Michael Sommer studied Chemistry at the University of Bayreuth and left in 2009 with a PhD in Macromolecular Chemistry. He joined the Melville Laboratory for Polymer Synthesis from 2010 to 2012 to work on chain-growth polymerization and the synthesis of conjugated polymers for optoelectronic applications. In 2012, he returned to Germany and headed a research group at the Department of Macromolecular Chemistry at the Albert-Ludwig University of Freiburg, where he also was leading the Scale-up Lab at the FMF. Following habilitation in Freiburg in 2016 and synthetic work on molecular defects in conjugated materials, he was appointed full professor at Chemnitz University of Technology in 2017. His current research interests are centered around the conceptual design of various kinds of functional polymers for energy conversion and storage and polymers as self-reporting stress sensors.

