Andrzej Kotarba earned his PhD in 1993 and DSc in 2005, specializing in promotional effects in heterogeneous catalysis. Following postdoctoral research at Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden, and a post-rouge fellowship at Pierre and Marie Curie University, Paris VI, France, he established the Materials and Surface Chemistry Group at Jagiellonian University.

His research focuses on processes at solid/gas and solid/liquid interfaces to design surfaces with specific properties and functionalities. This includes preparing and characterizing model and industrial catalysts, involving interdisciplinary studies in chemistry, materials science, and biochemistry. Professor Kotarba has co-authored over 200 scientific papers and 30 patents and serves as an editor for Applied Surface Science. In 2023, he received the EFCATS Francois Gault Lectureship Award, jointly with Francois Jerome, for his significant contributions to heterogeneous catalysis.