



ICFO Colloquium ORAZIO SVELTO 'The Laser: a Bright Solution Looking for a Problem'

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June 05, 2015

Friday, June 5th, 12:00, ICFO's Auditorium

ORAZIO SVELTO

Emeritus Professor of Physics at the Polytechnic Institute of Milan. Orazio Svelto's research has covered a wide range of activity in the field of laser physics and quantum electronics starting from the very beginning of these disciplines (1962). This activity includes ultrashort-pulse generation and applications, development of laser resonators and mode-selection techniques, laser applications in biology and medicine, and development of solid-state lasers. Professor Svelto is the author of more than 200 scientific papers and his researches have been the subject of more than 70 invited papers at international conferences. He is the author of the book "Principles of Lasers", presently at its fifth edition (Springer, New York, 2010). The book is used at several universities worldwide, also in its translations in Russian, Chinese, Greek, Arabic and Farsi languages. He has served as

program chair of the IX International Quantum Electronics Conference (1976), as a chair of the European program committee for CLEO '85 and CLEO '90, and as a general co-chair for the first CLEO-Europe Conference (1994). He is the recipient of the Quantum Electronics and Optics Prize of the European Physical Society (1998) and of the Charles H. Townes of the Optical Society of America (2005). He is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (1993) and of the Optical Society of America (1999).

After more than 50 years since its invention, the laser continues to diffuse around itself a mixed atmosphere of curiosity and wonders. Curiosity mostly arises from the fact that new lasers are still being invented and, new, wonderful, applications developed. Wonders essentially come from the pervasive nature of the laser: nowadays, there is no field in science and technology which has not been influenced, often heavily, by this wonderful invention.

In this talk, review will be made about the early beginning of laser developments, with anecdotes and curiosities derived by the author's personal experience.

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