



Mike Dunne

Professor of Photon Science
Photon Science Directorate

 Resume available Online

CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Administrative Contact**

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Bio

BIO

Mike Dunne is an expert in the design, construction and operation of a wide range of large-scale research facilities and their associated science and technology programs.

He is the Director of the Linac Coherent Light Source (LCLS), an internationally leading research facility, operated by Stanford University on behalf of the US Department of Energy, open to users from around the world. He is an Associate Laboratory Director of the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, and a full Professor of Photon Science at Stanford University.

LCLS represents a revolution in x-ray science. The x-rays produced by LCLS are a billion times brighter than can be produced by conventional sources, such as a synchrotron, and are delivered in ultrafast bursts - typically a few tens of femtoseconds (10^{-15} seconds). This opens up transformational opportunities for the study of structural biology, quantum materials, ultrafast chemistry, and novel states of matter. Since its initial operation in 2009, LCLS has enabled a remarkable series of studies, via its ability to provide atomic resolution information, with freeze-frame 'movies' of how atomic, chemical and biological systems evolve on ultrafast timescales.

From 2010-2014, Mike was the Director for Laser Fusion Energy at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). His role was to ensure full advantage is taken of the National Ignition Facility (NIF), a \$3.5 billion investment designed to demonstrate net fusion energy production. At LLNL, Mike also held the role of Program Director for high average power laser development, initiating a number of projects including the High Average power Petawatt Laser System (HAPLS), for the newly constructed ELI-Beamlines laser facility near Prague.

Mike was Director of the United Kingdom's Central Laser Facility (CLF) from 2005-2010, working for the Science and Technology Facilities Council. The CLF is home to the world's most intense laser facilities, with science programs ranging from biomedical research and ultrafast material science, to the pursuit of a new generation of miniaturized particle accelerators. In 2008 he took on additional responsibility as Director of the Photon Science Department, developing coupled laser and accelerator facilities; pursuit of next-generation Free Electron Laser sources; and oversight of the final phase of the UK's Synchrotron Radiation Source (SRS). This entailed senior management of a staff of ~150 people at both the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

and the Daresbury Laboratory. Mike was the International Project Leader for the European project 'HiPER', for which he created a consortium of 26 institutions across 10 countries.

Prior to this he worked for the UK Government at AWE Aldermaston, leading their plasma science research group. He played a major role in establishing the scope and mission of AWE's new "ORION" laser facility (~250 M\$) to preserve the UK's national capability in this important area of strategic deterrence. From there he moved into a position developing the organization's strategy and assessment of the overall national technical capability to meet the demands of future missions.

Mike's personal research focuses on the development and application of X-ray science across a broad range of research activities, including the development and application of high power lasers to high energy-density science and nuclear fusion.

Mike obtained his doctorate in plasma physics from Imperial College, London. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society for Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, has received a number of international awards and is the author of over 180 technical papers, 11 patent applications, 60 invited talks, and over 80 press/media reports for the general public.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, Photon Science Directorate

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Director, Linac Coherent Light Source (LCLS), SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, (2014- present)
- Associate Laboratory Director (ALD), SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, (2014- present)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Fellow (FRSA), Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (2009-present)
- Awardee, US Secretary of Energy's Achievement Award, National Virtual Biotechnology Laboratory Team (2021)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- PhD, Imperial College, London , Plasma Physics (1995)

PATENTS

- Mike Dunne. "United States Patent 11387007 Inertial Confinement Fusion system which decouples life-limited components from plant availability", Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, Jul 12, 2022

LINKS

- LCLS website: <https://lcls.slac.stanford.edu/>
- Photon Science bios: <http://home.slac.stanford.edu/photonsciencefacultysearch.html#Dunne>

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

The Linac Coherent Light Source (LCLS) is the world's first X-Ray Free Electron Laser. It represents a revolution in x-ray science. The x-rays produced by LCLS are a billion times brighter than can be produced by conventional sources, such as a synchrotron, and are delivered in ultrafast bursts - typically a few tens of femtoseconds (10^{-15} seconds).

This opens up transformational opportunities for the study of structural biology, quantum materials, ultrafast chemistry, and novel states of matter. Since its initial operation in 2009, LCLS has enabled a remarkable series of studies, via its ability to provide atomic resolution information, with freeze-frame 'movies' of how atomic, chemical and biological systems evolve on ultrafast timescales.

Based on this success, a billion-dollar upgrade project is now underway that will increase the repetition rate by 4 orders of magnitude (from 120 Hz to 1 MHz), opening up entirely new scientific opportunities.

Access to LCLS is open to everyone, based purely on the scientific merit of the proposed experiments.

Teaching

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Khaled Younes

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Free Electron Lasers for X-ray Scattering and Diffraction** *Structural Dynamics with X-ray and Electron Scattering*
Dunne, M., Schoenlein, R. W., Cryan, J. C., Wolf, T. J.
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- **Inertial Confinement Fusion Power Plants** *Encyclopedia of Nuclear Energy*
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- **X-ray free-electron lasers light up materials science** *NATURE REVIEWS MATERIALS*
Dunne, M.
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- **The Linac Coherent Light Source: Recent Developments and Future Plans** *APPLIED SCIENCES-BASEL*
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- **The Linac Coherent Light Source** *JOURNAL OF SYNCHROTRON RADIATION*
White, W. E., Robert, A., Dunne, M.
2015; 22: 472-476
- **TIMELY DELIVERY OF LASER INERTIAL FUSION ENERGY (LIFE)** *FUSION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY*
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2011; 60 (1): 19-27
- **Impulsive excitation of squeezed phonons in single crystal germanium by an x-ray laser** *APPLIED PHYSICS LETTERS*
Wang, N., Li, H., Sun, Y., Hanlon, D., Huang, Y., Sun, P., She, B., Ornelas-Skarin, C., Teitelbaum, S. W., Sutton, M., Fuoss, P. H., Hastings, J. B., Sato, et al
2025; 126 (22)
- **Dynamics of nanoscale phase decomposition in laser ablation** *COMMUNICATIONS MATERIALS*
Sun, Y., Chen, C., Albert, T. J., Li, H., Arefev, M. I., Chen, Y., Dunne, M., Glowonia, J. M., Jerman, M., Hoffmann, M., Hurley, M. J., Mo, M., Nguyen, et al
2025; 6 (1)
- **On ultrafast x-ray scattering methods for magnetism** *ADVANCES IN PHYSICS-X*

- Plumley, R., Chitturi, S. R., Peng, C., Assefa, T. A., Burdet, N., Shen, L., Chen, Z., Reid, A. H., Dakovski, G. L., Seaberg, M. H., O'Dowd, F., Montoya, S. A., Chen, et al
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Plumley, R., Mardanya, S., Peng, C., Nokelainen, J., Assefa, T., Shen, L., Burdet, N., Porter, Z., Petsch, A., Israelski, A., Chen, H., Lee, J., Morley, et al
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 - **Targeted materials discovery using Bayesian algorithm execution** *NPJ COMPUTATIONAL MATERIALS*
Chitturi, S. R., Ramdas, A., Wu, Y., Rohr, B., Ermon, S., Dionne, J., da Jornada, F. H., Dunne, M., Tassone, C., Neiswanger, W., Ratner, D.
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 - **Capturing dynamical correlations using implicit neural representations.** *Nature communications*
Chitturi, S. R., Ji, Z., Petsch, A. N., Peng, C., Chen, Z., Plumley, R., Dunne, M., Mardanya, S., Chowdhury, S., Chen, H., Bansil, A., Feiguin, A., Kolesnikov, et al
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 - **Femtosecond-Terawatt Hard X-Ray Pulse Generation with Chirped Pulse Amplification on a Free Electron Laser.** *Physical review letters*
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 - **CryoAI: Amortized Inference of Poses for Ab Initio Reconstruction of 3D Molecular Volumes from Real Cryo-EM Images.** *Computer vision - ECCV ... : ... European Conference on Computer Vision : proceedings. European Conference on Computer Vision*
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Chitturi, S. R., Burdet, N. G., Nashed, Y., Ratner, D., Mishra, A., Lane, T. J., Seaberg, M., Esposito, V., Yoon, C., Dunne, M., Turner, J. J.
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 - **Testing the data framework for an AI algorithm in preparation for high data rate X-ray facilities**
Chen, H., Chitturi, S. R., Plumley, R., Shen, L., Drucker, N. C., Burdet, N., Peng, C., Mardanya, S., Ratner, D., Mishra, A., Yoon, C., Song, S., Chollet, et al
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 - **Automated prediction of lattice parameters from X-ray powder diffraction patterns** *JOURNAL OF APPLIED CRYSTALLOGRAPHY*
Chitturi, S. R., Ratner, D., Walroth, R. C., Thampy, V., Reed, E. J., Dunne, M., Tassone, C. J., Stone, K. H.
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 - **Automated prediction of lattice parameters from X-ray powder diffraction patterns.** *Journal of applied crystallography*
Chitturi, S. R., Ratner, D., Walroth, R. C., Thampy, V., Reed, E. J., Dunne, M., Tassone, C. J., Stone, K. H.
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- **Colliding blast waves driven by the interaction of a short-pulse laser with a gas of atomic clusters**
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- **A high-power laser fusion facility for Europe** *NATURE PHYSICS*
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- **Shock structuring due to fabrication joints in targets** *PHYSICS OF PLASMAS*
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- **TIME-RESOLVED MEASUREMENT OF X-RAY HEATING IN PLASTIC FOILS IRRADIATED BY INTENSE SOFT-X-RAY PULSES** *PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS*
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