

A Microscopy Conference for Microscopists

This issue of *The Microscope*, like many third-quarter issues preceding it, is largely dedicated to the Inter/Micro conference that will mark its 65th anniversary next year. Beginning on the next page, you will find a recap of Inter/Micro 2012 highlights followed by the conference program and all the abstracts and selected images from speaker presentations.

If you have never attended Inter/Micro, I encourage you to read on and plan ahead for a trip to next year's meeting in Chicago, July 15–19, 2013.

So what is so special about Inter/Micro? Besides the fact that it is the first meeting of its kind and, since 1948, the longest continuously running conference for microscopists from all areas of light and electron microscopy, it is truly a unique and rewarding experience. The uniqueness stems from the abundance of talks centered on one instrument alone — the microscope — together with presentations on microanalytical techniques and complementary instrumentation (e.g. microspectroscopy).

The reward is the wide range of knowledge brought together for one week each year from a variety of individuals from industry, government and academia. But, most of all, it is the contact shared with microscopists of every kind — professionals and amateurs, world-renowned scientists and students — that make the event enjoyable and memorable. Simply put, no other meeting features the microscope and the *microscopist* like Inter/Micro.

Especially popular in the last decade, but nothing

particularly new to Inter/Micro, are the forensic science talks that involve microscopic trace evidence. This year alone we learned from nationally and internationally recognized scientists about new tests for synthetic drugs, paint, fibers and blood. And in the two-day workshop, we studied mineral structures and compositions.

If you can't attend or have missed any of these meetings in the past, I encourage you to visit the McCrone Research Institute website at www.mcri.org and click on the Past Inter/Micro Conferences and Inter/Micro — The First 60 Years links under the Inter/Micro tab. On these pages you will find the history of Inter/Micro, including abstracts for all the lectures, papers and workshops from past meetings. In some instances, the entire program booklet is available. You may also register for Inter/Micro 2013 by downloading the registration form located on the main Inter/Micro page.

If you don't find what you are looking for online, please contact us at themicroscope@mcri.org. As always, we appreciate your continued interest and support.



Gary J. Laughlin, Editor