Microscopy Society of America Announces 2026 Society Awards Recipients

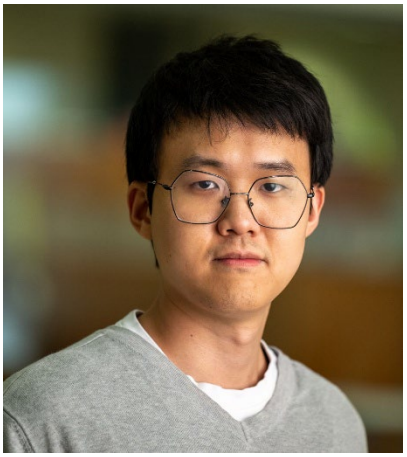
Awardees to be honored at Microscopy & Microanalysis 2026 meeting held August 2-6 in Milwaukee, WI

WAKEFIELD, Massachusetts – March 26, 2026 – The Microscopy Society of America (MSA) announced today its 2026 Society Awards Recipients. Eight individuals will be honored on Monday, August 3, 2026, at the Microscopy & Microanalysis 2026 meeting. The Society Awards honor distinguished scientific contributions to the field of microscopy and microanalysis by technologists and by scientists at various career stages, as well as distinguished service to the Society. One of the awards is the Distinguished Scientist Award, which honors preeminent senior scientists, for a long-standing record of achievement in the field of microscopy and microanalysis. Here are the awards and recipients:

The Albert Crewe Award has been conferred annually since 2012 to a single individual of not more than six years since doctoral graduation who has made distinguished contributions to the field of microscopy and microanalysis in the physical sciences during this period. This year's recipient is **Menglin Zhu, PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.**

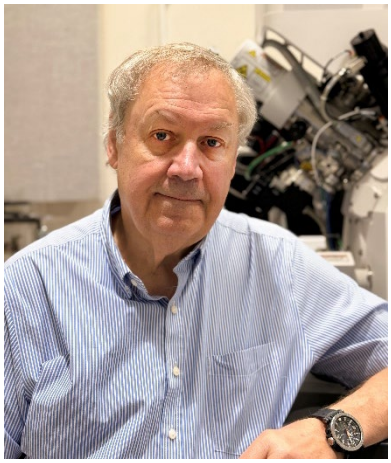
Dr. Zhu is an electron microscopist motivated by atomic-scale secrets. He earned his PhD with Jinwoo Hwang at The Ohio State University and is currently a postdoctoral researcher with James LeBeau at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His research looks beyond the limits of conventional microscopy to better understand the structure of materials and how they respond under different conditions.

The George Palade Award has been conferred annually since 2012 to a single individual of not more than six years since doctoral graduation who has made distinguished contributions to the field of microscopy and microanalysis in the life sciences during this period. This year's recipient is **Bin Li, PhD, University of Oxford.**



Dr. Li is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Oxford, where his research focuses on the application of artificial intelligence for bioimaging, pathology, and precision medicine. He currently works on AI driven computational pathology projects aimed at advancing personalized medicine and predicting drug responses in Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), supported by the NIHR and CRUK. Dr. Li earned his PhD and M.S. in

Biomedical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, specializing in computational microscopy and bio-image analysis, for which he received the 2024 HIMA Best Dissertation Award from the Association for Pathology Informatics.

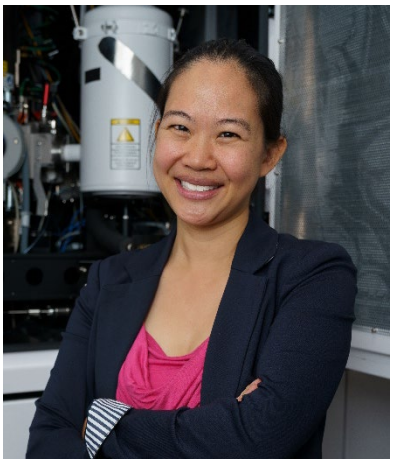


The Chuck Fiori Award for Outstanding Technologist in Physical Sciences annually honors a technologist from the physical sciences who has made significant contributions, such as the development of new techniques that have contributed to the advancement of microscopy and microanalysis. This year's recipient is **John H. Turner, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.**

Turner joined the staff at the National Center for Electron Microscopy in 1984, shortly after graduating from UC Berkeley and shortly after the founding of NCEM. He has positively impacted multiple generations of NCEM staff and users via training in photographic processing, digital image processing, focused ion beam sample preparation and overall management of facilities and maintenance for NCEM.

The Hildegard H. Crowley Award for Outstanding Technologist in the Biological Sciences is awarded annually to honor a technologist from the biological sciences who has made significant contributions, such as the development of new techniques that have contributed to the advancement of microscopy and microanalysis. This year's recipient is **Tracey Stewart, Iowa State University.**

Stewart is a senior microscopy professional and Manager of the Roy J. Carver High Resolution Microscopy Facility at Iowa State University, where she has championed interdisciplinary research and mentored hundreds of scientists for nearly thirty years. A certified Biological Electron Microscopy Technologist, she specializes in designing innovative imaging strategies across life and material sciences. Her career is defined by a commitment to advancing scientific discovery through expert facility management and technical excellence, complemented by her active service on multiple Microscopy Society of America committees.



The Burton Medal, Physical Sciences has been awarded annually since 1975 to individuals under the age of forty who have made distinguished contributions to the field of microscopy and microanalysis. This year's recipient in physical sciences is **Pinshane Huang, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign**.

Huang is a Professor and Racheff Faculty Scholar in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering and the Associate Director of the Materials Research Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has pioneered electron microscopy methods to probe 2D materials and heterostructures, including measuring their defects and strain, atomic rearrangements, moiré structures, and interfacial properties. Recent accomplishments include developing electron ptychography methods to image thermal vibrations atom-by-atom and enabling sub-angstrom resolution in electron microscopes without an aberration-corrector

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The Morton D. Maser Distinguished Service Award is awarded annually to honor an MSA member who has provided significant volunteer service to the Society over a sustained period. This year's recipient is **Jay Potts, PhD, University of South Carolina**.

Dr. Potts is currently a Professor of Cell Biology and Anatomy at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. He has served as a session organizer, a program chair, a biological director and recently served as President of MSA. Dr. Potts is presently the Editor-in-Chief of *Microcopy Today*.

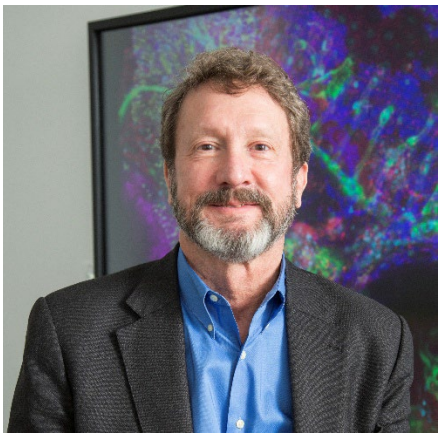
The **Distinguished Scientist Award** (DSA) has been conferred annually since 1975 to two individuals – one in biological sciences and one in physical sciences – to recognize a long-standing record of achievement in the field of microscopy and microanalysis.

This year's **DSA recipient in the physical sciences** is **Frances Ross, PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology**.

Dr. Ross is the TDK Professor at the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, MA, USA. She received her B.A. in Physics and Ph.D. in Materials Science from Cambridge University, UK, and along the way became an enthusiast of electron

microscopy. She extended her interests to include *in situ* microscopy during her postdoc at A.T.&T. Bell Laboratories, then as a Staff Scientist at the National Center for Electron Microscopy, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and finally as a Research Staff Member at the IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, before joining MIT. Her research is based around the development and application of *in situ* electron microscopy techniques to help understand crystal growth, epitaxy, self-assembly and electrochemical and other liquid phase processes

This year's **DSA recipient in biological sciences** is **Scott Fraser, PhD, Chan-Zuckerberg Imaging Institute.**



Dr. Fraser applies the tools of chemistry, engineering, and physics to fields ranging from developmental biology to medicine. His personal research centers on imaging and molecular analyses of intact biological systems, with an emphasis on early development, organogenesis, and medical diagnostics. His innovations that have spawned several start-ups and have been integrated into instruments and FDA approved diagnostics. After building interdisciplinary centers at UCIrvine, Caltech & USC, he is now directing the San Francisco site of the Chan-Zuckeberg Initiative's Biohub.

About the Microscopy Society of America

The Microscopy Society of America was founded as the Electron Microscope Society of America in 1942, a time of rapid development for an instrument that promised, for the first time, better resolving power than that of the traditional light microscope. The Society adopted its current name on its 50th anniversary, to reflect the diversity of microscopy techniques represented by its membership. Today, a variety of microscopes can image individual atoms and provide chemical information to identify what kind of atom is being imaged, while a variety of microscopes of lower resolving power continue to play an enabling role in understanding the world around us at a microscopic scale.

The Microscopy Society of America champions all forms of microscopy and the development of new imaging technologies through its annual meeting, its publications, and its educational outreach. Microscopy & Microanalysis (M&M) is the annual meeting of the Microscopy Society of America and the Microanalysis Society (MAS). M&M 2026 will be held August 2-6 in Milwaukee, WI. The Microscopy Society of America is an affiliate society of the American Institute of Physics (AIP) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

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For promotional purposes, photographs and citations of the Class of 2026 Fellows can be found on the MSA website. Information on previous award winners can also be found on the MSA website.