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**Alexander A. Oraevsky
Lihong V. Wang**
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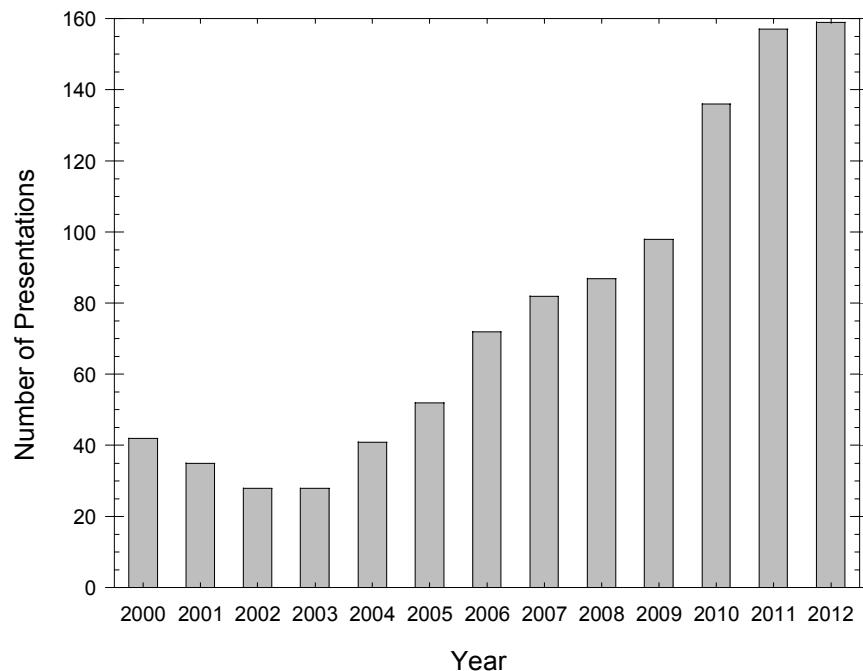
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Introduction

Our conference Photons plus Ultrasound: Imaging and Sensing remained the largest conference within the Photonics West BiOS Symposium as shown in the following figure. It continues to attract leading researchers from both the optics and ultrasonics communities to the field of optoacoustic/photoacoustic/thermoacoustic imaging, sensing, and monitoring.

The Photons plus Ultrasound conference has established itself as the main forum for presenting the latest scientific advances in the field. Our conference inspired other societies, such as the Optical Society of America, Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, and Society of Molecular Imaging to organize sessions on the technologies.



As in the past, the organizing committee recognized the leading researchers in the field by presenting the Best Paper Award and the Best Poster Award, sponsored by Seno Medical Instruments (San Antonio, Texas).

The Best Paper Award went to

- "Photoacoustic imaging of oxygen release from hemoglobin in single red blood cells *in vivo*" by Lidai Wang, Konstantin I. Maslov, and Lihong V. Wang. [8223-65, Presentation Only],

The Organization Committee also conferred two honorable mentions:

1. "Imaging breast lesions using the Twente photoacoustic mammoscope: ongoing clinical experience" by Michele Heijblom, Daniele Piras, Wenfeng Xia, Johan C. G. van Hespen, Frank M. van den Engh, Joost M. Klaase, Ton G. van Leeuwen, Wiendelt Steenbergen, and Srirang Manohar. Paper 82230C [8223-11].
2. "Multi-contrast photoacoustic microscopy" by Song Hu, Rebecca Sohn, Zhi-Hong Lu, Brian T. Soetinko, Qiaonan Zhong, Junjie Yao, Konstantin I. Maslov, Jeffrey M. Arbeit, and Lihong V. Wang. Paper 822310 [8223-34].

The Best Poster Award went to

- "Dichroism optical-resolution photoacoustic microscopy" by Song Hu, Konstantin Maslov, Ping Yan, Jin-Moo Lee, and Lihong V. Wang. Poster 82233T [8223-134].

We would like to congratulate the winners and thank all the contributors to this conference and the organizing committee for making our conference a great success! This volume of SPIE proceedings reflects the continuously increasing number of clinically relevant presentations and the high quality of basic research being conducted by our growing community.

**Alexander A. Oraevsky
Lihong V. Wang**