

Optics in 2009

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This special issue of *Optics & Photonics News* (OPN) highlights the most exciting peer-reviewed optics research to have emerged over the past 12 months. The areas covered in 2009 include nanophotonics, optical engineering, phase sensing, photonic systems, plasmons and surface waves, quantum computing, Raman spectroscopy, slow light, solar power, statistical optics, terahertz technology, transformational optics, ultrafast optics and X-ray lasers.

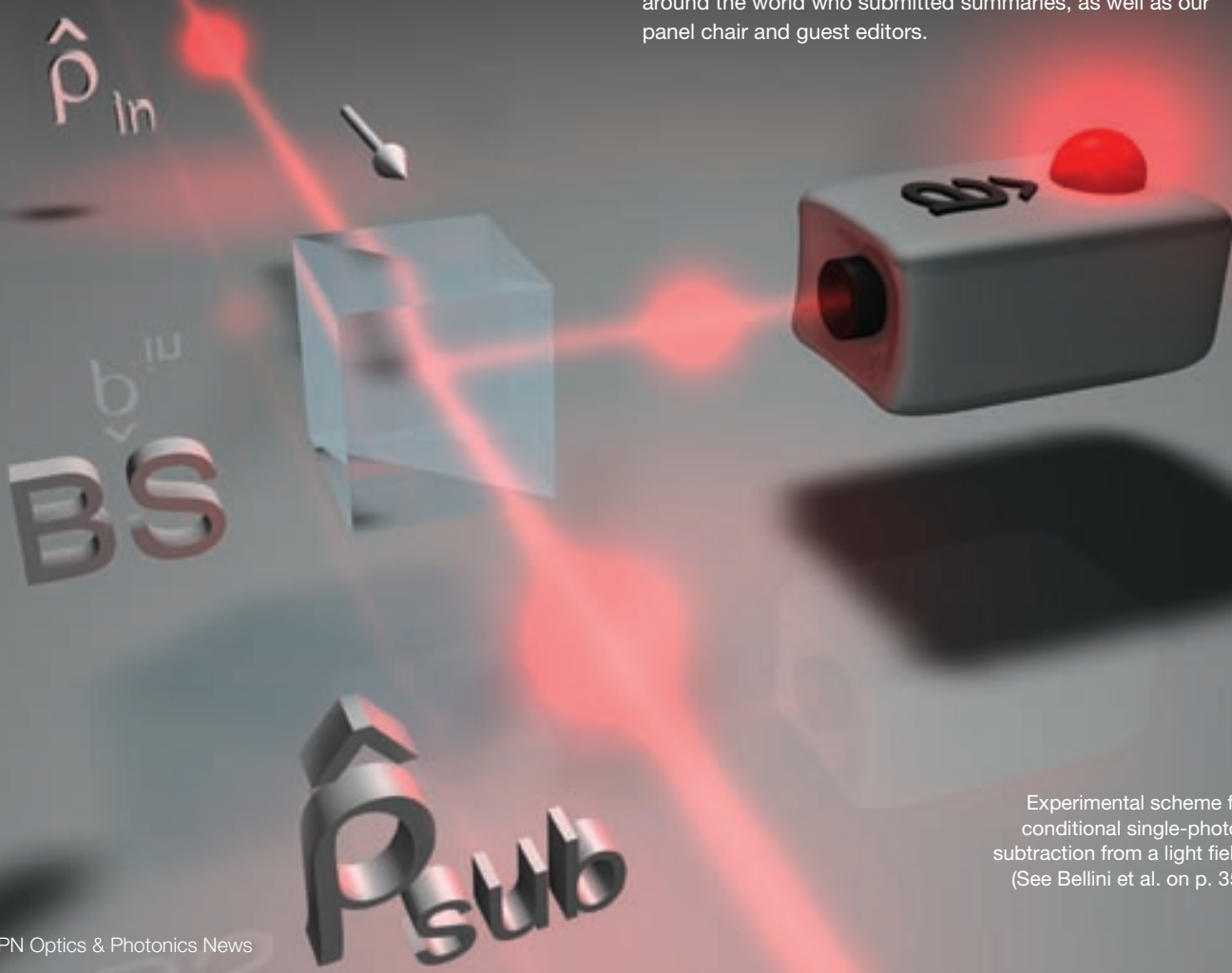
This year's issue comprises 28 summaries representing the work of more than 120 authors from 13 countries. Submissions were judged on the basis of the following criteria:

► The accomplishments described must have been published in a refereed journal in the year prior to publication in OPN.

- The work should be illustrated in a clear, concise manner that is readily accessible to the at-large optics community.
- The authors should describe the topical area as a whole and then discuss the importance of their work in that context.

Although OPN makes every effort to ensure that achievements in all optics subfields are recognized, there are no requirements in the selection process for inclusion of specific topical areas. When we receive a large number of submissions for a specific area, it is taken as evidence that the topic has been fertile ground for activity and research. OPN strives to ensure that engineering, science and technology are all represented.

OPN and OSA would like to thank all the researchers from around the world who submitted summaries, as well as our panel chair and guest editors.



Experimental scheme for conditional single-photon subtraction from a light field. (See Bellini et al. on p. 35.)