

## The Welch Institute Names Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board

**Houston, TX** – October 21, 2020 – The Welch Institute for Advanced Materials, a sweeping strategic partnership between The Welch Foundation and Rice University focused on world-leading advanced materials research, announced today the appointment of Dr. Armand Paul Alivisatos as Chairman of its Scientific Advisory Board. Dr. Alivisatos is a renowned scientist known for his pioneering discoveries in the field of nanoscience and is the first to commit to the scientific advisory board.

“Dr. Alivisatos is a highly-respected and influential scientist and is internationally recognized for his discoveries involving nanocrystals and their utility in manifold applications of advanced materials,” said Welch Foundation Chair and Director Carin Barth. “Not only does his research and profound understanding of advanced materials make him an exceptional Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board, but his expansive reach as a leader and mentor in the scientific community will help facilitate our goal of attracting top researchers from around the world, creating an exceptional collaborative environment for discovery. We are honored to have him.”

“We could not be more grateful to Dr. Alivisatos for taking on this role. His involvement speaks loudly to the high aspirations we have for The Welch Institute,” said Rice University President, David Leebron.

As the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost of the University of California Berkeley, Samsung Distinguished Professor of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Research and Professor of Chemistry *and* Materials Science & Engineering, Dr. Alivisatos is credited with making groundbreaking contributions to the fundamental physical chemistry of nanocrystals. He helped lay a foundation for understanding their distinctive properties and created a framework for making them at scale. His work has led to the widespread use of nanocrystals in medical diagnostics, and in a new generation of television displays. Today he is devoted to developing new renewable energy applications of nanocrystals. Dr. Alivisatos played a critical role in the establishment of the Molecular Foundry, a U.S. Department of Energy's Nanoscale Science Research Center; and was the facility's founding director. He is the founding editor of Nano Letters, a leading scientific publication of the American Chemical Society in nanoscience.

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“This partnership of The Welch Foundation and Rice University is a wonderful development and promises to do so much to advance the fields of materials research and innovation with great potential to open new areas of discovery that benefit humanity,” said Dr. Alivisatos. “I look forward to working closely with the Foundation and the Rice community in these early stages, as we work together to recruit a world class team.”

Dr. Alivisatos received his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from the University of Chicago and went on to earn his Ph.D. in Chemistry from UC Berkeley. He began his career with UC Berkeley in 1988 and with Berkeley Lab in 1991. His scientific advances have yielded more than 50 patents and his 341 refereed publications and papers have been cited more than 104,000 times. In 2003, *Science Magazine* named Dr. Alivisatos’ quantum dot technology one of the Top 10 “Breakthroughs of the Year” and the Forbes/Wolfe Nanotech Report named them the top nanotech breakthrough of 2003. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2004. Dr. Alivisatos has been recognized for his accomplishments with numerous awards, including the Dan David Prize, the National Medal of Science and the Wolf Prize. He is the 2019 co-recipient of the Robert A. Welch Award in Chemistry and was recently awarded the 2021 Priestly Medal by ACS.

“We are thrilled to have Dr. Alivisatos as the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board for The Welch Institute. I look forward to working with him, the SAB, The Welch Institute and the Rice faculty in shaping the Institute’s priorities and helping to recruit the very best faculty to the Institute,” said Rice University Provost, Reginald DesRoches.

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### **About The Welch Institute**

The Robert A. Welch Foundation committed \$100 million to establish The Welch Institute at Rice University, the largest grant in the Foundation’s 65-year history, as part of a strategic partnership focused on advanced materials research. The goal of The Welch Institute is to attract top researchers from around the world to collaborate with Rice University’s internationally renowned faculty and scientific resources, making the Institute a center of intellectual discovery, innovation and transformation in advanced materials. The Institute is governed by an independent Board of Directors and advised by a Scientific Advisory Board. For more information about The Welch Institute, visit <https://welchinstitute.org/>.

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