

## International Subcommittee on Jurassic Stratigraphy (ISJS) – Chairman’s Report

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Following a very active year in 2016, with dedications and celebrations of the three Iberian Jurassic GSSPs (Toarcian, Aalenian, Bajocian), the work of the Subcommittee has progressed steadily during 2017 (<https://jurassic.stratigraphy.org.wordpress.com/>). The main accomplishment was that of the working group for the base of the Kimmeridgian which, under the leadership of Andrzej Wierzbowski (University of Warsaw), submitted a formal proposal for the Global Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) to the Jurassic Subcommittee on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The ISJS is very supportive of the proposal, which is now being revised and extended with a view to progression to International Commission on Stratigraphy during 2018. The working group advocates the formal recognition of a level where the ammonite *Pictonia flodigarriensis* first appears in the Flodigarry coastal section, at Staffin Bay, on the Isle of Skye, NW Scotland.

Work by the group tasked with developing proposals for the base-Oxfordian is also at an advanced stage, and it is hoped that following workshops in France and England in recent years, a formal recommendation will be made in the relatively near future for consideration by the Subcommittee. Progress with the last remaining GSSP definitions, the base-Callovian and base-Tithonian, is progressing more slowly, but progress there definitely is, exemplified by the very recent publication of major study of the systematics of the ammonite genus *Kepplerites* (Upper Bathonian and basal Callovian, Middle Jurassic) and its bearing on the historical proposed boundary stratotype for the Callovian Stage at Albstadt-Pfeffingen, Germany (Mönnig, Dietl, 2017). Whilst recognizing that this locality provides a complete sequence of ammonite horizons, the accumulation was evidently also slow and episodic, and so there is still a need to find an alternative candidate that meets all the formal and practical requirements.

Beyond the scope of stage definitions and the strict remit of the subcommittee, there has been much progress on a number of other Jurassic stratigraphic and palaeoenvironmental projects. A new IGCP project (number 655) was launched in 2017, focussed on understanding the Toarcian Oceanic Anoxic Event (T-OAE), and led by Matías Reolid, Universidad de Jaén, Spain, Emanuela Mattioli, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, France, Luis Vitor Duarte, Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal, and Abbas Marok, Université Abou Bekr Belkaid Tlemcen, Algeria. The first project workshop, aimed at understanding the impact of the T-OAE on marine carbon cycle and ecosystems, was held in Jaén in October 2017 and was a huge success, not least because of the spectacular and informative field localities visited and the wide disciplinary interests of the participants. At the same time, the IGCP project 632 “Continental Crises of the Jurassic” led by Jingeng Sha (Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences) and others, has recently completed its symposium on Jurassic Tropical to Polar Biotic and Climatic Transects at Flagstaff, Arizona, in 2017 and looks forward to hosting a meeting 2018 examining the effects of global environment events on southern Gondwanan sequences.

Members of the Jurassic Subcommittee are involved in the International Continental Drilling Program (IGDP) – Early Jurassic Earth System and Timescale (JET). This project, led by ISJS Chair, was approved for ~\$6.6 M funding in 2015/2016. The aim is to re-drill the >1 km thick Early Jurassic succession of the Cardigan Bay Basin, UK, as a means to calibrate biostratigraphy, chemostratigraphy, magnetostratigraphy and astrochronology for what is an exceptionally complete mudrock succession.

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In addition, the Subcommittee has lines of communication with a wider public through two initiatives (also called Working Groups for simplicity): one is concerned with conservation of Jurassic geological sites such as those selected as GSSPs; the second encourages collaboration and liaison with non-professionals, notably fossil collectors, who have valuable data to contribute towards the Subcommittee's goals. We hope and believe that the activities under these umbrellas will assume increasing importance in future Subcommittee activities.

We gratefully acknowledge the continued support from the Polish Geological Institute – National Research Institute and Faculty of Geology, University of Warsaw, in editing “Volumina Jurassica”, ISSN: 1731-3708, a peer-reviewed, open access journal supported by ISJS, regarded as a publication medium of the entire international Jurassic research community. The journal is co-edited by Andrzej Wierzbowski, Bronisław Andrzej Matyja and Grzegorz Pieńkowski, supported by eight theme editors. I'm convinced that the clear topical focus, the rigorous peer review process, and free online access to contents will also help achieve our goal, which should lead to the journal's inclusion in the coveted listing of ISI/Web of Science.

With much activity going on both formally and informally, we look forward to a fruitful 2018 for Jurassic science, which should get off to a flying start at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Jurassic Symposium to be held in San Luis Potosí, Mexico in February 2018.

## REFERENCE

- MÖNNING E., DIETL G. 2017 – The systematics of the ammonite genus *Keplerites* (upper Bathonian and basal Callovian, Middle Jurassic) and the proposed basal boundary stratotype (GSSP) of the Callovian Stage. *N. Jb. Geol. Paläont. Abh.* **286**, 3: 235–287.