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Kai Johnsson obtained his Diploma and PhD from the ETH Zürich in Switzerland. He joined the faculty of EPFL in 1999, and in 2017 became Director at the MPIMR. Kai Johnsson was Associate Editor of *ACS Chemical Biology* from 2005-20 and since 2021 Executive Editor of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*. He was member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *Science* from 2012-20 and of the Research Council of the Swiss National Science Foundation from 2011-17. He received the Prix APLE for the invention of the year 2003 of EPFL, the Novartis Lectureship Award 2012/13, the Karl-Heinz Beckurts Prize 2016, the Family Hansen Award 2021 of the Bayer Foundation, and is elected member of EMBO.