

Minutes of the GIG2 Members Meeting at ECM31

Oviedo, August 23, 2018, Room Naranco, 13-14h

Present: 11 Persons

Chair: Carlo Mealli (CM)

Members: Ben-Abraham Shelomo, Menahem Kaftory, Mike Glazer, Tom Spek, Sine Larsen, Bill Clegg, Tom Blundell, Jeremy Karl Cockroft, Engin Kendi, Jürg Schefer (JS)

1. Opening remarks:

The Chair: Carlo Mealli (CM) welcomes all the participants, also on behalf of the secretary Helen Stoeckli-Evans, who apologizes for not being present. Her precious work in the support of the GIG2 activities is warmly acknowledged. Then, CM briefly illustrates the main perspectives of the group. It is hoped that many GIG2 members may be willing to offer their own experience in favour of the younger generation. Also, with sadness, CM recalls the departure of some renowned colleagues, amongst which he mentions Howard Flack and Davide Viterbo. To remember Davide, he mentions that, as chairperson, he will dedicate a few words to him during the GIG2 microsymposium (MS46) entitled: "Contributions to and of Crystallography"

CM anticipates that the discussions today will be mainly devoted to the possible new initiatives of the group. Also, he invites the audience to both solicit the entrance of new members but also the presentation of new candidacies for the steering committee.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the GIG2 meeting at ECM30 in Basel, 2016

(sent by e-mail) the point is approved

3. Summary of the Activity Report 2017-2018

(sent my e-mail) approved

4. Election of the GIG2 committee for the period 2018-2019

After some discussion, the following GIG2 members agree to remain in charge for another year (Vienna, 2019): Carlo Mealli, Helen Stoeckli-Evans, Menahem Kaftory, Joel Bernstein, Mongi Debbabi

A new committee will be elected for the period 2019-2021 at ECM32 in Vienna.

(A two year period as there will not be an ECM meeting in 2020, the year of the IUCr Congress)

5. GIG-SC member to participate in the program committee of ECM32 in Vienna 2019

Carlo Mealli

6. Future developments of GIG2

The following points were introduced by the chair:

1) Brief illustration of the GIG2 microsymposium MS46 for ECM 31, chaired by Sine Larsen and CM, with the following excellent speakers, Gernot Kostorz, Eleanor Dodson, Gernot Hager, Engin Kendi and Giovanni Ferraris.

2) Initiatives for the ECM32 in Wien with the possibility of a joint MS with petrography. For this, the GIG2 members, who are not present, will be consulted by email.

3) Possible actions to find new GIG2 members: every person in the audience should try to convince close colleagues, assuming that they are already individual members of the ECA.

4) Attract more attention to GIG2. This could be done for instance with the institution of a special GIG2 poster prize, which requires the availability of some funding potentially offered by sponsors. The latter can be consulted already at the present meeting, while for any new ideas the secretary should be contacted (helen.stoeckli-evans@unine.ch)

Discussion

A key point has been on whether the next GIG2 MS should be devoted to various historical aspects of crystallography (as often done till now) or focused on practical suggestions based on the experiences already made by older crystallographers and made available to the younger ones.

Bill Clegg mentions that old techniques may be lost as standard machines are more and more dominating, hence it is important that this knowledge is preserved.

Bill Glazer proposes to use the IUCr newsletter as a platform to publish articles on the basic techniques as well as on older instrumentation.

Tom Blundell agrees, but also thinks a look into the future may be even more important including for the older generation who may also have ideas on future developments. History is important, but the future is even more so.

Teaching:

Sine Larsen highlights the importance of the space group teaching, as new machines come with full software packages as black-boxes, so users do not see how the choice of space group is made.

Consequently, many crystallographic mistakes now appear in the literature. As a proposal, Sine Larsen and Bill Clegg could chair a session on space groups in Vienna at ECM 32. JS proposes to include magnetic space groups to attract physicists and chemists.

Steering committee:

Present members are Carlo Mealli (Chair), Jürg Schefer (Co-chair), Helen Stoeckli-Evans (Secretary-webmaster), officers: Menahem Kraftory, Joel Bernstein, Mongi Debbabi.

New elections will be held in 2019 at ECM32 in Vienna.

Look for new members of the GIG2 board as several of the present members will withdraw in 2019.

August 23, 2018, 13-14h

Jürg Schefer/Carlo Mealli