

**Council meeting with Canadian, YSSIG, General, BioMac and Synchrotron
July 27th 2010**

Young Scientists SIG (Jackson)

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

25 students attended this year (only 4 in 2008 Knoxville) and there was a lot of excitement in the community. YSSIG need the SIG meeting to be on Sunday to allow them to meet up with new people. Students had shown up due to word of mouth alone. Older members need to tell younger scientists about what the SIGs do and why they are valuable. Hackert told Koetzle he should talk about the role of SIGs at the 2011 opening reception. Also use the mentor-mentee dinner to promote SIGs to the next generation. Britten asked if there could be a relationship between the mixer and the SIG meeting. Perhaps drinks tickets for the mixer could be given out at the SIG meeting? Jackson stated that YSSIG wanted to keep the mixer and mentor-mentee dinner off-site. It would be great if Rayonix would not have their event on Monday. This is out of the hands of Council, who have no say in when exhibitors chose to have events.

There had been confusion about how workshops related to summer schools. To help keep workshop costs down for students, Rose suggested that a workshop grant could be created to be used at the discretion of the organizers. Britten stated that IUCr support must be specifically for individual's travel. Collins stated that the workshops need to be revenue neutral, so if reduce student registration then others would need to be charged more. Mueller (wearing his Continuing Education Standing Committee hat) stated that Cont. Ed. Had asked workshops organizers to have a tiered level of fees, but none had done this.

YSSIG were having problems with selecting Etter prize winners and speakers for the Etter Early Career Award symposium. Kelly suggested that YSSIG get session Chairs to rank abstracts in their session when in scientific areas outside those of the YSSIG officers. Duax suggested using the Continuing Education Standing Committee's ranking of abstracts for travel awards. Jackson stated that abstracts were often misleading; that ordinary looking abstracts could hide really interesting and well-presented work. Collins stated that it was up to student to write a good abstract. It was important in these cases to give feedback to the poster presenter about how their abstract and poster title could be improved. Britten asked if YSSIG had any Transactions ideas. Kelly stated that 2011 was the International Year of Chemistry and hoped YSSIG would get involved.

Jackson stated that what YSSIG members want from the ACA is help advancing their careers, and won't come to the Annual Meeting or remain with ACA otherwise.

Jarmaine Davis (Chair-Elect) started a Link-In site on the WWW for YSSIG.

General SIG (Mueller)

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

Could the ACA please update the ACA web-site with SIG constitutional changes made 2 years ago. Wilmot asked about getting an electronic copy of the 2009 General SIG annual report. Mueller stated that Bruce Noll should be contacted about this.

General SIG had twice as many attendees at their annual SIG meeting than in 2009 in Toronto. About 50% of the ACA membership associate themselves with General SIG. Their first 2 General SIG-associated sessions at the meeting had attracted ~ 100 people, with two further sessions to come. Allen Oliver (Notre Dame) and Marilyn Olmstead (UC, Davis) had both shown interest in putting together independent small molecule ACA Summer Schools. The ACA should make sure

information about Summer Schools and application deadlines for 2012 should be in RefleXions in plenty of time, and also be prominent on the ACA. General SIG had no problems filling the speaking slots for the two 2010 General Interest sessions as there were plenty of abstracts.

BioMac SIG (Collins, Rose and Wilson)

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

40 people were present at the annual SIG meeting. 7-8 of these were younger scientists, who gave lots of feedback. The SIG was worried that they were not doing enough to attract students to become involved. Colquhoun stated that there were 180 student attendees out of the 980 total. Britten stated that the overwhelming number of these were in the biological area. There were 3 BioMac relevant workshops, but again attendees tended to be older. Collins stated that BioMac wanted to try an experiment in which attendees could work up crystallographic data (one molecular replacement and one MAD) prior to the meeting. The software developers would be asked to present their best work up of the data. Attendees could write up a short paper on what they did, as would the developers so that the different avenues could be compared. This would enable comparison of different software, with direct feedback from the experts. They were thinking of all day Thursday (the last day of the meeting). Jackson liked this idea, as it could be also announced at the Sunday opening reception and mixer, so attendees could still chose to download and work with the data during the meeting if they wished. Kelly stated that Council appreciates that BioMac puts its most exciting and popular sessions at end of the Annual Meeting when many attendees would normally cut and head for home. Collins stated that he would organize this new venture. The idea would be to perhaps publish the ideas that came out as paper in one of the Acta Cryst journals. Rose stated that they wanted to use SnapZ pro, which would record both the sound and images for later viewing. There could be problems with internet availability and power issues if attendees wanted to work on their laptops during the sessions. There was also the issue that popular software, such as HKL2000 was not free. Developers can often make special versions for these types of meetings: Jim Pflugraph made special version of d*trek for the 2010 workshop. Wilmot pointed out that students and postdocs are dependent on their PI agreeing to pay for them to attend ACA Annual Meetings, and so the decision to attend may not be theirs. Duax stated that this was a real concern for the future of the Association.

Ideas for Summer Schools were a macromolecular school at the Pittsburgh Diffraction Meeting and one run by Collins in North Carolina.

For 2011 they proposed to have 3 enzyme sessions due to the large number of abstracts, one of which would be on complementary methods. There was no mention of a joint session with Industrial SIG on a specific disease area, which was very popular. The SIG is interested, but had not had a chance to get together with the Chair of Industrial SIG to look into this. Jackson stated that younger scientists would love to get involved in organizing such a session. Britten suggested having Co-Chairs; one a senior person in the field, and the other a student.

Synchrotron SIG (Bellamy)

Craig Igata next Chair candidate. Spent no money. Efficient use of sync radiation (biomac), fast expts (with Fiber), coherent rad, new science NSLS-II and LCLS. No workshops suggested, 14 people attended. Asked last year to write and new time

Canadian Division (Murphy)

See annual report.

14 people at meeting. LD session great. Want to change Canadian poster award to Louis Delbaere award. Go to Natl Comm for approval and has already been discussed has wide support.

Diseases session if that works with other session. CW said ISUG drives one. Not enough info on ACA and summer school interactions. More info needed to be given out. What does ACA bring to a meeting.

Rose would be keen to have another ACA meeting in Canada as Toronto so successful, Vancouver or Calgary. 2016-17 2-3 years post IUCR in Montreal.

Completed candidates selection for ACA Can rep. Cranswick associated session discussion.

**Council meeting with Powder, Neutron, Materials, Service, Industrial, Small Molecule and
Small Angle Scattering
July 28th 2010**

Powder SIG (Stevens)

See SIG meeting report. Discussion related to items in the in the annual report and SIG meeting report with Neutron and Materials SIGs.

Jointly Powder, Neutron and Materials SIGs had drawn up a list of 11 half-day sessions (10 topics from 25 ideas) that they wished to sponsor at the 2011 Annual Meeting in New Orleans, and they already had Chairs for all 10 proposed topics identified. In addition the 3 SIGs would propose a workshop on symmetry mode analysis for 2011. There was no consensus from the group on possible Summer Schools.

Each SIG has created a nominations committee of two members to find two candidates to stand for President of each SIG in the upcoming elections.

Neutron SIG (Bridges)

See annual report. Discussion related to items in the annual report and SIG meeting report (see Powder above for summary).

The nomination process for SIG officers had not been well organized for the last election. Therefore a nominations committee, consisting of two members in attendance at the business meeting, was charged with seeking out suitable candidates for office. Colquhoun had checked and this strategy fits nicely with ACA by-laws. Kelly stated that in-coming officers should be made to read the appropriate by-laws so they clearly understood their duties and what was expected.

One of the suggested topics for the upcoming 2011 Annual Meeting was materials for a sustainable future, and they wanted to make this a full day. In particular DOE is very focused on the development of new materials, so this is a growing area.

Materials SIG (Chair, Wilkinson, Kaduk)

See annual report. Discussion related to items in the annual report and SIG meeting report (see Powder above for summary).

A Macromolecular Summer School will be proposed by Andy Howard and Jim Kaduk, but they have not finished the full proposal as of yet. Materials SIG would like to encourage their community to present more posters at the Annual Meetings as many attendees do not do so at present.

Service (Khan)

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

Allen Oliver (Notre Dame) and Amy Sarjeant (Northwestern) have expressed interest in putting a proposal together for a small molecule Summer School, with the School alternating annually between the two Universities. Khalil Abboud (University of Florida) apparently also had a couple of ideas for possible Summer Schools.

Three sessions were being proposed for the upcoming 2011 Annual Meeting; (1) An educational session on teaching techniques and strategies (co-sponsored with General SIG, (2) Publication practices and validation which they wanted as a full day session co-sponsored with Small Molecule SIG, (3) The very popular "Would you publish this?" session. Due to consolidation of some half-day sessions at the 2010 Chicago Annual Meeting this had been moved from the evening into a daytime slot. They requested that this be reinstated as an evening session in New Orleans 2011 as they wanted it to not be competing with other sessions and to be informal and interactive. The Service SIG membership was having trouble raising enough financial support (currently costs between \$2,000 - \$3,000) to attend Annual ACA Meetings in the current economic climate. This is because service crystallographers do not control the funds that enable them to attend, so the situation was very difficult.

Steve Gardner is going to update the Service SIG website.

Industrial (Chair-elect, Sweptson)

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

The annual SIG meeting was poorly attended, with 6 of the attendees being active in structural biology (pharma and biotech) and only one active in materials.

An idea had been put forward for a Protein Structure Determination in Industry (PSDI)-like meeting, which was a highly successful annual venture in Europe. The meeting is conducted behind closed doors, and although the attendees do not discuss targets, they do share technique development. The half-day session would hopefully attract more pharma / biotech attendees who would not normally attend an ACA Annual Meeting, but would also be open to academic groups interested in structure-based drug discovery. One of the topics at the European PSDI this year was protein production, and Kelly and Collins thought a session focused on overexpression systems and protein preparation would be very popular with ACA members. Wilmot suggested looking at using the American Institute of Physics (AIP) Forum mechanism that had been brought to the attention of Council by Fred Dylla, CEO of AIP. Duax explained that AIP sponsors Forums at member society annual meetings, where industrial leaders (e.g. ACA exhibitors + AIP has 31 Corporate Associates) can keep current on the latest innovations and global trends. An ACA-based Forum could be held on the same day as the workshops. Sweptson stated that industry would pay any associated costs, and they did not require AIP support. It was decided to try organizing one half-day session in 2011, and gauge the interest and how this might be developed further. Duax and Colquhoun were going to attend the Optical Society's upcoming Forum in October to see how they work. They would pass on to Sweptson relevant organizational suggestions afterwards. Kaduk stated that he would track interest from the Materials community in these types of sessions.

Industrial SIG again wanted to team up with BioMac SIG to have a scientific session focused on a disease area. These sessions had been very popular with the attendees. Another suggested session topic had been intellectual property.

Industrial SIG, like Materials (see above), felt that it needed to encourage SIG members to present posters at the ACA Annual Meeting.

Sweptson stated that Industrial SIG members would like to see ACA merge its Annual Meeting with that of the annual Denver Diffraction Conference (DXC). Background on the failed attempt to do this by Council in 2009 (see 2009 Council Minutes for the Spring, Summer and Fall meetings) was given. One major issue was that ICDD who organize the DXC runs the meeting at a loss, whereas for ACA the Annual Meeting is one of its major revenue sources. Kaduk stated that ICDD would

have made sure ACA did not lose money. This was news to ACA. Kaduk suggested waiting a couple of years until personalities change and then to try again.

The University of Pennsylvania has an on-line crystallography course followed by on-site hands-on lab work. Would this be something the ACA might be willing to support?

Small Molecule (Staples)

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

In regard to the cost of ACA Annual Meetings that was a concern of SOG members, Kelly stated that costs had increased by 50% over the last 3 years. The ACA has had to make cutbacks, such as in the provision of free internet in order to keep costs down. Sweptson stated that Chicago was a very expensive city for exhibitors due to the labor laws in the city. Last time the ACA Annual Meeting was in Chicago (2004), it cost RigakuMSC \$120,000 to transport equipment and set up their booths. The idea was raised of having ACA meetings based at University sites to lower costs. Kelly stated that Universities were now aggressively seeking out conferences to generate revenue and were no longer a cheap option. Sweptson made it clear that a move to a University venue would not sit well with exhibitors, nor would it help attract Industrial SIG members to ACA Annual Meetings. There was a suggestion to capitalize on the fact that 2011 is the International Year of Chemistry to perhaps raise more travel money to help people attend the 2011 New Orleans Meeting. SIG members loved the new small Program Book at Annual Meetings, but would like a PDF ahead of time so can plan out the first day. They also requested to have speakers names added. Colquhoun stated that this made the booklet too costly, and would make the PDF very large. The poster session layout was confusing this year. Some SIG members wanted the Small Molecule posters all together. Staples stated that he liked the mixing. There had been some requests for the numbering of the abstracts to be in order, or organized by the first letter that indicates poster presentation day. Kaduk stated that it was not easy to navigate the abstracts on the Meeting CD, and it would be nice to have this ahead of time and so it could be read on the plane. Koetzle stated that it would be nice to have searchable abstracts on CD. Colquhoun stated that she would make a PDF ahead of time so it is searchable. There had been problems this year with invitees receiving their checks for reimbursement. Colquhoun stated that session Chairs should make sure invitees knew what receipts they needed to provide, and the time-frame for providing reimbursement information so a check could be cut in time to bring to the ACA Annual Meeting for invitee collection.

Sessions for 2011 New Orleans had been put forward (see annual report).

Small Angle Scattering (Tsuruta, Lee, Littrell)

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

There was good representation of the condensed matter and biological communities at the SIG meeting. Potential Chairs for the proposed sessions for the 2011 Annual Meeting in New Orleans had not yet been identified. Britten suggested thinking about getting a Young Scientist SIG member as a Co-Chair. They were keen and wanted to become more involved. A workshop idea for 2011 was on the basic handling of biological SAXS data, with a focus on how to properly use Svergun written software, which is the software most widely used. However, the SIG had heard that IUCr might be intending to hold a similar workshop at next year's Congress. The SIG will contact the organizers to coordinate. Lee stated that SAS is often supporting data, so the community is not attracted to the ACA Annual Meeting. How best can SAS SIG serve its community at ACA Meetings? It was suggested to perhaps focus in certain areas in different years;

SAXS or coherent scattering for example. Perhaps sponsoring a workshop and then have the main Meeting sessions connect to those? Therefore they do not try and cater for the entire discipline. Then change from year to year. Duax stated that it was important to have related sessions on contiguous days with the themed workshop to get more people to attend. If contiguous days are required make sure this is sorted out at Friday's planning meeting.

Members had asked for clarification on the purpose of ACA Summer Schools, and who the target audience was. USNCCr now has a good web-site with links to existing schools to identify areas not being covered or undergoing growth (<http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/biso/IUCr/>).

Fiber Diffraction (Orgel, Antipova)

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

The Fiber Diffraction SIG annual meeting had been very disappointing; only Orgel + one other person were present.

Last year the future of the SIG was in jeopardy. The SIG only gets involved every other year, so the 2008 Annual Meeting in Knoxville was the last one in which they had a session (which was excellent). This year they had great success, particularly with the session on amyloid, which was very well attended. They also had much higher attendance at the more hard-core fiber diffraction session. For 2011 (even though it is not an "official" fiber diffraction year) they will co-sponsor an "energy and materials for a sustainable future" session with Neutron, Powder, Materials, SAS and General SIGs. The SIGs were hoping for a full day in this area. Von Dreele stated that this topic area should bring in more posters. Fiber Diffraction SIG commended the ACA for supporting the entire community, not just structural biology. The "subject" sessions, e.g. amyloid, were better attended than the "technical" sessions. They now felt that they had a growing community. Wilmot stated that she and her BioMac group tended to gravitate principally to techniques sessions, as the ACA Annual Meeting was one of the few regular opportunities to keep current. So it was important to support technical sessions. It was important to the SIG that there were ACA travel awards for two of the student speakers in their sessions.