

Working Group WG-15 – Soft Matter Physics
Report to the IUPAP Council & Commission Chairs meeting
April 2018

Mandate of the proposed IUPAP Working Group on Soft Matter

1. To organize/assist in organization of the International Soft Matter Conference every 3 years in each geographic region (Europe, America, and Asia/Australia).
2. To coordinate soft-matter-related regional, national & local conferences, meetings & workshops
3. To coordinate soft matter education, such as summer schools and short courses and help organize them if a need appears
4. To promote soft matter research through information exchange, publicity, prizes, publications, etc.
5. To strengthen the connections between academic and industrial soft matter research and development through outreach events, short courses, etc.

Progress since last report submitted September 2017:

The WG15 had a teleconference in November of 2017 to discuss the Plan of Work to accomplish the above mentioned goals.

Plan of Work

Each of three geographical subgroups will independently work on: (the details to be discussed at the corresponding regional teleconferences)

- i. Planning of the International Soft Matter Conferences – “Soft Matter Around the World”
Soft Comp ISMC is the working model
Europe: ISMC 2019 (estimated mid-June 2019 in Edinburgh, need to confirm)
Americas & Asia/Oceania: 2020 & 2021
 - a. SoftComp Europe – how can WG15 help further improve ISMC19 (topics/speakers, societies/industry, publicity, etc.). Use ISMC as a model for the conferences on other continents.
 - b. for Americas & Asia/Oceania-
Decide on the funding model (national funding agencies, industry, and/or philanthropy)
- ii. Soft matter community building/coordination
- iii. Industrial connections.
- iv. Soft Matter Education

The WG15 -Americas had a teleconference in December 8, 2017 in which the Plan of Work was discussed

- i. International Soft Matter Conference in Americas
Group decided to look into Boston Area for location; Michael Rubinstein will investigate MIT, Dave Weitz will look into Harvard; Decided a European model was preferable to professional group organizing, especially for the first meeting
- ii. Connection with other professional societies & groups

- iii. *Action Item: Work on generating a list*
Industrial connections
Action Item: Work on generating a list

The WG15 -European Group had a teleconference in December 20, 2017 in which the Plan of Work was discussed

- i. 5th European ISMC is to be organized by SoftComp in 2019 in UK
- ii. Connection with other professional societies & groups
- iii. Industrial connections
- iv. Soft Matter Education
- v. Web Page Design for WG15

The WG15 -Asia/Oceania had a teleconference in December 13, 2017 in which the Plan of Work was discussed

- i. International Soft Matter Conference in Asia/Oceania
1 page proposals by each country who would like to host for either 2020 or 2021; meet again to discuss in February
Concerns on size of meeting, also visa difficulties
- ii. Connection with other professional societies & group
- iii. Industrial connections
- iv. Soft matter education
- v. Information exchange & web page for WG15

The WG15 -Asia/Oceania had a teleconference in February of 2017 in which the following was discussed:

- i. Connection with other professional societies & groups
Action Item: Spend ½ to 1 hour to identify groups you are aware of in your country and international soft matter groups and related societies
- ii. Industrial connections
Action Item: Spend ½ to 1 hour to identify industry contacts you are aware of in your country and international soft matter groups and related societies, send to Michael Rubinstein and cc Kelly Chavez
Due: End of Spring (End of March, revised to April 30)
What can we offer them? Short courses? Advertising of products? Access to students?
- iii. Soft matter education
Would love to compile soft matter courses, and best lecturers to record and have a library of courses in soft matter on the web (copyright allowing) even curating these courses to something more comprehensive. Action Item: List- What are the topics to include and what courses are taught at your or other universities? Be very broad on topics for first pass.
- iv. Web page design for WG15.
Action Item: If you see a webpage that you think is particularly useful/helpful/visually excellent, please send us the link.
- iv. PROPOSALS for International Conference
Discussed pros and cons of India-2020; China 2020 or 2021; Japan: 2021
Would like Japan and China to develop more detailed white paper/1 page proposal for next meeting

Also, an informal meeting of all members of the group who attended the March APS meeting occurred.