



***XIII International Symposium on
Gas Flow and Chemical Lasers
and
High-Power Laser Conference***

**Antonio Lapucci
Marco Ciofini**
Editors

**18–22 September 2000
Florence, Italy**

Organized by

INOA—Italian National Institute of Applied Optics

ENEA—Ente per le Nuove Tecnologie, l'Energia e l'Ambiente (Italy)

CNR—National Research Council (Italy)

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Introduction

GCL-HPL 2000, the XIII International Symposium on Gas Flow and Chemical Lasers and High-Power Laser Conference, took place at the Demidoff Hotel, in Pratolino, Florence, Italy, 18–22 September 2000. The meeting dealt with all the aspects of basic and applied research in high-power lasers, high-power beam characteristics and manipulation techniques, and laser/material interaction processes. It saw significant participation of attendees as well as submission of contributed papers. This was probably due to the coincidental occurrence of a few particular conditions. First of all, most laser-related large conferences have relegated gas and chemical lasers to a secondary role, considering these technologies to be already mature. This gives the GCL-HPL conference series a unique character. Furthermore, large efforts were made by the organizing and program committees to make the meeting as interesting and up-to-date as possible. Finally, the many places of interest in and around the city of Florence played a considerable role. The local organizers and tour operators did their best to make the social activities pleasant and attractive, maintaining the traditional high level of this symposium. In spite of this, the technical sessions benefitted from continuous and active participation of attendees, giving the feeling of general appreciation of the scientific program.

I personally went through the experience of more than one year of full immersion in the study and review of the different themes touched by the conference program, and I received the impression that there are numerous and quite active researchers in these fields. However, because of my organizing duties, I had very little time to exchange ideas during the conference. I did get in contact with most of the members of the community and it seems that for most of them fruitful and friendly exchanges were possible during the conference. It was a great honor for me to hear the same impressions of success from the international advisory committee members who attended all the previous GCL and GCL-HPL conferences.

My thanks go to all the attendees for their high-quality participation, and to the international advisory committee and program committee members who helped in manuscript review, selection work, and session chairing. A special thanks for the inestimable contribution to the conference series goes to the two members who decided to resign from the international advisory committee after this event: William Watt and Tommaso Letardi. The greatest acknowledgment goes to my colleagues Marco Ciofini and Cristina Pescucci, who made the event possible with their continuous and unlimited work. Lastly, tender thanks go to my little Tommaso and Valentina who had to leave me out of their games for some time, given the extra work I had.

At the final IAC meeting, which traditionally takes place at the end of the conference, we decided the venues of the two successive GCL-HPL events. The XIV Symposium will take place in Wrocław, Poland, 25–30 August 2002. Professor Krzysztof Abramski will be the next chair. It was also decided that the 2004 event will take place in Prague, Czech Republic, and will be chaired by Professor Jarmilá Kodymova. My best wishes to Krzysztof and Jarmilá for their upcoming work.

Antonio Lapucci

Editor's Note

The final section of this book is a paper presented during the 1998 GCL-HPL event. This paper was inadvertently missing from the corresponding proceedings volume. Below is a message from the GCL-HPL'98 chairperson:

The paper "Influence of x-ray preionization on the performance of a hf phototriggered laser," by S. Pasquiers, C. Postel, and V. Puech, was presented by the authors during the GCL-HPL'98 symposium in St. Petersburg. Unfortunately, the manuscript was lost. On behalf of the GCL-HPL'98 Organizing Committee, I ask the authors to accept our sincere apologies. At the same time, I appreciate Dr. Antonio Lapucci's help in resolving this matter.
Anatoly Boreysho, Chair of GCL-HPL'98, St. Petersburg

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