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**SOCIETY FOR BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING
HONORS WEI-SHOU HU AND MIRANDA YAP**

SBE presents 2009 Service Award to Innovators in Genomic Research

NEW YORK CITY – The Society for Biological Engineering (SBE), a technological community within the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), has awarded its first service awards to Drs. Wei-Shou Hu, a professor at the University of Minnesota, and Miranda Yap, executive director of the Bioprocessing Technology Institute in Singapore.

Both Yap and Hu have served on the society's Advisory Board since its founding in 2004. They have also been the lead researchers on its consortium to develop genomic information for the Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cell line, which is used in the production of about 70 percent of today's therapeutic protein drugs. The genomic tools of CHO will be used to increase production efficiencies and in drug development. It has been underwritten by leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and has shown promise for increasing production of biological therapies used to fight certain cancers, control bleeding, treat central nervous system disorders, and boost blood cell production.

In presenting the award at AIChE's recent Annual Meeting in Nashville, SBE Executive Director Miriam Cortes-Caminero said that Hu's and Yap's "commitment to the development of our society since its inception has been unparalleled." "Their vision and realization of innovation within the biological engineering community is inspirational," she added.

Hu's research and teaching at Minnesota emphasize bioprocessing, stem cell technology and genomics. He applies engineering approaches to biochemical and cellular systems and integrates physiology with quantitative modeling of biological systems. He is an author of the textbook, *Bioseparations*. His contributions to cell culture engineering earned him the first Merck Award in 2002 and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for In Vitro Biology.

In addition to her leadership of the Bioprocessing Technology Institute, Yap is a professor at the National University of Singapore and has been instrumental in the founding of two biopharmaceutical companies there. She has also played a role in attracting leading multi-national firms to set up biologics manufacturing facilities in Singapore. She recently received the President's Science and Technology Medal for her contributions to Singapore's biomedical sciences and is a foreign associate of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering.

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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