

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

4201 Wilson Boulevard
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



OFFICE OF POLAR PROGRAMS

Dear Grantee,

The National Science Foundation's Office of Polar Programs (OPP) would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of being prepared for all aspects of your field work. You will have received a lot of information from OPP and from its support contractor, Raytheon Polar Services Company, with respect to working in Antarctica, including a link to the [USAP Participant Guide](#) which provides you with practical knowledge about working in Antarctica.

You are responsible for yourself and for all members of your team, including graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. All research staff (paid or volunteer) should be affiliated in some manner with your organization(s), so any worker compensation issues arising from injuries sustained while deployed can be addressed by your organization. NSF does not provide insurance for grantee personnel and the cost of insurance is not an allowable expense on NSF grants. As such, persons traveling to Antarctica are expected to have insurance appropriate to their normal life situations so that any needed health care, compensation for property loss, worker's compensation, or survivor benefit will be provided for in the event of a health care emergency. Emergency medical care for U.S. Antarctic Program participants in Antarctica is provided in clinics at the year-round stations, and persons who need hospital care will be transported to health care facilities in New Zealand, South America, or the United States, at which point they or their sponsors will be responsible for medical costs. An often overlooked aspect of field work is time you and members of your team will spend in the gateway cities of Christchurch, New Zealand and Punta Arenas, Chile. Check your health and life insurance policies to be sure that flights aboard scheduled military aircraft are covered and also that health care received in foreign countries is covered.

Wishing you a safe and productive deployment.

Handwritten signature of Brian Stone in black ink.

Brian Stone
Division Director
Antarctic Infrastructure
and Logistics Division

Handwritten signature of Michael Montopoli in black ink.

Michael Montopoli
Head
Polar Environment,
Safety and Health

Handwritten signature of Scott Borg in black ink.

Scott Borg
Division Director
Antarctic Sciences Division

Handwritten signature of Karl A. Erb in black ink.

Karl A. Erb
Director
Office of Polar Programs