



May 12, 2005

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**IBN Executive Director Elected to the German Academy of Natural Scientists Leopoldina**

*Prof. Jackie Ying becomes the youngest member of the world's oldest natural sciences academy*

Singapore, May 12, 2005 – The German Academy of Natural Scientists Leopoldina (Leopoldina) recently announced the election of 21 new members to its Informatics, Physics, Earth Sciences, Neurosciences and Engineering Sciences sections in the first quarter of 2005.

Professor Jackie Y. Ying, Executive Director of the Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, is among the 21 scientists who have been conferred with this honor. At 38, Professor Ying is presently the youngest Leopoldina member. The average age at which Leopoldina members are elected to the academy is 52 years.

A leading scientist in the field of nanotechnology, Professor Ying has been on the Chemical Engineering faculty of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology since 1992, and was the youngest to be made full Professor in the Department in 2001. She was an AT&T Bell Laboratories Scholar at Princeton University, where she received her Ph.D. in 1991.

Professor Ying's research is interdisciplinary in nature, with a theme in the synthesis of advanced nanostructured materials. These new materials are designed for applications ranging from the targeted delivery of drugs, proteins and genes, the generation of biomimetic implants and tissue scaffolds, the production of fine chemicals and pharmaceuticals, the efficient use of energy and resources, to the control and prevention of environmental pollution.

Professor Ying, who was born in Taipei and raised in Singapore, is a recipient of numerous awards, including the American Ceramic Society Ross C. Purdy Award, David and Lucile Packard Fellowship, Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Award, National Science Foundation Young Investigator Award, Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award, Royal Academy of Engineering ICI Faculty Fellowship, American Chemical Society Faculty Fellowship Award in Solid-State Chemistry, TR100 Innovator Award, and American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Allan P. Colburn Award.

Professor Ying has served on the editorial boards of 12 scientific journals, and the scientific advisory board of four international institutes and six companies.

She was also recently selected by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader.

“Germany is well-known for its outstanding research in nanotechnology and chemistry, and I have had the privilege of working with some of its best talents in my interdisciplinary research,” shares Professor Ying. “I am delighted and honored to be selected as a member of the German Academy of Natural Scientists.”

Founded in 1652 in Schweinfurt, Germany, by physician Johann Lorenz Bausch, the Leopoldina is the world’s oldest natural sciences academy with an uninterrupted history. This academic society is dedicated to promoting natural science and medical research. The academy organizes annual meetings, topical conferences and symposia, monthly lectures and various networking opportunities for members to interact and engage in interdisciplinary exchanges that would contribute to the academy’s mission of exploring nature to the benefit of the human being.

The Leopoldina elects its members from scientists who have distinguished themselves internationally in various scientific disciplines. Three-quarters of the members come from Germany, Switzerland and Austria, while the remaining members come from 30 different countries. 32 Leopoldina members are among the Nobel Prize winners still alive today. They include eminent scientists like Paul C. Lauterbur, Sydney Brenner and Kurt Wüthrich.

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**The Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (IBN)** is a member of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR), Singapore. Established in 2002, the Institute’s mission is to establish a broad knowledge base and conduct innovative research at the interface of bioengineering and nanotechnology. Positioned at the frontiers of engineering, IBN is focused on creating knowledge and cultivating talent to develop technology platforms that will spur the growth of new industries. IBN also fosters an exciting, multidisciplinary research environment for the training of students and young researchers to spearhead biomedical advancement in Singapore. For more information, please visit: [www.ibn.a-star.edu.sg](http://www.ibn.a-star.edu.sg)

**The German Academy of Natural Scientists Leopoldina** was founded in 1652 in Schweinfurt, Germany, and has had its headquarters in Halle an der Saale since 1878. Its mission is to promote natural science and medicine research, as well as their science history, economic and social science. In its endeavor to combine tradition with current developments in science, the Leopoldina promotes interdisciplinary discourse and the dissemination of scientific insights in accordance with its founders’ motto of “exploring nature to the benefit of the human being”. The Academy currently comprises 28 sections. Elected members are scientists who represent subject areas corresponding to the Leopoldina’s section structure and who have distinguished themselves by demonstrating academic excellence. They are elected by the Presidium in a free and secret ballot based on nominations from existing members.

**Note to the Editor:**

The Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (IBN) is holding its Official Opening tomorrow (Friday, May 13, 2005), from 3pm to 4:45pm at the Biopolis. The Guest-of-Honor is Deputy Prime Minister Dr Tony Tan. Media interviews with IBN Executive Director Prof Jackie Y. Ying and IBN scientists can be arranged during the event. Details of the opening were sent to the media in an advisory dated April 29, 2005.

For media interviews with Prof Jackie Y. Ying, please contact:

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For more information about the German Academy of Natural Scientists Leopoldina, please visit [www.leopoldina-halle.de](http://www.leopoldina-halle.de)

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