

*Brief report of the Third International Conference on Applications of Optics and Photonics, AOP2017*

Celebrating Optics and Photonics and its outstanding positive impact in the world and in our everyday life, largely resulting from the current remarkable success and fast sustainable development in O&P research, the Portuguese Society for Optics and Photonics, SPOF - *Sociedade Portuguesa para a Investigação e Desenvolvimento em Óptica e Fotónica*, successfully organised its third triennial international conference on Applications of Optics and Photonics, May 8 to 12, at the University of Algarve in the lovely city of Faro, Portugal.

The conference was organized to foster the establishment of the widest range of cooperation projects and relationships with colleagues and institutions from all around the world while increasing the external visibility of Portugal' optics and photonics research.

The success of the conference comes from the enthusiastic commitment of the Portuguese Optics and Photonics community and of our friends from all over the world, the endorsement and active support of the most important international scientific Optics societies – ICO, SPIE, EOS, RIAO– several national societies committees and boards – SEDOPTICA, AMO, CTOM, STO, OPSS, CVO, RCO, SOFE and SPF – photonics and optics industries companies and projects and initiatives – LaserLab, iBROW, INNOVA, Laser World of Photonics, OPA, OQEJ-Springer, adLASER, MTBrandão – and contribution of the authors of the 191 effectively presented works in all domains of optics and photonics.

Introducing the nearly two hundred works presented, 34 invited lectures from world leading scientists, including 7 plenary lectures, gave an excellent overview of the state of the art in optics and photonics research across the world pointing out perspectives of future developments.

Well over one third of all 149 effective participants of the conferences were students, this percentage increasing to nearly 50% among the Portuguese participants, illustrating the vitality and growth potential of research in Optics and Photonics in Portugal and all over the world in general. The support of the International Commission for Optics to the conference helped the participation of seventeen students. EOS and SPIE awarded prizes, respectively, to the best student' poster presentations and best students' research works presented at the conference. At the closing ceremony of the conference the 2014 and 2015 SPOF's Best PhD Thesis in Portugal in Optic and Photonics were awarded to Hugo Martins ("Distributed and Remote Fiber Sensing Assisted by Raman Effect") and to Marta Ferreira ("Fiber Sensing Based on New Structures and Post-Processing Enhancement") both former students of the University of Porto.

Reflecting the development of the scientific and technological research in Optics and Photonics in Portugal over last decades and the success of the previous editions of SPOF' conference, it was decided to change the periodicity of our AOP conferences to biannual and therefore next conference will be held June 3 to 7, 2019, in Lisbon. We are looking forward to another exciting and most enjoyable conference!

Manuel Filipe P. C. M. Costa  
(Chairperson)



Opening Session. From left to right: Prof. President of the Iberoamerican Optics Network – RIAO/SOPHIA; Prof. Jürgen Jans, President of the European Optical Society, EOS; Dr. Robert Lieberman, Immediate Past-President of SPIE; Prof. Angela Guzman, Secretary of the International Commission for Optics, ICO; Prof. Manuela David, Pro-Rector of University of Algarve; Prof. Maria de Lurdes Cristiano, Director of the Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Algarve; Prof. Manuel Filipe Costa, President of the Portuguese Society for Optics and Photonics, SPOF, and chair of the conference; Prof. Jose Figueiredo, local organizing committee from University of Algarve.



Welcome reception at Faro’ municipal and archaeological museum



Best PhD Thesis 2015’ winner Marta Ferreira and her supervisor Dr. Orlando Frazão of INESC-Tec.