

RADIOCARBON UPDATES

IntCal04 Meetings

This update is provided by Dr Paula J Reimer (pjreimer@llnl.gov). The first meeting of the IntCal04 working group took place at Queen's University, Belfast on 14–17 April 2002. The goal of this and next year's meeting at Woods Hole is to create and disseminate an updated radiocarbon calibration curve. When creating any scientific dataset, its quality should be the paramount consideration. To achieve this, the IntCal04 working group has been convened to discuss the criteria by which datasets should be judged for inclusion in the final, composite curve. At the Belfast meeting, we agreed that, as a basic criterion, any new data should be at least as good as the existing IntCal98 records for any time period in question. We also agreed that additional criteria should depend on the type of samples and the measurements involved, as well as on the nature and location from which samples were derived. Since compilation, production, and dissemination of the final data for use by the various user communities are an integral part of the IntCal04 project, availability of new statistical approaches and development of software are also under investigation to ensure that implemented datasets provide efficient and high-quality results. A preliminary report of the selection criteria and other issues discussed at the workshop will be available on-line at the *Radiocarbon* website (www.radiocarbon.org).

Laboratory News

Italy

The Lecce Tandetron Laboratory opened in 2002 under the directorship of Prof Dr Lucio Calcagnile. The lab (code LTL) is located at the University of Lecce in Brindisi, Italy. Their lab's website is www.dii.unile.it/LTL.

Vietnam

With the assistance of CAIS (Center for Applied Isotope Studies, University of Georgia), the Laboratory of Radiocarbon Dating at the Archaeological Institute in Hanoi was established in late 1998. As of June 2002, the lab had measured about 150 samples for archaeological and geological investigations in Vietnam using a Tricarb 2770 TR/SL system. Mr Nguyen Quang Mien heads the laboratory. He can be reached by email at ngmien@TTVNonline.com.

Irvine

The Department of Earth System Science at the University of California, Irvine has set up a 0.5MV model 1.5 SDH-2 accelerator constructed by National Electrostatics Corp of Middleton, Wisconsin, USA with funds received from the W M Keck Foundation.

Dr John Southon joined the faculty in the Earth System Science Department in December 2001. The department has hired two key scientists to help run the W M Keck Carbon Cycle AMS (CCAMS) Research Group, Drs Xiaomei Xu and Guaciara M Santos. Drs Susan Trumbore, Ellen Druffel, and John Southon are co-directors of the W M Keck CCAMS Research Group. This AMS system will be devoted exclusively to research of the global carbon cycle.