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**SOCIETY FOR BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING
HONORS JAMES C. LIAO**

SBE presents 2009 James E. Bailey Award to Innovator in Metabolic Engineering

NEW YORK CITY – The Society for Biological Engineering (SBE), a technological community within the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), has awarded its fifth annual James E. Bailey Award to Dr. James C. Liao for advances in metabolic research.

While fossil energy shortage presents a global economical problem, excess in energy storage in human bodies (obesity) has become a leading health threat in developed countries and is associated with a constellation of medical problems. Liao's research to engineer metabolic agents to produce fuels may lead to solutions that will help modulate people's metabolisms to combat obesity.

Liao is the Chancellor's Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. He has made major contributions to biochemical engineering with his theoretical and his experimental work, and he is developing an international reputation that extends well beyond the chemical engineering community.

"Professor Liao epitomizes the modern Chemical Engineer who uses the power of microorganisms to do new, creative chemistry of consequence for the chemical and fuels industry," says Professor Gregory Stephanopoulos of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Chair of the SBE board. "His work has demonstrated how microbial biocatalysts can be engineered to catalyze bioconversions for the utilization of renewable resources, a major thrust of Metabolic and Biological Engineering."

The award honors the memory of James E. Bailey, widely recognized as the father of modern bioprocess engineering. It is presented each year to an individual who has had an important impact on bioengineering and whose achievements, either specific or general, have advanced this profession. Liao delivered an award lecture at AIChE's Annual Meeting in Nashville. The title of his talk was "A Tale of Two Energy Problems: Fuel Shortage and Obesity."

About the Society for Biological Engineering

Established by AIChE in 2004, SBE is a community of engineers and applied scientists integrating biology with engineering. Members of SBE come from a broad spectrum of industries and disciplines and share SBE's mission of realizing the benefits of bioprocessing, biomedical and biomolecular applications. <http://bio.aiche.org>. Executive Director: Miriam Cortes-Camirero, bio@aiche.org