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Dear Hai and Yiguang,

I thoroughly enjoyed the Flame Chemistry Workshop that you put together for the Symposium in Warsaw. In particular, I found the group discussions quite beneficial, and I think if this type of format is continued, maybe even more extensively in future workshops, that it could really provide some long-term benefits for the Community. If I may, I would like to share a few ideas that came to me during the workshop:

Much of the discussion over the weekend revolved around an interest to have an open-source type of network where researchers could comment on topics such as rate parameters for a specific reaction, experimental data, among other items which are deemed important by both experimentalists and modelers, in an effort to increase both communication and transparency. This seemed to me, in part, to be a form of a merger of the NIST and PrIME platforms. Having an open, sole-source type of combustion platform, containing not only chemical kinetics-related information but also concurrent thermodynamic- and transport-related information as well, would be of high value and could possibly streamline combustion research.

With respect to the level of organization and synthesis of combustion-related information pertinent to both experimentalists and modelers required for this type of platform, is there a way to maximize the role of the Combustion Institute Office? I ask because the clear issue/hurdle to reaching a point where the Community has a sole-source type of database are, ostensibly, (a) money and (b) time. These two issues are obviously coupled, and the time argument maybe rests more strongly with Professors due to the nature of funding being directed towards specific projects, as you of course already well know.

Since considerable funding is undoubtedly needed for such an effort, and due to the immense amount of time that would be required to issue a sole source for combustion data, would there be a way to create a sub-committee within the Office of the Combustion Institute to specifically focus on creating a coherent, user-friendly, and solution-oriented database for combustion/thermodynamic/transport data and information? This, for example, could be made-up of both young scientists/professors and distinguished scientists/professors for well-rounded perspectives. Maybe a 5- or 7-person committee would suffice?

Do you think that securing funding for such a database would be more facile if pursued under the auspices of the Combustion Institute, viewed as the central governing body of the field? Could the Combustion Institute, with appropriate funding and manpower, provide this type of sole-source platform for up-to-date combustion information via www.combustioninstitute.org, for example?