

Dear members of the International Society for Diatom Research,

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee, I would like to invite you to attend the 2016 International Diatom Symposium in Quebec City, Canada. Quebec City is the capital city of the French-speaking Province of Quebec in eastern Canada, the only walled city in North America and a UNESCO World Heritage site. With its numerous historic sites and its European flair, Quebec City and the mighty St-Lawrence River are major tourist attractions in eastern North America.

The symposium will be held from **21-26 August 2016** on the campus of Laval University, the oldest French-speaking university in North America with more than 45,000 students enrolled. The Hydro-Quebec auditorium in the modern Desjardins building with a capacity of 350 seats, as well as several lecture halls with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipments, will serve to organize all lectures and poster sessions. Both student residences on campus, as well as hotel rooms in the immediate vicinity of Laval University will be made available at reduced fees for symposium attendees.

Though the meeting is still 18 months away and cost estimates are hence approximate, I will make efforts to keep the registration fee at our below EURO 350,00 which would include all symposium program materials, drinks and a cold buffet at the symposium ice-breaker, coffee breaks, as well as lunch meals that will be served in the same building. A post-symposium excursion will be offered that will allow IDS attendees to visit major tourist attractions in the Province of Quebec.

As president of IDS2016, it will be my aim to bring together- with the help of the members of both the Local Organizing and International Scientific committees- experts from all fields of research on modern and fossil diatoms (both from marine and freshwater systems), including molecular, physiological, evolutionary, ecological, biogeographic, paleoecological, biomonitoring, systematic/ taxonomic, forensic and other aspects of research on diatoms.

The members of the **Local Organizing Committee** are:

Dr. Reinhard Pienitz - Université Laval - Quebec City
Dr. Dermot Antoniades - Université Laval - Quebec City
Mr. Paul Hamilton - Canadian Museum of Nature - Ottawa
Dr. Isabelle Lavoie – INRS-ETE - Quebec City
Dr. Michel Poulin - Canadian Museum of Nature - Ottawa
Dr. Émilie Saulnier-Talbot - Université Laval - Quebec City
Mrs. Claudia Zimmermann - Université Laval - Quebec City

The members of the **International Scientific Committee** are:

Dr. Marco Cantonati - Museo delle Scienze (MUSE) - Trento - Italy
Dr. Sarah Davies - Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences - Aberystwyth University - UK
Dr. Mark Edlund - St. Croix Watershed Research Station - Science Museum of Minnesota - USA
Dr. Regine Jahn - Botanischer Garten & Botanisches Museum – FU Berlin - Germany
Dr. Peter Kroth - Fachbereich Biologie - Universität Konstanz - Germany
Dr. Nora Maidana - Departamento de ciencias biológicas – Universidad de Buenos Aires - Argentina
Dr. Shigeki Mayama - Department of Biology - Tokyo Gakugei University - Japan
Dr. Marina Potapova - Academy of Natural Sciences - Drexel University - Philadelphia - USA
Dr. Michael Reid - School of Behavioural, Cognitive & Social Sci. - University of New England - Australia
Dr. Koen Sabbe – Department of Biology - Ghent University - Belgium
Dr. Jonathan Taylor - Environmental Sciences & Management - North-West University - South Africa
Dr. Xiangdong Yang - Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology - China

Special sessions and workshops are planned (both on diatom taxonomy and on other topics) and will be organized over the course of the summer and fall 2015, and announced before the end of this year. If you already have ideas and suggestions for potential workshop / special session themes, please feel free to forward them to me at reinhard.pienitz@cen.ulaval.ca. Please check our website regularly at <http://www.cen.ulaval.ca/IDS2016/> for updates on the symposium program, accommodation, excursion(s), registration etc.

Please mark the dates for the symposium in your agenda, and we are looking forward to welcoming you to Quebec City in August 2016,

Best regards,
Reinhard Pienitz