



## 2016 SCAR President's Medal for Outstanding Achievement

**Prof. Francisco Hervé, Chile**

*Awarded by President Jerónimo López-Martínez*

“Prof. Hervé was selected for his sustained scientific contributions and distinguished career, linked to Antarctica for 50 years and in recognition of his outstanding contributions to knowledge and impact on understanding of Antarctic geological history and its relationships with the Andes and South America. He has also developed and maintained relationships with many institutions and at least 50 scientists from 13 countries, in addition to his exemplary dedication to development of students and postgraduates, with the supervision of more than 93 Degree, Master and PhD. thesis. He has served the community from relevant positions in international and Chilean scientific organizations and programmes, including 35 years of participation in SCAR subsidiary bodies. His generous, discrete and kind character, has gained the respect and friendship of numerous scientists around the world.

Professor Francisco (“Pancho”) Hervé is a Chilean researcher in Earth Sciences of great international renown. He has carried out many investigations covering different fields of the Antarctic and Andean geology (more than 111 articles published in ISI international journals, 43 papers in national journals, 37 book chapters, 284 publications in conference proceedings, and has been the leader of about 40 projects as principal investigator). The main part of his research has been carried out in Antarctica and southern South America (western Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego). His contributions have been mainly in the fields of metamorphic petrology and geochronology of metamorphic complexes and associated intrusive rocks, as well as on major lithospheric faults along the South American margin. His research programmes, formed with international teams, have contributed to establishment of new models and improvements in the understanding of the Gondwana evolution.

Since 1981 Pancho Hervé has formed an international group, with scientists from München University, Universities of Sao Paulo and of Rio de Janeiro, and the British Antarctic Survey, to study the metamorphic complexes of the Antarctic Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands, which substantially modified previous ideas and contributed to better understanding of the geological relationships between the southern Andes and Antarctica.

He has been Chief Editor of the journal *Andean Geology* (ISI, former-*Revista Geológica de Chile*) for ten years, and Associate Editor of the following ISI journals: *Gondwana Research*, *Journal of South American Earth Sciences*, *New Zealand Journal of Geology and Geophysics*, and *Revista Mexicana de Geología*.

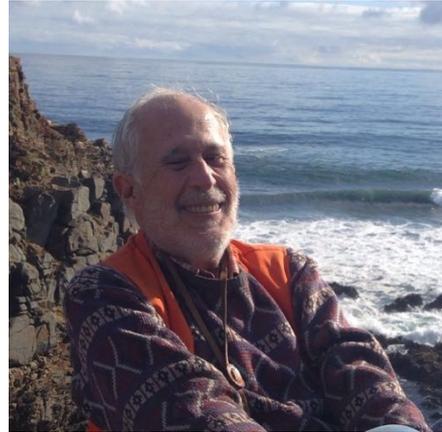
Pancho Hervé was Vice-President of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) for eight years, President of the Geological Society of Chile for eight years and Vice-President for ten years. He is Full Member of the Chilean Academy of Sciences, Member of the Third World Academy, Correspondent Member of the Argentinean Geological Association and Honorary Member of the Geological Society of America and the Geological Society of Chile. He has received several awards in Chile, and others in Germany and Argentina.

From 1981 to 2004 he has been the representative of Chile on the SCAR Working Group on Geology, and served as a member of the National SCAR Committee of Chile.”

Jerónimo López-Martínez  
President of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)  
20 June 2016

## Response from Prof. Francisco Hervé, Chile

I was very happily surprised by the communication that I had been awarded with the 2016 SCAR President's Medal for Outstanding Achievement. I feel very honoured by this recognition, and I thank Dr Jerónimo López for it. This has since triggered thoughts about my Antarctic activity for the past half a century which has forged much of my personality! Our first trip to Antarctica was the occasion of knowing new and immensely beautiful territory, and also the opportunity to increase human experiences. At 21, I had not been previously exposed to live and work side by side with people from different provenances and activities in society, sharing difficulties and satisfactions in a generous, collaborative and interactive mood. This and the geology to be studied, motivated my future trips to Antarctica, in which the universe of new admirable people met was amplified to other nationalities, other scientific interests, other perspectives, which increased my perception of the world around us. A consolidating experience was to meet some of these people again and again, in Antarctica and in scientific and business meetings, many of them organized by SCAR, where I felt part of what is referred to as the Antarctic family. I learned through these activities the advantages of collaboration over competitiveness, of a wide perspective on science and humanity over narrow, individual or national interests. I always enjoyed learning from the many advanced researchers present on the SCAR meetings, where I remember having first learned, among other aspects, about power point presentations and about age vs probability diagrams with detrital zircons. In all, I feel absolutely grateful with the contribution received from the Antarctic experience to my scientific and personal development, which I have tried to pass over to the new generations of scientists I have had the opportunity to work with. The changes have been enormous from the first expeditions in which we were landed from wooden oar boats, shared small tents and had no communication with the outside world, to the zodiacs, helicopters, planes, ships, ice-going vehicles and internet connections, which dominate in the present Antarctic scientific activity. However, the main value is still the human attitude of optimisation of efforts which the Antarctic realm inspires. I cannot finish without mentioning the late Roberto Araya, with whom we shared a small tent during several months in our first two expeditions, Prof. Hubert Miller from Germany, who since our first trip to Antarctica until present has been an utmost generous and lawful partner, and the Chilean Antarctic institutions including INACH, which made our activity in Antarctica possible.



Francisco Hervé

June 2016