



Light Microscopy Section Annual Report 2020-2021- Professor Gail McConnell

This has been my second year as the Light Microscopy (LM) section chair, and it continues to be an enjoyable experience. Before giving highlights on the previous year, I would like to thank Allison Winton, Amanda Jarman and the rest of the RMS team who have made the work that the LM section has undertaken possible. Their continued support, help and guidance during this period of remote working is greatly appreciated, and I hope we will be able to meet in-person again soon.

It has been another very active year for the Light Microscopy section, since our last AGM at the Microscopy: Advances, Innovation, Impact 2020 meeting. The remit of the committee is to support the field of Light Microscopy, as demonstrated by the courses, workshops and conferences we have organised and supported in the last year. In response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic all events from committee meetings to conferences in the last year have taken place online. In these times of hybrid and remote working it has been great to see the LM community embrace this way of working together with such optimism, enthusiasm, and vigour.

The year started with the Virtual UK Light Microscopy Facility Meeting on 5th and 6th January 2021. For the first time the meeting included our Canadian, Mexican and North American colleagues. Following on from the successful facility meetings to establish safe working practices in the COVID-19 era, it was a great opportunity to continue to collaborate and share knowledge. I would like to thank the Scientific Organisers Alex Sossick, Peter O'Toole, Claire Brown and Alison North for arranging this useful and well-attended international meeting.

The on-going 'Imaging ONEWORLD' seminar series continues to attract excellent international speakers and audiences, covering diverse emerging topics in light and other types of microscopy.

The mmc2021 conference took place in July 2021, and covered the latest developments across all areas of microscopy. This was a rich and valuable meeting, and I extend my thanks to all committee members, session chairs and the RMS team who helped to make the event a great success. A notable highlight was the award of the 2021 Medal for Light Microscopy to Philipp Kukura from the University of Oxford for his innovative work on mass photometry. Discussions are already underway for the planning of mmc2023, but in the meantime we will have Frontiers in Bioimaging 2022 to look forward to. Joelle Goulding and Deirdre Kavanagh from the LM committee have joined forces with Leandro Lemgruber and Ferran Valderrama to arrange what promises to be a great meeting in this popular series.

Working from the Section, together with members from across the RMS and non-members alike, Joelle Goulding has pioneered an update of the 'RMS Dictionary of Light Microscopy' to include a vast number of recent developments in the field, such as super-resolution and multi-photon techniques and their underpinning technologies.

The RMS continues to support and serve the light microscopy community, and as a committee we are keen to meet new requirements of the community as they arise. I take this opportunity to thank Dan Metcalf and Ann Wheeler for their time on the LM section, and I welcome Christian Wilms (from Scientifica) who joins the committee.

The LM section is made up from a diverse grouping within the light microscopy field and we are always looking to expand our committee composition. Suggestions for potential volunteers to join the section are always welcome, as are suggestions for courses that the LM section could run or support for the benefit of the community.