

Crystallography & Microscopy

Many microscopist, especially those in materials science, are involved in crystallography. The professional body for crystallographers in the United States is the American Crystallographic Association (ACA). Like the Microscopy Society of America (MSA) it holds an annual meeting and communicates with its members through a regular publication, the Newsletter. Microscopists who have a significant interest in crystallography should consider joining the ACA, if they have not already done so.

The international body for crystallographers is the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr). It plays a role equivalent to that of the International Federation of Societies of Electron Microscopy (IFSEM). However, the IUCr is a much bigger and more powerful organization than IFSEM. The IUCr gains its strength from the fact that it is the publisher of Aca Crystallographics, the multi-part journal which is the leading journal for (nearly) all things crystallographic.

Crystallography further differs from microscopy in the way the national and international organizations are linked. In the case of crystallography, the United States communicates with the international body, not through the national society (the ACA), but through a special body, set up for that purpose. The United States National Committee for Crystallography (USNCCR) is a committee under the aegis of the National Academy of Science, whose role is to represent the United States to the IUCr. This committee has been set up specifically to allow the representation to be more general than would be the case if the job were done by the ACA alone.

The USNCCR includes crystallographers elected to be as representative as possible of the whole of the crystallographic community in the United States. In addition to the elected members, the USNCCR coops delegates from other societies to broaden the range of interests which it represents. For example, the American Association for Crystal Growth is

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always represented and several other societies are regularly considered for representation. For the past four years, MSA has been a member of a subcommittee of the USNCCR, so that the views and needs of microscopists who do crystallography would be properly communicated.

Alwyn Eades is the MSA delegate to the USNCCR. He would be delighted to hear from anyone who has opinions they wish to express or who would like to become involved in this activity - and my be contacted at telephone: (217)333-8396, or eMail: eades@uimrl7.mrl.uiuc.edu.

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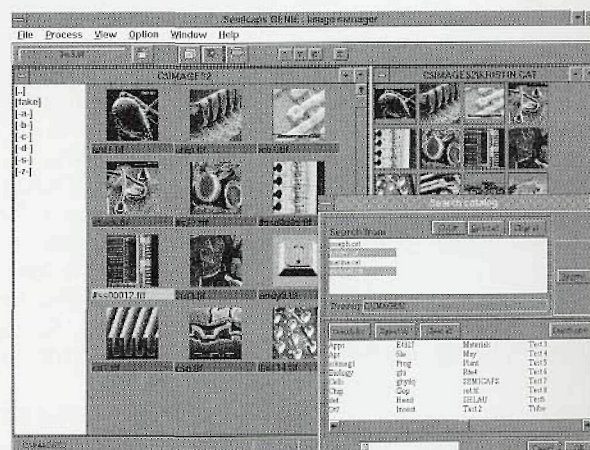


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