

Alan Cooper's response to award of SCAR medal for International Scientific Coordination 2010

I greatly appreciate being honored as the recipient of the SCAR medal for International Scientific Coordination 2010. And, it is a special pleasure to share it jointly with Bob Rutherford, who I have known and respected during my 26 years of SCAR activities. From my first SCAR meeting until today, the essence of SCAR has not changed. It has always been the ongoing pursuit of harmonious international collaboration in the Antarctic sciences. I feel privileged to have been swept up in the whirlwind of enthusiasm for multinational science, and to have been able to help guide our community in creative and productive research directions. This award is a symbol of the community of researchers whose efforts have created the successful products; and, is a symbol of the academic and government agencies that have supported these researchers' efforts and mine.

Cooperation and science coordination has been about several specific things to me in the collaborative projects that I have been involved with.

- It has been about encouraging colleagues of all cultures to share their data and ideas openly and freely, in supporting the tenets of the Antarctic Treaty;
- It has been about identifying the most relevant thematic science programs and seeking the means to keep them going, in the real world of funding constraints and carefully-focused national science policies; and
- It has been about thinking "outside the box" to discover and explore new creative methods to communicate effectively with colleagues and with the "outside world", to educate and to promote key research findings.

There are many people here and elsewhere in SCAR who are also the true joint recipients of this medal. Without their dedicated willingness to collaborate, the many projects I've helped orchestrate would not have evolved and succeeded. The conductor may get the medal, but the real heroes are the skilled players who make the good music. I thank all of you for your grand dedicated performances and accept this medal on your behalf.