29 July 2020

OSA Foundation Donors and Beneficiaries:

Although this year has not gone as planned, we continue to support our community in both traditional and new ways. Thanks to your contributions, our programs for students and early career professionals have not waivered during this unforeseen pandemic. Here are a few highlights:

**UV-C Chamber Grants for Developing Countries**

In response to a global shortage of n95 respirators, Thomas M. Baer, Manu Prakash, Jeffery Wilde, and Bert Hesselink all from Stanford University developed a UV-C Chamber using accessible low-cost commercial components with the potential decontaminate 5,000+ n95 respirators per day. With generous funding from Tom as well as Milton Chang, Erich Ippen, Ursula Gibson and Chris Dainty, we have provided 28 grants to chapters and organizations in low-income countries allowing them to produce chambers in partnership with local hospitals.

**Innovation School**

On 13 – 17 July, we hosted the Innovation School. We transformed the program into a virtual destination. The spirit of the school was very much alive—almost 50 people came together for a week of product development and customer/market research resulting in 8 unique pitches. They also joined conversations with innovative leaders like Peter de Groot, Executive Director of R & D, Zygo Corporation and Katharine Schmidtke, Director, Sourcing, Facebook.

**Prizes and Honors at CLEO 2020**

At the virtual CLEO on 11 – 15 May 2020, which hosted almost 20,000 attendees, we recognized several prize recipients:

- **Bernard J. Couillaud Prize** recipient Bo Li, Cornell University. This prize is a US$25,000 stipend endowed by Coherent, Inc. Bo’s presentation at CLEO was “Video-rate three-photon imaging of awake mouse brain.”
- **James P. Gordon Memorial Speaker** Jelena Vuckovic, QFarm, Stanford-SLAC Quantum Science and Engineering Initiative Stanford. Her presentation was “Integrated Quantum Photonics.”
- **Tingye Li Innovation Prize** recipient Julia Gessner, Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics, for her paper “Ultrafast Charge and Spin Dynamics in Ferromagnets.”
- **Theodore Maiman Student Paper Competition** winner Jaco Fuchs, ETH Zurich, for his paper “Time delays from one-photon transitions in the continuum.”

We also transformed the **Incubic/Milton Chang Travel Grants** to publication fee grants impacting 170 people in 2020—several grants went to students who were presenting for the first time at CLEO.

**Mentorship and Professional Development**

We pivoted from in-person trainings to online webinars. These sessions are a part of the suite of programs available at [osa.org/WEAREON](http://osa.org/WEAREON). Topics range from teaching your kids optics at home, getting a job online and even managing stress. So far, 2,000+ individuals have benefitted from these programs.

**Pop-up Store**
The Foundation pop-up store, the-osa-foundation.myshopify.com, launched with three t-shirt designs:

- “Light Saves Lives” recognizing the tremendous impact light science and technology plays on detection, diagnosis and treatment of disease.
- “Respect the Spectrum” recognizing the STEM LGBTQ+ community.
- “Amplify Black Voices in Science” inspired by the movement for racial and social justice taking place globally.

**Student Chapter programs**

Most of the International OSA Network of Students (IONS) conferences opted to postpone until 2021, however IONS OPUMA 2021 hosted by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México Student Chapter converted to a virtual conference, a first of IONS its kind. Many other chapter grants have also been repurposed to support virtual events and/or presentation fees. To help chapters facilitate group meetings and discussions without participant restrictions or time limits, 72 chapters were provided professional subscriptions to Zoom.

**What’s coming next?**

In my next letter, I will share takeaways from the virtual Siegman International School on Lasers facilitated by 2017 OSA President Eric Mazur. I will also update you on our virtual Subsea Optical Fiber Communications 2020 Mini Dive in partnership with Google.

Soon, we will announce the recipients of several fellowships and honors including:

- The **Milton and Rosalind Chang Pivoting Fellowship**, which is a “no strings” stipend of US$50,000 awarded to an early career professional committed to advancing science through non-traditional career paths.
- The **Thomas F. Deutsch Fellowship in Biomedical Optics** is awarded to a post-doctoral researcher in partnership with the Wellman Center for Photomedicine (WCP) at the Massachusetts General Hospital.
- The **Diversity and Inclusion Advocacy Recognition** honors individuals and organizations making a significant impact in areas of diversity and inclusion.

These programs would not be possible without your support. If you have any comments or recommendations, I encourage you to reach out to me (sawchuk@sipi.usc.edu) and Chad Stark, Executive Director of OSAF (cstark@osa.org). You can always continue to give back by visiting OSA.org/donate. All gifts are matched 100% by OSA.

Thank you for all of your support.

Sincerely,

Alexander (Sandy) Sawchuk
OSA Foundation Board Chair