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Frances A. Houle is Director of Strategic Initiatives in the Chemical Sciences Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Her scientific interests are in the areas of mechanisms of surface and thin film chemical transformations, particularly at the nanoscale. She received the BA from the University of California at Irvine and the PhD from the California Institute of Technology, both in chemistry. Prior to her current appointment she was a postdoctoral fellow at LBNL and the UC Berkeley Chemistry Department, Research Staff Member in the IBM Research Division in San Jose, California, and Manager of Materials Development at InVisage Technologies, a startup company making nanoparticle-based image sensors. She has received numerous awards including the 2009 American Vacuum Society John A Thornton Memorial Award and Lecture, the 1999 American Institute of Chemical Engineers Northern California Section Research Project of the Year, and the 1998 IBM Environmental Affairs Excellence Award. She is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and Fellow of the AVS, and member of the American Chemical Society and Materials Research Society. She has been active in professional service, including the Council and Executive Board of the APS, Editorial Committee of the Annual Reviews of Physical Chemistry, Board of Trustees of the AVS, and Selection and Scheduling Committee of the Gordon Research Conferences. She has over 125 publications and 26 US patents and patent applications.