



## Introduction from the SCAR Secretariat

Welcome to our December newsletter!

It's almost the end of another year, and we've been enjoying looking back at everything the SCAR community has achieved this year. Take a moment to reflect with us and browse our [end of year timeline](#) highlighting some of our key achievements in 2023.

We're pleased to end the year with the launch of our brand-new and redesigned SCAR website, [www.scar.org](http://www.scar.org). We look forward to continuously building and refining the site, creating a valuable resource for the whole Antarctic research community to enjoy. Get in touch with us at [info@scar.org](mailto:info@scar.org) if you come across any inaccuracies, or have suggestions for improvement.

Capacity building was once again a key aspect of our work in 2023, thereby providing fellowships and award schemes for researchers of all career stages. This month we are excited to announce the award of the [2023 Visiting Scholarship](#) to Dr Eija Asmi from Finland, who will visit the Argentina National Meteorological Service in Buenos Aires and Ushuaia. Congratulations, Eija!

Also featured in this newsletter is the SCAR RINGS AG [endorsement procedure](#) as well as selected publications, events and opportunities from SCAR and the wider community.

The SCAR Secretariat will be closed from 21st December 2023 to 2nd January 2024 and only urgent business will be dealt with during this time. We hope that 2024 will be another year of collaboration, research, and working together towards a better future for Antarctica.

We wish you all a happy holiday season!

*With best wishes,  
The SCAR Secretariat*

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# End of Year Review 2023



## END OF YEAR REVIEW 2023

### January

New Programme Planning Group approved:  
Antarctic Geospace and Atmosphere research (AGATA)

- Roundtable discussion on the 5th International Polar Year (IPY) at the Arctic Science Summit Week
- Public Engagement with Antarctic Research (PEAR) Action Group begins a Global Mapping Project

### February

### March

- Announcement of 2022 Visiting Scholars and inaugural SCAR Ant-ICON | SC-ATS science-policy fellows
- Launch of Interactive Data Map on Persistent Organic Pollutants Concentrations from SCAR's ImPACT and EG-ABI groups

SCAR RINGS publication: "International collaboration is urgently needed for airborne surveys in Enderby Land to fill the largest RINGS data gap"

### April

### May

- Launch of SCAR GeoMAP Antarctica project, the first open-access and comprehensive geological mapping database of Antarctica
- SCAR participation in ATCM XLV and CEP XXV including ATCM/CEP joint session on Climate Change

- SCAR approved to host new Decade Collaborative Centre for the Southern Ocean Region
- SC-HASS biennial conference in Portugal
- Approval of the Antarctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AnMAP) as a new co-sponsored group

### June

### July

- XIII SCAR Biology Symposium in New Zealand
- Release of ground-breaking Bedmap3, unlocking extensive information on ice thickness and bed topography

SCAR EDI Action Group releases statement promoting a more equitable and inclusive future for Antarctic research

### August

### September

- SCAR participation in CCAMLR climate change workshop
- SCAR INSTANT conference and ExCom biennial meeting in Italy
- SCAR's AWHN publishes new research highlighting heightened risk of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreaks and launches avian flu database

- Launch of new Science Group Fellowship Programme
- Marine Ecosystem Assessment for the Southern Ocean (MEASO) report, published by SCAR, SCOR, and IMBeR

### October

- SCAR, IASC and partners publish an initial concept note for the IPY

### November

- 2023 SCAR Fellowship recipients announced
- Hayley Westlake and Angharad Downes join the Secretariat
- SCAR organises side meetings and events at COP28
- SCAR supports organisation and presents at One Planet - Polar Summit

- SCAR 2024 Medal Nominations open
- New and redesigned SCAR website launches
- EG-ABI Data visualisation competition winners announced

### December

[www.scar.org](http://www.scar.org)

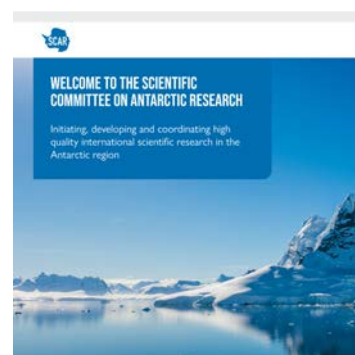


## SCAR News

### New SCAR website launches

We are excited to announce the launch of the redesigned website. The new and improved website aims to provide a more user-friendly and modern experience, offering valuable insight into the work of our [groups](#), SCAR's [fellowship and award schemes](#), upcoming [events](#), [policy activities](#), [collaborations](#) with our partners and much more.

SCAR welcomes your input at [info@scar.org](mailto:info@scar.org). Your feedback plays a key role in refining and optimising the site.







### SCAR announces 2023 Visiting Scholar

SCAR is pleased to announce the award of the 2023 Visiting Scholarship to Dr Eija Asmi (Finland). Dr Asmi will visit the Argentina National Meteorological Service in Buenos Aires and Ushuaia for her project titled “Southern Ocean-Atmosphere linkages at the Antarctic Peninsula”.

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### RINGS AG Endorsement Procedure

The SCAR RINGS Action Group can endorse projects that will accomplish key science deliverables that will advance the RINGS research goals. Details can be found in the [RINGS endorsement procedure](#) and [shared values document](#). Prospective project leaders can submit their applications using this [form](#). There is no deadline for endorsement applications, the group will process them as they come in.



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## Community News

### News from the SCAR community and wider research community

- The [Antarctic Soils Explorer](#) website has just launched, featuring the world’s most extensive collection of Antarctic soils dating back to 1957. The data is freely available for researchers (and interested lay bio-prospectors) who want to explore the nature, properties and formation of Antarctic soils with the earliest samples essentially representing a state of pre-human visitation to the continent.
- Recordings are now available from select SCAR and partner events from the [COP28 UN Climate Change Conference](#) in Dubai.

### Publications from the SCAR and wider research community

New publication in *PLOS ONE*, contributing to SCAR's Scientific Research Programme 'Integrated Science to Inform Antarctic and Southern Ocean Conservation ([Ant-ICON](#)): [Taming a 'fuzzy beast'? stakeholder perspectives on Antarctic science-policy knowledge exchange practices in New Zealand'](#)



An [Article in \*The Conversation\* by Professor Tim Naish](#), joint Chief Officer of SCAR's [INSTANT Scientific Research Programme](#), about the urgent situation facing the Polar Regions while the UN's COP28 climate summit is underway in Dubai.

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## Events

### Upcoming events from SCAR, the SCAR community and wider research community

- The [2024 Ocean Science Meeting](#) will take place from **18-23 February 2024** in New Orleans, Louisiana. The conference will include a session on “Breaking Barriers: Bridging the Gap in Methodologies and Data Reporting for Ocean Biogeochemistry”.
- The [7<sup>th</sup> ICES/PICES Zooplankton Production Symposium](#) will be held in Hobart, Australia, from **17-22 March 2024**.
- [EGU24](#) will take place in Vienna, Austria, from **14-19 April 2024**. Abstract submission closes 10 January 2024. There are multiple sessions related to Cryospheric Sciences, the list of which can be found on the [EGU24 website](#).
- The [SCAR Open Science Conference 2024](#) “Antarctic Science: Crossroads for a New Hope” will be held in Pucón, Chile from **19-23 August 2024**. The conference will feature a comprehensive programme of plenary lectures, mini-symposia, parallel sessions, panel discussions, posters and various opportunities for social activities and excursions in and around beautiful Pucón.
- *Mark your calendars!* We're pleased to announce that the host for the [XIV SCAR Biology 2027](#) will be Utah, USA. More information on the symposium will follow in due course.

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## Opportunities

## Opportunities from the SCAR Community and wider research community

- British Antarctic Survey (BAS), UK, is advertising numerous [doctoral projects](#) open for applications with supervisors at BAS. Applications close in **January 2024**.
- The RWTH Aachen University, Germany, is advertising for a Full [Professorship](#) in Physical Geography and Geoecology. Deadline **15 January 2024**.
- The Department of Geography at Durham University, UK, is hiring a 3 year NERC-funded [postdoc in remote sensing](#) with the aim of mapping interactions between emperor penguins and glacier and sea-ice change around Antarctica. Deadline **16 January 2024**.
- The University of Tasmania, Australia, is offering a suite of opportunities in [Antarctic Geopolitics](#), [Environmental History](#) and [Environmental Communications](#). The deadline for all positions is **15 March 2024**.

## Image of the Month



Antarctic Midsummer Greetings and Happy Holidays from us at SCAR! As the year draws to a close, we'd like to thank you for your continued support and look forward to a successful 2024 with you.

Do you have any impressions you'd like to share with us?

We love seeing photos from SCAR scientists so get in touch at [info@scar.org](mailto:info@scar.org) if you'd like to share yours!



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