

**Council meeting with Powder, Industrial, Small Angle Scattering, Materials, Neutron and  
Young Scientists  
June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011**

Powder and Neutron SIG were absent from the meeting, and sent no annual SIG report. Jim Kaduk (Materials SIG) gave a short verbal overview of the Materials, Powder and Neutron SIGs joint SIG meeting.

**Industrial SIG (Sweepston)**

See annual report. Discussion related to items in the annual report.

The sessions really need to be kept on time. One session finished 30 mins late on June 1<sup>st</sup>, and ISIG had to begin its SIG meeting in the hallway outside the room. However, they had twice the attendance at the ISIG meeting than in 2010. It was noted that a similar situation had occurred prior to the All-Member Business Meeting that delayed attendees. Koetzle stated that the sessions contained many different length talks (between 10-36 mins). Perhaps an effort could be made to make time slots more uniform, particularly in the light of 5 concurrent sessions starting next year. Duax wondered if student workers could operate the timers as Chairs often did not use them. Koetzle stated that the ACA needed to be more proactive and rigorous about time keeping.

Magali Hickey from Alkermes had put together a proposal for a full-day session on crystallographic information and structure analysis in pharmaceutical development for the Boston 2012 Meeting. She had already got commitments from speakers. Hickey envisioned that there would be a half-day of more macromolecule based talks, and a half-day of more small-molecule based talks. She hoped this format would continue in future years with different special topics. Colquhoun asked if there was interest in a company sponsoring this, and then it could then be named The xxxx Symposium.

There were also budget issues for industrial attendees, and therefore many could not come to the meeting (the ISIG Chair-Elect was absent). However, overall ISIG appeared healthy compared to a couple of years ago when there were real fears the SIG might fold.

**Small Angle Scattering SIG (Lee, Littrell, Koga)**

See annual report. Discussion related to items in the annual report.

There had been 20-40 people in SAS sponsored sessions, and SIG had done well raising \$5,000 to support their sessions. SAS was proposing 8 sessions for Boston, 4 of which would be co-sponsored. Phillips noted that no session Chair names were associated with these in the annual report. There were Chairs identified for all sessions, and Lee was happy to revise the annual report to include these.

Koga wondered if more could be done to attract non-crystallographers to the ACA by advertising in structural biology journals or at related conferences. National Facilities would be good places to attract people to attend the ACA Annual Meeting. Does the ACA have a presence at user meetings held by the National Facilities? What about scientific societies, such as the Biophysical Society or American Chemical Society? Colquhoun stated that the ACA had a presence on 6 other society web-sites. If a list of web-sites (scientific societies, National facilities and associated beam-lines) could be sent to Colquhoun, she could make sure the Annual Meeting is advertised there. Koetzle stated that his regional ACS Chapter would also be a good place to advertise. Sweepston suggested NMR meetings. Phillips stated that there was no American NMR society. Koetzle stated that NMR integrates well through the Protein Data Bank, so should we have an NMR SIG? Wilmot

felt this was getting outside the bounds of the ACA. Littrell stated that SAS does not involve crystals and the IUCr runs the SAS international meeting. Perhaps NMR could be introduced via a Workshop? Wilmot stated that NMR spectroscopists had spoken regularly at the ACA, and although enthusiastic about the experience had not shown any indications of wanting to make the ACA a home, or even needing an entity such as an American NMR Society.

#### Materials SIG (Kaduk)

No written annual report was provided at this time.

Kaduk stated that combined the Neutron, Powder and Materials SIGs were proposing 10 sessions and 2 workshops for the 2012 ACA Annual Meeting in Boston, all with session Chairs. There will be 4-5 people from the three SIGs at the Planning Meeting, and all the proposed sessions are co-sponsored except for a magnetic materials session (Neutron SIG). Nominations Committees had been set up to identify candidates for the upcoming SIG elections.

Speaking just for Materials SIG, Kaduk outlined his efforts to explore the possibility of joint ventures with the Materials Research Society (a Kelly initiative). Although a member for many years, Kaduk attended his first MRS Meeting (about 8,000 participants). Virtually all the speakers use crystallography (mainly powder) and it is treated as a black box with little understanding. During the last two Fall Meetings, Bob Snyder (Panalytical) had run a half-day session on powder diffraction. These assumed that the audience knew crystallography, but this was clearly not the case. Kaduk, Snyder and Iuliana Cernatescu were working on making this a full-day session, with technical basics in the morning, such as Rietveld refinement, and applications in the afternoon. Deadline is in the next couple of weeks. Is there money for ACA support to support this? Duax stated that they could write an application for financial support to Council.

There had been an evening session at the MRS Meeting on industrial access to National user facilities. Kaduk would be writing a report on this for *RefleXions*. Industry and National facilities have very different structures and concerns, and so there was low usage by industry due to issues such as intellectual property. National facilities need publicity and measurables, such as publications, and income alone from industry is not enough.

Kaduk was involved in putting together a proposal with Andy Howard for a Macromolecular Crystallography Summer Course at the Advanced Photon Source. Kaduk was told to check the ACA web-site for guide-lines and deadlines, which had changed in the last year (January 15<sup>th</sup> 2012 deadline for a Course to be held in 2013). A Letter of Intent, although encouraged, was not required.

#### Young Scientist SIG (Davis, Montemajor)

See annual report. Discussion related to items in the annual report.

The YSSIG wanted to attract not only graduate students, but postdocs and early career faculty to their SIG.

The Orientation session on Saturday evening was well attended and received, with the D1 room being too small. In 2012 it was thought that there could be an orientation for 1<sup>st</sup> time attendees at 6:30pm, and then at 7pm open the meeting up to all for a presentation on local attractions by the 2012 Local Chair.

Young scientists were keen to get involved, and a number of committees had been set up. They would send an e-mail to all YSSIG members to see if others wanted to get involved in these and other committees.

They were exploring the idea of holding a preconference or retreat. Wilmot asked what the timing of this would be. Would it run on the Saturday as a Workshop? YSSIG members often wanted to attend the Workshops. Perhaps on the Friday before the Workshops, or even the day after the Annual Meeting (Thursday)?

The joint Rayonix-YSSIG Mixer had been a great success, and Rayonix had sponsored the event. Often the Rayonix event had competed with the Mixer, and so this joint venture had worked out really well for both parties. The attendees stated that they would like tables removed from the event in future, as many people sat at the tables and did not mix.

The YSSIG is losing the mentor-mentee dinner under the new 4 day format. They have drawn up a letter to send to senior scientists asking them to act as formal mentors. They would be matched with 1-2 mentees prior to the Meeting, with whom they would hook up during the Annual Meeting. Koetzle suggested also taking geographical location into account. This might allow some mentors and mentees to meet up outside of the ACA Annual Meeting.

YSSIG was also supportive of starting up a Macromolecular Crystallography Summer Course. There was a slight bias from SIG members at the YSSIG Meeting towards practical skills over theory. Kaduk stated that there had been some support at BioMac SIG for changing the emphasis from year to year (neophyte crystallographers to more advanced topics on other years). Personally he was not sure about this.

YSSIG was assured that they could appoint Co-Chairs for the Etter Award Symposium if they so wished.

The YSSIG would like to increase publicity of YSSIG events.

Andy Torelli would continue as Secretary/Treasurer in 2012.

Koetzle brought up the topic of young scientists that are not graduate students, postdocs or early career faculty (for example, a technician had given an excellent talk this year). Duax stated that the Service SIG doesn't attract student abstracts, and so the SIG was unable to give a Student Etter Award this year. YSSIG should connect up with them, and since it is likely that some YSSIG members will become service crystallographers, they might want to feature this career path in Professional Odyssey.