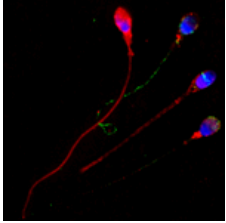


In this Issue

Issue 25 - March 2012

ARTICLES

Magnifying human fertility: microscopy and assisted reproductive technology

Junaid Kashir, Celine Jones, Walaah Ramadan, Youn-Jung Kang, Janet Carver, Tracey Griffiths, Karen Turner and Kevin Coward

Assisted reproductive technology (ART) has undergone rapid expansion over recent years due to the use of pioneering clinical techniques such as in vitro fertilisation (IVF), or intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI). Microscopy represents an essential requirement for such techniques, allowing gametes and embryos to be visualised in sufficient detail, permitting the assessment of key clinical parameters and micromanipulation without compromising viability. In this article, we discuss the essential nature of microscopy, and its associated skills, within the many parameters of ART, as well as its continued fundamental role in research within reproductive sciences.

The Microscope Sings

Robert Wilson, Simon StJohn-Green, Jack Dobinson and Gavin Bell

This article explores newly developed software which converts pictures into music: it is aimed principally at making natural-sounding music from partly-periodic images such as micrographs of crystalline materials.

Half-century of Fellowship

Brian J Ford

Professor Brian J Ford looks back over fifty eventful years as a Fellow of the Royal Microscopical Society.



Vice-President's 2011 Award Winners

Showcase of the 3 RMS Vice President's Award Winners for 2011. They are;

- PAGEANT (Projects Aiding Gambian Education and Natural Talent), a UK registered charity which aims to help education in The Gambia, West Africa;
- Life through a Lens – On the Road, a workshop touring schools which aims to engage school children in the process of scientific discovery; and,
- A Virtual Microscope through time, a project which aims to make microscopy techniques accessible, meaningful and at the same time capture the imagination through a web based virtual microscope.

emc2012 update

The First Call for Papers has been made, and the deadline for abstract submission has been extended to the 22nd March. Full details of the scientific programme are now available at www.emc2012.org. For the first time at a European Microscopy Congress, it also includes sessions on flow cytometry. Registration is due to open w/c 19th March 2012.



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