

Participants

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Alexia Ferrand (Biocenter Basel)	Katrina Wesenraft (University of Strathclyde)
Ann Wheeler (IGMM Edinburgh)	Kimmo Tanhuanpää (University of Helsinki)
Arnaud Royon (Argolight)	Kurt Anderson (The Francis Crick Institute)
Britta Schroth-Diez (MPI-CBG Dresden)	Laure Plantard (FMI Basel)
Buelent Peker (Evident)	Liam Rooney (University of Strathclyde)
Christoph Bauer (University of Geneva)	Marco Marcello (University of Liverpool)
Clara Prats (University of Copenhagen)	Mariska Timmers (Medical University of Amsterdam)
Dan Metcalf (Nikon)	Martin Tewinkel (Evident)
Daniel Ciepielewski (Nikon)	Michael Sommerauer (AHF)
Eric Reits (Medical University of Amsterdam)	Pablo Hernandez-Varas (University of Copenhagen)
Florian Eich (Leica Microsystems)	Pasi Kankaanpää (University of Turku)
Frode Skjeldal (University of Oslo)	Peter Drent (ONI)
Gabor Csucs (ETH Zurich)	Peter o'Toole (University of York)
Gail McConnell (University of Strathclyde)	Pim Vos (confocal.nl)
Graeme Park (University of York)	Roland Nitschke (University of Freiburg)
Hella Hartmann (Technical University of Dresden)	Ruth Hans (Technical University of Dresden)
Herbert Schaden (Carl Zeiss)	Sandra Ritz (IMB Mainz)
Jason Swedlow (University of Dundee)	Shannan Foylan (University of Strathclyde)
Joanne Marrison (University of York)	Simona Stelea (Rapp Optoelectronic)
Johanna Bischof (Euro-BioImaging)	Stefan Terjung (EMBL Heidelberg)
Julia Fernandez-Rodriguez (University of Gothenburg)	Sven Warnck (Rapp Optoelectronic)
Jutta Bulkescher (University of Copenhagen)	Timo Zimmermann (EMBL Heidelberg)

Agenda

- 1) **Short financial report on the 2021 meeting**
Peter o'Toole
- 2) **Short review of the current meeting**
Pasi Kankaanpää
- 3) **Upcoming meeting in 2023**
Eric Reits
- 4) **Presentation of potential candidates for upcoming ELMI meetings**
 - 2024: England, Liverpool
 - 2025 - 25th anniversary: Germany, EMBL Heidelberg
 - 2026: Scotland, Edinburgh
- 5) **Miscellaneous**
- 6) Feedback survey ELMI 2021 meeting
Please consult [survey results](#)

1 - Short financial report on the 2021 meeting

Peter O'Toole presented the results from the virtual ELMI 2021 meeting ([slides](#)). This meeting made a profit of £15,000, which remains with the RMS as the meeting sponsor.

2 - Short review of the current meeting

Paasi Kankaanpää reported on ELMI 2022 ([slides](#)). The meeting was well attended despite uncertainties around Covid and the war in Ukraine, which may have contributed to the many late registrations. The hybrid event was well subscribed (3x over expectation) and on Tuesday there were 90 - 100 people online. 3 Companies were involved, with lots of staff and coordination.

3 - Upcoming meeting in 2023

Eric Reits presented plans for ELMI 2023 ([slides](#)). Organisation of the meeting will be driven by the Dutch Microscopy Society. The same committee had previously proposed to organise ELMI2020, which had to be postponed due to Covid. The meeting will be held in an old monastery, which is close to Schipol airport. There is nowhere else for people to go locally, so participants would be 'trapped' together on site. There are 20 ground floor rooms for workshops, in which 'everything fits'. The conference dinner could be a BBQ on the beach. There is a place to play football. Overall the details were convincing and the committee was satisfied with the proposal

4 - Presentation of potential candidates for upcoming ELMI meetings

Proposal for ELMI 2024 in Liverpool

Gail McConnell and Liam Rooney presented plans for ELMI 2024 in the UK ([slides](#)). There were no competing proposals. Stefan Terjung later explained that EMBL was not an option for 2024, but had been reserved for the 25th Anniversary of ELMI in 2025. Gail emphasised that the meeting would incorporate mentoring opportunities for Early Career Researchers to ensure sustainability of the meeting. Aintree Racecourse in Liverpool was proposed as a possible site. Liverpool is well connected to the rest of Europe through two airports. Aintree comprises multiple buildings, with a 4 minute walk across the site. There are 20 conference rooms for workshops, and a larger poster area that will accommodate 100 posters and a bar. Dinner and reception would be held on site. There is good accessibility. Shuttle buses would be organised to local hotels. The social event would be held at an old Rum Warehouse on the dockside, with DJ and dancing. RMS would serve as the professional conference organiser.

Following the proposal there was an extended discussion of the location, which can be read in further detail in the notes. Some relevant points from the general discussion about ELMI 2026 have been pulled forward to this section. The gist of it was that various members of the committee raised concerns over the spread out nature of the venue, which could lead to a loss of group coherence, and its separation from the accommodation. Some members emphasised that it was better to have people all in the same building, lest some locations become neglected. A concern was that people get lost, and the companies suffer, if the lectures and exhibition are in different buildings. The committee also emphasised that ELMI should remain a hybrid event, although this could possibly be done more low-budget than in Turku. Jessica Valli, one of the Liverpool committee, has experience organising hybrid meetings through ESRIC. It was agreed that the pandemic had thrown a wrench in the normal course of events (especially discussion and jockeying of future proposals), and it was appreciated that the committee had at least one proposal to consider. The UK committee accepted that serious points had been raised by the committee, which they would endeavour to address. The committee requested more details on the budget, in line with the 'ELMI Checklist' used for previous proposals.

Action points from the very end of the discussion were:

1. UK organisers to provide Stefan Terjung with
 - a. budget information
 - b. how shuttle busses would work
 - c. Details of the workshop rooms, including door sizes and access routes
 - d. Distances among venue features (presumably in walking times and route simplicity)
 - e. 'ELMI Checklist'.
2. Stefan Terjung to email Steering Committee with requested information and set up poll
3. Steering Committee to review proposal details and vote 'Yes', 'No' or 'Yes with reservations' and outline the reservations.
4. UK committee to adjust their proposal according to the feedback.

Proposal for 25th Anniversary of ELMI at EMBL Heidelberg in 2025

A proposal to host ELMI in 2025 for the 25th anniversary at EMBL Heidelberg, where it started, will be presented at the Steering Committee meeting during ELMI 2023. The venue is reserved for 6-9 May 2025.

Preliminary proposal for ELMI 2026 in Edinburgh

Ann Wheeler presented a preliminary proposal for ELMI 2026 ([slides](#)), which has been under development since before the pandemic (as such, many costs were locked in at 2019 prices). There was an even more animated and extended discussion of this proposal (see notes). The gist of it was that the committee felt it was too soon to consider a proposal for 2026, especially as potential competing organisers were not aware that 2026 venues would be discussed at ELMI 2022.

5 - Miscellaneous

It was suggested to reflect on the nature of the core facility day, which has become an important feature of the meeting. It was pointed out that panel discussions led to less audience interaction, and suggested introducing break-out sessions to encourage practical discussion and exchange of experience in the spirit of early ELMI meetings.