

OSA Election for 2015 Offices

The OSA election for the 2015 Vice President and three new Directors at Large opens 9 July 2014. Please read the candidates' statements and cast your ballot. Instructions for electronic voting or a paper ballot will be mailed to all eligible voters in early July. If you do not receive voting materials, email voting@osa.org or call +1.202.416.1403.

Polls will remain open until 26 September. Results will be announced at OSA's annual business meeting on Tuesday, 21 October, in Tucson, Ariz., U.S.A. They will also be available on OSA's website in late October. For biographical information about the candidates, visit www.osa.org/osa_election.

Candidates for Vice President



Thomas L. Koch

University of Arizona, U.S.A.

OSA has a long and proud history of bringing value to its members by providing outstanding staff and a framework that enables members themselves to fuel a powerful collection of vehicles—conferences, workshops, publications, outreach and education, and advocacy—where we learn from each other, help each other prosper in our careers, and contribute to the progress in our field.

This collective endeavor has worked remarkably well. We face both an opportunity and a challenge in ensuring OSA's continued cohesiveness and vitality as our successes promote a membership that will become increasingly diverse in geography, in culture and, especially, in discipline.

One of the engines behind OSA's success is volunteerism. I believe focusing on continued development of our network of volunteers, both students and professionals, is an imperative for OSA. As our reach expands globally, we need to be effective in attracting strong participation from the most accomplished and influential scientific and technological talent worldwide. Beyond geography, this also requires attracting students and leaders who will champion our reach into increasingly diverse

disciplines that are being impacted by our scientific advances. We must also recruit industry leaders who can champion our reach into the communities where many of our advances are ultimately turned into value for society.

In addition to our volunteers, the quality and adaptability of our products is critical. High-quality conferences and publications are the hallmark of OSA, and a healthy future will require vigilance in creating the most effective offerings for each and every one of our constituents, whether they be in different countries, different disciplines, in academics or industry. Our new high-impact journal, *Optica*, and our journal partnership in China, *Photonics Research*, are exciting in this regard. OSA might also benefit from a wider spectrum of conference features or even publications for the practitioners community to serve members engaged in activities ranging from clinical studies of biophotonics technology to bleeding-edge product development. Just as regional hierarchical and cultural differences require adaptation of our offerings, so will bridging into new disciplines and markets.

I am also excited by the prospect of OSA playing an even stronger role in educational outreach. We need to take responsibility for our own talent pipeline by attracting young students into the science, technology, engineering and math fields. Beyond government advocacy for education funding, OSA can champion partnerships among educational institutions, professional societies, industry and government to facilitate volunteers in engaging young students with the appeal of optics in the classroom, in science fairs and in entertaining outreach activities.

I believe my experience in both the academic and business communities has given me genuine respect for the importance of championing the entire spectrum of OSA's member interests that span from fundamental sciences to commercial technology.

I hope I can bring valuable perspectives in helping OSA to grow its capacity to create new products, activities and partnerships that will bring high value to our diverse communities. It would be a great honor for me to serve as Vice President of OSA.



Eric Mazur

Harvard University, U.S.A.

I began working with lasers as an undergraduate in Europe in 1975 and have been active in optics ever since. The past four decades have provided me with extensive experience in the two main constituencies of the OSA membership: I have been a member of academia with an active research career in optics, and a part-time entrepreneur in the photonics industry. Given optics' increasing role in energy, medicine, information technology and other important economic sectors, linking academia and industry is more important than ever before. I would like to devote part of my efforts as a member of the OSA leadership team to strengthening OSA's role in facilitating this link. One way is to provide additional opportunities at national meetings to enhance communication and collaboration between academia and industry.

As an educator and education researcher, I also would like to stress the importance of inspiring future generations of researchers and innovators. I am convinced that better science education for all—not just science majors—is vital for continued scientific progress. Because optics cuts across such a wide range of disciplines, the societal impact of education and outreach efforts by OSA can be very significant. The digital age provides a new avenue for reaching parts of the population that could not be reached easily before. As an avid adopter of new digital technologies, I would like to expand OSA's sphere of influence around the world using these new technologies. The aims of this broadened reach are to attract the brightest minds to the world of optics, to increase the participation of women in a still mostly male-dominated optics world and to turn OSA into a model for the professional society of the future.

Finally, OSA's role in disseminating research results through the publication of premier peer-reviewed journals is evolving quickly due to new opportunities created by electronic publishing and archiving. OSA has led the industry by creating one of the first all-electronic peer-reviewed journals. Now is the time to push for additional changes and explore new ways of combining electronic dissemination with professional networking. I would like to see OSA stay at the forefront of the academic publishing industry through additional innovations in the way it disseminates peer-reviewed information.

It is an exciting time for OSA. The organization is well positioned to extend its global impact and help advance optics industry, research and education. I look forward to contributing my energy and experience to the large and diverse community of OSA and the opportunities that lie ahead.

Candidates for Director at Large



Jay M. Eastman

University of Rochester, U.S.A.

I am an optical engineer by training and experience, and an entrepreneur by nature. My interest in optics began while in high school due to my hobbies of astronomy and precision target shooting. These activities caused me to modify cameras for my telescopes and build high-power scopes for target shooting. My interests in these hobbies developed into a passion for optics and optical engineering. I applied on an early-decision basis to the Institute of Optics at the University of Rochester with the intent of pursuing a career in optical engineering. Shortly after receiving my Ph.D. in optics, I became heavily involved with The Optical Society, ultimately becoming chair of the Technical Council, a member of the Board of Directors and, finally, a Fellow of the society.

The opportunity to serve again on the Board of Directors is of interest to me because, after 40 years of experience in the field of optics and photonics, I can bring a much different and broader perspective to the society than was possible when I first served. Three specific aims I am interested in pursuing as a Board member are:

1. Assisting the society as it moves the National Photonics Initiative from concept through federal legislative successes, and

from there to operational programs and facilities that advance the state of the art of optics and photonics technologies in the United States and around the world, thus serving as a catalyst for strong partnerships among industry, academia and government. This, in turn, should speed translation of research results into products and applications that can provide jobs and grow the economy, both now and in the future.

2. Working with members at the Board level and throughout the society to develop "fun" optics demonstrations for elementary and high school students as a means of sparking their interest in pursuing STEM studies. Optics is unique in that the results of simple experiments can be perceived visually. This brings a strong "reality" to the science. In Rochester, individuals from local optics and photonics companies are forging programs of this nature that are experiencing significant early success. Replicating this success in other areas of the country should be straightforward.
3. Developing a plan for attracting more engineers and technical entrepreneurs into the society. OSA has long been the pre-eminent organization and natural home for leading researchers and faculty in the field of optics and photonics. The society now has the resources necessary to expand its reach into the engineering and technical entrepreneurship communities. I will appreciate the opportunity to work with other like-minded members of the society

to gather data and plan compelling programs that will attract engineers and entrepreneurs into OSA.



Amy Eskilson

Inrad Optics, U.S.A.

I first became involved with The Optical Society in 1993 when I attended the CLEO conference in Baltimore as an exhibitor. As an employee of a young start-up company, I was afforded a unique opportunity to learn both the business and academic sides of the optics and photonics community.

I quickly came to understand how critically important basic research is to the OSA membership. I learned about the rigorous and exhaustive process of peer-reviewed journals and the commitment that work entails from both contributors and editors. It was exciting to work in a field where innovation was happening every day, and exciting to witness the downstream commercialization that is the dynamic outcome of the laboratory efforts of optical science research.

Over the next 20 years I became more involved with OSA as a volunteer, serving on the CLEO Exhibitor Advisory Committee, as chair of the EAC and CLEO Steering Exhibitor Representative, as a member of the CLEO Long Range Planning Committee and, most recently, on the CLEO Joint Committee on Applications.

In 2012 I was asked to serve on the OSA Public Policy Committee. As a member

of the PPC, I endeavored to contribute intelligent advocacy in the areas of open access to publications, natural resources, energy, STEM education, the National Photonics Initiative and the upcoming International Year of Light 2015. I have also participated in multiple congressional visits as a representative of The Optical Society. Through this work I have come to view the field of optics and photonics as a vibrant and diverse global ecosystem of government, academia, nonprofit organizations and for-profit businesses, each highly interdependent on each other to flourish as a whole.

It is this global perspective that I offer the membership of OSA. My candidacy for Director at Large, as a nonacademic CEO of a small optics company, would have been unlikely in the not-too-distant past. OSA now has multiple opportunities to actively diversify its membership as well as its governing body. I believe that conscious diversification, where the foundational legacy of basic research informs that diversity, will ensure a sustainable and exceptional quality Optical Society for many years to come.



Juerg Leuthold

ETH Zurich, Switzerland

The Optical Society is the largest organization in our field with the ability to connect our worldwide community of scientists, engineers, teachers, and industrial partners. And while optics is, and has been, making important contributions, one might assume that we are a

large community. But, as a matter of fact, we are spread across the whole globe, and thus typically are just a small group of people in a particular part of the world working on a topic. In this context, the role of OSA is to create community networks around topics that are of interest to the various groups, to enable easy exchange of novel results and developments, and to offer a platform to discuss new trends. OSA also administers one of the largest knowledge databases in our field of optics and handles an interesting set of meetings and conferences.

A priority of the Board has to be the *future* OSA. This includes, but is not limited to, the following aspects:

- **Meetings:** The *future* OSA is an OSA that will empower its members to organize global and local meetings backed up by the tools of a larger organization.
- **OSA database:** The *future* OSA is a society that can make its knowledge accessible anywhere, to anybody, at any time, at the lowest possible threshold.
- **New media:** The *future* OSA is accessible through new media. So, for example, I believe that in the future our community should be able to offer online meeting participation. This is in response to environmental needs, but also in view of the time constraints of our members.
- **New topics:** The *future* OSA is an organization that not only continuously reinvents itself, but that also constantly reaches out for new topics. The emphasis thereby is not on more meetings, but on fewer meetings with a higher impact. This is achieved

by an active exchange of ideas and through active collaboration with sister organizations in order to avoid overlap.

- **Education:** The *future* OSA offers high-quality training material at all levels through courses, online seminars, journals and books.

The future OSA—while being a global organization—acts locally. It is a society where the “A” in “OSA” will also stand for the Americas, Asia, Australia, Africa and, last but not least, “Amazing Europe.”



José R. Salcedo

ATLA Lasers, Norway

I love science, but I love contributing to science to improve the lives of people even more. For me, this involves a close interplay of two processes: R&D and innovation. Through R&D we transform an initial investment in knowledge; through innovation we use that knowledge to generate economic/social value, improving the conditions for subsequent investments leading to further knowledge. Most people feel comfortable on one side of the equation only, but I feel comfortable on both, and my academic and professional life attests to it.

Working at interfaces and building bridges between different cultures is what I like to do best. I bring entrepreneurship and its required

sense of responsibility to everything that I collaborate on, with a high sensitivity to cultural factors that may help or hinder people to reach their best potential. In the end, that contributes to freeing people, and freeing people is what education is all about.

I want to bring some measure of this integrated view into OSA, as the world is changing rapidly and people capable of building bridges between different cultures will play increasingly important roles in society at large. Having lived and worked in many different parts of the world—America, Europe and Asia—I feel comfortable with different languages and cultures.

OSA is a highly prestigious science-driven professional organization that provides leading services to the optics and photonics community all over the world. Most of those services are science-driven, but significant space for growth exists when we consider the challenges and opportunities offered by new realities created by fast-paced advancing technologies. The world is becoming more tightly connected, and bringing people together to sponsor and stimulate new and often unexpected opportunities has always been a strength of OSA. I want to make a contribution of strategic significance to those bridging processes, further advancing the global reach of OSA and the relevance of its services to the optics and photonics community worldwide.



Martin Seifert

Nufern, U.S.A.

I believe that over the past decade, OSA has relinquished a valuable part of its intrinsic role as the preeminent authority over optical matters in industry and government. I would like to help OSA regain this appropriate position of influence by encouraging the society to take defined positions on multiple topics.

The National Photonics Initiative offers a unique opportunity to reassert our leadership position with our government, not by asking for more money, but rather by recommending a more intelligent distribution of otherwise diminishing resources, matching rather than competing with European programs. Similarly, it is prudent for OSA to discourage overreaching regulation, such as RoHS (the Restriction of Hazardous Substances directive), and the more expansive potential of the European Commission's REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) regulation. Since we want to continue using our electronics and optics, it is far more valuable for society to learn how to use and recycle "dangerous" materials wisely than to push these industrial processes to unregulated parts of the world.

Similarly, ITAR (International Traffic in Arms Regulations) and "export control" remain the cudgel of U.S. cold-war diplomacy. Unfortunately, the thriving bureaucracies built to serve U.S. technological dominance now serve mostly to

disincentivize U.S. technology companies, drive up the cost of all Western high technology and reduce the value of a U.S. graduate technology education. We simply should not stand by and hope that someone else fixes this problem for us.

Lastly, it is imperative that we work closely with Asia as they go through their industrial version of our 1960s era, perhaps without the long hair and with brassieres. Nonetheless, with the same air pollution Los Angeles and Tokyo suffered, and the same water pollution as on the burning Cuyahoga River, our colleagues in China understand the need to change and are doing so rapidly. To help them is to be a part of their future as well.

Optical technologies, now more than ever, will drive all of our economies, but only if we embrace the industry. OSA is well positioned to help define the best course for all of us to take. I would be honored to be a part of it.



Lluís Torner

Institute of Photonic Sciences (ICFO), Spain

I joined The Optical Society as an apprentice researcher based in Barcelona, Spain, some 25 years ago, and it has been my main professional home since. Its high-quality publications, conferences and meetings have been a continuous source of inspiration. I gladly admit that every single issue of *Optics & Photonics News* not only entertains and surpris-

es me, but also educates me on a variety of topics within our field.

Over the years, I have been fortunate to serve on some OSA committees and to interact with OSA's staff in a number of matters, and I have always been delighted by the staff's attitude and professionalism. I still remember a Sunday in Beijing a few years ago when I was suddenly told at breakfast that I had to talk at a meeting in a few hours with the Chinese President of the Academy of Sciences and the Minister for Research. I needed some information from OSA, so I sent an email to a staff member at headquarters. I received a reply in a couple of hours, just in time for the meeting. That was on a Sunday, and I was just a regular OSA member.

I have served on the International Council, where I witnessed the enthusiasm and dedication of the members of the council and the supporting OSA staff to all matters devoted to outreach. Their efforts make a difference for many communities, including those located in less favored regions of our own countries and around the world.

OSA gives me plenty in terms of knowledge and values. I want to give back. I am particularly interested in addressing issues of relevance to students and young researchers. It takes only about one-tenth of a second for light to circle our small planet Earth, embracing a world full of young talent eager to join ambitious projects that contribute to pushing the limits of knowledge and to tackling the challenges faced by our society. I supported launching OSA's International Network of Students because I find OSA's student chapters to be one of the great

treasures of the society. The support that the chapters receive translates into new opportunities for ambitious students and future leaders.

Vigorous outreach programs and advocacy for the importance and relevance of optics and photonics to society are now more important than ever. The International Year of Light 2015 offers a unique opportunity to amplify and to make visible our efforts, and programs ought to be put in place to keep the momentum going beyond 2015, ideally in collaboration with other global and regional sister organizations. Finally, I would like to vigorously support OSA's welcoming atmosphere to international members that I and many others continuously enjoy.