

MS47 New horizons in teaching crystallography in the 21st century

MS47-02

Communicating crystallography to little people, the Bragg your Patterns project

H. Maynard-Casely¹, **O. Patel**², **S.R. Batten**³, **L. Lin**⁴, **A. Duncan**⁴

¹ANSTO - Sydney (Australia), ²WEHI - Melbourne (Australia), ³Monash University - Melbourne (Australia),

⁴ICMS Australia - Melbourne (Australia)

Abstract

Many programs for science communication are targeted towards secondary school-ages (11 +), and for good reason as this is when students make choices on subjects, and it is vital that they are supported in their continuing science education. But are we missing out on inspiring them in the first place? Can we inspire students to see the bigger picture of science, beyond grades and textbooks? What if we run programs that target younger students, as well as the families around them? For younger students it is vital to have strong visual and hands on components to science communication activities. Crystallography lends itself very well to the former of these, but can we build resources to help the latter (hands on) component?

In 2023 we in Australia and New Zealand are hosting the International Crystallographic Congress (iucr2023.org) and have instigated the 'Bragg your Pattern' project to engage younger students in patterns and crystallography. The plan is that after 2023 we will have a group of established activities, a network of partners and an engaging website for the community to use going forward. We are planning a series of activities, starting in Australia's national Science Week in August 2022 and running through to the IUCr Congress in August 2023. In this contribution we will present our plans – our focus and planned activities and invite comment and participation from the ECM community.

