

SHUG-EC Conference Call: Wednesday, January 17, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM EST

Attendees (online):

ORNL: Janell Thomson, Naresh Osti, Jon Taylor

External: Mingda Li, Igor Zaliznyak, Allen Scheie, Grace Longbons, Hillary Smith, Nairiti Sinha, Rebecca Dally, Katie Weigandt, Ben Frandsen

Discussion items:

1. Election of new SHUG-EC officers
 - a. Hillary Smith elected as vice chair
 - b. Allen Scheie elected as secretary
2. 2023 on-site visit report has been submitted by Igor. Janell will circulate the reports from the previous three years to the SHUG-EC.
3. Vote to approve the minutes from last month passes.
4. Planning for the 2024 on-site meeting
 - a. Suggestion to hold the meeting in conjunction with the ACNS
 - i. Some scheduling conflicts with ACS Colloids meeting, various personal scheduling conflicts before and after ACNS
 - b. Alternative suggestion to meet later in the summer when SNS is running
 - c. Scheduling poll will be sent out to identify possible meeting times
5. User survey update
 - a. Survey is currently in rough draft form
 - b. Timeline: nearly complete draft in February, finalized draft in March, and user responses by May to prepare for a SHUG Town Hall to be held at ACNS in June
 - c. Igor Zaliznyak volunteers to take the lead on the user survey, with help from Allen Scheie as secretary and with substantial input from all SHUG-EC members
6. SHUG Town Hall at ACNS
 - a. Strong contingent of SHUG-EC will be attending ACNS (at least half or more), giving us a good opportunity to communicate with the neutron user community
 - b. Suggested topics to cover in the town hall
 - i. Key takeaways from 2023 report
 - ii. Discussion of user survey results
 - iii. Solicit ideas for future Breakthrough Symposium topics
 - iv. Brief update from Jon Taylor on HFIR/SNS
 - v. Instrument and sample environment updates
7. Breakthrough Symposia
 - a. Potential topics
 - i. High-entropy alloys and oxides
 - ii. Chemical spectroscopy (could potentially become a high-throughput technique at ORNL but still has a smaller user base)
 - iii. Bio-related applications of neutrons
 - iv. Semiconductors
 - b. One objective is to broaden the neutron user community by bringing in well-known experts in the field to attract people who are not currently neutron users
 - c. Aim for two symposia this year

- i. First one in April on high-entropy materials, spearheaded by Hillary Smith and Rebecca Dally
 - ii. Second sometime in the fall on a topic TBD
 - d. All SHUG-EC members are encouraged to contribute ideas for invited speakers
- 8. Discussion about bylaws
 - a. SHUG-EC members are invited to review the bylaws and bring up any potential need for changes at our next meeting.
- 9. Strategies for communicating latest developments at beamlines to the user community
 - a. Possible idea: SHUG-EC member meets with each beamline team individually (15-20 minutes) to learn if there are updates and developments that they want users to be aware of
 - b. Include “Instrument News” section in our SHUG mailings with links to beamline websites with new developments highlighted
 - c. Could consider a regular feature in the newsletter highlighting a beamline and/or sample environment, cycle through each beamline over a three-year period
 - d. We should remind instrument scientists that they can always email SHUG-EC with developments and updates that they want us to communicate to the community
 - e. Instrument scientists can use IPTS to email users of a given instrument and let them know about updates, developments, etc.
 - f. Could also include brief updates at the ACNS SHUG Town Hall
- 10. Deciding on a time for our regular meetings. Check schedules to determine whether the second Wednesday at 11 AM EST will continue to work for everyone.
 - a. Quick feedback from the group indicates that this time should be good.