

Small Molecule SIG Report
Wednesday 28th May 2014

Chair: Amy Sarjeant
Chair Elect: Christine Beavers
Secretary: Louise Dawe

2014 Meeting: Of the six sessions proposed during our 2013 SIG meeting, only three made it to the final program for this year's meeting. This left Small Molecule SIG members with little applicable content. It was noted that initially the Transactions session was pitched as an all-encompassing session but the end result was almost exclusively macromolecular. This was perhaps due to the fact that the chairs for the Transactions sessions were macromolecular crystallographers. No one in the Small Molecule SIG could speak to how or why there was no Small Molecule chair for this session.

In response to the lack of content in 2014, the Small Molecule SIG is proposing or co-sponsoring six sessions for the 2015 meeting. Half-day sessions include: "How I Spent My Summer Vacation: Experiences derived from Small Molecule Summer Schools" chaired by Amy Sarjeant and potentially John Lee (ACA Summer School attendee, 2013); "Cool Structures" co-chaired by Allen Oliver and Chris Durr; and "Important Science from Small Molecules" to be chaired by Larry Falvello. Full-day sessions are "Best Practices: Data Collection" co-sponsored with the Service SIG and put forward by the Data Standards Committee; and "Crystal Engineering: Form and Function" co sponsored with the Industrial SIG to be chaired by Peter Wood of CCDC; Best Practices in Education Session, co sponsor with GIG and BioMac, co-chaired by Kraig Wheeler, Roger Rowlett and Joe Tanski

During the SIG meeting it was noted that there are a pool of YSSIG members who are interested in co-chairing sessions with more experienced members. This is a great way to involve younger members and more SIGs should be aware of this and try to draw out younger members by mentoring them through the session chair process.

The members of the Small Molecule SIG have been active in IYCr2014 events. The various contests and other website achievements were noted during our SIG meeting.

Finally, a concerned member of the SIG asked about the status of Acta E, in regards to the lack of Impact Factor rating by Thomson Reuters. It was pointed out at our meeting that this has been discussed by the IUCr. The reasoning behind Thomson Reuters' decision has more to do with the number of self-citations in the journal and nothing to do with cases of fraud. There is a general feeling at Thomson Reuters that the journal is more database than journal. It was noted that there are plans to re-launch Acta E with a separation between research papers and structure reports and that perhaps it would again be indexed by Thomson Reuters.

A nominating committee formed by the three SIG officers will solicit members to stand for election to the Chair-Elect position open in 2015.