

Distinguished Chancellor Kaarle Haameri and Rector of the university of Helsinki, Professor Sari Lindblom, Honorable President of the World Cultural Council, Sir Fraser Stoddart; Fellow award winner; distinguished guest, ladies and gentlemen

First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for this tremendous honor. To stand before you today as the recipient of this prestigious science award is truly humbling and overwhelming. I am immensely grateful to the selection committee of the World Cultural Council for recognizing my work and contributions to the field of Nanoscience.

This award represents the culmination of more than 50 years of research dedication and perseverance. It is a testament to the incredible team of mentors, collaborators, and supporters who have been instrumental in my journey. I extend my utmost appreciation to each and every one of them for their guidance and encouragement.

Science is a collaborative endeavor, and I firmly believe that this recognition is not just a reflection of my individual achievements but also a celebration of the collective efforts of the scientific community across the fields of Scanning Probe Microscopy, Nanoscience as a whole and beyond.

I am indeed representing the countless brilliant minds whose work has taken the field from a fledgling beginning to a revolutionizing technology impacting physics, chemistry, biology and medicine of today. Without their contributions and the spirit of collaboration that permeates the scientific community, I presumably would not be standing here today.

Since we started the Swiss Nanoscience Institute SNI, at the university of Basel in 2002 I was able to continue my research over the last two decades. I am tremendously thankful for this opportunity.

In conclusion, I stand here today as the recipient of this prestigious award still feeling an unabated curiosity and passion for knowledge a driving force for creativity and a testament to the boundless potential that lies within the whole scientific community.

Once again, I extend my deepest gratitude to the selection committee of the WCC, to all my collaborators and dear colleagues and to the scientific community as a whole.

Thank you all