



*One of the really special things about joining the Bruker family in crystallography, is also joining the worldwide community of Bruker users. Bruker users are exchanging ideas on how best to use the equipment for cutting edge research. Almost every day hints and tips, are passing back and forth. The lively discussions on challenging crystallographic problems often involve the world's leading crystallographers.*

**Dr. Ilia Guzei**, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA: The Bruker user newsgroup is a great forum to exchange ideas about all things crystallography. Theory, software, hardware, and advanced experimental techniques are frequently and expertly discussed. Collectively this group is the best crystallographer on the planet with a lot of prominent scientists contributing to the discussions. It is an invaluable resource to every practitioner of single-crystal X-ray analysis. Unlike many other internet-based groups there is no idle chatter on the forum, all messages are relevant and right to the point which makes it a very efficient information well.

**Prof. Kayla N. Green**, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, USA: As a young faculty member, having access to such a large knowledge base is invaluable. The members are supportive and prompt to help with even the most simple of questions! These interactions have led to collaborations and solutions that have pushed my research forward. Best wishes and thank you for what you do for the crystallography community.

**Prof. Nigam Rath**, University of Missouri, St. Louis, USA: I am one of the non-vocal members who has used this resource extensively. Truly this is an excellent resource where one can get answers to trivial questions such as a forgotten command to very deep theories and application of crystallography questions. A lot of very high caliber crystallographers are in the groups which makes the answers very authentic. My job has been made simpler by the existence of this user group and I can't imagine not having access to such a great resource.

## SC-XRD Users' Group

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**Ms. Lap Szeto**, The University of Hong Kong: I appreciate the genuine sharing of this user groups. Sometimes, some users post the questions that you would like to know but you are not sure how to ask or too ignorant to ask. The field of sharing is wide, from hardware to software, from theory to practice, from local to worldwide, from crystallography to research. It is also amazing that one often receives useful replies from crystallographers being active all around the world within minutes, frequently much faster than any local service team can provide them. I consider this group as part of my continual education source. Thank you to ALL who contribute to this group.

**Dr. Charmaine Arderne**, University of Johannesburg, South Africa: I am rather a silent participant of this group and have not put forward questions of any sort (yet), but this forum is absolutely essential for me as crystallographer. I usually read posts that I feel are relevant to me as I learn a great deal from the experts and stalwarts in crystallography around the globe. You are correct in saying that this collective is the single most knowledgeable crystallographer in the world. I have benefitted from information posted by the people employed at Bruker (instrumentation issues); Ton Spek, George Sheldrick and Peter Müller on structure techniques and software use and thoroughly enjoyed the "dry" banter of many of the colleagues who are on this mailing list. It makes me feel part of a unique team of people from which I learn a great deal (while I sit back quietly in the background; absorb handy hints and tips and unobtrusively pluck up courage to maybe ask the group a question in the near future).

For those people out there who want to join the group, I would highly recommend doing so as there is an interminable amount of talented and gifted people in the group who contribute so much to those seeking respite from their frustrations and positive feedback/ solutions to their problems. Long may this mailing list continue and I am eternally indebted to you for hosting/managing the mailing list for those of us who need it. Thank you!!!

**Dr. Gary S. Nichol**, The University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom: I honestly cannot understand why anyone would not want to be part of this! Your comment about the single most knowledgeable crystallographer in the world is spot on. With that in mind... The Bruker single crystal diffractometer user email list is quite possibly the most valuable practical resource any practicing chemical crystallographer can have. A very broad range of both hardware and

software topics are often discussed, generally starting with the sort of question or query that we all have from time to time, and followed by patient and reasoned explanations from some of the world's most eminent crystallographers. Hardware problem? You're unlikely to be the first to have experienced it and often a check of the archive will provide the answer either from another user, or a Bruker service engineer, and often accompanied by diagrams, pictures or tech notes to get the problem solved. Software queries are often of the "how do I...?" type and simply by reading the questions posed and responses received I learn further tips and tricks concerning the instrument control software or indeed SHELX itself. I'm sure many users have learned how to optimise data collection strategies in a better way, or handle some difficult refinement issue, simply by reading the emails sent by other people. I can't think of a single reason not to be a part of this community.

**Dr. Joseph H. Reibenspies**, Texas A&M, College Station, USA: The forum is a valuable resource for all crystallographers and structural scientists. Discussed on the forum are extensive Q&A sessions over instrumentation, structural science, upcoming events, social interactions and similar concerns. The forum is international; spanning the globe and reaching out to scientists on all continents. The forum is often the crucible of thought where the chemistry of ideas is undertaken. Not only does this forum provide a valuable service to the community it is also a trusted friend, where one can reach out to others who share similar experiences and backgrounds. All in all, the forum provides a source of illumination in a dim world.

**Dr. Glenn P. A. Yap**, University of Delaware, Newark, USA: I have been a constant subscriber to the Bruker users list since its inception. The newsgroup allows for the free exchange of ideas, opinions and even specific "how-to" guides that would be of relevance to any crystallographer and even more so for crystallographers that use Bruker instruments. On any given day, one could find a wealth of information such as announcements for workshops, the proper mix for a recirculating cryostat fluid, lubrication for goniometer gears, and various legacy instrument parts. The presence of key scientists, most notably George Sheldrick and Ton Spek, that could directly answer questions about software that they have authored is indeed remarkable. I must thank you Ilia for providing the crystallographic community this collective wealth of knowledge that I have found, time and time again, to be a virtual necessity in my professional life.