2024 MAS Spring Council Meeting
7 May, 2024, 13:00-15:00 EDT, via Zoom

Patrick Camus (President 2022-2024)
Andrew Herzing (President-Elect 2023-2024)
Owen Neill (Secretary 2022-2025)
Dave Tomlin (Treasurer 2023-2024)
Assel Aitkaliyeva (Director 2022-2024)
Thomas Lam (Director 2022-2024)
Katherine Burgess (Director 2023-2025)
Jordan Hachtel (Director 2023-2025)
Megan Holtz (Director 2024-2026)
Jessica Riesterer (Director 2024-2026)
Steve Seddio (Commercial Director 2021-2025)
[VACANT] (AReS 2022-2025)
John Fournelle (Archivist 2010-2023)
Brad De Gregorio (Awards 2020-2024)
Josh Taillon (Computer Activities 2024-2027)
Mary Scott (Education 2022-2024)
Abigail Lindstrom (Goldstein Scholar Coordinator)
Vin Smentkowski (Fellows 2024-2027)
Pete McSwiggen (Finance 2021-2024)
Emma Bullock (Membership 2023-2024)
Heather Lowers (International Liaison)
Joe Boro (Social Media 2022-2025)
Angela Halfpenny (Strategic Planning 2024-2027)
Anette von der Handt (Topical Conferences 2024-2027)
[VACANT] (M&M Editorial Board)
Steven Spurgeon (2024 M&M Co-Chair)
Stuart Wright (2025 M&M Co-Chair)

Present on call: Assel Aitkaliyeva, Emma Bullock, Kate Burgess, Pat Camus, Gail Celio, Brad de Gregorio, Jordan Hachtel, Angela Halfpenny, Anette von der Handt, Megan Holtz, Aaron Johnson, Thomas Lam, Owen Neill, Ashley Petrylak, Mary Scott, Steve Seddio, Vin Smentkowski, Josh Taillon
Call to Order: 13:02 EDT (Pat Camus)

Approval of Agenda (Pat Camus)

Presidential Opening Remarks (Pat Camus)
  - Pat thanked the Officers and Committee chairs who submitted files for the meeting.
  - Pat introduced Gail Celio (2024 M&M Proceedings Editor), Aaron Johnson (Microscopy Society of America Managing Publisher) and Ashley Petrylak (Oxford University Publishing), who joined the meeting to discuss the questions about the new Oxford University Publishing copyright agreements that were raised during the Winter Council meeting.
    - Jordan Hachtel and Mary Scott opened the discussion by outlining the concerns raised at the Winter Council meeting.
    - Jordan described the main goal, which is to make sure copyright language is intended and enforced in a way that does not prevent authors from presenting the results they present at M&M in other journals.
    - Mary added that it is confusing for editors and reviewers of other journals when they see the M&M conference proceedings being published, as there is some ambiguity about what level of review and scrutiny they are subject to
      - Avoiding self-plagiarism in terms of text and figures is important, but using material presented at conferences in later publications is common practice.
      - Some clarity from Oxford about what is and is not copyrighted would be helpful.
    - Ashley responded that the goal is never to discourage authors from publishing their results.
      - By having an author assigning a license to publish their work the author is protected from third parties taking that work for themselves.
      - Aaron is working on a document that will hopefully clarify some of these issues.
      - The goal for Oxford is to ensure that future publications based on the M&M conference proceedings references those proceedings since that is where it came from, and so that the reader understands that this work has been presented previously.
      - In previous years, authors have published full papers without referencing the M&M conference proceedings, which has led to confusion and accusations of plagiarism which may have been
misdirected.

- Aaron added that M&M conference proceedings are meant to be seen as “research snapshots,” that do not preclude the publication of the results in another forum.
  - It is important that data that has been presented does get referenced, as full papers will sometimes get flagged in peer review if they are too close to the abstract contact.
  - Material presented in the original M&M conference proceedings should be revised to the point that it does not trip up the review process.
    - Many of these reviewing tools are now automated and use the searchable metadata found in the M&M conference proceedings, which makes this kind of issue more likely.
  - Publications should not have full sections that are lifted directly from M&M conference proceedings.

- Mary responded that this is good information to have, but it also seems to artificially diminish the novelty of later published work.
  - New authors will be less likely to present novel results at the meeting, as having to reference the conference proceedings elsewhere means that the work is no longer novel.
  - There also seems to be a distinction between the M&M copyright agreement and that used by other conferences.

- Jordan added that this seems likely to discourage authors from bringing high-impact work to M&M, as later reviewers from other journals will treat it as already having been presented, and therefore is not novel enough to publish.

- Josh Taillon noted in the Zoom chat that the M&M conference proceedings seem to fall into an "uncanny valley" of sorts that doesn't provide authors with the benefit of a peer-reviewed publication, but has the associated "cost" in terms of priority of results.

- Mary asked about the rationale for having this level of scrutiny for non-peer reviewed work.

- Ashley responded that even if someone publishes something (for example) on a blog, it would still have a copyright assigned to it.
  - Abstracts and conference proceedings still have copyrights associated with them, regardless of whether or not they have been peer-reviewed.
  - Journals should still accept work that has been previously presented (even pre-prints), provided the previous presentation of the work is acknowledged.

- Mary replied that the responsibility is then kicked back to the authors to
try and sort out which material is copyrighted and which can still be considered novel.

- Mary also noted that how Oxford distinguishes between conference proceedings and peer-reviewed articles is unclear.

- Aaron responded that conference proceedings provide a vehicle for rapid reporting of ideas, techniques, and results.
  - It is not uncommon for these reports to be somewhat incomplete and inconclusive.
  - The purposes of proceedings papers range from snapshots of recent or continuing work to the reporting of a completed work or project.
  - Journal papers are expected to be original, complete, and polished; to contain comparisons of theoretical and experimental results; and to include substantial conclusions and comprehensive references to other work.
  - Abstracts and proceedings are terms sometimes used interchangeably, but they are distinct terms.

- Aaron also noted that any object on the web with a DOI has metadata that will get flagged by analytics software.
  - Search engines make this content much more findable, which makes it easier to flag.
  - If it is flagged, then journals will not want to publish material that has been presented already.

- Jordan noted that this is exactly the concern raised previously.
  - If material presented in the M&M conference proceedings is copyrighted and not considered novel, it will no longer be publishable.
  - If this material is no longer publishable, authors will avoid presenting novel material at M&M.

- Brad de Gregorio added that the new copyright agreement language was stronger and sounded more like what would be applied to a full journal paper.
  - If the M&M conference proceedings will be treated as full papers for the purpose of novelty, then authors will start to approach them as Jordan and Mary describe, and potentially withhold results.

- Aaron made the comparison to MRS Advances, for example, which bills their abstracts as research snapshots.
  - They should still be publishable.
  - Aaron reiterated that he is working on a document for authors that will more clearly define these issues.
- Jordan responded that he was familiar with (and has published in) MRS Advance and would not publish something in MRS Advances before publishing a higher-impact journal article, as presenting them in MRS Advances would negate their novelty
  - This is in contrast to an abstract from an MRS meeting, which would not receive that scrutiny.
  - In the past, M&M conference proceedings have been treated more like the abstracts from an MRS meeting, while the new copyright language makes it sound like they should be treated like MRS Advances articles.
- Aaron replied that MRS Advances is peer-reviewed, unlike M&M conference proceedings.
  - M&M conference proceedings are not peer reviewed, but they do appear in publication and have DOI's associated with them,
  - This means that search engines will flag content that is duplicated between a publication in review and an M&M conference proceeding.
  - Failure to acknowledge that material was presented at M&M may lead to plagiarism accusations.
- Mary noted that the concerns are less about plagiarism and more about ownership of the results present.
  - Having the new copyright language will discourage authors from presenting novel material, which does not seem to serve the meeting or the community.
- Brad added that he has been treating material presented at the M&M meeting as preliminary results, and using it to get final feedback from the community before attempting to publish.
  - Having the abstracts be the first paper that has to be referenced down the line (and so the journal won’t want to published previously presented work) is going to make it less attractive to present at M&M
- Ashley asked for some clarification on the differences between the current copyright language and the language from 3-4 years ago that has led to these concerns.
- Brad responded that the language about the restrictions on reproducing the results elsewhere is the primary driver of Council’s concerns.
- Ashley said that she would be happy to work with MAS if the language is not meeting the needs of the authors
  - However, regardless of the copyright language, anything published in M&M conference proceedings will have a DOI and will be treated as copyrighted material.
This is important as it also prevents third parties from using authors' material without proper attribution.

- Brad asked why it would be necessary to cite the M&M conference proceedings when preparing a paper for peer review with new text and new figures, even if they have been created from the same raw data.
- Jordan asked whether it would still be necessary to cite the M&M conference proceedings in a peer-reviewed article derived from the work presented, if the text and figures in the article are new.
- Ashley said that it is not necessary to cite the M&M conference proceedings if the text and figures are new.
- Aaron added that the difference in the License-to-Publish/copyright form between now and that used by previous publishers is negligible.

- What is different is that when making a submission via the Cadmium system, there are now a number of boxes for users to check that ask the users to read and agree to difference pieces of the LTP.
- Previously, authors had been able to complete their submissions without fully reading any of the copyright language.
- The increase in transparency is desirable, but is also leading to greater attention from authors.
- Thomas Lam asked whether it would be necessary to cite the M&M conference proceedings if the author were presenting a conclusion that had previously been presented at M&M, provided that the actual words used were different.
- Aaron responded that that would be derivation, not plagiarism.
  - The publication would be considered a new entity as long as it did not include the same language and figures.
- Pat suggested that an article in Microscopy Today clarifying what publishing in M&M conference proceedings means, and would and would not need to be referenced in subsequent publications, would be very helpful to the community.
- Aaron replied that he is working on such an article, including some case examples of what each check box in the Cadmium submission system means for the authors.
  - Aaron also added that John Mansfield, the Editor-in-Chief of the Microscopy and Microanalysis Magazine, will be doing a webinar on 22 May, 14:00 EDT, to discuss these issues.
    - An advertisement for this webinar will be posted on the MSA website.
- Pat thanked Ashley, Aaron and Gail for their attendance and willingness to answer questions, and suggested that this discussion continue at
M&M.

- Pat also noted two topics that were not discussed during the Winter Council meeting.
  - Pat noted that the bylaws change for Officer Nominations was approved by membership in the 2023 fall elections.
    - Owen Neill has updated the bylaws document to reflect this change, and Josh has added the new document to the MAS website.
  - Steve Seddio has been re-elected as Commercial Director under the new statute.

- Fellows Committee (Vin Smentkowski)
  - Vin reported that Louis Germinario has been named 2024 MAS Fellow.
    - Vin asked that a story for this be created and added to the MAS webpage, and boosted on MAS' social media.
    - Vin also asked that Council members help boost this announcement with their own social media.
    - Josh said that he will post any article on topic to the MAS website.
  - Vin noted the need to solicit nominations for Fellows for 2025.
    - Nominees should have a record of both scientific achievement and service to MAS.
    - Pat reminded Council that nominations should come from the community at large, and should be submitted to Vin and the Fellows Committee.

- Secretary’s Report (Owen Neill)
  - Emma Bullock made a motion to accept the minutes of the 2024 Winter Council Meeting, Angela Halfpenny seconded.
    - Motion carried.

- Treasurer’s Report (Pat Camus for Dave Tomlin)
  - Total income for FY24, as of 30 April, is $79,742.97.
    - This exceeds the $67,350.00 projected for the 2024 budget, due to an increase in general membership and a large M&M co-share.
    - Income from Sustaining Members is below projected, however.
  - Total expenses for FY24, as of 30 April, total $43,230.15.
    - Operating expenses are so far well below projected, though this may change.
  - The final MAS co-share for the M&M2023 was $12,746.71.
    - Total MAS direct costs for M&M2023 were $31,903.41.
As of 30 April, 2024:

- Total income: $79,742.97 ($67,350.00 projected).
- Total expenses: $43,230.15 ($114,450.00 projected).
- Total liquid assets: $176,219.71.
- Total charitable funds: $45,297.76.
- Schwab investment account: $774,974.91.
- Total encumbered assets: $996,492.38.
- Total unencumbered assets: $951,194.62.

Going forward:

- Pat reported that Dave filed the MSA F990 form with the IRS.
- Dave has decided not to replace the MAS debit card with a credit card.

Emma noted that her registration fee was reimbursed last year, but she has not received reimbursement information this year.

- Emma will follow up with the meeting managers.

Membership Committee (Emma Bullock)

- Emma reported that MAS has 477 members as of 30 April.
  - This is down significantly from 1087 members at the end of 2023.
  - However, M&M registration will likely lead to a significant increase in membership.

- Emma presented 12 new members for Council approval.
  - Six of the new members are students.
  - Council voted unanimously to accept the new members.

FIGMAS (Emma Bullock)

- The 2024 FIGMAS Business Meeting will take place at M&M2024 on Thursday, 1 August, at 12:15PM.
  - Emma will send out a confirmation to FIGMAS members once the location of the FIGMAS Business Meeting is confirmed.

- Emma reminded Council that members may sign up for FIGMAS during membership renewal, or at any time via the MSA Portal.

- Emma outlined plans for FIGMAS to host a meeting focused on standards and reference materials prior to M&M2026 in Milwaukee.
  - This meeting would be held in Madison, WI.
    - FIGMAS will look into organizing transportation for attendees between Milwaukee and Madison.
    - Anyone interested in being part of the Organizing Committee should contact Emma.
- Emma will consult with Anette about whether this meeting could be run as a Topical Conference.
- Pat asked how long this meeting would be.
  - Emma said that this is still being decided but will likely be two days.
- Thomas Lam asked if there was a plan for activities over the weekend if the FIGMAS conference takes place before M&M.
  - Emma said that FIGMAS is working on the best way to organize the schedule so that it will not conflict with government travel restrictions.
- Emma also reported that FIGMAS is working on finding the standard collection that SPI used to sell.
  - SPI is no longer selling these materials, so FIGMAS is trying to ensure that leftover materials are not lost.
- Emma reported that Julien Allaz had raised the issue of creating a standalone FIGMAS group to make it easier for EMAS/AMAS folks to participate.
  - Currently, EMAS and AMAS cannot join FIGMAS without joining MAS/MSA.

- Strategic Planning Committee (Angela Halfpenny)
  - Angela reported that she is working on moving the Strategic Planning Committee documentation to GoogleDrive to allow the committee to more efficiently share and review information.

- M&M2024 Updates (Pat Camus)
  - Pat reported that he traveled to Cleveland in April for a site visit.
    - Pat was very impressed with both the meeting site and the site of the MAS Social.
    - M&M2024 will be the first major event in the Cleveland Convention Center after a renovation.
  - Angela noted that booking conference hotel rooms through the meeting registration website is no longer possible, despite the meeting website saying that rooms can still be booked.

- Archivist (Pat Camus for John Fournelle)
  - No report.

- Affiliated Regional Societies (Pat Camus)
  - Pat said that he will reach out to the leadership of various Regional Societies for
suggestions for a new AReS chair.

- **Awards Committee (Brad de Gregorio)**
  - Brad announced the following Society Awards:
    - **Duncumb Award**: Sergei Kalinin, Oak Ridge National Laboratory.
      - Jordan noted that Sergei’s affiliation has changed to the University of Tennessee – Knoxville.
    - **Henrich Award**: Shelly Conroy, Imperial College London.
    - **Presidential Science Award**: Paul Kotula, Sandia National Laboratory.
    - **Presidential Service Award**: Donovan Leonard, Microsoft Quantum.
    - Brad will start creating biographical sketches for the announcement article soon.
    - Brad will also order the award plaques in June.
  - Brad also announced the M&M2024 Distinguished Scholar Awards:
    - **Student awardees**:
      - Jack Grimm, University of Washington
      - Huiming Guo, University of California Irvine
      - Hanyu Hou, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
      - Ya-Hsiang Hsu, The Ohio State University
      - Minhazul Islam, The Ohio State University
      - Zhongmin Long, Karlsruher Institut für Technologie
      - Julian Lüken, Universiteit Antwerpen
      - Hannah Matos-Pimentel, Florida State University
      - Patricia Meza, Northwestern University
      - Ruiying Shu, University of Oxford
      - Oliver Waszkiewicz, Imperial College London
    - **Postdoc awardees**:
      - Akshay Agarwal, Boston University
      - Brian Caffrey, Rosalind Franklin Institute
      - Liza-Anastasia DiCecco, Pennsylvania State University
      - Sohail Shah, Idaho National Laboratory
  - Brad described a miscommunication regarding an EMAS awardee who was scheduled to attend M&M.
    - An Early Career Award winner was honored at the 2023 EMAS workshop.
      - This award was supposed to include an automatic invitation to give a 30-minute invited platform presentation at M&M2024.
    - No invited speaker slot was made available to the awardee, and Brad was not informed of the situation until after the 2024 M&M program was set.
Instead, the awardee was given a poster.

- The issue was partially resolved by giving the awardee a regular (15 minute) platform presentation in their symposium.
- Brad identified a lack of communication between MAS, EMAS and the M&M2024 Program Committee as the cause of this issue.
  - Brad was not notified of the award by EMAS, or that MAS had a role in providing the awardee with an invited presentation.
  - MAS and EMAS need to better define their lines of communication regarding the society’s awardees, and the responsibilities of each society regarding reciprocal award agreements.
- Pat added that the Awards Committee should be CC’d on any communications regarding awardee presentations.
  - The Awards Committee should also be notified before the program is set.
  - Awardees from other societies should be reminded to notify the MAS Awards Committee regarding any MAS components of any awards they receive from their own societies.
  - Pat thanked Brad for his extraordinary efforts to rectify this situation.
  - Pat said he would reach out to the other societies to identify which awards may come with a reciprocal award from MAS, to prevent future occurrences of this issue.
- Josh asked how MAS was able to issue an award despite not having a presence at the meeting at which the award was made.
  - Brad responded that this was an EMAS award, not an MAS award, but there is a reciprocal agreement with EMAS that MAS provides the awardee a platform talk.
- Pat asked whether there was a limit on the number of student and technologist awards.
  - Brad said that there is no formal limitation beyond available funding.
  - Pat noted that MAS currently has significant funds which could be used to increase the amounts of each award.
    - The sizes of the award payments have not increased in some time, while meeting costs have increased substantially.
    - Pat will make a formal proposal regarding increasing award payments later in the year.
    - Brad added that increasing the award payments for the paper awards would help defray rising publication costs.

- Computer Activities (Josh Taillon)
o Josh has taken over management of MAS computer accounts from Anette.
o Josh reported that he is working on updates to the website, as well as fixing broken links and images.
  ▪ An interactive ARReS map has been added to the website, allowing users to click on their location and find their regional society.
  ▪ Josh has updated the Council information pages and the list of Meeting minutes.
  ▪ MAS logos have been made available for download from the website.
  ▪ Josh asked council members to report issues with the website to him.
o Josh reminded Council members to be aware of phishing attempts, which will appear with various levels of sophistication.

- Social Media (Pat Camus for Joe Boro)
o No report.

- Education Committee (Mary Scott)
o Mary reported that she is working to set up the Meal with a Mentor program for M&M.
  ▪ Mary will be contacting previous mentors and looking for new mentors in the next few weeks.

- Finance Committee (Pat Camus for Peter McSwiggen)
o The value of MAS' portfolio continues to increase, although the performance of the bond market has slowed down.
o As of 6 May, 2024 the value of MAS' investments is $785,705.
o Pat noted that the strength of MAS' portfolio gives the society options to do more for its membership, such as sponsoring Topical Conferences, increasing award amounts, etc.

- International Liaison (Pat Camus for Heather Lowers)
o Pat reported that he will be presenting a poster at the EMAS2024 meeting in Brno, Czechia next week.
o The EMAS 2025 meeting, entitled “18th European Workshop on Modern Developments and Applications in Microbeam Analysis” will take place in Mataro Spain in May, 2025.
  ▪ The EMAS2025 meeting will be significantly larger than the EMAS2024 regional meeting.
o Pat passed on Heather’s message that MAS did not have a student representative at the AMAS2024 meeting, and may not have one for the
EMAS2024 meeting.
   - Pat suggested that finding an MAS student representative be codified into work of the Awards and Education Committees.
   - These committees would remind students they can go to these meetings and be reimbursed by MAS.

- Microscopy and Microanalysis Journal (Pat Camus for John Mansfield)
  - No report.

- Student Council (Pat Camus)
  - No report.

- Sustaining Members (Steve Seddio)
  - Steve reported that twenty Sustaining Members have paid in full for 2024.
    - Of the 20 Sustaining Members, two are MAS-only while the others are combined with MSA.
    - Steve is working with Zeiss to resolve an issue with their renewal.
  - Two Sustaining Memberships were lost due to the mergers of Gatan and EDAX, and of Bruker and Nion.
  - Steve discussed attempts to recruit new Sustaining Members from companies that do not exhibit at M&M but are used heavily by MAS members.
    - Sample preparation companies like Struers and Buehler are potential targets.
    - So far it has been difficult to contact representatives from these companies to discuss this.
    - Emma offered to look through the MAS member list to help find contacts for these companies.
  - Steve said that he will be contacting 4-5 companies that are MSA Sustaining Members about possible joint membership.
  - Steve will be ordering plaques for the Sustaining Members in the next few days.
  - Josh asked whether it would be possible to create tiers for Sustaining Membership that would relate the cost of membership to the size of the organizations.
    - Larger companies would pay more for Sustaining Membership, which would offset the loss of Sustaining Members due to company mergers.
    - Steve noted that EMAS uses such a tiered system, although MSA does not.
    - Pat offered to check with Hans Dijkstra from EMAS about this.
  - Steve will also encourage Sustaining Members to come to the MAS Business
Meeting at M&M.

- **Topical Conferences Committee (Anette von der Handt)**
  - Anette reported on several ideas for topical conferences that have been floated by membership.
    - Heather Lowers has reached out to her about possibly putting on another EPMA/QMA Topical Conference in Colorado.
    - FIGMAS leadership has discussed running the standards-focused meeting (described above by Emma) as a Topical Conference.
    - Anette also reported that she and Josh had discussed a possible Hyperspy/modeling focused Topical Conference.
  - Anette will reach out to potential conveners to try and establish firmer time frames for these events.
  - Pat asked members to send ideas for Topical Conferences to Anette.

- **Nominations Committee (Pat Camus for Andy Herzing)**
  - Pat reported that the Nominations Committee is looking for candidates to run for President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and two Director positions.
    - Two candidates for President-Elect and several candidates for Director have been identified.
    - The Committee is still looking for candidates to run for Treasurer and Secretary.
      - Owen noted that Secretary is not on the ballot this year, so filling that candidacy can be moved to a lower priority.
  - Pat asked that Council members please suggest possible candidates to Andy.

- **Other Business (Pat Camus)**
  - No update from Nestor Zaluzec on the ISO status.

- Adjourn 14:45.