

Minutes of the SNSS/SGN General Assembly 2022

Date/Location : December 2, 2022, Virtual meeting via Zoom
Start : 15:00
End : 16:30
Participants : 29 members of the society and 5 non-members

1. Welcome

Marc Janoschek, president of the Swiss Neutron Science Society, welcomes the participants to the general assembly 2022.

2. Minutes of the General Assembly 2021

The minutes of the general assembly of the SNSS/SGN from 26.11.2021, published in Swiss Neutron News #59 are accepted by all 23 members present at the assembly.

3. Annual Report of the Chairman

Marc Janoschek reports on the activities of the SNSS/SGN in the years 2021 and 2022:

- a) The SNSS has organized and participated in several workshops and symposiums. At the SPS meeting held in June 2022, the SNSS has organized the symposium “Swiss Neutron Science on the European Scale”. The poster prizes at the Swiss Soft Day 29 (April 2022) and the French-Swiss Meeting “SANS for Soft Matter” held in Strasbourg (March 2022) were sponsored by the SNSS.
- b) The ninth (2022) **Young Scientist Prize** of the SNSS/SGN sponsored by Swiss Neutronics has been awarded to **Dr. Stephan Allenspach** (UniGE). Nominations for the 2023 Young Scientist Prize of the SNSS should be submitted to the Swiss Neutron Science Society (sgn@psi.ch) until March 5, 2023.
- c) Several outstanding Swiss contributions to neutron science have been honored with awards: The European Neutron Association (ENSA) awarded **Dr. Ellen Fogh** (EPFL) the Felix Lewy Bertaud Prize. The Swiss scientist **Prof. Peter Böni** (Technical University Munich) was awarded the Walter Hälg Prize by ENSA. **Dr. Artur Glavic** (PSI) received the inaugural Instrumentation Prize of the German “Committee Research with Neutrons (KFN)”.
- d) The SNSS/SGN has **198 members** at the time of the assembly. There are many more profiting from neutron science in Switzerland, and a mechanism to include them in SNSS would be very welcome. In the years from 2015 to 2020, there were 419 unique proposers with email addresses ending with “.ch” submitting

- research proposals to SINQ. In the same time range, there were more than 500 publications including an author with Swiss affiliation.
- e) Two issues of **Swiss Neutron News** have appeared in May 2022 and at the end of November 2022.

4. Report of the Treasurer

The annual balance sheet for 2021 is presented:

Assets SNSS/SGN on 1.1.2021:	CHF	8161.80
	Revenues [CHF]	Expenses [CHF]
Membership-fees (cash box)	0.00	
Membership-fees (postal check acc.)	615.00	
Donations	30.00	
Deposit prize money 2021	1'000.00	
Expenses Postfinance account		64.00
Payout prize money 2021		1'000.00
Total	1'645.00	1'064.00
Net earnings 2021:	581.00	
Balance sheet 2021:		
	Assets [CHF]	Liabilities [CHF]
Postfinance account	8'522.80	
Cash box	220.00	
Assets on 31.12.2021	8'742.80	

5. Report of the Auditors

Both Auditors (Dr. M. Zolliker and Prof. F. Piegsa) have examined the bookkeeping and the balance sheet for 2021. They have accepted it without objection. The participants unanimously vote for the release of the SGN/SNSS board.

11.2.22		11.2.22	
Datum	Dr. M. Zolliker, PSI	Datum	Prof. Florian Piegsa, Univ. Bern

6. Vote for a new Auditor

Prof. Florian Piegsa is a board member of SNSS since 2022 and, therefore, cannot continue to act as an Auditor. Dr. Daniel Mazzone (PSI) has kindly agreed to take on this role. Daniel Mazzone is unanimously confirmed as new Auditor of SNSS.

7. Budget 2023

Marc Janoschek presents the following proposal for the budget 2023:

	Receipts [CHF]	Expenditures [CHF]
member fees	700.00	
interest	0.00	
prize money	1'000.00	1'000.00
fees Postfinance account		63.00
Financing of poster awards etc.		500.00
Total	1'700.00	1'563.00
Total receipts 2023	137.00	
Assets 31.12.2023	9'409.18	

The participants accept the budget proposal without objection.

8. Proposal / Decision to Change Membership Model

The Swiss Neutron Science Society (SNSS) currently has about 200 members, but only a small fraction are paying members. The society has never enforced payment because the income was sufficient. In addition, we currently benefit from PSI graciously covering the cost for printing Swiss Neutron News and to host the website. However, the website system is outdated and will eventually be retired. If SINQ users would automatically become members of the society, the SNSS could have 500+ members, but younger and new neutron scientists often do not join. To address this, the society is proposing an additional Institutional Membership model, where institutions such as PSI or university groups can pay for their staff to be members. This would stabilize the society's income and allow for additional measures such as student travel grants and organization of topical workshops.

This proposal is connected with the proposal to make SNSS a member organization of SCNAT described below.

9. SCNAT Membership

Research societies can become member societies of SCNAT, which has many benefits such as having their webpages hosted on SCNAT platform and being able to apply for additional funds for various purposes such as summer schools/workshops, travel funds for members, and education measures. In addition, SCNAT has an excellent relationship with the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), which is the national funding body funding PSI, many of the Swiss large-scale facility projects, and the access to international neutron sources such as the ILL and ESS. SCNAT is also leading the national roadmap process. Thus, being part of SCNAT would also enable event better exchange with SERI and other scientific societies that have common goals and interests (such as CHIPP, SPS, SGK/SSCr).

However, there is a cost of 7 CHF/member/year, which adds up to about 1500 CHF/year for SNSS. Despite this, once the initial investment is made, a multiple of it can be recovered.

The board proposes that SNSS joins SCNAT. The SCNAT membership and the change of the membership model (paragraph 8) are adopted with 25 votes in favour, none against and 4 abstentions.

10. News from ENSA, ILL, and ESS

i) News from SINQ (Michel Kenzelmann)

- a) The call for SINQ proposals of Nov. 15, 2022, was very successful with 325 proposals for 12 instruments. This is about 7% more than for the call of May 15, and it reflects the high demand for beam time at SINQ, because other neutron sources have been shut down or not in operation.

- b) SINQ/PSI is a partner of the European project ReMade@ARI, which was accepted. This project forms a consortium of world-class research infrastructures for materials characterization in a circular economy.
- c) Two new/upgraded instruments at SINQ have joined user operation: The multiplexing spectrometer CAMEA is optimized for small samples and complex sample environments. It can compete with flag-ship spectrometers at ILL or NIST. Together with MLZ, the diffractometer DMC was rebuilt with a much larger detector.
- d) The upgrades of four SINQ instruments are continued: The reflectometer AMOR and the small-angle instrument SANS-LLB are planned to join user operation in the second cycle of 2023. The imaging beam line NEUTRA is upgraded for higher flux and higher resolution. The materials-science diffractometer POLDI is upgraded to increase its performance for engineering diffraction by a factor of 5.
- e) ANAXAM is now an established and successful public-private partnership catering to industrial needs at large facilities, with an increasing number of industry-related projects at SINQ using more than 40 beam days per year.
- f) A project for a Neutron Guide Hall North for about 6 additional instruments at SINQ is being discussed. This would be a quite inexpensive way to increase the amount of neutron beam time available in Europe. This project may be realized after 2030 and a preliminary report is planned for 2025.
- g) Instead of a user meeting, several focused workshops have been organized by scientists at SINQ: the French-Swiss workshop on SANS for Soft Matter, the workshop Topology in Magnetic Materials, the workshop on Nordic Perspectives on Advanced Neutron Imaging, the Zuoz-PSI Condensed Matter Camp on Coherence and Entanglement in Quantum Systems, and the workshop on Perspectives with High Magnetic Fields at Neutron Sources.
- h) Prizes awarded in 2022 to scientists affiliated the Laboratory for Neutron Scattering and Imaging and the Laboratory for Neutron and Muon Instrumentation: Dr. Alessandra Luchini (ESS, PSI) was awarded the Camurus Lipid Research Foundation Junior Prize. Dr. Arthur Glavic (PSI) received the KFN Instrumentation Prize.

ii) **News from ENSA** (Henrik Rønnow)

- a) ENSA is chaired by Henrik Rønnow (EPFL Lausanne), the vice chair is Lambert van Eijck (TU Delft), and the secretary is Natalie Malikova (Sorbonne Université, Paris). The Swiss delegate to ENSA is Marc Janoschek (PSI).
- b) The European Neutron conference ECNS, co-organized by ENSA, will take place in March 2023 in Munich.
- c) ENSA has published three calls for prizes: the Walter Hälgl Prize for outstanding efforts and achievements in neutron scattering, the Levy Bertaut Prize for notable experimental, methodological or theoretical contributions to the investigation of matter using crystallographic or neutron scattering methods, and the Neutron Instrumentation and Innovation Award.
- d) ENSA has issued a call for the International Conference on Neutron Scattering (ICNS) 2025. The deadline is January 25, 2023.

- e) Currently ENSA is discussing its position with regard to our Russian colleagues from the Russian Neutron Scattering Society (ROSNEUTRO). This was triggered by ECNS having to formally exclude Russian scientists because of German sanctions due to Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine.
- f) ENSA is attempting to establish collaborations with other organizations for Transnational Access (TNA) to neutron sources. Discussions are held with ESUO, LENS, and LEAPS.

iii) **News from ILL** (Marc Janoschek)

- a) A contract for the Swiss 2019-2023 membership in ILL has been signed, with thanks to SERI. Contract negotiations for the next period will start in early March 2023.
- b) Funding for the Swiss membership has been secured in SERI Botschaft until 2028. SERI is considering negotiating a contract that will go up to at least 2028.
- c) Initially, the Swiss contribution to ILL was expected to decrease from 15 MCHF to 12 MCHF due to investment in ESS, but SERI is considering using 3-4 MCHF from credit for ESS to stabilize or even slightly increase the contribution to ILL.
- d) The Swiss-CEA-CRG collaboration gives beamtime on IN22, IN12, and D23 through the normal ILL proposal system. The contract is valid through 2023, and negotiations are underway to extend it up to 2027.
- e) The PSI-ILL collaborations have added synergies, such as high-pressure and soft matter sample environments. This collaboration is continued, and a recent PSI-ILL meeting discussed expanding the PSI-ILL bilateral collaboration.
- f) ILL has not been able to run full annual schedules in recent years. Researchers whose work is impeded by national balance should send a message to document the science not done or postponed.

iv) **News from ESS** (Marc Janoschek)

- a) The outside construction and the office buildings of ESS are finished. Good progress was also made with the accelerator, which is mostly on time.
- b) The PSI-ESS project and its partners are making good progress with installations at ESS for BIFROST (CAMEA-like spectrometer), ESTIA (reflectometer with Selene guides), and the multi-purpose imaging instrument ODIN. It is expected that these installations will be ready for first Beam On Target (BOT).
- c) However, the overall ESS project continues to experience delays, with the current projection for BOT in January 2026. The most critical issue is the He gas circulator for the target.

11. Miscellaneous

A question is asked about the He situation at the PSI. Marc Janoschek informs that the availability of He is as yet not a big problem thanks to the good recovery system. For some Swiss Universities, He supply has become a significant problem.

U. Gasser
February 2023