

Welcome to ALPA 2015

Welcome to the ALPA 2015 Symposium at the Venice International University. Pioneering laser-acceleration research and development of recent decades has produced impressive energetic particle and photon yields highlighting increasing viability for applications to several research areas. Viewed as a natural and imminent next step in accelerator advancement, this kind of progress engenders an optimism for continued development and new opportunities. For the next three days ALPA 2015 will present current laser-acceleration and associated photon generation capability and consequently bring to a symposium focus the potential for a diverse assortment of 'Applications of Laser-driven Particle Acceleration'.

Consistent with an applications focus and applications-driven guidance is a sense of community among potential users. A 'seed' community can help maintain a compelling case for laser-acceleration over the long term which, by promoting many applications, can also contribute to and guide requisite scientific and technical development. We know that the levels of technology commensurate with application requirements can vary significantly; laser-driven ion beam radiotherapy (LIBRT) being among the most stringent. As we continue to explore novel aspects of laser-acceleration for a variety of innovative uses, in concert with a community of motivated users, we can advance scientific and technical maturities to enable an expansive scope of meaningful applications.

In particular, it will be important to identify applications that can exploit the unique character of laser-driven particle acceleration and energetic photon generation. Connecting to multiple research communities ALPA 2015 can raise awareness of evolving capability, highlight applications that it can significantly impact, encourage a progressive strategic vision for the future and serve to keep this healthy engagement alive.

At ALPA 2015 this week you will hear about a broad range of candidate subject matter to consider for the laser-driven case. We are delighted to have you with us and we hope these few symposium days in beautiful Venice will inspire you.

Best Wishes,

Paul R. Bolton

Katia Parodi

Joerg Schreiber