



Early Career Section Annual Report 2020-2021

Dr Liam Mark Rooney

This has been my first year as Chair of the Early Career Section Committee - it has been an enjoyable year and the committee have achieved a lot of great things in an otherwise turbulent time. Before summarising this year's highlights, I would like to thank the previous Chair and founder of this Section, Dr Colum O'Leary, who has now settled into his new role as a PDRA in California. Colum shaped the Early Career Committee into what it is today and brought together a fantastic group of Early Career Microscopists to serve the interests of the imaging community. This has made my job much easier by having such a great group of people to bounce ideas off and drive the Section forward.

The remit of the Early Career Committee is to provide a platform for Early Career Microscopists with the full support of the RMS. We aim to provide an inclusive environment for ECRs to showcase their research, discuss their roles in the context of the field, and develop and disseminate resources for Early Career Scientists. Any student, postdoc or early career professional who is a member of the RMS can benefit from the activities organised by the Early Career Section Committee. The best way to keep up to date is primarily via our Twitter account (@RMS_EarlyCareer), or by the RMS website, emails or features in InFocus magazine.

We began the year by setting up our official EC Twitter account to communicate to our members. This has been a great success driven by Dr Emma McDermott and has seen an increase to over 500 followers, with daily content on job posts, career resources, events news, and technical overviews.

The Section also saw the launch of the inaugural RMS Early Career Award – a prestigious prize which is awarded to an outstanding Early Career Microscopist who has pushed the boundary of their field and effectively communicated the impact of their work. I would like to thank those on the committee for their work in pulling this award together, and for all the outstanding submissions we received. Our recipient of the 2021 RMS Early Career Award, Dr Kevin Whitely, provided an excellent overview of his research here today and will be formally commended with the Award at an in-person RMS event later this year. We are happy to announce that the RMS Early Career Award will become an annual feature of the Committee and presented in line with the other RMS Section Awards.

Committee Members have also been working closely with Dr Georgina Fletcher, Dr Nicola Lawrence, and Dr Alex Sossick to develop and launch a series of short technical lectures, named Technical Teabreaks. These 15-minute long videos have been created by experts in their fields and some are publicly available via YouTube. These are currently limited to Light Microscopy, but we hope to expand this to EM and Image Analysis in the coming months.

The Committee has been actively engaging to develop regular features and content for InFocus magazine. These contributions cover committee member introductions, updates, events news, perspectives, career spotlights, and more. We look forward to furthering engagement with the InFocus team over the next year and continuing our promotion of the RMS' Early Career Members.

The ECC implemented its official constitution in line with other RMS Science Sections. This formalises Committee membership and I am pleased that everyone has agreed to stay in office for at least one more year. I look forward to continuing to smash it for another year together!

The major event of the ECC's calendar has been today's Early Career Symposium at mmc2021. Thank you to all the Committee Members, Session Chairs, and the RMS Team who helped to organise this

event - and to the panellists, selected presenters, and keynote speakers for their involvement. We have also been heavily involved in organising a virtual social event for mmc2021 and have partnered with Hotel Chocolat to provide a bespoke tasting event. I'm very grateful to Communications Physics and their generous sponsorship of the event, which has allowed the ECC to heavily subsidise ticket prices and make the most of sitting at home eating chocolate when we should have otherwise been partaking in post-conference in-person extracurricular activities.

Looking ahead, the Committee is in good shape. We will continue to serve the best interests of our community in the next year. We are currently working on developing specific ECR content for the Journal of Microscopy and developing future ECR-focussed events. Moreover, we look forward to continuing the RMS Early Career Award into 2022 and showcasing the fantastic research of our membership.

Finally, I would like to thank Ms Allison Winton, Mrs Amanda Jarman and the rest of the RMS Team for all their hard work and commitment, which has driven and supported many of our efforts.