

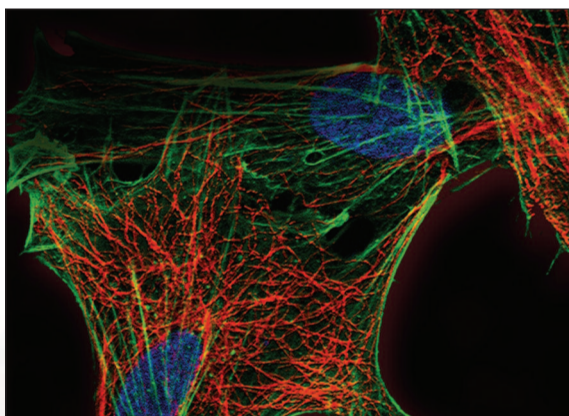
Microscopy Focus

RMS - LEARNING FOR LIFE

Allison Winton

The Royal Microscopical Society wholeheartedly endorses the ethos of lifelong learning and is a keen advocate of education and professional development. "As a professional body we see that one of our core roles is to provide educational resources, not only to our members but to the community as a whole, in order to develop careers and support a wider understanding of science and microscopy at all levels", confirms Rob Flavin, Executive Director of the RMS.

MICROSCIENCE 2008
www.microscience2008.org.uk 



Confocal microscopy is one focus of the new Oxford Brookes Imaging MSc. Confocal micrograph of a vero cell with fluorescent antibody labelling of the actin cytoskeleton (green) and microtubules (red). The nucleus is stained with DAPI (blue).

Author Details:

Allison Winton, Royal Microscopical Society
37/38 St Clements, Oxford OX4 1AJ, UK
Tel: 01865 254760
Email: allison@rms.org.uk
www.rms.org.uk
www.microscience2008.org.uk

SUPPORTING UNIVERSITY COURSES

To assist scientists in the early stages of their careers, the first RMS-endorsed Imaging MSc kicked off at Oxford Brookes University's School of Life Sciences this September. Due to this endorsement, all students on the 'Bioimaging with Molecular Technology' course gain free RMS membership for its duration.

"The Royal Microscopical Society endorsement for our new Masters course is greatly valued by Oxford Brookes," Course Leader, Dr John Runions, explains. "We feel that the RMS, through its journal, conferences, and teaching do a great deal to promote high quality practice in microscopy worldwide."

The modular one year MSc teaches all aspects of bioimaging, including light, confocal and electron microscopy. In addition to the Oxford Brookes faculty, guest lecturers from the University of Oxford and industry will teach in their areas of expertise. Another major component of the course is a research project that will be conducted in a microscopy lab that undertakes research in an area of interest to the student.

"Brookes researchers have become widely renowned for their bioimaging expertise and have been planning to offer a course in advanced bioimaging techniques for a number of years," John Runions continues. "Imaging companies including hardware and software manufacturers, as well as universities all require trained microscopists. Modern microscopes are powerful tools for studying cell and developmental biology, but there is a shortage of qualified operators. In particular, confocal and electron microscopy are skills that must be learned through hands-on experience."

"This ongoing need for trained imaging specialists is a viewpoint also shared by the RMS which is why any post-graduate microscopy/imaging related courses are eligible for RMS endorsement," says Rob Flavin. "The Society would be happy to discuss such backing with any interested universities and institutes."

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To sustain learning and development, the RMS publishes The Journal of Microscopy and a series of microscopy books, as well as helping young scientists through bursaries. The Society further demonstrates its commitment to professional development by offering qualifications in microscopy, organising training courses in various aspects of microscopy, as well as staging its own scientific meetings.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

In support of their continuing education, RMS members are

Forthcoming RMS events:

Date	Event Title	Location
17 - 18 December 2007	Aberration Corrected & Quantitative (S)TEM & Advances in Tomography II	Manchester
10 January 2008	Cytotoxicity and Characterisation of Nanoparticles/tubes and Wires	Cambridge
31 March - 01 April 2008	Electron Backscatter Diffraction Conference	Sheffield
07 - 11 April 2008	The Microscopic Ice Age - A Course in Cryo Techniques for Electron Microscopy	Rothamsted Research, Harpenden
14 - 18 April 2008	Spring School in Electron Microscopy	University of Oxford
23 - 26 June 2008	MICROSCIENCE 2008 - International Conference and Exhibition on the science of microscopy and imaging	ExCeL, London
07 - 09 July 2008	Light Microscopy Summer School	University of York
10 - 11 July 2008	Getting the most from your Confocal	University of York

entitled to a substantial discount on all course and meetings fees. Offering further assistance to young scientists who are members, the RMS encourages them to attend conferences in the UK and abroad through a generous bursary scheme.

"Having a good grasp of the basic theories and practices of microscopy is a vitally important step to carrying out meaningful research, and we are especially keen to support researchers in the early stages of their careers," explains Debbie Stokes, RMS Honorary Secretary Science (Physical).

TRAINING FOR FREE AT MICROSCIENCE 2008

Providing a free 'taster' to RMS courses, at MICROSCIENCE 2008, the RMS will run a Learning Zone to provide an introduction to microscopy and the latest technology for the newer user. Sharing the main exhibition hall with the MICROSCIENCE 2008 exhibition and equipped with its own lecture theatre, the venue will offer a programme of free seminars. It will also host equipment loaned by exhibiting companies to allow visitors to get hands on experience, guided by renowned experts drawn from the international ranks of the RMS.

"Due to the many free training opportunities available at MICROSCIENCE 2008, researchers and technicians should be able to access local training budgets from within their respective organisations to facilitate attendance," explained Rob Flavin. "There are also further RMS bursaries available to assist both exhibition and conference attendance, including the newly introduced MICROSCIENCE Early Stage Researcher Bursaries specifically for the future generation of microscopists."

OPPORTUNITIES TO PRESENT

This year for the first time the MICROSCIENCE conference programme will include submitted papers, as well as those from invited speakers. Abstracts of 200 words for both oral and poster presentations should be submitted via the MICROSCIENCE 2008 on-line submission system for reviewing and scoring. Any oral papers not selected for presentation will be invited for inclusion in the poster sessions. All posters submitted will automatically be eligible to win RMS bursary awards and cash prizes.

Call for MICROSCIENCE 2008 papers - Deadline for contributed oral papers is February 29th 2008. More information is available at: www.microscience2008.org.uk