



Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research

SCAR Medal for International Scientific Coordination, 2010

Alan K. Cooper

Dr. Alan Cooper has been essential to the coordination, compilation and analysis of seismic data collected along the margins of Antarctica and put in the Seismic Data Library System (SDLS) for more than 25 years. His efforts have benefitted the Antarctic geosciences community and the Antarctic Treaty System. Dr. Cooper has shown outstanding leadership in assisting in the organization and publications of SCAR's International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Science and geoscience workshops for many years.

Early on, Dr. Cooper recognized the difficulty facing scientists attempting to assemble seismic data for making circum-Antarctic comparisons and correlations, to establish the seismic stratigraphy and geological history of Antarctica. A protocol was needed to encourage scientists to share seismic data and avoid the complication that these data could also be used to assess fossil fuel resources along the Antarctic margin. To address these issues, Dr. Cooper initiated the unique concept of the Seismic Data Library System for Cooperative Research (SDLS) that was created by unanimous agreement of the seismic community and then adopted by Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties (ATCM XVI-12) to make seismic data openly available over prescribed time intervals via collaborative research. The SDLS has operated successfully for almost two decades and over eighty percent of the 350,000 km of multi-channel seismic data from the Antarctic margin are deposited in the library system.

In 1989, Dr. Cooper conceived and led the Antarctic Offshore Stratigraphy Project (ANTOSTRAT) which was superseded in 2002 by the SCAR Scientific Research Programme Antarctic Climate Evolution (ACE). Dr. Cooper was instrumental in convening the Circum-Antarctic Stratigraphy Project (CASP) to compile seismic surveys and integrate with scientific drilling along the margins of Antarctica. Dr. Cooper's most recent organizational achievement was editing and publishing the proceedings of the SCAR 10th International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences in 2007 with over 100 peer-reviewed reports and 200 extended abstracts. The ISAES proceedings were published on-line in advance of the conference. After the very successful conference, review papers and extended abstracts were published in a book within one year - all setting a high standard for quality and timeliness in publishing SCAR conference proceedings.

In summary, Dr. Cooper's contributions in making Antarctic seismic data widely available for collaborative studies and his genius for organizing international scientific meetings and publications warrants his recognition for Excellence in International Coordination as a co-recipient of the 2010 SCAR Medal.