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Michael Kidger was born in Birmingham, England, on July 6, 1937. He achieved scholarships at the age of 17 to Imperial College, London, where he graduated in 1958, and was awarded an MSc in Applied Optics in 1959. He spent a short time in industry with the optical firm Taylor, Taylor and Hobson of Leicester. In 1963 he joined the optical design team at Imperial College under Professor Charles Wynne. In 1966 he accompanied Wynne to work on bubble chamber optics at the Brookhaven Laboratories. In 1967 Kidger was appointed lecturer in the applied optics section of

Imperial College—a post he held for 20 years. He retained a part-time teaching post at IC and left in 1987 after an association lasting 33 years. His PhD dissertation, “The Application of Electronic Computers to the Design of Optical Systems, Including Aspheric Lenses,” was published in 1971. In 1982 he formed the company Kidger Optics Ltd. with his wife Tina. He was a regular participant and exhibitor at SPIE meetings and served on several SPIE committees, including the Scholarship Committee. He gave optical design courses worldwide up until his death. Michael Kidger died in Australia on February 2, 1998, at the age of 60.