

EDITORIAL

CERCLE FRANÇAIS DES MICROSCOPIES A CHAMP PROCHE

The next issues of MMM are devoted to the proceedings of a 2-day symposium on Near field Microscopies which took place in Lyon on June 30 and July 1 during the annual meeting of the SFME. An important poster session and around 20 oral contributions were given by research workers from 30 laboratories. The first invited speaker was Professor Jean Klein from the Physics group of Paris-Jussieu; he presented a complete overview on the information provided by these new microscopies, as well as on the major subjects studied in the French groups. The second invited speaker, Doctor Ottmar Marti, from Bodensee University, who has a long experience in Atomic Force Microscopy, reported on the physical and biological applications in this field. A very interested audience of about hundred people attended this meeting which was very successful. It shows the importance and the dynamics of a multidisciplinary community which brings together physicists, chemists and biologists. This meeting has also seen the creation of a new "circle" in the French electron microscopy society, namely the Cercle Français des Microscopies à Champ Proche (CFMCP).

Most laboratories interested in these new microscopies are looking for high resolution characterization, whatever the application. This often gives rise to an unprecedented vision of surfaces at this scale which can be compared to other high resolution techniques. Many subjects are presently treated in various laboratories. They mainly concern surface physics, soft materials and biology but also surface roughness and instrumentation.

This new group is open to all scientists and should foster contacts, discussions and exchanges. Its action and its influence depend on the collaboration of all the participants. The previous meetings in Oléron and Aspet on near field microscopies which were organized by the CNRS (GDR), as well as the research programs initiated by Ultimatech, are at the origin of the constitution of the CFMCP which will continue the reflexion and the exchanges initiated in these meetings. The next meeting of the CFMCP is planned beginning of July 94 in Aix-en-Provence. For anyone interested contact F. Salvan in Luminy.

MMM publishes in this volume, and in a later volume, the major contributions to this symposium of the CFMCP. The organizers of this first meeting in Lyon and the members of the CFMCP board particularly thank the direction of the SFME and the editorial board of MMM.

J. Beauvillain
CEMES-LOE-CNRS,
(Toulouse)

L. Porte
Ecole Centrale
(Ecully)

F. Salvan
GPEC, Luminy
(Marseille)