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Yan Li received her Ph.D in inorganic chemistry from Peking University in 1993. After two years' postdoctoral research, she joined the faculty of Chemistry, Peking University in 1995. From 1999 to 2001, she was a visiting Associate Professor at Duke University. She has been the full professor of chemistry at Peking University since 2002. She is also appointed as a distinguished visiting professor in The University of Tokyo since 2016. She has received many awards and honors, such as Chang Jiang Scholar by Chinese Ministry of Education, Chemical Innovation Award Distinguished Scientist by Chinese Chemical Society, Outstanding Researcher by China Association for Science and Technology, fellow of Royal Society of Chemistry etc. Her research is focused on carbon nanomaterials, especially the preparation, modification, characterization and application of carbon nanotubes. She has published ~150 papers in peer-reviewed journals. Her research on chirality-specified growth of single-walled carbon nanotubes was listed as Top 10 Chemical Research in 2014 by Chemical & Engineering News. Currently, she is serving as the associated editor of ACS Nano. She is also on the editorial or advisory board of several other journals including Nano Research, Materials Horizons, Journal of Materials Chemistry A.