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Introduction

Our conference on “Photons Plus Ultrasound: Imaging and Sensing” has experienced another significant growth as shown in the following figure and continues to lead the Photonics West BiOS Symposia in size. This volume of SPIE Proceedings reflects the high-quality research being conducted by our community and offers the latest information on developments in the field of photoacoustic or optoacoustic computed tomography, microscopy, sensing and monitoring as well as ultrasonic modulation of light and other related fields.

As in the past, the organizing committee recognized the leading researchers in the field by presenting the Best Paper Awards and the Best Poster Awards, sponsored by Seno Medical, San Antonio, Texas. This year, the Best Paper Awards went to:
Intravascular photoacoustic imaging of human coronary atherosclerosis
Krista Jansen, Erasmus MC (Netherlands); Antonius F. W. van der Steen, Erasmus MC (Netherlands) and Interuniversity Cardiology Institute (Netherlands); Geert Springeling, Heleen M. M. van Beusekorn, J. Wolter Oosterhuis, Gijs van Soest, Erasmus MC (Netherlands)

In vivo longitudinal photoacoustic imaging of subcutaneous tumours in mice
Jan Laufer, Peter Johnson, Edward Zhang, Bradley Treeby, Ben Cox, Barbara Pedley, Paul Beard, Univ. College London (United Kingdom)

The Best Poster Awards were given to:

Second generation optical-resolution photoacoustic microscopy
Konstantin Maslov, Song Hu, Lihong V. Wang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (United States)

Quantitative high resolution photoacoustic spectroscopy by combining photoacoustic imaging with diffuse optical tomography
Adam Q. Bauer, Ralph E. Nothdurft, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (United States); Todd N. Erpelding, Philips Research (United States); Lihong V. Wang, Joseph P. Culver, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (United States)

We would like to congratulate the winners and thank all the contributors to this conference for making it another great success!

Alexander A. Oraevsky
Lihong V. Wang