

December 6, 2007



**NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**To: The Editor**

**IBN Kicks Off 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations With Nobel Laureates**

*Leading molecular scientists will present their latest research and discuss Nobel Prize winning strategies at Biopolis meeting*

SINGAPORE, December 6, 2007– To kick off its fifth anniversary year of redefining science, engineering and medicine, Singapore's Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (IBN) will host a select group of Nobel laureates and other award-winning scientists at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Molecular Frontiers Symposium in Biopolis on January 10-11, 2008. This Symposium is organized in collaboration with the Molecular Frontiers Foundation, which was founded by The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

"The Molecular Frontiers Foundation was set up to promote awareness for science in general, and chemistry and the molecular sciences in particular, to the international community, and particularly the young, and this Symposium is the first international symposium we are organizing outside of Sweden in line with this aim. By inviting key Academy laureates and other leading experts to Singapore to address more than 500 researchers and students, we look forward to conveying our message to a wider audience," observed Professor Bengt Nordén, who is the Founder of the Molecular Frontiers Foundation and is the Chair of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences Nobel Prize Selection Committee for Chemistry.

Nobel Laureates Professors K. Barry Sharpless, Richard Schrock and Ryoji Noyori, as well as Gregori Aminoff Laureate Professor Sumio Iijima, will be joined at the Symposium by other world-renowned experts who will present the latest scientific advances in the following areas:

- Molecular Recognition and Function
- Molecular Catalysis
- Synthetic Polymers
- Pharmaceuticals Synthesis
- Mini-DNA Synthesis
- Self-Assembling Peptide Systems
- Quantum Dots and Nanoparticles
- Carbon Nanotubes
- Nanocomposite Biomaterials

In conjunction with this symposium, IBN will also host the 1<sup>st</sup> Molecular Frontiers Forum targeted at Secondary School, Junior College, Polytechnic and University students and teachers in the afternoon of January 11, 2008.

More than 300 students and teachers will attend this Forum, where the vast contribution of chemistry and molecular sciences to society, and the role of education and research in nurturing young scientists will be discussed by the distinguished speakers. The Nobel laureates will also share their personal and professional experiences, and their path to winning the Nobel Prize. In addition, the Forum will feature a keynote lecture on Molecular Sciences and the Developing World by Professor Erik Thulstrup from Roskilde University, Denmark.

Minister for Finance and Minister for Education, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, will be the Guest-of-Honor for the Forum, while A\*STAR Chairman Mr Lim Chuan Poh will participate as a guest panelist.

Since 2003, IBN has been actively reaching out to young Singaporeans and their educators through its Youth Research Program (YRP). The YRP has since involved more than 20,700 students and teachers from 178 schools through various activities such as open houses, courses, workshops and research attachments.

“By introducing our youth to cutting-edge research and the vast possibilities of scientific discovery, we hope to inspire them and nurture the next generation of young scientists. At the Molecular Frontiers Forum and Symposium, they will be able to listen to and interact with the pioneers behind some of this century’s key scientific discoveries,” shared Professor Jackie Y. Ying, Executive Director of IBN and Chair of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Molecular Frontiers Symposium.

“The Nobel laureates and other leading scientists will also help to bring tremendous visibility to Singapore’s rapidly growing research enterprise, and we are delighted to host this milestone event during our fifth year anniversary,” added Professor Ying.

“One of IBN’s key missions is to create a conducive environment for training and cultivating young talents for Singapore’s biomedical industry. The YRP aims to help fulfil this objective by making cutting-edge science accessible to the young,” elaborated Noreena AbuBakar, IBN Director and Chair of the Youth Research Program. “The Molecular Frontiers Forum provides an excellent platform for our aspiring scientists to learn from some of the world’s most renowned and talented researchers, and help to stimulate their interest for scientific discovery.”

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Molecular Frontiers Symposium and the 1<sup>st</sup> Molecular Frontiers Forum are part of a series of events organized by IBN to commemorate its 5<sup>th</sup> year. The Symposium and Forum would offer journalists the opportunity to interact with some of the world’s leading scientific minds, who will share their latest research and their scientific vision for the future.

## Media Kit and Media Registration

Media Registration and the Media Kit with more information about both events and the speakers are available at [www.molecularfrontiers2008.com](http://www.molecularfrontiers2008.com).

Please complete the Media Registration Form at [www.molecularfrontiers2008.com](http://www.molecularfrontiers2008.com) if you are interested to attend the Molecular Frontiers 2008 events. You may also email your particulars to Laura Lau at [sslau@ibn.a-star.edu.sg](mailto:sslau@ibn.a-star.edu.sg) by 5pm on **Friday, January 4, 2008**.

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## About the Molecular Frontiers Foundation

**The Molecular Frontiers Foundation** is a global think tank that seeks to promote the understanding and appreciation of molecular science in society. Its Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) consists of 7 Nobel Prize laureates as well as 19 distinguished scientists from various parts of the world. The Molecular Frontiers Foundation also focuses on engaging young people to pursue scientific enquiry and has recently incepted the Molecular Frontiers Inquiry Prize the best scientific question posed by youths. Entries can be made for the prize on MoleClues, [www.moleclues.org](http://www.moleclues.org), the Molecular Frontiers Foundation interactive website for young people. The Foundation was founded by Prof. Bengt Nordén, who is also the Chair of the Selection Committee of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. For information about the Molecular Frontiers Foundation, visit [www.molecularfrontiers.org](http://www.molecularfrontiers.org)

## About the Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (IBN)

**The Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (IBN)** is a member of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR). Established in March 2003, IBN is headed by its Executive Director, Professor Jackie Y. Ying. 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 in the following six areas:

- Delivery of Drugs, Proteins and Genes
- Cell and Tissue Engineering
- Artificial Organs and Implants
- Pharmaceuticals Synthesis and Nanobiotechnology
- Medical and Biological Devices
- Bioimaging and Biosensing

In 2003, IBN launched the **Youth Research Program (YRP)** to expose young people and their educators to state-of-the-art scientific research, in an effort to promote an active research culture among Singaporean youth. The YRP has since reached out to more than 20,700 students and teachers from 178 schools. Further information is available at <http://yrp.ibn.a-star.edu.sg>

For more information on IBN, please log on to [www.ibn.a-star.edu.sg](http://www.ibn.a-star.edu.sg)