**Biosketch**

Roman Fasel obtained his PhD in Physics in 1996 from the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) and joined Empa, the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology, after post-doctoral research fellowships at La Trobe University (Melbourne) and the Fritz-Haber-Institute (Berlin). He is the head of the nanotech@surfaces Laboratory of Empa, and adjunct professor at the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry of the University of Bern. His group’s research covers a wide range of topics at the interface of materials science, surface physics and chemistry. Roman Fasel and his team are among the pioneers of the novel and rapidly evolving field of on-surface synthesis. They have pioneered the bottom-up approach to the synthesis of graphene nanoribbons which yields atomically precise nanoribbon structures with widely tunable (opto)electronic properties.

