

## SSRL Users' Organization Executive Committee Meeting

May 4, 2011

Attending: Beth Wurzburg, Aaron Lindenberg, Sam Webb, Serena DeBeer, Kelen Tuttle, Cindy Patty, Sarah Hayes, Chris Kim, Robert Szilagyi, Chi-Chang Kao, Cathy Knotts, Kelen Tuttle, Lisa Dunn

The Meeting started with a discussion on proposed SSRL/LCLS Users' Conference Workshop topics. The current list of workshop topics includes Chemistry, Catalysis, & Spectroscopy of Atoms and Surfaces, Short Pulse and Pump/Probe Capabilities, Materials for Photon Conversion and Energy Storage, Advanced Crystallography, LCLS II, and Demystifying the Light Source experience. **Action item: Follow-up with individuals who were suggested to organize these workshops.**

**User Survey:** Beth Wurzburg and Robert Szilagyi are working on the user survey. A decision was made to wait for more of the SSRL strategic planning effort to coalesce and then incorporate questions related to scientific opportunities in the survey. Discussion ensued on designing the survey to provide context to the questions about proposed scientific opportunities via more links to information about the topic.

**Action Item: Task staff scientists to draft questions and provide material on new science opportunities**

**SSRL Strategic Plan:** Chi-Chang Kao discussed the strategic planning effort. Staff scientists met May 2-3 to discuss opportunities and have been tasked with narrowing the list down to about 10. Division heads will be putting together a table to present these opportunities by technique and beamline. Information is being compiled on developments or upgrades that may be needed for the targeted capabilities or beamlines. Some of the opportunities were briefly discussed including correlated electrons, nanomaterials for catalysis and sustainable energy, and materials for information technology. Ideas will be presented at the SSRL Scientific Advisory Committee meeting June 2-3. Users are encouraged to provide input and a website may be created as a forum for staff and users to engage in dialog about these unique opportunities.

**SNUG Update:** Chris Kim, who represents the Synchrotron and Neutron Users' Group (SNUG), along with Hendrik Ohldag and other scientists participated in the congressional visits day (CVD) in Washington, DC in April as part of the Materials Research Society contingent. The CVD gives scientists an opportunity to meet in small groups to share their enthusiasm for science with their Congressional representatives. The next Congressional Visits Day program is being planned for April 24 and 25, 2012 (a Tuesday and a Wednesday).

**NUFO Update:** The National User Facility Organization (NUFO) put together a well-received poster exhibit and reception on Capitol Hill in early April. Michael Toney, Cathy Knotts, and Chris Kim represented SSRL. The exhibit was well attended, and despite the looming budget deadline over a dozen congressional representatives attended as did William Brinkman, Pat Dehmer, and many representatives from the DOE Office of Science, NSF and other organizations. In general there is an ongoing effort to keep congressional representatives/staffers informed of the impact of science enabled by national labs, user facilities and research groups within academic institutions and industry.

SLAC is hosting the annual NUFO meeting this year from June 27-29. Interested participants can view the agenda and register at: <http://www-ssrl.slac.stanford.edu/conferences/nufo/>

**Budget News:** SSRL has received the equivalent of FY10 funding for FY11 which is better than originally expected, but still very tight and well short of the funds needed to develop/upgrade beamline capabilities and adequately fund with support staff.

**BES Review:** The DOE report summarizing the results of the 3-year BES review held in February should come out in about a month. Early indications and feedback during the closeout suggested that the review went well.

**Advisory Committee Input:** The SSRL Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) will meet next in early June. Science opportunities and strategic plans will be further discussed.

**Workshops:** SSRL is working with CHESS and other facilities to host a series of workshops devoted to science with diffraction-limited, high repetition rate, hard x-ray sources, e.g., Energy Recovery Linac and Ultimate Storage Ring sources Science at the Hard X-ray Diffraction Limit. The workshops, XDL 2011, will be held at Cornell in June and July 2011.

[http://erl.chess.cornell.edu/gatherings/2011\\_Workshops/index.htm](http://erl.chess.cornell.edu/gatherings/2011_Workshops/index.htm)

- Diffraction Microscopy, Holography and Ptychography using Coherent Beams
- Biomolecular Structure from Nanocrystals and Diffuse Scattering
- Ultra-fast Science with "Tickle and Probe"
- High-pressure Science at the Edge of Feasibility
- Materials Science with Coherent Nanobeams at the Edge of Feasibility
- Frontier Science with X-ray Correlation Spectroscopies using Continuous Sources

**Workshops to Encourage Diversity:** SSRL has joined Brookhaven, NSF, SNS and CHESS in an effort to give underrepresented minorities a better idea of our science and instrument capabilities and to encourage access. SSRL is organizing and sponsoring a workshop here which will be held July 11-13. Part of the philosophy is to build collaborations between faculties and the facilities to make experimental research more accessible.

**Working with Industry:** The Department of Energy and Steve Chu specifically have been encouraging more industry ties and involvement with research conducted at the facilities. Done right it should be a win-win situation. To encourage more direct feedback regarding industry concerns a representative from industry will be elected to the UEC. Several individuals have agreed to have their names put on the ballot.

**Miscellaneous:** A question was raised as to whether or not the Guest House offers discounted rates to users or staff who want to book an open room well after the standard check-in. The answer is that SLAC affiliates already have the lowest rates and there are no plans underway to offer deeper discounts.