



EMS Newsletter July 2005

Dear EMS member,

While not much time has passed since the previous Newsletter has been published, important things have happened at EMS. A most important 'milestone' that should be mentioned here is that the Board of the Royal Microscopical Society (RMS, UK) has decided at its recent meeting to upgrade its relationship with EMS. More specifically, the RMS will now adopt the *full en-bloc* option in which all members of the society will automatically become EMS members. Obviously, we are all very excited about this decision as it reflects the growing importance of a strong and well-supported EMS. With this step the EMS has now grown to over 4500 members.

The most relevant business matters lying ahead are the changes and amendments to the constitution of the EMS. These will be discussed at the upcoming General Assembly that will be held at lunchtime on Tuesday, August 30, during the Dreiländertagung EMS Extension in Davos. While all preparatory documents are available at the EMS website www.eurmicsoc.org, here we just want to highlight a few of the themes that will need some discussion at the GA. In addition to a few necessary adjustments such as changing the name "Trade Committee" to "European Corporate Member Assembly (ECMA)", more in-depth matters will be discussed. For example, the frequency and places for the General Assembly (GA) and General Council (GC) need to be rephrased as the existing formulation contained some discrepancies. Second, the position of the president-elect who should be elected four years before his/her term actually begins should be specified, particularly since after his/her 4-year presidency he/she is supposed to serve for four more years as past-president, thus adding up to a 12-year commitment! The Board proposes to omit the president-elect status, thereby allowing for an unbiased vote for a new president every four years. In addition, the Board proposes to discuss possible changes of the membership fee only every four years instead of every year. The decision on the membership fees should be moved from the GA to the GC (which meets every 4 years), as the information on the fee structure of the national societies resides with the members of this committee. The GC also obtains the decision to accept new national or local societies for *en-bloc* EMS membership. In agreement with national societies organising an EMS Extension the reduced registration fee for members of the organising societies will be extended to all EMS members. The exact agreements between EMS and the national societies organising an EMS Extension or EMC Meeting should be kept flexible and hence should be removed from the by-laws or statutes. In order to allow for a better representation of EMS members during voting a system of electronic voting is proposed in addition to the voting at the GA. A similar electronic system can also be used by the EMS members to answering, for example, questionnaires on various EMS matters.

These are just a few of the business items that will be on the agenda at the GA in Davos. For more information on the items on the agenda, please download the relevant documents from the EMS website www.eurmicsoc.org at the location with the membership info. We sincerely hope that many of you will take the time and join us for this important assembly, so that we will have a large turnout allowing EMS to move forward and further consolidate the European microscopy community. Remember: sandwiches and drinks will be served, so you don't have to 'starve' during this GA!

We are looking forward to seeing you all in Davos.

Yours truly,

Ueli Aebi
President EMS

Nick Schryvers
Secretary EMS