## Materials Science and Engineering: The Science of Stuff

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## Ultrafast Optics and its Applications

#### Michelle Sander Assistant Professor

Electrical & Computer Engineering Materials Science & Engineering BU Photonics Center



#### Ultrafast Optics and Femtosecond Laser Development











#### Mid-Infrared Vibrational Photothermal Spectroscopy and Imaging: Chemical/Biological Characterization



- High sensitive near-IR detection
- Low optical powers ~ 1mW





## Advancing High Energy Density Batteries Through Controlled Mass Transport

#### Emily Ryan Assistant Professor

#### Mechanical Engineering Materials Science & Engineering



## High Energy Density Lithium Batteries

#### Challenges

- Interfacial Stability
- Material properties
- Long-term performance
  - Degradation with cycling





Images from:

https://www.extremetech.com/mobile/217191-new-lithium-air-batterycould-drive-huge-performance-gains

https://mitechnews.com/new-products-contracts/u-m-researchers-studydendrites-suspected-causing-smart-phone-battery-fires-create-batteriesstore-10-times-energy/



#### Computational Modeling of Dendrite Growth at the Anode-Electrolyte Interface

- Lagrangian particle based model of dendrite growth
  - Reactive transport: diffusion, convection, surface reactions
- Investigating driving forces for growth and morphology changes
- Design novel electrolytes to suppress growth
  - Controlled mass transport through electrolyte
  - Materials informatics for materials discovery





### Suppressing Dendrite Growth

- Reduce mixing near the electrode-electrolyte interface by inducing anisotropic transport properties
  - Maintains battery performance
  - Reduces dendrite growth
- Anisotropy

$$\frac{D_{yy}}{D_{xx}} = 10$$





### Designing Electrolytes to Suppress Dendrite Growth

 Controlling the transport properties in the electrolyte can control the growth rate and morphology of dendrites



Anisotropic

Isotropic



# How can we translate these studies to enhanced battery performance?

- New electrolyte materials
  - Anisotropic transport properties
  - Low viscosity
  - Stable under battery operating conditions
- Structured electrolytes
  - Hybrid liquid-solid electrolyte
  - Force anisotropic transport
- Separation membranes
- New Materials
  - Materials Informatics





## **Organic Electronic Materials**

### Malika Jeffries-EL Associate Professor

Chemistry



### Why develop organic electronics?



#### Organic electronic materials





#### Example: Tunable Organic Semiconductors



- Facilitates selective tuning of the HOMO and LUMO levels.
  - Wide band gap materials for use in OLEDS
  - Narrow band gap materials for use in OSCs





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#### Blue light emitting diodes





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## Biomimetic Growth Factor Delivery Strategies to Improve Mechanical Functionality of Engineered Cartilage

## Michael Albro Assistant Professor

#### **Mechanical Engineering**



#### Osteoarthritis and Cartilage Tissue Engineering



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[Howardluksmd.com]

- Osteoarthritis (OA) is a debilitating condition involving the degeneration of articular cartilage.
  - 33.6% of adults of age 65+
  - Medical costs ~\$180 billion per year in U.S.



## Cartilage Tissue Engineering Techniques

TGF-β supplemented medium



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## Uptake of TGF-β into Engineered Cartilage



- Media supplemented TGF-β exhibits limited penetration in engineered cartilage.
- TGF-β gradients give rise to large heterogeneities in tissue growth.



mm

### TGF-β Delivery in Native Cartilage



- Can biomimetic conjugation of latent TGF-β to hydrogel scaffolds improve uniformity of engineered tissue growth?
- Can we implement materials science strategies to achieve efficient growth factor conjugation?







#### Thank you







## Two-Dimensional Materials and Heterostructures

### Xi Ling Assistant Professor

#### Chemistry Materials Science & Engineering







#### **Two-dimensional (2D) materials**



#### Flexible Transparent Diversely functional





#### **2D van der Waals heterostructures**





#### In Our Lab



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## **Computational Materials Science**

### Sahar Sharifzadeh Assistant Professor

#### Electrical & Computer Engineering Materials Science & Engineering



## Why Computation?

- Making materials and testing them in devices is difficult, expensive, and time-consuming
- Infinite number of possibilities as to new material chemistry



Using computation, we can speed up the material discovery process

- Calculate and understand material properties
- Screen databases of materials for desired properties
- Predict new materials with optimal or emergent properties



## **Computational Materials Science**

 As we reduce the size of devices, their properties are governed by the atomic scale → need to understand how electrons and atoms behave.





# Example: New Materials for Solar Energy Conversion

Solar energy conversion in organic materials: inspired by nature!



PROCESS OF PHOTOSYNTHESIS

- 1. Light absorption
- 2. Energy transfer



Reimers et al, BB A- Bioenergetics (2016)



### First-Principles Computation to Understand Energy Transfer

- How does an electron behave after light absorption?
- How do atomic vibrations (due to finite temperature) influence energy transfer



With new understanding gained, we can design new organic materials

## Nanomanufacturing where Top-Down Meets Bottom-Up

#### Keith A. Brown Assistant Professor

Mechanical Engineering Materials Science & Engineering Physics Moorman-Simon Interdisciplinary Career Development Professor



#### What Makes a Material Strong?



Rao, *et al.* Composite Structures **2007**, 77, 288. Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry *Aluminum Standards and Data 2006 Metric SI*, The Aluminum Association **Boston University** Office of the Vice President and Associate Provost for Research



#### Natural Materials Derive Performance from Hierarchical Structure from Molecules to Millimeters



Wegst, et al., Nature Mater. 2015, 14, 23.



#### Nanomanufacturing where Top-Down meets Bottom-Up

Integrated circuit: www.nisenet.org Bamboo: Matt Gibson



## Advanced Quantum Dot Synthesis for Biosensing and Biomedical Imaging

### Allison Dennis Assistant Professor

#### **Biomedical Engineering**



#### Semiconductor Nanocrystal Quantum Dots



courtesy of Invitrogen and IEEE



#### 'Giant' Nanocrystal Quantum Dots (g-NQDs)



Thick, epitaxial shells enable bandgap tuning and tailoring of the absorption cross-section.



/					
	Composition	Emission range	Bandgap alignment		
	CdSe/ZnS	500 – 600 nm	Type I		
	CdSe/CdS*	550 – 650 nm	Quasi Type II		
	ZnSe/InP*	500 – 900 nm	Inverted Type I		
	InP/ZnS	500 – 700 nm	Type I		
	InP/ZnSe*	500 – 700 nm	Type I		
	InP/CdS*	650 – 1000 nm	Type II		
		CE0 1100 mm	Tune II		
	InP/CdSe*	000 – 1100 nm	туре п		

brightness, stability, and biocompatibility for bioimaging.

Different core and shell semiconductor compositions for different applications—tailoring optoelectronic properties and reducing cadmium-based nanotoxicity.





Ratiometric Biosensors for Label-Free Detection of Hormones



Optimizing Voltage Response for Imaging Action Potentials in Neurons



Molecular Phenotyping of Breast Cancers Using Cadmium-Free NIR Emitters



## Single Molecule Magnets

#### Linda H. Doerrer Associate Professor

#### Chemistry













#### Requirements in Single Chain Magnet Design

- Magnetically Isolated Chain
- Paramagnetic Ground State
- Axial Magnetic Anisotropy



Modification of Backbone

**Incorporating Different Metals** 

Bridges to form chains







#### Single Chain Magnet Behavior





#### Separating the Chains Changes the Magnetism !





## **Atomic Membranes**

#### Scott Bunch Assistant Professor

**Mechanical Engineering** 











#### **2D Materials beyond Graphene**





#### **Atomic Membrane Nanomechanics**



#### <u>Theme 1:</u>

#### Graphene and MoS<sub>2</sub> Mechanics and Adhesion

S.P. Koenig et al. Nature Nanotechnology, 6, 543–546 (2011)

J.S. Bunch and Martin L. Dunn Solid State Communications (review article), **152**, 1359–1364 (2012)

X. Liu et al. Nano Letters, 13, 2309-2313 (2013)

N. Boddeti et al. Journal of Applied Mechanics, **80**, 040909 (2013)

- N. Boddeti et al. Nano Letters, **13**, 6216-6221 (2013)
- X. Liu et al. in preparation. (2016)
- D. Lloyd et al. Nano Letters, 16 (9), 5836-5841 (2016)



#### Theme 2:

## Gas and Ion Transport through Porous Graphene

S.P. Koenig et al., Nature Nanotechnology, **7**, 728-732 (2012)

L. Drahushuk et al., ACS Nano **10**, 786-795, (2015)

L. Wang et al., Nature Nanotechnology, **10**, 785-790 (2015)

*L.* Cantley et al., Science, under consideration (2016)



#### MoS<sub>2</sub> ion transport





#### Functionalizing the Pore site





Michael Strano (MIT)



High Strain MoS<sub>2</sub>





MoS<sub>2</sub>

**Electrical Transport** 

MoS<sub>2</sub> and Graphene Pressure Sensors and Microphones

Mechanical Resonance



Harold Park Anna Swan David Campbell Bennet Goldberg



**Bowls for Bacteria** 



Alice White Kamil Ekinci Shyamsunder Erramilli



## Lanthanide Binding Tags (LBTs): New Chemical Tools for Molecular Visualization

### Karen Allen Professor

#### Chemistry



#### Allen Lab: Lanthanide Binding Tags (LBTs): New Chemical Tools for Molecular Visualization

### Luminescence probes for tagging and LRET





Paramagnetic NMR probes

#### **MRI Contrast Agents**









**Affinities for lanthanides** 



Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2004, 43, 3682 - 3685

anthanide		Radius	KD
S	elected)	<b>(A)</b>	(nM)
	La	1.1	4000
	Ce	1.07	1200
	Nd	1.05	300
	Eu	1.01	78
	Gd	1	93
	Tb	0.98	57
	Dy	0.97	66
	Er	0.945	85
	Yb	0.925	117
	Lu	0.92	140



[Ubiquitin]

#### NMR

#### Crystallography

Bound Ln can provide pseudo contact shifts and dipolar couplings (sufficient order in probe)



amino acid residues





J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2007, 129, 7114-7120

J Biomol NMR. 2015 , 63, 275-82

#### New Applications in X-ray Fluorescence Microscopy



#### L. Easthon & K. O'Toole, unpublished

## Materials for Electrochemical Energy Conversion

### Srikanth Gopalan Associate Professor

#### Mechanical Engineering Materials Science & Engineering



#### **Overarching Themes**

- Materials: Conducting Oxides Ionic and Electronic Transport
- Experimental Materials synthesis, design and fabrication of devices – fuel cells, membrane-based reactive separation of gases, sensors etc.
- Modeling/Theory Materials thermodynamics and kinetics, transport phenomena



#### **Conducting Ceramics: Complex Oxides**





#### Manipulating Transport by Point Defect Chemistry

Point defects in materials are central to mass and charge transport

Unlike electronic, magnetic, and optical applications where the goal is to minimize point defects, in solid state ionics, presence of point defects are critical to transport of ions





#### **Devices: Solid Oxide Fuel Cells (SOFCs)**



# SOFCs: Transport and Electrode Reaction Kinetics









# SOFCs: Computational Thermodynamics



S Darvish, S Gopalan, Y Zhong Journal of Power Sources 336, 351-359

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#### MIEC Membranes: Hydrogen Generation and CO<sub>2</sub> Segregation





#### **MIEC Membranes: Hydrogen** Generation and CO<sub>2</sub> Segregation



Electrochimica Acta 56 (20), 6989-6996

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density (A/cm<sup>2</sup> 0.9

0.6

0.0

Current 0.3

Porous substrate

 $(1/\sqrt{P_{O_2}^{permeate}} - 1/\sqrt{P_{O_2}^{food}})/10^9$ 

#### Acknowledgments



















