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Dr. J. N. Moorthy obtained Ph.D degree from the Organic Chemistry Department of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in 1994. He pursued postdoctoral research in the University of Houston, USA, the University of Wuerzburg, Germany and the University of Victoria, Canada prior to joining the Chemistry Department, IIT Kharagpur in 1998. After a 5-month stint, he moved to IIT Kanpur. He has been a full professor at IITK since 2008. He moved to IISER Thiruvananthapuram as the Director in April 2019.

He is a recipient of AvH postdoctoral research fellowship in Germany (1995-96), a young chemist award, and bronze and silver medals from the Chemical Research Society of India (CRSI), India. He received the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize in Chemical Sciences, India (2008), and the Sastra-CNR Rao Award in Chemical Sciences (2020). He is a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences Bangalore (2010), a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (2014) and a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (2018). He has also been a J. C. Bose National Fellow since 2015. He has been on the editorial boards of New J. Chemistry, J. Chem. Sci. and Int. J. Photoenergy. He is presently an associate editor of J. Chem. Sci.

His interests are in the areas of supramolecular chemistry, organic materials, mechanistic organic chemistry and organic photochemistry.