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**Cristina Kurachi
Katarina Svanberg
Bruce J. Tromberg
Vanderlei Salvador Bagnato**
Editors

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Contents

ix	<i>Authors</i>
xiii	<i>Conference Committees</i>
xv	<i>Introduction</i>

SESSION 1 TISSUE MICROSCOPY

9531 07	Full-field optical coherence tomography for tissue imaging (Invited Paper) [9531-1]
9531 0A	Delivery of ultrashort spatially focused pulses through a multimode fiber for two photon endoscopic imaging [9531-4]
9531 0B	Image correlation based method for the analysis of collagen fibers patterns [9531-5]
9531 0C	Tumor tissue characterization using polarization-sensitive second harmonic generation microscopy [9531-6]

SESSION 2 NANOBIOPHOTONICS

9531 0E	EGFR-specific nanoprobe biodistribution in mouse models [9531-10]
---------	--

SESSION 3 TISSUE OPTICS

9531 0L	Oil-based gel phantom for ultrasound and optical imaging [9531-18]
9531 0M	Estimating retinal vascular permeability using the adiabatic approximation to the tissue homogeneity model with fluorescein videoangiography [9531-19]
9531 0P	Evaluation of the variable depth resolution of active dynamic thermography on human skin [9531-22]

SESSION 4 PHOTODIAGNOSIS

9531 0S	Combined phosphorescence-holographic approach for singlet oxygen detection in biological media [9531-27]
---------	---

SESSION 5 CLINICAL APPLICATIONS

9531 0W	Evaluation of eye tissue elasticity by means of sound propagation speed measuring in vivo [9531-32]
---------	--

9531 0X	Fluorescence spectroscopy for assessment of liver transplantation grafts concerning graft viability and patient survival [9531-33]
SESSION 6	INSTRUMENTATION
9531 11	Fluorescence multi-scale endoscopy and its applications in the study and diagnosis of gastro-intestinal diseases: set-up design and software implementation [9531-164]
9531 14	A compact multi-wavelength optoacoustic system based on high-power diode lasers for characterization of double-walled carbon nanotubes (DWCNTs) for biomedical applications [9531-39]
9531 15	Development of an in situ controllable polymerization tool and process for hydrogel used to replace nucleus pulposus [9531-41]
SESSION 7	SPECTROSCOPY I
9531 16	Fabry-Perot micro-structured polymer optical fibre sensors for opto-acoustic endoscopy (Invited Paper) [9531-43]
9531 17	Preparation of HIV monoclonal antibody-conjugated pulchellin in order to study its intracellular trafficking pathway in HIV-infected cells by confocal microscopy. [9531-44]
9531 18	In vitro evaluation of ionizing radiation effects in bone tissue by FTIR spectroscopy [9531-45]
9531 1A	A simple dental caries detection system using full spectrum of laser-induced fluorescence [9531-24]
SESSION 8	TISSUE OPTICS II
9531 1F	Infrared irradiation of skin for the development of non-invasive health monitoring technologies [9531-51]
9531 1H	3D Monte Carlo radiation transfer modelling of photodynamic therapy [9531-54]
SESSION 9	SPECTROSCOPY II
9531 1I	Monolayer to MTS: using SEM, HIM, TEM and SERS to compare morphology, nanosensor uptake and redox potential in MCF7 cells (Invited Paper) [9531-56]
9531 1J	Biochemical changes in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma submitted to PDT using ATR-FTIR spectroscopy [9531-57]
9531 1L	Applications of Raman spectroscopy in life science [9531-59]

POSTER SESSION

- 9531 1P **Innovative parameters obtained for digital analysis of microscopic images to evaluate in vitro hemorheological action of anesthetics [9531-23]**
- 9531 1Q **Comparative clinical study using laser and LED-therapy for orofacial pain relief: dentin hypersensitivity and cervicogenic headache [9531-63]**
- 9531 1R **Study of the scattering of the light in aqueous samples collagen in the presence of nanoparticles and curcuma pigment [9531-64]**
- 9531 1S **Methylene blue photodynamic therapy in rats' wound healing: 21 days follow-up [9531-65]**
- 9531 1T **Clinical study on orofacial photonic hydration using phototherapy and biomaterials [9531-66]**
- 9531 1V **Optical properties of human radicular dentin: ATR-FTIR characterization and dentine tubule direction influence on radicular post adhesion [9531-68]**
- 9531 1W **Blue LED irradiation to hydration of skin [9531-69]**
- 9531 2I **Single LED-based device to perform widefield fluorescence imaging and photodynamic therapy [9531-75]**
- 9531 22 **Asymmetry and irregularity border as discrimination factor between melanocytic lesions [9531-76]**
- 9531 25 **Raman spectroscopic analysis of oral squamous cell carcinoma and oral dysplasia in the highwavenumber region [9531-79]**
- 9531 29 **Attenuation coefficient of the light in skin of BALB/c and C57BL/6 mice [9531-83]**
- 9531 2A **Study of the vitamins A, E and C esters penetration into the skin by confocal Raman spectroscopy in vivo [9531-84]**
- 9531 2D **Portable widefield imaging device for ICG-detection of the sentinel lymph node. [9531-87]**
- 9531 2E **Evaluation of cotton-fabric bleaching using hydrogen peroxide and Blue LED [9531-88]**
- 9531 2F **Analysis of the in vivo confocal Raman spectral variability in human skin [9531-89]**
- 9531 2I **Effects of low level laser in the morphology of the skeletal muscle fiber during compensatory hypertrophy in plantar muscle of rats [9531-92]**
- 9531 2M **Confocal Raman study of aging process in diabetes mellitus human voluntaries [9531-96]**
- 9531 2N **Effect of laserphototherapy on human alveolar bone repair: micro tomographic and histomorphometrical analysis [9531-97]**
- 9531 2Z **Characterization of caries progression on dentin after irradiation with Nd:YAG laser by FTIR spectroscopy and fluorescence imaging [9531-109]**

- 9531 32 **Automatic analysis of microscopic images of red blood cell aggregates** [9531-112]
- 9531 35 **Thermographic diagnostics to discriminate skin lesions: a clinical study** [9531-115]
- 9531 37 **Fluorescence diagnosis of upper respiratory tract infections** [9531-117]
- 9531 38 **Plasmonic enhancement in the photoinactivation of *Escherichia Coli* using rose bengal and gold nanoparticles** [9531-118]
- 9531 39 **Fluorescent liposomes to probe how DOTAP lipid concentrations can change red blood cells homeostasis** [9531-119]
- 9531 3A **Analysis of photodynamic cream effect in dental caries using optical coherence tomography** [9531-120]
- 9531 3B **Micro energy-dispersive x-ray fluorescence spectrometry study of dentin coating with nanobiomaterials** [9531-121]
- 9531 3D **Assembly and characterization of a fluorescence lifetime spectroscopy system for skin lesions diagnostic** [9531-123]
- 9531 3H **The ablation threshold of Er:Cr:YSGG laser radiation in bone tissue** [9531-127]
- 9531 3I **Optical coherence tomography applied to the evaluation of wear of composite resin for posterior teeth** [9531-128]
- 9531 3J **Adapting smartphones for low-cost optical medical imaging** [9531-129]
- 9531 3L **FT Raman spectroscopy in the study of human teeth under medications demineralization** [9531-131]
- 9531 3N **Effects of infrared laser on the bone repair assessed by x-ray microtomography (μ ct) and histomorphometry** [9531-133]
- 9531 3O **New speckle analysis algorithm for flow visualization in optical coherence tomography images** [9531-134]
- 9531 3P **New speckle analysis method for optical coherence tomography signal based on autocorrelation** [9531-135]
- 9531 3Q **Determination of radiation levels without producing damage to blood cells** [9531-136]
- 9531 3S **Comparative analysis of gingival phenotype in animal and human experimental models using optical coherence tomography in a non-invasive approach** [9531-139]
- 9531 3U **In situ visualization of dermal collagen dynamics during skin burn healing using second-harmonic-generation microscopy** [9531-142]
- 9531 3V **Optical fluorescence spectroscopy to detect hepatic necrosis after normothermic ischemia: animal model** [9531-143]
- 9531 3X **Simplified variant of an optical chip to evaluate aggregation of red blood cells** [9531-145]

- 9531 40 **Comparison between two portable devices for widefield PpIX fluorescence during cervical intraepithelial neoplasia treatment** [9531-148]
- 9531 42 **Identification of atherosclerosis using aminolevulinic gold nanoparticle assay in fecal specimens** [9531-150]
- 9531 43 **Characterization of probe contact effects on diffuse reflectance spectroscopy measurements** [9531-151]
- 9531 44 **UV protection of euglenoids: computation of the electromagnetic response** [9531-152]
- 9531 46 **Time-resolved and steady-state fluorescence spectroscopy for the assessment of skin photoaging process** [9531-154]
- 9531 47 **Study of lumineers' interfaces by means of optical coherence tomography** [9531-155]
- 9531 48 **Diffuse reflectance imaging to predict heterogeneities in turbid optical phantom** [9531-156]
- 9531 49 **Portable fluorescence microendoscope system for smartphones and its applications** [9531-157]
- 9531 4A **Onychomycosis diagnosis using fluorescence and infrared imaging systems** [9531-158]
- 9531 4C **Preparation and optimization of aminolevulinic acid with gold nanoparticles for photothermal and photodynamic therapies applications** [9531-160]
- 9531 4D **Development of automated prototype for studying the effect of solar aging on sunglasses** [9531-161]
- 9531 4E **Diffuse reflectance spectroscopy of liver tissue** [9531-162]
- 9531 4G **Laser speckle contrast imaging of blood flow from anesthetized mice: correcting drifts in measurements due to breathing movements** [9531-165]
- 9531 4H **Examination of the variation of the optical diffusion properties in nanophosphor materials for use in biomedical imaging and instrumentation** [9531-166]

Authors

Numbers in the index correspond to the last two digits of the six-digit citation identifier (CID) article numbering system used in Proceedings of SPIE. The first four digits reflect the volume number. Base 36 numbering is employed for the last two digits and indicates the order of articles within the volume. Numbers start with 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 0A, 0B...0Z, followed by 10-1Z, 20-2Z, etc.

Abdussamad Abbas, Hisham, 1F
Aggarwal, Lucimara P., 0L
Ahadi, Aylin, 43
Alencar, L. D. S., 1R
Alet, Analía I., 1P
Alet, Nicolás A., 1P
Ali, Syed Mohammed, 1L, 2M
Allemann, Norma, 0W
Alves, Agnelo Neves, 2I
Alves, José Marcos, 3N
Alwayn, Ian, 0E
Ana, P. A., 2Z
Andersson-Engels, Stefan, 43, 4E
Andrade, Cintia T., 2I
Araki, Tsutomu, 3U
Araujo, A. P. U., 17
Araújo, Natália Costa, 1S
Arranz, Alicia, 1I
Asa, Sylvia L., 0C
Aureliano, D. P., 29
Bagnato, Vanderlei Salvadori, 0X, 1Q, 1W, 21, 22, 2E, 35, 37, 3J, 3N, 3V, 40, 48, 4A
Bang, Ole, 16
Barbosa, P. S., 3A
Barzda, Virginijus, 0C
Basso, Sabrina, 1P
Belashov, A. V., 0S
Bell, A. P., 1I
Beltukova, D. M., 0S
Benetti, Carolina, 18, 1J, 1V, 3H
Bernardi, M. I. B., 1R
Bezerra Junior, Arandi Ginane, 38
Blanco, Kate C., 37, 3J
Blay, Alberto, 1V
Bogar, Adriano, 0W
Bonnier, Franck, 25
Bourban, Pierre-Etienne, 15
Brito, A. M. M., 2Z
Broadway, Christian, 16
Brown, C. Tom A., 1H
Buzzá, Hilde H., 2I
Byrne, Hugh J., 25
Cabral, Adolfo J., 3I
Cabrelli, Luciana C., 0L
Camargo, C. F. M., 29
Campbell, C. J., 1I
Campbell, C. Louise, 1H
Campos, Carolina, 46
Campos, Juliane C., 4G
Canevari, Renata A., 1L
Capuzzo, Renato de Castro, 2D
Carbinatto, Fernanda M., 3J, 40
Carneiro, Antonio A. O., 0L
Carneiro, Vanda Sanderana Macêdo, 1S
Carney, Bonnie C., 0P
Carpintero del Barrio, Guillermo, 14, 16
Carvalho, André Lopes, 2D
Carvalho, Luis Felipe C. S., 25
Castellini, Horacio V., 1P, 3X
Castilho, Maiara L., 0E
Castro-e-Silva, Orlando, 0X, 3V
Catao, Maria Helena Chaves de Vasconcelos, 1S
Chamon, Wallace, 0W
Christison, Craig, 1H
Cimões, Renata, 3S
Cisek, Richard, 0C
Conforti, Visitación, 44
Correa, Luciana, 1J
Cortes, Arthur R. G., 2N
Cossetin, Natália Fernandez, 40
Costa, Luciano Da Fontoura, 22
Courrol, Lilia C., 42, 4C
Crispim, Joao, 0W
D'Almeida, Camila de Paula, 3D, 46
da Silva Cordeiro, Thiago, 4C
da Silva, Alessandro M. Hakme, 3N
da Silva, Ana Paula, 4A
da Silva, Mônica N., 42
da Silveira, Marina R., 0X
Dal Pizzol, Carine, 2A
D'Arrigo, Mabel, 1P
de Andrade Borges, Erica, 47
de Castro, Pedro A. A., 1J
de Oliveira, Bruno P., 2E
De Pretto, Lucas R., 29, 3O, 3P
de Sant'Anna, G. R., 3A, 3L
de Varona, Omar, 14
Deana, Alessandro M., 0L
Delannoy, Marcela, 1P
Desco, Manuel, 1I
Dias, Derly Augusto, 18, 1V
Dieamant, Gustavo C., 2A
Dolinko, Andrés, 44
dos Santos, Laurita, 25, 2F, 2M
Dosmar, Emily, 0M
Dubois, A., 07
Escudero, Pedro, 14

Espirito Santo, A. M., 3L
 Farahi, Salma, 0A
 Fashir, Samia A., 0E
 Fávero, Priscila Pereira, 1L, 2M
 Feitosa, Daniela S., 3S
 Fernandes Cassimiro-Silva, Patrícia, 47
 Fernandes, Kristianne Porta Santos, 2I
 Fernandez, Jorge L., 3V
 Ferreira, Julio C. B., 4G
 Flint, Stephen, 25
 Florez, Fernando L. E., 1Q, 1T
 Fontes, Adriana, 39
 Fortunato, Thereza Cury, 48, 4A
 Freitas, Anderson Z., 29, 3A, 3O, 3P
 Fresno, Manuel, 1I
 Fukushima, Shu-ichiro, 3U
 Gallego, Daniel, 16
 Gerbi, Marleny Elizabeth Martinez, 1S
 Golaraei, Ahmad, 0C
 Gomes, L. M., 4D
 Gómez-García, Pablo Aurelio, 1I, 2D, 49
 Gonçalves, Karina de O., 42, 4C
 Goulart, Viviane P., 1J
 Govone, Angelo Biasi, 2D
 Grancianinov, Karen J. S., 2F
 Grandi, Natália D. P., 1T
 Grecco, Clovis, 1Q, 1T, 2I
 Guerra, Bruna A., 3I
 Guimarães, F. E. G., 17
 Guthrie, Micah J., 0M
 Harrison, D. J., 1I
 Hase, Eiji, 3U
 Hewitt, Kevin C., 0E
 Higa, A. G., 3L
 Hoffman, Hilary A., 0P
 Hones, Logan, 0M
 Horliana, Anna C. R. T., 2N
 Humme, Julia Honselmann Genannt, 38
 Hupman, Michael A., 0E
 Inada, Natalia Mayumi, 37, 3J, 40, 4A
 Inchaussandague, Marina E., 44
 Isensee, Debora, 2A
 Jamieson, L. E., 1I
 Kagel, Heike, 38
 Kalil, Sandra, 2I
 Kandarakis, I., 4H
 Kang-Mieler, Jennifer J., 0M
 Khoushabi, Azadeh, 15
 Krouglov, Serguei, 0C
 Kurachi, Cristina, 0B, 0X, 22, 2D, 35, 37, 3D, 3J, 3V, 40, 46, 48, 49, 4A
 Lamela Rivera, Horacio, 14, 16
 Larese, Mónica G., 32
 Lascaia, Cesar A., 2N
 Lee, Christopher L. D., 0E
 Leggio, Luca, 14
 Leônidas Gomes, Anderson Stevens, 3I, 3S, 47
 Liaparinos, P., 4H
 Lima, Cassio A., 1J
 Lima, F. W. S., 1R
 Lins, E. C. C. C., 2Z
 Lizarelli, Rosane F. Z., 1Q, 1T, 1W
 Lobo, Anderson de Oliveira, 3B
 Loew, Murray H., 0P
 Lombardi, Wellington, 40
 Lopes, Luciana A., 1T
 Lyng, Fiona M., 25
 Machado, Brenna S. A., 3I
 Magalhães, Daniel Varela, 2D
 Mahmood, Umar, 1I
 Maldonado, Edison Puig, 1A
 Marciano, Fernanda Roberta, 3B
 Marques, Márcia M., 2N
 Martin, Airtón A., 1L, 25, 2A, 2F, 2M, 3L
 Martinello, Valeska C. A., 2A
 Martínez Ortega, Lisbeth L., 3Q
 Matos, Anna L. L., 39
 Mayjonade, Mallory, 43
 Melo, C. A. S., 1R
 Melo, Luciana S. A., 3S
 Mendes, Fausto Medeiros, 1A
 Menezes, Priscila F. C., 1W
 Menezes, Rebeca Ferraz, 1S
 Menichini, Pablo A., 32
 Mesquita Ferrari, Raquel Agnelli, 2I
 Mieler, William F., 0M
 Moffatt, Lauren T., 0P
 Mogilevych, Borys, 2A, 2F
 Morales-Delgado, Edgar E., 0A
 Moreira, H. H. T., 17
 Moreira, Maria S., 2N
 Moriyama, Lilian Tan, 2E, 35, 48
 Moseley, Harry, 1H
 Moser, Christophe, 0A, 15
 Mota, Cláudia C. B. O., 3I, 3S
 Nahorny, Sídnei, 3B
 Nascimento, E. B., 3L
 Navab, Roya, 0C
 Neto, Jarbas C. C., 0W
 Neto, Lazaro P. M., 1L, 25
 Nilsson, Jan, 4E
 Niu, Carolyn, 0C
 Nogueira, Gesse E. C., 3O, 3P, 4G
 O'Callaghan, Kate, 25
 Osiński, Marek, 14
 Osório Fernandes, Luana, 3S, 47
 Osswald, Christian R., 0M
 O'Sullivan, Jeff, 25
 Paolillo, Alessandra Rossi, 3N
 Paolillo, Fernanda Rossi, 3N
 Papadopoulos, Ioannis N., 0A
 Pratavieira, Sebastião, 0B, 21, 22, 3D, 3J, 3V, 46, 49
 Parra Orjuela, C. Nataly, 3Q
 Pavan, Theo. Z., 0L
 Pelissari, Pedro I. B. G. B., 0L
 Pereira, Goreti, 39
 Pereira, Liliane, 1L, 2M
 Petrov, N. V., 0S
 Pincus, S. H., 17

Pioletti, Dominique P., 15
 Pizzo, Renata C. A., 1Q
 Politano, Rodolfo, 18
 Pospori, Andreas, 16
 Prindeze, Nicholas J., 0P
 Psaltis, Demetri, 0A
 Quinto, Jose, Jr., 1V
 Quiroga Bautista, J. Manuel, 3Q
 Rangel, Joao L., 2A, 2F
 Raniero, Leandro J., 0E
 Reiff, Rodrigo Bezerra de Menezes, 3N
 Reistad, Nina, 43, 4E
 Requena, Michelle B., 1W
 Ribeiro, M. S., 29
 Ribeiro, Márcio A. C., 4G
 Ripoll, Jorge, 11
 Riquelme, Bibiana D., 1P, 32, 3X
 Rocha-Cabral, Renata Maciel, 1A
 Romano, Renan A., 3V
 Romão, Marcia M. A., 2N
 Rosa, Edvaldo Antonio Ribeiro, 38
 Sadraei, M., 17
 Saito Nogueira, Marcelo, 3D, 46
 Sakashita, Shingo, 0C
 Salvio, Ana Gabriela, 22, 35
 Samad, Ricardo E., 4C
 Sankarankutty, Ajith K., 3V
 Santos, Beate S., 39
 Santos, E. A. P., 3L
 Sbrissa, David, 22
 Schizas, Constantin, 15
 Schmock, Andreas M., 15
 Semenova, I. V., 0S
 Shupp, Jeffrey W., 0P
 Silva, C. R., 29
 Silva, F. M. L., 1R
 Silva, Flávia de Oliveira, 4C
 Sinha, Lagnojita, 0M
 Skigin, Diana C., 44
 Soares, Luís Eduardo Silva, 3B
 Sousa, Mariane P., 2F
 Speciali, Jose G., 1Q
 St. Lawrence, Keith, 0M
 Stringasci, Mirian Denise, 21, 35, 4A
 Stureson, Christian, 4E
 Sugden, Kate, 16
 Tanaka, Ryosuke, 3U
 Teixeira Rosa, Ramon Gabriel, 0B, 3D, 49
 Téllez Soto, Claudio Alberto, 1L, 25, 2M
 Terena, Stella Maris Lins, 2I
 Tichauer, Kenneth M., 0M
 Toderi, Martín A., 3X
 Tokarz, Danielle, 0C
 Tolivia, Analía, 44
 Travieso, Gonzalo, 22
 Triplett, Gregory, 1F
 Tsao, Ming-Sound, 0C
 Tsutae, F. M., 17
 Tuboy, Aparecida M., 21
 Turchiello, Rozane de Fátima, 38
 Valencia, Claudio, 44
 Valentine, Ronan M., 1H
 Vaquero, Juan José, 11
 Varoto, Cinthia, 40
 Vasyutinskii, O. S., 0S
 Veloso, Marcelo Noronha, 18
 Ventura, L., 4D
 Vieira Júnior, Nilson D., 4C
 Vilhelmsson Timmermand, Oskar, 4E
 Vollet-Filho, José D., 0X, 21, 3J, 3V
 Wilson, Brian C., 0C
 Wood, Kenneth, 1H
 Woyessa, Getinet, 16
 Xu, Xiaochun, 0M
 Yasufuku, Kazuhiro, 0C
 Yasui, Takeshi, 3U
 Zamataro, Claudia B., 1V
 Zanchin, Anderson L., 21
 Zanin, Hudson, 3B
 Zezell, Denise Maria, 18, 1A, 1J, 1V, 2Z, 3H

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Cristina Kurachi, Universidade de São Paulo (Brazil)
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Introduction

SPIE Biophotonics South America was a joint-meeting with the 15th World Congress of the International Photodynamic Association (IPA) and took place on 23–25 May 2015, at the Belmond Copacabana Palace Hotel, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The first edition of the SPIE-BSA conference had 107 registered attendees from 16 nations including: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, Greece, Japan, Mexico, Switzerland, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Sweden, the Russian Federation, Spain, and the United States, contributing with 49 oral and 79 poster presentations. In IPA 2015, 200 participants from 27 nations were registered. Some attendees presented contributions in both conferences. Exciting and new research results were presented on topics related to tissue optics, plasmonic nanosensors, OCT, tissue microscopy, photodiagnosis, spectroscopy, nanobiophotonics, photonic instrumentation, and clinical applications.

The participants from both meetings could attend any of the SPIE and IPA sessions, resulting in a productive interaction. All tutorials, plenary lectures, and poster sessions were SPIE/IPA shared activities.

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