

# **"Molecules under X-ray pulses"**

## **International Focus Workshop**

MOLX09 and MOLX10 have been organized with members of the Max Planck Advanced Study Group at the Center of Free Electron Lasers in Hamburg (MP-ASG@CFEL) as 2.5 days brainstorming meetings. The idea for the first meeting in 2009 was to generate new ideas from the theoretical side for innovative experiments with the new light sources. Topics had a focus on smaller systems under advanced X-ray light.

To spark discussions and act as a think tanks a special format of the meeting was chosen: Each speaker was asked to prepare slides for about 20 minutes while 60 minutes were reserved for his entire contributions - questions and interruptions were encouraged at any time. To further stimulate discussions, the number of participants was restricted to about 30, grouped in a half circle around the blackboard and the screen with only two rows. Participants ranged from PhD students to experienced researchers.

Most participants expressed enthusiastic support for this format and had the feeling they took home much more than from ordinary workshops. This success motivated a second meeting in the same format (this time also the posters were present in the same room throughout the workshop). However, the topic was quite different and far more challenging: What are the opportunities for short X-ray pulses to elucidate the dynamics of large molecules and assemblies in an environment, typically a solution?

Jan M Rost, January 2010