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American Crystallographic Association

Christopher Cahill, ACA Vice President
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**U.S. National Committee for Crystallography**

The U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Crystallography (USNC/Cr) represents U.S. crystallographers in the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr) on behalf of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). The IUCr is a Scientific Union of the International Council for Science (ICSU).

The USNC/Cr promotes the advancement of the science of crystallography in the United States and throughout the world.

Crystallography is a key tool for a variety of fields supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), including materials science, the biological sciences, chemistry, and geochemistry. The USNC/Cr brings together crystallographers across this broad spectrum of fields.

**USNC/Cr Activities at the XXIII IUCr Congress**

The USNC/Cr represented the U.S. at the XXIII Congress and General Assembly of the International Union of Crystallography in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

During exhibit hours, attendees could visit USNC/Cr booth #152 to participate in a raffle and provide input on the location for the 2023 Congress and General Assembly.

**2014 Young Observers Program**

Through the 2014 Young Observers Program, the USNC/Cr provided travel fellowships to 19 U.S. early career crystallographers to participate in the IUCr Congress and General Assembly.

A highlight of this program is a unique mentoring experience, in which early career crystallographers are paired with members of the U.S. National Committee and other senior U.S. crystallographers with extensive leadership experience and exposure to the governing and organizational system of the Union.

The 2014 Young Observers are continuing to stay connected through the LinkedIn group, USNC for Crystallography—Young Observers.

**USNC/Cr Sponsored Activities**

- On August 8th, a Mentoring Dinner was held for the U.S. Young Observers and their mentors. A panel of experts discussed career paths and tips to succeed in the field.

- On August 9th, a U.S. reception was held in honor of the International Year of Crystallography in the Americas.

**IYCr2014 Activities**

In celebration of the 2014 International Year of Crystallography (IYCr), the USNC/Cr has organized a series of activities, which include:

- The IYCr2014 Video Contest, for K-12 students in the U.S. and Canada, which has a December 31, 2014 deadline. For more information, consult the IYCr2014 Video Contest Facebook page;

- 3D print files of crystallographic models are now available for free, non-commercial use at nanocrystallography.research.pdx.edu;

- Crystallography: World of Wonders (CWOW) workshops have been and will continue being held at informal learning environments, such as National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) meetings and museums;

- IYCr resources were available at the RCSB Protein Data Bank exhibit in the 2014 USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington, DC.

**ACA Summer School**

Each year, the USNC/Cr co-sponsors the ACA Summer School, an intensive ten-day course open to graduate and top undergraduate students that covers the principles and practices of crystallography. The 2014 ACA Summer Course was held at the University of Notre Dame from July 7-16.