

DSL 2012 Honorary Chairman Professor Paul Heitjans

Paul Heitjans is a professor of physical chemistry and head of the ZFM – Research Center for Solid State Chemistry and New Materials at Leibniz University Hannover, Germany.

He studied physics in Berlin and Heidelberg and received his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from Heidelberg University and his Habilitation (Dr. rer. nat. habil.) in experimental physics from Marburg University in 1983. Being delegated by these universities, he spent several years as principal research scientist at the Institut Laue-Langevin in Grenoble, France, and Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany. During this time, he established beta-radiation detected nuclear magnetic resonance/relaxation (beta-NMR) spectroscopy of neutron activated nuclei as a new method for studying in particular solid state diffusion and ion dynamics.

In 1987, he accepted a professorship at Hannover University in the Institute of Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry. He was an invited professor at the Universities of Aberdeen (UK), Aberystwyth (UK), Newcastle (Australia) and Marseille (France). He is the co-founding editor of the on-line journal “Diffusion Fundamentals” and editor of the book “Diffusion in Condensed Matter – Methods, Materials, Models” (together with Jörg Kärger) and on the editorial boards of “Defect and Diffusion Forum” and “Zeitschrift für Physikalische Chemie” and published about 200 papers in international journals.

His current research includes the development and application of an arsenal of solid-state NMR techniques, as well as impedance/conductivity spectroscopy to study mainly ion dynamics and transport in a variety of both solid-state model systems (emphasizing fundamentals) and functional materials (e.g., for Li ion batteries). He recently initiated the cooperative Research Unit “Mobility of Lithium Ions in Solids (molife)” being funded by the DFG – German Research Foundation.