



Press release
5 June 2023

Sorrells awarded SPIE Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA — **Janet Sorrells** has been awarded a 2023 Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, for potential contributions to the field of optics, photonics, or related field.



Sorrells is a PhD candidate in the Bioengineering Department at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (USA) supervised by Professor Stephen A. Boppart. Her research is focused on improving label-free nonlinear optical microscopy methods to enable rapid characterization of biological cells, tissues, and extracellular vesicles. Sorrells has developed a fast photon counting technology that provides significant speedup in the acquisition of multiphoton fluorescence intensity and lifetime microscopy images. She has authored

multiple publications on this topic and has submitted a U.S. patent application with two of her lab mates.

In 2023, the Society is awarding \$293,000 in education scholarships to 72 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 Senior Member Brian Primeau.

Since the program began, SPIE has distributed more than \$7 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 2023 scholarship press releases as they become available, please visit the [2023 Scholarship Winners page](#) or learn more about [SPIE scholarships](#) on spie.org.

SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, brings engineers, scientists, students, and business professionals together to advance light-based science and technology. The Society, founded in 1955, connects and engages with our global constituency through industry-leading conferences and exhibitions; publications of conference proceedings, books, and journals in the SPIE Digital Library; and career-building opportunities. Over the past five years, SPIE has contributed more than \$22 million to the international optics community through our advocacy and support, including scholarships, educational resources, travel grants, endowed gifts, and public-policy development. www.spie.org.

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