



PROFILE

Chief Technologist
Seagate Technology

CITATION

For pioneering leadership and technical breakthroughs in Heat-Assisted Magnetic Recording (HAMR) media development that redefined the global limits of data storage density



GANPING JU

AAEOY Engineer of the Year

Dr. Ganping Ju is an esteemed physicist and industry leader recognized for his fundamental contributions to magnetic data storage technology. Recently named an IEEE Fellow (Class of 2026), Dr. Ju has spent his distinguished career at the intersection of advanced material science and high-capacity storage development.

He earned his BA in Physics from Peking University in 1994, followed by a Ph.D. in Physics from Brown University in 1999, where his doctoral research focused on Ultrafast Spin Dynamics in Magnetic Thin Film Materials. This deep expertise provided the technical foundation for his pioneering, long-term work in Heat-Assisted Magnetic Recording (HAMR). Immediately upon graduation, Dr. Ju joined the original HAMR Media Team at Seagate Research in Pittsburgh, PA. Throughout his tenure, he has been instrumental in the design, characterization, testing, and development of FePt HAMR media, successfully navigating the complex transition from experimental physics to scalable industrial production. In 2009, he relocated to the Seagate Media Research Center in Fremont, CA, where he currently serves as Chief Media Technologist. In this capacity, he leads the HAMR Media Recording and Advanced Development team, overseeing the critical innovations that enable unprecedented data density in cloud storage.

Beyond his technical leadership, Dr. Ju is a prolific researcher and mentor, with over 100 publications and 50+ US patents to his name. His service to the scientific community is extensive, including roles as conference and program co-chair for the Magnetic Recording Conference (TMRC) and various leadership positions within the IEEE Magnetics Society. Dr. Ju remains a key architect in defining the technological future of global data storage.