

Vladimir A. Rakov received the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from the Tomsk Polytechnical University (Tomsk Polytechnic), Russia, in 1977 and 1983, respectively. He is currently a Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Florida, Gainesville, and Founding Co-Director of the International Center for Lightning Research and Testing (ICLRT). Before moving to Florida, he was the Director of the Lightning Research Laboratory at Tomsk Polytechnic. Dr. Rakov is the author or coauthor of 5 books and more than 800 other publications on various aspects of lightning, with over 320 papers being published in peer-reviewed journals. He is a Fellow of four major professional societies, the IEEE, the American Meteorological Society, the American Geophysical Union, and the Institution of Engineering and Technology (formerly IEE). He is also a recipient of ICLP Karl Berger Award for distinguished achievements in lightning research, developing new fields in theory and practice, modeling and measurements (2012), ISWL Toshio Takeuti Award for outstanding contribution to worldwide recognition of winter lightning (2017), and IEEE EMC Richard R. Stoddard Award for outstanding contributions to the field of lightning research (2019). In 2015, he was awarded Honorary Doctoral degree by the Institute of Applied Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IAP RAS).