To the Organizing Committees of
European Crystallographic Meetings
and other Crystallographic Meetings

On behalf of the General Interest Group for Senior Crystallographers (GIG_SC), that was formally established by the Executive Committee of the European Crystallographic Association in 2012, we respectfully draw your attention to the following matters:

• As the average life expectancy is increasing and as many governments have banned age discrimination, it may not be unreasonable to expect that the number of older crystallographers attending future conferences may increase.
• This GIG_SC recommends that conference organizers take into account, when selecting the location for a conference and associated activities, the physical disabilities that inevitably follow with increasing age.
• Audibility of oral presentations would be facilitated for many participants by making sure that equipment for Tele coils and FM in auditoria are activated if available. Ideally, such facilities should be standard equipment. Readability of Conference Programmes and Abstract Books gain in readability by use of not too small font sizes and by avoiding use of low contrasts such as using black print on grey or red backgrounds.
• For poster presentations, senior crystallographers find it hard to remain standing for the whole period of a session. Consequently senior crystallographers should be provided with a chair and table at their poster display.
• This GIG_SC recommends that conference registration fees for all senior crystallographers be offered at the same level as those applied to young crystallographers and accompanying persons. This has already been done at ECM28, Warwick in 2013 and at ECM29, Rovinj in 2015.
• This GIG_SC comes together to preserve the history of crystallography, to archive crystallographic materials and to play a part in teaching. It also seeks to establish formal and informal sessions on the history of crystallography while some of the older generation of crystallographers are still around. Few are left who have actually met P. P. Ewald, Sir Lawrence Bragg, P. W. J. Debye, Ivar Waller etc. Senior crystallographers might, for instance, offer seminars on “who’s who” in crystallography.

Yours sincerely,

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