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- Interference patterning
- Anti-bacterial surfaces
- Medical wire stripping
- Automotive laser welding

GROUND-BREAKING ONLINE SYMPOSIUM:

ILAS 2021 - NETWORKING WITHOUT BORDERS
The Laser User is the house magazine of the Association of Industrial Laser Users. Its primary aim is to disseminate technical information and to present the views of its members. The views and opinions expressed in this magazine belong to the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of AILU.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any submissions for space and other considerations.

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- Mike Poulter (SPI Lasers)
- Cliff Jolliffe (PI)

Past presidents and founder members are also able to attend committee meetings. Anyone wishing to join the AILU Steering Committee please contact the Executive Director.
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As time goes by, I am sure the technology will improve the experience. In particular, online it is much harder to get the buzz from the audience. When we do talks we take energy (or lack thereof) from the audience. We build our enthusiasm if points go down – the challenge of doing good, effective and productive business when we can’t be in the same room together. I don’t know about you but I am finding it much harder to focus when you are at home in your spare bedroom and there are other distractions around. Apart from the dog coming in or a small child requiring a Penguin biscuit, we also get distracted by our emails or social media. Apart from the dog coming in or a small child requiring a Penguin biscuit, we also get distracted by our emails or social media. Apart from the dog coming in or a small child requiring a Penguin biscuit, we also get distracted by our emails or social media. Apart from the dog coming in or a small child requiring a Penguin biscuit, we also get distracted by our emails or social media. However, I find doing a presentation over a webinar lacks the visual feedback I enjoy as a presenter. When we do talks we take energy (or lack thereof) from the audience. We build our enthusiasm if points go down well, or pull back a bit if clearly the audience are not with you on that particular point. Online it is much harder to get the buzz from the audience. As time goes by, I am sure the technology will improve the experience.

RIC’S RAMBLINGS

It’s a new dawn, a new day, a new [year] – and I’m feeling good… or so the classic song (almost) goes. Well that was what we were supposed to be like post our little festive breaks – but hey ho, here we are again – all revved up and no place to go (don’t worry I’ll drop the “link it to a song” theme now).

I thought I would pick up a bit on the subject of my ramblings last quarter – the challenge of doing good, effective and productive business when we can’t be in the same room together. I don’t know about you but I am finding the new world of on-line conferences and webinars a bit of a mixed bag. On one hand the delegate numbers have dramatically increased and in some cases appear to be through the roof – for a number of webinars that I’ve attended. This is great, we are reaching far more people and engaging with a much broader audience. All this without having to fight for a seat on a train packed to the rafters and losing 2-3 hours of productive time travelling across the country.

However, I find doing a presentation over a webinar lacks the visual feedback I enjoy as a presenter. When we do talks we take energy (or otherwise) from the audience. We build our enthusiasm if points go down well, or pull back a bit if clearly the audience are not with you on that particular point. Online it is much harder to get the buzz from the audience. As time goes by, I am sure the technology will improve the experience.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Fellow laser enthusiasts,

I’ll begin with a late but heartfelt wish for a Happy New Year to you all – we hope you and your families are managing to stay safe and well, and have found ways to cope with the added pressures that daily life now brings.

The Christmas period brought some welcome news to UK, with the MHRA approval of the AstraZeneca vaccine, as well as the long-awaited agreement on a trade deal between the UK and the EU. Although there are clearly some turbulent times ahead over the next few months, I think these two announcements, and the subsequent rate at which vaccinations are progressing in the UK, point to a more stable (normal?) future in the medium-term. I’m certainly looking forward to the time when I no longer have to spend my days finding a balance between my duties for my long-standing employer (TWI) and that of Head Teacher at the newly established Blackburn comprehensive in East Anglia. I have been told that my OFSTED rating will not be favourable.

2020 was also not a straightforward year for AILU, with the postponement of ILAS and the inability to run physical workshops having quite an impact on the Association. We’re fortunate to have a very hard-working and dedicated team at AILU, who have adapted well to the challenges faced over the last year. A great example of this is the upcoming ILAS, which will be held virtually on the 24th and 25th March. We’ve selected an online platform that will include everything you have come to expect from this first-class symposium;

• Plenary presenters
• Three parallel sessions of presentations including keynote speakers
• A full exhibition – with online interactivity – meet exhibitors 1-to-1
• Live discussion panels on key topics
• Excellent networking opportunities – an online Meeting Hub to meet other delegates live or to suit your schedule
• Symposium Awards, including entertainment – apply now if you have musical skills to display!

The virtual format should also be more inclusive, as it significantly reduces the costs to attend - in registration and travel/accommodation fees, as well as the cost of evening refreshments. Please think about who in your organisation could benefit from attending (I’ve not been to a symposium for nearly 1 year!) and visit the symposium website for more details – ilas2021.co.uk

Stay safe,

Jon Blackburn
jon.blackburn@twi.co.uk

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