

Meeting Report

PULSE Ultrafast X-ray Summer School

The Third Annual Ultrafast X-ray Summer School (UXSS 2009) was held from June 15-19, 2009 at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory (SLAC) and sponsored by the PULSE Institute for Ultrafast Energy Science. The summer school was a weeklong residential event that brought together about 100 students, post-doctoral researchers and other young and established scientists from diverse backgrounds. Particular emphasis was given to new scientific opportunities enabled by the world's first hard x-ray free electron laser, the Linac Coherent Light Source (LCLS) which underwent a spectacular turn on only months before. This year's school offered pedagogical lectures by world leading experts in free electron laser and accelerator science, atomic molecular and optical physics, condensed matter physics, physical chemistry and coherent imaging covering both experiment and theory. In addition, a day of research talks highlighted recent experimental advances. A special session was devoted to possibilities for future light sources, and there was a historical perspective of 35 years of photon science at SLAC. The summer students enjoyed a packed schedule that included tours of the LCLS and the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource as well as several social events including a trip to the California Academy of Sciences; however, the highlight of the summer school may well have been the competition for the best mock beam time proposal for LCLS in which the students worked with LCLS and PULSE scientists to learn how to propose a compelling and technologically sound proposal.

The PULSE Institute for Ultrafast Energy Science at SLAC and Stanford University is jointly funded by the Department of Energy, Office of Science Basic Energy Sciences division of Material Science and Engineering and Chemical Sciences. More information can be on their respective websites: PULSE <http://pulse.slac.stanford.edu>, the UXSS summer school series <http://www-conf.slac.stanford.edu/UXSS/2009>, SSRL <http://www-ssrl.slac.stanford.edu> , and LCLS <http://lcls.slac.stanford.edu>.

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