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## Introduction

This year, in San Diego, California, we held the third conference on Optics Education and Outreach. This conference reported on activities from sharing the wonder of science and optics, to the formal processes used to educate the next generation of scientists and engineers.

The conference was well attended and included four oral sessions and one poster session. Audience participation often included the sharing of new ideas with the speakers and attendees. The oral sessions were titled: Optics Programs, Optics Curriculum, Technology to Enhance Education and Promoting STEM. These sessions were held on a single day during the 2014 Optics and Photonics.

The Optics Programs session began with an invited talk from the Education and Training in Optics and Photonics (ETOP) conference, held every other year, and continued with other reports on formal optics training. The Optics Curriculum session explored new way to combine science with other fields in a classroom setting demonstrating the advantages of placing science into real world context. A session titled Technology to Enhance Education covered tools and devices to improve student interest in learning both in and out of the classroom. The final session on Promoting STEM shared outreach activities from creative tools for the dissemination of optical careers in Canada and Europe, to optics with eye examinations providing eye glasses to poor students in India.

My thanks go to those who helped make this conference a success, especially the authors, audience, SPIE staff, and program committee. The authors share the credit for making this conference an unqualified success. The audience built upon this success by being active and asking engaging questions. The SPIE staff ensured that everything ran smoothly before, during, and after the meeting. The program committee provided excellent assistance to ensure the quality of the content, while also presiding over a number of the sessions. It was composed of Anna Consortini, Barbara A. Darnell, Judith Donnelly, Nancy J. Magnani, Brian Monacelli, Joseph J. Niemela, Anne-Sophie Poulin-Girard, Kathleen B. Robinson, José Sasián, Donn M. Silberman, Alexander R. Small, Cristina Solano, Richard N. Youngworth and María J. Yzuel.

The conference will return in two years. If you would like to assist with the 2016 or later conference please contact me. We look forward to seeing you in 2016!

**G. Groot Gregory**

