



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**December 16, 2014**

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### **National Academy of Inventors and the University of Alberta announce NAI Fellows**

Edmonton, Alberta. (Dec. 16, 2014)— Professor Thomas Thundat in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering at the University of Alberta has been named a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI).

Election to NAI Fellow status is a high professional distinction accorded to academic inventors who have demonstrated a prolific spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions that have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development, and the welfare of society.

Those named today bring the total number of NAI Fellows to 414, representing more than 150 prestigious research universities and governmental and non-profit research institutions.

Included among all of the NAI Fellows are 61 presidents and senior leadership of research universities and non-profit research institutes, 208 members of the other National Academies (NAS, NAE, IOM), 21 inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, 16 recipients of the U.S. National Medal of Technology and Innovation, 10 recipients of the U.S. National Medal of Science, 21 Nobel Laureates, 11 Lemelson-MIT prize recipients, 107 AAAS Fellows, and 62 IEEE Fellows, among other awards and distinctions.

The NAI Fellows will be inducted by the Deputy U.S. Commissioner for Patent Operations, from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), during the 4th Annual Conference of the National Academy of Inventors, on 20 March 2015, at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

Fellows will be presented with a special trophy, newly designed medal, and a rosette pin in honor of their outstanding accomplishments. To honor these academic luminaries of invention and innovation, a plaque listing the name and institution of each NAI Fellow will be on permanent display at the USPTO.

The 2014 NAI Fellows will be recognized with a full page announcement in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* Jan. 16, 2015 issue, and in upcoming issues of *Inventors Digest* and *Technology and Innovation*.

*Dr. Thomas Thundat is the Canadian Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Oil Sands Molecular Engineering and Professor in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering at the*



*University of Alberta. Dr. Thundat was a University of Tennessee-Batelle/Oak Ridge National Laboratory(ORNL) Corporate Fellow and led the Nanoscale Science and Devices Group at ORNL. He holds professorships at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, the University of Burgundy in France and an honorary professorship at the Indian Institute of Technology in Madras.*

*He received his PhD in Physics in 1987 from the State University of New York – Albany. Dr. Thundat has authored over 285 publications in refereed journals, 48 book chapters and 30 patents. He has received a number of awards, most recently the Outstanding Achievement Award in the Sensor Division of the Electrochemical Society. As well, Dr. Thundat has received the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Pioneer Award, the Batelle Distinguished Inventor Award and many ORNL awards for research and development. He is an elected Fellow of the American Physical Society, the Electrochemical Society, the American Association for Advancement of Science and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.*

*His research is focused on novel physical, chemical and biological detection of using micro- and nano -mechanical sensors. His expertise lies in the areas of interfaces, biophysics, scanning probes, nanoscale phenomena and quantum-confined atoms.*

The academic inventors and innovators elected to the rank of NAI Fellow are named inventors on U.S. patents and were nominated by their peers for outstanding contributions to innovation in areas such as patents and licensing, innovative discovery and technology, significant impact on society, and support and enhancement of innovation.

The 2014 NAI Fellows Selection Committee comprises 17 members, including NAI Fellows, recipients of U.S. National Medals, National Inventors Hall of Fame inductees, members of the National Academies and senior officials from the USPTO, Association of American Universities, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Association of University Technology Managers, and National Inventors Hall of Fame.

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*The University of Alberta in Edmonton is one of Canada’s top teaching and research universities, with an international reputation for excellence across the humanities, sciences, creative arts, business, engineering, and health sciences. Home to more than 39,000 students and 15,000 faculty and staff, the university has an annual budget of \$1.75 billion and attracts more than \$460 million in sponsored research revenue. The U of A offers close to 400 rigorous undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs in 18 faculties on five campuses—including one rural and one francophone campus. The university has more than 260,000 alumni worldwide. The university and its people remain dedicated to the promise made in 1908 by founding president Henry Marshall Tory that knowledge shall be used for “uplifting the whole people.” [www.cme.engineering.ualberta.ca](http://www.cme.engineering.ualberta.ca)*



*The National Academy of Inventors® is a 501(c)(3) non-profit member organization comprised of U.S. and international universities, and governmental and non-profit research institutions, with over 3,000 individual inventor members and Fellows spanning more than 200 institutions, and growing rapidly. It was founded in 2010 to recognize and encourage inventors with patents issued from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, enhance the visibility of academic technology and innovation, encourage the disclosure of intellectual property, educate and mentor innovative students, and translate the inventions of its members to benefit society. The NAI edits the multidisciplinary journal, *Technology and Innovation*, published by Cognizant Communication Corporation (NY). [www.academyofinventors.org](http://www.academyofinventors.org)*

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