

Executive Summary of the 70th Board Meeting of the EPS Nuclear Physics Division, Leuven, Belgium, 15th - 16th October 2015

The 70th board Meeting of the EPS Nuclear Physics Division (EPS NPD) was held in Leuven, Belgium, on 15th and 16th October 2015. The board offered its thanks to Piet Van Duppen (KU Leuven) for arranging and hosting the meeting.

Two new members joined the board: Johan Messchendorp (KVI-CART, Netherlands) and Paul Stevenson (Surrey, UK). The board expressed its thanks to two retiring members: Dimiter Balabanski and Yeşim Öktem. Johan Messchendorp was appointed as the new treasurer of the Division.

The board heard presentations on Nuclear Physics in Belgium, covering experimental, theoretical and applied work. These included applications of nuclear physics techniques to solid state physics, production of medical isotopes and a report on the accelerator-based nuclear waste transmutation project MYRRHA. The board commended the excellent work carried out in Belgium, which it recognized was “punching well above its weight” in nuclear physics.

The board received reports from the two highly successful Divisional Conferences held earlier this year: Nuclear Physics in Astrophysics 7 held in York, 18th - 22nd May 2015 and the European Nuclear Physics Conference (EUNPC) held in Groningen, 31st August - 4th September 2015. These conferences were highly acclaimed with excellent speakers and both attracted delegates from a large number of countries around the world.

The Division confirmed that the next Nuclear Physics in Astrophysics conference will be held in Catania in 2017. It approved plans for a new Divisional conference on “Distributed EURISOL”, to be held in Leuven in the second half of October 2016. It will also invite formal bids to host the next European Nuclear Physics conference in 2018.

The 2015 IBA Prize for Applied Nuclear Science and Nuclear Methods in Medicine was presented by the Division chair, Douglas MacGregor, to Prof. Mehran Salehpour in a special prize session, closing the EuNPC 2015 conference. Prof. Salehpour was recognized for his pioneering work on ultra-sensitive accelerator mass spectrometry which is starting to open up a range of new applications in medicine and biophysics. He will write a detailed article on this topic for publication in Nuclear Physics News.

Diplomas for the winners of the EPS 2012-2014 European Nuclear Physics Thesis Prize were presented to Liam Gaffney, Jose Manuel Alarcon and Christopher Walz. The first two accepted their diplomas in person and gave invited plenary talks to the conference. The board agreed to run the PhD prize again for students graduating in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

The board will also shortly open nominations for the 2016 Lise Meitner Prize for outstanding achievement in Nuclear Science.

The next Division board meeting will be held in Paris on 14th and 15th April 2016.