

Electron Microscopy Characterisation of Organic–Inorganic Interfaces Meeting

People's Palace, Queen Mary University of London
22 February 2016

On the 22nd of February 2016, the People's Palace at Queen Mary University of London played host to the first meeting dedicated to electron microscopy of materials comprised of both organic and inorganic constituents in close proximity. This new venture was intended to bring together experts from both the life science and materials science communities to address this challenging and increasingly important topic. The London venue made the workshop easily accessible for participations from both the UK and mainland Europe — some even flew over for the day — making the meeting truly international: there were more than 80 attendees representing 10 countries and a large contingent of research students.

Jointly organised by Queen Mary University of London, King's College London and the Royal Microscopical Society, the meeting's scientific programme consisted of invited talks from eminent European experts, 'Techno Bites' from leading manufacturers and a lively poster session. Many different aspects of the application of electron microscopy for the characterisation of complex hybrid organic–inorganic interfaces were addressed. Technical presentations focused on advanced

techniques, such as Aberration-Corrected TEM, Cryo-EM, FIB-SEM and TEM Tomography, and Electron Holography. Case studies of fascinating hybrid materials were presented — which often require correlative microscopy approaches — such as hybrid solar cells, bio-inspired composites, mineralised tissues, biogenic nanocrystals and flocculated aqueous sediments, to name but a few. The hope was that this interesting mix of subjects held something for everyone, and that it would



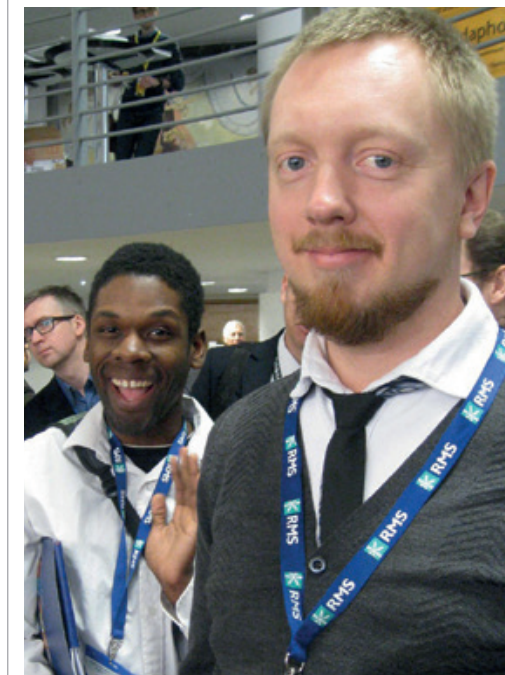
stimulate further interdisciplinary approaches to solve the challenges associated with investigating hybrid materials. From the feedback of the participants, the relatively broad scope of the meeting was rated very positively.

Between the scientific talks, representatives of leading Electron Microscopy companies gave short presentations (Techno Bites) showcasing their latest research and development. They were also available for informal discussions in the exhibition which was set up in the foyer (and the adjoining balcony) for the whole day. This was the main hub of the meeting as it was also where the coffee breaks, lunch, a wine reception and poster viewings took place. The latter saw a variety of Electron Microscopy research projects compete for a poster prize sponsored by the Royal Microscopical Society.

At the end of this insightful programme, dinner was waiting in the Queens' Building, a fitting end to the high-quality research served during the day.

The workshop was organised in response to the need for a dedicated meeting on the topic of electron microscopy of systems featuring organic–inorganic interfaces, and to bring together scientists and from materials science and the life sciences. The organisers are very grateful to the participants and the industrial partners for their interest in the meeting and to the Royal Microscopical Society

for their expert organisational assistance. Given the large number of participants and the highly enjoyable format, we believe this meeting could very well become an annual event, and we would be very happy to welcome you at Queen Mary next year!



**Dr Nadezda V. Tarakina
& Dr Andy Bushby**
Queen Mary University of
London