

Working Group WG-15 – Soft Matter Physics
Report to the IUPAP Council & Commission Chairs meeting
September 2021

Mandate of the proposed IUPAP Working Group on Soft Matter

1. To organize/assist in organization of the International Soft Matter Conference every 3 years in each geographic region (Europe, America, and Asia/Australia).
2. To coordinate soft-matter-related regional, national & local conferences, meetings & workshops
3. To coordinate soft matter education, such as summer schools and short courses and help organize them if a need appears
4. To promote soft matter research through information exchange, publicity, prizes, publications, etc.
5. To strengthen the connections between academic and industrial soft matter research and development through outreach events, short courses, etc.

Progress since last report:

1. **The International Soft Matter Conference 2021 originally planned for December 12-17, 2021 is postponed to February 27-March 3, 2023 to be held in Osaka, Japan (see conference web site <http://ismc2021.jp/>).**
 - i. The International Program Committee of ISMC consists of 14 members representing nine countries. Nine of the members of the International Program committee are also members of IUPAP WG-15.
 - ii. The program of the ISMC2021 with nine outstanding plenary speakers and 16 excellent keynote speakers was finalized but had to be re-scheduled due to Covid (see <http://ismc2021.jp/>). The conference was pushed back by two years because ISMC2022 was already scheduled to be held in Poznan, Poland from 19-23 September 2022. 2022 is a regular year of a three-year European ISMC cycle. <https://eu-softcomp.net/events/international-soft-matter-conference-2022/>.
 - iii. A teleconference between European ISMC organizers (SoftComp), Asia & Oceania ISMC organizers, and American ISMC organizers is being scheduled for October 2021 to coordinate the three-year rotation order between continents.
2. The Summer school on “Multi-Scale Understanding of Soft Materials: From Macromolecular building blocks to soft matter physics and mechanics of soft solids” that was supposed to be held August 2-14, 2020 in Cargese, France is postponed until July 2022 due to coronavirus pandemic.
3. The IUPAP WG-15 web site <https://soft-matter.com/> has been built to enable effective information exchange between soft matter researchers. It contains the calendar of lectures, seminars, and conferences, links to the corresponding societies, links to educational lectures on different soft matter topics, as well as job listings of interest to soft matter scientists.
4. IUPAP WG-15 has initiated the formation of the Soft Matter Association of Asia and Oceania that will be responsible for the Asian section of the International Soft Matter Conference after ISMC in Osaka, Japan, will decide the host country for the next ISMC (in Asia/Oceania) and will coordinate information exchange about existing conferences, meeting, summer/winter schools. They will create the organization web site with links to the societies and events at the representative countries.
5. The plans for the formation of the Soft Matter Association of Americas that will hold International Soft Matter Conference in 2024 have been developed. It will unite local soft matter organizations and professional societies related to soft matter research and education.

6. Working Group 15 would like to continue to assure the successful launch of the ISMC three-year cycle across continents as well to continue coordinate other activities described in WG-15 Mandate.