# Richard Spontak

Biography

Dr. Richard Spontak, a Distinguished Professor at NC State University, received his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemical engineering from Penn State and UC Berkeley, respectively. He pursued post-doctoral research at Cambridge University and later joined Procter & Gamble before accepting a faculty position at NC State. He has published over 300 peer-reviewed journal papers, received 9 patents and delivered over 400 invited lectures around the world. His research focuses on nanostructured polymers, polymer nanocomposites, coatings, and stimuli-responsive and multifunctional soft materials, as well as advanced electron microscopy. In recognition of his research at NC State, he was awarded the Alexander Q. Holladay Medal for Excellence (the highest NC State faculty award), the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Award (the highest engineering faculty award), the Alcoa Foundation Distinguished Engineering Research Award, and the Alumni Outstanding Research Award. In addition, he has received the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) International Award, the ACS (Rubber Division) Chemistry of Thermoplastic Elastomers Award, the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3) Colwyn Medal and Medal for Excellence, the Institute of Chemical Engineers Underwood Medal and Global Award, the American Chemical Society (ACS) (PMSE Division) Roy W. Tess Award in Coatings and Cooperative Research Award, the Society of Polymer Science (Japan) International Award, the *Acta Materialia* Hollomon Award for Materials and Society, the German Society for Electron Microscopy Ernst Ruska Prize, and the 2025-26 *Sigma Xi* Scientific Research Honor Society Distinguished Lectureship. An elected fellow of the American Physical Society, the IOM3, the Royal Society of Chemistry, the ACS (PMSE Division), and the SPE, Dr. Spontak was named the Lars Onsager Professor at, and received an honorary doctorate (*doctor honoris causa*) from, the Norwegian University of Science & Technology, and is a member of the Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences.