

Council meeting with Service, Small Molecule, Fiber, General, BioMac and Synchrotron June 1st 2011

Small Molecule SIG (Nichol)

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

John Sanders, University of Iowa, won the Small Molecule SIG Etter Student Award.

There had been some confusion surrounding Service and Small Molecule SIGs holding their SIG meetings together. There was an incorrect perception that the SIGs were merging. The reason was purely organizational, as there are members who belong to both SIGs and who wish to attend both meetings. The Service SIG meeting started at 12pm and the Small Molecule SIG meeting immediately followed at 12:30pm. The 2011 SIG sessions were well attended with most sessions attracting 50+ attendees. Unfortunately the meeting rooms, particularly D1, were too small. People were standing, and in the case of "*In situ* Diffraction studies" people had to be turned away. The SIG was very pleased that their "Cool Structures" half-day session had attracted so many abstracts that Chris Cahill had extended this into a full-day.

Amy Sarjeant noted an error on page 2, point 4 of the SIG report - Charlotte Stern is a Summer Course organizer, not Jeanette Krause. The topic was raised of creating a Summer Course Fund to help support the costs of Summer Courses to which members could contribute when paying their dues. Wilmot stated that this suggestion had been well received by Council at the All-Members Business Meeting, and a motion to create this fund would be raised at the Fall Council Meeting.

General SIG (Olmstead)

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

About 70 people attended the "General Interest I" session on Sunday morning. Many attendees were interested in the crystal growth and computational chemistry themes of the session, which were not covered well by other sessions this year. Thursday's "General Interest II" session would be more technical in nature. The Etter Student Award winner, Jason Mercer, gave a provocative talk that generated a lot of audience interest. Mercer is not a crystallographer, and the talk enabled him to set up some collaborations. General SIG also organized an Education session that was very well received. They would like to run another such session in 2012 that would focus more on undergraduate education in both small and macromolecular crystallography.

The 2012 Transactions would be co-sponsored with Small Molecule in honor of Bruce Foxman.

Koetzle mentioned that Steve Sheriff had heard an excellent talk by a technician, and wondered whether awards could be broadened to include technical staff. Koetzle stated that this person would actually be going to graduate school next fall. Phillips stated that this type of presenter is rare, and so they would need to self-identify, or be put forward in some way.

BioMac SIG (John Rose)

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

Based on the large number of abstracts in 2010, Structural Enzymology had been expanded to 3 half-day sessions in 2011. Some of the BioMac sessions had been standing room only (PSI, membrane protein crystallization, maximizing synchrotron science). BioMac was most excited about the "mini-workshops" to take place on Thursday, where data with specific problems were

available ahead of the meeting, along with different software, and people could try identifying and solving problems prior to the meeting. Software developers and experts would then go through how to identify and solve problems using specific software packages. Data processing and phasing/refinement formed the themes for the two half-day sessions. BioMac SIG had also been able to arrange a bag lunch for those going to both workshops. This was viewed as an exciting new direction that would attract and help young scientists and graduate students. Ed Collins has spear headed this effort with the enthusiastic support of YSSIG, and he deserves a great deal of thanks. Collins wishes to run a data collection mini-workshop next year, and he has further ideas for 2013, so expect this to become a regular feature for BioMac sponsored sessions.

The Phenix workshop had also been a great success with ~ 60 participants.

Members who attended the SIG meeting felt that a Summer Course in Macromolecular Crystallography was needed. Bill Furey stated that the Cold Spring Harbor (CSH) course takes 11 students from ~200 applications. Bob Sweet's RapiData is also over subscribed. Ogata stated that there was enthusiasm for an ACA Summer Course organized by Andy Howard and Jim Kaduk at APS. Andy had a lot of experience running the previous ACA Summer Course in Macromolecular Crystallography, and Jim Kaduk would sort out the organizational aspects of the Course. The Course is envisioned to be ~ 10-12 days long, and thus falls between the time ranges of RapiData (a week) and CSH (16 days held in October). Duax suggested that we get a list of unsuccessful applicants from CSH to let them know of other opportunities, such as other Courses and the ACA Annual Meeting. Ogata stated Nukri Sanishvili was running a CCP4 workshop at APS following the ACA Meeting. Phillips mentioned a Pennsylvania school. Colquhoun stated that the ACA advertises meetings of interest to ACA members for free on the ACA web-site. Organizers should be encouraged to send information to the ACA for posting on the web-site.

Due to the new 4 day Annual Meeting format, BioMac decided to only propose two Structural Enzymology half-day sessions in 2012. The focus for the 2012 proposed session (4) would be on molecular biology and protein preparation for neophytes, whilst session (5) might include the chance to carry out some remote data collection at a synchrotron as part of the session, and (10) would include applications at both shorter and longer wavelengths than the normally used range. Duax and Wilmot thanked BioMac for also identifying sessions that could be held concurrently, as they were expected to attract different audiences, to help with fitting the program into the 4 day format. Rose will be at the 2012 planning meeting.

Synchrotron SIG (Bellamy, Ogata)

Discussion related to a short document given to Council.

Their SIG meeting was well attended. They will send a final annual SIG report with updated information. The SIG was keen to include free electron laser and LCLS developments and science within their SIG. They proposed a full day session in this area chaired by Keith Moffat (U. Chicago) and Marius Schmidt (UW, Milwaukee), an extended wavelength session (co-sponsored with BioMac), radiation decay (Chair Steve Ginnell (APS) co-sponsored with BioMac), membrane proteins, and complementary methods (co-sponsored with BioMac).

Service SIG (Sarjeant)

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

Service is often thought to be synonymous with small molecule crystallography, but the SIG feels it also covers BioMac and Synchrotron SIG areas, and would like to attract these people to Service SIG. Phillips stated that the Protein Structure Initiative is essentially a service, and so

crystallographers involved in this would be appropriate Service SIG members. Also crystallographers at National facilities often have a significant service component to their work. Attracting these crystallographers might help to associate student abstracts with Service SIG. Unfortunately this year no student abstracts were associated with Service SIG sessions, and thus they had been unable to make an Etter Student Award. However, the sessions were well attended. Duax suggested that Service SIG members should get involved in mentoring young scientists, as some of them may enter this important sector of the job market.

SIG members worried about ACA holding an Annual Meeting in 2014 and its attendance. Normally Service SIG members could not afford to go to IUCr Congresses, but in 2014 they may be attracted to the IUCr Congress in Montreal. The SIG members had no solutions, but wished to bring up this concern. Kelly informed the SIGs about the economic necessity of holding a Meeting in 2014.

Service SIG wanted to propose a Workshop for the 2012 Boston Meeting. The ACA web-site has the deadlines and guidelines.

Louise Dawe and Sarjeant would be at the 2012 Planning Meeting on Friday.

Fiber Diffraction SIG (Orgel, Antipova)

Annual report was submitted on June 2nd by current SIG Chair Paul Langan, who was absent from the meeting.

2011 was an "off year" for Fiber Diffraction, but the SIG was meeting on Monday evening with a further officers meeting on Thursday morning. They would be at the 2012 Planning Meeting, and felt they needed a presence every year at ACA. They held two sessions in 2010 that were well attended, particularly the session on amyloid. They are co-sponsoring another amyloid session with BioMac (and possibly Synchrotron SIG) at the 2012 Meeting in Boston. Nichol asked why they only organized a session every other year, and Orgel explained that this was in the SIG charter. He also stated that in the IUCr international database of crystallographers, only 17 primarily identified themselves with fiber diffraction. Thus they were a small community. They also were featured on two covers of *RefleXions* in the last year. They were also hoping to organize another medical-linked session on biological connective tissue that would include the carbohydrate fiber diffraction community. Duax suggested that Fiber SIG could co-sponsor sessions in the "off years", and Orgel thought that was a good idea.

General feedback and discussion by all SIGs on ACA Annual Meetings:

Sarjeant asked if the posters could be up all the time. Orgel stated that the beer at the posters on Tuesday night stopped after 30 mins (the Monday night session was well supplied). Colquhoun stated that both were an issue of cost; poster boards and the additional space were expensive, and they could only afford a beer keg a night at the current registration rate. She also stated that many members objected to having alcohol costs in the registration fee. Orgel stated that having two free drink tickets for a couple of nights helps create a very nice atmosphere, particularly if vendors could be encouraged to help out (like Rigaku did on Monday this year). Olmstead suggested they could have a cash bar, and Orgel and Wilmot thought this was fine. Colquhoun said that indeed having a cash bar was the way it was heading. John Rose asked if the poster sessions would be affected under the new 4 day meeting, and Colquhoun stated they would not, and they were considering having the sessions go on 30 mins longer. It was noted that there were a lot of empty poster boards. Were these students who did not turn up? Colquhoun stated that she did not know if they were students, but half of the undergraduates who had registered did not turn up. David Rose stated that he asked to do an oral presentation and was not selected, but he was assigned a poster board.

Nichol stated that the ACA Annual Meeting was becoming less affordable for small molecule crystallographers to attend. Would the ACA reconsider holding the Meeting at a university campus? Kelly and Koetzle stated that the hotel contract finished in 2012, and the ACA would revisit the hotel vs. university question. Duax stated that the size and power required for the exhibitors had been a problem in the past in the context of a university-sited meeting, and for the 4 day meeting they would require 5 session rooms. The ACA was happy to send a delegation to view a suitable university site whilst a similar sized conference was being held to check out the site. Orgel and Wilmot stated that their universities had become as expensive as hotels. John Rose also said that there could be a problem with the distance between the airport and the university, which can be considerable. Antipova suggested National Lab sites such as APS. Wilmot asked about visa issues. Antipova stated that 5 day passes could be issued. Ogata felt that the National Labs were in the middle of nowhere, and so everyone would need to rent cars to go out to eat. At the APS the Guest House would not be able to accommodate all the attendees, again necessitating car rental for travel to hotels. Overall National Labs were not thought to be viable for an ACA Meeting that would have ~1000 attendees. Colquhoun asked what part of the conference was viewed as too expensive by attendees. Bellamy and Wilmot stated the hotel; Orgel the registration. Duax suggested sending out a list of questions that the ACA would need answering to evaluate a university site. This could be sent to a limited number of universities to evaluate whether they were now viable possibilities. Phillips suggested that Council and the SIGs could provide the conference contact at their own university (providing they thought it might be able to handle a conference the size of the ACA). Everyone thought this was a great idea.

ACTION: ACA office to put together a series of questions that address the requirements of an ACA Annual Meeting. These would be sent out to possible university sites provided by Council and SIG Officers.

Duax reminded the SIGs that Boston would be a 4 day Meeting. Duax also brought up the American Institute of Physics (AIP) "Inside Science" on-line news service. Allen Oliver (Communications Committee) had been through the Meeting abstracts and had picked out some he thought were newsworthy. He had then asked the presenters to write a short summary that would be understandable to the public. Only 4 presenters provided anything. AIP thought two were of particular interest and retooled these. In the first 24 hours the stories had 700 hits, which was fantastic publicity. SIGs should let their members know, and encourage them to provide short pieces to the Communications Committee at least a month before the Annual Meeting.