

IUMRS Announces Call for Initiative Proposals

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Though they may not know it, members of numerous materials research societies from all parts of the globe have access to a world-wide network of scientists through the International Union of Materials Research Societies. The IUMRS is an association of scientific societies dedicated to promoting interdisciplinary materials research around the world. Founded in

1991, IUMRS now includes over a dozen international societies and several institutional members such as national laboratories. Working to promote materials research on global issues and to connect materials researchers in different countries, IUMRS activities include endorsement of one or two international meetings each year and presentation of the Sōmiya

award to recognize notable achievements in materials research.

According to IUMRS President Howard Katz, IUMRS is now seeking to expand the scope of its activities and is calling for proposals from members of the adhering bodies (e.g., MRS, European Materials Research Society, Materials Research Society of India, Materials Research Society of Japan). Suggested ventures for proposals include the organization of international research exchange visits, participation in interdisciplinary policy and science advocacy meetings, authorship of position papers aimed at international policymakers, and the establishment of collaborative research studies and educational efforts. The official announcement of this opportunity, which first appeared in the March edition of *Materials360*, emphasizes topics relevant to global sustainability, including energy and water supply, as well as promotion of materials research in emerging regions. Through this program, IUMRS is aiming to increase involvement with other international organizations, particularly the International Council for Science, and to foster increased interaction among the constituent groups of IUMRS. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the IUMRS officers.

ALISON HATT

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hekatz@jhu.edu

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phychowd@nus.edu.sg

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