

The SCAR Medals

Recognizing Excellence in Science and Outstanding Service

An important SCAR activity is recognition of excellence in Antarctic and Southern Ocean science and outstanding service to the international Antarctic community both of which are critical to advancing SCAR's vision and mission¹. Peer-recognition rewards and highlights those who exemplify the best of the Antarctic community and serve as models for the next generation of scientists and researchers. SCAR created three Medals to provide this recognition: the Medal for Excellence in Antarctic Research, the Medal for International Scientific Coordination, and the President's Medal. To encourage nominations and ensure an open, fair and transparent selection process, recipients for two of the medals are selected by committee (see below). The third medal, the President's Medal, is determined by the President alone. This document serves as a guide to potential nominators.

Frequency and Timing of Award

The SCAR Medal for Excellence in Antarctic Research and for International Scientific Coordination are awarded once every two years to coincide with SCAR's biennial meetings. The President's Medal is awarded once every four years, once in each SCAR Presidency. All three medals are presented during the SCAR Open Science Conference Recognition Banquet. Nominations will be open no later than 6 months in advance of the biennial SCAR Open Science Conference and remain open for at least 3 months. The medals will be widely advertised and nominations solicited. Awardees will be notified and publically announced within one month of the close of the nomination process.

Nominations

The following describe the criteria used by the Selection Committee to evaluate nominees. Potential nominators should also refer to the nominating/evaluation forms used by the Selection Committee as well for further details. Submission of complete information for all nominees facilitates evaluations during the selection process. There are no age restrictions or limits on nominees and no higher education degree requirements - everyone is eligible to be nominated. However, self-nominations are not accepted.

The SCAR Medal for Excellence in Antarctic Research is awarded for sustained scientific contributions over a career. This medal is awarded to persons deserving recognition based on outstanding contributions to knowledge and the impact of a person's work on understanding the Antarctic region, the linkages between Antarctica and the Earth system, and/or observations of and from Antarctica. Nominees are welcomed in all areas of Antarctic and Southern Ocean science and research. A distinguished career in providing scientific advice to policy- and/or decision-makers is also considered a demonstration of excellence in Antarctic research. Awardees should have a distinguished professional career history and have demonstrated involvement in SCAR science. An extensive and highly cited body of publications and presentations documenting the nominee's contributions is essential. A record of

¹ See <http://www.scar.org/strategicplan2011/>

prior recognition demonstrates the person's impact on their community including prizes, honorary degrees, and other awards. A succinct justification for the recognition by the nominator outlining the significance of the candidate's accomplishments should be provided. Letters from others in the community that have been impacted by the nominee's work and/or are familiar with the nominee's contributions are recommended.

The SCAR Medal for International Coordination is awarded for outstanding and sustained contributions to international cooperation and partnerships. Nomination of persons that have advanced SCAR's mission to initiate, facilitate, co-ordinate and encourage international research activity in the Antarctic region are encouraged. Awardees should have a distinguished professional career history. A record of recognition of international activities by their peers including prizes, honorary degrees, and other awards demonstrate the person's impact. The relevance of such coordination work should be demonstrated, for example with regards to capacity building, products of use to the wider community, data and information etc. A justification for the recognition by the nominator outlining the candidate's contributions to international coordination should be provided. Letters from others in the community who have been benefactors of the nominee's efforts are recommended.

The President's Medal is awarded for outstanding achievement in Antarctic science and is determined by the President alone. There is no formal nomination process, however the names of possible awardees can be transmitted to the President.

The Selection Committee

The Selection Committee is comprised of members of the SCAR Executive Committee, representatives of the SCAR Standing Scientific Groups and members of the SCAR Capacity Building Education and Training Group. Decisions of the Selection Committee are communicated to the SCAR Executive Committee for final approval. Final decisions will be made well in advance of the Open Science Conference Recognition Banquet at which the awards will be presented to enable recipients to be present.

Evaluation and Selection Criteria

Based on the information provided by the nominator, each candidate is scored on a numerical scale by each member of the Selection Committee. Each nominee is scored on their own merits on a scale 0 [Negligible Impact] to 5 [Outstanding Impact] for each of the categories in the nomination form. A final score is calculated for each nominee by summing the individual category scores from all committee members' score sheets. The awardee is the highest scoring nominee. In the case of tied scores, committee members will re-score the highest scored nominees on a comparative basis. This process will be repeated until a single, highest score awardee emerges.

For the 2012 medals the deadline for nominations is March 15th 2012.