



Rik R. Tykwinski completed his B.S. degree in 1987 at the University of Minnesota – Duluth, and working with Prof. Peter J. Stang at the University of Utah he received his PhD in 1994. He moved to ETH Zürich to work with Prof. François Diederich for his post-doctoral studies (1994–1997), and in 1997, he joined the faculty at the University of Alberta. He accepted the position of Chair of Organic Chemistry at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg in Germany in 2009, and he then moved back to the University of Alberta in 2016 where he is now Chair of the Department.

Physical organic chemistry in the Tykwinski group has become internationally renowned for the development of new synthetic methods for conjugated carbon-rich molecules. In particular, pioneering work in the synthesis of polyynes and cumulenes has led seminal discoveries in the study and modelling of carbyne, the unknown, one-dimensional allotrope composed of sp-hybridized carbon. Tykwinski has published more than 230 scientific papers in international, peer-reviewed venues, and he is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Physical Organic Chemistry*. When not in the lab, he can likely be found mountain biking or entertaining his two sons.