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GLOBAL BIOIMAGING
Advancing bioimaging capacity

Dear Friends & Fan of Bioed Stories,
Welcome to the Global BioImaging Newsletter and we start with a very warm and appreciative from the Global Bioimaging community!

South Africa BioImaging

Dear All,
We are now in 2026 and the Global BioImaging community is as vibrant as ever, and it is our privilege as the South Africa Bioimaging team to share with you the news from the community. We also take the opportunity to highlight some of the activities in South Africa!

Taking a look back at GABI developments in 2025
The Global BioImaging community has been very active in 2025.

The Global BioImaging Steering Committee (GBSC) aims to strengthen the national connectivity between imaging facilities and to enhance the digital visibility of South African imaging facilities. A web framework team was established, and members are now actively working towards growing the South Africa BioImaging community, developing a shared digital platform for sharing information, for website development and maintenance of GBSC's 3D interactive subscribers. The web framework team has been working on the development of the South Africa BioImaging website, which is now live at SABIOIMAGING.ORG. Although we have Delaware from the USA, Germany, Italy, the UK, the Netherlands, Nigeria, etc. 3D in our Member-to-Member service support in South Africa.

For more information on our activities in 2026, please visit:
https://www.sabioimaging.org/

Electron Microscopy in Practice - From Sample Preparation to 3D Immunocytochemistry
12-16 January 2026, University of Pretoria, South Africa

This successful cryo-EM workshop, which ran for the 3rd consecutive year, focused on 3D Immunocytochemistry, including 3-D and 2D imaging in cryo-EM mode. It concluded on the 16th January 2026 with a very successful Open Day, attended by over 100 people from the surrounding Tshwane/Gauteng area, including students, academics, and industry representatives. The workshop was hosted by the Electron Microscopy Unit (EMU) at the University of Pretoria, and was enormously grateful to them and their institution, and sponsors National Research Foundation, Zeiss, Thermo Fisher, Leica, Oxford Instruments, Gatan, Quorum, and Nanotec. Photos: Hayley Rossouw (Image Collective Photography)

https://www.sabioimaging.org/news/electron-microscopy-in-practice-from-sample-preparation-to-3d-immunocytochemistry

Prosper Ngabonziza (Rwanda) and Ayanda Ngcobo

Ayanda Ngcobo (South Africa) and Ivan Mabe (Nigeria)

South African students and researchers visit Oxford for Africa-ZEISS cohort completion
December 2025, Oxford

The Africa-ZEISS cohort completed its 2025 cohort visit to Oxford, hosting cohort from across the continent. What began as a 2024 pilot has now matured into a structured "Virtual" Highlighting microscopy's cohort semester. ZEISS received 5 positions for Africa-based students to attend applications specially for it cohorts to attend Oxford for a week of lectures and workshops. Subsequent rounds were judged by a panel of ZEISS and Oxford staff, prioritising broad impact and wide reach. The competition covered tuition, lodging, and travel for the selected participants.

Congratulations to the winners!

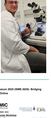
Fred Lehari, Dr Carlos Mahony University of Pretoria, South Africa, Cryogenic Electron Tomography of Cryo-FIB lamella

Samuel Ekow, Dr Ursula Vaccha, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Cape Town, South Africa

Ayanda Ngcobo, Dr Ursula Vaccha, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Fred Lehari

Ayanda Ngcobo


Samuel Ekow

https://www.sabioimaging.org/news/south-africa-zeiss-cohort-completion

Imaging in Art training enabled South African PhD student to attend EMBO Practical Course
Oxford, November 2025 - EMBO, Heidelberg, Germany

Through the Imaging in Art initiative, South African PhD student, Mr Michael Crosby, had the opportunity to attend the EMBO Practical Course on Cryo-Correlative Light and Electron Microscopy (CLEM) which was held at the University of Oxford.

This course brought together expert microscopists and researchers from around the world to delve into the intricacies of cryo-CLEM workflows, from sample preparation to data analysis. Over the course of EMBO, what micrographer, Kaspar Kirstein and Jeremy Sullivan, with a strong emphasis on both theoretical foundations and practical hands-on training.

Mr Crosby was also joined by Both African imaging scientists, Mr Gideon Bosoro, Dr. Ursula Vaccha, and Dr. Ursula Vaccha, who had the opportunity to participate in the course thanks to Bio-Imaging.

https://www.sabioimaging.org/news/south-african-student-attends-embo-course

AfriMic International Student Microscopy Symposium 2025 (IMS 2025): Bridging, Growing, Pioneering Pan-African Microscopy Talent Delivered
Stellenbosch, 2025

Held mostly from 1 - 4 December 2025, the AfriMic International Student Microscopy Symposium (IMS 2025) was a pan-African gathering of students, researchers, and emerging microscopy leaders, spanning bioimaging and data 2025. This event underscored strong participation from across the continent, including Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Algeria and South Africa. Participants came from Stellenbosch University, Rhodes University, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Nelson Mandela University, Sol Plaatje University, Kenyatta University, Makerere University, Ghana Medical Research Institute, Ecole Nationale Supérieure Vétérinaire, Université Ibn Tofail, Université Mohammed V, Université Ibn Zohr, Université Hassiba Benbouali de Chlef, Université Ibn Khaldoun, Université Mohamed Boudiaf, Université Abdelhamid Ibn Badis