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Professor

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Alan Chaffee completed a PhD at Melbourne University prior to a career which has spanned the 3 major research sectors in Australia: CSIRO, private industry (BHP CorporateLabs) and Monash University. Movement between these sectors has led to cross-disciplinary research interests and the theme that ties most research across his career together is 'Fundamental and Applied Chemistry of Fuels Utilisation'.

At Monash University he has held leadership roles in the CRC for Clean Power from Lignite, the CRC for Greenhouse Gas Technologies (CO₂CRC) and the ARC Centre for Green Chemistry. As Associate Head (Education), 2007-2010, he was responsible for the undergraduate teaching program of the School of Chemistry. The award of a BCIA Research Leadership Fellowship (2010) enabled him to intensify his focus on research activities over recent years. He was Co-Chair of the American Chemical Society Division of Energy and Fuels (2013) and Chaired the International Conference on Coal Science and Technology held in Melbourne in 2015.

His research concerns fundamental aspects of lignite characterization (organic, inorganic and physical chemistry properties), applied aspects of fossil fuel and biomass utilization (dewatering, wastewater remediation, liquefaction, spontaneous combustion) as well as the development of high value products from brown coal, novel materials for CO₂ capture and high activity catalysts for CO₂ conversion into valuable products. He has published more than 250 papers and holds a number of patents across these areas.