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Mark A. Druy
Richard A. Crocombe
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Contents

vii	<i>Conference Committee</i>
ix	<i>Introduction</i>

SESSION 1 **HYPERSPECTRAL IMAGING SPECTROMETERS AND APPLICATIONS**

- 8726 04 **High-performance hyperspectral imaging using virtual slit optics** [8726-3]
B. B. Behr, Tornado Spectral Systems (United States); J. T. Meade, A. R. Hajian, A. T. Cenko,
Tornado Spectral Systems (Canada)
- 8726 05 **Development of a handheld widefield hyperspectral imaging (HSI) sensor for standoff
detection of explosive, chemical, and narcotic residues** [8726-4]
M. P. Nelson, A. Basta, R. Patil, O. Klueva, P. J. Treado, ChemImage Corp. (United States)

SESSION 2 **MEMS- AND MOEMS-BASED SPECTROMETERS**

- 8726 08 **Hydrocarbon gas detection with microelectromechanical Fabry-Perot interferometer**
[8726-8]
R. Mannila, M. Tuohiniemi, J. Mäkynen, I. Näkki, J. Antila, VTT Technical Research Ctr. of
Finland (Finland)
- 8726 09 **First application close measurements applying the new hybrid integrated MEMS
spectrometer** [8726-9]
H. Grüger, T. Pügner, J. Knobbe, H. Schenk, Fraunhofer-Institut für Photonische Mikrosysteme
(Germany)

SESSION 3 **QUANTUM CASCADE AND TUNABLE DIODE LASERS**

- 8726 0B **Tunable picosecond spectroscopy for detection of nitric oxide** [8726-11]
C. Tanjaroon, C. J. Lue, S. W. Reeve, J. B. Johnson, Arkansas State Univ. (United States);
S. D. Allen, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ. (United States)
- 8726 0C **Low-cost lightweight airborne laser-based sensors for pipeline leak detection and
reporting** [8726-12]
M. B. Frish, R. T. Wainner, M. C. Laderer, M. G. Allen, Physical Sciences Inc. (United States);
J. Rutherford, P. Wehnert, Heath Consultants Inc. (United States); S. Dey, J. Gilchrist,
R. Corbi, New Era Technology, Inc. (United States); D. Picciaia, TEA Sistemi S.p.A. (Italy);
P. Andreussi, Univ. degli Studi di Pisa (Italy); D. Furry, Leak Surveys Inc. (United States)
- 8726 0D **Trace-gas sensing using the compliance voltage of an external cavity quantum cascade
laser** [8726-13]
M. C. Phillips, M. S. Taubman, Pacific Northwest National Lab. (United States)

- 8726 OE **Mid-infrared microspectroscopic imaging with a quantum cascade laser** [8726-14]
K. Yeh, M. Schulmerich, R. Bhargava, Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (United States)

SESSION 4 DATA ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES AND APPLICATIONS

- 8726 OF **Performance characterization of a combined material identification and screening algorithm** [8726-15]
R. L. Green, M. D. Hargreaves, C. M. Gardner, Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. (United States)
- 8726 OH **Discrimination methodologies using femtosecond LIBS and correlation techniques** [8726-17]
S. Sunku, E. Nageswara Rao, G. Manoj Kumar, S. P. Tewari, S. Venugopal Rao, Univ. of Hyderabad (India)

SESSION 5 LIBS, RAMAN, AND TERAHERTZ

- 8726 OI **Portable sub-terahertz resonance spectrometer combined with microfluidic sample cell** [8726-18]
J. P. Ferrance, Vibratess, LLC (United States), J²F Engineering (United States), and Univ. of Virginia (United States); A. Khromov, Vibratess, LLC (United States) and Univ. of Virginia (United States); A. Moyer, T. Khromova, Vibratess, LLC (United States); B. Gelmont, Univ. of Virginia (United States); I. Sizov, Vibratess, LLC (United States); T. Globus, Vibratess, LLC (United States) and Univ. of Virginia (United States)
- 8726 OJ **THz-Raman: accessing molecular structure with Raman spectroscopy for enhanced chemical identification, analysis, and monitoring** [8726-19]
R. A. Heyler, J. T. A. Carriere, F. Havermeyer, Ondax, Inc. (United States)
- 8726 OK **Design and industrial testing of ultra-fast multi-gas Raman spectrometer** [8726-20]
M. P. Buric, J. Mullen, S. D. Woodruff, B. Chorpeneing, National Energy Technology Lab. (United States)
- 8726 OL **High-throughput spectrometer designs in a compact form-factor: principles and applications** [8726-21]
S. M. Norton, Wasatch Photonics, Inc. (United States)
- 8726 ON **A novel laser-based approach for cleaning contaminated metallic surfaces coupled with rapid residue analysis** [8726-23]
R. V. Fox, L. Roberts, Idaho National Lab. (United States); F. C. DeLucia Jr., A. W. Miziolek, U.S. Army Research Lab. (United States); A. I. Whitehouse, Applied Photonics Ltd. (United Kingdom)
- 8726 OO **Effects of incomplete light extinction in frequency-agile, rapid scanning spectroscopy** [8726-25]
D. A. Long, National Institute of Standards and Technology (United States); S. Wójtewicz, National Institute of Standards and Technology (United States) and Nicolaus Copernicus Univ. (Poland); J. T. Hodges, National Institute of Standards and Technology (United States)

- 8726 OP **The evaluation of a new technology for gunshot residue (GSR) analysis in the field** [8726-26]
E. Hondrogiannis, D. Andersen, Towson Univ. (United States); A. W. Miziolek, U.S. Army
Research Lab. (United States)
- 8726 OQ **Spectroscopy methods for identifying the country of origin** [8726-27]
E. Hondrogiannis, E. Ehrlinger, Towson Univ. (United States); A. W. Miziolek, U.S. Army
Research Lab. (United States)

SESSION 6 PORTABLE AND NOVEL DESIGNS I

- 8726 OR **Handheld spectrometers: the state of the art** [8726-28]
R. A. Crocombe, Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. (United States)
- 8726 OS **A microfabricated, low dark current a-Se detector for measurement of microplasma optical emission in the UV for possible use on-site** [8726-29]
S. Abbaszadeh, K. S. Karim, V. Karanassios, Univ. of Waterloo (Canada)
- 8726 OT **A handheld FTIR spectrometer with swappable modules for chemical vapor identification and surface swab analysis** [8726-30]
W. J. Doherty III, B. Falvey, G. Vander Rhodes, L. Krasnobaev, K. Vachon, Thermo Fisher
Scientific Inc. (United States)
- 8726 OU **Advanced sampling techniques for hand-held FT-IR instrumentation** [8726-31]
J. Arnó, M. Frunzi, C. Weber, D. Levy, Smiths Detection (United States)
- 8726 OV **Tapered air-core Bragg waveguide spectrometers for lab-on-a-chip applications** [8726-32]
B. A. Drobot, A. D. Melnyk, T. W. Allen, R. G. DeCorby, Univ. of Alberta (Canada)

SESSION 7 PORTABLE AND NOVEL DESIGNS II

- 8726 OW **Feasibility study of birefringent electro-optic NIR FTS imaging systems** [8726-33]
V. Finnemeyer, P. Bos, Kent State Univ. (United States)
- 8726 OX **Continuous-wave near-photon counting spectral imaging detector in the mid-infrared by upconversion** [8726-34]
J. S. Dam, P. Tidemand-Lichtenberg, C. Pedersen, Technical Univ. of Denmark (Denmark)
- 8726 OY **Tunable up-conversion detector for single photon and bi-photon infrared spectroscopic applications** [8726-35]
O. Slattery, L. Ma, P. Kuo, Y.-S. Kim, X. Tang, National Institute of Standards and Technology
(United States)
- 8726 OZ **Fourier transform infrared phase shift cavity ring down spectrometer** [8726-36]
E. Schundler, D. J. Mansur, R. Vaillancourt, R. Benedict-Gill, S. P. Newbry, J. R. Engel, J. Rentz
Dupuis, OPTRA, Inc. (United States)

POSTER SESSION

- 8726 10 **Broadband absorption and emission millimeter-wave spectroscopy between 220 and 325 GHz** [8726-37]
M. Szymkiewicz, Fraunhofer-Institut für Angewandte Festkörperphysik (Germany) and Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (Germany); A. Hülsmann, A. Tessmann, M. Schlechtweg, A. Leuther, Fraunhofer-Institut für Angewandte Festkörperphysik (Germany); O. Ambacher, Fraunhofer-Institut für Angewandte Festkörperphysik (Germany) and Univ. of Freiburg (Germany); S. Koch, M. Riedel, Sony Deutschland GmbH (Germany); I. Kalfass, Fraunhofer-Institut für Angewandte Festkörperphysik (Germany) and Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (Germany)

Author Index

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John Seelenbinder, Agilent Technologies (United States)

Session Chairs

- 1 Hyperspectral Imaging Spectrometers and Applications
Richard A. Crocombe, Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. (United States)
- 2 MEMS- and MOEMS-Based Spectrometers
Michael B. Frish, Physical Sciences Inc. (United States)
- 3 Quantum Cascade and Tunable Diode Lasers
Mark A. Druy, Physical Sciences Inc. (United States)
- 4 Data Analysis Techniques and Applications
Richard A. Crocombe, Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. (United States)
- 5 LIBS, Raman, and Terahertz
Leigh J. Bromley, Daylight Solutions (United States)

- 6 Portable and Novel Designs I
Mark A. Druy, Physical Sciences Inc. (United States)
- 7 Portable and Novel Designs II
Richard A. Crocombe, Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. (United States)

Introduction

The past twenty-five years have seen a massive investment in photonics, electronics and MEMS, aimed at developing new telecommunications capabilities and innovative consumer products. These investments have led to advances in miniature optics, light sources, tunable filters, array detectors, fiber optic sensors, and a range of other photonic devices, across the whole electromagnetic spectrum, along with technologies for their mass production. These and related advances are increasingly being exploited in new spectroscopic instruments. In recent years, there have been remarkable developments in handheld consumer electronics, especially cell phones and portable audio/video players. These devices contain advances in RF technology, processors, operating systems, user interfaces, memory, Bluetooth, WiFi, cameras, accelerometers, etc., and are now poised to be the basis of next-generation handheld scientific instruments.

Portable and handheld instruments are being developed that are often more sensitive and selective, smaller, cheaper, and more robust than their laboratory predecessors. Concurrent improvements in analytical theory, data analysis methods, algorithms and portable processors enable these spectroscopic devices to give specific actionable answers to their non-specialist operators. Spectroscopy-based systems are now making critical judgments in environments and applications that were unreachable twenty years ago, from hazardous materials to the operating theater, and from field geologists to customs and border personnel.

Advances in array detectors (CCD, CID, InGaAs, InSb, MCT, CMOS, etc.) are enabling a new generation of faster imaging spectrometers, with both laboratory and field applications. Lower-cost infrared arrays have been developed, employing MEMS techniques. New laser sources, particularly in the mid-infrared, are being used in combination with advances in detector technology to create new spectroscopic platforms.

The emphasis in this conference is on advanced technologies for spectroscopic instrumentation, particularly the infrared, near-infrared, and Raman molecular techniques, but also including advances enabling miniature and portable spectrometers across the electromagnetic spectrum, including x-ray fluorescence, laser induced fluorescence, Terahertz, nuclear magnetic resonance and mass spectrometry.

This conference premiered at Optics East 2007 in Boston, MA and is now part of the Defense Sensing & Security Symposium. In 2013, the conference spanned two days, and was divided into sessions focusing on: Hyperspectral Imaging Spectrometers and Applications; MEMS- and MOEMS-Based Spectrometers;

Quantum Cascade and Tunable Diode Lasers; Data Analysis Techniques and Applications; LIBS, Raman and Terahertz Spectroscopies, and Portable and Novel Designs. In all, 35 papers were presented, and we are pleased to be able to bring you 28 of them in these proceedings.

On behalf of our program committee members, we hope that we can count on your participation in a future Next-Generation Spectroscopic Technologies conference.

Mark A. Druy
Richard A. Crocombe