**Markus Pollnau** received the M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in physics from the Univ. of Hamburg, Germany in 1992 and the Univ. of Bern, Switzerland in 1996, respectively. After postdoc positions with the Univ. of Southampton and the Univ. of Bern, he became a research fellow of the Swiss National Science Foundation and a research group leader at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne. In 2004 he became a Full Professor at the Univ. of Twente, The Netherlands. In 2014 he moved on to KTH−The Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. Dr. Pollnau has contributed to more than 500 reviewed journal and international conference papers and eleven book chapters in the fields of crystal and thin-film growth, rare-earth-ion spectroscopy, laser theory, solid-state, fiber, and waveguide lasers, integrated optics, and bio-medical applications. Dr. Pollnau served as Program and General Co-chair of the Conference on Lasers and Electro-Optics (2006/2008) and the Conference on Lasers and Electro-Optics Europe (2009/2011), founding General Chair of the Europhoton Conference (2004), as well as Topical Editor for the *Journal of the Optical Society of America B* (2007-2010) and on the editorial board of *Laser Physics Letters* (2008-2011). He is a fellow of the Optical Society of America and the European Physical Society.