

Oral Contributions

[MS41-05] **International Summer Schools in Crystallography in Italy: A long-lasting and still vital tradition of the AIC.** Michele Zema,^a Antonietta Guagliardi,^b Rita Berisio,^c Simona Galli,^d Marco Milanesio,^e Anna Moliterni^f

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Since its foundation in 1967, the Italian Crystallographic Association (AIC, www.cristallografia.org) has appointed a working team specifically dedicated to the coordination of teaching activities. Such Commission on Crystallographic Teaching (AIC-CCT) is elected by the General Assembly of the members and renewed every three years, together with the AIC Executive Committee. As a result, the AIC has progressively gained a strong experience in the organization of schools and workshops and has offered several opportunities for educational activities. Among these, the Summer Schools regularly held at “Villa Colombella” in Perugia from the 70s until the late 90s are of particular relevance. Unfortunately, “Villa Colombella” was damaged by an earthquake in 1997 and all activities were stopped.

In this report, the activities of the present and past AIC-CCT’s (2012-2014: MZ, chair, RB, MM, AM; 2009-2011: AG, chair, SG, MM, MZ; acronyms from the authors list) are described. In these years, the long-lasting tradition of AIC in the organization of crystallography schools has developed undeniable international character.

The location of Camerino, a small town in Central Italy hosting a historical University founded in 1336, has been proposed for the first time as the venue for AIC International Schools in 2009, when it hosted the School

titled “Scattering techniques: from microscopic to atomic structures”. This event was very successful, and everybody also appreciated the warm hospitality of the town, its relaxing atmosphere and beautiful sightseeing, as well as the comfortable Campus residential halls and the magnificent historical lecture halls. The location has then become the venue of the AIC International Schools also in 2011 and 2013, hence establishing a new series on a biennial basis. In 2011, the first edition of “Crystallography Beyond Diffraction” was held there [1]. This topic aims at fulfilling the increasing need of combining different techniques in order to have a complete view of the structure of solids. This school was also a success. Therefore, a new edition is proposed this year (4-8 Sept 2013), mainly focused on microstructural and textural analyses. The 2013 School is jointly organized with SIMP (Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology), thus celebrating 5 years from the 1st SIMP-AIC Joint Meeting, and is also registered as a Satellite Workshop of the Goldschmidt Conference 2013. Joint organizations had already been fruitfully experienced in the 2010 and 2012 editions of the AIC International Schools: the former, titled “Diffraction at the nanoscale”, was organized in collaboration with the Paul Scherrer Institut and the Swiss Crystallographic Society and was held in Villigen [2]. The 2012 edition, titled “Structure, microstructure, nanostructure”, was joined to the “Paolo Giordano Orsini School”, a well-established School already at its 10th edition, and was held in Trento.

The AIC-CCT is going to organize the first edition of the European Crystallography Schools (ECS1, <http://ecs1.ecanews.org>), recently launched by the ECA following a proposal of the AIC itself [3]. The ECS1 will be held in Pavia in 2014, thus in coincidence with the International Year of Crystallography. The teaching method, based on lectures and tutorials on the use of pertinent software, is a hallmark of our Schools. We have experienced that the distribution of a Lecture Notes booklet, where students can take

notes directly on the slides of the lectures, is a helpful strategy to assist in their understanding. Students/teachers ratio of ca. 5:1 allows profitable interaction and encourages students to relate and discuss with teachers. When hands-on sessions are involved, students are invited to bring their own laptop and are provided with installation and working files before the School starts, so that they are ready for the tutorials beforehand and go on practising even after the School.

A new website has been recently launched, www.aicschool.org, which is specifically dedicated to the International Summer Schools organized by the AIC-CCT's.

[1] Zema, M., Milanesio, M., Galli, S., Guagliardi, A. (2011). The International Summer School "Crystallography Beyond Diffraction", *Powder Diffraction*, **26**, 353-354.

[2] Masciocchi, N., Galli, S., Guagliardi, A., Gozzo, F., Cervellino, A., Cheptiakov D., Černý R. (2010). The International Summer School on "Diffraction at the Nanoscale: Nanocrystals, Defective & Amorphous Materials", *Powder Diffraction*, **25**, 302-303.

[3] Mealli, C., Oberti, R., Saviano, M. (2012). The European Crystallographic School (ECS): a permanent initiative to celebrate the IYCr. *ECM27 Abstracts*, 138.

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