



**Minutes of the 2025 AGM of the Outreach and Education Committee of the
Royal Microscopical Society which was held on Tuesday 1 July 2025
during mmc2025, Manchester**

Members present in-person: Alex Ball (Outreach and Education Committee Deputy Chair), 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, 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. Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Report from Section Chair

The Committee Deputy Chair gave the following report:

“Thank you for joining us here in Manchester for this year’s Outreach and Education AGM. Over this period, we have continued to work on some new initiatives related to outreach, education and professional development, and I will discuss them amongst our long-standing activities and programmes. At the end of my report, we have the pleasure of awarding two Diplomas.

As you will see in the RMS AGM slides later, we have lent out more than 123 Microscope Activity Kits. This work is superbly facilitated by the excellent RMS office staff and the team in Oxfordshire Employment and County Print Finishers. The MAKs remain ever popular within the primary education sector and are still very sought after for Science Festivals and Fairs. At the end of last year, we hosted a visit with Kang Nee at the RMS offices who spoke so eloquently about the outreach work that the RMS have been able to support in Malaysian Schools. This work is so inspiring and truly shows our international reach and reputation.

We reported last year that we were working on an Image Analysis activity for schools, which is being led by Stephen Cross from the RMS DAIM Section. Stephen is working hard on various interactive controls including graph and measurement functionality and the selection of regions and annotations within the example data. As the ever-increasing importance and awareness of analysis skills and education becomes more and more apparent to our larger community, we hope that this initiative will spark interest in this field with the younger generations. A huge thank you to all who have been involved to date.

The Hitachi High Tech America STEM Education Outreach Programme, led by Alex Ball and James Perkins has remained extremely active over the reporting period. For 2024 and previous years, the programme ran with one SEM, but we are now very pleased to announce that we now have two and this second SEM is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding between Armorers and Brasiers with support from the

Quekett Society, loaned again by Hitachi and with help from Oxford Instruments. Over the last reporting period we have managed to engage with almost 2400 student users and have trained nearly 80 teachers and technicians to use SEMs.

The 12 current RMS Diploma candidates are progressing well through their studies, two of whom, we are delighted to say will receive their diploma's this week and a further three have enrolled this year. Thank you to Susan Brooks for continuing her superb role as chair of the RMS Qualification Committee and to Marie Kokolski for supporting both Susan and Kate with the annual candidate progress presentations. Marie will be stepping into Susan's shoes going forward as Susan has agreed to kindly support the RMS Executive Committee as an RMS Office Liaison. Susan will continue to remain on the committee.

We are pleased to report that a total of 6 RMS annual Summer Studentships were awarded to projects this year in the fields of life, physical and multidisciplinary sciences. Congratulations to the awardees and we hope you enjoyed your placements and look forward to seeing your reports in infocus.

The development of professionally accredited programmes, including, but not limited to, the Chartered Microscopist and Registered Technician continue. Our dedicated steering group has representation from our Sections and those interested in this space, and we are now at the stage of developing the content and curriculum for these two schemes. Thank you to this steering group for your efforts to date and I look forward to continuing to work with you on this exciting initiative to see it through to fruition.

Also, under the professional development and training remit, I would like to update you on the outcome of the recent RMS Training Survey that we had reported on at last year's AGM. These results continue to be an agenda item at all of our Science Section meetings meaning that training and development for our communities remains at the forefront of the work planning within the RMS. A big thank you to the whole working group and also Georgina Fletcher for her excellent guidance and keeping us on mission and to task.

Both the Mentoring Programme and the Job Shadowing Initiative continue to be well availed of, with BioImaging UK and the RMS now supporting 4 years' worth of opportunities. Thanks to the Technician Commitment and the Technical Specialist Network for supporting the work in 2024.

I would also like to draw your attention to the now well used and promoted Microscopist Profiles page on the RMS website. This excellent work led by Saskia Bakker continues to draw attention to the variety of roles, jobs and careers in which microscopy skills and knowledge are required. This page is not only useful for those of us in the field as a resource to direct undergraduate and graduate students towards but also to the larger community to really gain a better understanding of our collective diversity. I encourage you to submit your profile to help us build our representation.

My final aspect of this report covers a new change of direction for the committee. Since coming into post, our new Chief Executive, Sali Davis has spearheaded implementation of a Terms of Reference for the Committee and established defined Terms of Office. This was welcomed by the Committee, and we do need to ensure that we stay in line with our corporate governance responsibilities and this does mean ensuring we are transparent in our membership and that there are clear succession paths in place to ensure a healthy circulation. Excitingly, we have also been working on our first comprehensive strategy which our members have seen and commented on with clearly defined aims, objectives and outcomes. We look forward to reporting on our progress and an official launch of the strategy soon. Watch this space!

I would now like to thank the Outreach and Education Committee members for their contributions throughout the past 12 months. On behalf of Kerry, who sadly cannot be here today, I know she would want me to pass on her thanks and gratitude to this committee who all contribute to shaping the larger RMS mission. None of this would be possible without the continued support of the RMS staff who enable our efforts. A notable mention to Kate, Jess and Jade for keeping us all on track, and for their friendship and general amazingness."

5. Election of Officers

There being no other nominations, the following Officers were duly elected:

Chair: Kerry Thompson, NUI Galway, Ireland
Deputy Chair: Alex Ball, Natural History Museum, London

6. Election of Ordinary Members

There being no other nominations, the following Ordinary Members were duly elected:

Susan Anderson, University of Nottingham
Anna Baldycheva, University of Exeter
Saskia Bakker, University of Warwick
Zoe Barr, St Andrews University
Jacquelyn Bond, University of Leeds
Richard Bowman, University of Glasgow
Susan Brooks, Oxford Brookes University
Helen Corry, University of Oxford
Stephen Cross, University of Bristol
Yanping Guo, UCL
Nicole Hondow, University of Leeds
Rob Kessler, University of the Arts, London
Marie Kokolski, University of Nottingham
Niga Nawroly, Agilent Technologies
Luke Norman, University of Nottingham
James Perkins, Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School
Mark Pickering, University College Dublin
Andrew Scott, University of Leeds
Alex Sossick, Natural History Museum, London
Hannah Walpole, JEOL

7. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

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