

Editorial Foreword to the OFC 2021 Special Issue

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Editorial

Foreword to the OFC 2021 Special Issue

Welcome to the JOURNAL OF LIGHTWAVE TECHNOLOGY (JLT) OFC 2021 Special Issue. Published over two JLT issues (Volume 40, Issues 5 and 6, March 2022), this special issue includes the extensions of a broad selection of papers presented at the Optical Fiber Communications Conference – OFC (6 - 10 June 2021). The papers included in the special issue document the state of the art in optical fiber technology and networks in greater depth than is possible in the limited format of the conference technical digest.

During OFC 2021, the first edition of the conference held fully virtually due to Covid-19, a wide range of topics were addressed, including: components, subsystems and systems for data centers and optical networks; passive and active optical devices; photonic integrated circuits; fiber and propagation physics; fiber-optic and waveguide devices and sensors; microwave photonic subsystems; radio-over-fiber, free-space and sensing subsystems and systems; digital transmission systems and subsystems; data-center, metro and core optical networks; optical access networks for fixed and mobile services.

In parallel to the hardware-centric selection of papers on the above topics presented in this Special Issue, and in close collaboration with the OFC and JLT technical leadership, the Journal of Optical Communications and Networking (JOCN) is publishing a collection of networking and software-centric papers from OFC 2021.

In order to provide you with more technical depth than what is possible in a 3-page conference contribution, we encouraged

all authors to augment their papers by including more detail and additional content. All of the submissions to this special issue underwent the standard rigorous JLT peer-review process thus assuring the accuracy, completeness and quality expected of a JLT publication.

We are happy to report that a good fraction of the invited authors chose to expand their OFC papers and submit them to this special issue, which includes the follow-up version of 4 tutorials, 21 invited papers, 28 top-ranked contributed papers and 8 post-deadline papers.

We would like to thank JLT staff Douglas Hargis, Sonal Parikh, and Christopher Perry as well as JLT's volunteer-based Editorial Board for flawlessly handling the massive extra workload presented by this issue. We would also like to thank an army of anonymous volunteer peer reviewers whose expert reviews are key in making sure that JLT remains the leading top-quality publication in the field of lightwave technologies and their applications. Finally, we would like to thank all contributing authors for submitting their best OFC works to JLT.

We hope that this Special Issue will serve as a useful archival reference, providing access to information presented at OFC 2021 to a broader audience than those who attended the conference. We look forward to what OFC 2022 (San Diego, March 6-10 2022) will bring!

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