

In this number of the EMS newsletter we have 4 major issues. First of all we would very much like to welcome Prof. Dr. Christian Schöfer from the Medical University of Vienna, Austria, as the new Treasurer of EMS, taking over the task of Prof. Dr. Leo Ginsel who passed away last January. The search for a new Treasurer was not easy but we are convinced that we have found a very reliable and conscientious colleague in Christian. All relevant paperwork that was left by Leo and his co-worker Jack Theuws is now with Christian, the info for the bank account has been transferred (but the account number and bank haven't changed!), and Christian is ready to come and to join us on the EMS Executive Board.

The second issue is that of the MC 2009 congress, a highly visible collaboration between the 9th Multinational Congress on Microscopy and the Dreiländertagung, taking place in Graz, Austria, from August 30 till September 4 of this year. After some final negotiations the EMS Executive Board and the local organizing committee of MC 2009 agreed on the EMS Extension status for this meeting so that all extra EMS benefits can be brought into place. The organizers expect over 600 contributions and are offering very attractive registration fees for students. Three separate proceedings volumes will be provided (including CD-rom) which will be published with ISBN number and DOI reference. EMS is offering 10 scholarships of € 250 each, applications for which one should follow the standard procedure with a deadline equal to that of the abstract deadline of the meeting (see also www.eurmicsoc.org/scholarships.htm). At this moment, around 90% of the trade exhibition, which means 500 m², has been reserved. The scientific programme includes some special sessions such as the Scherzer symposium on advanced electron optics (detectors, phase plates, spectrometers, monochromators) to commemorate the 100th birthday of Otto Scherzer and a tribute lecture to Leo Ginsel, amongst many other interesting sessions.

The third issue is the call to all local societies and members for pre-proposals of bids to organize IMC 2014 in Europe. The Executive Board of EMS feels that we should try to avoid different European bids working against one another during the selection procedure at IMC 2010 in Rio. Therefore the Board decided that it would be a good idea to hold a European pre-selection in the hope that a single bid could be chosen to go forward from Europe supported by all the European microscopy societies. The most ideal occasion for this pre-selection is the MC 2009 meeting in Graz. Interested candidates are requested to send a proposal to the EMS secretariat by May 1, 2009. These proposals will be first screened by the Board, and the candidates will be asked to give a presentation of around 15 minutes at a special event during MC 2009 at which a European candidate for IMC 2014 will be selected. A submitted proposal should contain a pdf file with information in line with the requests of the IFSM regulations (see also Appendix III of the Constitution of IFSM at www. ifsm.uconn.edu). Of course any selection by the EMS does not preclude an individual society from submitting their own bid independently, but given the likely strength of other bids from around the world, the EMS Board does feel strongly that the best chance of success in being awarded IMC 2014 to a European venue is to unite behind a single strong Euro-

The last issue is that at the secretariat of EMS we have started to upload the EMS membership excel file, which now contains over 5600 members, into the on-line database provided by the ICT services of the University of Antwerp. The secretaries of the national and regional

societies have received instructions to enter this secured database via a personal login and password through which they have received partial administrator rights and can access the members of their own local society. For now, which means during a one time transition period, the secretaries have been asked to download the entries of their members into their personal systems, correct those and send them back to the central EMS secretariat. There they will be compared with the existing files (sometimes EMS has updated the coordinates of a member more recently than the local society) and the new entries will then be uploaded into the on-line system. As soon as all societies have completed this procedure, the on-line database will be opened to all members. This is expected for the Autumn of 2009. Every member will receive a personal login and password through which they can adjust their personal entries but also perform a search of the professional info of our microscopy colleagues throughout Europe. The idea is to increase the content of this database including keywords on your professional activities so that one can, for example, easily obtain a list of fellow microscopists working in a particular field. Of course, every member will have the option to remain excluded from such a search by adjusting his or her personal settings in the database so their data won't be retrieved in any of those searches.

Contact:

Prof. Dr. D. Schryvers, Ph.D.
Electron Microscopy for Materials Science (EMAT)
Department of Physics
University of Antwerp, Belgium
Tel.: +32 3 2653247
Fax: +32 3 2653257
nick.schryvers@ua.ac.be