

On the Eve of the Cambrian Explosion: Early Animals and Environment



Dr. Shuhai Xiao
Professor of Geobiology
Virginia Tech

Dr. Shuhai Xiao is a Professor of geobiology at the Department of Geosciences at Virginia Tech. Dr. Xiao's group is interested in how the biosphere and its environments interacted at critical transitions in Earth history. His research group is focused on key evolutionary innovations such as the origin and early diversification of eukaryotes, multicellular organisms, and animals. Through collaboration with other scientists, Dr. Xiao's research group integrates paleobiological, sedimentological, stratigraphic, and geochemical data to answer these questions. Current research projects are focused on the Ediacaran-Cambrian transition, although he has worked on older and younger rocks, as well as the taphonomy of exceptionally preserved fossils. Dr. Xiao's main expertise is paleobiology, but he has developed extensive collaborations with geochemists and has employed a diverse range of research tools to solve complex scientific problems.

**An interactive session with the invited speaker will be held in the conference room
from 12-1 pm (Pizza lunch will be provided)**

Thursday 2/9 | 4:00-5:10 PM | EnGeo 3003