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Introduction

This volume of SPIE Proceedings summarizes research and development conducted by our community in the year that marks 25th anniversary of the first pioneering works in the field of depth-resolved biomedical optoacoustic (photoacoustic) imaging presented at Photonics West. The field of biomedical optoacoustic imaging continues to experience rapid growth, especially noticeable in the area of clinical applications. Our conference remains the largest at Photonics West. The quality of most presentations is high.

This year, two awards for the best paper of the conference were presented at the closing ceremony sponsored by Seno Medical Instruments. The best paper of 2018 was selected through a two-tiered process: (1) selection of finalists by the organizing committee and (2) final selection by a special committee of experts, which took time. The winner of the Best Paper Award 2018 announced at the closing of our conference this year is:

Paper 10494-93 entitled, "Whole-organ atlas imaged by label-free high-resolution photoacoustic microscopy assisted by a microtome," by Terence T. W. Wong, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (United States), California Institute of Technology (United States); Ruiying Zhang, Washington Univ. in St. Louis (United States); Hsun-Chia Hsu, Washington Univ. in St Louis (United States), California Institute of Technology (United States); Konstantin I. Maslov, Junhui Shi, California Institute of Technology (United States); Ruimin Chen, Kirk Shung, Qifa Zhou, The Univ. of Southern California (United States); Lihong V. Wang, California Institute of Technology (United States).

For the Best Paper Award 2019, the organizing committee selected a paper presented during a special award competition session. The winner is:

Paper 10878-46 entitled, "Multifocal photoacoustic microscopy through an ergodic relay," by Yang Li, Terence T. W. Wong, Junhui Shi, Hsun-Chia Hsu, Lihong V. Wang, California Institute of Technology (United States).

We would like to congratulate the Best Paper Award winners of 2018 and 2019 and thank all the contributors of this conference and the Organizing Committee for their dedicated work.

As guest editors of the upcoming Special Section in the SPIE Journal of Biomedical Optics dedicated to the steady exponential growth of the optoacoustic / photoacoustic imaging technology, we would like to invite all attendees of this year's conference to submit their work by the deadline of 1 July 1 2019.

Alexander A. Oraevsky
Lihong V. Wang