

Special Issue

Impacts of climate change on tundra ecosystems: Three decades of results from the International Tundra Experiment (ITEX)

Dedications –

to Patrick Webber

and the memory of Michael Jones.

Patrick (Pat) Webber had the foresight to bring together a group of tundra scientists in December 1990 to discuss and plan a coordinated distributed experiment to monitor and predict responses of tundra ecosystems to the rapidly changing climate. His ideas resulted in the formation of the International Tundra Experiment (ITEX). His experience as part of the tundra group of the International Biological Programme in the early 1970s helped to shape ITEX into a very successful network. The enduring fruition of his ideas is within the papers in this special issue and will continue for many years to come.

Michael Hunt Jones (1955–2019) was one of the first PhD students in ITEX, starting with Greg Henry and Ellen MacDonald at the University of Alberta in 1991. He and Greg designed the OTCs at Alexandra Fiord, which became a standard in ITEX and subsequently used around the world in other biomes. He studied the effects of experimental warming on *Salix arctica*, a keystone species in the North American High Arctic and was involved in early synthesis projects in ITEX. He went on to postdoctoral positions with other ITEX groups, including studies of winter CO₂ fluxes in Northern Alaska and had a successful teaching career. ITEX got off to a great start because of the pioneering work by Michael—we miss him.

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