Patrick Ruther studied physics at the University of Konstanz, Germany and received the Ph.D. degree inmechanical engineering from the University of Karlsruhe,Germany, in 1996. Between 1996 and 1998,he was with the Institute of Microstructure TechnologyIMT, Karlsruhe, as a Postdoctoral Fellow responsiblefor industrial projects on microoptical components realized using the LIGA technology. Since October 1998,he has been a Group Leaderat the Microsystem Materials Laboratory (MML),Department of Microsystems Engineering (IMTEK),Freiburg, Germany, anda Lecturer at the Technical Faculty, University of Freiburg, Germany. Hismain research focus is on the design, fabrication, and characterization of CMOS-compatiblemicroelectromechanical systems for bio-medical applications, in particular neural implants with electrical, optical and microfluidic functionality. He served as the technology coordinator of the European research project *NeuroProbes* (2006-2010) developing multifunctional microelectrode arrays for cerebral applications.Since February 2013 he is General Coordinator of the EU Project *NeuroSeeker* developing high-density neural probe arrays and optrodes for intracortical and optogenetic applications, respectively. Hi is cofounder of the spin-off company ATLAS Neuroengineering, Leuven, Belgium, developing high-density silicon-based probe arrays for experimental neuroscience.