

Alberto Pimpinelli



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Brief Bio:

Alberto Pimpinelli is the Executive Director of the Smalley-Curl Institute and associate research professor in Materials Science & Nanoengineering at Rice University, Houston since September 2012; full Professor at the Physics Department of the Université Blaise Pascal in Clermont-Ferrand (France); Visiting Professor at the University of Maryland College Park.

From 2008 to 2012 he was one of the Attachés for Science and Technology of the French Embassy in the US.

Trained as a theoretical physicist, Alberto Pimpinelli obtained his PhD from the University of Parma (Italy) with a thesis on statistical physics models of magnetism in insulating systems. His interests shifted towards crystal growth when, thanks to fellowships of the Accademia dei Lincei and of the European Union, he left Italy for the Centre d'Etudes Nucléaires and then the Laue Langevin Institute in Grenoble (1991-97). In 1997, Alberto Pimpinelli was appointed Professor at the Université Blaise Pascal in Clermont-Ferrand. In 2004 he was invited to the MRSEC at the University of Maryland, where he was appointed Visiting Professor. He has acted as a reviewer for many institutions and scientific agencies (MNEST, ANR, NSF, EU, EC, Romanian Government). He has published more than 100 peer-reviewed scientific articles, a book on the Physics of crystal growth, and he is currently working at a book on the Dante's astronomical knowledge.