

*Invited Lecture*

**25 YEARS OF INTEGRAL FIELD SPECTROSCOPY –  
FROM THE BTA TO THE VLT**

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This talk is dedicated to the memory of Victor Afanasiev, an early pioneer of integral field spectroscopy. With a personal perspective and anecdotes from first observations with MPFS at the Selentchuk 6m Telescope, I will review the development of integral field spectroscopy from the first experiments to the state-of-the art, from predominantly instrumental expert driven science, to factors of 10 oversubscription rates at the most demanded ground—based optical telescope of the world. I will particularly highlight the very broad application of integral field spectroscopy to numerous science cases, ending with an outlook to the next promising instruments.