OPTO 2017
International student conference
4th - 8th July 2017
opto2017.com

Organised by student chapters from leading universities in Warsaw, Poland:
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OPTO 2017 is an international conference organized in Poland annually by students for students. The topics of the meeting include optics, photonics and related fields. We strive to provide students and young researchers from (mainly) mid-eastern Europe a chance to present and discuss their latest scientific achievements. By inviting notable scientists from all over the world as Invited Speakers, we aim to establish a high scientific standard. During the meeting, young researchers get a chance not only to broaden their knowledge by attending interesting lectures, but also to gain a very valuable experience in presenting their research and improve soft skills. Professional development plays a crucial role in education of young researcher. As we wish for the conference to have a high impact on young scientist’s careers we provide special sessions devoted to this issues. It is also a unique networking opportunity, as the meetings gathers great amount of students studying the same field.

This year the conference was organized for eleventh time. It was a very special event, since it was the first time the conference took place in Warsaw. OPTO 2017 is also unique because it was organized by a collaborative effort of Student Chapters from three Universities: Warsaw University of Technology (WUT), University of Warsaw and Military University of Technology. Our team consisted of undergrad, masters and PhD students.

Organising team:

- Martyna Rachoń – PhD student, Warsaw University of Technology
- Jan Szczepanek – PhD student, University of Warsaw
- Piotr Węgrzyn – Undergraduate, University of Warsaw
- Anna Gołoś – Master student, Warsaw University of Technology
- Jakub Dobosz – Undergraduate, University of Warsaw
- Justyna Piwowar – PhD student, University of Warsaw
• Tomasz Piątkowski – Undergraduate, Military University of Technology

• Michał Mikołajczyk – Master student, University of Warsaw

• Aleksander Bogucki – PhD student, University of Warsaw

• Tomasz Fok – PhD student, Military University of Technology

• Karolina Liebert – PhD student, Warsaw University of Technology

• Witold Stępień – Undergraduate, Warsaw University of Technology

Because of this cooperation and support from SPIE and other sponsors we organised the biggest and most international OPTO conference in history.

We were also able to provide Travel Grants for students to make the event accessible for everyone. Conference fee was only 50-100 zł (12,5 – 25 euro) and was waived for some students, passive participation was free. Our guests received OPTO t-shirts and bags filled with gadgets and conference materials. During whole conference we provided for participants food: breakfasts, lunches, coffee breaks and snacks during evening events. It also covered welcome party, banquet and networking activities.
The event lasted for 5 days and took place in Centre for Innovation and Technology Transfer Management of Warsaw University of Technology.

Fig. Participant in an OPTO T-shirt and bag, badges, conference venue and registration desk.

PARTICIPANTS

OPTO 2017 SPIE FOCUS gathered 150 participants. Our guests represented 23 scientific institutions from all over the world. Participants represented students from undergraduate and master level to PhD Candidates and young scientists. During 5 days of conference we had a pleasure to host 11 plenary lectures, 53 scientific presentations and 55 poster presentations. We also welcomed plenty of younger students as passive participants to enjoy lectures and conference activities.
OBJECTIVES

Main objective of the conference was to influence young researchers and help them develop to become outstanding professionals. We believe that, it is crucial to provide them with a chance to not only gain knowledge, but also work on soft skills and networking. During our conference we worked hard to provide a platform to help develop all of the three areas, to help fully grow our participants (scheme below).

Scientific development was very important, as the conference is the meeting of scientists and the main objective is to exchange knowledge and ideas. We invited notable invited speakers and thanks to their exceptional lectures we all could learn a lot about optics and photonics from pioneers in the field. Also, students had a possibility to present their own research. For many of them it was first conference they've attended, first abstract that they wrote. That's why we worked hard to provide welcoming atmosphere. Young scientists had an opportunity to talk about their research with peers and professors, which helped them to advance faster. Apart from gaining knowledge, a very important aspect is also learning how to effectively communicate it to others. This is why we organised a professional development day. We hosted a lecture on patenting and protecting inventions and ethics in science. It is also very important to consciously choose a career path. We tried to show the perspectives of work in academia and invited local companies to show possibilities of work in Polish optical industry. We also organised a lecture about cooperation between both of these parties, which leads us to the third area of development: building network. We wanted to show by our cooperation during organisation of the conference that together we are stronger and we can achieve more. Our team was very diverse, which resulted in multiple opinion and views. Throughout whole conference we encouraged cooperation between young scientists, between SPIE chapters, international organisations, and scientific institutions. It was also crucial for us to provide an equal opportunity for every student to attend conference (especially those with difficult situation i.e. from Ukraine), so we are really proud that we could provide travel grants for students. We believe that we managed to provide means to enjoy variety of activities for young scientist to make an impact on their careers.
## 8th July Tuesday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>4th July Tuesday</th>
<th>Personal Development Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td><strong>Registration</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>Welcoming ceremony</td>
<td>Welcoming ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>Nathalie Debaes</td>
<td>Nathalie Debaes</td>
<td>„Photonics Innovation support for European Companies: technology transfer from university research teams to industry“</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:45</td>
<td>Chapter Session &amp; Coffee Break</td>
<td>Chapter Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:30</td>
<td>Danuta Sampson</td>
<td>Danuta Sampson</td>
<td>„Science, Ethics and Professional Identity“</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>Welcome Party</td>
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## 5th July Wednesday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>5th July Wednesday</th>
<th>6th July Thursday</th>
<th>7th July Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Breakfast</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Breakfast</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>M. A. Szmigiel</td>
<td>P. Kaluzynski</td>
<td>H. M. Al-Juboori</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15</td>
<td>L. Gołącki</td>
<td>A. Foltynowicz</td>
<td>D. Lanewski</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>K. Sawicki</td>
<td>A. Paździor</td>
<td>P. Kabaciński</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45</td>
<td>K. Połczyńska</td>
<td>A. Kołakowska</td>
<td>V. Szwietka</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>J. Sufczyński</td>
<td>O. Jaworska</td>
<td>A. Gajewski</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45</td>
<td>Alberto Amo</td>
<td>Małgorzata Kujawińska</td>
<td>Roberto Morandotii</td>
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<td>11:45</td>
<td>M. Dąbrowski</td>
<td>P. Kochańska</td>
<td>M. Lipka</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>K. Gietka</td>
<td>K. Czajkowski</td>
<td>M. Mazelanik</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15</td>
<td>K. Sędzian</td>
<td>W. Zapery</td>
<td>M. Galka</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:30</td>
<td>Paolo Villoresi</td>
<td>M. Ziemczonok</td>
<td>N. Stolareczk</td>
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<td>P. Gładysz</td>
<td>F. Sośnicki</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>Sponsor Session - Fibrin</td>
<td>P. Wegrzyń</td>
<td>P. Wegrzyń</td>
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<td>14:15</td>
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<td>M. Pumiak</td>
<td>M. Pumiak</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30</td>
<td>Zeev Zalevsky</td>
<td>F. Omer Ilday</td>
<td>Allard Mosk</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>G. A. Oleksienko</td>
<td>J. Szczepanek</td>
<td>N. Mysko-Krutik</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:15</td>
<td>A. Leszczyński</td>
<td>J. Boguslawski</td>
<td>S. R. Soomro</td>
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<td>16:30</td>
<td>V. Ghoghoberidze</td>
<td>A. Broda</td>
<td>K. Wilczyński</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:45</td>
<td>P. Starzyk</td>
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<td>I. Mulimj</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>A. Bogucki</td>
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<td>V. Geidarov</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:15</td>
<td>M. Dudek</td>
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<td>J. Piwowar</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:30</td>
<td>J. Archer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>Famelab</td>
<td>Warsaw Sightseeing</td>
<td>Banquet</td>
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## 8th July Saturday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>8th July Saturday</th>
<th>Social Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Visit at Copernicus Science Center</td>
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CONFERENCE PROGRAM:
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

The conference was formally opened by prof. Małgorzata Kujawińska – Advisor of WUT’s SPIE Student Chapter and Head of Photonics Engineering Division at WUT. After the speech participants could enjoy whole day of professional development activities. It consisted of four amazing lectures given by world class experts, chapter poster session and meeting with polish, photonics industry representatives. They had also a chance to talk personally with our guests during coffee breaks.

Fig. Prof. Kujawińska opening the conference, students during lecture and a poster chapter session.

We started with the workshop on patents and intellectual property. Our participants learned how to protect their inventions from a patent attorney Małgorzata Trejgis (JWP Patent Attorney), who also is an optical engineer. We learned about patenting process and when is it beneficial to apply for one.

Fig. Małgorzata Trejgis during her lecture.

The second lecture of the day delivered by Nathalie Debaes on behalf of prof. Hugo Thienpont from Vrije Universiteit Brussels (VUB), Belgium. He is a vice-Rector of the university, a head of the B-PHOT Team, and a leader of the biggest European project “ACTPHAST”. Mrs. Debaes is a member of B-PHOT Team and presented fascinating lecture about photonics technology transfer from university research teams to industry. She talked about how photonics innovations can support European companies and how important this
cooperation is. The example of collaboration of Brussels team showed young researchers that working in academia can also be applied in real devices.

After the first two lectures, there was a special event – SPIE chapter poster session. It was a great opportunity to talk about activities that our chapters are organising. Everyone received a lot of good ideas for new events and a lot of inspiration for future work. It was a great place to start new collaborations between chapters and encourage other students to join us. Most of the chapters prepared beautiful posters, but section from Wroclaw decided to also show their technical project – optical tweezers.
After the coffee break the second session of professional development talks awaited. The first lecture was delivered by **dr Carlos Lopez-Mariscal**. He is the lead optical scientist and founder of Underwater Photonics. He has also worked at the Quantum Physics division of the National Institute for Standards and Technology and the Bio-analytical laboratory of the US Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC. Because of his experience of working both in academia and industry, he gave advice about choosing a career path. Dr Mariscal’s lecture taught how to effectively talk about science to people from industry and community. Communication skills are crucial to become a successful scientist and entrepreneur, and we could find out the most important dos and don’ts of public speaking. He also talked about importance of developing leadership skills and why soft skills matter so much in real life.

The last talk of the day was given by **dr Danuta Sampson** from University of Western Australia – 2017 OSA Ambassador. She prepared a lecture on ethics in science based on survey conducted by Optical Society. She talked about bad practices in academia – how to recognise and avoid them. Dr Sampson explained academic bullying by exploiting co-workers and their work. She talked about importance of ethics in human interactions and in publishing.
Apart from amazing lectures and chapter poster session we wanted to show perspectives of work in polish, optical industry. To achieve that, we have invited representatives of companies, so students could see where they can work in future and talk about internships. Fibrain brought a demonstrator to teach students about fiber optics and show what they are working on. During coffee breaks students could also enjoy talking personally to our guests.

To finish the first day of the conference we organised a Welcome Party in a Bowl-Pub. It was a great place to meet new people and talk to old friends, while enjoying bowling, playing pool or darts. The casual atmosphere helped to network and have fun with peers.
CONFERENCE PROGRAM:
SCIENTIFIC PART

From 5th to 8th of July we organised the scientific part of the conference. It consisted of 7 plenary lectures, 53 presentations and 55 posters. Plenary lectures were given by our notable Invited Speakers – experts in their field from all of the world. To show some statistics we calculated that together they published over 3000 articles and were cited more than 50 000 times. It gives around 7000 citations per person and according to studies having more than 2000 places a scientist in top 1%. We would like to acknowledge great support from SPIE and OSA that we received to invite our guests and for funding awarded as Traveling Lecturer Grants. Thanks to their presence during the conference participants could gain optical knowledge about state of the art technologies and discuss with them in person their research.

INVITED SPEAKERS

The first lecture was given by dr Alberto Amo from the Centre de Nanosciences et de Nanotechnologies, CNRS, France. His lecture was titled: “Microcavity polaritons for photonic quantum simulation”. During his talk he explained his scientific interests and reviewed the results of his research group on the implementation of polaritonic graphene lattices, the observation of nonlinear Josephson oscillations and the polariton lasing in infinitely massive states. The lecture was very engaging and full of cutting edge technology.

Fig. Dr Alberto Amo giving lecture on polaritons.
**Prof. Paolo Villoresi** from University of Padua, Italy is a coordinator of Quantum Future Research Group in the Department of Engineering. His talk: “How very distant correspondents may realize Quantum Communications and why” was about a futuristic technology of quantum communications. He introduced us to this novel technique and showed recent results of his research group, demonstrating possibility of Quantum Communication with Low-Earth-Orbit satellites using polarization degree of freedom to encode qubits. Prof. Villoresi talked about a timeline of quantum technology and showed that there are no limits, just horizons.

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Our next speaker was **prof. Zeev Zalevsky** from Bar-Ilan University. He holds more than 50 patents and is a world class expert in imaging. Unfortunately, due to last minute accident he could not be present personally, but instead gave a video-lecture and answered questions via Skype. The title of the speech was: “Novel approaches in super-resolved near and far field imaging: Breaking Abbe’s law of diffraction”. Prof. Zalevsky discussed the ‘degrees of freedom adaptation approach’ in which time, wavelength and field of view multiplexing is applied to encode spatial information and transmit it without losses. He also talked about novel imaging concepts involving various types of nano-particles applicable in the bio-associated research. Another topic that professor explained is concept and techniques of extended depth of field.

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*Fig. Prof. Villoresi talking about Quantum Communication.*

*Fig. Prof. Zalevsky’s video-lecture.*
**Prof. Małgorzata Kujawińska** from Warsaw University of Technology, 2005 SPIE President presented a lecture as a first plenary speaker on Thursday. Subject of her talk was: “Digital holography: new challenges in 3D displays and biophotonics”. The first part of the lecture presented the challenges and accomplishments in the field of color digital holography in multimedia application. Prof. Kujawińska discussed path towards holographic television with examples of impressive research conducted in this field at Warsaw University of Technology. The second part consisted of analysis of applications of digital holography in microscopy and tomography. Quantitative analysis of static and dynamic phase microstructures in biomedical engineering was presented.

![Image](image1.png)

*Fig. Prof. Kujawińska during plenary lecture.*

Next speaker on Thursday was **dr F. Ömer Ilday** from Bilkent University, Turkey. He presented a lecture on: “Nonlinearity Engineering: from mode-locked lasers towards orchestrating self-assembly at the nanoscale”. Dr Ilday began his talk by describing mode-locked laser, which is capable of generating intensely powerful pulses, that can drive systems far from equilibrium. He also discussed orchestrating the complex dynamics of physically very different systems to exert control over spatial scales that vary in size. He addressed also the problems in the techniques and talked about applications of such systems in engineering.

![Image](image2.png)

*Fig. Dr. F. Ömer Ilday*
Prof. Roberto Morandotti from INRS-EMT, Canada gave a lecture on Friday. He presented an experimental demonstration of discrete solitons and their dynamical properties and opened up one of the most prolific fields of research in nonlinear dynamics and nonlinear integrated optics of the last decade. Prof. Morandotti presented a talk about: “Generation of Complex Quantum States via Integrated Frequency Combs”. He discussed how generation of such complex states on an integrated platform can enable low-cost and accessible advances for quantum technologies such as secure communications and quantum computations. Prof. Morandotti also explained the principles of work of quantum computer.

One of our guests was Prof. Allard Mosk from Debye Institute for Nanomaterials Science, Utrecht University, The Netherlands. The lecture titled: “Open channels in scattering media: See the light inside” took place on Friday 7th of July. During the talk prof. Mosk explained random scattering effect and its implications in imaging. He discussed possibility of wave transport through strongly scattering materials and talk about statistical approach. The lecture had a lot of examples and applications. Prof. Mosk also discussed this phenomena with participants asking interesting questions about the research.
Apart from plenary lectures given by Invited Speakers, we had a pleasure to attend oral and poster presentations prepared by students and young scientists. Presentations took place on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Our presenters gave talks in following topics:

- **Topic 1:** Laser Physics, Non-linear and Ultrafast Optics, Quantum Optics, Quantum Communication, Atomic Physics, Quantum Dots
- **Topic 2:** Biophotonics and Biomedical Optics, Microscopic Optics, Image Processing, Machine Vision, Imaging Systems, Virtual and Augmented Reality.
- **Topic 3:** Displays and Holography, Optical Engineering, Interferometry and Metrology, Spectroscopy, Optical Design, Vision Optics, Lighting and Illumination Systems
- **Topic 4:** Photodetectors, Sensors, Nanooptics and Nanophotonics, Optical Fiber Technology, Optical Communications, Photovoltaics.

Our participants prepared over 100 presentations and wrote an abstract for each one. We put them together as a “Book of abstracts”. They were really well written and covered very interesting research. For many students it was their first scientific abstract, so we are very proud of the work that they put in it and the results they achieved.

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Fig Part of the book of abstracts (attached).
ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Oral presentations lasted for 15 minutes each. All of them were very engaging and professional. It was a real pleasure to listen to the talks. We also had a lot of questions from the audience and Invited Speakers. All of the students showed conducted by them research in a very accessible way. Since the range of topics covered during conference was really wide it was very important that the content of each presentation can be understood by all of the students specializing in different areas.

Fig. Photos from oral presentations during OPTO 2017.
POSTER PRESENTATIONS

On Wednesday 5th of July we organised a poster session. Students could present their research and engage in a discussion with peers and professors on their achievements and problems. All of the posters were really designed and easy to follow. The poster session took place in the lobby of conference venue.

Fig. Photos from poster session.
CONFERENCE PROGRAM: 
SOCIAL EVENTS

The scientific and professional development aspects were the most important parts of the conference, but the social events are also needed. To ensure that all of the participants have a good time and a platform to network we prepared a whole range of activities. It was important for us to encourage experience exchange and to promote collaboration. We organised an evening event every day of the conference and additionally, whole Saturday 8th of July was a Social Day. Apart of special events we prepared coffee break with comfortable resting space, so participant could have a place to talk throughout whole day.

Fig. Coffee breaks and comfy space to relax.
• On Tuesday we had an amazing **Welcome Party** in a Bowl-Pub. It was amazing to meet all of the participants and have a possibility to talk in less formal atmosphere, while enjoying bowling and playing pool.

• On Wednesday we organised a “**FameLab – Research in 5 minutes**” event in a local Pub. It was a little scientific competition. The purpose was to explain your area of research in max 5 minutes using only a sharpie and a piece of paper. Our contestants got very creative on how to talk about complicated science in a simple way. We had the best time listening to these little talks. After the contest we continued to talk and enjoy refreshments. It was a great place to start planning new collaborations between chapters, universities and scientists.

![Fig. Social events.](image)
• Thursday night we decided to show our guests our beautiful city of Warsaw - sightseeing. We invited them for a guided tour around the city. It was a great pleasure to get to know a little bit of Polish history, also connected to science.

![Fig. Warsaw sightseeing.](image1)

• Friday was a day of our biggest event – Banquet closing the official part of the conference. It took place in Polonia Hotel situated in the city centre. It was very elegant. The event started with a formal closing of the conference by Organising committee representatives: Anna Gołoś and Martyna Rachoń. We had a chance to thank our guests, sponsors and team members for the support and had work. It
was also a great moment to sum up the conference. Next, the moment which everyone awaited: Award ceremony for best presentations. We decided to award prizes in following categories: 3 best oral presentation awards, 3 best poster awards, Best Student Chapter Poster and Special Prize for the most audience-friendly presentation. The prizes were hard drives, kindles etc. The choice of the winners was incredibly hard, as all of the presentations were truly incredible. After the award ceremony we enjoyed a dinner and an evening of dancing, talking, and reminiscing.

Fig. Banquet: Group photo, Ania & Martyna’s closing speech, banquet venue.
Fig. Chapter award winners, presentation award winner, organizing team with prof. Mosk, participants during banquet, dinner table, dancing area.
• Although, the official part of the conference ended on Friday, we planned something special for a Saturday – a **Social Day**. We invited our participants to go to Copernicus Science Centre and have fun together while exploring fascinating physics phenomena. Because, what’s the better way to end the conference than on a flying carpet? Additionally, there was a special exhibition about light and optics, which fitted really well to the topic of our conference.

Fig. Social day at Copernicus Science Centre.
As an organising team, we believe that the conference was a success. OPTO 2017 was the biggest and the most international in the history of Polish, optical, student conferences. We managed to achieve our goals and had an amazing time during the event. Due to collaboration between our 3 chapters we managed to achieve much more than we could have done alone. Although, at the beginning we had some troubles with communication, we overcame our differences and worked together on the project. Conference lasted for 5 days, but our preparations took over 1 year. During that time we gained a lot of valuable experience in event planning and strengthened our chapters. It was a great adventure for all of us. The biggest reward we got was from participants and Invited Speakers that told us, that our conference was very professionally organised – as good as the biggest and most important ones. It was amazing to hear that our guests enjoyed our event and our hard work payed off.

We would like to thank SPIE for believing in our project and awarding us SPIE FOCUS grant. It was a great distinction for us. This support helped us greatly to organise this conference. We would like to also thank our other sponsors and partners, who greatly contributed to this success. Our Universities also deserved gratitude for all the help that we achieved (for example with conference venue). We also thank all of the participants and Invited Speakers, that decided to attend our conference and present their research.

THANK YOU!

OPTO 2017 Organising Team