



International
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Person Responsible:	Marcelo Leppe, Johanna Grabow

SCAR Executive Committee Meeting 2023

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SCAR 2024 SCAR Open Science Conference

Report Author(s)

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Summary

The SCAR Open Science Conference 2024, themed "Antarctic Science: Crossroads for a New Hope," is scheduled for 19-23 August 2024, in Pucón, Chile. The conference comprises of a diverse programme featuring plenary lectures, mini-symposia, parallel sessions, panel discussions, posters, and various social and excursion opportunities in Pucón and its surroundings. Additionally, the SCAR Business Meetings will take place in Pucón on 17-18 and 21 August 2024 and the SCAR Delegates Meeting are scheduled for 26-28 August 2024 in Punta Arenas.

The International Scientific Organising Committee (ISOC) and the Local Organising Committee (LOC), with support from the SCAR Secretariat, are working together to ensure the conference's success. The conference programme is currently being shaped with community input, including suggested parallel session topics, and identifying keynote speakers. Questions raised by the community so far focus on engaging Early Career Researchers (ECRs), hybrid participation opportunities, and logistical considerations.

Overview

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 Pucón and its surroundings. The SCAR Business Meetings are set for 17-18 and 21st August 2024 in Pucón, while the SCAR Delegates Meeting is planned to be held 26-28 August 2024 in Punta Arenas.



To ensure the success of the meetings, two committees have been formed: the International Scientific Organising Committee (ISOC), led by Prof Sharon Robinson and Prof Francisco Hervé, advising and developing a high-quality science programme, and a Local Organising Committee (LOC) responsible for the successful implementation of the meetings on the ground. The SCAR Secretariat works closely with the ISOC to ensure a smooth and professional conference and maintains close communications with the LOC. The following individuals are currently involved in organising the conference:

<i>Local Organising Committee</i>	<i>International Scientific Organising Committee (ISOC)</i>
Dr Marcelo Leppe Isabel Gimenez Villalobos Maria Jesus Larrain	Prof Sharon Robinson (co-chair) Prof Francisco Hervé (co-chair) Prof Siti Aisha Alias Dr Florence Colleoni Dr Adriana María Gulisano Dr Sanghee Kim Dr Seong Joong Kim Prof Daniela Liggett Prof Thulani Makhalanyane Dr Alejandra Mancilla Dr Joseline Manfroi Dr Naresh Pant José Queirós Dr Laura De Santis Prof Jefferson C Simões Dr Gonçalo Vieira Dr Annicke Wilmotte Dr Gary Wilson
<i>SCAR Secretariat</i> Dr Chandrika Nath Dr Eoghan Griffin Dr Johanna Grabow Rosemary Nash Hayley Westlake Angharad Downes	

Programme

The whole conference organizing team is currently working on shaping the conference programme. Following consultation with the ISOC, it was decided that the community will be provided with a suggested list of parallel session topics as a framework to comment on. This list draws from previous conferences' parallel sessions and incorporates input from the ISOC regarding new and emerging topics.

A draft list of 49 parallel session topics was subsequently shared with the community, inviting them to provide comments, volunteer as session convenors, and propose new

session topics. This consultation process garnered enthusiastic participation, with over 170 individuals stepping forward to convene parallel sessions and new topic suggestions. Currently, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the ISOC, is finalising the parallel session list, with plans to publish a final list at the end of October when the call for abstracts opens.

Efforts to plan keynote events, including plenary lectures and mini-symposia, are progressing well. The community has been invited to submit suggestions for mini-symposia by 25th September, while the ISOC has shared their recommendations for keynote speakers and mini-symposia topics. These recommendations were guided by the expertise of the speakers and following EDI principles throughout.

The conference will also feature a variety of side events, some of which have already been requested by the community, as well as a range of social activities in and around Pucón.

With support from the SCAR EDI Action Group, recommendations on accessibility and EDI principles have been drawn together for the conference. Discussions are underway with the LOC to consider how these can be taken into account.

Next steps

Looking ahead, the Secretariat, LOC and ISOC are working on launching a conference website ahead of the abstract submission period, scheduled for later this autumn. A more detailed timeline is provided below.

SCAR is looking at ways that ECRs will be involved in the meeting. Options such as a mentorship programme and tailored meet-ups for ECRs to facilitate networking are currently under consideration. The Secretariat has initiated discussions with the LOC and APECS to establish a partnership, and the National Committee of APECS Chile has expressed a keen interest in getting involved and supporting the conference.

Moreover, discussions with the LOC are ongoing regarding the incorporation of hybrid elements into the conference, exploring the feasibility of limited online components.

Various logistical considerations, including travel arrangements to Pucón, have been raised by the community. The LOC has been looking into transportation between Pucón and Punta Arenas, the venue for the Delegates Meeting, and keeping the Secretariat informed.

Timeline of the next steps

Autumn 2023	Conference website launches
October/November 2023	Call for abstracts opens
February/March 2024	Call for abstract closes
February/March 2024	Early bird registration opens
August 2024	2024 SCAR Open Science Conference