



Press release

Abdolazimi awarded SPIE Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA – May 31, 2019 – **Vahideh Abdolazimi** has been awarded a 2019 Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, for her potential contributions to the field of optics, photonics or related field.



Abdolazimi is a PhD candidate in the Nanophotonics Laboratory in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at Drexel University (United States). Her research involves optical characterization and pharmaceutical studies of stimuli responsive liquid crystalline polymers which have shown unique properties as drug carriers for delivering species at deep tissue. She was awarded STEM fellowship in 2017 and 2018 and is currently a participant in developing K-12 lessons at a couple of high schools in Philadelphia. She seeks introducing optics and optical engineering to students and attract them to pursue higher education and career in this field.

The Society awarded \$298,000 in education scholarships to 84 outstanding SPIE student members, based on their potential contribution to optics and photonics, or a related discipline. Award-winning applicants were evaluated, selected and approved by the SPIE Scholarship Committee, Chaired by SPIE volunteer Jeremy Bos.

Through 2018, SPIE has distributed \$6 million dollars in individual scholarships. This ambitious effort reflects the Society's commitment to education and to the next generation of optical scientists and engineers around the world.

To view other 2019 press releases as they become available go to the [2019 Scholarship Winners page](#) or learn more about [SPIE scholarships](#) on [spie.org](#).

SPIE is the international society for optics and photonics, an educational not-for-profit organization founded in 1955 to advance light-based science, engineering, and technology. The Society serves 257,000 constituents from 173 countries, offering conferences and their published proceedings, continuing education, books, journals, and the SPIE Digital Library. In 2018, SPIE provided more than \$4 million in community support including scholarships and awards, outreach and advocacy programs, travel grants, public policy, and educational resources. www.spie.org.

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