

JIM MCNALLY

CEO, StratTHNK Associates

Education

Ph.D., Optical Sciences, University of New Mexico

M.S., Electrical Engineering, University of California, Santa Barbara

BEE, Electrical Engineering, Manhattan College, New York

Technical Activities/Interests

- Free space optical communications, beam control and adaptive optics technologies
- Spectroscopy-based biomedical diagnostics
- Technology startup businesses, financing, and capital allocations

Service to the Technical Community

- Chair, National Photonics Initiative
- Conflict of Interest Committee, University of New Mexico (UNM) Health Science Center
- Former Chair of the Board for the New Mexico Optics Industry Association
- Advisory Board for the UNM Optical Science and Engineering and Electrical and Computer Engineering Dept
- Photonics Advisory Board, Central New Mexico Community College
- Science Fair Judge-International Science Fair & Albuquerque Public Schools Science Fairs
- Special Olympics Volunteer
- Volunteer for Orange County Public Schools
- Board of Advisors for UNM Honors College and Business and Industry Advisory Cabinet
- Invited Lecturer, UNM Anderson School of Business, and Judge for Business Plan competition

Service to SPIE

- SPIE Secretary/Treasurer (2023-24) and SPIE Executive Committee (2023-24)
- SPIE Board of Directors (2019-21 and 2014-15) and SPIE Board Advisor (2017-18)
- SPIE CEO Search Committee (2017-18)
- Presidential Task Force (PTF) on Ghana Photonics and Optics Center (2024)
- PTF on Artificial Intelligence (2024)
- PTF on Diversity and Inclusion (2016-17) and PTF on Endowments (2021)
- PTF on SPIE Code of Ethics (2019-2023)
- Arthur H Guenther Congressional Fellowship Selection Committee (2017-present)
- Yaver Memorial Scholarship Selection Committee (2018-present)
- SPIE Corporate and Exhibitors Committee (2016-19; Chair, 2017-18)
- SPIE Engineering, Science and Technology Policy Committee (2013-20; Chair, 2014-16)
- SPIE Financial Advisory Committee (2016-present) and Comp Committee (2016-2020; Chair, 2023-24)
- SPIE Strategic Planning Committee (2014-17; 2023-24)
- SPIE Education Committee (2012) and SPIE Scholarships and Grants Committee (2003-2004)

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- SPIE Rep on Steering Committee, National Photonics Initiative (2022–present)
- SPIE **oe** Magazine Editorial Advisory Board
- Active participant advocating for SPIE policy positions including Congressional Visits Day
- Active participant at SPIE conferences as an exhibitor, presenter and with publications in SPIE proceedings

Professional Honors

- SPIE Fellow
- Distinguished Alumni Award, University of New Mexico School of Engineering
- *Who's Who in Technology in New Mexico*
- 2006 Innovate Albuquerque Entrepreneur Small Business Award
- Recognized by **TIME**[™] magazine for an *Invention of the Year* in 2006
- **Sigma Xi** Research Honor Society, **Tau Beta Pi** Honor Society, **Eta Kappa Nu** Honor Society
- *Air Force Scientific Achievement Awards*
- *F. J. Seiler Award for Research Excellence*
- *Excellent Dissertation Award*, University of New Mexico
- *School of Engineering General Excellence Medal*, Manhattan College
- *Alumni Society Medal*, Manhattan College
- Technical Fellow, Applied Technology Associates (ATA)
- President Award, Applied Technology Associates (ATA)

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Election Statement

I am honored to serve as your Secretary/Treasurer in 2024. This past year has been particularly rewarding as I have served on the Presidential Task Force (PTF) to explore and determine the benefits, costs and feasibility of creating a Ghana Photonics and Optics Center (GPOC) at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). This carries the importance of defining and evaluating programs to expand SPIE's international support and presence consistent with our Mission 'to advance light-based research and technologies for the betterment of the human condition.' I have also enjoyed serving on the PTF to identify opportunities presented using artificial intelligence (AI) to improve the long-term position of SPIE, and to examine existential risks to SPIE's business due to expanded applications of new AI methods. It is exciting to explore new high-value, AI-driven services for the photonics community leveraging AI and SPIE's extensive IP (e.g., improve our attendees experience at technical conferences through personalization, generate additional value-add for our exhibitors, improve publishing).

I continue to benefit greatly from the professional development, education and networking opportunities that our Society provides. SPIE serves as a forum for open communications and unique interactions among international academic institutions, research organizations and industry that leads to advances in photonics technologies and new products. SPIE has been my "home" professional organization for many decades as I have worked in academia, research organizations and industry. Over many years while serving on the Board of Directors, as Chair and member of numerous Committees, member of the CEO Executive Search Committee, member of multiple PTF's, and as a conference participant and exhibitor, I have admired the dedication of the SPIE staff and all volunteers in the pursuit of our mission. I am honored to be part of our great international Society.

SPIE has maintained an active leadership role in advocating for global policies (such as the successful International Year of Light) in support of the optics and photonics community, and provides outreach and education to the general public to raise awareness of the significance, impacts and beauty of optics/photonics in their lives. We are able to invest in students and academia that support the next generation of researchers and leaders for our community. I am proud to be involved with an organization dedicated to giving back via community support: over \$22M in past 5 years (and SPIE maintained its community support programs throughout the pandemic). I believe that the stewardship of the SPIE financial resources is critical to maintaining our robust support of continued outreach for the betterment of the human condition. As your Secretary/Treasurer, I will continue to serve as a good steward of your financial resources, provide diligence, and to monitor SPIE financial activities as well as monitor and provide guidance for the SPIE investment portfolio. I look forward to continuing to work with the SPIE leadership team to seek to increase SPIE resources that support the continued growth of our contributions to the international optics community through our scholarships, educational resources, travel grants, endowed gifts, and public-policy development.

Over many decades I have developed a breadth of experience and understanding as a physics professor, a researcher and research group leader, a senior executive in small and large organizations, as an angel investor in multiple advanced technology start-ups, and as an entrepreneur (founder/co-founder of 4 start-ups). SPIE is unique as it brings a wide spectrum of constituents together in a well-balanced, healthy manner of interdisciplinary exchanges of ideas, scientific findings, technologies, and products. I see the parallels with the services SPIE provides to our community and would like to apply my experiences to support the continued international leadership that is at the core of SPIE's success. A true sense of service for all.

I'd like to summarize by stating that if selected as your Secretary/Treasurer, I will seek to continue our focus on improving the inclusive and diverse representation for committees, conference chairs, program committees, and membership, to grow our outreach to students world-wide (via chapters, travel support, leadership guidance, and forums for the exchange of best practices), and to increase our cultivation of young optics and photonics professionals.

I would be honored to continue to serve the SPIE community as your Secretary/Treasurer.