

## Editor's Notes of OE Historical Column

Optics is one of the oldest fundamental disciplines in natural sciences, and still keeps thriving in the contemporary scientific research. Particularly, in our modern life, a new discipline named optoelectronics, which combines optics with electronics, has become an essential basis in the development of modern information science and technology. A series of important scientific achievements in optics and optoelectronics, such as telescopes, microscopes, lasers and optical fibers, have played vital roles in the progress of human society.

With the continuous efforts of exploration of nature, the birth, development and evolution of various science and technologies have inevitably influenced the process of human history. History records the past and guides the future. Scientists are not only carriers of scientific knowledge and spirit, but also creators and witnesses of scientific history. In the long history of science, there are a lot of excellent pioneer scientists who have made vital contributions to the birth or development of a new discipline. If the academic experience, research ideas, and scientific spirit of these outstanding scientists can be passed down through efficient channels, it would be able to help the majority, especially young scientific researchers who have just entered the discipline, to better understand the course of discipline development, cultivate excellent learning habits, and master the correct research methods, hence accomplish more research achievements.

*Opto-Electronic Advances (OEA)* was launched in March 2018. It is a monthly international, peer-reviewed and open-access English journal. The journal is devoted to publish top-quality original articles, reviews and letters covering all significant research activities in the broad area of optics and optoelectronics, and creates a professional platform for international academic exchanges. At the second anniversary of *OEA*, it launches a new column: OE Historical. This column invites world-class optical scientists to write comprehensive review papers, to share their rich academic experience and research thoughts, as well as to summarize the state of the art the current development, put forward their options and envisions for future development. It is strongly believed that such OE Historical review articles would benefit the academic community greatly.

OE Historical column publishes 2~4 articles annually. The first review article of OE Historical column entitled: "History, current developments, and future directions of near-field optical science" is contributed by Prof. Motoichi Ohtsu from Tokyo University, Japan, who is the pioneer of near-field optics and founder of APNFO conference. It will be published in *OEA* 2020 Vol.3 No. 3.