Prof. Marvin Hackert, President, International Union of Crystallography
Prof. Lidia Brito, Regional Director, UNESCO

Dear Colleagues 24th September 2014

We are pleased to report that the IYCr Latin America Summit Meeting on Biological Crystallography in Campinas, Brazil during September 22-24, 2014, has provided us an opportunity to extensively discuss and review the status of education and research in X-ray diffraction sciences in various countries in the region.

Over 100 senior researchers, early career researchers, post-doctoral fellows and students from 12 countries have participated in the event including a number of well established scientists in the North (Europe and USA) with origins in the region. The reflections from these scientists regarding the level of regional collaboration indicated that this is clearly sub-optimal, suggesting the need to take immediate action.

Many of us were engaged in extensive discussions focusing on the promotion of regional and international cooperation in the field of X-ray crystallography and complementary methods, in line with the objectives of the International Year of Crystallography. These discussions were consistent with recent efforts leading to the founding of the Latin American Crystallographic Association (LACA). The venue, being the home of the first synchrotron light source in the southern hemisphere, was fitting, and served also to highlight the ambitions of the region in constructing one of the world's most sophisticated, 4th generation light source, Sirius, before the end of the decade.

Through this letter, we request the IUCr and UNESCO to initiate actions to promote regional scientific collaboration including the holding of training workshops, encouraging the mobility of researchers within the region, promoting joint research projects, leveraging national bodies and institutions for financial support and facilitating regional conferences on the subject of X-ray crystallography and its applications in Latin America.

We also request the IUCr to facilitate the establishment of a "Latin American IYCr Cooperation Fund". We, as a community representative of our region, commit to persuade our academies, funding agencies and/or governments to provide annual contributions which are commensurate with each country's economic reality. Our aim is to raise US $100K per annum for this fund. We request IUCr to provide encouragement by making an initial commitment of US $20K per annum for 3 years. We request IUCr/UNESCO to manage these funds.

The funds will be used for a variety of actions including:

1. increasing collaboration and cooperation among scientists of the region,
2. providing seed money for up to 2 projects per annum involving a minimum of 2 countries in the region, at least one of which should be well established in crystallography
3. funding for short term visits (up to 3 months), primarily aimed towards an Early Career Researcher,
4. training workshops at centres of excellence or emerging centres in the region,
5. enabling the sharing of facilities within the region.

Signed by all those present from the region

NAME	position	Institution	Country
Mauricio Baez	Professor	Universidad de Chile	Chile
Daniel Guerra	Profesor	Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia	Peru
Ricardo Cabera	Profesor	Universidad de Chile	Chile.
Sebastian Klinke	Researcher	Instituto Leloir	Argentina
Alexei Soraru	Scientist	Brookhaven Natl Lab	USA
M. Costabel	Profesor	UNS Univ. del Sur	Argentina
A. Medaaly	Postdoc	Institut Pasteur	Uruguay
Claudio Stuani	Professor	Universidade Regional de Caxias	Brasil
João Paulo	Phd Student	Universidade de Brasília	Brazil
Juliano BCG	Professora	Universidade F. do Espírito Santo	Brasil
Bruna Campos	Pos-doc	LNBio	Brasil
João Barbosa	Professor	Universidade de Brasília	Brasil
Bruno Radho	Professor	Universidade Fed. Ceará	Brasil
Plinio Valtone	Professor	Universidade Fed. da Paraíba	Brasil

LUCIA CHEMES	CONICET INV. ADJUNTA	INSTITUTO LEloIR - UBA ARGENTINA	
Carolina Wilson	student	ICB - USP / LNBIO	carolina wilson
CARLOS FAGOILDE	prof.	UNIV. NAC de SAN LUIS, Arg	
Luis Briones	Profesor	Langebio - Cinvestav, Mexico	
Ana Carolina Zeri	P.I.	LNBIO/CNPEM	
Alejandro Vila	Professor	IBR - Rosario - Argentina	
A Buschiazzo	P.I.	Inst Pasteur Montevideo Uruguay	
Iris Torriani	Professor	University of Campinas (BR)	
Marcio Dias	Professor	ICB - USP	
DAVID NEVES	Visiteur professor UnB	Universidade de Brasília	
MARIN VAN HEEL	PROFESSOR	UNIV. OF LEIDEN	
RAÚL PADRON	EMERITUS INVESTIGATOR	CENTRO DE BIOLOGIA ESTRUCTURAL (CBE) - IVIC - VENEZUELA	
ADRIANA ROJAS	structural Biology Unit (PM).	CIC biogune	
Eduardo Horjales	Prof. USP structural Biol	IFSC/USP	
RODRIGO PORTUGAL	RESEARCHER	LNNANO/CNPEM	
Marcos Navano	Prof. USP	USP - IFSC - Brazil	
LEOPOLDO SUESCUN	Prof. Univ. of Uruguay	Universidad de la República Montevideo, URUGUAY	
JOÃO RENATO MUNIZ	Prof. Univ. of São Paulo	PHYSICS INSTITUTE OF SÃO CARLOS	
Rafael J C Guido	Prof. University of São Paulo	Physics Institute of São Carlos	Rafael J C Guido
Andre L B Ambrosio	LNBIO/CNPE	Lab. Nacional Biociencias	ANDRE L B AM
ROBERTO SALIMAS	USP/P.I	Institute of Chemistry	
ADELA RODRIGUEZ ROMERO	RESEARCHER	INSTITUTO DE QUÍMICA, UNAM	
Enrique Rudiño Piñera	Researcher	Instituto de Biotecnología UNAM	

Pedro Alzari	Professor	Institu Pasteur, Paris	FRANCE ~~ARGENTINA~~
Maximiliano Figueroa	POST DOC	GIGA-R University of Liege	BELGIUM
Santiago JA. Figueroa	Researcher	LNLS - CNPEM - Brazil	Brazil
Jorge Iulek	Researcher	Unv. Estad. Ponta Grossa Brazil	Brasil
Rolson R M.	STUDENT	UEPG	BRASIL
Kishore Reddy M	PhD student	UNICAMP	Brasil
Miguel Hernández	Docente	Universidad Nacional de Asunción	Paraguay.

NAME	position	Institution	Country
Ana Luiz	pos-doc	ICB-USP	Brasil
IVAN ROSA E SILVA	pHD student	IFSC-USP	Brasil
Guilherme Henrique Marchi Salvador	pHD student	IBB -UNESP- Botucatu	Brasil
FABIO F. CARGNOJO	pHD student	IBB - UNESP - Botucatu	Brasil
Diego Leonardo	MSC student	IFSC - USP	Peru
Patricia Soliciano	Pos-doc	FCFRP - USP	Brasil
Matías Fuentealba	MSC student	Universidad de Chile	Chile
Alejandro Monsalve M.	MSc. student	IFSC - USP	Perú

NAME	position	Institution	Country
Ariadna Juarez	Studen PhD	IBT-UNAM-UAEM	Mexico
IGOR MONTEZE FERREIRA	PhD Student	LNBio - CNPEM	Brazil
Valeria Souza	PhD student	IQ - UNICAMP	BRAZIL
Alma Yazmin Fuentes Pascuas	Masters student	CINVESTAV - LANGEBIO.	México
María Natalia LISA	Postdoc	Institut Pasteur, Paris	Argentina
Amanda Bernardes	postdoc	IFSC - USP	Brazil
MARIANA ROJAS.	PLATAFORM. MANAGER.	CIC bioGUNE (macromolecular - platform)	COLOMBIA.

NAME	position	Institution	Country
Juan Fouteilla	Head	CEA	FRANCE
FELIPE TRAJ	TRAINERS	RESEARCHER INSTITUT PASTEUR MONTEVIDEO	URUGUAY
GERMÁN SÉRO	POST-DOC	IQ-USP (SÃO PAULO)	BRAZIL
Camila C. Pascoal	master's student	LNBio / CNPEM	Brazil
ANWAR ULLAH	Post-doc	UNESP/IBILCE	Brazil
AGNES	DOC.	UNIVERSIDAD PONTA GROSSA	BRAZIL
Lisandro Otero	Researcher	Leloir Institute Foundation	Argentina
Richard Garratt	PROF.	USP - Inst. Física São Carlos	Brasil