## Introduction to the Issue on Biophotonics

**7** ELCOME to the IEEE JOURNAL OF SELECTED TOPICS IN QUANTUM ELECTRONICS (JSTQE) Issue on Biophotonics! The Biophotonics field is an emerging biomedical technology that has opened up new horizons for transfer of state-ofthe-art techniques from the areas of quantum electronics, lasers, fiber optics, and electro-optics to the life sciences and medicine. This field continues to vastly expand with advanced developments across the entire spectrum of biomedical applications ranging from fundamental "bench" laboratory studies to clinical patient "bedside" diagnostics and therapeutics. Recently developed innovative biophotonics technologies have made a significant impact on biomedical research and public health, since they provide advanced minimally invasive, cost-effective, and rapid techniques for diagnostics, monitoring, and treatment of a variety of diseases. Devices utilizing minimally invasive biophotonics technology are rapidly finding their way into the mainstream for early disease diagnosis and improved patient acceptance and comfort. In the papers included in this JSTQE Issue on Biophotonics, you will be introduced to some of the latest state-of-the-art developments in biophotonics. Some of these developments include advanced optical imaging, microscopy, and sensing techniques, which remain one of the most widely employed biomedical technologies because of their advanced features. Nonionizing radiation provides minimally invasive tissue sensing and imaging in vivo with a high spatial resolution in the micron, submicron, and nanometric range beyond the diffraction limit. Recently, minimally invasive biophotonics techniques have been developed as potential alternatives to conventional medical methods for diagnostics, monitoring and therapeutics of diseases, drug discovery, proteomics, and environmental detection of biological agents. These techniques offer a noncontact, effective, fast, and painless way for sensing and monitoring various biomedical quantities. Clinical prospects in biophotonics are vast including applications in both disease diagnostics and therapeutics areas. Moreover, the biophotonics field has introduced opportunities for interdisciplinary research between physicists and life scientists leading to the development of novel laser, biomedical and fiber optics tools, and devices employed in the biophotonics areas.

The objective of this JSTQE Issue on Biophotonics is to highlight recent progress and trends in innovative biophotonics technology development. The papers published in this issue cover a broad range of advanced biophotonics areas summarized in the following sections:

- bioimaging: optical coherence tomography and microscopy, nonlinear optical imaging, and novel multimodality imaging approaches;
- biosensing: multifunctional biosensing, and novel biosensing approaches;

- 3) **biophotonic science:** mechanisms of light-cell and light-tissue interactions, advanced modeling methods in biophotonics, and light induced biophotonics effects;
- 4) biophotonic technology: advanced technologies in biophotonic diagnostics and therapeutics, infrared technology in biophotonics, and novel laser, biomedical and fiber optics tools and devices in biophotonics.

These key research topics are highlighted as comprehensive overviews of the current status and future trends, as well as original results and recent developments in the field of biophotonics.

This issue contains 33 papers, including 18 invited and 15 contributed papers authored by well-established research groups and promising scientists from all over the world. The invited papers include extended reviews on recent biophotonic developments and clinical applications in the areas of highresolution multispectral bioimaging, combined multifunctional microscopy, nonlinear deep tissue imaging, single molecule imaging, optical coherence elastography, cellular and molecular mechanisms of photobiomodulation, tissue optical clearing, clinical ultrafast laser surgery, infrared laser nerve stimulation, and novel tapered diode lasers for biophotonics. The contributed papers cover a broad variety of key biophotonic research areas including recently obtained original results on multimodal bioimaging and sensing, high resolution phase-sensitive magnetomotive optical coherence microscopy and elastography, and laser-assisted typing of polymorphic human genes.

We hope you will find this JSTQE Issue on Biophotonics to be an interesting and useful reference that will impact, stimulate, and promote further advances in biophotonics.

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