

Minutes of the SNSS/SGN General Assembly 2023

Date/Location : November 23, 2023, Hybrid meeting in OSGA/E06 and via Zoom
Start : 15:00
End : 16:30
Participants : 23 members of the society and 2 non-members

1. Welcome

Marc Janoschek, president of the Swiss Neutron Science Society, welcomes the participants to the general assembly 2023.

2. Minutes of the General Assembly 2022

The minutes of the general assembly of the SNSS/SGN from 2.12.2022, published in Swiss Neutron News #61 are accepted without any dissenting vote.

3. Annual Report of the Chairman

Marc Janoschek reports on the activities of the SNSS/SGN in the years 2022 and 2023:

- a) Following the decision to pursue an SCNAT membership of the SNSS, a request for membership in the MAP (Mathematics, Astronomy and Physics) platform of SCNAT was accepted during the meeting of the SCNAT executive board on March 31, 2023. SNSS will formally join SCNAT as of January 1, 2024. Notably, being part of SCNAT results in synergies with other member societies that have common goals and interests (such as CHIPP, SPS, SGK/SSCr), for example, for the national roadmap process. The SNSS will also be able to apply for funding from SCNAT to promote our society via activities such as summer schools/workshops, travel funds for members, and educational measures.
- b) Following a discussion in 2022, the SNSS has changed its membership model. The SNSS now allows institutes to pay membership fees for their scientists. Institutions that have so far engaged in this scheme are PSI-NUM, EMPA, UZH, Uni Bern and ETH Zürich. Conversations with further institutes are ongoing.
- c) Several workshops have been organized and supported by the SNSS, notably the Neutron Science session at the SPS meeting together with our Austrian colleagues.
- d) The tenth (2023) **Young Scientist Prize** of the SNSS/SGN sponsored by Swiss Neutronics has been split and awarded to **Dr. Elisabetta Nocerino** (Stockholm University) for her thesis work on "A Comprehensive Experimental Approach to Multifunctional Quantum Materials & their Physical Properties", and to **Dr. Ivo**

- Schulthess** (University Bern) receives the prize for his thesis work on "Search for Axion-Like Dark Matter and Exotic Yukawa-Like Interaction". Nominations for the 2024 Young Scientist Prize of the SNSS should be submitted to the Swiss Neutron Science Society (sgn@psi.ch) until March 1st, 2024.
- e) One new issue of **Swiss Neutron News** has appeared in June 2023 and a second 2023 issue will follow in December 2023 (note after assembly: distributed December 12th, 2023).
 - f) The SNSS/SGN has **261 members** at the time of the assembly. This is a 34% (63 members) increase compared to the end of 2022 resulting from the new membership model. There are many more scientists profiting from neutron science in Switzerland and it should be possible to further increase the number of members.

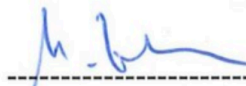

4. Report of the Treasurer

The annual balance sheet for 2022 is presented:

Assets SNSS/SGN on 1.1.2022:	CHF	8742.80
	Revenues [CHF]	Expenses [CHF]
Membership-fees (cash box)	0.00	
Membership-fees, donations (postal check acc.)	910.00	
Deposit prize money 2021	1'000.00	
Expenses Postfinance account		62.04
Poster Prize Swiss Soft Days		200.00
Poster Prize SANS for Soft Matter		103.58
Payout prize money 2021		1'000.00
Total	1'910.00	1'365.62
Net earnings 2022:	544.38	
Balance sheet 2022:	Assets [CHF]	Liabilities [CHF]
Postfinance account	9'067.18	
Cash box	220.00	
Assets on 31.12.2022	9'287.18	

5. Report of the Auditors

Both Auditors (Dr. M. Zolliker and Dr. Daniel Mazzone) have examined the bookkeeping and the balance sheet for 2022. They have accepted it without objection. The participants unanimously vote for the release of the SNSS board.

20.1.23  27.2.23 
Datum Dr. M. Zolliker, PSI Datum Dr. Daniel Mazzone

6. Budget 2024

Marc Janoschek presents the following proposal for the budget 2024:

Account on balance (20.11.2023) 12099.18 CHF

	Receipts [CHF]	Expenditures [CHF]
member fees	3'000.00	
interest	0.00	
prize money	1'000.00	1'000.00
fees Postfinance account		63.00
Fees ClubDesk Software		432.00
Fee web domain		15.00
Fee new logo		1'000.00
Fees SCNAT membership		1'813.00
Financing of poster awards etc.		1'000.00
Total	4'000.00	5'323.00
Total receipts	-1'323.00	
Assets 31.12.2024	10'776.18	

The participants accept the budget proposal without objection.

7. Election of the SNSS Board for the period 2024 - 2026

The board members at the time of the assembly are Urs Gasser (board member and secretary), Marc Janoschek (president), Karl Krämer (board member), Florian Piegsa (board member), Henrik Ronnow (board member), and Markus Strobl (board member).

Further, Viviane Lütz-Bueno supports the SNSS as the editor of Swiss Neutron News.

For the period 2024 - 2026, Urs Gasser and Karl Krämer step down. Karl Krämer served as auditor from 2004 to 2018 and has been on the board since 2019. Urs Gasser served as secretary since 2009 and was editor of Swiss Neutron News from 2009 - 2022.

Marc Janoschek, Florian Piegsa, and Markus Strobl are willing to continue as president and board members for one more turn. Viviane Lütz-Bueno is willing to continue as editor of Swiss Neutron News.

Fanni Juranyi and Romain Sibille are available to join the board, and Fanni Juranyi will also be available as secretary.

Florian Piegsa and Markus Strobl are confirmed as board members with 23 votes in favor and 0 votes against.

Marc Janoschek is confirmed as president of SNSS with 23 votes in favor and 0 votes against.

Fanni Juranyi and Romain Sibille are elected as new board members with 23 votes in favor and 0 votes against.

The board for the period 2024 - 2026 consists of Marc Janoschek (president), Fanni Juaranyi (board member and secretary), Florian Piegsa (board member), Romain Sibille (board member), and Markus Strobl (board member).

8. News from UCN / SINQ / ENSA / ILL / ESS

i) News from UCN (Marc Janoschek)

The UCN-EZE project has now started with initial PSI funding of about 1.5 MCHF. The ultra-cold neutron source insert will be upgraded to achieve a higher flux, which already is world leading, and to increase the life time of UCN. This upgrade is relevant for the n2EDM experiment and in general for the high precision fundamental physics with ultra-cold neutrons in Switzerland.

ii) News from SINQ (Michel Kenzelmann)

- a) The SINQ neutron source is in operation since middle of May 2023 with high stability. In 2024, SINQ is planned to start up on June 1st.
- b) The call for SINQ proposals of Nov. 15, 2022, was very successful with 325 proposals for 12 instruments. 306 proposals were obtained with the May 15, 2023, call for 13 instruments. The next call for beam-time proposals is February 15th, 2024. The demand for neutron beam time remains high and reflects long shut downs and problems at other neutron sources. Two years ago, SINQ was the only running neutron source in Europe.
- c) Two thirds of all SINQ users come from abroad, 49% from the EU and 16% from other countries. A third of the user program is filled with users from Switzerland.
- d) The number of publications resulting from research done at SINQ decreased due to the time without neutrons during the SINQ upgrade in 2019 and 2020. In

- addition, SINQ came back online with fewer instruments, AMOR, SANS-LLB, and DMC were not ready for the user program in 2021. The number of publications has increased in 2023 and the publication output appears to come back to the pre-upgrade status.
- e) The reflectometer AMOR was partly available in 2023, and the cold diffractometer DMC had its first and very successful full year in the user program. SANS-LLB will join the user program in 2024.
 - f) The PSI and SINQ are part of LENS, the League of European Neutron Sources, which was founded in 2018. In March 2023, LENS got a new chair person: Martin Müller from HEREON/MLZ. At the LENS council meeting in Budapest on November 13, 2023, (partly hybrid) it was announced that MLZ will start up with thermal neutrons middle of 2024, a startup date of the cold source of MLZ is not known. ESS is planned to start its user program in 2027.
 - g) SINQ is part of two European programs supporting the user program of SINQ: The ReMade@ARI project forms a consortium of world-class research infrastructures for materials characterization in a circular economy. The NEPHEWS project (“NEutrons and PHotons Elevating Worldwide Science”) supports access to the European neutron, synchrotron, and free-electron laser infrastructures to promote curiosity driven excellence in research.
 - h) Scientists at SINQ organize focused workshops: the PSI Condensed Matter Camp on “2D materials: insights and opportunities at large scale facilities” took place in Zuoz, August 6-11, 2023. The second “French-Swiss SANS workshop for Soft Matter” is planned for January 24-25, 2024, at PSI. The “2nd Workshop on Correlated Disorder” is planned to take place February 27-28, 2024 at Herzberg near PSI.

iii) News from ENSA (Marc Janoschek)

- a) Both the previous chair, Henrik M. Rønnow, EPFL) and vice-chair (Lambert van Eijck, TU Delft) of ENSA finished their terms in 2023. During the ENSA meetings in March and November 2023, Astrid Schneidewind (FZJ, Germany) was elected as the new chair person of ENSA, Stefano Deledda (IFE, Norway) has become the new vice-chair. Natalie Malikova (Sorbonne University, France) is the secretary of ENSA. Marc Janoschek is the Swiss delegate to ENSA.
- b) During the ECNS conference in Munich, March 20-23, 2023, ENSA awarded three prizes to European neutron scientists:
 - The Levy Bertaut prize was awarded to Dr. Matilde Saura-Múzquiz (Complutense University of Madrid).
 - The Walter Hålg prize was won by Toby Perring (ISIS).
 - The Neutron Innovation and Instrumentation Prize was given to Alessandro Tengattini (ILL).
- c) ENSA is intensifying its collaboration with ESUO, LENS and LEAPS on applying for Transnational Access (TNA). The so-called NEPHEWS (Neutrons and Photons Elevating Worldwide Science) project was funded and aims to bring curiosity-driven TNA to new countries. ENSA and EUSO held a first joint

meeting the week before the SNSS assembly at PSI to increase this collaboration further.

- d) A current topic of common interest is making progress on FAIR OpenData. Here, Germany is a key driver via the DAPHNE4NFDI (DATA from PHoton and Neutron Experiments, <https://www.daphne4nfdi.de/english/>) project. NFDI stands for “Nationale Forschungsdaten Infrastruktur”. The output of this meeting is a white paper addressing the topics and implications of FAIR data and Open Data policy for the European photon and neutron community.

iv) News from ILL (Marc Janoschek)

- a) Ken Andersen is ILL’s next director, he has taken up his duties on the 16th of October, 2023. Ken Andersen replaces Paul Langan.
- b) The current contract of Switzerland with ILL for Swiss membership in the years 2019-2023 has allowed regular access to ILL’s user program up to 2.84%. Additional accompanying measures financed by Switzerland were used to allow for a potential use of up to 4.5% of ILL’s beamtime for users from Switzerland. The average use over the contract period was 4.21%, however, there was a very high number of rejected proposals.
- c) The contract for the Swiss membership from 2024 up to possibly 2030 is currently negotiated. 12.0 MCHF have been granted by the Swiss Parliament for 2024-2028. Considering the beamtime price approved by the ILL Associates, this amount would allow for a baseline access of 2.5%.
- d) In the Education, Research, and Innovation (ERI) dispatch of the Federal Council for the period 2025-2028, an additional 14.4 MCHF were included to enable the Swiss participation until the end of the ILL operation. The goal is to ensure "sufficient access" and benefiting from "advantageous contractual conditions" in view of a successful transition towards ESS. The final decision by the Parliament is expected in December 2024. This would allow for access to 3.0% of the regular user program and also for possible support measures. This additional funding would also increase the number of “Swiss PhD positions” at the ILL from one to two.

v) News from ESS (Marc Janoschek)

- a) The ESS project was initially plagued by many delays but is now performing according to its baseline since summer 2022 and is tracking well with regard to schedule!
- b) Swiss in-kind contributions to instrumentation BIFROST, ESTIA (100% Swiss), ODIN, HEIMDAL and MAGIC are making excellent progress.
- c) PSI and ESS have installed the main component of ESTIA (invented at PSI), the so-called Selene Guide over the this summer. Swiss contributions to ODIN and BIFROST are also close to 100% completed.
- d) Beam on target is now planned for May 2025, first science is planned to start in 2026, and the start of the official user program is scheduled beginning of 2027.

9. New Webpage and Logo

The current webpage of SNSS is hosted on a PSI legacy webpage system that will be switched off in the future. It is planned to build a new, modern webpage using the ClubDesk Software, which is used for membership management since this year. The domain name www.neutronscience.ch has been reserved. Viviane Lütz Bueno and Romain Sibille support the SNSS board in this matter.

Further, a graphic designer has been contacted to obtain a more modern version of the current SNSS logo. It is planned to go online with the new webpage in spring or summer 2024.

U. Gasser
December 2023