

Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics  
SCOSTEP General Council Meeting, Montreal, Canada  
13 July 2019

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### **1. Opening Remarks of the President**

In his opening remarks, the President of SCOSTEP, Dr. Nat Gopalswamy, thanked York University for hosting the General Council meeting. The President congratulated the VarSITI leadership on the excellent scientific results of the VarSITI program and announced the start of the new scientific program PRESTO (Predictability of the Solar-Terrestrial Coupling).

Dr. Gopalswamy thanked the SCOSTEP community for their support during his tenure as President. He specifically thanked Dr. Franz Josef for his supporting role as Vice President, the Bureau members for their guidance, and Dr. Marianna Shepherd for her administration of SCOSTEP as Scientific Secretary. He noted that a new President and Vice President would be elected during this meeting. He added that Dr. Marianna Shepherd will also step down in her role as Scientific Secretary at the close of this General Council Meeting.

Dr. Gopalswamy finally thanked the new candidates for accepting their nominations and wished the new leadership great success. The results of the election will be revealed at the end of the council meeting.

### **2. Approval of the Agenda**

N. Gopalswamy next presented the agenda of this meeting. It was approved without contest.

### **3. Approval of the minutes of the previous General Council Meeting**

M. Shepherd presented the minutes of the General Council Meeting held in Vienna, Austria on April 28, 2017. The minutes were approved without contest.

### **4. Status of SCOSTEP Secretariat Activities to Date**

M. Shepherd provided an update of SCOSTEP secretariat activities that included the management of the day-to-day SCOSTEP business; general management and administration of the VarSITI program; the organization of the General Council Meeting held in Vienna in 2017; the organization of SCOSTEP Bureau Meetings; the management of the SCOSTEP Visiting Scholar Program; the organization, nomination and selection of the SCOSTEP Distinguished Scientist, Distinguished Young Scientist and Distinguished Service Awards; the administration of all SCOSTEP finances and preparation for financial reports; the issuance of the SCOSTEP newsletters; the preparation of brochures for SCOSTEP outreach activities; the administration of the SCOSTEP website; organizing and hosting the STP14 Symposium at York University; participation in the

plans for the new SCOSTEP Scientific Program PReSTO; and calling for the nomination and voting of the new SCOSTEP executives for 2019.

Dr. Gopalswamy thanked Marianna for all of these efforts during her tenure as Scientific Secretary of SCOSTEP.

#### **5. The 14<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Solar-Terrestrial Physics Symposium (STP14)**

STP14 was held at York University, Toronto, Canada just prior to this General Council Meeting. The LOC included:

- Dr. Marianna Shepherd, Chair, York University
- Dr. James Whiteway, Director of CRESS, York University
- Dr. Regina Lee, Associate Dean Research and Graduate Studies, Lassonde School of Engineering, York University
- Dr. William Ward, Canadian National Adherent Representative, Univ. New Brunswick

STP14 was designated as an Academic event with in-kind contributions from York University in the form of free lecture halls, local logistics and IT support, reduced rate campus accommodations and other supports.

The event was attended by 150 scientists from 26 countries. The program included 120 oral presentations and 39 posters organized in 14 sessions with 4 keynote speakers, 25 invited speakers and 8 plenary sessions.

The details of STP14 are available on the symposium website: <http://www.scostepevents.ca/>



**Group photo of some of the participants of STP14, York University, Canada**

## **6. Annual Report – 2017&2018**

M. Shepherd provided a joint annual report for the years 2017 and 2018. The report provided statistics as follows:

- SCOSTEP Sponsored Scientific Meetings and Workshops
  - 2017 – 12
  - 2018 – 16
  - 2019 – 1
- Support for Databases
  - 2017 – 5
  - 2018 – 5
- Capacity Building Grants
  - 2017 – 4
  - 2018 – 2
  - 2019 – 6
- SCOSTEP Visiting Scholarships
  - 2017 – 6
  - 2018 – 7
  - 2019 – 10

## **7. SCOSTEP Financial Report**

M. Shepherd presented the SCOSTEP financial report to date. This included a summary of the Financial Audit report for 2017 through 2018 and the SCOSTEP actual budgets from 2016 through 2018. All agreed that the organization's finances are in good standing with all planned activities within budget.

## **8. Proposal for STP15**

Dr. S. Gurubaran then presented a proposal to host the 15<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Solar-Terrestrial Physics Symposium (STP15) in February 2022 in Mumbai, India. This meeting will coincide with the Golden Jubilee of the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism. This presentation included an invitation by the Indian National Science Academy.

## **9. SCOSTEP Visiting Scholarship (SVS)**

Since the beginning of this program in 2015, the SVS program has provided support training to 33 PhD graduate students and PDFs. M. Shepherd and the SVS Selection Committee has noted that the number of applicants has increased every year since 2015, indicating that this program is very successful and supportive of graduate students and young scientists. The following shows the number of SVS scholarships awarded since 2015.

- In 2015 and 2016: 10 SVS scholarships were awarded
- In 2017: 6 SVS scholarships were awarded
- In 2018: 7 SVS scholarships were awarded
- In 2019: 10 scholarships were awarded.

SCOSTEP leadership thanked the awardees, the SVS selection committee, and the host institutions for a very successful program.

#### **10. SCOSTEP's New Scientific Program – PRESTO**

SCOSTEP's new scientific program, PRESTO (Predictability of Solar-Terrestrial Coupling), was introduced. The New Scientific Program (NSP) Committee members included:

- Ioannis Daglis (Greece) Chair
- Annika Seepala (New Zealand)
- Daniel Marsh (USA)
- Dibyendu Nandy (India)
- Emilia Kilpua (Finland)
- Katja Metthes (Germany)
- Loren Chang (Taiwan)
- Olga Khabarova (Russia)
- Qui-Gong Zong (China)
- Remi Thieblemont (France)
- Sergio Dasso (Argentina)

PRESTO is a science program that seeks to improve the predictability of energy flow in the integrated Sun-Earth system on time scales from a few hours to centuries through promoting international collaborative efforts.

#### **11. SCOSTEP AWARDS**

SCOSTEP recognizes the societal importance of studies in the field of solar-terrestrial physics and gives credit to scientists who contribute significantly to these studies and to SCOSTEP activities. In the years from 2016 to the present, the following awards were made:

##### **Distinguished Science Awards:**

**2016 – Professor Sami Solanki.** For his profound contributions to all aspects of the influence of solar variability on Earth's climate, including development of physics-based irradiance models, which provide a basis for understanding spectral solar irradiance variability, as well as to a broader understanding of solar magnetism.

**2018 – Professor Jeffrey M. Forbes.** For outstanding contributions to the field of solar-terrestrial relations, enriching the field scientifically, strategically giving direction to international activities and providing service and support to SCOSTEP, his students and colleagues throughout his career.

##### **Distinguished Young Scientist Awards:**

**2016 - Dr. Brett Anthony Carter.** For his innovative approach in the study of the occurrence of equatorial plasma bubbles and of geomagnetically induced currents producing results of considerable importance in understanding of the origins and manifestation of these phenomena.

**2016 - Dr. Nicholas Michael Pedatella.** For his work on atmospheric variability and data assimilation and ground-breaking contributions to understanding the influence of lower atmospheric waves on the spatial and temporal variability of the mesosphere, ionosphere and thermosphere.

**2018 – Dr. Kok Leng Yeo.** For her paramount contributions to understanding the causes of solar irradiance variations and to advances in irradiance models of relevance for climate.

**Distinguished Service Award:**

**2017 - Professor Marvin Geller.** For his substantial and unique contributions to various SCOSTEP programs through his leadership roles in them and his immense service to the Solar-Terrestrial Physics community as a leader and mentor of many students.

**SCOSTEP also awarded commemorative plaques for scientific excellence to the following individuals in 2019:**

**Professor Archana Bhattacharyya.** In recognition and appreciation of her eminent contributions to SCOSTEP science.

**Professor Nicole Vilmer.** In recognition and appreciation of her contribution to the SVS program and SCOSTEP science.

**Dr. Andrei I. Orsin.** In recognition and appreciation of his artwork making SCOSTEP worldwide uniquely recognizable.

**12. Election of SCOSTEP Executives**

A call for nominations for new SCOSTEP executives was made in October 2018. The deadline for submission of nominations was December 31, 2018. Ballots with the list of candidates and their brief bios were sent to all voting members of SCOSTEP on February 1, 2019. The deadline to cast votes was May 31, 2019.

The nominated candidates who agreed to serve if elected included:

- Katya Georgieva (Bulgaria)
- Daniel Marsh (USA/UK)
- Valery Nakariakov (UK)
- Dibyendu Nandi (India)
- Kazuo Shiokawa (Japan)

**Election results:**

Of the 101 individuals who were contacted and eligible to vote in the SCOSTEP election, 71 cast their votes for the SCOSTEP Executives in the term of 2019 – 2023.

Dr. Kazuo Shiokawa was elected President

Dr. Daniel Marsh was elected Vice President

At the same time, Patricia Doherty was appointed as the new Scientific Secretary.

The meeting concluded with a note of thanks from the newly elected SCOSTEP Executives.