



# ICAM Newsletter

June 2020

Dear Colleagues:

Greetings to all our ICAM nodes. We want to update you on activities at ICAM and how we are responding to the ongoing pandemic.

While this year of pandemic has been difficult for the ICAM physics community, we are fortunate to have been largely spared the loss of jobs and income that affects so many other branches of society. Moreover, we have shown a lot adaptability. It has been a good time for writing up work and thinking without distraction. While conferences and research schools have either been postponed for a year, many have also quickly moved on-line, finding creative approaches to sustain some of the intimacy of face-to-face events, while reaching hundreds more participants across the globe.

At ICAM, we remain positive for a rapid return to normalcy, while seeking ways to help our community adapt to the changes. In this Newsletter, we should like to invite each of our ICAM nodes to an on-line **ICAM summit July 22-24, 2020 (see below)**. Please save these dates: we hope to have two attendees from each node at the meeting.

One of our recent pieces of good news is that we have been invited by the **Gordon Moore Foundation** for **QuantEmX II**, a continuation of the science exchange program between the Moore Foundations EPIQs program and ICAM scientists. We have been asked to submit a final budget of approximately 250K per year for four years, a 25% increase over our previous funding. We expect to receive final word on this funding in the next month.

We are also optimistic about an expansion of ICAM's workshop, school and science exchange activities in Asia. Last year saw 19 new branches in China, supported by a five-year NSF-C grant that will help support travel exchanges and international workshops. We anticipate that the expanded QuantEmX funding will also support an expansion of our activities in Asia and the Pacific Rim, once travel opens up.

We have also been asked to submit several **Research Coordination Network** grants to the **NSF** in areas of quantum, soft and biological matter. While there are still some logistical issues to be ironed out, we are hopeful that these will fit in with goals of the NSF's collaborative research programs.

Several of our schools and conferences are moving on-line. The summer school at Julich, which has been an ICAM annual fixture, is being held on-line this year. Condensed Matter Physics in the cities, which has also been a regular ICAM fixture was just held on-line and had record registrations. Information on all our schools and conferences can be found at our web-site <https://www.icam-i2cam.org/>.

ICAM has started a new Facebook group, “**Emergence Online**” to keep track of and inform our community of various on-line seminars and conferences that are open to our community. We were motivated by a similar web-site for the Fields, Strings and Gravity community. ICAM members are invited to join at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EmergenceOnline/events/>. For those who wish to avoid Facebook, the calendar of events is mirrored [here](#).

## ICAM SUMMIT

This year we plan to have an on-line ICAM summit on the dates July 22-24. The summit is necessitated by our need to discuss the status, policies and future of ICAM. As always, we expect to have some fantastic science talks as well. We are delighted that we have already lined up several distinguished speakers for the summit. Confirmed plenary speakers include **Bill Bialek**, **Michael Cates** and **Vidya Madhavan** will provide an overview of emergence in biological, soft and quantum matter and **Andrew Zangwill**, Philip W. Anderson’s biographer, who will talk Phil’s life and science. We expect to have two more science speakers at the summit.

In addition to various ICAM business meetings and science talks, we will also have a **Round Table on Scientific Publishing in the Age of h-Index**. This will be led by ICAM members **Laura Green** and **Henri Alloul**. In addition, we hope to have three more panelists to lead the discussions. This should be an exciting debate on the pitfalls of current-day publishing.

We would like to invite you to participate in the ICAM summit. Please come to our meetings and to the talks and round-table discussion whenever you can. We will have a schedule shortly.

We close this Newsletter by welcoming our newest ICAM Branch **QMat CANADA** a consortium of UBC, Toronto and Sherbrooke Universities. We look forward to seeing you at the ICAM summit.

Best regards,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is 'Rajiv Singh' and the second is 'Piers Coleman'. The 'Piers' signature has a large, stylized loop at the top.

Rajiv Singh  
Piers Coleman  
ICAM Co-directors