

2014 Dickson Awardee: Richard Somerville

Richard Somerville is an internationally recognized climate scientist and Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, teaching since 1979 and being the first professor of atmospheric sciences there. His main research is on the physics of clouds and their role in the climate system. His interests include all aspects of climate, including communication of climate science and the interface between the science of climate change and public policy. He has also testified before the United States Congress, briefed United Nations climate change negotiators, and advised government agencies on research, education and outreach.



After formally retiring in 2007, Somerville has remained active in research and in supporting and advising graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. Somerville also recently presented lectures in a massive open online course (MOOC) offered by UCSD called “Climate Change in Four Dimensions.” He was a coordinating lead author for the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which appeared in 2007; the IPCC shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize equally with Al Gore.

Somerville has been named a Fellow of three scientific societies: the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the American Geophysical Union (AGU), and the American Meteorological Society (AMS). He has also received awards from the American Meteorological Society for both his research and book, *The Forging Air: Understanding Environmental Change*. In 2015, Somerville was awarded the Climate Communication Prize of the American Geophysical Union, and in 2017, Somerville won the Ambassador Award of the American Geophysical Union.

Throughout 2009 he worked with an international team of 26 leading climate scientists to prepare for Copenhagen Diagnosis, and in 2012, Richard also began the Center for Multiscale Modeling of Atmospheric Processes (CMMAP), dedicated to improving computer models simulating the global climate system as part of the National Science Foundation and Science and Technology Center.