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SIG: Molecular Structure and Chemical Properties (SIG13)

Reported Period: 2008-2009 (September 2008-May 2009)

Report Date: 18th June 2009

Reported by: Fernando J. LAHOZ (SIG Chair)

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1. Introduction.

In the past year SIG13 has concentrated on two types of activities: the collaboration with ECM25 program committee to assure a proper representation of SIG topics of interest in the Istanbul congress and, in the renewal and implementation of a new organization of the SIG. The election of new SIG officers was agreed at a special meeting during the last IUCr Congress in Osaka.

2. Past Activities.

Title: SIG13 Assembly (held in Osaka, August 2008)

Number of Participants: 20-25

Sponsors/Organizers: Prof. Carlo Mealli and Prof. Fernando J. Lahoz

Short Description: Through an informal invitation, SIG13 carried out a meeting in Osaka where more than 20 colleagues, from, at least 7 countries, analyzed the SIG's situation. As a result of the discussion, a renewal of SIG officers was decided. All participants in this meeting were happy to express their gratitude to Prof. Wilson who has chaired our SIG since its creation in 2004.

Title: Coordination of proposals for ECM25 scientific program

Number of Participants: 12

Sponsors/Organizers: Coordinated by Prof. Fernando J. Lahoz

Short Description: A discussion over e-mail was established in order to present proposals for ECM25 scientific program: 12 colleagues from 6 countries participated in the process. In particular, from the final SIG13 proposal, 3 keynote lectures and 9 microsymposia were selected by the Program Committee.

Title: Renovation and update of SIG web-page

Number of Participants: 3

Sponsors/Organizers: Coordinated by Prof. Alessandra Crispini

Short Description: A new look for the SIG sponsorship is at work, with the establishment of a new logo and a reorganized web-page (<http://sig13.ecanews.org>). New important items have been included in order to keep informed the scientific community about SIG activities. An automatic procedure for sending information of potential interest for SIG members is under design.

3. Future/Programmed Activities.

Title: General SIG13 Assembly

Sponsors/Organizers: Prof. F.J. Lahoz, P.R. Raithby and A. Crispini

Short Description: The vitality of a SIG will be discussed. Proposal for additional future activities will be evaluated. The proposal of implementing a steering committee will be considered and, if this is the case, approved. The nomination of SIG officers, ECM26

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SIG representative and starting steering committee members should be undertaken. A list of arguments to be discussed will be sent to SIG members before the meeting.

Title: Implementing the Steering committee.

Sponsors/Organizers: Coordinated by SIG13 Officers

Short Description: The steering committee will be formed by at least one representative of each country in ECA. This committee will have two main objectives: to identify local news and activities of interest for the SIG members and to diffuse initiatives from the SIG officers into their local communities.

Title: Final updating of SIG web-page (specially implementing the mailing list)

Sponsors/Organizers: Coordinated by Prof. Alessandra Crispini (involving officers and steering committee members)

Short Description: Trying to publicise the existence of the SIG and to create a member list, together with an associated mailing list. A clear, automatic and simple mechanism to become member of SIG and, to deposit references of interest to our SIG, has to be put into action.

4. Other matters.

The SIG also lent its support to a number of national meetings and crystallography schools. We could mention the BCA Spring Meeting at the University of Loughborough, the Intensive School on Small Molecule Crystallography at the University of Durham, or the International Master on Crystallography run by the Spanish Menendez Pelayo University. At all these events SIG members participated fully in the scientific programmes.

5. Five year ‘overview’, brief activity report (2005-2009)

During the past five years the SIG has contributed significantly to the scientific programmes at all the ECM and IUCr congresses, successfully proposing topics for microsymbiosia and suggesting keynote speakers. SIG members have participated enthusiastically in all these meetings and promoted the importance of the relationship between the chemical structure and the properties of molecular materials. SIG members have also contributed to national meetings in the area of “small molecule” structural chemistry, again promoting the importance and relevance of SIG13 (a more detailed report was done by Prof. Chick Wilson last year).

6. Estimated number of active members: 20-30 (but clearly increasing through informal contacts)

7. List SIG officers, name and e-mail, and specify their main function in the SIG:

* *Chair:* Prof. Fernando J. Lahoz (responsible for the general coordination of the SIG, and specially for interacting with the steering committee)

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* *Co-chair*: Prof. Paul R. Raithby (responsible for coordination of the SIG activities and for implementing/distributing news of SIG interest)

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* *Secretary*: Prof. Alessandra Crispini (responsible for the SIG web-page and for maintaining the SIG member list)

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Supplementary Materials.

(List of all supplementary materials, if any, related to the SIG report)

- Addendum 1 to n (to be sent in separate files)

NOTE: DO NOT FORGET TO SEND THE UPDATED LIST OF YOUR SIG OFFICERS

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