

Press Release 2005

Prof. Bradley Nelson named “Research Leader” for contributions in nanorobotic manufacturing on the 2005 “Scientific American 50”.

Scientific American’s Prestigious Annual List recognizes science and technology contributions from many fields.

New York, November 7, 2005 – Prof. Bradley Nelson has been named by the Scientific American magazine as a “Research Leader” within the 2005 Scientific American 50 – the magazine’s prestigious annual list recognizing outstanding acts of leadership in science and technology from the past year.

Announced on November 7, the Scientific American 50 appears in the magazine’s December issue, arriving on newsstands November 22. The complete list may also be accessed on the magazine’s website at www.sciam.com.

Said Editor-In-Chief John Rennie: “The Scientific American 50 is our annual opportunity to salute the people and organizations worldwide whose research, policy or business leadership has played a major role in bringing about the science and technology innovations that are improving the way we live and offer the greatest hope for the future.”

Selected by the magazine’s Board of Editors with the help of distinguished outside advisors, the Scientific American 50 spotlights Research Leaders, Business Leaders, and Policy Leaders who have played a critical role in advancing key technology trends of the past year, such as the rise of Stem Cells, Flexible Electronics, Silicon Lasers, Flu Preparedness and more.

Prof. Nelson has been named a Research Leader because of work over the last year in nanorobotic manufacturing. His nanorobotics research group, a part of the Institute of Robotics and Intelligent Systems (IRIS) at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, investigates new manufacturing technologies capable of creating the building blocks for a variety of nanometer size devices. These nanomachines, such as motors and sensors, will form the components of nanorobots of the future that may be used for a variety of purposes, such as to explore the inner workings of biological cells, to perform surgery on single cells, or to deliver drugs to specific locations throughout the body.

Prof. Nelson, who is the head of both IRIS and the Department of Mechanical and Process Engineering at ETH, said: “It is certainly an honor to be named one of the Scientific American 50. I think this really reflects on the outstanding research team at my institute.”

Past Scientific American 50 winners have spotlighted visionaries from an array of fields. Prior honorees have included stem cell researcher Douglas A. Melton, Professor of the National Sciences at Harvard (2004 Policy Leader of the Year).

Nobel prize-winning neurobiologist Roderick MacKinnon, Professor of Molecular Neurobiology and Biophysics of Rockefeller University (2003 Research Leader of the Year); aviation leader Burt Rutan, President, Scaled Composites (2003 Aerospace/Business Leader); global public health leader Gro Harlem Bruntland, former World Health Organization Secretary General (2003 Policy Leader of the Year); corporate chief Jeffrey Immelt, Chairman and CEO, General Electric Company (2002 General Technology/Business Leader); and high tech innovator Steven Jobs, CEO, Apple (2002 Communications/Business Leader).

Founded in 1845, editorial contributors to Scientific American have included over 100 Nobel laureates, among them Albert Einstein, Neils Bohr, Francis Crick, Stanley Prusiner and Harold Varmus. Scientific American, Inc. is a division of media corporation operating in more than 40 countries. In addition to Scientific American, Holtzbrinck Publishers included the book publishing houses Farrar, Straus & Giroux; W.H. Freeman; Henry Holt and Company; St. Martin's Press and the academic scholarly publishing company Palgrave U.S.; The College Publishing Group of Bedford Freeman Worth; and the distribution company VHPS.

More information on Prof. Nelson's research can be found at www.iris.ethz.ch.