

POSITION DESCRIPTION

TITLE

MICROSCOPY AUSTRALIA - INDEPENDENT BOARD CHAIR

ROLE SUMMARY

Microscopy Australia was established to serve advanced microscopy needs across Australia through a consortium of university-based facilities that enable open access to a large array of high-end microscopy platforms and highly regarded scientific expertise. This collaborative research infrastructure facility operates as a virtual organisation and is hosted by the University of Sydney with funding from the Commonwealth government under the 'National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy' (NCRIS), together with relevant state governments and co-investments from institutional partners.

The Board of Microscopy Australia guides the organisation to ensure that its future strategic achievements and growth are underpinned by effective governance. This Board is comprised of several independent members, including an Independent Chair, together with representative members from the participating institutions. The Independent Chair plays a critical role in facilitating and leading the Board in setting objectives that are aligned with Microscopy Australia's mission and values. The Independent Chair also works closely and cooperatively with the CEO of Microscopy Australia and, importantly, represents the public face of the organisation to its broader stakeholders and the community.

APPOINTMENT TERM

Jun 2025 – Dec 2028

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Position Title</i>
Main Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microscopy Australia Chief Executive Officer
Peer Relationships/ Other Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the Microscopy Australia Board Microscopy Australia management, including headquarters staff and Facility Directors Representatives from Federal and State Governments Key partners, advisory groups, relevant research and innovation communities, and the public

ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chair requires a range of specific skills and attributes in leading the Microscopy Australia Board in its decision making and oversight processes.

Essential Skills and Qualities:

- demonstrated strategic leader with proven industry experience
- capacity to contribute to increasing Microscopy Australia's activities and profile
- highly connected with national and international networks, ideally in microscopy and its applications
- strong corporate governance skills and experience, ideally with prior Chair experience
- personal and professional integrity with sound independent judgement
- high level interpersonal and persuasion skills, including the ability to work within a team

Leadership and Governance:

- provide strategic leadership to the Board, helping it foster a culture of collaboration, transparency and innovation
- develop a productive relationship with the CEO of Microscopy Australia for good governance and organisational effectiveness, characterised by trust, respect, candour, and mutual support
- facilitate the effective functioning of the Board, including annual calendar, agenda and reporting, managing the conduct, culture, frequency, length and outcomes of Board meetings
- manage strategic connections while maintaining the aligned purpose and collegiality of institutional partners
- oversee risk management processes to safeguard organisational resources, sustainability, conflicts of interest and reputation
- oversee and facilitate the effective functioning of the Board through appropriate administrative, communicative, compliance, decision-making, review, and succession planning responsibilities

Stakeholder Engagement and Influence:

- advocate for the organisation's missions and objectives, both nationally and internationally
- influence policy and promote the impact of research infrastructure with government and funding agencies
- together with the CEO, the Chair is visible at critical times where trust and confidence in the ability of the Board and management to respond to crisis is important
- the Chair may be called upon to represent Microscopy Australia to a variety of stakeholders, including partners, government, advisory groups, researchers, industry, and the broader community
- promote a positive profile for the organisation

EDUCATION

<i>Education Qualifications</i>	<i>Required/ Preferred</i>
Bachelor's degree (or equivalent work experience).	Required
Postgraduate degree (Masters, PhD), ideally relating to microscopy and its applications.	Preferred

CERTIFICATIONS

<i>Certificate</i>	<i>Required/ Preferred</i>
Eligible for a Director Identification Number (directorID).	Preferred
AICD (or equivalent).	Preferred

SKILLS

<i>Essential Skills</i>	<i>Required/ Preferred</i>
A strong understanding of governance and management principles and practices, with a commitment to ethical and collaborative leadership.	Required
Strategic vision and ability to navigate complex challenges with resilience and innovation.	Required
Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, including the ability to reconcile opposing views, to influence, and to foster a stimulating and challenging boardroom environment.	Required

WORK EXPERIENCE

<i>Work Experience</i>	<i>Required/ Preferred</i>
Proven experience serving on major for-profit and/or not-for-profit Boards, as well as in executive leadership roles, ideally with a background in technology-based industry and high-tech innovation.	Required
Previous experience as Chair.	Preferred
Experience in dealing at a strategic level with federal and/or state government agencies responsible for major programs that include research, science and equipment funding.	Preferred
Experience in the use of advanced research analytical approaches (such as in electron microscopy) in support of significant R&D advances.	Preferred