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He obtained his Master's and PhD degrees from Charles University in Prague. After joining Polytechnique Montreal, Canada in 1988, he became Professor in 1994, and in 2004-2010 served as Head of the Department of Engineering Physics. He has been strongly involved in scientific societies, in particular as President and Vice-President of the Society of Vacuum Coaters (2010-2016), Symposium C Chair and Session Chair of the ICMCTF, and as Program Committee member of the Optical Interference Coating topical conferences of Optica (former OSA). In 1999, in collaboration with J.E. Klemberg-Sapieha, he started the Functional Coatings and Surface Engineering (FCSE) tri-annual symposia series in Montreal, Canada. In 2016 he was General Chair of the historic joint ICMCTF-SVC Workshop on "Stress Evolution in Thin Films and Coatings: From Fundamental Understanding to Control", Chicago, Illinois.

His main research interests are optical coatings, surface engineering, tribological and multifunctional thin films and coatings, plasma processing of materials, and the development of university-industry partnerships. His activities resulted in more than 450 publications in refereed journals, book chapters, and conference proceedings, in 24 patents and patent applications, and more than 70 invited, keynote and plenary lectures at international conferences. He is the recipient of special recognitions including the SVC Sugerman Award, SVC Mentor-Fellow, AVS Fellow, NSERC Synergy Award, and the Polytechnique's Award for Excellence in Research and Innovation.