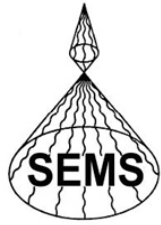




Dear Southeastern Microscopy Society (SEMS) Family,



Welcome to a new year of microscopy and collaborations! Looking back on my short few years of membership in SEMS, I reflect on the memories and the importance of this great organization. I think about the many faces, the vendor socials, and all of the mysterious images! Connecting with SEMS regularly meant I was educating myself on new products and trends and better positioned to serve my facility users. As a result, I am aware of a diverse cross section on research, personalities, and microscope capabilities that make me seem smart in front of my peers.

It is why I encourage participation in SEMS for faculty, staff, students, managers, vendors, etc. There is information for everyone! SEMS has been a place to get plans started with the right information, products, and equipment, not to mention meeting fellow SEMS members, discussing new ideas and sharing many laughs.

The microscopy industry is growing and due to our strong connections to one another and our vendors (and their companies!) we have been able to stay relevant and helpful as professional microscopists and lab managers.

As I officially take on the duties of President for 2018-2019, I must start with thanking our past president, Terri Bruce and her exceptional team. Your hard work throughout the year is gratefully acknowledged. And Bob Price and Jay Jerome put together a most successful SEMS 2018 meeting in Columbus, SC! I want to also thank all of the 2018 vendors, sponsors, members, and speakers. Your contributions are an integral part of SEMS' success.

As promised as your 2018-2019 President, "I will keep the boat afloat but will make waves." I am looking forward to a great year and seeing you all in Chattanooga, TN in 2019!

Best Regards,  
Brandon Walker