

Microscopy AND Microanalysis

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Calendar of Meetings and Courses

Microscopy and Microanalysis website: http://www.journals.cambridge.org/jid_MAM

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Dear Abbe

Dear Abbe:

Could you please comment on lectures on "Breaking Abbe's Barrier" and similar topics that were presented during the Focus on Microscopy 2008 in Osaka. There's been more of it in the same vein—some of them even suggesting it's about time to start talking about nanoscopy instead of microscopy. Your name was always mentioned with respect, and I would appreciate your point of view on the matter.

Vic from Jena

Dear Vic,

It is so nice to hear from someone from Jena. Do you by chance know Frau Bemisderfer of Swinemünder Straße? She used to make the most amazing Mohn Strudel and she really enjoyed my Weisswurst. But I digress. Break my barriers you say? Today's youth are so violent! I blame it on telemicroscopy. What is next? Picoscopy? Femtoscopy? Yoctoscopy? This sounds more like one of those unpleasant invasive medical procedures one must endure every year after age 50. Next time you see these nanoscientists ask them "What did one photon say to the other photon?" The answer of course is, "I'm sick and tired of your interference." I'm going to bed now.

Dear Abbe,

We just received authorization to purchase a 300kV, FEG, aberration-corrected, TEM with all the accessories in the catalog. Lucky us! But our vice president wants us to install it under spotlights in a room with floor to ceiling windows off the reception area so he can show it off to visiting VIPs. We explained that it has to be in a private, darkened room. He said "No way!" How do we deal with this?

Funambulistic in East Fishkill

Dear Fun,

I suppose that you already know that administerium is the densest element known to man. With a half-life of 2 to 20 years and being comprised mostly of peons and morons, administerium can spontaneously reorganize resulting in never-ending series of meetings that result in an excess of hot air resulting in twice the number of morons known as "isodopes." When faced with a similar idiotic request I purchased a second TEM of the same make and model. If you buy one without any lenses or electronic components you can get one for a song, and two bottles of inexpensive vodka. Simply install an old fashioned slide projector in the gun assembly and you can display lots of interesting images onto the viewing screen that will easily fool an administrator into thinking that he is witnessing actual science. I included a subliminal picture of me receiving the Nobel prize in Physics and realized a 20% pay raise the following year. These people are easily fooled.

For answers to life's mysteries, please contact Herr Abbe's administrative assistant at jshields@cb.uga.edu.