

## **Top FAU prize goes to Shanghai researcher**

*SAOT bestows eleventh Young Researcher Award*

**This year, the largest monetary prize awarded by Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) went to Professor Weiwei Cai, PhD, of Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Professor Cai was awarded the Young Researcher Award in Optical Technologies (YRA) by the Erlangen Graduate School in Advanced Optical Technologies (SAOT) in recognition of his outstanding work in the field of optics and optical technologies. The prize, worth 100,000 euros, comes with a year-long guest professorship at FAU.**

Professor Weiwei Cai, who earned his PhD at Clemson University in the US, has been employed at Shanghai Jiao Tong University since 2015. He previously spent extensive periods at Virginia Tech in the USA, and the University of Cambridge in the UK. At FAU, he will work on improved tomographic methods for three-dimensional imaging in collaboration with researchers from the Institute of Engineering Thermodynamics (Professor Will), the Institute of Photonic Technologies (Professor Schmidt) and the Pattern Recognition Lab (Professor Maier), among others.

Professor Cai's pioneering work on nonlinear tomographic absorption spectroscopy has implications for research in areas including combustion processes, nanoparticle synthesis and laser beam welding.

Besides Professor Cai, a number of Chinese PhD students will travel to Erlangen for prolonged research stays to work on the project alongside SAOT researchers. In addition to financing this exchange, he will use the prize money to buy special equipment for the research in Erlangen.

SAOT was established in 2006 under the Excellence Initiative of the German federal and state governments with the goal of providing a structured interdisciplinary training program for PhD students in a highly attractive research environment. The Young Researcher Award, bestowed annually, is now in its eleventh year. The selection process is open to researchers with a demonstrable interest in the fields of optics, photonics and optical technologies who are aged 40 or younger at the time of application.

Further information

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Prizewinner Dr. Weiwei Cai (middle) with (left to right) SAOT Co-Coordinator Professor Stefan Will, FAU President Professor Joachim Hornegger, SAOT Coordinator Professor Michael Schmidt and guest speaker Professor Clemens Kaminski.

*Photo: SAOT*



Dr. Weiwei Cai, the winner of this year's SAOT Young Researcher Award in Optical Technologies, is interested in optical methods for absorption spectroscopy and nonlinear tomography.

*Photo: SAOT*