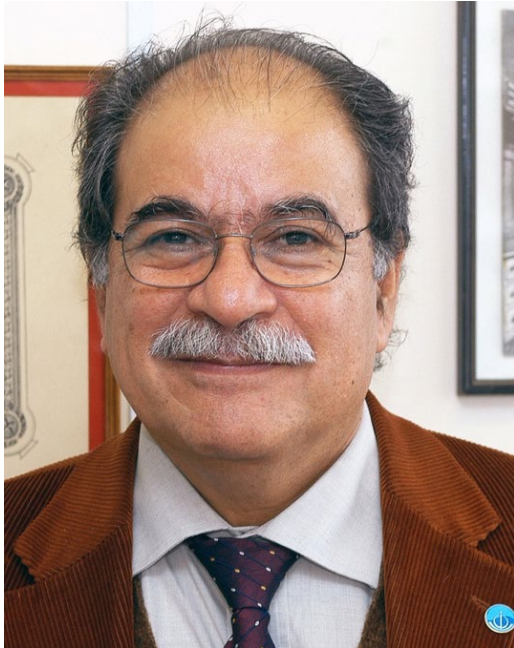


## 2023 Memorials for scientists involved with SCOR

### Dr. Patricio Bernal (Chile) – 11 October 2022



Patricio Bernal (Chile) was the Science Director for the CSIRO-Australia program on Coasts and Oceans, and a researcher at the Faculty of Biological Sciences of the Pontificia Universidad católica de Chile. He was a full member of SCOR WG #73 on Ecological Theory in Relation to Biological Oceanography, and he was the Executive Secretary for the IOC-UNESCO. At IOC, he pushed the development of a global tsunami warning and mitigation system, and was instrumental in launching the Assessment of Assessments of the ocean, paving the way to the current series of the UN World Ocean Assessments.

The obituary by the UNESCO-IOC:

<https://iocaribe.ioc-unesco.org/en/news-updates/memoriám-patricio-bernal-scientist-and-ioc-unesco-executive-secretary-who-made>.

### Prof Will de Ruijter (The Netherlands) – 12 January 2023



Dr. Will de Ruijter (The Netherlands), was a Professor in physical oceanography at the Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research (IMAU) of Utrecht University, The Netherlands. He was a full member of SCOR WG #136 on Climatic Importance of the Greater Agulhas System. His colleague Thomas Röckmann, Director of IMAU nstitute for Marine and Atmospheric research Utrecht, Department of Physics, Utrecht University, wrote: "Over his long and eminent career, Will has made landmark contributions on a broad range of topics, including the dynamics of currents and fronts in the Dutch coastal zone and, in

particular, the Agulhas System off South Africa. Will leaves a large legacy in the Physical Oceanography, Coastal Oceanography and Climate research fields through his scientific papers, through his students, and through his national and international leadership. Many were strongly influenced by his great physical intuition, broad vision and kind personality. He will be sorely missed."

Memoriam by Utrecht University: <https://www.uu.nl/en/news/in-memoriam-prof-will-de-ruijter>

### **Prof Mathieu Rouault (South Africa) – 17 January 2023**

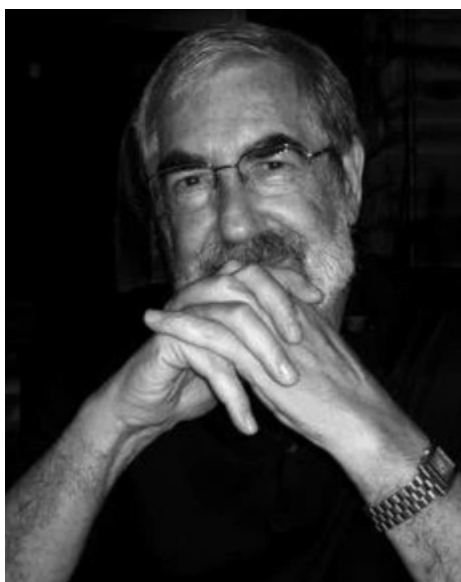


Mathieu Rouault (South Africa) was the director of the Nansen Tutu Center for Marine Environmental research and an associate professor in the Department of Oceanography, University of Cape Town. He was also the president of the South African Society for Atmospheric Science. In 2002, he was a POGO-SCOR fellow joining the PIRATA (Pilot Research Moored Array in the Tropical Atlantic) FR11 cruise, and receiving training in all aspects regarding deployment of the ATLAS system. His research was focused on ocean atmosphere interaction from numerical modelling to experimental work at sea, from meteorology and physical oceanography to climatology and

the impact of climate change and variability on marine ecosystems and water resource. His colleague Juliet Hermes wrote: "... his work on air-sea interaction over the Agulhas was seminal. The oceanographic community in South Africa are all shocked and saddened by his untimely passing."

Remembrance by University of Cape Town: <https://www.news.uct.ac.za/article/-2023-01-30-in-remembrance-mathieu-rouault>

### **Prof. Bjorn Sundby (Canada) – 23 January 2023**



Prof. Bjorn Sundby was a retired Professor from the Université du Québec à Rimouski (UQAR) and adjunct professor from McGill University in Canada. Bjorn served SCOR as Secretary between 1996 and 2000, as SCOR President between 2004-2008, and as SCOR Past-President between 2008 and 2012. He was a SCOR Nominated Member for Canada serving the Canadian SCOR Committee as Secretary between 1996-2000 and as Chair between 2003-2006.

Bjorn earned his PhD in physical organic chemistry from the University of Bergen (Norway) in 1966 and then moved to Dalhousie University in Halifax for a postdoctoral position. He was an oceanography research associate at UQAR from 1974 to 1980, and became Professor of Oceanography from 1980 to 1984.

He was head of the Department of Chemical Oceanography and Marine Pollution at the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research from 1984 to 1987, and later on the Director of the Physical and Chemical Oceanography Branch at the Maurice Lamontagne Institute, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. He was Professor of Oceanography at the Institut des Sciences de la Mer de Rimouski (ISMER) associated to the UQAR from 1992 to his retirement in 2010, and an adjunct professor at McGill University in Montreal. His major

scientific contributions are related to the importance of manganese to marine biogeochemistry, and how coastal sediments act as an important source of manganese for the deep ocean.

As pointed out by Cédric Magen, Bruno Lansard & Sean A. Crowe in their preface to Bjørn Sundby's Special Issue of Aquatic Geochemistry, Bjørn worked on a broad array of topics, including the marine phosphate cycle, processing of organic matter in permeable and soft sediments, transient diagenesis, the use of redox tracers as paleo indicators, micro-scale redox cycling in the rhizosphere, and the development of Au/Hg amalgam microelectrodes for measuring redox species at fine spatial scales.

Through his extensive service to SCOR, Bjorn contributed to shape the focus of international oceanographic research and inform marine policy.

More information in the Canada-SCOR Newsletter May 2023:

[https://cmos.ca/uploaded/web/website/scor/newsletter/2023/COSN\\_May2023.pdf](https://cmos.ca/uploaded/web/website/scor/newsletter/2023/COSN_May2023.pdf)

### **Prof. Miguel Dino Fortes (Philippines) – 30 April 2023**



Dr. Miguel Dino Fortes (Philippines) was a Professor at the University of the Philippines, and a full member of WG #158, Coordinated Global Research Assessment of Seagrass System (C-GRASS).

Miguel (Mike) was a tireless advocate for seagrasses, the people who depend on them, and for building the seagrass community of practice globally. Emmett Duffy, the co-chair of WG #158 would recall a moment during a C-GRASS meeting, with many small faces on the zoom screen, when Miguel greeted everyone by saying “Hello, beautiful people!” To Emmett, that set the mood in an important way for the WG interactions and

he will strive to keep his example in mind. Miguel was the author of *Seagrasses: A resource unknown in the ASEAN*, which was inspirational for generations to come working in seagrass beds and their relation to food security.

Obituary from the University of Philippines: <https://upd.edu.ph/marine-scientist-miguel-fortes-passes/>.

### **Prof. Vera Alexander (USA) – May 2023**

Prof. Vera Alexander (USA), was a retired Professor of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She was a member of the Scientific Steering Committee of the Census of Marine Life project, which was affiliated to SCOR from 2000 to 2010. In 1965, Vera was the first woman to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She pursued field science, became the director of Institute of Marine Science, and the first dean of the College of Ocean Sciences and Fisheries.



Her distinguished scholarship, stewardship of marine science and influence in marine policy, has been recognized and honored nationally and internationally. Among her many achievements were 16 years of service on the Marine Mammal Commission, 12 years on the International Scientific Steering Committee of the Census of Marine Life, service as a founder, delegate and chair of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), and the development and launch of the Research Vessel Sikuliaq.

Read more at

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/newsminer/name/vera-alexander-obituary?id=52003111>