

EMS Newsletter 24, October 2008

Dear EMS member,



Paul Midgley
President EMS



Nick Schryvers
Secretary EMS

It is a great honour and a great pleasure to be able to say hello as the new President of the EMS. These are exciting times indeed to be in microscopy! In all fields there are developments that are re-shaping the way we all use microscopes: in scanning probe microscopy, sensitivity and speed continue to increase and the ability to record physical and chemical behaviour with a variety of hybrid methods is astonishing; in optical microscopy super-resolution is now possible using techniques that break the diffraction limit; and in electron microscopy the development of monochromators and aberration-correctors has led to sub-100 meV spectral and 50 pm spatial resolution. With the growth of all forms of microscopy in Europe and the very pleasing rise in the number of young microscopists entering the field, the EMS is well placed to support national societies and individuals alike in their microscopy research and development. I am greatly indebted to my predecessor, Ueli Aebi, under whose stewardship the EMS has gone from strength to strength and I inherit a forward-looking and energetic Society. I look forward greatly to the next four years in leading and supporting the Society and in hearing about exciting new developments in microscopy in Europe and elsewhere.

As many of you will have noticed, the 14th European Microscopy congress, EMC 2008, in Aachen was an extremely lively event with over 1600 participants, scientists and exhibitors alike. The scientific part of the congress was kicked-off by the presentations of the two FEI-EMA winners, Martin Hÿtch and Ohad Medalia. As usual the remaining sessions were divided into the three well-known categories with most of the time two parallel lectures for each of those, adding up to six parallel sessions to choose from at any given time, except for plenary lectures in the morning. In total over 1050 abstracts were submitted which are available on a single CD-ROM and offset printed in three separate hard cover proceeding volumes, including author and keyword lists, published by Springer. The latter, and this is a first, have a citeable DOI code (10.1007/978-3-540-85156-1,2,3) and are also available for sale through various on-line book stores while every single abstract can already be found through a simple internet search. A query on Google Scholar for “electron tomography” + “foam”, for example, immediately resulted in at least two abstracts of the “Volume 1: Instrumentation and Methods” of EMC 2008 which can then be seen and obtained from SpringerLink at a mouse click. We are convinced that the latter will further enhance the visibility of microscopy on the international scene of scientific competition.

The scientific activities during EMC 2008 were greatly supported by the ease of use of the programme book provided by GIT VERLAG: the simple colour code used to separate the different categories ensured that the delegates could identify their sessions of interest at a glance. Moreover, the programme book contained a very useful scheme of cross-reference between author names and presentation numbers so that it was hard to miss your preferred lecturer or poster.

From day one several exhibitors indicated that they were extremely pleased with the interactions with the delegates, they felt the communications were both quantitatively as well as qualitatively of a very high level. Still, we couldn't help noticing that there were few exhibitors with instruments in the field of light microscopy. A similar comment was raised during the General Assembly in view of the scientific sessions and we hope that we will be able to address this matter properly towards the organisation of the forthcoming EMC 2012.

At the General Council, the organisation of EMC 2012 was awarded to the RMS and EMAG and will be held at the ExCeL site in London, known from previous Microscience meetings. Due to the coalescence with the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games also organised in London during the same season, some flexibility in the dates will have to be taken into account. At the same meeting

the amount of the membership fee was retained for the coming years and the en-bloc membership of several new societies which joined during previous years (RMS, SCANDEM, PTMicros) was confirmed.

At the General Assembly, the number of members of the Executive Board was increased to 14 to reflect the growing membership. Also, the temporary option of partial membership for societies was deleted from the constitution and a new formulation for the *en-bloc* society membership, including the payment, was defined (the new constitution will soon be available on the website). The finishing touch was the election of a new Executive Board: most members will stay on board and the team is now strengthened with members from new societies. Unfortunately, due to a serious illness, our Treasurer, Leo Ginsel, who has taken special care of the finances of our society for over six years, has announced his retreat. The members of the Board would like to take this occasion to thank Leo for all the hard and meticulous work he has done for the Society and for the very pleasant moments spent together. Hopefully, by the time this newsletter is published, we will have found a new Treasurer.

In the coming months the new Board will meet for the first time and set out some new lines of work for the future, amongst which the proposal for a bid for IMC 2014 to be organised in Europe.

We wish you all the best and hope to see you again soon in one of the next microscopy meetings.

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