

# ***Novel Biophotonic Techniques and Applications II***

**Alex Vitkin**  
**Arjen Amelink**  
*Editors*

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**Andreas Hielscher**, Columbia University (United States)

# Introduction

The European Conference on Biomedical Optics (ECBO), part of World of Photonics Congress in Europe, took place in Munich, Germany on 12-16 May 2013. Its ~500 attendees were treated to five days of talks, posters, technical exhibits and special events, with ample opportunities for discussing biophotonics science, making personal and scientific connections, and finding out the latest trends in our rapidly evolving interdisciplinary field. The ECBO program was organized into nine thematic sub-conferences, and the chairs of each solicited manuscript summaries from their respective oral and poster presenters. These were compiled into the 2013 ECBO proceedings volumes, with the one you are currently holding in your hands containing selected manuscripts from the Novel Biophotonic Techniques and Applications (NBTA) sub-conference.

The NBTA presentations were thematically diverse, as indicated by the session titles – Novel Tissue Assessments I and II, Polarization and Coherence, Shedding Light on Cells, and Photons, Phonons, and Mechanics. As you read this volume, you will encounter interesting biophotonics studies using speckle, SERS, FRET and other novel methods for advanced tissue assessment. Work on nanoparticle constructs and surface-plasmon resonances were also well represented at NBTA. Such breadth and variety nicely illustrates the diversity of research in this exciting field. We hope that as you read this and the other proceedings volumes of the EBCO 2013, you will be inspired to (continue to) actively contribute to biophotonics research!

**Alex Vitkin**  
**Arjen Amelink**