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APECS: A NETWORK FOR POLAR EARLY CAREER SCIENTIST PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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ICARP III seeks to establish priorities for Arctic science for the coming decade. Essential to any long term research goal, is the preparation and retention of early career researchers to ensure that Arctic research will be continued well into the future. The Association of Polar Early Career Researchers (APECS) is an international and interdisciplinary organization for undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, early career professionals in non-academic careers, educators and others with interests in the Polar regions, the Alpine regions and the wider Cryosphere. APECS aims to stimulate research collaborations, to develop effective future leaders in polar research, education, and outreach, as well as to create a continuum of knowledge in Polar research.

APECS grew out of the ICARP II (2005) and the 4th International Polar Year (2007-08), which have emphasized the need to stimulate and nurture the next generation of scientists in order to improve the understanding and communication of the Polar regions and its global connections. Today our membership keeps growing steadily to currently more than 4900 members from ca. 80 countries.

Early career scientists benefit from a range of activities hosted/organized by APECS. Every year, numerous activities are run with partner organizations and in conjunction with major polar conferences and meetings. In-person and online panels and workshops focus on a range of topics, from developing presentation skills to the future research priorities of Arctic research from the early career researchers' point of view. Career development webinars are hosted each fall and topical research webinars are hosted throughout the year. Moreover, our members are very actively involved not only on the international but also on the national level in about 20 National Committees helping us to better respond to the needs of a specific country. The combination of in-person and online activities and resources hosted/organized by APECS provides members with unique opportunities for networking, career development, and international and interdisciplinary collaboration to better prepare them for the future.