



Light Microscopy Section Annual Report 2019-2020

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This has been my first year as the Light Microscopy (LM) section chair, and it has been an enjoyable experience, if in rather unexpected times. Before giving highlights on the previous year, I would like to thank Alex Sossick as previous chair of the LM section. He has helped the committee to continue to flourish and he has made my job much easier by keeping the section in such good shape!

It has been another very active year for the Light Microscopy section, since our last AGM at MMC 2019. Our 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 Covid-19 pandemic several events switched from taking place in-person to being held online via video conference, but feedback on virtual events has been uniformly positive and it's been great to see the LM community embrace this new way of working together with such optimism and enthusiasm.

The year started with MMC 2019, which happens every two years in between Frontiers in Bioimaging, focusing on the latest developments across all areas of microscopy. This was a terrific 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. We are already deep in the planning stages for the next MMC meeting in July 2021, which promises to be another excellent event.

The section organises and supports a number of workshops and courses throughout the year, which are almost always fully subscribed. July 2019 saw the LM Summer School and associated 'Getting the Most out of Your Confocal' workshop run at the University of York. Pete and his team in York have run an amazing number of courses for the RMS over the years and I extend my thanks to them for their ongoing successful efforts, and to the sponsors for their continued support.

As ever, the Light Microscopy Facility Managers meeting was a great start to 2020. The event took place at the University of Birmingham, and Alessandro Di Maio and Robert Shaw organised a great programme. The next Facility Managers meeting will be a virtual event held on 5-6 January 2021.

We have continued to support and grow the "Supporting Gender Equality in Microscopy" database, thanks to the hard work of Sian Culley from UCL, which has been supported by the RMS. With over 360 researcher details now added and over 10,000 views it has become the go-to resource for organisers of meetings on microscopy worldwide. I looking forward to seeing this important resource grow further in the years ahead.

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. The LM section is made up from a diverse grouping within the Light microscopy field and we are always looking to expand this. Suggestions for potential volunteers to join the section are always welcome, and suggestions for courses that the LM section could run or support are always welcome.

I must thank Simon Ameer-Beg and Chris Power for their time on the LM section, and I welcome Joelle Goulding (University of Nottingham) who joins as an ordinary member, together with Dee Kavanagh (University of Birmingham) and company representatives who will attend meetings with a view to being co-opted at a later date.

With the assistance of the RMS office team Joelle Goulding is working on an updated RMS Dictionary of Light Microscopy, originally published in 1989. This exciting initiative is in its infancy, but it is poised to make a great contribution to the teaching and understanding of light microscopy.

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank Allison Winton and the rest of the RMS team who have made all of the work that the LM section has undertaken and supported possible.