

V. Ara Apkarian, Bio

V. Ara Apkarian is a Distinguished Professor of Chemical Physics at the University of California, Irvine and Director of the NSF Center for Chemical Innovation on Chemistry at the Space-Time Limit (CaSTL). He holds BS and PhD degrees in Chemistry from USC and Northwestern. Following a postdoctoral fellowship at Cornell, he joined the Chemistry faculty at UCI in 1983, where he has served as Department Chair and as the founding co-Director of the Chemical and Materials Physics (ChaMP) program.

His principle scientific contributions are in photophysics, ultrafast molecular and quantum dynamics in condensed matter, nonlinear optics, spectroscopy, and spectromicroscopy in the atomistic near-field. His work, which combines experiment and theory on a range of topics, has appeared in ~200 peer-reviewed publications. He has organized/co-organized more than 30 scientific conferences and workshops on topics ranging from photophysics, low temperature chemistry and physics, condensed phase photodynamics, spectroscopy, ultrafast processes, superfluid helium, molecular videography, and chemistry at the space-time limit. A thrust in his current research addresses atomically confined light and its unusual applications. Advancing the limit in optical microscopy to the Å-scale, imaging internal workings of molecules, seeing atoms and sound, are among the recent demonstration made in his group by combining optics and plasmonics with scanning-probe microscopy, under the rubric of tip-enhanced Raman spectromicroscopy in the atomistic near-field.

Apkarian is a Foreign Member of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, a Fellow of APS, AAAS and SPIE, and has been recognized with awards in teaching, service and research, including the Dreyfus Award (1983), Sloan Fellowship (1990), Humboldt Prize (1996), UCI Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching (2006), USC Distinguished Alumnus Award (2007), Charles Bennett Award for service (2008), the ACS Award in Experimental Physical Chemistry (2014), and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Jyväskylä, Finland (2016).