



ANNOUNCING

**The Future of MARGINS:  
A Planning Workshop for a MARGINS Successor Program**

**Date and Location:** February 15-17, 2010, San Antonio, TX,  
**Application Deadline:** November 6, 2009

The MARGINS program has now completed its first decade, yielding fundamental insights into the processes that shape the evolution of active continental margins. Based on past achievements, as well as positive feedback from the MARGINS Decadal Review in February 2009, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has called for a community-wide workshop and preparation of a draft Science Plan for future MARGINS research. NSF authorization of a MARGINS Successor Program now depends on community development of a clear and focused Science Plan that identifies and elucidates fundamental, multidisciplinary scientific objectives with high potential for transformative discoveries in the evolution and geodynamics of subduction and rifted margins. The Science Plan must also map out the structure of the program.

A four day planning workshop to lay the groundwork for the Science Plan will take place in San Antonio, TX, February 15-18, 2010. Key decisions will be made at this workshop, including:

- define high-priority Research Questions in margins science
- outline the Initiative Structure and Scientific Goals of a successor program
- identify potential Focus Sites or Thematic Topics to meet the goals
- define new MARGINS educational / outreach programs
- provide guidance to the Science Plan Writing Team

A MARGINS successor program will build upon the impressive accomplishments of past MARGINS inter-disciplinary research, however, it must also anticipate exciting new and emerging opportunities in margin evolution and geodynamics. As a framework, the MARGINS Steering Committee envisions a successor program that will:

- investigate the geodynamic, surficial, and climatic processes that build and modify subduction zones and rifts over a wide range of timescales (from s to My).
- address complex coupled systems along plate margins through an integrated approach, combining field research in structure and tectonics, geophysics, geomorphology, geochemistry, sedimentology and stratigraphy, with experimental, analytical and numerical modeling studies.
- involve large amphibious and land-based field programs, as well as smaller focused field and lab-based studies.
- contribute fundamental knowledge relevant to understanding economic resources, geologic hazards, climate change, and environmental management.

A Successor Program may look very different from the present MARGINS program. Some questions open for discussion at the planning workshop include:

- will MARGINS Scientific Goals be better advanced at designated Focus Sites or through Thematic Studies;

- to what extent do the Scientific Goals require study of passive or exhumed margins;
- how to integrate the study of sedimentary processes into future MARGINS Initiatives;
- how to enhance scientific integration across disciplines and initiatives;
- what is the role and extent of private sector involvement in MARGINS research; and
- how can future MARGINS data policy ensure broad dissemination / community access?

This planning workshop represents a critical step for furthering MARGINS research. To ensure broad community representation, and full consideration of emerging opportunities and new directions for MARGINS research, all scientists with interests in plate margins science are encouraged to apply, independent of past experience with MARGINS. We encourage applications from young investigators, including postdoctoral researchers and graduate students, as well as members of under-represented groups. Present or previous MARGINS funding is not a prerequisite for attendance. Applicants from other US government agencies, private industry, and international partners will also be considered. The workshop will include plenary presentations and poster sessions to communicate research accomplishments and opportunities, as well as directed breakout sessions to discuss and frame the components of the Science Plan. All attendees will be encouraged to participate fully in discussions and decision-making.

This meeting is open to all who are interested in participating in this process. Eligible participants will be provided with full or partial funding for travel, accommodation and meals. Applicants should prepare a 1-2 page CV and brief (half-page) statement of interest, and apply on-line by November 6, 2009. Detailed instructions are included on the web application form, which can be accessed from the MARGINS web page:

<http://www.nsf-margins.org/SuccessorProgram/app.html>

Submission of topical White Papers is invited from all interested parties. White Papers can be contributed on-line at the following website:

<http://www.nsf-margins.org/SuccessorProgram/whitepapers.html>, and will be made available to all attendees prior to the workshop.

#### **Workshop Planning Committee Members**

Julia Morgan (Rice University) - Chair  
 Ramon Arrowsmith (Arizona State University)  
 Mark Behn (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute)  
 Sue Bilek (New Mexico Institute of Technology)  
 Cindy Ebinger (University of Rochester)  
 Marc Hirschmann (University of Minnesota)  
 Demian Saffer (Pennsylvania State University)  
 Doug Wiens (Washington University)  
 Andrew Goodliffe (University of Alabama) - Education Liaison  
 Tom Gardner (Trinity University) –Local Liaison

**MARGINS Steering Committee Chair:** Geoff Abers (Lamont-Doherty Earth Obs.)

**More Information about the Decadal Review, past planning documents, and recent workshop reports can be found at:** <http://www.nsf-margins.org/Review2009/index.html>