
Adventure grant supports remote polar expedition to study antimicrobial resistance.

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Scott Pallett and his team will travel to Northeast Greenland on a human-powered journey to further medical research in polar conditions.

Scott and his team will embark on a polar ski expedition in remote areas of Greenland to test the performance and limitations of a range of novel molecular diagnostic kits. Their research is essential in understanding the capabilities of these kits in cold, resource limited areas and where their future applications may be best suited. The team, including Stephanie Wong and Bill Kwok, are passionate about polar travel and using their time in these difficult conditions to benefit society.

While in Greenland, the team will also undertake a series of climbs of five peaks throughout Jameson Land that are, based on climbing reports and locals knowledge, thought to be unclimbed.

On receiving the news of the grant offer Scott said: “The team and I are all really excited to have been supported by the John Muir Trust, through the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant, for our upcoming remote polar expedition in northeast Greenland. Pulling everything with us on pulks, the Grant will provide considerable support to optimising research on the major global public health issue of antimicrobial resistance. The research will have both discovery aims and assessing of novel diagnostics for use in resource limited, climate challenged settings. With part of this needing to be conducted at altitude, we are thrilled to have the opportunity to venture into the sparingly explored mountain ranges to the north of Jameson Land for this research expedition.”

Sophie Mackaness of the John Muir Trust, who administers the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant said: “The grant panel were excited to support a project that explores remotes areas while also conducting important medical research to benefit society.”

Scott’s project is one of six successful applicants to the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant in 2024. This grant was established to give people the opportunity to seek out life-changing experiences in wild places in ways which will benefit both the person, and the wild places themselves.

Editor's Notes

About

The John Muir Trust is a leading voice for the UK's wild places. Its stewardship of some of Britain's most iconic wild places, including Ben Nevis and Helvellyn, is guided by three freedoms; ensuring nature has the freedom to repair itself, people have the freedom to enjoy the benefits, and communities have the freedom to thrive. For 40 years, the Trust has advocated for the protection of wild places by evidencing their benefit to society. Driven by the belief that wild places are for everyone – it also provides opportunities for people from all walks of life to engage with nature through its UK-wide environmental award scheme, the John Muir Award.

About the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant

The grant commemorates two former Presidents of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, who each led inspiring and adventurous lives. It was set up to give others an opportunity to follow in their adventurous footsteps and experience wild places. Projects should have an educational or scientific component and benefit wild places.

Bill Wallace, died of heart failure in February 2007 while skiing in the Alps at the age of 73 with two artificial hips.

Des Rubens, was a popular teacher at Craigroyston High School in Edinburgh was killed in June 2016 in an Alpine climbing accident at the age of 63.

Grants are for £200 to £2,000 and open to UK applicants of all ages. Closing date for applications is 15 January each year. Further details on how to apply: <https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/whats-new/grants/des-rubens-and-bill-wallace-grant>

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