

PREFACE

ICOM2012: 3rd International Conference on the
Physics of Optical Materials and Devices
(Belgrade, Serbia, 2–6 September 2012)

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PREFACE

ICOM2012: 3rd International Conference on the Physics of Optical Materials and Devices (Belgrade, Serbia, 2–6 September 2012)

Guest Editors

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The 3rd International Conference on the Physics of Optical Materials and Devices (ICOM2012) was held in Belgrade (Serbia) from 2 to 6 September 2012 (figure 1). The conference was organized by the Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences, University of Belgrade (Serbia) and the Laboratoire de Chimie de la Matière Condensée de Paris (France), and supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia and Optical Society of America. ICOM2012 was a follow-up to the two previous, successful ICOM conferences held in Herceg Novi in 2006 and 2009.

The conference aimed at providing a forum for scientists in optical materials to debate on:

- Luminescent materials and nanomaterials
- Hybrid optical materials (organic/inorganic)
- Characterization techniques of optical materials
- Luminescence mechanisms and energy transfers
- Theory and modeling of optical processes
- Ultrafast-laser processing of materials
- Optical sensors
- Medical imaging
- Advanced optical materials in photovoltaics and biophotonics
- Photothermal and photoacoustic spectroscopy and phenomena

The conference stressed the value of a fundamental scientific understanding of optical materials. A particular accent was put on wide band-gap materials in crystalline, glass and nanocrystalline forms. The applications mainly involved lasers, scintillators and phosphors. Rare earth and transition metal ions introduced as dopants in various hosts were considered, and their impact on the optical properties were detailed in several presentations. This volume contains selected contributions of speakers and participants of the ICOM2012 conference.

The conference provided a unique opportunity for about 200 scientists from 32 countries to discuss recent progress in the field of optical materials. During the three and half days, 21 invited talks and 52 contributed lectures were given, with a special event in memory of our dear colleague Professor Dr Tsoltan Basiev (Russia). In addition, 183 posters were presented and the two Young Scientist Awards were announced at the closing ceremony.

Acknowledgement

We thank all the authors for their valuable research contribution presented in this volume. We express our acknowledgements to all reviewers with a special thanks to Dr G Watt, then Publisher of the journal, for accepting the publication of these papers in a special issue of *Physica Scripta*. We wish to express our gratitude to the members of the ICOM scientific advisory committee and organizing committee for their excellent work and commitment for the success of ICOM2012.

Conference chairpersons

Miroslav D Dramićanin and Bruno Viana

Scientific advisory committee

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Conference website: www.icomonline.org



Figure 1. Photograph of the ICOM 2012 conference participants taken at Students Square, Belgrade, on 4 September 2012.