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San H. Thang was born in Saigon, Vietnam in 1954 and came to Australia in 1979 as a refugee. He completed his B.Sc. (Honours) degree in 1983 and Ph.D. in 1987 from Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia. He joined CSIRO, Division of Applied Organic Chemistry in April 1986 as a research fellow. He then moved to ICI Australia in December 1987 to undertake the challenge of industrial research. He returned to CSIRO in late 1990, and in 1995, he was co-inventor of RAFT Process - a new living radical polymerization by Reversible Addition-Fragmentation Chain Transfer. He is currently a Senior Principal Research Scientist at CSIRO Molecular and Health Technologies where his research focuses on the interface between organic and polymer chemistry.