

Paul Mayrhofer is a University Professor of Materials Science at the Institute of Materials Science and Technology, TU Wien, Vienna, where he chairs the Materials Science Division since 2012. He earned his Ph.D. (2001) and Habilitation (2005) in Materials Science from the University of Leoben. His postdoctoral work and Erwin-Schrödinger Fellowship took him to the University of Illinois, RWTH Aachen, and Linköping University.

Paul pioneered age hardening in hard ceramic thin films based on ternary nitrides and borides and has a profound interest in phase transitions. His research combines computational and experimental methods to develop and characterize vapor-phase deposited nanostructured protective and functional materials.

He has received numerous prestigious awards, including the START Prize (2007), the establishment of a Christian Doppler Laboratory (2011), appointment as a Fellow of the American Vacuum Society (AVS, 2018), the Bill Sproul Award and Honorary Lecture (AVS, 2023), and the Dr.-Wolfgang-Houska-Preis (2024). He is also an elected member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and has served in various leadership roles, such as Chair of the Advanced Surface Engineering Division (ASED) of AVS, President of the Austrian Vacuum Society, and on the boards of the Austrian Science Fund and the Theodor Körner Fonds.

Paul has authored over 360 SCI-listed publications (with over 20000 citations to these, h-index of 76 (GS)) including five invited papers and five book chapters. Since 2020 alone, he has published 140 SCI papers. He has delivered over 130 oral presentations at leading international conferences, including 78 invited talks, of which 24 were keynote or plenary lectures. He is a co-applicant on 13 patents related to hard coatings and has supervised 35 Ph.D. and 70 Master's students to their degrees, in addition to hosting 24 Postdoctoral researchers. His mentorship has led to significant recognition for his students, with 25 of them receiving prestigious awards at international conferences, such as the ICMCTF Student Awards and the Acta Materialia Student Award.