

**GIG-2 Senior Crystallographers**  
**Reported Period: 2022–2023**  
**Report Date: 10 September 2023**  
**Reported by: Bill Clegg**

### **1. Introduction and group activity**

During the period since ECM32 in Vienna GIG-2 has had essentially no organized group activity because of the continuing legacy of Covid-19 and the vulnerability of people of this age bracket, which has markedly reduced the number of GIG-2 members taking part in person in conferences. Although a relatively small number of our members attended ECM33 in Versailles and contributed significantly to its programme, only 2 turned up for the scheduled GIG-2 lunchtime meeting. In any case the meeting was not viable because the conference organisers had assigned it to the same room as a crowded and noisy poster session, making any discussion impossible.

### **2. GIG web site:**

<https://ecanews.org/groups/gig-02/> (This has not been updated for some time)

### **3. Number of ECA individual members registered with the GIG-2 according to** **(<http://www.xray.cz/eca/im-payment.htm>)**

Attempts to obtain this information from the ECA website continue to produce error messages as in previous years, so we do not have the information.

### **4. Existence of a GIG-2 mailing list: YES**

**Address of mailing list: Maintained by the interim secretary, Prof. Helen Stoeckli-Evans**

**Number of members in the GIG-2 mailing list: believed to be ca. 85–90**

The GIG-2 aims to maintain communication with its members by irregular updates *via* e-mail and on its website. An e-mail update was circulated in August 2021. We plan to provide a new update in late 2023 with an attempt to organize an online meeting for members, so that various matters can be discussed before a formal in-person meeting is possible at ECM34 in 2024.

### **5: Approximate numbers of researchers involved in the GIG-2 (please indicate the basis for the estimate)**

It is estimated that about 80% of our members, many of whom are professionally retired, continue to be deeply involved in research, teaching and engagement, judging from recent publications and personal websites. Because of the current circumstances, no update to this information from 2020 has been attempted.

### **6. List of MS organized by GIG-2 at the last ECM (ECM33 in Versailles, 2022)**

For ECM33 the three General Interest Groups of ECA (GIG-1 Young Crystallographers, GIG-2 Senior Crystallographers, and GIG-3 Crystallographic Education) discussed and jointly submitted a set of proposed Microsymposia. Those that were included in the final programme were: “What is inside the black box?”, “New horizons in teaching crystallography in the 21st century”, “Reproducibility in crystallography”, and “What should undergraduate students learn about crystallography?”

In addition, GIG-2 helped to organize the special plenary session “Gold and silver: treasures of European crystallography” to celebrate 50 years of European Crystallographic Meetings and 25 years of the European Crystallographic Association, many of the speakers being also GIG-2 members. The present GIG-2 Chair, Bill Clegg, was awarded the 12th Max Perutz Prize and gave the prize lecture at the beginning of the meeting.

All these sessions proved very popular; one of them was allocated to a room that was far too small for the aspiring audience (as happened also at ECM33 in Vienna); programme committees need to recognize that general-interest sessions are likely to attract relatively large audiences.

## **7. Prizes sponsored/coordinated.**

None at present.

## **8. Past activities other than Microsymposia and other programme elements at ECM**

None this year.

## **9. Future/Programmed Activities**

**ECM34:** Padova, Italy, 2024

Several Microsymposia have been proposed, once again jointly with or having support from GIG-1 and/or GIG-3. The accepted proposals are as follows.

1. How to address questions, doubts and struggles of a young crystallographer.
2. Things we no longer need to know - or do we?
3. Approaches and tools for learning crystallography efficiently and avoiding misconceptions.
4. Common mistakes and problems in using black boxes.
5. What I learnt from Erice. This marks 50 years of Erice crystallography schools. Rather than a standard MS, this will have a different format with a keynote lecture and short contributions from those who have attended Erice schools and benefited from them.
6. Inclusion – not only in crystals: diversity in crystallography. This is also planned as a special session with a round-table discussion format.

In addition, the three GIGs proposed keynote lectures as follows.

Mona Samer Minkara: Unseen Advantage – The story of a blind chemist.

Anthony Linden: The evolution of crystallographic software tools and their efficacy in teaching.

Giovanna Scapin: The 50-year crystallographic legacy of Erice (this will probably form part of the special session 5 described above).

## **10. Other Matters**

None at present. GIG-2 will hope to resume in-person activities at ECM34, and at least one online group discussion before that.

## **11. Brief annual activity report**

Until March 2020, and particularly at ECM32 in Vienna, GIG-2 continued principally to promote the interests of the members of the group. Greater collaboration and interaction has been sought with GIG-1 and GIG-3, particularly in joint proposals for ECM Microsymposia and exploring the possibility of other common interests. This was successful in respect of ECM33 Microsymposia, and has been further developed in planning for ECM34 (both Microsymposia and Keynote lectures).

## **12. GIG officers, name and e-mail, and specify their main function in the GIG.**

Chair:	Bill Clegg	bill.clegg@ncl.ac.uk
Co-Chair (interim):	Helen Stoeckli-Evans	helen.stoeckli-evans@unine.ch
Secretary (interim):	Helen Stoeckli-Evans	helen.stoeckli-evans@unine.ch
Webmaster:	v a c a n t	

Other committee members

George Ferguson	gf3@st-andrews.ac.uk
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Ton Spek	a.l.spek@uu.nl
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Enrique Gutierrez Puebla	egutierrez@icmm.csic.es
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Helen Stoeckli-Evans wishes to relinquish these posts and we will seek new officers as soon as possible, this being one purpose of an online meeting of GIG-2 members.