

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2026

From the President – Joseph D. Ferrara

2026 continues to be a formative year for the American Union of Crystallography (AUC). We have moved from organizing the transition from the former U. S. National Committee for Crystallography (USNC/Cr) to actively carrying out the responsibilities of the U.S. adhering body to the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr). With IUCr2026 in Calgary now approaching, the AUC is focused on U.S. representation at the General Assembly, support for student participation, recognition of scientific achievement through the George M. Sheldrick Prize, and the continued development of AUC governance and community programs.

This newsletter provides an update on our summer activities and highlights several important steps as we prepare for IUCr2026.

Preparing for IUCr2026 in Calgary

The 27th IUCr Congress and General Assembly will be held in Calgary, Canada, 11–18 August 2026. The AUC is serving as one of the joint host organizations, together with the American Crystallographic Association (ACA) and the Canadian National Committee for Crystallography (CNCC).

The IUCr General Assembly (GA) will meet three times during the Congress: GA1 on Wednesday, August 12; GA2 on Thursday, August 13; and GA3 on Sunday, August 16. The U.S. delegation will meet before each General Assembly session to coordinate its work.

Transition to Permanent Adhering Body

A major priority for the AUC at the GA will be the transition from ad interim adhering body to the permanent adhering body for the United States. This is an essential step in ensuring continuity of U.S. representation within the IUCr following the transition from the USNC/Cr to the AUC. The GA agenda includes items related to adherence to the Union, applications for membership, changes in adhering bodies, and elections of IUCr officers and commission members.

The AUC thanks the U. S. National Division of the ACA (USND) for its work in helping select the U.S. delegates for IUCr2026. Their assistance has been critical during this transition year and has helped ensure that the United States will be well represented in Calgary.

U.S. Delegation to the IUCr General Assembly

The names of the U.S. delegates have been forwarded to IUCr headquarters, and the delegation has received the General Assembly documents from the IUCr Executive. The U.S. delegation for IUCr2026 consists of:

- Joseph Ferrara, Chair
- Sarah E. J. Bowman

- Ilia A. Guzei
- Cora Lind-Kovacs
- Allen G. Oliver

Lisa J. Keefe will serve as first alternate, and Nicholas Sauter will serve as second alternate. In addition to supporting the AUC's transition to permanent adhering body status, the delegation will participate in General Assembly business, including commission matters, IUCr policy discussions, and elections.

2026 AUC George M. Sheldrick Prize

The AUC is pleased to recognize Professor Stephanie Wankowicz of Vanderbilt University as the recipient of the 2026 AUC George M. Sheldrick Prize. The Sheldrick Prize recognizes outstanding contributions to molecular structure determination, including innovative methods, algorithms, and software. Professor Wankowicz's work introduces entropic flexibility into computational structural biology, advancing a field that has long been shaped by static structural models. Her research reflects the spirit of the Sheldrick Prize by combining methodological innovation with broad impact in structural science.

The Board has also reviewed proposed updates to the Sheldrick Prize in coordination with the ECA. These include broadening the geographical scope of the prize, clarifying candidate eligibility, refining the scope of the prize, changing the terminology from "Award" to "Prize," and requiring the recipient to give a keynote lecture when appropriate. The AUC thanks the Education, Workforce Development and Outreach Committee for its work in selecting this year's prize winner and for supporting the continued development of this important recognition program.

IUCr Student Travel Scholarships

Supporting students and early-career crystallographers remains a central part of the AUC mission. The 2026 AUC Student Travel Scholarship recipients are:

Recipient Name	Institution	Scholarship Amount
Tom Bonzon	Baylor University	\$1,000
Gabriella Ruiz	UCLA	\$1,000
Jitendra Singh	University at Buffalo	\$1,000

The awardees will receive their travel scholarship checks at IUCr2026. We thank the Education, Workforce Development and Outreach Committee for its work in reviewing applications and selecting the travel grant recipients.

Governance and 2027–2029 Nominations

The AUC is beginning preparations for its next leadership cycle. A Nominating Committee has been established for the upcoming ballot, with Nicholas Sauter serving as chair. The committee also

includes Efrain Rodriguez, Christine Beavers, and Ed Eng from the AUC and Brent Nannenga, Cora Lind-Kovacs, and Brian Toby from the USND.

The committee will be looking for candidates for Vice Chair for 2027–2029 and four new Directors for the same period. This is an important opportunity to continue building a Board that reflects the breadth of U.S. crystallography across disciplines, career stages, institutions, and scientific communities.

Outreach, Communications, and IUCr Presence

The AUC will have a visible presence at IUCr2026 through the shared AUC/ACA/CNCC booth. The booth will provide an opportunity to meet colleagues, explain the AUC's mission, discuss support for U.S. crystallography, and encourage broader participation in AUC activities.

US National Committee for Crystallography Documents: The AUC has received a tranche of USNC/Cr historical documents from the National Academy of Sciences. The collection includes meeting minutes and General Assembly reports dating back to 1999. Please contact the AUC if you are interested in reviewing these records.

Support the AUC

The AUC continues to rely on community support to advance its mission. Donations to the general fund support the operating infrastructure needed to represent U.S. crystallography, maintain programs, and build long-term capacity. Donations to the Sheldrick Prize fund help sustain the prize for future IUCr Congress cycles. We are grateful to all donors and sponsors who have helped the AUC move from launch to active service. Your support is especially important in this inaugural year.

Looking Ahead

The coming weeks will be significant for the AUC and for U.S. crystallography. At IUCr2026, we will support our student travel awardees, recognize the 2026 Sheldrick Prize recipient, represent the United States in the IUCr General Assembly, and work toward confirmation of the AUC as the permanent U.S. adhering body to the IUCr. On behalf of the AUC leadership, thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Joseph D. Ferrara

President and Chair

Lisa J. Keefe

Vice Chair

Ilia A. Guzei

Treasurer

Allen G. Oliver

Secretary

