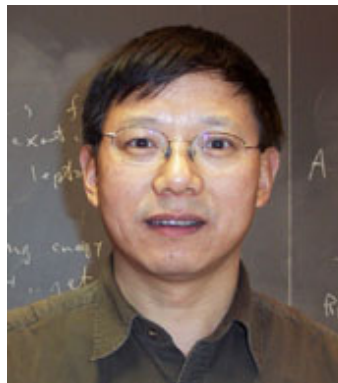


PHYSICS NEWS FLASH

A Man of Letters: Dr. Zhang Joins PRL Editorial Board

February 22, 2006



Dr. Zhenyu Zhang

Joint Faculty Professor Zhenyu Zhang has been appointed to the editorial board of the distinguished journal, *Physical Review Letters*. International in scope, PRL reports each week on significant developments in physics research. Dr. Zhang joins the board as a Divisional Associate Editor for Condensed Matter Physics. A theorist, his expertise lies in the tiny world of low-dimensional structures, including ultra thin films--incredibly small materials much, much thinner than even the cross section of a human hair. By studying their properties, he helps pinpoint the "magic" thickness at which smooth, stable films can be grown. This is important because metal films, when deposited a second material called a substrate (such as silicon), are a key component of the electronic industry. But having

such precise control of nanostructures like these can also help scientists better understand superconductivity, friction, wear, and chemical reactions induced by catalysts in the tiniest of systems.

Dr. Zhang joins [Distinguished Professor Joseph Macek](#), who serves on the PRL editorial board as a Divisional Associate Editor for Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Physics. Dr. Macek is also a theorist, specializing in ion-atom and electron-atom collisions.

Dr. Zhang joined the University of Tennessee in 1997, two years after coming to East Tennessee as a research scientist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He has been a Professor of Physics (UT/ORNL Joint Faculty) since 2003. Dr. Zhang earned his Ph.D. in physics at Rutgers University in 1989. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society and is the co-founding director of the International Center for Quantum Structures of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Physical Review Letters encompasses work in all realms of physics and related cross disciplines, from general concepts to specialized topics like fluid dynamics. Divisional Associate Editors are appointed for three years by the Editor in Chief and play an essential role in the editorial process by serving as referee in the adjudication of difficult cases, offering advice on journal policy, and identifying new referees.