

Last Autumn EMS started a new initiative to support microscopy research by inaugurating the EMS Outstanding Paper Award. By the deadline of January 15, 28 papers had been nominated with a majority in the field of the Life Sciences. The jury*, chaired by a non-voting member of the EMS Executive Board, selected a winning paper for each of the three categories of the Award, in time for the EMS Board meeting on March 16/17 in Antwerp. The Board confirmed this selection and shortly after the authors were informed and the result was announced to the entire EMS community.

The following papers published last year receive the EMS 2010 Outstanding Paper Award in the respective categories:

- 1. Instrumentation: "Production and application of electron vortex beams", Nature 467, 301-304 (2010) by Jo Verbeeck, He Tian & Peter Schattschneider, doi:10.1038/nature09366
- 2. Materials Sciences: "Interpretation of electron diffraction patterns from amorphous and fullerene-like carbon allotropes", Ultramicroscopy 110, 815–819 (2010) by Zsolt Czigany & Lars Hultman, doi:10.1016/j.ultramic.2010.02.005
- 3. Life Sciences: "Superresolution Imaging of Chemical Synapses in the Brain", Neuron 68, 843-856 (2010) by Adish Dani, Bo Huang, Joseph Bergan, Catherine Dulac & Xiaowei Zhuang, doi:10.1016/j.neuron.2010.11.021

The first authors of these papers, or their representatives, will receive their prize money of €1,000 and a metal-on-wood plaque at one of the upcoming EMS Extension meetings, in Kiel or Urbino, later this year. The jury also suggested some alterations for the procedure and rules for this year, so please do check these if you want to nominate a paper for the 2011 EMS Outstanding Paper Award (call due Autumn 2011). The Board extends its warmest congratulations to all winners and we look forward to a new

round of excellent papers for this year's competition.

At the same Board meeting it was decided to set aside 20 EMS scholarships of €250 each for young EMS members to attend one of the two EMS Extensions. The winners of these scholarships will again be asked to write a short report for the 2011 EMS Yearbook.

The program and scientific committees for next year's European Microscopy Congress, emc2012, in Manchester are in the final stages of preparation. The scientific program will be composed of four main symposia with six parallel sessions running at any one time. The main symposium topics are: "Physical Sciences, Applications", "Life Sciences, Applications", "Physical Sciences, Tools and Techniques" and "Life Sciences, Tools and Techniques". The meeting will include several pre-congress workshops and a 'learning and outreach' zone. Abstract submission deadline is set for March 31, 2012.

The EMS Board meeting took place the week after the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan. At that time it was already clear that this was going to mean a long period of recovery for many Japanese researchers, especially those in the greater Sendai region. Several members of the Board indicated that they had already contacted their Japanese colleagues to see how they could be of help, for example by inviting researchers to spend some time in European labs to continue their research. EMS has in the mean time contacted the Japanese Society for Microscopy to see how we can facilitate this process, possibly through some financial support. We are sure that all EMS members will join the Board in sending our very best wishes to our Japanese colleagues at this difficult time.

EMS Outstanding Paper Award jury members

Chair

Rik Brydson (Institute for Materials Research, University of Leeds, UK)

Members

- Alan Craven (Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Glasgow, UK)
- Etienne Snoeck (CEMES, CNRS, Toulouse, France)
- Bob Pond (University of Exeter, UK)
- Wolfgang Jäger (Mikrostrukturanalytik, Christian-Albrechts-University Kiel, Germany)
- José Carrascosa (Centro Nacional de Biotecnologia, Universidad Autonoma Madrid, Spain)
- Varpu Marjomäki (Dept of Biology and Environmental Science, University of Jyväskylä, Finland)

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