



Life through a lens: Amanda Wright has gained a Royal Academy of Engineering/EPSRC research fellowship.

Another fellowship at the IoP makes three

Dr Amanda Wright was recently awarded a Royal Academy of Engineering/EPSRC research fellowship in adaptive microscopy. After completing her PhD in the force measurement of an optical trap at the University of Manchester, she took the road north to join the Institute of Photonics in February 2004. Since then she has been promoted to associate team leader in Prof. John Girkin's applications team.

Over the next five years, Wright will be building on the team's work in adaptive optics and in advanced microscopy techniques. Her objectives include investigating equivalents to the "guide star" technique used in astronomy, where much of the early work in adaptive optics originated. Ultimately, she expects to bring together a range of techniques to demonstrate active aberration correction in a combined imaging and particle-manipulation system.

"This technology will be developed with the primary aim of improving image quality and resolution when imaging at depth into biological samples," she commented. "So it will directly benefit biologists and life scientists who wish to make 3D images of biological media and monitor biological processes that occur below the surface of a sample. It will be very important in this project to involve multidisciplinary collaboration with biologists and life scientists."

The chief executive of the IoP, Tim Holt, added: "This award is a real testament to Amanda's hard work and successes in the last three years and it is great to have her further potential recognised in this way. Her work also fits well with the Institute's remit of conducting commercially oriented research."

Amanda joins Dr Jennifer Hastie and Dr Alan Kemp as holders of fellowships at the Institute.

Steve Welch