

## **President Wong to Deliver the 2016 Albert Einstein Memorial Lecture at the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities**

Academia Sinica President Chi-Huey Wong has been invited to deliver the 2016 Albert Einstein Memorial Lecture at the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities on March 14. His lecture is entitled “Biological Glycosylation: From Understanding to Problem Solving”. President Wong will then participate in the 251st American Chemical Society National Meeting in the USA, where he will present another lecture on March 17.

The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities set up The Albert Einstein Memorial Lecture in 1979 to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Albert Einstein. It is the most prestigious lecture held by the Academy. Since 1998, distinguished scientists and scholars from all over the world from different disciplines have been invited to present their points of view to the public in Jerusalem around Einstein’s birthday on March 14. There have been a total of 31 lecturers up to 2016, including 10 Nobel Laureates. Academia Sinica President Emeritus Dr. Yuan Tseh Lee was invited to give a lecture in 2007.

After his visit to Israel, President Wong will participate in the 251st American Chemical Society National Meeting, which will be held in San Diego. At the meeting, he will deliver another speech entitled “Chemistry and Biology of Glycosylation” in a special symposium in honor of renowned Chemist Professor Barry Sharpless’s 75th Birthday. Professor Sharpless is the 2001 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry and has visited Taiwan several times.

President Wong is recognized for his pioneering work in the field of glycoscience. He has developed many enabling new tools and methods that aid the study and understanding of carbohydrates in biology and disease progression and to make possible the development of new carbohydrate-based medicines. His work has stimulated new interest in glycobiology and created a new field of science at the interface of chemistry, biology and medicine. Of particular significance among his contributions are his development of the first automated high-speed method and the first large-scale enzymatic methods for the synthesis of oligosaccharides and glycoproteins, his development of glycan microarray for the analysis of multivalent protein-sugar interaction, and his design of glycosylation probes for imaging the glycosylation process. These tools and methods have led to the development of new medicines such as carbohydrate-based vaccines, homogeneous glycoproteins and antibodies and small-molecule carbohydrate enzymes inhibitors, and early-stage diagnosis of cancers and infectious diseases.

President Wong has received numerous honors for his contributions in science including most recently the American Chemical Society AC Cope Medal, the Wolf Prize in Chemistry, and the UK Royal Society of Chemistry Robert Robinson Award for which he has been invited to give a series of lectures in the UK in May this year.