

SHUG EC January 2018 Teleconference, 1/12/2018

ORNL attendees: Suzanne Parete-Koon, Crystal Schrof, Jaime Fernandez-Baca, Ken Herwig, Matt Tucker, Mike Fitzsimmons, Eugene Mamontov

On-call: Michelle Dolgos, Marc Janoschek, Dvora Perahia, Allyson Fry-Petit, Kate Ross

A. Document approval

- 1) Minutes from Dec. 2017 conference call: approve
- 2) Agenda for Jan. 2018 conference call: approve

A. NScD Update (Jaime, Crystal, Suzanne)

- 1) HFIR and SNS status – HFIR currently running cycle 477 and SNS down for IRP replacement
- 2) IAB meeting – Jan. 24 – 25
- 3) Report received from 2017 SHUG on-site meeting. When will the response to this report from current NScD management be ready? Crystal – next week
- 4) Current management important for SHUG-EC: Suzanne Parete-Koon (User Program Group Leader), Ken Herwig (Instrument Development Group Leader), Gary Lynn (Sample Environment Group Leader), Garrett Granroth (Software and Data Analysis Group Leader), Matt Tucker (Diffraction Group Leader), Mark Lumsden (Spectroscopy Group Leader), Andrew Payzant (Engineering Materials Group Leader), Mike Fitzsimmons (Large Scale Structures Group Leader), Crystal Schrof (Manager of Scientific and Program Services), Richard Ibberson (Neutron Scattering Division Director), Paul Langan (Associate Laboratory Director for Neutron Sciences)
- 5) Neutron times email just sent out, including the following important information:
 - a. Next proposal call deadline is Feb. 21
 - b. Updated list of local contacts was just sent out to users
 - c. NXS 2018 dates: July 22 – Aug. 4
- 6) Unique users: for FY2018, there have been 256 and 117 unique users at the SNS and HFIR respectively
- 7) Publication metrics: There have been 290 papers published in calendar year 2017 containing data from SNS instruments. There have been 156 papers published in calendar year 2017 containing data from HFIR instruments. There were 41 high impact papers total.
- 8) Suzanne's background: She completed a Ph.D. in astrophysics at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 2008. Immediately following that, she spent a year working as a foreign affairs officer for the U.S. Department of State, through an American Institute of Physics diplomacy fellowship. In 2009, she accepted a postdoctoral position with the Scientific Computing Group at OLCF. Prior to joining NScD, she was a member of the user program at the Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility (OLCF).

B. Plans for Instrument Upgrades and New Instruments (Ken)

- 1) The current chair of the IAB is Dan Neumann from NIST. The main objectives of this group are to look across different ORNL instrument suites and advise us on how the instruments in a given suite are complementary to one another, to determine the

important capabilities that are missing from a given suite, and to examine how our instrument suites compare to other neutron facilities.

- 2) Paul Langan has now allocated \$10M/year for instrument upgrades and new instruments. In FY2017, we spent \$10.5M on instrument improvement projects.
- 3) Some of the instrument upgrades are now complete. One example of a completed project is the POWGEN instrument upgrade, which cost \$4.5M over two years. Many other instrument upgrade projects are currently ongoing.
- 4) Goal is to transition some of the \$10M/year from instrument upgrade projects to new instrument development
- 5) External instrument suite reviews are now complete and our management has received recommendations for new instruments from these reviews.
- 6) There is a desire to organize a workshop for discussing new instruments immediately following the 2018 ACNS. The new instruments should complement future instruments at STS. Michelle or Dvora are interested in coordinating this effort on the SHUG side.
- 7) Marc: how do we set priorities for \$10M/year instrument upgrade and new instrument budget? Ken: We started with an internal Scientific Productivity Committee in 2015 to get the process going and now we also take recommendations from the recent instrument suite reviews into account.

C. Remote Town Hall Meeting

- 1) Online tutorial for how to write a good neutron proposal – initial plan was to run a tutorial in early February before the next proposal call, but this will not be feasible due to limited time before the next proposal deadline. New suggestions are to run a tutorial at the ACNS instead or to record a tutorial that can be viewed online at any time. Suzanne also discussed the possibility of running a live tutorial before the fall proposal call. Marc mentioned that we need to figure out who can run these tutorials ASAP. We may want two people to lead these tutorials: one person who has reviewed several proposals and one person who has been known to write very good proposals. Steve Shapiro was mentioned as one person who may be a good candidate to lead the tutorial.

How can we accommodate users across different fields? There was significant discussion about this issue. Suzanne mentioned that we should focus on how to write a good proposal overall at the ACNS first and then we can think about how to focus tutorials on specific science areas later.

D. FY2018 SHUG on-site meeting

- 1) We need to take a poll of our SHUG members to figure out when to have this meeting. Sometime in September seems to be best at this point. Michelle will send out an email and ask for impossible dates from the SHUG-EC members in the time period Sept. 10 – 28.

E. Mail-in programs

- 1) A possible mail-in program for SANS was discussed, as this was recommended by the SANS instrument suite review committee. Current mail-in programs are already available on NOMAD and POWGEN. However, the demands on ORNL instrument staff to run these programs are very high and therefore significant constraints need to be

enforced for all mail-in programs. We would like an external SANS user on the SHUG-EC to work with ORNL staff to put together a proposal for this program that can be shared with NScD management. Some SANS people are not involved in the current conference call, so we should ask if one of them would like to lead this effort.

F. Changes to NScD website (Crystal and Matt)

- 1) Our website is out of date for various reasons, including the recent re-org. We need to improve and update this website ASAP.
- 2) Purpose of the website: serves as a good source of advertisement for our user program, provides critical information to our users, help us attract new users.
- 3) What information does the SHUG-EC feel is important to add to the website?

G. SHUG-EC website

- 1) New members: please send Crystal the requested information and picture ASAP, so the SHUG-EC website can be updated properly

H. SHUG-EC conference call schedule

- 1) The January conference call was scheduled at an unusual time (Friday from 3 – 4 PM) due to conflicts that several SHUG-EC members had with the typical meeting time. The monthly conference calls will usually be scheduled on the second Monday of the month from 3 – 4 PM. The next conference call is scheduled for Mon. Feb. 12 from 3 – 4 PM.