Microscience 2008 Countdown Begins

Microscience 2008 Countdown Begins: The year ahead will be a busy one for the Royal Microscopical Society (RMS) as Rob Flavin, RMS Executive Director explains, "2008 is a Microscience international conference and exhibition year, and the countdown to 23-26 June has now begun in earnest. We have finalised a comprehensive programme for our new-format conference, and registration is now open. In addition, we have a number of forthcoming deadlines for submission of paper and poster abstracts, as well as entries to our international micrograph competition that we are running again in association with G.I.T Imaging and Microscopy this year."

There has always been a good conference within Microscience, but this year it has become a truly international conference, making Microscience 2008 a leading event on the science of microscopy, imaging and analysis calendar. We are particularly pleased to announce a highly eminent list of plenary and invited speakers, as well as calling for submitted papers for all sessions.

Breaking Rules and Bucky Balls

A high-profile plenary lecture will provide an interesting and provocative start to each day of the Microscience 2008 conference. Plenary Speakers are: former UK Government Chief Scientific Officer and Director of Research at Cambridge University's Chemistry Department, Sir David King; ‘Bucky Balls' Nobel Prize winner Sir Harry Kroto; Professor Dr Stefan Hell, recently credited for breaking Abbe’s light resolution barrier; and Professor Dr Knut Urban, Head of the German Physical Society (DPG). These eminent lecturers will be followed by sessions composed of headline invited speakers drawn from around the world, as well as submitted papers for the first time.

The plenary presentations promise to be extremely enlightening. Professor Hell (Max Plank Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Germany) will discuss his ground breaking development in far-field light microscopy with nanoscale resolution, 'Breaking Abbe’s barrier: diffraction - unlimited resolution in far-field optical microscopy’. While the diffraction barrier has prompted the invention of electron, scanning probe, and x-ray microscopy, in the life sciences 80% of all microscopy studies are still performed with lens-based (fluorescence) microscopy in order to
view living cells.

Far-field 'optical nanoscopy' opens up many exciting new avenues of research.

Also on the nanoscience theme, Professor Sir Harry Kroto (The Florida State University, USA) will discuss "Mechanisms of self assembly at nanoscale dimensions". The unexpected discovery of a family of pure carbon cage molecules with incredible properties, the Fullerenes (Buckyballs) and Buckytubes, has facilitated the creation of molecules that ‘do something’. Professor Urban (Research Centre Juelich, Germany) will present on the novel microscopy technique, "Aberration-corrected electron microscopy - a breakthrough for materials science in atomic dimensions".

Call for Microscience 2008 Papers & Posters

As the Microscience International Conference continues to grow, this year for the first time there is opportunity to present submitted papers in three parallel sessions. These are: Characterisation and nanofabrication of advanced materials; The cell in time and space; and Microscopy and analysis at the frontiers. To facilitate the submission of 200 word abstracts of both oral and poster presentations for reviewing and scoring, the RMS has introduced a new on-line submission system.

Any oral papers not selected for presentation will be invited for inclusion in the poster sessions where appropriate. Posters will be published in the Conference Programme and also displayed in the Exhibition Hall for viewing throughout the day. Presenters have the opportunity to talk about their work during the lunchtimes, when the hall is packed with delegates and day visitors.

All posters submitted will automatically be entered to win RMS bursary awards and cash prizes for the best student presentation, as well as for the overall winning poster.

All abstracts must be submitted using the on-line submission system available at: www.microscience2008.org.uk/callforpapers

**Final deadline for abstracts for oral presentation - 31st March 2008**
**Final deadline for abstracts for poster presentation - 31st May 2008**

RMS - International Micrograph Competition'

Following the success of the 2006 Micrograph competition held in conjunction with
Microscience 2006, the RMS has launched its 2008 International Micrograph Competition. It will coincide with Microscience 2008, where prizes will be awarded at a special presentation during the event. Held in association with G.I.T. Imaging and Microscopy, selected entries will be published before and after the event. Images will also be short listed for display at Microscience 2008 in the exhibition hall at London’s ExCeL.

First, second and third place prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

- Electron Microscopy - Physical Science
- Electron Microscopy - Biological Science
- Light Microscopy - Physical Science
- Light Microscopy - Biological Science

Prizes have once again been generously donated by Microscience exhibitors including, Hitachi, Leica, Quorum, Olympus and Carl Zeiss SMT who have offered prizes such as plasma/LCD TVs, cameras, binoculars and iPods. Free RMS memberships and free registration to RMS courses will also be awarded. The judges may also award highly commended prizes if special acknowledgement is deserved by individual entries.


Deadline for 2008 Micrograph competition entries - 30th April 2008

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