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Lis graduated AGH-UST in 1978, received his PhD in 1986, and D. Sci. in 1994. He became a full professor in 2000. His main research specialization are: Ceramics, materials science; materials technology and engineering in advanced and traditional ceramics and building materials. He is active in transfer technology management and organization of higher education. In research Lis is known mainly by his works on materials prepared by combustion synthesis (SHS) and as the author of publications in the field of engineering and traditional ceramics (tiles, refractories, sanitary and electroceramics).

Lis is the Honorary Fellow of the European Ceramic Society, member of: International Society of Self-Propagating High-Temperature Synthesis; The American Ceramic Society, the Polish Ceramic Society and the Polish Materials Society (former president of PMS). Prof. Lis is vice-president of the Technical Committee of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, vice-chair of Ceramic Committee and Materials Science Committee of the Polish Academy of Science, and a member of editorial advisory boards of seven international journals. He was awarded the title of Golden Engineer by the Polish Technical Organization (2017) and received the Best Polish Inventor Award (2016).