

Institute of Fluorescence Celebrates 10 Years of Excellence in Fluorescence Spectroscopy and Plasmonics

..... A word of thanks from the director



On November 1st 2011, the IoF celebrated its 10 year anniversary since its founding in 2001. It seems like only yesterday that I founded the IoF (Institute of Fluorescence), with the last 10 years quickly flying by. The IoF originally started as simply my own laboratory, but as the years passed, it grew rapidly into a department in its own right, with additional faculty, graduate programs, International student programs, state-support, its own administrative staff and even taught course/s in fluorescence and Plasmonics. Several faculty have also leveraged the IoF in years past, and after successful tenures have formed their own successful laboratory's elsewhere.

Over the last 10 years the IoF has become one of several major hubs for Fluorescence Spectroscopy and Plasmonics in the World today, with the majority of book serials and Journals in both Fluorescence and Plasmonics being housed within the IoF. These include the Journal of Fluorescence, which was originally founded in 1991, and the Plasmonics Journal, which I founded in 2005. In addition, the IoF has launched several highly successful book serials, most notably the Reviews in Fluorescence annual hard bound book serial, which is currently in its 8th year and volume. More recently, we have seen the Reviews in Plasmonics serial make its debut. The Who's Who in Fluorescence annual directory of fluorescence workers, has also been quite successful and continues to grow at a rapid pace.

The IoF has also become a notable collaborative hub in years past, with many both fluorescence and plasmonics workers / visiting scientists undertaking collaborative research in the IoF. In addition, the IoF has hosted numerous outstanding Professors, whom have enjoyed sabbaticals to utilize the IoFs vast amounts of Fluorescence-based instrumentation as well as work in our Bio-Safety Level 3 facility (BSL-3), which is dedicated to undertaking advanced time-resolved fluorescence measurements in a secure environment. The IoFs international graduate-student program has also successfully integrated students from both Europe and the Middle East, with our research and training programs.



The IoFs research over the last 10 years, has for the most part been centered around Metal-Enhanced Fluorescence (MEF), a fluorescence-plasmonics discipline that the IoF

is widely attributed for developing and for making several notable discoveries in. To this end, the IoF has secured in excess of \$25 million dollars in years past to pursue its research aspirations, publishing around 150-peer reviewed papers on MEF and related topics alone. To this end, the IoF currently holds an expansive patent portfolio in MEF, with > 80 world wide patents, which enabled the IoF and UMBC to spin out a new Bio-tech Company, “Plasmonix”, in 2009. Since 2009, Plasmonix has become a leader in MEF related products and research and contributes to the economic success of the State of Maryland. Subsequently, the IoF recently received a “House Resolution” at the Maryland House of Delegates, in our honor, for the IoFs contributions to Education, Biotechnology and economic development, House Resolution #326.



Finally, as we enter a new decade for the IoF, I want to thank all our friends, colleagues, supporters, students, our congressional supporters, our USM Chancellor and UMBCs President, for their continued support of the IoF. In addition some of the IoFs faculty, Professors’ Strongin, Marks and Baillie, and our Institute manager, Caroleann Aitken, whom have all contributed to the significant success of the IoF in years past, *I thank you all.*

My very best regards

Professor Chris D. Geddes
Director: *The Institute of Fluorescence*
Nov 14th 2011.