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# Synthesis and Thermal Stability Studies of Nanoporous Metals for Hydrogen Storage Applications by *in situ* TEM

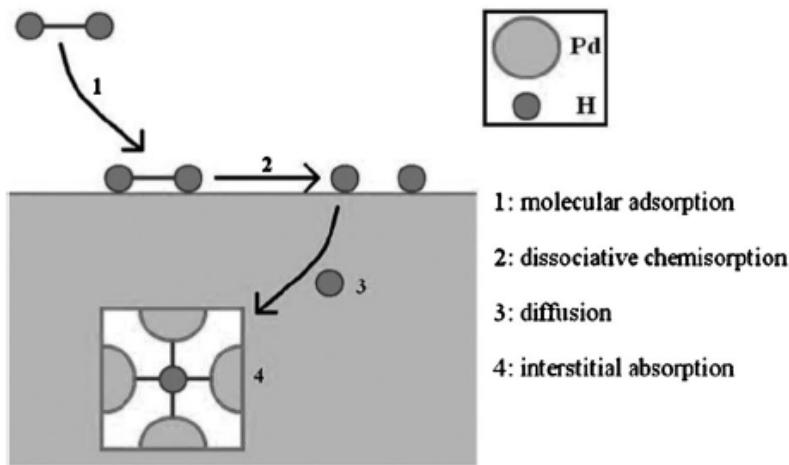
Molecular Foundry User Meeting 2014

David B. Robinson

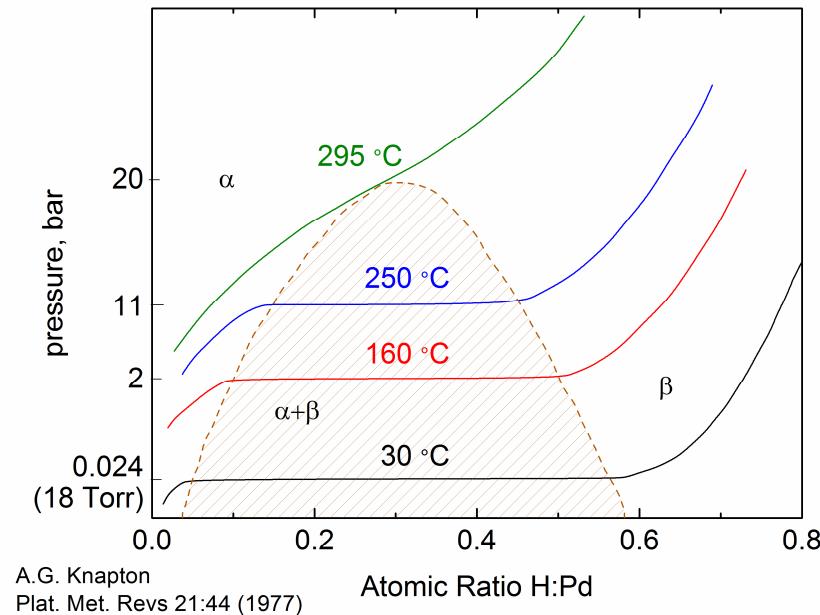


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# Palladium Hydride



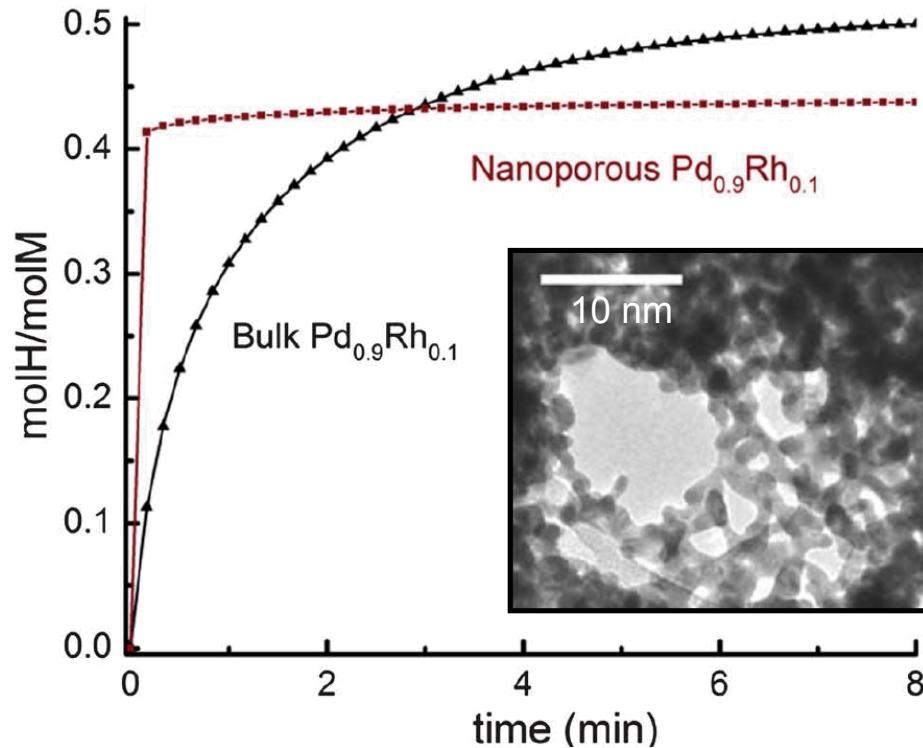
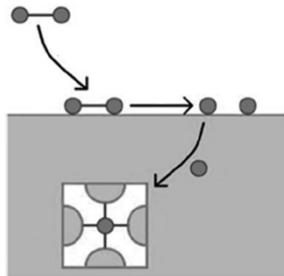
R. Delmelle, J., Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys. (2011) p.11412



Near-stoichiometric amounts of H stored in octahedral holes  
Lattice expansion above critical concentration (T,P dependent)  
Other hydrides are of interest, including Pd alloys

# Nanoporosity improves properties

1) higher surface area, smaller ligaments = improved kinetics

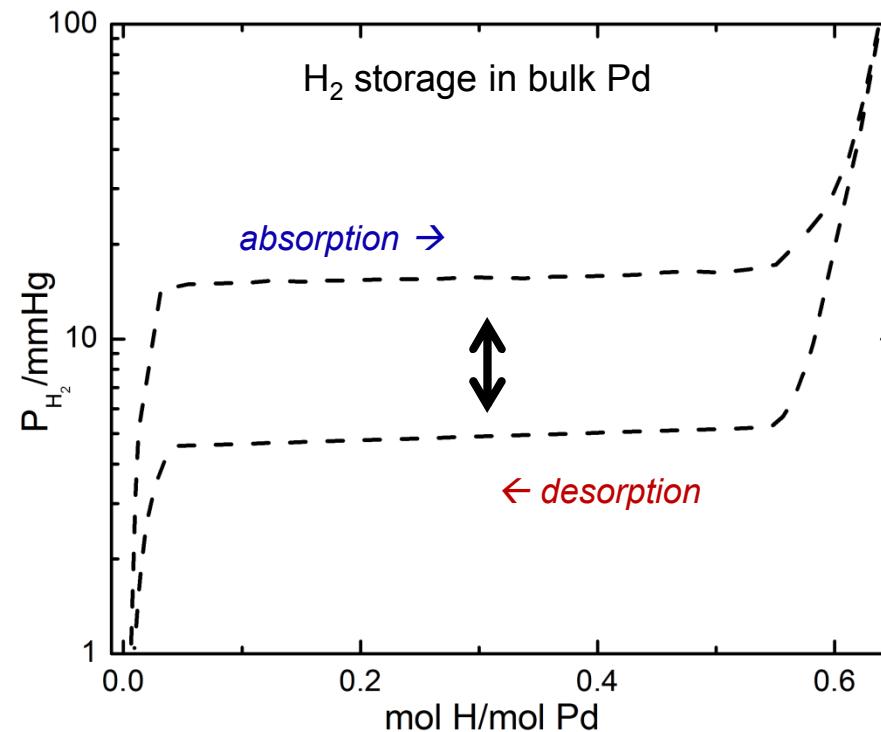


Cappillino *et al.*, J. Mater. Chem.  
(2012) p. 14013

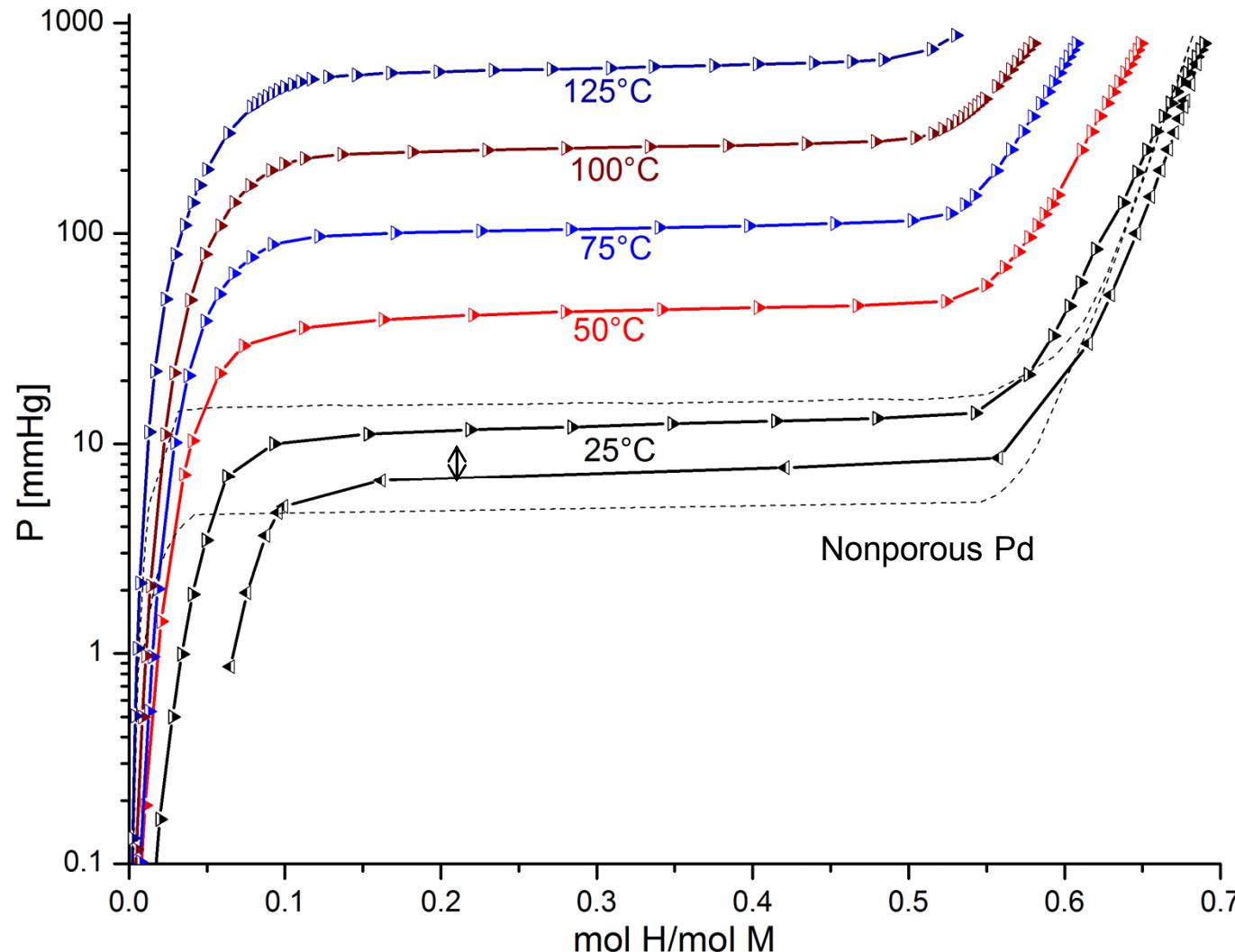
# Nanoporosity improves properties

2) empty space in nanopores mitigates damage from cycling hydride

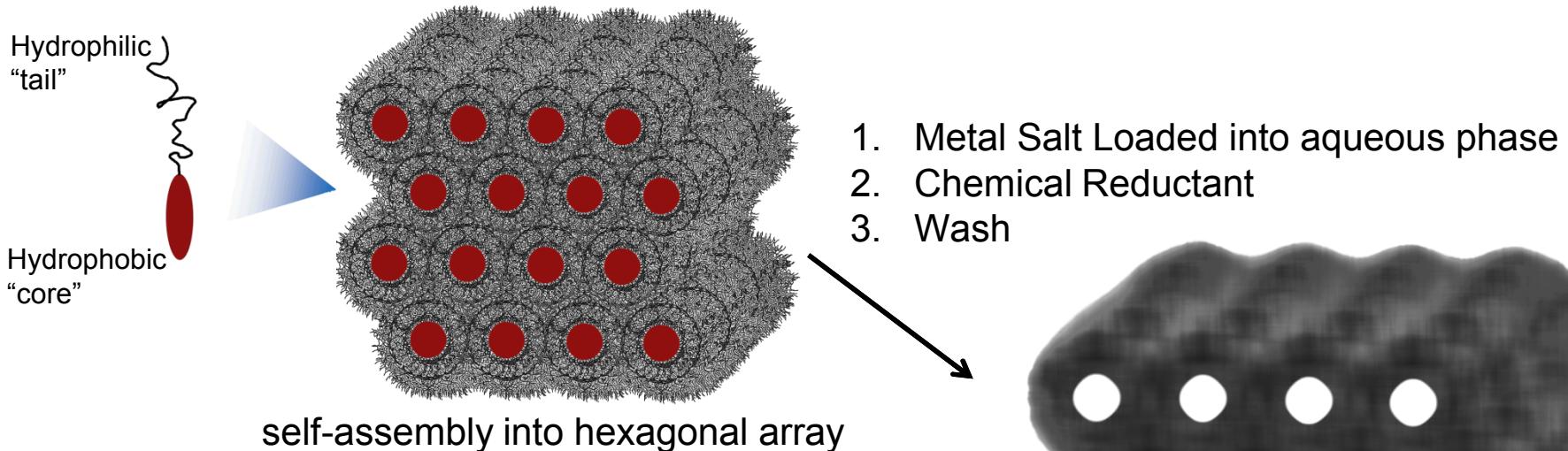
- Hysteresis ( $P_{\text{abs}} > P_{\text{des}}$ ) in  $\text{H}_2$  absorption/ desorption
- Nanopores reduce strain
- Deformation  $\rightarrow$  dislocations, aging



# Reduced Hysteresis in Nanoporous Pd



# Synthesis of Nanoporous Pd



- Adapted synthetic methods<sup>(1,2)</sup>:
  - Large quantities
  - Powders
  - *Control of pore size*
- Metal salts are reduced around hydrophobic cores
- Removal of template leaves nanoporous metal

- 1) Kuroda, K. *et al.*, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 47 (2008) p. 5371  
2) Attard *et al.*, Science, 278 (1997) p. 838

# Synthesis of Nanoporous Pd

bcp/Pd<sup>II</sup> mixture



- $(\text{NH}_4)_2(\text{PdCl}_4)$  in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$
- (bcp-2.3,3.1k) in THF
- Solutions mixed, THF removed by evaporation (THF = tetrahyrofuran)

reduced paste



- Resulting paste reduced over 48 hours in humidified 1%  $\text{H}_2$  in  $\text{N}_2$

bcp-Pd

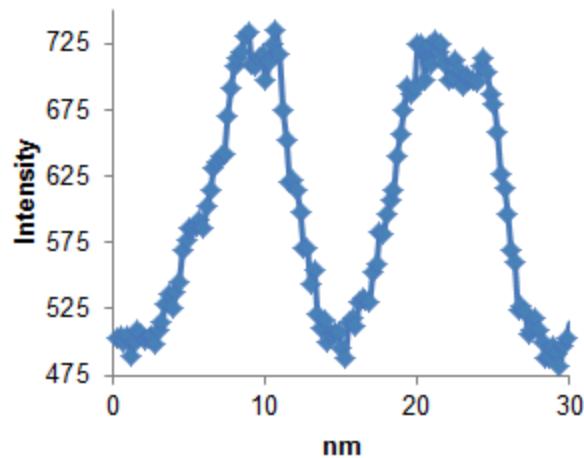
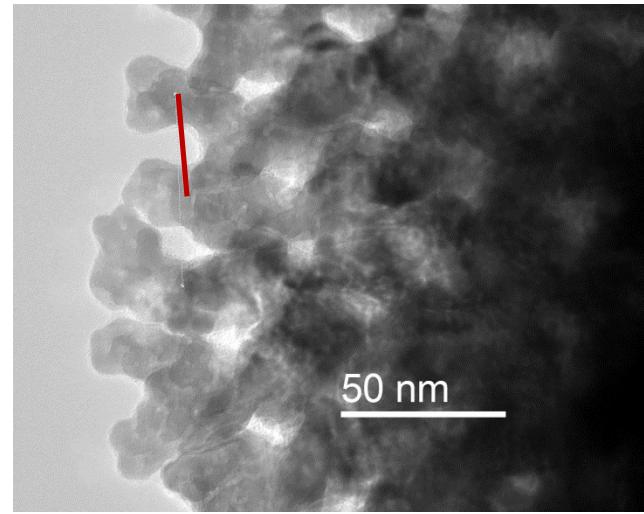
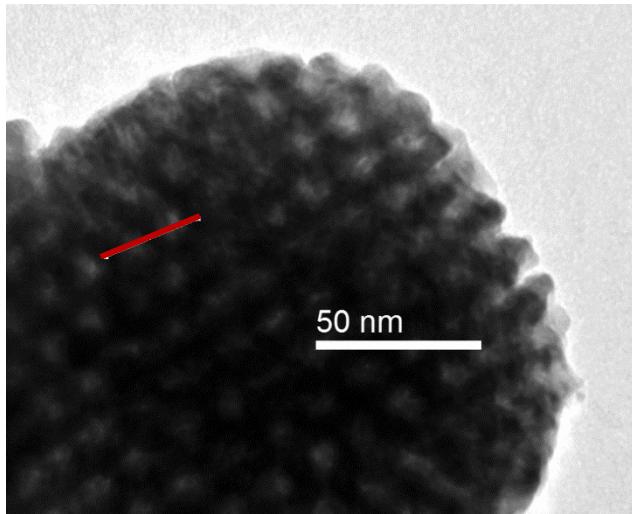


- Reduced paste dissolved in THF/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$
- Free-flowing powder after removal of bcp-2.3,3.1k with solvent wash

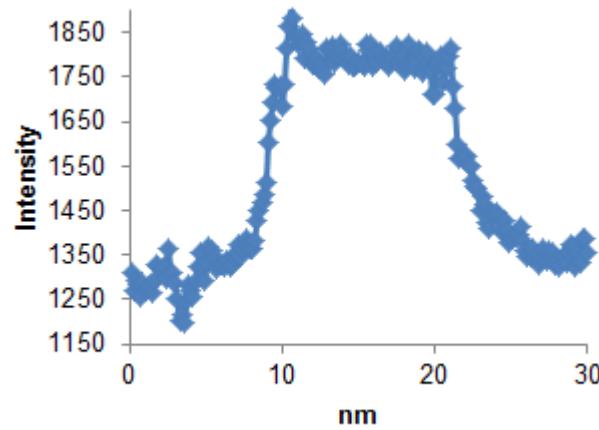
bcp-2.3,3.1k =  
polystyrene(2300)-*b*-  
polyethylene oxide(3100)

bcp-3.8,5k =  
polystyrene(3800)-*b*-  
polyethylene oxide(5000)

# Tunable pore size



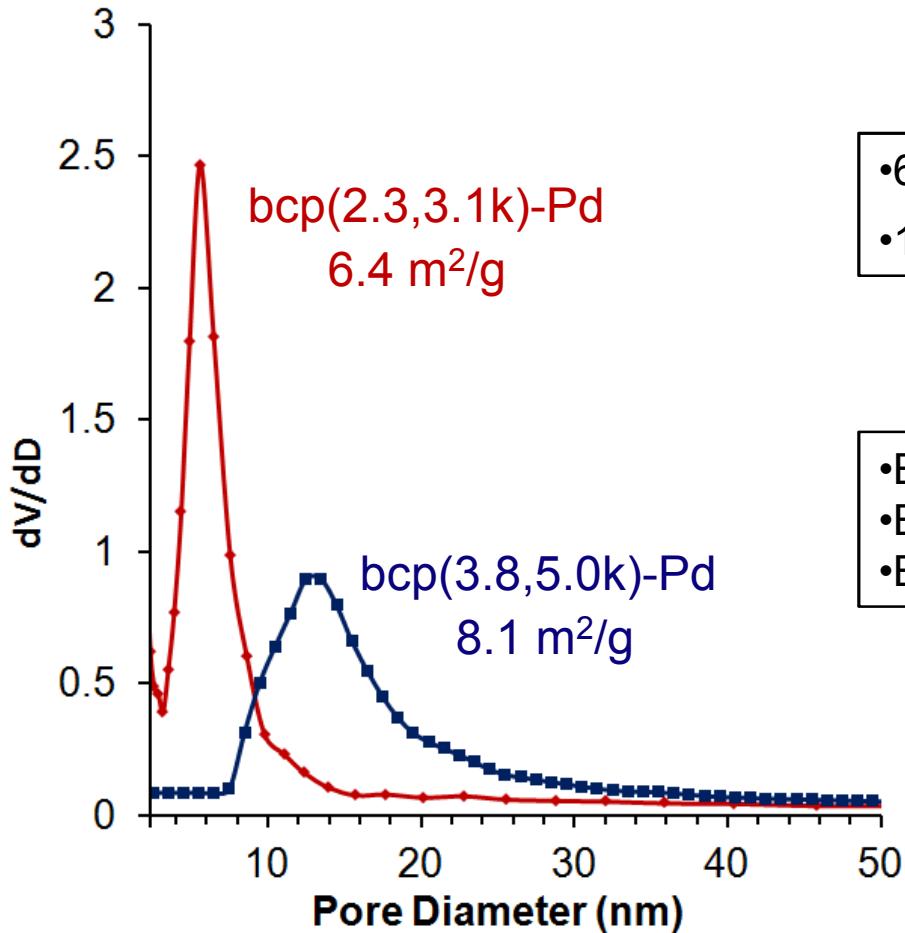
bcp(2.3,3.1k)-Pd  
15 nm pitch  
7 nm pore



bcp(3.8,5.0k)-Pd  
30 nm pitch  
12 nm pore

# Tunable pore size

Bulk-scale measurements corroborate TEM measurements

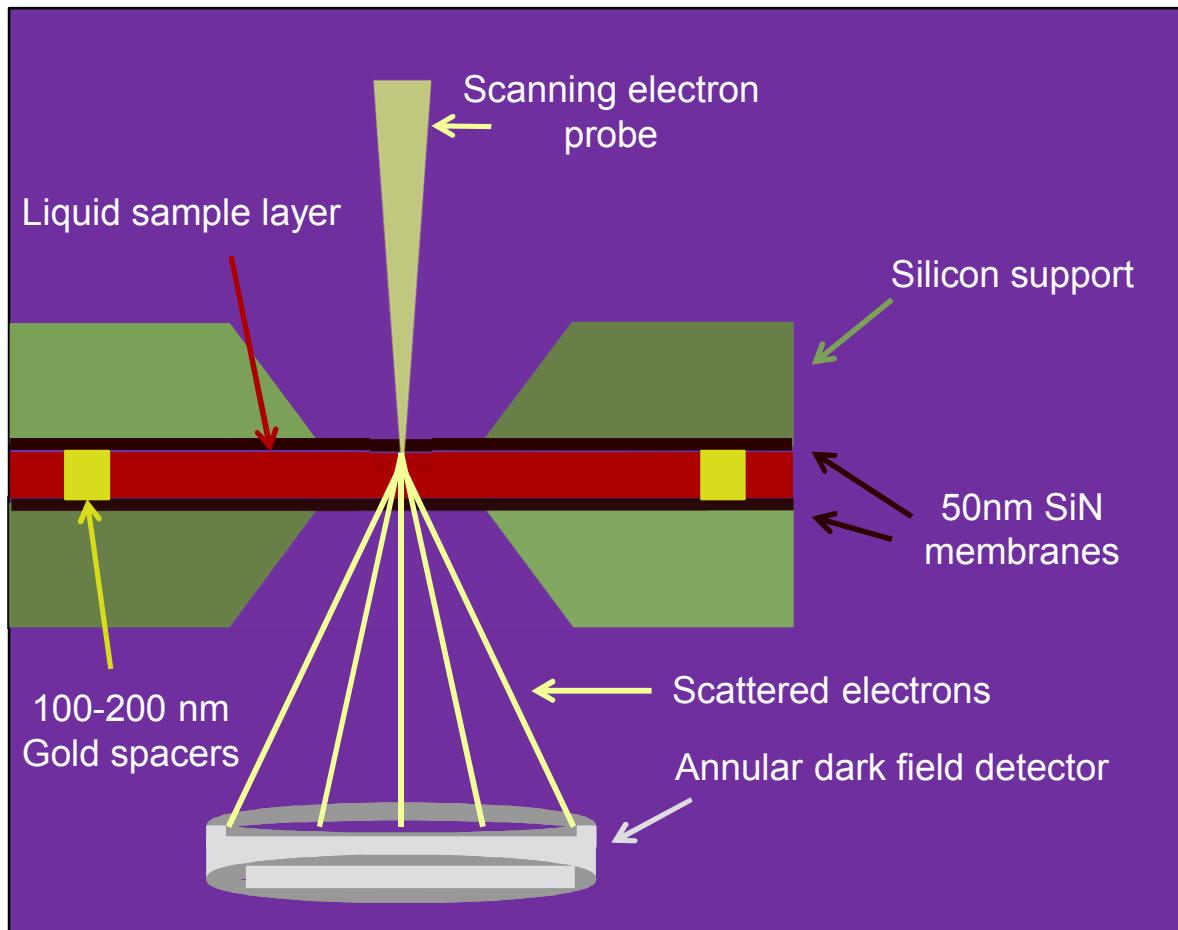


- 6-8 nm maximum for small pore
- 12-14 nm for large pore

- Based on  $N_2$  isotherms at 77K
- BET Surface Area
- BJH Pore Size Distribution

# Synthesis in TEM liquid stage

Pd salt, block copolymer, water; e-beam is reducing agent



Parent *et al.*, ACS Nano, 2012, 6, 3589

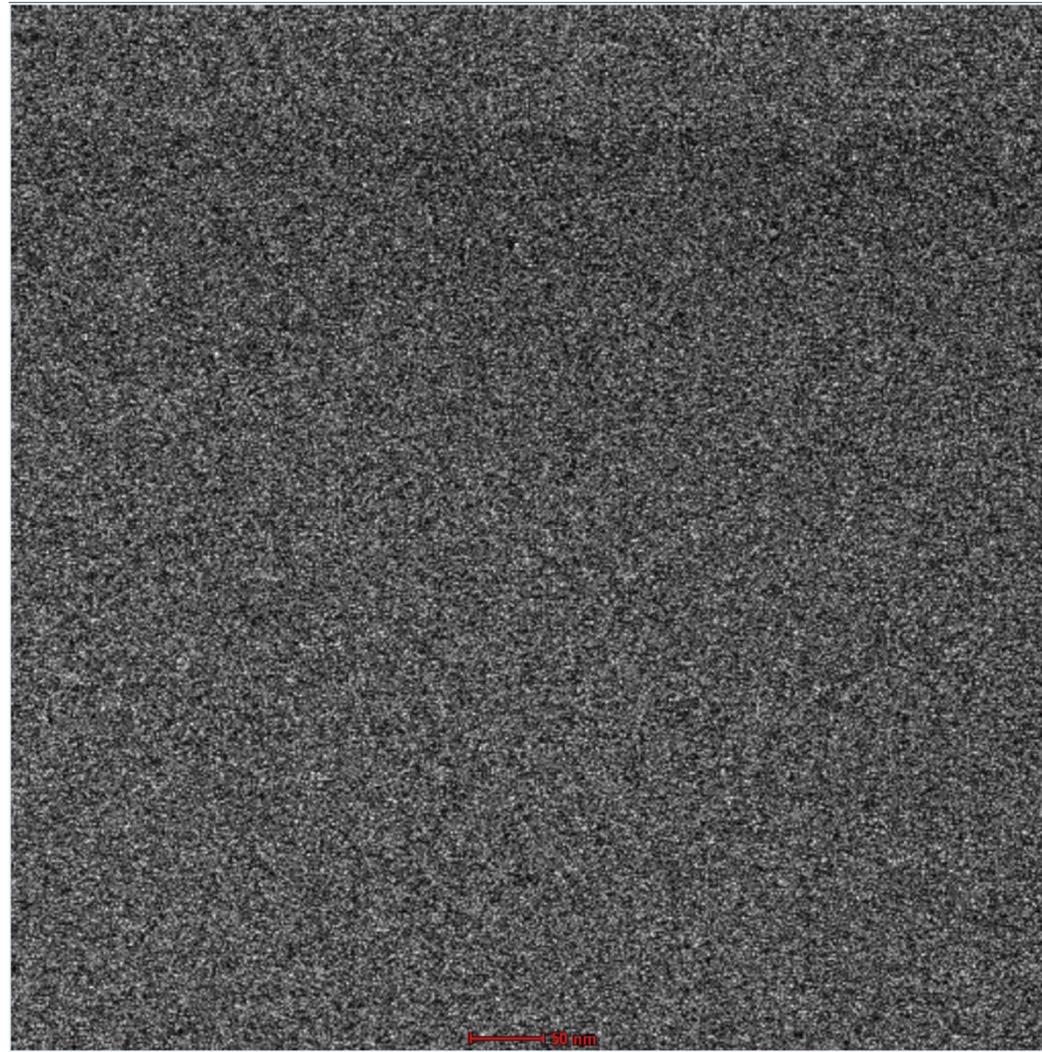
Parent *et al.*, Chem. Mater. 2014, 26, 1426

# Synthesis in TEM liquid stage

Nanoparticles  
nucleate,  
grow, and fuse  
to form porous  
structure

Too much  
solvent leads  
to pore  
disorder

Parent *et al.*,  
Chem. Mater.  
2014, 26, 1426

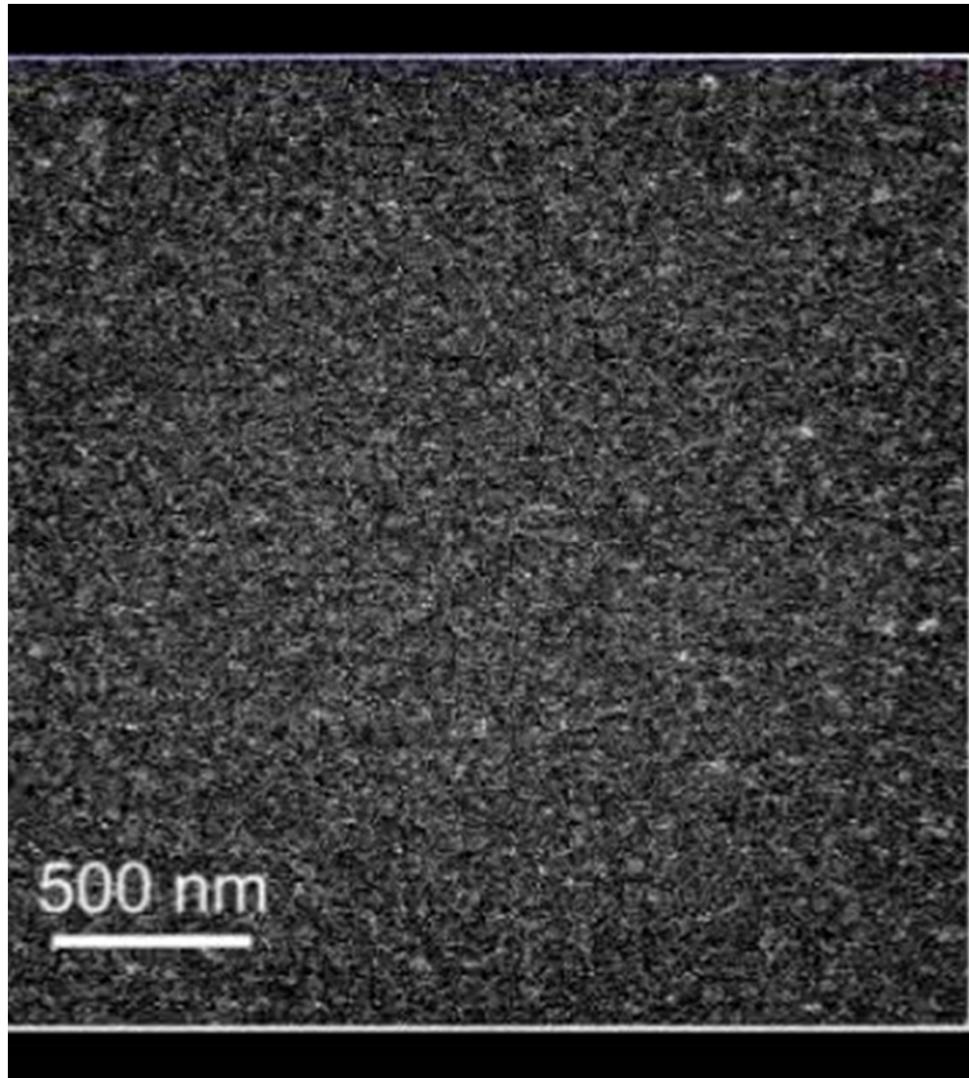


# Synthesis in TEM liquid stage

Nanoparticles  
nucleate,  
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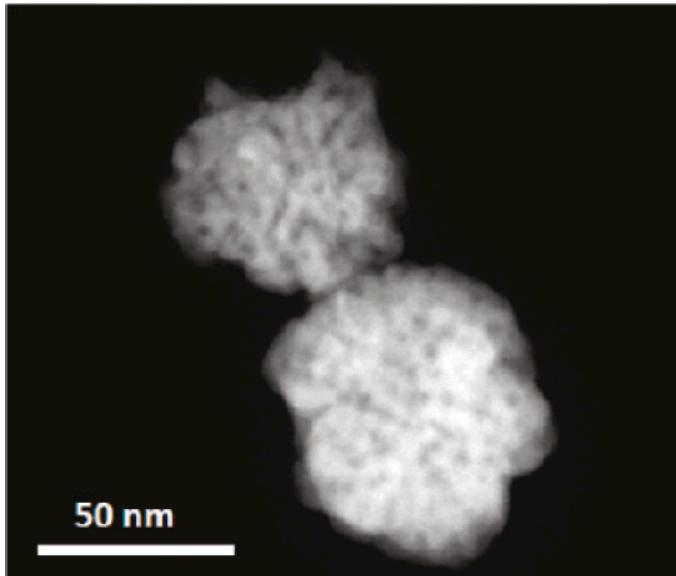
Solvent vapor  
anneal  
improves  
ordering

Parent *et al.*,  
Chem. Mater.  
2014, 26, 1426

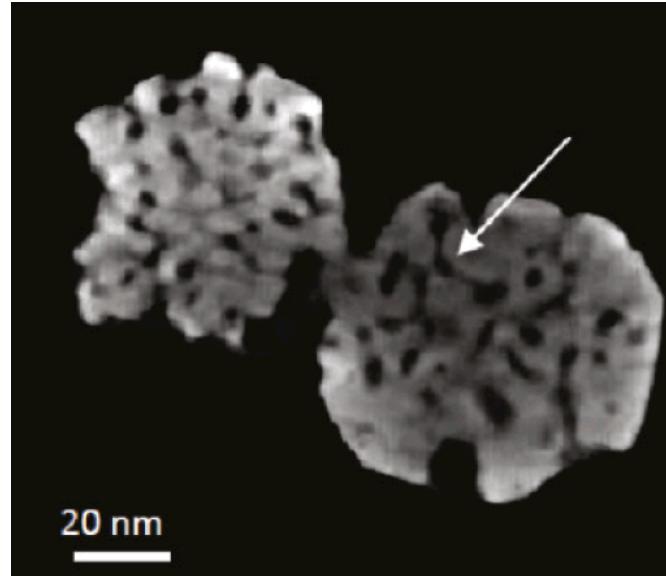


# Small pores coarsen upon heating

3 nm  
pores



Room Temperature



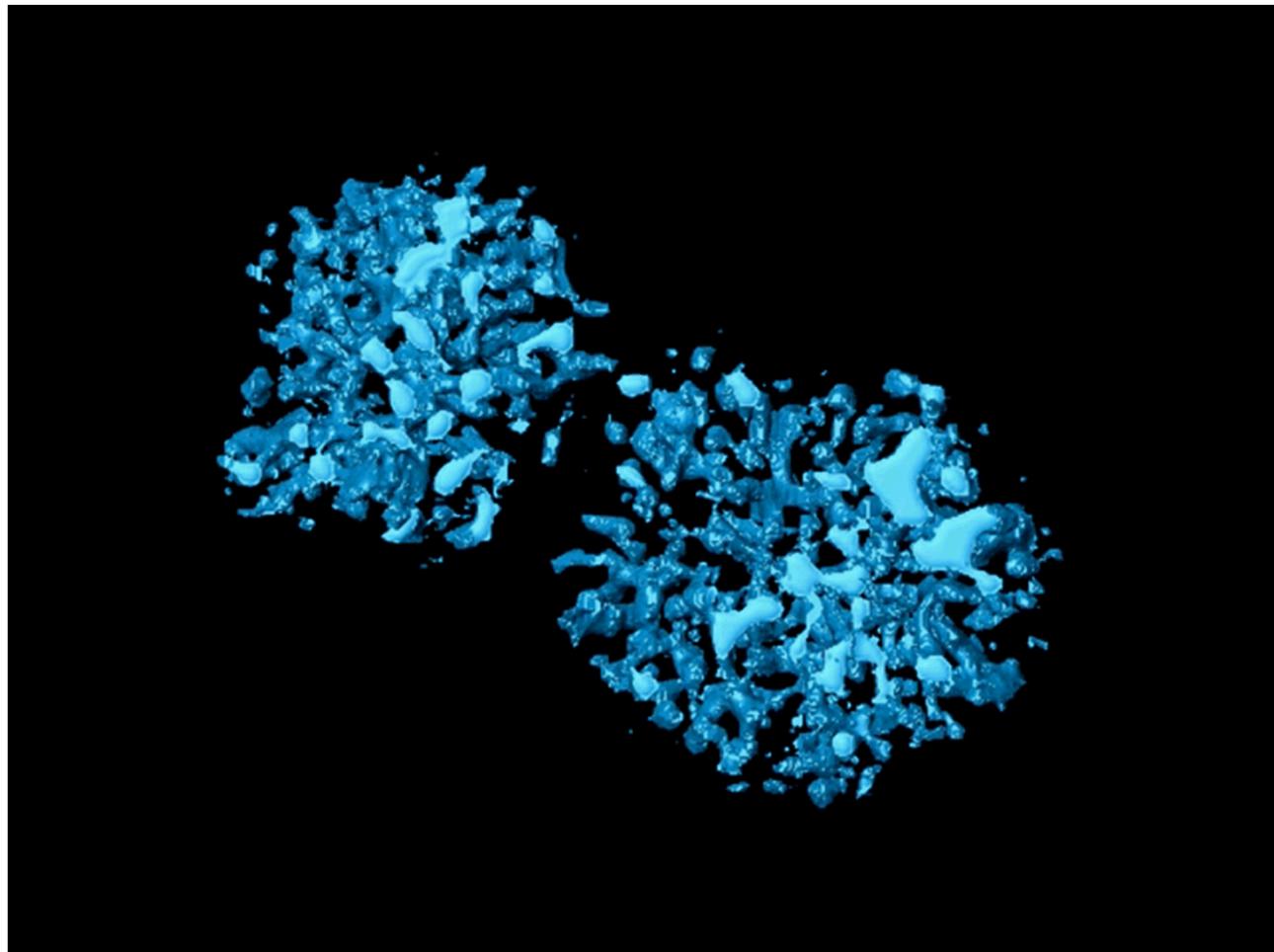
600°C

- 3 nm pores obtained with small-molecule surfactant, PEG<sub>10</sub> hexadecyl ether
- STEM and STEM-tomography show that pores begin to collapse at 200°C.
- By 600°C, pores have coalesced into large voids.
- Larger pores should be more stable.

Robinson *et al.*, Int. J. Hydrogen Energy 2009, 34, 5585-5591  
Klein, *et al.*, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2011, 133, 9144–9147

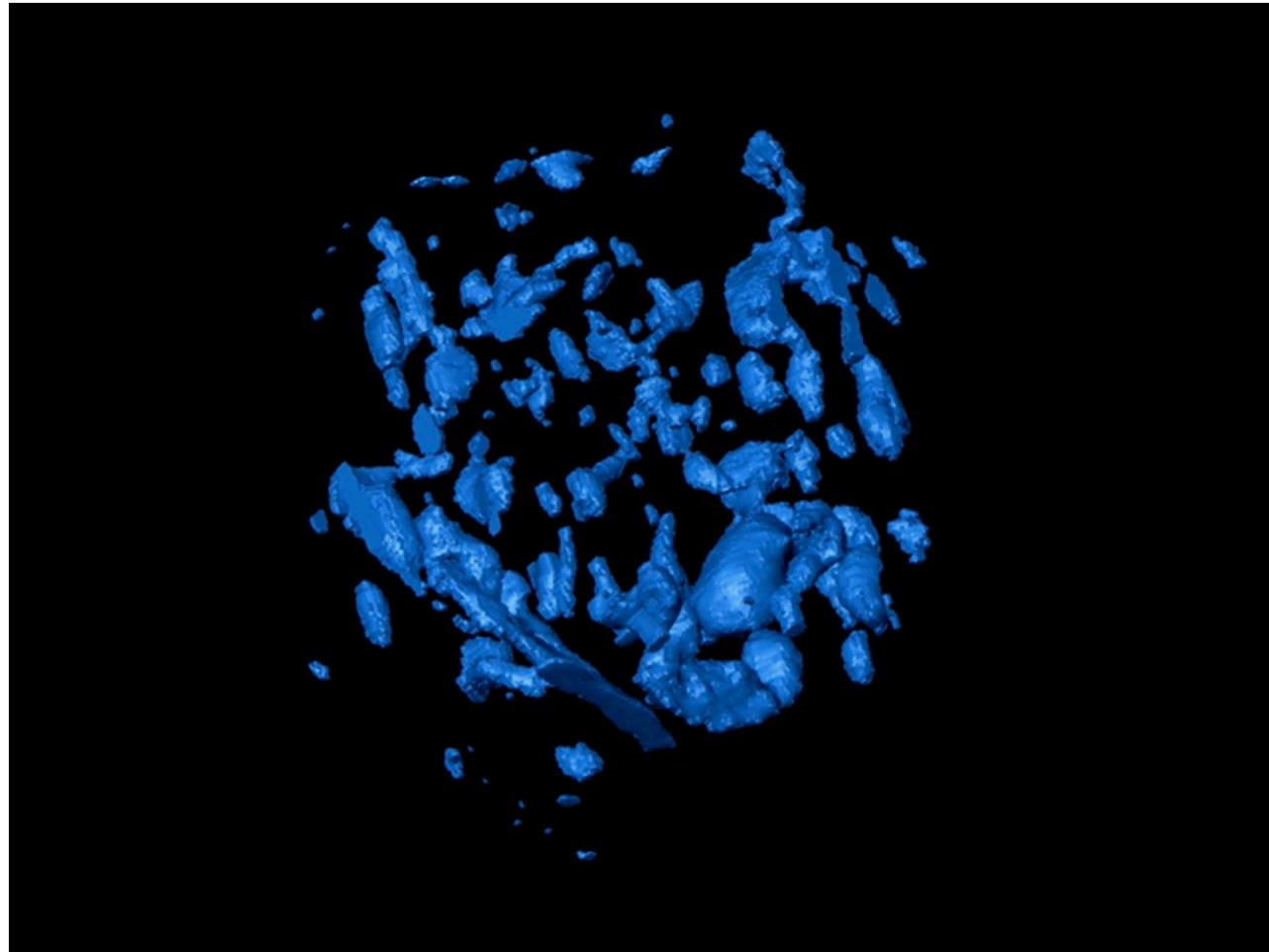
# 3D pore structure

Pore junctions  
coarsen at  
200 C



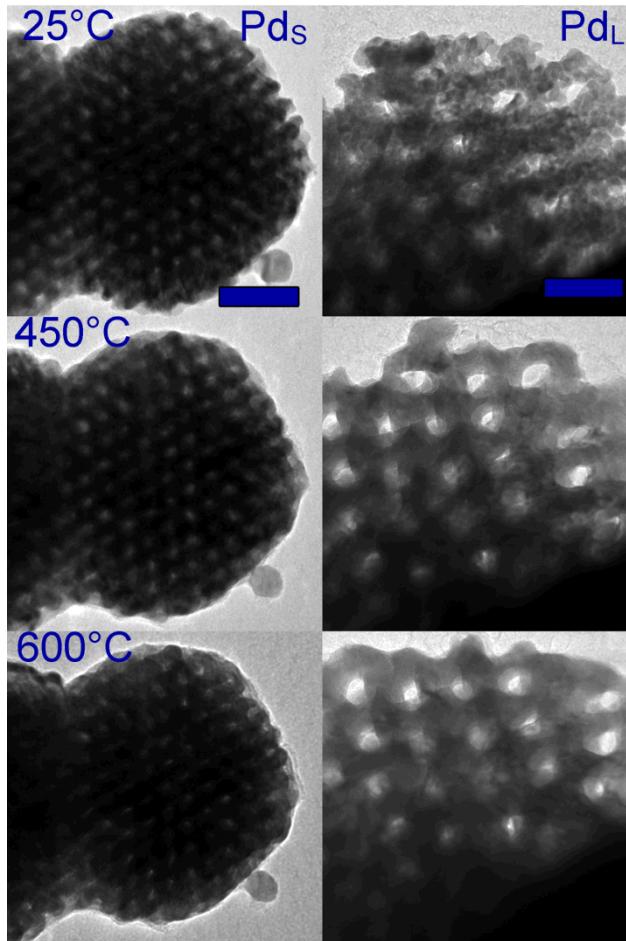
# 3D pore structure

Pores  
collapse to  
bubbles at  
600 C

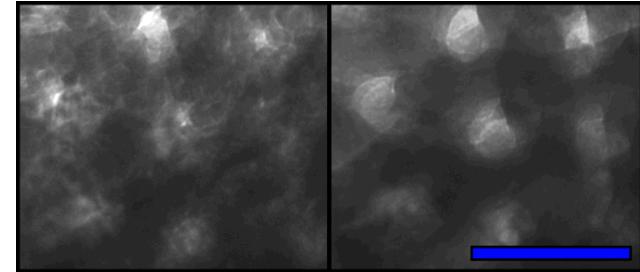


# Larger pores are more stable

Both 7 nm (left) and 13 nm (right) pores are intact to 600°C. Collapse occurs by 700°C



RT      450°C



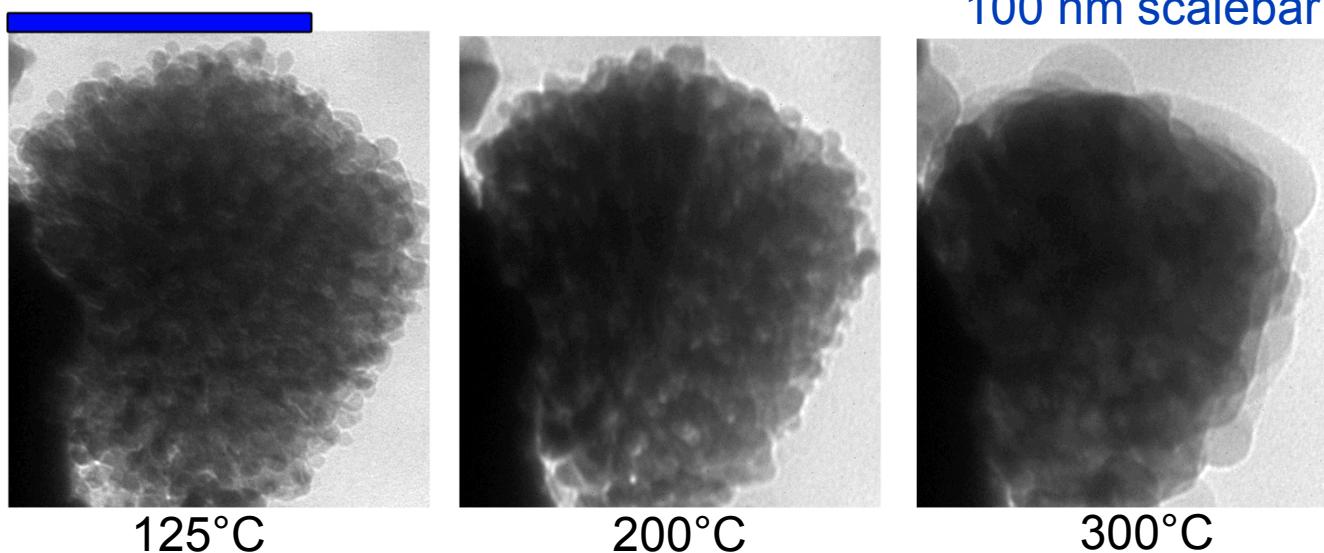
NP forming ligaments fuse upon annealing (small voids collapse)

Pore structure remains intact

50 nm scalebars

# $H_2$ environment decreases stability

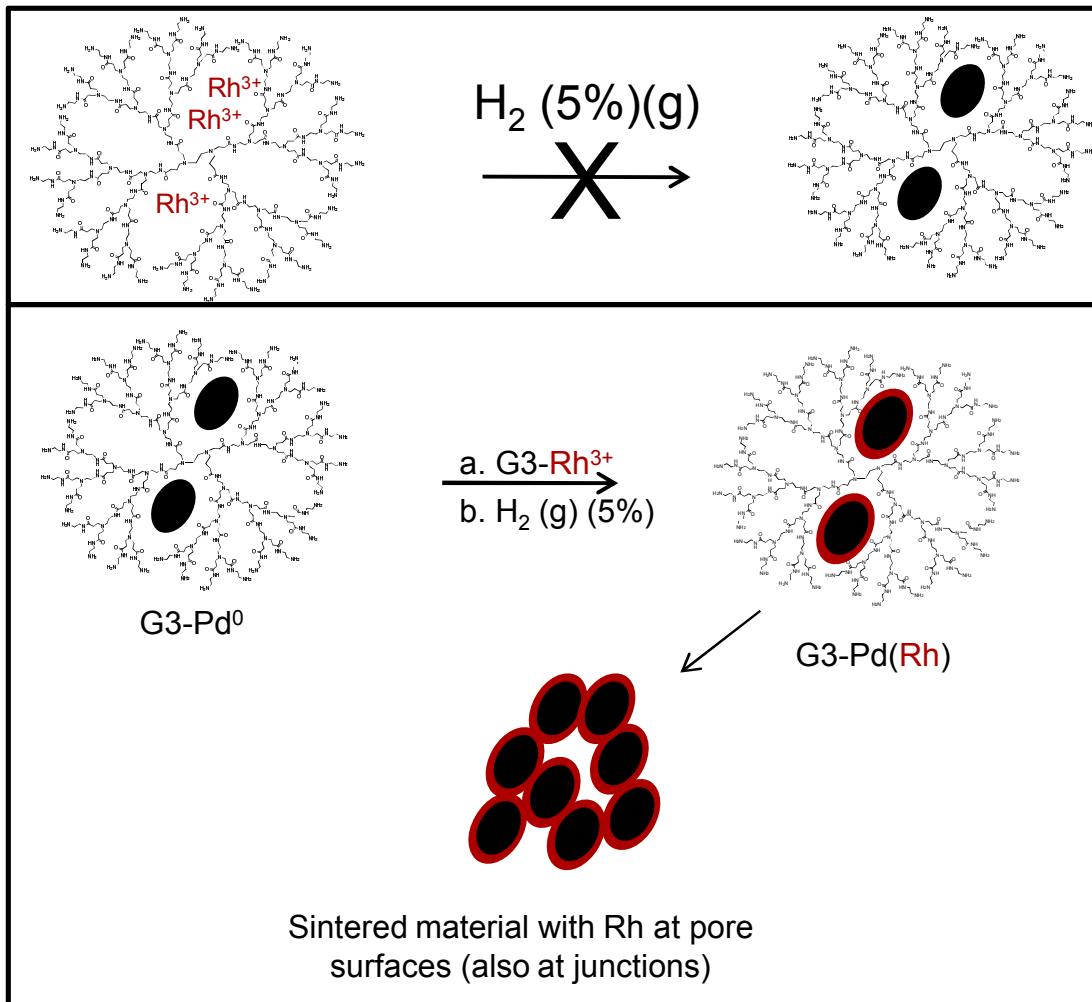
TEM images at 125°, under 1 atm  $H_2$  after several pulses to specified temperature



Possible factors contributing to decreased stability:

- Contraction from dehydriding
- Surface state

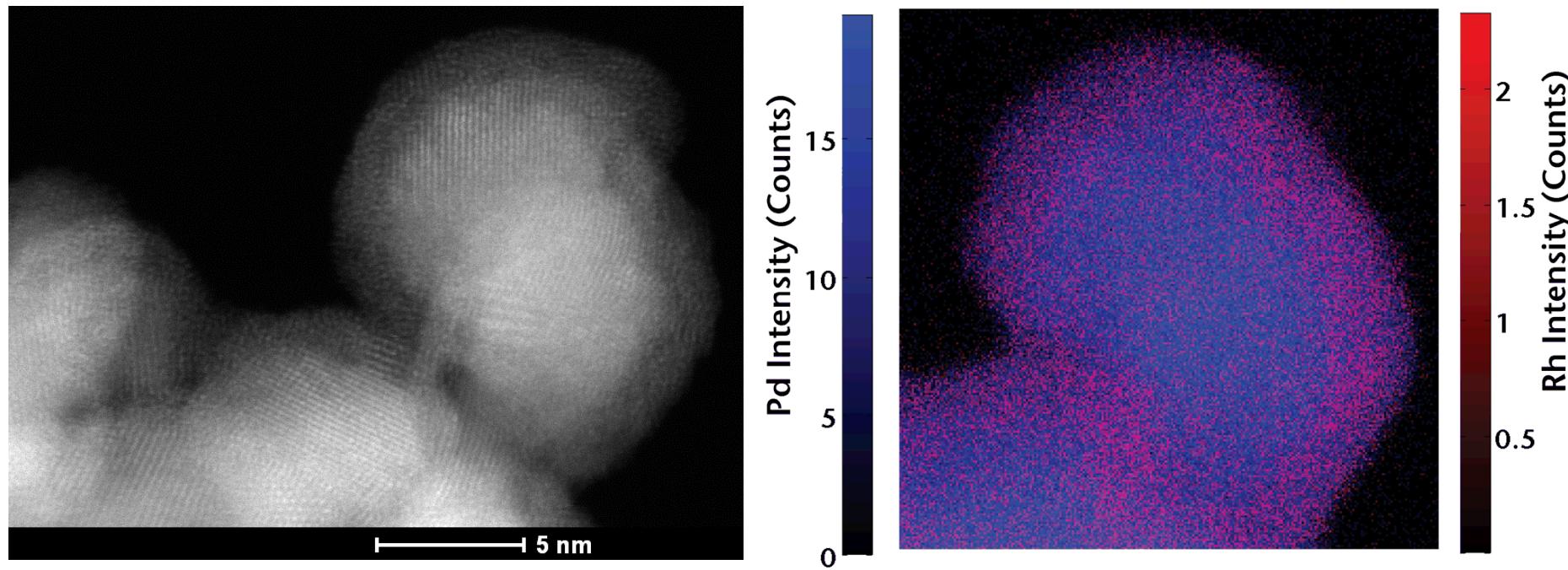
# Surface coatings for thermal stability



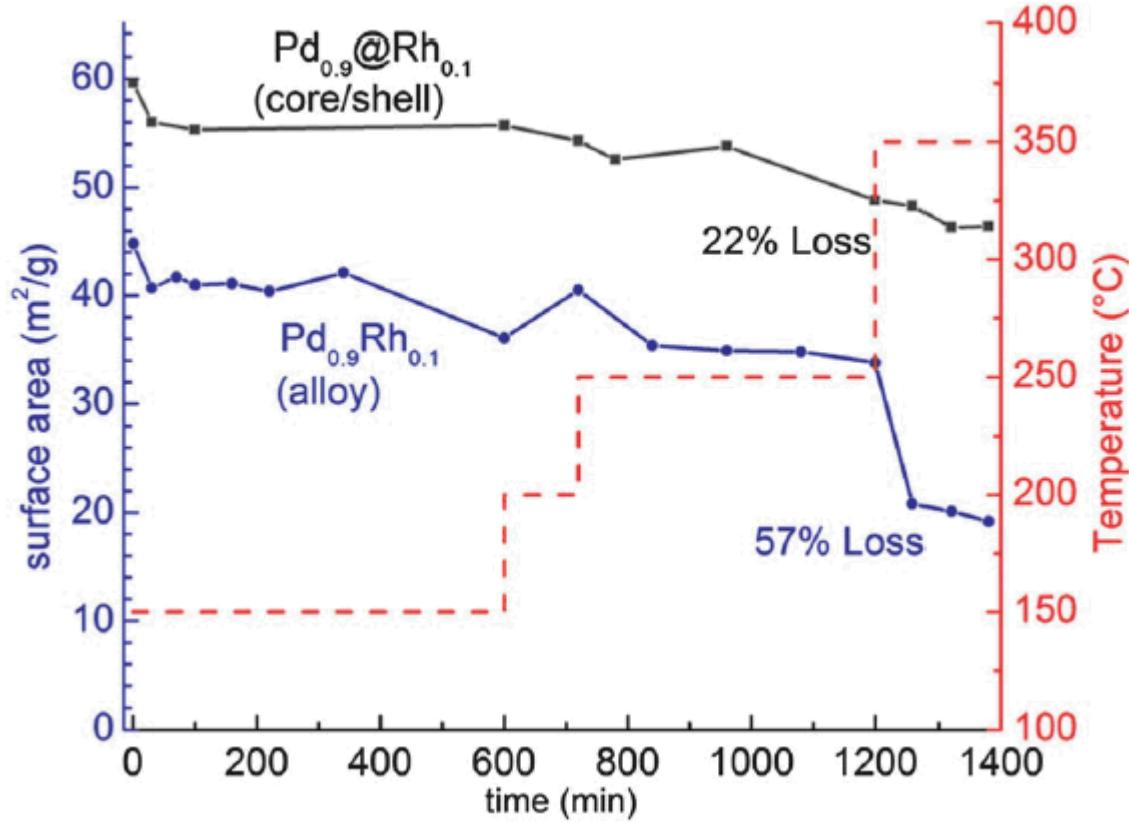
Cappillino *et al.* J Mater. Chem. 2012, 22, 14013-14022

Crooks, Richard M., *et al.* J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2004, 126, 15583-15591

# Uniform Rh coating

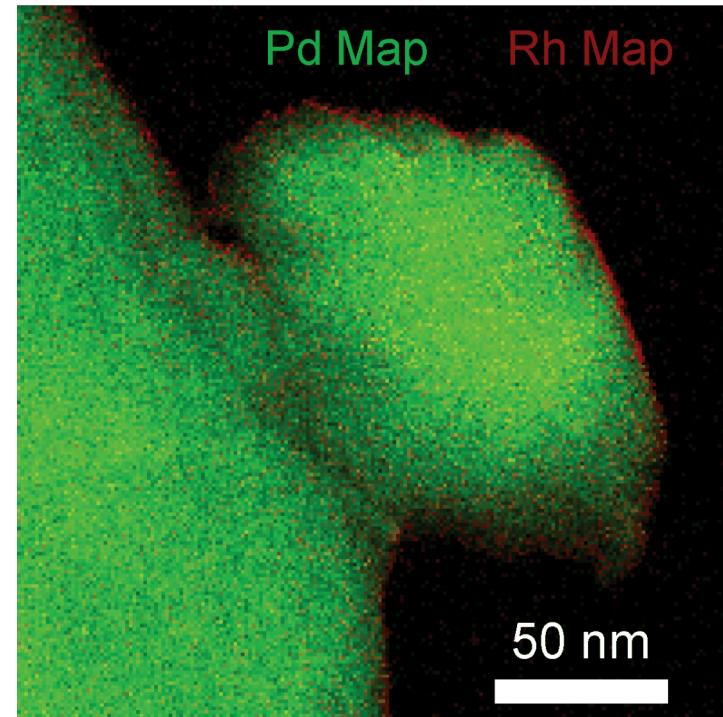


# Core-shell is more stable than alloy



# Atomic-layer electroless deposition

- We have recently developed a method to deposit monolayers of metal onto arbitrarily shaped noble metal substrates.
- New path to thermal stability
- Pt too



# Contributors



Pat Cappillino  
Block copolymers



Josh Sugar  
EDS imaging



Chris Jones  
galvanic replacement



Ben Jacobs  
Prototechips, Inc.  
*In situ* TEM (heated)



David Robinson  
Project PI  
[drobins@sandia.gov](mailto:drobins@sandia.gov)



Ilke Arslan  
Pacific Northwest  
National Lab  
Liquid cell TEM



Lucas Parent  
UC Davis  
Liquid cell TEM



Khalid Hattar  
*In situ* TEM (H<sub>2</sub>)



Blythe Clark  
*In situ* TEM (H<sub>2</sub>)



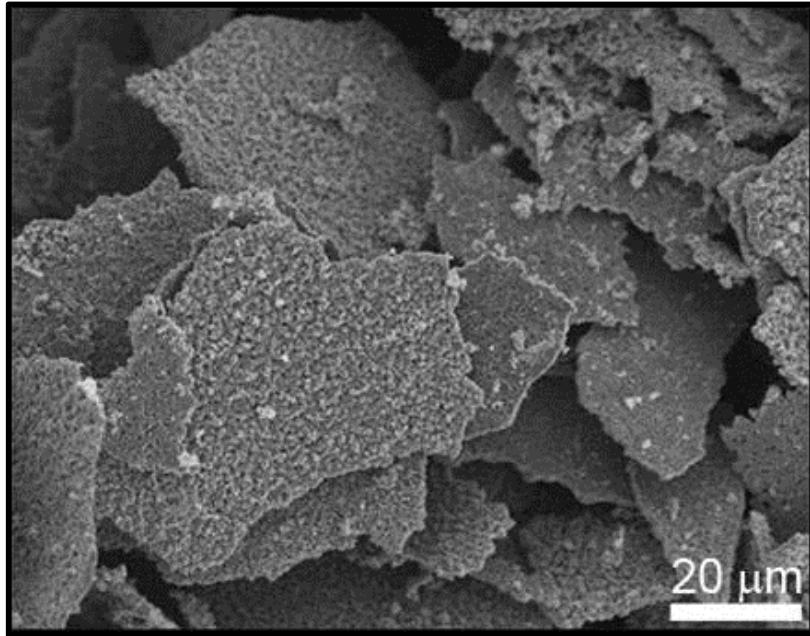
Michelle Hekmaty  
TEM/EDS

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# Bonus slides

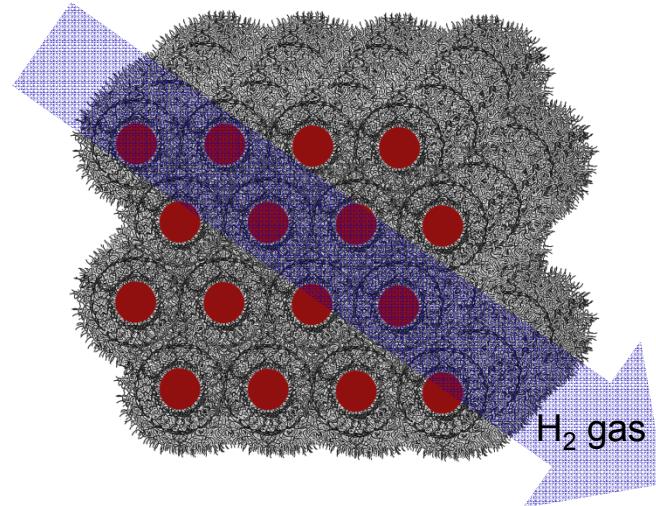
# Particle size control

Must Control **Particle** Size as well as pore size



Irregular particle shapes  
and sizes affect gas flow

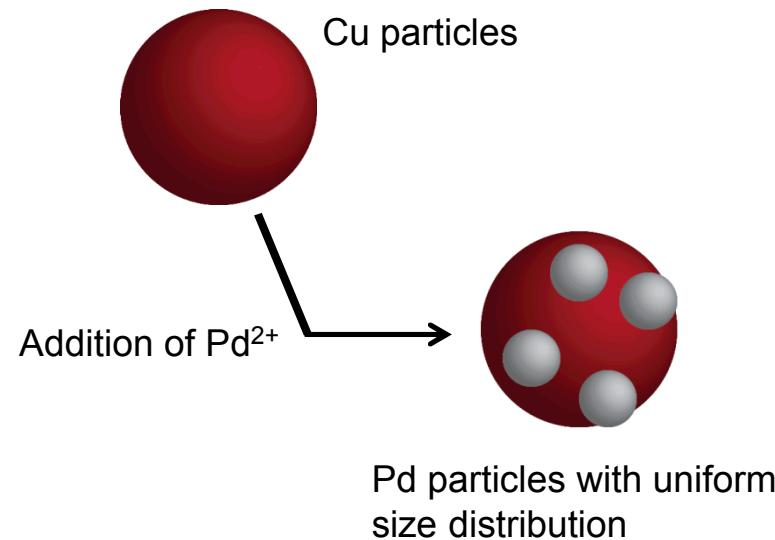
$H_2$  gas as reductant



- Homogenous reduction reaction occurs
- No mechanism for control of growth at particle scale

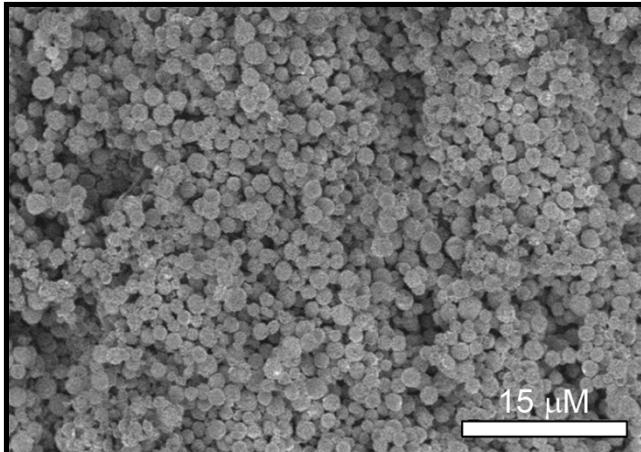
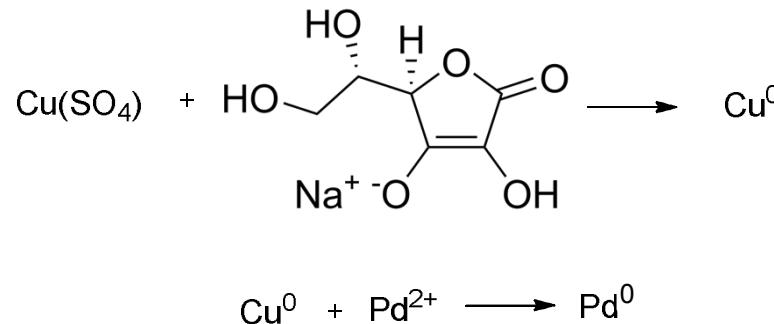
# Locally constrained reductant dose

Galvanic displacement of  $\text{Cu}^0$  by  $\text{Pd}^{2+}$

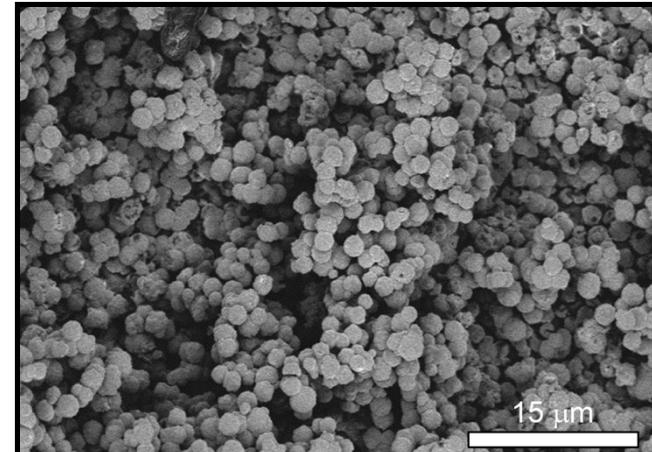


# Pd particles replicate Cu particles

- Nonporous Cu particles made by reduction of  $\text{Cu}(\text{SO}_4)$  with sodium ascorbate
  - Suspension added to  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{PdCl}_4$  in dilute block copolymer solution

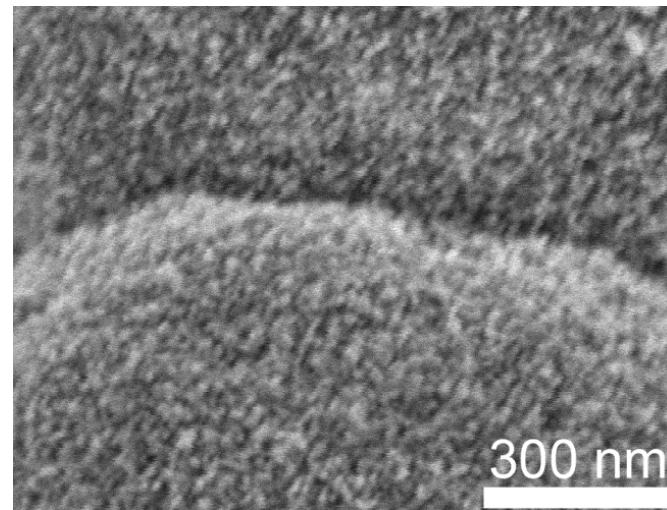
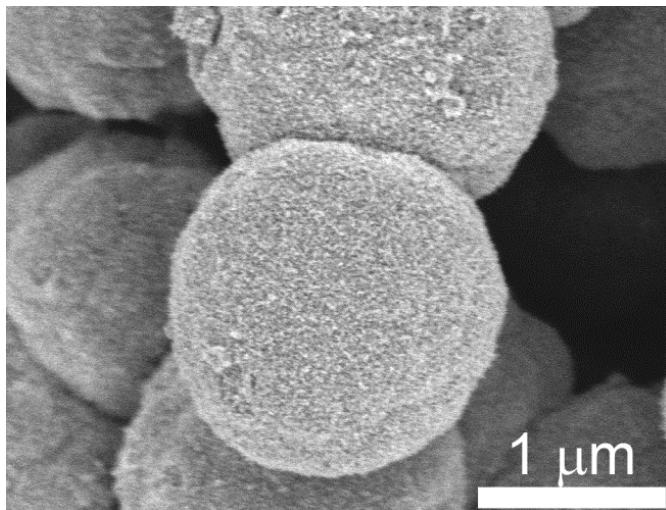
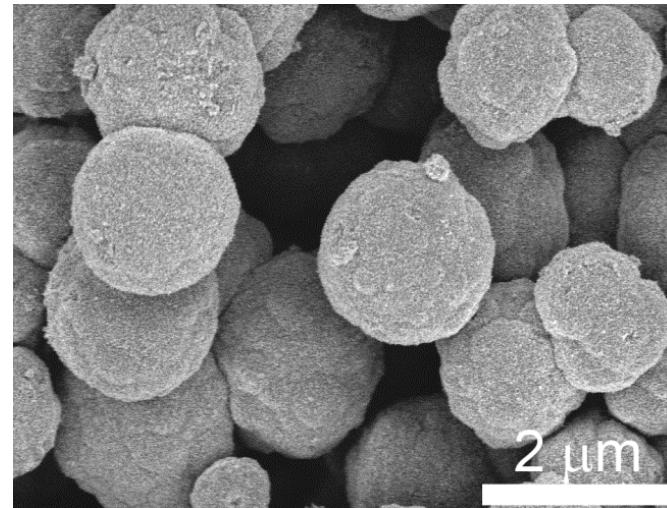
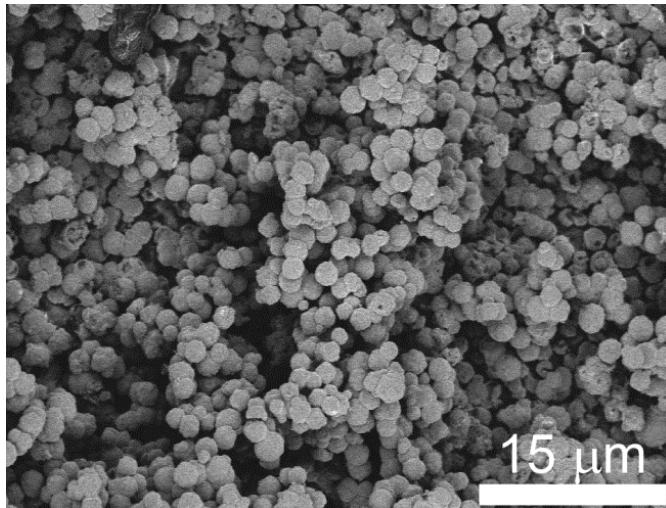


Cu particles



Pd particles

# Defined pore, particle size



Jones et al., Powder Tech. 2014, 267, 95-102.