

Council Lunch Meetings with SIGs and Committees 2014 Annual Meeting

Sunday 24 May 2014

Reflexions. Council met with **Connie Rajnak** (Connie is filling in for Tom Koetzle, who is dealing with his wife's shoulder surgery). She reports that Tom has been well prepped, and has been working hard to come up to speed with his chores for the newsletter. She (Rajnak) has agreed to remain on as cover editor, so the ACA can still benefit from her experience. The summer issue is in the works.

Judy Flippen-Anderson reported on the new ACA journal, **Structural Dynamics**. She related that the quality of the papers has been very high so far, and urges all ACA members to consider submitting their work to the journal. She noted that as soon as the 3rd issue is published, it will become possible to calculate impact factor and other statistics.

Virginia Pett reported on the **ACA History Portal**. A written report has been provided to Council. Highlights include the following: 14 living history articles have been prepared for Reflexions (including the newest issue); 15 videos are now available on the History Portal; and 22 individual's papers have been archived with the Bohr Library at the AIP. She reports that she now has separate cameras available to capture the speakers and their slides, which results in a huge improvement in the quality of the resulting video. She plans to continue to invite authors to write memoirs for the living history series; she is currently working to reduce a backlog of videos, and is trying to get them online as soon as possible. She surveyed other AIP member societies, asking if they had history committees, and discovered that only one did not. Therefore, the Council's decision to establish an ad hoc history committee is very welcome news. She singles out for recognition the efforts of Patty Potter, who has been working diligently to get material online (she notes that the software being used is not user-friendly, which makes Potter's contributions all the more significant).

Eddy Snell reported on the work of the **Communications Committee**. He noted that the Transactions Symposium (in progress) was going quite well so far. For this symposium, the committee chose to opt for fewer, longer talks, rather than a series of short ones. Most speakers have manuscripts ready, and have offered to provide their slides as well; he asks how these slides can be made available to members. Colquhoun replies that the ACA can easily post the corresponding PDFs on their website.

Media outreach: He reports that the ACA has enjoyed good interactions with the AIP—in the past, the AIP has read all meeting abstracts and chosen some for dissemination. This year that was not possible (because we have a smaller attendance, with a concomitant smaller budget). He notes that he has tried sending a “teaser” to a local newspaper, but is not sure how whether that will result in any news coverage. He suggests that the communications committee lacks the expertise necessary to develop media contacts, prepare press releases, etc.; in future, if such media outreach is desired, it will be necessary to utilize someone else's expertise (either the AIP's or someone else's). Therefore, the Association needs to decide if this service is worth paying for. He recalls a meeting he attended at AIP where it was announced that the AIP is starting their own media arm, in response to the fact that most commercial media outlets have dropped science writers. As part of this, they are looking for stories, so if we have any candidate stories, they might pick up these stories at no cost to us. Again, he wonders if the committee has the ability to identify good stories (since the best stories from a journalism standpoint are not necessarily the best stories from a purely scientific standpoint).

Snell notes that the Crystallographic Ambassadors program is again being attempted in Albuquerque (this program records short video interviews with ACA members). He notes the program in Hawaii was hampered by short notice, leading to a low turnout (one person, for whom the audio quality was

poor). Related to this, he states that the Bohr library is looking to create an archive of video interviews with scientists; they have a series of suggested questions that might be useful in implementing the Ambassadors program. Re the IYCr14, he wonders if the ACA could capture any of the varied talks that are being given worldwide about crystallography. Cahill states that the resources (including talks) that are being mobilized in service of IYCr14 represent a treasure trove that needs to be preserved, and the ACA should do what it can to make this happen. Council suggests that the Communications Committee should approach various sources to see if they can obtain this material to post on the ACA IYCr14 and History Portal websites.

Action Item	Cahill will charge the Communications Committee to survey IYCr14 resources available on-line and see if any can be hosted on an ACA site.
--------------------	--

Snell also notes that there needs to be better continuity from year to year for the communications committee; e.g., he suggests preparing a media plan that would give new committee members an outline of how to proceed (otherwise, new committees are always playing catch-up). This would give them sufficient lead time to canvas session chairs for newsworthy stories, for example.

Snell also reports that many people have commented to him that the website makes it hard to plan which sessions one would like to attend, because the abstracts are not searchable.

Cahill affirms that he is a proponent of media outreach (including partnering with AIP). Teeter urges session chairs to find newsworthy science stories to forward to the AIP media arm. She asks about the feasibility of holding a press conference at the annual meeting; Snell responds that the remaining science journalists (what few there are) are concentrated on the coasts, so Philadelphia is a good place to try this. Such an endeavor needs careful planning, but in his opinion this should be a goal for the 2015 meeting. Duax notes that at the Experimental Biology meeting they offered to waive registration fees for anyone who was willing to write a blog about the meeting. The designated blogger contacted him about his poster (based upon the abstract); when the blogger heard that the poster had input from high school students, she organized a formal interview for him. Council likes this idea.

Action Item	Cahill will charge the Communications Committee with a) investigating whether a blogger can be induced to cover the 2015 meeting, and b) looking into setting up a press conference to accompany the 2015 meeting.
--------------------	---

Teeter urges the newsletter to coordinate with the communications committee to help identify newsworthy material; Flippen-Anderson responds that the newsletter staff already interacts very strongly with not just the communications committee, but all other aspects of the association. Snell notes that videoconferencing is a very useful tool for such interactions. Kaduk wonders if there are instances when communications committees of different societies might profitably interact? Or if the communication and education committees of the ACA should interact? Cahill suggests this should be implicit—committees should be thinking about potential interactions at all times. Snell agrees, and offers example of BioMac SIG interacting with other SIGs to identify points of common interest.

Council now takes the opportunity to consider a proposal that has been made to set up a crystallographic training workshop at the North American Solid State Chemistry meeting.

Kaduk sets the stage: There has been long-standing interest in developing synergy between the ACA and the solid state chemistry community (many of whom use crystallographic methods, but feel that they lack an appropriately rigorous foundation in crystallography). As one example of such interest, he cites a previous proposal from Bob Von Dreele to organize a solid state chemistry meeting as a satellite meeting associated with the ACA annual meeting. A different potential venue for establishing synergy is at the North American Solid State Chemistry meeting, which is held every 2 years. Peter Khalifah is involved in running this meeting, and has suggested it is an opportunity for crystallography education in which the ACA might be interested. He has therefore approached the ACA, asking for funding and/or some other kind of involvement. For example, would the ACA like to be indirectly involved, by contributing funds to support student travel, or more directly, by providing travel or lodging support for instructors? Kaduk indicates that he intends to participate in this training opportunity because it is an important thing to do, whether the ACA funds it or not. Rao and Stevens note that this could be a dangerous precedent; can anyone who wants ACA members to provide education expect that the ACA will pay for this? And why wouldn't they use the ACA summer school? Loll and Cahill ask, on the other hand, whether good might come of this. E.g. attendees at a workshop/school could generate new ACA members. This is, after all, a form of outreach, and could lead to a synergistic relationship with another society.

Has any decision been taken?

Kaduk provides another idea: Would it be possible to offer electronic attendance at the annual meeting to ACA members? Is this worthy of consideration? Conceptually, this would be similar to a webinar, and so the technology should exist. Teeter suggests the computing committee should at least think about this. Rao notes that exhibitors might push back, since virtual attendees would not be able to visit their exhibits.

Action Item	Teeter will charge the Data, Standards, and Computing committee to look into what would be required in order to offer virtual attendance at an annual meeting.
--------------------	---

Rao raises a point about the planned videoconference for the Fall Council meeting; he thinks it might be difficult to work out important financial questions via videoconference, and thinks that an in-person meeting would be better. He also notes that the auditor has suggested that Council meeting travel can be lumped under meeting expenses, so the earlier concern about total travel costs exceeding some threshold should not pertain. Therefore, he suggests that Council meet in person in Buffalo in the Fall.

Action Item	Colquhoun will set up a Doodle poll within the week following the annual meeting to ascertain Council members' availability for a Buffalo meeting during the week of 12 October 2014.
--------------------	--

Monday 26 May 24, 2014

Meeting with ISIG: Peter Wood and Mark Oliveira attending. They note that the ISIG meeting yesterday only had 6 attendees; how can we get younger members interested in the ISIG? They note that yesterday's ISIG-sponsored session received a donation, but it didn't appear in book. Colquhoun notes that the money has not actually arrived, which explains why no donation has been credited in the abstract book.

The ISIG had trouble finding speakers this year (they note that it is more complex for industrial speakers to get approval in general, but this year was worse than normal). Their guess is that our meeting is competing with the IUCr meeting.

Plans for sessions for 2015 include 3 or 4 sessions (each intended to be co-sponsored by a different SIG):

- Applied crystal engineering (co-sponsored w/ small molecule SIG). They are looking for high profile speakers.
- Powder diffraction: Current understanding of powder methods (co-sponsor w/ powder SIG).
- Structural informatics for drug design and development (co-sponsor w/ BioMac)
- Alternatives to powder and single-crystal methods.

Peter Mueller notes that the powder session could be an educational session; he also notes that in an educational session the “one author-one abstract” rule does not apply, which would allow session chairs to recruit all their desired speakers for an educational session (since each such speaker can also submit a scientific abstract for a different session). Duax mentions hearing a talk at the AIP meeting about reasons why industry would support a scientific society; they include:

- Access to the latest methods/technology
- Networking
- Recruiting
- Exposing their technology to the scientific community
- Collaboration with the society in community outreach

Teeter mentions that job postings are very attractive to members.

Canadian Division (Louise Dawes). Co-sponsoring 5 sessions with other SIGs. Teeter had previously asked how the choice was made about which sessions to co-sponsor. Dawes replies that either a Canadian SIG member is the session chair or there is a tie to the Canadian Light Source.

She notes that the Division has been concerned about the low number of Canadians renewing their ACA memberships. She suspects many have chosen to attend the IUCr meeting over the ACA meeting. The members of the Division are checking this hypothesis by polling Canadian members.

General interest (Peter Mueller). Sponsored 3 sessions: General Interest 1 & 2 plus a co-sponsored session on engaging undergraduates in crystallography. Candidates for SIG officers have been found. For 2015 the SIG would like to continue with General Interest 1 & 2; if there turns out to be a surplus of abstracts that can't be accommodated in other sessions, they are happy to expand to one or even two more General Interest sessions. They also suggest an educational session covering best practices in teaching crystallography; he notes the continuing education committee is on board with this idea.

Continuing education committee (Jeanette Krause). A report has been submitted. She offers clarification about the role of the CEC in workshops: The CEC no longer determines topics for workshops (since mid-90's); they currently evaluate proposals that have been submitted for workshops. She opines that this has led to a much-improved quality of workshops.

The committee has asked for a breakdown of who attends the workshops (e.g., are they largely students?).

She notes there has been a suggestion for a workshop on remote data collection. They are looking into this.

She notes there is no mechanism for reporting on how workshops went. The CEC plans to develop some standardized mechanism for evaluating/reporting workshops.

Considering the question, what can the CEC do about professional development: She relates that her experience with ACS professional development efforts has been poor (e.g., she reports about efforts to set up both mock and actual interviews, only to have students fail to show up). So while the idea is good, she notes that traditional clearinghouse approaches don't necessarily work. Cahill mentions that the YSSIG is thinking about this topic as well, and has plans for doing some things at 2015 meeting (like a facilitated networking meeting), but would like help from CEC.

Online training: There are many good ideas. It is desirable to capitalize on experience of more experienced crystallographers; one way to achieve this might be to partner younger tech-savvy groups with seasoned crystallographers, producing, possibly, You-tube video snippets. There is discussion that the ACA should provide a repository for all kinds of "good stuff," such as videos, PDFs of class notes, etc.

The committee is currently soliciting proposals for summer school; as far as they know, the only such proposal expected will be the proposal from Northwestern/Notre Dame.

Monday 27 May 2014

Fiber SIG: Joseph Orgel, chair-elect. A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Notes that there are a small number of members, and he recognizes a need to turn over the leadership. Some younger members have been worked in to leadership positions (he notes that some such members have been his mentees, which is unavoidable, given the small size of the field).

He indicates that they received very few abstracts for the pathologic fibril session, which was disappointing. He notes that some prospective speakers told him that the cost of registration was prohibitive; holding the meeting in expensive venues didn't help either. Given the tepid turnout, he decided to give this topic a rest for a year, and is planning another attempt for 2016. He notes that individuals who were trained at the BioCAT beamline in fiber work have been retained as ACA members.

Anna Llobet suggests that there might be synergy between fiber and neutron SIGs.

Materials SIG. Tyrel McQueen (chair). The SIG has developed a continuous set of sessions calculated to be of interest to the Materials, Neutron, and Powder SIGs. This year, they exploited the meeting's proximity to Los Alamos to have sessions on radiologicals. They also sponsored a single session on energy-relevant materials, which wasn't terribly well-attended. He suspects this was because people didn't want to attend a meeting over the Memorial Day weekend; national lab restrictions on travel didn't help either. He mentions Past Chair Peter Khalifah's interest in organizing training workshops associated with the solid-state chemistry meeting, and reports this is well on the way to happening. Another training opportunity is organized in conjunction with the IUCr meeting; a general theme is continued training, particularly for populations who don't necessarily self-identify as hard-core diffractionists.

Teeter asks that SIG chairs identify the main other societies to which their members belong. For materials, McQueen suggests the main "competing" societies are the ACS and American Physical Society; he notes that it's hard for many people to add a third society. However, he suggests that workshops on fundamentals would be very attractive (e.g. diffraction basics, pair-distribution function analysis).

Neutron SIG (Anna Allobet). Neutrons affect a very broad range of science, so their SIG members also belong to ACS, APS, & ACNS. She notes that for outreach, it would be useful for the ACA to partner with user facilities. For example, a beamline can share information about people using a specific technique (in order to advertise specific sessions). Also, sponsorship or other kinds of collaboration on neutron schools might be useful. For next year, the SIG has proposed a transactions symposium on the topic of new materials for a sustainable future. They also support workshops on basic Rietveld analysis for pharmaceutical scientists and PDF analysis. Proposed sessions include sessions on PDFs and pharmaceuticals (as follow-up to the workshop); local structure in complex materials (the complex materials session was very successful this year); sustainable & porous materials (building on the Transactions symposium); emerging phenomena; combined methods of analysis (pushing the envelope of methods development and analysis); and in situ studies.

Kaduk notes that ICDD will likely exhibit in Philadelphia (at the 2015 annual meeting), and thinks they should be encouraged to do some training. The SIGs should therefore coordinate with the ICDD to avoid duplication (particularly since the ICDD frequently runs training sessions on powder analysis and pharmaceuticals).

Powder SIG (Craig Brown). Notes that an effort is being made to recruit new staff and junior faculty to organize sessions, to help keep new blood in the SIGs. Also, knowing peers in the ACA helps members.

Notes that Materials, neutron, and powder SIGs did all their planning in collaboration, and co-sponsor all sessions (thereby forming the “MNP” group of SIGs).

Llobet mentions that some ACA mentorship program might be useful; Montemayor notes that the YSSIG is working on this.

Light source SIG (Marion Szebenyi). A report has been circulated. Six sessions have been well-attended at this meeting, with one exception (which she believes was due to a conflict with another session). Many proposals have emerged for next year, including serial crystallography, new capabilities, dynamics, and chemistry at the beamline. One possible tutorial is also being considered on serial crystallography. Allen Orville is the chair-elect. She notes that some light source facilities have user meetings that overlap with the May ACA meeting dates.

Having concluded the SIG and committee reports, the Council returns to some unfinished business.

Eric Montemayor notes that Yuliya Sevruina (the current YSSIG chair) will be YSSIG Council representative next year.

Cheryl Stevens offers the following motion, to formalize what has so far been done informally:

<p>MOTION</p>	<p>The membership of the Strategic Planning Committee will be composed of a Chair (Cheryl Stevens) and five members that include the CEO (Bill Duax), CFO (Rao), Administrative Officer (Marcia Colquhoun), George Phillips and Judy Flippen-Anderson. In addition the President and Vice President of ACA council will serve ex officio. Moreover, the Chair may invite additional members to serve <i>ex officio</i> as needed. (Stevens/Loll,</p>
----------------------	---

	unanimous).
--	--------------------

Kaduk notes that he has been speaking with vendors, and they have agreed to broadcast an ACA statement of value to their customers (in aid of increasing membership numbers).

Teeter evinces an interest in composing a survey to be sent to attendees, asking what they liked and didn't like about the meeting. Hackert suggests including demographic information on the registration form (for example, is a member's affiliation academic/govt/industrial, what are their areas of interest, geographic location, etc.). This would be a painless way to accumulate data that might help predict attendance trends, e.g., if an East Coast meeting loses West Coast attendees, etc.

Hackert notes that it might be nice to notify people who were nominated for awards, but didn't receive one. Alternatively, the ACA should at least notify the nominators of unsuccessful candidates.

Wednesday 28 May 2014

Service SIG (Peter Mueller). A report has been circulated. The Chair-elect is Bruce Noll. The SIG met Tuesday, with 23 members present. SSIG co-sponsored five sessions in Albuquerque. The "would you publish this?" session was not held this year, since it didn't receive any abstracts; however, anecdotally there was a lot of interest. Louise Dawe has undertaken to make sure this session will be well-populated in 2015. For 2015 the SIG wants to propose 1 full-day session and 4 or 5 half-day sessions. They are interested in starting a regular series (with Data committee) covering Standard Practices in Crystallography. Teeter notes this session would be worth videotaping. Candidates for chair-elect are reported.

Data, Standards, & Computing Committee (Tom Terwilliger). A report is in progress. Two main activities in past year have been to develop a statement of content for reviewers of macromolecular structure papers, and developing the idea of a joint session on Standard Practices (vide supra).

About the statement of content on reviewing macromolecular structure papers: Reviewers typically are not able to evaluate the quality of the structure based upon electron density maps (since they generally are not given access to the model and/or structure factors). Clearly, the best option would be for reviewers to be given access to the model and the SFs; this won't happen right away, but should be a target. A shorter-term goal would be to require pictures of omit maps of key regions that are discussed in the paper (for example, ligand-binding sites). The committee would like the ACA to endorse this statement, along the commission on biological macromolecules of the IUCr and the Asian and European crystallographic associations. James asks if such pictures would be included in supplementary info; Terwilliger says they will recommend this. This suggestion will be forwarded to the Council and to the BioMac SIG for consideration and feedback in the next few weeks.

Specific recommendations will include:

- A PDB validation report should be provided for each structure.
- Pictures of electron density should be provided for significant regions.
- Pictures of omit electron density should be provided for ligands and/or unusual features.
- If nonstandard procedures are used in processing, examples of raw images should be shown.

Action item	Terwilliger and colleagues on the DSC committee will forward their recommendations to Council and to the BioMac SIG within the next
--------------------	--

Small Molecule SIG (Amy Serjeant). The SIG is concerned that not all of the proposed sessions made it into the final program. They also noted that the Transactions symposium (which was originally envisioned as being of general interest) wound up being skewed toward macromolecular crystallography. In response, the SIG has proposed a large number of sessions for 2015 (4 ½-day and 2 full-day). They include: Small molecule summer school experiences and research (with an emphasis on science, not pedagogy); cool structures; important science from small molecules; best practices in data collection; crystal engineering; and best practices in education. They have identified chairs and co-chairs for all sessions, so they are in a good position to move forward. She notes that YSSIG members are interested in co-chairing sessions. Members of the SIG have been very active in IYCr14 activities. The SIG has formed a nominating committee to identify candidates for officers.

She reports that a question has arisen: What is known about the status of Acta E, and why did Thomson-Reuters stop providing an impact factor? Others reported that there are plans to re-launch the journal, with a distinction between research papers and archival papers.

Biomac SIG (Eddie Snell). Had 8 sessions at this meeting; two were cancelled, due to lack of abstracts. A report is provided.

Teeter notes that a webinar is scheduled to be given on the topic of Macromolecular Machines, and it would be useful to identify people in the SIG who would be good at fielding questions that might arise.

YSSIG (Yuliya Sevryugina). A very detailed report has been provided, and is discussed.

Small Angle (Angela Criswell). A report has been provided. Notes two sessions were cancelled due to low numbers of abstracts.

Several members of the SIG commented that talks were switched to different time slots without adequate notice; Colquhoun notes that last-minute cancellations are a perennial problem that leads to potentially confusing rearrangements in the program. Teeter suggests that any such changes be sent to the SIG chairs. In a related note, Teeter suggests that data committee should look at the available choices for apps to help attendees navigate meetings. An app was used at a previous meeting, but was found to be very useful; however, it seems likely that many different choices should be available.

Action item	Teeter will charge the Data, Standards, & Computing committee to research possible choices for apps to help attendees navigate meetings (find sessions, search abstracts, etc.).
--------------------	---

Teeter reports that many people told her that they thought the business meeting was for select individuals, even though it is stated in the abstract book that all members are invited. Cahill notes that the time slot for the business meeting tends to trivialize it; perhaps we should dedicate a longer time slot, so that it is not squeezed on either side by late sessions and by the poster session. For example, it might be possible to push back the poster session to 6:00-8:00 on the day of the business meeting.

Some people suggested that the treasurer's report given at the business meeting could be clearer, particularly for a general audience who is seeing the financial data for the first time.

Cahill notes that he has ideas for program chairs for 2016: Amy Sarjeant and Eddie Snell. These potential candidates are well received, so Cahill will formally approach them.

Conversation returns to the topic of a survey of members. What topics should be covered? For example, opinions can be solicited on the meeting itself, on the strategic plan, etc.. The question is raised about whether any proposed survey would require an ad hoc committee? Teeter notes that she has already done some surveys via Google.

Another question that is considered is what do the vendors really want for exhibit space? Montemayor will do some fact-finding about potential non-commercial (university) spaces, to see if such sites could prove acceptable to members.

Adjourn 14:10 28 May 2014