



**Minutes of the 2023 AGM of the Light Microscopy Section of the Royal Microscopical Society  
which was held on Wednesday 5 July 2023 during mmc2023 held at Manchester Central,  
Windmill St, Manchester, M2 3GX**

**Members present:** Gail McConnell FRMS (LM Chair), Kurt Andreson FRMS (LM Deputy Chair), Maddy Parsons FRMS (RMS Honorary Secretary Sciences (Biological)), Richard Bowman FRMS, Poppy Cairney, Susan Cox FRMS, Emmanuel Derivery, Viji Draviam, Roy Edward FRMS, Joelle Goulding FRMS, Karen Hogg FRMS, Martin Jones FRMS, Mark Leake FRMS, Mark Rigby, Liam Rooney FRMS, Michael Schwertner, Tom Slater FRMS, Alex Sossick FRMS, Merrick Strotton, Steve Thomas FRMS, Ferran Valderrama, Jessica Valli, Theresa Ward FRMS, Claire Wells FRMS, Tim Young and the following RMS members of staff: Zoe Barr, Joanna Cull, Jade Sturdy (RMS Committee Co-Ordinator and PA to Chief Executive) and Sali Davis (incoming RMS Chief Executive)\*

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from: Peter O'Toole FRMS (RMS President) and Susan Anderson FRMS (past RMS Vice President).

**2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM**

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Report from Section Chair**

The Section Chair gave the following report:

“This has been my fourth year as the Light Microscopy (LM) Section Chair. This fourth year was not anticipated when I became Chair, but I have enjoyed it as much as the previous three years. Before giving highlights on the previous year, I would like to extend my deepest thanks to Allison Winton, Jade Sturdy 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 (and for tolerating my many questions with good humour) during the extended period of remote working and our recent, joyful return to in-person events such as this AGM is greatly appreciated.

It has been another very active and successful year for the LM Section since our last AGM at the vibrant Frontiers in BioImaging meeting in Birmingham in 2022, which was one of the first in-person meetings organised by the Society following the Covid-19 lockdown. The remit of the Section is to support the field of light microscopy, as demonstrated by the courses, workshops, events and conferences we have organised and supported in the last year. As we have returned to in-person events, it has been wonderful to see so many of the LM Section and the community in four – or more – dimensions with the usual optimism, enthusiasm, and vigour.

The year started with the Frontiers 2022 meeting mentioned. This meeting focussed on the latest developments in optical and electron microscopy as well as image analysis. Sessions covered novel technical developments and applications of microscopy-based approaches to challenges in cell and molecular biology with an overarching aim of bringing insights into their role in human health and disease.

Next up was the Microscopy: Advances, Innovation, Impact 2022 meeting at the Royal Society of Chemistry in Burlington House, London. The meeting followed a hybrid format, with 149 people registered: 71 in-person, 78 joining remotely. Several awards and Honorary Fellows were presented at the event, and I take this opportunity to congratulate Sian Culley from the LM Section for receiving the inaugural Outreach and Education Award at this meeting.

In September 2022, Dee Kavanagh from the LM Section was among the organisers of the new SIMcourse. Several SIM systems were available, and there were over 40 attendees from the UK and overseas. The meeting comprised lectures and practical work, and feedback from participants confirms that there is appetite for a repeat course, so watch this space.

The new year started with the UK Light Microscopy Facility Meeting on 9 and 10 January 2023, which returned to an in-person meeting and was held in Cambridge. There were 176 registrants for the meeting and 24 sponsors. I would like to thank the Scientific Organisers Alex Sossick, Ben Sutcliffe, Jon Howe, and Peter O'Toole for arranging this informative and well-attended international meeting.

The Section also supported two meetings in Glasgow in May 2023. The first was the BBSRC-SPRINT meeting at the University of Strathclyde, which was on the theme of STED, FLIM and FCS and was part-sponsored by Picoquant. Over 80 attendees joined the meeting for scientific and company presentations, including a fantastic talk on FCS by the LM Section's Joelle Goulding and Steve Briddon of the Life Sciences Section. The second Glasgow meeting was the Royal Society Theo Murphy meeting on the theme of Open, Reproducible Hardware for Microscopy. The event covered a broad range of topics, spanning scientific developments, policy, commercialisation, standards, and included unconference sessions for discussion and table-top demonstrations of open-source hardware. The meeting was followed up by an online event less than one week later that was attended by both participants of the in-person meeting and other researchers from the UK and overseas. I thank the principal organiser, and LM Section member Richard Bowman and the many others who contributed to running this event.

This brings us right up to date and to mmc 2023. The LM Section contributes to this week's exciting programme of events, from plenary speakers including Joerg Bewersdorf (Yale University) and Judith Klumperman (University Medical Center Utrecht) through to open hardware at the Learning Zone. The Section also co-organises the Frontiers in Bioimaging Conference at mmc: this is a highlight for many – including me - with sessions on multimodal microscopy, label-free imaging, optical imaging of fast dynamic processes and the use of FLIM and FCS to determine interactions and dynamics. We also participate in the New and Emerging Concepts in Microscopy, and I look forward to chairing this session with Shelly Conroy from the Early Career Committee later this week. This session will be extra-special because we also have the privilege of presenting Christian Eggeling from the Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena with his award as the winner of the 2023 RMS Award for Light Microscopy for his innovative work using advanced microscopy to understand molecular dynamics.

Together with members from across the RMS and others from the LM community, Joelle Goulding has continued to update the 'RMS Dictionary of Light Microscopy' to include a vast number of recent developments in the field, such as super-resolution and multi-photon definitions and their underpinning technologies. In the last year a vast number of existing terms have been re-evaluated and terms missing from the original edition of the Dictionary have been written, and the editorial phase is beginning shortly. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my personal thanks to Joelle for driving this important project, and I also thank the large number of contributors who have produced definitions of the many terms needed to update the Dictionary. I look forward to seeing the finished article.

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. One member of the LM Section will demit office, namely Alex Sossick. Alex has put a lot of work into the Section, first as Deputy Chair, then Chair, Vice Chair, and then Ordinary Member, and he continues to work with the Society in his role as Chair of Professional Development and Training FIG. I give my thanks to Alex for his time, energy, commitment, and inspiration in helping to support the aims of the Section and the community we serve.

This is also my final report as Chair of LM Section. It's been a memorable and wholly enjoyable experience. I take this opportunity to thank all of the Section committee members that I have had the good fortune to work with over the last four years, especially those who endured me chairing Section meetings remotely. Thank you for contributing and not leaving me to shout into the black squares of Zoom alone. I also thank both of the Deputy Chairs, Ian Dobbie and Kurt Anderson, who served in my time as Chair for all of their energy and support. I hope I leave the Section in the good shape that it was in when I took over from Alex, and I wish Kurt Anderson every success in Chairing the Section. I know the Section is in good hands with Kurt.

The LM Section is made up from a diverse grouping within the light microscopy field and we are always looking to expand our Section 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."

## 5. Election of Officers

There being no other nominations, the following Officers were duly elected:

Chair: Kurt Anderson, The Francis Crick Institute, London  
Vice Chair: Gail McConnell, University of Strathclyde  
Deputy Chair: Jessica Valli, Herriot-Watt University

## 6. Election of Ordinary Members

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

Richard Bowman, University of Glasgow  
Viji Draviam, Queen Mary, University of London  
Joelle Goulding, University of Nottingham  
Krishna Inavalli, CCL, University of Southampton  
Mike McDonald, University of Dundee  
Aleks Ponjavic, University of Leeds  
Michael Schwertner, Linkam  
Mike Shaw, National Physical Laboratory

In addition to the nominated Committee Members: Sian Culley, Deidre Kavanagh, Sebastian Munck and Christian Wilms have been co-opted onto the Committee and Tim Young has been co-opted as the Early Career Representative.

Mark Leake will be invited to meetings to represent PoLNET, Alex Laude and Glynn Nelson will be invited to represent the QC Focussed Interest Group. Susan Cox will also be invited to attend meetings.

## 7. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

**\*Non-members present:** Leila Muresan and Amy Watts