

Minutes GIG3 inaugural meeting

30 August 2016, Basel, ECM30, 13:00

Chairs of meeting: Chiara Massera (CM) and Annalisa Guerri (AG)

Welcome

CM welcomed the attendees and introduced the new GIG. In particular, she explained that the activities that had been suggested for the GIG were:

- To support the ECA Executive Educational Coordinator
- To aid in organisation of European Crystallographic Schools (ECSs)

In addition, CM mentioned that the GIG3 webpage is available on the ECAnews website but pointed out that content for the page is required; she called for suggestions in this regard.

ECS 2017 in Poland

Radoslaw Kaminski (RK) gave details regarding the planning of the next ECS in 2017:

Venue: Warsaw (Mercure Grand hotel). Date: 13-18.08.2017 was suggested, but RK explained that this might need to move to change to the end of October to avoid the black-out period around the IUCr, hence the date is still under discussion. It was pointed out that funding from the IUCr needs to be applied for 9 months before the meeting, so timing is important. RK indicated that the organisers are considering a two-track focus, with protein crystallography and dynamic crystallography being possibilities. It was pointed out that topics should be chosen so that there will not be overlap with previous ECSs and Durham and Zurich schools. It was also suggested that the real research of the host institution should be included in the content. The aim of the school should be to produce high level expertise.

RK indicated that the school would be aimed at PhD students, particularly those in Chemistry, with a level of prior knowledge of crystallography, which could be ensured by the students confirming that they have read suggested texts or seen a crystal structure determined beforehand. An alternative suggestion was that a pamphlet be put together with some fundamental concepts and questions that should be answered by the students prior to arrival at the School. It was also suggested that the students' application should include a CV and motivation as to why they should attend, as well as a reference from the supervisor.

It was further suggested that materials from previous schools should be shared. Links to the material will be added on the GIG3 webpage, along with a request that members add links any additional teaching material that they are willing to share.

Discussion of GIG3 responsibilities

Curricula of courses on crystallography in universities: CM communicated a suggestion that she had received by email that GIG3 could be involved in formulating curricula on crystallography in universities, but it was felt that this could probably not be easily implemented. It was pointed out that having materials available could help, since an outline could reduce time necessary to prepare a new

course. A revised website such as the Spanish one (<http://www.xtal.iqfr.csic.es/Cristalografia/index-en.html>) could also be useful.

Wikipedia: A suggestion was made that the community could be more active on Wikipedia.

Cooperations: The suggestion was made that GIG3 should liaise with other Crystallography Associations and IUCr Commission regarding their initiatives.

Continual Professional Development: There was a suggestion that the GIG should introduce and/or oversee Continual Professional Development. It was mentioned that Italy has a programme where teachers are paid to attend courses at universities, positive feedback regarding crystallography courses attended, while the ACA has a committee for what it calls Continuing Education.

Microsymposia at ECMs: An important role of the GIG should be to ensure that there is a session on teaching, with a proper microsymposium at next ECM. It was suggested that there should be a GIG3 representative on the ECM programme committee. Alessia Bacchi announced that speakers at the ECM would have a special dispensation that they would be able to speak at the teaching microsymposium in addition to giving a research talk.

Scientific education conferences: A suggestion was made that GIG3 should propose crystallography as a topic at scientific education conferences, e.g. on Chemistry or Biology Teaching for schools and/or universities.

Teaching material: Part of GIG3's responsibility should be to make pamphlets and teaching materials for schools and undergraduate university programmes available. It was pointed out that an Italian book written for secondary schools for the IYCr is available (also in English and Spanish) on the IUCr website.

Open session: Santiago Garcia-Grandé explained that the idea of an open session for teachers and students (school/undergraduate), will be tested at the Oviedo ECM in 2018.

Closing

AG thanked the GIG members present for their attendance and valuable suggestions and closed the meeting at 13:55.