The SCAR Awards Scheme

At recent meetings of the SCAR Executive Committee there have been some initial discussions on the proposal to institute a SCAR medal for outstanding service to SCAR or to Antarctic science. This matter was discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting in Sofia (July 11-13, 2005), following which this paper has been further developed through e-mail consultation with the Executives and Chief Officers, and approved by the Executive Committee for presentation to the XXIX Delegates meeting.

1. The Medals

The Executive Committee decided that there should be three different SCAR Medals. One medal will be “The President’s Medal”, to be awarded for outstanding achievement in Antarctic science. The SCAR President will choose a candidate to receive the medal, and the presentation ceremony will take place during the SCAR Open Science Conference. There will be one “President’s Medal” every 4 year, i.e. once in each SCAR Presidency. The first President’s Medal should be presented in Hobart, 2006.

The second medal will be “The SCAR Medal for Excellence in Antarctic Research”, and the third medal will be “The SCAR Medal for International Scientific Coordination”. The candidates will be chosen by the Delegates and SCAR scientists through consultations (see Nominations, below). SCAR Medals will be awarded every second year, and presented during the SCAR Open Science Conference. The first two SCAR Medals will be for 2004-2006, and the presentation ceremony will be held in Hobart during the Open Science Conference.

A draft design for the obverse of each medal (50 mm diameter) was accepted by the Executive Committee. The obverse shows the SCAR logo and the permanent lettering (SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH) embossed around the edge.

The reverse of the President’s Medal will have the permanent lettering “SCAR PRESIDENT’S MEDAL”, “AWARDED TO”, “FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN ANTARCTIC SCIENCE” embossed. The name of the recipient, and year of the presentation will be engraved individually for each presentation.

The reverse of the SCAR Medals will read on one: “SCAR MEDAL”, “AWARDED TO”, and “FOR EXCELLENCE IN ANTARCTIC RESEARCH”; and on the other: “SCAR MEDAL”, “AWARDED TO”, and “FOR INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION”. The name of the recipient and year of the presentation, will be engraved individually for each presentation.

The two SCAR medals will have a bronze finish while the President’s Medal will be made of silver. Estimates for the cost of designing and preparing the dies for the medal have been requested and, similarly, estimates for the cost of striking the medals (individually and in batches) have also been requested. The final cost is estimated at 5,000 USD for a set of 50 medals. The engraving costs are separate (~0.15 USD per letter).

Nominations

The award of the SCAR President’s Medal will be determined by the President alone. Awardees for the two SCAR Medals will be selected by an Awards Committee from nominations sent to the SCAR Secretariat by national committees and the wider SCAR
science community. The deadline for the receipt of nominations (with a 1-page A4 justification) for the awards at XXIX SCAR will be **1 February 2006**.

No candidate may be awarded more than one medal at one SCAR Meeting. No awardee will be eligible for any other SCAR medal at any time.

**The Awards Committee**

The Awards Committee shall comprise two Vice-Presidents and the three Chief Officers of the three SSGs. The decisions of the Awards Committee appointed by the Executive Committee will be passed to the Executive Committee for final approval. The decisions of the Awards Committee will be accepted unless the Executive Committee specifically votes against any of the decisions. The deliberations of the Executive Committee will take place by correspondence well in advance of the Open Science Conference at which the awards will be presented, so as to enable recipients to be alerted to the need to make plans to attend the Conference to receive their awards.

**Terms of the Award**

There are no formal criteria for determining the recipients of the two SCAR Medals. It is expected that the exceptional nature of the candidates’ qualifications will justify the award. For these awards there are no age limits.

2. **THE HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AND THE CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

SCAR should continue the practice of electing Honorary Members for outstanding contributions to SCAR by acclamation at the Delegates meeting.

At the Delegates meeting in Bremerhaven in 2004, the Delegates approved the award of “Certificates of Appreciation” to people who provided services to SCAR over long periods (R. Rutford, C. Rapley, R. Schlich). At the Executive Committee meeting in Sofia in 2005, the Executive awarded a further Certificate of Appreciation to Peter D. Clarkson following his retirement. It is suggested that SCAR maintains this practice to be used when appropriate.