

Laser science

Almost a clean sweep at SAIP conference for CSIR laser scientists!

CSIR National Laser Centre scientists emerged triumphant at the recent 54th Annual Conference of the South African Institute of Physics (SAIP), scooping four of the five prizes awarded by the Laser, Optics and Spectroscopy Specialised Group.

The winners were:



Cobus Jacobs: Best paper in refereed journals

Jacobs is involved in research into electronic feedback control of solid-state lasers (PhD topic), as well as the development of mid-infrared laser technology. His winning paper related to the former and will be published in the internationally recognised IEEE Journal of Quantum Electronics.



Daniel Esser: Best PhD oral presentation

Esser is project leader of the CSIR National Laser Centre's development programme in diode-pumped solid-state lasers and devices in the mid-infrared spectral range. The programme forms part of the centre's laser systems research capacity.



Ludwig de Clercq: Best MSc poster

De Clercq is on an MSc laser physics studentship, involved in femtosecond science studies. His poster is titled: Coherent excitation of vibrational levels using ultra-short pulses.



Angela Dudley: Best PhD poster

Dudley, a PhD student in the centre's mathematical optics research group, is involved in studies into vortex beams. Her poster is titled: 'Superpositions of high-order Bessel beams and non-diffracting Speckle fields'. An optical vortex is a beam of light, the phase of which varies in a corkscrew-like manner along the beam's direction of propagation.

The SAIP was established in July 1955 and strives to, among others, promote studies and research in physics and related subjects and encourage applications thereof. It also furthers the exchange of knowledge among physicists by means of publications and conferences.

- Chiara Lincoln