

For Immediate Release

## **Microscopy Society of America Student Council Elects New Officers at M&M 2017**

Student leadership elects new officers, holds successful inaugural event.

RESTON, Virginia – Aug. 31, 2017 – The Microscopy Society of America (MSA) Student Council held its first formal officer elections and successfully launched the Pre-Meeting Congress for Students, Postdocs, and Early Career Professionals at Microscopy & Microanalysis 2017, the Society's annual meeting, in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Student Council features offices that parallel those of the MSA Executive Committee and the major standing committees of the Society. The officers were elected on August 8 by the students in attendance. All Student Council officers must be students at the time of their election, but serve their terms to completion even if graduating in the interim.

The new members of the Student Council are: Janet Gbur, Case Western Reserve University (President); Cameron Varano, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (President-Elect); Joshua Silverstein, Miami University of Ohio (Past-President); Jie Yang, Boston University (Secretary); and Ethan Lawrence, Arizona State University (Treasurer). In addition, William Bowman of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was appointed Chair of the Student Council Program Committee, and is principal organizer of the second Pre-Meeting Congress (PMC) for Student, Postdocs, and Early Career Professionals, designated PMCx60, which is organized by student leaders.

“The first annual election of Student Council officers represents an important milestone in the history of the Microscopy Society of America, and it is fitting that this historic event took place at the 75th anniversary of the Society,” said MSA President Ian M. Anderson. “These events were driven by the student leaders themselves, and ushers in a new era of the Society where professionals in our community can assume significant leadership roles at every stage of their career.”

The Inaugural PMCx60 featured a dynamic program with plenary lectures by 2017 winners of MSA's major early career awards - the Burton Medal, Albert Crewe Award and George Palade Award - and invited lectures by 13 M&M Student and Postdoctoral Scholar Award winners representing the continental U.S., United Kingdom, and Australia, and contributed posters representing U.S. universities and national laboratories in addition to

outstanding research from South Africa, Australia, Germany and The Netherlands. The event included a career networking luncheon and welcome social and closing reception for the 55 attendees. "I was excited for the opportunity to propose and realize this event, and the success of the inaugural PMC is a direct consequence of the outstanding student leaders in the society, the generosity of the community's sponsor network, and the constant support from MSA leadership." said William Bowman, PMCx60 Chair, "It has been a pleasure working with them on this event, and we look forward to building this into the premier event for students, postdocs, and early-career professionals in microscopy and microanalysis."

The Microscopy Society of America was founded as the Electron Microscope Society of America in 1942, a time of rapid development for an instrument that promised, for the first time, much better resolving power than that of a traditional light microscope. The Society adopted its current name on the occasion of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, to reflect the diversity of microscopy techniques represented by its membership, and the development of new technologies. Today, a variety of microscopes are capable of imaging individual atoms and providing chemical information to identify what kind of atom is being imaged, while a variety of microscopes of lower resolving power continue to play an enabling role in understanding the world around us at a microscopic scale.

Microscopy & Microanalysis (M&M) is the annual meeting of the Microscopy Society of America and the Microanalysis Society (MAS). M&M 2018 will be co-sponsored by the Microscopical Society of Canada / Société de Microscopie du Canada (MSC/SMC) and held August 5-9 in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Microscopy Society of America is an affiliate society of the American Institute of Physics (AIP) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

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