



SALIENT SENIOR FORUM

Welcome to our KSEA Salient Senior Forum Series! Our goal is to share the most remarkable life experiences of seniors with people from all backgrounds. Each forum highlights a single, defining moment in life - whether it is inventing a new drug, building a company, achieving financial success, working abroad, overcoming failure, climbing the Himalayan mountains, or any other extraordinary experience.

7:30pm EST, October 29, 2026

[Zoom Link](#)

[Meeting ID: 841 0881 5821 Passcode: 148479](#)

Korea's Prospects for a Nobel Prize in Science: A Co-Author's Perspective from the 2000 Nobel Chemistry Prize Paper Yung Woo Park Ph.D.

The purpose of this presentation is to explore ways to increase the likelihood of producing future Korean Nobel laureates in science. First, Dr. Park will examine the evaluation and selection processes used by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. He will also present detailed data on Nobel Prize nominees by country through 1975, including how frequently and over how many years several renowned scientists were nominated, and by whom. He will then introduce the three laureates of the 2000 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, recognized for the discovery and development of conducting polymers—a groundbreaking project in which I participated by performing conductivity measurements during my Ph.D. studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Finally, Dr. Park will share his thoughts on how Korea can accelerate the realization of this dream by fostering an environment that encourages groundbreaking research and supports the development of world-class scientific talent.

Professor Yung Woo Park graduated in Physics from Seoul National University (SNU) in 1975. At the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn), he participated in the seminal discovery of the conducting polymer polyacetylene in 1977 and received his Ph.D. in 1980 under Professor Alan J. Heeger, who shared the 2000 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the discovery and development of conducting polymers. Dr. Park joined SNU as a physics professor in 1980 and conducted research on conducting polymers, carbon nanostructures, and high-temperature superconductors until his retirement in 2017. His notable achievements include the discovery of zero magnetoresistance (ZMR) in one-dimensional polyacetylene nanofibers. He has served as Vice President of the Korean Physical Society and Director of Foreign Affairs at the Korean Academy of Science and Technology. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society, an APS international affairs committee member, and an Adjunct Professor at UPenn. His honors include the Korea Science Award in Physics and Wallenberg Research Award.



Yung Woo Park



Esther Yang