

**Working Group WG-15 – Soft Matter Physics**  
**Report to the IUPAP Council & Commission Chairs meeting**  
**September 6, 2023**

***Mandate of the IUPAP Working Group on Soft Matter***

1. To organize/assist in organization of the International Soft Matter Conference every 3 years in each geographic region (Europe, America, and Asia/Australia).
2. To coordinate soft-matter-related regional, national & local conferences, meetings & workshops
3. To coordinate soft matter education, such as summer schools and short courses and help organize them if a need appears
4. To promote soft matter research through information exchange, publicity, prizes, publications, etc.
5. To strengthen the connections between academic and industrial soft matter research and development through outreach events, short courses, etc.

***Progress since last report:***

1. The International Soft Matter Conference (ISMC) was held in Osaka, Japan <https://ismc2021.jp/> on September 4-8, 2023. This conference is the 7<sup>th</sup> in the series of International Soft Matter Conferences, but the first one outside Europe. It starts the series “Soft Matter around the World in Three Years”, which is the first mission in the IUPAP WG-15 mandate (see above) <https://iupap.org/who-we-are/internal-organization/working-groups/wg15-soft-matter/> . There were 218 oral presentations, including 8 Plenary and 20 Keynote lectures, as well as over 300 poster presentations. The total number of participants from 29 countries was over 550 with 60% from Asia-Oceania.
2. The first meeting of the Soft Matter Association of Asia and Oceania was held during ISMC 2023 to determine the location of the next ISMC conference in the region to be held in 2026 and to discuss the formation of new Soft Matter Association of Asia and Oceania that will implement the mandate of IUPAP WG-15 in the region. The Soft Matter Association of Asia and Oceania (SMA-AO) will be responsible for the Asia-Oceania section of the International Soft Matter Conference and will coordinate information exchange about existing conferences, meetings, summer/winter schools. SMA-AO will create the web site with links to the societies and events at the representative countries.
3. The 8<sup>th</sup> International Soft Matter Conference is planned for July 30 – August 3 to be held in Raleigh, NC. This will be the first ISMC in Western Hemisphere and the continuation of the series “Soft Matter around the World in Three Years”. The international program committee was formed and developed an outstanding program of very exciting speakers. The local organization committee is in the process of inviting these speakers.
4. The Soft Matter Association of the Americas was formed <https://soft-matter.com/>. The objectives of SMAA are the same as the mandate of IUPAP WG-15 but focused on the Americas including the selection of the new location for the ISMC 2027 to be held in the Americas.
5. The International Summer of Soft Matter was held in Cargese, France on July 11-22, 2022 (see summer school web site <https://softmat2022.espci.fr/-Home-> for details).