September 24th, 2007 SHUG Executive Committee Conference Call:

Members present
  Igor Zaliznyak (Chair) - BNL
  Despina Louca (Past Chair) - University of Virginia
  Ersan Ustundag - Iowa State University
  Leonard Spicer - Duke University
  Andrei Savici - Johns Hopkins University (at ORNL)
  Flora Meilleur - North Carolina State University
  David Londono - DuPont
  Li (Emily) Liu - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
  Mark Dadmun - University of Tennessee
  Mike K. Crawford - DuPont

Not present
  Janna Maranas - Penn. State University

Also participating
  Al Ekkebus (ORNL)

This being the first meeting of the committee in the present form, it began with a brief introduction of all the members. (Note: this information is missing from the records, but Andrei Savici requested this information from the members and it will be posted at the end of this document)

First point on the agenda: election of a new secretary. Igor Zaliznyak nominated Andrei Savici (the postdoc representative) from Johns Hopkins University, who is stationed at SNS. No other nominations were submitted, so Andrei Savici was appointed secretary of the SHUG Executive Committee.

Second point on the agenda: discussion of SHUG web page. M. Lumsden will be asked to help update it, and post minutes.

Third point on the agenda: preparation for the upcoming ORNL Users Week.
  1. Following a question, it was stated that executive committee members are not exempted from the registration fees, only the invited speakers do.
  2. It was noted that several sessions were without a confirmed chairperson. Emily Liu agreed to chair Dynamics II, Mark Dadmun the Large Scale Structure one. Igor Zaliznyak will contact A. Wilkinson for the Diffraction session and M Fitzsimons for Reflectometry.
  3. Timing and subjects for the introduction sessions were discussed. Topics proposed for P. Montano's talk were how to increase neutron scattering user base, and how bioscience research could be supported by DOE. Al Ekkebus will contact Igor Zaliznyak about how to approach P. Montano.

4. SHUG meeting, Wednesday from 10.30. Agenda could include a summary of the meeting. In the same session, discuss how to educate users, increase user base, and ask feedback from the attendees. Further subjects to discuss are funding models, proposals, help users with travel, summer schools, and SNS/HFIR focus points, which should be different from other facilities. Discuss models for making the neutron scattering data, analysis applications, software documentation, etc. accessible to the users (models for the information access, web applications, etc.).
5. Organizers of tutorials should give updates of the agenda.

Fourth point on the agenda: lobbying activities. Past chair Despina Louca presented an update. There are two organizations that need to be contacted. For SNUG (Synchrotron / Neutron Users Group) meetings, trips will be paid by the SNS. Usually, SHUG representative is the Committee chair (past Despina Louca, currently Igor Zaliznyak). However, it was noted that having a non-DOE sponsored representative (e.g. from a University) would be better. The other organization is NUFO (National User Facilities Organization), which is much larger, and includes administration. Appointment of representatives was postponed until further discussion at the SHUG Meeting in Oak Ridge.

Next meeting will take place during Oak Ridge Users Week.

SHUG Executive Committee Members

David Londono – research associate at DuPont Experimental Station - experience in small angle neutron scattering and neutron crystallography, polymers and soft condensed matter, synchrotron and lab x-rays.

Igor Zaliznyak - physicist at Brookhaven National Laboratory – main research field "hard" condensed matter, inelastic and elastic scattering in low dimensional quantum magnets, neutron spectroscopy of excitations in quantum liquids.

Andrei Savici – postoc at Johns Hopkins University, stationed at SNS – studies of quantum magnets and high Tc superconductors using inelastic neutron scattering, working on a design for a high magnetic field instrument.

Mark Dadmun – professor of chemistry at University of Tennessee and jointly at ORNL-research in physical chemistry of polymers, focusing on polymer blends and nanocomposites, using SANS, spin echo, and quasi elastic neutron scattering.

Mike Crawford – research staff at Central Research and Development, DuPont – structural and magnetic properties of transition metal oxides, x-rays and neutron scattering, high-Tc superconductors, infrared, Raman, and optical spectroscopy, optical lithography, physical chemistry.

Len Spicer – Duke University - physical chemist, biophysical research on macromolecular structures involving proteins and nucleic acids. Main effort involves using high field NMR spectroscopy, SANS and SACS to study biological macromolecular machines.

Ersan Üstündag - Ames Laboratory / Iowa State University work in the Engineering Diffraction field. Research on application and development of advanced neutron and X-ray scattering techniques in materials, mechanical behavior of and internal stresses in bulk metallic glasses and their composites, thin film mechanics, solid state reactions and phase transformations as related to internal stress evolution.

Emily Liu – Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute – Assistant Professor at Department of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Nuclear Engineering. Research focuses on studying nano-materials, nuclear technology/materials, and biological macromolecules, using quasi-elastic, inelastic, and elastic neutron scattering.

Despina Louca – University of Virginia - Neutron and X-ray scattering on complex transition metal oxides, amorphous alloys, and intermetallics. Study of phase transitions and characterization of magnetic and atomic properties.

Flora Meilleur – North Carolina State University -

Janna Maranas – Penn State University – Neutron scattering and molecular simulations of soft materials, using Quasi-elastic scattering, SANS, reflectometry, studying membranes for barriers and fuel cells, polymers, proteins, and biological membranes.