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JJ Vittal received his BSc from the University of Madras in 1975, MSc from Madurai University in 1977 and PhD from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in 1982. While working as a postdoctoral fellow and a research associate at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, he was trained in X-ray crystallography by Prof. Nicholas C Payne. Later he managed the X-ray facility in the Department of Chemistry until he left for Singapore. JJ accepted a faculty position as a Senior Lecturer at the National University of Singapore (NUS) in 1997 and established Service Crystallography Laboratory in the Department of Chemistry for their central instrumentation facility. He is currently a Professor in the Department of Chemistry. He held a World Class University Chair Professorship at the Gyeongsang National University, Jinju, South Korea (2009-2013).

JJ's current major research interests include design & synthesis of coordination polymers & metal-organic frameworks, solid-state supramolecular structural transformations, solid state reactivity and photochemistry. He co-authored 'Crystal Engineering – A Textbook' with G.R. Desiraju (IISc) and A. Ramanan (IIT-Delhi). He also co-edited two books on crystal engineering with E.R.T. Tiekink. He is a Fellow of *Royal Society of Chemistry* and *Singapore National Institute of Chemistry*. He holds editorial board membership in several journals including *ACS Crystal Growth & Design* and *Nature Scientific Reports*. He won several awards including *Outstanding Chemist Award* (2014), *CRISP Award* (2013), *Outstanding Research Award* (2011) and *Best Scientist Award* (2007). JJ has been highlighted in *Angewandte Author Profile* (2014). He is the founder and an Organizing Committee member of *Singapore National Crystal Growing Challenge* (1997-2016). He is an international committee member of Worldwide *IUCr Crystal Growing Competition for School Children* since 2014. He extensively published over 500 original research papers, authoritative reviews and book chapters and over 250 invited, keynote and plenary talks at national and international conferences. According to recent *Web of Science*, his publications has been cited ~17,500 times with an h-index of 65 and according to *Google Scholar*, he has ~20,300 citations with an h-index of 72. (website: http://www.chemistry.nus.edu.sg/people/academic_staff/jjvittal.htm)