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Contents

xi	<i>Conference Committees</i>
xv	<i>Introduction</i>

SESSION 1 **ADVANCES AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN SPECIALTY FIBERS**

- 7839 02 **Specialty fibers and their applications in fiber lasers (Invited Paper)** [7839-61]
L. Dong, IMRA America, Inc. (United States)
- 7839 03 **Recent advances in highly nonlinear microstructured optical fibers for telecom applications (Invited Paper)** [7839-75]
F. Poletti, X. Feng, A. Camerlingo, P. Petropoulos, W. H. Loh, D. J. Richardson, Univ. of Southampton (United Kingdom)
- 7839 05 **Advances in infrared fibers (Invited Paper)** [7839-26]
M. Saad, IRphotonics Inc. (Canada)

SESSION 2 **LIQUID FILLED FIBERS AND MICROFLUIDIC DEVICES**

- 7839 08 **Photonic crystal fiber as an optofluidic platform for surface-enhanced Raman scattering (Invited Paper)** [7839-69]
Y. Han, M. K. Khaing Oo, S. Sukhishvili, H. Du, Stevens Institute of Technology (United States)
- 7839 09 **Enhanced functionality by selective filling of microstructured optical fibers** [7839-04]
H. Bartelt, H. Lehmann, R. Willsch, R. Spittel, J. Mörbitz, M. Balakrishnan, Institute of Photonic Technology (Germany)
- 7839 0A **Sealed liquid-core photonic crystal fibers for practical nonlinear optics, nanophotonics, and sensing applications** [7839-09]
A. Bozolan, Univ. Presbiteriana Mackenzie (Brazil) and Univ. de São Paulo (Brazil);
R. M. Gerosa, C. J. S. de Matos, Univ. Presbiteriana Mackenzie (Brazil); M. A. Romero, Univ. de São Paulo (Brazil); C. M. B. Cordeiro, Univ. Estadual de Campinas (Brazil)
- 7839 0B **Liquid core fibre versus doped sol-gel layered structured fibre for chemical sensing** [7839-14]
J. Canning, G. Huyang, M. L. Åslund, M. Naqshbandi, D. Stocks, M. J. Crossley, The Univ. of Sydney (Australia)
- 7839 0C **Side-hole photonic crystal fibers (Invited Paper)** [7839-58]
C. M. B. Cordeiro, Y. A. V. Espinel, J. G. Hayashi, G. Chesini, Univ. Estadual de Campinas (Brazil); M. A. R. Franco, Instituto de Estudos Avançados (Brazil) and Instituto Tecnológico de Aeronáutica (Brazil)

- 7839 0D **Thermal tunability of photonic bandgaps in photonic crystal fibers selectively filled with nematic liquid crystal** [7839-46]
M. A. R. Franco, Instituto de Estudos Avançados (Brazil) and Instituto Tecnológico de Aeronáutica (Brazil); P. S. Patrício, Univ. Estadual Paulista (Brazil); T. R. Pitarello, Instituto Tecnológico de Aeronáutica (Brazil)

SESSION 3 TAPERED FIBERS, DEVICES, AND APPLICATIONS

- 7839 0F **Highly nonlinear hybrid AsSe-PMMA microtapers and applications (Invited Paper)** [7839-74]
M. Rochette, C. Baker, McGill Univ. (Canada)
- 7839 0H **Photonic-crystal and optical micro/nano fiber interferometric sensors (Invited Paper)** [7839-43]
J. Villatoro, V. Finazzi, ICFO—Institut de Ciències Fotòniques (Spain); G. A. Cárdenas-Sevilla, ICFO—Institut de Ciències Fotòniques (Spain) and Ctr. de Investigaciones en Óptica, A.C. (Mexico); V. Prunerí, ICFO—Institut de Ciències Fotòniques (Spain) and Institució Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avançats (Spain)
- 7839 0I **Hydrogen sensing with optical microfibers coated with Pd/Au nanoparticles** [7839-36]
D. Monzón-Hernández, D. Luna-Moreno, D. Martínez-Escobar, Ctr. de Investigaciones en Óptica, A.C. (Mexico); J. Villatoro, ICFO—Institut de Ciències Fotòniques (Spain)

SESSION 4 FIBER LASERS, SPECIALTY DOPED FIBERS, AND MANUFACTURING METHODS

- 7839 0K **Highly doped phosphate glass fibers for fiber lasers and amplifiers with applications (Invited Paper)** [7839-80]
A. Chavez-Pirson, NP Photonics, Inc. (United States)
- 7839 0L **Flat amplitude and broad bandwidth multiwavelength erbium-doped fiber ring laser** [7839-03]
S. Li, Corning Inc. (United States)
- 7839 0M **A multi-fiber laser using a phase-locking Talbot self-imaging effect (Invited Paper)** [7839-83]
R. Zhou, Q. Zhan, P. E. Powers, Univ. of Dayton (United States); B. Ibarra-Escamilla, Instituto Nacional de Astrofísica, Óptica y Electrónica (Mexico); J. W. Haus, Univ. of Dayton (United States)
- 7839 0N **Fabrication method for LMA multi-core Yb-doped silica PM fibers** [7839-22]
A. Croteau, H. Zheng, P. Laperle, C. Paré, M. Drolet, S. Morency, Y. Taillon, A. Proulx, INO (Canada)
- 7839 0O **Active fibers from sol-gel derived granulated silica: state of the art and potential (Invited Paper)** [7839-81]
V. Romano, Univ. Bern (Switzerland) and Bern Univ. of Applied Sciences (Switzerland); F. Sandoz, Silitec SA (Switzerland)
- 7839 0Q **Dual core photonic crystal fiber-based intrinsically gain flattened EDFA** [7839-28]
B. Nagaraju, S. Garg, R. K. Varshney, B. P. Pal, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (India)

SESSION 5 PHOTONIC CRYSTAL AND MICROSTRUCTURED FIBERS

- 7839 OR **Limitation of effective area for large-mode-area all-solid photonic bandgap fibers (Invited Paper)** [7839-31]
K. Saitoh, Hokkaido Univ. (Japan)
- 7839 OS **Extending bandgap of air-core photonic bandgap fibers** [7839-11]
L. Dong, B. K. Thomas, S. Suzuki, L. Fu, IMRA America, Inc. (United States)
- 7839 OT **Large core single-mode microstructured fibers with special modal attenuation** [7839-19]
K. V. Dukel'skii, V. S. Shevandin, S.I. Vavilov Federal Optical Institute (Russian Federation)
- 7839 OU **Photonic crystal fibers based on chalcogenide glasses** [7839-82]
J. L. Adam, J. Trolès, Sciences Chimiques de Rennes, CNRS, Univ. de Rennes I (France);
L. Brilland, Plate-forme d'Etude et de Recherches sur les Fibres Optiques Spéciales (France);
Q. Coulombier, Sciences Chimiques de Rennes, CNRS, Univ. de Rennes I (France);
T. Chartier, Lab. FOTON, CNRS, Ecole Nationale Supérieure Sciences Appliquées et de Technologie (France)
- 7839 OV **Comparison of step-index and hexagonal microstructured chalcogenide As₂S₃ fibers for mid-IR conversion by four-wave mixing** [7839-18]
C. Alhenc-Gelas, P. Bourdon, G. Canat, ONERA (France); F. Druon, Lab. Charles Fabry de l'Institut d'Optique, CNRS, Univ. Paris-Sud (France); A. Durecu, ONERA (France)
- 7839 OW **Designing supercontinuum spectra using Grid technology (Invited Paper)** [7839-30]
A. Ferrando, Univ. de València (Spain); C. Milián, Univ. Politècnica de Valencia (Spain);
N. González, Univ. de València (Spain) and Ctr. de Investigaciones en Óptica, A.C. (Mexico);
G. Moltó, Univ. Politècnica de Valencia (Spain); P. Loza, ICFO—Institut de Ciències Fotòniques (Spain);
M. Arevalillo-Herráez, Univ. de València (Spain); M. Zacarés, Univ. Católica de Valencia (Spain);
I. Torres-Gómez, Ctr. de Investigaciones en Óptica, A.C. (Mexico); V. Hernández, Univ. Politècnica de Valencia (Spain)
- 7839 OX **Infrared, visible, and ultraviolet broadband coherent supercontinuum generation in all-normal dispersion fibers** [7839-24]
A. M. Heidt, Stellenbosch Univ. (South Africa) and IPHT Jena (Germany); A. Hartung, IPHT Jena (Germany);
E. G. Rohwer, Stellenbosch Univ. (South Africa); H. Bartelt, IPHT Jena (Germany)

SESSION 6 SPECIALTY COATINGS, SENSORS, AND APPLICATIONS

- 7839 OY **Fibre optic modal interferometry for sensing applications (Invited Paper)** [7839-39]
J. L. Santos, INESC Porto (Portugal) and Univ. do Porto (Portugal); L. A. Ferreira, F. M. Araújo,
O. Frazão, INESC Porto (Portugal)
- 7839 OZ **Bragg gratings within each of the 3 GeO₂-doped rings of a step-ring index low order Yb³⁺-doped core Cantor fractal bandgap fibre** [7839-20]
K. Cook, J. Canning, W. Padden, The Univ. of Sydney (Australia); S. Février, XLIM, CNRS, Univ. de Limoges (France);
B. Li, The Univ. of Sydney (Australia) and Yanshan Univ. (China)
- 7839 10 **Optical fibers with dual coatings for high-temperature applications** [7839-06]
A. A. Stolov, D. A. Simoff, E. A. Lindholm, C. R. Ciardiello, OFS (United States)

- 7839 11 **Advances in low index polymer cladding materials** [7839-49]
T. E. Clark, SSCP USA (United States); S.-J. Kwak, SSCP Co. Ltd. (Korea, Republic of)
- 7839 12 **Hermetically coated specialty optical fibers** [7839-23]
S. L. Semjonov, V. A. Bogatyrev, Fiber Optics Research Ctr. (Russian Federation);
A. A. Malinin, Optogear Oy (Finland)
- 7839 13 **Simultaneous measurement of strain and temperature using modal interferometry in Bragg fibers** [7839-34]
O. Frazão, L. M. N. Amaral, INESC Porto (Portugal); J. L. Santos, INESC Porto (Portugal) and Univ. do Porto (Portugal); P. Roy, R. Jamier, S. Février, XLIM, CNRS, Univ. de Limoges (France)

SESSION 7 NONLINEAR FIBER EFFECTS AND PHOTOACOUSTICS

- 7839 15 **Brillouin scattering enhanced fibers for distributed sensing (Invited Paper)** [7839-44]
P. D. Dragic, Neolight Technologies, LLC (United States)
- 7839 16 **High resolution method for measuring Brillouin spectrum scattering in special optical fibers** [7839-17]
C. A. Galindez, F. J. Madruga, J. M. Lopez-Higuera, Univ. de Cantabria (Spain)

POSTER SESSION

- 7839 17 **Large mode area fibre designs for micromachining applications** [7839-02]
J. A. Alvarez-Chavez, Ctr. de Investigación e Innovación Tecnológica (Mexico) and Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Optics and Precision Engineering (Germany);
F. Martínez-Piñon, C. Wirth, Ctr. de Investigación e Innovación Tecnológica (Mexico);
T. Schreiber, Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Optics and Precision Engineering (Germany)
- 7839 18 **Cutoff properties of liquid-filled Ge-doped microstructured fibers** [7839-05]
S. Torres-Peiró, A. Díez, J. L. Cruz, M. V. Andrés, Univ. de València (Spain)
- 7839 19 **Intra-cavity fiber laser polarization mode beating sensing** [7839-07]
A. Rosales-García, T. F. Morse, Boston Univ. (United States); J. Hernández-Cordero, Univ. Nacional Autónoma de México (Mexico)
- 7839 1A **Multiwavelength Raman fiber laser based on a highly birefringent photonic crystal fiber loop mirror** [7839-08]
A. M. R. Pinto, Univ. Pública de Navarra (Spain); O. Frazão, INESC Porto (Portugal);
J. L. Santos, INESC Porto (Portugal) and Univ. do Porto (Portugal); M. Lopez-Amo, Univ. Pública de Navarra (Spain)
- 7839 1B **Super-lattice photonic crystal fibers with high birefringence or large negative dispersion** [7839-10]
D. Chen, The Hong Kong Polytechnic Univ. (Hong Kong, China) and Zhejiang Normal Univ. (China); M.-L. V. Tse, H. Y. Tam, The Hong Kong Polytechnic Univ. (Hong Kong, China)

- 7839 1C **pH biosensor with plastic fiber optic doped with carbone nanotubes used sol-gel technique** [7839-12]
E. Alvarado-Méndez, S. D. Flores-Rangel, Univ. de Guanajuato (Mexico); D. Hernández-Cruz, Univ. Autónoma de Chiapas (Mexico); M. Trejo-Durán, J. A. Andrade-Lucio, R. Rojas-Laguna, J. M. Estudillo-Ayala, E. Vargas-Rodríguez, R. I. Mata Chávez, M. G. García-Hernández, Univ. de Guanajuato (Mexico)
- 7839 1D **Multiwavelength ytterbium-doped fiber laser** [7839-13]
G. Anzueto-Sánchez, Univ. Autónoma del Estado de Morelos (Mexico); A. Martinez-Rios, I. Torres-Gómez, D. Ceballos-Herrera, Ctr. de Investigaciones en Óptica, A.C. (Mexico); R. I. Mata-Chávez, Univ. de Guanajuato (Mexico); J. Castellón-Urbe, Univ. Autónoma del Estado de Morelos (Mexico)
- 7839 1E **LMR-based optical fiber refractometers based on transparent conducting and semiconducting oxide coatings: a comparative study** [7839-15]
C. R. Zamarreño, P. Sanchez, M. Hernaez, I. Del Villar, C. Fernandez-Valdivielso, I. R. Matias, F. J. Arregui, Univ. Pública de Navarra (Spain)
- 7839 1F **Single-mode optical fibre thermocoupler based on regenerated fibre Bragg gratings evaluated at ~1500 °C** [7839-16]
M. L. Åslund, J. Canning, The Univ. of Sydney (Australia); H. Fu, H. Tam, The Hong Kong Polytechnic Univ. (Hong Kong, China)
- 7839 1G **Transverse stress response of FBGs in large-mode-area microstructured Panda-type fibers** [7839-21]
E. Reyes-Vera, E. Gonzalez-Valencia, P. Torres, National Univ. of Colombia (Colombia)
- 7839 1H **X-ray irradiation influence on prototype Er³⁺-optical fibers: confocal luminescence study** [7839-25]
M. Vivona, Lab. Hubert Curien, CNRS, Univ. Jean Monnet Saint-Etienne (France), ixFiber SAS (France), and Univ. degli Studi di Palermo (Italy); S. Girard, C. Marcandella, Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique (France); T. Robin, B. Cadier, ixFiber SAS (France); M. Cannas, Univ. degli Studi di Palermo (Italy); A. Boukenter, Y. Ouerdane, Lab. Hubert Curien, CNRS, Univ. Jean Monnet Saint-Etienne (France)
- 7839 1I **Efficient coupling between core and fluidic channel in a solid-core photonic crystal fiber** [7839-27]
D. H. Spadoti, R. M. Gerosa, C. J. S. de Matos, Univ. Presbiteriana Mackenzie (Brazil)
- 7839 1J **Coupling efficiency and transmission through hollow-core photonic bandgap fibers** [7839-29]
J. M. Estudillo-Ayala, Univ. of Bath (United Kingdom) and Univ. de Guanajuato (Mexico); B. J. Mangan, W. J. Wadsworth, J. C. Knight, Univ. of Bath (United Kingdom)
- 7839 1K **Evaluation of birefringence dispersion in hexagonal photonic fibers using Mueller matrix formalism and the Poincaré sphere** [7839-32]
D. Tentori, Ctr. de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada (Mexico); I. Torres-Gómez, Ctr. de Investigaciones en Óptica, A.C. (Mexico)

- 7839 1L **Optical fiber temperature sensors: applications in heat treatments for foods** [7839-33]
M. E. Sosa-Morales, Univ. de las Américas Puebla (Mexico); R. Rojas-Laguna, Univ. de Guanajuato (Mexico); A. López-Malo, Univ. de las Américas Puebla (Mexico)
- 7839 1M **All fibre Mach-Zehnder interferometer based on suspended twin-core fibre for simultaneous measurement of three parameters** [7839-35]
O. Frazão, S. F. O. Silva, INESC Porto (Portugal); J. L. Santos, INESC Porto (Portugal) and Univ. do Porto (Portugal); J. Kobelke, K. Schuster, IPHT Jena (Germany)
- 7839 1N **Twist-induced birefringence in erbium-doped fibers** [7839-37]
D. Tentori, Ctr. de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada (Mexico)
- 7839 1O **Investigation of mode coupling in optical fiber with controlled volume disorder** [7839-38]
N. P. Puente, Univ. Autónoma de Baja California (Mexico); E. I. Chaikina, Ctr. de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada (Mexico); S. Herath, A. Yamilov, Missouri Univ. of Science and Technology (United States)
- 7839 1P **Plastic optical fiber multipoint liquid-level sensor with single semi-cylindrical detection element** [7839-40]
S. Khotiaintsev, S. Pérez-García, A. Beltrán-Hernández, E. Llanito-Caudillo, Univ. Nacional Autónoma de México (Mexico)
- 7839 1Q **Optically controlled all-fiber polarization rotator** [7839-41]
A. M. Velázquez Benítez, J. Hernández-Cordero, Univ. Nacional Autónoma de México (Mexico)
- 7839 1R **Experimental results of the superluminescent fiber laser sources for fiber optic sensors** [7839-45]
E. F. Pinzón-Escobar, A. Ramírez-Ibarra, J. C. Moreno-Hernández, G. E. Sandoval-Romero, Univ. Nacional Autónoma de México (Mexico)
- 7839 1S **Transparency power calculation in Yb³⁺-doped fiber due to temperature variations** [7839-48]
L. De la Cruz-May, Univ. Autónoma del Carmen (Mexico); E. Mejia-Beltran, Ctr. de Investigación en Óptica, A.C. (Mexico); A. Flores, Univ. Autónoma del Carmen (Mexico); J. A. Alvarez-Chavez, F. Martinez-Piñon, Ctr. de Investigación e Innovación Tecnológica (Mexico)
- 7839 1T **Comparative analysis of WO₃ nanospheres and TiO₂ nanotubes as saturable absorber for applications in passive mode-locked laser** [7839-50]
P. Zaca-Morán, F. Chávez, G. Beltrán-Pérez, J. G. Ortega, Benemérita Univ. Autónoma de Puebla (Mexico); C. Felipe, O. Goiz, Instituto Politécnico Nacional (Mexico); R. Grajales-Coutiño, A. González-García, Ctr. de Investigaciones en Óptica, A.C. (Mexico)
- 7839 1U **Distributed Gires-Tournois etalon-based gain equalizer** [7839-52]
A. González-García, O. Pottiez, R. Grajales-Coutiño, J. C. Hernández-García, Ctr. de Investigaciones en Óptica, A.C. (Mexico); P. Zaca-Morán, Benemérita Univ. Autónoma de Puebla (Mexico)

- 7839 1V **Novel multimode interference liquid level sensors** [7839-53]
 J. E. Antonio-Lopez, Instituto Nacional de Astrofísica, Óptica y Electrónica (Mexico);
 M. Torres-Cisneros, Univ. de Guanajuato (Mexico) and CREOL, The College of Optics and
 Photonics, Univ. of Central Florida (United States); J. A. Arredondo-Lucio, Univ. Autónoma de
 Tamaulipas (Mexico); J. J. Sanchez-Mondragon, Instituto Nacional de Astrofísica, Óptica y
 Electrónica (Mexico); P. Likamwa, CREOL, The College of Optics and Photonics, Univ. of
 Central Florida (United States); D. A. May-Arrijoa, Univ. Autónoma de Tamaulipas (Mexico)
- 7839 1W **Single-mode optical fiber liquids analyzer** [7839-55]
 V. A. Márquez-Cruz, J. A. Hernández-Cordero, Univ. Nacional Autónoma de México
 (Mexico)
- 7839 1X **Optically driven deposition of nanostructures on optical fiber end faces** [7839-56]
 R. Pimentel-Domínguez, N. Cuando-Espitia, J. Hernández-Cordero, Univ. Nacional
 Autónoma de México (Mexico)
- 7839 1Y **Development of large-core Yb₂O₃-doped yttria-alumino-silicate nanoparticles-based
 optical fibers** [7839-59]
 M. C. Paul, Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute (India); A. V. Kir'yanov, Ctr. de
 Investigaciones en Óptica, A.C. (Mexico); S. Das, M. Pal, S. K. Bhadra, Central Glass and
 Ceramic Research Institute (India); Yu. O. Barmenkov, A. Martinez Gamez, Ctr. de
 Investigaciones en Óptica, A.C. (Mexico); J. L. Lucio Martínez, Univ. de Guanajuato
 (Mexico)
- 7839 1Z **Polarization study on solid core photonic crystal fibers partially sedimented with
 polyethylene micro-spheres and carbon nanotubes** [7839-60]
 R. J. Pérez-Chimal, R. I. Mata-Chávez, J. M. Estudillo-Ayala, E. Vargas-Rodríguez,
 E. Alvarado-Méndez, R. Rojas-Laguna, Univ. de Guanajuato (Mexico)
- 7839 20 **Polarization switched frequency shifted feedback fiber laser** [7839-62]
 T. A. Orozco, J. Hernández-Cordero, Univ. Nacional Autónoma de México (Mexico)
- 7839 21 **Er-Yb double-clad cw tunable fiber laser** [7839-63]
 B. Ibarra-Escamilla, E. A. Kuzin, Instituto Nacional de Astrofísica, Óptica y Electrónica
 (Mexico); O. Pottiez, Ctr. de Investigaciones en Óptica, A.C. (Mexico); J. W. Haus, Univ. of
 Dayton (United States)
- 7839 22 **Pulses with adjustable characteristics from a figure-eight fiber laser** [7839-64]
 O. Pottiez, R. Grajales-Coutiño, Ctr. de Investigaciones en Óptica, A.C. (Mexico);
 B. Ibarra-Escamilla, E. A. Kuzin, Instituto Nacional de Astrofísica, Óptica y Electrónica
 (Mexico); J. C. Hernandez-Garcia, A. Gonzalez-Garcia, Ctr. de Investigaciones en Óptica,
 A.C. (Mexico)
- 7839 23 **Raman circuit for all-optical switch** [7839-66]
 A. Flores-Rosas, E. A. Kuzin, B. Ibarra-Escamilla, Instituto Nacional de Astrofísica, Óptica y
 Electrónica (Mexico); O. Pottiez, Ctr. de Investigaciones en Óptica, A.C. (Mexico);
 M. Duran-Sánchez, Univ. Tecnológica de Puebla (Mexico)

- 7839 24 **Temperature response of mechanically induced long-period gratings in photonic crystal fiber** [7839-67]
L. García, I. Torres-Gómez, A. Martínez-Ríos, D. Monzón-Hernández, K. Salas-Alcántara, F. Arteaga-Sierra, Ctr. de Investigaciones en Óptica, A.C. (Mexico)
- 7839 25 **Leaky-mode calculations in optical fibers** [7839-68]
A. Martínez-Ríos, Ctr. de Investigaciones en Óptica, A.C. (Mexico) and Univ. of California, Merced (United States); B. Ilan, Univ. of California, Merced (United States);
D. Monzon-Hernandez, I. Torres-Gomez, Y. Márquez-Barrios, Ctr. de Investigaciones en Óptica, A.C. (Mexico)
- 7839 26 **Novel 3-axis optical fiber alignment system** [7839-70]
S. Salinas-Almaguer, C. Guajardo-Gonzalez, F. Betancourt-Ibarra, C. Martinez-Hernandez, R. Selvas, Univ. Autónoma de Nuevo León (Mexico)
- 7839 27 **Noncontact fiber optic micrometer** [7839-71]
F. Betancourt Ibarra, C. Guajardo-Gonzalez, A. Castillo-Guzman, V. Guzman-Ramos, R. Selvas, Univ. Autónoma de Nuevo León (Mexico)
- 7839 28 **An approach to a tunable multiwavelength fiber laser** [7839-76]
A. Castillo-Guzman, Univ. Autónoma de Nuevo León (Mexico); S. Doucet, S. LaRochelle, COPL, Univ. of Laval (Canada); R. Selvas-Aguilar, Univ. Autónoma de Nuevo León (Mexico)
- 7839 29 **Ultraviolet light absorption in different photosensitive optical fibers: a comparative case of study** [7839-79]
H. H. Cerecedo-Núñez, L. M. San Martín-Nava, J. A. Pimentel, P. Padilla-Sosa, Univ. Veracruzana (Mexico); M. A. Basurto-Pensado, Univ. Autónoma del Estado de Morelos (Mexico); M. May-Alarcón, Univ. Autónoma del Carmen (Mexico)

Author Index

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- 6 Specialty Coatings, Sensors, and Applications
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- 7 Nonlinear Fiber Effects and Photoacoustics
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Introduction

It is with great pleasure—and gratitude to all of those who helped make it possible—that we present these proceedings from the 2nd Workshop on Specialty Optical Fibers and their Applications (WSOF-2), held 13–15 October 2010 in Oaxaca City, México. We chose the city of Oaxaca to provide an exciting and entertaining backdrop for the workshop. This location is a beautiful colonial city that has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is located within one of the most culturally rich states in México.

WSOF-2 is a technical workshop intended to report on the latest advances and innovations in specialty optical fibers, its applications and associated devices; as well as to serve as a discussion forum by bringing together researchers, academics, manufacturers and students working in the field. The event aims to cover the most up-to-date and diverse fiber types, including micro-structured and photonic crystal fibers (PCF), non-silica fibers, as well as new directions in fiber devices and sensors. For this edition, a special session on Specialty Fibers for High Power Fiber Lasers was assembled—a topic of current research and commercial interest.

This proceedings volume contains the works of over 50 contributed papers (both as oral and poster presentations) together with 14 invited talks. The technical program includes noteworthy plenary talks by Prof. David Payne of Southampton University on a retrospective of doped fibers and fiber lasers; and an overview on Photonic Crystal Fibers by Dr. Ole Bang of the Danish Technical University; as well as a tutorial on specialty fibers for fiber laser applications By Dr. William Torruellas of the Applied Physics Lab at Johns Hopkins University.

From its inception, the main goal of WSOF has been to increase the interaction among well-established research groups and emerging research groups in Latin American countries. The first WSOF was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil in August, 2008. It was an event originally conceived and organized by Profs. Cristiano M. B. Cordeiro and Christiano J. S. de Matos. For WSOF-2, we continued some of this fundamental philosophy, but expanded the size of the technical program committee and diversified its composition to include representatives from around the world. By organizing WSOF-2, it is our sincere hope to help promote and broaden the diffusion of the research activities in the specialty fibers field.

We are delighted to welcome you to the workshop and the city of Oaxaca!

Juan Hernández-Cordero
Ismael Torres-Gómez
Alexis Méndez

