



**Dr Aleksej Žarkov** (chemistry, Vilnius University). A professor at Vilnius University, his research interests encompass the synthesis and characterization of various inorganic functional materials. During his scientific career, Prof. Žarkov had long-term internships at various prestigious scientific institutions including Georgetown University (Washington DC, USA), Osaka University (Japan), University of Cologne (Germany), University of Aveiro (Portugal), etc., with the number of research internships abroad totalling over 20. With co-authors, Aleksej has prepared two book chapters, more than 100 scientific publications in journals referenced in the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science database (h-index 17), has given invited presentations at conferences and foreign scientific institutions. In 2021, he received the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences Young Scientist Scholarship, and in 2019, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences prize for the best work by a young scientist. He was also awarded with the Lithuanian National Scholarship of the World Federation of Scientists (2019) and, twice, the Vilnius University Rector's Research Award (2019 and 2023). He has prepared an educational textbook, supervises students' theses, doctoral students and postdoctoral trainees, participates in and directs various scientific projects. Prof. Žarkov is a Fulbright scholarship holder.

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