

Prof. Dr. Bretislav Friedrich

Bretislav Friedrich was born in Prague, Czech Republic, in 1953. He graduated from Charles University, in 1976, with a degree in physical chemistry. He then switched fields and earned his PhD in chemical Physics, in 1981, from the Czech Academy of Sciences. Subsequently, he switched countries as well, more than once. He was an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at the Max Planck Institute für Strömungsforschung in Göttingen (1986–1987), Research Associate and later Senior Research Fellow and Lecturer at Harvard University (1987–2003), and, since 2003, a Research Group Leader at the Department of Molecular Physics at the Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society in Berlin. He is also an Honorary Professor at the Technical University of Berlin. Friedrich's research revolves around interactions of molecules with and in electric, magnetic, and optical fields. Aside from his work in molecular physics, Friedrich maintains an abiding interest in the history of science (emergence of quantum mechanics, rise of physical and theoretical chemistry, scientific biography) and is engaged in efforts to eliminate chemical and other weapons of mass destruction.