

Dear LED2017 participant,

At the last LED2017 meeting in Cape Town there appeared to be strong support for the establishment of an international academic society for trapped charge dating. There was huge interest at the meeting to become part of a working group (WG) that would clear the path for setting up an Association (> 20 persons expressed their interest to Jan-Pieter Buylaert...). This is excellent because it means that we have a motivated community who wants to do something! Unfortunately, there was no real time for discussion about how this WG should be formed and it seemed that some people felt left out or were dissatisfied. This was of course not the intention because the aim is to have a WG and eventually a smooth running Association that represents the entire community.

Since the end of the LED2017 meeting, Regina DeWitt, Geoff Duller and Jan-Pieter Buylaert discussed this problem and we suggest the following solution: *a working group is formed based on elections at regional meetings*. The WG should be completed by Nov 2018 and none of the positions in the WG are filled at the moment. The 13 statements below describe how we think a balanced WG can be composed and eventually a "Trapped Charge Dating Association" can be established at the LED2020 in Burgos.

Trapped Charge Dating Association

=====

- 1) The aim is to set up an international academic society for trapped charge dating to provide a focus for academic research in this discipline. The society should aim to attract as large a proportion of the academic community involved in trapped charge dating and allied research as possible.
- 2) At the start of this process, the precise functions of the society are not predefined, but are one of the major issues for debate.
- 3) The trapped charge dating academic community has no recognised bodies that can be tasked with this job, so to make such a society a reality, it is proposed that a working group be set up.
- 4) The aim of the WG is to act as a focal point for discussions about setting up an academic society for trapped charge dating
- 5) The primary outcome of the WG should be a document that puts forward a proposal for what this society should look like (i.e. a proposal for a constitution)
- 6) The proposed constitution should be circulated in sufficient time ahead of LED2020 that individuals or groups are able to propose amendments to the document, and that these amendments can be discussed one by one at LED 2020.
- 7) The proposed constitution should be discussed and set into being at the next International LED meeting in 2020.
- 8) The WG needs to hear views from as wide a part of the community as possible
- 9) Although the community has no recognised bodies (see item 3), it does have a tradition in many parts of the world of organising on a regular basis academic meetings on the subject of trapped charge dating. These meetings have normally been announced in the pages of Ancient TL (<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/physics/Ancient-Timeline/>). The meetings are often "regionally" based, but in reality they attract

groups of academics from different countries.

It is proposed that each meeting elects up to a maximum of 3 members for the WG, but that there should be only one representative per country. This is in order to ensure that there is as wide a representation of the community as possible. It is up to regional meetings to decide whether these members are nominated for one year or longer.

10) Regional meetings can also be focal points for discussion about key issues regarding the constitution, with elected members reporting views of the group back to the WG in written format.

11) The WG would also accept written comments from any individuals or other groups.

12) The WG would aim to make all written comments (unless personally defamatory) available publically to ensure transparency.

13) The intention is that the WG will cease to exist when the society comes into being.

The list of regional meetings includes the following, but other relevant meetings may also nominate members for the WG:

- German Luminescence and ESR Meeting - next meeting October or November 2017
- China Conference on Luminescence and ESR dating - next meeting March 2018
- UK Luminescence and ESR Dating Meetings - next meeting July or Sept 2018
- New World Luminescence Dating Workshop - next meeting May 2018
- Asia Pacific Conference on Luminescence Dating - next meeting?
- Other?

The website of Ancient TL will be used to provide information about progress made in the WG (including an updated list of elected members, ...). This webpage will be launched soon.

We would like to ask the organisers of the local meetings and those who have already expressed interest in the formation of an association, to make sure that elections are held and the points listed above are taken into account. Female researchers are encouraged to present themselves as candidates at the elections in order to achieve a reasonable gender balance in the WG. Equally, at least one representative who is active in ESR research should be part of the WG. The members of the WG will meet at least once prior to the LED2020 meeting (probably mid-late 2019) for discussion, to summarize feedback from their local communities and for future planning.

We propose that the following topics are discussed at the regional meetings, and seek written responses to these:

- What is the Mission of the Society (e.g. to promote luminescence and ESR in other fields, committee that can lead discussions in our community?)
- What is the academic Scope of the Society? (presumably it should include both luminescence and ESR dating, what other allied subjects should it include?)
- What are the Duties of the society? (e.g. support new laboratories, oversee organisation of the scientific and administrative part of LED meetings, organise laboratory inter-comparisons?)
- What should the Structure of the society be? (one steering committee with president, vice-president, treasurer?)

- How should the Administration of the society be undertaken? (election process for steering committee, frequency of elections (every three years at LED?), total number of board members, max number of members per country, how to vote on important matters..., annual meeting by steering committee?, ...)
- What Financial arrangements should be put in place? (should there be membership fees, accounting year, etc...)
- What means of Dissemination should the Society use? (e.g. website, Newsletter, should Ancient TL become the official journal of the Association?)
- What should the Name of the society be?
- What Other functions should the Society undertake? (organise student prizes, medals? ...)
- Other issues that we have not addressed here?

Again we would like to stress that EVERYBODY will have the possibility and the time to give input on the proposed constitution (see points 6, 8, 11 above). This is especially important for people who are not able to attend any of the regional meetings over the next 13 months.

Please feel free to forward this email to other members of the luminescence community who are not on the LED2017 mailing list.

For comments or questions, please contact one of us by email.

Yours sincerely,

Regina DeWitt
Geoff Duller

Jan-Pieter Buylaert (candidate for working group for period Nov 2018-Nov 2019; will present my candidacy at UK Luminescence and ESR meeting in Sheffield in 2018)