

The logo for the International Congress on Biophotonics 2026, featuring the letters 'ICOB' in a stylized font with a circular graphic element.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
ON BIOPHOTONICS
ALBANY, NY

March 18-21
2026



UNIVERSITY
AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Where Biophotonics meets the Future

The International Congress on Biophotonics (ICOB) is a unique and future-oriented conference series dedicated to the advancement and application of light-based technologies in medicine and the life sciences. Since its inception, ICOB has established itself as a central meeting point for a wide range of stakeholders committed to exploring the full potential of biophotonics. The congress goes far beyond the boundaries of a conventional scientific conference — it deliberately opens its doors to industry, clinicians, funding agencies, policymakers, and representatives of society, aiming to foster dialogue across disciplines and sectors.

Interdisciplinary and Cross-Sector Collaboration

At the heart of ICOB is the belief that progress in biophotonics requires more than academic excellence. Real-world innovation happens at the interface between research, clinical application, industrial development, and societal needs. ICOB serves as a bridge between these areas by providing a collaborative environment where scientists, engineers, healthcare professionals, and decision-makers can connect, exchange ideas, and jointly define future priorities.

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The congress is designed to encourage interdisciplinary cooperation and the development of shared visions — not only to advance the science of biophotonics but also to ensure its successful translation into practice.

Beyond the Lab: Focus on Translation and Impact

One of the defining characteristics of ICOB is its strong emphasis on translation. Recognizing the increasing relevance of biophotonic technologies in diagnostics, therapy, and health monitoring, the congress focuses on how research findings can be turned into tangible solutions. From non-invasive imaging and sensing at the molecular level to the integration of AI in biophotonics and the development of personalized medicine approaches, ICOB highlights innovations that are ready — or close — to entering clinical and commercial use.

In this context, the congress also addresses regulatory challenges, funding opportunities, and the creation of innovation-friendly ecosystems that support the path from discovery to deployment.

icob2026.org



ICOB 2026

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*ICOB 2026 will take place
in the ETEC Building at the
University at Albany, SUNY
1220 Washington Ave
Albany, NY 12203*



Fostering Talent, Education, and Strategic Roadmapping

ICOB views education, talent development, and strategic planning as essential components of sustainable progress in biophotonics. The congress places a strong emphasis on nurturing the next generation of researchers and innovators by highlighting educational initiatives and providing young professionals with opportunities to engage in meaningful discussions and networking.

Each edition of ICOB contributes to long-term planning in the field. A key outcome of the congress should be a strategy paper that captures the most relevant insights and recommendations from the event. This document serves as a roadmap, offering a strategic perspective for stakeholders across science, industry, policy, and society.

Engaging Program and Networking Opportunities

The ICOB congresses feature a rich and varied program, including keynote lectures by leading experts, thematic sessions, panel discussions, and an industry exhibition. This diversity ensures that attendees gain a comprehensive view of current trends and emerging technologies while also having ample opportunities to build connections and initiate collaborations.

By creating space for scientific exchange, political dialogue, and industrial networking, ICOB acts as a catalyst for innovation and strategic partnerships that drive the biophotonics field forward.

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A Community Shaping the Future

ICOB brings together a growing international community that is dedicated to harnessing the power of light for the benefit of human health and well-being. The congress series not only reflects the current state of the field but actively shapes its trajectory by uniting the voices of those who research, fund, regulate, apply, and benefit from biophotonics.

With its inclusive, interdisciplinary, and impact-oriented approach, the International Congress on Biophotonics is a vital platform for collectively envisioning — and realizing — the future of biophotonics.

Key Facts

Congress Chairs

Prof. Igor Lednev // University at Albany, SUNY

Prof. Juergen Popp // Leibniz Institute of Photonic Technology, Jena

Expected Attendees

approx. 150

Contact Person

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Hosting:

I. Biophotonic Technology and Artificial Intelligence Conference

Translational Medical Research

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