

# MSI Bursary Award Report for attendance at MMC2017 in Manchester 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> July 2017

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The Microscience Microscopy Congress was held in Manchester 3-6<sup>th</sup> July 2017. It is organised by Royal Microscopy Society (RMS) and welcomed Microscopy Society of Ireland (MSI) as well as Scottish Microscopy Group (SMG) to host their annual meetings as part of the congress. The MSI and SMG societies were combined to make the Celtic Sessions broken into two sessions; Biological Processes at the Nanoscale, and Inorganic Materials, the latter in which I presented my talk.

MMC boasts hosting the largest microscopy based exhibition in Europe which is free to enter. The exhibition incorporated workshops on aspects of sample preparation and characterisation by companies like Bruker, Protochips, and Leica which also included information on the sample characterisation of a gummy bear by Linkam Scientific Instruments Ltd. A learning zone was also designated where experts introduced their topics of expertise to the audience with short presentations on topics such as STEM, biological EM sample preparation and confocal microscopy.



**Figure 1:** An image of the expansive exhibition hall at mmc2017, and a picture of me presenting my talk at the Inorganic Celtic Sessions on the final day of the conference.

As with all exhibitions there were plenty of free items to promote products from each company, including sunglasses from Nikon and a rubber duck from Thermo Fisher Scientific to promote their new precision circulating water bath.

The main social dinner was hosted in the stunning Principal Hotel which is in a building steeped in history, containing vaults due to the buildings former occupation by an assurance company. The enormous and impressive basement ballroom was where the dinner was held which contained a stage where a DJ was setup for after dinner dancing. There was also a photo booth with props which was very popular from PhD students to Professors alike!



**Figure 2:** A picture of me and other attendees of the conference at the social dinner held in the The Principal Hotel, and an image of the TEM displayed at the Science and Industry Museum.

The three day conference hosted many interesting talks from keynote speakers highly expert in many fields of microscopy as well as those presenting via accepted submitted abstracts. On the final day I presented my talk in the Celtic Sessions entitled Novel Techniques for Studying Anisotropic Nanoparticle Geometrical Properties Classification for Database Initiation.

When the conference ended I spend the following weekend in Manchester. I visited the museum of science and industry which was free to enter. Appropriately at the museum, there was a display of TEM made in 1947 which was used in the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST). Unlike the CCD cameras used these days; this microscope had a tray for photographic film on which micrographs would have been imprinted.

MMC2017 was an excellent conference to attend as an aspiring microscopist to gain exposure to and learn about areas of microscopy that I was not familiar with. The atmosphere was relaxed and there were many social areas such as refreshment stations and wine receptions providing apt opportunity to network with students and experts within the community. I am grateful to the MSI for awarding me the travel bursary which allowed me to attend the full event in which I made valuable connections and had fruitful discussions with other scientists and experts.



**Figure 3:** An image of chalk art on the pavement near Piccadilly Gardens.