



DIVISION FOR CONDENSED MATTER PHYSICS AND MATERIALS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS

DCMPM

DIVISION REPORT : 2016

EXECUTIVE

Prof JAA Engelbrecht (Chair/Treasurer)
Prof D Britton (Deputy Chair)
Prof JJ Terblans (Secretary)
Prof Hendrik Swart
Prof JB Malherbe
Prof AE Strydom
Dr R Harris (Mintek)
Dr R Erasmus
Student member : Susan Jacobs

ACTIVITIES DURING PAST YEAR

- a) Members of the Executive, together with many members of our division, worked hard at reviewing the articles for SAIP 2015 Conference Proceedings. Some concerns have been noted regarding the review process and these were discussed with the SAIP Council.
- c) Members of the Executive again reviewing abstracts submitted for presentation at the SAIP 2016 Conference, and assisted in putting together the programme. A challenge remains the large number of requests for Oral presentations, and this year the proposed Programme posed some problems that had to be addressed. This will also be reported to the SAIP Council. .
- d) The annual Awards Competition of the Division, including obtaining sponsorships for the Awards, was again performed. The total amount of Awards at the 2015 SAIP Conference amounted to R 22,300.
- e) The Plenary Speaker invited for our Division for this year is Prof. Dr. Silke Bühler-Paschen from the Technical University, Wien, Austria, while the Non-Specialist Lecture was delivered by Prof Tim Gibbon from NMMU. The Non-Specialist Lecture at the 2015 SAIP Conference was presented by Prof Andrew Venter (Necsa).
- f) The 7th SA Conference on Photonic Materials is being planned and will be hosted from 27 – 31 March, 2017 at Amanzi Game Farm near Brandfort in the Free State. The Organising Committee consisting of members of staff and students from the Universities of Pretoria, NMMU and the University of the Free State, with Prof Ted Kroon as Chairman. Reviewed and subsidized articles from the 6th Conference held last year at Mabula were published in Physica B in January 2016.
- g) The Finances of the Specialist Group remain healthy, to a large extent due to the hosting of the biannual Conference on Photonic Materials. Additional funds for the Awards are obtained from by the various industry partners. These sponsorships are sincerely appreciated and acknowledged, as they enable the Division to encourage research of a high standard amongst our Division's students and members.
- h) There were 51 Orals and 65 Posters scheduled for SAIP 2016. A cause for concern is the large number of "no shows", viz. at least 10.