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# GRID ENERGY STORAGE R&D AT SANDIA



## BATTERY MATERIALS

Large portfolio of R&D projects related to advanced materials, new battery chemistries, electrolyte materials, and membranes.



## CELL & MODULE LEVEL SAFETY

Evaluate safety and performance of electrical energy storage systems down to the module and cell level.



## POWER CONVERSION SYSTEMS

Research and development regarding reliability and performance of power electronics and power conversion systems.



## SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

Test laboratories evaluate and optimize performance of megawatt-hour class energy storage systems in grid-tied applications.



## DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Work with industry to develop, install, commission, and operate electrical energy storage systems.



## STRATEGIC OUTREACH

Maintain the ESS website and DOE Global Energy Storage Database, organize the annual Peer Review meeting, and host webinars and conferences.



## GRID ANALYTICS

Analytical tools model electric grids and microgrids, perform system optimization, plan efficient utilization and optimization of DER on the grid, and understand ROI of energy storage.

Wide ranging R&D covering energy storage technologies with applications in the grid, transportation, and stationary storage

# A COMMITMENT TO SNL STORAGE ENGAGEMENT



Sandia believes in partnership with industry, utilities, government agencies, and academic partners.



## UNIVERSITY AND NATIONAL LABORATORY PARTNERS



A strong relationship between SNL and UT has led to a robust hiring pipeline at SNL:

### OE Program Hires:

Tim Lambert (U.G.)  
 Stephen Percival (PD, now staff)  
 Martha Gross (PD)  
 Bryan Wygant (PD)  
 Melissa Meyerson (PD)  
 Igor Kolesnichenko (PD)  
 Claudina Cammack (PD)

### Additional SNL Energy Storage Hires:

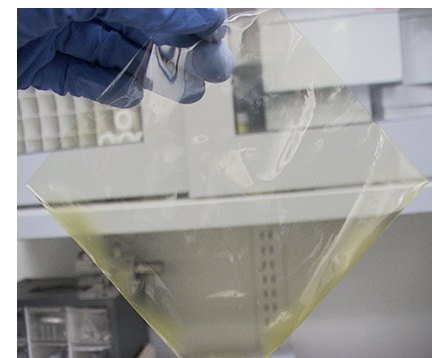
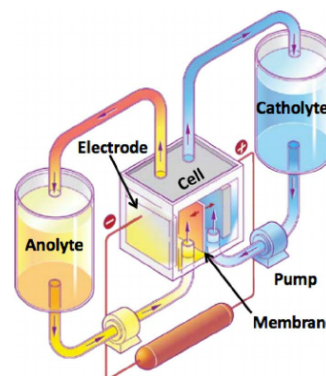
Katie Harrison  
 Eric Allcorn  
 Kyle Klavetter

## Battery Research Workshop: SNL Membranes, Fujimoto



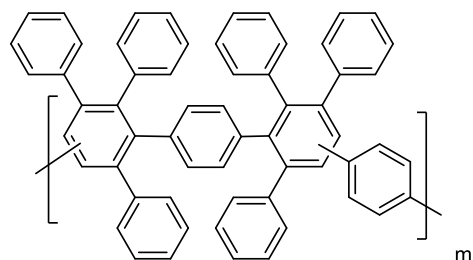
Problem Statement: Electrochemical cells requires membranes which separate electroactive species while providing ion conduction. In low temperature cells, this membrane is either a porous separator (no selectivity) or high cost Nafion type material.

Objective: At SNL, developing hydrocarbon membranes for flow batteries to lower cost and improve performance which will facilitate commercialization.



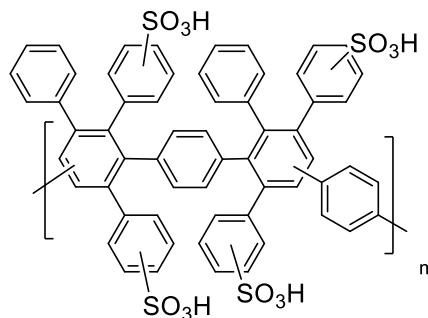
- 19 years have developed and patented ion conducting membranes based on stable Diels Alder poly(phenylene) [DAPP] backbone.
- 10 patents based on DAPP cation and anion exchange membrane.
- Membranes being explored for fuel cells, electrolyzers and flow batteries with partners such as LANL, PNNL, ORNL and industry.

# Battery Research Workshop: SNL Membranes



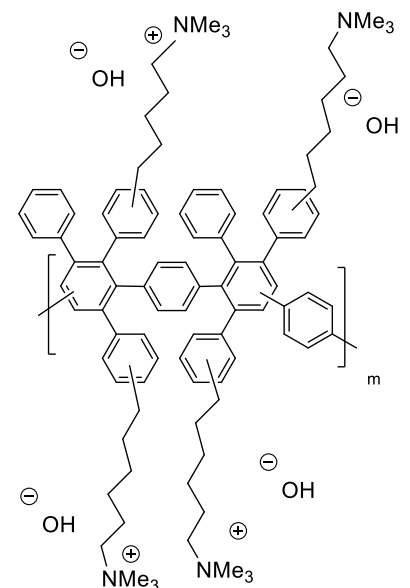
Diels Alder Poly(phenylene)  
DAPP

Functionalize



Cation exchange Membrane

OR



Anion exchange Membrane

## Relevant Publications:

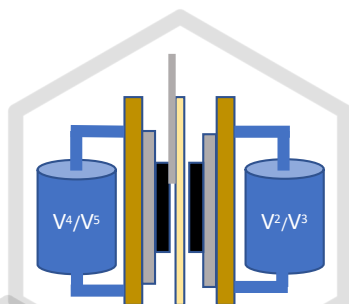
- Ionomeric Poly(phenylene) Prepared by Diels-Alder Polymerization. Fujimoto, C.; Hickner, M.; Cornelius, C.; Loy, D. *Macromolecules* (2005), 38(12), 5010-5016.
- Vanadium redox flow battery efficiency and durability studies of sulfonated Diels Alder poly(phenylene)s. Fujimoto, C.; Kim, S.; Stains, R.; Wei, X. Li, L.; Yang, G. *Electrochemistry Communications* (2012), 20, 48-51.
- Evaluation of Diels-Alder poly(phenylene) anion exchange membranes in all-vanadium redox flow batteries. Sun, C.; Tang, Z.; Belcher, C.; Zawodzinski, T.; Fujimoto, C. *Electrochemistry Communications* (2014), 43, 63-66.
- Alkaline stability of poly(phenylene)-based anion exchange membranes with various cations. Hibbs, M. *Journal of Polymer Science, Part B: Polymer Physics* (2013), 51(24), 1736-1742.



# FLOW BATTERY MATERIALS R&D AT SANDIA

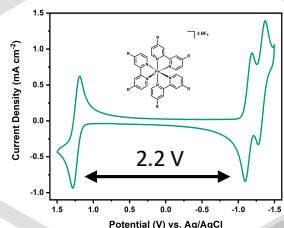
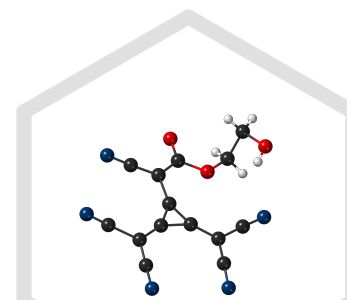


Travis Anderson



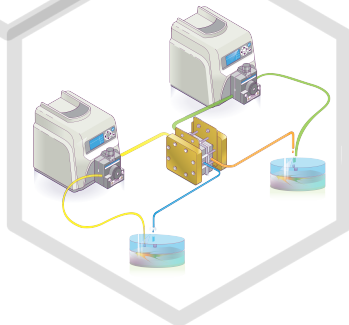
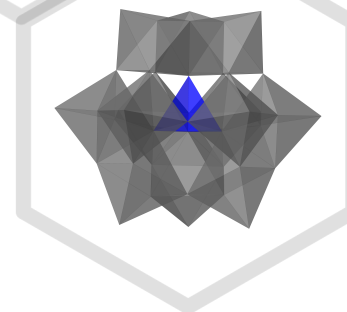
Membrane and Safety Testing for  
Aqueous Vanadium Flow Batteries

New Aqueous Organic Radialenes  
(collaboration with UNC-Charlotte)



New Metal Coordination Complexes  
(MCCs) for Higher Voltages

New Cluster Compounds  
(collaboration with U Rochester)



Prototyping Capabilities for  
Aqueous, Non-aqueous, and  
Hybrid Flow System Architectures

Sandia has a wide range of flow battery R&D capabilities including new energy storage materials validation and prototyping.

# Alkaline Zn-based batteries

*OE supports RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT, MANUFACTURING and DEMONSTRATION of Potentially Wide Impact, Low Cost Energy Storage Technologies*



Timothy Lambert



Babu Chalamala



Amalie Frischknecht



Imre Gyuk



Prof. Sanjoy Banerjee



Prof. Joshua Gallaway

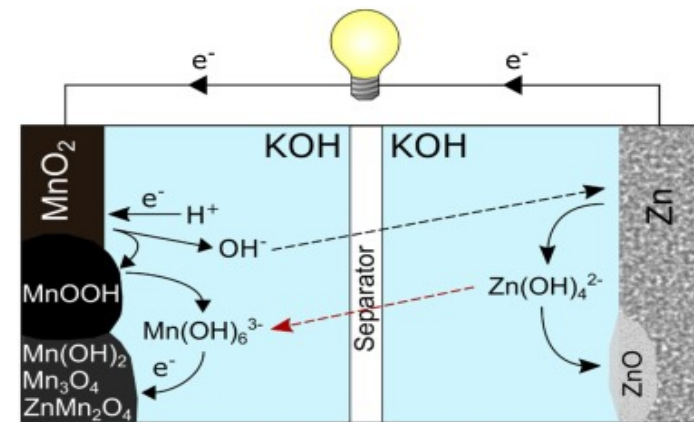


Prof. Igor Vasiliev



Stony Brook University

Prof. Esther Takeuchi



Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Cheng Zhu



URBAN ELECTRIC POWER

Gautam Yadav  
Gabe Cowles

< \$20/kWh  
@large scale  
manufacturing

Review: M. B. Lim et al. "Rechargeable Alkaline Zinc–Manganese Oxide Batteries for Grid Storage: Mechanisms, Challenges and Developments" *Mater. Sci. Eng. R Rep.* **2020**.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mser.2020.100593>

## 7 Alkaline Zn-based batteries – SNL Efforts (TN Lambert)

### Synthesis, Materials Processing, Electrochemistry and Battery Development:

Small molecules, polymers, composites, electrospinning, electrocatalysis, electroanalysis, battery fabrication and testing

- Ion selective separators ( $D_{\text{Zn(OH)}_4^{2-}} \ll D_{\text{HO}^-}$ )  
(ASV of  $\text{Zn(OH)}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{Bi(OH)}_3^-$  and  $\text{Cu(OH)}_4^{2-}$ )
- Gelled polymer electrolytes
- Zn anodes - high capacity and cycle life
- New high capacity cathodes ( $\text{Zn/Cu}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{Zn/CuO}$ )

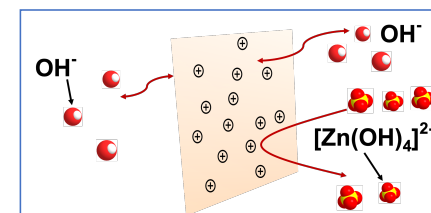
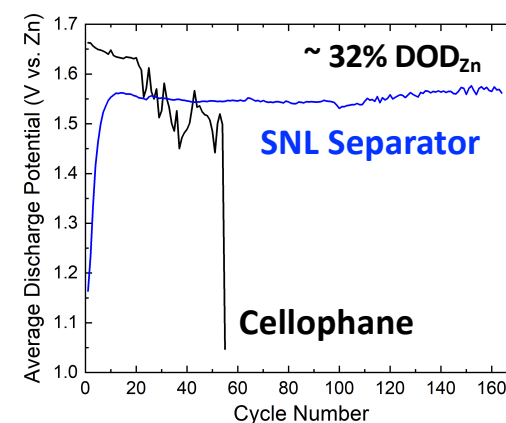
UT Austin Interactions: B.S. Chemistry 1995, R. Ruoff (Graphene/Goodyear Rubber & Tire), SNL UT Austin Recruiting Team, MRSEC Industrial Mentor (T. FitzSimons, G. Partipilo)

### Hiring of Postdocs:

OE: J. Duay, I. Kolesnichenko, B. Wygant, M. Meyerson (SNL-NM)

Other: A. Lapp, J. Trindell (SNL-CA)

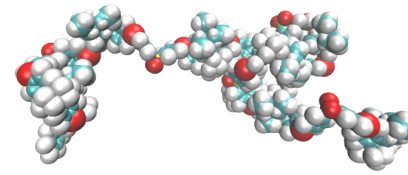
### High capacity High Cycle Life Zn



## 8 Molecular Simulations of Polymer Membranes

Molecular dynamics simulations can reveal details of:

- nanoscale morphology of hydrophilic domains
- diffusion of ions
- partitioning of ions in membrane

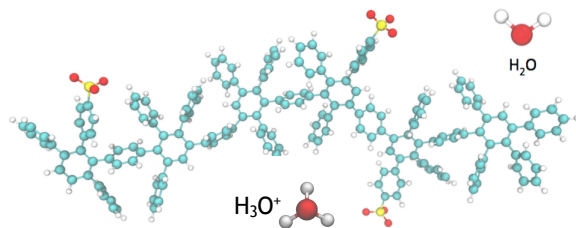


Amalie Frischknecht

Features:

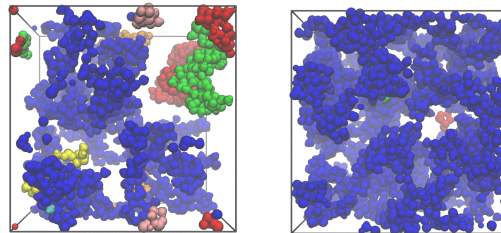
- fully atomistic simulations
- can compare to scattering, NMR, impedance spectroscopy
- procedures for annealing glassy polymers

### SDAPP simulations



SDAPP research included collaboration with Prof. Nate Lynd, UT Austin

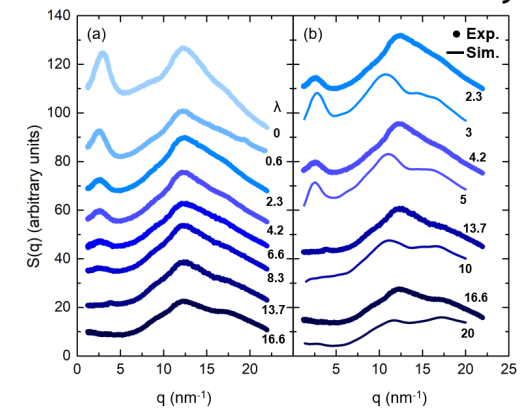
percolating water domains with increasing water content



increasing water



x-ray MD and x-ray



good agreement

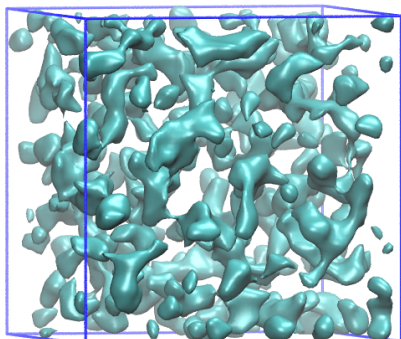
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# Current MD simulations

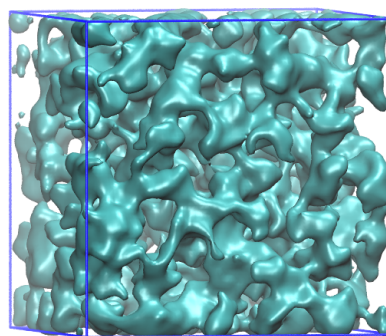
Polysulfone-based membranes for alkaline batteries  
collaboration with Tim Lambert (Sandia)

- investigate molecular mechanisms of OH<sup>-</sup> transport
- investigate exclusion of zincate ions
- roles of functional groups, water content, polymer blending

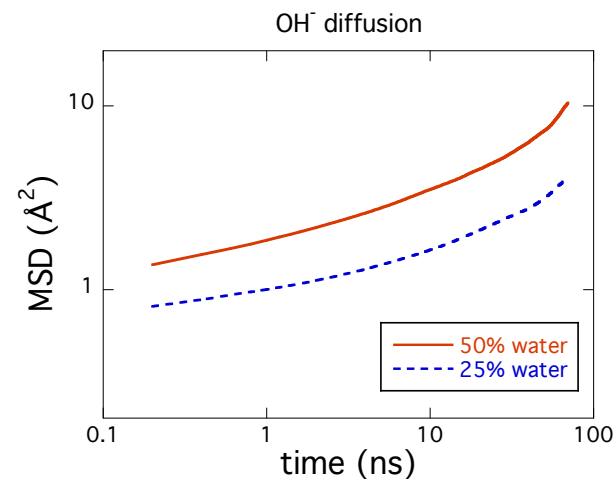
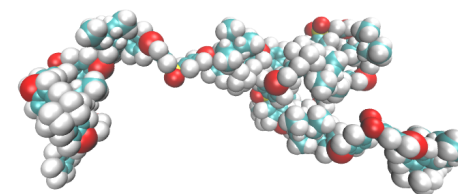
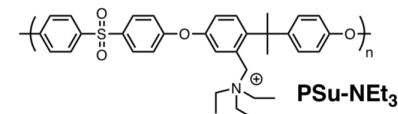
25% water  
isolated water clusters



50% water  
percolated water channels



snapshots show isodensity surfaces of water and hydroxide ions



- at 50% water:  $D_{\text{OH}^-} \approx 1.6 \cdot 10^{-9} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$
- smaller than in commercial membranes with larger pores



# Low Temperature Molten Sodium Batteries



PI: Leo Small (ljsmall@sandia.gov)

## Goal:

Develop enabling technologies for safe, low cost, molten sodium batteries. Principally, through development of materials that enable a reduction in operating temperature from 300 °C to near 100 °C.

## Interests:

- Coatings on NaSICON separator to enable low resistance sodium-NaSICON interfaces at low temperatures
- Zero-crossover  $\text{Na}^+$ -selective separators
  - NaSICON ( $\text{Na}^+$  Super Ion CONductor,  $\text{Na}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{Si}_2\text{PO}_{12}$ )
- Scalable architectures that enable mechanically robust, very low resistance separators (collaboration with Prof. Cheng at UKy)
- Chemical stability of separator materials
- Fully inorganic, redox-active molten salts
  - Flammability, safety during battery failure
- Electrochemical and materials characterization of these molten salt-electrode interfaces

