Colin J. Sheppard is senior scientist at the Italian Institute of Technology, Genoa, Italy. He has served as vice-president of the International commission for optics, president of the International Society for optics within Life sciences, editor-in-chief of Journal of Optics A: Pure and Applied Optics, and editor of Advances in Optical and Electron Microscopy.

During his interaction with students, the students raised several questions with regard to the opportunities which are available at National University of Singapore for carrying out summer projects as well as their 10th semester project work. There were questions regarding the availability of scholarships for doing Ph D programmes. Prof. Sheppard explained that there are scholarships meant for Ph D programmes in his university and he has some bright Indian students working under his guidance. Based on the request from the students, Prof. Sheppard gave a lecture on building a microscope in ISP, CUSAT. Starting from the definition of the microscope, he touches upon every aspect of microscope such as imaging schemes, scanning methods, types of microscopes and their relative advantages with regard to different specifications, different scanning elements etc. After discussing a schematic sketch of a typical microscope, he explained how it can be modified to fabricate different types of microscopes. He discussed at length the components required for building these microscopes and the cost of these components. After this discussion, the students have resolved to design and fabricate a microscope in our laboratory.