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Yan Li is presently a Boya Professor at College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, Peking University, China. She joined the faculty of Chemistry of Peking University in 1995 and was promoted to full professor in 2002. She has held a few visiting positions worldwide, such as visiting associated professor at Duke University (1999-2001) and distinguished visiting professor at The University of Tokyo (2016-2019). She has been working on the synthesis of carbon nanotubes for 25 years. She developed a strategy to realize chirality-specified synthesis of carbon nanotubes, which was listed as the “Top Ten Chemical Research of the Year” by Chemical & Engineering News. She led her team winning the second prize of National Natural Science of China in 2021. She has got many awards and honors such as Chinese Chemical Society Distinguished Scientist, Science and Technology Researcher medal, Famous Teacher of Beijing City on Higher Education, Top Ten Teacher and Top Ten Tutor of Peking University. She has been an associate editor of ACS Nano since 2016. She is also on the advisory or editorial board of a series of journals including Chemical Society Reviews, Materials Horizons, Carbon and Nano Research. She has served as a member of several international academic organizations such as the MRS Award Nomination Committee.