

AANSS2007 – The 6th AINSE/ANBUG Neutron Science Symposium

The 6th edition of the Australian neutron users' meeting, AANSS2007, was held at Lucas Heights over 2.5 days from 4 – 7 December 2007. The meeting was hosted jointly by the Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering (AINSE) and the Australian Neutron Beam Users Group (ANBUG). Besides providing the lecture theatre venue, AINSE contributed significant financial and administrative support for delegates. ANBUG provided the organising committee, which this year consisted of Chris Ling (Chair), Brendan Kennedy, Daniel Riley, Frank Klose, Andrew Nelson and Craig Buckley along with Dennis Mather and Rhiannon Still from AINSE. Additional support from the ARC-funded Materials Modelling and Structure Network (MMSN) was used to reduce the cost of student attendance and to provide in-country costs (meals and accommodation) for overseas invited speakers.

The key goals of AANSS are:

- To highlight the capabilities of the new OPAL neutron beam facility at Lucas Heights, both at the date of the Symposium and in the near future;
- To present some of the best recent results in Australian and international neutron scattering science;
- To promote graduate student research activities;
- To engage local researchers, especially students, in the possibilities and practice of neutron scattering methods; and
- To highlight the complementarity of neutron and X-ray scattering, particularly synchrotron X-ray scattering.

There were 70 delegates at AANSS2007, including 3 international speakers (Wen-Hsien Li, National Central University, Taiwan; Hiroshi Arima, University of Tokyo, Japan; Michelle Cottrell, University of Florida, USA). 20 of these delegates were graduate students. The meeting was opened by Dennis Mather (on behalf of AINSE), Craig Buckley (on behalf of ANBUG), and Rob Robinson (on behalf of the Bragg Institute, ANSTO). The scientific program featured 36 oral and 20 poster presentations of a consistently high standard, covering the entire range of neutron scattering science (from protein dynamics to magnetic phase separation) and techniques (from reflectometry to inelastic scattering).

An important part of AANSS is the ANBUG Annual General Meeting, chaired in 2007 by its president Craig Buckley. The AGM provides its approximately 300 members with an update on the status of the new OPAL research reactor and its instruments from members of the Bragg Institute (including its Director, Rob Robinson), and the opportunity to give direct feedback on their needs and priorities as users. The minutes of the meeting can be found at <http://www.anbug.org>.

AANSS2007 was timed to be contiguous with the inaugural ANSTO-AINSE Neutron School on Diffraction (in Collaboration with IAEA), which ran from 29 November – 3 December 2007 (see http://www.ansto.gov.au/bragg/science/conferences_and_workshops/neutron_school.html). The 28 people who attended the School also participated in AANSS2007.

Finally, it is important to note that this is the first time that AANSS has been run two years in a row (2006 and 2007). This reflects the significantly increased interest in neutron scattering, and size of the user community, engendered by OPAL. It is expected that AANSS will be an annual event from now on, and plans for AANSS2008 are already underway.

Chris Ling

School of Chemistry, The University of Sydney and Bragg Institute, ANSTO
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List of student delegates

Michelle Cottrell, *University of Florida*
Hai Binh Nguyen, *Australian National University*
Andrew Princep, *Curtin University of Technology*
Shane Lawrence, *Curtin University of Technology*
Kevin Jarrett, *Curtin University of Technology*
Puwang Li, *Deakin University*
Edmund Burt, *Griffith University*
Martin Duriska, *Monash University*
Jimmy Ting, *The University of Sydney*
Jeannette McAlpine, *The University of Sydney*
Clare White, *The University of Melbourne*
David Jacques, *The University of Sydney*
Neeraj Sharma, *The University of Sydney*
Banchachit Saensunon, *University of New South Wales at ADFA*
Thomas Ellis, *University of New South Wales*
Ben Kent, *RMIT University*
Paul Saines, *The University of Sydney*
Richard Clements, *The University of Sydney*
John Chow, *The University of Sydney*
Lee Hoffman, *Flinders University*