

PROCEEDINGS OF SPIE

Photonics North 2012

Jean-Claude Kieffer
Editor

6–8 June 2012
Montréal, Canada

Organized by
Centre d'optique, photonique et Laser, Université Laval (Canada)
CPC—Canadian Photonics Consortium (Canada)
INO—Institut National d'Optique (Canada)
Photonics North
Quebec Photonic Network (Canada)

Sponsored by
CIPI—Canadian Institute for Photonic Innovations (Canada)
CMC Microsystems (Canada)
École de technologie supérieure (Canada)
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Cooperating Organization and Publisher
SPIE

Volume 8412

Proceedings of SPIE 0277-786X, V.8412

SPIE is an international society advancing an interdisciplinary approach to the science and application of light.

Photonics North 2012, edited by Jean-Claude Kieffer, Proc. of SPIE Vol. 8412, 841201
© 2012 SPIE · CCC code: /12/\$18 · doi: 10.1117/12.2014080

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Please use the following format to cite material from this book:

Author(s), "Title of Paper," in *Photonics North 2012*, edited by Jean-Claude Kieffer, Proceedings of SPIE Vol. 8412 (SPIE, Bellingham, WA, 2012) Article CID Number.

ISSN 0277-786X
ISBN 9780819490902

Published by

SPIE

P.O. Box 10, Bellingham, Washington 98227-0010 USA
Telephone +1 360 676 3290 (Pacific Time) · Fax +1 360 647 1445
SPIE.org

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Printed in the United States of America.

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Introduction

It is with great pleasure we welcome you to the proceedings of the SPIE supported conference, Photonics North 2012, held 6–8 June 2012 in Montréal. This was yet another successful year for Photonics North, with more than 300 abstracts, attendees from 18 countries, and 40 exhibitors with a visiting delegation from China. This year's Conference drew a large audience and a very broad spectrum of research areas has been covered.

We were greatly honored to have Prof. Katarina Svanberg delivering the keynote lecture on his contributions to laser light interaction with biological tissues. The societal importance of the work on photodynamic therapy and tissue spectroscopy was obvious from her wonderful presentation.

Photonics North hosted several successful sessions including Biomedical Infection, Bio-sensors, Optical Communications, Optical Design and Simulation, Green Energy, Lasers and Processes, Nonlinear Optics, Ultrafast Photonics and Nano-optics. 70 invited speakers presented fascinating sides of optics and photonic. We were honored to have Prof. Bill Shillue from National Radio Astronomy Observatory present a plenary lecture at the banquet on the photonic technologies in the Atacama large millimeter array project. Prof. Laurent Sarger gave an illuminating plenary talk on the photonics in the Aquitaine Region in France and its impact on economic development.

These proceedings show the diversity of topics, the leading edge researches and the enabling technologies that define photonics in Canada. The world community attending the meeting reflects the relevance of the Photonics North forum as it continues to remain an important networking and scientific platform serving not only North America but also the wider photonics community.

Jean-Claude Kieffer

