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Hu, Wenping; Zhang, Hua

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Special issue dedicated to Professor Daoben Zhu on the occasion of his 80th birthday



Professor Daoben Zhu

This special issue is dedicated to Professor Daoben Zhu on the occasion of his 80th birthday and in recognition of his prominent contributions to the interdisciplinary field of molecular materials and devices.

Professor Zhu was born in Shanghai in 1942. He finished his graduate courses at East China University of Science and Technology in 1968. He joined the Institute of Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences (ICCAS) as an assistant professor, and was promoted to associate professor in 1985 and professor in 1987. He worked as a visiting scholar from 1977 to 1979 and a visiting scientist from 1985 to 1986 at the Max-Planck Institute for Medical Research in Heidelberg, Germany. From 2000 to 2007, he was the Vice President of the National Natural Science Foundation of China, (NSFC). He was also the president of the Chinese Chemical Society, and Vice President of the Chinese Materials Society. Currently, he is a Professor and Director of the CAS Key Laboratory of Organic Solids, ICCAS, and a Fellow of the Asia-Pacific Academy of Materials and the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK), and an Honorary Member of the Korean Chemical Society. He was selected as an academican of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1997, and a member of the Third World Academy of Sciences in 2009.

Professor Zhu is one of the pioneers in China working on organic solids. Since the 1970s, he has devoted himself to the design and synthesis of new organic molecules, and the study of their chemical and physical properties and their various applications in novel devices. Until now, Professor

Zhu has discovered a series of new organic semiconductors, conductors, and superconductors. He has also revealed the structure–property relationships of many magnetic, ferromagnetic, electronic, and thermoelectric materials.

Professor Zhu has published over 1000 peer-reviewed papers with citations of over 80000 times (with an H index of over 130). Based on his great contributions to molecular materials and devices, Professor Zhu was rewarded five times of the Second-Class Prizes of National Natural Sciences Award in 1988, 2002, 2004, 2007 and 2014. In addition, Professor Zhu was selected twice by Thomson Reuters as one of the world's most influential scientific "minds," both in chemistry and materials science (in 2014 and 2015). In 2021, Professor Zhu was rewarded the CCS Academy Honorary Award.

This special issue, featuring one perspective, five reviews, and five research articles from pioneering and leading scientists in their research fields, covers a broad spectrum of cutting-edge research of smart materials, including electronic and optoelectronic materials, AIE materials, photochromic materials, self-healing materials, as well as their promising applications in flexible electronics, field effect transistors, organic light-emitting diodes, photodetectors, and so forth. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the distinguished authors who contributed to this special issue.

Wenping Hu^{1,*} Hua Zhang^{2,*}

¹Tianjin Key Laboratory of Molecular Optoelectronic Sciences, Department of Chemistry, School of Science, Tianjin University, Tianjin, China

²Department of Chemistry, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China

Correspondence

Wenping Hu, Tianjin Key Laboratory of Molecular Optoelectronic Sciences, Department of Chemistry, School of Science, Tianjin University, Tianjin 300072, China.

Email: huwp@tju.edu.cn, hua.zhang@cityu.edu.hk