

Trapped Charge Dating Association (TCDA) Discussion

Discussion at UK Luminescence 2018

The organisers of the UK Luminescence and ESR dating meeting held in Sheffield had assigned 50 minutes for discussion of the proposal for a TCDA, and to discuss the response of the UK Luminescence community to the e-mail circulated on 4th October 2017 by Jan-Pieter Buylaert, Regina DeWitt and Geoff Duller.

Ahead of the UK meeting, an e-mail had been circulated to participants in the meeting (sent 4th September 2018) and to those who had been on the mailing list, but were not attending the meeting (sent 5th September 2018). Two responses via e-mail were received.

In the session on Tuesday 11th September, Jan-Pieter Buylaert introduced the background to the current position, the timetable proposed for setting up the association, and showed a time line of what had happened so far. After this brief introduction, the floor was open for comments and discussion.

Discussion

A number of ideas about the purpose of the Association came out of the discussion. The TCDA could:

- Oversee the organisation of the International Luminescence and ESR dating conference that occurs every three years
- Maintain Ancient TL as a means of communication within the community
- Provide a focal point for organisation of inter-laboratory comparisons, recommendations for reporting standards etc. This could be through the formation of fixed term working groups, allowing the community to focus attention on key topics.
- Take some role in providing financial liability for the international meetings. However, it was recognised that this would require substantial financial reserves that it was not clear the TCDA would have in the first years of its existence.
- Set expectations of ethical responsibilities /good practice in luminescence and ESR research

A brief discussion about the size and membership of the Committee that will run the TCDA had a clear sense that the committee should be kept small, and that all roles on the committee must be for fixed terms of office (and short – say 3 years to coincide with the International meeting), and as far as possible should have age, gender and subject balance. A suggestion that met with strong support was the idea of ensuring that Early Career researchers should be represented on the committee.

The issue of whether the TCDA needs to raise funds for its operation, and if so how this could be done was touched upon. There was a suggestion that laboratories might be members instead of individuals, though a number of people raised concerns about whether they would be able to make payments of this nature. There was a suggestion that individual membership of the TCDA could be rolled into registration costs at the International meeting (i.e. there are two 'rates' for conference attendance, one for TCDA members and one for those who are not members). The difference between a "members" price and a "non-members" price is the cost of membership of the TCDA . An alternative model is that there is no membership fee, and that membership is simply an "opt-in" model.

A query was raised about whether TCDA could become a member of INQUA, and whether this would confer any benefits (or disadvantages)?

Ian Bailiff offered to send the constitution of the Solid State Dosimetry (SSD) organisation as a potential example for TCDA to Geoff and Jan-Pieter. Can be used as an example when discussing a constitution for the TCDA.

Jan-Pieter Buylaert (Denmark), Geoff Duller (UK) and Gloria Lopez (Spain) were nominated by the group as their representatives on the Working Group to establish the TCDA.

Geoff Duller

1st October 2018