JIFRESSE’s new scientist Thomas Painter will be hosting the by-invitation NSF Workshop on Absorbing Impurities in Snow and Ice (ISI) 20-23 June 2010 in Silverton, Colorado at the Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies. This workshop, sponsored by NSF Atmospheric Sciences Climate and Large-Scale Dynamics, will bring together leading international scientists to discuss the latest research on the impacts of radiative forcing by dust and soot in snow and ice.

Recent research has revealed that black carbon soot deposited in the Arctic has had significant impacts on the observed global warming signal. In addition to global industrial emissions of soot, widespread land use change in the world’s arid and semi-arid regions has resulted in increases in dust emission that in turn are forcing mid-latitude mountain snow cover to melt several weeks earlier. The Silverton workshop will address the urgent need for improved monitoring, modeling, and reconstructions of the climatic and hydrologic effects of dust and soot in snow and ice cover worldwide.

The 18 participating scientists will present research to their colleagues from the Tibetan Plateau, the Himalaya, Greenland and other parts of the Arctic, the Sierra-Nevada, as well as from the Colorado Rockies. They plan to establish an international ‘absorbing ISI’ working group leading to common monitoring protocols and an integrated approach to understanding the effects of soot and dust impurities in mountain and polar cryospheric systems. This workshop is a joint effort of Painter’s Snow Optics Laboratory and Chris Landry, Executive Director of the Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies.