Annual Report 2014

The National University of Ireland, Galway & University of Limerick (NUIG-UL) SPIE student chapter was established by postgraduate students from the Tissue Optics and Microcirculation Imaging Group, Applied Optics Group, National Centre for Laser Applications and the Physics Department of University of Limerick. The aim of the chapter is to bring together people with common interests in the fields of optics and related disciplines, to organise events and activities, and to promote optics in the universities and the wider community.

1 Officers

Prof. Dr. Martin Leahy
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Chapter Advisor

Kai Neuhaus
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President

Haroon Zafar
h.zafar2@nuigalway.ie
Vice-President

Jim McGrath
j.mcgrath3@nuigalway.ie
Secretary

Aedán Breathnach
a.breathnach1@nuigalway.ie
Treasurer
## 2 Current Student Chapter Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vijaya Raghavan Ayanam Parthasarathy</td>
<td>16 January 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aedán Breathnach</td>
<td>12 November 2014</td>
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<td>Pinaki Das Gupta</td>
<td>28 February 2015</td>
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<td>Roshan Dsouza</td>
<td>4 October 2015</td>
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<td>Dinesh Babu Duraibabu</td>
<td>24 April 2015</td>
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<td>Sean Gorman</td>
<td>26 November 2014</td>
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<td>Finn Krewer</td>
<td>25 February 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>James McGrath</td>
<td>25 December 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kai Neuhaus</td>
<td>29 July 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oliver Slattery</td>
<td>24 June 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haroon Zafar</td>
<td>8 May 2015</td>
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3 Chapter Activities

**SPIE Photonics West 2014**

**Travel Grant Activity**

Roshan and Haroon were availing for the officer travel grant and visiting SPIE Photonics West 2014 in February and presenting their results. It was a unique chance for them to create new contacts for their further research and exchange ideas with other visitors and scientists.

![Haroon talking with a visitor about his results.](image)

**Elections 2014**

Kai encouraged an extraordinary election to improve interactive group communication and acceptance, as well as to get into compliance with the SPIE chapter rules. Although, the election was challenging due to the currently small amount of members, the new elected officers could be selected based on counts of paper ballots.

Subsequently, from April 11 the new list of officers is:

- President: Kai Neuhaus
- Vice-President: Haroon Zafar
- Secretary: Jim McGrath
- Treasurer: Aedân Breathnach

The election process was accepted and monitored by all previous officers and approved by the chapter advisor Prof. Dr. Martin Leahy. For future elections it is planned to align the date of elections with the academic year.
The Biophotonics and Imaging Group Summer School 2014 was a great opportunity for all members to get in contact with international students and scientists. Everybody agreed that the event was a great success to learn about the latest development in the area of Biophotonics. High temperature during the lectures did not lessen the interest of the guests. Guest speakers visiting were Prof. Paul French, Prof. Stanislav Emelianov, Prof. Samar Mohanty, Prof. Johannes F. De Boer, Prof. Rainer Heintzmann and Prof. Steve Jacques.
4 Details of Planned Activities

General SPIE NUI Galway – University of Limerick Student Chapter Meeting

September 24th 2014, 12:30 pm – Room AO208, Dept. Of Physics, NUI Galway.

A general meeting was held for all members invited on September the 24th to discuss further improvement and awareness of the student chapter, including planning events for the International Year of Light. Details about the meeting are shown below.

• **Chapter awareness and promotion activities** – Currently 100 EUR have been spent from the activity grant to organize meetings with current members. Kai has started to print posters and circulated in the college and it was agreed to avail further small amount from the available fundings. First requests of informations from students are currently processed. Haroon suggested printing poster templates on A4. It is agreed that Haroon would do this and send them to Kai. A number of suggestions of possible posters to print were presented by Kai and a recommendation about the 'Invent Your Future' poster was made. A recent request by Rebekah Darcy to place a poster in the corridor of 1st year labs was noted and it was agreed we would look in to supplying a poster for this location. It was also suggested to create another facebook group for the student chapter to increase awareness in Ireland.

• **Recruitment of new members** – Several members suggested that it would be good to have an event to promote which will attract new student members. The goal is to increase memberships to 20 members or more, It was agreed to hold a games/ food recruitment evening similar to event organized last year by NUIG OSA chapter. The exact amount of spendings for this event will be reported as soon as the activity has been finalized. A provisional date of October 8th at 6 pm was set. Room 220 was suggested as an alternative to AO208 and many students do not have key card access to the Applied Optics corridor. Hrebesch suggested handing out a flyer or presenting an information slide to 4th year Biophotonics students (> 25 students) as a way of promoting this event. Other means of promotion suggested were to publish in SIN campus newspaper, T.V. Screens on campus, TOMI Webpage and are planned to be followed up in the next couple of weeks.

• **Organization of Guest Speaker** – Suggestions were made to invite a guest lecturer and during late November/ early December. Hrebesch suggested Aydogan Ozcan and this was seconded by Roshan. Kai agreed to send around a link with a list of visiting lecturers and people can make suggestions by next week and a list of potential speakers would be made. Roshan suggested Dirk Fabian would be a good speaker on entrepreneurial areas.
• **Planning of Photonics West 2015 visit** – Hrebesch suggested Kai can avail of upcoming SPIE travel grant to travel to Photonics West. It was also suggested that Aedan could apply for a College of Science travel scholarship to travel to the event.

• **Visit to Imperial College London** – James circulated a list of tours and speakers which will be taking place in Imperial College London on Tuesday 4th of November. It was agreed that James would act as the main point of contact for this event, however Sean would help investigate travel and accommodation in the London area. SPIE members wishing to participate in this visit should advise James McGrath as soon as possible as Imperial College have expressed a wish to know a rough idea of numbers.

• **Planning International Year of Light activities** – Several ideas were proposed for International Year of Light events. All present members agreed that it would be a major opportunity for the SPIE Student Chapter to showcase its work. The SPIE UCD chapter is planning on organising a marquee containing demonstrations such as lasers, optical illusions and optics based experiments. They plan to set this marquee up at various festivals such as Dublin Science week. Talks are underway with the SPIE UCD chapter about hosting this marquee in Galway during one of Galway's science festivals (e.g. Galway Science Festival) and possibly contributing some demonstrations to this marquee. Planning is in progress to organise an event at Newgrange in Co. Meath, which was proposed by our chapter advisor Prof. Martin Leahy. Dr. Paul McNamara suggested investigating a room in the Physics department which contains lots of old Physics experiment apparatus which may be useful for demonstrations etc. It was agreed that the chapter would ask Stuart Harries about this.

5  Financial Information

5.1 **Officer Travel Grant**

The officer travel grant had been availed by Roshan and Haroon, and was spent.

5.2 **Activity Grant**

Initial amount: 353.46 EUR (27/03/2014)

Amount spent: 103.46 EUR for different meeting activities with chapter members.

Available: 250.00 EUR see planned activities above for further use of fundings.