

**Lee H. Spangler (PhD 1985)** earned his PhD in Physical Chemistry under the mentorship of Professor David W. Pratt. He pioneered gas phase techniques to study excited state radiationless transitions in intermediate case molecules and the spectroscopy of non-rigid molecules. Additionally, he was the first to perform direct excitation and subsequent phosphorescence detection of triplet states in isolated gas phase molecules which won him the ACS Procter and Gamble Award for Physical Chemistry. After 18 months as a Director's funded postdoctoral fellow at Los Alamos National Lab, he became a faculty in the Chemistry Department at Montana State University (MSU). In 1993 he co-founded the Optical Technology Center (OPTEC) at MSU and became its second director. Lee went on to establish three additional centers/research collaboratives and in 2007 was asked to direct the Energy Research Institute at MSU. In his 28 years at MSU, Spangler has been Project Director, PI or co-PI on over \$125,000,000 in grant and contract funding.