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Before joining DOE, Dr. Carim was on the faculty at The Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering and as Chair of the Electronic and Photonic Materials Program. He previously was a faculty member at the University of New Mexico, and had prior research posts and activities at the Philips Natuurkundig Laboratorium in The Netherlands, Philips Research Laboratories Sunnyvale, Bell Laboratories, and the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center. He also was a visiting investigator at the Carnegie Institution of Washington during a year-long sabbatical.

Dr. Carim's primary scientific expertise is in microstructural and microchemical characterization of materials, with research contributions in a variety of areas including semiconductor interfaces, superconducting and ferroelectric oxide thin films and ceramics, crystal structure determination, crystalline defects, joining of ceramics and composites, development of anisotropic microstructures, electron holography, and morphology of nanoparticles and nanowires. He has authored or coauthored over 85 research publications in these areas and has given over 100 conference, seminar, and other presentations. He has been active in numerous professional societies, organized a number of technical meetings and symposia, and held editorial roles with several journals. His awards and honors include recognition as an Office of Naval Research Young Investigator, receipt of an AIST Foreign Researcher Invitation to lecture in Japan, and participation in the project teams recognized with several of the Secretary of Energy's Project Management Excellence Awards.