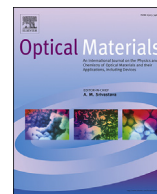




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Preface to the Special Issue of *Optical Materials* associated with the “Photoluminescence in Rare Earths 2016: Photonic Materials and Devices (PRE'16)” Workshop



Since the inaugural meeting in 2005, the Photoluminescence in Rare Earths: Photonic Materials and Devices (PRE) workshop has grown into a global forum for material scientists, chemists and physicists to discuss and debate the state of the art and future perspectives for photonic materials based on rare earth ions.

The first PRE workshop was held in Trento, Italy in May 2005 and was attended by more than 60 experts from 8 Countries. Two years later, in May 2007, PRE was again held in Trento, Italy and hosted some 80 participants. PRE'10 was held in Florence, Italy and enjoyed the advances of more than 110 scientists from 18 countries. PRE'12 was the first workshop held outside of Europe and was hosted in Kyoto, Japan in March 2012 attracting 167 participants from 21 countries. Returning to Europe, PRE'14 was held in San Sebastian, Spain in May 2014, and enjoyed the participation of 110 registrants from 23 countries.

PRE'16 is the first time the conference is being held in the United States. The general program, which is mirrored in the papers contained herein, is focused on Theory and Fundamentals (fundamental photoluminescence properties & spectroscopic

measurements, modeling & first-principles calculations), Rare Earth Doped or Rare Earth Based Materials (single crystals, glasses, amorphous materials and glass ceramics, transparent ceramics, nanoparticles and nanocomposites, scintillators, and phosphors), and Rare Earth Based Photonic Devices.

We hope you enjoy and find useful the papers contained in this special issue. We also wish to thank the PRE'16 sponsors for their generosity: ThorLabs, AdValue, and the Clemson University Center for Optical Materials Science and Engineering Technologies (COMSET).

Conference Chairs
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