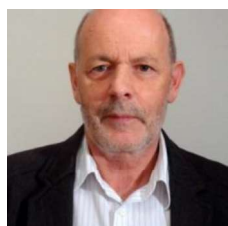


## EXTERNAL ADVISORY BOARD

The External Advisory Board (EAB) consists of high-level researchers in the field, who will contribute to the scientific progress of the project.

We are happy to welcome their presence in our consortium and look forward to fruitful collaborations:



**Prof. em. Dr. Silvio Decurtins** is Professor in Chemistry at the University of Bern, Switzerland. The fundamental objective of his work is to design, synthesize and characterize new materials for which different physical properties such as magnetism, electrical conductivity, photophysical properties, etc. are combined in a synergistic way.

***“I judge that the SPRING consortium is strongly positioned and placed with experts in order to achieve set goals.”***

**Prof. Antti-Pekka Jauho** Prof. Antti-Pekka Jauho works at the Physics Department of DTU and leads a Center of Excellence for nanostructured graphene (CNG). The key idea is to investigate both theoretically and experimentally the new functionalities that nanostructuring may introduce to graphene or other two-dimensional materials.



**Dr. Clemens Winkelmann** is Associate Professor at the Néels Institute in Grenoble since 2008. His research focuses on the experimental study at very low temperatures of quantum effects in nanoelectronic systems, such as superconducting devices and graphene.

## COVID 19 CHALLENGES

The year 2020 turns out to be outstanding when it comes to facing challenges. As the COVID 19 pandemic hit early this year, research institutions around the world started to slow down. Despite different guidance instructions in European countries during this time, most workplaces recommended to work from home as much as possible. Avoiding close contact to colleagues and project partners was and still is recommended. As a result, scientific research and equipment heavy lab work has been and still is affected since the beginning of March 2020.

Reports from the SPRING consortium partners about the COVID 19 impact differ from each other due to diverge research disciplines and work routines. Some institutions experienced lab close downs until May 2020 and had to adapt their experimental activities to the new restrictions. Reducing the size of work groups in the lab to ensure social distancing measures still is a hurdle. Those groups producing theory and computation were less affected and adapted quickly to the new workflows from home.

However, the consortium partners managed to produce exciting research results which led to outstanding journal publications in the first year. The necessary reduction of faculty members, students and staff members in the research institutes effected the work situation, too. But operating under new restrictions also offered new possibilities:

***Let's go online! Conferences, talks, seminars, meetings, workshops, presentations, interviews and even hiring of new research staff were done virtual.***

