The Scientific Research Working Group has been very active during the 2017–2020 triennial period. It has focused on increasing communication channels by establishing a Facebook page, organized an interim activity about issues for emerging professionals in collaboration with Science and Engineering in Arts, Heritage and Archaeology (SEAHA, University College London), and prepared for the conference in Beijing.
Communication and Membership

A Facebook page was established in January 2018 to increase communication; the number of followers has grown quickly to more than 1600 and counting. The Facebook page has been an essential tool to disseminate information of interest to our members and those interested in our field of specialty and work. Other communication channels have included issuing two Newsletters during the triennium, which are available for download from the ICOM-CC website, and periodic emails to keep members abreast of topics of interest, including opportunities and upcoming conferences.

The Working Group, with an active and diverse membership, has seen an increase to over 200 members.

Interim Activity: Roundtable for Emerging Professionals

The interim activity, Roundtable for Emerging Professionals, was held during the 4th SEAHA conference in London, UK, on 6 June 2018. Both the roundtable and the SEAHA conference, which ran from 4–6 June, were hosted by the University College London (UCL). The roundtable focused on a variety of topics related to career development for young professionals.

The diverse panel was composed of a range of experts including academics, conservators, scientists, and consultants. Over the course of two hours, the panel shared their experiences and tips on career development, and fielded questions from the audience for further discussion. Some of the topics discussed were:

- the role of industry and entrepreneurship in heritage science;
- career progression in the heritage science field;
- how to balance priorities from different stakeholders;
- the changing landscape of funding resources.

The roundtable was recorded and can be viewed at the following link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0Zo3_BCROs

Triennial Conference

The Working Group received 41 abstracts for papers, of which 16 were chosen after peer review of the full papers for the Triennial Conference, which will be held in 2021 in Beijing. There were also 34 poster submissions, with 12 selected. There were many paper and poster submissions with scientific components in the other Working Groups; the ICOM-CC 19th Triennial Conference in Beijing will be very exciting, with many interesting scientific-leaning topics.