

Born in 1956 and educated as mineralogist, Michael Kersten has been conducting research in applied geochemistry for now four decades. He started his career as a marine scientist in 1983 with Prof. Ulrich Förstner at the Hamburg University of Technology, Germany. For 10 years he participated in more than 50 marine RV cruises around Europe. For a postdoctoral fellowship he joined the group of Prof. Werner Stumm at EAWAG (Switzerland) in 1992-1994, after which he returned as group leader to the Baltic Sea Research Institute in Rostock, Germany. From 1997 until his retirement in 2022, he was Professor of Environmental Geochemistry at the Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany. The topics of his studies evolved over time from characterization of intertidal and marine sediments, with a special emphasis on pore water geochemistry and early diagenesis, to thermodynamics of cements as waste disposal matrices, and contaminant retardation by minerals in soils and aquifer sediments. Prof. Kersten used a wide-range spectrum of research techniques, from laboratory chemical analytics to advanced synchrotron X-ray techniques including time-lapse nanotomography and μ -XAS. The goal was to understand the spatiotemporal reactive solute transport and microbial activities at the pore scale. In addition to his research, he was active also in several national and international societies. He served as an officer of IAGC and as Editor-in-Chief of our IAGC/Elsevier journal *Applied Geochemistry* in between 2013-2022. With his full dedication and active engagement in this service role, our journal has reached exciting metrics such as a historically high WoS Impact Factor of 3.84 in 2022.