

## **Council Report, 2 June 2011**

Executive Board     Jamaine Davis, Chair  
                             Eric Montemayor, Chair-Elect  
                             Andrew Torelli, Secretary/Treasurer

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### Summary 2011 Activities

Young scientists are eager and ready to be involved in ACA on many levels. The overall objective for YSSIG in 2011 was to increase membership and participation. The success of this was apparent in the large numbers observed in our events and activities. We will continue this push through innovative methods that speak to the growing membership.

### Membership Drive

Efforts to increase membership have been successful. More students are joining, however we feel we are not effective in our communication with students prior to the ACA meeting. We have addressed this issue during our Executive Board meeting, as well as our General Meeting. We also hope to develop better relationships with our international members.

YSSIG should include all ACA members who are interested in the development of young scientists. Therefore, the young scientist group can encompass trainees and pre-tenure faculty. It would be interesting to know, who is attending ACA meetings and those who are not. This information will be useful in developing a recruitment strategy to increase membership. Additionally, it would be useful to know the numbers (if any) of SAXS and Neutron

### Orientation

The 2011 Orientation was a huge success. The room was overflowing with more than 60 trainees (undergrad, grad, postdoc, as well as more established scientists) in attendance. This great result shows the interest in supporting young scientists within ACA. The orientation consisted of a great overview of how to navigate through the ACA meeting. We also obtained feedback for this event and will incorporate improvements for the 2012 YSSIG Orientation in Boston.

### Outreach

While 2011 Outreach Initiatives were unsuccessful, YSSIG will continue this endeavor. Bruker and Rigaku reps were contacted via email months before the meeting, however we received no response to our request of \$1500 to sponsor 2 high school students in the Physical Science Women's Academy. A copy of the letter is included in Appendix A. We feel this type of outreach is crucial in creating a pipeline of diverse scientists within the ACA and the global scientific community. We plan to continue this effort.

### **YSSIG 2012 Objective/s**

#### General Meeting

The General Meeting was held on Tuesday, 30 May 2011 during lunch. Approximately, 25 Young Scientists were in attendance. This included graduate students, postdocs and junior faculty. This was a great mix to gather ideas for 2012 ACA Boston. It was

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suggested to switch the time to 7:30pm to allow everyone to attend. YSSIG will try to accommodate request during the 2012 Boston Meeting.

<u>Committees</u>	<u>Nominees</u>
Orientation	Faye Bowles
Professional Odyssey Communications	Paul Musille, Albert Reger
Outreach	Jason Stagno
YSSIG-BioMac	
-Exciting Structures	Eric Armstrong
-Methods	
YSSIG Chair	Albert Reger, Yulia Sevryugina

Although this was not discussed at the meeting, to be more inclusive, we should probably include an 'International committee', so we can identify the needs of our international members, who do not seem to attend our general meetings.

### Retreat/Pre-Conference

Numerous ACA members have provided suggestions for improving the emphasis on YSSIG. During this meeting, it was suggested that ACA sponsor a YSSIG Retreat or Pre-conference. In this Retreat/Preconference, YSSIG aims to highlight the many aspects important for developing scientific professionals. This can include hosting career development workshops/tracks, which cater to the multiple career options available:

- Academic – grant seeking/writing workshops – which are the best grants for structural biologists
- Industry – foster relationships with various biotech and pharma
- Government –
- Policy –

A suggestion was also made by Judy Kelly to look into having Ted Hodapp, Director, Education & Outreach for American Physical Society, host a workshop during the ACA Meeting, specifically for young faculty. This workshop would be geared to addressing the effective teaching techniques. This idea was presented to the General Members, which many expressed interest.

The specific details of the retreat/preconference have yet to be determined, but can be discussed more during the next Executive Board Meeting. We will also use social media (LinkedIn) to get more members to chime in.

### Professional Odyssey Panel

Having a program officer or someone to discuss funding mechanisms geared toward crystallography and/or complementary techniques (i.e. SAXS, cryo-EM). We have also identified a junior faculty member who can discuss their experiences in joining the faculty ranks.

Attendees seemed to agree that a summer course would be a good idea, but they were not sure what the ACA could offer that would not be a duplication of that currently being offered elsewhere. They were also divided on what an ideal ACA summer course could

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offer in terms of hard-core theory vs. purely practical issues; however, there appeared to be a (weak) consensus that practical is better. Outside of the meeting a few students said that they thought ACA funds could be better used on cost reduction for students to attend future meetings.

### **Mentoring**

As expected, each member was excited about fostering good mentor/mentee relationships. To note, we hope to generate a pool of 'mentors' and will work hard to incorporate mentoring into YSSIG Mixer. Eric Montemayor and Andy Torelli have also drafted a letter to send to ACA members. See Appendix B.

### **YSSIG Officers**

Chair, ACA Council Representative

YSSIG members are excited about having representation in the ACA Council, and wish to formally continue. We plan to have the Chair-Elect become more involved in Council business to

\*Eric Montemayor: Yulia Sevryugina would like to get some experience with chairing a session. She was not able to do this in her target SIG (small molecule) as that meeting was at the same time as ours. Since she is small molecule and I am biological, I would be amenable to co-chairing the Etter Session with her next year. This will allow me to more critically assess abstracts from small molecule scientists so that they can be included in the Etter talks. Is it possible for the Etter to have co-chairs?

### **Secretary/Treasure position**

Since YSSIG has a position for Treasurer, we are interested in exploring the option of YSSIG raising its own funds for various activities. We were successful in obtaining \$2725 from Rayonix to cosponsor our mixer, which we have renamed, YSSIG-Rayonix Mixer, thanks to Christine Muchmore. A copy of the letter is included in Appendix A. Dr. Muchmore also indicated they will be interested in continuing this partnership in the future.

### **Additional Suggestions**

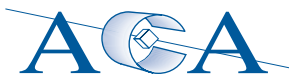
Establish a YSSIG Post-Board

Establish YSSIG Newsletter

No tables at YSSIG Mixer

### **ACA Website**

Profile Young Scientists – It would be great to incorporate profiles highlighting young scientists on the ACA website. Many professional societies have already done this with positive results. Each quarter or so, we can highlight the many ACA members who are contributing to ACA and their local communities.



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23 February 2011

Christine Muchmore, Ph.D.

Rayonix  
1880 Oak Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201

Dear Dr. Muchmore:

I would like to introduce myself and tell you about a wonderful organization that is part of the American Crystallographic Association (ACA) called the Young Scientist Special Interest Group (YSSIG). My name is Dr. Jamaine Davis and I am currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Cancer Institute and the current Chair. As Chair of the YSSIG, I am launching a new initiative, trying to introduce more events during the ACA 2011 conference in New Orleans where young scientist like myself interact with each other and the larger structural biology community. We intend on doing this through a mixer, mentoring dinner and informal local activities. Feel free to check out all of our activities during ACA: <http://www.amerCrystalAssn.org/2011-social-events.100097.content>.

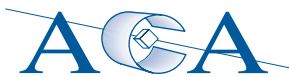
Since I have taken on the position in the spring of 2010, our YSSIG enrollment has increased by 300%. Although we are postdocs based both in US and in international labs, we hold the same goals. As you are probably aware, YSSIG is composed of trainees of all levels. Many of who are junior faculty and several who are actively on the academic career track and soon to establish their own laboratories.

The ACA 2011 Meeting is fast approaching and since Rayonix is a company that we are all familiar with, we thought to contact you first with an exciting offer. We would be delighted if Rayonix would be the first official sponsor of our event, which we would name the 2011 Rayonix YSSIG Mixer, which is scheduled for Sunday, 29 May 2011. This would be a great opportunity to have our young scientist interact in a social setting and also have your company mingle with potential future members of industry and academia. We want to join forces to ensure everyone has a great time during the ACA Meeting. The YSSIG Mixer provides the informal setting of meeting and talking with new and exciting people. It is sure to be great social networking event. If you agree to sponsor us, we would advertise the event as the Rayonix YSSIG Mixer, which would be sure to draw an even bigger crowd. We are asking for a monetary amount of \$2500, which would allow for the event to be held at a local venue close to the conference.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thanks for your time and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Jamaine SC Davis, Ph.D.  
ACA YSSIG, *Chair*



**COUNCIL 2011**

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30 March 2011

Angie Grossen  
Bruker AXS  
5465 E. Cheryl Parkway  
Madison, WI 53711

Dear Ms. Grossen:

I would like to introduce myself and tell you about a wonderful organization that is part of the American Crystallographic Association (ACA) called the Young Scientist Special Interest Group (YSSIG). My name is Dr. Jamaine Davis and I am currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Cancer Institute and the current Chair. As Chair of the YSSIG, I am launching a new initiative, trying to introduce more events during the ACA 2011 conference in New Orleans where young scientist like myself interact with each other and the larger structural biology community. We intend on doing this through a mixer, mentoring dinner and informal local activities. Feel free to check out all of our activities during ACA: <http://www.amerocrystalassn.org/2011-social-events.100097.content>.

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YSSIG's primary objective is to create a pipeline of young scientists that remain members throughout their entire career. This mission is parallel to many diversity efforts in science. Therefore, we are requesting your help in encouraging and establishing the next generation of scientists.

The Women's Health Science Program (WHSP) for High School Girls & Beyond at Northwestern University is an amazing and significant effort to empower young women in science to become future leaders. I've attached a brochure of the program. More info can be found on their website: <http://whsp.northwestern.edu/>.

I've had the pleasure of meeting these brilliant young women during their visit to APS, which is part of their Physical Science Weekend Academy (PSWA). PSWA is a great initiative that introduces the wonderful and useful world of crystallography to talented students. This experience differs from the other academies sponsored by WHSP in that it offers a new career option at a critical juncture in their academic career.

To keep the momentum going and to encourage careers in the physical sciences, we would like Rigaku to sponsor two (2) high school students in the PSWA to attend the 2011 ACA Meeting in New Orleans. We are requesting \$1500 to cover all travel related expenses. If you agree to sponsor this initiative, we would have an essay competition to select two (2) students, publicize the outreach initiative and we would deem them YSSIG-Bruker Scholars.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thanks for your time and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Jamaine SC Davis, Ph.D.  
ACA YSSIG, Chair

30 May 2011

Dear ACA Community:

We are interested in expanding the mentoring component of the Young Scientist Scientific Interest Group (YSSIG) in partnership with more senior ACA members who are interested in positively impacting the careers of younger scientists. Specifically, we are requesting that mentors such as yourself initiate contact with small groups of students/first-time-attendees prior to the beginning of next year's meeting. This will allow junior members to have at least some level of contact with the Association prior to attending the meeting, and will also provide them a point of contact during the meeting itself. We believe pairing students with faculty that share broad interests will facilitate valuable mentor/mentee relationships and would replace the traditional Mentor/Mentee Dinner during next year's shortened meeting.

We hope this new mentoring system will prove more effective than what we currently have in place. Furthermore, increasing young-scientist exposure is also likely to improve member retention and repeat meeting attendance amongst our junior ACA members. However, this can only work if a sufficient number of senior members participate!

Here are the logistics of what we currently have in mind:

- 1) We would advertise this mentoring program on the ACA website as part of next year's registration process. Mentees could indicate their specific interests and what they would like to get out of a mentoring relationship (i.e. career development vs. scientific discussion) and the YSSIG would then target them to the most suitable Mentor.
- 2) Mentors would receive a short list of names and emails a few weeks prior to the meeting and would be responsible for independently making contact with Mentees prior to the meeting.
- 3) The Mentor could meet with Mentees individually throughout the meeting in Boston. This could be done as scheduled small talk during the YSSIG mixer or the poster sessions. This would undoubtedly help people that are attending the meeting alone to initiate the networking process. Alternatively, the Mentor could schedule their own small dinner with their group of Mentees.

All suggestions as to how we can best implement this will be greatly appreciated!

YSSIG Executive Board

30 May 2011

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