

## **REPORT OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE XXIII<sup>rd</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE IUCr, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, August 2014.**

**Canadian delegates: Joe Schrag (Chair), Michael James and David Rose. Secretary and Alternate Canadian Representative: Marie Fraser**

Michael James, David Rose and Marie Fraser were present Aug. 6; David Rose and Marie Fraser, Aug. 7; Joe Schrag, Michael James and Marie Fraser, Aug. 11, 2014.

The General Assembly opened on Aug. 6 at 19:30 h with Professor G.R. Desiraju chairing. In the opening remarks, Prof. Desiraju highlighted the concerning financial situation, along with changes in the research landscape. Increased reliance by funding agencies on metrics, more publications from scientists in developing countries, and the interdisciplinary nature of the science of crystallography are affecting the financial status of the IUCr journals. The Journals are intended not only to be self-sufficient but to provide a profit to support initiatives of the IUCr. To address the changes affecting the journals, the Journals Management Board was established, whose goal is to increase the impact of the IUCr journals. The International Year of Crystallography served to re-launch the journals with new subtitles and formats.

4. Appendix 1. *Approval of the Agenda*. The full agenda was approved.
5. Appendix 3. *Application for Membership of the Union*. Costa Rica, Pakistan, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela, Morocco, Malta, Camaroon, Algeria, Cote d'Ivoire, and Democratic Republic of Congo all applied for membership of the IUCr in Category I. Costa Rica, Pakistan, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela, Morocco, Camaroon and Algeria were accepted. For Cote d'Ivoire and Democratic Republic of Congo, the decision was made to defer because of the need for further information. For Malta, the same decision to defer was made, but in addition to needing further information, a representative must present the application.
6. Appendix 4. *Withdrawal of Adhering Bodies*. The dues have not been paid by the Adhering Body in Chile. The vote was postponed, giving more time for Chile to respond. The decision made on Aug. 11 was to continue the suspension of the Adhering Body for Chile.
7. Appendix 5. *Change of Names of Adhering Bodies*. The Adhering Body for the Regional Committee of Crystallographers from Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam was renamed to include Indonesia: Regional Committee of Crystallographers from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The Adhering Body for the Regional Committee of Crystallographers from Algeria, Latvia, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine was renamed to the Regional Committee of Crystallographers from Latvia, Tunisia, and Ukraine because of the acceptance of Algeria, Morocco and Turkey as members (Appendix 3).
8. Appendix 7. *Approval of the Minutes*. The Minutes of the XXII<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly were approved without change.

9. Appendix 9. *Report of the Executive Committee*. This report was given in detail in the Agenda.
10. Appendix 10. *Financial Report*. The General Secretary and Treasurer of the IUCr, Professor L. Van Meervelt, gave a short report on the financial state of the IUCr.

The total assets have decreased by CHF 62,180 to CHF 4,596,542, or 1.3% over the triennium. This is primarily because of expenses associated with the International Year of Crystallography in 2014 and the Union, which had a small profit in 2011 and 2012, is expected to return to that state.

11. Appendix 11. The Ewald Prize, consisting of a medal, a certificate and an award of USD 30,000, which is shared if awarded to more than one scientist, was established in 1986 for outstanding contributions to the science of crystallography. At the Congress Opening Ceremony in Montreal, the tenth Ewald Prize was presented to Professor A. Janner and to Professor T.W.J.M. Janssen for the development of superspace crystallography and its application to the analysis of aperiodic crystals.
12. Appendix 12. Dr. Michele Zema presented on events of the International Year of Crystallography, including the OpenLab. More details are in the agenda, which additionally refers to the website. The Executive thanked Dr. Zema.
13. Appendix 13. *Commission on Journals*. Professor Samar Hasnain focused on the need to publish high impact science in the journals. A full report on the state of the *Acta Crystallographica* series was included in the Agenda.
14. Appendix 14. *Commission on International Tables*. Professor Carol Brock reported that revised versions of F and D came out. The next two will be out in 2015. All eight volumes are available in print and online. The new initiative is volume I on EXAFS.
15. Appendix 15. *Committee for the Maintenance of the CIF Standard (COMCIFS)*. Professor G.R. Desiraju spoke very briefly.
16. Appendix 16. *IUCr Newsletter*. Professor G.R. Desiraju spoke briefly on a new format, possibly a webpage like the IYCr's.
17. Appendix 17. *Diffraction Data Deposition Working Group*. Professor John Helliwell reported on the big data challenge of linking our raw data to our publications. In some fields, data becomes publicly available in three years if there is no publication. The recommendations of the working group included:
  - IUCr Commissions to define their metadata
  - *J.Appl.Cryst.* to introduce a "Difficult Raw Data" Section (Loes Kroon-Batenburg)
  - Centralised crystallographic repository of raw data set metadata should be scoped, including a search interface leading to a pilot service

- With a viable pilot metadata registry authors should provide a permanent and prominent link from an article to their raw data sets underpinning a journal publication.
18. Appendix 18. *IUCr/Oxford University Press Book Series Committee*. The report is in the appendix.
  19. Appendix 19. *Non-publishing Commissions*. Before the General Assembly, the Executive Committee had met with the members of all 17 Non-Publishing Committees. The reports of the commissions were received and the Chairs or a representative of the chair were each asked if they wished to speak to the report. Each report was open to questions from the General Assembly. There was a question about voting in the Commissions. The decision was made to have the new Executive decide on a policy.
  20. Appendix 20. *Proposals for New Commissions*. A proposal for a Commission on NMR Crystallography and Related Methods had been received. The Executive Committee recommended that the proposal be accepted. This was approved by the General Assembly. **R.E. Wasylishen (Canada) (NMR inorganic materials)** is proposed as a member of this Commission.
  21. Appendix 21. *Review of existing Commissions*. There were no recommendations.
  22. Appendix 22. *Determination of the number of elected members on each Commission*. All of the proposed changes to numbers of members on the Commissions were approved by the General Assembly. Neutron Scattering was to drop by one, XAFS to increase by two.
  23. Appendix 23. The report of the regional associates were accepted.
  24. Appendix 24. The Latin-American Crystallographic Association's application to become a Regional Associate was unanimously accepted.
  25. Appendix 25. *Bodies not belonging to the Union*. Reports were acknowledged.
  26. Appendix 26. *Sponsorship of Meetings* **Hanna Dabkowska (Canada)** was thanked for her work on this committee for which she was chair. She acknowledged the thanks and asked applicants to submit their requests for support more than 9 months ahead, as soon as the meeting was set.
  27. Appendix 27. *Confirmation of the Date and Place of the 24<sup>th</sup> Congress and General Assembly*. The location of the XXIV<sup>th</sup> Congress and General Assembly was confirmed as Hyderabad, India August 2017.
  28. Appendix 28. *Preliminary consideration of date and place of the XXV<sup>th</sup> General Assembly*. There were two groups applying for consideration to hold the 25<sup>th</sup> Congress and General Assembly. The Regional Committee of the Czech and Slovak Crystallographic Association proposed to hold the Congress in Prague, and the French Crystallographic Association

proposed to hold the Congress in Paris, France. After a secret ballot, **the XXV<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and Congress was provisionally scheduled for Prague in August 2020.** This is to be confirmed at the General Assembly in Hyderabad in 2017.

29. Appendix 29. There were no comments, so the length and timing of the next congress was approved.
30. Appendix 30. There were no comments.
31. Appendix 31. **Budget Estimates. The recommendation that the Unit Contribution remain at its current level was approved. This Contribution was set at the Beijing meeting in 1993, 21 years ago.**
32. Appendix 32. *Confirmation of appointments of Editors of publications for the Union.* S.S. Hasnain was confirmed as Editor-in-Chief for the IUCr Journals and C.P. Brock as General Editor of International Tables. The re-appointment of all the other editors was also confirmed. **Among these were the Canadians: I.D. Brown, A.J. Lough and M. Parvez for Acta E, B. Hazes and G.G. Privé for Acta F.**
33. Appendix 33. The recommendation of the Executive Committee for appointments and re-appointments were approved by the General Assembly. **Among these are the Canadians: P. L. Howell, Commission on Biological Macromolecules; P. Mercier, Commission on Crystallographic Computing and Commission on Inorganic and Mineral Structures; I.P. Swainson, Commission on Neutron Scattering; Pawel Grochulski, Commission on Synchrotron Radiation; F. Jalilehvand, Commission on XAFS. H.A. Dabkowska is the IUCr representative to the ICSU Committee on Space Research (COSPAR). P.A. Whitfield is still listed as representing Canada, but has moved to the USA.**
34. *Election of Officers of the Union.* The Executive Committee presented two candidates for the position of President, two for Vice President and one for General Secretary and Treasurer of the Union and a slate of five candidates to serve as ordinary members. A vote was taken for President and Marv Hackert was elected for a three-year term. For Vice President, Mike Glazer was elected for a three-year term. The General Assembly had no problem with the recommendation of Luc Van Meervelt for the General Secretary and Treasurer.
35. *Election of ordinary members.* For the ordinary members, regional representation is required. No candidate was elected on the first round, so the candidate with the lowest number of votes was dropped. The same happened in the second round. From the final two names, S. Garcia-Grande was elected for a six-year term. Subsequently, W. Depmeier and R. Kuzel were elected for six-year terms and M. Takata for a three-year term, once down to two candidates in every case.
36. **At the end of the elections the President declared the General Assembly Adjourned.**

**General Comments:** The XXIII<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly and International Congress of the IUCr

was hosted in Montreal, Canada. Special thanks were given to the National Research Council of Canada for the invitation, and to J. Britten (Chair of the International Programme Committee) and A. Berghuis and M. Cygler (Co-Chairs of the Local Organizing Committee).

There were 83 voting delegates present at the General Assembly on the final evening, of which **three were from Canada**. The number of delegates for each country depends on the category that the country chooses to fund and **Canada** as a category III delegation had three delegates. This is **3.6%** of the total number. There are **5 Canadians** appointed to the 23 commissions. **In addition, Canadian Hanna Dabkowska is on the Executive Committee. We have five Canadian co-editors among the 120 or so editors of the main journals. The Canadian National Committee will be proposing more Canadians for membership of the Commissions and will be attempting to persuade some Commissions to adopt appropriate Canadians as consultants to the commissions. This is often a first step to being appointed to the commission itself.**

**Marie Fraser - Delegate to the XXIII<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly in Montreal, Canada.**