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Optical Methods for Tumor Treatment and Detection: Mechanisms and Techniques in Photodynamic Therapy XVI

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Introduction

While conferences on photodynamic therapy had been organized as early as 1977, the first meeting sponsored by SPIE took place in Cambridge, MA. This was organized in 1987 by Doug Neckers (Bowling Green State University) and Tayyaba Hasan (Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard). Thomas J. Dougherty began organizing annual conferences in 1989 as part of the SPIE BIOS program. These were held in Los Angeles until 1995, when the site was moved to San Jose. Dr. Dougherty continued to organize the PDT sessions until 2003, when I was asked to take the job.

SPIE also published a volume containing papers relating to the meeting of the International Photodynamic Association in 1994, and has provided a venue for several European conferences. In 1993, a compendium containing reprints of 89 key papers relating to PDT was published as part of the SPIE 'Milestone' Series, with the title, *Selected Papers on Photodynamic Therapy*. The Milestone Series now contains over 150 volumes dealing with various aspects of optics and related topics.

The annual inclusion of sessions relating to photodynamic effects provides an opportunity of basic researchers to meet with those involved in applications research. Since elements of dosimetry form an important part of PDT optimization, it is especially useful to bring together people working in bioengineering, optics, photophysics, and photochemistry. The two-day meeting in 2007 continues the format initially established by the earlier organizers.

David Kessel