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Preface

Electromagnetic and light scattering by nonspherical particles XVIII



The 18th Electromagnetic and Light Scattering Conference (ELS-XVIII) was held at the Zhejiang University, Hangzhou city, Zhejiang province, China during the week of 10–14 June 2019. This conference followed the previous highly successful meetings held in Amsterdam (1995) [1], Helsinki (1997) [2], New York (1998) [3], Vigo (1999), Halifax (2000) [4], Gainesville (2002) [5], Bremen (2003) [6], Salobreña (2005) [7], St.Petersburg (2006) [8], Bodrum (2007) [9], Hatfield (2008) [10], Helsinki (2010) [11], Taormina (2011) [12], Lille (2013) [13], Leipzig (2015) [14], College Park (2017) [15], and College Station (2018) [16], as well as three closely related workshops held in Bremen (1996, 1998) and Moscow (1997). As with the other conferences, the main objective of the ELS-XVIII was to bring together scientists, engineers, postdocs, and PhD students studying diverse aspects of light scattering by particles and particle groups and thereby provide a stimulating atmosphere for thorough and comprehensive discussions of scattering theory, measurements, and practical applications. The program and abstracts of conference presentations are available at the official conference web sites <http://www.els-xviii-2019.org/home.html> and <https://www.giss.nasa.gov/staff/mmishchenko/ELS-XVIII>.

Following the well-established ELS tradition and with Elsevier's approval, we solicited full-size papers for a virtual topical issue of the *Journal of Quantitative Spectroscopy and Radiative Transfer (JQSRT)*. Every paper included in this issue has been subjected to the same rigorous peer review process as any other manuscript published in the *JQSRT*.

1. 2018 Waterman and Goody Awards

Presenting various professional awards has been an important part of the ELS conferences. According to their statutes, the prestigious Peter C. Waterman and Richard M. Goody Awards are presented annually to exceptional early-career scientists in the categories of "Electromagnetic Scattering" and "Atmospheric Radiation & Remote Sensing", respectively. Both awards are administered by the *JQSRT* via an expert committee appointed by Elsevier and chaired by *JQSRT* Editors-in-Chief [17].

Selecting two awardees among the many worthy nominees was quite difficult, yet the final decision of the Award Committee was definitive.

The 2019 Waterman Award was presented to Dr. Johannes Markkanen of the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research, Göttingen, Germany (Fig. 1).

The 2019 Goody Award was presented to Dr. Jing Li of the Peking University, Beijing, China (Fig. 1).

2. Best poster awards

The Zhejiang University sponsored two awards for early-career scientists who gave the best poster presentations. Based on the selection by an *ad hoc* committee of senior peers, these awards went to Adam Bell of Texas A&M University and Wushao Lin of Zhejiang University.

3. Conveners of ELS-XVIII

Lei Bi, *Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China*
 Michael Mishchenko, *NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, New York, USA*
 Jun Wang, *University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, USA*
 Ping Yang, *Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, USA*

4. Program Committee

Gérard Gouesbet, *National Institute of Applied Sciences, Rouen, France*
 Joop Hovenier, *University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands*
 Nikolai Khlebtsov, *Russian Academy of Sciences, Saratov, Russia*
 Gerhard Kristensson, *Lund University, Sweden*
 James Lock, *Cleveland State University, OH, USA*
 Hal Maring, *NASA HQ, Washington, DC, USA*
 M. Pinar Mengüç, *Ozyegin University, Istanbul, Turkey*
 Karri Muinonen, *University of Helsinki & National Land Survey, Finland*
 Christopher Sorensen, *Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, USA*
 Gorden Videen, *Army Research Laboratory, Adelphi, MD, USA*
 Thomas Wriedt, *University of Bremen, Germany*
 Maxim Yurkin, *Novosibirsk State University, Russia*

5. Local Organizing Committee

Qunke Xia, *Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China*
 Long Cao, *Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China*
 Weijun Li, *Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China*
 Yang Du, *Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China*
 Dawei Wang, *Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China*
 Xiaoyu Zhang, *Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China*

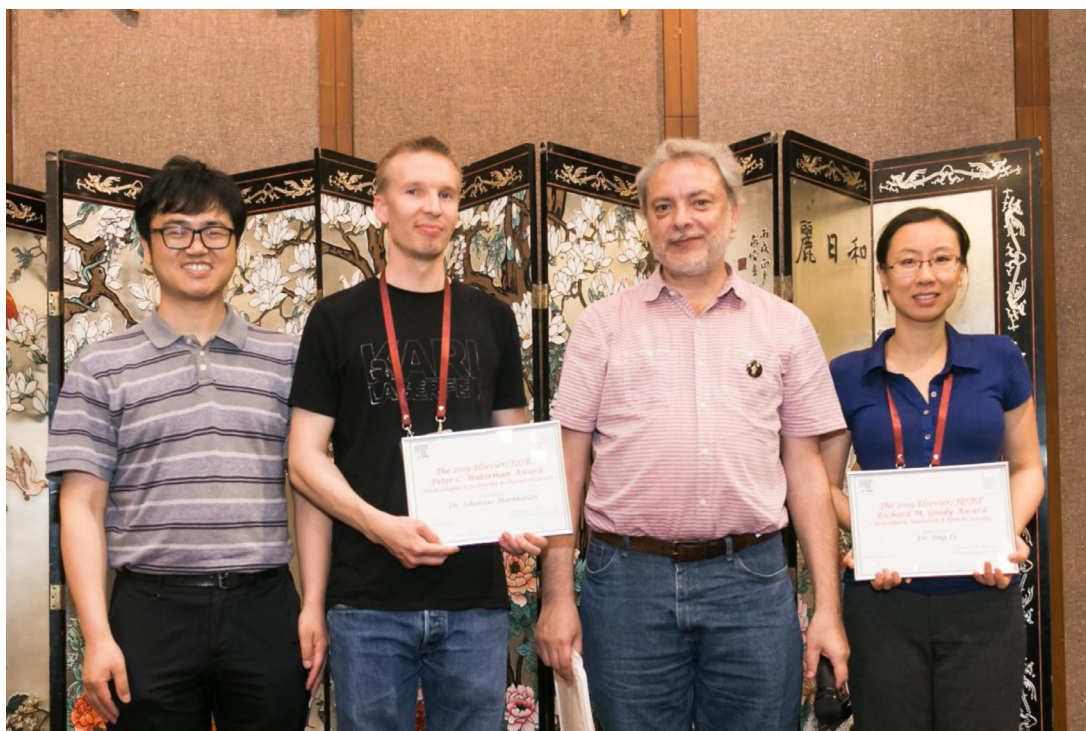


Fig. 1. From left to right: Lei Bi, Johannes Markkanen (recipient of the 2019 Waterman Award), Michael Mishchenko, and Jin Li (recipient of the 2019 Goody Award).

6. 2019 Waterman and Goody Award Committee

Matthew J. Berg, *Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, USA*
 Anthony B. Davis, *Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA, USA*
 Oleg Dubovik, *CNRS/Université de Lille 1, France*
 Gérard Gouesbet, *National Institute of Applied Sciences, Rouen, France*
 Ludmilla Kolokolova, *University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA*
 Daniel W. Mackowski, *Auburn University, AL, USA*
 Alexander Marshak, *NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD, USA*
 M. Pinar Mengüç (Co-Chair), *Ozyegin University, Istanbul, Turkey*
 Michael Mishchenko (Co-Chair), *Goddard Institute for Space Studies, New York, NY, USA*
 José Stoop (JQSRT Publisher), *Elsevier, Amsterdam, The Netherlands*
 Gordon Videen, *US Army Research Laboratory, Adelphi, MD, USA*
 Ping Yang, *Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, USA*
 Maxim Yurkin, *Novosibirsk State University, Russia*

Declaration of Competing Interest

No conflict of interest

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