

## **General Interest Group for Senior Crystallographers**

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At the 25th ECM in Istanbul, 2009, Theo Hahn and I discussed the idea of setting up an Interest Group for old crystallographers. The then President, John Helliwell, suggested that a proposal to the Executive Committee should be submitted, which I did, by making the following observations:

The proposed GIG might as a beginning discuss the following matters:

Readability of conference Programme and Abstract Books should be improved by the use of bigger Font sizes and by avoiding the use of low contrasts such as using black print on grey or red backgrounds.

Audibility of oral presentations would be facilitated by making sure that equipment for Tele coils and FM in auditoria are activated if available. Ideally, such facilities should be standard equipment.

Conference buildings with as few stairs as possible should be chosen for future meetings.

Formal and informal sessions on the history of crystallography should be established while some old crystallographers are still around. Few are left who have actually met P. P. Ewald, Lawrence Bragg, P.W.J. Debye, Ivar Waller etc.

Some of the disabilities that inevitably follow with increasing age may also strike younger people and it might be of interest to know if young colleagues are actually prevented from attending meetings because of disabilities.

As the average life expectancy is increasing and as the EU has banned age discrimination it may not be unreasonable to expect that the number of old crystallographers may increase at future conferences.

Further activity was a bit slow but at the IUCr meeting in Madrid in 2011 the Executive Committee of the ECA appointed me as an interim chairman and Paul Beurskens as co-chairman for the establishment of a General Interest Group for Senior Crystallographers.

Thanks to the dedicated help from the then Secretary, Petra Bombics, the formalities of establishing the GIG were completed and the Group was formally established by the Executive Committee at the ECA meeting in Bergen in 2012.

The main event organized by this GIG was a lecture By Theo Hahn on the history of successive editions of International Tables for Crystallography.

At the Bergen Meeting I resigned as chairman and Hans- Beat Bürgi was elected chairman and Paul Beurskens continued as co-chairman.

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