

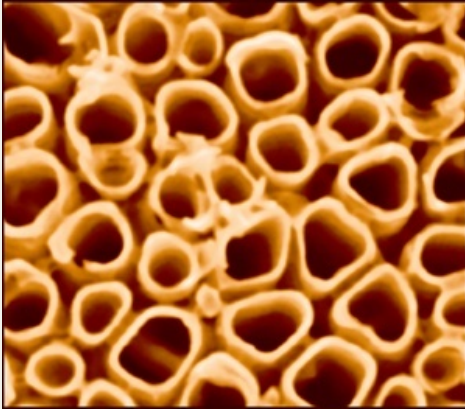
# NANOMATERIALS FOR ENERGY APPLICATIONS

Latika Menon

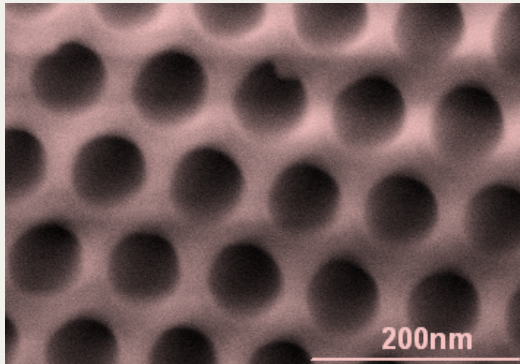
Nov. 9, 2013

Associate Professor  
Department of Physics  
Northeastern University  
Boston, MA 02115

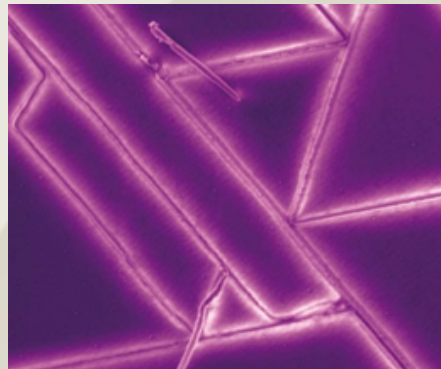
Founder  
Menon Laboratories, Inc.  
Somerville, MA 02143



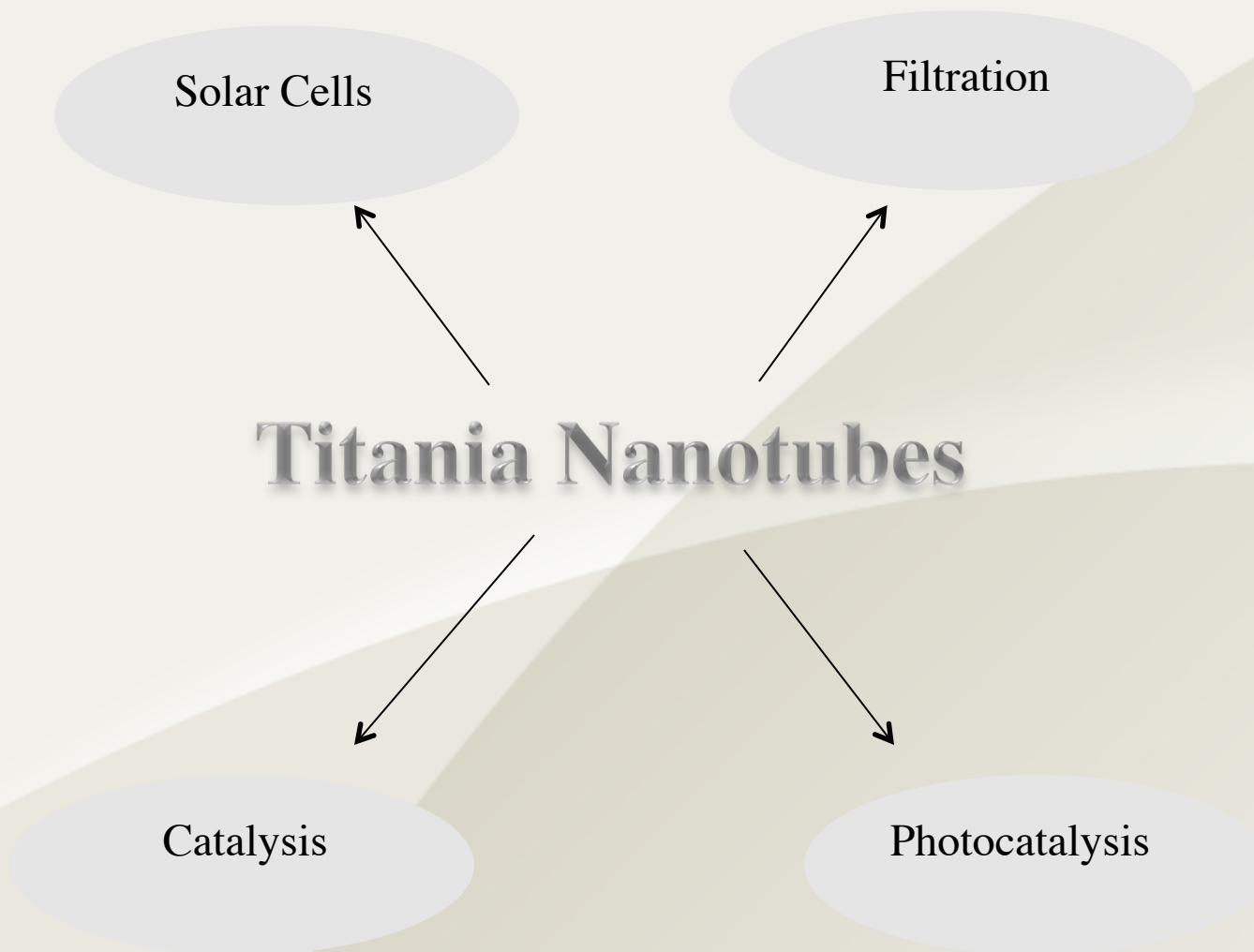
**Titania Nanotubes**



**Nanoporous Alumina**



**GaN Nanowires**



A scanning electron micrograph showing a dense, textured surface composed of numerous small, circular, ring-like structures, which are carbon nanotubes. The text is overlaid on this background.

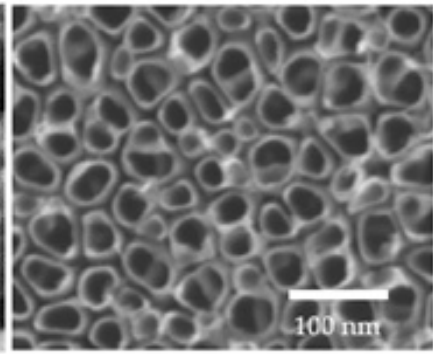
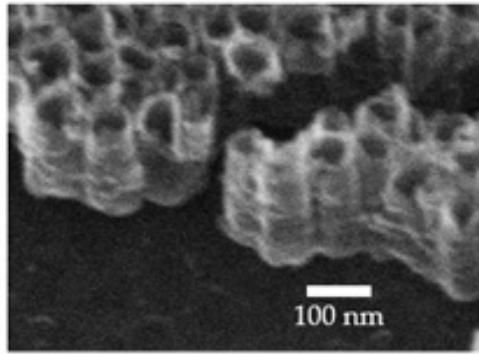
Nanotubes per in<sup>2</sup>

$$\approx \frac{1}{4} \cdot 10^{12}$$

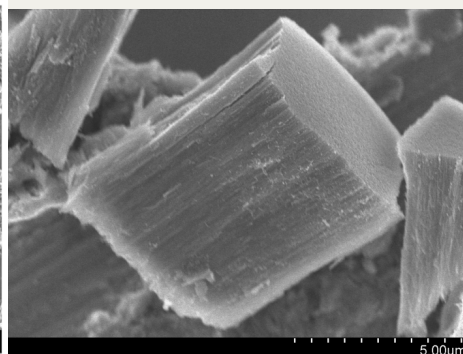
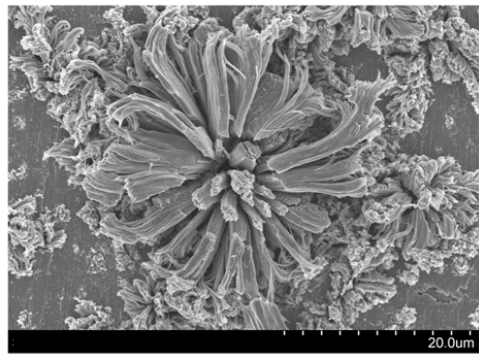
=  $\frac{1}{4}$  trillion

= 250000000000

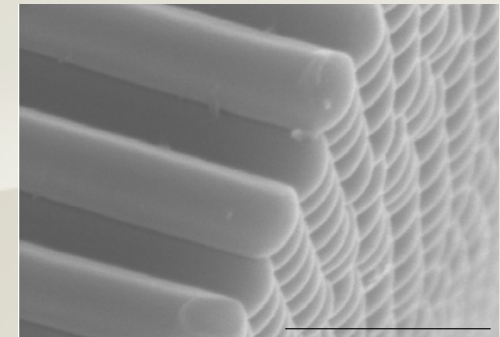
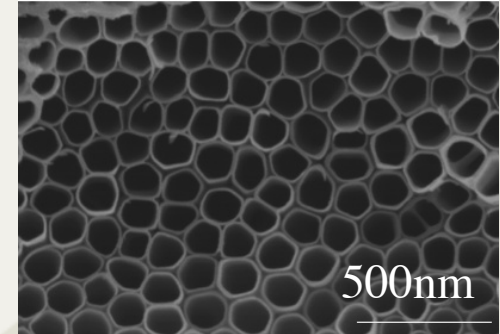




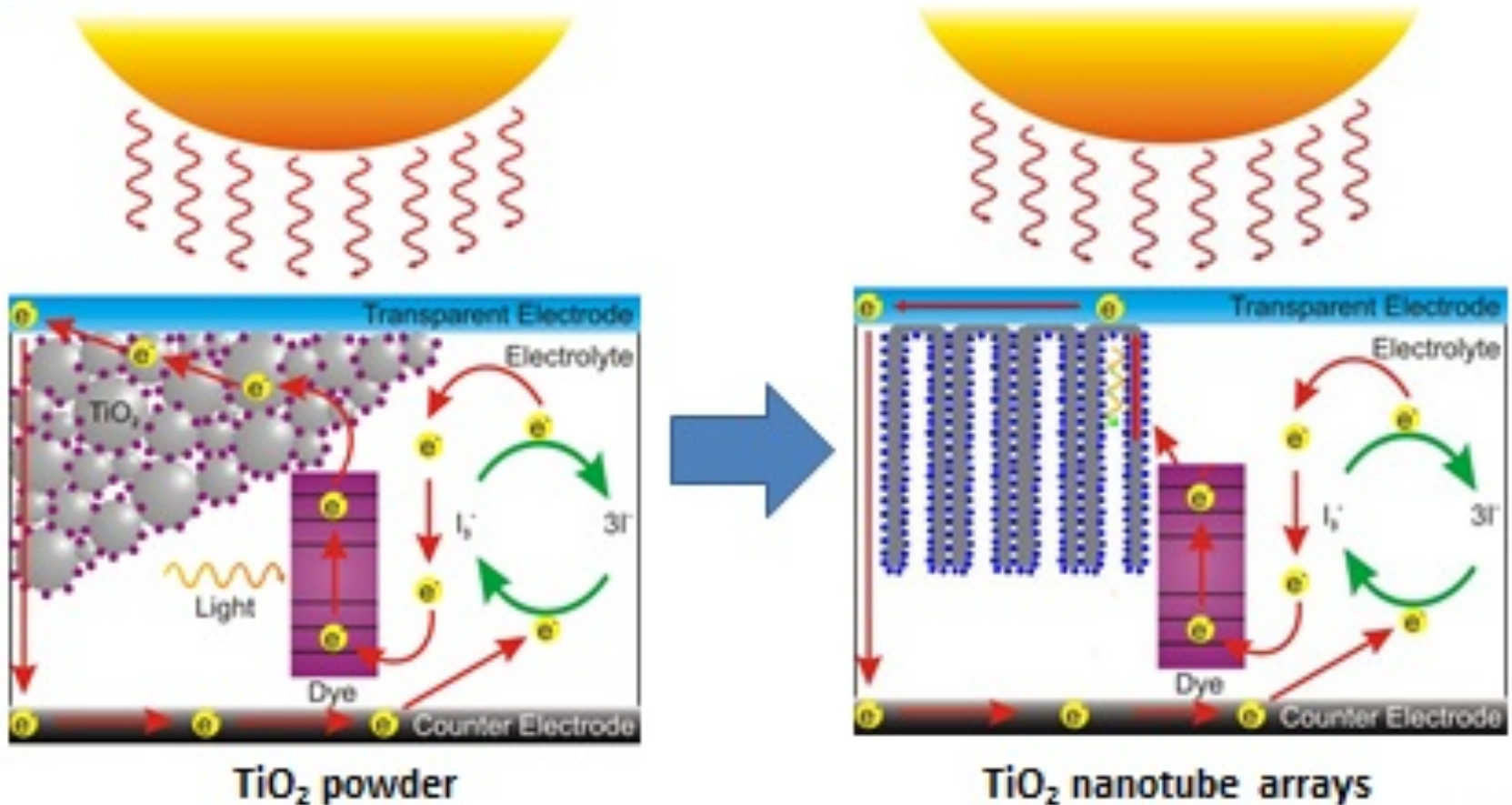
Short Nanotubes



Ultra-high Aspect ratio tubes

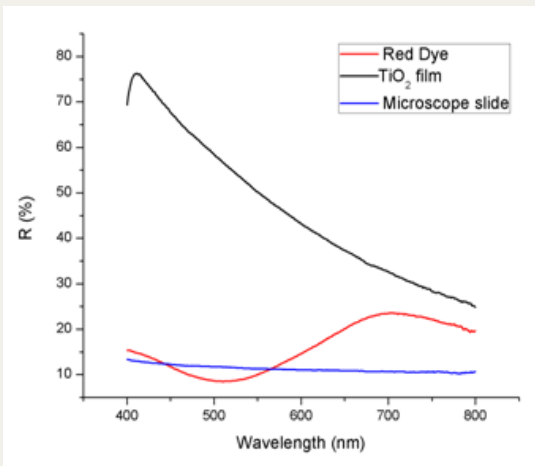


Quasi-Periodic Arrays

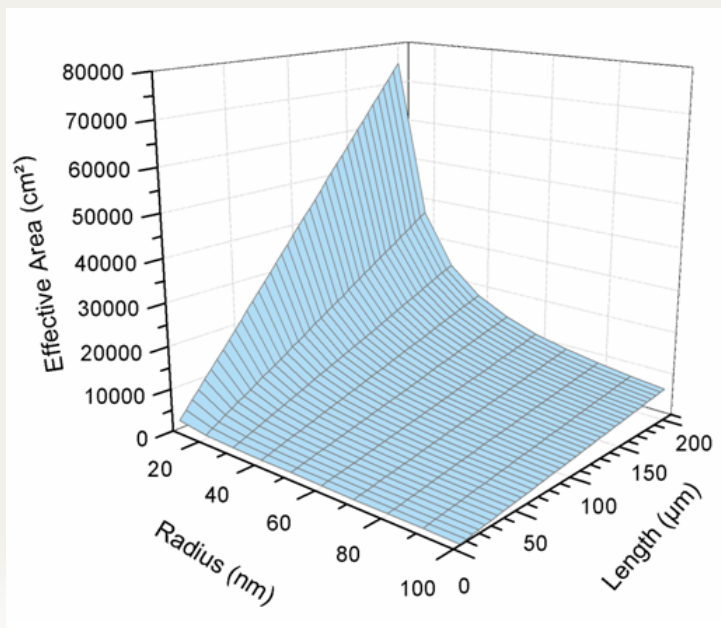


9

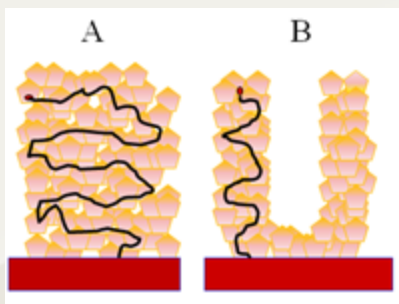
## Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells



**Increased light absorption**



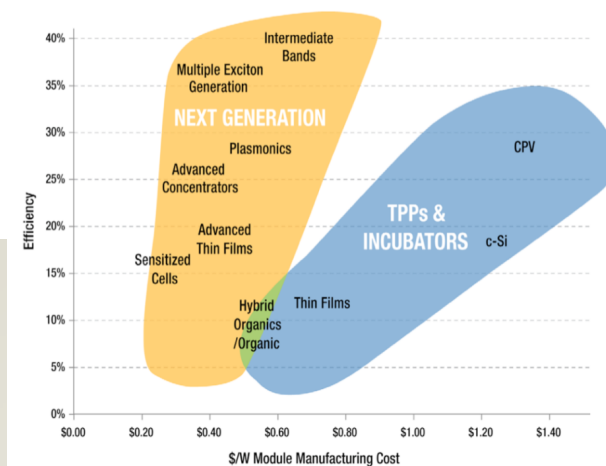
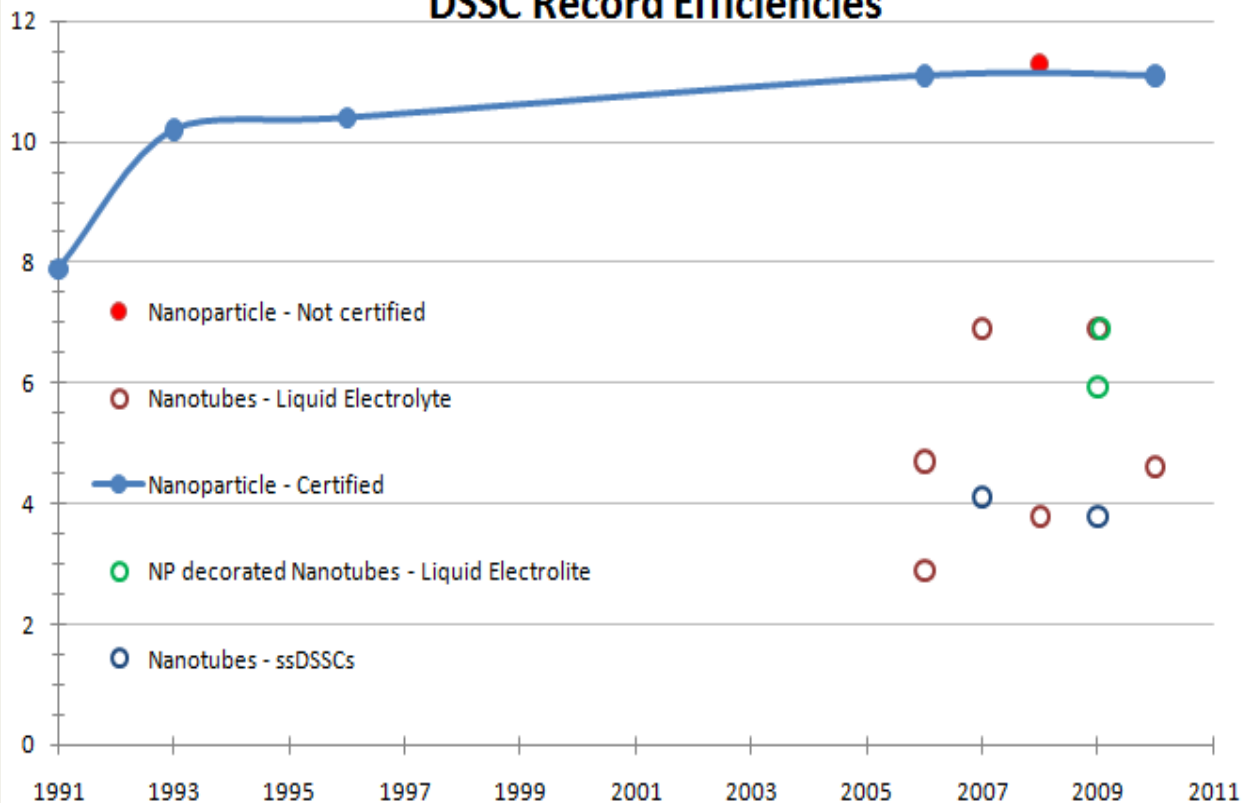
**Increased surface area**



**Lower resistance to carrier flow**

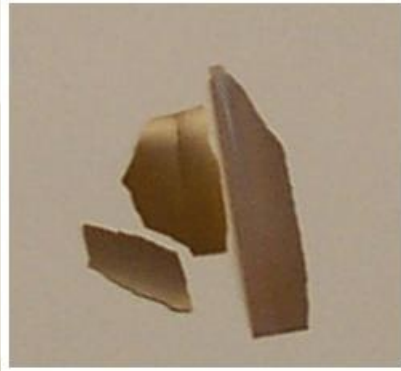
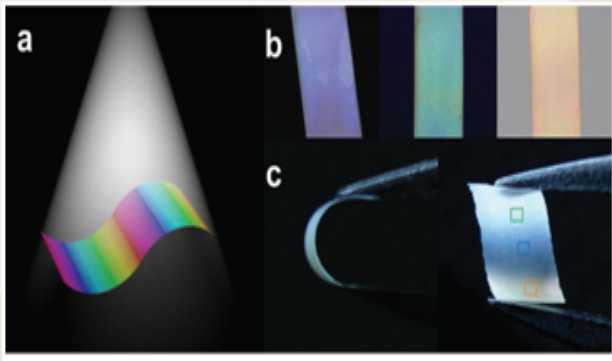
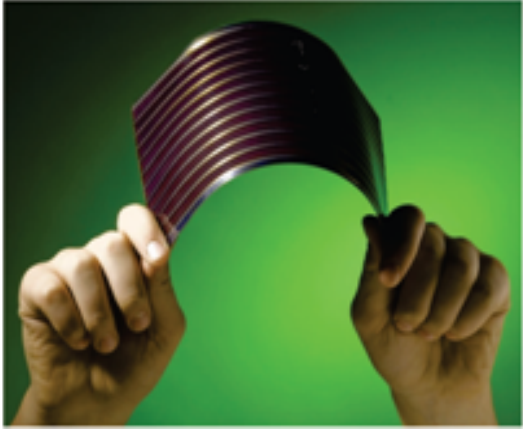
**Better Photoanodes**

## DSSC Record Efficiencies

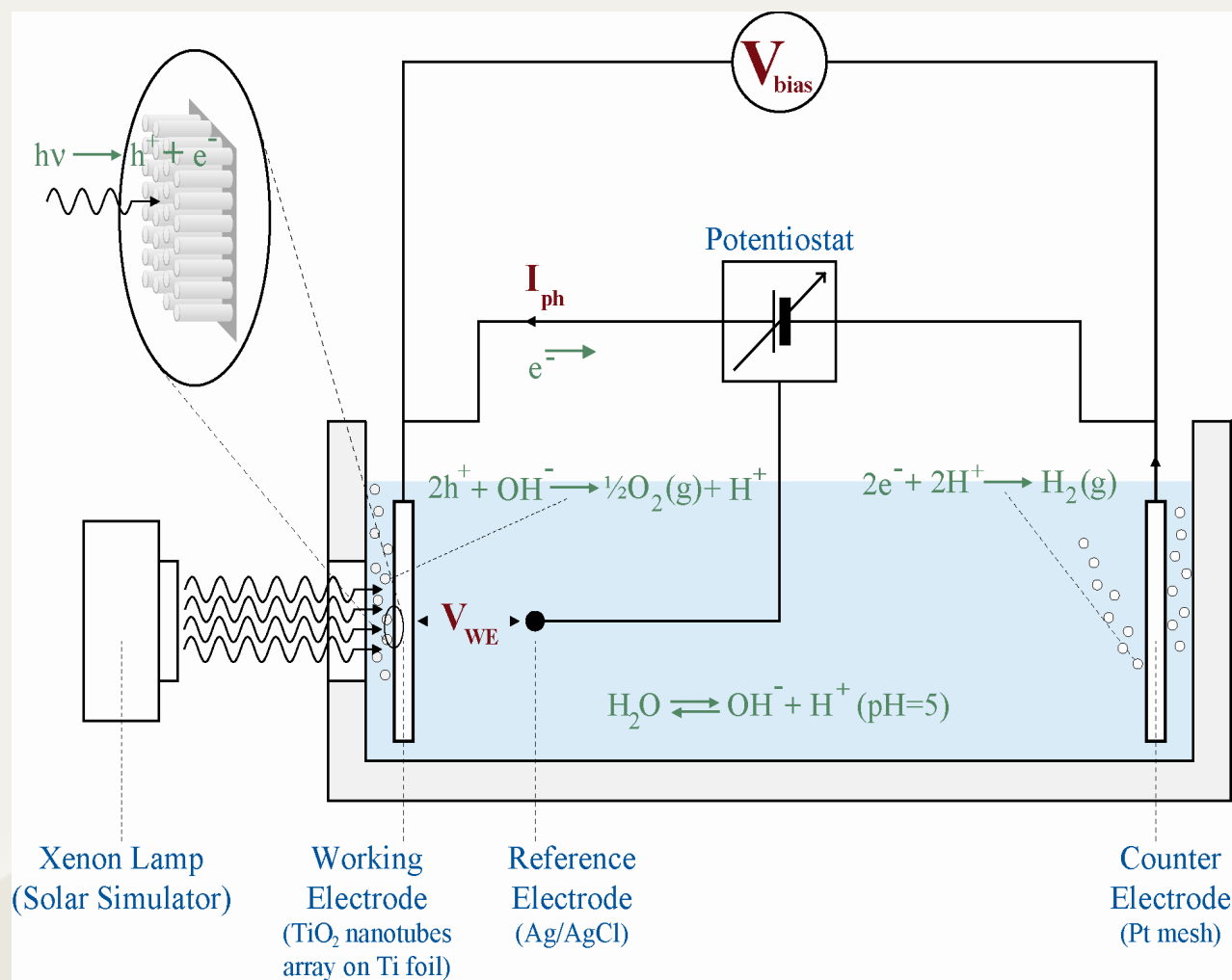




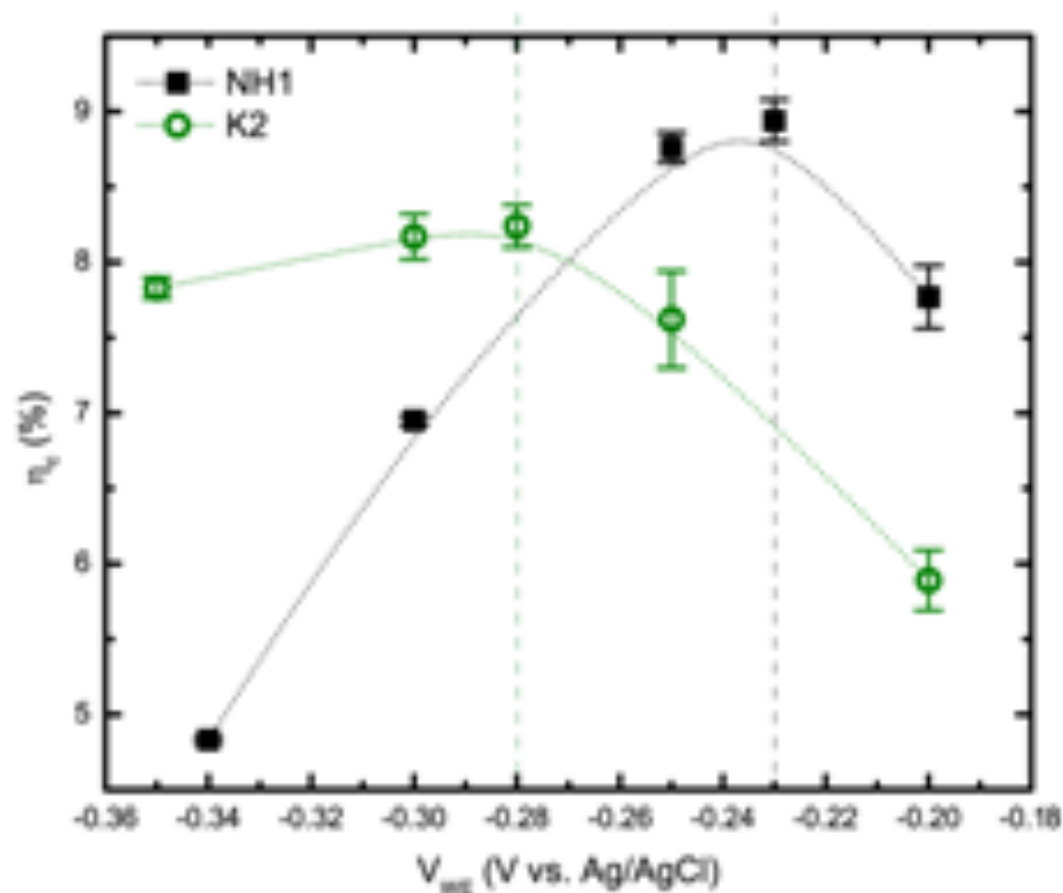
# Flexible AIPV/BIPV



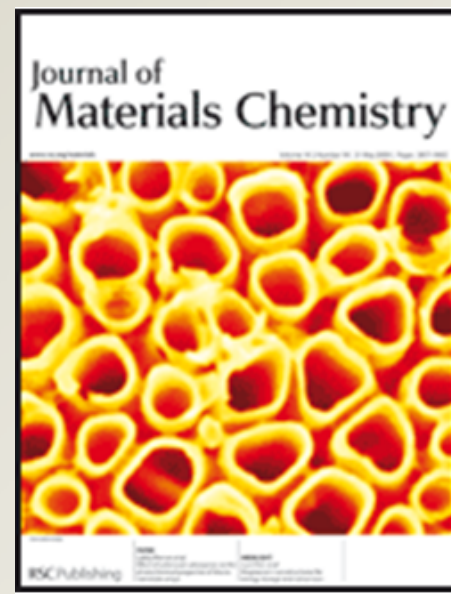
Lin et al. Small, 2011

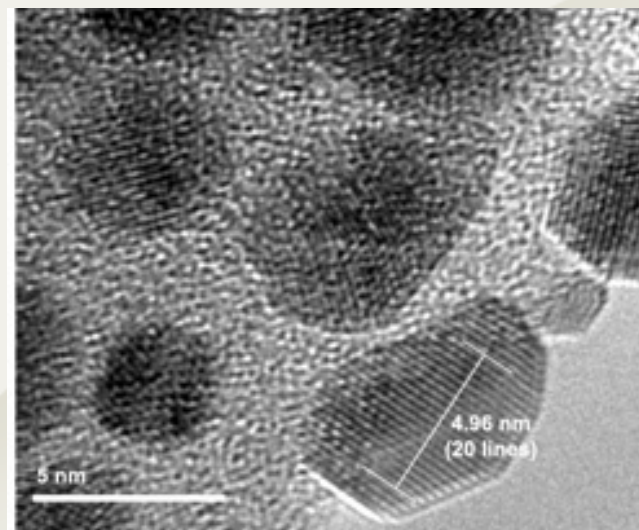
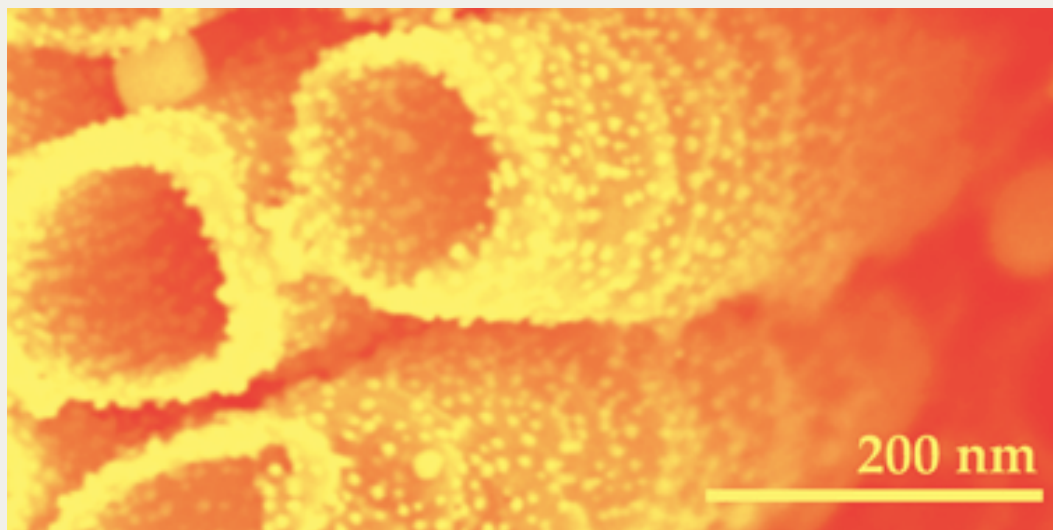


## Photocatalytic Anodes for H<sub>2</sub> Generation



$$\eta_c = \frac{I_{ph} (1.23V - V_{bias})}{I_0}$$



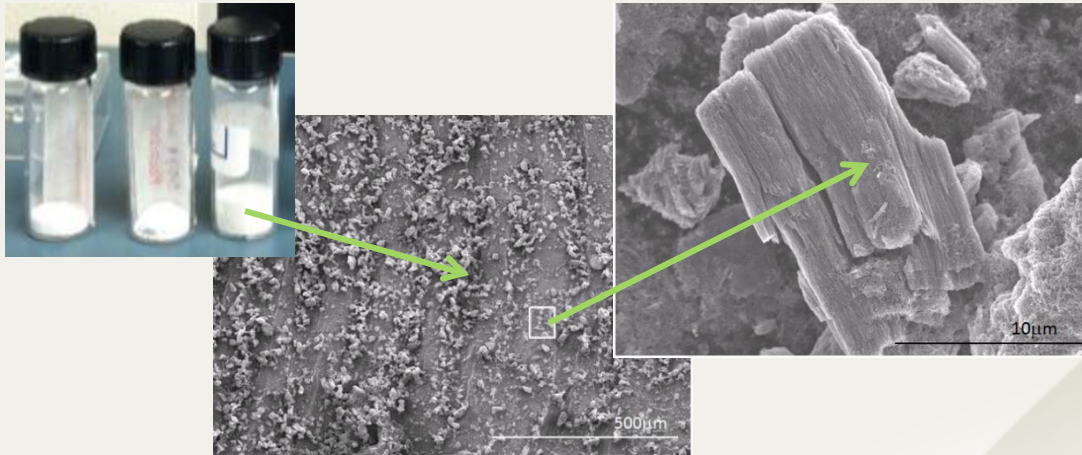


Au-nanoparticle attached Titania

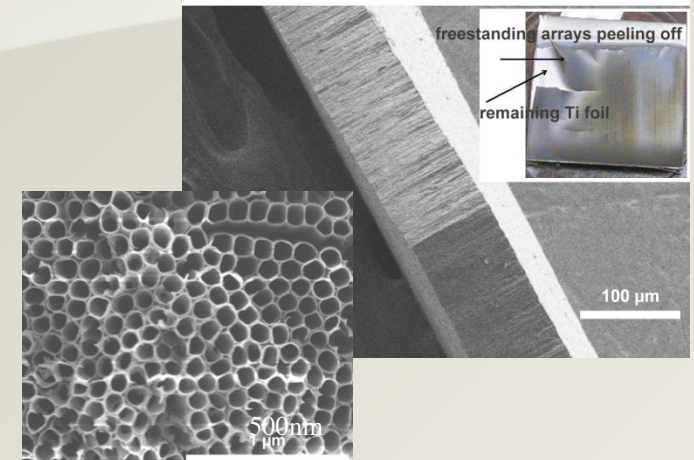
Catalysis



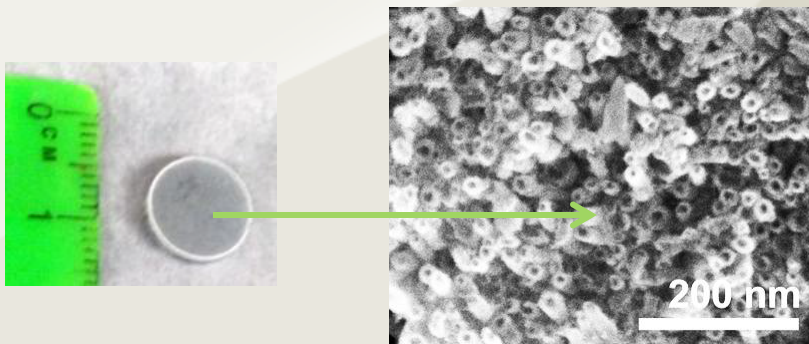
## Nanotube Powders



## Membranes



## Filtration Pellets



## Filtration Market: ~\$8.9B (US 2010)

- Ultrafiltration Market: ~\$1.2B
- Biological and Chemical Separation: ~\$0.7B
- **Treatment of Produced Water: ~\$0.86B**

## Today's Needs for Clean Water:

- Shortage of Water Resources
- **Oil Contamination Due to Drilling and Fracking**
- Toxic Elements Removal (e.g. Arsenic)
- Antimicrobial Treatment

## Produced Water Facts

- **15-20B Barrels/Year** in US (50B Worldwide)
- **Water-to-Oil Ratio (WOR)**  
**7:1 US (3:1 Worldwide)**
- Companies Pay **\$3-\$12/Barrel** of Produced Water



## Filtration Industry Pain Points

High-Temperature Robustness

Non-Corrosive in Adverse pH Solutions

Less Susceptible to Fouling

Tight Size Control (<100nm)

Alleviate High Pressure Requirement

## Our Material

Melting temperature: 1800°C

Strongly resistant in the 0-14 pH range

Capability for Selective Filtration

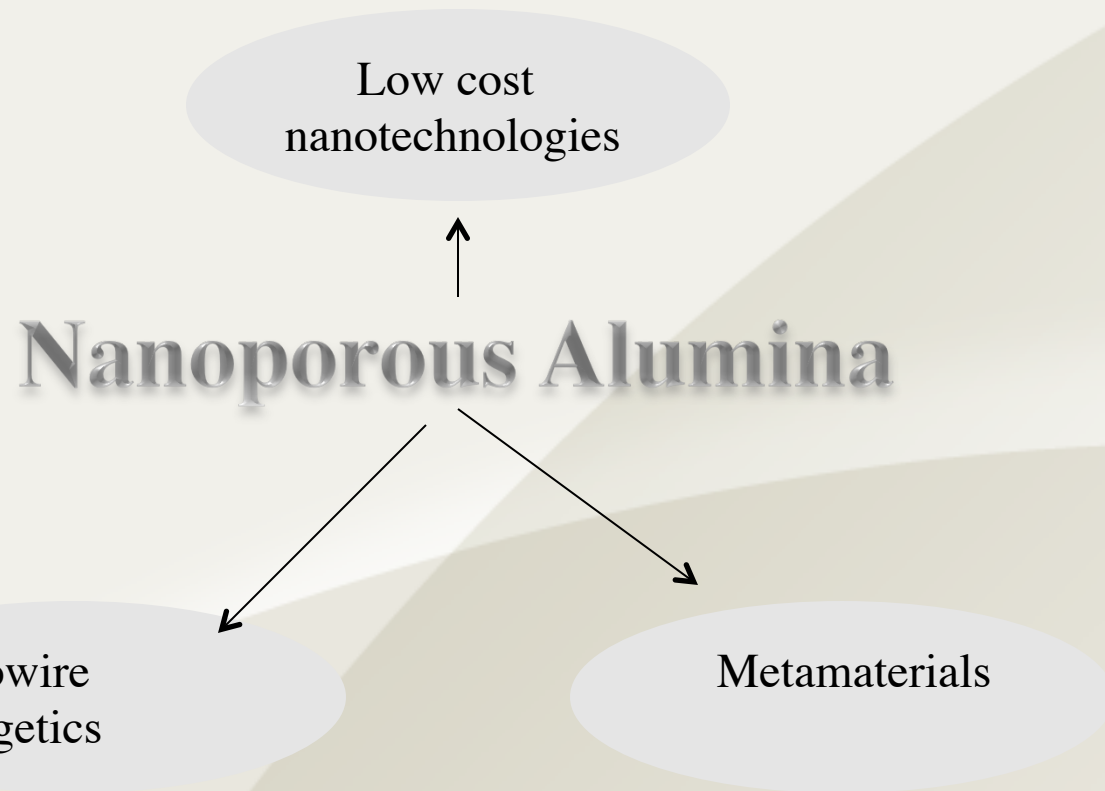
Tube diameter control down to 20 nm

Naturally Porous Membrane (High Active Surface Area)

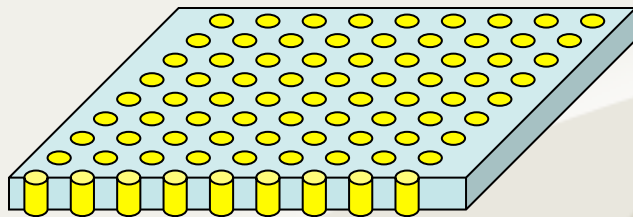
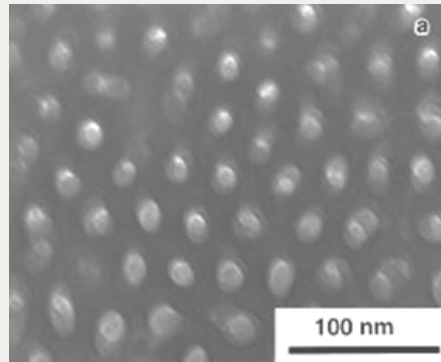
Very low production costs

	Commercial Silicon Carbide	Our Technology
<b>Substrate Material</b>	SiC	No substrate
<b>Selective layer material</b>	SiC	TiO <sub>2</sub>
<b>Porosity</b>	40%	60%, easy to control
Permeability	High because of high porosity and hydrophilicity	High because of high porosity and hydrophilicity
Temperature Tolerance	Up to 800°C in atmospheric air	Melting point: 1800°C
Chemical resistance	Resistant in full pH range 0-14	Resistant in full pH range 0-14
Max Cl concentration	Unlimited	Most likely unlimited
Solvents	Completely Stable	Stable
Oxidizers	Any concentration	Already an oxide
<b>Pore size</b>	<b>0.04 – 3 μm</b>	<b>TBD (~ 0.1 μm)</b>
<b>Flux Rate</b>	<b>3 – 12 m<sup>3</sup>/(m<sup>2</sup>h)</b>	<b>1.2 m<sup>3</sup>/(m<sup>2</sup>h)</b>

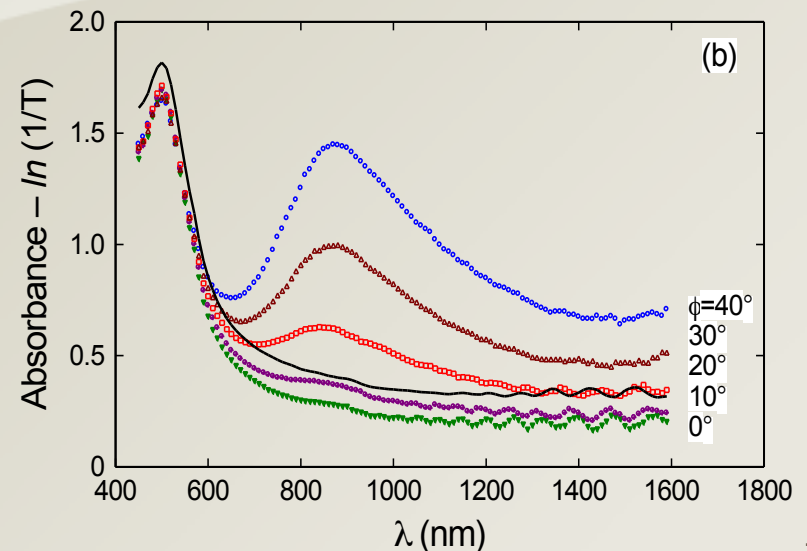
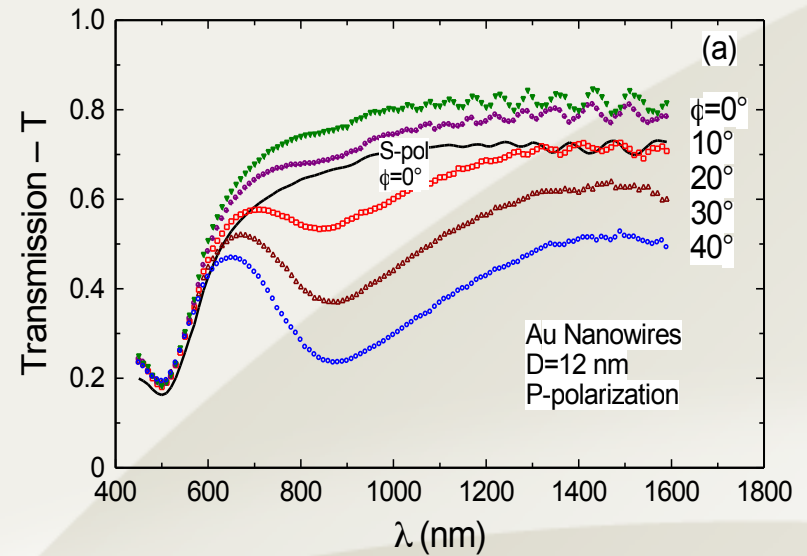




## Metal-Dielectric Composites

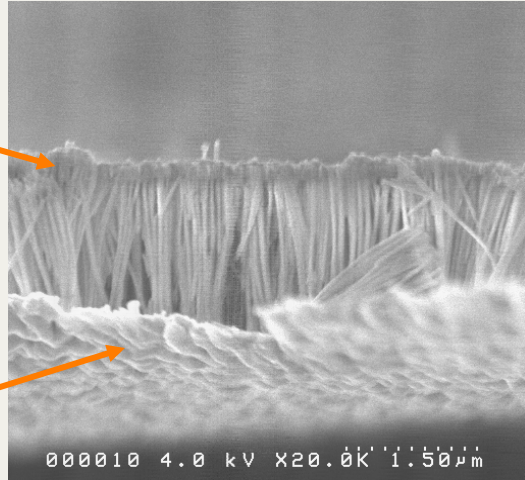


## Improved Absorption Wavelength Selectivity

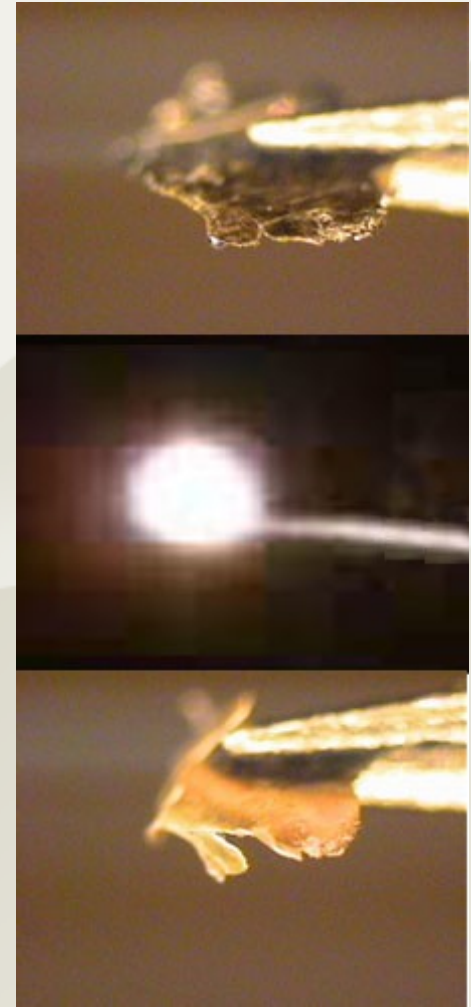


$\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$   
Oxidizer

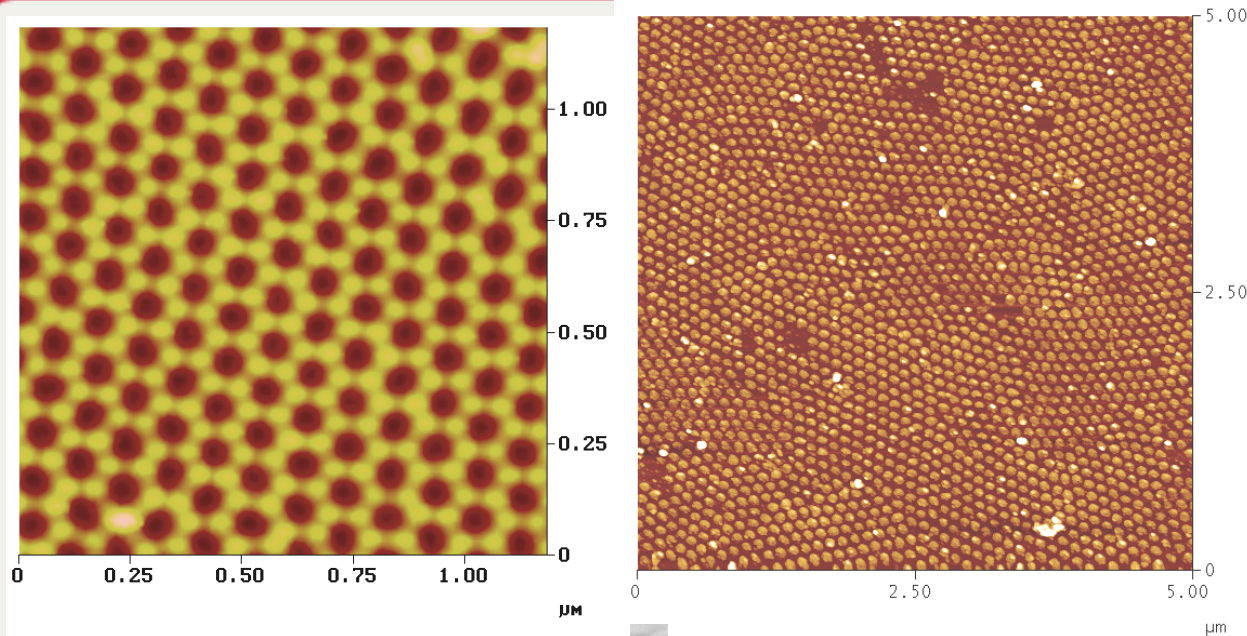
Al Fuel



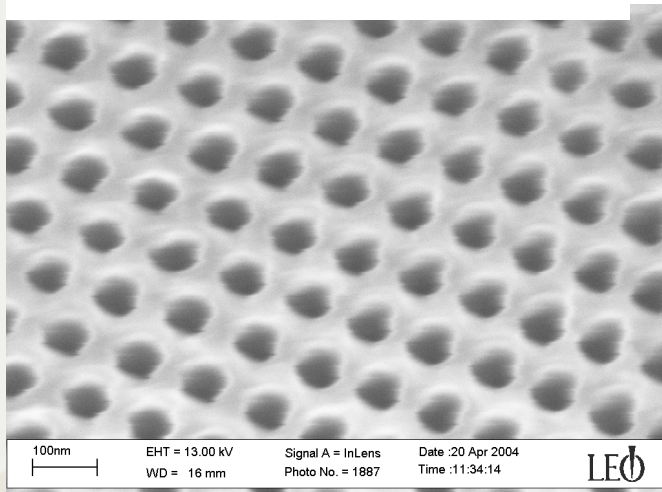
Light-weight, single-use,  
MEMS-compatible energy sources



Ignition



Au Nanodots

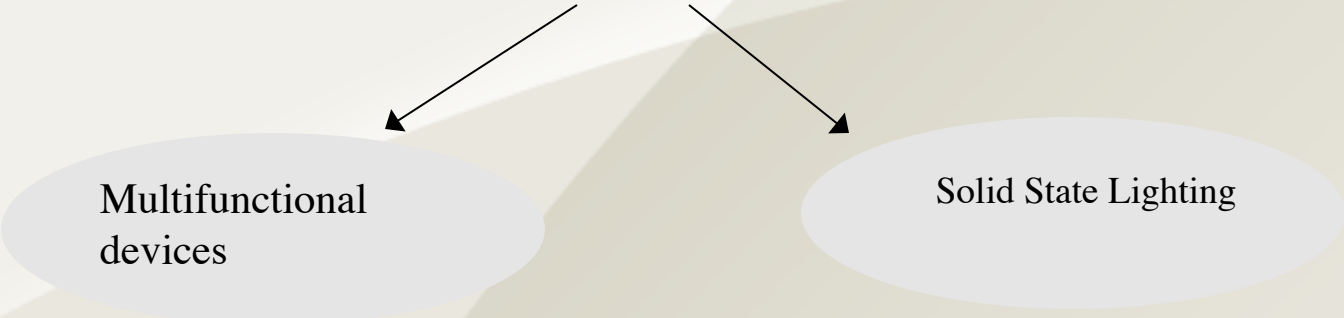


Nanopores in Si

Low-Cost,  
Scalable Nanotechnology



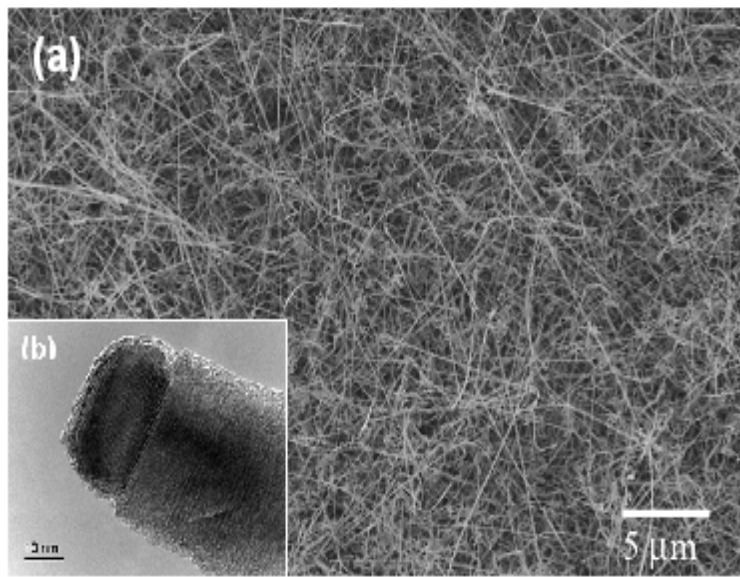
# GaN Nanowires



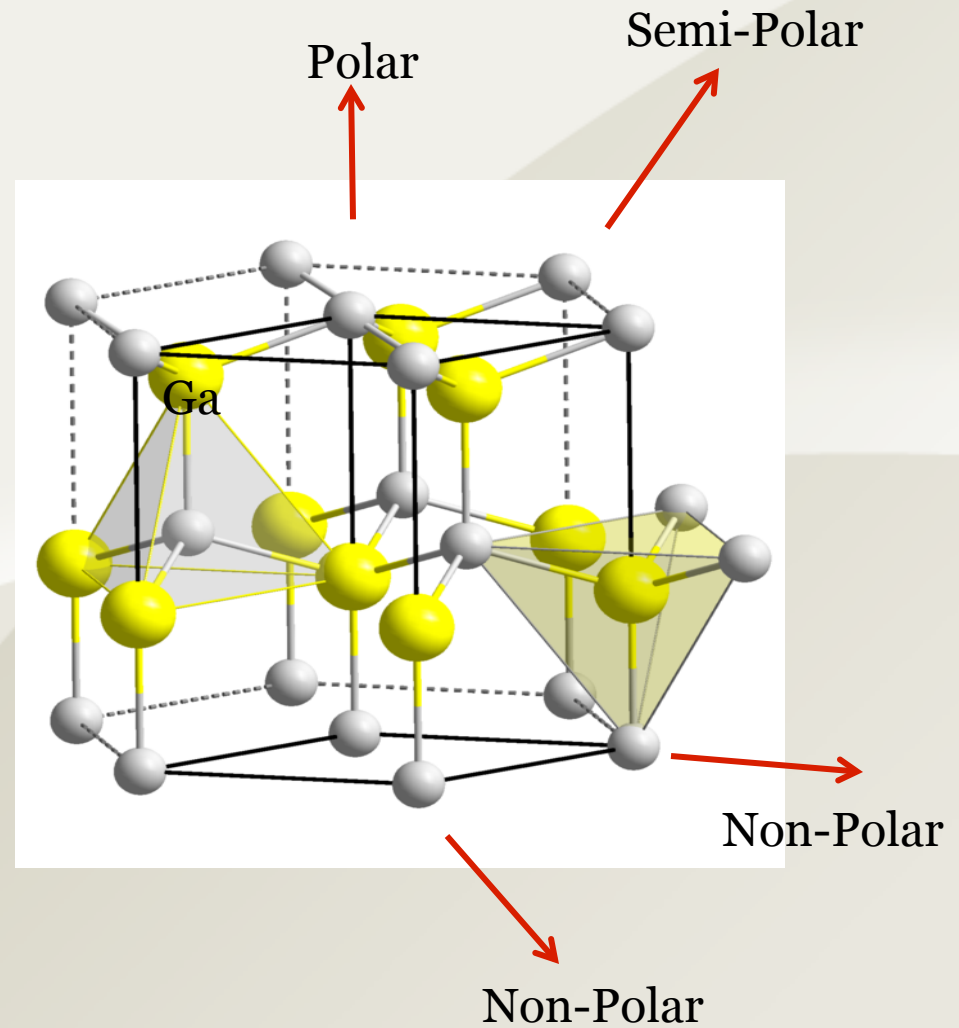
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graph TD; A[GaN Nanowires] --> B[Multifunctional devices]; A --> C[Solid State Lighting];
```

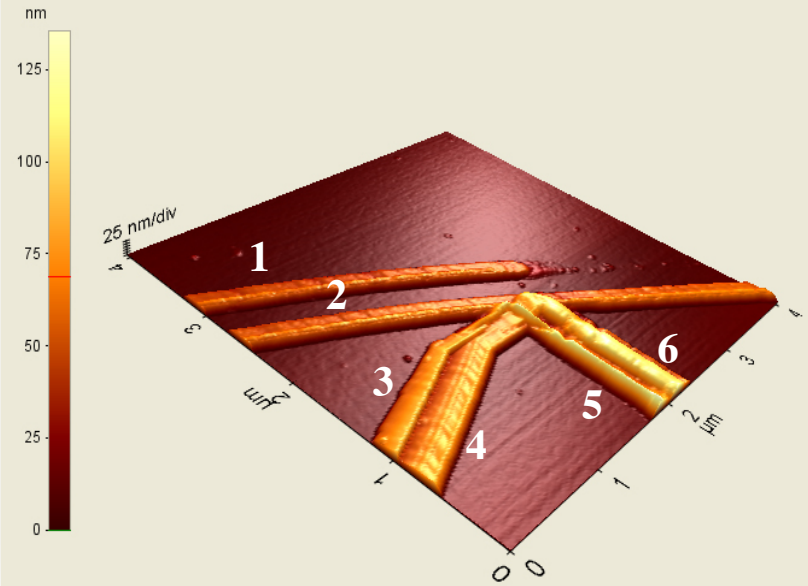
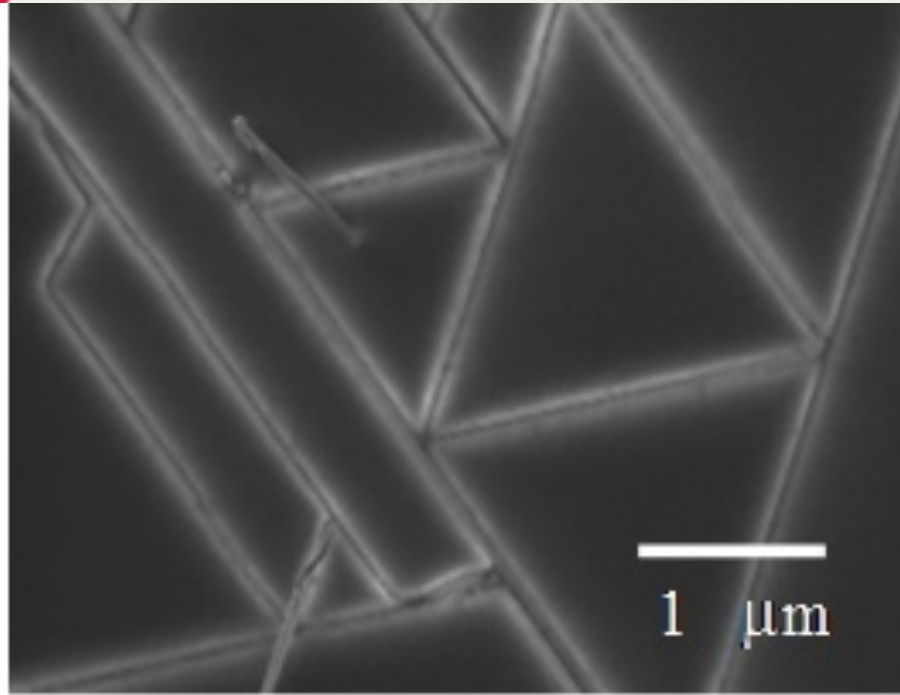
Multifunctional  
devices

Solid State Lighting

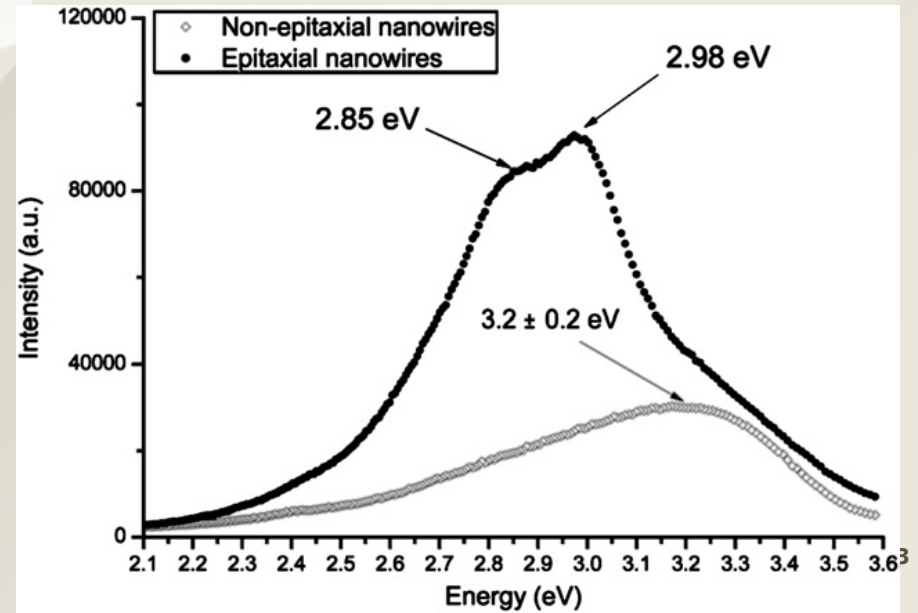


## GaN Nanowires

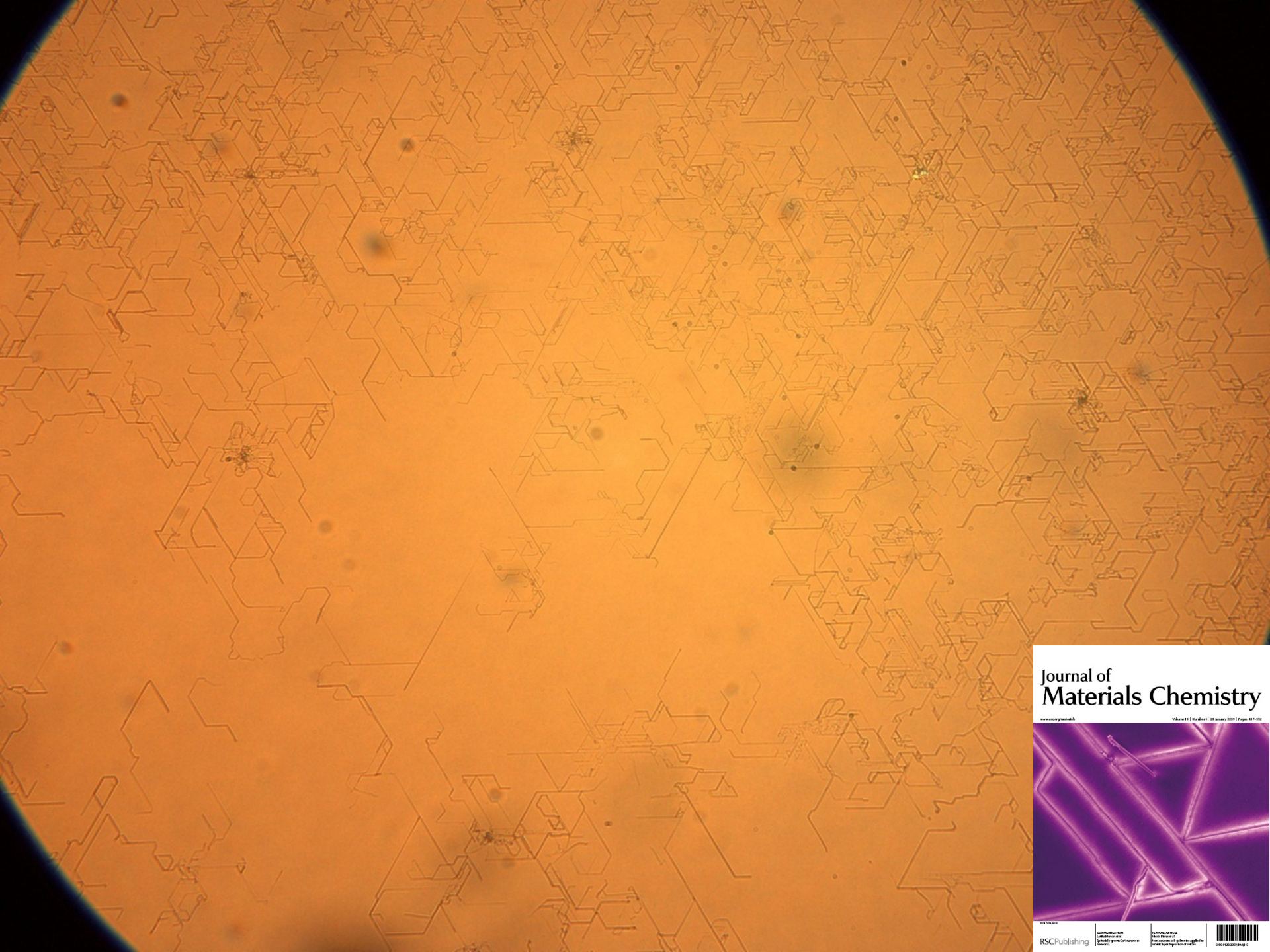




## Epitaxial GaN



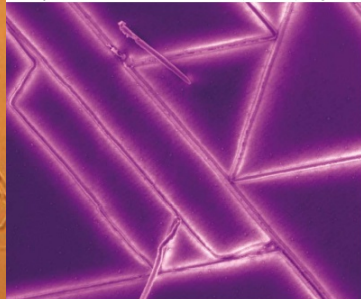




# Journal of Materials Chemistry

www.rsc.org/materials

Volume 19 | Number 1 | 28 January 2007 | Pages 1-522



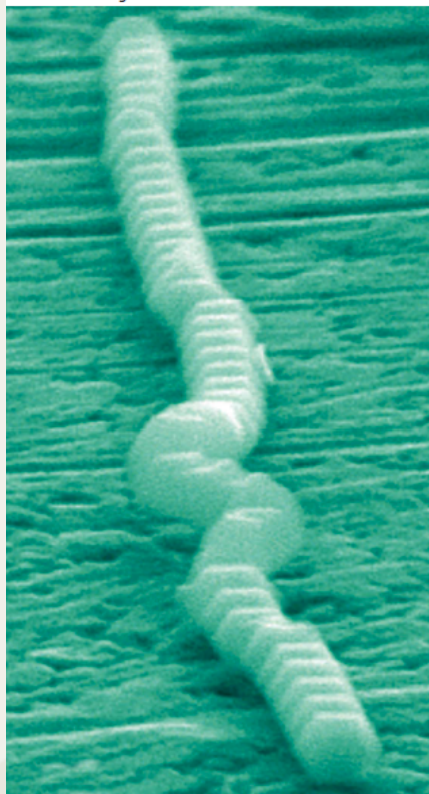


# Journal of Materials Chemistry C

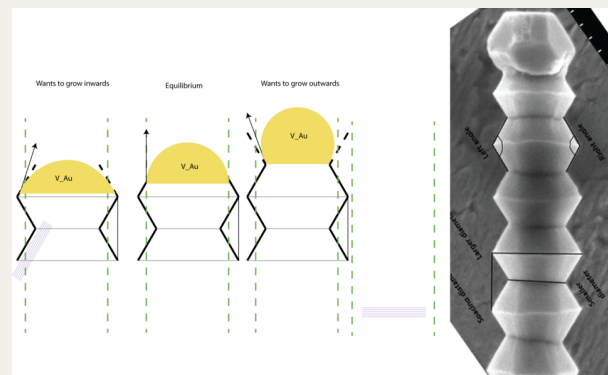
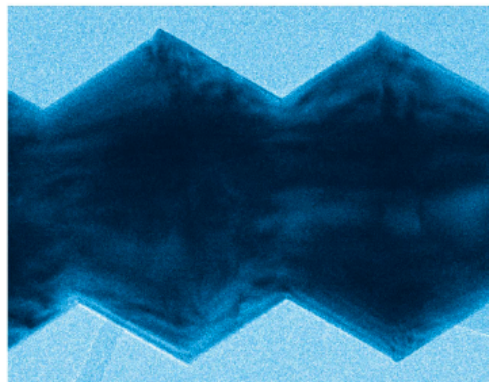
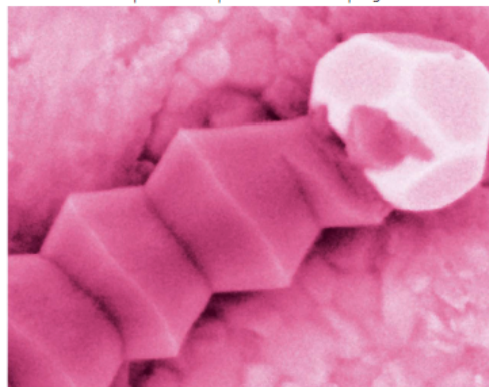
Materials for optical and electronic devices

www.rsc.org/MaterialsC

Volume 1 | Number 44 | 28 November 2013 | Pages 7257–7460



ISSN 2050-7526



Serrated GaN

Enhanced Surface Area



## **Northeastern University Research Funding**

- NSF (CAREER, DMR, ECCS, I-CORPS)
- Airforce, Army, ONR

## **Lab Highlights**

- Over 5M in funding to date
- Graduated 6PhDs and 4MS
- Over 40 papers on nanomaterials
- Outreach and mentoring

## **Menon Laboratories, Inc.**

- Incorporated in March 2013
- MassCEC funding
- Oil and Gas Company funding