



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH*

SCAR Secretariat
Scott Polar Research Institute
Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER, United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 1223 336550 E-mail: info@scar.org
Facsimile: +44 1223 336549 Website: www.scar.org

* SCAR is an Interdisciplinary Body of the International Council for Science (ICSU)

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SCAR Circular Letter 785

Supplemental Support for the SCAR Fellowship Programme

President
Prof Mahlon C Kennicutt II
Department of Oceanography
Texas A&M University
Rm. 608 O&M Bldg.
3146 TAMU
College Station
TX 77843-3146
UNITED STATES

Vice-President
Dr Antonio Meloni
Dirigente di Ricerca
Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e
Vulcanologia
Via di Vigna Murata, 605
00143 Roma
ITALY

Vice-President
Prof Dr Sergio Marensi
Director
Instituto Antártico Argentino
Cerrito 1248
1010 Buenos Aires
ARGENTINA

Vice-President
Dr Ad H L Huiskes
Netherlands Institute of Ecology
Unit for Polar Ecology
PO Box 140
4400 AC Yerseke
NETHERLANDS

Vice-President
Dr Rasik Ravindra
Director
National Centre for Antarctic and
Ocean Research
(Ministry of Earth Sciences)
Headland Sada, Vasco-da-Gama
Goa 403 804
INDIA

Past President
Prof C G Rapley
Director
Science Museum
Exhibition Road
South Kensington
London SW7 2DD
UNITED KINGDOM

Executive Director
Dr Colin P Summerhayes
SCAR Secretariat
Scott Polar Research Institute
Lensfield Road
Cambridge CB2 1ER
UNITED KINGDOM

Executive Officer
Dr Mike Sparrow
SCAR Secretariat
Scott Polar Research Institute
Lensfield Road
Cambridge CB2 1ER
UNITED KINGDOM

To: SCAR National Committees
Permanent Delegates
Alternate Delegates
Associate Delegates

1 March 2010

Dear Colleagues,

One of SCAR's strategic goals is to cultivate scientific talent and national capacity, including ensuring that a new generation of polar researchers is continually being developed. At present the primary activity in this area is the SCAR Fellowship Programme. These Fellowships have a high profile in the Antarctic science community, and there is significant competition for awards. Each year many excellent applications are declined due to limited funds. At the current level of funding, the Fellowships fund three to five early career PhD or Post-doc researchers each year to spend time in a top science laboratory in a SCAR Member country other than their own. The reports and testimonials of these students are available on the SCAR web site at <http://www.scar.org/awards/fellowships/testimonials.html>.

The SCAR Delegates have indicated they wish to expand the Fellowship Programme so that it would be able to assist as many as ten young scientists per year. In order to achieve this goal, additional resources are needed beyond those provided by SCAR income from annual membership fees. The SCAR Secretariat is actively soliciting funds from foundations and other sources for this programme. In addition we would ask that you consider a voluntary donation above your annual membership fee to enable an expansion of the Fellowship Programme. If the task is shared among SCAR countries, the burden on any one nation is small. In recent years the Fellowship Programme has been supplemented by donations from South Africa (\$2000), India (\$5000) and Italy (\$5000).

If you have any questions about the programme, I suggest that you examine the SCAR Fellowship Programme web page (<http://www.scar.org/awards/>

fellowships/). On that page you will also find reports on the activities of past Fellows, as examples of what can be achieved, as well as testimonials to how useful the awards have been to the Fellows.

I fully realize that you have many budgetary demands but this is undoubtedly an excellent investment that has long lasting effects. This will enhance the reputation of SCAR and serve as an investment in the future of Antarctic science at a critical time.

Thank you for considering this request and I look forward to a positive response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mahlon C. Kennicutt II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Professor Mahlon "Chuck" Kennicutt II
President of SCAR