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Press Release

Humboldt-Laureate Prof. Cheng Chin as Guest Scientist at MPQ and LMU

Since the beginning of August 2014, experimental physicist Professor Cheng Chin from the University of Chicago has joined the Quantum Many-Body Systems Division of Professor Immanuel Bloch, Chair of Experimental Physics at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich and Director at the Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics. Cheng Chin will spend a three months research sabbatical as a winner of a Humboldt Research Award. This award is granted by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to out-standing foreign academics to promote cooperation with excellent German researchers.

Prof. Cheng Chin studies quantum many-body phenomena based on ultracold atoms and molecules. Many such phenomena are fundamentally linked and manifest themselves in different branches of physics, including but not limited to nuclear, condensed matter, gravitational and astro-physics. Cheng is interested in probing and reproducing these phenomena in the lab setting based on exquisite control of cold atoms and molecules, which serve as a quantum simulator. The Humboldt Research Award will give him the opportunity to work in close cooperation with the experimentalists in Professor Immanuel Bloch's group and the group of theorists headed by Professor Wilhelm Zwerger (TU München). In particular he is interested in the investigation of far-from equilibrium quantum dynamics based on ultracold quantum gases.

Cheng Chin obtained his PhD from Stanford University in 2001 and conducted his postdoc research at Stanford University and Innsbruck University. In 2005, he went to the University of Chicago as an assistant professor and became a professor in the James Franck Institute, the Enrico Fermi Institute and the Department of Physics of the University of Chicago in 2012. He has already received several scientific awards, for example the Lise Meitner Postdoctoral Research Fellow of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), the NSF career award, and the I.I. Rabi Prize in Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics from the American Physical Society. [OM]

Contact:

Prof. Cheng Chin
LMU Munich, Schellingstr. 4, 80799 München, and
Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics
Hans-Kopfermann-Straße 1
85748 Garching, Germany
Phone: +49 (0)89/2180 6141
E-mail: cching@uchicago.edu

**Press &
Public Relations**
Dr. Olivia Meyer-Streng

Phone:
+49 - 89 / 32 905-213
E-mail: olivia.meyer-
streng@mpq.mpg.de

Hans-Kopfermann-Str. 1
D-85748 Garching

Phone: +49 - 89 / 32 905-0
Fax: +49 - 89 / 32 905-200