

review

MICROSCIENCE 2006

MICROSCIENCE 2006 took place between 27-29 June at the ExCeL International Exhibition and Conference Centre, London.

It is our flagship event and for many it is an introduction to the Royal Microscopical Society. It is pleasing, therefore, that this year's event was bigger and – according to many visitors and exhibitors – better than ever before. This was down to professionalism, enthusiasm and the sheer hard work, of the members that gave their time and the staff in the Oxford office.

This was my first MICROSCIENCE and it was a pleasure to work with such a team. The spirit that developed during the preparations was reflected in the event itself. This spirit continues and will be used to good effect: 2006 was good and we have the capacity to make 2008 even better.

If you contributed to making the event a success I would like to say "thank you". If you didn't manage to attend then I hope that you will enjoy reading about the many facets and attractions of the event. And, whether you were there or not, I hope that you will put a note in your diary to be there in 2008.

Rob Flavin

Executive Director and Administrator





"The conference was very useful for broadening my knowledge of Microscopy Imaging Techniques."

Scientific Conference

The Scientific Conference was the focal point for many, attracting more than 550 delegates from over 30 countries. Appealing to both life and materials scientists, the parallel scientific sessions ran over all three days, covering light and electron microscopy and image processing techniques.

The conference opened with two world-class sessions: 'Scanning Electron Microscopy for the Life Sciences: where next?' with Debbie Stokes and Jeremy Skepper, and 'Nanomaterials, measurement and markets', led by Alison Crossley. For the afternoon sessions, Debbie Stokes and Jeremy Skepper led 'Hot topics in SEM of materials' whilst Chris Hawes, the outgoing President of the RMS, led a session on 'Nanotechnology in the biosciences'.



In addition the RMS managed a notable coup with a special lunchtime plenary session from Steve McDanel of NASA. With less than 5 days before the launch of the Shuttle Discovery, McDanel electrified a packed auditorium with his account of the Columbia disaster investigations. He went on to explain NASA's continuing return to flight efforts and the work that they are doing to make the Discovery and subsequent Shuttle flights safer. He concluded with a brief overview of the design considerations that will impact the shape of future spacecraft.

Days two and three included fascinating contributions from Mary Dickinson (USA), Bas Ploem (Abbe Lecture) and Mike White (Liverpool) in the 'High resolution live-cell imaging' session chaired by Peter O'Toole. Meanwhile, Martin Castell of Oxford University led the session on 'Catalytically active surfaces, with contributions from Hajo Freund (Germany), Geoff Thornton (London) and Phil Woodruff (Warwick). Other topics included 'TEM meets confocal: 3D imaging in cell biology', 'Materials science with aberration corrected electron microscopes', '3D imaging in materials', 'Cells in situ', 'Fluorescence lifetime imaging - techniques and applications in cell biology' and 'Latest developments and applications of modern TEM.'



"A great deal to see and do in just a brief visit, but very useful."

Satellite Scientific Meetings

This comprehensive agenda was complemented by four satellite scientific meetings that ran alongside the conference programme. Flow Cytometry - The Acute Leukaemias, SPM UK 2006, ESEM VII and FEGTEM-8 proved enormously successful. Designed to extend the range and depth of coverage offered to delegates, the inclusion of flow cytometry in particular expanded **MICROSCIENCE 2006** to embrace all aspects of microscopy.

"Very enjoyable and instructive visit."



RMS Poster Competition

More than 60 Posters were displayed during the three days, attracting a lot of attention from visitors. They also attracted the attention of the judges, with two prizes awarded each day. Turn to page 68 for details on the winners of the Poster Competition.

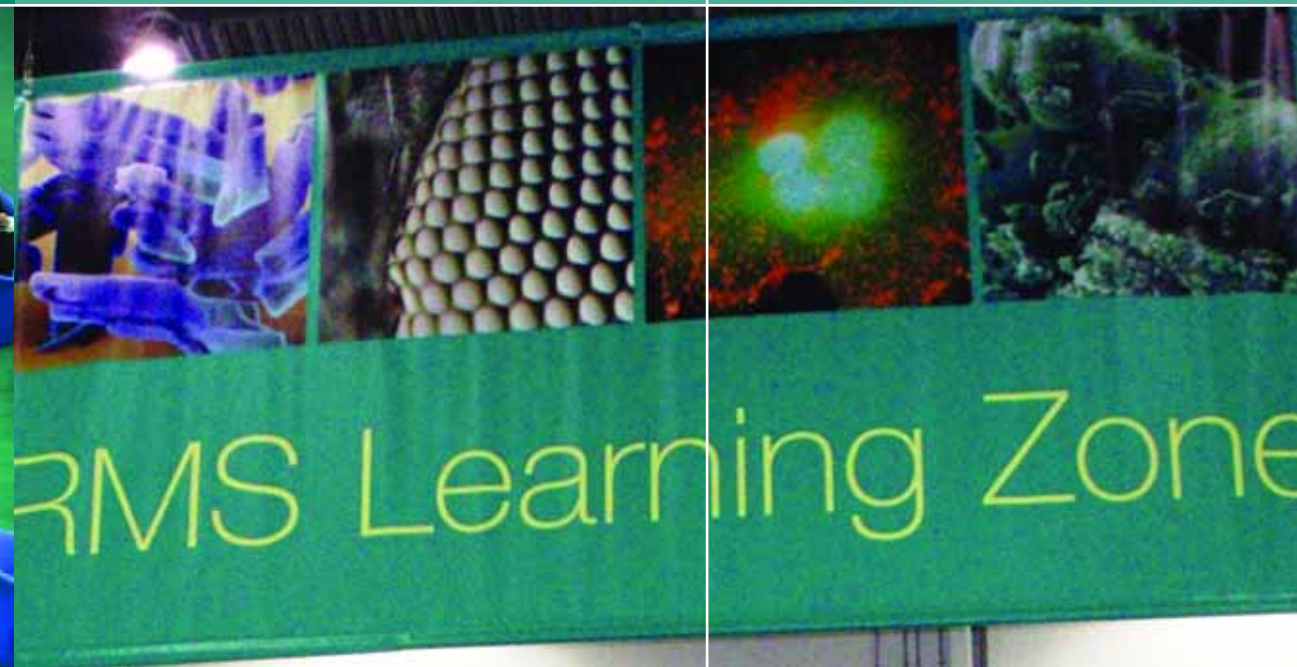




"The seminars on the Learning Zone by Peter Evennett were excellent."

The RMS Learning Zone

The RMS Learning Zone was designed to provide an introduction to microscopy and the latest technology for the newer user. Sharing the main exhibition hall with the trade show, the Learning Zone attracted large numbers of visitors throughout the three days. Equipped with its own lecture theatre, the Learning Zone offered a programme of informal seminars covering Scanning Electron Microscopy, Light Microscopy and Digital Microscopy. As well as the seminars, a host of equipment loaned by the exhibiting companies allowed visitors to get hands-on experience, guided by experts drawn from the international ranks of the RMS.



*Exchanging mouse mats:
Laura Kingsbury (RMS) and Stephen Goulbourne (Struers Ltd.).*



Workshops

Five presentation areas were also integrated into the main exhibition hall and, over the course of the three days, a total of 93 separate Workshops were offered. The subjects covered many areas of life and materials science and were generally pitched at practical aspects. Speakers presented topics as diverse as "Developments in Confocal Imaging", "Non contact excision of tissues, cells and organelles", "Tissue Preparation", "Choosing a camera for your TEM" and "Nanorobots for the SEM/FIB". The workshops also covered Intellectual Property Protection, including patents, trade marks, registered designs and copyright.

"Overall, the exhibition and organisation was excellent."

MICROSCIENCE 2006 Exhibition

Drawing the world's leading microscopy companies, MICROSCIENCE is Europe's largest microscopy exhibition for all users of microscopes and image analysis systems. Together with the Learning Zone and Workshops, MICROSCIENCE 2006 occupied over 3,000m².

More than 60 new products were announced at the show and, significantly, MICROSCIENCE attracted over 30 first time exhibitors. The result was that visitors could browse the latest innovations and the newest companies in their field. Record numbers of visitors on each of the event's three days testify to the success of this formula.

RMS 2006 Micrograph Competition

The RMS International Micrograph Competition exceeded the exceptional response that it achieved in 2004, with a prize fund totalling well in excess of £10,000. The short listed micrographs were on display inside the main exhibition hall and proved to be an eye-catching and stimulating backdrop. The winning Micrographs and details of all winners can be seen on pages 72.

What the Exhibitors had to say...

"A well organised and promoted show with a good mix of attendees."

"It was a great pleasure to work with the RMS – the show was advertised well."

"The best organised exhibition I have been at for around 20 years!"

"The organisation and communication is first class – helpful, responsive and professional."

"Probably the best so far. The quality of enquiries was excellent."

"The Exhibitor party at Novotel was most enjoyable".

"The quality of the visitors was excellent and we expect to make good sales as a direct result of demonstrations during the three days."

"I was pleasantly surprised on the increase in size as it bucks industry trends worldwide. If you can sustain or even build in 2008 it will be amazing but best of luck in doing it."

"Best ever. We were busy all the time."

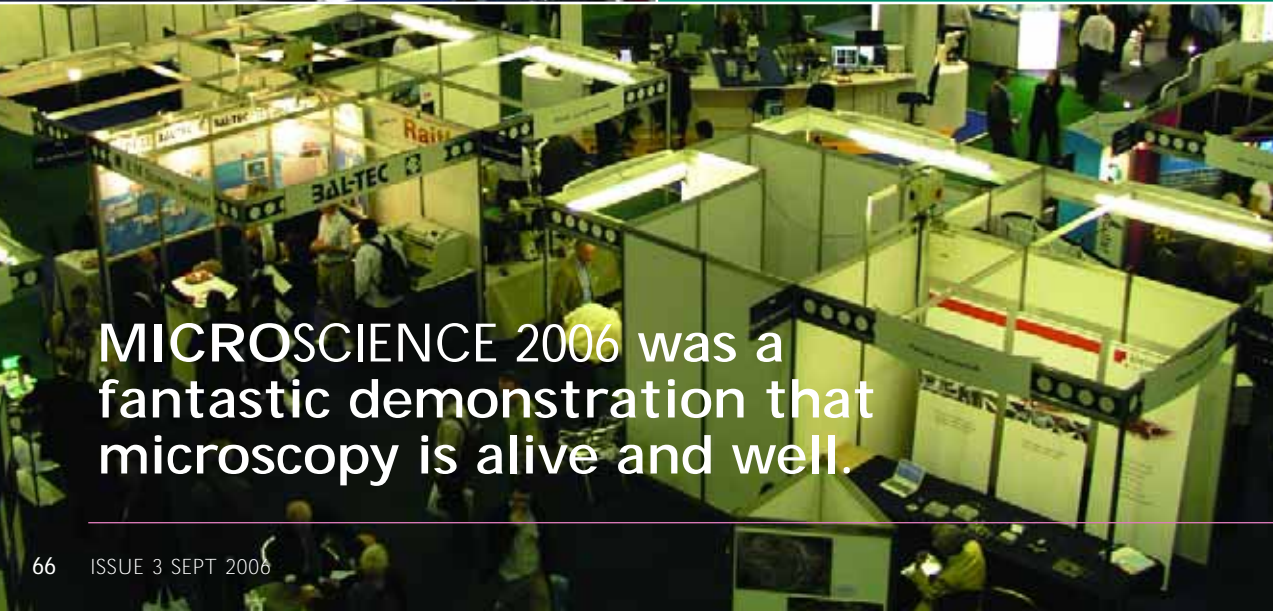
"MICROSCIENCE is one of the best."

"Looking forward to 2008..."

97% of Registrants said they would attend another MICROSCIENCE.*

**who completed the Exit Poll.*

Quotes taken from Exit Poll Forms completed by Conference Delegates and Exhibition Registrants.



MICROSCIENCE 2006 was a fantastic demonstration that microscopy is alive and well.

