

Acknowledgements

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Meeting report: Visualising cytoskeletal architecture and dynamics by light and electron microscopy

The meeting "Visualising cytoskeletal architecture and dynamics by light and electron microscopy" took place at the Max Planck -Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics in Dresden on October 25-26, 2004. It was organized under the auspices of The German Society for Electron Microscopy (DGE), namely the working group PANOS (Präparation und Abbildung Nativer Organischer Systeme), and The German Society for Cell Biology (DGZ). With additional financial support of FEI Company, Leica Microsystems and DIATOM AG, the organisers (Thomas Müller-Reichert and Stefan Biel) were able to present an interesting program, covering a broad range from video microscopy to electron tomography with speakers from Europe as well as from the US. In addition, a total number of 30 posters was presented in a poster session.

The concept of this meeting was to present and discuss methodological aspects of microscopy within a defined cell biological context. It was addressed to both, microscopists working on cell biological projects as well as cell biologists using microscopic techniques for

their particular questions. By this approach it was possible to offer a program ranging from state-of-the-art microscopic techniques, e.g. for artefact-free sample preparation (high-pressure freezing) or high-resolution imaging (cryo electron tomography) to the presentation of recent advances in understanding the cytoskeleton, e.g. the dynamics of the cortical actin network.

Such meetings may help to bridge the information gap between specialized microscopists working on improved preparation and imaging techniques for life-like, high-resolution demonstration of biological systems on the one hand and cell biologists aiming at understanding intra-cellular or inter-cellular processes at the molecular level on the other hand. Supported by the respective societies for electron microscopy (DGE) as well as for cell biology (DGZ), this approach may offer an information forum especially for biological microscopists, who at the respective annual meeting are normally missing either specialised cell biology sessions or sessions dealing with best practice for light and electron

microscopy.

The 50 participants highly appreciated this meeting concept with intense discussions on all technical and biological aspects, during the lectures and the poster session as well as during the evening meeting dinner. They agreed on the necessity to regularly meet in this mixed composition in order to promote an intense exchange of information between technically and biologically oriented groups, and the speakers of the DGE working group PANOS are planning to organise the next meeting in 2006.

The programme of this meeting can be seen at <http://www.mpi-cbg.de/emsymposium-2004/programme.html>, and the abstracts of all presentations can be obtained from the PANOS speakers, Stefan Biel (Stefan.biel@beiersdorf.com) and Thomas Müller-Reichert (mueller-reichert@mpi-cbg.de). The next official meeting of the DGE working group PANOS will take place on August 29, 2005 as part of the Dreiländertagung in Davos/ Switzerland.