CNMS UEC Agenda – Thursday, September 17, 2020
12:00 pm Eastern Time

Participants (attendees in blue)
Chair – Matthew McDowell (Georgia Tech)
Vice-Chair – Joshua Agar (Lehigh U.)
Secretary – Zach Hood (Argonne Natl Lab)
At-Large Members:
Veronica Augustyn (North Carolina State U.); Kelsey Hatzell (Vanderbilt U.); Shengxi Huang (Penn State); Saban Hus (U. Texas, Austin); Josh Kacher (Georgia Tech); Peter Maksymovych (CNMS, ORNL)
Past Chair, *ex officio* member – Rafael Verduzco (Rice U.)
CNMS (non-members) –Brad Lokitz, Sandy Lowe, Tracy Whitaker, Karren More, Bobby Sumpter
Industrial Liaison Member: Christopher Jacobs (B/S/H Home Appliances)

Welcome: (Matt)
CNMS and ORNL COVID Updates (Brad)

- The surrounding area in Knoxville, TN is on an upswing in cases
- Staff has continued to work with users both virtually and remotely, as much as possible
- CNMS has worked with a total of 99 virtual users since the pandemic
- Brad has been approved to work onsite 2 days a week and is currently working with users
- Most staff and postdocs have been approved to work onsite 2 days per week
- The leadership team submitted a plan for Phase 2 for DOE's approvals; due to the upswing in cases it is unlikely it will be approved.
- Dr. Birxs visited Knoxville, TN last week due to the growth rate of COVID cases and in the top ninth percentile since school has started

Reimagine ORNL (Brad)

- Timeline for Reimagine has not changed and on schedule to be in place by the new fiscal year
- CNMS is currently announcing new position hires
- Ray Unocic is the new group leader for Microanalysis of Materials and will remain as Theme Lead until leadership decides if a replacement is needed
- Sergei Kalinin is the new group leader for Data Nanoanalytics
- The Microanalysis of Materials and Data Nanoanalytics are two new groups at CNMS
- All CNMS interviews has been completed and positions have been selected; some are undergoing upper leadership approvals
- New postdoc hire, Hanyu Wang, came onsite last week and will be working in the Macro group as the bridge between polymers and neutrons flextomador

Related to Operations COVID (Matt)

- The question was raised, considering CNMS in relation to other nano centers and user facilities, in terms of reopening and timelines by DOE, are all labs evaluated on different scales or network efforts
- The reopening of labs is individually based and decided upon by the institutional hosts
- For example, Brookhaven is in Phase 2 and allowing a limited number of users onsite since July
- The remaining labs are in Phase 1; Argonne is in a similar phase with limited access
- Nano centers are trying to keep each other informed; it is up to the centers, host labs, and DOE to put together a plan and approve. Most approvals are based on locations

Recap/Feedback on CNMS User Meeting (Matt):

- Appreciate everyone's efforts to help get the virtual meeting up and successfully ran
- Something new to the meeting this year were the roundtable discussions and virtual aspects
- Good for CNMS to know virtual meetings can be successful, offer new opportunities, and endless possibilities

- It was suggested to have a panel discussion at the end of sessions to increase attendee's dialogue
- Offer a hybrid approach in the future to allow those who cannot travel the opportunity to attend remote; in person interaction is valuable however, both options would be great to have
- The Townhall Meeting was well attended and a useful way to broadcast across the world; generally, in person meetings were moderately useful and, less questions
- The more people we can share the meeting information, the better
- Participation for the virtual meeting was much higher than in person meetings, it was one of the highest number of participants ever attended
- The Machine Learning session had one of the highest turnouts (65-70 participants), very well attended
- CNMS staff and people from Oak Ridge really preferred the online meeting
- Participants liked the virtual option that allowed attendance based on interest, convenience, and flexibility of schedules
- Meeting was very appealing to participants because it did not take up (3) days, or the whole day
- Several participants attended meetings who normally would not have attend in person and attended specific talks of interests
- "Opportunities for Students and Early Career Professionals" roundtable session was a success with 100 attendees
- All agreed great idea to have voted early to take the meeting virtual

Suggestions for Next Year (Karren):

- Add virtual tours like CNMS for specific labs capabilities and allow Q & A
- Have Juan conduct a Townhall meeting and talk to potential Microscopy users, this would make users more aware of the capabilities available
- Add Q & A panel discussions with staff for potential new users
- Offer 10-minutes one-on-one sign up sessions with capabilities experts to answer both capabilities and proposal questions
- Allow users the opportunity to meet with Group Leaders by panel or sign up slots; this would give users the opportunity to receive immediate feedback
- Offer capabilities updates by way of virtual tours to allow users an opportunity to see what CNMS has to offer

Advantages of Virtual Meeting to consider:

- Advertising the lab's capabilities on a wider platform for next user meeting
- One-on-one sessions with panel members or group leaders (semi-private)
- Virtual interaction with participants
- Allows undergrad and graduate students to participate who normally would not in person

Poster Presentation Feedback:

- Zack did a great job coordinating the poster session
- It was highly suggested to keep the poster session and integrate in future meetings
- Keep the format; the ability to review posters and ask questions ahead of time worked well
- The number of participants were larger than previous years
- Quality of submissions were great and allowed participants to highlight their research
- A few technical glitches how to better share videos but, worked out great
- Selection of top (5) posters for speaking opportunities went well

Improvements:

- Have speakers pause during talks and open floor for questions (Chats)
- More interactive activities, virtual polls
- Consider changing the schedule format, fewer research talks and more interaction activities
- Collect more questions for feedback
- Set expectations of what app/software will be used in the meeting

Webinars Discussions (Matt):

- The idea is to have CNMS staff host and advertise new capabilities or, instruments that exists and currently available to users
- Brad was to compile a list of staff who would be interested in creating webinars to post
- Ben Lawrie is interested and currently waiting on the installation and completion of an instrument
- Ideal format would be live and sporadic, with staff filming near their instruments in the labs
- Google glasses were ordered to help staff with webinars, users will be able to see experiments up close
- Limit the webinars to 20-25 minutes, use a few PowerPoint slides, advertise equipment capabilities, highlight users' experiences, and availability
- Focus on what capabilities are available by way of virtual accessibility and build webinars and post on CNMS website
- The Atom Probe would be a good start since its remote accessible and the clean room
- CNMS is doing a virtual tour and would be a good idea to add webinar links
- Brad will have Jon to create a few webinars
- Matt will remain in contact with Brad for getting participants involved with project

Upcoming SAC Meeting/Equipment

- Matt will attend the virtual meeting that will take place Monday and Tuesday (Sept 21-22, 2020**)**
- UEC members are welcome to attend
- CD1 First funding should come in early 2021 = big pieces of equipment

Suggestion box

- Nothing submitted

New business

- Suggested new meeting time due to schedule conflicts
- All nominations for the CNMS UEC have been made; elections to come in October

Adjourned 12:50p Eastern Time

Next Conference Call: October 20, 2020 – 2:00pm Eastern Time