

Outreach and public engagement in imaging and microscopy



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Institution(s): University of Glasgow

Funder(s): CDT for Integrative Sensing and Measurement, Royal Society of

Biology

In the past year, the outreach team of the Imaging Concepts Group in the School of Physics and Astronomy has delivered outreach and public engagement at a variety of events including the Glasgow Science Festival, Explorathon, Bring your children to work day, Cell Block Science and Café Scientifique Français d'Ecosse. This lead to the development of a suite of activities and interactive displays themed around imaging and microscopy across the spectrum from UV to IR. The team of 8 comprised students, PhDs post docs and research fellows.

Activities include:

- Aligning a transmission microscope and measuring it's magnification (a)
- Discovering fluorescence and generating it in plants (b) tonic water (c)
- Learn about 3D printing (d) and how to make clip on lenses which turn your mobile phone into a microscope (e) to image mysterious samples (f)
- Discover how to make a brain transparent with refractive index matching (g)
- Try out thermal imaging on a hand-held prototype device



Impact

Over the many events of the past year, we have reached over 5000 children and adults, mainly through our two largest events, Science Sunday and the Explorathon.

Future

We are always keen to expand our portfolio with new ideas for activities and displays. We aim to create an online database for sharing information about recreating our activities and displays. We would love to become more interdisciplinary!

Contact: please email <u>caroline.Muellenbroich@glasgow.ac.uk</u> for more information on materials and activities or for collaboration/ taking part in our next events. No outreach experience required, all welcome.

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