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Prof. Ferry received the B.S.E.E. and M.S.E.E. degrees from Texas Tech University, Lubbock, in 1962 and 1963, respectively, and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Texas (UT), Austin, in 1966. Following this, he had an National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship in Vienna, Austria. From 1967 to 1973, he was a Faculty Member with Texas Tech University, and then joined the Office of Naval Research, Washington, DC. From 1977 to 1983, he was with the Colorado State University at Fort Collins, where he served as Professor and Chair of the Department. He then joined Arizona State University (ASU), Tempe, where he has served as Director of the Center for Solid State Electronics Research from 1983 to 1989, as Chair of Electrical Engineering from 1989 to 1992, and as Associate Dean for Research from 1993 to 1995.

His research interests include transport physics and modeling of quantum effects in ultrasmall semiconductor devices and electron beam lithography for ultrasubmicron quantum functional devices. Currently, his work focuses upon scanning gate microscopy of quantum structures, spin Hall effect, transport in graphene, and the simulation of terahertz HEMTs. He has published more than 700 articles, books, book chapters, and conference publications. Dr. Ferry was selected as one of the first Regents' Professors at ASU in 1988, and received the IEEE Cledo Brunetti Award for advances in nanoelectronics in 1999. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Institute of Physics (UK). He also serves as Editor of the Journal of Computational Electronics and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Physics: Condensed Matter.