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Professor Robert Field graduated with a PhD (chemical engineering) from University of Cambridge where he had also read Natural Sciences. After being introduced to membrane processes at Bath University, he soon secured a prestigious Royal Academy of Engineering award to work on the evaluation of potential membrane processes for environmental improvements. His most highly cited research relates to the concept of a critical flux for fouling which has had widespread influence beyond academe. Although originally introduced for pressure driven porous membrane processes he has led in the development of its wider applicability. His work on pervaporation has encompassed the manufacture of caesium polyacrylate hydrophilic membranes, bespoke hydrophobic membranes and fundamental analysis of the constraints imposed upon systems by boundary layer transport phenomena. He is currently a Professor at the University of Oxford where his current work includes an interdisciplinary study “Exploring Water Re-use – the nexus of engineering technology and public policy” which is funded by an esteemed APEX award from the Royal Society/British Academy.