DAVID D. SAMPSON

Consultant in Innovation, Optics, and Photonics, Perth, Australia
Emeritus Professor, University of Surrey

Education

PhD in Physics, University of Kent, UK

BSc (Hons 1) in Chemical Physics, University of Western Australia

Technical Activities/Interests

- Biomedical optics, biophotonics, and biomedical engineering
- Translational research and commercialisation
- Open research
- Publication/dissemination of research
- Research and innovation in universities and the university/industry interface

Service to the Community

- Vice-Provost and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation, University of Surrey 2018–2023
- Director, Centre for Microscopy, Characterisation & Analysis, University of Western Australia 2008–2017
- Director, Optical+Biomedical Engineering Laboratory, University of Western Australia 1998–2020
- Mentored and supervised 40+ postdoctoral and research staff, graduated 20 PhD and 3 Masters students from 15 countries including 8 women, and supervised 150+ undergraduate students
- Travelling lecturer to student chapters in Armenia, Poland, Russia, and Ukraine
- Student Chapter Advisor for UWA and Surrey (Optica)
- Board member/Director, University of Surrey Seed Fund (Chair), SETsquared Partnership, SETsquared Limited, Skin Cancer Analysis Technologies Ltd
- Editorial Board member, The Conversation (UK) 2018–2022
- Councillor, Australian Optical Society 2008–2012
- Council member, Confederation of British Industry 2018–2019
- Member, Board of Management, Global Bioimaging (EuroBioimaging) 2016–2017
- Member, Publications Council, IEEE Photonics Society 2017–2019
- Member of organisation/technical committees of 150+ conferences in optical telecommunications, photonics, optics, biomedical optics, biophotonics and microscopy since 1994; chair/co-chair 12 times (including Focus on Microscopy 2006, OFS 2008, BIOMED 2020, and Gordon Conference 2022)
- Associate Editor for eight journals (SPIE, OSA/Optica, IEEE and independent)
- Guest and special issue/section editor, 11 issues
- 100+ unpublished invited talks and 130+ plenary and invited talks at conferences
- Outreach and media: including International Year of Light, public/school lectures on light, Lasers Can Do Anything event (200 participants) 2017, 100+ media mentions

Service to SPIE

- Lifetime member since 2011, member 1992–1994, 2003–2010, Fellow since 2013
- Board membership: Director 2019–2021 (elected), Advisor 2020–2022 (appointed)

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- Publications Committee: Chair 2019–2022, member 2017–2018
- Strategic Planning Committee, member 2019–2022
- SPIE Ethics and Revocation Ad Hoc Committee 2020
- Fellows Committee, member 2015–2017
- Journal of Biomedical Optics: Member of Editorial Board/Associate Editor since 2012; special section guest editor, three times; 21 papers published
- SPIE conferences: co-founder/co-chair of Optical Elastography and Tissue Biomechanics at BiOS/Photonics West, 2014–2018; co-editor of seven Proceedings; member of 30+ program committees since 2004; invited speaker 24 times; conference paper co-author and presenter 140+ times since 1992
- Student Chapters: Advisor, Travelling Lecturer (Poland and Armenia)

Professional Honours

- Fellow status: SPIE, AIMBE, IEEE and Optica
- Author of >200 papers, reviews, book chapters, and book; 13,000+ citations; h-index 63 (Google Scholar)
- Inventor and contributor to 14 granted patents
- Recipient of circa 50m AUD in career grant funding
- Finalist, Western Australian Scientist of the Year Award 2014, 2016
- Joint winner, The Australian/Shell Innovation Challenge 2015
- Joint winner, SPIE Startup Challenge 2014
- Joint winner, Western Australian Innovator of the Year Award 2014
- IEEE Photonics Society Distinguished Lecturer 2013–2014

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Election Statement

I am deeply honoured to be nominated as a candidate in the election for SPIE Vice President and I am writing to you to seek your vote. If elected, I will devote my time, knowledge, energy, and enthusiasm to cultivating SPIE's creative, visionary, and inclusive culture. In my two-year run up to President and my Presidential year, 2027, I will be meeting and listening to you so, together, we can bring about change for the good of optics and photonics and for our world.

Why would I like to be your SPIE President?

Immersion for my whole career in the global world of optics and photonics has given me so much. Studying in Perth, Western Australia, put me a long way from anywhere when I started out – today, living and working in Fremantle, the port city of Perth, I am globally connected. And what a wonderful experience that is – to have friends, colleagues, mentors, and mentees all over the world, and to contribute to this great global industry of ours.

SPIE and other societies – mainly Optica and IEEE – have helped me connect and grow. I started my career at the dawn of fibre-optics and attended my first SPIE conference in Boston in 1992. I have benefitted hugely from all that these societies have done for me, and I have found my home with SPIE. My career has advanced, supported by the international collaborators, colleagues, and friends I have made – all made possible by societies. I have been given many opportunities from where I live in Australia to visit countries all over the world (more than 20 to date) – to research, teach, speak, visit, live, communicate and connect. I have been offered fellowships enhancing and growing my leadership credentials and had the chance to be involved in shaping our field, through directorship, conference and journal leadership, and more.

Last northern summer, lecturing at the Biophotonics Summer School in Sweden and at the Imaging Science Gordon Conference in the US, brought home to me why I want to be SPIE President. The SPIE is about global community building – listening, connecting, promoting openness wherever possible, and being truly inclusive – all the while growing and nurturing optics and photonics, from basic science to industry. And not just saying but doing. My six years on the SPIE Board as Director and as adviser have been a joy and an inspiration, working with fellow travellers – SPIE staff and volunteers alike – who want to make this planet a better place, to create opportunities for people in optics and photonics, and to support this healthy vibrant community. I am up for leading this awesome team and listening to you.

Why should you consider voting for me?

Living, working and travelling in Australia, Asia, Europe and North America has given me global connectivity. Starting my career in the oil business, then moving to industry R&D before joining academia, teaching in engineering and researching in telecommunications then in biomedical optics, commercialising IP through start-ups, working across and between disciplines, and consulting and doing contract research for industry – phew – has meant I understand the whole ecosystem. And working as a senior University leader in research and innovation has broadened and deepened my knowledge and perspective.

Now is the perfect time for me to give back. I want to devote my energy and enthusiasm to the fundamentals:

- Growing, connecting and supporting our communities – industry and academic alike;
- Nurturing the next generation;
- Teaming up with other societies and bodies across the globe; and
- Being bold in charting the future to advance optics and photonics.

As yet, what I want to achieve is not well-defined. But I do know how I want to go about it. I first want to listen to you, then be your voice in advocating for and achieving the changes we collectively – Team SPIE – want to see, and do it with integrity and honesty, as SPIE has always done. I think we can make SPIE even better – listening to you, being ever more open, transparent, and inclusive, and working in still stronger partnership globally. Together, we can make optics and photonics even more brilliant! If that is what you are looking for, vote for me.