

April 2015

## Meetings of National Committees

### Recent meetings

If you are interested in receiving the minutes from a meeting of a committee other than your own please contact your committee officer.

- Earth Sciences, Canberra, 9 January 2015
- Astronomy, Teleconference, 29 January and 27 March 2015
- Data in Science, Teleconference, 4 February 2015
- Ecology, Evolution and Conservation, Canberra, 20 February 2015
- Earth Sciences, Canberra, 25 February 2015
- Information and Communication Sciences, Teleconference, 13 March 2015

### Upcoming meetings

Please contact your committee officer if you are interested in attending a meeting of another committee.

- Materials Science and Engineering, Canberra, 21 April 2015
- Regional Meetings for Agriculture Decadal Plan (Perth), University of Western Australia, 24 April 2015
- Regional Meetings for Agriculture Decadal Plan (Brisbane), venue and date TBA,

May 2015

- Physics, Teleconference, April TBA
- Nutrition, Teleconference, 9 April 2015
- Brain and Mind, Teleconference, April/May TBA
- History and Philosophy of Science, Teleconference, May TBA
- Mathematical Sciences, Canberra, 1 May 2015
- Crystallography, Canberra, 27 May 2015
- Space and Radio Science, Canberra, May/June TBA
- Data in Science, Canberra, 18 June 2015
- Earth System Science, Canberra, June TBA
- Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Canberra, June TBA

## Updates on ICSU unions

### International Council for Science (ICSU)

New appointments:

- Dr Heide Hackmann has been appointed as the incoming Executive Director of ICSU and will take over leadership of the International Secretariat in Paris in March.
- Dr Lucilla Spini has been appointed Head of Science Programmes from January 2015, managing the development and implementation of ICSU's scientific and science for policy initiatives.

### International Union of Materials Research Societies

Australia has won the bid to stage the [International Union of Materials Research Societies'](#) 2018 International Conference of Young Researchers on Advanced Materials. About 1000 young researchers from around the world are expected to attend the biennial event, which will be held in October 2018 at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

## **Future Earth**

The Academy, together with the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, the Australian Academy of the Humanities and the Australian Academy of the Technological Sciences and Engineering, has received funding from the Australian Council of the Learned Academies (ACOLA) to produce a strategic plan for Future Earth in Australia to explore how best to take Australia's engagement forward with Future Earth and ensure Australia's contributions to this initiative regionally and globally. While the plan is progressing, the National Committee for Earth System Science will remain the Australian contact point for Future Earth, and will be linked to from the [Future Earth](#) website.

## **Input into science policy**

### **Draft Science and Research Priorities for Australia**

The National Committees for Physics and Information and Communication Sciences responded to a call for submissions on the Draft Science and Research Priorities for Australia, issued by the Chief Scientist's Office on 18 March. Read the responses here: [NCP response \(PDF\)](#), [NCICS response \(PDF\)](#).

### **NHMRC Targeted Consultation on the Draft Principles for Accessing and Using Publicly Funded Data for Health Research**

The NC for Data in Science made a submission to the NHMRC Targeted Consultation on the Draft Principles for Accessing and Using Publicly Funded Data for Health Research. A copy of the submission will be available to the [reports and submissions](#) page of the Academy website in the near future.

### **Therapeutic Goods Administration - Regulating autologous stem cell**

### **therapies**

The NC for Cellular and Developmental Biology (NCCDB) and Stem Cells Australia developed a position statement and wrote to the Minister of Health in late 2014 seeking the tightening of a regulatory loophole around the use of autologous stem cell therapies. The Therapeutic Goods Administration released an [open consultation on this issue](#) in early January and invited the Academy to put in a submission. The NCCDB were strongly engaged in developing the Academy submission.

### **Watching briefs**

The Australian National Audit Office has invited the Academy to provide its views and observations about the effectiveness of Australian Antarctic Division arrangements to support Australia's Antarctic Program. The NC for Antarctic Research are submitting a response towards this submission.

## **Decadal plan updates**

Please click on the links below for information on upcoming events and consultations for decadal plans currently underway.

### **Agriculture Decadal Plan**

Regional Meetings for Agriculture Decadal Plan:

- Perth: University of Western Australia, 24 April 2015
- Brisbane: venue and date TBA, May 2015

### **Australia in the Era of Global Astronomy: The Decadal Plan for Australian Astronomy 2016 – 2025**

**Link:** [Australian Astronomy Decadal Plan 2016-2025](#)

**Status:** Final revision by Editorial Board and endorsement by NCA and Council in

April 2015.

The NCA presented an exposure draft of the Plan to the community for comment in February. The exposure draft represented a synthesis of recommendations from eleven working groups across areas of astronomical science, facilities and instrumentation, education, and industry engagement.

To publicise the decadal plan as widely as possible and to seek feedback and community endorsement for its recommendations, a series of presentations and discussions were held around the country during February.

### **Decadal Plan for Chemistry**

Link: [Decadal Plan for Chemistry](#)

### **Decadal Plan for the Mathematical Sciences**

Link: [A Decadal Plan for the Mathematical Sciences](#)

### **Mid-Term review of the 2010-2019 Decadal Plan for Australian Space Science**

Link: [Australian Space and Radio Science Census 2015](#)

The NC Space and Radio Science is undertaking review of the 2010-2019 Decadal Plan for Australian Space Science in 2015-16. To begin, a survey for the Australian space and radio science communities (available at the link above) has been launched and is open until 24 April 2015. All Australians involved in space and/or radio science should complete this survey.

## **Committee projects and events**

### **Upcoming events**

[Science at the Shine Dome 2015: Minerals to medicines – 100 years of X-ray crystallography](#)

Canberra, 26-28 May 2015

Organised by the NC Crystallography, the Academy's 2015 Annual Symposium celebrates a century of X-ray crystallography. It will examine world-changing work being done in crystallography, from extra-terrestrial investigations to medicine, biology, chemistry and materials. Register now for this special event.

**Public lecture: Professor Geoffrey Boulton OBE FRS FRSE**

Canberra, 18 June 2015, organised by the NC Data in Science

A public lecture and panel discussion with Professor Geoffrey Boulton on Open Data for Science. Professor Boulton is President of the International Council for Science (ICSU) Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA).

**Early-Mid Career Researcher (EMCR) awards**

The Academy appreciates the continued support from the committees in submitting and assessing applications from EMCRs to attend high-profile international meetings.

[65<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Nobel Laureates in Lindau, 2015](#). 13 of the 15 nominations made by the Academy for the 2015 Lindau Nobel Laureates Meeting were successful. The 2015 delegation will be led by Professor Jim Williams FAA (Chair NC Materials Science and Engineering).

[Heidelberg Laureate Forum](#): With help from NCs, the Academy has nominated three young researchers to attend the 3rd Heidelberg Laureate Forum, to be staged in Germany in August 2015. The Forum is an opportunity for young researchers in mathematics and computer science to meet with and be inspired by winners of international prizes such as the Fields Medal, Abel Prize, Turing Award and Nevanlinna Prize.

## Other activities

### **Report: The importance of advanced physical and mathematical sciences to the Australian economy**

A report commissioned by the Office of the Chief Scientist and the Academy was produced by the Centre for International Economics (CIE) and launched on 25 March, detailing how physics, mathematics, chemistry and earth sciences benefit the Australian economy. The report was an initiative of the Chair for the NC Physics, Professor Hans Bachor FAA and has had a positive initial impact, with more than 50 mentions in nation-wide media in the days following the release.

The report is available through the websites of the [Academy](#) and the [Office of the Chief Scientist](#).

### **NC Astronomy**

The NC Astronomy met by teleconference with the Australian SKA Director, Dr Brian Boyle FAA, on 29 January to receive a report on SKA progress, and enable discussion to help inform the context for the finalisation of the Decadal Plan.

### **NC Information and Communication Sciences**

In February, Professors Rod Tucker FAA and Shazia Sadiq, Chair and Deputy Chair of the NC for Information and Communication Sciences (NCICS), met with the Chief Scientist to discuss how the NCICS can help to advance ICS in Australia and to align its activities in a way that supports national STEM agenda.

The group discussed topics including prioritisation of ICS research areas, the central role ICS can play in research and innovation, computing education in Australia and the need for long-term strategic planning in all of these areas. The issues discussed in the meeting will feed into the NCICS strategic planning process. Rod Tucker

subsequently met with Dr Alex Zelinsky, the Chief Defence Scientist and Chair of the Chief Scientist's committee on cybersecurity.

Australian Academy of Science © Copyright 2014 . All Rights Reserved