



2020 NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Born: Oct. 12, 1959

Primary Connections:

- Corning: Corporate Fellow, 1994-present
- Nortel: Research Scientist, 1991-94

Education:

- Beijing Institute of Technology (China): B.S., Applied Physics, 1983
- University of Franche-Comté (France): M.S., Optics and Signal Processing, 1985
- University of Nice (France): Ph.D., Physics, 1988
- Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal (Canada): Postdoctoral Fellow, Integrated Optics Laboratory, 1989-90

Key Memberships/Awards:

- National Academy of Engineering: Member, 2018
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers: Fellow, 2015
- Optical Society of America: Fellow, 2009
- American Chemical Society: Heroes of Chemistry Award (also presented to Dana Bookbinder and Pushkar Tandon), 2017
- Time magazine: ClearCurve® optical fiber was cited as one of the Best Inventions of 2007

10 Things You Need to Know About

Ming-Jun Li

Inventor of Bend-Insensitive Optical Fiber

U.S. PATENT NOS. 7,450,806; 7,903,917; 8,385,701

1. Li was born in 1959 in Beijing, China.
2. When Li was admitted to the Beijing Institute of Technology, just 6% of applicants were accepted.
3. His Ph.D. work received the French National Prize on Guided Wave Optics.
4. At Nortel's Optical Cable Division in Saskatoon, Canada, Li worked on transmission and specialty fibers.
5. While studying fiber optics in college, he considered working at Corning his "dream job." After Corning acquired Nortel's optical fiber and cable businesses, his career dream came true.
6. Li has described the idea of guiding light through glass as being "magical," because optical fiber is so thin.
7. Li received the Corning's Stookey Award for exploratory research.
8. Li has served as deputy editor, coordinating committee member and associate editor of the Journal of Lightwave Technology.
9. His son and daughter are musicians.
10. Li has more than 200 U.S. patents.