



The 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Royal Microscopical Society was held on Tuesday 1 July 2025 during mmc2025 at Manchester Central.

Members present in-person: Peter O'Toole FRMS (RMS President), Rik Brydson FRMS (RMS Vice President), Michelle Peckham FRMS (RMS Executive Honorary Secretary), Rod Shipley (RMS Executive Honorary Treasurer), Maddy Parsons FRMS (RMS Honorary Secretary - Biological Science), Andy Brown FRMS (RMS Honorary Secretary - Physical Science), Nitin Arya FRMS, Saskia Bakker FRMS, Alex Ball, Susan Brooks FRMS, Niamh Burke, Laura Clark, Samuel Davis, Matthew Francis FRMS, Yanping Guo, Sarah Harper FRMS, John Hutchison Hon FRMS, Martin Jones FRMS, Rob Kessler, Marie Kokolski FRMS, Leandro Lemgruber, Donald MacLaren FRMS, Pete Nellist Hon FRMS, Ulla Neumann FRMS, Katherine Paine, Chris Parmenter FRMS, Alex Payne-Dwyer FRMS, Dana Perry, Mark Pickering, Lior Pytowski, Dina Ratsimandresy, Liam Rooney FRMS, Andrew Scott, Lorian Straker, Ramona Szalczinger FRMS, Paul Verkade FRMS, Hannah Walpole, Christa Walther, Thomas Walther FRMS, Claire Wells FRMS and RMS Staff Sali Davis (Chief Executive), Adam Clay, Georgina Fletcher, Victoria Masters, Jade Sturdy and Kate Wooding*

1. To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from: Kerry Thompson and Eric Prestat.

2. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed. Leandro Lemgruber proposed the approval of the minutes which was seconded by Liam Rooney.

3. To consider and Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

4. To receive and adopt the Annual Report for the year 31 December 2024

Michelle Peckham said that copies of the 2024 AGM Minutes, as well as the 2024 Annual Report and Accounts have been available on the Society's website www.rms.org.uk, and hoped that attendees had looked at these. She then gave the following report and reminded those present that the Society is a charity, and all charities must have an objective. The Society's objectives are *"To promote the advancement of microscopical science by such means as the discussion and publication of research into improvements in the construction and mode of application of microscopes and into those branches of science where microscopy is important"* and *"To organise educational activities concerned with microscopy for the benefit of the general public and the science community."*

In pursuit of this objective, the RMS Council has a rolling Five-year Strategy, and the Annual Report covers the five key areas contained within the current strategy: Organisation, Publishing, Membership, Education and Voice & Influence. The Royal Microscopical Society is a well-supported, and highly active Society. Summaries of some key points are below, and the RMS encourage you to read the fuller accounts of the Society's activities contained within the Annual Report.

In 2024 the RMS supported 26 events which attracted over 3200 attendees (attendee numbers in brackets):

Meetings

- UK Light Microscopy Facility Meeting (183)
- Flow Cytometry Facilities Meeting (75)
- EM-UK (110)
- AFM & SPM Meeting (118)
- Lab-based X-ray Phase Contrast Meeting (39)
- Frontiers in Bioimaging (76)
- Frontiers in Physical Imaging (46)
- 4 Corporate Member Hosted Events (901)
- Virtual European Flow Core Meeting (385)
- ELMI 2024 (644)

Courses

- Light Microscopy Summer School (24)
- Getting the most from your Confocal (6)

- Spring School in Electron Microscopy (33)
- Flow Cytometry Course (39)
- Virtual Facilities Management Course (20)
- Facilities Management Course (15)
- Virtual Flow Cytometry Data Analysis (24)
- Super-res in the North (45).

Online International Microscopy Lecture Series:

This is a great collaboration between the RMS, the Microscopical Society of Canada, the Israel Society for Microscopy and the Brazilian Society of Microscopy and Microanalysis and is supported by International Federation of Societies for Microscopy (IFSM).

- Dr Harald Hess - Larger Volume Imaging with Electrons and Cryo-Super-Resolution Microscopy

The RMS contribute to the organisation of the Expansion Microscopy Group meetings, hosted by our partners in both North America and Australia: Canada Biolmaging (CBI), Biolmaging North America (BINA) and the University of Melbourne.

The RMS also worked in partnership with Oxford Instruments, Nikon, Thermo Fisher and Leica to deliver four webinars.

The RMS supported a number of other key events including:

- **Society of Electron Microscopy Technology (SEMT)**, London. This is a great event for the Electron Microscopy community and features the long-running RMS Beginners' Competition, aimed at developing the public speaking experience of early career microscopists.
- **Strathclyde Optical Microscopy Course**
The Strathclyde Optical Microscopy Course (SOMC) is designed for PhD students, early career researchers, newly independent group leaders, research technical professionals and imaging facility managers who are using light microscopes in their work and who wish to upskill in practical optical imaging.

In 2024 there were 12 travel bursaries awarded to enable members to attend microscopy events all over the world.

The Society would like to thank all the meeting organisers, all supporting microscopy, imaging and flow cytometry companies, committee and FIG members, volunteers, and RMS staff.

The 2024 RMS Membership is as follows

Membership Type	Quantity
Undergraduate Student Member	164
Doctoral Student Member	205
Early Career	152
Ordinary Member	298
Fellow	643
Emeritus	171
Honorary Fellow	59
Total	1692

Biolmaging UK, a joint venture with UKRI, Wellcome Trust and the RMS, continues to go from strength to strength with the following key highlights in 2024:

- Successful renewal of funding for the next 3-year phase of BiolmagingUK (2024 – 2027) from UKRI-BBSRC, UKRI-MRC and UKRI-EP SRC (£270K for 3 years).
- Successful application to Enhance EDI in BBSRC-funded networks together with Physics of Life NET (£100K for 1 year).
- Successful application to UKRI's Digital Research Infrastructure fund, Skills call to build a national imaging data stewardship skills base (£424K for 2.5 years)
- Two 24-hour online international image analysis helpdesks took place, run by the DAIM Section, with funding from the Crick Networking Fund.

The Journal of Microscopy continues to be important to the Society. In 2024 108 papers were published (80 in 2023). The following 6 Special Issues were also published:

- Microscopy of Semiconducting Materials
- EMABM 2024
- LM Core Facility Management
- Women in Microscopy: Vol 2
- Imaging ONEWORLD
- Data Analysis in Imaging

The LM Core Facility Management Special Issue was one of the most read issues in the history of the Journal and there are plans for a second volume.

Michelle thanked the Journal Editors who represent a vast section of our communities and are from a range of geographic locations.

In 2025 two Editors, Professor Larabell and Professor Rainforth, are due to retire and Professor Owen and Dr Weinhardt will join the Editorial Board.

infocus published four fully digital issues in 2024. Selected 'Open Access' articles are published online and promoted on social media, for non-RMS members to access. The committed Editorial Board continue to develop future plans for infocus.

During 2024 the RMS had a significant increase of social media traffic with the number of followers for each format as follows:

- X (formerly Twitter) – RMS 6695, Journal of Microscopy 4002 and mmc series 1776.
- LinkedIn – RMS 5521
- Instagram – RMS 4504
- Facebook – RMS 2470
- Bluesky – RMS 1712

Adopting the Annual Report was proposed by Maddy Parsons and seconded by Leandro Lemgruber. All present had been in favour of the Report.

5. To receive and adopt the Annual Accounts for the year to 31 December 2024

Rod Shipley reported that 2024 had been a challenging financial year due to the cost-of-living crisis. In the financial year, January to December 2024, the total incoming resources was £1.681M (1.886M in 2023). The overall value of the Society's funds, including the property and other investments at the end of 2024 was £5.417M (£5.303M in 2023). There was a total expenditure of £1.826M (£1.880M in 2023). In 2024 there was a gain of £202K (£125K in 2023) on the investment portfolio. This resulted in an operating deficit of £80K for 2024 (£6.5K surplus in 2023).

The Journal of Microscopy exceeded the original Wiley budgeted forecast generating an additional £71K in revenue, mainly due to strong Open Access sales. During 2024 the Journal generated revenue of £645K (£574K in 2023) with direct expenditure of £149K (£131K in 2023), which includes an 18% charge on revenue from Wiley. Therefore, the royalties due to the Society for 2024 was £496K (£443K in 2023).

Meetings and courses generated £699K (£298K in 2023) of revenue for the Society, with direct expenditure of £759K (£349K in 2023), which includes a direct allocation of staffing costs. Therefore, resulting in an operating deficit of £60K (£51K in 2023). When factoring in the support costs, including support salaries and office overheads, Meetings and Courses generated a net deficit of £338K.

The level of donations and bursaries in 2024 was £25K (£35K in 2023) as follows:

- £2.3K for Travel Bursaries (£9.5K in 2023)
- £11K for Summer Studentships (£11.5K in 2023)
- Microscope Activity Kit maintenance of £12K (£14K in 2023)

Governance costs cover the activities which provide the governance infrastructure. These activities allow the charity to operate, as distinct from supporting its charitable or income generation activities. The cost for 2024 was £42K (£38K in 2023) which represents 2.6% (2% in 2023) of total income.

Total investment income in 2024 was £92K (£82K in 2023) which includes bank interest and interest from the charity property fund of £4K (£3K in 2023). The cost of generating these funds was £43K (£43K in 2023).

In December 2024, the RMS Council ratified the budget for 2025 and approved a £97K deficit, which is the expected operating deficit for 2025. Due to an IMC21 salary cost realised in this financial year due to financial reporting, the expected operating deficit for 2025, excluding gain/loss of the investment portfolio, is currently £134K. To note, this will reduce the expenditure in 2026.

Despite the challenges and uncertainty for 2025/2026, the Society is well-positioned for the future.

6. To resolve that the Officers for 2025/2026 be elected as follows:

There being no other nominations, the following Council Officer nominations were duly elected as follows:

President	Peter O'Toole
Vice President	Rik Brydson
Honorary Treasurer	Rod Shipley
Executive Honorary Secretary	Michelle Peckham
Honorary Secretary Education	Kerry Thompson
Honorary Secretary Science (Life Science)	Maddy Parsons
Honorary Secretary Science (Physical Science)	Andy Brown

7. To resolve that the Ordinary Members of Council for 2025/2026 be elected as follows:

The following Ordinary Members of Council were duly elected:

Verena Kriechbaumer
Ian MacLaren
Julia Parker
Eric Prestat
Liam Rooney
Rachael Walker
Christa Walther
Phoebe Whitlock (Lay Trustee)

The following Section Chairs are automatically Trustees and members of Council:

AFM & other Scanning Probe Microscopies (AFM & SPM)	Jamie Hobbs
Data Analysis in Imaging (DAIM)	Alice Pyne
Early Career Committee (ECC)	Katherine Paine
Electron Microscopy (EM)	Roland Fleck
Engineering, Physical and Material Sciences (EPMS)	Anna Baldycheva
Flow Cytometry	Yanping Guo
Life Sciences (LS)	Steve Thomas
Light Microscopy (LM)	Kurt Anderson

Pete thanked outgoing Section Chairs and Council Members: Martin Jones, Donald MacLaren, Tim Self, Alex Sossick, Paul Verkade and Claire Wells for their contributions to the Council and the Society.

8. To consider Any Other Business

There was no other business.

***Non-members present in-person:** Poppy Cairney and George Janes.