



Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research

SCAR Medal for International Scientific Coordination, 2010

Robert H. Rutford

Dr. Robert H. Rutford has been a long-time leader in international Antarctic research, having been on his first trip to the ice in 1959. In addition to his scientific work, Dr. Rutford has been championing and promoting international coordination for more than 40 years. Dr. Rutford's direct involvement with SCAR began in the early 1970s. Subsequently, he has attended most, if not all, SCAR Delegates' Meetings until the conclusion of his final term as US Delegate at XXVIII SCAR in Bremerhaven in 2004. In addition, he attended various meetings of other SCAR Groups and many of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings (ATCMs) during this time. In 1980 he was appointed Convener of the new Group of Specialists on Antarctic Environmental Implications of possible Mineral Exploration and Exploitation (AEIMEE) to prepare SCAR advice to the ATCM during negotiation of the Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities (CRAMRA). At XXIV SCAR he was elected a Vice-President and at XXV SCAR he was elected President. He brought to the Presidency a wealth of administrative experience in Antarctic science and operations as well as Antarctic governance. This experience was to prove vital as he led SCAR through a crucial review process that led to the restructuring of SCAR beginning in 2000. SCAR was awarded the Prince of Asturias Prize for International Cooperation during Dr. Rutford's Presidency.

Dr. Rutford's honours are too numerous to list but include an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree from St. Petersburg State Technical University, election as a Foreign Member of the St. Petersburg Academy of Engineering, a medal from the Polish Academy of Sciences for his support and encouragement of Polish scientists and programmes, the Distinguished Service Award from the National Science Foundation, and the Antarctic Service Medal. He has even had an Ice Stream and a Mountain named after him!

Despite his many other duties, Dr. Rutford always maintained a keen interest in Antarctic glacial geology and geomorphology. He led the multi-institutional and international Ross Ice Shelf Project. He assisted in establishing the Polar Ice Coring Office for ice drilling. Dr. Rutford served as the Director of the Division of Polar Programs at the National Science Foundation (NSF), a vice chancellor for research and graduate studies and a professor of geology at the University of Nebraska, and President of the University of Texas at Dallas. Today, Dr. Rutford is President Emeritus and Excellence in Education Professor Emeritus at the University of Texas at Dallas. The co-award of the 2010 SCAR Medal for International Coordination is well-deserved recognition of Dr. Rutford's long and distinguished career of service and leadership in Antarctic science and policy.