

A Celebration of an Ocean Driller – Dirk “Dick” Kroon, a/b *JOIDES Resolution*  
Site U1583, 20°26.0' W, 30°42.6'S 1030 UTC, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Thank you, Captain Hartt.

Good morning everyone from all the different parts of the *JOIDES Resolution* team that make up IODP Expedition 393. Thank you for coming together to join colleagues around the world to celebrate the life and achievements of Dick Kroon, a dear colleague, and respectfully commemorate his passing. Dirk Kroon, but always known as Dick, was Regius Professor of Geology at the University of Edinburgh, an important and prestigious academic position that dates back more than 150 years. Dutch by birth and education, Dick was very much a proud adopted Scotsman and citizen of Edinburgh – the Netherlands Tricolour and Scottish Saltire fly aboard today.

Dick died a young man – before his time. As scientists on expeditions, at meetings and workshops around the world we sometimes forget that our science friends and colleagues have families and partners at home, and time with us is but small part of their lives. Our sincerest condolences go out to Dick's wife, Erica and children Gebien, and Tim, and his grandchildren – their loss overwhelms our sadness.

Dick Kroon was one of us, a scientist, an explorer, a scientific ocean driller, a leader. He was a world class, highly cited scientist who made fundamental observations about our planet's climate, life and oceans and their response to changes in the Earth system. This includes past examples of rapid increases in CO<sub>2</sub> of major relevance to society today and the world our children and grandchildren will inherit. Most of his research stemmed from sedimentary and palaeoceanographic records preserved in cores from the oceans.

Consequently, and in partnership, Dick had a long and most productive engagement with scientific ocean drilling and in particular this ship, *JOIDES Resolution*, since he first sailed on ODP Leg 117 in 1987 in the early days of the Ocean Drilling Program. This ship was his temporary home for 6 voyages and our programme shows a kind photograph of a smiling, fresh-faced, excited Dick Kroon with the gray-hulled JR from ODP days. Dick was Co-chief scientist twice aboard the JR on two of the most important and impactful palaeoceanographic expeditions in scientific ocean drilling that returned critical and influential records of major changes in the Earth system – including the K-T boundary and

the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum, the PETM, on ODP Leg 171B – Blake Nose and Leg 208 Cenozoic Climate Extremes respectively. Leg 208 drilled a transect of holes along the Walvis Ridge to the east of us and over which we will pass on our journey back to Cape Town and then home to our families. His most recent voyage was in 2015 on IODP Expedition 359 “Maldives Monsoon and Sealevel” and many aboard sailed with him on that and other voyages.

Looking at Dick’s ocean drilling record, the word “transect” stands out in many of the ocean-going voyages he was involved with and led. It is perhaps fitting that we are holding this ceremony during the South Atlantic Transect just as we initiate the new Site U1583. Here we will undertake exactly the style of multidisciplinary science – sedimentology, palaeoceanography, microbiology, global chemical cycles, wireline logging, even basement drilling (!) that are the core strengths of scientific ocean drilling that Dick has been a strong and positive champion of for the past 35 years or more.

Dick was more than a scientist; he has been deeply involved in orchestrating and lubricating the many national and organizational parts of scientific ocean drilling, in the Netherlands and the UK, and internationally. He Co-Chaired the IODP Science Advisory Panel for five years and until last year was Chair of the IODP Forum where he played an essential role ensuring that the whole is much greater than the sum of its parts. Through his guidance of the 2050 Science Framework – there are clear future goals and most importantly, a willing and able next generation of international scientists to lead and take Scientific Ocean Drilling forward.

Dick was a positive man; a natural optimist. He could see constructive ways forward in most things in life and science. This attitude is important and infectious. He promoted the idea that science and especially ocean drilling is fun. Science teams aboard the JR get to do things and go places in space and time that others do not. This is a privilege and luxury that we should embrace and not forget. For many the supportive scientific and personal relationships that build on this ship during these voyages are enduring. For many in the science party, they will be career-building. With Dick Kroon’s passing scientific ocean drilling has lost one of its leaders; one of the “Good Guys”. Safe travels Dick and our thoughts and condolences go out to your family and loved ones.

Damon A.H. Teagle, Co-Chief Scientist, IODP Expedition 393