

SCAR Recognition and Appreciation

EXCOM is asked to consider and approve ways of improving the impact of SCAR rewards that recognize and appreciate the contribution of scientists from among the SCAR community.

The various awards are listed in Appendix 1.

1. Improving Recognition for the SCAR Medals.

One action from XXX SCAR is to develop a plan to elevate the SCAR medals to be more prestigious and better known. The SCAR President initiated these discussions after serving on a US National Research Council Committee that was tasked with developing a guide for the Tinker Foundation for creating as an IPY legacy a major Antarctic scientific prize - the "Martha Muse Prize for Science and Policy in Antarctica: An International Polar Year Legacy".

It is evident that the SCAR medals are not well known beyond our own community (though in fairness they have only been awarded twice). The SCAR medals are part of an effort to raise SCAR's profile and to re-establish SCAR as THE recognized authority on international Antarctic science. Recognizing excellence and contributions is an important role for SCAR to play on the international scene. In concert with the medals, SCAR is also embarking on establishing series of named lectures, the first being the Weyprecht Lecture on the occasion of the IPY. These enhancements to SCAR's activities and others, if they are properly managed and promoted, will reinforce the central position of SCAR in high quality, international Antarctic science.

We need to raise the impact of the SCAR awards. To accomplish this a more methodical campaign to advertise and promote these activities is needed. The call for the awards should be announced widely; there should be an improved selection process; and the recipients of the awards should be widely announced. These enhancements will generate excitement about the awards, encourage nominations, and elevate the prestige of the awards.

The prestige and recognition that accrues to the SCAR recognition awards will also be judged by the quality of their recipients. The history and accomplishments of previous prize-winners will define perceptions about the importance and value of the awards.

The following suggestions are based on the Tinker Foundation's Martha T. Muse Award report, which addressed similar issues, and is for the consideration of EXCOM.

In these considerations it must also be kept in mind that advertising costs and the benefits accrued must be weighed in relation to these costs and the monetary value of the award, if any.

1.1 The Announcements:

The SCAR Medals should be announced as widely and as prominently as possible. This could include the following processes (for EXCOM's decision):

- Electronic mailings to the most prominent list servers and mailing lists that reach all segments of the Antarctic community (SCAR News, the SCAR community list server, Arctic info, NSIDC news, APECS News, others ... (please suggest)[NO COST]
- Electronic mailings to the major international professional societies and organizations (e.g., COMNAP News, ATS News, CCAMLR News, the European Polar Board) whose members conduct work in Antarctic science and policy, with a request that the call for nominations be forwarded to their membership (others ... please suggest)[NO COST]
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- A SCAR web page that includes the call for nominations, as well as explicit instructions about the nomination process (e.g. see other prize websites, such as the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement, the Ramon Margalef Prize in Ecology and Environmental Sciences, and the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Awards)[NO COST]
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- A brochure or announcement sent via print mail to well-respected individuals that are likely to offer nominations. [PRINTING AND MAILING COSTS]
- Advertising the call for nominations in major scientific journals (e.g., Nature, New Scientist, EOS, Antarctic Science, Polar Record) commonly read by members of the Antarctic community. [QUOTES ARE BEING SOUGHT] The following eighthpage advert in Nature would cost £900 including VAT: ***THE SCAR MEDALS for 2010 + LOGO. Nominations are sought for the SCAR President's Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Antarctic Science (recent winners, Peter Barrett and Vladimir Kotlyakov); the SCAR Medal for Excellence in Antarctic Research (recent winners Paul Mayewski and Angelika Brandt); and the SCAR Medal for International Scientific Coordination (recent winners David Walton and Claude Lorius). Nominations should be presented through SCAR National Committees. The medals will be awarded at the August 2010 SCAR meeting. Deadline for application is 1 March 2010. For information on the procedure see www.scar.org/awards/.*** Costs in Science and New Scientist would be similar; Antarctic Science would be much cheaper.
- It is suggested that each medal winner should have in addition a cash award of \$250, which will go towards the cost of attending the meeting at which the award is made. This sum could come from the SCAR Reserve/Contingency Fund. It will be \$500 or \$750 in alternate biennial meetings (as only one President's Award is made in a 4 year term).
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- Awards will be made biennially as part of the opening ceremony of the SCAR Open Science Conference [NO COST TO DATE, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE OCCASIONS WHERE THE AWARDEE REQUESTS ASSISTANCE WITH TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY, ALSO SEE ABOVE]
- The opening ceremony should include sufficient time for a short citation by the President, and short response (both detailing the candidate's achievements in terms of scientific or policy advances), for each of the 3 candidates (currently the citation and response are only on the web site)
- Following the award there will be an announcement of the winners, in the same journal(s) [QUOTES ARE BEING SOUGHT] and on the SCAR web page. We may want to consider all of the same distribution mechanisms for nominations for announcing winners. However, these announcements could also take the form of Letters to the Editor, at no cost.

1.2 The Submission Process:

If possible the nomination process should be entirely web-based, with nomination materials being submitted electronically via the SCAR website. However, given our dependence on SPRI, it may be that nominations have to be submitted to info@scar.org, then transferred to a password protected page. Password protection will allow the page to be accessed securely by members of the Selection Committee.

Each nomination package sent to info@scar.org would consist of:

- A letter of nomination from an individual familiar with the candidate's achievements and future potential, both of which should be explained succinctly in the letter. This letter should not exceed three single-spaced pages and be provided in English. It must state the nominator and nominee's names, professional or home contact information, present occupational titles, and institutional titles.
- Up to three additional letters of support from other individuals familiar with the nominee's qualifications. These letters should not exceed one single-spaced page and be provided in English. These additional letters should be significantly different in content from the nomination letter to further inform the Selection Committee of the nominee's qualifications for the prize and should not simply repeat the content of the nomination letter.
- The nominee's curriculum vita or resume, including education record; career history; list of publications, research grants, and major presentations and awards; and a description (no more than 1,000 words) of significant activities by the

nominee in Antarctic science and/or policy, depending on which SCAR medal is involved.

- Nomination packages for highly competitive candidates not selected in a given year would be held for three years for possible consideration in subsequent years.
- If a nomination is carried forward, the Selection Committee will ask the nominator to submit a new cover letter and curriculum vita and to update the nomination package with recent developments in the nominee's career.
- Nominators should be kept informed of the status and outcome of the selection process.

1.3 The Selection Committee

The Selection Committee plays a critical role in ensuring the success and reputation of the SCAR medals. Its role will be to evaluate nominations and recommend the medal winners from the pool of nominations, ensuring that the selection process is fair and unbiased. The Selection Committee's operations must be beyond reproach.

The Selection Committee comprises 2 SCAR Vice-Presidents and the Chief Officers of the 3 SSGs and the Executive Director.

1.4 The Selection Process

The process is usually launched in November of the year prior to the biennial SCAR meeting, with a deadline for receipt of nominations by 1 February.

The selection process is carried out by e-mail, and completed by 1 March

Selections are approved by EXCOM by 15 March, and successful candidates are informed immediately to enable them to plan their participation in the following SCAR meeting.

The selectors evaluate candidates by using a scoring system

A. science:

1. excellence of science (e.g. citations - which is information we do not have to hand, but you know what I mean)

2. breadth of science

3. importance of science (e.g. impact of published work on the work of others or on the science as a whole)

4. amount of published work

5. contribution to advancing SCAR's science

B. coordination

- 1. kind of effort (e.g. leading international programmes, playing a leading role in SCAR, teaching international courses)*
- 2. extent of effort (major or minor contribution of time)*
- 3. impact of that effort (e.g. impact of that involvement on the wider community)*
- 4. importance of that effort (would some key thing not have happened without it)*
- 5. relevance of the work (e.g. to major issues of the day)*

Each selector is expected to rate each candidate against each of the 5 categories with a range of marks between 5 (top) and 1(bottom). Average scores are then calculated for each candidate.

2. Other Awards**2.1 Certificate Of Appreciation**

Recommendation - award to people who provided services to SCAR over long periods, not as an automatic process on the retirement of a Vice-President, unless that person has provided 'long' service.

2.2 Honorary Membership

Recommendation – award for outstanding contributions to SCAR, by acclamation at the Delegates meeting (normally goes to outgoing SCAR presidents).

2.3 Best Paper and Poster Awards

Recommendation - continue to award following the OSC (as in Bremen and St Petersburg), organized by the Local Organizing Committee.

2.4 Weyprecht Lecture

Recommendation - continue the process of having a prestigious named lecture. So as to establish this as a prestigious event, we should keep the title even though Weyprecht was not an Antarctic explorer. Chopping and changing its name will detract from its prestige.

2.5 Proposed Antarctic Science Journal lecture.

As a companion to the Weyprecht lecture, the Board of Antarctic Science Ltd (publishers of the Journal Antarctic Science) has asked us if we might include an "Antarctic Science" review paper from a 'young' scientist in each future biennial SCAR meeting. The proposal is that (in consultation with us) they would find a presenter and a topical subject, that the lecture would be advertised in the programme as sponsored by them and that it would be published afterwards as a review paper in the journal. They would provide

finance (airfare, subsistence); as a charity they have to give away their profits for educational use. That is why they provide annual bursaries for young Antarctic scientists. This would be simply another way of organising an educational contribution. The paper would go through the normal review process.

Recommendation – inaugurate the lecture.

2.6 Martha T. Muse Prize - refer to the website

SCAR is now managing the arrangements of this Prize, which brings some kudos to the organization.

Appendix 1:**The SCAR Awards (these have their own page on the SCAR web site)**

(i) **“The President’s Medal for outstanding achievement in Antarctic science”**, in silver finish. Each SCAR President will choose a candidate to receive the medal, and there will be one such award in each SCAR Presidency (4 years). **In years when there is no clearly deserving nominee, the medal should not be awarded.**

Recipients:

1. Hobart, 2006, Peter Barrett (NZ) for his work on drilling in the Ross Sea to determine the geological history of glaciation.
2. St Petersburg 2008, Vladimir Kotlyakov (Rus) for his extensive contributions to polar glaciology, beginning in Antarctica during the IGY.

(ii) **“The SCAR Medal for Excellence in Antarctic Research”**,

The candidates will be chosen by the Executive Committee on the advice of the Awards Committee. The medal, in bronze finish, will be awarded every second year, and presented during the opening ceremony of each SCAR Open Science Conference. **In years when there is no clearly deserving nominee, the medal should not be awarded.**

Recipients:

1. Hobart, 2006, Paul Mayewski (USA) for his work on determining climate history from ice cores.
2. St Petersburg 2008, Angelika Brandt (Ger), for outstanding work on determining the distribution of the benthic faunas of the Southern Ocean around Antarctica.

(iii) **“The SCAR Medal for International Scientific Coordination”**.

The candidates will be chosen by the Executive Committee on the advice of the Awards Committee. The medal, in bronze finish, will be awarded every second year, and presented during the opening ceremony of each SCAR Open Science Conference. **In years when there is no clearly deserving nominee, the medal should not be awarded.**

Recipients:

1. Hobart 2006, David Walton (UK) for his leadership of the teams providing advice to the Antarctic Treaty Parties.
2. St Petersburg 2008, Claude Lorius (Fra) for his long contribution to the coordination of the drilling of ice cores, especially at Vostok and in the EPICA Programme (Dome C and Kohnen station in Dronning Maud Land). Claude too began his polar career working in Antarctica during the IGY.

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. For these awards there are no age limits. Self-nominations are not accepted.

(iv) “Certificate Of Appreciation”

Certificates of Appreciation may be awarded to people who provided services to SCAR over long periods. It should not be an automatic process on the retirement of a Vice-President, unless that person has provided ‘long’ service.

Recipients:

Bremerhaven 2004, to outgoing Vice-Presidents C. Rapley and R Schlich

Sofia 2005, to Peter Clarkson, following his retirement.

St Petersburg 2008, to Des Lugg, for his more than 30 years of service to the SCAR Programmes on Human Biology and Medicine.

Moscow 2008, to outgoing Vice Presidents Chuck Kennicutt and Zhanhai Zhang, and to immediate past Vice Presidents Clive Howard-Williams and Jeronimo Lopez-Martinez.

(v) Honorary Membership

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

Recent Recipients:

2004, outgoing President Bob Rutford
2006, outgoing President Jörn Thiede
2008, outgoing President Chris Rapley

(vii) Best Paper and Poster Awards

These were awarded following the OSC in Bremerhaven and St Petersburg. We suggest that the practice be continued, and organized by the Local Organizing Committee.

(viii) Weyprecht Lecture

For St Petersburg, SCAR decided to begin the process of having a prestigious named lecture to start the proceedings of the Open Science Conference. So as to avoid difficulties in picking a name associated with any one SCAR Member, and because we were in the IPY and the conference in St Petersburg was run jointly with IASC, it was decided to name the lecture “The Weyprecht lecture” after Karl Weyprecht, the Arctic Explorer who invented the idea of the International Polar Year.

Recipient: Robin Bell (USA).

(ix) Proposed Antarctic Science Journal lecture.

See notes under 2.5 above.

(x) Martha T. Muse Prize - refer to the website

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