



**The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Royal Microscopical Society  
was held on Thursday 29 September 2022 during the  
Virtual Microscopy: Advances, Innovation and Impact 2022 Meeting, held at The Royal Society of  
Chemistry, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BA.**

**Members present in-person:** Grace Burke FRMS (RMS President), Michelle Peckham FRMS (RMS Executive Honorary Secretary), Rik Brydson FRMS (RMS Honorary Secretary Sciences (Physical Science) until 29 September 2022), Andy Brown FRMS (RMS Honorary Secretary Sciences (Physical Science) from 29 September 2022), Maddy Parsons FRMS (RMS Honorary Secretary Sciences (Life Science)), Kerry Thompson (RMS Honorary Secretary (Education)), Rod Shipley (RMS Honorary Treasurer), Debbie Stokes FRMS (Past RMS International Secretary), Alex Ball FRMS, Paul Balas, Asa Barber, Beatrice Bottura, Ed Boyes Hon FRMS, Barry Carter Hon FRMS, Helen Corry, Stephen Couzens FRMS, Stephen Cross, Sián Culley FRMS, Rocco D'Antuonno, Derek Davies FRMS, Emmanuel Derivery, Deepak Dinkar, Elizabeth Duke, Matthew Francis FRMS, Pratibha Gai FRS Hon FRMS, Yanping Guo FRMS, Daniel Haspel FRMS, Pippa Hawes FRMS, Ben Hayllar, Ping-Luen Ho, Karen Hogg FRMS, John Hutchison Hon FRMS, Martin Jones, Rob Kessler FRMS, Oleg Kolosov FRMS, Vladimir Korolokov, Roland Kroger FRMS, Donald MacLaren FRMS, Judith Mantell, Gail McConnell FRMS, Greg McMahon FRMS, Steve Metcalfe FRMS, Jean-Yves Mugnier FRMS, Katherine Paine, Periklis Pantazis, Julia Parker, Alex Payne-Dwyer, Michael Redd, Liam Rooney FRMS, Hamed Safaie, Rebecca Saleeb FRMS, Paul Spellward, Paul Verkade FRMS, Claire Wells FRMS, Steven West FRMS, David Williams Hon FRMS, Christopher Wood FRMS, Marcus Yio, Tim Young and Allison Winton (RMS Chief Executive) and the following members of RMS staff: Adam Clay, Georgina Fletcher, Victoria Masters, Jade Sturdy and Kate Wooding\*

**Members present virtually:** Lynne Joyce FRMS (Past RMS Honorary Treasurer), Jacquelyn Bond FRMS, Stan Botchway FRMS, Kris Bramley, Charles Clifford FRMS, Joel Cohen, Lucy Collinson FRMS, Héctor Corte-León, Alistair Curd FRMS, Mingdong Dong, Nadine Field, Patricia Goggin FRMS, Paul Gunning FRMS, Tim Hawkins FRMS, Brian Hayes FRMS, Louise Hughes FRMS, Georgeanna Kawaley FRMS, Satyam Ladva, Leandro Lemgruber Soares, Katherine MacArthur, Francis Morrissey, Kathy Newell, Laurie Palasse, Chris Parmenter FRMS, Dana Perry, Basant Puri FRMS, Thomas Slater FRMS, Natasha Stephen, Kislou Voitchovsky FRMS, Christa Walther FRMS, Thomas Walther FRMS, Joanna Wells, Xiangli Zhong FRMS and the following members of RMS staff: Nick Cameron, Owen Morton and Lucy Ridler\*

**1. To receive Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from: Susan Anderson FRMS (RMS Vice President), Peter O'Toole FRMS (RMS Vice President), Paul Gunning FRMS, Aubrey Lambert, James Perkins FRMS, Brian Rodriguez, Peter Sainsbury FRMS and Steve Thomas FRMS.

**2. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and virtually signed. Rod Shipley proposed the approval of the minutes which was seconded by Grace Burke.

**3. To consider any Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. To receive and adopt the Annual Report for the year 31 December 2021**

Michelle Peckham said that copies of the 2020 AGM Minutes, as well as the 2021 Annual Report and Accounts have been available on the Society's website [www.rms.org.uk](http://www.rms.org.uk), and hoped that attendees had looked at these. She then gave the following report and reminded those present that the Society is a charity, and all charities must have an objective. The Society's objective are *"To promote the advancement of microscopical science by such means as the discussion and publication of research into improvements in the construction and mode of application of microscopes and into those branches of science where microscopy is important"* and *"To organise educational activities concerned with microscopy for the benefit of the general public and the science community."*

In pursuit of this objective, the RMS Council has a rolling Five-year Strategy, and the Annual Report covers the four key areas contained within the current strategy: Events, Outreach, Membership and Publishing. The Royal Microscopical Society is a well-supported, and highly active Society. Summaries of some key points are below, and the RMS encourage you to read the fuller accounts of the Society's activities contained within the Annual Report.

In January 2021 the Society organised the following meetings (attendee numbers in brackets) which were all held virtually due to Covid-19: Flow Cytometry Facilities Meeting (372 attendees), EM-UK (192 attendees), UK Light Microscopy Facility Meeting (373 attendees) the meetings were supported by many companies who gave short "techno bite" presentations.

In June 2021 the RMS hosted the first ever virtual European Light Microscopy Initiative (elmi) (615) and then in July 2021 mmc2021 (1313) was also held virtually, the first time for an mmc event. A bespoke conference website was developed for mmc2021, which featured an integrated abstract admissions system and the embedding of both Vimeo and Zoom for the live conference streams. The RMS would like to thank all the event sponsors and attendees for helping to make mmc2021 a success. Mmc2023 is currently being planned and is anticipated to be held in-person.

The International Microscopy Lecture Series was launched in October 2021, by the RMS in conjunction with the Microscopical Society of Canada (MSC), the Israeli Microscopy Society (IMS), the Society of Brazilian Microscopy and Microanalysis (SBMM) and the International Federation of Societies for Microscopy (IFSM). Imaging ONEWORLD continues to be held online, with 40 seminars held in 2021 and hundreds of attendees from all around the world. An extensive online resource of microscopy talks, webinars and other virtual training opportunities were made available on the RMS website to assist the Microscopy community in the absence of face-to-face contact.

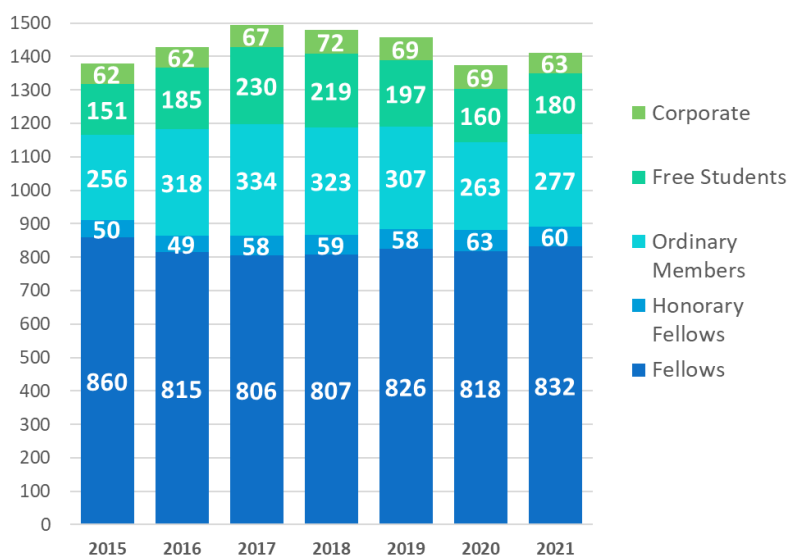
Virtual meetings were also held for:

- Microscopy Characterisation of organic-inorganic interfaces (66)
- High Content Imaging (116)
- EBSD (151)
- International Flow Cytometry Facilities Forum (Covid, 1 year on) (113)
- Microscopy: Advances, Innovation and Impact 2020, including RMS AGMs (175)
- Microscopy and Microanalysis in Geological and Archaeological Sciences (156)
- Flowcytometry UK (126)
- Facility Managers Training Course (23)
- Flow Cytometry Data Analysis Course – Spring (27)
- Basics of Electron Microscopy (31)
- Super-Resolution Workshop (103)
- All Things Cryo (25)
- Flow Cytometry Data Analysis Course – Autumn (28)
- FIB & EM Prep Workshop (242)

The Society would like to thank all the meeting organisers, all supporting microscopy, imaging and flow cytometry companies, committee and FIG members, volunteers, and RMS staff.

There has been a gradual return to RMS in-person events in 2022, in addition to some virtual and hybrid events.

The RMS are grateful for the support given by all of their members, the RMS is a truly International Society with a wide geographical spread of members.



The Primary School focused Microscope Activity Kits (MAKs) resumed in September 2021 after a set of guidelines for safe use of the kits and how users could safely clean them was established. This was to protect both the users and the equipment from accidental damage caused by the cleaning which would be necessary to prevent the transmission of the virus. The RMS would like to thank Oxfordshire County Print Finishers for their support of the MAK scheme.

Alex Ball and James Perkins further developed the Tabletop SEM project with the Hitachi Global STEM outreach programme, the Institute for Research in Schools (IRIS), the Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity at the Natural History Museum and the RMS. The SEM is housed in the Natural History Museum (NHM), supporting citizen and amateur scientists, and is available for loan to schools during term time to support research in schools and STEM teaching. Over 25 schools have been involved in the first year of the programme (9 as hosts and the rest through remote access) providing access to 2,300 school students and an additional 500 children and families at Museums in Leeds and Stoke-on-Trent

There were 9 candidates enrolled on the RMS Diploma. Congratulations were offered to Jenny Simpson on achieving her RMS Diploma.

There were 8 Summer Studentships awarded, and the projects returned to taking place in research environments in 2021.

Outreach events took place in Nottingham and at the NHM, as well as a special lecture given by Rob Kessler at mmc2021.

The Society awarded the following awards in 2021:

- Honorary Fellowships - Ed Boyes Hon FRMS and Alan Craven Hon FRMS
- President's Award - Derek Davies
- Vice-Presidents' Award - Judith Mantell
- RMS Scientific Awards - Marisa Martin-Fernandez, Emma Lundberg, Wei Min and George Patterson
- Chris Hawes Award for Outreach and Education - Marty Jopson
- Early Career Award - Kevin Whiley

With Maddy Parsons as Network lead and Georgina Fletcher as Project Officer, BiolmagingUK together with the UKRI ran a joint call to identify pilot UK community access Nodes for Euro-Biolmaging. Seven sites were selected and are currently being ratified by the Euro-Biolmaging SAB.

BBSRC funded a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the UKRI-RMS Business Interaction Vouchers, with a significant uplift in value and number of vouchers as well as a new voucher aimed at more advanced "proof of concept" studies.

Georgina Fletcher & Kurt Anderson published a paper in the Journal of Microscopy reporting the results of a BiolmagingUK survey conducted to understand the structure of the Light Microscopy facilities in the UK

Six Technical Tea Break videos were released on the RMS' YouTube channel

The Journal of Microscopy continues to be important to the Society with an increase in impact factor to 1.952. The Journal has a "Read and Publish" deal with JISC and many other groups of institutions across Europe and USA. There were 2 special issues published in 2021.

In 2021 infocus published 4 issues made up of 419 pages, all with colour images. An interesting range of content including a total of 16 feature articles, 21 reports, 47 advertisements, and regular features such as the calendar, news, Journal of Microscopy information, new RMS member details, corporate member profiles, new product information and company news. The Editorial Board helps to encourage submissions, suggest articles and promote infocus at conferences and events when possible.

Michelle thanked Vikas Trivedi who had stood down as Editor of infocus and welcomed Leandro Lemgruber who had taken on the role.

The RMS-Wiley Handbook Series continues to progress. Although in 2021 book sales in print have been impacted by Covid-19, on-line usage of content is holding up well and e-book sales have seen an uplift as people access more content electronically rather than in print.

During 2020 the RMS website had just over 90,000 unique visitors, (up from 55,000 in 2020). Around 34% of website traffic came from the UK. The USA, Netherlands and Finland provided 29% of traffic and the remaining 37% was from all over the world including India, Canada and Australia, which highlights the international reach of the Society. In addition to the website, the Society uses Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter to publicise events, news items, publications and other items of interest.

Adopting the Annual Report was proposed by John Hutchison and seconded by Rod Shipley. All present had been in favour of the Report.

## **5. To receive and adopt the Annual Accounts for the year to 31 December 2021**

Rod Shipley reported that in the financial year, January to December 2021, the total incoming resources of £1,159M (£1,238M in 2020) reflecting the fact that although 2021 was an mmc series event year, the event was held virtually. The overall value of the Society's funds, including the property and other investments at the end of 2021 was £5.768M (£4.884M in 2020) and this includes £15K of restricted funds (Pearse Prize Fund). There was a total expenditure of £1.095M (£1,323M in 2020). In 2021 there was a surplus of £884K (£434K gain on investment portfolio and £384K gain of the revaluation of the office premises), compared to a surplus of £83K (£168K gain on investments) in 2020.

In 2021 the year returned an operating surplus of £65K (£85K deficit in 2020, which includes a £97K cancellation fee for mmc2021 venue charge). Further investment was made in improvements to the RMS building, and to IT and infrastructure, funded by free reserves.

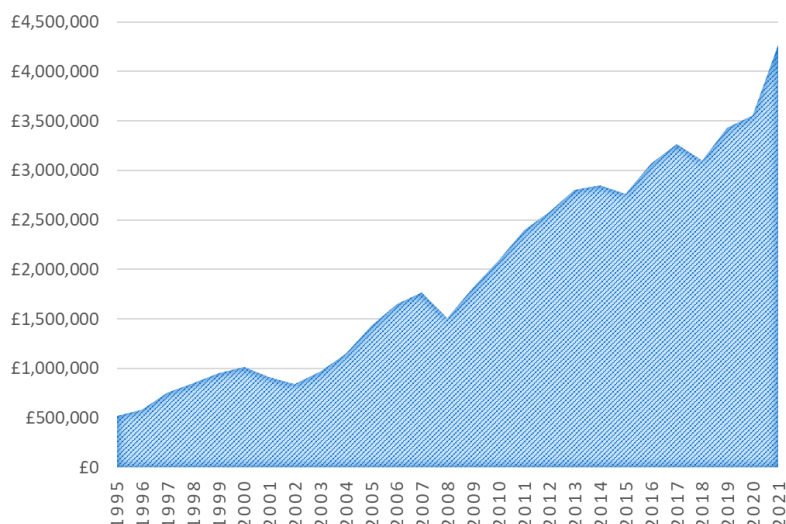
Income from the restaurant increased slightly from £9K in 2020 to £11K in 2021 as rent relief was provided to support the tenants of the restaurant during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

A total of £4K was recovered from the government backed Furlough Scheme. Total investment income in 2021 was £67K (£65K in 2020) which includes bank interest and interest from the charity property fund of £6K (£2K in 2020). The cost of generating these funds was £44K (£40K in 2020).

The level of donations and grants in 2021 was £18K (£97K in 2020), which includes investment and maintenance of £4.1K (£9.4K in 2020) in Microscope Activity Kits. A total of £13.5K (£8.5K in 2020) was provided for Travel Bursaries and Summer Studentships. The 2021 support costs decreased to £339K (£379K in 2020). A reduction was seen in committee expenditure, office overheads and bank charges due to the effect of Covid-19.

Governance costs cover the activities which provide the governance infrastructure. These activities allow the charity to operate, as distinct from supporting its charitable or income generation activities. The cost for 2021 was £28K (£27K in 2020) which represents 2.4% (2.2% in 2020) of total income.

At the end of 2021 the value of all investments stood at £3,949M (£3.557M in 2020). The value of equities managed by Investec stood at £2.428M (£2.250M in 2020). Fixed interest securities were £382K (£651K in 2020) and cash deposits £237K (£67K in 2020). The Society's investment policy requires fixed interest securities (including cash holdings) to be equivalent to 24 months operating costs for the Society. The value of the Charities Property Fund was £68K (£62K in 2020).



In December 2021, the RMS Council ratified the budget for 2022. A £154K deficit was anticipated for 2022. The planned expenditure for 2022 includes £15K capitalised costs for IT and infrastructure project (Website, Server and Office Equipment), £32K Further and ongoing IT and Infrastructure costs, £12K on Summer Studentships and £12K running costs for 100 MAKs and £9.5K on office improvements.

The Actual Budget until 8 September 2022 shows, due to the following, a deficit of £155K is projected: A reduction in revenue generated by the Journal of Microscopy £628K (£654K in 2021), consistent subscription income of £107K, meetings and courses income of £279K (£157K in 2021), increase in office overheads due to the current high inflation rates and an increase in outreach expenditure due to restarting the MAK scheme of £29.5K (£3.5K in 2021).

Despite Covid-19, 2021 was a very active year for the Society. All meetings and courses that could be held virtually went ahead successfully, with only a few hands-on courses unable to take place. The RMS held mmc2021 virtually for the first time (attendees: 1313). The RMS organized the first virtual elmi conference (this was the 5th time RMS hosted elmi). The office staff worked remotely with a phased return to the office, with a hybrid working approach now adopted. Despite the challenges and uncertainty for 2021/2022, the Society is well-positioned for the future.

Michelle Peckham outlined the plans for 2022 and beyond and highlighted the following key points:

- The Professional Development and Training FIG have launched a mentoring scheme.
- The RMS is now a partner of the Technicians Commitment.
- The RMS are working towards being able to award Chartered Microscopist.
- An Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDI&A) Working Document had been introduced.
- Sustainability has been reviewed and new practices have been implemented.
- Infocus will only be published online from March 2023.
- New membership categories will be introduced in January 2023.
- mmc2023 incorporating EMAG will be held in Manchester in July 2023.
- The RMS will be the PCO for elmi 2024 in Liverpool.

In addition to the above the RMS will:

- Continue to deliver a successful in-person and virtual events programme to raise the RMS's profile within the scientific community.
- Continue to run the International Microscopy Lectures with the MSC, ISM, SBMM and IFSM and is open to microscopists around the world.
- Provide resources to improve the public understanding of science and microscopy and to represent the interests of microscopy and microscopists to funding agencies and government.
- Provide up to 100 MAKs as demand requires, engage with selected third parties to broaden the reach of the kits further still and review activities.
- Continue to support the Tabletop SEM Scheme to widen our outreach to secondary schools, museums, and public events.
- Increase membership numbers by keeping subscription rates low and recruiting at events.

- Support the Journal of Microscopy and continue to monitor developments in Open Access.
- Increase its presence on social media to promote the Society and engage with our members and the wider community.
- Implement updates to the RMS website to improve functionality and make it more accessible on mobile devices.
- Improve infrastructure, particularly the Customer Relationship Manager (CRM) database and continue with the ISO27001 accreditation and compliance with GDPR.
- Continue to develop and support Bioluminescence Imaging.
- Work with the RMS Patrons Baroness Brown and Baroness Findlay.

Grace Burke announced the winners of the awards given in 2022 including:

- President's Award - Lynne Joyce, Debbie Stokes and Stephen Couzens
- Vice Presidents' Award - Xiangli Zhong
- Pearse Prize Award - Michael Sheetz
- Chris Hawes Award for Outreach and Education - Elisabeth Bik
- Early Career Award - Katherine Paine
- Scientific Achievement Awards - Hari Shroff, Lothar Schermelleh, Andrea Centrone, Roland Nitschke, Wim Hagen and Ardan Patwardhan
- Alan Agar Award for Electron Microscopy - Erin Tranfield
- Award for Light Microscopy - Christian Eggeling
- Innovation in Applied Microscopy for Engineering and Physical Sciences Award - Natalie Reznikov
- AFM & SPM Award - Alice Pyne
- Award for Life Sciences - Anjali Kusumbe
- Award for Flow Cytometry - Chris Hall
- Award for Data Analysis in Imaging - Robert Hasse and Peter Bankhead
- RMS Diploma - Craig Holliday

Adopting the Annual Accounts was proposed by John Hutchison and seconded by Rod Shipley. All present had been in favour of the full Report.

**6. To resolve that the Officers for 2022/2023 be elected as follows:**

There being no other nominations, the following Council Officer nominations were duly elected as follows:

President	Grace Burke
Vice President	Peter O'Toole
Vice President	Susan Anderson
Honorary Treasurer	Rod Shipley
Executive Honorary Secretary	Michelle Peckham
Honorary Secretary Education	Kerry Thompson
Honorary Secretary Science (Life Science)	Maddy Parsons
Honorary Secretary Science (Physical Science)	Andy Brown

**7. To resolve that the Ordinary Members of Council for 2022/2023 be elected as follows:**

There being no other nominations the following Ordinary Members of Council were duly elected:

Paul French  
Paul Gunning  
Donald MacLaren  
Dogan Ozkaya  
Julia Parker  
Alex Sossick  
Paul Verkade  
Claire Wells



The following Section Chairs are automatically Trustees and members of Council:

AFM & other Scanning Probe Microscopies (AFM & SPM)	Oleg Kolosov
Data Analysis in Imaging (DAIM)	Martin Jones
Early Career Committee (ECC)	Liam Rooney
Electron Microscopy (EM)	Asa Barber
Engineering, Physical and Material Sciences (EPMS)	Roland Kröger
Flow Cytometry	Karen Hogg
Life Sciences (LS)	Theresa Ward
Light Microscopy (LM)	Gail McConnell

Grace noted special thanks to Lynne Joyce, Past RMS Honorary Treasurer and Debbie Stokes, Past RMS International Secretary who will both be stepping down from the RMS Executive Committee after the AGM, Rik Brydson, who has come to the end of his term of office as RMS Honorary Secretary Sciences (Physical Science), but will continue to be invited to attend Executive Committee and Council meetings for a further year. Grace also thanked outgoing Council Members: Stanley Botchway, Liz Duke, Kim Findlay and Klaus Qvortrup for their contributions to Council and the Society.

#### **8. To consider and approve the proposed updated By-laws**

Allison Winton said that the proposed amendments to the Societies By-laws had been available on the Society's website [www.rms.org.uk](http://www.rms.org.uk), and hoped that attendees had looked at these. The RMS By-laws were last reviewed in 2008, so they required a thorough review to bring them up to date with current legislation and guidelines. The By-laws are now more concise with more modern language used. During the By-laws update, the RMS have identified that they can work towards awarding a Chartered Microscopist qualification, this will not be included in this update of the By-laws but is something the RMS hope to be able to offer in the near future. The AGM were asked to approve, subject to any minor amendments, the proposed changes to the RMS By-laws.

The proposed changes, subject to any minor amendments, to the RMS By-laws were approved by the AGM attendees.

#### **9. To consider Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

**\*Non-members present in-person:** Bryony Carter, Michele Conroy, Zoe Couzens, Sohini Kar-Narayan, Margie Williams and Heath Young

**\*Non-members present virtually:** Jemima Burden, Laura Cooper, Paul Edwards, Irantzu Llarena, Penghan Lu, Jacob Patten, Jeremy Rees and Joanne Robson