

First of all we would like to wish all our members a very happy new year with lots of scientific break-throughs using all the novel microscopy tools available nowadays!

Within the next few weeks you should receive the 2009 EMS Yearbook that has been compiled by Marie Cheynet. This a good opportunity to extend our gratitude once more to Peter Hawkes who has in the past taken great care of this work. The present issue appears a little later than usual since we wanted to apply the full possibilities granted by the new membership database in which double memberships are more easily recognized. Speaking of this database, in the coming weeks we plan to forward initial log-ins and passwords to all members so every individual member can start to use the database for address updates, changes in privacy preferences, etc. You will then also be able to check professional data on fellow EMS members, e.g. for finding a particular microscopy lab or technique nearby while secretaries will have a useful tool for sharing the membership data with EMS.

In 2010 the International Microscopy Congress (IMC17) is to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from September 19 to 24. Deadline for abstract submission is March 30 of this year. EMS will not be organizing any joint travel but in the upcoming EMS Board meeting on February 18–19 the procedure for possible EMS scholarships will be discussed. More information will be available on the EMS website in due course.

For the coming year, three applications for sponsored events for the first half of the year (January to June 2010) have been accepted. We will be sponsoring special microscopy sessions at the "Weinstein Cardiovascular Development Conference" (Amsterdam, May 20–22) and the E-MRS 2010 Spring Meeting (session on "Quantitative Electron Microscopy for Research and Industry") (Strasbourg, June 7–11) as well as a meeting on "The past, present of future of STEM and applications" (Orsay, June 9–11).

On the website a new page has been initiated listing new books on microscopy. The list is divided into the classic topics of microscopy conferences, being "Instrumentation & Methods", "Materials Science and Physics" and "Life Sciences" (some books appear under more than one topic). The aim is to provide an overview of microscopy books, with links to the respective publishers where one can find more info on the actual contents. If you have a suggestion for the list, please send the relevant data to the EMS Secretary. A similar page with jour-

nals dedicated to microscopy is in the pipeline.

Although 2009 was an international year of crisis, our commercial membership did not really suffer from this. Only three ECMA members cancelled their membership (of which one, Bal-tec, was because of a merge with Leica, another member company) while three other applied for membership: these are Nanofactory Instruments, Electron Microscopy Sciences and Hirox.

To end, a small statistic: in 2009, 92 job-offers were presented via the EMS website and bulk-mails, close to 100 people visit the eurmicsoc.org site every day with the calendar and job-offers the most popular pages. A few months ago, this popularity has initiated a similar job page at www.imaging-git.com, the website of our official media partner Imaging & Microscopy where the most recent EMS job-offers are now also posted.

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