



Paul Midgley,
EMS President



Nick Schryvers,
EMS Secretary

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Dear EMS member,

Firstly, very best wishes to all for the new year and may we all be enlightened by some fascinating discoveries in the micro- and nanoworld. For European microscopy this year promises to be again very exciting. Over the past few weeks the jury of the EMS Outstanding Paper Award has worked hard comparing the 2011 nominations in the different categories and the winning papers and authors will be announced soon. They will receive their award during a special ceremony at this year's European Microscopy Congress emc2012 in Manchester.

After the deadline of April 1st, members of another jury, for the FEI European Microscopy Award, will start their work to choose the winners for the two quadrennial awards in Physics and Materials Sciences and Optics and Life Sciences. The value of each prize is €5000 and the winners will present a lecture at emc2012 during a special award session. More information on the FEI-EMA prize can be found at <http://www.euremicsoc.org/fei-ema.html> (or under the "funding" menu bullet at the EMS website) and we invite all of you to consider worthy candidates for this prestigious prize and to encourage proposals.

The Board will meet on the 21st and 22nd of February in Lyon to discuss various organizational matters and to prepare the General Assembly and General Council that will be held in Manchester. At this 15th European Microscopy Congress bids for the next EMC in 2016 will be presented. With the deadline for a first application set as January 31st, we are now working with applicants to ensure a fair competition during the presentations and elections at the General Council in Manchester.

By now the program of emc2012 in Manchester is fixed, plenary and invited speakers have been contacted and have confirmed, including Daniel Shechtman, 2011 Chemistry Nobel Prize Laureate for the discovery of quasi-crystals. Other plenary speakers are Christian Colliex, Peter Dobson, Andreas Engel, Scott Fraser, Jeff Lichtman and Tony Wilson. The abstract submission deadline has been set at Friday, March 16th, 2012, so please make sure you submit your abstracts in time so the organizers can properly arrange the sessions and Proceedings in a timely manner.

In the coming weeks you should receive the 2011 EMS Yearbook. Look out

for familiar faces in the pictures of reports of meetings you attended or of young researchers you met during one of the sessions.

In a year of an EMC, no EMS Extensions are organized. Smaller events though can still be sponsored and in the first half of 2012 these are: (1) "Quantitative Microscopy of Energy Materials" session at the European MRS spring meeting (May 14-18, Strasbourg, France); (2) "EMBO practical course on Electron Tomography in Life Science" (June 18-23, LUMC, Leiden, The Netherlands). Deadline for applications for sponsored events in the second half of 2012 is March 31, 2012.

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