

*Presented by Leo Sancho  
on July 2010  
Buenos Aires*

## **Spain's proposal to organize the XIth SCAR International Biology Symposium in 2013**

On behalf of the Spanish SCAR Committee I am pleased to convey our wish to organize the next SCAR International Biology Symposium – 2013 in Spain.

In the last 20 years, Spanish research in Antarctic Biology has evolved at a constant pace. At present, more than 20 Universities, several institutes of the Spanish Research Council (CSIC), the Spanish Oceanographic Institute (IEO) and the National Institute for Aerospace Technology (INTA) cooperate in developing most of the biological lines of research in Antarctica. Spanish scientists have actively contributed to the design and development of the most important Special Research Programs in Antarctic Biology (EASIZ; RiSCC, EVOLANTA and EBA).

From the very beginning of our activity in the Antarctic region, Spanish scientists established strong links with colleagues from other countries by participating in international cooperation in Antarctic research. We greatly appreciated this opportunity and, in return, we have offered Spanish facilities in the Antarctic (two summer stations, several summer camps and two vessels) to international projects. With this experience and our enthusiasm we believe that we can take on the big responsibility of hosting and organizing the next SCAR International Biology Symposium in Spain.

To facilitate the evaluation of our proposal and, at the same time, seek your suggestions, we would like to offer some updated preliminary outlines on the organization of the event:

### **Preliminary details**

- **Dates:** Second or third week of July 2013.- **Venue:** Barcelona. Probably at the Conference Hall of the Central University. The Mediterranean Marine and Environmental Research Centre (CSIC) will also be involved.

- **Local Organizing Committee:** Chairperson: Josep Maria Gili, gili@cmima.csic.es (Mediterranean Marine and Environmental Research Centre, CSIC, Barcelona).
- Members: The LOC will include among others: Leopoldo G. Sancho, sancholg@farm.ucm (University Complutense of Madrid) and Antonio Quesada, antonio.quesada@uam.es (University Autonoma of Madrid)
- A **Scientific Steering Committee** will be convened according to the decisions of the SCAR SSG on Life Sciences
- **Official supporters:** Spanish National SCAR Committee (<http://www.uam.es/cn-scar>); R + D National Plan. It is expected that other Spanish organizations will contribute to the organization of the conference.

### ***Preliminary Program***

Depending on the number of attendants (300-400?) two or three parallel sessions would be organized. This will give the chance to develop 6-8 sub-themes in 5-6 working days. Around 100 oral presentations (keynote lectures included) and 200 posters could be displayed during the event.

### ***Time scheduling***

- December 2010: Venue, Local Committee and Steering Committee will be appointed.
- 2011: Sub-themes will be suggested, and a final decision will be made by the Scientific Steering Committee. The web page of the event will be published during this year.
- 2012: Logistic organization will be completed. Keynote speakers will be contacted. Deadline for pre-registration: September/October 2012.
- 2013: Deadline for abstract submission: March/April 2013.

### ***Proposed general theme***

“Life in Antarctica – Boundaries, Gradients and Conservation in a Changing Environment”

### ***Budget***

They will be contributions by Spanish organizations and it will be requested a SCAR contribution from the Major Meetings Funds (as in previous Symposia). This will help to facilitate the organization and reduce the registration fees of the participants.