



**IP** **8**  
Agenda Item: 8.3  
Person Responsible: E Griffin

**XXXIV SCAR Delegates Meeting**  
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# **Tinker-Muse Prize for Science and Policy in Antarctica**

## **Executive Summary**

**Authors: E Griffin**

### **Important Issues or Factors:**

Established in 2009, the Muse Prize has gained global recognition within the Antarctic and general science community. Prize recipients have had international representation with winners from South Africa (2009), USA (2010), Portugal (2011), Australia (2012), UK (2013), New Zealand (2014), France (2015) and the USA (2016). In 2016 the Prize has been renamed the “Tinker-Muse Prize” from the “Martha T. Muse Prize” at the request of the Tinker Foundation.

### **Recommendations/Actions and Justification:**

The Tinker Foundation approved funding for the 2013-2017 period in 2013 with total funding exceeding USD\$ 1 million. Further approval beyond this period will be subject to application in 2017.

### **Budget Implications:**

The Tinker-Muse Prize pays a management fee to SCAR (USD\$ 9,333) and a contribution to the salaries of the Executive Officer and Administrative Assistant (USD\$ 16,311), a total of USD\$ 25,644 in 2016.

## **Introduction/Background**

The Tinker-Muse Prize (formerly Martha T. Muse Prize) for Science and Policy in Antarctica is a prestigious US\$100,000 unrestricted award presented to an early or mid stage career researcher in the fields of Antarctic science or policy. The award recognizes and honours individuals with the potential for sustained and significant contribution that enhance the understanding and/or preservation of Antarctica. The Prize is a legacy of the International Polar Year 2007-2008. It is administered by the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and awarded by the Tinker Foundation. The Selection Committee for the Prize consists of six members of the Antarctic Community representing as highly respected and diverse backgrounds (geopolitically, by discipline and by gender) as possible.

## **Selection Committee**

The Selection Committee for the Prize consists of six members of the Antarctic Community representing as highly respected and diverse backgrounds (geopolitically, by discipline and by gender) as possible. The Selection Committee ensures that four main goals are met in their consideration of nominees. They ensure that: I) the IPY goals are promoted; II) a broad range of Antarctic science and policy topics are considered; III) the diversity and perspectives on Antarctic issues are broadened through time; and IV) the importance of international collaboration in Antarctic science and policy is emphasized. Prize winners are recommended by the Selection committee to the Tinker Foundation, and are confirmed by the Tinker Foundation.

## **Nominees**

The Muse Prize encourages nominees from any country who conduct research in any field of Antarctic science and policy. To date nominees have represented 24 different countries amongst Europe, Asia, Africa, North, and South America. The major field of work of nominees has been well represented by both science and policy, and incorporated research from varied disciplines including: climate science, geology/glaciology, oceanography, and biology, amongst others.

## **Project Accomplishments**

The major accomplishments of the past six years of the Prize have been the establishment and continuation of the Prize and the infrastructure required (e.g. website, Selection Committee). These efforts have culminated in the selection of the Prize Winners: Prof Steven Chown from Stellenbosch University, South Africa (2009), Associate Prof Helen Fricker, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, USA (2010); Dr José Xavier, Institute of Marine Research, Coimbra, Portugal (2011); Dr Stephen Rintoul, CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research, Hobart, Australia (2012); Prof Martin Siegert, University of Bristol, UK (2013); Prof Tim Naish, Victoria University Wellington, NZ (2014); Prof Valerie Masson-Delmotte, CEA, France (2015); Prof Robert De Conto, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA (2016).

## **Short-term Impact of the Project**

The achievement of the award winners has been recognized widely amongst the Antarctic and Arctic research communities; the home institutions and countries of award winners; the general science community; and early career scientists. Both the polar and the general science research community recognizes the award winners and include press releases on their own web pages or their social media channels. The Tinker-Muse Prize news has been covered by: the International Council of Science (ICSU), the World Climate Research Program (WCRP), the International Arctic Science Community (IASC), SciencePoles the scientific website of the International Polar Foundation, amongst many others. Examples of news releases by the wider science community include postings on websites by: Victoria University Wellington, University of Bristol, University of St Andrews' Centre

for Biological Diversity, Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology at the University of Stellenbosch, and the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels. The Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) have also posted press releases of Muse Prize winners.

The Prize has certainly had a positive effect on all the Prize Winners' careers. In particular since two of the winners, Professor Chown and Dr Xavier are from South Africa and Portugal respectively, rather than one of the traditional "big players" in Antarctic Research this has been seen in a very positive light by both scientists and the media.

Following the 2015 Prize Award Ceremony SCAR provided images and other materials relating to the Prize Award Ceremony to the group supporting Dr Masson-Delmotte's nomination as co-Chair of Working Group I, which assesses the physical scientific aspects of the climate system and climate change, of the next IPCC Assessment Report (AR6). In October 2015 Dr Masson-Delmotte was appointed to the position, which will be key in coordinating the global scientific input to this key document.

### **Longer-term Effects of the Project**

The Tinker-Muse Prize is intended to be a lasting legacy of the IPY. The goal of the Prize is to provide recognition of the important work being done by key individuals and to call attention to the significance of understanding Antarctica in a time of change.

### **Meeting SCAR Strategic Plan Aims**

The Tinker-Muse Prize allows SCAR to contribute towards its mission by meeting the following strategic plan aims:

- Encouraging excellence in Antarctic and Southern Ocean research,
- Developing the capacity of early career scientists,
- Identifying evolving issues and emerging frontiers in Antarctic science, and
- Preserving and building on the legacies of the IPY 2007-2008.

### **External Review of first 6 years of the Prize**

The Martha T. Muse Prize (now Tinker-Muse Prize) Review Meeting was held at the National Academy of Sciences, Washington D.C., on February 2nd-3rd 2015.

The meeting was held to ensure all relevant discussion and information was provided to the Review Committee to allow a thorough Review of the first 6 years of the Prize to be concluded. This was reflected in the Terms of Reference for the Review and included the Prize administration conducted by the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR).

Attending were Review Committee members Prof David Hik (Chair), Prof Diane McKnight, Prof Sanjay Chaturvedi and Prof Heinz Miller, together with Renate Rennie (Tinker Foundation, Chairman and President), Dr Eoghan Griffin (SCAR Executive Officer) and Dr Renuka Badhe (SCAR Executive Officer 2009-2014). The outgoing Chair of the Muse Prize Selection Committee, Ian Allison, contributed via teleconference.

Conclusions from the meeting:

- Overall the first 6 years were seen to be addressing the goals of the Prize well, as set out in the establishing document.
- The Prize has gained prominence and recognition within the Antarctic community and has also helped promote the relevance and importance of Antarctic research. Greater visibility to the policy community could however enhance this process.
- The annual review process is working well as a method to continually develop details of the Prize administration.
- The Muse Prize Web page should be updated and its use expanded to make it easier for Prize winners to use, for instance to promote Outreach activities.
- Applications from the Policy community need to be actively encouraged through targeted advertising and mentoring where possible.
- A Questionnaire was devised to collect Prize winners reflections on impact and possible changes to Prize. All previous winners replied in full. The consensus was that the Prize had significant and continuing positive impact on their careers and that adding any restrictions to the award would detract from its effectiveness.

The SCAR Executive Officer together with the Chair of the Muse Prize Selection Committee, Prof Peter Barrett, will seek to implement all of the recommendations included in the Review conclusions.

### **Looking ahead – Future plans**

The Tinker Foundation has agreed to a second period of five years, 2013-17 inclusive, of full support. SCAR will apply for the next renewal of the Prize and its administration in 2017. The recommendations of the External Review will continue to be implemented along with the findings of the annual review undertaken after each Selection Committee meeting.