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MS41-O5**Crystallographic Computing Schools - training future software developers**

Harry Powell¹

1. Harry Powell Crystallographic, London, United Kingdom

email: hrp1000@virginmedia.com

At the IUCr General Assembly and Congress in Geneva in 2002, several people were appointed to the IUCr's Commission on Crystallographic Computing ("CompComm"); a major part of their remit was "to do something rather than nothing".

It was recognised by CompComm at the time that there was no formal provision to apply the science of Crystallography to new software, particularly in small molecule and powder methods; all freely available software was developed either in existing groups or by people working independently who began with knowledge of either crystallography or programming (but rarely both).

The major result from the work of CompComm's new blood in Geneva was the Siena Crystallographic Computing School which was held before IUCr XX in 2005. Developers of major crystallographic software packages across the science (powder, small molecule and macromolecular) gathered together to interact with and pass on their knowledge to the next generation [1]. Since then, with the exception of 2014, CompComm has run these events before every IUCr General Assembly and Congress; the next is planned to take place in the Czech Republic in 2020.

In 2013, SIG9 of the European Crystallographic Association (ECACOMSIG, the Special Interest Group in Crystallographic Computing) held a similar event before ECM28 in Warwick [2]; part of the rationale was to "fill in the two years when no IUCr CompComm event took place". This has now been repeated in every non-IUCr year since then, and the fourth took place in Mieres, south of Oviedo this week.

I will discuss how the Schools are organised, how we fund them and how we try to make sure that they are relevant to as many students as possible.

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