

IUPAP C17: Changing the name of the commission

The on-going efforts to align C17 with the research topics of modern optics and photonics were strongly supported at the previous GA of IUPAP in London in 2011. The resolution of the 27th General Assembly of IUPAP, London, UK (November 2–4, 2011) tells us:

“C17: Commission on Quantum Electronics

The on-going efforts to align C17 with the research topics of modern optics and photonics are strongly supported. Possible new names to be considered for C17 include “Laser Physics and Photonics”, “Quantum Optics and Photonics” or “Optics and Photonics”. Executive Council recommendation: Working group to be set up by chair of C17 and to include representatives of all relevant commissions and affiliated commissions with remit to put some recommendations regarding Commission name to late 2012 IUPAP Executive Committee meeting.

The GA will delegate power to the Executive Council to approve the change of name that might be resolved by the Working Group.”

According to this recommendation a working group (WG) was composed to discuss and make recommendations regarding the C17 name:

Victor Zadkov (chair C17)

Deborah Kane (vice-chair, C17)

Cristina Masoller (secretary, C17)

Martin McCall (member, C17)

Katharine Gebbie (chair C15) or a replacement from C15 on her recommendation

Duncan Moore (chair AC1) or a replacement from AC1 on his recommendation

John Dudley (EPS associated member of C17, president of the EPS)

The WG has never met in person, all the correspondence was arranged via the internet. All the WG members, except Katharine Gebbie and Duncan Moore took active part in the discussion, which actually continued the discussion started by Alan Shore, the previous chair of C17. This issue has also been discussed with Katharine Gebbie and Duncan Moore in person at the CC&C meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

The point the WG made is that “Quantum Electronics”, the title of IUPAP Commission C17, has its roots in the earliest days of laser research. The name is still in currency but in many contexts has been modulated or replaced by alternative names including Laser Physics and , in particular, Photonics. The latter terms are more regularly associated with meetings, conferences and journals.

In this respect the WG discussed three possible upgraded names: “Quantum Electronics & Photonics” or “Laser Physics & Photonics” or simply “Photonics”. All WG members, except Katharine Gebbie and Duncan Moore who did not reply to the emails, support the name “**Laser Physics and Photonics**” for C17.

Based on the above facts, I strongly suggest the IUPAP Council the change of the C17 name with “Laser Physics and Photonics”.

Prof. Victor Zadkov
Chair, IUPAP C17