

Virtual ‘town hall’ meeting on core facilities attracts huge global audience

RMS thanks partners and co-chairs for staging online event

The RMS would like to thank all the organisers and participants who contributed to a highly successful online event, held at short notice in June.

Titled “Navigating Strategies for Core Facilities 2025: A Town Hall Webinar”, and held in partnership with the Microscopy Society of America (MSA) and Global Biolmaging, this was a free and open forum to discuss how core facilities can thrive in today’s challenging and ever-evolving funding environment.

Despite limited time for planning and promotion, the three-hour meeting attracted an impressive 270 participants from a host of different countries spanning five different continents.

The idea for the event grew out of a conversation between RMS President Peter O’Toole and Page Baluch of Arizona State University on an email ‘list serv’ for confocal microscopy.

Pete recalls: “An open question was initially posed by Page, on how colleagues were dealing with the rapid changes in purchase prices for equipment, coupled with the loss of grant funding. It was clear that these sorts of challenges are affecting people right across the global microscopy community, so why not throw this open to a public forum? - to see what solutions might be out there for navigating these financial pressures.”

Within just a few days, a number of co-chairs had enthusiastically stepped forward to oversee the meeting, which covered topics including:

- Demonstrating and Defending the Impact of Core Facilities
- Smart Budgeting: Planning and Maximising Resources
- Future-Proofing: Best Practices for Sustainable Success

Importantly, it was agreed the meeting would not be recorded, to enable participants to talk freely

and share their experiences in a supportive and friendly environment.

Pete says: “Everyone really entered into the collaborative spirit, and we had some great contributions from participants. I certainly learned a few things from the ideas and examples people were giving, and I’m sure it was the same for everyone else.”

He adds: “It was just a great example of our international community pulling together and doing something really impactful at short notice – something that has hopefully given colleagues around the world some practical help as well as a bit of a morale-boost.

“I’d like to put on record my thanks to the Microscopy Society of America and Global Biolmaging, as well as each of the co-hosts who really stepped up to the plate to deliver this event; Michelle Itano, Page Baluch, Kirk Czymmek, Paul Voyles, Andy Stone and Johanna Bischoff.

“I’d also like to thank the RMS staff for facilitating the webinar at the busiest time of the year for them, in the run-up to mmc2025.”

Although the meeting was not recorded, those who attended [can access a number of presentation slides and helpful links](#) contributed by participants in the group ‘chat’ during the meeting.



‘Globe’ image by Juliana Kozoski on Unsplash ‘laptop’ image by Fabian Irsara on Unsplash.