Title: Why and How to Launch a Start-up Company from the University
Date: 27 October 2011, Thursday
Time: 6.30pm to 7.30pm
Venue: SPMS Lecture Theatre 1 (SPMS-04-07)
Host: Asst. Prof. Yu Ting

Abstract
After presenting a brief overview of the research in our own laboratory, outlined will be the protocols needed to start a nanotechnology company, from the choice of the basic scientific concept to commercialization with the fundraising steps needed throughout. Many of the specific regulations for starting the company will be based on US law, though the concepts are universal. The presenter will also discuss his own views on the process and light-hearted anecdotal stories that highlight his personal feelings on a scientists dealing with business people, and vice versa.

Biography
James M. Tour, a synthetic organic chemist, received his Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Syracuse University, his Ph.D. in synthetic organic and organometallic chemistry from Purdue University, and postdoctoral training in synthetic organic chemistry at the University of Wisconsin and Stanford University. After spending 11 years on the faculty of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of South Carolina, he joined the Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology at Rice University in 1999 where he is presently the T. T. and W. F. Chao Professor of Chemistry, Professor of Computer Science, and Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science. Tour’s scientific research areas include nanoelectronics, graphene electronics, carbon nanovectors for medical applications, “green carbon research” for enhanced oil recovery and environmentally friendly oil and gas extraction, graphene photovoltaics, chemical self-assembly, flame retarding polymer additives, carbon nanotube and graphene synthetic modifications, carbon composites, hydrogen storage on nanoengineered carbon scaffolds, synthesis of single-molecule nanomachines which include molecular motors and nanocars, use of the NanoKids concept for K-12 education in nanoscale science, Dance Dance Revolution and Guitar Hero science educational package development for middle school education, and methods for retarding chemical terrorist attacks. Tour has over 400 research publications and 50 patents.