

Message from the Executive Committee of the Microscopy Society of America concerning the Executive Order 13769 on immigration issued January 27, 2017

The Microscopy Society of America has joined as a signatory on a letter sent by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to President Trump to express concern about negative impacts of his January 27 Executive Order (EO) on U.S. Science. The EO, entitled "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States", restricts entry into the U.S. by citizens of seven predominantly Muslim countries. However, the order applies broadly to all citizens of the seven countries, so that even foreign nationals working legally in the U.S. are affected.

Unfortunately, we know of the negative impacts of this EO, not by hearsay, but by experience. A member of our own relatively small microscopy and microanalysis community, who is co-organizing a symposium at our upcoming 75th anniversary meeting, and who has won multiple student awards for her research at recent M&M meetings, was outside the U.S. renewing her visa at the time of the EO. She is now unable to re-enter the country for the foreseeable future. One can imagine that across all scientific disciplines a significant number of individuals have been affected.

For the present, the Society will stand with AAAS, of which MSA is a member society, in its attempts to persuade the President to rescind the EO, as outlined in the letter, which can be found on the AAAS website. In the meantime, please bring to the attention of the Society leadership any other member of the microscopy and microanalysis community that you know to be affected. Excepting a prompt lift of the immigration ban, the Society intends to highlight the members of our community affected by the EO, in order to put a human face on this situation.