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Edward Kurz received a B.S. in physics, M.S. in electrical engineering and Ph.D. in Materials Science at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. His doctoral research was in catalysis in Fe systems. Dr. Kurz also spent a year as a postdoctoral researcher at the Center for Multiphase Research at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Prior to joining the Institute of Materials Science (IMS) at the University of Connecticut (UConn) in 1994, he worked in industry as an engineer at Galileo ElectroOptics and as Manager of Materials Research and Development at Schott Fiber Optics. At UConn he is the Director of the IMS Associates Program, an industrial outreach program, and a Research Scientist in IMS, where he does research in applied surface characterization. He directs the analyses of materials related product failures, characterization of materials, identification of contaminants and selection of materials for improved performance. Dr. Kurz also defines and organizes short courses of interest to regional industry. He is the author of numerous publications in the fields of surface analysis and modification.