Annual Report 2019

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 of NUI Galway 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.

Prof. Martin Leahy

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Chapter Advisor

Officers

Cerine Lal  Sean O Gorman  Kai Neuhaus  Ellen Keenan

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President  Vice-President  Secretary  Treasurer
Current Student Chapter Members

- Anand Arangath 5 September 2019
- Niamh Fitzgerald 6 August 2020
- Soorya James 25 June 2020
- Ryan McAuley 8 September 2019
- Michelle Rocha 8 January 2020

Chapter Elections

The elections of the new officers were elected under the guidance of Prof. Martin Leahy and the new chapter officers are:

- President: Anand Arangath
- Vice-President: Soorya James
- Secretary: Ryan McAuley
- Treasurer: Rajib Dey

The election results were made public to all members of our SPIE chapter and were accepted during a follow up meeting.
Chapter Activities

SPIE Photonics West 2018

Cerine Lal attended SPIE Photonics West 2018 to present her work. During her time in San Francisco, she attended many workshops and events including ‘Lunch with experts’ and lectures about presentation and writing skills which were great chances to interact and get in contact with other participants of the Photonics West event.

BIGSS 2018

The biennial international summer school event Biophotonics and Imaging Group Summer School (BIGSS) was conducted between August 28th to September 1st 2018 at Burren Atlantic Hotel, Ballyvaughan. Forty six students from all over the world attended BIGSS 2018. BIGSS 2018 was a great opportunity for all members to get in contact with students and scientists. Everybody agreed that the event was a great success to learn about the latest development in the
area of Biophotonics. All the participants had a nice time of bonding over the social events and poster session.

Guest speakers visiting were Prof. Steve Jacques, Prof. Irving Bigio, Prof. Paola Borri, Prof. Caroline Boudoux, Prof. Elizabeth Hillman, Prof. Ton van Leeuwen and Prof. Sergio Fantini, Prof. Brian Pogue and Prof. Daniel Razansky.

The group photo on the last day of BIGSS 2018

During international cooking night  
During one of the socializing events
Outreach events

The Chapter contributes to the outreach program of the university every year, with greater awareness of photonics generated on the back of IYL2015. Several of the chapter members were involved in a coordinated Photonics based outreach effort and continued their work in collaboration with the Makerspace and Phablabs at NUI Galway:

NUIG-Limerick SPIE member Ryan McAuley delivering photonic workshop to secondary school students
Social activity

Before leaving for Christmas holidays, all the chapter members had a team outing and dinner together.

However, we could not avail funding from the SPIE student chapter due to low student turnover for the academic year 2018-2019.