

Mark Asta

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Professor Asta received his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1993. He subsequently joined Sandia National Laboratories, where he was a postdoctoral researcher and then senior member of technical staff. In 2000 he joined the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Northwestern University as an Associate Professor, receiving tenure in 2003. In 2005 he moved to the University of California, Davis, as a full Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, where he became Vice Chair in 2008. In 2010 he joined the Department of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) at the University of California, Berkeley (UCB), with a Faculty Scientist appointment at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). He served as Department Chair of MSE at UCB from July, 2012 – December, 2017, and Materials Sciences Division Director at LBNL from January, 2018 – December, 2022. He currently serves as the Executive Associate Dean in the College of Engineering at UCB.

Professor Asta's research is in the field of computational materials science, and focuses on the development and application of atomistic and first-principles methods for simulating thermodynamic and kinetic properties of bulk materials, surfaces and interfaces, and for computationally-guided discovery and design of materials for structural and energy-related applications. Professor Asta has co-authored over 300 manuscripts, delivered over 200 invited lectures, and has co-organized over 20 international workshops and symposia.

Professor Asta served as a member of the National Science Foundation's Partnership for Advanced Computational Infrastructure, and as a member of the scientific advisory boards for the Max-Planck-Institut für Eisenforschung, for the University of Wisconsin MRSEC, and for the University of Illinois Materials Research Laboratory. He was a member of the Executive Committee for the University Materials Council (the organization of Materials Science and Engineering Department Chairs in North America) from 2013-2017, and served as its Chair in 2016. He currently serves as a member of the Lawrence Livermore National Security LLC Science and Technology Committee, and the External Advisory Board for the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Kentucky and at the University of Wisconsin, and the Digital Materials traineeship program at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. Professor Asta was awarded ASM International's Materials Research Silver Medal Award in 2002, the TMS Functional Materials Division Distinguished Scientist/Engineer Award in 2013, the TMS Hume-Rothery Award in 2019, and the ASM Gibbs Award in 2020. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and TMS. In 2015 he was named as the endowed Arthur C. and Phyllis G. Oppenheimer Professor in Advanced Materials Analysis at UC Berkeley.