

Special Interest Group (SIG) 13 – Molecular Structure and Chemical Properties

Minutes of Meeting at ECM30 2016

Date: Wednesday, 31 August 2016
Time: 13h00-14h00
Place: Basel Congress Centre, Singapore Hall

Present:

Petra Bombicz (PB) (Co-Chair)
Clive Oliver (CO) (Secretary)
Luigi Nassimbeni (LN)
Ulli Englert (UE)
Chiara Massera (CM)
Mark Elsegood (ME)
Alexander Blake (AB)
Carl Schwalbe (CS)
Fernando J. Lahoz (FL)
David Cordes (DC)

Apologies:

Alessandra Crispini (Chair of SIG13) (AC)

Agenda for meeting:

- 1) SIG-13 Officers report 2016
- 2) Discussion about cooperation between SIG-13 members
- 3) Proposal of SIG-13 triennial meeting on specific themes
- 4) Any other business.

1 Welcome and apologies

PB welcomed members of SIG-13. AC recorded her apologies via email prior to the meeting.

2 SIG-13 Officers report 2016

PB reported on the SIG13 annual report for the period June 2015 – June 2016. Discussions arising from the report included updating of the SIG-13 website in terms of adding content to the “Scope and Objectives” section, to include more activities and thus improving visibility and publicity of SIG-13. CO mentioned that the new website is intended to be used for the dissemination of information to SIG-13 members (the meeting notice was also sent via the website), thus negating the need to have a continually updated e-mail list. However, several members of the members present did not receive the notification via the website forum. This may be due to individual email settings of SIG-13 members. CO will investigate with Fermin Otalora. PB mentioned that AC sent a request for past and future SIG-13 related activities a few weeks preceding the meeting for inclusion into the report. SB indicated that the British Crystallographic Association (BCA) meetings of 2016 and 2017 could be included into the report and suggest that the secretary of the BCA be contacted for this information (CO to follow up). SIG-13 members should also be contacted again for past and future SIG-13 related activities (CO to follow up). Currently, SIG-13 is not awarding any prizes at ECMs. PB suggests that this should be investigated with SIG-13 possibly awarding prizes for a best lecture or poster. This may be especially important to students in terms of recognition and generating interest in SIG-13 activities. CAMs can be contacted for sponsoring SIG-13 prize.

3 Discussion about cooperation between SIG-13 members and proposal of SIG-13 triennial meeting on specific themes

Cooperation between SIG-13 members is important and a suggestion by AC (via email prior to the meeting) was that SIG-13 should hold a triennial SIG-13 meeting in the year of the IUCr meeting, especially if the IUCr meeting is outside of Europe. FL confirmed that he has had discussion with AC about this. FL supports the idea in principle, but is concerned in terms of existing time constraints on members and also financial considerations in terms of travel. He suggest that a SIG-13 meeting rather be attached to an ECM meeting in terms of location. Such a meeting could be held on day 0 of the ECM. (Coincidence with GIG1 lecture day and with workshops held on day 0.) SB supports that it be in the year of the IUCr with UE suggesting that it may also take place where the IUCr meeting is. AC has suggested that a 1st meeting could be held at Calabria in April 2017. The offer of AC was welcomed and considered to be very gracious in terms of AC offering her time and efforts to host such a meeting. SB was concerned that both the BCA crystallography school and the UK National Crystallography meeting will happen around the same period. CO also noted that the ICCOSS meeting will also happen in April 2017. UE wondered what numbers of SIG-13 members would be attending such a meeting and noted that the SIG-13 membership (191) is about the same size as the Swiss Crystallographic Association. He thinks that an attendance of ~30 members could make such a meeting viable. Open questions included financial support for the meeting, financial background of participants for participation, cheap accommodation and length of the meeting. It was decided that further discussion should happen via email and that it should be relayed to AC that her offer is much appreciated and that investigation of holding such a meeting should be strongly pursued by SIG-13 members.

4 Any other business

CO and PB participated in the ECM31 Programme Committee (PC) meeting held the previous day (Tuesday 30 August) as SIG-13 representatives. The most immediate request from the ECM31 PC was that each SIG/GIG should email FL with the name of their representative. PB relayed in the SIG-13 meeting that AC proposed CO as the SIG-13 representative on the ECM31 PC. FL supported this proposal. The name should be sent to FL before the end of October 2016. Cooperation between SIGs in organisation of shared microsymbosia is strongly supported by ECM31 PC as well as the judicious choice of chairs. Proposals for plenary and keynote lectures, microsymbosia and chairs need to be submitted to the ECM31 organisers before 1st Feb 2016. The scientific programme of ECM31 is planned to be nearly finalized by the time of the IUCr meeting in Hyderabad in August 2017. UE suggested cooperation with SIG-02 (Charge, Spin and Momentum Density) and will follow up terms of initiating talks with SIG-02 in this regard. CO should also investigate cooperation with other SIGs.

PB closed the meeting and thanked members for their attendance.