

## **September 21, 2006 SHUG Executive Committee Conference Call:**

Members Present (7):

Ed Kintzel  
Despina Louca  
Mark Lumsden  
Steve Shapiro  
Len Spicer  
Angus Wilkinson  
Igor Zaliznyak

### **1. User Group Meeting, 2007**

Despina will come to ORNL to discuss a tentative agenda.

Steve and Igor discussed their tentative agenda. They propose a 2 day meeting with a third ½ day for workshops.

The suggested dates are October 15-17 or October 22-24.

The first day would be plenary talks – suggestions: discussion of the SNS/HFIR reorganization; Ian Anderson discussing science; John Haynes discussing instrumentation; or some discussion of the user program.

The second day could be more science based. It may also be a good time to discuss software issues – for instance, the state of DANSE.

The third day (½ day) would be for workshops, IDT meetings, etc.

The workshops should include instructional components to educate people of the use of particular techniques, analysis of data from some instruments, etc.

Ideally, these should be pitched at the graduate student level and should, obviously, tie into instruments at SNS and HFIR.

One suggestion would be a DANSE workshop (short course) showing how to use the software.

It would be nice to have support for a small number (about 25) graduate students – this would encourage people to attend.

Should the IDT meeting be scheduled for a different day to avoid conflict with the workshops? Probably not as most students will have little interest in the IDT meetings.

Another possibility would be to put the IDT meetings on the afternoon of the second day.

One suggestion is for running instruments to have meetings on the second day and others on the third. This opens up the possibility of the short courses being associated with running instruments.

Part of the IDT meetings for the running instruments would be instrument scientists giving talks showing recent results and discussing the performance of the instruments.

Seminars could be given by researchers whose research will be strongly affected by SNS/HFIR – not necessarily currently done there but may be in the future.

Steve can email a session list – the list of speakers should be suggested by those who know the session topics.

An initial set of speaker suggestions would be useful as it would provide a pool of possible speakers. Last year we had 4-5 people per session.

What level of support do we want for the meeting? We should target graduate students – a free ride for the meeting for every graduate student would be ideal. Perhaps we should wave the registration fee for speakers.

We should write a letter to IDT principal investigators and those involved in HFIR instruments asking for feedback on the meeting.

One suggestion would be a sample environment session. This could actually be multiple sessions based on technique. A possible topic of interest would be a discussion of SNS/HFIR resources and how they will be shared between the two facilities.

Rather than discussing sample environment issues based on technique, it's probably better to keep this discussion general and off-load more specific discussions to the instrument specific meetings.

## 2. Outreach

Al Ekkebus has been asking for suggestions as to how to promote neutron scattering outreach.

How do we bring new people into the field?

We want to target those with a current research program and convince them that neutron scattering could be an important tool for their research.

It would be ideal to grow both casual and “hard core” neutron scatterers. Do “hard core” scatterers really act as a liason to neutron scattering?

How do we approach other communities, i.e. biology?

What we're talking about here is better PR. One suggestion would be people going to various facilities to give talks that advertise SNS/HFIR. This should build on the publicity of SNS.

It is very hard to get an invitation to give a talk like this. People at universities are not going to invite speakers who are in a different field which makes it very hard to reach new communities.

It is difficult to explain to people that a huge asset (SNS) exists and is available for them to do their research.

Neutron scattering is very underrepresented at university lectures and the representation is also very regional – the further you are away from a scattering facility, the less representation you get.

SNS is advertising – there is an upcoming article in Science.

We should target graduate students – for instance, workshops.

SNS/HFIR could provide undergraduate summer internships to encourage new users. This idea is based on the “Research Experience Undergraduate” (REU) program which is NSF funded. DOE labs already run such summer undergraduate programs. Could we get NSF to provide some funding for similar programs which are neutron scattering specific?

Such a program would give a pool of undergrads that may become future graduate students and eventually new users.

Very few universities have neutron scattering faculty.

In general, universities don't hire people due to a specific technique but rather based on their science. Usually, they look for a particular field of interest and not a specific technique. The money is usually driven by scientific theme.

There are not many scatterers as we're not training enough people as students who use neutron scattering.

One suggestion for AI would be short term research positions at SNS through JINS – i.e. a visiting scientist program.

### 3. SNUG Meeting

The SNUG trip to Washington, DC is scheduled for October 15-17.

The first day will be meetings with everyone. On the second day, Roger Pynn will come and they will target more specific offices. The discussions will also be more neutron scattering specific.

Neutron scattering will be represented by Despina, Tonya Kuhl, and Roger Pynn.

How will the election affect these discussions? The SNS is setting up meeting with Tennessee senators/congressmen – Frist, Alexander, and Wamp. Frist has already announced that he will not run for re-election for the Senate as he wants to focus on a 2008 presidential run.

## **Appendix: Tentative agenda for SNS-HFIR User Meeting**

Dates: 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week in October, 2007

Day 1: AM

Welcome from SHUG president, ORNL and DOE

Plenary session:

Reorganization	Mason
Science at HFIR and SNS	Ian Anderson
Instrument developments	John Haines
User Policies	Al Ekkebus

A Plenary Scientific Lecture (e.g. Sunil Sinha, Frank Bates, etc.)

Day 1: PM

Parallel scientific sessions featuring recent results from HFIR and SNS

- Structure (Diffraction)
- Low Energy Dynamics (QENS)
- Large Scale Structures (SANS)
- Excitations (Inelastic scattering)
- Engineering Sciences
- Surfaces (Reflectometry)

Reception and posters

Day 2: AM

Plenary session:

- Software (DANSE)
- Sample Environment (possible breakout according to technique)
- Future plans at HFIR and SNS

SHUG Meeting

Day 2: PM

Instrument specific meetings emphasizing performance of operating instruments

Day 3:AM

Instructional component: short courses with hands on experience.