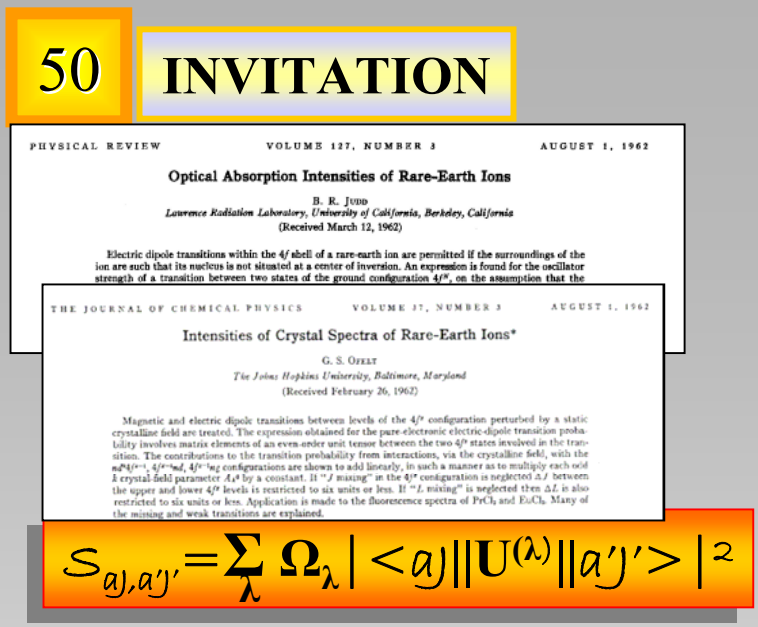

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the organizers of the ICfE-8 in Udine, Italy, it is my honor and pleasure to announce that the upcoming gathering of all involved in the research on f-electron systems is marked by a historical event. On the program of the special session ***"Golden anniversary of the Judd-Ofelt Theory celebrated with its progeny"*** we are expecting the presence of none other than **Professors Brian Judd and George Ofelt**! This will be their second meeting in person; they met for the very first time during the 40th birthday of the Judd-Ofelt Theory celebrated in Lądek Zdrój, Poland.

Do not miss this opportunity to meet the authors of this fundamental theory, and founders of the field of spectroscopy of the lanthanide systems. The birthday celebration will be enriched by the reminiscences of the guests of honor, and the memories of those whose scientific careers are based on the J-O theory. This special session will be followed by a regular session "The Spectroscopy and Theory" during which the most interesting results of current research will be presented by the leading scientists in the field. This historical event will be concluded by the artistic addition to the scientific program with Professor Brian Judd's piano recital.

If you have any ideas on how to make this celebration more festive and memorable, please inspire me by writing to me: Lidia.Smentek@Vanderbilt.edu

I hope to see you in Udine next year!

Lidia Smentek