

Robert L. Byer is currently a professor of Applied Physics at Stanford University, and has conducted research and taught classes in lasers and nonlinear optics since 1969. He has made numerous contributions to laser science and technology including the demonstration of the first tunable visible parametric oscillator, the development of the Q-switched unstable resonator Nd:YAG laser, remote sensing using tunable infrared sources and precision spectroscopy using Coherent Anti Stokes Raman Scattering (CARS). His current research includes the development of nonlinear optical materials and laser diode pumped solid state laser sources for applications to gravitational wave detection and to laser particle acceleration.

Professor Byer is currently the Director of the Edward L. Ginzton Laboratory and the co-Director of the Stanford Photonics Research Center. He was the Director of Hansen Experimental Physics Laboratory from 1993-2006. He served as Vice Provost and Dean of Research from 1987-1992. He was Chair of the Applied Physics Department from 1981-1984 and from 1999-2002 as well as serving as the Associate Dean of Humanities and Sciences from 1985-1987. Professor Byer served as president of the IEEE Lasers and Electro-optics Society, and elected President of the Optical Society of America and served in 1994. He is a founding member of the California Council on Science and Technology and served as chair from 1995-2006. He is a Fellow of the Optical Society of America, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the American Physical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Laser Institute of America. Professor Byer was elected to the NAE in 1987 and the NAS in 2000. He served on the AFSAB from 2002-2006 and is currently a member of the NIF advisory committee at LLNL and the SAC for LCLS at SLAC.

Professor Byer hold over 50 patents and 400 publications.