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Lihong V. Wang
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Contents

xiii	Conference Committee
xvii	<i>Introduction</i>

SESSION 1 TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH I

- 6856 02 **Photoacoustic imaging of tumor angiogenesis [6856-01]**
R. G. M. Kolkman, K. K. Thumma, G. A. ten Brinke, Univ. of Twente (Netherlands);
R. I. Siphanto, H. van Neck, Univ. Medical Ctr. Rotterdam (Netherlands); W. Steenbergen,
Univ. of Twente (Netherlands); T. G. van Leeuwen, Univ. of Twente (Netherlands) and
Academic Medical Ctr., Univ. of Amsterdam (Netherlands)
- 6856 03 **Data processing and quasi-3D optoacoustic imaging of tumors in the breast using a linear arc-shaped array of ultrasonic transducers [6856-02]**
S. A. Ermilov, R. Gharieb, A. Conjusteau, T. Miller, K. Mehta, A. A. Oraevsky, Fairway Medical
Technologies (USA)
- 6856 04 **Photoacoustic tomography of small-animal and human peripheral joints [6856-03]**
X. Wang, D. L. Chamberland, J. B. Fowlkes, P. L. Carson, D. A. Jamadar, Univ. of Michigan
School of Medicine (USA)
- 6856 05 **Monitoring of healing process of burns based on multiwavelength photoacoustic
measurement [6856-04]**
K. Aizawa, Keio Univ. (Japan); S. Sato, D. Saitoh, H. Ashida, National Defense Medical
College Research Institute (Japan); M. Obara, Keio Univ. (Japan)

SESSION 2 TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH II

- 6856 07 **Detection of dilute sperm samples using photoacoustic flowmetry [6856-06]**
J. A. Viator, P. Sutovsky, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia (USA); R. M. Weight, Kansas City Univ.
of Medicine and Biosciences (USA)
- 6856 08 **Monkey brain cortex imaging by use of photoacoustic tomography [6856-07]**
X. Yang, L. V. Wang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA)
- 6856 09 **Photoacoustic detection of breast cancer cells in human blood [6856-08]**
T. S. Thomas, P. S. Dale, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia (USA); R. M. Weight, Kansas City Univ.
of Medicine and Biosciences (USA); U. Atasoy, J. Magee, J. A. Viator, Univ. of Missouri,
Columbia (USA)
- 6856 0B **Experimental investigation of demineralization and remineralization of human teeth using
infrared photothermal radiometry and modulated luminescence [6856-10]**
R. J. Jeon, A. Hellen, A. Matvienko, A. Mandelis, Univ. of Toronto (Canada) and Quantum
Dental Technologies (Canada); S. H. Abrams, Quantum Dental Technologies (Canada);
B. T. Amaechi, Univ. of Texas Health Science Ctr. at San Antonio (USA)

SESSION 3 NOVEL SYSTEMS

- 6856 0C **Photoacoustic generation of focused ultrasonic pulses with predefined temporal profiles including quasi-unipolar pressure pulses [6856-11]**
K. Maslov, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA); H. F. Zhang, Univ. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (USA); L. V. Wang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA)
- 6856 0D **Oxygen sensing for in vivo imaging by photoacoustic lifetime probing [6856-12]**
S. Ashkenazi, S.-W. Huang, T. Horvath, Y.-E. L. Koo, R. Kopelman, Univ. of Michigan (USA)
- 6856 0E **Integrated waveguide sensor for acoustic wave detection in photoacoustic tomography [6856-13]**
R. Nuster, G. Paltauf, H. Dittlbacher, Karl-Franzens-Univ. Graz (Austria); P. Burgholzer, Upper Austrian Research (Austria)
- 6856 0F **Discrimination of shear mechanical and optical contrasts in tissue phantoms by use of opto-elastography [6856-14]**
K. Daoudi, A.-C. Boccara, E. Bossy, ESPCI, CNRS (France)
- 6856 0G **Realtime photoacoustic microscopy of murine cardiovascular and respiratory dynamics in vivo [6856-15]**
R. J. Zemp, L. Song, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA); R. Bitton, K. K. Shung, Univ. of Southern California (USA); L. V. Wang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA)

SESSION 4 GOLD NANOPARTICLES AS CONTRAST AGENT

- 6856 0H **In vivo imaging of inflammatory responses by photoacoustics using cell-targeted gold nanorods (GNR) as contrast agent [6856-16]**
K. Kim, A. Agarwal, A. M. McDonald, R. M. Moore, D. D. Myers, Jr., Univ. of Michigan (USA); R. S. Witte, Univ. of Arizona (USA); S.-W. Huang, S. Ashkenazi, M. J. Kaplan, T. W. Wakefield, Univ. of Michigan (USA); M. O'Donnell, Univ. of Washington (USA); N. A. Kotov, Univ. of Michigan (USA)
- 6856 0I **Photoacoustic tomography with novel optical contrast agents based on gold nanocages or nanoparticles containing near-infrared dyes [6856-17]**
X. Yang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA); S. Skrabalak, Univ. of Washington (USA); E. Stein, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA); B. Wu, Phosphorex, Inc. (USA); X. Wei, Fudan Univ. (China); Y. Xia, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA) and Univ. of Washington (USA); L. V. Wang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA)
- 6856 0J **In vivo photoacoustic imaging with multiple selective targeting using bioconjugated gold nanorods [6856-18]**
C.-W. Wei, C.-K. Liao, National Taiwan Univ. (Taiwan); Y.-Y. Chen, C.-R. C. Wang, National Chung Cheng Univ. (Taiwan); A.-A. Ding, D.-B. Shiehd, National Cheng Kung Univ. (Taiwan); P.-C. Li, National Taiwan Univ. (Taiwan)

- 6856 0K **Photothermalysis by laser-induced microbubbles generated around gold nanorod clusters selectively formed in leukemia cells** [6856-19]
D. Lapotko, E. Lukianova-Hleb, S. Zhdanok, Lykov Heat and Mass Transfer Institute (Belarus); B. Rostro, R. Simonette, J. Hafner, Rice Univ. (USA); M. Konopleva, M. Andreeff, Univ. of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Ctr. (USA); A. Conjusteau, A. Oraevsky, Fairway Medical Technologies, Inc. (USA)
- 6856 0L **Comparative analysis of optical absorption and optoacoustic signal generation in nanoparticles** [6856-20]
H. Lamela, V. Cunningham, P. Pedreira, D. C. Gallego, P. Acedo, Univ. Carlos III de Madrid (Spain); W. Fritzsche, A. Csaki, G. Festag, A. Steinbrück, Institut für Photonische Technologien e.V. (Germany)
- 6856 0M **Synthesis and in vitro cytotoxicity of mPEG-SH modified gold nanorods** [6856-21]
C. L. Didychuk, P. Ephrat, Lawson Health Research Institute, St. Joseph's Health Care (Canada) and Univ. of Western Ontario (Canada); M. Belton, Lawson Health Research Institute, St. Joseph's Health Care (Canada); J. J. L. Carson, Lawson Health Research Institute, St. Joseph's Health Care (Canada) and Univ. of Western Ontario (Canada)

SESSION 5 SMALL ANIMAL IMAGING

- 6856 0N **In vivo photoacoustic imaging of nude mice vasculature using a photoacoustic imaging system based on a commercial ultrasound scanner** [6856-22]
L. Jankovic, K. Shahzad, Y. Wang, M. Burcher, Philips Research NA (USA); F.-D. Scholle, P. Hauff, Bayer Schering Pharma AG (Germany); S. Mofina, M. Skobe, Mount Sinai School of Medicine (USA)
- 6856 0O **A modified commercial ultrasound scanner used for in vivo photoacoustic imaging of nude mice injected with non-targeted contrast agents** [6856-23]
L. Jankovic, K. Shahzad, Y. Wang, M. Burcher, Philips Research NA (USA); F.-D. Scholle, P. Hauff, Bayer Schering Pharma AG (Germany); S. Mofina, M. Skobe, Mount Sinai School of Medicine (USA)
- 6856 0P **3D photoacoustic imaging system for in vivo studies of small animal models (Best Paper Award)** [6856-24]
E. Z. Zhang, J. Laufer, Univ. College London (United Kingdom); R. B. Pedley, Royal Free and Univ. College London Medical School (United Kingdom); P. Beard, Univ. College London (United Kingdom)
- 6856 0Q **Small animal imaging using a curved array photoacoustic tomography system** [6856-25]
J. Gamelin, A. Aguirre, A. Maurudis, F. Huang, D. Castillo, Univ. of Connecticut (USA); L. V. Wang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA); Q. Zhu, Univ. of Connecticut (USA)
- 6856 0R **Optoacoustic system for 3D functional and molecular imaging in nude mice** [6856-26]
M. P. Fronheiser, A. Stein, D. Herzog, S. Thompson, Seno Medical Instruments (USA); A. Liopo, M. Eghtedari, M. Motamedi, Univ. of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston (USA); S. Ermilov, A. Conjusteau, R. Gharieb, R. Lacewell, T. Miller, K. Mehta, A. A. Oraevsky, Fairway Medical Technologies (USA)

SESSION 6 HYBRID AND OTHER MODALITIES

- 6856 OS **First practical experiences with the optoacoustic/ultrasound system OPUS [6856-27]**
K. Zell, Technische Univ. München (Germany); M. W. Vogel, GE Global Research-Europe (Germany); P. Menzenbach, InnoLas GmbH (Germany); R. Niessner, C. Haisch, Technische Univ. München (Germany)
- 6856 OT **Hybrid optoacoustic and ultrasonic imaging system for detection of prostate malignancies [6856-28]**
M. A. Yaseen, Rice Univ. (USA); H. P.-F. Brecht, S. A. Ermilov, R. R. Gharieb, A. Conjusteau, A. A. Oraevsky, Fairway Medical Technologies, Inc. (USA)
- 6856 OU **Photoacoustic and ultrasound imaging to guide photothermal therapy: ex-vivo study [6856-29]**
J. Shah, S. Park, S. Aglyamov, T. Larson, L. Ma, Univ. of Texas at Austin (USA); K. Sokolov, Univ. of Texas at Austin (USA) and MD Anderson Cancer Ctr. (USA); K. Johnston, T. Milner, S. Emelianov, Univ. of Texas at Austin (USA)
- 6856 OV **Investigation of photoacoustic guidance of diffusive optical tomography [6856-30]**
J. Gamelin, A. Maurudis, A. Aguirre, Q. Zhu, Univ. of Connecticut (USA)
- 6856 OW **Theoretical analysis of dental demineralization using photothermal radiometry [6856-31]**
A. Mandelis, A. Matvienko, Univ. of Toronto (Canada) and Quantum Dental Technologies (Canada); S. H. Abrams, Quantum Dental Technologies (Canada)
- 6856 0X **Shielding for thermoacoustic tomography with RF excitation [6856-32]**
M. Mitchell, G. Becker, P. Dey, J. Generotzky, S. K. Patch, Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (USA)

SESSION 7 QUANTITATIVE IMAGING

- 6856 0Y **Simultaneous estimation of chromophore concentration and scattering distributions from multiwavelength photoacoustic images [6856-33]**
B. T. Cox, S. R. Arridge, P. C. Beard, Univ. College London (United Kingdom)
- 6856 0Z **Quantitative imaging of chromophore concentrations using a photoacoustic forward model [6856-34]**
J. Laufer, E. Zhang, B. Cox, P. Beard, Univ. College London (United Kingdom)
- 6856 10 **Measurement of photoacoustic detector sensitivity distribution by robotic source placement [6856-35]**
P. Ephrat, J. J. L. Carson, Lawson Health Research Institute, St. Joseph's Health Care (Canada) and Univ. of Western Ontario (Canada)
- 6856 11 **Application of intense ultrasound bursts for quantitative acousto-optic sensing [6856-36]**
A. Bratchenia, R. Molenaar, R. P. H. Kooyman, Univ. of Twente (Netherlands)
- 6856 12 **RF diffraction effect in RF-induced thermoacoustic tomography: calibration and distortion [6856-37]**
C. Li, G. Ku, P. Manojit, L. V. Wang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA)

SESSION 8 MOLECULAR IMAGING

- 6856 13 **Multi-spectral photo-acoustic molecular tomography resolves fluorochrome distribution with high resolution and sensitivity in small animals [6856-38]**
D. Razansky, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School (USA) and Technical Univ. of Munich and Helmholtz Ctr. Munich (Germany); C. Vinegoni, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School (USA); V. Ntziachristos, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School (USA) and Technical Univ. of Munich and Helmholtz Ctr. Munich (Germany)
- 6856 14 **Enhanced photoacoustic neuroimaging with gold nanorods and PEBBLEs [6856-39]**
R. S. Witte, Univ. of Arizona (USA); K. Kim, A. Agarwal, W. Fan, R. Kopelman, N. Kotov, D. Kipke, Univ. of Michigan (USA); M. O'Donnell, Univ. of Washington (USA)
- 6856 15 **Optoacoustic sensing of ocular bacterial antigen using targeted gold nanorods [6856-40]**
S. Maswadi, L. Page, L. Woodward, R. D. Glickman, Univ. of Texas Health Science Ctr. (USA); N. Barsalou, Naval Health Research Ctr. Detachment (USA)
- 6856 16 **Molecular specific photoacoustic imaging with plasmonic nanosensors [6856-41]**
S. Mallidi, E. Yantsen, T. Larson, Univ. of Texas at Austin (USA); K. Sokolov, Univ. of Texas at Austin (USA) and M.D. Anderson Cancer Ctr. (USA); S. Emelianov, Univ. of Texas at Austin (USA)
- 6856 17 **Fluorescence molecular tomography using a priori photoacoustic data [6856-42]**
D. Razansky, V. Ntziachristos, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School (USA) and Technical Univ. of Munich and Helmholtz Ctr. Munich (Germany)

SESSION 9 SIGNAL PROCESSING AND IMAGE RECONSTRUCTION I

- 6856 18 **Prior image constrained compressed sensing (PICCS) (Invited Paper) [6856-43]**
G.-H. Chen, J. Tang, S. Leng, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison (USA)
- 6856 19 **Photoacoustic wave propagation simulations using the FDTD method with Berenger's perfectly matched layers [6856-44]**
Y.-L. Sheu, C.-W. Wei, C.-K. Liao, P.-C. Li, National Taiwan Univ. (Taiwan)
- 6856 1A **Pulsed laser induced acoustic wave propagation and interaction in liquid: experiment and simulation [6856-45]**
S. G. Ryu, S. H. Ko, N. Misra, H. Pan, C. P. Grigoropoulos, Univ. of California at Berkeley (USA); N. Kladias, E. Panides, G. A. Domoto, Xerox Corp. (USA)
- 6856 1B **Improving limited-view reconstruction in photoacoustic tomography by incorporating a priori boundary information [6856-46]**
M. A. Anastasio, K. Wang, J. Zhang, Illinois Institute of Technology (USA); G. A. Kruger, D. Reinecke, R. A. Kruger, Optosonics, Inc. (USA)

SESSION 10 SIGNAL PROCESSING AND IMAGE RECONSTRUCTION II

- 6856 1C **Iterative reconstruction algorithm for reduction of echo background in optoacoustic images** [6856-47]
M. Jaeger, M. Frenz, Univ. of Bern (Switzerland); D. Schweizer, Fukuda Denshi Switzerland AG (Switzerland)
- 6856 1D **Implementation and comparison of reconstruction algorithms for 2D optoacoustic tomography using a linear array** [6856-48]
D. Modgil, P. J. La Rivière, The Univ. of Chicago (USA)
- 6856 1E **Elucidation of 2D and 3D photoacoustic tomography** [6856-49]
K. Wang, J. Zhang, M. A. Anastasio, Illinois Institute of Technology (USA)
- 6856 1F **Simultaneous reconstruction of speed-of-sound and optical absorption properties in photoacoustic tomography via a time-domain iterative algorithm** [6856-50]
J. Zhang, K. Wang, Y. Yang, M. A. Anastasio, Illinois Institute of Technology (USA)
- 6856 1G **Multi-bandwidth image reconstruction in photoacoustic tomography** [6856-51]
C.-Y. Chou, National Taiwan Univ. (Taiwan); M. A. Anastasio, J. Zhang, Illinois Institute of Technology (USA); G. Ku, X. Yang, L. V. Wang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA)
- 6856 1H **Transducer frequency response and impact on TPOAT signal** [6856-52]
D. Pachauri, Univ. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (USA); T. A. Stiles, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison (USA); N. Purwar, P. Dey, S. K. Patch, Univ. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (USA)

SESSION 11 HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGING

- 6856 1I **Optical-resolution confocal photoacoustic microscopy** [6856-53]
K. Maslov, H. F. Zhang, S. Hu, L. V. Wang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA)
- 6856 1J **Noninvasive mapping of the electrically stimulated mouse brain using photoacoustic microscopy** [6856-54]
E. W. Stein, K. Maslov, L. V. Wang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA)
- 6856 1K **High-frequency optoacoustic arrays using parallel etalon detection** [6856-55]
S.-W. Huang, Y. Hou, S. Ashkenazi, Univ. of Michigan (USA); M. O'Donnell, Univ. of Washington (USA)
- 6856 1L **High-sensitivity polymer microring resonators for broadband ultrasound detection and imaging** [6856-56]
A. D. Maxwell, S.-W. Huang, T. Ling, J.-S. Kim, S. Ashkenazi, L. J. Guo, Univ. of Michigan (USA)
- 6856 1M **Photoacoustic Doppler flowmetry** [6856-57]
H. Fang, L. V. Wang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA)

SESSION 12 ULTRASOUND-MODULATED (ACOUSTO) OPTICAL TOMOGRAPHY

- 6856 1O **Improvement of sensitivity of acousto-optical imaging using a powerful long pulse laser [6856-59]**
G. Rousseau, A. Blouin, J.-P. Monchalin, National Research Council Canada (Canada)
- 6856 1P **Imaging of optical scattering contrast using ultrasound-modulated optical tomography [6856-60]**
S.-R. Kothapalli, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA); S. Sakadžić, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School(USA); C. Kim, L. V. Wang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA)
- 6856 1Q **Modeling of amplitude and exit location variations of light propagation under ultrasonic modulation [6856-61]**
Q. Liu, S. Norton, T. Vo-Dinh, Duke Univ. (USA)
- 6856 1R **Pulsed ultrasound-modulated optical tomography using spectral hole-burning [6856-62]**
Y. Li, C. Kim, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA); H. Zhang, Texas A&M Univ. (USA);
K. H. Wagner, Univ. of Colorado at Boulder (USA); P. Hemmer, Texas A&M Univ. (USA);
L. V. Wang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA)
- 6856 1S **Ultrasound-modulated optical tomography using four-wave mixing in photorefractive polymers [6856-63]**
H. Zhang, P. Hemmer, Texas A&M Univ. (USA); P. Wang, S. Rokutanda, M. Yamamoto, Nitto Denko Technical Corp. (USA); L. V. Wang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA)

SESSION 13 FUNCTIONAL IMAGING

- 6856 1T **Effects of wavelength-dependent fluence attenuation on the noninvasive photoacoustic imaging of hemoglobin oxygen saturation in subcutaneous vasculature in vivo [6856-64]**
H. F. Zhang, Univ. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (USA); K. Maslov, L. V. Wang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA)
- 6856 1U **Toward functional ultrasound-modulated optical tomography: a phantom study [6856-65]**
C. Kim, L. V. Wang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA)
- 6856 1V **Photoacoustic determination of the optical absorption coefficient of thermally coagulated blood [6856-66]**
E. M. Spradling, R. J. Talbert, J. A. Viator, Univ. of Missouri-Columbia (USA) and
Christopher S. Bond Life Sciences Ctr. (USA)
- 6856 1W **Deep reflection-mode photoacoustic imaging of internal organs [6856-67]**
K. H. Song, L. V. Wang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA)
- 6856 1X **Photoacoustic tomography using reverberant field data from a single detector [6856-68]**
B. T. Cox, S. R. Arridge, P. C. Beard, Univ. College London (United Kingdom)

SESSION 14 SYSTEMS OPTIMIZATION

- 6856 1Y **Optimization of tissue irradiation in optoacoustic imaging using a linear transducer: theory and experiments [6856-69]**
M. Frenz, M. Jaeger, Univ. of Bern (Switzerland)
- 6856 1Z **Measurement of photoacoustic transducer position by robotic source placement and nonlinear parameter estimation [6856-70]**
J. J. L. Carson, P. Ephrat, Lawson Health Research Institute, St. Joseph's Health Care (Canada) and Univ. of Western Ontario (Canada); A. Seabrook, Lawson Health Research Institute, St. Joseph's Health Care (Canada)
- 6856 20 **Photoacoustic tomography of heterogeneous media using a model-based time reversal method [6856-71]**
H. Grün, Upper Austrian Research GmbH (Austria); R. Nuster, G. Paltauf, Karl-Franzens Univ. (Austria); M. Haltmeier, Leopold-Franzens Univ. (Austria); P. Burgholzer, Upper Austrian Research GmbH (Austria)
- 6856 21 **Optimizing image resolution in three-dimensional photoacoustic tomography with line detectors [6856-72]**
G. Paltauf, R. Nuster, K. Passler, Karl-Franzens-Univ. Graz (Austria); M. Haltmeier, Univ. Innsbruck (Austria); P. Burgholzer, Upper Austrian Research (Austria)
- 6856 22 **Real-time photoacoustic data acquisition with Philips iU22 ultrasound scanner [6856-73]**
J. Dean, V. Gornstein, M. Burcher, L. Jankovic, Philips Research NA (USA)
- 6856 23 **Improving the image quality of photoacoustic tomography (PAT) by using a negative acoustic lens [6856-74]**
C. Li, G. Ku, L. V. Wang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (USA)

POSTER SESSION

- 6856 24 **Photoacoustic studies of tissue-like phantoms with scattering and absorbing properties [6856-77]**
K. Shahzad, L. Jankovic, Y. Wang, Philips Research North America (USA)
- 6856 25 **Non-invasive detection of osteoporotic bone loss using photothermal radiometry and modulated luminescence [6856-78]**
C.-H. Kwan, A. Matvienko, A. Mandelis, Univ. of Toronto (Canada)
- 6856 26 **Photoacoustic detection of protein coagulation in albumen-based phantoms [6856-79]**
R. F. Castelino, Ryerson Univ. (Canada) and Univ. of Toronto (Canada); W. M. Whelan, Univ. of Prince Edward Island (Canada) and Ryerson Univ. (Canada); M. C. Kolios, Ryerson Univ. (Canada) and Univ. of Toronto (Canada)
- 6856 27 **Adaptive photoacoustic imaging using the Mallart-Fink focusing factor [6856-80]**
M.-L. Li, National Tsing Hua Univ. (Taiwan)

- 6856 28 **Calculating absolute optical absorption coefficients from photoacoustic measurements by iterative fitting** [6856-81]
Y. Wang, Oregon Health & Science Univ. (USA) and Foshan Univ. (China); R. Wang, Oregon Health & Science Univ. (USA)
- 6856 2A **Feasibility study of three-dimensional co-registered ultrasound and photoacoustic imaging for cancer detection and visualization** [6856-83]
A. Aguirre, J. Gamelin, Univ. of Connecticut (USA); P. Guo, Electrocure LLC (USA); S. Yan, Siemens Molecular Imaging (USA); Q. Zhu, Univ. of Connecticut (USA)

Author Index

Conference Committee

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Session Chairs

Opening Remarks

Alexander A. Oraevsky, Fairway Medical Technologies, Inc. (USA)
Lihong V. Wang, Washington University in St. Louis (USA)

- 1 Translational Research I
Ton G. van Leeuwen, Universiteit Twente (Netherlands)
- 2 Translational Research II
Quing Zhu, University of Connecticut (USA)
- 3 Novel Systems
Andreas Mandelis, University of Toronto (Canada)
- 4 Gold Nanoparticles as Contrast Agent
Vladimir P. Zharov, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (USA)
- 5 Small Animal Imaging
Steven L. Jacques, Oregon Health & Science University (USA)
- 6 Hybrid and Other Modalities
Stanislav Y. Emelianov, The University of Texas at Austin (USA)
- 7 Quantitative Imaging
Paul C. Beard, University College London (United Kingdom)
- 8 Molecular Imaging
Alexander A. Oraevsky, Fairway Medical Technologies, Inc. (USA)
- 9 Signal Processing and Image Reconstruction I
Mark A. Anastasio, Illinois Institute of Technology (USA)
- 10 Signal Processing and Image Reconstruction II
Mark A. Anastasio, Illinois Institute of Technology (USA)
- 11 High Resolution Imaging
Lihong V. Wang, Washington University in St. Louis (USA)
- 12 Ultrasound-Modulated (Acousto) Optical Tomography
Albert-Claude Boccara, École Supérieure de Physique et de Chimie Industrielles (France)
- 13 Functional Imaging
Martin Frenz, Universität Bern (Switzerland)

- 14 Systems Optimization
Günther Paltauf, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz (Austria)
- Hot Topics Open Forum
Alexander A. Orævsky, Fairway Medical Technologies, Inc. (USA)
Lihong V. Wang, Washington University in St. Louis (USA)
- Best Paper Award
Alexander A. Orævsky, Fairway Medical Technologies, Inc. (USA)

Introduction

Papers presented this year at the conference on Photons Plus Ultrasound: Imaging and Sensing can be characterized as "interesting and mature." The field of optoacoustic (photoacoustic, thermoacoustic) tomography has come of age, and the conference featured a number of applications that demonstrated both clinical and commercial value. This in turn, stimulated interest from the industry of medical imaging.

This year we saw many researchers representing small companies and large industry among the usual groups from academic institutions. It is noteworthy that the field of optoacoustic imaging and sensing now has its industrial champion, Seno Medical Instruments of San Antonio, Texas, a company fully dedicated to commercializing the technology discussed at our conference.

Congratulations to Edward Z. Zhang and his colleagues from the University College London, recipients of the annual "Best Paper Award" sponsored by Fairway Medical Technologies of Houston, Texas. Their paper entitled "3D photoacoustic imaging system for *in vivo* studies of small animal models" represents a significant step in high-resolution imaging of tumor microvasculature using an optical interferometer as an ultrawide band ultrasonic detector.

Manuscripts included in this volume of SPIE's *Progress in Biomedical Optics and Imaging* series have been peer-reviewed by the conference Organizing Committee members. This proceedings volume is an invaluable asset to researchers working not only in the field of biomedical optoacoustics, but also in many other interdisciplinary areas of medical physics, such as medical imaging, monitoring of minimally invasive therapy, diagnostic oncology, hematology, dermatology, and many others.

**Alexander A. Oraevsky
Lihong V. Wang**

