



Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research

SCAR Medal for International Coordination 2022


Stephen Ackley

Prof Stephen Ackley has been the leader of modern Antarctic sea ice research since its inception in the 1970s. His scientific career has encompassed the mechanical, physical, biological, and biogeochemical properties of sea ice. His 78 scientific journal papers, and many reports/monographs represent major contributions to the understanding of Antarctic sea ice properties and processes.

Prof Ackley has initiated, undertaken, or participated in several international programmes and partnerships, including the SCAR Expert Group on Antarctic Sea Ice Processes and Climate (ASPeCt, 1998-2018 Chair (Founding) and Co-Chair) and other SCAR and external bodies.

Prof Ackley has been lead or co-lead on international expeditions: 2017 PIPERS (Polynyas, Ice Production and seasonal Evolution in the Ross Sea expedition), including a diverse and inclusive international group from PhD to senior scientists; Ice Station Weddell (1991); IPY SIMBA (2007). He has also been a great champion of new technologies such as UAVs for under-ice work.

Prof Ackley has mentored generations of sea-ice researchers, going well beyond his own students and country. He is a leader in bringing together researchers from sub-disciplines and attracting scientists from other disciplines to sea ice. His impact is felt almost everywhere in Antarctic sea ice research.


Dr Yeadong Kim
SCAR President

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