



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS  
3 PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NY 10016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jeanette Krebs  
Phone: (717) 214-2200  
Email: [krebs@thebravogroup.com](mailto:krebs@thebravogroup.com)

## **NANOSCALE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FORUM HONORS TWO NANOTECHNOLOGY PIONEERS**

*NSEF presents its Forum and Young Investigator awards for 2005*

NEW YORK CITY (December 21, 2005) – The Nanoscale Science and Engineering Forum (NSEF) of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) announces it has given awards to two professionals, one who has distinguished himself during his vast career and the other who has shown prominence in his growing body of work.

Mihail “Mike” Roco was honored with the inaugural *Forum Award*, which recognizes outstanding contributions in the advancement of nanoscale science and engineering in the field of chemical engineering through scholarship, education or service. Dr. Roco received the award for his contribution as a key player in the National Nanotechnology Initiative, which is a federal R&D program established to coordinate multi-agency efforts in nanoscale science, engineering, and technology.

Dr. Roco is chairman of the U.S. National Science and Technology Council’s subcommittee on Nanoscale Science, Engineering and Technology (NSET), and is a senior advisor for nanotechnology at the National Science Foundation (NSF). He also coordinates NSF’s Grant Opportunity for Liaison and Industry program. He is a key architect of the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) and coordinated the preparations of the U.S. National Science and Technology Council reports on “Nanotechnology Research Direction” and “National Nanotechnology Initiative.”

“Dr. Roco is part of the foundation of nanotechnology study not only in the United States but around the world,” said Dr. Dan Coy, 2006 Chair of the NSEF. “He is changing the way all professionals think about the discipline.”

Michael Strano was awarded the inaugural *Young Investigator Award* that recognizes outstanding interdisciplinary research in nanoscale science and engineering by an engineer or scientist who has not yet reached the age of 35. He received the honor for his pioneering work in carbon nanotube chemistry, specifically reactions selective to one-dimensional electronic structures that are essential techniques for nanotube applications.

Professor Strano is an assistant professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an affiliate faculty member in the Nanoelectronics and

Biophotonics group. His research focuses on the chemical reactivity of nanowires and nanotubes, the processing of nanoparticle systems and molecular electronics.

“Professor Strano has done so much in his short career that there was little question he would receive this award this year,” said Professor Gil Lee, founder of the NSEF. “It is incredible to think what he will accomplish in the future.”

### ***Nanoscale Science and Engineering Forum (NSEF)***

*Established by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, AIChE, in 2003, the Nanoscale Science and Engineering Forum (NSEF) is a technological community for engineers and applied scientists operating at the atomic, molecular or macromolecular levels. Members of NSEF come from a broad spectrum of industries and disciplines such as chemical, biological, and materials processes and production.*

*Director: June Wispelwey, [nano@aiiche.org](mailto:nano@aiiche.org).*

*<http://www.aiiche.org/DivisionsForums/ViewAll/NSEF.aspx>*