



XXXII SCAR Delegates' Meeting

Portland, USA, 23-25 July 2012

Application for 2013/2014 Major Meeting Funds

Gordon Research

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Title and date of meeting to be supported:

Gordon Research Seminar on Polar Marine Science - High Latitude Physical, Chemical, and Biological Processes and Their Impact on Regional and Global Systems, March 9-10, 2013.

Gordon Research Conference on Polar Marine Science - Linking Polar Observations, Processes, and Models at Regional and Global Scales, March 10-15, 2013.

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Introduction/ Background:

The Gordon Research Conference (GRC) series is a unique venue for sharing cutting edge research and fostering discussion on interdisciplinary research topics. The Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) immediately precedes the GRC and provides early career researchers an opportunity to share their research and interact with mentors in advance of the GRC. The GRC on Polar Marine Science has a record of success dating back to 1997 with the GRC on Sea Ice Ecology. In 1999 the conference theme was broadened to Polar Marine Science and has been held every other year since. Based on this success an application was approved in 2011 to hold the GRS in addition to the GRC.

In response to climate change and other ecosystem pressures the Polar and sub-Polar regions are undergoing great change. Understanding the limits and effects of these changes requires an interdisciplinary approach. The GRS and GRC on Polar Marine Science is an ideal venue for fostering discussion between Polar researchers, regardless of region of interest or discipline. In 2013 we are expanding on these ideas with conference themes that highlight the similarities between Arctic and Antarctic processes and their connection to the global system. It is our hope that this approach will help draw attention to Polar science and foster ongoing discussions and collaborations between researchers who work primarily in the Arctic or Antarctic.

Justification for funds:

We are requesting 5,000 USD to offset the registration and travel costs for select early career researchers attending both the GRS and GRC and who have been accepted to give a talk at the GRS. According to GRC rules these early career researchers will also present posters at the GRC. Registration costs for the GRS and GRC are set by the organizers of the Gordon Research Conference series and include lodging and food. Fees have not been announced for 2013 but are estimated at 1,300 USD for the GRS and GRC, plus travel. It can be difficult for early career researchers to find funds to attend international meetings. Support from SCAR would allow the participation of early career researchers from SCAR member countries who might not otherwise be able to attend. This justification directly supports the aim adopted by the delegates at the SCAR XXVIII meeting and described in the 2006 SCAR Strategy for Capacity Building *“to develop scientific capacity in all SCAR Members, especially with respect to younger scientists, and to promote the incorporation of Antarctic science in education at all levels”*. More specifically the GRS/GRC directly supports several of the objectives of SCAR’s capacity building effort, most

notably objective ii: *“to help young scientists, to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from SCAR’s main programmes and other activities”*.

Expected Benefits/Outcomes:

The GRS/GRC on Polar Marine Science provides a rare opportunity for Arctic and Antarctic researchers to transcend disciplinary boundaries and discuss cutting edge research and current challenges. Key to the success of the seminar and conference is the participation of early career researchers from diverse programs, including those who may lack the funds to attend an international meeting. There is significant overlap between this group and young investigators from non-traditional polar researching nations. Increasing the involvement of such investigators is a key priority of SCAR’s Capacity Building and Education Program. Support from SCAR will increase the diversity of the meeting, help maintain a balanced participation between the Arctic and Antarctic research communities, and encourage greater interaction between these two groups.

Partners:

We have received a commitment of in-kind support from APECS to aid in the selection of award recipients. In addition we have received financial support from the IASC for early career researchers from IASC member countries. Support from SCAR for Antarctic researchers will be complementary to the support from IASC and will allow for a balanced participation by the Arctic and Antarctic research communities.

Budget Implications:

We are requesting 5,000 USD to offset the registration and travel costs for early career researchers from SCAR member countries.