



MSSA2015 29 NOV – 4 DEC

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On behalf of the Microscopy Society of Southern Africa and the Conference organizers, we take pleasure in inviting you to attend the
53rd Annual Conference of MSSA
hosted by the University of Pretoria

IMPORTANT DATES

MSSA PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS	28-29 NOVEMBER
MSSA TECHNICAL FORUM	30 NOVEMBER
MSSA2015 CONFERENCE (Scientific)	1-3 DECEMBER
MSSA POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS	4 DECEMBER

CONFERENCE VENUE



Welcome to The Saint George Hotel, your gateway to rest and relaxation in true Mediterranean style. Situated 20min from O.R.Tambo International Airport, the hotel is secluded with its lush green gardens and classical Greek influenced buildings. The St George Hotel has 270 rooms, air-conditioned with full amenities accommodating either single or sharing rooms (up to 520 delegates). The splendor of the hotel gardens is peaceful and is your home away from home. The St George Hotel has 30 multi-functional conference venues that seat 1500 delegates. All venues are equipped with Wi-Fi. The conference packages include three tea and coffee breaks and buffet lunches.

WEBSITE LINKS

ON LINE REGISTRATION: [opening soon](#)
SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACT SUBMISSION:
<http://www.microscopy.co.za/scientific-abstract-submission>
TECHNICAL FORUM ABSTRACT SUBMISSION:
<http://www.microscopy.co.za/technical-forum-abstract-submission>
STUDENT GRANT APPLICATION:
<http://www.microscopy.co.za/student-grants>
FEI PRIZE SUBMISSION:
<http://www.microscopy.co.za/submission-for-fei-prize>
COVER MICROGRAPH COMPETITION:
<http://www.microscopy.co.za/cover-micrograph-competition>
ACCOMODATION: www.stgeorgehotel.co.za



We make it visible.



ACCOMMODATION

St George Hotel: Booking will open shortly - please quote "MSSA2015" to qualify for our negotiated rates. Rates include a full English breakfast.

Room Type	Single	Per Person sharing
Standard	R 810	R 545

REGISTRATION

All delegates are required to register online at www.mssa2015.co.za before **15 October 2015** to qualify for the "early bird registration" fee. Registrations received after this date will be subject to paying the late registration fee. Visit the society website if you would like to become a member of MSSA

Category Registration	Early Bird Registration	Late Registration
MSSA Technical Forum*	R 850	R 950
MSSA Conference Members (Inc Tech Forum)	R 2600	R 2900
MSSA Conference Non-members (Inc Tech Forum)	R 2900	R 3250
Students*	R 1750	R 1950
Trade Delegates*	R 1750	R 1950
Daily Rate**	R 950	R 1100

*Does not include hard copy of Conference Proceedings

**Does not include hard copy of Conference Proceedings and evening events.

**Include Tea & Coffee breaks and daily lunches

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Second Circular	31 June
Submission of abstracts for Proceedings	31 July
FEI prize reprint submission	31 July
Application for student grants	30 August
Cover Micrograph for Proceeding closes	30 August
Submission of abstracts for Technical Forum	27 September
Micrograph competition closes	30 September
Outcome of Abstract Submission	30 September
Early bird deadline	15 October
Final Circular	1 November
Online registration closes	14 November
Technical Forum	30 November
Scientific Conference	1-3 December
Conference Workshops	4 December

SPONSOR EVENING EVENTS

Monday 30th November



We make it visible.

Ice Breaker and Cocktail
The German way

Tuesday 1st December



Student Evening
*Socializing, food and alcohol beverages..
The party way as part of the culture of
MSSA.*

Wednesday 2nd December



Traditional Braai
*Braai, music, mampoer
and much more
The South African way*

Thursday 3rd December



Formal Greek Gala Dinner
*Ancient practice of ritually "killing" plates
The Greek way*



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF LIGHT



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOIL

INTERNATIONAL INVITED SPEAKERS

30th BORIS BALINSKY lecture

The 30th Boris Balinsky Lecture will be delivered by Dr Brian Metscher from the Department of Theoretical Biology, University of Vienna, Austria. <http://theoretical.univie.ac.at/people/metscher/>

His main research interests are in using morphological and process-based approaches to address problems in evolution and development. In his research, Dr Metscher and his colleagues are applying x-ray micro tomographic imaging (micro CT) to a variety of research problems in development and evolution, including comparative embryology, functional morphology, and morphometric studies.

37th JOHN MATTHEWS Memorial Lecture

To be announced

MSSA2015 Pre- & Post-conference Workshops

To be announced

MSSA2015 TECHNICAL FORUM

The Technical Forum has been allocated a full day stand alone session which will take place on Monday 30 November. This will allow interested delegates to fully participate (without clashes) in the scientific sessions.

Themed sessions will include commercial / trade applications, and delegates are invited to present a 20 min talk on commercial sales promotions (new equipment) or technical presentations. The application and keynote speakers theme sessions will be announced later.

Delegates interested in presenting talks are requested to submit abstracts by 31 July 2015 via the website.

Instructions to authors for abstracts can be found on the website.

Instructions to authors for posters can be found on the website.

MSSA2015 PROCEEDINGS

The MSSA2015 Proceeding Editors are: (for information purposes only – (not for submitting abstracts)

Editor-in-chief:

Prof Japie Engelbrecht, Department of Physics, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

Editor-Physical Sciences/Materials:

Dr Johan Westraad, Department of Physics, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

Editor-Life Sciences:

Dr Ben Loos, Department of Physiological Sciences, University of Stellenbosch

MSSA2015 SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

The scientific programme will take place from 1-3 December 2015.

There will be separate parallel oral sessions for Materials Sciences and Life Sciences. Oral presentations will be 15 minutes plus 5 minutes for discussion. Poster sessions form an integral part of the conference. Presenters are requested to be at their posters during the formal sessions for a 5 min presentation (3 min plus 2 min discussion). Poster size should be 1,2m high by 1m wide (smaller than A0 size) Posters will be displayed prominently for the duration of the meeting.

Delegates interested in presenting posters are requested to submit abstracts by 31 July 2015 via the website.

TRADE SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITIONS

Interested companies and /or parties should contact the Conference Secretariat for information on sponsorship opportunities and exhibition space.

Thank you for all the sponsors who are already onboard.

MSSA PRIZES

To be announced

MICROGRAPH COMPETITION

Select your best digital micrographs and enter this great competition before **31 September**. Super prizes such as **Digital cameras** and **Kindles** are up for grabs in six categories. A nice **dinner for two** in our fun category.

CATEGORIES:

- (1) SEM-material science
- (2) SEM-biological science
- (3) TEM-material science
- (4) TEM-biological science
- (5) Optical/Confocal/AFM-material science
- (6) Optical/Confocal/AFM-biological science
- (7) Fun Category: Selfie ---- Me and my microscope

See our website for more information and rules
Submission for micrograph competition:
ajbotha@scientia.up.ac.za

COVER MICROGRAPH

You are invited to submit original aesthetically pleasing micrographs for the cover of the conference Proceedings by **30 August**.

For more information and closing date, see our website

STUDENT GRANTS

A limited number of student grants are available for students to attend the conference. These grants will be allocated to eligible students on a first-come-first-served base. The final award will however depend on the acceptance of a submitted abstract.

For more information and closing date, see our website

GAUTENG TOURISM

THE CRADLE OF HUMANKIND.....54km

An unforgettable journey of exploration of the origin of humankind. The cradle of Humankind achieved World Heritage status in 1999. The Taung and Makapan valley were added in 2005. It is the worlds richest source of fossil evidence of the origin and development of early humans.

STERKFRONTEIN CAVES.....50km

Home of the well-preserved fossil skull, "Mrs Ples" aged at 2,3 million years, extracted in 1947 by Dr Robert Broom. In 1997 Dr Ron Clarke discovered "Little Foot", an almost complete skeleton aged at 4,1 million years.

RHINO AND LION NATURE RESERVE...60km

The Rhino & Lion Game Reserve offers a wealth of wildlife to visitors, showing off wild and beautiful animal species. The home of the white lion and is one of only about 40 white lions known to exist. The nearby Wonder Caves are also worth a visit.

TSWAING METEORITE CRATER.....75km

220 000 year old meteorite impact crater (1,4km in diameter and 200m deep).

SAMMY MARKS MUSEUM.....30km

The Sammy Marks Museum is a Victorian mansion called Zwartkoppies Hall, situated about 23 km outside Pretoria. The father of the industrial revolution in South Africa.

CULLINAN MINE.....50km

The Cullinan Diamond, the largest diamond ever found, a staggering 3,106.75 carat. It is also the richest source of rare blue diamonds in the world. Surface, village and underground tours of the Cullinan Diamond Mine are offered.

PRETORIA NATIONAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

A diverse range of plants, animals, 200 bird species and more than 50% of South Africa's tree species are to be found here.

VOORTREKKER MONUMENT.....20km

The majestic Voortrekker monument which commemorates the Pioneer history of Southern Africa and the history of the Afrikaner and in a beautiful setting. It is one of the top ten cultural historical visitor attractions in the country.

General J. C. Smuts Museum.....4km

The Smuts House Museum represents faithfully the life-style and multifaceted career of one of South Africa's greatest sons, General J. C. Smuts, and promotes the holistic vision, which he expounded in his life and writings.

GROENKLOOF Nature Reserve.....20km

The first proclaimed game sanctuary on the African continent.

