



# Hands On(line) Lab Education with Remote SEM

Zachary Gray RAIN Network Partners

Bob Ehrmann Ozgur Cakmak



#### This webinar is hosted by:



Nanotechnology Application and Career Knowledge (**NACK**) is a National Science Foundation (NSF) Advanced Technological Education (ATE) National Resource Center.

**NACK** is a subsidiary of the Center for Nanotechnology Education and Utilization (CNEU) in the Penn State College of Engineering's department of Engineering Science and Mechanics.





This webinar is being recorded and links will be available at nano4me.org, cneu.psu.edu and atecentral.net/webinars.



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Technical questions (i.e. issues with the webinar controls, etc.) may be put in the chat window.









## Agenda

- Introduction
- Microscopy in the classroom
- Live demonstration of the Phenom desktop SEM
- Educator experiences & how you can get involved
- Summary

#### **Hosts and Presenters:**



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#### Panelists:



Ray Tsui Arizona State University



Maude Cuchiara North Carolina State University



Rich Hill SUNY Erie Community College



Yves Theriault
San Diego
Nanotechnology
Institute







# Hands On(line) Lab Education with Remote SEM

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## **About Nanoscience Instruments and Analytical Services**







- Team of scientists and engineers with backgrounds in physics, chemistry, materials science and engineering
- We provide training, application development and support
- Dedicated service department for ongoing instrument maintenance, repairs and upgrades
- Analytical Services division to support process and application development (ISO 9001:2015 Certified)







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## Microscopy in the classroom

Microscopes of all types have made their way into educational environments



https://webcdn.leica-microsystems.com/fileadmin/\_processed\_/d/2/csm\_Buffalo\_State\_College\_student\_microscope\_classroom\_\_e881e96f55.jpg

Compound light microscopes are the most common type of microscope found in classrooms today.

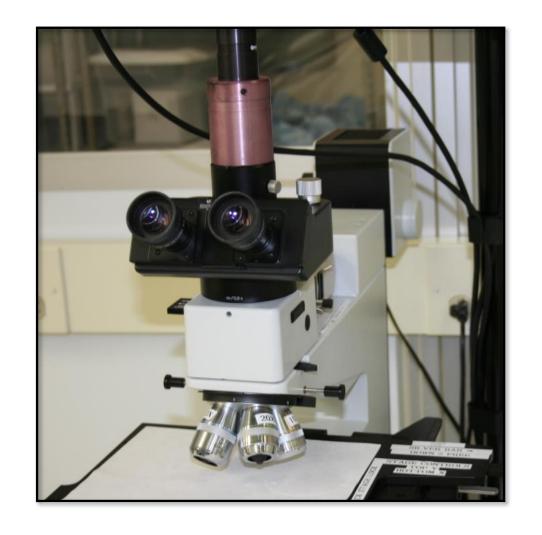
- Simple
- Low cost
- Readily available
- Small footprint





## The Compound Light/Optical Microscope (OM)

- Reflection of photons off a surface yields a true color image
- True color with large fields of view
- Max magnification is 1,000X (10x100)
- Limited depth of focus causes image blur from out of focus planes

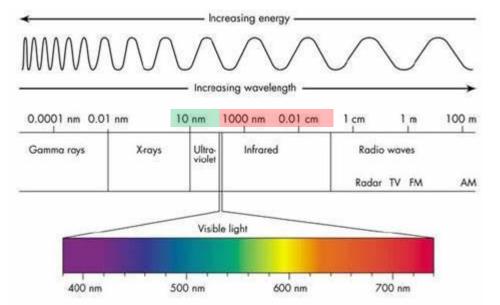






## The Microscope Maker's Rule

- You cannot look at things smaller than what you're looking at them with
- Examples:
  - Optical techniques: 400-700 nm lateral resolution limit of  $\sim$ 0.2  $\mu$ m
  - SEM: wavelength of electron, more importantly, spot size of electron beam
  - AFM & Profilometer: end radius of tip/stylus



Nanotechnology Window 1-100 nm

http://lumenistics.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/electro-magnetic-spectrum1.jpg





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## The Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM)

- Interaction of an electron beam with a surface provides an image
- Grayscale with large fields of view and best in class depth of field
- Wide magnification range. Tabletops up to 300,000x
- Elemental Identification also available

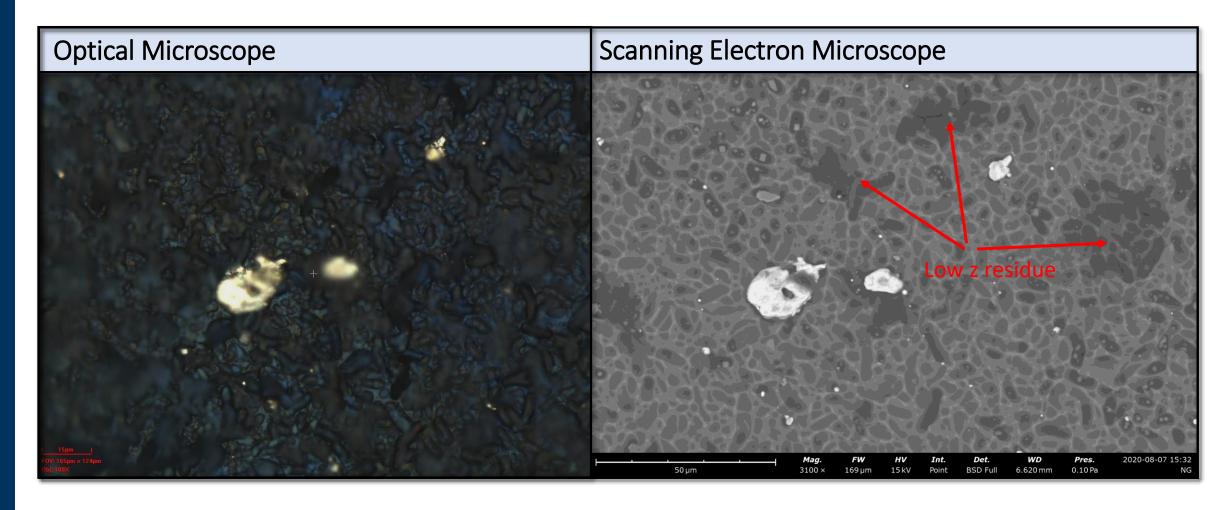


New Phenom Desktop SEM UI is ideally suited for remote access





## **Comparing OM to SEM in Practice**

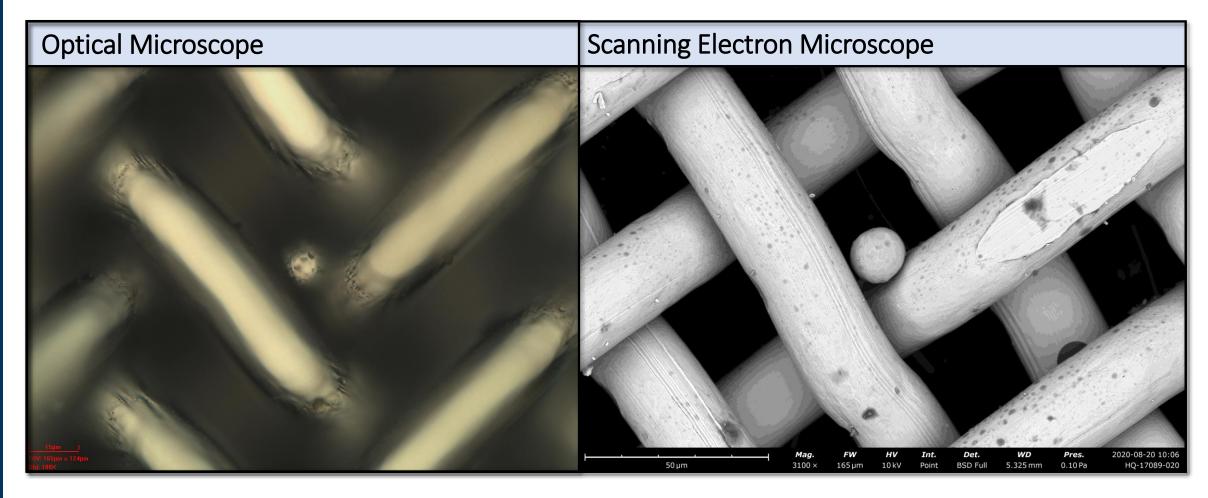


- Optical microscopy provides a true color image while SEM provides a range of grayscale values
  - > SEM's z-contrast provides value added in a variety of applications





## **Comparing OM to SEM in Practice**



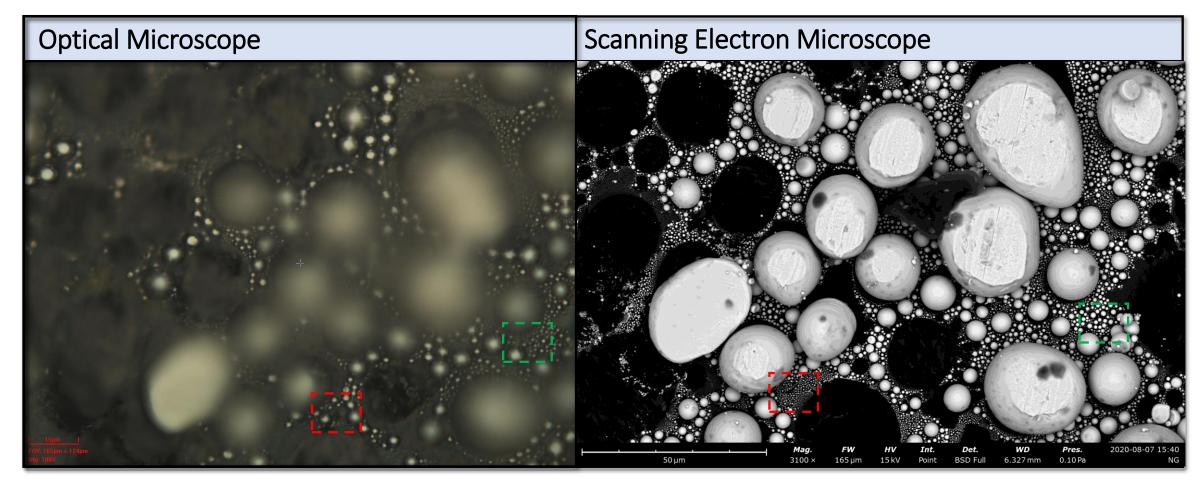
- SEM offers best in class depth of field
  - > Increased depth of field enables rapid inspection over large lateral areas.
  - > SEM is very commonly used as a defect inspection instrument.

### PennState College of Engineering



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## **Comparing OM to SEM in Practice**



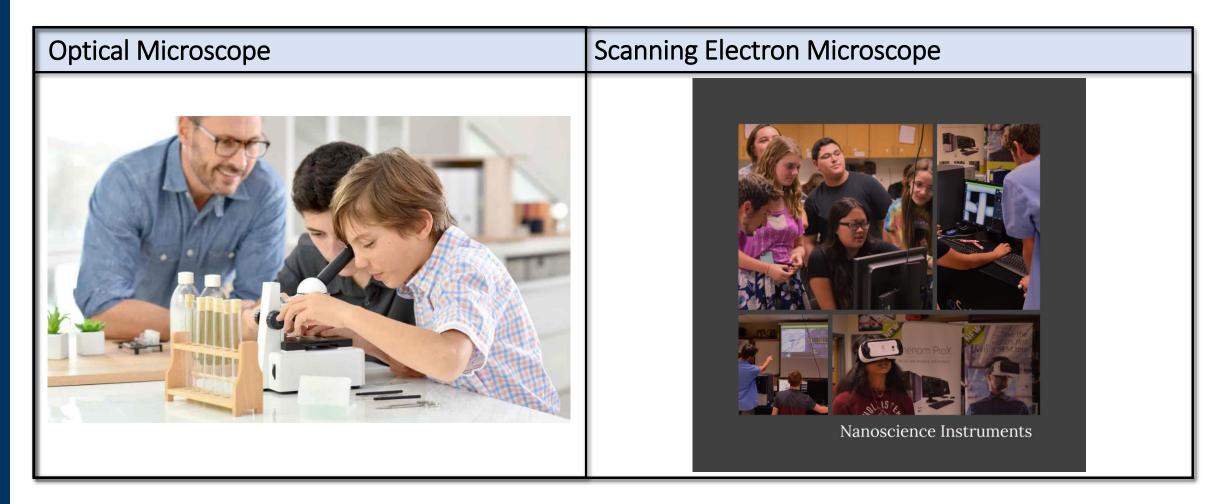
• SEM offers substantially higher resolution than OM

- > The ~1,000x-20,000x range opens a vast array of applications for SEM
- Big picture: putting SEM on the resume is valuable to the student





## **Comparing OM to SEM in Practice**



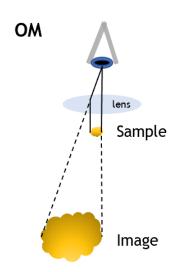
The Phenom desktop SEM is user friendly from a K12 level through PhD

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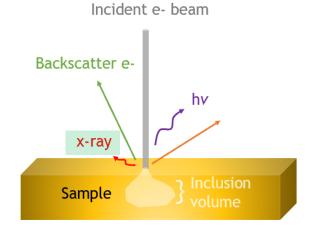
## **Summary: OM vs. SEM**





**Common in classrooms** 

#### SEM





Recently enabled in classrooms (in person and remotely)

#### **Comparison Table**

Parameter	OM	SEM
Imaging Source	Photons	Electrons
Detector(s)	Eyepiece, Camera	BSD, SED, X-Ray
Ease of use	High	High
Throughput	High	High
Dedicated Operator	No	No
Max magnification	1,000x	>300,000x
Typical Max Resolution	~200 nm	~8 nm
Vacuum	No	Yes
Elemental Contrast	No	Yes
True color	Yes	No
Depth of field	Low	High

What has enabled SEMs to be more ideally equipped for remote access?





## **Towards Remote SEM Operation**

#### Wishlist for remote operation

- No hardware controls
- Simplified software interface
- Automatic functions
- Single software package
- Easy data exporting and sharing

#### Phenom's ease-of-use features

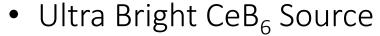
- ✓ No hardware controls
- ✓ Simplified software interface
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### **Phenom XL SEM: Remote Attributes**

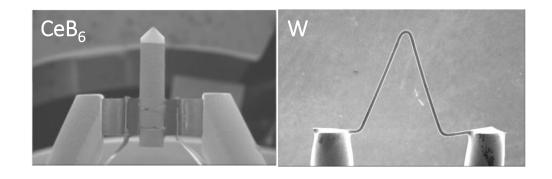
- Large sample stage: up to 36 samples
- User Friendly & User Proof



- Positive 'simple' user experience
- Stigmation rarely required
- High image quality even for novice users



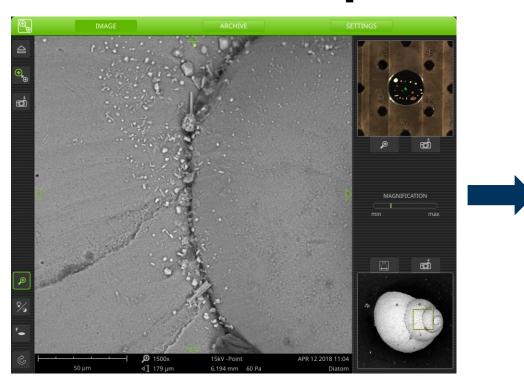






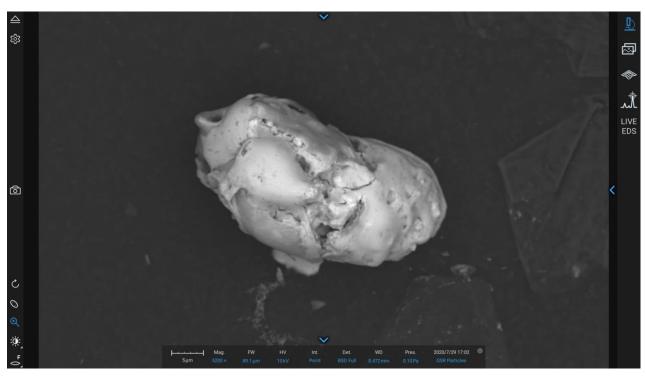


## **Phenom Desktop SEM UI Makeover**





- Developed for original Phenoms in 2006
- 3000+ systems (world's most popular SEM)
- Linux-based, runs directly on SEM



#### New UI

- Ground-up redesign, release in 2020
- Incorporated LOTS of user feedback
- Runs on Win 10 PC
- Integrated EDS, image stitching, etc.





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## **Live Demonstration**







## Questions?



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http://www.nano4me.org/remoteaccess



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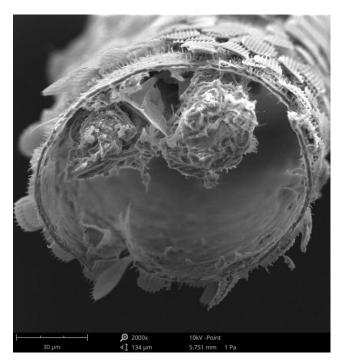
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## Summary

- Remote access already widely used across the nation
- With uncertain times ahead remote learning expected to become even more prominent
- SEM expands on the ability of basic light microscopy while maintaining its most desirable features
- SEM offers a variety of rich learning experiences technically
- For more information on using the Phenom SEM please feel free to watch our recorded webinar on exclusively this topic: <a href="https://bit.ly/38simEK">https://bit.ly/38simEK</a>



Cross section of mosquito leg

#### **RAIN Network**

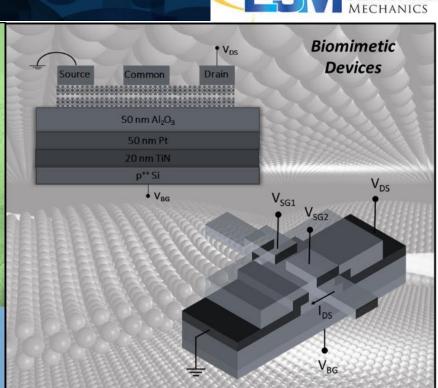
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Resonance



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Upcoming Webinar: January 28, 2021, 1 pm EST

Novel Two-dimensional (2D) Materials and Devices for Biomimetic Sensing and Computing

https://cneu.psu.edu/news

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