



Preface

This volume contains the Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Photo-Excited Processes and Applications (5-ICPEPA) held in Charlottesville, Virginia, USA, in September 2006. The conference continued the tradition initiated at the 1993 Conference in Sendai, Japan, and strengthened at successive meetings in Jerusalem, Israel, Strasbourg, France, and Lecce, Italy.

5-ICPEPA provided a forum for sharing the results of both application-oriented work and studies of fundamental mechanisms relevant to photo-assisted processing technologies. It brought together researchers involved in experimental, theoretical, and computational investigations in the general area of photon-assisted material processing. In addition to areas of pulsed laser deposition and surface processing, traditionally emphasized at ICPEPA meetings, the topics featured in the program of 5-ICPEPA included theory and basic physics of laser-materials interactions, computer modeling of photo-induced processes, matrix assisted pulsed laser evaporation technique, as well as laser applications for surface nanostructuring and nanofabrication.

Broad representation of researchers from many countries and active interdisciplinary discussions have been characteristic of all ICPEPA meetings. These traditions continued as the meeting made its debut in the United States, with more than half of 5-ICPEPA participants coming from overseas and more than 20 countries represented. The large international representation and participation of graduate students and young researchers have been facilitated by the generous support from the

University of Virginia, the U.S. National Science Foundation, the U.S. Office of Naval Research Global, and Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility.

The continuous efforts of the members of the local executive committee, Elodie Leveugle, Zhibin Lin, Aaron Sellinger, and William Duff were critical and indispensable for the success of the conference. We would also like to express our gratitude to Frances Cruz, Jeannie Reese, Emily Williams, and Anaïs Miodek for providing administrative support of the conference and to Alexandr Papulov for his help with interactive features of the 5-ICPEPA web site. Finally, we would like to thank all the participants for their excellent research contributions to 5-ICPEPA. We are looking forward to seeing you at the next ICPEPA in Sapporo, Japan, in September 2008.

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