



**Dr. Antonio Mendez** The Society mourns the loss of our good friend and colleague Dr. Antonio Méndez, who passed away in May 2020. An innovator, educator and mentor, Antonio served the Southern California optical community throughout his decades-long career.

He received a PhD (Physics) from the University of Southern California. He joined Northrop while still in Graduate School and became Senior Member of the Technical Staff and Head of the Holography and Signal Processing Section in the Northrop Corporate Labs upon getting his PhD.

Dr. Mendez adventured to Martin Marietta (Orlando) where he became Senior Member of the Professional Staff, managing the sensor and target cuing IR&D and Contract Research and Development (CRAD) that led to the LANTIRN and TADS/PNVIS product lines. He returned to California, joining the Hughes Aircraft Company (EDSG) to establish the Advanced Avionics R&D research team.

Antonio left Hughes to set up Mendez R&D Associates, specializing in optical communications modulation and coding but also assisting start-ups in new business acquisition.

Dr. Mendez is a member of OSA, ACM, SPIE, and a Senior Member of the IEEE. He is Past Chair of the IEEE/LEOS, LA Chapter. Antonio said; "The OSSC is a vibrant technical /professional /social community. The OSSC membership is a remarkable mix of people, professions, interests, & backgrounds. Meetings are always worth attending: for networking, professional gossip, contacts, socializing, and life-long learning. "I will work to maintain the quality and fascination of our OSSC meetings."

He will be missed. Private services have been arranged for family. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to a charity of the donor's choice.