Minutes of the 2025 AGM of the Light Microscopy Section of the Royal Microscopical Society which was held on 2 July 2025 during mmc2025.

Members present: Kurt Anderson FRMS (LM Chair), Jessica Valli FRMS (LM Deputy Chair), Peter O'Toole FRMS (RMS President), Michelle Peckham FRMS (RMS Executive Honorary Secretary), Maddy Parsons FRMS (RMS Honorary Secretary – Biological Sciences), Nitin Arya FRMS, Laura Clark, Roland Fleck FRMS, Sarah Harper FRMS, Martin Jones FRMS, Mark Leake FRMS, Leandro Lemgruber, Katherine MacArthur, Kirsty MacLellan-Gibson, Judith Mantell, Jon Moss FRMS, Chris Parmenter FRMS, Dana Perry, Greeshma Pradeep, Alice Pyne FRMS, Lior Pytowski, Virginia Silio, Thomas Slater FRMS, Alex Sossick, Clare Steele-King FRMS, Lore Troalen, Gea van de Kerkhof, Sali Davis (RMS Chief Executive) and Jade Sturdy (RMS Committee Co-ordinator and PA to Chief Executive).*

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from: Rod Shipley, Andy Brown FRMS, Kerry Thompson FRMS, Richard Bowman FRMS, Alex Laude and Claire Mitchell.

2. Minutes of the 2024 AGM

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 Section Chair gave the following report:

"This is my second report as Chair of the Light Microscopy Section, supported by Jessica Vali serving as Deputy Chair of the committee and Jade Sturdy providing organisational assistance. I am grateful to Jade for her guidance on the administrative side of the committee and especially for her patience and steely nerves in dealing with my persistent tardiness in preparing documents such as this very report. Thank you, Jade, and my apologies.

The remit of our Section is to encourage the development and use of light microscopy. Based on the enthusiasm we have seen across the events and conferences we have organised and supported in the last year I can safely say that our committee and our community are in good health.

The revised 'RMS Dictionary of Light Microscopy' is now essentially complete. This is the first update to the dictionary in 40 years and will cover around 140 terms. Many existing terms have been re-evaluated and newer terms missing from the original edition of the Dictionary have been defined for the first time. Joelle Goulding and a team of 8 editors have been working on this project for about two years and are now working out the best approach to publishing and publicising this important reference.

Roughly one year ago the Journal of Microscopy published a Light Microscopy Core Facility Management Special Issue, edited by Sebastia Munck and myself. The genesis of that Special Issue was a conversation Sebastian and I had during an LM Section meeting about 3 years ago, when Michelle Peckham challenged the committee to suggest topics for the Journal. Our goal was to provide support for our colleagues, and ourselves, when having critical conversations with the many adjacent specialists who impact our ability to deliver imaging and support science. The response from our community to this effort has been overwhelmingly positive, with many people using articles to support local initiatives on topics such as training, career development, and of course designing appropriate facilities for the stable operation of high-end imaging equipment. This Special Issue has become the second most viewed issue on the Journal of Microscopy website, with 4 articles among the top ten articles viewed over the past year. Several papers have already become highly cited by Journal standards. As a result, we have begun work on a follow-up issue and recruited Michelle Itano from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to broaden the thematic and geographic scope. We are aiming to release this next special issue in time for ELMI 2026 in Portugal, in order to maximise its impact.

In November of 2024 Stefania Marcotti of the DAIM Section and I co-organised Frontiers in BioImaging in Oxford. Roughly 50 participants heard amazing talks from invited speakers including Anja Hauser on the use of intravital microscopy to study the immune response in tissue, Alberto Elosegui-Artola on the visco-elastic determinants of tissue

differentiation, Arvind Pathak on multi-modal pre-clinical imaging, Virginie Uhlmann on scalable image analysis using OME.zarr, and Marine Laporte on the use of cryo-fixation for expansion microscopy. A further highlight of the meeting was a brainstorming session hosted by Mark Leake to help guide the development of PoLNET and foster closer interaction between PoLNET and the RMS.

2025 began, as always, with the UK Light Microscopy Facilities Meeting, hosted this year by Mark Jepson at the University of Bristol on the 6-7 of January. The meeting was very well attended and began with a session of talks taken from the Core Facilities Special Issue of the Journal. Other sessions included crib talks, TechnoBites, reports from the UKRI and others on the state of the imaging nation, and 'Challenges and solutions in image analysis'. We look forward to the train ride up to Newcastle for next year's meeting, to be hosted by Alex Laude and Glyn Nelson.

I will leave for next year's report the organisation and outcome of the session at mmc2025 which we have organised together with Martin Jones from the DAIM Section on Quantitative Analysis and Modelling, to be held this coming Thursday afternoon.

Looking ahead to next year there are a couple of big events on the horizon. Thanks to the efforts of Viji Draviam we will be sponsoring a session at Dynamic Cell VI on 'New computational and imaging technologies for analysing cell function'. The meeting is organised jointly by the British Society for Cell Biology, the Biochemical Society, and the Chinese society for Cell Biology. This joint effort will hopefully raise awareness of the RMS among these important and complimentary communities. I have also been invited to plan a session at the upcoming International Microscopy Congress, IMC21, and plan to involve the Light Microscopy Section in this endeavour.

This year has seen all of the RMS Sections examining their purpose through SWOT analyses introduced by our new Chief Executive Sali Davis. In the LM Section we have experimented with the format of our meetings to make better use of everyone's time and creative energy. Through this ongoing process we are attempting to lay the groundwork for a leaner and more active committee that will emphasise training and the organisation of frequent smaller meetings on current topics of interest to committee members. The workshop on Optogenetics being organised Thursday afternoon by Viji Draviam is a nice example of this approach.

As part of the continual renewal of our committee I would like to thank departing members Sebastian Munck and Joelle Goulding, who have both contributed enormously to the work of the committee over the past several years, as you have already heard from my report. Likewise, I wish to welcome Virginia Silio to the committee, who joins us from the Centre for Molecular & Cell Dynamics at UCL.

The LM Section comprises a diverse grouping within the light microscopy community, and we are always looking to expand our Section composition. Suggestions for potential volunteers to join the Section are always welcome, as are suggestions for courses that the LM section could run or support for the benefit of the community."

5. Election of Officers

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

Chair:	Kurt Anderson, The Francis Crick Institute, London
Deputy Chair:	Jessica Valli, Herriot-Watt University

6. Election of Ordinary Members

The following Ordinary Members were duly elected:

Richard Bowman, University of Glasgow
Viji Draviam, Queen Mary, University of London
Krishna Inavalli, CCL, University of Southampton
Claire Mitchell, Cancer Research UK Scotland Institute
Caroline Mullenbroich, University of Glasgow
Aleks Ponjavic, University of Leeds
Virginia Silio, University College London
Michael Schwertner, Linkam

In addition to the nominated Committee Members Tim Hawkins has been co-opted onto the Committee.

Tim Young has been co-opted as the Early Career Representative.

Chris Mulcahy from Abberior Instruments GmbH has joined the committee as a Vendor Representative.

Invited to attend: Mark Leake, Glynn Nelson and Susan Cox.

7. **Any Other Business**
   There was no other business.

*** Non-members present:** Jemima Burden