2025 RMS Award-winners revealed!

The RMS is very pleased to announce the winners of its latest awards, recognising scientific achievement, contributions to education and outreach, technical support and services to the Society.

The Society offers a wide range of award opportunities each year, inviting applications from across the globe to ensure those making a real difference within the microscopy community receive the recognition they deserve.

RMS President Peter O'Toole said: "It is a great pleasure to announce our latest award-winners and give formal recognition to the work of some of our leaders in microscopy. Our 2025 winners have all made superb contributions in their fields, and their achievements will be well known to many within the microscopy community. My warmest congratulations go to them all."

This year's winners are as follows:

Chris Hawes Award for Outreach and Education

Celebrating a substantial contribution to the field of education, or to outreach and public engagement, over the course of someone's career.

Professor Kang Nee Ting

School of Pharmacy and Division of Biomedical Sciences, University of Nottingham campus in Malaysia (UNM)

Kang Nee is the Head of School at UNM for the School of Pharmacy and Division of Biomedical Sciences. In 2017 she applied for some funding from the University of Nottingham to undertake outreach work from the University of Nottingham campus in Malaysia (UNM). The RMS donated a microscope activity kit in support of this ambition. Initially Professor Ting hosted successful school visits to UNM and following this, expanded the reach to local schools and education centres (for refugee students) in Greater Kuala Lumpur and Selangor.

Spurred on by this success, she continued to reach out using microscopy as a means of providing



Kang Nee Ting.

education and opportunities to underserved communities in Malaysia far from the University campus, local to the indigenous people and to refugees. During one project, participants had the opportunity to have eye tests and glasses provided before undertaking the science activities, thus helping their educational prospects. Examples of her work include science workshops in rural towns in Sarawak and Sabah (located in Borneo) andreceiving attention and funding from the Malaysian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and, Ministry of Education, Innovation and Talent Development, Sarawak . The work centres around reducing inequality in STEM education in Malaysia, and education on protecting the planet on land and in the oceans via microplastic work with microscopes.

In the last two years alone, she and her small team have brought science education via microscopy to more than 18 venues across Malaysia and reached almost 2,000 children who would not usually have access to this kind of quality and compassionate education. Professor Ting's dynamism and compassion in bringing science education through microscopy embodies the spirit of the RMS and the scope and magnitude of her success and impact with the kit is remarkable.

RMS Vice President's Award

In recognition of the 'unsung heroes' of microscopy - the engineers, technicians or laboratory research support scientists, in any area of microscopy or flow cytometry.

Dr Constadina Arvanitis

Center for Advanced Microscopy and Nikon Imaging Center, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, USA

Dina is the Director of the Center for Advanced Microscopy (CAM) and the Nikon Imaging Center (NIC) at the Feinberg School of Medicine. Dina exemplifies the invaluable service that Core



Constadina Arvanitis.

Directors provide to the research community and serves as a role model for young scientists with inclusive leadership philosophies and a global vision.

Dina's leadership has made CAM one of the most versatile imaging centers in the USA, and NIC one of only nine Nikon Centers worldwide. Under her leadership, CAM has received multiple institutional accolades as an Outstanding Facility. She has expanded the infrastructure of CAM with cutting-edge instrumentation which in recent years includes Nikon's SoRa and N-SPARC technologies, and Abberior's MINFLUX/STED MIRAVA. Dina has organised yearly training and career-shadowing programmes for trainees and faculty to foster collaboration and expertise.

On the international stage, Dina has been a strong advocate for the establishment and recognition of career paths for imaging scientists. She has co-led a 'Leaders leading leaders' programme through the Training and Education WG of Bioimaging North America. Dina has also secured international funding to lead teaching and education programmes worldwide. For her dedication to mentorship and teaching, she has received the Dean's Teaching Award for the Driskill Graduate Program.

RMS President's Award

In recognition of an exceptional voluntary contribution to the work of the Society, in any area of microscopy or flow cytometry.

Professor Mark Rainforth

Emeritus Professor, School of Chemical, Materials and Biological Engineering, University of Sheffield, UK

Mark has a long and distinguished association with the RMS, dedicating many years of service to the organisation and its activities.

Mark is himself a former RMS President, serving from 2006-2009 during a time of significant change and staff movements within the Society. Throughout his tenure he demonstrated great dedication and leadership – often travelling from his home base of Sheffield to Oxford to attend the office in person.



Mark Rainforth.

Mark has also served as a Scientific Editor on the Journal of Microscopy since 2012, taking the lead on materials-oriented papers. He stepped down from this role earlier this year, having made many substantial and enthusiastic contributions to the publication which have helped ensure its long-term success.

Mark completed his PhD in 1990, being appointed immediately to a lectureship at the Department of Materials, University of Sheffield. He was appointed Professor in 2000 and was Head of Department from 2011-2015.

Scientifically, Mark is a renowned metallurgist and microscopist. He is an international expert in the design of new resource efficient high strength metal alloys for applications in transport, energy, biomedical engineering and tribology. He focuses on the relationship between composition, processing, microstructure and properties of materials with direct engineering applications.

Mark has published more than 400 papers in high impact journals. He is the winner of the 2024 Bessemer Gold Medal and winner of the IOM3 Rosenhain and Verulam Medals. He was elected Fellow Royal Academy of Engineering (FREng) in 2016.

RMS Scientific Achievement Awards

Celebrating outstanding scientific achievements in any area of microscopy or flow cytometry for established, mid-career researchers.

Dr Periklis (Laki) Pantazis

Department of Bioengineering at Imperial College London and Director of the Imperial College London and LEICA Microsystems Imaging Hub

Dr Periklis (Laki) Pantazis is a pioneering microscopist at Imperial College London whose work has fundamentally reshaped how we visualise and interpret dynamic biological processes. His innovations, spanning photophysics, molecular biology and translational imaging, have enabled unprecedented insights into development, disease progression and mechanobiology.

Laki's signature inventions GenEPi (a genetically encoded fluorescent reporter of mechanical stimulation), primed conversion (a photon-efficient method for precise cell and lineage tracking), and bioharmonophores (biodegradable nanoparticles



Laki Pantazis.

for deep-tissue harmonic imaging) represent major advances in live-cell and deep-tissue imaging. As founding Director of the Imperial–Leica Imaging Hub, Laki established a multidisciplinary centre of excellence that facilitates collaborative research across biology, engineering and medicine. Under his leadership, the Hub has become a beacon of translational imaging science, supporting both early-career investigators and large-scale institutional initiatives.

He has secured over £7.1 million in research funding from prestigious agencies of various countries. He holds 13 patents, including co-developments with leading microscopy companies, demonstrating his ability to move ideas from concept to industrial application.

Laki's trainees have gone on to receive significant honours, reflecting his dedication to mentorship and academic citizenship. He regularly serves on editorial boards, grant panels and international symposia, amplifying his influence on the field's future direction.

As a scientist, mentor and collaborator, he represents the very best of the international imaging community.

Professor Steven Lee

Yusuf Hamied Department of Chemistry, University of Cambridge

Steven is a Professor of Biophysical Chemistry at the University of Cambridge, is a world leading figure in the development and application of cutting-edge single-molecule microscopy for biological discovery. His work exemplifies the power of modern microscopy to illuminate fundamental processes in human health and disease, blending technical excellence with interdisciplinary innovation and translational impact.

Steven has consistently advanced the field of microscopy through the development of novel imaging platforms which have catalysed key biological insights. His co-first-authored work in Nature Immunology provided the first direct visualisation of 'close contact' zones in T cell signalling — evidence that resolved a 20-year-old immunological hypothesis and has since informed our understanding of autoimmunity and cancer immunotherapy.

A defining feature of Steven's work is his collaborative ethos. In a landmark study in Nature, he co-validated single-cell Hi-C datasets through optical microscopy, enabling the first 3D structural maps of individual mammalian genomes. More recently, he has played a key leadership role in an $8M multi-institutional programme mapping Parkinson's pathology with single-cell precision.

Steven is co-founder and former Chief Executive Officer of ZOMP, a microscopy-based biotechnology spinout developing the world's first high-throughput 3D imaging flow cytometer.

He has published over 70 peer-reviewed papers, delivered more than 60 invited research seminars, and presented nine keynote and plenary talks at national and international symposia. His research, cited more than 4,500 times, has been recognised not only by peers but also by professional societies, funders, and commercial stakeholders.



Steven Lee.