



For immediate release

Janis Spigulis Elected SPIE Fellow



San Francisco, California, USA – January 24, 2011 – During the “Photonics West” symposium, SPIE has honored 26 new Fellows of the Society. Fellows are members of distinction who have made significant scientific and technical contributions in the multidisciplinary fields of optics, photonics, and imaging. They are honored for their technical achievement, for their service to the general optics community, and to SPIE in particular. More than 800 SPIE members have become Fellows since the Society’s inception in 1955.

“The annual recognition of Fellows provides an opportunity for us to acknowledge Members for their outstanding technical contributions and service to SPIE,” says Katarina Svanberg, SPIE President.

Janis Spigulis, University of Latvia, Latvia, for achievements in biophotonics and fiber optics.

Spigulis is the first SPIE Fellow from the Baltic States. He has conducted important research in fiber optics, optoelectronics, and biomedical optics. His work in biophotonics has resulted in new methods and devices for optical diagnostics and monitoring of health parameters, while his fiber optics research has made advances possible in side-emitting optical fibers, optical fiber fault detectors, and fiber tip designs for medical applications.

During his early carrier, he has also worked in atomic spectroscopy, conducting experimental studies of energy transfer kinetics in metal vapor mixtures, and with non-imaging optics, designing compact light-emitting diode collimators and focusers. Spigulis has been granted 13 patents, is the author of the first textbook in Latvian on *Optical Fibers*, and has co-founded two optics companies.

Spigulis has received honors such as the Grindex Golden Owl award for outstanding research in biomedical optics and was elected a corresponding member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences. He works both with his local community and the international optics community on education efforts such as launching one of the first in Europe Master programme on Biomedical Optics at University of Latvia, organizing European Union-sponsored Researchers Night events at the Institute of Atomic Physics and Spectroscopy and regularly lecturing at summer camps for Latvian high school students. He is a member of the Optical Society of America (OSA), the Latvian Union of Scientists, the Latvian Physical Society, and the Latvian Society of Medical Engineering and Physics. He is chairing the Latvian regional committee of the International Commission for Optics and the local section of the OSA.

With SPIE, Spigulis has been a very active member. He was the founder and long-time chair of the SPIE Baltic Chapter, reviewer for the SPIE *Optical Engineering* journal and the SPIE *Journal of Biomedical Optics*, as well as organizer or co-organizer of six AOMD (“Advanced Optical Materials and Devices”) conferences in the Baltic states.

SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, was founded in 1955 to advance light-based technologies. Serving more than 180,000 constituents from 168 countries, the Society advances emerging technologies through interdisciplinary information exchange, continuing education, publications, patent precedent, and career and professional growth. SPIE annually organizes and sponsors approximately 25 major technical forums, exhibitions, and education programs in North America, Europe, Asia, and the South Pacific, and supports scholarships, grants, and other education programs around the world. See www.SPIE.org for information.

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Media Contact:

Stacey Crockett
Media Relations Coordinator
StaceyC@spie.org
Tel: +1 360 685 5458



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