



IP **6**
Agenda Item: 8.1
Person Responsible: E Griffin

XXXIV SCAR Delegates Meeting
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The SCAR and COMNAP Fellowship Scheme

Executive Summary

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Important Issues or Factors:

The Fellowship program is one of the key capacity building activities undertaken by SCAR. Initiatives such as a mentoring webinar and improved guidance notes have been introduced in 2016 to help applicants improve their proposals and also to expand the base of potential reviewers for the Scheme. In 2015 five fellowships were awarded (see below). In 2016 the scope of the Fellowships has been extended to include applicants from the Humanities subjects.

Recommendations:

Delegates are requested to consider making voluntary contributions to the Fellowship Scheme and to widely advertise the scheme nationally and internationally. An effort should also be made to secure additional funding from other donors. The impact of the mentoring provided in support of applicants could be enhanced through the translation of key material in to other languages.

Budget Implications:

Total budget for SCAR Fellowships is USD \$30,700 for 2016 (level compared to 2015 budget), with future budgets proposed at USD \$33,700 subject to approval by Delegates. Funds will be made available from the Prix Biodiversité awarded to SCAR by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation for the Prince Albert II of Monaco Fellowship addressing biodiversity topics.

Introduction/Motivation

The SCAR Fellowship Programme is designed to encourage the active involvement of early career scientists and engineers in Antarctic scientific research, and to build new connections and further strengthen international capacity and cooperation in Antarctic research. It particularly aims to involve and support applications from countries with new and developing Antarctic programmes.

The programme was initiated in 2002 when SCAR received the Prince of Asturias Award. The (USD) \$50,000 award covered five fellowships in 2003. Since 2005, the SCAR Fellowship Scheme has been developed, and sustained by contributions from SCAR Members and from other sources of revenue as they became available. In 2013, SCAR was awarded the Prix Biodiversité of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. From 2015, a Prince Albert II of Monaco Fellowship is awarded annually, initially financed by the €40,000 received as part of the prize.

Progress to Date

Fellowships awarded in the last two years have been:

Fellows 2014			
Applicant	Home Institution	Host Institution	Title
Jaimie Cleeland	IMAS, University of Tasmania, Australia	British Antarctic Survey, UK	Bottom-up and top-down influences on demographic parameters of Southern Ocean albatrosses
Manoj M.C.	Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, India	Kochi University, Japan	Biomarker based reconstruction of Late Quaternary Palaeoceanographic conditions in the Indian sector of the Southern Ocean
Camila Negrão Signori	Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, USA	Microbial diversity across environmental gradients in the Southern Ocean: a spatial, temporal and vertical approach considering the climate changes
Fiona Shanhun	Lincoln University, New Zealand	St Francis Xavier University, Canada	Constraining baseline activities of Dry Valley terrestrial ecosystems: partitioning biotic and abiotic components of soil CO ₂ fluxes

Fellows 2015			
Christine Dow	NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, USA	Australian Antarctic Division, Australia	Analysis of Antarctic subglacial hydrological development in Aurora Basin using aerogeophysical data and numerical modeling
Jennifer Newall	University of Stockholm, Sweden	GeoForschungsZentrum (GFZ) Potsdam, Germany	MAGIC-DML – integrating ice sheet modeling and field studies
Sebastian Rosier	British Antarctic Survey, UK	Gateway Antarctica, University of Canterbury, New Zealand	Satellite observation and model intercomparison of tidal processes in ice-sheet grounding zones
<i>Prince Albert II of Monaco Fellowship</i>			
Rowan Trebilco	ACE-CRC, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia	(1) Collecte Localisation Satellite, Ramonville-Saint-Agne and (2) Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France	New models for understanding the role of mesopelagic fishes and squid in Southern Ocean ecosystems
<i>SCAR-COMNAP Combined Fellowship</i>			
Inka Koch	University of Otago, New Zealand	University of Texas Institute of Geophysics, USA	Detecting marine ice internal layers and thickness in an Antarctic ice shelf with airborne ice penetrating radar

A full list of all of the Fellowships awarded from 2003 is available at:

<http://www.scar.org/fellowship/fellows>

Figure 1 shows the number of applications received from 2009 to 2016 with a strong upward trend in the total received in recent years. In 2016 SCAR and COMNAP received 51 valid applications, a large increase from 37 in 2015, and a record for the Scheme.

It is hoped that within these increasing numbers the support of applicants from countries with less developed Antarctic Programs can be supported through mentoring and enhance diversity across the awarded Fellowships. While the number of applications is increasing the core funding available for Fellowships in recent years (excluding the Prince Albert II Fellowship) has remained roughly level.

Total number of applications (2009-16)

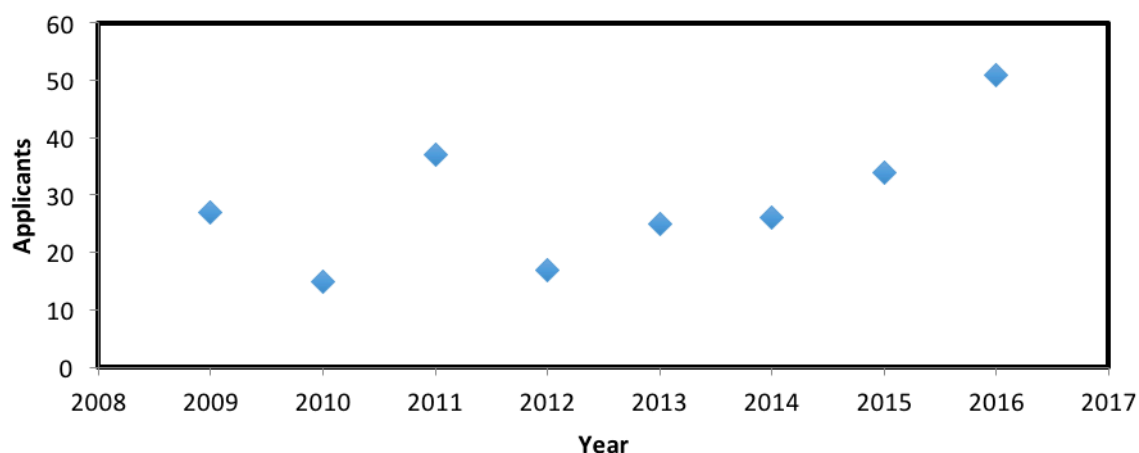


Figure 1 Total Fellowship applications (SCAR and COMNAP) from 2009 to 2016

The applications have been received from a wide variety of home countries as demonstrated in Figure 2, but with a distribution that is not dominated as strongly as might be thought from countries with large established Antarctic Programs. This supports the view that has been expressed amongst the respondees to the Structure Review questionnaire and elsewhere that the dissemination of information about the Fellowships program is highly variable from country to country. Delegates and National Committees are strongly encouraged to advertise the program as widely as possible. Figure 2 also shows the choices of host country for the applicants from 2009 to 2016. The profile is dominated by countries with large established programs as would be expected.

Following suggestions from the 2015 EXCOM meeting, in April 2016 a webinar was hosted entitled “Writing for Success” as an effort to provide a mentoring approach to potential applicants to the scheme. This was undertaken as a joint SCAR-COMNAP-APECS event. To complement the event an updated set of guidance with a detailed FAQ on the overall Scheme and application process was provided. A recording of the event and further details can be found at:

<http://www.scar.org/fellowship/mentoring>.

The webinar attracted significant attention and had over 500 clicks on the registration link, with 151 individual registrants prior to the webinar. Of those over 50 actively participated in the webinar. (See Appendix 1).

As part of the restructuring of the CBET Committee the nomination of assessors for the Fellowships programme has included a specific role for the Committee in helping suggest those appropriate in specific fields. It is hoped that, in conjunction with the nominations for Fellowship reviewers included as part of the new reporting templates for Science Groups, that this will allow for a more efficient process of assessment as well as widening and diversifying the pool of assessors.

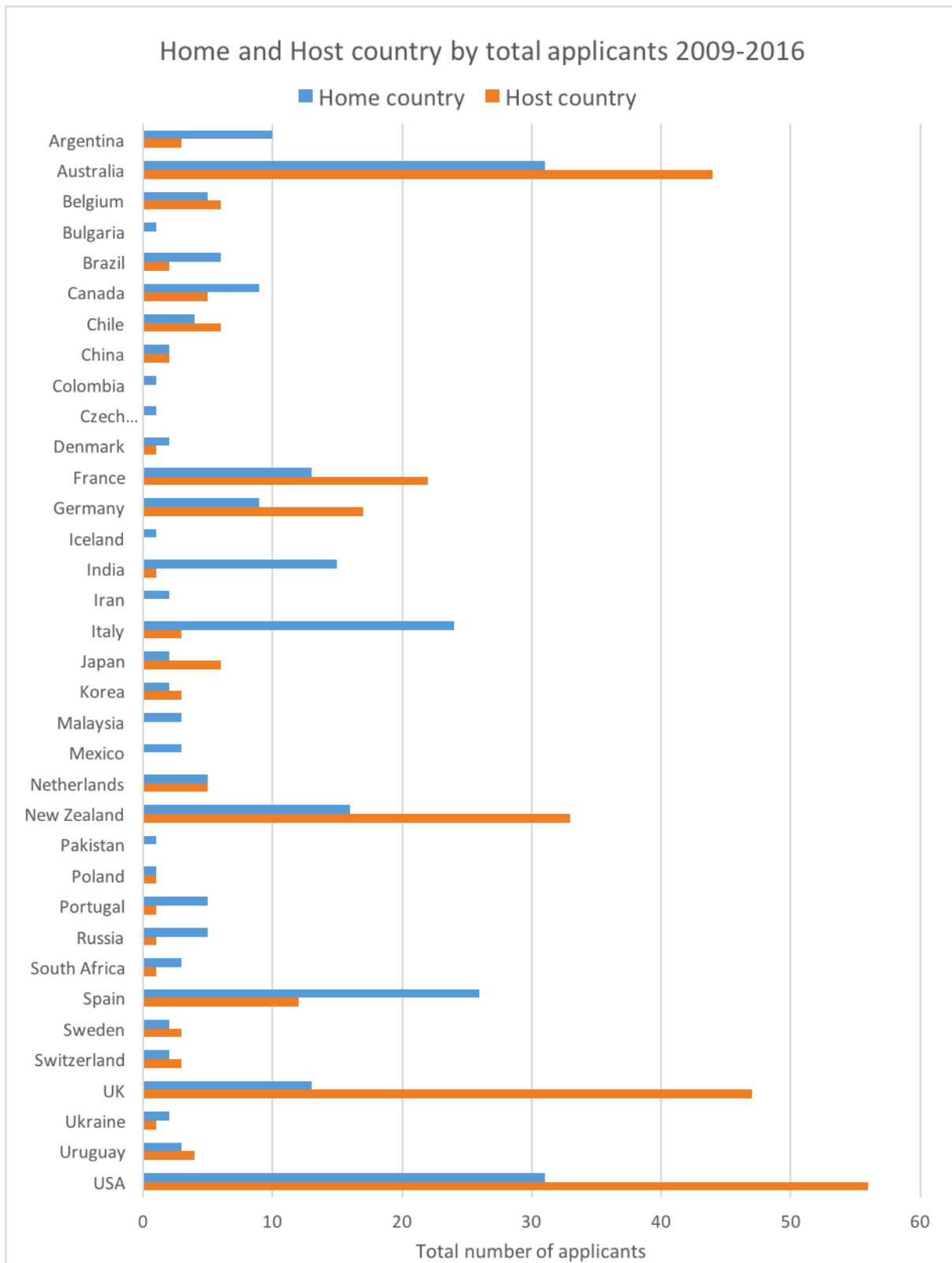


Figure 2 SCAR and COMNAP total applicants by home and host country from 2009 to 2016

Future Plans

The 1st multi-disciplinary SCAR and COMNAP Fellows Mini-Symposium will be held at the 2016 Open Science Conference (9 am to 11am on Tuesday 23rd August), and all those who have been awarded a Fellowship through the schemes were invited to submit an abstract for an oral presentation.

The success of the 2016 webinar will be built on with another planned for 2017, modified to take account of the feedback received. Delegates and National Committees are requested to consider whether it would be possible to support the Fellowships program through translation of the guidance documentation into other languages.

Appendix 1. Metrics for “Writing for success” webinar recording

A load indicates the page containing the embed media player has been loaded.

A play indicates the user has played the relevant video.

Total Loads	Total Plays	Country
68	20	United States
42	7	United Kingdom
33	5	Argentina
29	8	Germany
20	7	India
16	6	Spain
17	3	Australia
17	1	Ukraine
10	2	Italy
12	0	New Zealand
10	1	Japan
10	0	Chile
8	2	Norway
9	0	Poland
6	3	Peru
8	0	Brazil
6	1	Canada
4	3	Greece
4	1	Switzerland
3	2	France
4	1	Malaysia
3	1	Austria
2	2	Denmark
3	1	Portugal
2	2	Bulgaria
3	1	Uruguay
2	1	South Korea
3	0	Russia
3	0	South Africa
1	1	Ireland
2	0	Turkey
2	0	Netherlands
2	0	Pakistan
1	0	Myanmar [Burma]
1	0	Taiwan
1	0	Ecuador
1	0	China
1	0	Finland