

Science in the Snow:

*Fifty years of international collaboration through
the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research*

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(With additional material by Colin Summerhayes)

To be published in paperback by SCAR in July 2011.

The Special Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) was established by the International Council for Science (ICSU) in February 1958 during the closing stages of the International Geophysical Year (IGY) 1957-58. Its purpose was to coordinate the scientific results of the IGY but it quickly became apparent that scientific research in Antarctica was going to continue. The name of the Special Committee was changed to the Scientific Committee, indicating that its life would extend into the foreseeable future.

Over the past 50 years the original membership of 12 national scientific academies has grown to 31 Full Members, 4 Associate Members and 9 ICSU Union Members. This history of SCAR is a broad overview of its principal activities as well as a guide to major scientific initiatives and developments during this time. It is not a complete guide to everything that SCAR has done and the choice of what to include and what to leave out is that of the authors. Nevertheless, it will be an informative and readable text, supplemented by several appendices that provide a reference to SCAR meetings, elected officials, principal publications and activities.

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Science in the Snow

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