

On IUPAP Working Groups

EC & CC Meeting, October 8-10, 2024



Photo by Arpan Chowdhury

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President Designate, IUPAP





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The 31st GA held in 2022 resolved to dissolve the then inactive WGs and extend the existence of the rest until the 33rd GA. In the meantime, 2 more WGs were created (WG20 and WG21). So, we need to make a decision at this GA.

Current list of Working Groups (as of September 2024):

- WG1: International Committee for Future Accelerators (ICFA), since 1976; <https://icfa.hep.net/>
- WG5: Women in Physics; <http://wgwip.df.uba.ar/> (creation approved in 1999)
- WG7: International Committee on Ultrahigh Intensity Lasers (ICUIL) <https://www.icuil.org/>
- WG9: International Cooperation in Nuclear Physics (ICNP), since 2003 <https://iupap.triumf.ca/icnp/index.html>
- WG11: Gravitational Wave International Committee (GWIC), since 1997 <https://gwic.ligo.org/>
- WG13: Newtonian Constant of Gravitation, did not submit reports for many years, including 2023 (it now submitted a report a few days ago)
- WG14: Accelerator Science (created in 2015)
- WG15: Soft Matter (creation approved in 2017)
- WG16: Physics and Industry (creation approved in 2017)
- WG18: Ethics (creation approved in 2021)
- WG19: Quantum Science and Technology (creation approved in 2021)
- WG20: Open Science (creation approved in 2022, not yet set up)
- WG21: Physics for Climate Change Action and Sustainable Development (creation approved in 2023, active since then)



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On October 5th, 10 (out of 11 expected) reports from WGs were available on the Indico website for this meeting.



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This committee has evolved into a very complicated structure in which IUPAP seems to be one among many other “players”. It has 16 members, selected primarily from the regions most deeply involved in high-energy physics. The Chair of IUPAP’s Commission on Particles and Fields, C11, is an ex-officio member of ICFA. Other members either represent these regions or large international institutions such as CERN or JINR. ICFA also has several panels that “serve very valuable functions for the community across a range of topics from accelerator beam dynamics to instrumentation and data preservation”, as stated in the report presented in 2023. ICFA takes actions without seeking the approval of IUPAP (e.g., the statements they issue, <https://icfa.hep.net/statements/>, or the endorsement they give to conferences, <https://icfa.hep.net/wp-content/uploads/ICFA.Endorsements.pdf>).



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Suggestion/recommendation: ICFA looks more like a committee on which an IUPAP representative (the Chair of C11) serves on a regular basis than an IUPAP-dependent Working Group. I think it should stop being a Working Group, and just be an independent committee on which IUPAP serves on a regular basis (via the participation of the Chair of C11 as ex-officio member of ICFA). As usually done, the Chair of C11 should submit a report on the activities of ICFA together with the report on the activities of C11. We might agree on giving some financial support to some of its activities. That is something to discuss.

Some background (from its webpage, <https://www.icuil.org>): ICUIL resulted from the work of a subsidiary body of the OECD Global Science Forum, the Co-ordinating Committee on Compact High-Intensity Short-Pulse Lasers. It was established in 2002 for a period of two years. In 2003, ICUIL was formed as an IUPAP Working Group upon suggestion by the OECD Global Science Forum. It acts under the lead of IUPAP Commission C16, Plasma Physics, with additional close links to Commission C15, Atomic and Molecular Physics, and C17, Laser Physics and Photonics.

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This Committee has a very complicated structure, takes decisions independently from IUPAP and is even financed independently from IUPAP. It is composed of three organizational bodies. The board is appointed by ICUIL from among the group of Laboratory Representatives. According to its Charter, the Board may secure financial donations through corporate sponsorship to support ICUIL costs. Its website also says that “Additional funding may be requested from IUPAP to support specific ICUIL activities that are in support of the IUPAP charter”.

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Suggestion/recommendation: ICUIL is very independent, does seem to fit much better within the definition of an Affiliated Commission (an international group of scientists, constituted as an independent body, whose field does not coincide with that of an IUPAP Commission). They have even awarded a IUPAP-ICUIL Early Career Scientist Prize (which is advertised on their website, but not on IUPAP). Transforming it into an AC would mean that its Chair would have a vote on the GA. This is something to discuss.

The membership of WG9 consists of an Executive (Chair, Past-Chair, and Executive-Secretary), the directors of the major nuclear science laboratories and deep-underground science facilities around the world (5 from Asia, 5 from Europe, 5 from North-America, and 1 from South-Africa, the chairs and past-chairs of the long range planning organizations (including ALAFNA, ANPhA, NSAC, and NuPECC). The chair of IUPAP's Commission on Nuclear Physics (C12) is an ex-officio member of WG9.

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IUPAP Commission C12, in favor of its continuation: “WG 9 is very active and continues to be very important for C12 [...]. The group is working on an update of Report #41 on all the nuclear facilities around the world with new information about the added section on underground laboratories. The mission of WG9 was to provide a venue for communication, discussion, and potential collaboration on international projects worldwide. The WG also provided an opportunity for the funding agency representatives of the various countries to meet and to discuss challenges and future plans. [...]. **Important:** WG9 elaborates reports that are issued as IUPAP reports.

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Suggestion/recommendation: In terms of composition, WG9 seems similar to ICFA, e.g., as a committee on which IUPAP serves on a regular basis (via the Chair of C12). However, WG9 seems less independent than ICFA. In any case, we might think of transforming it into a committee in which IUPAP has a permanent representation (through the Chair of C12 who should report to IUPAP on the activities of this committee), but not as a Working Group.

Some background (from its webpage): Created in 1997, through its association with IUPAP as WG11, GWIC is connected with the [International Society on General Relativity and Gravitation](#) (IUPAP's Affiliated Commission AC.2) and [IUPAP Commission on Astrophysics, C19](#)

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Additional background: The list of WG11 members on IUPAP's website differs from the one on the GWIC website (<https://gwic.ligo.org/members.html>). In both lists there is a Chair, an Executive Secretary and Member Projects (Cosmic Explorer, DECIGO, etc). As described in the report submitted to IUPAP in 2021: "The membership of GWIC represents all of the world's active gravitational wave projects, as well as other relevant communities, covering gravitational wave frequencies from nanohertz to kilohertz. [...] GWIC also includes representatives from ISGRG (IUPAP AC2), International Astronomical Union (IAU) Commission on Gravitational Wave Astrophysics, and from the astrophysics/theoretical relativity community, to help facilitate communication with those bodies. The GWIC Chair is elected by its membership at its annual meeting in odd years". The latter contradicts IUPAP's regulations for WGs.

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Suggestion/recommendation: The situation of GWIC is similar to that of ICFA. In this case, the direct involvement of IUPAP could be achieved by reaching an agreement in which the chair of C19 could be the member of GWIC representing IUPAP (besides the chair of AC2).



WGs that might become commissions: how to do it?

WG15 on Soft Matter

Advice of C3, C6 and C20: mixed

Negative points of a creating a commission: excessive fragmentation; researchers that belong to the communities of more than one commission.

Positive: possibility of connecting with the industrial side of the field, including the industries for foods, plastic, rubber, painting, etc.,

Suggestion/recommendation: During 2025 WG15 and the relevant commissions should discuss a proposal to be presented to the 2025 GA.

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WG19, Quantum Science and Technology

The initial mandate was to analyze the creation of a Commission on Quantum Information Science and Technology. WG19 recommended this creation based on the analysis of the maturity of the field and its community. But what about IUPAP's current commissions whose communities include people working on QST? The International Year of Quantum Science and Technology ([IYQ2025](#)) gives a unique opportunity.

Suggestion/recommendation: In 2025 WG19 can be the main structure to streamline the participation of IUPAP in IYQ2025, liaise with companies with interest in the subject and organize the discussion with relevant IUPAP commissions on how to converge to the creation of a new Commission or the reformulation of an existing one to cover the field of Quantum Science and Technology (or of QIST).

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- Training and education in accelerator physics and technology.
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WG14 has many members from different types of institutions, including synchrotron light and neutron source facilities. Recall that IUPAP is part of the LAAAMP project which efforts are mostly targeted towards building the community of users of advanced light sources. On the other hand, the US LC presented a proposal to create a WG on neutron sources. There seems to be too many overlapping initiatives.

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Suggestion/recommendation: The Chair of WG14 together with the IUPAP representative on LAAAMP and other interested people should discuss how to accommodate all these activities without overlapping and, in this way, maximize the impact of IUPAP's on these subjects.



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Based on all this analysis I decided that the best is to extend all current WGs until the next GA (WG19 through the end of 2025), request that many of them come back with proposals (some of them elaborated liaising with other structures) and that the decision on the creation of new WGs be postponed until the 2025 GA.



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On the other hand, I think that each WG needs to have a clear action plan (and a budget attached). I've advanced with this idea in the resolutions by requesting that those WGs that recommend that they continue as WGs present an action plan for the years to follow until the next in person General Assembly to be held in 2027 together with a budget where the level of support from IUPAP should be indicated. Basically, I think that this could be done with all the in person GAs (or every 2).