

Press Release

For immediate release
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Short Course gave researchers from 18 different countries an in-depth introduction to time-resolved fluorescence spectroscopy

Through lectures and hands-on trainings the participants gained insight into principles of fluorescence spectroscopy and its applications

Berlin (Germany), 6 December 2010 – The 8th European short course on "Principles and Applications of Time-Resolved Fluorescence Spectroscopy" organised by PicoQuant GmbH took place from November 1 to 4, 2010, in Berlin. The course brought together individuals from 18 different countries and gave an in-depth introduction to the principles of (time-resolved) fluorescence spectroscopy and its applications to the Life Sciences. As in previous years the short course was organised in close collaboration with the Center for Fluorescence Spectroscopy (CFS) & Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of the University of Maryland Medical School in Baltimore, USA.

Researchers from academia as well as from the industry came to Berlin to participate in the four-day-event. They greatly enjoyed lectures given by Joseph R. Lakowicz from CFS, Zygmunt (Karol) Gryczynski from Texas Christian University and scientists from PicoQuant. The lectures gave a deeper insight into a variety of topics, from the basics of steady-state and time-resolved fluorescence spectroscopy, instrumentation and data analysis towards Förster Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET) and plasmon controlled fluorescence.

The theoretical concepts taught in the morning were experimentally verified during hands-on trainings on time-resolved spectrometers and steady-state spectrophotometers in the afternoon. Seven different instruments from the market leading companies Agilent Technologies, Inc., Horiba Jobin Yvon Inc. and PicoQuant GmbH gave the participants the possibility to conduct experiments and try out various methods in fluorescence spectroscopy. The social events in the evening provided excellent opportunities for further exchange of experience and ideas.

A special highlight was the presentation of the new FluoTime 300, a fully automated fluorescence lifetime spectrometer from PicoQuant. The system not only eases time-resolved measurements for beginners in this field by the aid of special software application wizards, as pointed out by Joseph R. Lakowicz. It also attracts experts due to a special operation mode with full instrument control and scripted data acquisition procedures.

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About PicoQuant

PicoQuant GmbH is a research and development company in the field of optoelectronics. The company was founded in 1996 and is based in the science and technology park Berlin-Adlershof, Germany. The company is a worldwide leader in the field of single photon counting applications. The product line includes pulsed diode lasers and LEDs, photon counting instrumentation, fluorescence lifetime spectrometers and time-resolved confocal microscopes. PicoQuant employs currently around 50 people. Since April 2008 Sales and Support in North America is handled by PicoQuant Photonics North America Inc.

Attachment

Picture 1: Hands_On.jpg

Caption: Participants becoming familiar with time-resolved spectrometers during one of the hands-on trainings.

Picture 2: Demonstration_FLuoTime300.jpg

Caption: Lecturers Zygmunt (Karol) Gryczynski (3rd from left) and Joseph R. Lakowicz (4th from left) discussing the features of the new FluoTime 300, a fluorescence lifetime spectrometer from PicoQuant GmbH, with PicoQuants Managing Director Rainer Erdmann (right) and PicoQuants Head of Sales and Marketing Uwe Ortmann (left).

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