

May 9th, 2008 SHUG Executive Committee Conference Call:

Members present:

Igor Zaliznyak
Despina Louca
Emily Liu
Flora Meilleur
Janna Maranas
Mark Dadmun
Andrei Savici
Mike Crawford

Also present:

Al Ekkebus, Judy Trimble, Ken Herwig, Jaime Fernandez-Baca (all ORNL)

1. Ken Herwig presented status of the instrumentation at ORNL. There was an extended maintenance at HFIR. They will try to add the single crystal diffractometer to the user program. Next call for proposals will cover September to February period. They will try to add the powder diffractometer and the wide angle diffractometer to the next call for proposals. At SNS, the power reached 0.5 MW. Backscattering and reflectometers are the available instruments. SNAP, CNCS, and ARCS are in commissioning, and maybe 25% of their time will be added to the user program. V. Lauter is the new instrument scientist at the reflectometer. There is a need for a new generation target design, for power upgrade. With regard to the sample environment, the 2T magnet is available for reflectometer. The 5T self shielded magnet is being commissioned. Testing for gas pressure cell will occur in June.

There were several proposals made. In IPTS there should be requests for capabilities, instead of particular sample environments. Fact sheets should be updated with real data, as instruments become available. In the call for proposals, there should be explicitly stated the availability of instruments.

2. Judy Trimble and Al Ekkebus presented the need for reviewers. There are two types. Mostly science reviewers, not necessarily neutron scatterers, are required in the following areas: magnetism, high pressure, reflectometry, SANS in porous materials, thin film magnetism, geochemistry/geophysics, SANS in defects/metallurgy, polymer dynamics. SRCMs (Science Review Committee Members) – people experienced with neutrons, are required for low Q materials (SANS/reflectometry), single crystal diffraction, small molecules chemistry, high pressure single crystal diffraction (with emphasis in geo), soft matter inelastic scattering. Reviewers should be invited for 1.5 days to ORNL, so they can familiarize themselves with the instruments.

3. Jaime Fernandez-Baca presented activities of the IPTS advisory group. They are working on improving functionality (in the area of reviewers and scheduling), and getting input from users. A feedback mechanism will be integrated in the IPTS proposal. Explanations of IPTS changes will be posted. Igor Zaliznyak proposed a feedback thread, or a summary on a FAQ available to all users. Flora Meilleur will join the IPTS meetings, when asked.

4. High response rate was obtained on surveys from users, and will be posted on the website.

5. Process improvement teams will be in charge of streamlining user experience at ORNL. They will look at what are the best practices, improve access, computing problems, review process. They will benchmark which is the best lab. Also, the issue of late check-in on site was raised.

6. A report on a recent workshop on education will be presented at the ACNS meeting. It will also be available on the web.

Igor Zaliznyak announced that Mike Crawford was elected as vice-chair of SHUG executive committee.