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The third international conference was held in Atlantic City, NJ 1-4 Nov 1987.

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Final Technical Report

for

Air Force Office of Scientific Research

AFOSR-87-0319, "Partial Support of the
Third International Laser Science Conference

for

July 15, 1987 - July 14, 1988


William C. Stwalley, Principal Investigator
Professor of Chemistry and Physics and
Director of the Center for Laser Science and Engineering
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The annual International Laser Science Conferences have been established to survey the core laser science areas including lasers and their properties, spectroscopy, laser-induced processes, and a selection of laser applications. This meeting is a Topical Conference of the American Physical Society (APS) and is also the annual meeting of the APS Topical Group on Laser Science. Earlier ILS Conferences were held in Dallas in 1985 (ILS-I) and in Seattle in 1986 (ILS-II). ILS-III was held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, November 1-4, 1987, with the co-sponsorship of the Optical Society of America.

ILS-III was characterized by an outstanding technical content, which at the same time maintained an open APS style which encouraged active participation from a broad range of laser scientists. The ILS-III Conference began auspiciously with three opening keynote lectures by the 1986 Nobel Laureates in Chemistry: Dudley R. Herschbach (Harvard University), Yuan T. Lee (University of California at Berkeley), and John C. Polanyi (University of Toronto). These scientists were honored by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for their research in chemical physics, specifically reaction dynamics, which is basic to a detailed understanding of chemical reactions.

There were many other significant contributions, including 7 plenary papers, 69 invited papers and 245 contributed papers (both oral and poster) that formed the framework of the ILS-III Conference. A total of 406 people attended the Conference. We also note the following special events:

- An evening Panel Discussion Meeting entitled, "Dye Lasers: The State-of-the-Art", organized by Michael G. Littman, Princeton University;
- An enlightening post-Banquet speech by John N. Howard, Editor of Applied Optics, on "The Scientific Contributions of Lord Rayleigh".

Plenary lectures were delivered at the beginning of each half-day session (typically with five parallel sessions). The plenary lecturers who spoke at ILS-III were R. N. Zare, J. P. Taran, R. L. Byer, B. P. Stoicheff, G. W. Flynn and R. C. Powell.

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