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Dear EMS member,

Since the previous EMS Newsletter in August 2010 several important matters have arisen in the field of European microscopy. First of all, the great news which was immediately communicated to all EMS members: the next International Microscopy Congress will return to Europe! The bid for Prague to host IMC 2014 was accepted at the IFSM General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro with an absolute majority over three other bids: Beijing, Istanbul and Sydney. Again, we would like to congratulate the team of Pavel Hozak and Martin Sasik for a job well done and thank all EMS members for their valued support.

The next important news was the venue change for the upcoming EMC 2012 meeting, organized by the RMS in cooperation with EMAG. The original plan of the bid presented at EMC 2008 in Aachen was to use the ExCeL convention centre in London, the same venue as used for the successful Microscience series. However, due to a possible conflict with reservations made by the Olympic Committee the local organizers decided to look for possible alternative sites to host EMC 2012. After a detailed search and a visit from a delegation of the RMS and EMS Boards, including representatives of the trade, an excellent alternative was found: the award-winning Manchester Central Convention Complex (www.manchester-central.co.uk), located on the remodeled Victorian central train station in the heart of the city of Manchester. Manchester and its surrounding area is a booming region, known particularly for sports and music and home to two recent Physics Nobel prize winners. Manchester is reached easily from almost all major

European cities and can act as a perfect hub for many interesting and fun pre- and post-congress activities. The meeting dates remain the same: 16–21 September 2012. In the mean time, the website www.emc2012.org.uk has matured and offers several electronic possibilities to remain updated, including Twitter and Facebook.

Another novelty is the new design for the EMS Yearbook. Around this time all members should have received the 2010 issue which contains more extended reports from meetings, letters from young researchers who received a scholarship to attend an international microscopy meeting, in-depth lecture notes from EMS invited speakers at EMS Extensions and special announcements from the societies.

This year, as last year, two multinational meetings in Europe have been designated as an EMS Extension. The first is the MC 2011 meeting in Kiel, Germany, organized by the German, Polish and Scandinavian societies from August 28

till September 2. The second is the MCM 2011, 10th of the series, organized in Urbino, Italy, organized by a group of societies from Italy, Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic & Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, and Slovenia from September 4 to 9.

In addition to these EMS Extensions, four meetings in the first half of 2011 have been selected to receive sponsorship from EMS: the Winterschool 2011, a Practical course in advanced microscopy, including an Industry Day, in Zurich, Switzerland; the 45th anniversary Annual Scientific Meeting of the Israel Society for Microscopy; the Electron Crystallography course in Erice, Italy, and finally the XIVth International Conference on Electron Microscopy in Wisla, Poland. For the second half of 2011 (July – December), there is an opportunity for a few more meetings to be sponsored to a maximum of 750 euro each; applications should reach the EMS secretarial office by March 31, 2011.

EMS wishes everyone a great 2011.

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