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Preface: A Year of Shared Voices:

Dear All,

This Newsletter is brought to you by **German BioImaging - Society for Microscopy and Image Analysis (GerBI)!**

GerBI is the growing network of the German bioimaging community, a place where people, ideas, and technologies come together to move imaging science forward. At its heart, GerBI is about connection: enabling researchers, core facilities, students, and institutions to share expertise, learn from one another, and build a truly collaborative and inclusive ecosystem. Additionally, GerBI lives open science and innovates towards open standards.

🔗 GerBI homepage: www.gerbi-gmb.de
🔗 Upcoming GerBI events: https://gerbi-gmb.de/events/

NFDI4 BIOIMAGE
German BioImaging Gesellschaft für Mikroskopie und Bildanalyse
EURO BIOIMAGING
NFDI4BIOIMAGE
Research Data Management
Community Survey 2026
Every answer counts!

The NFDI4BIOIMAGE Research Data Management Community Survey 2026

Deadline: April 30th | Online Survey

GerBI, within its work in the NFDI4BIOIMAGE consortium, and in collaboration with Euro-BioImaging ERIC, has recently launched the RDM Community Survey.

The survey aims to better understand how bioimaging data are generated, processed, managed, and shared across the life sciences community. The questionnaire takes **about 20–25 minutes**, is **fully anonymous**, and is addressed to **anyone involved with bioimaging data**, including researchers, core facility staff, infrastructure providers, data analysts, data stewards, and project managers.

We warmly **invite participation from the global community** to help identify current challenges and guide the development of future tools, services, and training activities. **Survey results and the underlying data will be made publicly available.**

🔗 **Please find all relevant information and participate here:**
https://nfdi4bioimage.de/en/community-survey-2026/

- Deadline: April 30th
- Takes 20–25 minutes
- Fully anonymous
- Open to the global community

We would also greatly appreciate it if you could **share the survey within your networks**. You can use our template for the e-mail announcement: https://cloud.gerbi-gmb.de/s/26QyzBPkopWygP6 or the flyers: https://cloud.gerbi-gmb.de/s/Hb6Q3CisSqtyQCw.

GerBI community meeting recap

16.-18.3.2026 | Frauenberg Monastery, Fulda, Germany

Three days, one vibrant community: From March 16-18, 2026, GerBI gathered in Fulda for its Annual

Community Meeting, filled with inspiring talks, lively discussions, and plenty of opportunities to connect.

What made the meeting special were not just the sessions, but the people behind them: members sharing their journeys, engaging poster flash talks, and exciting contributions on topics like AI, FAIR data and OME-Zarr, QUAREP-LiMi, and NFDI4BIOIMAGE. Even in the coffee breaks, new ideas took shape, e.g. the founding of a Light Sheet Microscopy interest group.

And of course, there was time to unwind: a fun-filled bowling evening brought laughter, friendly competition, and the Best Bowling Award.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed (especially the 32 speakers and all participants!) for making this such a lively and memorable event.

🔗 https://gerbi-gmb.de/2026/03/23/gerbi-community-meeting-2026-recap/

Participants GerBI Community Meeting 2026, Fulda, picture by Christian Schmidt

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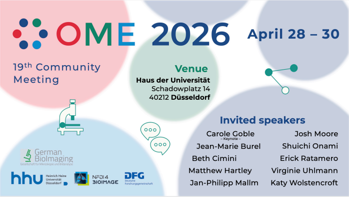
19th OME Community Meeting

April, 28th-30th | hybrid



We're happy to invite you to the **19th** OME **Community Meeting**, taking place **28-30 April 2026 in Düsseldorf**. We're fully booked, but offer a hybrid option.

🔗 **Register for online participation here:** https://gerbi-gmb.de/machform/view.php?id=100870

This meeting is for everyone working with OME tools, whether you're a researcher, developer, imaging facility staff, or just curious about the community. We'll discuss current developments, share experiences, and talk about where we're headed next.

What to expect:

- A keynote lecture by **Carole Goble**
- Sessions on the **OME ecosystem** and **OMERO in practice**
- A focus on **OME-NGFF and OME-Zarr**
- Lightning talks (selected from poster abstracts)
- An evening poster session with a networking dinner
- Open discussions on the **future of OME**, including funding, sustainability, and governance

🔗 **Find all details here:** https://gerbi-gmb.de/event/ome-2026-community-meeting/

Towards OME-Zarr 1.0: Building the Future of Bioimaging Data Together

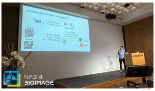
Zürich | Tentatively November 2nd - 6th, 2026

A major focus of the GerBI Research Software Engineering (RSE) Unit — together with the broader NGFF community — is the continued development of OME-Zarr towards a 1.0 release. This milestone represents an important step in establishing a robust, scalable, and community-driven standard for bioimaging data.

Progress towards this goal was a central theme of the NGFF Hackathon and Symposium in Zürich last November, where developers, researchers, and infrastructure providers came together to tackle open questions, refine specifications, and strengthen interoperability across tools and platforms. This year's hackathon is currently being planned and is set tentatively for the week of November 2nd.

An encouraging aspect of this work has been the growing engagement with industry partners. Interactions with companies across the imaging and data ecosystem have been highly valuable, helping to ensure that OME-Zarr meets real-world needs and can support a wide range of applications — from research to commercial environments.

We warmly welcome further collaboration with companies, developers, and community members alike. Building a truly open and effective standard for bioimaging data requires broad participation, and we invite all interested groups to contribute to shaping the future of OME-Zarr.



The first image was shared by NFDI4BioImaging, and the last two were shared by Joel Lüthi on social media

Zenodo slides:
https://zenodo.org/records/17579804

QUAREP-LiMi expands team with three full-time community-focused roles

GerBI is pleased to announce that its DFG-funded project *"Increased Resource Efficiency in Light Microscopy by Quality Control and Standards"* will soon start, with the first team members joining in April/May. The project, led by Dr Roland Nitschke (University of Freiburg) with Dr Hella Hartmann (TU Dresden) and Dr Janina Hanne (GerBI-GMB), builds on and supports the international initiative QUAREP-LiMi. It aims to improve quality control, standardisation, and resource efficiency in light microscopy, contributing to more sustainable and reproducible research.

🔗 https://quarep.org

Core Facility Leadership & Management Course

24.-29.8.2026 | Schloss Mickeln, Düsseldorf, Germany

Registration for the GerBI 2026 Core Facility Leadership and Management Course, organized by GerBI and facilitated hfp consulting will open soon! As core facilities continue to evolve into central hubs for advanced technical and analytical services, the role of core facility managers is becoming increasingly complex, requiring a broad set of leadership and management skills often not covered in traditional scientific training.

This intensive, interactive workshop is designed specifically for core facility managers in the life sciences and addresses key challenges such as team leadership, budgeting, hiring, negotiation, conflict management, and strategic positioning within institutions. Together with hfp consulting, GerBI-GMB offers a highly practical training format with short theoretical inputs followed by hands-on exercises, case studies, and simulations to ensure immediate application of the concepts. The course will be held in English, and registration will open soon.

🔗Check here for updates https://gerbi-gmb.de/event/gerbi-gmb-core-facility-leadership-and-management-course-2026/

🔗 or join the interest list to be notified when registration opens: https://gerbi-gmb.de/machform/view.php?id=86455

Global BioImaging News

GBI SPOTLIGHT ON DATA

Online: 28 May 2026 | 17:00 CET
Replay: 29 May 2026 | 08:00 CET (with live Q&A moderation)

Global BioImaging & German BioImaging are preparing the launch of a new Spotlight webinar series designed to support imaging scientists in research data management. This initiative builds on the nearly two-year-long success of the original **Spotlight on Career Paths** series, developed by the international Career Path Working Group, which has provided a platform for imaging scientists to share experiences, guidance, and best practices.

The new series will be led by the **International Data Management Working Group**, presenting a practical **"10 Steps" approach**—with one step highlighted each month—aimed at strengthening research data management across imaging core facilities. Each session will offer actionable guidance, real-world examples, and an opportunity for participants to discuss challenges and solutions with peers around the world.

We invite the global imaging community to engage with the series, share their insights, and contribute to building a collaborative resource that helps core facilities adopt robust, efficient, and sustainable data management practices.

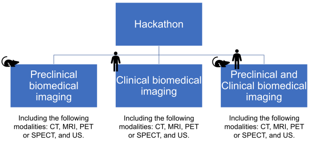
👉 REGISTER [HERE]

GBI Sustainathon:

Advancing Sustainable Biomedical Imaging Facilities

The GBI Biomedical Imaging Working Group has launched an international Sustainathon to address long-term sustainability for biomedical imaging facilities. Teams will design practical models under a hypothetical $1M investment, covering financial, operational, environmental, and human-resource aspects.

Evaluation: Submissions will be assessed by an international committee based on innovation, feasibility, long-term impact, and coverage of core imaging modalities. Clinical or hybrid facility proposals allocating more time to research receive additional weighting.


Hackathon
Preclinical biomedical imaging
Clinical biomedical imaging
Preclinical and Clinical biomedical imaging
Including the following modalities: CT, MRI, PET or SPECT, and US.
Including the following modalities: CT, MRI, PET or SPECT, and US.
Including the following modalities: CT, MRI, PET or SPECT, and US.

Why Participate? Winners will present their solutions in a GBI webinar, receive complimentary registration to the **GBI Exchange of Experience (EoE)** event at EMBL Heidelberg, and have the opportunity to co-author a publication on sustainable biomedical imaging facilities.

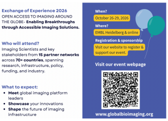
Submit your proposal here until April 30th 2026!
For questions: **gbi_wg_biomedical_contact@embl.de**

CALL FOR SPONSORS: Global BioImaging Annual Meeting

Hybrid | EMBL, Heidelberg | 26–29 October 2026

👉 Interested in sponsoring? Click [Notify me] to learn more. Know a potential sponsor? Share our SAVE THE DATE!

Join us on **26 October** for a dedicated pre-conference day designed to **bring together companies, imaging scientists, and network members** from across national and regional communities. This is a great opportunity for everyone to **connect**, **engage**, and **increase visibility**. *Attend as a participant, or highlight your presence by being featured as a sponsor throughout the meeting.*



Exchange of Experience 2026
OPEN ACCESS TO IMAGING AROUND THE GLOBE- **Enabling Breakthroughs through Accessible Imaging Solutions.**

Who will attend?
Imaging Scientists and key stakeholders from **15 partner networks** across **70+ countries**, spanning research, infrastructure, policy, funding, and industry.

What to expect:
- **Meet** global imaging platform leaders
- **Showcase** your innovations
- **Shape** the future of imaging infrastructure

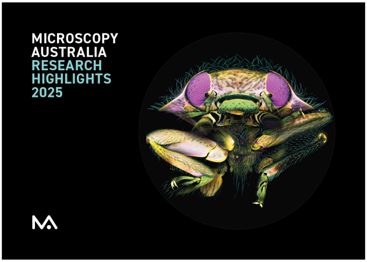
When?
October 26-29, 2026
Where?
EMBL Heidelberg & online
Registration & sponsorship
Visit our website to register & support our event.
Visit our event webpage
www.globalbioimaging.org

Around the Globe

Explore Microscopy Australia’s 2025 Research Highlights

The 2025 Research Highlights showcases high-impact science enabled by Microscopy Australia's national network of expert microscopists and advanced imaging infrastructure. The annual publication features discoveries delivering scientific, economic and societal value, providing evidence of how sustained, nationally coordinated investment in expertise and research infrastructure enables universities, researchers and industry to deliver outcomes that matter. The cover image is a striking FLIM image of a two-spotted ladybird, captured by Dr Angus Rae at the Centre for Advanced Microscopy, Australian National University.

🔗 micro.org.au/news/2025-research-highlights/



MICROSCOPY
AUSTRALIA
RESEARCH
HIGHLIGHTS
2025

Announcements | India BioImaging Courses in 2026

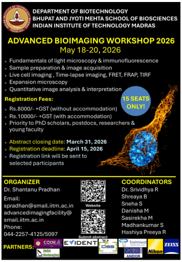
In person | IISER Pune| IIT Guwahati

IBI is offering the following three courses in the subcontinent of India:

Microscopy & Image Analysis Course , July 6-10, 2026 IISER Pune

Microscopy & Image Analysis Course , 2026, IIT Guwahati

Advanced Microscopy & Image Analysis Course, 2026, IIT Madras



DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
BHUPAT AND JYOTI MEHTA SCHOOL OF BIOSCIENCES
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MADRAS

ADVANCED BIOIMAGING WORKSHOP 2026
May 18-20, 2026

- Fundamentals of light microscopy & immunofluorescence
- Sample preparation & image acquisition
- Live cell imaging , Time-lapse imaging, FRET, FRAP, TIRF
- Expansion microscopy
- Quantitative image analysis & interpretation

15 SEATS ONLY!

Registration Fees:

- Rs.8000/- +GST (without accommodation)
- Rs.10000/- +GST (with accommodation)
- Priority to PhD scholars, postdocs, researchers & young faculty

- Abstract closing date: **March 31, 2026**
- Registration deadline: **April 15, 2026**
- Registration link will be sent to selected participants

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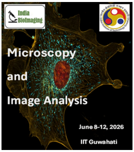
Madhankumar S
Hashiya Preeya R

PARTNERS:

India BioImaging North-East Chapter:
Explore the fundamentals of light microscopy, from contrast techniques to fluorescence and confocal imaging. Gain hands-on experience with advanced systems through practical sessions on PSF measurement, multi-dimensional imaging, and 3D reconstruction. The course also introduces image analysis, covering data handling, ethics, and research talks that illustrate real-world applications of microscopy.



Microscopy
and
Image Analysis

June 8-12, 2026
IIT Guwahati

India BioImaging Western Chapter:

India BioImaging
IISER PUNE
Microscopy and Image Analysis
July 6-10, 2026
IISER Pune

This training program combines microscopy and image analysis, guiding participants through the principles of light paths, fluorescence, and confocal techniques. Interactive hands-on sessions include exercises, assignments, and discussions, giving participants direct experience with widefield, point-scanning, and spinning disk confocal microscopes. The course also features modules on digital image analysis, ethical considerations, and research presentations that highlight applied microscopy in scientific studies.

Who can attend:
Eligible applicants include final-year M.Sc. students, PhD candidates, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and imaging facility staff seeking to strengthen expertise in microscopy and image analysis or advance their R&D careers. We strongly encourage applicants from non-tier 1 cities across India, with 70% of participants selected from these regions.

👉 More information: Here

BioImaging West Africa 2026: Hands-on Imaging Training in Abidjan

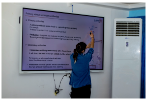
February 2–7, 2026 | Institut National de Santé Publique (INSP), Abidjan

From 2–7 February, WAMBIAN hosted its eighth workshop, **BIWA2026**, at INSP in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire — the first workshop in the country and delivered in both English and French. Over six days, 22 participants from Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria engaged in intensive training in fluorescence microscopy, image analysis, and regional network building.

The course was led by 11 facilitators, combining international trainers from the Max Delbrück Centre (MDC, Berlin) and local experts from INSP and CSRS. Participants, mostly biomedical researchers at MSc, PhD, postdoctoral, and PI levels, learned through high-ratio, hands-on sessions. Rotating workstations enabled practical experience in immunofluorescence labelling, building and using modular OpenUC2 microscopes, imaging on brightfield and widefield systems, and analysing data with Fiji.

The workshop also featured broader scientific and career sessions, including MRI applications, affordable imaging solutions, and talks from African imaging initiatives (ABIC, BioRTC, WAMBIAN). Delivering the course bilingually helped bridge Francophone and Anglophone West Africa, fostering new connections, collaborations, and opportunities for the growing regional imaging community.

(Photos kindly provided by Aimé Sanhoun)



In case you missed it

Last days to register and attend these events (hybrid options if you cannot join us in person):

👉 Join Euro-BioImaging's Image Data Community Days (April 13–17, online) for a week of talks, workshops, and exchange on image analysis, FAIR data, and community initiatives—explore the programme and register!

👉 Register Now to **foundingGIDE— the DETAILED PROGRAM is live!**
The **Global Session** features speakers from every continent. Join the **founding GIDE community meeting**, coordinated by **Euro-BioImaging**, for a **hybrid global event (4–8 May)** focused on interoperable image data and impact. Attending in person at **EMBL**? Don't miss the hands-on **workshops!**

GLOBAL BIOIMAGING
growing collaboration
Authorship and Acknowledgement of Imaging Core Facility contributions in publications

Are you working in an Imaging Core Facility or performing equivalent **support roles**? We need your voice!

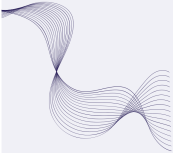
Take 5 minutes to share your perspectives:

🔬 How core facility staff contributions are recognised in publications.

📜 Institutional policies on authorship and acknowledgments.

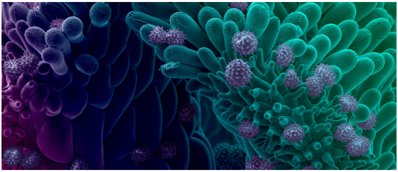
🌍 The impact of recognition - or lack thereof - on career paths and our community.

Help us advocate for **better recognition of core facility staff!**



Learn more about Global BioImaging and our initiatives at globalbioimaging.org.

Visit Us Now!



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