

# From the President

As often seems to be the way, I am writing this en-route to an RMS meeting. This time I am heading for the October Section Chairs and Council meeting. One of the standing agenda items at Council is the website and social media usage statistics. I suspect I am not alone in feeling that I am constantly playing catch up in getting to grips with developments in internet-based social media. It has been said to me that no one reads websites any longer, with people relying on social media such as Facebook and Twitter. I think this is probably an exaggeration, but in our role of supporting the science of microscopy and microscopists, communication is one of the most important things we do as a society, and I take the point that there is now a greater expectation on having information "pushed" to our electronic devices, rather than actively having to "pull" it from a website. In the RMS offices, there is currently a huge amount of work going on upgrading of the office IT system and ensuring we have appropriate data security. Part of this work involves upgrading our internet based communication, and ensuring we make use of the latest communication routes is an important part of that.

A very important route for communicating the science of microscopy, and one that is much older than the internet, is of course the Journal of Microscopy. As many of you will be aware, the Journal is nearly 175 years old. We benefit from having a prestigious publication associated with the society. The Journal plays a hugely important role in fulfilling our objective of aiding the dissemination of advances in microscopy, and the income from the Journal helps financially support many of our charitable activities. We are all aware of the major changes that continue to occur in scientific publishing, not least with the requirements on open access publishing required by many funders. Despite these changes, the Journal continues to hold its own, but it is important that we as a society do not take the Journal of Microscopy for granted

and actively look for ways that we can support the Journal, not least by thinking of it for publishing our own work. The 175th anniversary year will create opportunities for us to highlight the Journal in a variety of settings, so look out for these next year but please also play your part in helping to support this important part of the RMS.

Finally can I wish you all Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year. I look forward to seeing many of you in 2016.

**Pete Nellist**



## Meet our new Engineering & Physical Sciences Committee



As we approach Christmas, many of us are besieged by adverts for a torrent of new technology, and for older technologies that have been re-designed using new materials, structures and processes. Often unsung, the use of microscopy is now integral to many these engineering advancements that affect our daily lives, particularly as materials are increasingly designed at the micro- and nano-levels.

In recognition of the expansion micro-engineering, and of enabling microscopy methodologies like Focused Ion Beam and X-ray Microscopy, the RMS has set up a new Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) Section. This EPS Section will build on the sterling work of the previous Materials Section, to represent the interests of the community of physical scientists and engineers who apply microscopic and focused beam techniques to the study of matter and the properties of matter, physical and chemical processes, and the fabrication of devices and products.

The EPS section will embrace the diversity of the engineering and physical science community, emphasising as core values inclusivity of membership and the principle of an interdisciplinary approach to the study of physical sciences and engineering. In our first six months we have welcomed a new, vibrant committee, with members coming from a

range of scientific disciplines, career levels, academia and industry.

The EPS committee has hit the ground running with members organising sessions at the recent mmc2015, including Microscopy of Food, and Advances in Focused Ion Microscopy. An exciting programme of meetings, workshops and courses from 2016 onwards will include meetings on Microscopy of Catalysis, Porous and Photonic Materials, and Advances in Bio-engineering. Plans are already underway for the new Automated Microscopy; Particles Pores and Fractures, to be held in Autumn 2016 at the University of Oxford.

Scientists and engineers actively using Microscopy are always welcome to contact the EPS Chair Beverley Inkson with suggestions for future conferences or meetings that the Section could organise or be involved in. The EPS section will additionally be developing outreach activities for young people, and RMS members with an enthusiastic interest in microscopy for physical sciences or engineering are encouraged to contact the Committee and assist in our activities.

**Beverley Inkson**

Chair, EPS Committee  
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