



**Richard J. Colton** earned both his BS (1972) and his PhD (1976) degrees in Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh. He performed graduate work under the guidance of Professor J. Wayne Rabalais in the area of ultraviolet and X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy. In 1976, he became a National Research Council Research Associate at the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) in Washington, DC where he worked in the area of secondary ion mass spectrometry. He joined the NRL as a staff scientist in 1977, where he has remained and continues to conduct basic and applied research in surface chemistry and nanoscience/nanotechnology.

Rich has held a number of leadership positions at NRL. He is the former Director of NRL's Institute for Nanoscience. The Institute conducts multidisciplinary research at the intersections of materials, electronics, and biology. It includes a new nanoscience research building containing nanofabrication facilities and environmentally-controlled measurement laboratories. Rich is currently Head of the NRL Chemistry Division, having risen through the ranks from Section Head to Branch Head, and Division Head in 2007. The Division conducts basic and applied research in chemical dynamics and diagnostics, materials chemistry, corrosion science and engineering, surface chemistry, and fire science.

Rich has published over 130 papers, including ten book chapters, and he holds 5 patents. He has received the Hillebrand Prize awarded by the Chemical Society of Washington, was elected a Fellow of the American Vacuum Society (AVS), received the NRL-Edison Chapter of Sigma Xi Applied Research Award in 1999, and won numerous technical publication and technology transfer awards. Rich also received the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 2003, the AVS Albert Nerken Award in 2007, and the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award in 2011. He became a member of the Senior Executive Service in 2007. Currently, he is on the editorial board of *Analytical Chemistry*.

Rich and his wife were born and raised in Western Pennsylvania. They have two children; their son Adam is a famous longboarder, and their daughter Deanna is working on a PhD in microbiology at the University of Georgia. In his spare time, Rich enjoys boating and fishing; he is also an avid collector of model trains.