



## Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research

### SCAR Medal for Excellence in Antarctic Research, 2008

*Angelika Brandt*

Professor Angelika Brandt is Professor of Zoology at the University of Hamburg, Germany, where she is also the Director of the Zoological Museum. Her science focuses on systematics, evolution, ecology, biogeography and biodiversity of peracarid crustaceans in the deep sea especially in the polar regions. Through her work in ANDEEP, evidence is emerging that Southern Ocean deep-water faunas are linked to assemblages on both the adjacent shelf and in other ocean basins. This linkage is complex and varies between taxa. Even though we are only beginning to understand the patterns and scale of Southern Ocean biodiversity, Angelika is now trying to understand the forces that drive biodiversity and biogeographic patterns in the region, and how the deep sea floor has been colonized. Hers is an ambitious programme that will study processes in different realms of the biosphere in Antarctica and uncover how these systems are linked to each other. It will help to understand the role of the Southern Ocean in global energy budgets, climate change, and the maintenance of the diversity of marine life on the Blue Planet.

Angelika has participated in 12 ocean expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic, including a Brazilian-German diving expedition in 1989/90 on King George Island (South Shetland Islands). A recent cruise to the Weddell Sea and the Scotia Sea resulted in a paper in *Nature* in May 2007, which attracted the international media. The BBC reported that ‘An extraordinarily diverse array of marine life has been discovered in the deep, dark waters around Antarctica’.

Angelika serves as a member or as chair on a score of committees all in connection with polar research and/or biodiversity amongst others as a member of the Curatorium of the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, in Bremerhaven. She has been the driving force behind the international research programs ANDEEP and ANDEEP-SYSTCO and is a member of the steering committee of the SCAR-EBA program. Her work is making a significant contribution to the success of the Census of Antarctic Marine Life (CAML), a SCAR-IPY Project, and she is a member of the international CAML Steering Group. In 2007 Angelika was named a National Geographic Adventurer of the Year, in recognition of her exceptional accomplishments in her field (deep sea biodiversity around Antarctica). The “adventure heroes” were presented with awards on 15 November at a gala event at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D.C. An Adventure’s role “is to inspire people to experience the natural and cultural wonders of the world in exciting ways”.

It is to Angelika’s credit, that our knowledge about the biodiversity of the Southern Ocean has significantly increased in recent years. We are pleased to be able to honour Angelika with the SCAR Medal for excellence in Antarctic Research for her significant contributions in Southern Ocean deep sea biology.