_ago.pdf](https://www.inhigeo.com/anniversaries/Yajima_M.,_Kono_Yasui_Japanese_paleobotanist_110_years_ago.pdf)

Stephen M. Rowland (USA):

### **Geosynclinal theory proposed 150 years ago: James Dwight Dana and the concept of geosynclines**

In June 1873, James Dwight Dana introduced the terms geosynclinal and geoanticlinal into the lexicon of geology. For the following 90 years the concept of geosynclines dominated geologists' attempts to understand mountain-building processes, especially in North America.

IUGS E-Bulletin 198, June 2023;

[https://www.inhigeo.com/anniversaries/Rowland,\\_S.\\_J.\\_W.\\_Dana\\_proposed\\_Geosynclinal\\_theory\\_150\\_years\\_ago.pdf](https://www.inhigeo.com/anniversaries/Rowland,_S._J._W._Dana_proposed_Geosynclinal_theory_150_years_ago.pdf)

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## INHIGEO Outreach

### Collaboration with Earth Science Matters Foundation Youth Outreach Program “Bringing knowledge of the Earth to everyone”

The Earth Science Matters Foundation is an international, a-political and non-profit organisation that informs the public about the great value of knowledge of the Earth for the well-being of future generations and promotes science-based solutions for Earth-related problems. <https://www.earthsciencematters.com/>

Victoria Corcimarú works together with the Executive Director, Courtney Jermyn, on ESM's Youth Outreach program and conducts virtual interviews for their Geo-Insider Series.

On 26 April 2023 a Fireside Chat virtual interview conducted by Victoria Corcimarú with INHIGEO Secretary-General Martina Kölbl-Ebert on the History of the Geosciences highlights the importance of studies of social and political historical context, diversity and controversies to the development and role of History of the Geological sciences both in the past, present and for the future.



You can watch this interview underlining how INHIGEO is an IUGS Commission at the forefront of interdisciplinary research between Earth Scientists and Historians of Science from around the globe at the link below.

<https://www.earthsciencematters.com/geo-insider/history-geo/>

### INHIGEO Webinar Series

This online series of webinars provides a Virtual Open Forum for discussion of a wide range of topics on the History of the Geological Sciences and includes panel discussions, book presentations, workshops for exchange of views on methodology / practice for those new to historical research, archives and what to look for and much more.

**Title: New Perspectives in the History of Earth Sciences**

**Moderators:** Maddalena Napolitani (Italy) and Victor Monnin (France)



The webinars focus in particular on the research recently carried out by young INHIGEO members / early career scholars – suggestions for topics are welcome!

Contacts: [maddalena.napolitani@uninsubria.it](mailto:maddalena.napolitani@uninsubria.it) & [victor.monnin@gmail.com](mailto:victor.monnin@gmail.com)

Two webinars have been held over recent months:

INHIGEO Webinar: Second meeting for 2023

**Title: The State, the Church, and the Earth: Collecting Practices in Geosciences**

Date: 17 March 2023, 4 to 5:30 p.m. (CET)

Guest Speakers:

**Maria Toscano, PhD – Warburg Institute, London**

Enlightening the Church. The social mission of clergy and the theistic concept of Nature in mineralogical collections in late 18<sup>th</sup> century Italy.

**Angela Strauß, PhD – Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin**

For the good of the state? Rock and mineral collections as donations to the Berlin University in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

INHIGEO Webinar: Third meeting for 2023

**Title: Approaches to the History of Climatology and Glaciology**

Date: 21 April 2023, 4 to 5:30 p.m. (CET)

Guest Speakers:

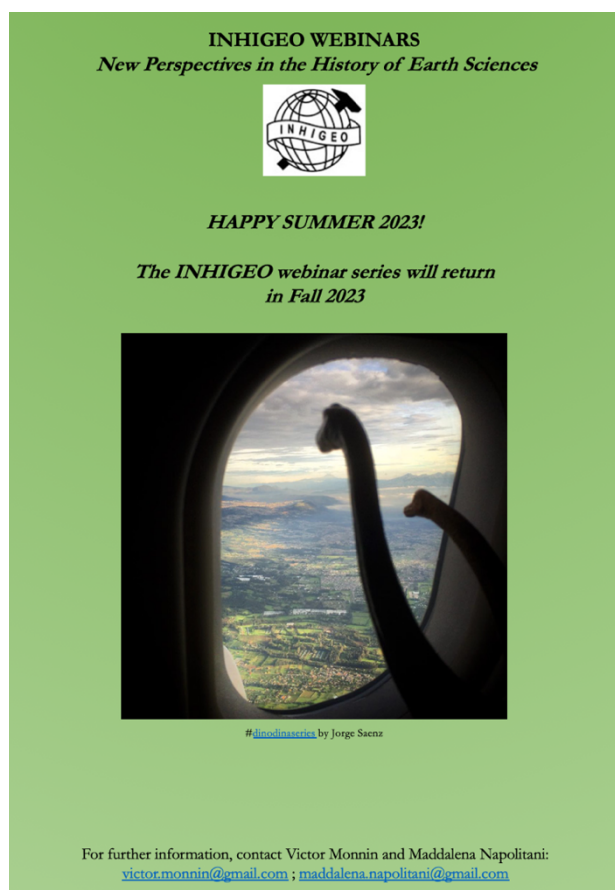
**Tatiana Carbonell, PhD candidate – ETH Zürich, GTA & LUS departments**

The Climate After the Catastrophe

**Danielle K. Inkpen, PhD – Mount Allison University, New Brunswick**

Of Ice & Men: The evolving role of the camera in twentieth-century glacier study.





Thanks to all those from around the world for attending these interesting presentations and for participating in this lively Virtual Open Forum. Wonderful to hear new ideas and points of view regarding methodology and cross-disciplinary research from both the younger and more experienced participants on these very contemporary topics related to the history of the geological sciences.

A big round of applause to Maddalena and Victor for their great organization and choice of topics for the Spring 2023 webinars and many thanks to all the speakers for sharing their research and diverse perspectives. The webinar series will continue in the autumn and more details will be forth forthcoming on the INHIGEO website:

[www.inhigeo.com/activities.html](http://www.inhigeo.com/activities.html)

## Early Career Research Profiles

This profile series on young members of INHIGEO is to create a space where early career scholars can present their studies and research interests within the history of the geological sciences to the whole membership and anyone who receives the newsletter, in order to highlight their field of expertise. It is hoped this will lead to contacts and collaborations for the future through our extensive network. Our profile this month is on a PhD graduate from China.

**Name:** Hu Weiwei

### **Studies:**

MASc: China University of Geosciences, Major in History of Science and Technology.

Ph.D.: China University of Geosciences, Major in Geological resources and geological engineering (resource management engineering).

**Title of Ph.D.:** *A Study on China's Land Reform Considering fairness and Efficiency.*

*This research focuses on the history of Chinese land reform.*



**Research interests:** My master's major is the history of science and technology. During my master's study at the University of Geosciences, I found that geologists and geological figures in different periods have played an important role in the development of China's geology and



resources. In the long history, geologists have played an important role in the development of geology and the discovery and development of human resources. In my doctoral study, I focused on the development and management of resources. After my graduation, I have obtained a position and teach at the China University of Geosciences. Now, I am focusing on the History of geological education.



**Fig.** Excursion in 2022 to the former residence of Weng Wenhao, a senior Chinese geologist.

### **Publications:**

**Hu Weiwei.** 2010. The Tailings Treatment and Multi-purpose Utilization. Urbanization and Land Reservation Research. 95–98.

**Hu Weiwei.** 2015. Study on the dynamic mechanism of rural homestead withdrawal based on push-pull theory. Land and resources science and technology management 32(3): 47–54.

**Hu Weiwei.** 2015. Study on the potential of rural settlement consolidation in Shanyin County, Shanxi Province. Anhui Agricultural Science 43(4): 340–344.

**Contact:** Dr. Hu Weiwei, China University of Geosciences, Natural Culture Research Institute, 29 Xueyuan Road, Haidian District, Beijing.

Email: [huweiwei@cugb.edu.cn](mailto:huweiwei@cugb.edu.cn)

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### **Awards**



Our congratulations to Jiuchen Zhang (INHIGEO member for China) who recently won the prestigious Winjin Book Award 2023 from the Chinese National Library in the category of Popular Science for her

book *Humanity Earth. The History of Human Understanding of the Earth* published in 2022 by Peking University Press. <https://www.pup.cn/>

The book focuses on the history of human exploration of the Earth based on geoscientific sources combining diverse topics such as geography, geology, cartography, meteorology, oceanography, Quaternary, climate change, ecological environment, etc.. The author traces the journey of human understanding of the appearance of the “Pale Blue Dot” by comparison of sources from eastern and western civilizations along a timeline encompassing three broad historical periods. Refer also to the recent review published in the IUGS journal *Episodes* by Chao Liu – link below under INHIGEO Publications.



## Obituaries

### Dr Beris M. Cox (1948–2023)

Beris studied geology at University College of Wales, Swansea. Graduating in 1969, she applied for a post as Scientific Officer at the Institute of Geological Sciences (IGS – formed in 1965 from merging the Geological Survey of Great Britain, the Overseas Geological Surveys and the Geological Museum in London; in 1984 it was renamed the British Geological Survey (BGS)). At her interview, Beris expressed an interest in palaeontological work (which necessitated a certain amount of field work) but she was told that women were not eligible for recruitment to the field staff. Nevertheless, she was appointed, and held the distinction of being the Survey's first female palaeontologist. Beris specialised in Jurassic palaeontology and stratigraphy, with a particular expertise of macrofaunas, especially ammonites and Jurassic biozonation. During her early years at the Survey, it was standard practice for female authors of Survey publications to have their names written in full, whereas men just had their initials and surname. It was (jokingly?) said that if it was clear than an author was a woman, it would account for any shortcomings!

Perhaps as a result of such experiences, Beris always rather objected to being called a palaeontologist, with its implication that she studied fossils for their own sake. Rather, she saw herself playing a practical role in geological surveying and exploration as a biostratigrapher: using ammonites and other fossils as tools to determine the relative ages of rocks and enable interpretation of sub-surface geological structures.



Beris at the BGS in the 1980s (above), and as a member of HOGG committee in 2007 (below).



Beris's disposition was such that she would resolve to show she was equal to any male counterpart through her quiet determination and meticulous competence as a scientist. And she did – becoming widely regarded as an international expert on Upper Jurassic ammonites, her geological authority fully acknowledged by her colleagues. In 1981 Beris was awarded a PhD from the University of London (Queen Mary College). She worked on numerous major prospective infrastructure projects in the UK and internationally, where the study of geological borehole information was a key foundation in scoping their feasibility. She published over 70 peer-reviewed papers, reports, memoirs, books and monographs and, in 1992, she became a Chartered Geologist.

Beris was initially based in London, then moved to Leeds, and in 1983 came a final shift to the new BGS HQ at Keyworth, Nottingham. Here she also took on the role of staff Welfare Advisor, essentially a pastoral role, in which her kindness, care and sound advice was very well respected and trusted. She opted for early retirement in 1998, by which time she was a Geologist (Grade 4) within the Biostratigraphy and Sedimentology Group of the Petroleum Geology, Geophysics and Offshore Surveys division. Beris continued to write and publish on Jurassic topics after retirement.

Amongst the other IGS staff intake in 1969 was John Thackray (1948–1999), through whose friendship Beris's latent interest in the history of geology and antiquarian books was nurtured. Encouraged by John and fed by her professional work, Beris became a member of the Society for the Bibliography of Natural History from 1973 to 1986. In 1994, John was a leading player in the foundation of the History of Geology Group of the Geological Society (HOGG). Beris duly joined HOGG in 1997, bringing her inimitable meticulous style to its Committee which she served faithfully for a total of thirteen years, including five years as Treasurer (2008–2013) and then, between 2017 and 2020, as Newsletter editor. She also convened a number of HOGG conferences, including a very successful meeting in Manchester in 2011 *on Geology in the History of Provincial Scientific Societies*.

In 2022, Beris became a member of INHIGEO. In October 2022, she was due to present at the INHIGEO webinar charting histories of the International Geological Congress but although not well enough to give her paper on the day, her contribution, 'The fourth International Geological Congress, London (1888)' was duly published in *Episodes* 45 (3). <https://doi.org/10.18814/epiugs/2022/022014>. The article is a fitting valediction to her pioneering role in geology and her contributions to the history of geology community.

My thanks to David Bate, Mike Sumblar and Joanna Thomas for supplying various details about Beris.

Duncan Hawley; Chairperson, History of Geology Group (UK).

Our Italian colleague Luca SIMONETTO (21/01/1964 – 14/02/2023) from the Museo Friulano di Storia Naturale, Udine (Italy) passed away on the 14th February 2023. His research in the history of geology focused on 19th-20th century Italian naturalists and geologists from the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (Italy), such as Giulio Andrea Pirona, Torquato Taramelli, Michele Gortani and others that carried out geological and paleontological research between the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century in the Carnic Alps. His research also highlighted the origins of the Natural History Museum in Udine and the cartography of the region. He was nominated INHIGEO member for Italy in 2019. A workshop dedicated to Luca and his contributions to Geology / Palaeontology is planned in June 2023 organized by his colleagues and friends at the Museum in Udine. A full Obituary on Luca's varied interests, activities and contributions will be published in the Annual record for 2023.



Ezio Vaccari

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## **IUGS Matters**

The 2022 IUGS Annual Report, including INHIGEO's report to the IUGS is now available via the IUGS website:

[https://www.iugs.org/\\_files/ugd/f1fc07\\_9c46069d32c549e89b4715e075594d40.pdf?index=true](https://www.iugs.org/_files/ugd/f1fc07_9c46069d32c549e89b4715e075594d40.pdf?index=true)

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## **Change in Contact Details?**

INHIGEO is a significant network which works efficiently only if the administration has your current contact details. If you change your email address, postal address or any other contact information please advise the INHIGEO Secretary General as soon as possible: [m.koelbl@lmu.de](mailto:m.koelbl@lmu.de)

The INHIGEO Board has decided to be more flexible about membership countries. Members are welcome to self-identify to which country or countries they want to be counted; they may also change in future. Should you desire any changes to your country affiliation, please feel free to inform the INHIGEO Secretary General.

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## **Contact Details of the Current INHIGEO Board**

President: Prof. Ezio Vaccari (Italy) – [ezio.vaccari@uninsubria.it](mailto:ezio.vaccari@uninsubria.it)

Past-President: Prof. Barry Cooper (Australia) – [Barry.Cooper@unisa.edu.au](mailto:Barry.Cooper@unisa.edu.au)

Secretary-General: Dr Martina Kölbl-Ebert (Germany) – [m.koelbl@lmu.de](mailto:m.koelbl@lmu.de)

Vice-President Africa: Dr Sharad Master (South Africa) – [Sharad.Master@wits.ac.za](mailto:Sharad.Master@wits.ac.za)

Vice-President Asia: Dr Toshihiro Yamada (Japan) – [tosmak-yamada@muf.biglobe.ne.jp](mailto:tosmak-yamada@muf.biglobe.ne.jp)

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Vice-President Europe: Prof. Marianne Klemun (Austria) – [marianne.klemun@univie.ac.at](mailto:marianne.klemun@univie.ac.at)

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Vice-President North America: Prof. Steve Rowland (USA) – [steve.rowland@unlv.edu](mailto:steve.rowland@unlv.edu)

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Ex officio (Publications and Outreach Coordinator): Dr Kathleen Histon (Ireland) – [hiscat@interfree.it](mailto:hiscat@interfree.it)

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## **Next Circular**

Dear INHIGEO members, you will receive the next circular with information updates around September 21<sup>st</sup>. Until then: Take care and stay healthy!

Kind regards  
Martina Kölbl-Ebert