Steve Harris received a BA in Chemistry from UCLA and a PhD from Harvard in Physical Chemistry. After a Miller Fellowship at Berkeley, he began his career at General Motor Research Labs. Apart from a stint at the Ford Scientific Research Labs, Steve worked at GM until he was awarded a Miller Visiting Professorship in the Chemistry Department at UC Berkeley. Since then he has worked in the Materials Science Division at Lawrence Berkeley Lab.

Steve's work has ranged widely, including combustion chemistry, kinetics and thermodynamics for growth of CVD films, aerosol dynamics modeling, fatigue failure in gears, and fracture mechanics in cast aluminum. When he returned to GM he started work on Li-ion batteries, focusing on demonstrating the existence of heterogeneities in batteries and their effects on ion transport, durability, and energy density.