

6th European short course on principles and applications of time-resolved fluorescence spectroscopy

27.10 – 31.10.2008 in Berlin

The 6th European short course on principles and applications of time-resolved fluorescence spectroscopy was arranged as a one week course in Berlin during the fall of 2008. The course was an excellent learning experience covering the basics of steady-state and time-resolved fluorescence spectroscopy as well as new developments in fluorescence spectroscopy and imaging. The course was organized by Picoquant and the Center for Fluorescence Spectroscopy & Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Maryland Medical School.

The course was well organized and the topics covered by, amongst others Joseph R. Lakowicz, were very interesting and motivating. Hands on sessions, introducing us to instruments from four different developers and also to data analysis, were excellent and held at the Picoquant research and development facility. For me, the take-home message was the benefits of time-resolved spectroscopy and also the experience of handling new instruments including laser scanning microscopes and life-time based spectrometers. The social program gave good opportunities for networking and also to learn something about Berlin. I gladly recommend this course to anyone, having basic knowledge of fluorescence spectroscopy, and wanting an in depth understanding of fluorescence life-time spectroscopy and imaging. The, over 70, participants were from 23 different countries and both from academia and the industry.

Many thanks to ISB and Åbo Akademi University for giving me the opportunity to attend this course,

Anders Björkbom

abjorkbo@abo.fi

Department of Biochemistry and Pharmacy

Åbo Akademi University

