



## Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research

### SCAR President's Medal Citation, 2008

*Vladimir Mikhaylovich Kotlyakov*

Dr Kotlyakov, as one of the world's eminent geographers and glaciologists, you are a most worthy recipient of the SCAR President's Medal for Scientific Excellence.

Your early work on the glaciers of Novaya Zemlya and the nearby mainland gave you a thorough training in glaciological methods. You then headed south as a member of the wintering party of the Second Soviet Antarctic Expedition of 1956–1958, where you worked near the main Soviet base Mirnyy. That work led you to an exhaustive analysis published as *The Snow Cover of the Antarctic and its Role in the Present-Day Glaciation of the Continent*. Your fieldwork dealt with how climate influenced snow accumulation, the metamorphosis of snow and firn, the temperature regime, recrystallization, settling, melting and ablation. That work led to an analysis of the snow regime in different parts of Antarctica. Finally you analysed the development of the ice cover during the Pleistocene period. This was an outstanding contribution to Antarctic science. There followed years of studies of the glaciers of Mount Elbrus, the Pamirs, Kamchatka and other areas. From this period on you became the leader in systematic glaciological studies throughout the Soviet Union and Antarctica. You led work on a number of surging glaciers and sought to explain their surging behaviour, and you now lead the IPY project on Surging Glaciers. Your work has been distinguished by wide dissemination of field data, which has yielded numerous PhDs. Meanwhile you yourself have published a series of books on aspects of glaciation in the global context,

In recent decades you served as the inspiration and editor-in-chief of the *World Atlas of Snow and Ice Resources* (1997), a 3-volume series totalling 900 pages, with 662 coloured maps, 143 photographs, and a monograph on snow and ice phenomena and processes. This is a work of magnificent scope, covering climatic factors (air temperature, solid precipitation), snow water equivalent, runoff, glacier morphology, mass balance and fluctuations, river freeze-up/break-up, avalanches and mud flows, and many other variables. It will be a master reference for all concerned with global snow and ice and related changes for many years to come.

After obtaining your PhD with the Institute of Geography of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in 1967, you became a Professor of Geography there in 1971, and eventually rose to be Director.

Within your homeland, you were elected an Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences in 1991. You were appointed Vice-President of the International Geographical Union from 1988-96, then Vice President of the Russian Geographical Society from 1980-2000, and its honorary President since 2000. You have been influential in steering the Russian research programme in Antarctica through

your Chairmanship of the Scientific Council of Arctic and Antarctic Research, your co-chairmanship of the National Committee for CliC, your deputy chairmanship of the National Committee for the IGBP, your chairmanship of the Russian IPY Committee, and your Presidency of the Glaciological Association.

In the international sphere, among other things you served as Vice-President of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences from 1983-87, then President of the International Commission of Snow and Ice from 1987-91. You are the Russian Delegate to SCAR, and an eminent member of the Steering Committee for the IPY.

In recognition of your world-leading scientific record in Arctic and Antarctic glaciology over 50 years from the IGY to the IPY, and in recognition of your many services to both Russian and international glaciological science in the polar regions, it gives me great pleasure to award you the SCAR President's Medal for Scientific Excellence for 2008.

Chris Rapley, CBE  
SCAR President

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