

## Presenters:

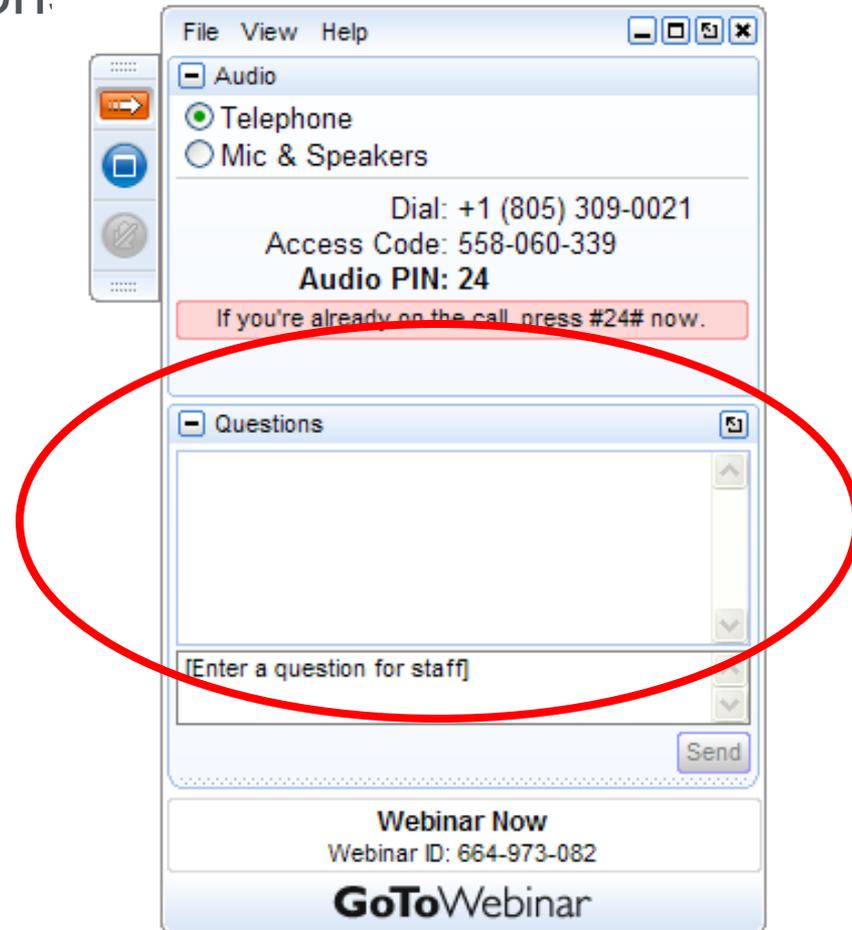
Mark Allendorf - Sandia National Laboratory  
Rod Borup - Los Alamos National Laboratory

## DOE Host:

Ned Stetson - DOE Fuel Cell Technologies Office  
Dimitrios Papageorgopoulos - DOE Fuel Cell Technologies Office

U.S. Department of Energy  
Fuel Cell Technologies Office  
January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

- Please type your question into the question box



# Hydrogen Materials Advanced Research Consortium



**Sponsor: DOE—EERE/Fuel Cell Technologies Office**



**Consortium Director: Dr. Mark D. Allendorf**

**Partner Laboratories:**

**Sandia National Laboratories**

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**Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory**

POC: Dr. Brandon Wood Phone: (925) 422-8391. Email: [brandonwood@llnl.gov](mailto:brandonwood@llnl.gov)

**Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory**

POC: Dr. Jeff Urban; phone: (510) 486-4526; email: [jjurban@lbl.gov](mailto:jjurban@lbl.gov)



- **Concept, objectives, goals, organizational structure of HyMARC**
- **Overview of partner capabilities**

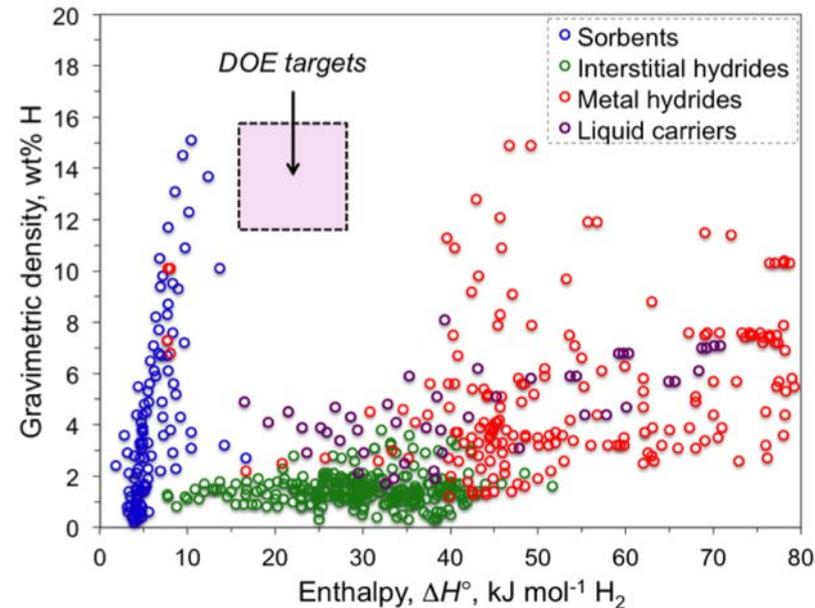
# Critical Scientific Challenges (Identified by NREL PI meeting, Jan. 2015)

Sorbents: Eng. COE target: 15 – 20 kJ/mol

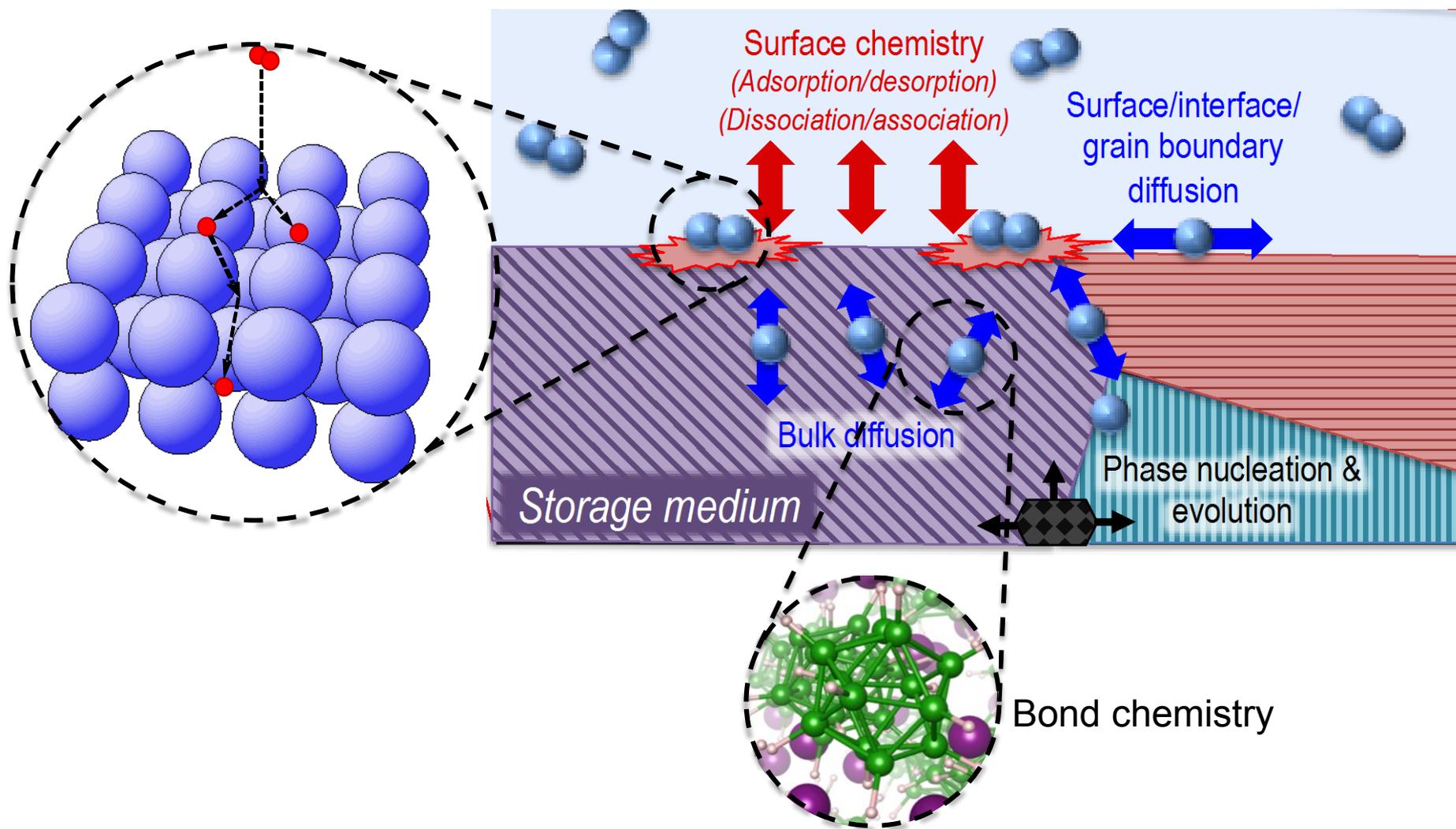
- Volumetric capacity at operating temp.
- Increased usable hydrogen capacity needed
- Distribution of H<sub>2</sub> binding sites and  $\Delta H$  at ambient temperature not optimized

Metal hydrides: Eng. COE target:  $\leq 27$  kJ/mol H<sub>2</sub>

- Poor understanding of limited reversibility and kinetics
- Role of interfaces and interfacial reactions
  - Solid-solid
  - Surfaces
- Importance and potential of nanostructures



# Need for multiscale modeling approaches to address both thermodynamic and kinetic issues



**HyMARC will provide the fundamental understanding of phenomena governing thermodynamics and kinetics necessary to enable the development of on-board solid-phase hydrogen storage materials**

*These resources will create an entirely new DOE/FCTO Capability that will enable accelerated materials development to achieve thermodynamics and kinetics required to meet DOE targets.*

# Ambitious HyMARC goal: a set of ready-to-use resources



- Multi-physics software, methods, and models optimized for high-throughput material screening using the large-scale parallel computing facilities of the three partners
- Sustainable, extensible database framework for measured and computed material properties
- Protocols for synthesizing storage materials in bulk and nanoscale formats
- Ultra high-pressure synthesis and characterization facilities (700 bar and above)
- In situ and ex situ spectroscopic, structural, and surface characterization methods, tailored for hydrogen storage and, where necessary, adapted for facile use of ALS soft X-ray probes

*HyMARC will purposefully make consortium assets (people, software, and hardware) as accessible as possible, thereby maximizing the impact of FCTO investments and providing a platform for leveraged capabilities with other DOE offices.*

## “Effective thermal energy for H<sub>2</sub> release”

$$\Delta E(T) = \Delta H^\circ(T) + E_a$$

### Thermodynamics of uptake and release

#### Tasks 1

- Sorbents
- Hydrides

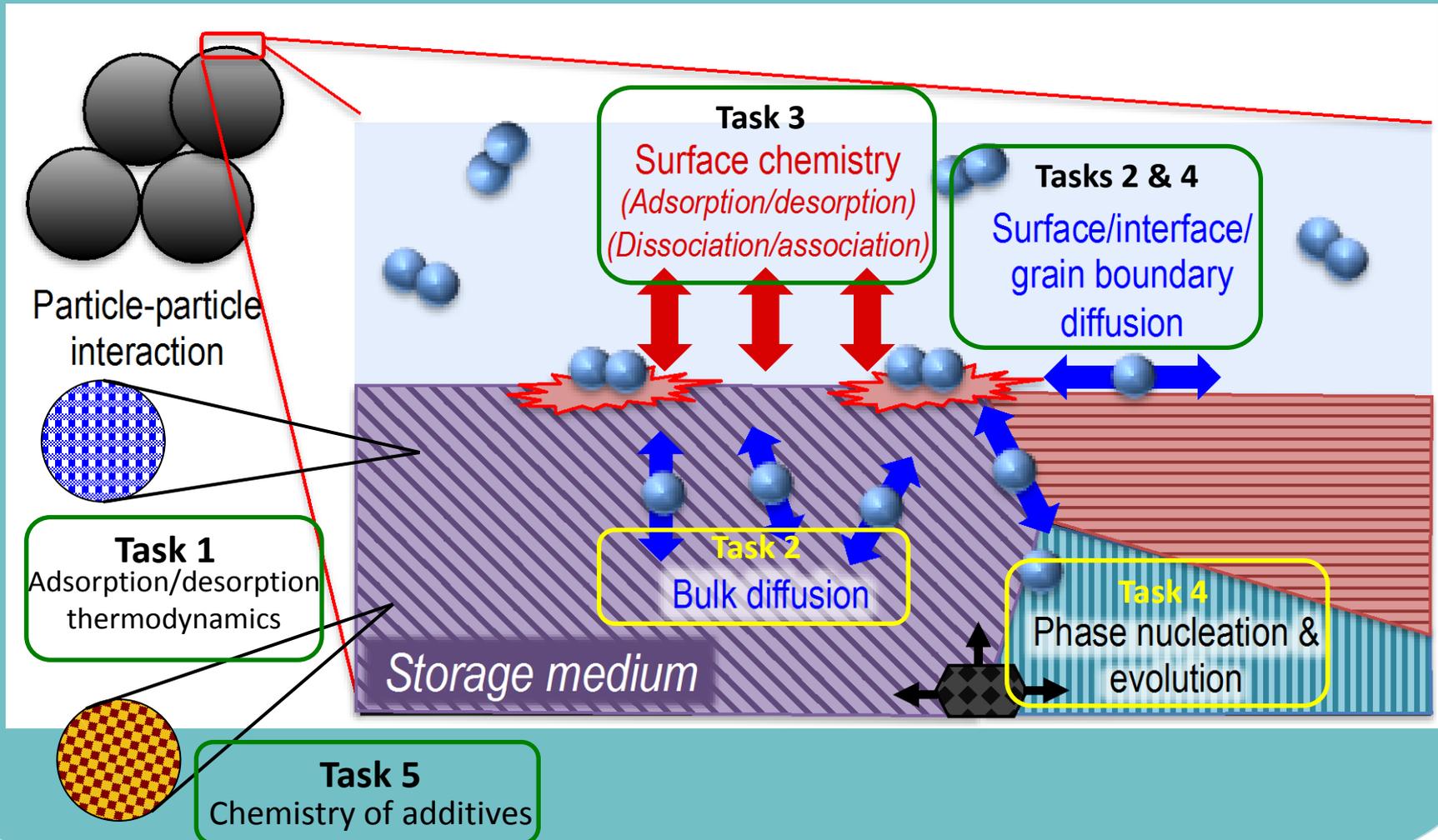
### Kinetics of uptake and release

#### Tasks 2, 3, 4, and 5

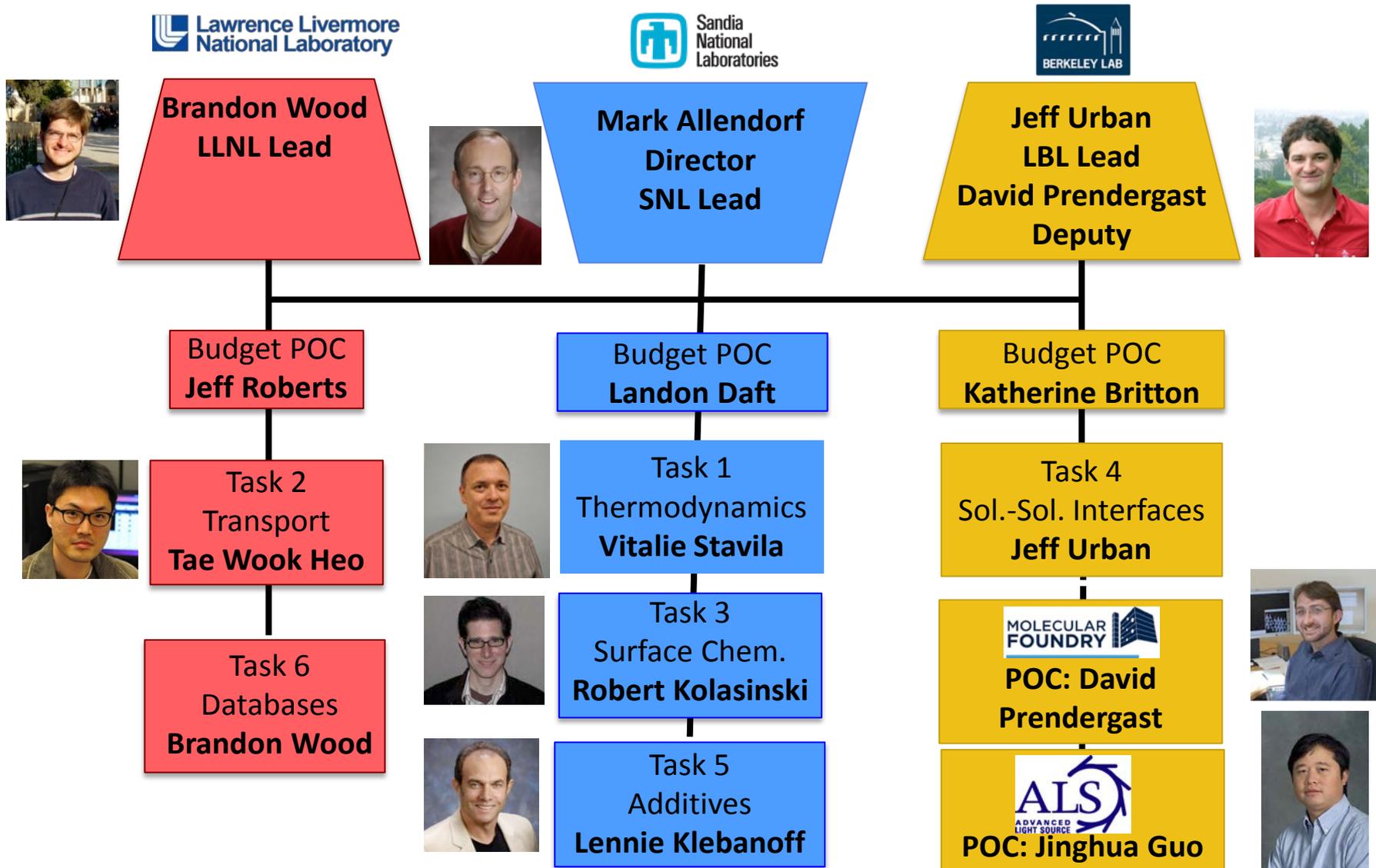
- Surface reactions
- Mass transport
- Solid-solid interfaces
- Additives

# HyMARC tasks address the critical scientific questions limiting the performance of solid-state storage materials

## Task 6: Databases



# Organizational structure of Core Team



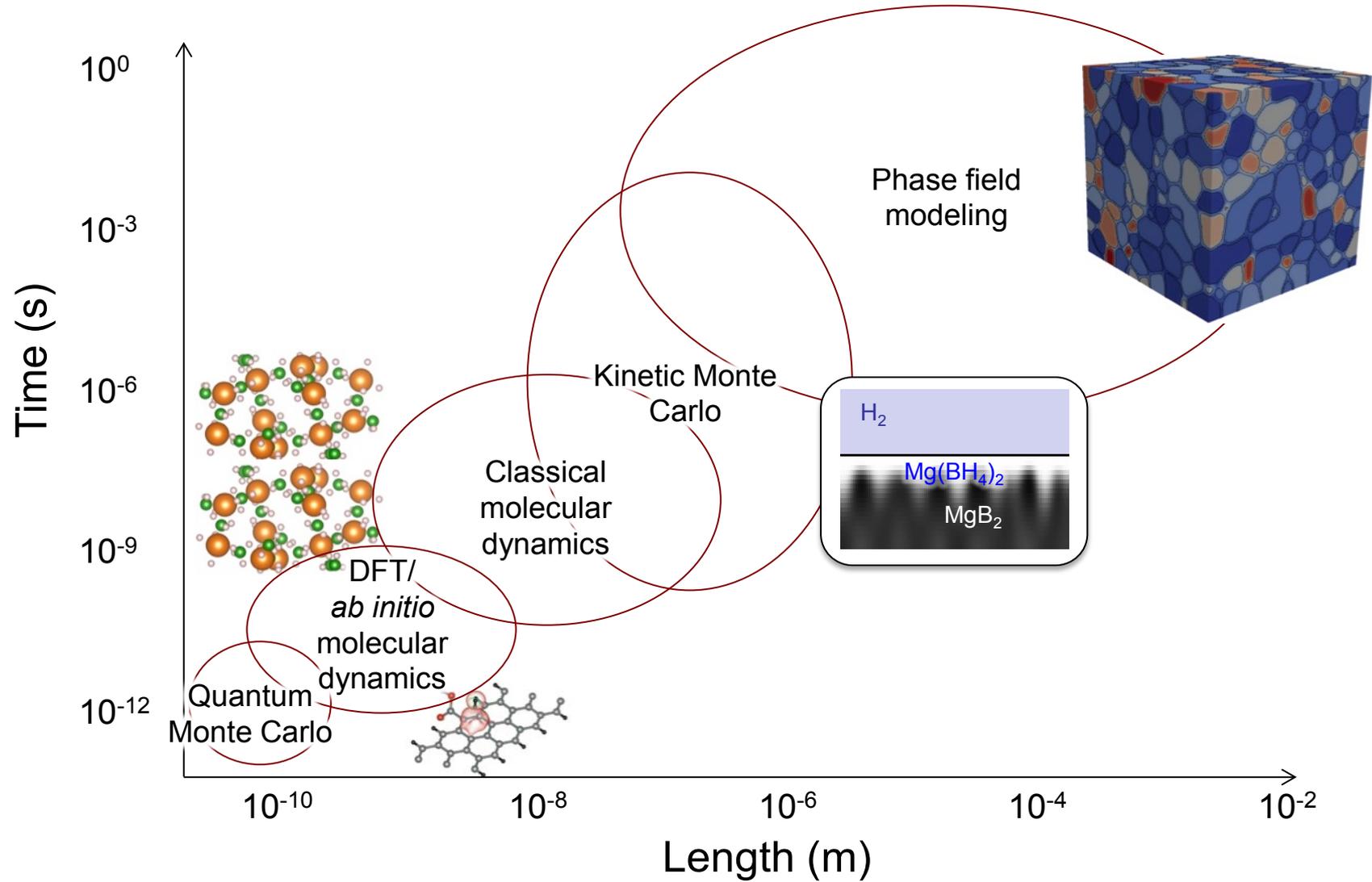
# All consortium partners and their unique capabilities contribute to each task

	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Task 5	Task 6
	Synthesis of bulk and nanoscale metal hydrides and MOFs					
	←-----→					
		LEIS	LEIS, XPS		LEIS, XPS	
	Ultra-high pressure reactor	Atomistic modeling of large systems	XPS & AP-XPS	Atomistic modeling		
	Tailored graphene sorbents	XAS, XES		XAS, XES	XAS, XES	Database concepts
	Multi-scale modeling tools					
	←-----→					
	Graphene Nanobelts	Soft x-ray characterization tools				CoRE Database
	←-----→					
	Encapsulated metal hydrides	Modeling for x-ray spectroscopies				
	Lewis acid/base sorbent chemistry			Electron microscopies	Catalytic nanoparticles on mesoporous supports	
						

*The following slides illustrate unique existing capabilities within the HyMARC Core Team and some of the approaches we are using to address critical barriers to the development of successful solid-state storage materials*

- Quantum Monte Carlo for accurate sorbent energies
- Phase-field modeling (PFM): Solid-state phase transformation kinetics
- Sorbent suite for model testing and validation
- Bulk and nanoscale metal hydrides synthesis and characterization
- Modified graphene nanoribbons: functional catalysis
- Hierarchical integrated hydride materials
- Low-energy ion scattering for detecting hydrogen on surfaces
- Ambient-pressure X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (AP-XPS)
- Soft X-ray spectroscopy and microscopy at the Advanced Light Source
- Theory and modeling: computational spectroscopy and x-ray spectroscopy
- Community tools, including databases

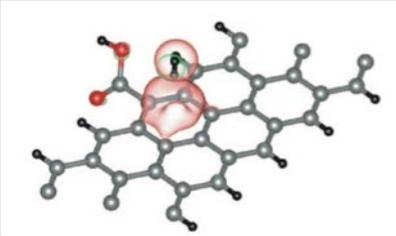
# A suite of techniques for multiscale simulations are a key capability of the HyMARC Core Team



Stochastic quantum method for beyond-DFT accuracy for H<sub>2</sub>-metal energetics and Lewis acid-base interactions

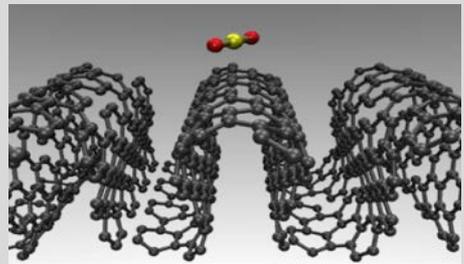


## Carbon sorbents



Chemical functionalization (edge and surface)

Ulman et al., J. Chem. Phys. 140, 174708 (2014)



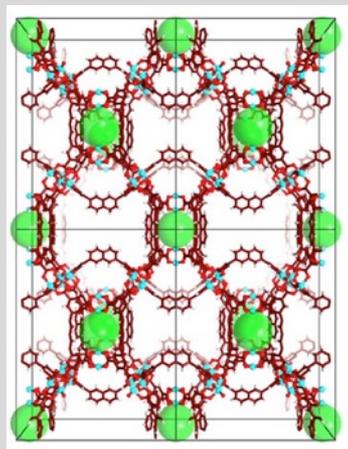
Curvature and strain

Dutta et al., J. Phys. Chem. C 118, 7741 (2014)

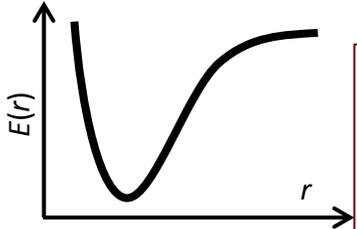
## Metal-organic frameworks (MOFs)

Open metal sites

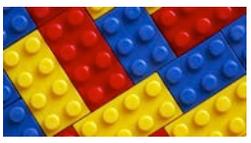
Organic linkers



Crystal structure/coordination



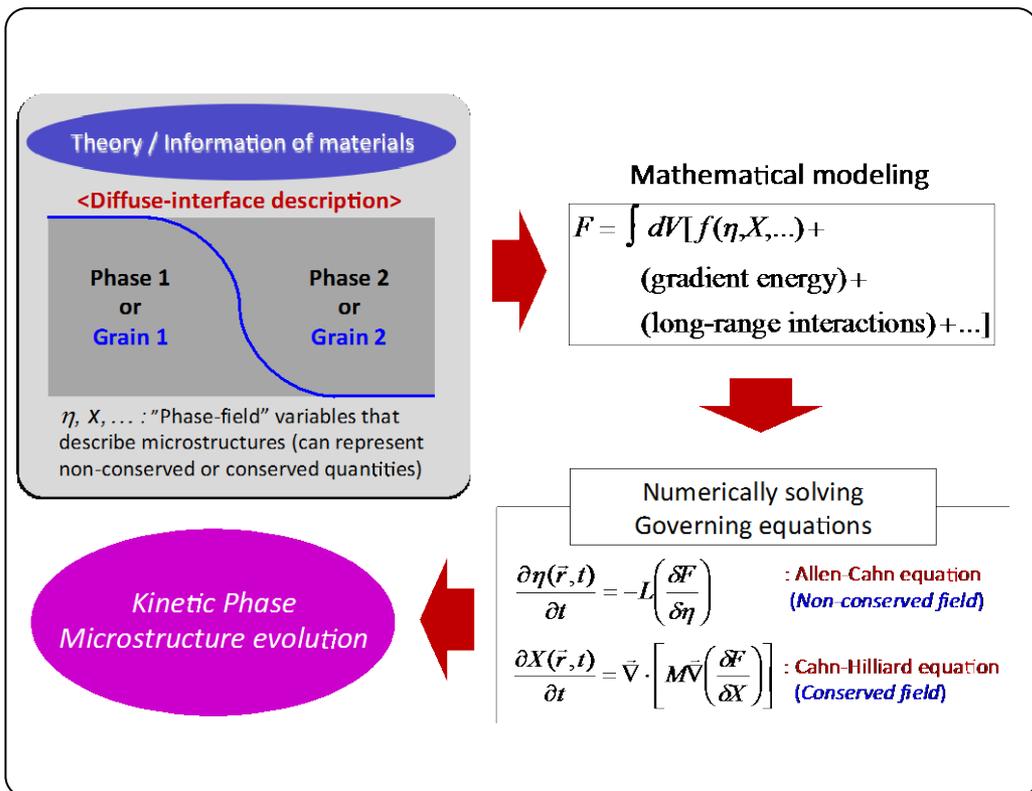
Generate fitted potentials (or benchmarked DFT functionals) for integration with Zeo++ porosity modeling and CoRE database for isotherm prediction



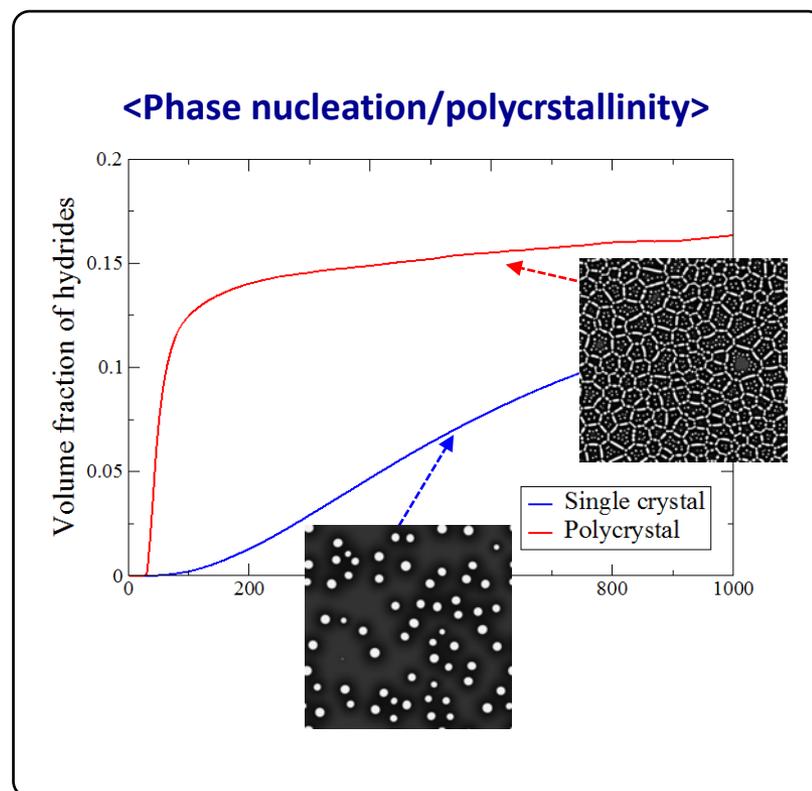
# Phase-field modeling (PFM): Solid-state phase transformation kinetics

Combine **thermodynamics**, **mass transport** (bulk, surface, and interface), **mechanical stress**, and **phase nucleation/growth** to **model solid-state reaction kinetics**

## General Framework



## Kinetic evolution of microstructure



**T.W. Heo**, S. Bhattacharyya, L.-Q. Chen, *Acta Mater.*, **59**, 7800 (2011)

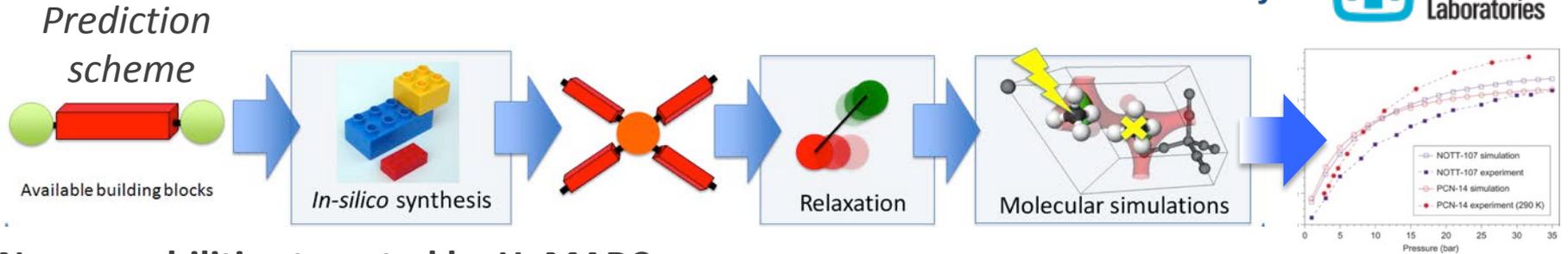
**T.W. Heo**, S. Bhattacharyya, L.-Q. Chen, *Phil. Mag.*, **93**, 1468 (2013)

**T.W. Heo**, L.-Q. Chen, *Acta Mater.*, **76**, 68 (2014)

**T.W. Heo**, L.-Q. Chen, B.C. Wood, *Comp. Mater. Sci.*, **108**, 323 (2015)

# Sorbent suite for model testing and validation

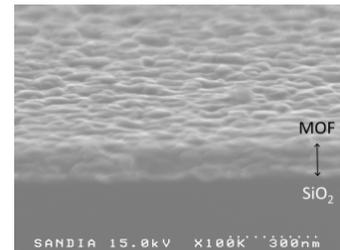
**Goal: validated theoretical models that can serve as the basis for high-throughput computational material design**



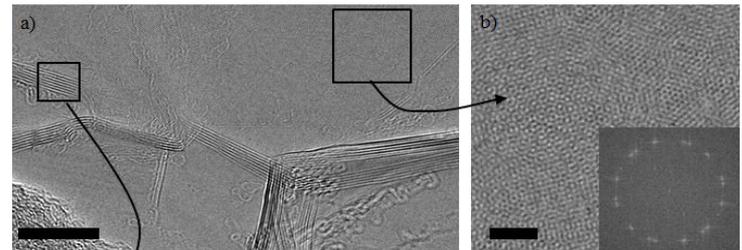
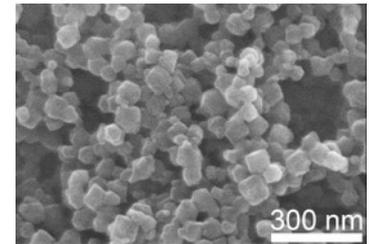
## New capabilities targeted by HyMARC:

- Accurate simulation of strong adsorption sites
- Library of structural motifs for forcefield development (e.g. open metal sites in MOFs, dopants in porous carbons)
- Models that account for effects of:
  - Morphology (e.g. particle size/shape/aspect ratio, core-shell geometry, etc.)
  - Additives
- Library of established sorbent materials:
  - Powders, thin films, nanoparticles
  - Proven synthetic routes
  - Data for model validation

MOF thin films



MOF NPs



Crystalline *t*-boron nitride aerogel

## Progression of “Model Systems”

Binary hydrides (e.g.  $\text{MgH}_2$ ,  $\rightarrow$  complex hydrides/no “molecular” species (e.g.  $\text{NaAlH}_4$ )  
 $\rightarrow$  Hydrides with highest complexity (phase segregation+molecular species; e.g.  $\text{Mg}(\text{BH}_4)_2$ )

***What synthesis-structure-property relationships govern hydrogen uptake and release?***

**Phase minimization strategies:** overcome transport problems due to phase segregation

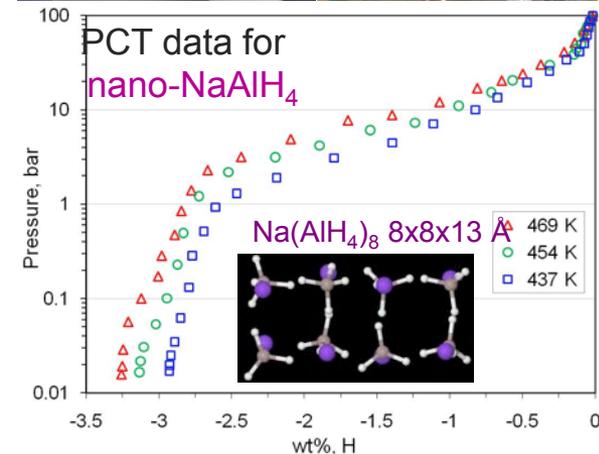
**Doping and defect creation:** solid solutions to minimize the number of solid phases

**Entropy tuning:** crystalline-to-amorphous transitions to improve  $\Delta G^\circ$

**Ultra-high  $\text{H}_2$  pressures** (up to 700 bar) as a new strategy to regenerate metal hydrides

***Consortium capabilities for bulk hydride synthesis include:***

- High-pressure reactors (up to 2000 bar/500 °C)
- PCT equipment (200 bar/400 °C)
- Extensive ball-milling equipment



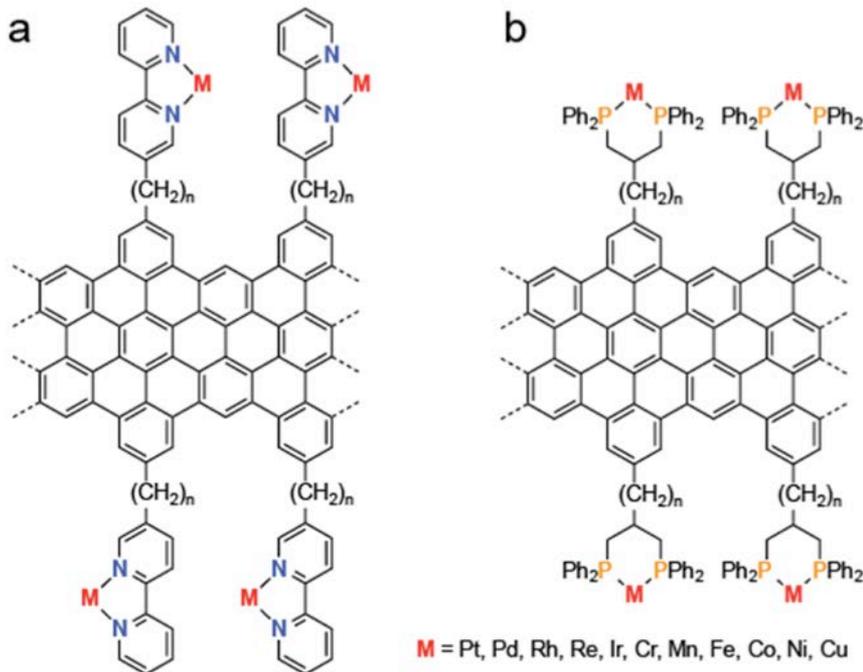
Top left: variable-T ball mill.  
Top right: ultra-high pressure cell

## Modified graphene nanoribbons for controlled catalysis

GNR: fix the location and chemical identity of catalytic active sites in well-defined materials. Can be integrated with other storage materials



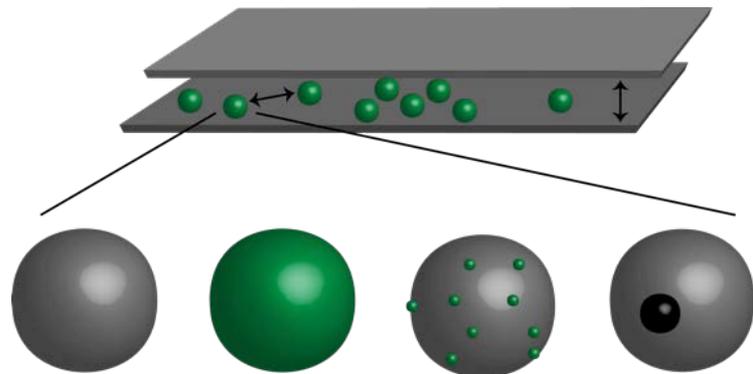
Quite adaptive: catalytic metals, or chelating and ED/EWD groups



Schematic representation illustrating the integration of molecular-defined transition metal catalyst centers via:

- a) bipyridine or
- b) bidentate phosphine ligands along the edges of atomically defined GNRs.

# Hierarchical integrated hydride materials



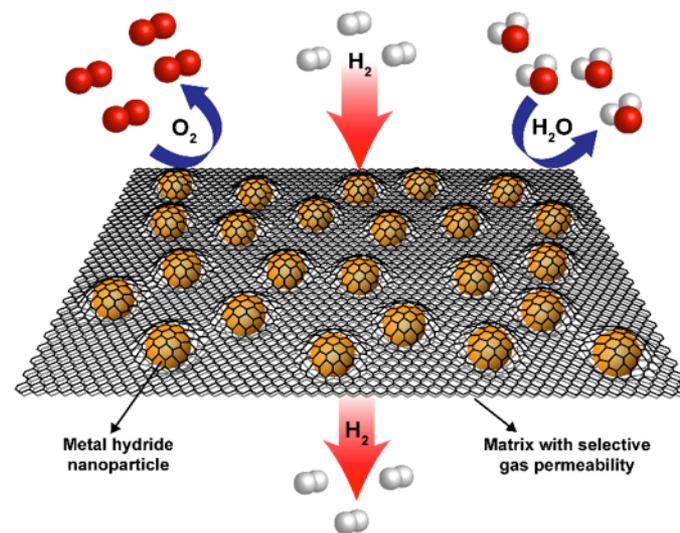
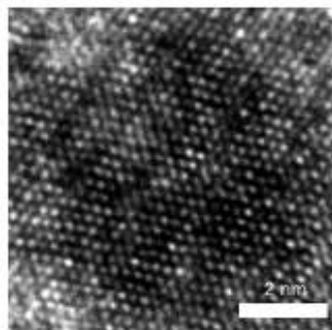
Want to have clear model systems to drive fundamental understanding



Also push the development of advanced materials: from Mg and Al to complex hydrides such as  $\text{LiNH}_2$ ,  $\text{Mg}(\text{BH}_4)_2$

Cho, E., Urban, J. J. et al. *Adv. Mater.* **2015**, in press

Want to integrate new classes of materials to provide new options in modifying thermodynamics, understanding pathways



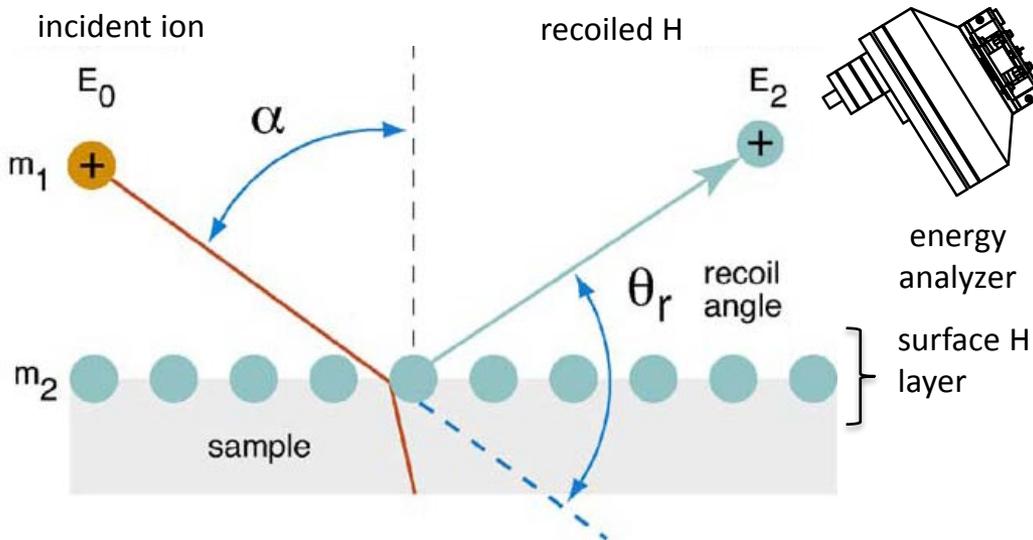
E.S.Cho et al, *submitted* (2015)

Jeon, Moon, et al. *Nature Materials* (2011)

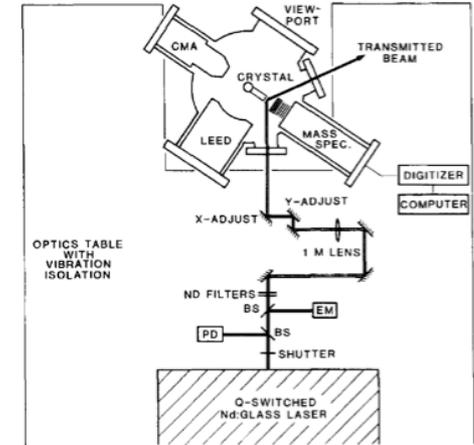
Bardhan, Ruminski, et al. *En. Environ. Sci.*, (2013)

# Direct mapping of hydrogen on surfaces by Low Energy Ion Scattering (LEIS) spectroscopy

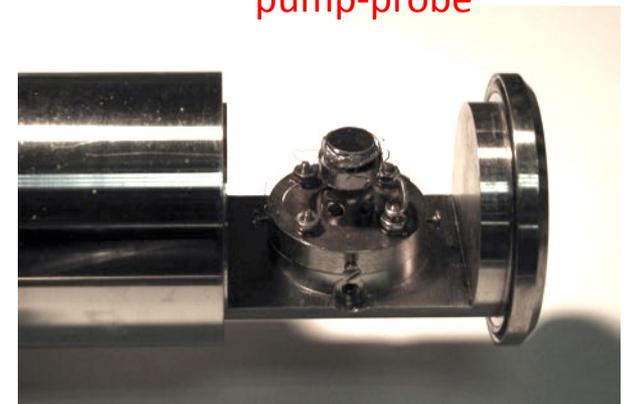
- Optimized for direct sensitivity to H on surfaces (< 0.05 ML)
- High surface specificity
- Distinguishes H and D (exchange experiments)
- Adsorption kinetics on compressed particle beds/thin films (res.  $\sim 1 - 10$  s)
- Atomic doser available to characterize uptake of  $H_2$  vs. H
- Surface diffusion measurement: laser-induced pump probe



R. Kolasinski, N. C. Bartelt, J. A. Whaley, & T. E. Felter, *Phys. Rev. B* **85**, 115422 (2012).



laser-induced desorption pump-probe

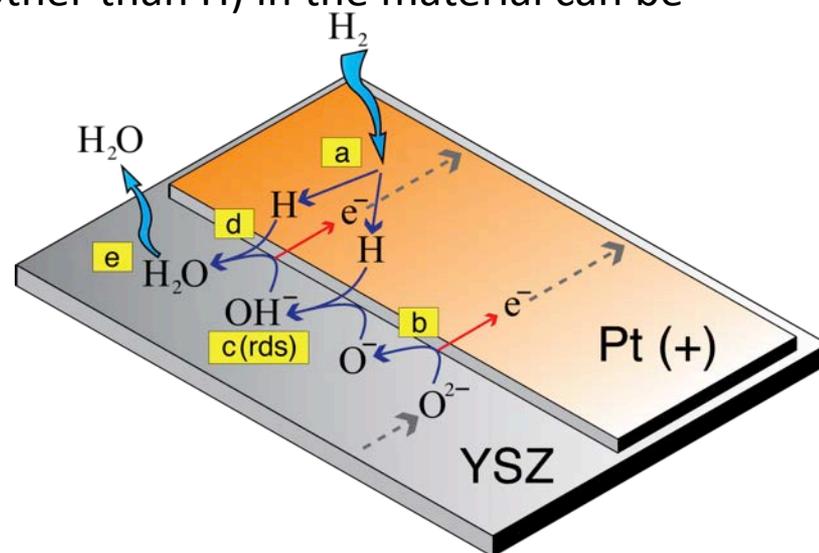
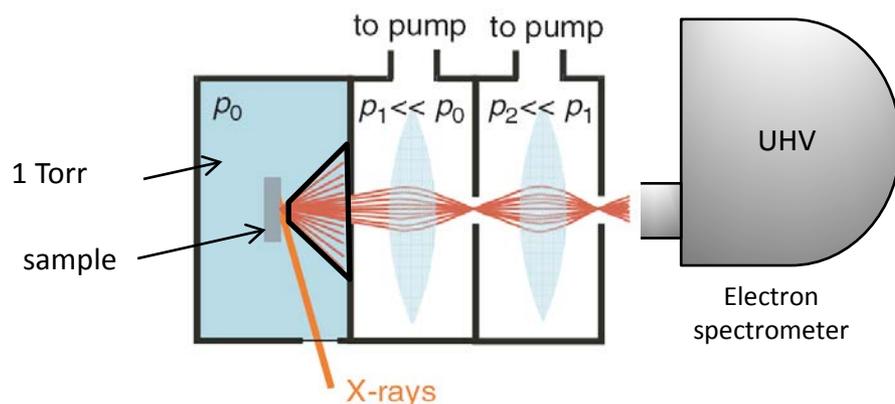


clean sample transfer container

# Ambient-Pressure X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (AP-XPS)

- Chemical information about the surface composition and oxidation state
- Environments of up to 1 Torr of gas pressure
- Sample heating up to 1000°C
- Use to study dehydrogenation of 'loaded' hydrogen storage materials
- Composition and bonding state of all elements (other than H) in the material can be monitored *in-situ*

**AP-XPS at the ALS:** Beamlines 9.3.2 and 11.0.2, 95-2000 eV



In previous AP-XPS studies, we have described the mechanism of hydrogen utilization in operating Pt-based SOFCs

F. El Gabaly et al., *Chemical Communications* 48, 8338–8340 (2012)

# Soft X-ray spectroscopy and microscopy at the Advanced Light Source

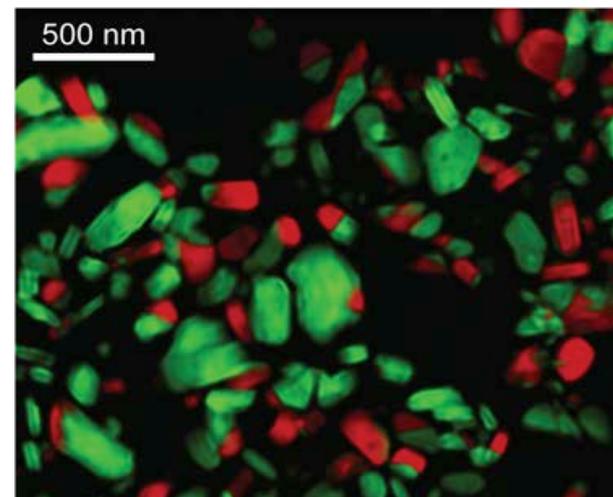
*We will apply these tools to understand phase nucleation at interfaces and growth at the nano- and mesoscales*



## Beam tools we will access:

- X-ray absorption (XAS) and X-ray emission (XES) spectroscopies
  - Composition, oxidation state, bonding environment
- Microscopy tools for phase and composition:
  - Scanning Transmission X-ray Microscopy (STXM; ~20 nm resolution)
  - Ptychography (3 nm resolution possible)

STXM image of  $\text{Li}_x\text{Fe(II,III)PO}_4$



Ptychography STXM image of a  $\text{Li}_x\text{FePO}_4$  electrode quenched at 68% state of charge. The green and red regions represent  $\text{FePO}_4$  and  $\text{LiFePO}_4$  fractions, respectively

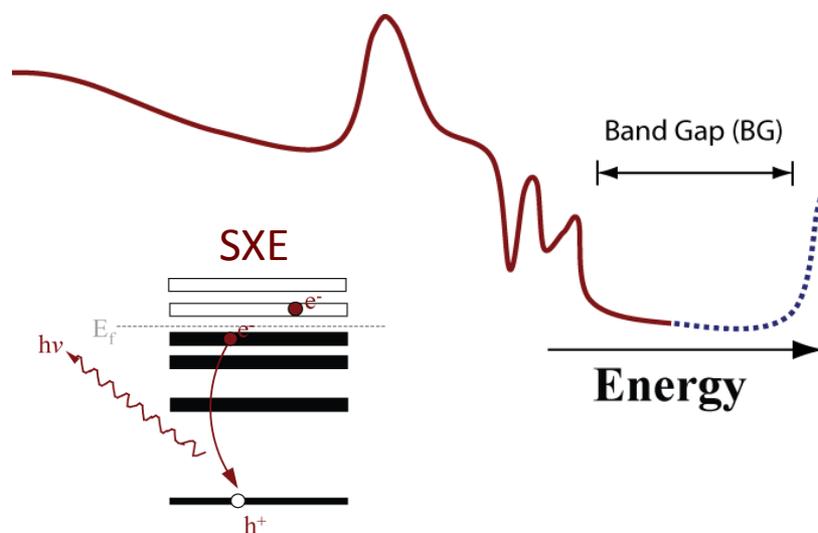
F. El Gabaly et al., Nature Materials, 2014, 13, 1149–1156.

*HyMARC is developing a clean-transfer system to eliminate ambient exposure of samples during transfer from glove-boxes to AP-XPS and STXM (collaboration with LBNL and ALS).*

# Theory and modeling: computational spectroscopy & x-ray spectroscopy

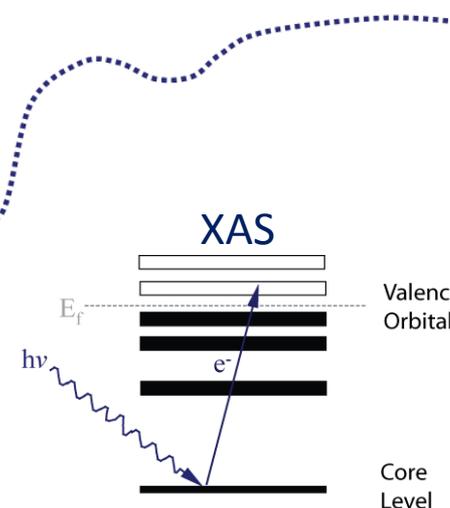
*X-ray Emission Spectroscopy (XES) and X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy (XAS) enable element-specific tracking of the course of hydrogen storage reactions*

## Soft X-ray Emission (SXE) spectroscopy



- Measurement of the occupied DOS
- Resolve structure of filled electronic density of states

## X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy (XAS)



- Element-specific technique
- Orbital angular momentum-resolved probe of the unoccupied electronic DOS

## Open-source software

**Phase fraction prediction** code  
(thermodynamics)

**Phase field modeling**  
for hydrogen storage  
in hydrides (kinetics)

**Kinetic Monte Carlo**  
(transport)

## Distributed/federated database development

What properties belong in the  
materials database?

### Computational:

- Crystallographic/structural quantities
- Enthalpy, entropy, surface energy, elastic moduli
- Defect formation energies & mobilities
- Computational spectroscopy (e.g., XAS/XES, XPS)

### Experimental:

- Absorption isotherms (P, T, size) & time-dependent uptake
- Transport (surface, bulk)
- Characterization data from all tasks

**We gratefully acknowledge the  
EERE Fuel Cell Technologies Office for funding HyMARC**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy

# FC-PAD Consortium

## *Fuel Cell Performance and Durability*

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FC-PAD is funded by:



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy

Fuel Cell Technologies Office (FCTO)

- FC-PAD will coordinate activities related to fuel cell performance and durability
  - The FC-PAD core-lab team consists of five national labs and leverages a multi-disciplinary team and capabilities to accelerate improvements in PEMFC performance and durability
  - The core-lab team consortium was awarded beginning in FY2016; builds upon previous NL projects
- Provide technical expertise and harmonize activities with industrial developers
- FC-PAD will serve as a resource that amplifies FCTO's impact by leveraging the core capabilities of constituent members

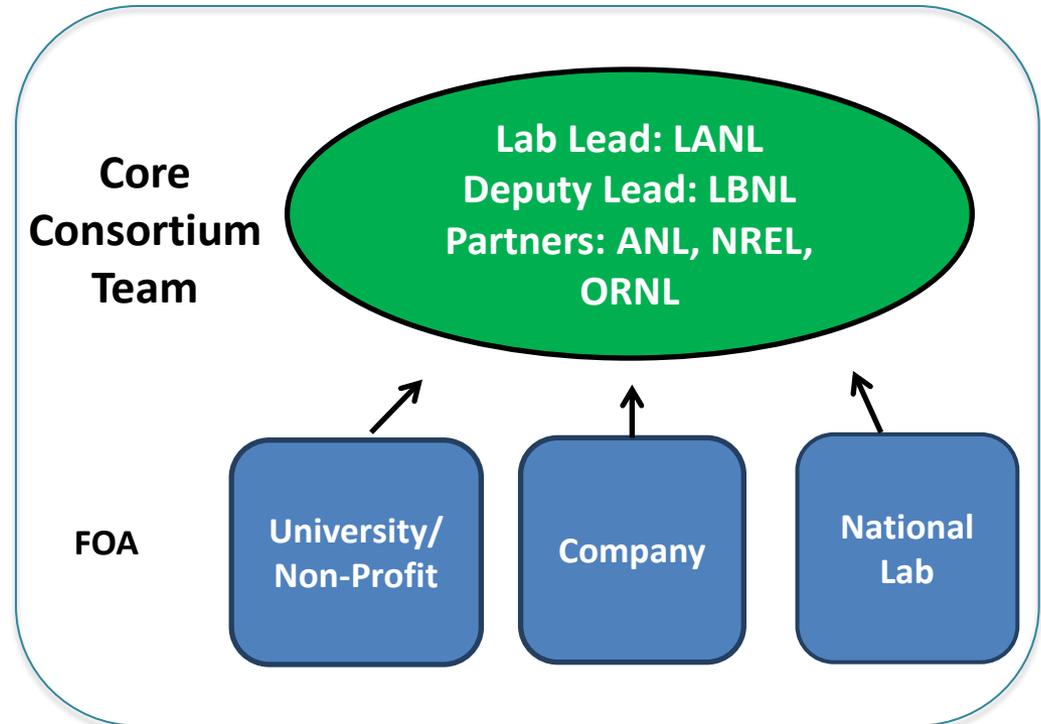


# FC-PAD Consortium

## Approach:

*Create a high-functioning team with core activities and projects*

Couple national lab capabilities with future funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) for an influx of innovative ideas and research



*Consortium will foster sustained capabilities and collaborations*

# FC-PAD Consortium

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## Overall Objectives:

- Advance **performance** and **durability** of polymer electrolyte membrane fuel cells (PEMFCs) at a pre-competitive level to further enable their commercialization
- Develop the knowledge base and optimize structures for more durable and high-performance PEMFC components, while simultaneously reducing cost
- Improve high current density performance at low Pt loadings (0.125 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> total)
- Improved component durability (e.g. membrane stabilization, self-healing, electrode-layer stabilization)



# MEA Performance and Durability Metrics

- 5000 hours of operation under simulated vehicle power cycling and shut-down/start-up cycling with < 10% loss in rated power
- Specifically, developing MEAs with SOA catalysts that demonstrate performance > 1W/cm<sup>2</sup> with Pt loading < 0.125 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>

Technical Targets: Membrane Electrode Assemblies			
Characteristic	Units	2015 Status	2020 Targets
Cost	\$ / kW <sub>net</sub>	17	14
Durability with cycling	Hours	2,500	5,000
Startup/shutdown durability	Cycles	-	5,000
Performance @ 0.8 V	mA / cm <sup>2</sup>	240	300
Performance @ rated power (150 kPa abs)	mW / cm <sup>2</sup>	810	1,000
Robustness (cold operation)		1.09	0.7
Robustness (hot operation)		0.87	0.7
Robustness (cold transient)		0.84	0.7

# FC-PAD Consortium Structure

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## FC-PAD Management Structure: Six Component and Cross-cutting Thrusts

### Component Thrusts:

Electrocatalysts and Supports

Electrode Layers

Ionomers, Gas Diffusion Layers, Bipolar Plates, Interfaces

### Cross-cutting Thrusts:

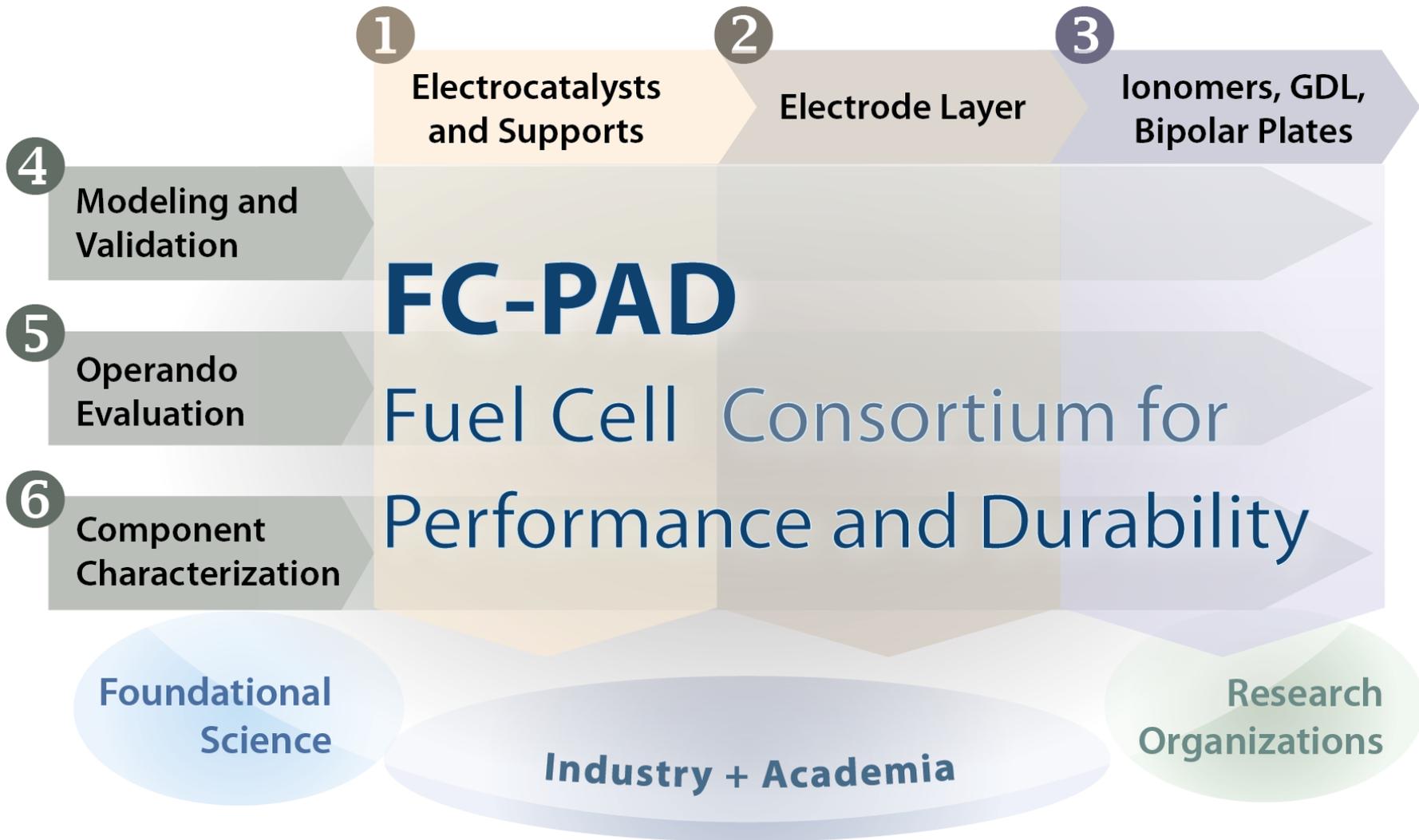
Modeling and Validation

Operando Evaluation: Benchmarking, ASTs, and Contaminants

Component Characterization and Diagnostics

- The National Lab FC-PAD consortium capabilities are available to support collaborations awarded in **DE-FOA-0001412**
- Collaborations are also desired outside the FOA process





Lead: Rod Borup (LANL)  
Deputy Lead: Adam Z. Weber (LBNL)



Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy



# FC-PAD Thrusts, Coordinators, NL Roles

**DOE:** Dimitrios Papageorgopoulos  
Greg Kleen

**Director:** Rod Borup  
**Deputy Director:** Adam Weber

Thrust Areas	ANL	LBNL	LANL	NREL	ORNL	Coordinator
Electrocatalysts and Supports	X		X			Deborah Myers (ANL)
Electrode Layers	X	X	X	X		Shyam Kocha (NREL)
Ionomers, Gas Diffusion Layers, Bipolar Plates, Interfaces		X	X			Adam Weber (LBNL)
Modeling and Validation	X	X				Rajesh Ahluwalia (ANL)
Operando Evaluation: Benchmarking, ASTs, and Contaminants			X	X		Rangachary Mukundan (LANL)
Component Characterization and Diagnostics	X	X	X		X	Karren More (ORNL)

**Moderate Activity**

**High Activity**



# Thrust Area Coordination

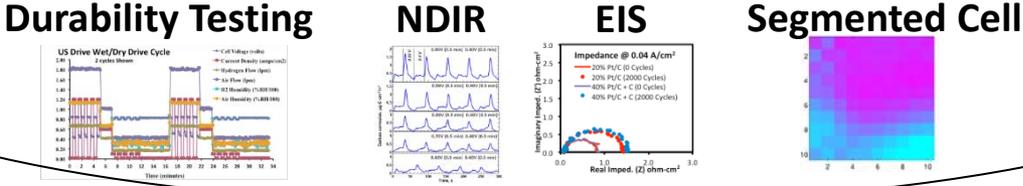
**Example**  
Carbon Corrosion during drive cycle  
ANL, LANL, ORNL

**Thrusts 1, 2, 3 - Components**  
Catalysts, Membranes, GDLs

Samples ↔ Component Design

**Thrust 5. Operando Evaluation**

Durability Testing    NDIR    EIS    Segmented Cell

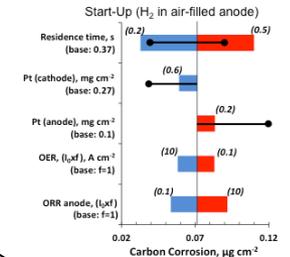


Data Feedback

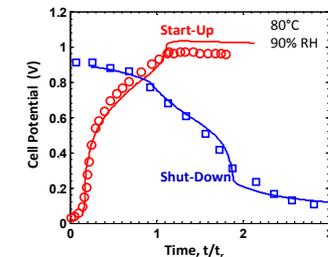
Samples Data

**Thrust 4. Modeling Validation**

**Model Output**

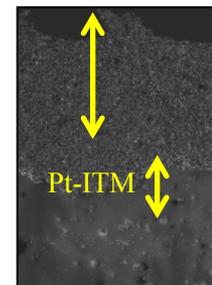


**Parametric model**

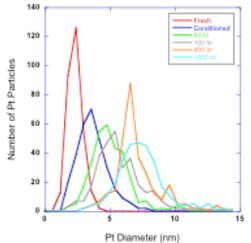


**Thrust 6. Characterization**

**STEM**



**TEM**



# Coordination with DE-FOA-0001412 Projects and Interested Developers

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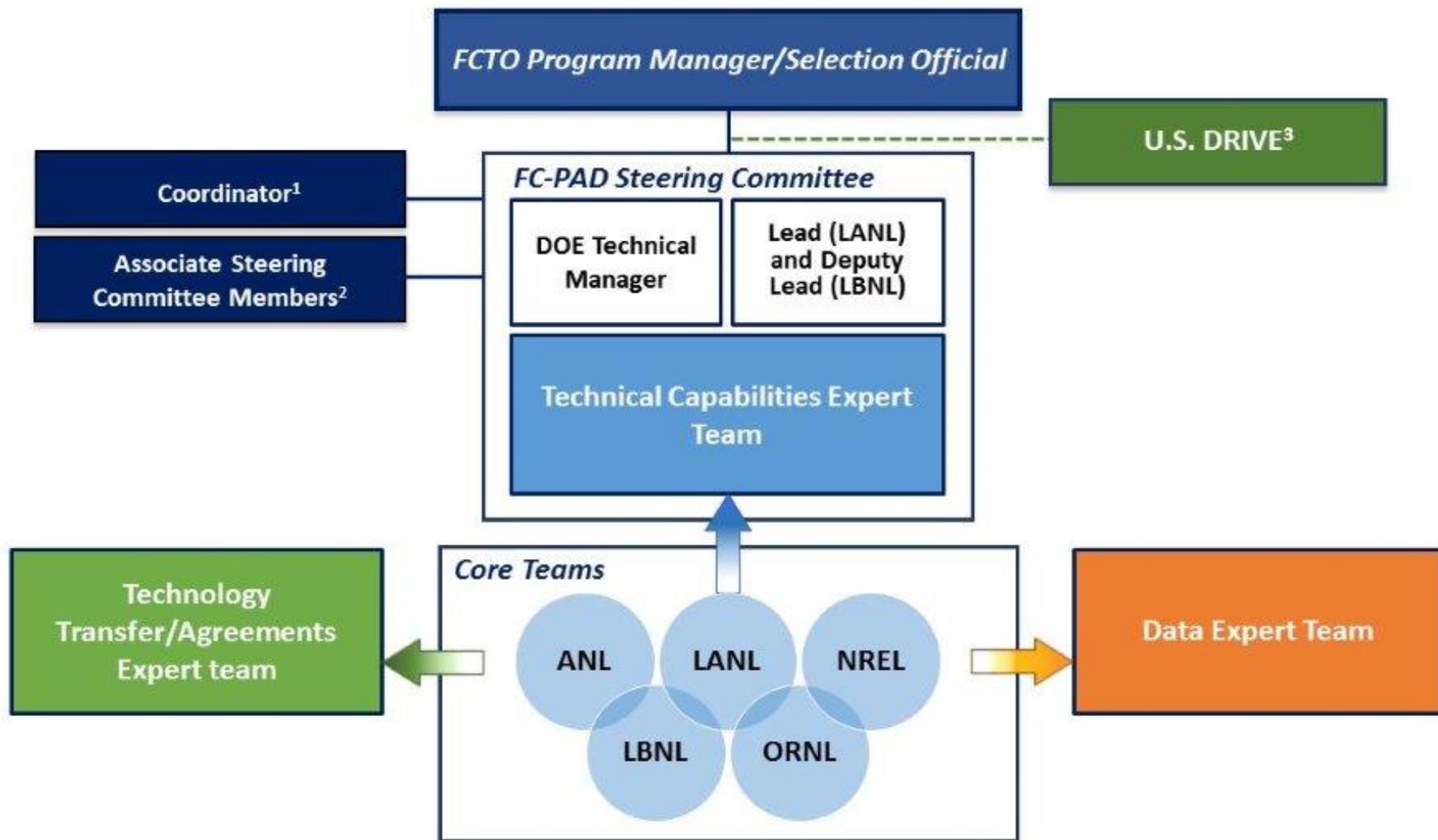
- Coordination with the appropriate thrust areas
  - Determined by DOE, project subject, participant interest
- Multi-lab NDAs (Non-Disclosure Agreements)
  - Speed the processes for interacting with the national labs
- FC-PAD will hold annual Working Group Meetings related to durability and transport - experts from industry and academia can openly discuss issues and assess the current SOA

## Data Sharing: Internal plus Open Web-Site

- Internal with hierarchical authorization
- Updated minimum quarterly with presentations, publications, refined data
- Searchable site to help disseminate data to developers



# Coordination of FC-PAD



<sup>1</sup>Single point of contact for external partners to connect with the Consortium

<sup>2</sup>From industry/university/lab projects selected through FOA

<sup>3</sup>And other advisory entities as appropriate (e.g., HTAC, NAS)

# FC-PAD NL Capabilities

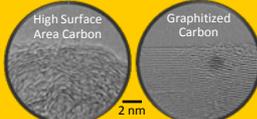
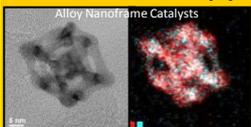
## STRUCTURAL & CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION

## PERFORMANCE TESTING & EVALUATION

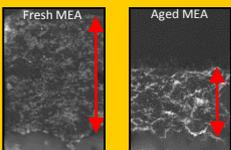
## MODELING & THEORY

### CATALYST & CATALYST SUPPORT

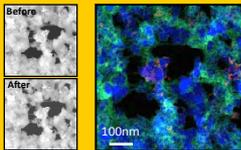
#### Analytical Electron Microscopy



#### Imaging and spectroscopy

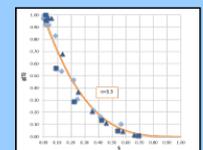


#### Catalyst-layer degradation



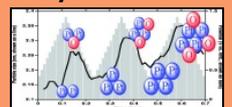
#### Ionomer mapping

#### Transport property measurements

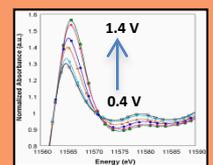


#### Advanced X-Ray Techniques

#### Spectroscopy and Scattering: catalyst atomic structure and particle size



Pt growth with cycling



Pt oxidation with potential



Specialized operando cells

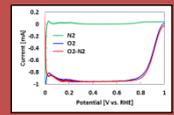
#### Combinatorial Activity Screening



Argonne DMyers@anl.gov

#### Electrochemical Diagnostics

#### Catalyst activity measurement

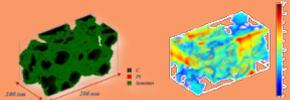


#### Advanced MEA Fabrication

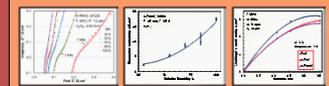


NREL Shyam.Kocha@nrel.gov

#### Electrode Simulations



#### 3-D electrode reconstruction and transport



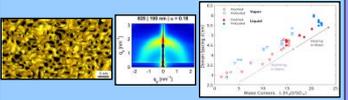
#### Quantify various losses

Argonne Walia@anl.gov

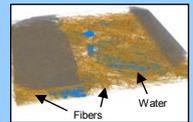
### ELECTRODE & MEA

### MEMBRANE & IONOMER

#### Advanced Component Diagnostics



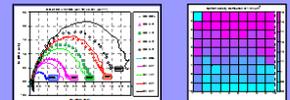
#### Bulk and thin-film morphology and properties



#### X-ray tomography

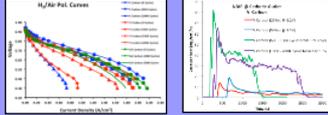
Berkeley Lab AZWeber@lbl.gov

#### Advanced MEA Diagnostics



Los Alamos Mukundan@lanl.gov

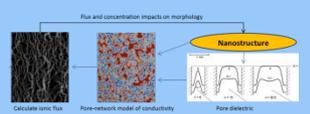
#### Performance & Durability Testing



#### Component-specific degradation testing

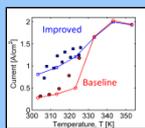
Los Alamos Borup@lanl.gov

#### Multiphysics, Multiscale Models



#### Membrane simulations

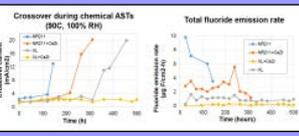
#### Optimize water and thermal management



Berkeley Lab AZWeber@lbl.gov

### GDL & CELL

#### Long-term durability testing



# Examples of NL FC-PAD Capabilities

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- Dissolution measurements using electrochemical techniques
- X-ray absorption spectroscopy for catalyst component oxidation state and oxide structure
- Electrochemical measurements of platinum oxidation kinetics and oxidation
- Small angle X-ray scattering for in situ and operando nanoparticle size distribution during potential cycling, humidity cycling, in-cell and model systems
- Anomalous small angle X-ray scattering for evolution of intra-particle catalyst component structure
- Solid-state electrochemical cell for oxygen permeability through ionomer layer measurements
- X-ray fluorescence for changes in catalyst composition with AST cycling
- On-line CO<sub>2</sub> detection from MEAs for quantification of carbon corrosion
- Advanced high-resolution imaging and spectroscopy (TEM, STEM, EDS, EELS, *in situ*, etc.)
- Synthesis capabilities including electro-spinning, spray coating, de-cal transfer, vapor deposition, ALD
- H<sub>2</sub>/Air & H<sub>2</sub>/O<sub>2</sub> VI performance evaluation, crossover, cyclic voltammetry, AC impedance
- Setups for water transport and interactions
- Structural properties including scattering and x-ray techniques and mechanical properties
- Synthesis and characterization of ionomer thin films
- Segmented cells
- Contamination and leachates



# Thrust 1: Electrocatalysts and Supports

## Catalyst and catalyst support durability and degradation mechanisms

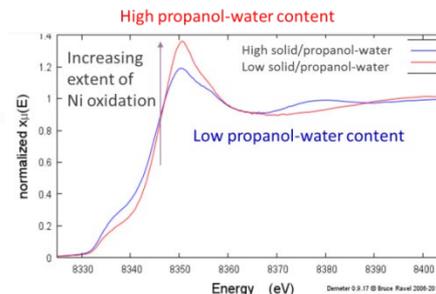
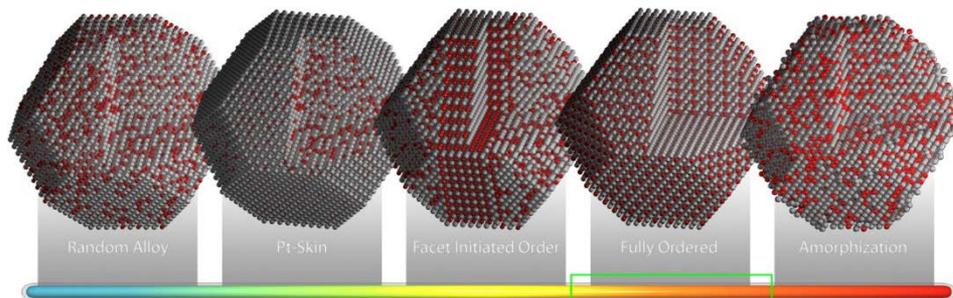
- Elucidate catalyst and support degradation mechanisms as a function of catalyst and support physicochemical properties and cell operating conditions
- Quantify catalyst and support stability during accelerated stress tests and start-up and shut-down transients using in-cell measurements
- Determine stability of catalyst components, catalyst and support composition and structural changes

## Catalyst/support interactions

- Understand interplay between the catalyst and support properties and their mutual interactions
- Determine the effects of carbon type (e.g., high, medium, and low surface area) and carbon dopants on the strength of the catalyst/support and ionomer/support interactions
- Investigate the impact of these interactions on catalyst and support stability, durability, and performance

## Ex-situ analysis of catalyst instability on cathode-catalyst-layer properties

- Quantify the impact of catalyst degradation on the properties defining the performance of the cathode catalyst layer (e.g., impact of base metal leaching from Pt alloy catalyst on proton conductivity, oxygen permeability, and water uptake in ionomer)



# Thrust 2: Electrode Layers

## Low Pt-loaded electrode layers:

- Concentrate on improving the performance of low Pt loaded electrode layers at high current densities and limiting the degradation losses at the electrode layer level

## Transport in low-loaded catalyst layers:

- Examine impact of different catalyst-layer compositions to ascertain how transport phenomena change
- Apply existing and develop new diagnostics to quantify the transport limitations and better define the resistance

## Electrode-layer designs and fabrication for improved performance:

- Thin first layer coating catalyst surfaces to provide local conductivity with a minimal transport barrier and second phase to provide bulk ionic conductivity
- Optimizing ionomer-solvent-catalyst ink composition, solvent removal methods, and/or ionomer

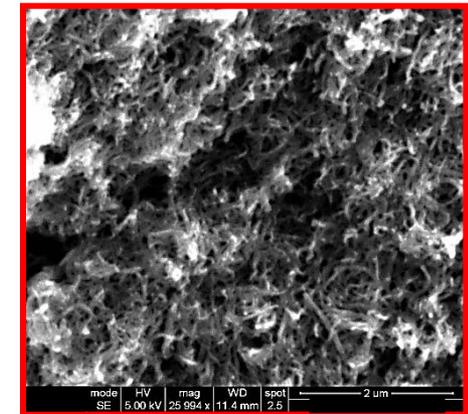
## Electrode-layer degradation:

- Examine the origins of the changing transport losses by examining how changing properties of the electrode layer

## Automated Diagnostics



## Ionomer coated MWCNTs



# Thrust 3: Ionomers, Gas Diffusion Layers, Bipolar Plates, and Interfaces

## Membranes and Ionomer films

- Examine SOA membranes including stabilization and reinforcement
  - Stability of Ce; crack propagation; structure-function
- Thin-film properties
  - Casting conditions and solvents, chemistry, substrate

## Gas Diffusion Layers

- Examine water-transport controls and impacts;
  - in-situ and AST characterization

## Bipolar plates

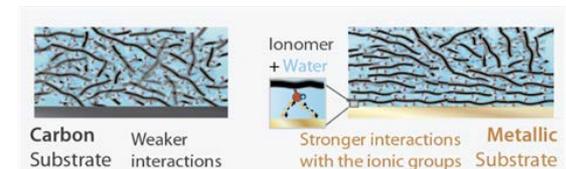
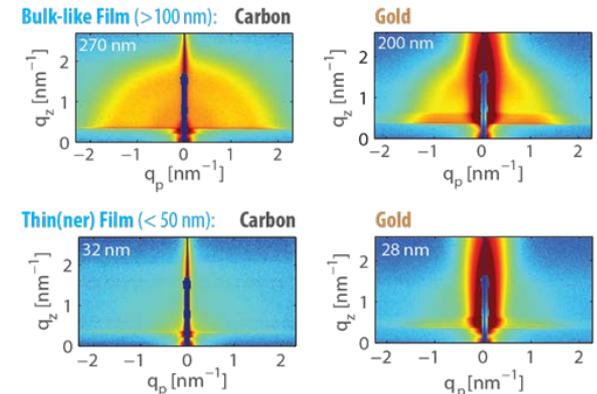
- Examine leachate ions and corrosion products and contact resistance

## Interfaces

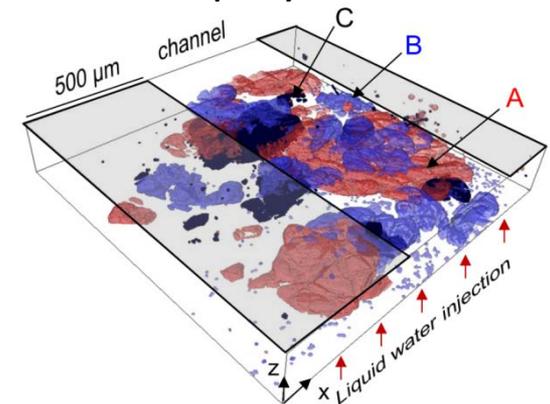
- GDL/channel droplet interface; CL interface and areas of high porosity

## Ionomer Film Morphology Model Substrates

Hydrated morphology of ionomer film on substrates (Grazing-incidence SAXS)



## GDL Microcapillary Measurements



# Thrust 4: Modeling and Validation

## Model development and validation

- Microstructural models including catalyst layers
- Component and cell performance models for improved water and thermal management
  - Multiscale, multiphysics
- Component degradation models including mechanical failure and dissolution

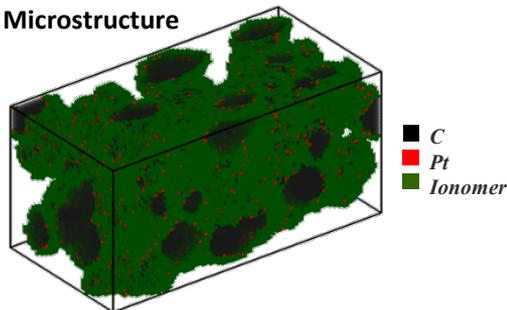
## Analysis

- Development of well-designed test protocols for characterizing the kinetic and transport properties of cell components

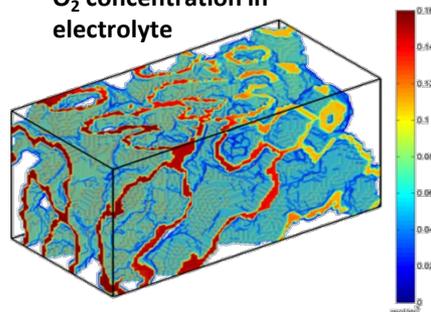
## Model deployment

- Elucidation of performance and durability bottlenecks and pathways to overcome them
  - Optimization of operating conditions
  - Sensitivity analysis of component material and transport properties

Microstructure



O<sub>2</sub> concentration in electrolyte



# Thrust 5: Operando Evaluation - Benchmarking, ASTs, and Contaminants

## Performance and durability benchmarking

- Operational effects on durability
  - Segmented cell studies, drive cycle
- AST protocol development and validation
  - Freeze protocol
  - SD/SU protocol
  - Refined membrane and catalyst AST
- Analysis of reversible degradation mechanisms
  - Quantify effect of Pt-oxidation, surface contamination and mass transport effects
- Contaminants and impurities
  - Air, fuel and system contaminants

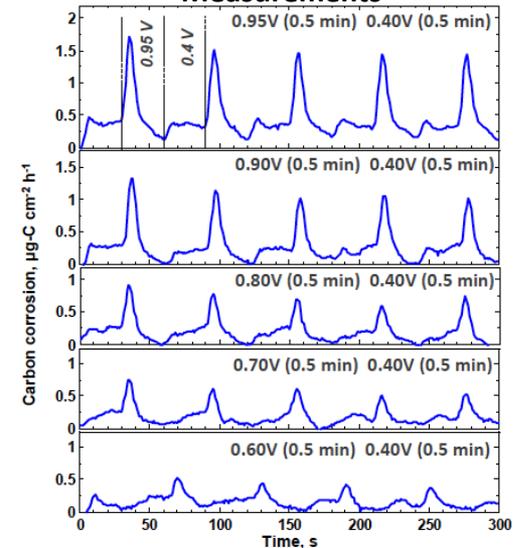
## Durability testing

- ASTs: Catalyst, membrane, GDL, bi-polar plate and MEAs

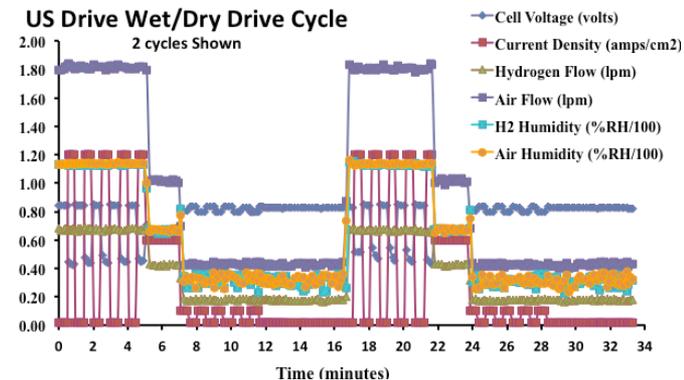
## Performance characterization

- Drive cycle, VIR, Impedance

## In situ Carbon Corrosion Measurements



## Durability Testing



# Thrust 6: Component Diagnostics and Characterization

## Comprehensive Materials Benchmarking – sub-Å to mm-level Understanding

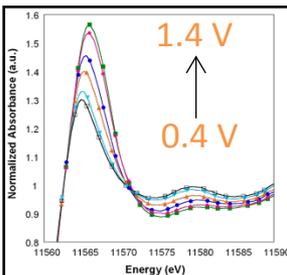
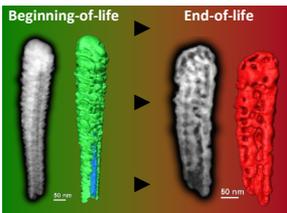
- Characterize component structure, chemistry, and composition before & after durability testing
- Systematic approach to understand the effects of testing variables/protocols on material's stability and performance

## Coordination across all six thrusts for durability/performance characterization

- Advanced Electron Microscopy
- Neutron and X-ray Studies
- Component Diagnostics
- Provide experimental input and validation of durability models/simulations

## Development of new techniques/protocols/capabilities

- Characterization targeted towards specific fuel cell materials/components and test protocols
- Operando studies and development of unique tools



# Acknowledgements and Additional Information

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FC-PAD is funded by:



Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy

Fuel Cell Technologies Office (FCTO)

[Additional Information Available On-line:](#)

From **DE-FOA-0001412**: <http://energy.gov/eere/fuelcells/fc-pad>

[Detailed FC-PAD slides by thrust area:](#)

[http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2015/12/f27/fcto\\_fc-pad\\_organization\\_activities\\_0.pdf](http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2015/12/f27/fcto_fc-pad_organization_activities_0.pdf)

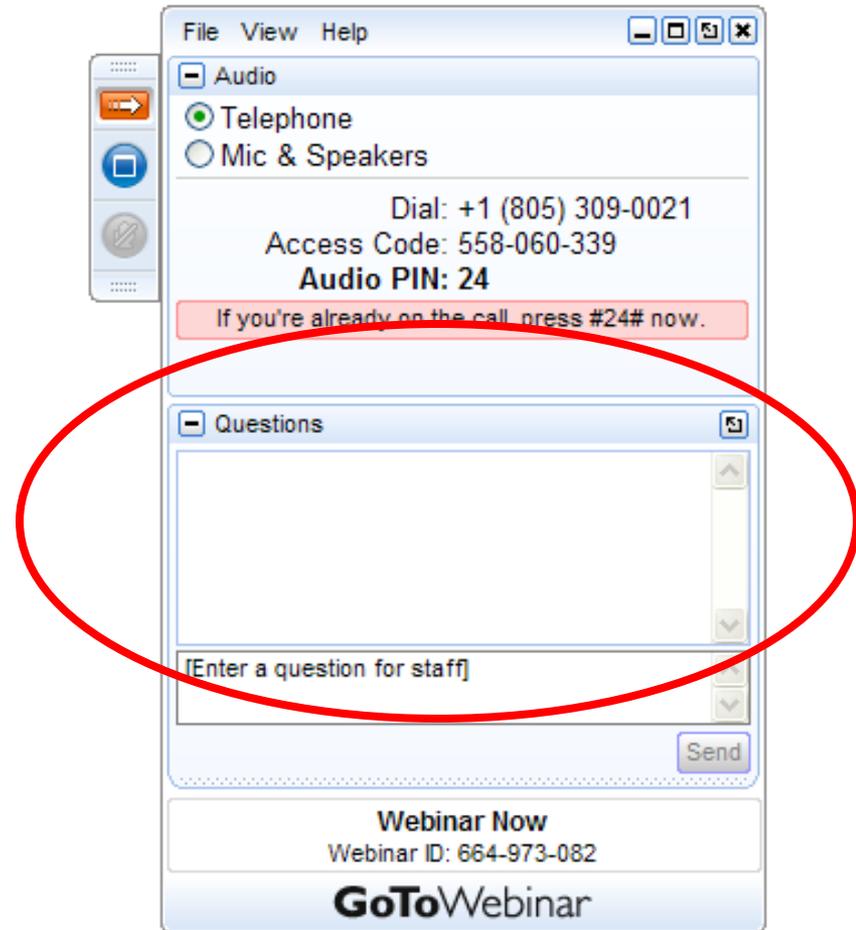
[Fuel Cell Technologies Office Multi-Year RD&D Plan:](#)

<http://energy.gov/eere/fuelcells/downloads/fuel-cell-technologies-office-multi-year-research-development-and-22>



# Question and Answer

- Please type your questions into the question box



# Thank You

## Presenters:

- Mark Allendorf (HyMARC) - Sandia National Laboratory
  - mdallen@sandia.gov
- Rod Borup (FC-PAD) – Los Alamos National Laboratory
  - Borup@lanl.gov

## DOE Host:

- Ned Stetson – Hydrogen Storage Program Manager
  - Ned.Stetson@ee.doe.gov
- Dimitrios Papageorgopoulos – Fuel Cell Program Manager
  - Dimitrios.Papageorgopoulos@ee.doe.gov

## Webinar Recording and Slides:

(<http://energy.gov/eere/fuelcells/webinars>)

## Newsletter Signup

(<http://energy.gov/eere/fuelcells/subscribe-news-and-financial-opportunity-updates>)

# Supplemental

# Thrust Area 1: Electrocatalysts and Supports

## Overview

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### ■ Primary Participants

- Argonne and Los Alamos

### ■ Thrust Area Coordinator

- Deborah Myers, Argonne National Laboratory

### ■ Subtasks

- Catalyst and catalyst support durability and degradation mechanisms
- Catalyst/support interactions
  - X-ray scattering
- Ex-situ analysis of catalyst instability on cathode-catalyst-layer properties

### ■ Materials

- State-of-the-art commercial catalysts
- Catalysts and supports arising from materials development projects within FCTO and BES portfolio, where sufficient quantities are available
- Materials which have demonstrated the ability to reach the DOE beginning-of-life performance targets or those demonstrating the potential to meet the targets in *ex situ* measurements

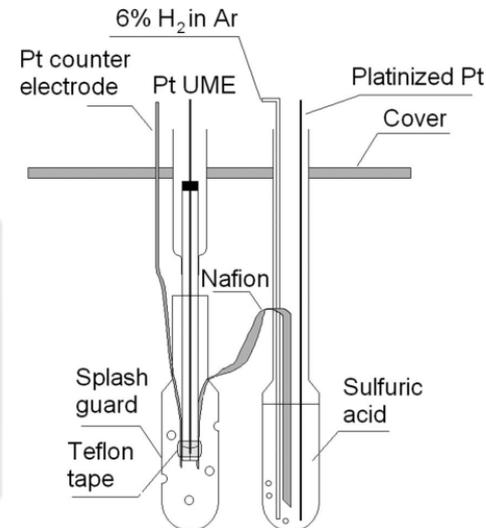
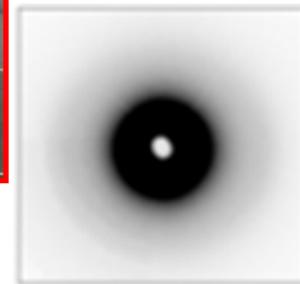
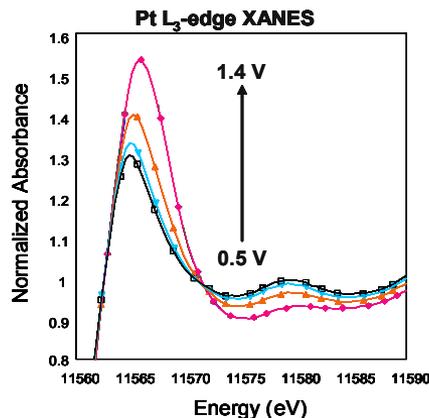
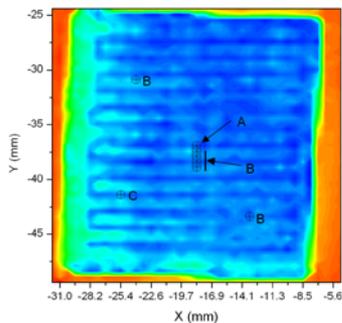
# Focus, goals, and activities of Thrust Area 1

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- **Catalyst and catalyst support durability and degradation mechanisms**
  - Elucidate catalyst and support degradation mechanisms as a function of catalyst and support physicochemical properties and cell operating conditions
  - Quantify catalyst and support stability during accelerated stress tests and start-up and shut-down transients using in-cell measurements
  - Determine stability of catalyst components against dissolution, catalyst and support composition and structural changes induced by cell testing, particle size distribution changes with time using operando X-ray techniques and microscopy, and oxide growth kinetics and steady-state coverages using electrochemical and spectroscopic techniques
- **Catalyst/support interactions**
  - Understand interplay between the catalyst and support properties and their mutual interactions
  - Determine the effects of carbon type (e.g., high, medium, and low surface area) and carbon dopants on the strength of the catalyst/support and ionomer/support interactions
  - Investigate the impact of these interactions on catalyst and support stability, durability, and performance
- **Ex-situ analysis of catalyst instability on cathode-catalyst-layer properties**
  - Quantify the impact of catalyst degradation on the properties defining the performance of the cathode catalyst layer (e.g., impact of base metal leaching from Pt alloy catalyst on proton conductivity, oxygen permeability, and water uptake in ionomer)

# Key Capabilities Relevant to Thrust Area

- Dissolution measurements using electrochemical techniques coupled with ICP-MS
- Operando X-ray absorption and scattering for catalyst component oxidation state and oxide structure and metal and carbon particle/agglomerate size
- Aqueous and in-cell electrochemical measurements of platinum oxidation kinetics and extent of oxidation
- Solid-state ultra-microelectrode electrochemical cell for measurement of oxygen permeability through ionomer layers
- X-ray fluorescence for changes in catalyst composition with AST cycling
- X-ray tomography for changes in micro- and nano-structure with AST cycling
- On-line CO<sub>2</sub> detection from MEAs for quantification of carbon corrosion
- TEM, HR-TEM, EDAX of supports and catalysts



# Thrust Area 2: Electrode Layers

## Overview

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- **Primary Participants**

- ANL, LBNL, LANL, NREL

- **Thrust Area Coordinator**

- Shyam Kocha, National Renewable Energy Lab

- **Objectives**

- Understand transport losses in low loaded catalyst layers at high current densities
- Understand transport losses in alloy catalysts at high current densities with development of novel diagnostics
- Design novel electrodes that overcome these problems
  - Stratified catalyst layers; Electrode structures using advanced catalysts (eg. EFTECS)
- Coordinate with performance/durability modeling and characterization

- **Subtasks**

- *Low Pt-loaded electrode layers*
- *Transport in low-loaded catalyst layers*
- *Electrode-layer designs and fabrication*
- *Electrode-layer degradation*

# Thrust Area 2: Electrode Layers

---

***Low Pt-loaded electrode layers:*** This subtask area will concentrate on improving the performance of low Pt loaded electrode layers at high current densities and limiting the degradation losses at the electrode layer level, including electrocatalyst and support composition/morphology changes and electrode-structure changes. Such electrode layers also include NSTF ones.

***Transport in low-loaded catalyst layers:*** The impact of different catalyst-layer compositions (including low equivalent-weight ionomer) will be explored to ascertain how transport phenomena change. Applying existing diagnostics using limiting current and developing new techniques, the transport limitations will be quantified and the resistance better defined.

***Electrode-layer designs and fabrication:*** The formation of electrode layers is still a black art. Altering the ionomer-solvent-catalyst ink composition, solvent removal methods, and/or ionomer properties, such as equivalent weight, will be explored in coordination with Thrust 1 activities. To increase high-current-density performance, new electrode-layer structures will be explored including those involving a very thin first layer coating the catalyst surfaces to provide local conductivity with a minimal transport barrier and a second phase of a solid network to provide bulk ionic conductivity.

***Electrode-layer degradation:*** We will examine the origins of the changing transport losses by examining how changing properties of the electrode layer, the surface properties of the carbon support, protonic conductivity of the ionomer, and pore morphology impact durability.

# Automated Diagnostics

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**Automated gas mixing** for oxygen limiting current and the development/investigation of CO limiting current as a diagnostic

**Automated potentiostats**

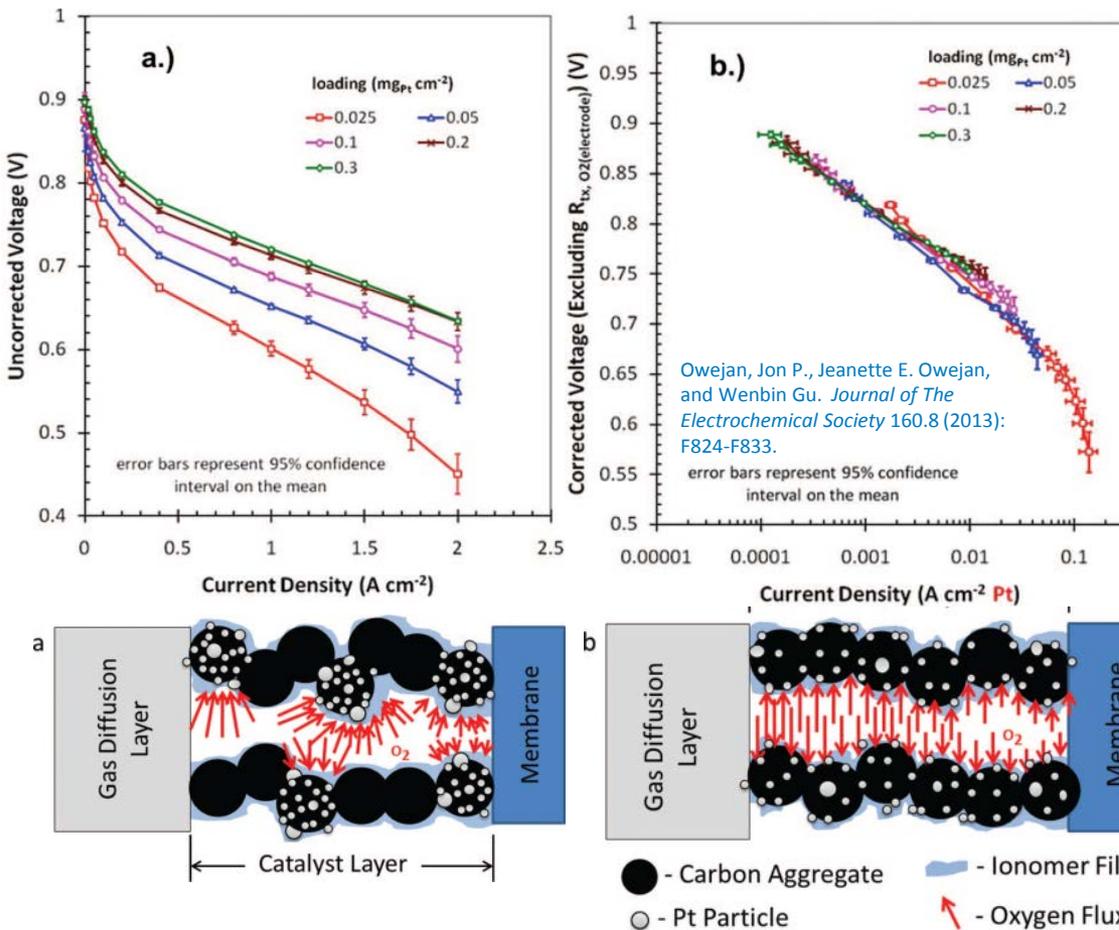
- ideal for durability studies
- voltage cycling and automated CV collection
- helpful for Pt oxide measurements
- useful for CO limiting current measurements

**HFR-Free Potential Control**

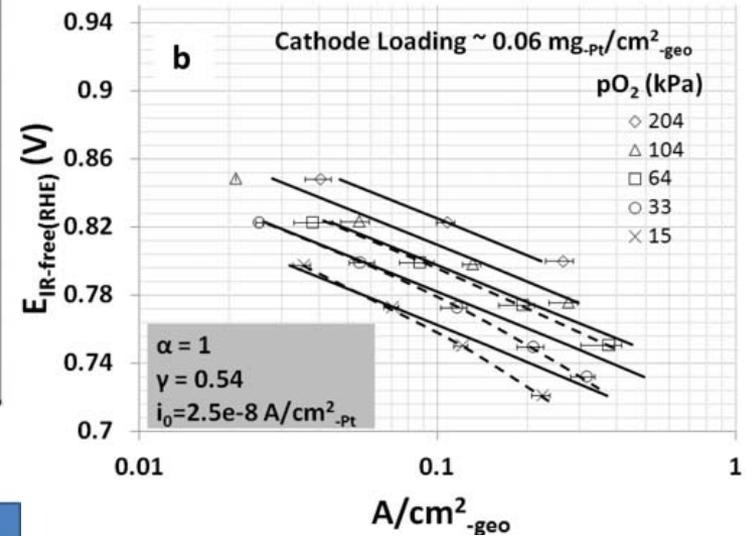
- Used to match potentials where kinetic data and oxide coverage data is taken



# MEA Performance Diagnostics Motivation



Unpredicted voltage loss at low Pt loadings correlate with a reduction in total Pt surface area



Subramanian, N. P., et al. *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* 159.5 (2012): B531-B540.

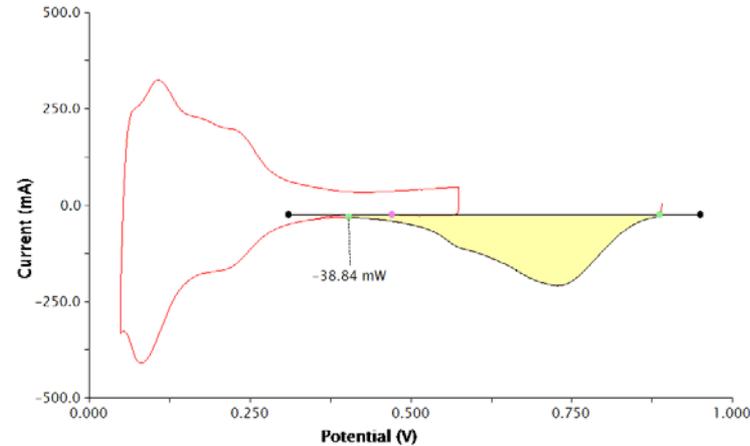
Accounting for oxide coverage kinetics at low potentials does not account for the entire voltage loss

## Goal

- To understand the cause of the unanticipated voltage losses observed at high current density and low Pt loading
- Electrochemical Kinetics and/or Electrode Design
- Requires pressurized DI system/ vacuum system and HFR-Free Potential Control

# Pt and advanced Pt catalyst - oxide coverage dependent kinetics

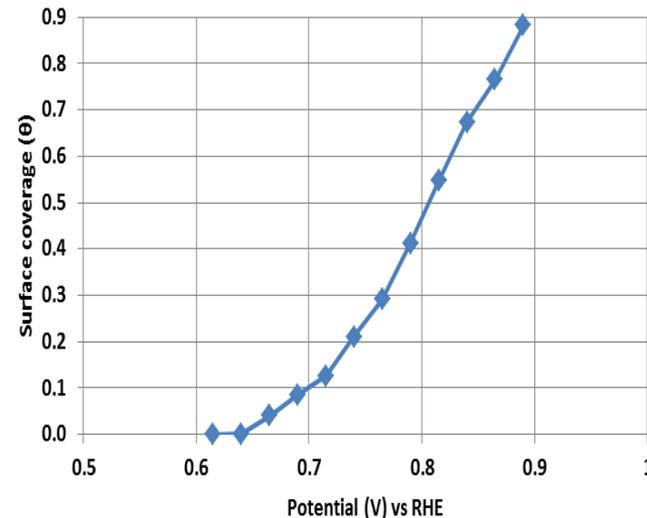
- Local transport resistance cannot be quantified without the assessment of oxide coverage dependent kinetics
- Experiments utilizing this technique are underway for state-of-the-art Pt alloy catalysts.



Oxide coverage measured through integration of oxide reduction peak – Pt/Vu repeat

Requires HFR-free potential control and programmable potentiostat capability is preferred

$$i = i_0 \left( \frac{p_{O_2}}{p_{O_2,ref}} \right)^{\gamma} (1 - \theta) \exp \left( \frac{-\alpha F \eta}{RT} \right) \exp \left( -\frac{\omega \theta}{RT} \right)$$



Calculated oxide surface coverage for Pt/V

# Thrust Area 3: Ionomers, Gas Diffusion Layers, Bipolar Plates, and Interfaces

## Overview

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### ■ Participants

- LBNL and LANL

### ■ Thrust Area Coordinator

- Adam Weber, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab

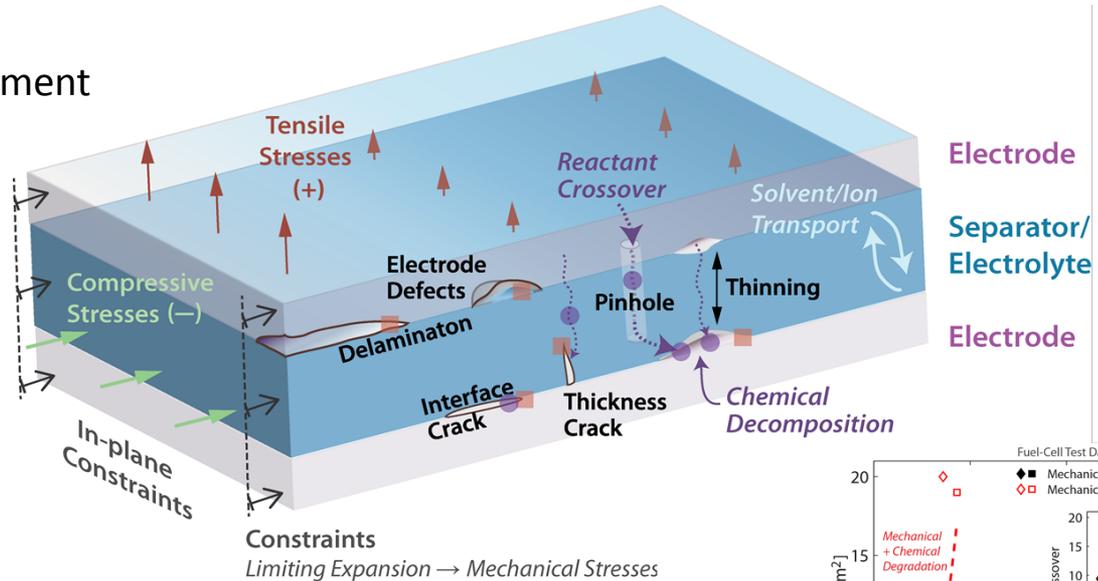
### ■ Objectives

- *Membranes and Ionomer films*
  - *Examine SOA membranes including stabilization and reinforcement*
    - *Stability of Ce; crack propagation; structure-function*
  - Thin-film properties
    - Casting conditions and solvents, chemistry, substrate,
- *GDLs*
  - *Examine water-transport controls and impacts;*
    - *in-situ and AST characterization*
- *Bipolar plates*
  - *Examine leachate ions and corrosion products and contact resistance*
- *Interfaces*
  - *GDL/channel droplet interface; CL interface and areas of high porosity*

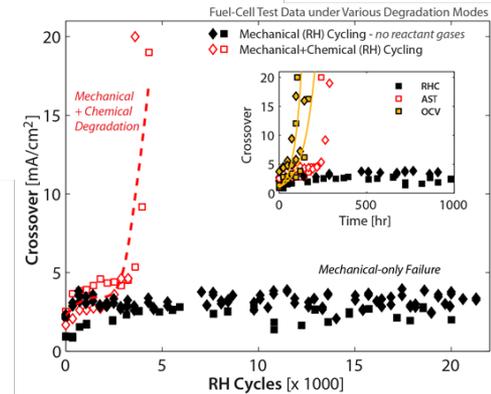
# Bulk Membranes

## Structure/function/performance across length scales

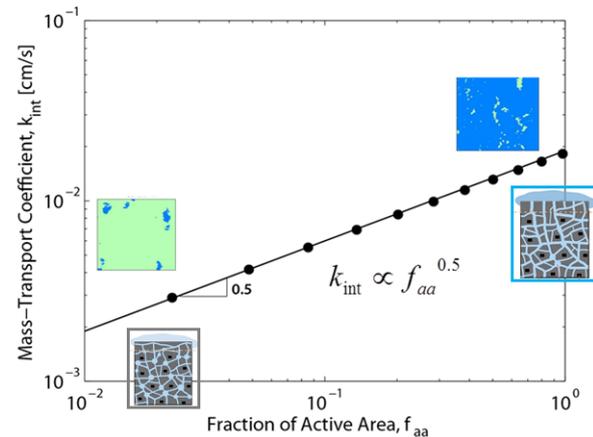
- Durability concerns
  - Mechanical reinforcement
  - Cerium migration



- Localized **Chemical** stressors  
*higher rate of degradation and crossover*
- Localized **Mechanical** stressors  
*stress concentration, damage initiation*

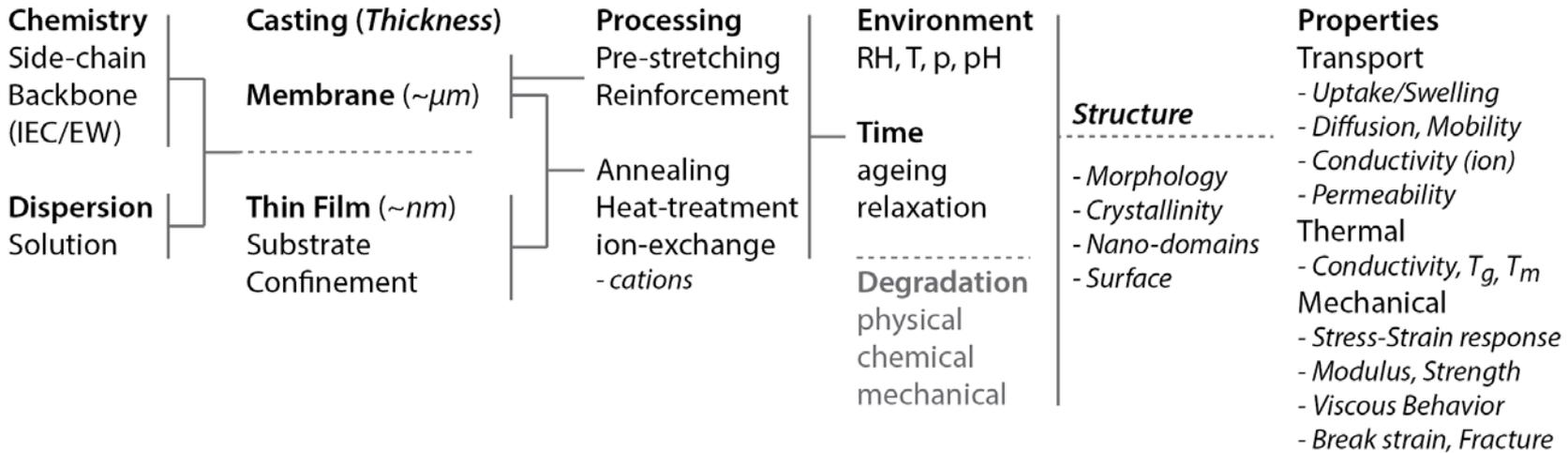


- Transport and uptake of polymers
  - Impact of interfacial phenomena



# Structure/Property Investigation of Ionomers

**PFSA ionomers:** Parameter space influencing their structure/property relationship and functionalities



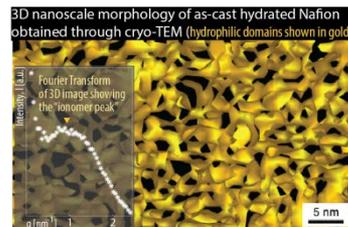
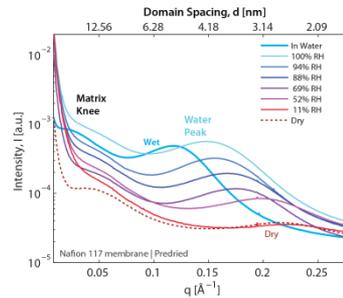
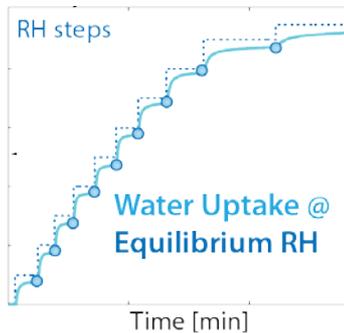
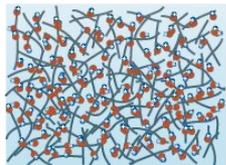
Polymers / Chemistry

Environmental conditions

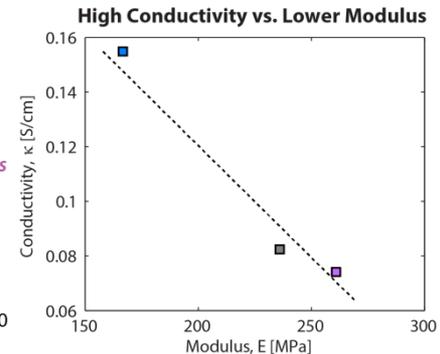
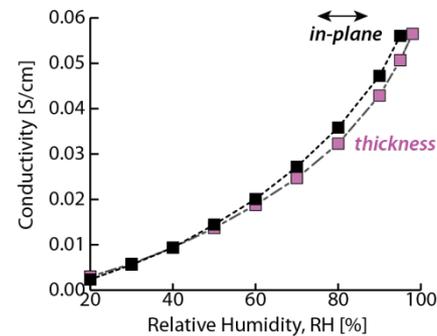
Morphology (SAXS, TEM)

Diagnostics/Properties (Transport)

Structure-Property Correlations

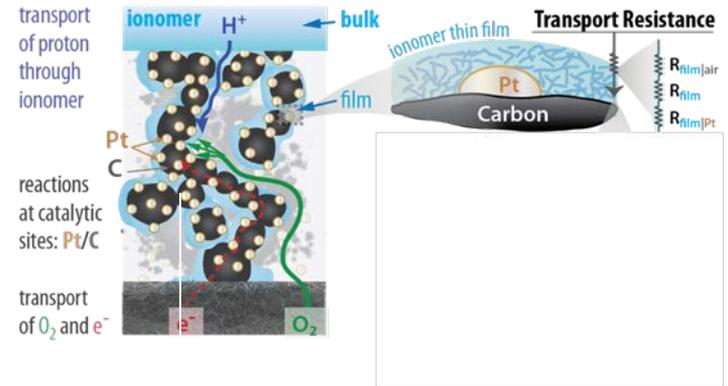
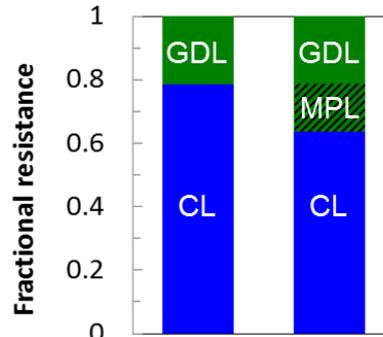
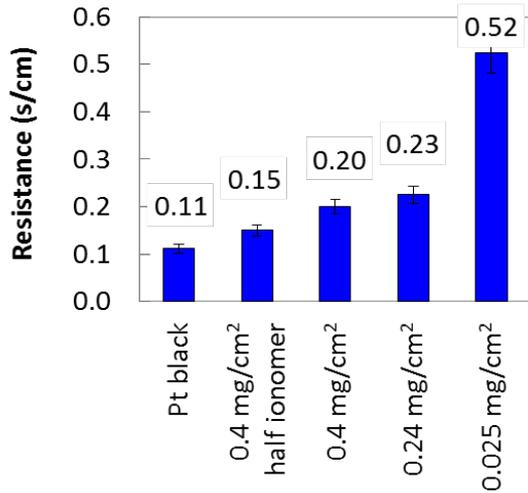


F.I. Allen, L.R. Comolli, A. Kusoglu, M.A. Modestino, A.M. Minor, A.Z. Weber, ACS Macro Letters, 4 (2015) 1-5 | DOI: 10.1021/mz500606



# Catalyst Layer Ionomer

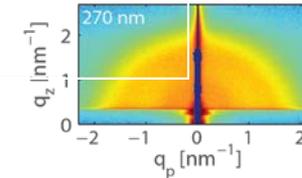
- Measure local resistance



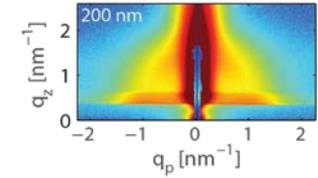
## Ionomer Film Morphology Model Substrates

Hydrated morphology of ionomer film on substrates (Grazing-incidence SAXS)

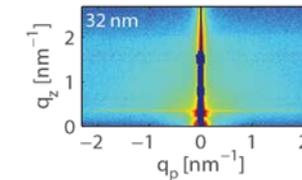
**Bulk-like Film (> 100 nm): Carbon**



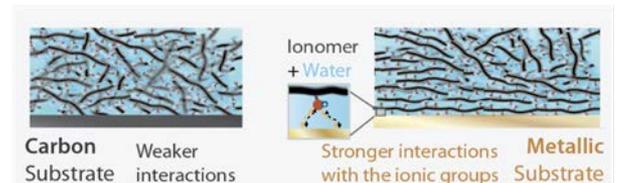
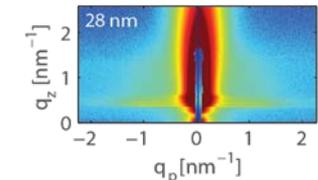
**Gold**



**Thin(ner) Film (< 50 nm): Carbon**



**Gold**



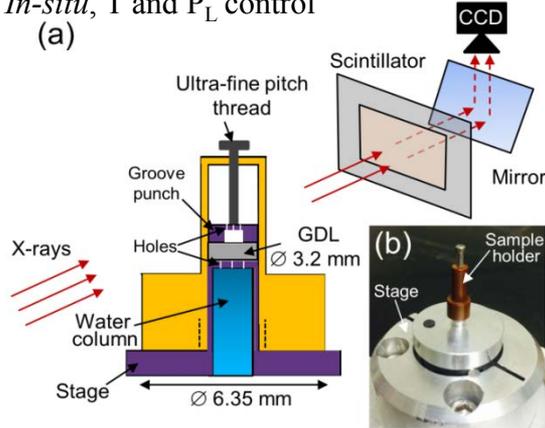
- Correlating resistance to ionomer thin-film structure on model substrates
  - Elucidate limiting phenomena
  - Measure critical transport properties
- Insights will allow for novel strategies and materials to overcome limitations

# Diffusion Media and Plate Studies

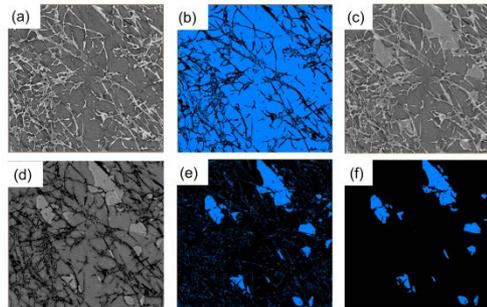
- Measure critical properties and morphology
  - Examine changes as a function of time and operating stressors
  - Examine interfaces in terms of performance and durability concerns

## XCT imaging

- 1.3  $\mu\text{m}$  resolution
- *In-situ*, T and  $P_L$  control

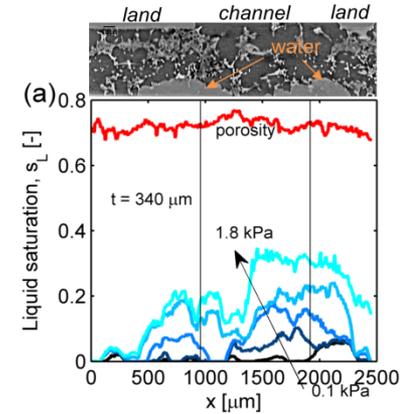


Raw data

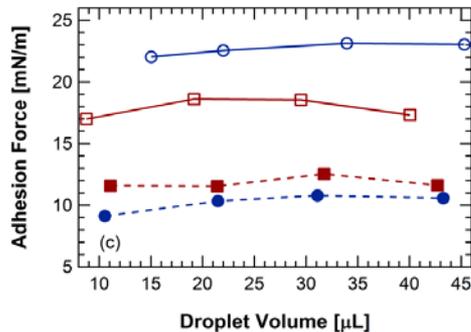


Binary image stacks of GDLs and water

## Morphology and Spatial Distributions



## Transport Properties and Phenomena



## Durability

# Thrust Area 4: Modeling and Validation

## Overview

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- **Participants**

- LBNL and ANL

- **Thrust Area Coordinator**

- Rajesh Ahluwalia, Argonne National Lab

- **Focus**

- *Model development and validation*
  - *Microstructural models including catalyst layers*
  - *Component degradation models*
  - *Water and thermal management (performance) models*
    - *Multiscale, multiphysics*
- Develop well-designed test protocols for characterizing the kinetic and transport properties of cell components
- Optimization and elucidation of performance and durability bottlenecks

# Performance Models

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## Performance Models

1. **1-D Model:** Kinetic study, species transport, temperature distribution
2. **1+1-D Channel Model:** Straight channel, counter or parallel flows. Species concentration and temperature distribution along flow directions
3. **2+1-D Channel Model:** Landing effect, liquid removal by cornering, GDL compression
4. **3-D Channel Model:** Elliptic flow effect, serpentine flow
5. **Cell Model:** Straight or serpentine flow channels with inlet/outlet baffles, non-uniform channel flows
6. **Stack Model:** anode, cathode and coolant manifolds; cell to cell non-uniform pressure, flow and temperature distributions

## Component Models and Data Analysis

- 1) **Impedance Studies (ES, OE):**  $H_2/N_2$ ,  $H_2/air$
- 2) **Pt Oxidation (ES, OE):** Cyclic voltammetry
- 3) **ORR Kinetics (OE):**  $H_2/O_2$  cell in differential mode
- 4) **Oxygen Mass Transfer (OE):**  $H_2/air$  in differential mode
- 5) **Water Transport in GDL and Catalyst Layers (CF, OE)**
- 6) **Membrane and Ionomer (BOC, OE, ELI)**

# Degradation Models

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## Degradation Models

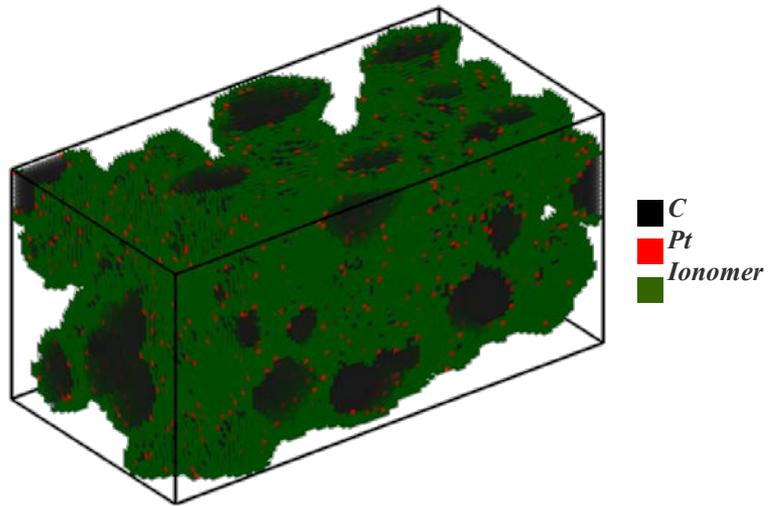
- 1) **Catalyst:** Pt dissolution, coarsening, base metal leaching
- 2) **Membrane:** FER, cerium (radical scavenger) transport, Pt in membrane, mechanical/chemical stability, H<sub>2</sub> cross-over
- 3) **Ionomer**
- 4) **Catalyst Support:** Potentiostatic and potentiodynamic corrosion rate, SU/SD model
- 5) **Electrode:** Pore size distribution, thickness, reversible and irreversible degradation
- 6) **GDL**
- 7) **Bipolar Plates:** Cation release rate, ICR

## Durability Data Analysis

- 1) **Catalyst (ES):** Stability of PtCo<sub>x</sub> and d-PtNi<sub>3</sub> alloys
- 2) **Membrane (BOC):** Durability of chemically-stabilized and mechanically-reinforced membranes
- 3) **Ionomer (ELI, OE)**
- 4) **Catalyst Support (ES, OE):** Unified model for carbon support, Non-carbon supports
- 5) **Electrode (ELI, OE):** Reversible and irreversible degradation, NSTF electrodes
- 6) **GDL (BOC)**
- 7) **Bipolar Plates (BOC, OE):** State-of-the-art ceramic, polymer and graphite coated plates

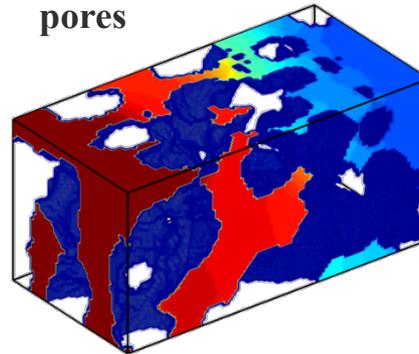
ES: Electrocatalyst and Support; ELI: Electrode Layer Integration; BOC: Membranes, GDL, BP; MPAD: Modeling Transport and Durability; OE: Operando Evaluation; CD: Characterization and Diagnostics

# Electrode Microstructure Simulations and Impurity Effects

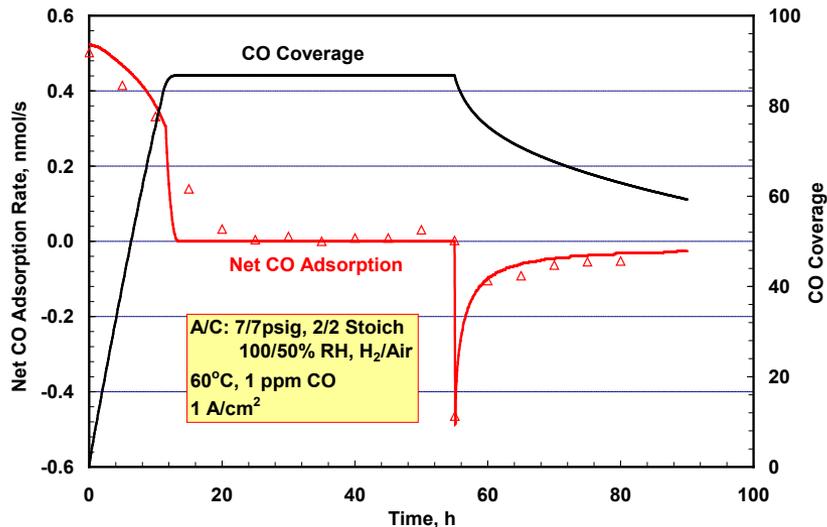
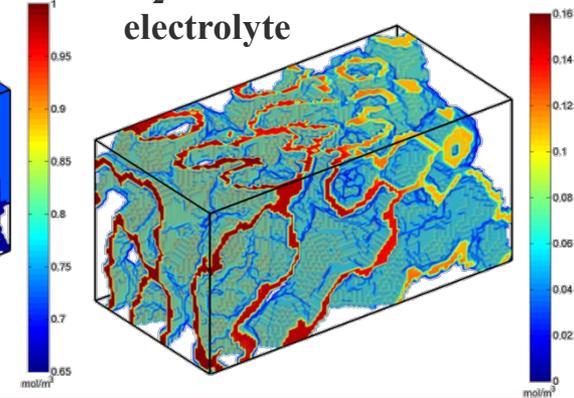


- Subtask 4.5: Electrode Microstructure**
- 1) Numerical Reconstruction Algorithm
  - 2) Multi-Physics Model
  - 3) 3-D Computed Tomography (CD)

O<sub>2</sub> concentration in pores



O<sub>2</sub> concentration in electrolyte



## Impurity Effects

- 1) Fuel Impurities (OE)
- 2) Air Impurities (OE)
- 3) System Generated Impurities (OE)
- 4) Cell Generated Impurities (OE)

# Thrust Area 5: Operando Evaluation: Benchmarking, ASTs, and Contaminants Overview

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- **Participants**

- LANL and NREL

- **Thrust Area Coordinator**

- Rangachary Mukundan, Los Alamos National Lab

- **Focus**

- Performance and durability benchmarking
- Operational effects on durability
  - Segmented cell studies, drive cycle
- AST protocol development and validation
  - Freeze protocol
  - SD/SU protocol
  - Refined membrane and catalyst AST
- Analysis of reversible degradation mechanisms
  - Quantify effect of Pt-oxidation, surface contamination and mass transport effects
- Contaminants and impurities
  - Air, fuel and system contaminants

# Thrust Area 5: Operando Evaluation: Benchmarking, ASTs, and Contaminants

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- **Provide durability testing to catalyst, membrane, GDL, bi-polar plate and MEA developers**
  - Perform Stress tests on MEAs
    - Track membrane degradation through Fluoride release, membrane thinning and HFR changes
    - Track catalyst degradation through ECSA, Mass Activity, performance loss, Pt particle size growth and Pt deposition within the membrane
    - Track catalyst support degradation through CO<sub>2</sub> emission, Surface characterization, catalyst layer thinning, catalyst layer morphology changes, electrode capacitance changes, and mass transport losses (Impedance and HelOx measurements)
    - Track GDL degradation through surface characterization, pore size characterization and mass transport losses
    - Track Bi-polar plate degradation through contaminant measurements (ICP-MS), and contact resistance changes
- **Provide performance characterization**
  - Perform power cycling on MEAs under various operating conditions including sub-zero operation, in the presence of contaminants and in segmented cells
  - Quantify voltage losses in MEA and attribute them to materials properties using in situ electrochemical characterization, ex situ materials characterization and fuel cell models

# Thrust Area 6: Component Characterization & Diagnostics Overview

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## ■ Participants

- ORNL, ANL, LANL, NREL, LBNL

## ■ Thrust Area Coordinator

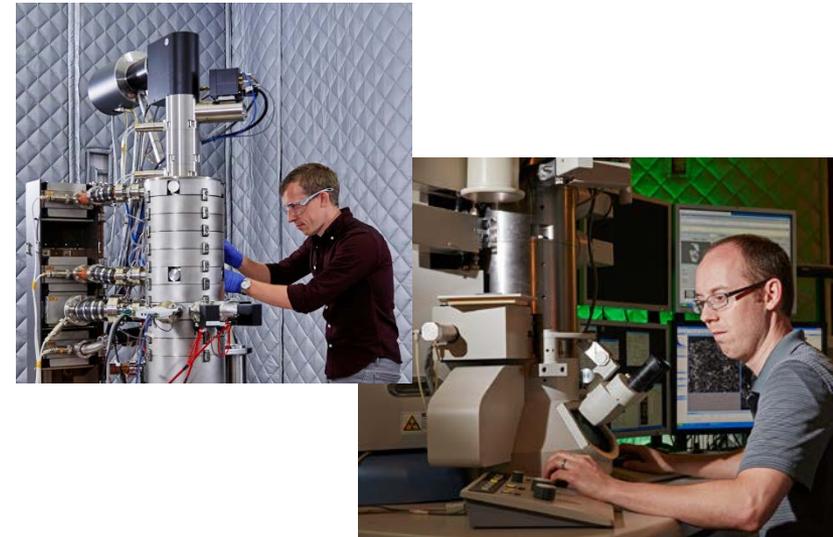
- Karren More, Oak Ridge National Lab

## ■ Focus/Objectives

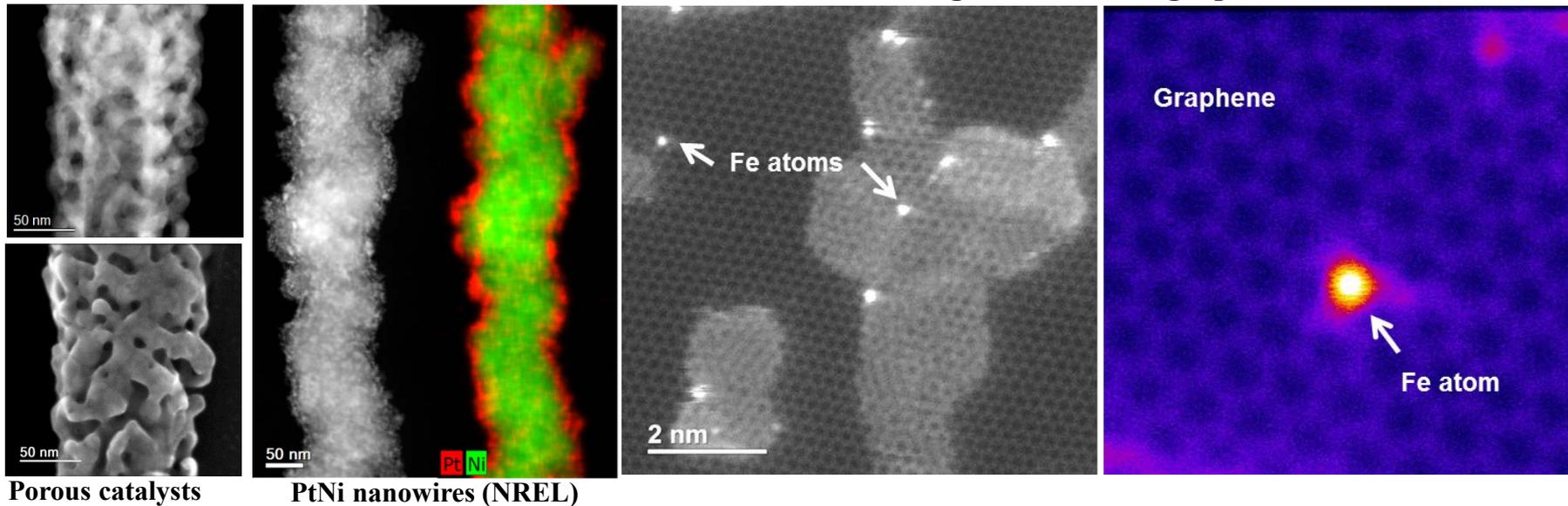
- *Comprehensive Materials Benchmarking – sub-Å to  $\mu\text{m}$ -level Understanding*
  - Characterize component structure, chemistry, and composition *before & after* durability testing
  - Systematic approach to understand the effects of testing variables/protocols on material's stability and performance
- *Coordination across all six thrusts for durability/performance characterization*
  - *Advanced Electron Microscopy (ORNL)*
  - *Neutron and X-ray Studies (ANL, LBNL, NIST)*
  - *Component Diagnostics (LANL, NREL)*
  - *Provide experimental input and validation of durability models/simulations*
- *Development of new techniques/protocols/capabilities*
  - *Characterization targeted towards specific fuel cell materials/components and test protocols*
  - *Operando studies and development of unique tools*

# Atomic Resolution Imaging and Spectroscopy

- Advanced analytical scanning transmission electron microscopy (STEM)
  - Atomic resolution imaging
  - Electron Energy Loss Spectroscopy
  - Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy
  - *In situ* microscopy and tomography



Single Fe atoms in graphene



Porous catalysts

PtNi nanowires (NREL)