Professor Rao Zihe

Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*

Prominent Authority in Biophysics

Professor Rao Zihe, a prominent authority in biophysics, is currently President of Nankai University in China. Professor Rao is widely acclaimed for his many ground-breaking research findings in the three-dimensional structure of proteins related to protein engineering, human disease or important physiological functions, as well as in structural proteomics and innovative drug design.

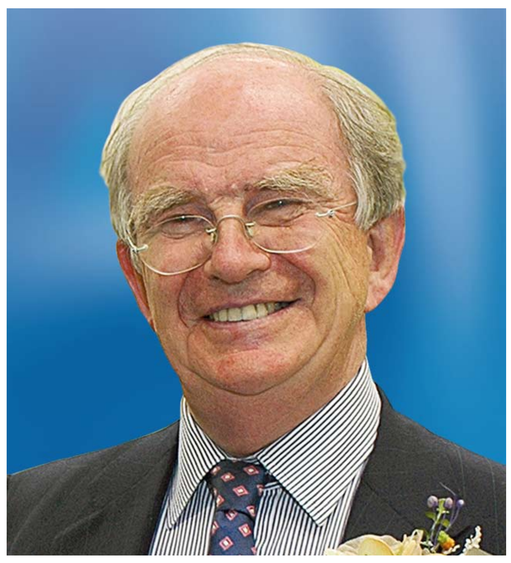
Among the many scientific achievements of Professor Rao's research team are significant findings of the crystal structure of more than 110 proteins. Professor Rao has also discovered the SIV matrix antigen structure, leading to the first model for the assembly of lentiviruses including the human immune deficiency virus (HIV). Professor Rao's team has also made a number of important breakthroughs in basic research into severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), which provided a structural basis for the design of an anti-SARS drug. Currently, Professor Rao holds five patents for his SARS-related research and has made three other patent applications. He has published 211 peer-reviewed papers in leading scientific journals, including *Cell* and *Nature*.

Professor Rao was selected as Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2003 and the Third World Academy of Sciences in 2004. His numerous awards include the Yangtze River Distinguished Scholar Professorship from the Mainland's Ministry of Education in 1999 and the Trieste Science Prize for Medical Science in 2006.

Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas

Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*

World Renowned Solid State Chemist



Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas, a world renowned solid state chemist, is currently Honorary Professor of Materials Science at the University of Cambridge. Recognised internationally as a pioneer in the field of modern solid state chemistry, Sir John laid the foundation for the structural design and synthesis of many new materials, in particular solid acid catalysts, which play a vital role in present-day environmental care. He also did pioneering work in the development and application of various now indispensable physical technologies, such as high resolution electron microscopy.

Sir John is one of the most cited authors in the field of heterogeneous catalysis. He is the author of more than 950 research papers on materials and surface chemistry of solids, over 100 review articles on science, education and cultural issues, and 24 textbooks. He is also the author of 25 patents, some of which have made chemical processes more environmentally benign by eliminating the use of solvents and reducing the number of manufacturing steps involved.

Sir John is a recipient of numerous honours and awards, and holder of a number of honorary fellowships and memberships, as well as 17 honorary doctoral degrees from universities worldwide. He was knighted in 1991 and in the same year, a new mineral, meurigite, was named after him in recognition of his contributions to geochemistry.