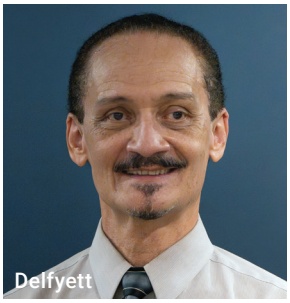


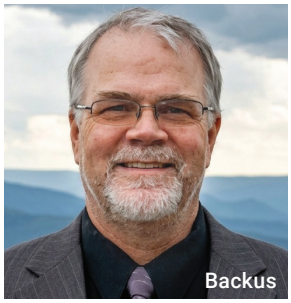

Stachurski accepting the award.

## Gekko Photonics Named Luminate "Company of the Year"

On 30 September, Poland-based **Gekko Photonics**, which equips manufacturers with inline Raman analyzers that replace delayed lab testing with continuous chemical monitoring, was announced as the winner of round nine of the Luminate NY optics, photonics and imaging startup accelerator competition. Gekko received the "Company of the Year" award from New York State Governor **Kathy Hochul** at the Luminate 2026 Finals, which were held during Optica's Frontiers in Optics + Laser Science (FiO+LS) in Rochester, NY, USA. The company will receive an investment of US$1 million from New York State through the Finger Lakes Forward Upstate Revitalization Initiative.

The startup plans to build a local operation to manufacture its photonic systems and support industrial customers. "Rochester's photonics expertise makes it a natural place for our company to grow," said Gekko Photonics CEO **Robert Stachurski**. "This funding will help us hire local engineering and customer support talent, work with regional suppliers, and bring our systems into production and deployment more quickly for US customers."


Delfyett


Backus


Vanholsbeeck

## 2026 Optica Officer Elections

Optica members have elected **Peter J. Delfyett**, CREOL, University of Central Florida, USA, as the society's 2027 vice president. **Sterling Backus**, Thorlabs, Inc., USA, and **Frédérique Vanholsbeeck**, University of Auckland, New Zealand, were elected as directors-at-large for three-year terms starting January 2027. The election results were announced at the society's annual business meeting at Optica's annual meeting, FiO+LS, in Rochester, NY, USA.


Minoshima

## JSAP–Optica Joint Symposia

The 2026 JSAP–Optica Joint Symposia were held earlier this year at Hokkaido University, Japan, during the 87th Autumn Meeting of the Japan Society for Applied Physics (JSAP). Optica Board Member **Kaoru Minoshima** delivered a special lecture on "Tailoring Full Properties of Optical Waves: Optical Frequency Combs and Applications beyond Frequency Metrology" and hosted a reception for members in the area.










From left: Anna Tauke-Pedretti, Andrey Kanaev and Zachary Goff-Eldredge.

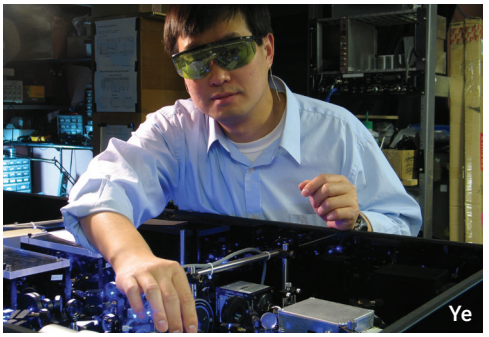
## US Federal Government Panel at FiO+LS

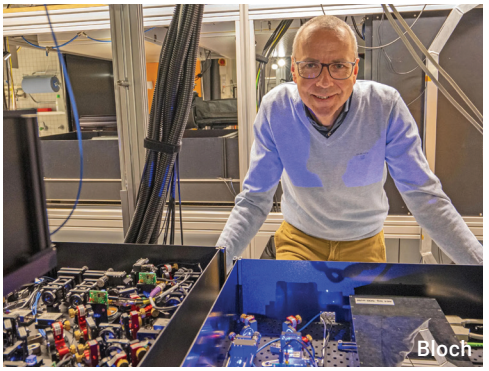
Three US federal government speakers took to the exhibit floor stage for a panel discussion of funding and collaboration opportunities at Optica's annual meeting, FiO+LS, in Rochester, NY, USA. Panelists **Zachary Goff-Eldredge** from the US Department of Energy, **Andrey Kanaev** from the US National Science Foundation and **Anna Tauke-Pedretti** from the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency summarized their agencies' research priorities and funding programs in quantum information science and technology, integrated photonics, materials and lasers, among other technical topics. The speakers also provided guidance for navigating federal agency organizations.



## Stanford Photonics Research Center Symposium

The Stanford Photonics Research Center (SPRC) 2026 Symposium was held from 14 to 16 September at Stanford University, USA. Organized around the guiding themes of "new opportunities" and "key challenges," the event brought together leaders from academia, industry and government to explore the future of photonics. Talks emphasized strategic insight and shared challenges, and they were complemented by poster sessions, partner presentations and evening networking events. Keynote talks were given by Stanford faculty **Steven Chu**, **Haisheng Rong** and **Yasaman Soudagar**.


Ye


Bloch

## Optica Fellows Win Wolf Prize

Two Optica Fellows were honored with the 2026 Wolf Prize in Physics, a prestigious international award presented by the Wolf Foundation. **Jun Ye**, National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST), University of Colorado, USA, and **Immanuel F. Bloch**, Max Planck Institute, IMU Munich, Germany, were honored for their "transformative, widely applicable advances in the control of ultracold atomic systems."

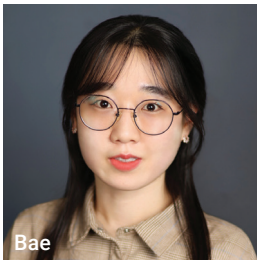
## Thank You, Editors




We are happy to announce that the following individuals were recently appointed as new editors: *Advances in Optics and Photonics*—**Song Hu**, Washington University in St. Louis, USA. *Applied Optics*—**Peter Dragic**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA (as Features Editors). *Biomedical Optics Express*—**Mengyang Liu**, Medical University of Vienna, Austria; **Gennadii Piavchenko**, Sechenov University, Russia; **Xiaoyu Weng**, Shenzhen University, China. JOCN—**Rui Wang**, University of Bristol, UK. JOSA B—**Zhanghua Han**, Shandong Normal University, China; **Minkyung Kim**, Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology, Republic of Korea. *Optica*—**Jaime Gómez Rivas**, Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands. *Optical Materials Express*—**Maryam Khodadadi**, University College London, UK; **Georgios Veronis**, Louisiana State University, USA. *Optics Express*—**Yongkang Dong**, Harbin Institute of Technology, China; **Enrique (Kiko) Galvez**, Colgate University, USA; **Massimiliano Guasoni**, University of Southampton, UK; **Sean Kearney**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA; **Vijay Kumar**, NIT Warangal, India; **Yan Sheng**, Ningbo University, China. *Optics Letters*—**Marta Fajardo**, Instituto de Plasmas e Fusão Nuclear, Portugal. *Photonics Research*—**Chaohong Lee**, Shenzhen University, China; **Haoran Ren**, Monash University, Australia.

We would like to thank the following editors for agreeing to serve a second term: JOSA A—**Svetlana Avramov-Zamurovic**, US Naval Academy, USA. *Optics Express*—**Simon Thibault**, University of Laval, Canada.

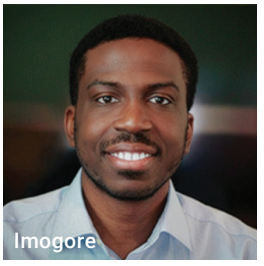
We would like to thank the following editors, who have recently finished their terms, for their years of service: JOSA B—**Xue-Wen Chen**, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China. *Optics Express*—**Baile Chen**, ShanghaiTech University, China. *Optics Letters*—**Antonio Khoury**, Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil.


Bae


Edelmann


Young


Saito Nogueira


Imogore


Shor Peled

## Optica Foundation Prizes

The Optica Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of several of its 2026 prizes and fellowships. The recognitions reflect the impact that the next generation of optics and photonics leaders are making. "Congratulations to all the honorees. Through their research, service and innovation, they are already making meaningful contributions to our field," said **Eric Mazur**, Optica Foundation Board of Directors Chair. The 2026 recipients are:

*Bernard J. Couillaud Prize in Ultrafast Lasers*: **Ji Eun Bae**, CIMAP, CNRS, France, "For her work with mid-infrared high-repetition-rate ultrafast lasers."

*Gapontsev Prize for Innovations in Fiber Lasers*: **Marvin Edelmann**, Harvard University, USA and DESY & University of Hamburg, Germany, "For his work with application-aware adaptive fiber laser platforms for next-generation multiphoton imaging."

*Theodor W. Hänsch Prize in Quantum Optics*: **Aaron Young**, Harvard University, USA, "For his work with ultrafast and high-resolution spatial light modulation for cold atoms."

*Ivan Kaminow Outstanding Early Career Professional Prize*: **Marcelo Saito Nogueira**, University of Limerick, Ireland, "For his leadership and volunteer efforts with Optica and the optics and photonics community."

*Milton and Rosalind Chang Pivoting Fellowship*: **Timothy O. Imogore**, StraalBox, Netherlands, "For his work exploring how to transform photonics through gaming."

*Thomas F. Deutsch Fellowship in Biomedical Optics*: **Maya Shor Peled**, Wellman Center for Photomedicine, USA, "For her work with integrated photonic optical coherence tomography light sources and systems."

## Thank You, Chairs and Hosts

Thank you to the conference chairs and hosts, and the subcommittee chairs of the Optica Latin America Optics and Photonics Conference:

**Alejandra Catalina Valencia Gonzalez**, Universidad de Los Andes, Colombia; **Mayerlín Núñez Portela**, Universidad de Los Andes, Colombia; **Yobani Mejia-Barbosa**, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Colombia; **Daewook Kim**, University of Arizona, USA; **Daniela Angulo**, EAFIT, Colombia; **Raul Celistrino Teixeira**, Universidade Federal de Sao Carlos, Brazil; **Chaitanya Kumar**, Tata Inst. of Fundamental Research Hyderabad, India; **Cleber Renato Mendonça**, USP Inst de Fisica de Sao Carlos, Brazil; **Cristina Masoller**, Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya, Spain; **Flavio Cruz**, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brazil; **Juan Rafael Alvarez**, Telecom Paris, Polytechnic Institute of Paris, France; **Juan Perez**, ICFO-Institut de Ciencies Fotoniques, Spain; **Valeria Rodriguez**, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Colombia; **Wagner Tavares Buono**, University of Exeter, UK; **Andres Marrugo**, Universidad Tecnologica de Bolivar, Colombia; **Felipe Beltran-Mejia**, Universidade Federal do ABC, Brazil; **Pablo Loza-Alverez**, ICFO-Institut de Ciencies Fotoniques, Spain; **Omar Eduardo Olarte Pataquiva**, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Colombia; **Camilo Florian**, Kassel Universitat, Germany; **Samuel Felipe Serna Otalvaro**, Bridgewater State University, USA.




## Thank You, Board of Meetings and Meetings Council Members

Thank you to our outgoing Optica Board of Meetings and Meetings Council members who are concluding their term in December 2026:

*Board of Meetings*: **Liangcai Cao**, Tsinghua University, China; **Faezeh Gholami**, International Business Machines Corp, USA; **Jannick P. Rolland**, University of Rochester, USA; **Brian Vohnsen**, University College Dublin, Ireland.

*Meetings Council*: **Jens Biegert**, ICFO-The Institute of Photonic Sciences, Spain; **Judith S. Birkenfeld**, Consejo Sup Investigaciones Cientificas, Spain; **Jennifer J. Hunter**, University of Waterloo, Canada; **Aydogan Ozcan**, University of California, Los Angeles, USA.

# Optica Events

### Optica Online Industry Meeting: Quantum Computing
08 December 2026
Optica.org/IndustryEvents

### Optica Industry Summit on Aerospace and Defense hosted by Exail at iXcampus
09 – 10 December 2026
Exail at iXcampus,
Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France
Optica.org/IndustryEvents

### Optica Online Industry Meeting: Co-Packaged & Pluggable Optics
12 January 2027
Optica.org/IndustryEvents

### Optica Online Industry Meeting: GAMA: Global Advanced Manufacturing Alliance
26 January 2027
Optica.org/IndustryEvents

### Optica Industry VIP Executive Reception
01 February 2027
San Francisco, CA, USA
Optica.org/IndustryEvents

### Optica Online Industry Meeting: Next-Generation Datacenter Infrastructure
09 February 2027
Optica.org/IndustryEvents

### Optica Online Industry Meeting: Vision & Sensing
23 February 2027
Optica.org/IndustryEvents

### OFC Conference and Exhibition
*Cosponsored by IEEE Communications Society, IEEE Photonics Society and Optica*
Technical Conference:
07 – 11 March 2027
Exhibition: 09 – 11 March 2027
Los Angeles, CA, USA
OFCConference.org

### Optica Executive Forum at OFC
08 March 2027
Los Angeles, CA, USA
Optica.org/IndustryEvents

### Optica Online Industry Meeting: Biosensing
16 March 2027
Optica.org/IndustryEvents

### Optica Design and Fabrication Congress
11 – 15 April 2027
Antwerp, Belgium
Optica.org/DesignFab

### Optica Online Industry Meeting: Free Space Optics
13 April 2027
Optica.org/IndustryEvents

### Optica Biophotonics Congress
17 – 21 April 2027
Denver, CO, USA
Optica.org/Biophotonics

### Optica Online Industry Meeting: Industrial Automation
27 April 2027
Optica.org/IndustryEvents

### CLEO Conference and Exhibition
*Cosponsored by APS DLS, IEEE Photonics Society and Optica*
Technical Conference:
02 – 06 May 2027
Exhibition: 04 – 05 May 2027
Long Beach, CA, USA
CLEOConference.org

### Optica Online Industry Meeting: Photonics-Enabled AI
11 May 2027
Optica.org/**IndustryEvents**

### Optica Online Industry Meeting: Smart Manufacturing & Laser Processing/Industry 4.0
25 May 2027
Optica.org/IndustryEvents

### Optica Global Advanced Manufacturing Alliance
12 – 13 May 2027
Veldhoven, Netherlands
Optica.org/IndustryEvents

### Optica Quantum 2.0 Conference and Exhibition
07 – 10 June 2027
Copenhagen, Denmark
Optica.org/QuantumConference

### Optica Quantum Executive Forum
07 June 2027
Copenhagen, Denmark
Optica.org/IndustryEvents

### Optica Online Industry Meeting: Farming/Agritech Photonics
08 June 2027
Optica.org/IndustryEvents

### European Conferences on Biomedical Optics
*Presented by Optica and SPIE*
20 – 24 June 2027
Munich, Germany
Optica.org/ECBO

### Optica ImageSense Congress
12 – 16 July 2027
Ottawa, Canada
Optica.org/ImageSense

### Optica Advanced Photonics Congress
18 – 22 July 2027
Auckland, New Zealand
Optica.org/Photonics

### Frontiers in Optics + Laser Science Conference and Exhibition
*Cosponsored by the American Physical Society and Optica*
26 – 30 September 2027
Seattle, WA, USA
FrontiersInOptics.org

### Optica Laser Congress and Exhibition
31 October – 04 November 2027
Quebec City, Canada
Optica.org/Laser

Receive notifications about meetings of interest, including reminders for calls for papers and registration.
Optica.org/focus