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Dear colleagues,

The present newsletter will be incorporated in the next issue of Imaging & Microscopy.

The new EMS year has started with the call for nominations for the EMS Outstanding Paper Awards 2017. For this eighth call, a total of 17 high quality papers presenting a good balance between the categories, have been submitted by January 15 2018. These all with very strong recommendations so the jury will again have a hard task in selecting the winners. The decision will be announced in April this year and the respective authors will receive their awards during the International Microscopy Congress, IMC19, in Sydney, Australia later this year.

Although IMC19 is organized under the sponsorship of the International Federation of Societies for Microscopy (IFSM), EMS has strong ties/relations with the organizing bodies. EMS provides a number of scholarships for early stage career EMS members to attend this event. The meeting takes place from 9-14 September 2018, at the International Convention Centre (ICC Sydney), and promises to be the international microscopy highlight for 2018. The EMS Board will have their meeting followed by the EMS annual General Assembly, during which the Outstanding Paper Awards will be delivered.

Last minute information when writing this newsletter: the IFSM announced the winners of the IFSM Awards 2018:

John Cowley Medal (Diffraction Physics and Microscopy): **Archie Howie (EU)**.

Vernon Cosslett Medal (New Developments in Optics and Instrumentation): **Christian Colliex (EU), Les J. Allen (Australia)**.

Hatsujiro Hashimoto Medal (Applications in Physical Sciences): **France Ross (USA), Yuichi Ikuhara (Japan)**.

Eduard Kellenberger Medal (Life Sciences): the three Nobel Prize winners: **Joachim Frank (USA), Richard Henderson (EU) and Jacques Dubochet (EU)**.

We are very proud about the huge recognition of some of our outstanding European colleagues, as indicated above.

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The Award Ceremony will take place at the IFSM Symposium of IMC19, Sydney, on Friday morning and will consist of special talks given by the winners of the IFSM Awards (cf. <http://ifsm.info/awards.html>).

In the first half of 2018, the following five events will be financially supported by EMS:

1. Winterschool 2018, Practical course in advanced 3D microscopy. Theoretical and practical course. 21 to 26 January 2018. Zurich, Switzerland
2. International workshop on Electron Holography. 26 to 28 June 2018. Zeuthen, Germany
3. 51st Erice Course of the International School of Crystallography: Electron Crystallography. 01 to 10 June 2018. Erice, Italy
4. Second European FIB Workshop. 19 and 20 June 2018. Grenoble, France
5. Advanced Workshop on Cryo-Electron Tomography. Vienna, Austria (postponed to 2019)

This financial support from the EMS ensures that also these smaller events, often organized in the form of a school or course, can invite top scientists to lecture our coming generations of microscopists. For the second half of the year (July to December 2018), calls for sponsored events will be launched end of February.

In the coming months, you will receive the 2017 EMS Yearbook, which is now under construction. This edition will include reports from past EMS sponsored events, the two EMS Extensions and their EMS lecturers, EMS scholarships, and many other information.

Finally, we invite you to visit the EMS webpage: <http://www.eurmic-soc.org/en/>, which is daily updated to efficiently provide you information from our community.

Any suggestions and ideas for future newsletters are welcome at sec@eurmicsoc.org.

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