

Reviewer of the Year

Acting as a reviewer of scientific papers is a thankless job. We all do it out of a sense of obligation in a profession where service is valued but not always recognized. Some of us review papers in appreciation of the hard-working reviewers that made our papers better. Some of us do it to support the peer review system that is essential for the dissemination of new research. Whatever their reason, reviewers provide an expert evaluation of a manuscript's suitability for publication and are an essential part of the checks and balances that catch errors and greatly improve the quality of the final product.

Reviewers are evaluated for the scope and depth of their reviews, the timeliness of their responses, the quality of useful feedback they provide to the authors to make their manuscripts better, and for how well they assess the novelty and veracity of the work. This year we are honoring Dr. Ankita Bhuyan for her outstanding service to *Nonlinear Optics Quantum Optics*.



Dr. Ankita Bhuyan

*Dr. Ankita Bhuyan is a research scientist specializing in **photomechanical materials, nonlinear optics, and light-matter interactions**. Her research investigates the fundamental mechanisms by which optically active polymers undergo mechanical deformation in response to structured light fields, with implications for soft actuators, adaptive optics, and optically reconfigurable systems.*

*She received her Ph.D. in Physics from **Washington State University**, where her doctoral work focused on the nonlinear optical and thermal characterization of photomechanical polymers. She developed novel experimental methodologies to quantify light-induced mechanical responses and constructed theoretical models to elucidate the coupled photothermal and photo-mechanical effects in these systems. Her work has led to invited publications, international collaborations, and recognition in the field of smart materials and nonlinear optical systems.*

*Dr. Bhuyan's professional trajectory includes research and development positions at **DigiLens Inc., Terecircuits Corporation, and Amazon Lab126**, and she currently serves as **Senior Principal Process Engineer at FormFactor**. In these roles, she has applied her scientific expertise to the development of advanced photopolymers, laser-based micro assembly processes, and high-reliability optical materials.*

*As a reviewer for the **Journal of Nonlinear Optics and Quantum Optics**, Dr. Bhuyan brings a strong interdisciplinary perspective grounded in both fundamental science and applied research, with a focus on rigorously evaluating contributions in the areas of nonlinear material response, photonic device physics, and light-driven material dynamics. Her reviews are thorough and address both the technical issues in a manuscript as well as evaluating the big picture implications of the work.*

Congratulations to Dr. Ankita Bhuyan!

-- The Editors