

This newsletter will appear in the I&M issue that will also be distributed at the 2009 EMS Extension at the MC2009 congress, the 9th Multinational Congress on Microscopy and the Dreiländertagung, taking place in Graz, Austria, from August 30 till September 4 of this year. From the website at http:// www.microscopy09.tugraz.at/, which is constantly being updated, it is clear that the preparations are going well and are promising a very exciting meeting with sessions on all major and up-to-date topics in various fields of modern microscopy. After a broad call, EMS received 23 applications for scholarships for young researchers. Of these, 18 were selected and will receive sponsorship of 250 euro to support their participation at MC2009. So please, do look for the EMS logo on posters and lecture

At MC2009, the annual General Assembly (GA) of EMS will take place on Thursday September 3. The agenda of the meeting has been mailed to all members (for whom we have an e-mail address) and is available for download at the EMS website at http://www.eurmicsoc.org/ decision-assembly-agenda-minutes.html. During the coming weeks extra preparatory documents will be added as soon as they become available. One important agenda point for this meeting is the election of a new Treasurer. However, as you have read in the previous Newsletter, the EMS Board needed to take urgent action due to the sudden death of Leo Ginsel and asked Christian Schöfer to step in as Treasurer starting January of this year. We hope we will be able to confirm his nomination to the Board at the GA. Also, the report of the financial auditors for 2004–2008 still has to be approved.

Another important EMS event in Graz will be a special General Council (GC) on Wednesday, September 2, during which the three European groups that proposed IMC 2014 bids to the Board before May 1, 2009, will be giving a presentation and will be available for questions by members of the Council. All three bids have been reviewed by EMS Board members, and comments passed back to the groups where necessary to help improve the proposals. The GC, which consists of representatives of all en-bloc member societies of EMS, will then vote on which bid should be supported by the EMS and to be defended as such at the international presentation in Rio de Janeiro in 2010. In order for the GC to be as representative as possible across the entire European society, it is imperative that as many societies as possible are represented effectively by the correct number of representatives (depending on the number of registered EMS members). If you plan to go to MC2009, you might wish to get in touch with your national society Board to check whether they have already selected a representative.

In addition to MC2009, this year, as every year, EMS is also sponsoring local meetings and workshops with 750 euro to allow organisers to invite internationally-reknown speakers of the highest scientific and educational quality. This year, 10 such meetings throughout Europe, from January through to September, have been selected. Please note that an extra criterion has been added for the coming round: "annual meetings of national or regional societies are, under normal circumstances, not considered for sponsorship".

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