

SSRL Users' Organization Meeting

Friday, August 12, 2011

The SSRL Users Organization Executive Committee (UEC) met on Friday, August 12, 2011. Cathy Knotts met with Sarah Hayes in Building 120; Matthew Sazinsky, Joe Kline and Junko Yano participated by teleconference (Junko departed the meeting before the Klein award recipient was selected. Serena DeBeer and David Singer sent comments by email.

The committee reviewed nominations received for the Melvin P. Klein Scientific Development Award, and they selected Jonathan Rivnay (Stanford University) to receive the 2011 Klein Award. Jonathan will be notified and asked to present a talk on his research at the annual users' conference on October 24th.

The committee also requested that the Klein award description on the SSRL website be clarified to distinguish the Spicer Young Investigator Award (which recognizes senior graduate students and those within seven years of entry into their professional scientific field at the time of nomination) from the Klein Award which they felt should be limited to undergraduate or graduate students, or postdoctoral fellows within 3 years of receiving their Ph.D. The award description will be modified accordingly:

The Melvin P. Klein Scientific Development Award:

<https://www-conf.slac.stanford.edu/ssrl-lcls/2011/awards.asp>

In 2006, the SSRL Users' Organization Executive Committee (SSRLUOEC) established a scientific development award in memory of Melvin P. Klein (1921-2000), a pioneer at the forefront of accomplishments in NMR, EPR, and x-ray absorption spectroscopy. The \$1,000 award is intended to recognize outstanding research accomplishments and to promote dissemination of research results based on work performed at SSRL. Nominations for undergraduate or graduate students, or postdoctoral fellows within 3 years of receiving their Ph.D., can be submitted annually before August 1st.

Following up on previous discussion with SSRL Director Chi Chang Kao, Cathy briefly updated the UEC on SSRL's strategic plans which are being written. Chi Chang expects to have a draft of the SSRL strategic plan available by the annual users' conference (October 22-26, 2011). SSRL hopes to conduct the user survey, which was postponed to incorporate the latest ideas about scientific opportunities, in the fall in conjunction with the annual users' conference.

The committee also briefly discussed the opportunity for SLAC to build a new Science and User Support Building (SUSB). The new SUSB building would be located near the entrance to SLAC and would provide space for User Research Administration (URA) offices as well as SLAC Security, Communications, Director's Offices, cafeteria, visitor exhibits, auditorium, and a conference center. Users acknowledged that the majority of face-to-face interactions with URA staff were related to safety training and badging which are assumed to move to the new space. There was a suggestion that URA staff continue to engage and interact directly with users, perhaps by considering rotating a URA staff member to work in Bldg. 120 when user experiments are underway to 'maintain the magic of SSRL'.

The SSRL Users' Organization will meet next at the conclusion of the annual users' conference on October 26, 2011.