



## Joint Center for Energy Storage Research Activities at Sandia National Laboratories

Kevin R. Zavadil, Sandia National laboratories

Challenges in Energy Storage Symposium, Northeastern University  
(August 13-14/2013)

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## *Messages*

*The Opportunity: Transportation and the Electricity Grid*

*The Outcomes: 5-5-5 and Three Legacies*

*Beyond Lithium Ion*

*JCESR Distinguishing Features*

*Embracing DOE's Discovery to Deployment Spectrum*

*Highlights*

# The Battery Development Challenge

Two biggest energy uses poised for transformational change

Transportation 29%

Oil → Electricity

Reduce foreign oil dependence

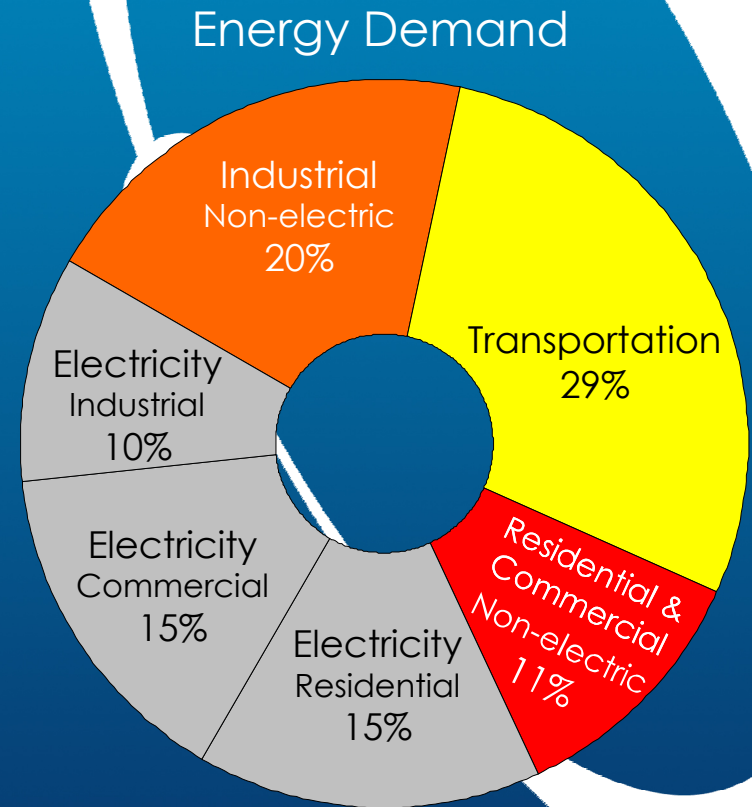
Reduce carbon emissions

Electricity 40%

Coal → Gas → Wind and Solar

Reduce carbon emissions

Sustainable energy supply



EIA Annual Energy Review 2009

*The bottleneck for both transitions is expensive, high density electrical energy storage*

# JCESR Targeted Outcomes

## ACHIEVING GOALS FOR LASTING LEGACIES

TRANSPORTATION

**\$100/kWh**

**400 Wh/kg** **400 Wh/L**

**800 W/kg** **800 W/L**

**1000** cycles

**80% DoD** C/5

**15 yr** calendar life

EUCAR

GRID

**\$100/kWh**

**95%** round-trip  
efficiency at C/5 rate

**7000** cycles C/5

**20 yr** calendar life

**Safety** equivalent to a  
natural gas turbine

### ► Transformational goals: 5-5-5

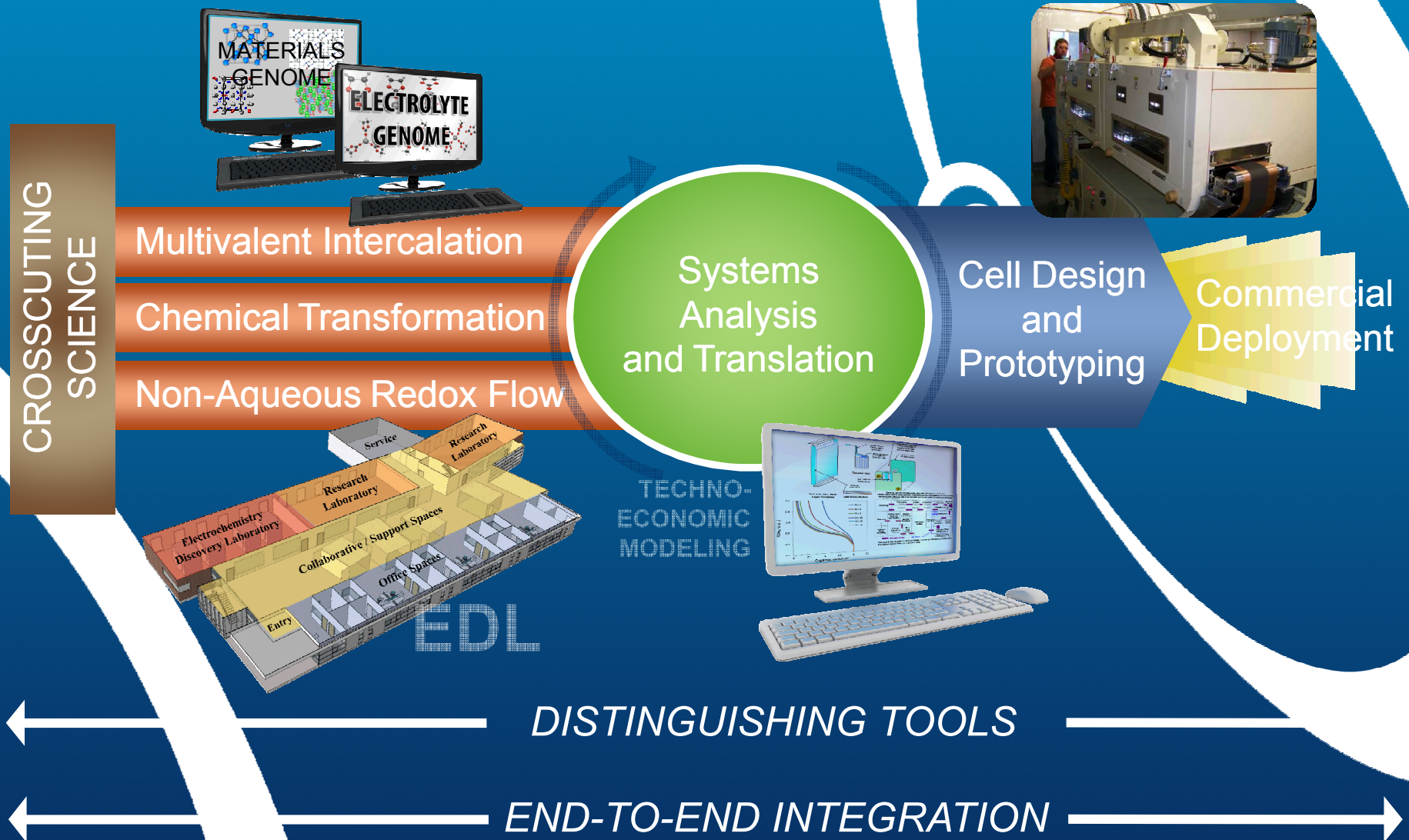
- 5 times greater energy density
- 1/5 cost
- within 5 years

### ► Legacies

- Library of fundamental knowledge
  - *Atomic and molecular understanding of battery phenomena*
- Pre-commercial prototypes for grid and transportation
- New paradigm of battery development
  - *Build the battery from the bottom up*
  - *Systems-centric*
  - *End-to-end integration*



# The JCESR Paradigm: Beyond Lithium Ion



# The JCESR Team

5

National  
Laboratories

*Argonne*

*Lawrence Berkeley*

*Sandia*

*Pacific Northwest*

*SLAC*

5

Universities

*University of Illinois at  
Chicago*

*University of Chicago*

*Northwestern University*

*University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign*

*University of Michigan*

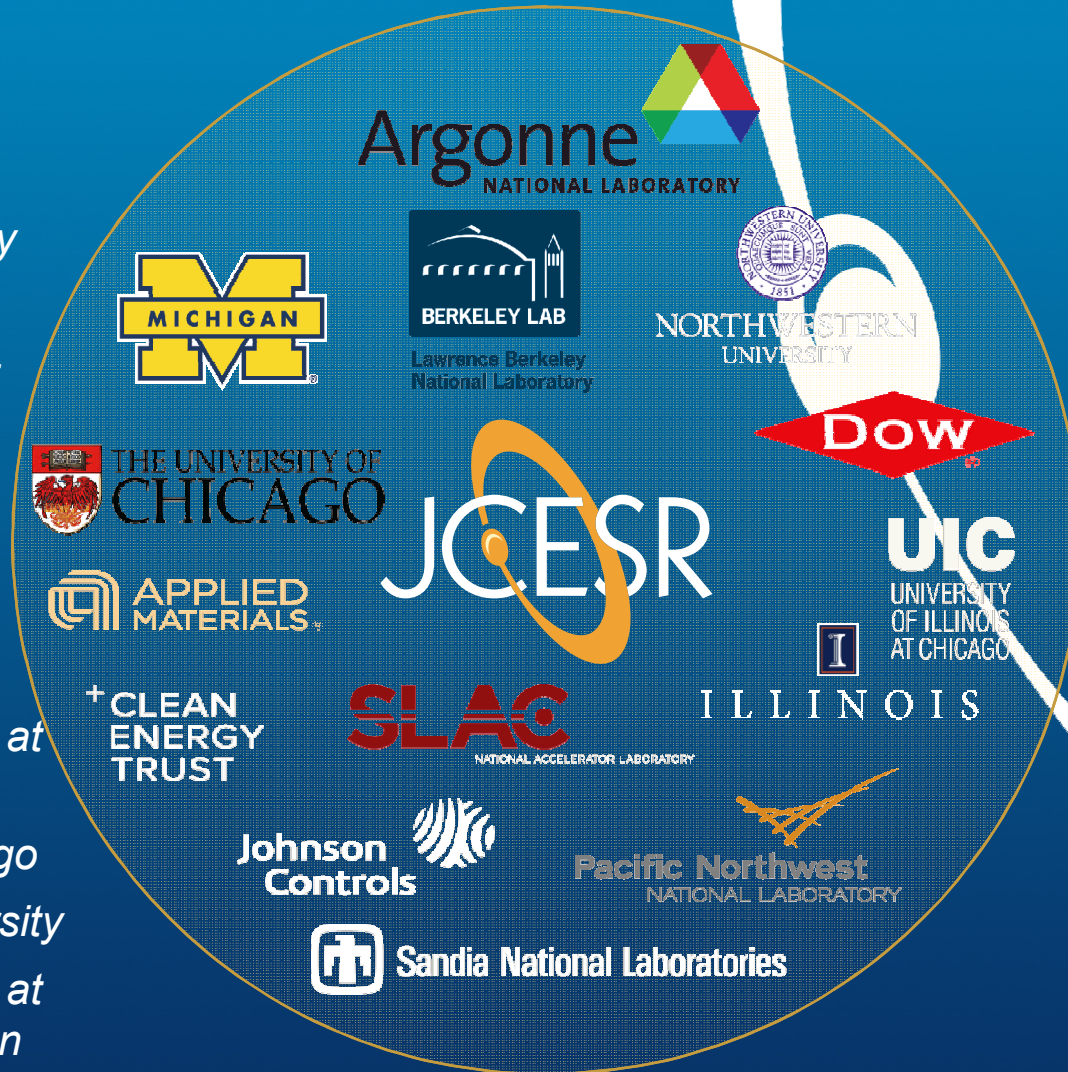
Private Sector  
Partners

*Dow*

*JCI*

*Applied Materials*

*Clean Energy  
Trust*

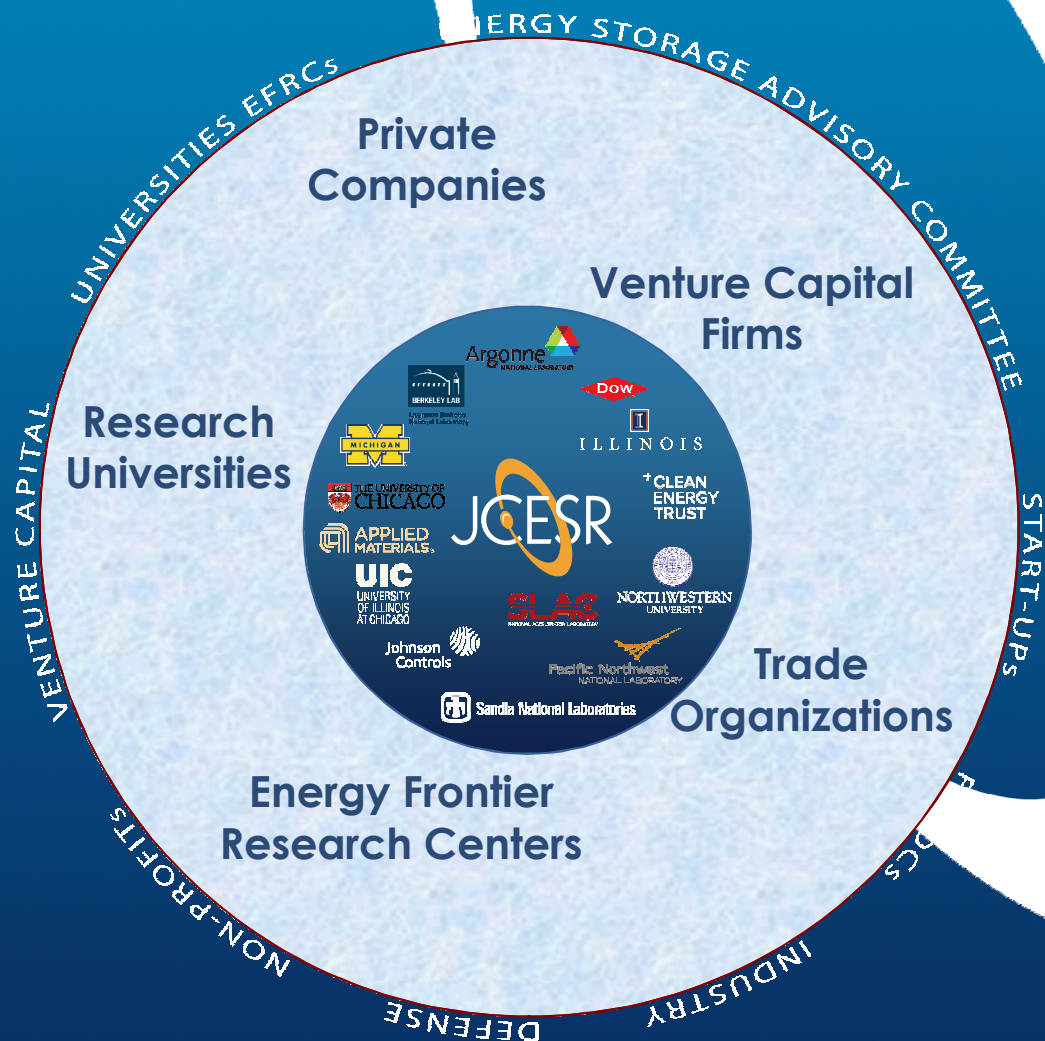


# JCESR Affiliates

*CENTRALIZING FORCE FOR BATTERY FIELD*

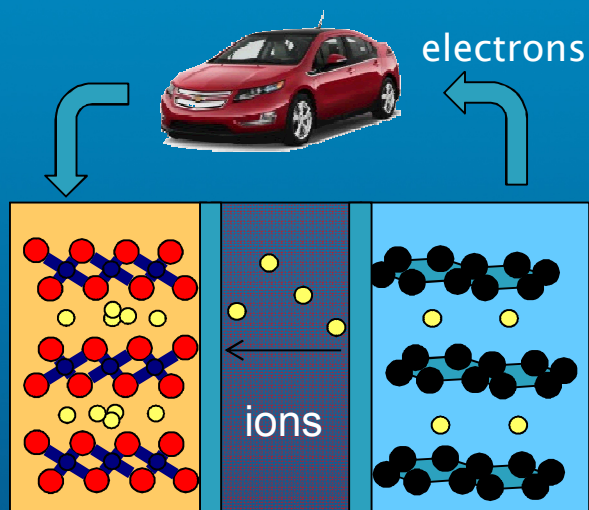
~ 40 Organizations

Communicating  
and  
Collaborating  
with the  
Energy Storage  
Community





# Beyond Li-ion Storage Concepts



## Multivalent Intercalation

- $\text{Li}^+ \rightarrow \text{Mg}^{++}, \text{Y}^{+++}, \dots$
- double or triple energy stored and released

## Chemical Transformation

Intercalation  $\rightarrow$  chemical reaction

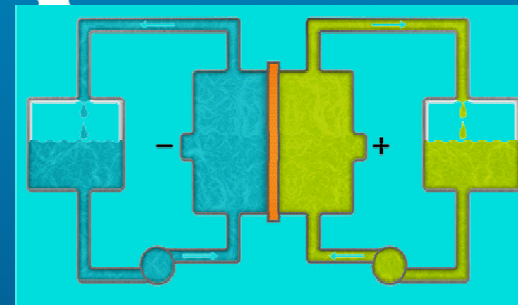
$\text{Li-O}_2, \text{Li-S}, \text{Na-S}, \dots$

All can store and release energy

*Highest potential, least understood opportunities*

CROSSCUTTING  
SCIENCE

Multivalent Intercalation  
Chemical Transformation  
Non-Aqueous Redox Flow



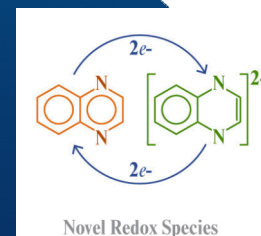
## Non-aqueous Redox Flow

Flowable electrodes

- solutions or suspensions
- no structural constraints
- rich horizon of unexplored redox couples

Low cost / high capacity

organic  
materials



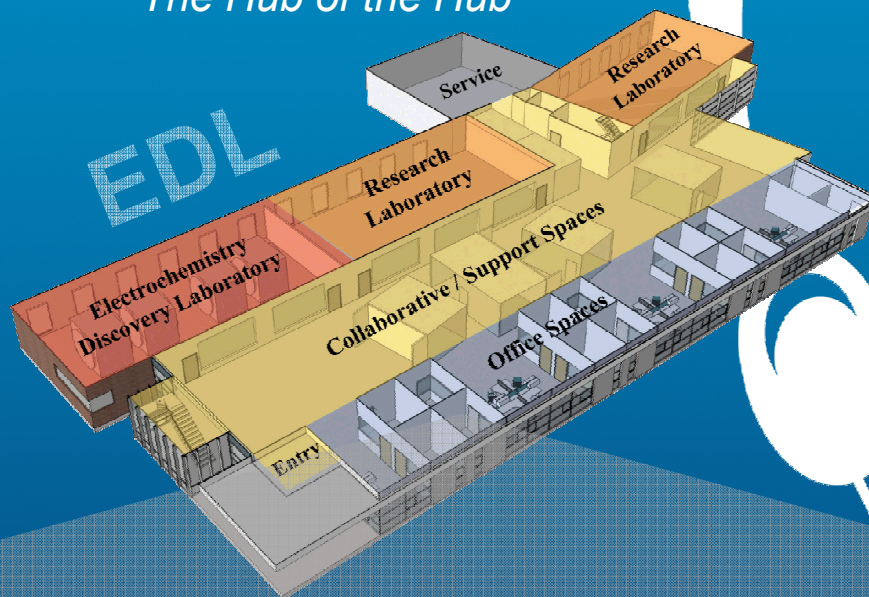
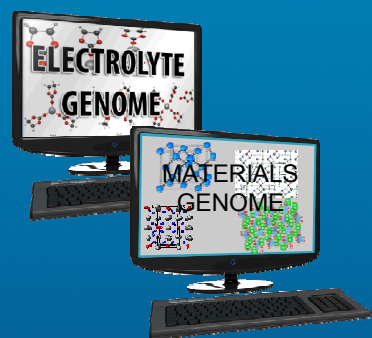


# The Electrochemical Discovery Laboratory

*The Hub of the Hub*

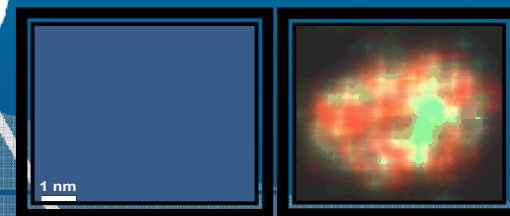
CROSSCUTTING  
SCIENCE

Multivalent Intercalation  
Chemical Transformation  
Non-Aqueous Redox Flow

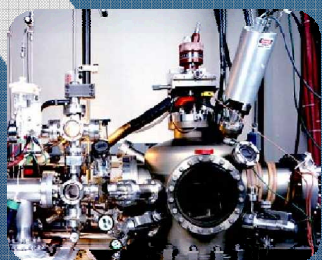


Cell Design and Prototyping  
Techno-economic Modeling

COMPOSITE SYSTEMS

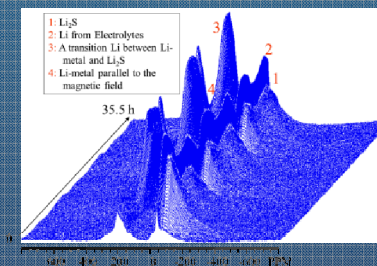


SYNTHESIS



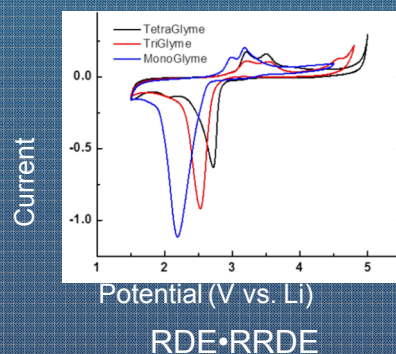
THIN FILM  
SINGLE CRYSTAL  
MBE•CVD•PVD

SPECTROSCOPY

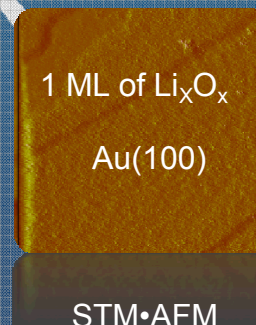


XPS•LEED•FTIR•UPS•AES  
•RAMAN•SFG•NMR

ELECTROCHEMISTRY



SURFACES•INTERFACES

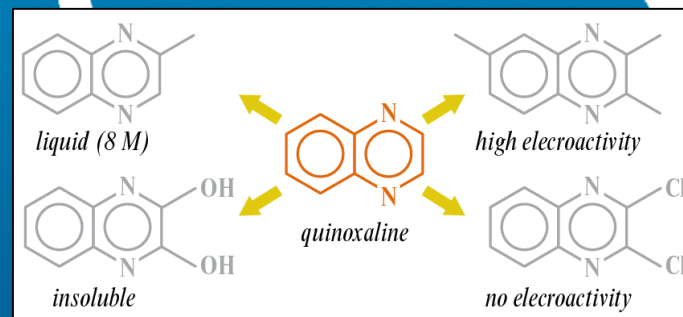
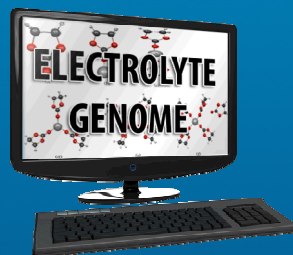
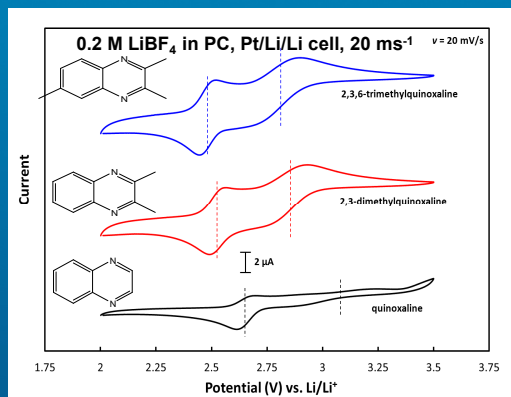


# Building an Electrolyte Genome

*A new horizon for designing novel electrolytes and redox-active molecules*

CROSSCUTTING  
SCIENCE

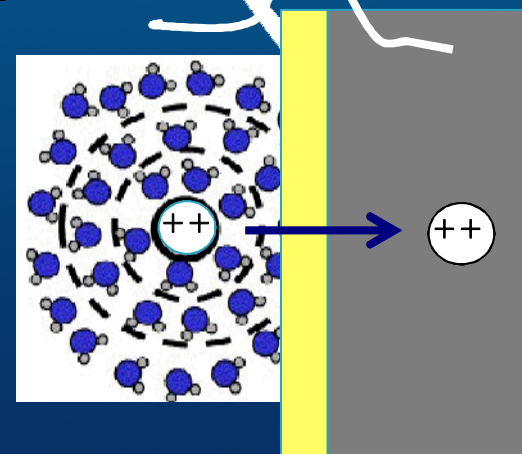
Multivalent Intercalation  
Chemical Transformation  
Non-Aqueous Redox Flow



Computational structure/composition/property platform  
10<sup>4</sup>-10<sup>5</sup> solvents, salts, and redox molecules;  
organized for interactive searching and design

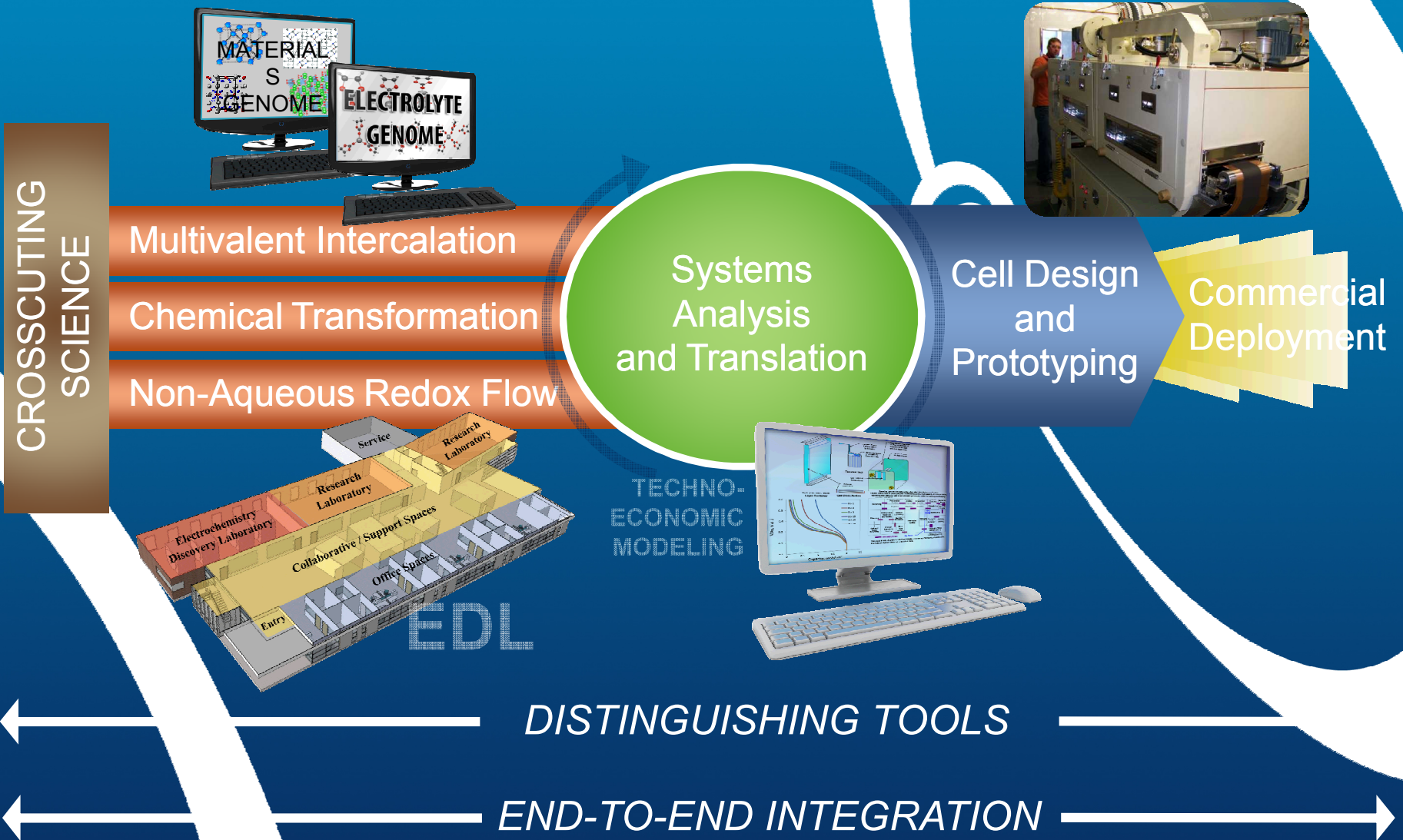
Redox activity

- Stability against cathode / anode
- Solvation structure and mobility
- Solvation / desolvation dynamics
- Solubility
- Energy storage capacity





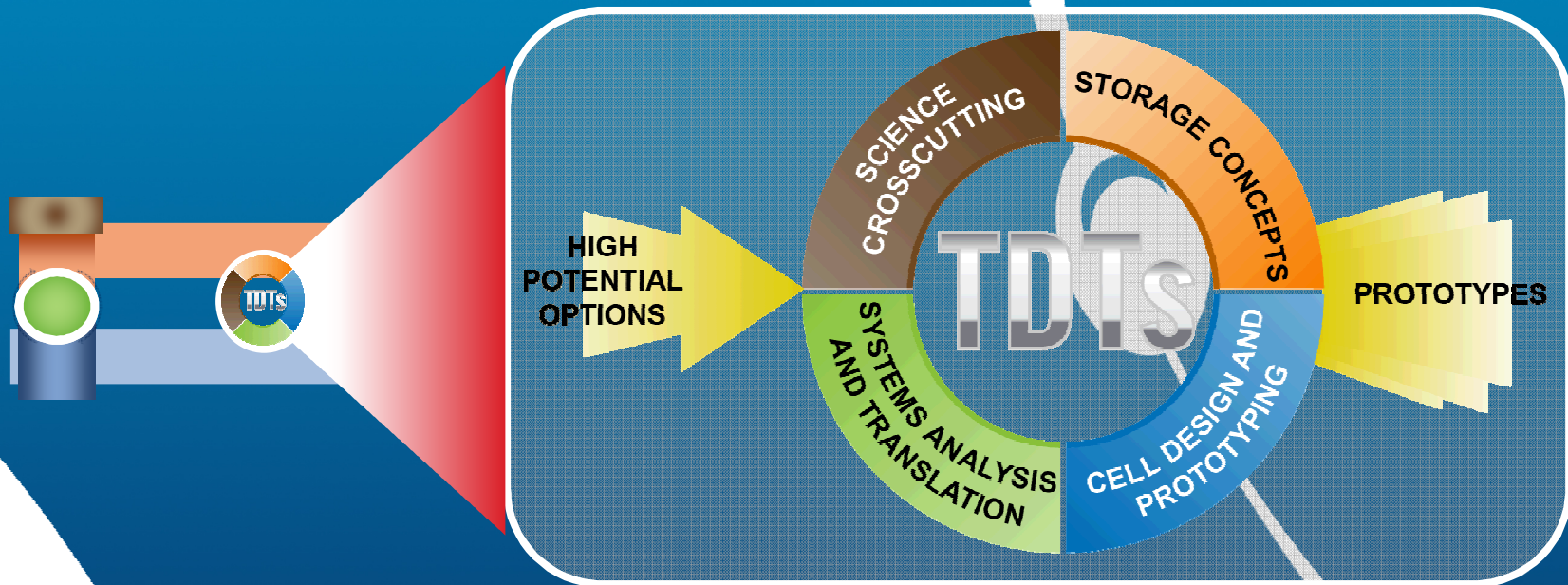
# The JCESR Paradigm: Beyond Lithium Ion



# Translational Development Teams

## *INTEGRATING SCIENCE WITH ENGINEERING*

Cell Design  
and  
Prototyping



- ▶ We kickoff two TDTs on Day 1 to design and prototype cells
  - Transportation – Mg Intercalation
  - Grid – Non-aqueous redox flow



## TDT 1

### Non-aqueous Redox Flow

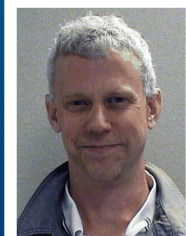
\$100/KWH, 95% EFFICIENCY AT C/5



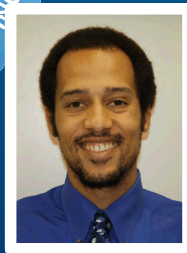
Jun Liu  
PNNL



Melanie Sanford  
U-M



Chris Apple  
SNL



Fik Brushett  
MIT

## TDT 2

### Mg intercalation

\$100/kWh, 400 Wh/kg and 400 Wh/L



Kevin  
Zavadil,  
SNL



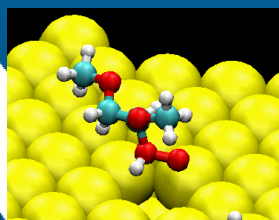
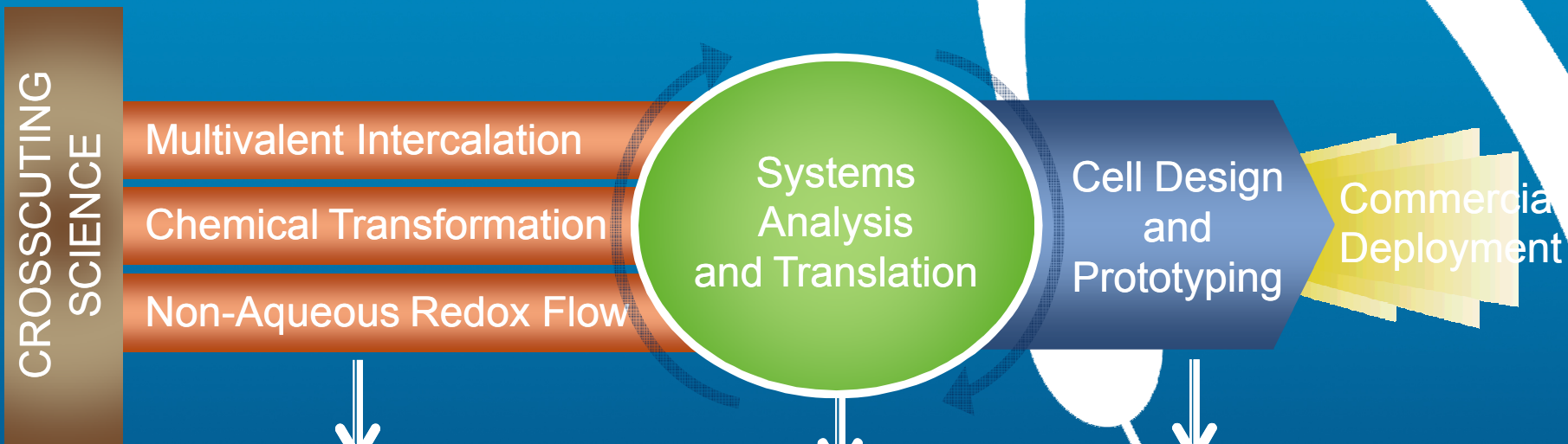
Pat Hurley  
JCI



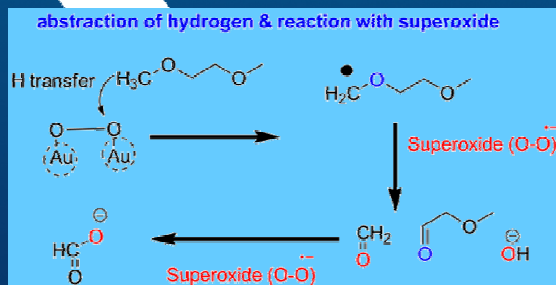
Jack Vaughn  
ANL

*Our Multi-Disciplinary Teams*

# JCESR: Reaching Across the Discovery-Design Demonstration Spectrum

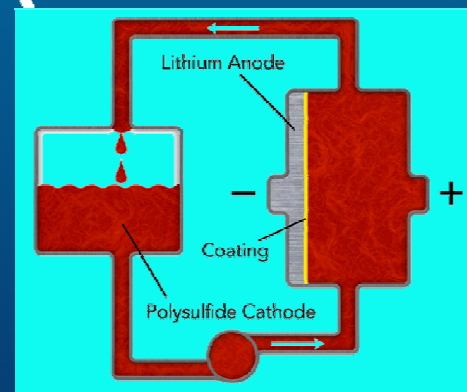


**Electrochemical  
Discovery Lab**  
RDE, RRDE, FTIR, DFT



- Cell and system design
- Performance
- Cost

Building Li-air battery  
on the computer  
(with GM)



Yang, Zheng, Cui DOI: 10.1002/anie.201508000

Non-aqueous Li-Polysulfide  
semi-flow battery

*X10 increase in flow battery energy density  
2000 cycles*

# Chemical Transformation



600 Wh/kg (3X), ↑ achievable

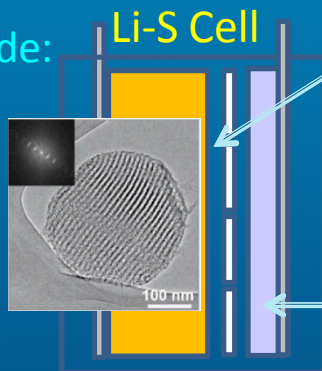
Positive Electrode:

New materials

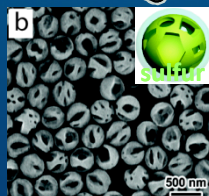
- sulfur sequestration
- $\text{Li}_2\text{S}$  cathodes

Mechanistic understanding

- determine -
- dissociation
- LPSE transport in nanostructured membranes



**NRF Thrust Prototype**



- computation
- *operando* probes (TEM, NMR, X-ray)

**Electrolyte Genome**

Electrolyte:

Control of dissolution-ppt

- solvent stability
- tuning solubility

Negative Electrode:

Manipulate electrodeposition

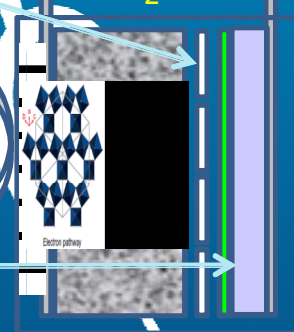
- additives for passivation
- interface studies
- Li informs Mg & MV's

**Cross Cutting Thrust**



5X: quantify achievable limits

Li-O<sub>2</sub> Cell



Positive Electrode:

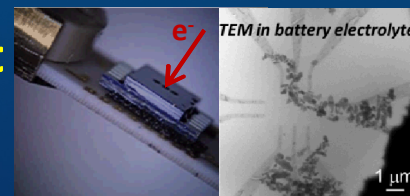
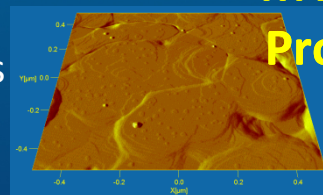
New materials

- catalysts for ORR
- porous materials
- new architectures

Mechanistic understanding:

- Determine -
- limits of O<sub>2</sub> reversibility
- reaction pathway and electrolyte role
- electrocatalysis

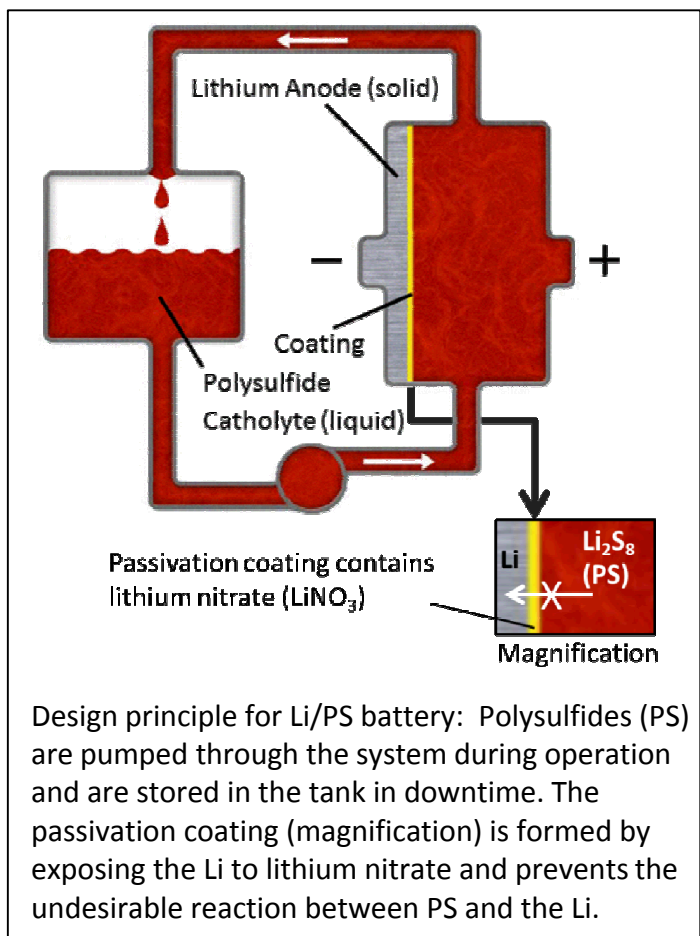
**MV Thrust Prototype**



**Create Library of Knowledge • Establish Rational Design • Enable Prototypes**



# Lithium/Polysulfide Battery for Large-scale Energy Storage



Work was performed at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory (JCESR partner).

Y. Yang, G. Zheng and Y. Cui, *Energy Environ. Sci.*, **2013**, online edition, DOI: 10.1039/c3ee00072a

## Scientific Achievement

Tailored the electrochemical properties of a novel lithium (Li)/polysulfide (PS) semi-liquid battery **with high energy density** and discovered a method to eliminate the need for a separator membrane.

## Significance and Impact

Research prototype design could lead to low-cost, long-life batteries that facilitate the large-scale use of solar and wind energy on the electrical grid.

## Research Details

- Working research prototypes of the hybrid flow battery were made with the polysulfide ( $\text{Li}_2\text{S}_8$ ) in ether-based solvent as the liquid catholyte, and passivated metallic Li as the solid anode.
- The anode is treated with lithium nitrate to form a passivation layer that prevents direct chemical reaction between the Li anode and PS catholyte, eliminating the need for a membrane.
- Energy density of the system reaches 108 Wh/liter - three times that of the conventional vanadium flow battery - with a discharge voltage of 2.45 V.
- By keeping the charge/discharge voltage range narrow, all phases remain dissolved in the liquid, reducing degradation.



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**ENERGY**

Office of  
Science

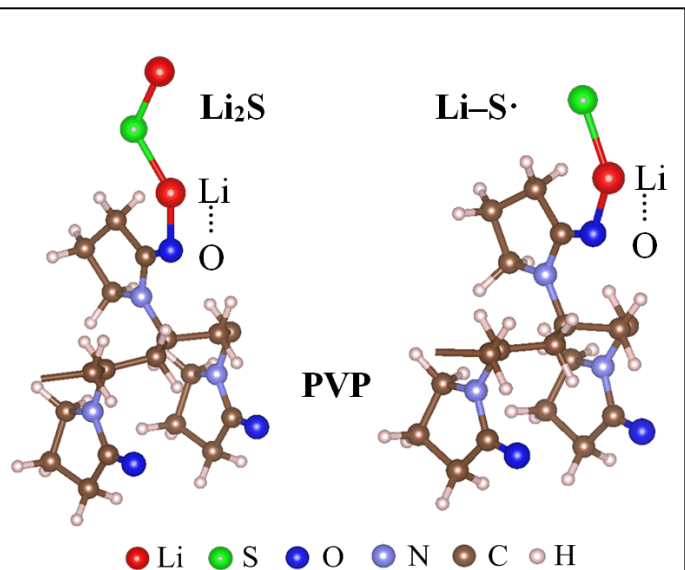
**Joint Center for Energy Storage Research**

An Energy Innovation Hub headquartered at Argonne National Laboratory





# Rational Design of High-Performance $\text{Li}_2\text{S}$ Cathodes



Using *ab initio* simulations, poly(vinylpyrrolidone) (PVP) binder was found to possess strong affinity for both  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}$  and lithium polysulfides. This bifunctional binder not only helps to form a uniform dispersion of active material and carbon in the electrode slurry, but also minimizes the loss of polysulfides into the electrolyte during cycling.

Work was performed at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory (JCESR partner).

Z. W. Seh, Q. Zhang, W. Li, G. Zheng, H. Yao, Y. Cui, *Chem. Sci.* **2013**, DOI: 10.1039/c3sc51476e.

## Scientific Achievement

Achieved record performance in  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}$  cathodes by using *ab initio* simulations to guide our rational selection of effective bifunctional binders.

## Significance and Impact

Rational materials design could lead to low-cost and high-performance  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}$  cathodes that can be paired with safer, lithium metal-free anodes for use in emerging applications such as vehicle electrification and grid-scale energy storage.

## Research Details

- A rational approach was taken by first using *ab initio* simulations to elucidate the poorly-understood interaction between  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}$  and various functional groups found in macromolecular binders.
- Poly(vinylpyrrolidone) (PVP) was then selected as a promising bifunctional binder which exhibits strong affinity with both  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}$  and lithium polysulfides.
- Using PVP as a binder for  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}$  cathodes, we demonstrate unprecedented stable cycling performance over prolonged 500 charge/discharge cycles.



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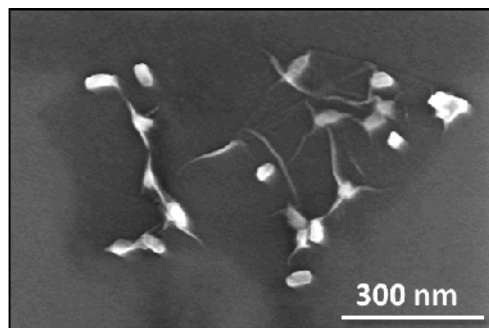
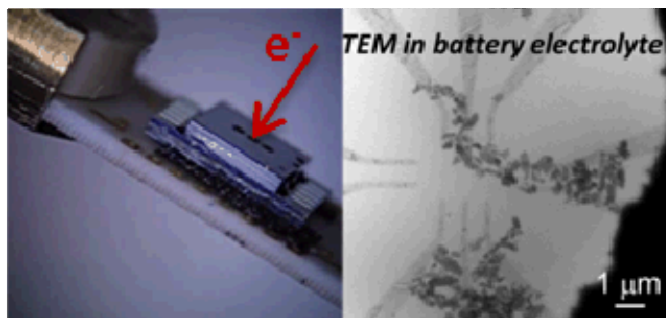
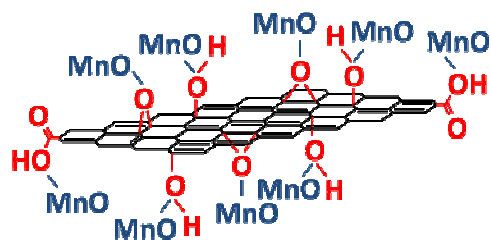
An Energy Innovation Hub headquartered at Argonne National Laboratory



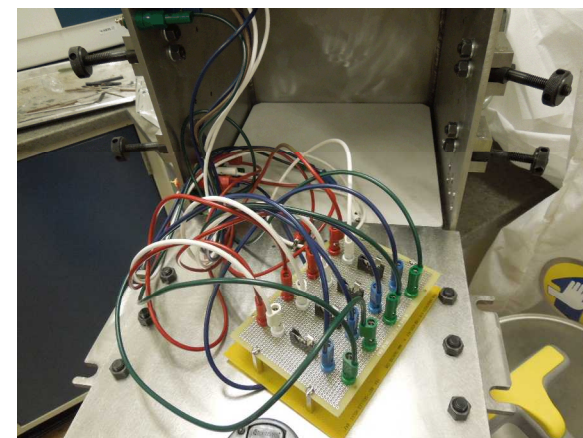
# Research Activities at Sandia National Laboratories

Fundamental studies &  
diagnostics

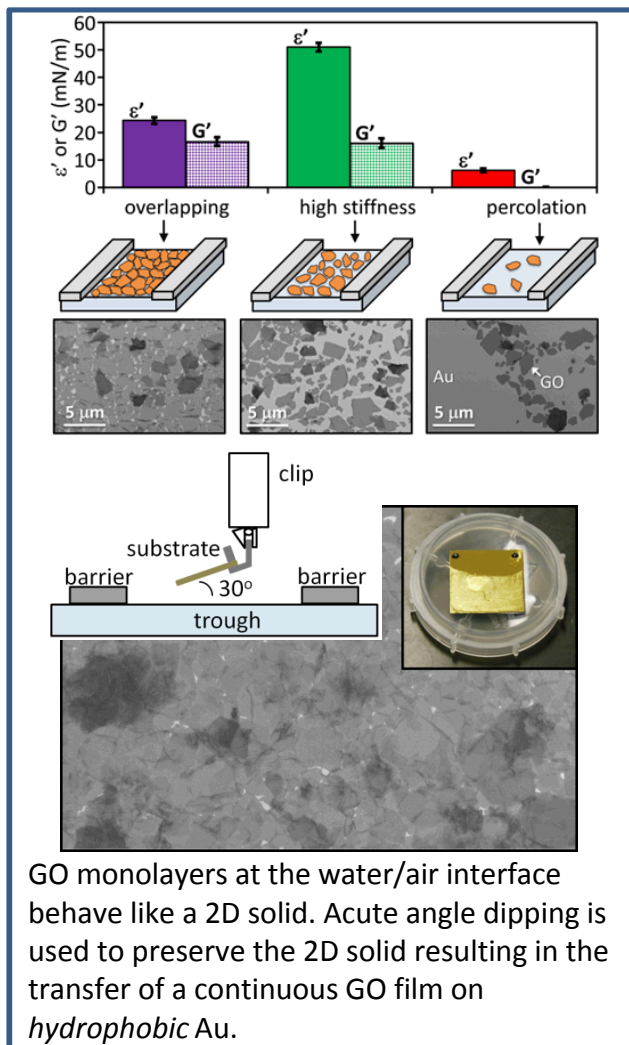
materials



cell development  
& prototyping



# Controlled Graphene-based Electrode Fabrication: Mechanical Properties of Water-Assembled Graphene Oxide Monolayers



K.L. Harrison, L.B. Biedermann, K.R. Zavadil, ACS Nano, submitted.

## Scientific Achievement

Quantifying the mechanical properties of graphene oxide (GO) monolayers leads to a demonstrated ability to control its transfer to a wide variety of surfaces.

## Significance and Impact

Graphene is an important building block material for electrochemical-based energy storage but its properties and therefore impact cannot be fully realized without simple strategies for its controlled assembly into coherent electrodes.

## Research Details

- Liquid phase transfer using a Langmuir-Blodgett approach is pursued as a means of controlled self assembly.
- Oscillatory barrier measurements are used to probe the mechanical properties of the GO monolayer as a function of surface pressure ( $\Pi$ ). A shear modulus indicates the GO forms a 2D solid and precautions must be taken to prevent solid rupture during transfer. Acute angle dips prevent rupture and allow transfer of continuous films independent of substrate.

Work was performed at Sandia National Laboratories (JCESR partner)



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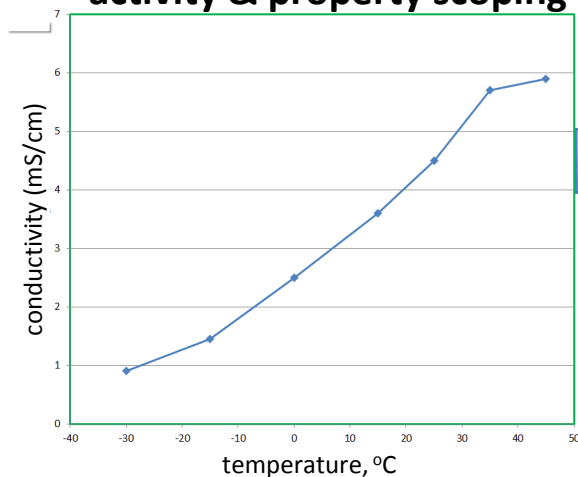


# Cell Development and Prototyping (CDP) of Multivalent Ion Chemistries – C. Apblett

Early stage CDP activities serve several key functions - establish:

- benchmark cell chemistry
- process flow
- synthesis – end use chain
- compatibility and stability

activity & property scoping



Ar ambient glovebox set up to assemble Mg cells from powders to batteries under inert environments

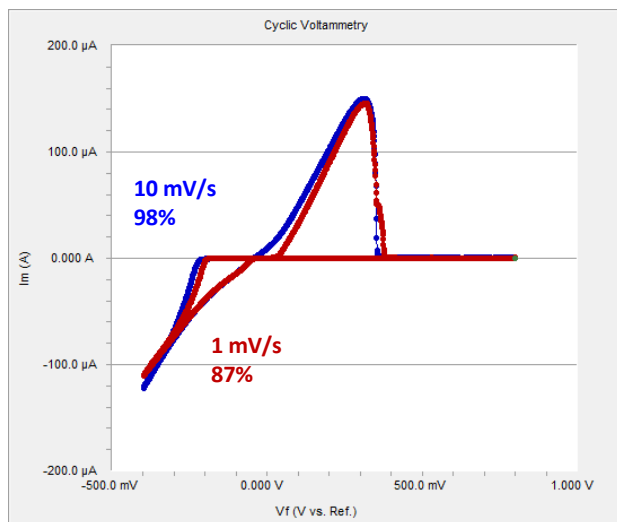
materials synthesis and assembly

Coin Cell test stands prepared (in combustion proof chambers)

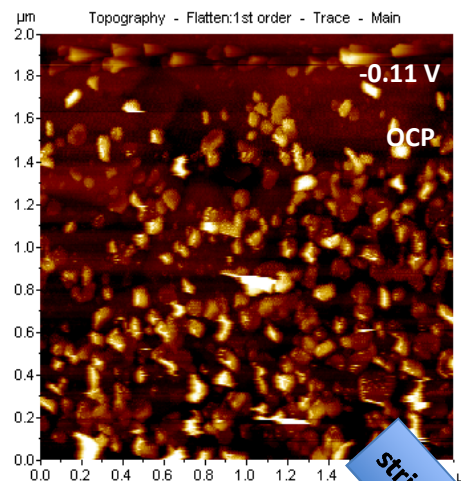
performance testing

Environmental chambers set up for temperature experiments

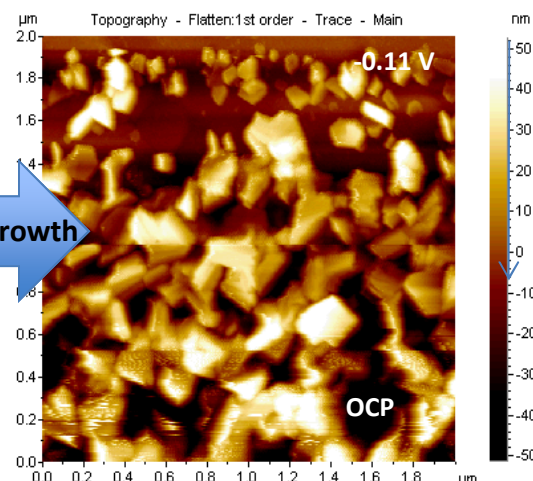
# Multivalent Metal Cation Accommodation at the Anode: Origins of Efficiency and Cycleability – K. Zavadil



**Nucleation (briefly stepped to -110 mV)**

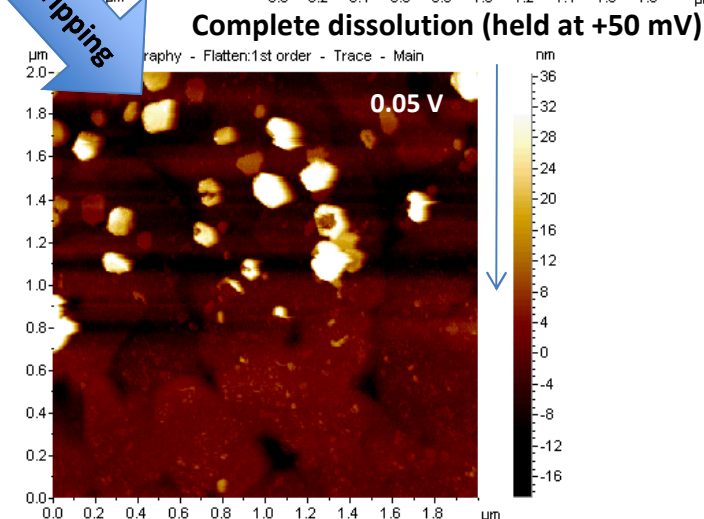


**Growth (held at -110 mV)**



In situ metrology provides direct measurement of critical phenomenon:

- morphology evolution and rate dependence
- balancing metastability and passivation
- solid electrolyte interphases
- partitioning at a host:electrolyte interface



# Dynamics of $\text{Li}_2\text{O}_2$ Formation & Spatial Distribution in the Li- $\text{O}_2$ System – K. Zavadil

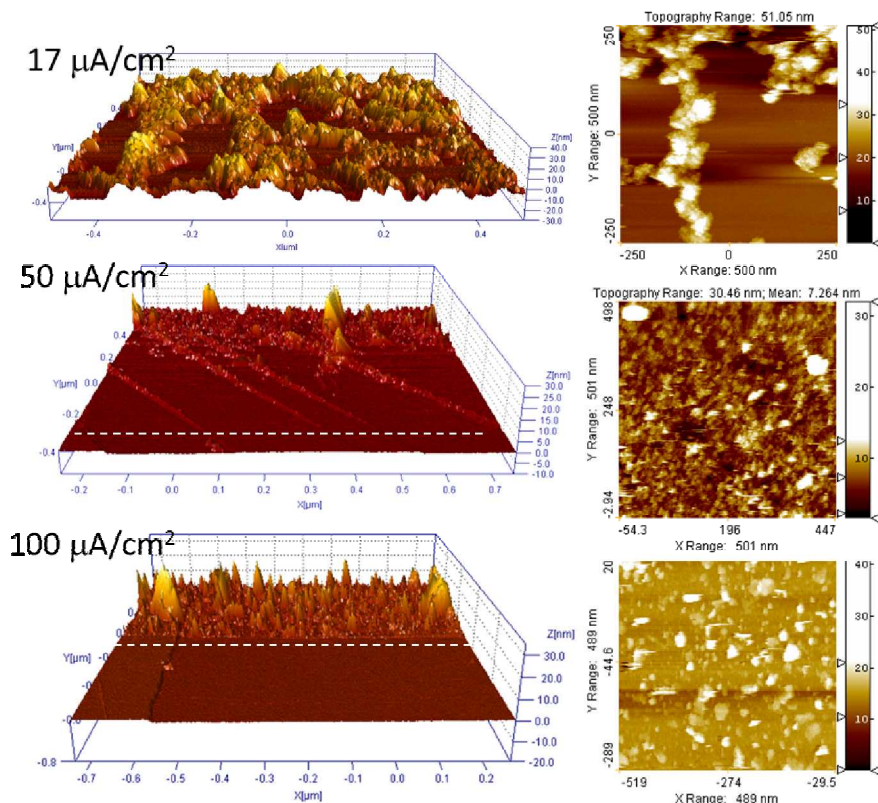
## Alkali metal – Oxygen electrochemistry

- promise of high theoretical energy density e.g.  $2\text{Li} + \text{O}_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{Li}_2\text{O}_2$
- system level energy density still shows promise
- $\text{O}_2$  is an attractive reporter molecule to gain new insight into energy storage redox phenomena

## Operando studies allow determination of critical processes:

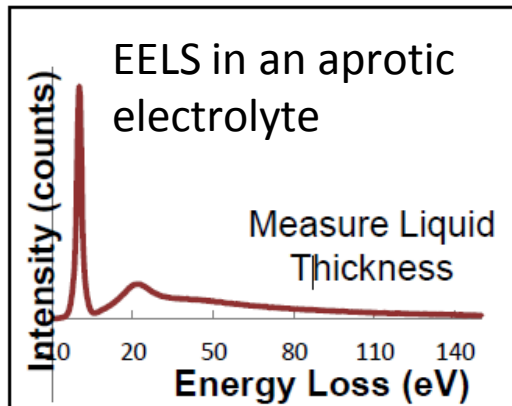
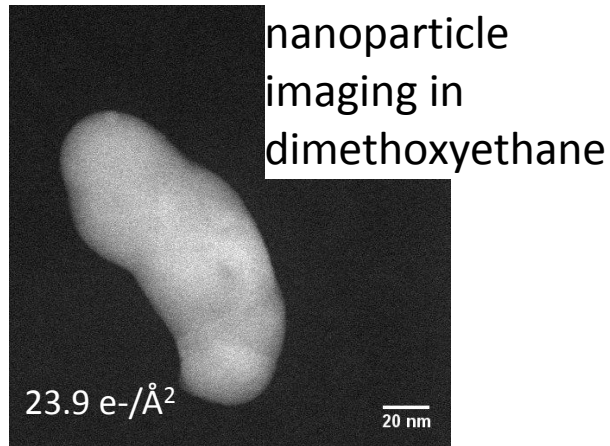
- solvent mediation of nucleation and growth
- proximity relationships
- electrocatalyst role

peroxide nucleation and growth on graphite

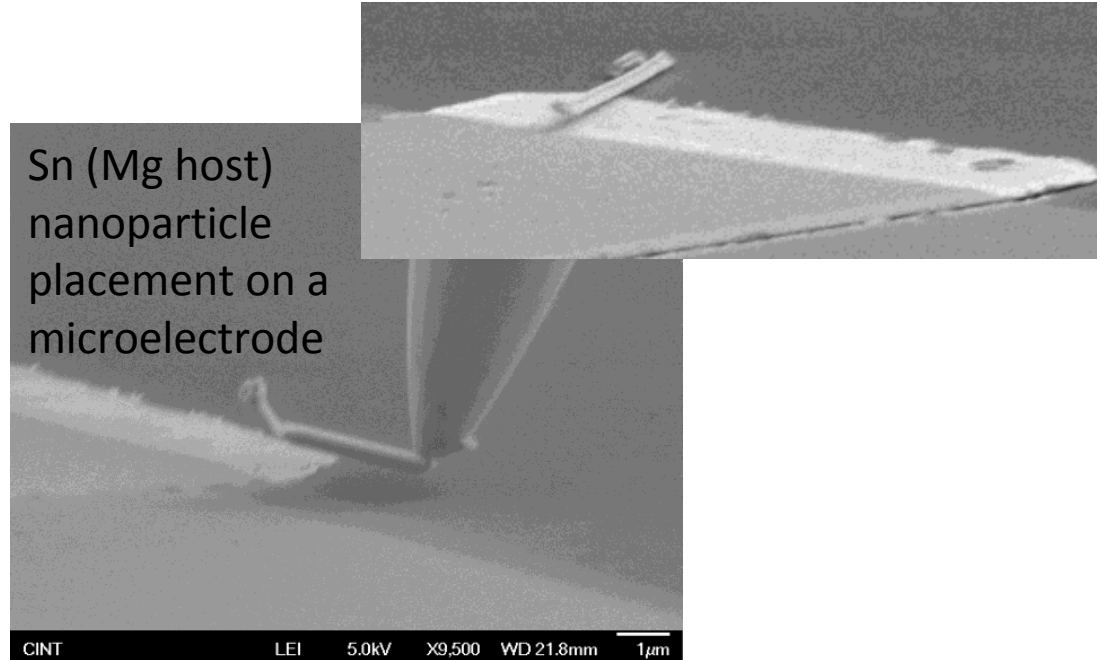




# Visualization of Structural and Interfacial Changes with Energy Storage Processes – K. Jungjohann



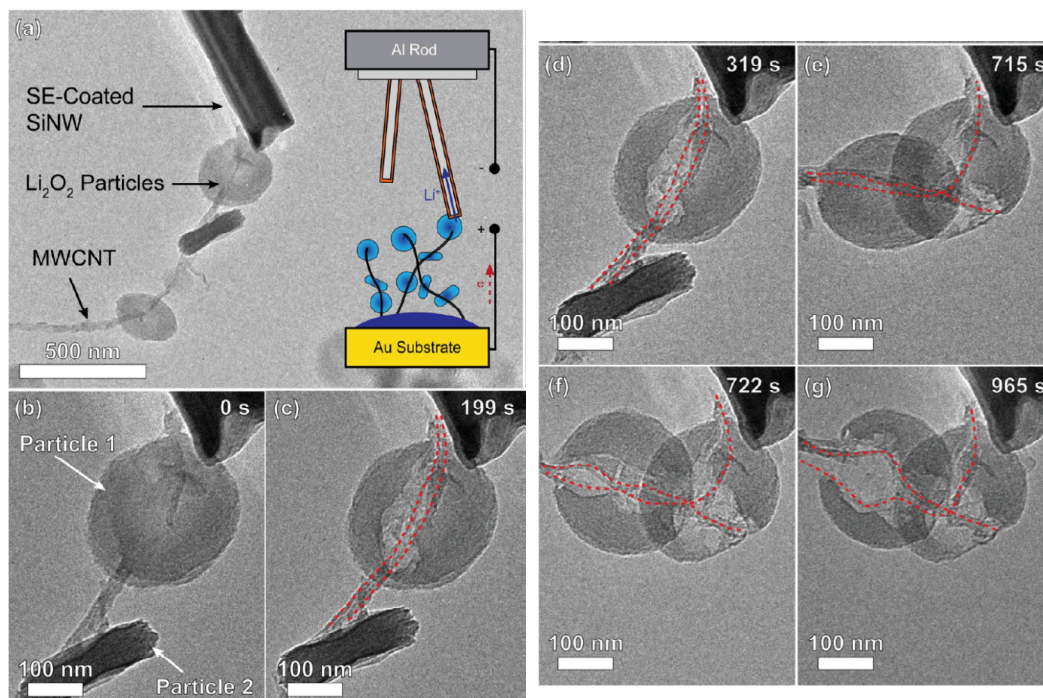
Sn (Mg host)  
nanoparticle  
placement on a  
microelectrode



Must understand and account for radiolysis  
damage during STEM imaging

# Electrochemical TEM for Tracking Energy Storage Phenomena – a Sandia Area of Expertise

Solid state discharge studies as a precursor to operando measurement in an electrolyte



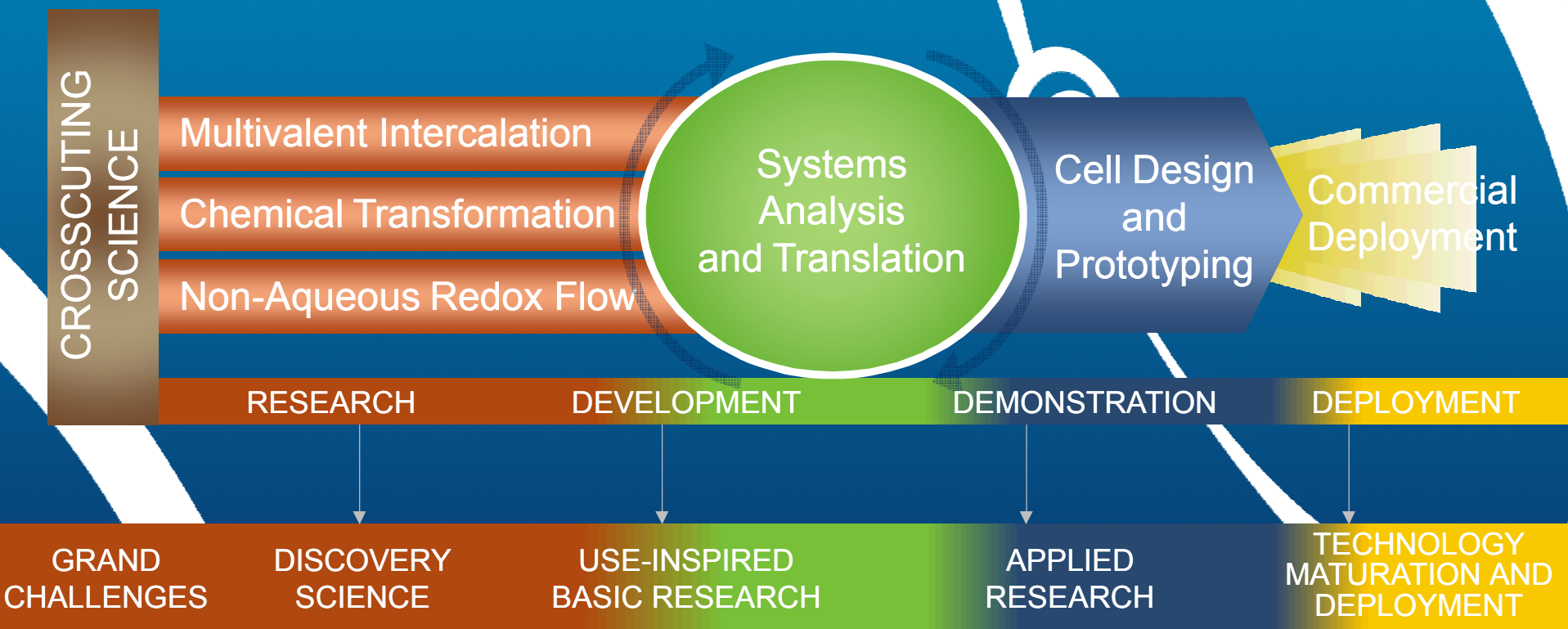
Shao Horn et al. Nano Lett 2013 (Sandia collaboration)



JCESR



# JCESR Maps onto DOE's RDD&D Spectrum



Embracing DOE's Discovery to Deployment Spectrum

# Ultimate Battery May Combine Storage Concepts

Multivalent metal anode

High mobility in stable electrolyte

Chemical reaction with flowable cathode

