

# International Council for Science

The International Council for Science (ICSU) is a non-governmental organisation representing a global membership that includes both national scientific bodies (116 members) and international scientific unions (31 members).

Through this extensive international network, ICSU provides a forum for discussion of issues relevant to policy for international science and the importance of international science for policy issues and undertakes the following core activities:

- planning and coordinating interdisciplinary research to address major issues of relevance in both science and society;
- actively advocating for freedom in the conduct of science, promoting equitable access to scientific data and information, and facilitating science education and capacity building;
- acting as a focus for the exchange of ideas, the communication of scientific information and the development of scientific standards;
- supporting scientific conferences, congresses and symposia all around the world; and
- producing a wide range of newsletters, handbooks, learned journals and proceedings.

The Council also helps create international and regional networks of scientists with similar interests and maintains close working relationships with a number of inter- and non-government organisations, especially the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World. Because of its broad and diverse membership, the Council increasingly is called upon to speak on behalf of the global scientific community and to act as an adviser on matters ranging from ethics to the environment.

Further information about ICSU is available at: [www.icsu.org](http://www.icsu.org)

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ICSU has also established regional offices in Africa, the Arab region, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Their goal is two-fold. Firstly they should enhance participation of scientists and scientific organisations from the region in ICSU's research and policy activities. Secondly, they should enable ICSU to play a more effective role in strengthening science within the context of regional priorities and building capacity through south-south hemisphere and north-south hemisphere global collaboration. Professor Jenny Graves FAA completed her term as a member of the Committee of the Asia and the Pacific Regional Office at the end of 2008. Professor Bruce McKellar FAA has been appointed a member of this committee from 2009 to 2011.

The Australian research community is well represented internationally with 26 Australian researchers on the executive committees of the 31 international scientific unions. Among these there are five Australian Presidents and nine Vice-Presidents or Vice-Chairs, as listed in the table below.

Scientific organisation	Office holders	Office
International Geosphere Biosphere Programme	Dr Mark Stafford Smith	Vice-Chair
World Climate Research Programme	Dr David Griggs	Vice-Chair
ICO –optics	Professor Min Gu FAA Professor John Love	Vice-President Vice-President
IGU – geography	Professor Ruth Fincher	Vice-President
INQUA – Quaternary research	Professor Allan Chivas	President
IUBS – biological sciences	Professor John Buckeridge	President
IUCR – crystallography	Professor Peter Colman FAA	Vice-President
IUGG – geodesy and geophysics	Dr Tom Beer	President
IUIS – immunology	Professor Peter Doherty FAA	President
IUPAP – pure and applied physics	Professor Bruce McKellar FAA	Vice-President
IUPHAR – pharmacology	Professor Donald J Birkett	Vice-Chair (clinical pharmacology division)
SCOSTEP – solar terrestrial physics	Professor Bob Vincent FAA	President
URSI – radio science	Dr Phil Wilkinson	Vice-President

## International scientific meetings held in Australia at the invitation of the Academy

The Academy, as the adhering body on behalf of Australia to ICSU, is often asked to endorse bids to host international scientific meetings in Australia. The Academy has issued a set of guidelines with respect to bids for international conferences. These are available at [www.science.org.au/internat/guidelines.htm](http://www.science.org.au/internat/guidelines.htm).

At the initiative of the Academy, and on behalf of the Australian research community, the following international meetings will be held in Australia:

- International Botanical Congress, Melbourne, 2011
- International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics XXV General Assembly, Melbourne, 2011
- International Geological Congress, Brisbane, 2012

## Delegates

The Academy appoints delegates to the business meetings of ICSU's bodies, after advice is sought from the national committees. Delegates for 2008 are listed here:

Union/conference	Date	Location	Delegate names
International Council for Science	13–25 October	Maputo, Mozambique	Professor Bruce McKellar FAA
Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research	14–16 July	Moscow, Russia	Professor Bob Vincent FAA

<b>Union/conference</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Delegate names</b>
International Union for Pure and Applied Biophysics	4 February	Long Beach, California	A/Professor Brett Hambly Professor Cris dos Remedios
International Union of Microbiological Sciences	5–9 August	Istanbul, Turkey	A/Professor David Ellis Dr Tuck Weng Kok Professor Harold Stokes
IXth World Conference of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics	27 July – 1 August	Quebec, Canada	Dr Rebecca H Ritchie Professor Andrew Somogyi
International Union of Crystallography 21st General Assembly	23–31 August	Osaka, Japan	Professor Mitchell Guss Professor Jenny Martin Dr Stephen Wilkins
Committee on Data for Science and Technology	9–10 October	Kyiv, Ukraine	Dr Ray Norris
International Union of Geological Sciences	6–14 August	Oslo, Norway	Mr Paul Kay Dr Ian Lambert Mr David Mason Professor Paulo Vasconcelos Dr Neil Williams
International Geosphere–Biosphere Programme Congress	4–9 May	Cape Town, South Africa	Dr Roger Gifford
Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research	22–24 October	Woods Hole, Massachusetts	Dr John Volkman
International Geographical Union	12–15 August	Tunis, Tunisia	Professor Lesley Head Professor Margaret Roberston Professor Nigel Tapper
Eleventh International Congress on Mathematics Education	6–13 July	Monterrey, Mexico	A/Professor Judy Mousley
International Congress for Theoretical and Applied Mechanics	24–30 August	Adelaide, Australia	Professor Ernie Tuck FAA A/Professor Jim Denier
International Union of Pure and Applied Physics 26th General Assembly	13–18 October	Tsukuba, Japan	Professor Michelle Simmons FAA
International Commission for Optics	7–10 July	Sydney, Australia	Professor Kenneth Baldwin Professor Min Gu FAA Professor Keith Nugent FAA
International Union of Radio Science	9–16 August	Chicago, USA	A/Professor Vitas Anderson Dr David de Boer Dr John O’Sullivan Professor Andrew Parfitt Professor Michael Tobar Dr Phil Wilkinson
COSPAR	13–20 July	Montreal, Canada	Professor Iver Cairns