

EMS Newsletter 23, July 2008

Dear EMS member,



Ueli Aebi
EMS President



Nick Schryvers
EMS Secretary

We guess, no one will blame us if we fully dedicate this EMS newsletter to the forthcoming EMC 2008 meeting. Jointly organised by the European Microscopy Society (EMS), the German Society for Electron Microscopy (DGE) and the local microscopists from the Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule (RWTH) Aachen and the Research Centre Jülich, the 14th European Microscopy Congress brings together scientists from all over Europe and beyond. Hosted by the Eurogress Centre at Aachen, EMC 2008 will give you the opportunity to present your own work, hear about the newest findings in the materials and life sciences, and learn about the latest developments in hardware and software – with the common denominator being the ever expanding field of microscopy.

The scientific programme committee has put together an exciting program which covers all aspects and recent highlights centered about light, electron and scanning probe microscopy, from instrumentation and methods to materials science and the life sciences. Plenary and invited lectures delivered by some of the world leading experts will provide state-of-the-art overviews on new trends and exciting research in microscopy. As with most meetings, the ultimate success of EMC too critically depends on the number and the quality of the papers contributed by the members of the European microscopy community. In fact, by now more than 1,000 abstracts have been submitted and will be presented by their authors either as oral contributions or in the form of posters. To emphasise the importance of the EMC to serve as a platform for communication by the participants, considerable time has been reserved in the program for poster presentations and discussions.

As in the past, EMC 2008 will host a major trade exhibition which will feature more than 50 manufacturers of all different kinds of microscopy equipment and techniques, as well as suppliers of accessories and consumables, specimen preparation tools, and image analysis systems. Also being present will be all important publishers in the field of microscopy. In addition, the manufacturers will introduce their latest developments and highlight new potential applications during technical lectures which will ad-

dress a general audience. The layout of the Eurogress Center is such that the commercial exhibition will form an integral part of the Congress and thereby optimally contribute to the fact that EMC 2008 will be an all-embracing source of information for anybody who is interested in microscopy. Last but not least, EMS too will have a booth in the exhibition area informing and updating the Congress participants on practical issues and upcoming events.

During EMC 2008 two special EMS events will be held: (1) on Wednesday, 3 September, starting at 12:30 noon, the General Council which consists of representatives of all EMS member societies, will decide on the venue of the next EMC meeting in 2012; and (2) on Thursday, 4 September, starting at 12:30 noon, the General Assembly will (i) elect a new Executive Board for the next four years, and (ii) look into and vote on some changes in the EMS Constitution.

Despite the heavily packed Congress program, you should definitely try and find some time to enjoy Aachen: it is an attractive city with a distinct European flair that combines tradition with progress. To this day, the heart of Aachen's old city center forms the cathedral – the first monument in Germany to be included in the UNESCO Cultural Heritage list, and the gothic City Hall – in which 32 German kings were crowned. Indeed, the unique layout of the old city center, the important historic monuments, the wells and baths built on the

hottest natural springs in Europe, the streets and squares bustling with activity, the cultural diversity and quality, as well as the many recreational and leisure activities make Aachen an exciting and rewarding place to stay. By the same token, Aachen is a modern, forward-looking city with internationally renowned activities in science and technology. The RWTH Aachen is one of the leading German universities and has been selected as one of the nine Elite Universities in the framework of the German Excellence Initiative. In the context of its institutional strategy to favourably compete for the Elite University status, RWTH Aachen teamed up with the nearby Research Centre Jülich to form JARA – the Jülich Aachen Research Alliance. Last but not least, the RWTH Aachen hosts three Fraunhofer institutes on its campus. Together with its many spin-offs and leading industrial companies, Aachen is also one of the most important technology regions in Germany and Europe more generally.

In closing, let us wish you an exciting Congress and a memorable week in one of the most beautiful towns in Germany. We hope, you will greatly enjoy EMC 2008 and find it both inspiring and beneficial to your future scientific endeavors!

With many thanks to Anke Aretz, Benita Hermanns, Martina Luysberg, Joachim Mayer, Silvia Richter, Alexander Schwedt, Karsten Tillmann and Thomas Weirich, the Editors of the EMC 2008 Proceedings.

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