

2025 JOSA A Emerging Researcher Best Paper Prize: editorial

MARKUS TESTORF, MAXIMINO AVENDAÑO,  SVETLANA AVRAMOV-ZAMUROVIC,  FU FENG, MICHELA LECCA,  MIRCEA MUJAT, SHANG WANG,  MINCHEN WEI,  AND OLGA KOROTKOVA 

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JOSA A Editor-in-Chief Olga Korotkova, Deputy Editor Markus Testorf, and the members of the 2025 Emerging Researcher Best Paper Prize Committee announce the recipient of the 2025 prize for the best paper published by an emerging researcher in the Journal. © 2026 Optica Publishing Group. All rights, including for text and data mining (TDM), Artificial Intelligence (AI) training, and similar technologies, are reserved.

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The JOSA A Emerging Researcher Best Paper Prize was established in 2018 to recognize exceptional work by early-career researchers (within five years of earning their highest degree), who are the first author of a paper that makes an outstanding contribution to the fields of classical optics, image science, and vision. The winning paper is selected from a pool of nominated papers published in 2025 and evaluated based on scientific significance, research quality, and excellence in the presentation of results. This year's selection committee was chaired by Deputy Editor Markus Testorf and included Feature Editor Svetlana Avramov-Zamurovic, as well as Topical Editors Maximino Avendaño, Fu Feng, Michela Lecca, Mircea Mujat, Shang Wang, and Minchen Wei. It is our distinct pleasure to announce the recipient of the prize for 2025.

The winning paper is "Impact of field of view on color constancy in virtual reality" [1], written by Killian Duay from the Institute of Science, in Tokyo, Japan. The paper investigates how the field of view and scene complexity in virtual reality influence color constancy. The committee was impressed by this meticulous and comprehensive study. The award serves as recognition of an important contribution to the field of color perception and highlights the benefits of extending the use of VR technology into psychophysical studies and potentially medical diagnostics.

The paper "Spiral adaptive Fresnel lens: wave optics" [2] by Maik Locher and colleagues, from the University of Glasgow, UK received an honorable mention. The paper stood out as a well-crafted and creative contribution epitomizing the virtues of good scientific writing. The wave optics approach complements previous geometric optics designs and paves the path to widespread adoption of adaptive lenses particularly in demanding applications where thinness of adjustable optical elements is crucial.

Killian Duay



Killian Duay completed a double bachelor's degree in computer science in Switzerland and Finland at HES-SO University and Haaga-Helia University. He then pursued the Erasmus Mundus triple master's program "Imaging and Lighting in Extended Realities" in Finland (University of Eastern Finland), France (Université Jean-Monnet), and Japan (Toyohashi University of Technology). He is currently a PhD student at Institute of Science Tokyo in the field of vision science and psychophysics. As part of his doctoral work, he is also a visiting researcher at the CNRS, in France. His research focuses on color perception, realism perception, and cross-modal transfers in extended realities.

Maik Locher



Maik Locher studied and conducted research in the fields of micro-optics, computational imaging, and advanced optical systems. His work explored topics including adaptive Fresnel lenses, relativistic visual distortion, optical cloaking, and optical simulations, with a particular interest in the intersection of physics, optics, and visual perception. His research combined theoretical modeling, simulation work, and practical imaging applications.

Congratulations to Killian Duay and Maik Locher on their selection and our best wishes for their future scientific careers!

Olga Korotkova
Editor-in-Chief, JOSAA
University of Miami, USA

Markus Testorf
Deputy Editor, JOSAA and
Chair, Best Paper Prize Committee
Dartmouth College, USA

Svetlana Avramov-Zamurovic
Feature Editor, JOSAA
U.S. Naval Academy, USA

Maximino Avendaño Alejo
Topical Editor, JOSAA
National Autonomous University of Mexico

Fu Feng
Topical Editor, JOSAA
National Natural Science Foundation of China

Michela Lecca
Topical Editor, JOSAA
Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Italy

Mircea Mujat
Topical Editor, JOSAA
8x R&D LLC, USA

Shang Wang
Topical Editor, JOSAA
Stevens Institute of Technology, USA

Minchen Wei
Topical Editor, JOSAA
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong

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2. M. Locher, E. Blackmore, Z.-K. Wang, *et al.*, "Spiral adaptive Fresnel lens: wave optics," *J. Opt. Soc. Am. A* **42**, 1677–1686 (2025).