

ES GILT DAS GESPROCHENE WORT

29.08.2011

Grußwort von Tagungspräsident Professor Wolfgang Jäger

zur Microscopy Conference MC 2011 an der Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

Distinguished guests,
dear colleagues and friends,
ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you today to this international congress (LOC). We feel honoured and proud that we could attract you from all over Europe and abroad to join us for the MC2011 in Kiel. I am sure that you will get to know Kiel as a vibrant city at the Baltic Sea in the following six days. Your presence and participation at this congress is very special to us. It surely will contribute to the international visibility of Kiel as a city with a top level university and powerful research institutions. Besides Kiel enjoys an outstanding reputation as the world-wide largest sailing city due to its (Kiel week) Kieler Woche, taking place every summer in June.

This Congress, dear guests, is organized by the DGE and, for the first time, in collaboration with the Nordic Microscopy Society SCANDEM and the Polish Microscopy Society. It is my pleasure to welcome and to thank all the colleagues and friends from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Poland, the Baltic States, and St Petersburg (Russia) and from all over Europe and abroad who participate as members of the scientific committees and actively contribute to the scientific program of the various sessions.

More than 500 experts from Materials Science and Life Science meet this week in Kiel, ladies and gentlemen. We will see latest developments and research topics in electron microscopy and related techniques – 50 companies participate in the industry exhibition – more than 25 symposia and workshops – numerous plenary talks on latest current developments – more than 800 registered participants – Overall: Kiel is a Hub of Microscopy in these days!

We are happy that we are able to welcome also the colleagues from the DFG and VolkswagenStiftung. They will inform us in a special session about Funding Strategies in Germany, a topic of highest current interest for all of us, I suppose. This session will take place on Thursday – there are no parallel sessions scheduled so that everyone interested is able to participate.

The Scientific Program comprises a broad range of current topics as you can see from the program. I would like to thank the committee members and session chairs and workshop for their design of the scientific programs – acknowledge our partners at HZG and ISiT who actively contributed to the design of the program. It is a particular a pleasure to welcome the laureates of the Ernst Ruska prize, Dr. Johan Verbeeck (Physicist from Antwerp) and Professor David Mastrorade (Cell Biologist from Boulder, Colorado USA).

This prestigious prize, named after the Nobel Prize Laureate Ernst Ruska, is awarded by the DGE German Society for Electron Microscopy for outstanding contributions in electron microscopy of materials science and life science. Electron microscopy is one of the most important key techniques for the deeper understanding of materials and life. I invite you cordially to their award lectures that are scheduled for Wednesday morning starting at 8:30 in this room.

Last but not least: I am happy that we can also welcome numerous guests of honours. It is now my pleasure to welcome the President of the CAU, Kiel University, Professor Gerhard Fouquet, the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Science, Economic Affairs and Transport (Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein), Dr. Cordelia Andreßen, and the President of the City Council Kiel (as representative of the City of Kiel), Cathy Kietzer. I am pleased to welcome also the President of the DGE, Professor Reinhard Rachel. I am grateful that you are prepared to give an address of welcome to the participants of this congress.

A special welcome finally goes to our colleague and friend Professor Maximilian Haider from Heidelberg who agreed to give the Opening Lecture on a scientific subject of highest topical interest. Max Haider studied physics in Kiel and Darmstadt. Later he developed physical instrumentation as group leader at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg, and he is now entrepreneur and Managing Director of CEOS, a company that meanwhile has become the world's leading manufacturer of correctors for electron microscopes. He received numerous awards for his developments that enabled to take the resolution in Electron Microscopy (by aberration-corrected electron optics) to its theoretical limits.

Due to these developments we can apply now instruments in the research in materials science and life sciences that allow to image and investigate the nanoworld around us on scales that are not met by any other method. The present world record of image resolution in EM is 50 Picometer, a distance between 2 objects which is inconceivably small but a handy length scale to describe the fascinating nanoworld of materials and life. Most recently he received the renowned Wolf Research Prize in Physics in the Knesset, together with Harald Rose, Professor at the Technical University Darmstadt, and Knut Urban, Professor at the Research Center Jülich, who agreed to organise symposia at this conference and who are also with us in this auditorium.

I am very happy to say that our colleague Hannes Lichte, Professor at the TU Dresden, received in 2011 the highest award of the MSA, the Distinguished Scientist Award for Physical Sciences, in recognition of his "outstanding research contributions to the areas of microscopy and microanalysis". Hannes Lichte is also with us at this conference and has agreed to organise a symposium at this conference. Our congratulations to all of you again!

Ladies and gentlemen, I am looking very much forward to meeting you and discussing with you during this conference week – this is your conference – I am happy to be part of it!