

International Subcommittee on Paleogene Stratigraphy

After years of work, the Subcommittee on Paleogene Stratigraphy finally announce that the International Commission of Stratigraphy (ICS) approved, ratified in September 2016 by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) at Cape Town, during the International Geological Congress (IGC35), the base of the Chattian Stage at the Monte Cagnero Section, near Urbania, Italy.

The GSSP for the base of the Chattian Stage (Paleogene System, Oligocene Series) is defined at meter level 197 in the Monte Cagnero section, which belongs to the pelagic succession of the Umbria–Marche basin (Urbania, central Italy: 43°38'47.81"N – 12°28'03.83"E). This level with an astronomical age of 27.82 Ma coincides with the highest common occurrence of the planktonic foraminifer *Chiloguembelina cubensis* at the base of planktonic foraminiferal O5 Zone and falls in the upper part of calcareous nannofossil NP24 Zone, in the lower part of dinocyst Dbi Zone, and in the lower Chron C9n.

Meter level 197 falls thirty cm below the base of a prominent, 40 cm-thick limestone bed in the middle of a recessive, 7 m-thick marly interval. This distinctive lithostratigraphic package is easily recognizable in the MCA section, and useful for recognizing the other lithostratigraphic intervals in this section, as well as in other coeval sections for regional correlation.

The official launch of the GSSP of the Chattian Stage (Oligocene Series), Monte Cagnero section, Italy, was held on May 13, 2017.

After the presentation in the Town Hall Urbania the official ceremony ended on the field where the Golden Spike was hammered.

In the presence of Stan Finney, Secretary General of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), institutional and academic authorities, among which Rodolfo Coccioni coordinator of the [Chattian working group](#), together with students and local people, have attended the Official launch of the GSSP of the Chattian Stage (Oligocene Series), hosted by local, regional and national administrators and coordinated by Simonetta Monechi, University of Florence, Chair of the [International Subcommittee on Paleogene Stratigraphy](#) (ISPS).

About one hundred people attended the event in Urbania, most of which then moved to Monte Cagnero, first by car, then walking the last mile until reaching the site where the commemorative plaque has been erected, in front of the section studied by Rodolfo Coccioni and co-workers. Alessandro Montanari, Director of Osservatorio Geologico Coldigiogo, gave a speech in front of authorities, scientists, students, and all those who gathered to participate to the event on the field, before the small crowd moved to the very site of the Point of the Chattian base.

Here the Golden Spike was hammered down into the marly level separating Rupelian sediments below, from Chattian sediments above. It's the sixty-nineteenth Golden Spike accepted by the geological community, the sixty-nineteenth marker of major steps in the geological history of the planet.

Simonetta Monechi (Chair, Subcommittee on Paleogene Stratigraphy)

Read here for details: <http://www.paleogene.org>

