

Biographical Sketch

Milan Mrksich was born and raised in Chicago. He attended the University of Illinois, earning a BS degree in Chemistry in 1989. He received his PhD in Chemistry from Caltech in 1994 and was an American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard University before joining the faculty at the University of Chicago as an Assistant Professor in 1996. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2000 and Professor in 2003. In 2011, he moved to Northwestern University, where he is the Henry Wade Rogers Professor, with appointments in the Departments of Biomedical Engineering, Chemistry, and Cell and Molecular Biology. Among his many honors are the Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award, the TR100 Young Innovator Award, ACS Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award, and election to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Professor Mrksich is a leader in the science and engineering of materials that contact biological environments. His laboratory has pioneered several technologies, including strategies to integrate living cells with microelectronic devices, methods to enable high throughput assays for drug discovery, and model systems for understanding the interactions of cells with their tissue environments. Professor Mrksich is an active advisor in government and industry. His present and past appointments include the Chair of the Defense Sciences Research Council—an advisory group for the Defense Department—a member of the Board of Governors for Argonne National Laboratory, Chair of the Searle Scholars Advisory Board. He has also been active as an entrepreneur. He is a Founder of 480 Biomedical, a company that has developed stents for the treatment of vessels in the leg and that are now in clinical trials. He is also Founder of SAMDI Tech, a company that has commercialized his high throughput assays for discovering drug leads. He has also served on a dozen Scientific Advisory Boards of other life sciences startup companies.