



SDM **36**
Agenda Item: 8.1
Person Responsible: Secretariat

**XXXV SCAR Delegates Meeting
Davos, Switzerland, 25-26 June 2018**

SCAR Fellowship Programme

Report Authors

Eoghan Griffin and Rosemary Nash

Summary

The Fellowship program is one of the key capacity building activities undertaken by SCAR. Initiatives such as a mentoring webinar and improved guidance notes have been introduced since 2016 to help applicants improve their proposals and also to expand the base of potential reviewers for the Scheme. In 2016 four SCAR Fellowships were awarded, with 6 awards made in 2017, in part thanks to the additional support provided by India.

Recommendation

Delegates are requested to consider making voluntary contributions to the Fellowship Scheme and to widely advertise the scheme nationally and internationally. An effort should also be made to secure additional funding from other donors. The impact of the mentoring provided in support of applicants could be enhanced through the translation of key material in to other languages.

Summary Budget 2018 to 2020

Total budget for SCAR Fellowships is USD \$33,700 from 2018 to 2020 (level compared to 2017 internal budget). Funds will be made available from the Prix Biodiversité awarded to SCAR by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation for the Prince Albert II of Monaco Fellowship addressing biodiversity topics in 2018, with a smaller final contribution from those funds in 2019.



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Introduction

The SCAR Fellowship Programme is designed to encourage the active involvement of early career scientists and engineers in Antarctic scientific research, and to build new connections and further strengthen international capacity and cooperation in Antarctic research. It particularly aims to involve and support applications from countries with new and developing Antarctic programmes.

The programme was initiated in 2002 when SCAR received the Prince of Asturias Award. The (USD) \$50,000 award covered five fellowships in 2003. Since 2005, the SCAR Fellowship Scheme has been developed, and sustained by contributions from SCAR Members and from other sources of revenue as they became available. In 2013, SCAR was awarded the Prix Biodiversité of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. From 2015, a Prince Albert II of Monaco Fellowship is awarded annually, initially financed by the €40,000 received as part of the prize. For 2017 an additional Fellowship was possible thanks to additional funds provided by India.

Recent Activity

In 2017 COMNAP announced they would evaluate their Fellowship scheme separately from the SCAR scheme to allow the COMNAP Fellowship to be more project-focused rather than purely scientifically focused. COMNAP also set up a separate review panel. The two organisations still work closely together on advertising, mentoring and administration of the schemes.

In 2017 Keyword matching between applicants and reviewer expertise being implemented in 2017 – also removes one stage from reviewing process which should reduce the overall timeline from close of applications to Fellowship awards.

For the first year of this new arrangement in 2017 SCAR received 38 applications. This compared to 37 SCAR specific applications in 2016, when there were 4 COMNAP specific applications and 13 joint applications (to both schemes).

The 2018 scheme was launched in March 2018 and was specifically timed to avoid a clash of deadline and reviewing during the Polar2018 meetings. Applications will close on 11 July 2018.

As part of the restructuring of the CBET Committee the nomination of assessors for the Fellowships programme has included a specific role for the Committee in helping suggest those appropriate in specific fields.

It is hoped that, in conjunction with the nominations for Fellowship reviewers included as part of the reporting templates for Science Groups, that this will allow for a more efficient process of assessment as well as widening and diversifying the pool of assessors.



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Awards

Fellowships awarded in the last two years have been:

2016 (SCAR only)

Lavenia Ratnarajah (AUS to FRA)

Home: Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania, Australia

Host: Laboratoire d'Océanographie Microbienne, France

Title: Effects of natural iron fertilisation by baleen whales on the microbial community in the Southern Ocean

Jilda Caccavo (ITA to FRA)

Home: University of Padua, Italy

Host: Laboratoire d'Océanographie de Villefranche, France

Title: Trophic dynamics and nutritional condition of *Pleuragramma antarctica* in the Weddell Sea, as related to population genetic structure

Graeme Clark (AUS to CAN)

Home: The University of New South Wales, Australia

Host: McGill University, Canada

Title: The final frontier: protecting Antarctica from invasive species

Graeme Clark became the second Prince Albert II of Monaco Fellow, funded from the Prix Biodiversité awarded to SCAR in 2013.

Ryan Reisinger (South Africa to AUS)

Home: Zoology Department, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa

Host: Australian Antarctic Division

Title: Top Predator Habitat Use around the Sub-Antarctic Prince Edward Islands

2017

Leena Riekkola (NZ to USA)

Home: University of Auckland, New Zealand

Host: Marine Mammal Laboratory, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NOAA, Seattle, USA,

Title: Spatial analysis of humpback whale behaviour and habitat use patterns in Antarctica

Julie Janssens (AUS to FRA)

Home: Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, Australia,

Host: Laboratoire d'Océanographie et du Climat: Expérimentations et Approches Numériques (LOCEAN), France

Title: Representation of iron in a sea-ice biogeochemical model

Shramik Patil (IND to FRA)

Home: National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), India

Host: UPMC-CNRS Station Biologique de Roscoff, France

Title: Response of Southern Indian Ocean coccolithophores to climate change:



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evidence from laboratory culture experiments.

Shramik became the third Prince Albert II of Monaco Fellow, funded from the Prix Biodiversite awarded to SCAR in 2013.

Hanne Nielsen (AUS to SWE)

Home: University of Tasmania, Australia

Host: KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden

Title: Framing Antarctica as Fragile: Tracing the evolution of media narratives about the far south (1945 – 2015)

Antonio Aguera Garcia (BEL to NZ)

Home: Universite Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

Host: University of Otago, New Zealand

Title: Transgenerational Plasticity (TGP) and acclimation in a keystone Polar Invertebrate in response to a warmer more acidic Antarctic

Filip Hrbáček (Czech Republi to ITAc)

Home: Department of Geography, Masaryk University, Czech Republic

Host: Insubria University, Italy

Title: Effect of vegetation cover on active layer thermal regime in climatically contrasted environments of Antarctica.

A full list of all of the Fellowships awarded from 2003 is available at:

<https://www.scar.org/awards/fellowships/fellows/>

Future Plans

In 2018 the Secretariat will work with the CBET Committee and APECS to provide an online platform for applicants to anonymously pose questions which can be answered and stored, to develop a database of Q & As.

The success of the 2016 and 2017 webinars will be used to develop further mentoring, together with a specific CBET Outreach event at Polar2018. Delegates and National Committees are requested to consider whether it would be possible to support the Fellowships program by translating guidance documentation into other languages.