

Connecting Together Nanocenters around the World

Last month at ChinaNano in Beijing, we once again celebrated our ACS Nano award lectures, this year given by Profs. Hui-Ming Cheng of Shenyang National Laboratory for Materials Science, David Norris of ETH Zürich, and Teri Odom of Northwestern University.¹ We also celebrated the 10th anniversary of our first issue in Washington, DC and Suzhou and Beijing, China. For the third time, at ChinaNano, we gathered together nanocenter directors from around the world to share our experiences and to discuss where we might work together to move our field forward.^{2,3}

Whereas our previous two directors' meetings questioned whether "nano" would continue as a field and whether funding initiatives around the world would be extended, this year, we explored more deeply how the field was progressing and how the nanocenters had special roles to play in these developments. These roles include enabling and accelerating significant advances in fundamental science, opening up unexplored worlds to study through the identification of problems and opportunities, developing new enabling tools, identifying and implementing applications, and initiating and nurturing technology spin-outs. They also include engaging the public, legislators, thought leaders, and others to share what it is we do and why, including targeting problems faced by the world in health, security, energy, water, air, food, and advancing technologies in many. We discussed developing nanomaterials that were safe by design, tested in ways that engaged the public, and were potentially reusable and/or recyclable.

We shared our experiences and advances in education in nanoscience and nanotechnology.⁴ We also discussed the increasingly prevalent theme of how the nanoscience and nanotechnology communities have learned to communicate

across fields, leaving us in an optimal position to promote and even to lead advances beyond our own areas. We discussed the importance of not overselling the prospects of our work to the public and to funders—as the nanocenters are the focal points for much publicity, we have the opportunity to be leaders in this regard.

At a time of great uncertainty, the international bridges that we build will be increasingly important in addressing global problems and in making the world a smaller place.

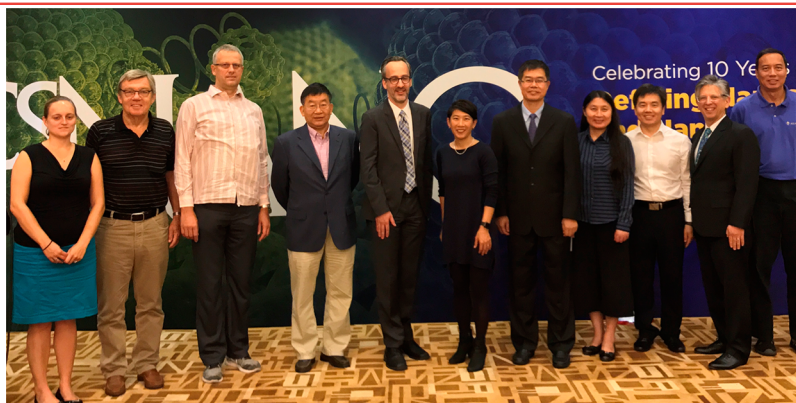
Overall, the prospects are brighter than ever for the impact that we can have on the world around us. At a time of great uncertainty, the international bridges that we build will be increasingly important in addressing global problems and in making the world a smaller place.

Announcements. Please join us in celebrating Nano Day this coming October 9 (10⁻⁹) and every year.⁵ Please reach out to your neighbors and friends to share what it is you do in nanoscience and nanotechnology and how you and our fields impact the world to make it a better, safer place.



Minghua Liu¹⁶

National Centre for Nano Science and Technology




ACS Nano Award Lecturers and editors at the ACS Nano award symposium and 10th anniversary celebrations at ChinaNano in Beijing, China, August 31, 2017. Left to right: managing editor Dr. Laura Fernandez, associate editors Profs. Helmuth Möhwald, Andrey Rogach, and Shuit-Tong Lee, award lecturers Profs. David Norris, Teri Odom, and Hui-Ming Cheng, associate editor Prof. Yan Li, symposium speaker Prof. Qihua Xiong, editor-in-chief Prof. Paul Weiss, and associate editor Prof. Andrew Wee. Also at ChinaNano, but not shown here: associate editors Profs. Sharon Glotzer, Yury Gogotsi, Ali Khademhosseini, Paul Mulvaney, and Wolfgang Parak and symposium speaker USTC Pres. Xinhe Bao. Photo credit: Dr. Miranda Paley.

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Notes

Views expressed in this editorial are those of the authors and not necessarily the views of the ACS.

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