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Mario Ruben

Dr. Mario Ruben studied chemistry in Germany and Spain and obtained his PhD in 1998 at the University of Jena, under the supervision of Prof. D. Walther. His thesis dealt with CO₂-converting enzyme models. He then undertook post-doctoral research at the Institut de Science et d'Ingenierie Supramoléculaires (ISIS) Strasbourg with Nobel Prize winner Prof. J.-M. Lehn, where he worked on the field of supramolecular coordination compounds. In 2001 he moved to the Institute of Nanotechnology in Karlsruhe, where he is currently directing the research group 'Functional Supramolecular Devices'. His research interest involves the design, synthesis and physical characterisation of functional-molecule-based compounds and their implementation into operational nanosystems.

Dr. Mario Ruben
Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe
Institut für Nanotechnologie
PF 3640
D-76021 Karlsruhe
Germany
Tel.: +49 7247 826781
Fax: +49 7247 826368
E-mail: mario.ruben@int.fzk.de
Website: <http://hikwww1.fzk.de/int/english/welcome.html>



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Piero Perlo

Piero Perlo took his degree in general physics at the University of Turin in 1980. Piero is the director of the Advanced Product Technologies Department at CRF, specialising in micro and nanotechnology developments. His experience started with the design of optomechanical systems for optical metrology and laser robots, an area in which he has authored milestone papers. He led the first worldwide commercial introduction of diffractive and microoptics into automotive, motorcycle and general lighting, plus IR systems for intrusion alarms. He is currently coordinating: 'MARVEL' IST-FET project, focusing on the implementation of micro and nanotechnology into micro air vehicles, and 'FUNLIGHT' IST project, aiming at the implementation of novel single-layer light emitting metallic nanostructures.

Piero holds many patents that have originated in large business: in lighting equipment, infrared sensors and actuators based on functional materials. In 1997 he founded the OOM Lab in collaboration with the Institute of Physics at the Turin Polytechnic, the IOFRAN Institute of Applied Physics in Moscow, and NIOPIK, the largest institute in chemistry of the former USSR. OOM Lab is specifically dedicated to the application of nanoscience to the development of oriented organic materials.

Piero is a board member of the Eureka-Eurimus Steering Committee on Microsystems, and since 1994 has been contract professor at the University of Turin, Physics Institute where he teaches Applied Optics.

Piero Perlo
Centro Ricerche Fiat
50 Strada Torino
I-10043 Torino
Orbassano
Italy
Tel.: +39 11 9083576
Fax: +39 11 9083337
Email: pietro.perlo@crf.it
Website: <http://www.crf.it>



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Dr. rer. nat. Michael Hirscher

Dr. rer. nat. Michael Hirscher is group leader at the Max Planck Institute for Metals Research in Stuttgart, Germany. He studied physics at the University of Stuttgart, and at the Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, USA. In 1982 he received a Master's degree from Oregon State University and, in 1984 and 1987, respectively, a Diploma and Ph.D. degree from the University of Stuttgart. He was awarded the Otto Hahn Medal of the Max Planck Society in 1988. From 1988 to 1989 Dr. Hirscher was a post-doctoral fellow at the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA. His current research interests are hydrogen diffusion and storage in nanostructured materials.

Professor Michael Hirscher

Max-Planck-Institut für Metallforschung

Heisenbergstr. 3

D-70569 Stuttgart

Germany

Tel.: +49 711 689 1808

Fax: +49 711 689 1932

Email: hirscher@mf.mpg.de

Website: <http://www.mf.mpg.de/en/abteilungen/schuetz/08.html>

<http://www.mpg.de/forschungsergebnisse/wissVeroeffentlichungen/forschungsber>



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Prof. Harald Fuchs

Professor Harald Fuchs is a full professor of physics at the University of Münster, Germany, and also the Scientific Director of the Centre of Nanotechnology (CeNTech) in Münster. His research focuses on nanoscale science and nanotechnology, ranging from atomic force microscopy to nanostructure fabrication and nano-bio systems. He has published some 200 scientific articles in top journals and, in 1994, was awarded the Philip Morris Research Prize 'Challenge Future'. He is currently a member of various scientific organisations, including the German Academy Leopoldina. Furthermore, he is a co-founder of several nanotech. companies, and has trained many postdoctoral fellows from countries all over the world.

Professor Harald Fuchs
University of Münster
Physikalisches Institut
Wilhelm Klemm-Str. 10
D-48149 Münster
Germany
Tel. +49 251 83 33621
Fax: +49 251 83 33602
Email: fuchsh@nwz.uni-muenster.de or fuchsh@uni-muenster.de
Website: <http://www.uni-muenster.de/Physik/PI/Fuchs>
<http://www.centech.de>



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Jean-Marc Grognet

Professor Jean-Marc Grognet is a Doctor in Pharmacy (Pharm. D.) (1980) and has a PhD in Molecular Pharmacology (1984). He is currently the scientific affairs director of the Technological Division at the French Atomic Energy Commission CEA. He has directed the drug metabolism laboratory and the clinical pharmacology group at the same institute for 15 years (1985-2000). He is a specialist in pharmacokinetics, metabolism, functional imaging and micro and nano technologies. He is also a professor at INSTN the National Institute for Nuclear Sciences and Technology (France) and regularly gives lectures in universities including lectures in drug economy. He is the author or the co-author of more than 100 papers and communications. He organised several international scientific meetings. He founded two scientific societies devoted to the promotion of functional imaging in drug development: the French society MEDIM (<http://www.medim.net>) and the European society Euro-FIDDD. He has also been reporter (rapporteur) at the French drug pricing committee since 1994.

Professor Jean-Marc Grognet
CEA
Direction de la Recherche Technologique
F-92265 Fontenay aux Roses
France
Tel.: +33 1 46 54 87 02
Fax: +33 1 46 54 70 33
Email: jean-marc.grognet@cea.fr
Website: http://www-drt.cea.fr/fr/accueil/actu_20_10_1.htm



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Julio San-Román

Professor Julio San-Román gained his doctorate in chemistry at Complutense University of Madrid in 1975. He is Researcher Professor, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas; Associate Professor, Complutense University of Madrid; Associate Professor, University of the Basque Country; and Invited Professor, Havana University, Cuba.

His scientific activities are centred on the study and development of polymer systems for biomedical applications, and specifically on tissue engineering, polymer drugs and drug delivery systems. He has published more than 250 refereed articles in specialised journals of polymer science, biomaterials, and the biomedical field. He has contributed more than 20 chapters to specialised books, and is co-editor of two books on biodegradable polymers for biomedical applications and biomaterials. He has been invited to present main lectures in more than 50 international meetings in the field of polymer materials, controlled release, biomedical polymers and biomaterials. In addition, he is a participant in many international projects, including an EU funded Network of Excellence on tissue engineering approved in the first call of the Sixth Framework Programme.

Professor Julio San Román
Instituto de Ciencia y Tecnología de Polímeros
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
Juan de la Cierva 3
28006 – Madrid
Spain
Tel.: +34 915 622 900
Fax: +34 915 644 853
Email: Jsroman@ictp.csic.es
Website: <http://www.ictp.csic.es/index.php?opc=93>