

Dear EMS Member,



During its first meeting on 5 October 2004, the EMS Board decided that the frequency of board meetings needed to increase to at least twice a year. This way, in-depth discussions can be held at relatively short intervals and clear decisions can be taken on all the points that EMS needs to tackle in order to improve its services to the microscopy community in Europe. In this spirit, the second meeting of the new EMS board was held in Antwerp on Thursday, 14 April 2005. Some major focal points of this meeting included the 2005 budget, the status of the preparations of the EMS extension in Davos and of EMC 2008 in Aachen, the detailed rules for extensions and sponsored events, congress insurance and outsourcing of registration and on-line abstract submission, changes to the constitution in preparation of the General Assembly in Davos, electronic voting, and last but not least, the membership status of the various European national microscopy societies (cf., individual versus en-bloc membership).

The preparations of the EMS extension "Dreiländertagung Microscopy Conference" held in Davos, Switzerland from 28 August through 2 September 2005 are moving smoothly. All exhibition space is sold and the first deadline for early-bird registration, 30 April is passed by the time this newsletter appears. Due to the EMS extension status of the Conference, EMS members who are not a member of the three national societies involved (Swiss, German and Austrian) also pay the same reduced registration

fee as members of these societies (i.e. 15 € off the regular registration fee). EMS also provides a limited number of scholarships to attend this Conference by covering the respective early-bird registration fee. (EMS website www.euremicsoc.org).

As for EMC 2008, we are proud to announce that all parties involved, EMS, DGE and the local organizing committee (LOC) of the RWTH Aachen have now signed a declaration of intent to jointly organize EMC 2008 under the auspices of co-signing IFSM. The LOC is already in contact with the local congress site and organizers to prepare a terrific congress venue. In the meantime, the EMS secretariat is finalizing the negotiations with an insurance underwriter for providing a congress insurance against force majeure. In parallel, trials are being set-up to test possible on-line registration and abstract submission procedures that could be outsourced for future EMC's as well as EMS extensions. With regards of the regulations for sponsored events, the deadlines are slightly altered and essentially moved forward to allow for more meetings to apply for EMS sponsoring (see EMS website www.euremicsoc.org for more detail).

Meanwhile let me remind you that any member of EMS can apply to receive EMS sponsorship for the organization of a local meeting with international attendance. The support typically includes part of the costs for inviting high-profile international speakers or lecturers. Details for this sponsorship are outlined on

the website www.euremicsoc.org. Moreover, applications for the 2006 EMS extension are also still welcome until 30 June 2005.

Concerning EMS membership, by now 22 national societies throughout Europe are taking advantage of the en-bloc membership system which (i) offers a significant reduction of the individual membership fee from € 25 to € 5 as membership fee, and (ii) ensures a relatively simple handling of the address database of EMS. In total, the society presently counts well over 3,000 members. In the meantime extra efforts are taken to attract the few missing national societies and to support new local societies being formed in countries without a presently active society.

Following (i) some comments made at the General Assembly (GA) during last year's EMC in Antwerp and (ii) a number of incentives of the board, several changes in the statutes and by-laws of the constitution will be presented to the members for voting at the GA in Davos. Moreover, in order to be able to approach the members for their opinions as much as possible on particular aspects of the working of EMS, the board has tested a beta-version of an electronic voting system. In the coming weeks the security of this system will be further tested and improved.

The date for the General Assembly at the EMS extension in Davos is set for Tuesday 30 August during lunchtime - free sandwiches and drinks will be provided. All EMS members: please note

this date in your calendar now, as several important decisions have to be made during this meeting! The Executive Board will meet on Monday afternoon, 29 August. The agenda for the General Assembly will be distributed by electronic mail and will be available on the EMS website by the end of May, 2005.

The FP6 "3D-EM" Network of Excellence (3D-EM NoE) brings together the European leaders in electron microscopy (www.3dem-noe.org). This consortium is funded within Research Framework Programme 6 of the European Commission for five years, and is coordinated by Andreas Engel, M.E. Mueller Institute for Structural Biology, Biozentrum, University of Basel.

The goal of 3D-EM is to make Europe the leader in three-dimensional (3D) electron microscopy analysis. Integration of leading European laboratories in electron microscopy in this NoE is the prerequisite for developing standardized procedures and innovative equipments for comprehensive structural analysis of cells and their native supramolecular as-

semblies. Technical and methodological progress is made accessible to the biological and medical communities via state-of-the-art centers and a wide course program. Participation of the internationally leading manufacturer for high performance instrumentation for life sciences, FEI Electron Optics, in the 3D-EM NoE guarantees a close interaction of academic and applied research within the network and an immediate transfer of knowledge from basic science to industrial application.

Expertise is available in the 3D-EM NoE at all levels. The activities are grouped into four subprojects (Electron Tomography, Single Particle Analysis, Electron Crystallography, and Instrumentation and Software). Communication between different laboratories is fostered by a powerful website and yearly meetings. Workshops enhance the collaboration within the subprojects. The course program is managed centrally and includes teaching at different levels, thereby providing valuable information for the beginner as well as for the expert

already familiar with electron microscopy. The current course program is available via www.3dem-noe-training.org.

Yours truly,



Ueli Aebi



Nick Schryvers

