

## **GIG-02 Senior Crystallographers**

**Reported Period: 2024–2025**

**Report Date: 15 August 2025**

**Reported by: Bill Clegg**

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

During the period since ECM32 in Vienna GIG-02 has had little 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-02 members taking part in person in conferences; this appears now to be slowly recovering. A number of our members attended ECM34 in Padova and contributed significantly to its programme. Around half a dozen came to the scheduled lunchtime joint meeting of GIG-01 and GIG-02.

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

<https://ecanews.org/groups/gig-02/> The old website has been replaced by a new one using a template and tools provided by the ECA Webmaster. GIG-02 is currently without a Webmaster, so this new page is rather rudimentary at present. It includes some basic information, a collection of documents and reports copied from the old website, copies of GIG-02 updates sent to known members by email in the last few years, and an option for joining a newly created email distribution list (which has had very little response so far). Further progress will depend on volunteer contributions from GIG-02 members and this will be discussed during our allocated joint GIG meeting time at ECM35 and in future email appeals.

### **3. Existence of a GIG-02 mailing list: YES**

An old list, dating from 2020, was passed by the former GIG-02 Secretary to the GIG-02 Chair and, as far as possible, updated with the help of entries in the IUCr World Directory of Crystallographers and by removal of addresses generating error responses when circular email messages are broadcast using it. Number of members in the GIG-02 mailing list not currently bouncing: 64. It is hoped in due course to have a reliable email distribution list generated from the registration option in the GIG-02 website, but this is likely to take some time and require several reminders sent out using the current list.

GIG-02 aims to maintain communication with its members by irregular updates *via* e-mail and on its website. Most recently these have been sent out in 2021, 2024 and 2025. Few members send comments and replies.

### **5: Approximate numbers of researchers involved in the GIG-02 (please indicate the basis for the estimate)**

It is estimated (not particularly reliably) that at least half of our members, most or all of whom are professionally retired, continue to be involved in research, teaching and engagement, judging from publications, personal websites, and other online presence and activities.

### **6. List of MS organized by GIG-02 at the last ECM (ECM34 in Padova, 2024) and this year's ECM35 in Poznan**

For both of these meetings the three General Interest Groups of ECA (GIG-01 Young Crystallographers, GIG-02 Senior Crystallographers, and GIG-03 Crystallographic Education) discussed and jointly submitted a set of proposed Microsymposia. Those that were included in the final programme for ECM34 were: “How to address questions, doubts and struggles of a young crystallographer” (chaired by GIG-01 and GIG-02 representatives), “Things we no longer need to know – or do we?”, “Common mistakes and problems in using black boxes”, “Approaches and tools for learning crystallography efficiently and avoiding misconceptions”, and “ISCoC 50th anniversary: memories from the past, present and views for the future” (a special session marking 50 years of Erice crystallography schools), as well as a Keynote lecture on “The evolution of crystallographic software tools and their efficacy in teaching endeavours” given by Tony Linden and one on

“Detecting the unseen: living with neurological disorder” given by Helena Butkiewicz. All these sessions, as for the GIG-sponsored sessions at ECM33 in Versailles, proved very popular; it is our experience that they are often allocated to rooms that are too small for the aspiring audience (as happened also at ECM32 in Vienna); **programme committees need to recognize that general-interest sessions are likely to attract relatively large audiences.**

For Poznan (ECM35, 2025) a similar approach has led to the inclusion of microsymposia on “How to... successfully apply for funding”, “Publishing crystallography”, “Exploiting crystallographic databases in solving, refining, and validating crystal structures” and “Potential of online courses in crystallography” as well as a Keynote lecture by Suzanna Ward on “Breaking boundaries, creating connections: the Cambridge Structural Database at 60”.

Members of General Interest Groups were prominent in the entries for the Science Slam event at ECM34, first prize for which was awarded by popular acclaim to Bill Clegg for a specially written and performed song about crystallographic problems.

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

None at present.

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

GIG-02 has worked together with GIG-01 to develop and promote the new ECA mentoring programme GEMS, initially proposed by GIG-02. This was introduced at an ECA lunchtime seminar in May 2025 after approval by the ECA Executive Committee, and a limited-scale pilot scheme will be launched officially during ECM35. It is expected that mentees will come largely from GIG-01 and mentors are being sought from among members of GIG-02 and GIG-03 among other sections of ECA.

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

**ECM36:** Prague, Czech Republic, 2027

Planning for this meeting has not yet begun. There will be a preliminary meeting of a programme committee during ECM35, at which I will represent GIG-02, and a more substantial meeting has been proposed, to be held during 2026 in Prague. It is likely the three GIG will once again coordinate their proposals, as this has proved to be an effective and successful mechanism for generating popular microsymposia appealing to wide audiences.

## **10. Other Matters**

None at present. GIG-02 is hoping for a continuing gradual recovery from the impact of Covid, with increasing attendance of its members at crystallographic meetings. New officers will need to be elected during ECM36 in 2027.

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

Chair: Bill Clegg [bill.clegg@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:bill.clegg@ncl.ac.uk)

Webmaster: vacant

Other officers without specific designated roles:

George Ferguson [gf3@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:gf3@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Ton Spek [a.l.spek@uu.nl](mailto:a.l.spek@uu.nl)

Enrique Gutierrez Puebla [egutierrez@icmm.csic.es](mailto:egutierrez@icmm.csic.es)

John Helliwell [john.helliwell@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:john.helliwell@manchester.ac.uk)