

SASTA Welcomes Hanadi Sleiman to its Board of Directors

California (November 21, 2016)

The Society for the Advancement of Science and Technology in the Arab World (SASTA) announces the appointment of a new member to its Board of Directors: Hanadi Sleiman, Professor of Chemistry and Canada Research Chair in DNA Nanoscience at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. The appointment follows unanimous nomination and vote by the board of SASTA.



Wael Al-Delaimy, Chair of SASTA Board said: “At SASTA we strive to be inclusive of Arab expatriate scientists representing different national backgrounds, scientific disciplines, and global geographical locations”. “We are thrilled that Dr. Hanadi Sleiman has accepted to join the SASTA board and look forward to working with her and benefiting from her rich scientific and leadership expertise to advance the mission and strategic objectives of SASTA” he said.

Hilal Lashuel, one of the co-founding SASTA board members said: “Dr. Sleiman’s career path, scientific achievements and international reputation as a leader in her field have made her a role model for young and aspiring scientists and a source of pride and inspiration for Arab scientists globally. Throughout her career, she has shown an exceptional commitment to give back to the Arab region and to support the development of research capacity in the Arab world”.

Dr. Sleiman received her Ph.D. from Stanford University, and carried out her postdoctoral studies in supramolecular chemistry, in the laboratory of Prof. Jean-Marie Lehn (Nobel Prize 1987) at the Université Louis Pasteur in France. She joined the faculty at McGill University in 1999.

The focus of the Sleiman research program is to develop DNA structures that selectively target cancer cells, make them respond to chemotherapy and increase their chances of achieving cancer cellular death. Professor Sleiman reported the first DNA cages that can be deliberately varied in size and shape; these cages can encapsulate drug molecules and only release them when they encounter a cancer-specific biological stimulus. Applications for the targeted delivery of therapeutics in leukemia, breast, colon, and prostate cancer are currently being developed. Her group used DNA to organize different materials into nanostructures for drug delivery, diagnostics and nanoelectronics.

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Professor Sleiman received numerous national and international awards, including Fellowship of the Royal Society of Canada (2016), Izatt-Christensen Award (highest international award in Supramolecular Chemistry, 2016), Canada Research Chair Tier I (2013), Swiss Chemical Society Lectureship (2012), E. Gordon Young Award (Canadian Institute of Chemistry 2011), the Canadian Society for Chemistry Strem Award (2009), Cottrell Scholar of the Research Corporation (2002). She was appointed Fellow of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (2004-12).

Prof. Sleiman has 132 publications and has given ~120 invited talks and plenary lectures. The group's research has been highlighted in the journals Nature, Science, Nat Nano., Nat. Materials, as examples, and resulted in interviews and features in numerous scientific and popular media around the world.

She is on the Editorial Advisory Boards of flagship chemistry journals, such as Journal of the American Chemical Society, Chem. (CellPress), Journal of Organic Chemistry, Nanoscale Horizons, Bioconjugate Chemistry and ChemBioChem. She has served as a member of national and international selection, advisory committees and colleges of reviewers, including the Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI) a member of Qatar Foundation, Research and Development.

With Prof. Sleiman, SASTA Board now comprises seven distinguished Arab scientists: Chairman, Wael Al-Delaimy; Secretary General, Hilal Lashuel; Treasurer, Adel Nefzi; and members Hanadi Sleiman, Khalid A. Qaraqe, Magid Abou-Gharbia and Rabi Mohtar.

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The **Society for the Advancement of Science and Technology in the Arab World (SASTA)** was born out of the mutual interest of Arab Expatriate Scientists (AES) and Academics living abroad to engage more effectively with the Arab Education, Science and Technology community to create a positive impact in the Arab World.

The Society mission is to mobilize and catalyse the engagement of scientists, professionals, NGO's, academic institutions and professional societies to advance higher education, science and research in Arab countries.

SASTA is registered as a non-profit organization with the Office of the Secretary of State of California on October, 1 2011.

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