Welcome From the Program Committee

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Welcome to this Microscopy and Microanalysis meeting, M&M 2014 in Hartford, Connecticut!

The Microscopy Society of America, the Microanalysis Society, and the International Metallographic Society, and the Canadian Microscopy Society have excelled in bringing the latest and most innovative applications and instrumental developments from investigators in the biological and physical sciences using microscopy and microanalysis techniques. M&M 2014 features more than 37 symposia covering a broad range of topics, ample educational opportunities in the form of courses/tutorials and pre-meeting events including courses, a congress and a workshop. This year is special as we also welcome the Microscopical Society of Canada and the International Union of Microbeam Analysis Societies (IUMAS) who will hold their IUMAS-6 meeting prior to M&M 2014.

This year we are honored to welcome two world renowned scientists, Professor Sir. Colin Humphreys and Professor Brian Ford as this year's plenary speakers. Professor Humphreys will discuss how electron microscopy and atom probe tomography can save the world; by helping solve some of the world's energy problems and how they can also enable commercial exploitation of materials. His research interests include all aspects of electron microscopy and analysis, semiconductors (particularly gallium nitride), ultra-high temperature aerospace materials and superconductors. His work has ranged from defect image interpretation via electron diffraction theory to developing new electron microscope techniques. During his long and fruitful career, Prof. Humphreys received several international awards in recognition of his accomplishments, including the MSA Distinguished Scientist Award. He is a long-standing member of the Microscopy Society of America and was inducted as an MSA Fellow in 2009.

Our second plenary speaker is Prof. Brian Ford, an independent research biologist, author, and lecturer who regularly publishes on scientific issues for the general public. He has also been a television personality for more than 40 years. One of his best-known discoveries was of the original specimens of Antony van Leeuwenhoek, which were well preserved within the collections of the Royal Society of London since the seventeenth century. Prof. Ford's fabulous lecture will be "Images from the earliest microscopes ever made". A Fellow and Member of Court at Cardiff University, Brian is a former Fellow at the Open University, Visiting Professor at the University of Leicester and a Member of the Senior Combination Room at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge University, where he is currently based.

This year we have two named symposium to honor the life and work of Oliver Wells and Gérard Simon. Oliver C. Wells, who was a champion of all things related to the SEM, was Sir Charles Oatley's second PhD student at Cambridge University to work on the SEM (after Dennis McMullan) and is considered one of the founding fathers of the field. He was a particularly appreciated researcher and analyst who was willing to try something new or different even when all the experts of the day had already dismissed the idea. He was a tinkerer and had a passion for electron detectors. He had great respect for the analyst who was knowledgeable about the SEM and could obtain a plethora of information about a sample by varying all the controllable microscope parameters. He enjoyed meeting to discuss the SEM, always encouraged people to publish their work, and strove to give credit to individuals who were overlooked for significant work. His pioneering work and life will be celebrated in a memorial symposium bearing his name.

To honor Dr. Wells', his memorial session solicited papers on a wide range of topics central to his legacy: "low loss" electron imaging, energy filtered imaging, very high energy imaging, the origin of secondary electrons, new electron detectors, novel uses for established detectors, reducing sample charging in the SEM, and varying SEM analysis conditions to show different information about a sample. Since Dr. Wells was one of the "fathers" of the SEM, the session is also intended to showcase the evolution of the SEM and show how the SEM has contributed to society as a whole. Dr. Wells was also the grandson of H.G. Wells.

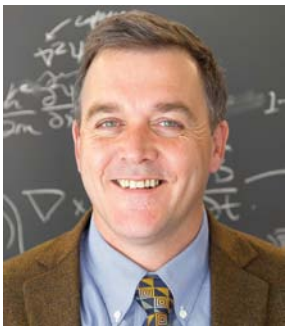
Our other memorial session honours Professor Gérard T. Simon who made many contributions to the development of microscopy in Canada. Born in Switzerland in 1931, Gerard T. Simon began a successful career as a professor of medicine at the University of Geneva where he created the first electron microscopy laboratory in the Department of Pathology. In 1967, he immigrated to Canada with his family where he became director of the Department of Electron Microscopy of the Banting Institute in Toronto.

The career of Gerard T. Simon led him to take over the electron microscopy laboratory of the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University in Hamilton. In recognition of the exceptional accomplishment of Professor Simon in the Microscopical Society of Canada, a merit scientific award named after him is given annually to students in the fields of biological, physical and material sciences. When he retired in 1996, the Honourable Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister of Canada presented him an award in recognition of his professional achievement.

This year's M&M promises to be one of the most exciting meetings ever. The Executive Program Committee and the Symposia Organizers have done a wonderful job planning the 2014 meeting. Each year we enhance and strengthen the Societies that come together to share and collaborate on scientific knowledge.

It is time for us to join together and participate in M&M 2014 as Mark Twain wrote of the city of Hartford in 1868, "Of all the beautiful towns it has been my fortune to see this is the chief." The 2014 M&M meeting promises to be the chief meeting of the year. The Executive Program Committee welcomes you to a celebration of microscopy and microanalysis in the city of Hartford, CT on Aug 3rd – Aug 7th 2014.

Executive Program Committee



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