

# **Reviews on Advanced Materials Science**

**Volume 5, Number 2, October 2003**

**Proceedings**

**of “Nano Workshop for US Scientists  
at the International Conference  
NANOMATERIALS AND NANOTECHNOLOGIES  
(Crete, Crece, August 30 – September 6, 2003)”**

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## PREFACE

The emerging fields of nanoscience and engineering – the ability to work at the molecular level, atom by atom, to create large structures with fundamentally new molecular organization – are leading to unprecedented understanding and control over the fundamental building blocks of all physical things. Compared to the physical properties and behavior of isolated molecules or bulk materials, materials with structural features in the ranges of 1 to 100 nanometers – 100 to 10,000 times smaller than the diameter of a human hair – exhibit important changes for which traditional models and theories cannot explain. Developments in this emerging arena are likely to revolutionize the scientific world – from medical vaccines to computers to automobile parts to objects not yet envisioned – is designed and made.

The US nanoinitiative (NNI) will support long-term nanoscale research and development leading to potential breakthroughs in areas such as materials and manufacturing, nanoelectronics, medicine and healthcare, environment, energy, chemicals, biotechnology, agriculture, information technology, and national security. The effect of nanotechnology on the health, wealth, and lives of people could be at least as significant as the combined influences of microelectronics, medical imaging, computer-aided engineering, and man-made polymers developed in this century. The initiative, which nearly doubles the nanoscale R&D investment over FY 2000 and continuing to 2003, supports a broad range of scientific disciplines including material sciences, physics, chemistry, and biology, and creates new opportunities for interdisciplinary research.

Agencies participating in the NNI include the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Defense (DOD), the Department of Energy (DOE), National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (DOC/NIST). Roughly 70% of the new funding proposed under the NNI will go to university-based research; funds that will help meet the growing demand for workers with nanoscale science and engineering skills. Nanoscience is still in its infancy and, outside of a handful of examples, only rudimentary nanostructures can be created with some control. It will take many years of sustained investment to achieve many of the NNI's research goals, but that is precisely why there is an important role for the Federal government.

To address the issue of international cooperation and monitoring, it is prudent to arrange frequent visits to foreign countries as well as to develop collaborative research programs with foreign institutions. It is easier for academic researchers to gain first-hand knowledge of the scientific and technological research being pursued in other parts of the world than for the US companies to learn what is happening in the foreign research laboratories and academic institutions. Visits by US delegation to European Nano conferences and Workshops, and academic institutions can greatly help in this regard. This NSF workshop is aimed at organizing a visit by a US delegation to participate in a "Nano Workshop for US Scientists at the International Conference on NANOMATERIALS AND NANOTECHNOLOGIES - NN2003, Crete, Greece, Aug 30–Sep 6 – 2003".

In order to further strengthen the ties between the US and Western researchers for exchange of technical information and for conducting cooperative research of mutual interest, it is important that the NSF encourages participation in this conference, and provides opportunities for US scientists to interact with the rest of the world's researchers. Such opportunities should be provided to a diversified group of scientists (from Academia, National Laboratories, including Professors, Postdoctoral fellows and minority participants) as a part of any US delegation. The goal of this workshop is to provide incentives to these researchers to consider making this trip and obtaining the first-hand knowledge. Partial travel support from

NSF can help them to attract funds from other sources including their institutions and research sponsors, and other activities as noted below.

- Synthesis, Processing, Assembly and Manufacturing of Nanostructures
- Advanced Probes and Characterization Methods of Nanostructures
- Modeling of Nanostructures
- Functional Properties (Mechanical, Magnetic, Optical and Electronic)
- Applications including Structural, Device, Electronic, Biochemical, Biomedical and Biological
- Identification of future directions for R&D in this area
- The gathering of invited international experts to address this area of high technology will bring a broad impact to R&D in the US, European, Asian and other countries, with consequent benefits to regional and global economy.

This conference provided an opportunity to discuss important research activities in nanoscience through state-of-the-art review lectures, contributed papers, panel discussions, and workshops. This event comprised a diverse community, including internationally renowned experts, young researchers, graduate students and minorities. The conference attracted about 130 participants around the world, including about forty US participants.

This Conference "Nanomaterials and Nanotechnologies (NN 2003) and the workshop aims to discuss in-depth the current trends and future challenges of this new emerging field. We are now at the threshold of a revolution in the ways in which materials and products are created. How this revolution will develop, how great will be the opportunities that nanostructuring can yield, and how rapidly we progress, will depend upon the ways in which a number of challenges are met.

Among the challenges facing us are those concerned with making the necessary advances in enabling technologies in order for rapid progress to continue in this field. We must increase characterization capabilities in visualization and chemical analysis at ever-finer size scales. We must be able to manipulate matter at ever finer size scales, and we must eventually use computational approaches in directing this, if we are really going to take full advantage of the available opportunities.

Furthermore, we need to understand the critical roles that surfaces and interfaces play in nanostructured materials. Nanoparticles have very high specific surface areas, and thus in their assembled forms there are large areas of interfaces. We need to know in detail not only the structures of these interfaces, but also their local chemistries and the effects of segregation and interaction between the nanoscale building blocks and their surroundings. We need to learn more about the control of nanostructure size and size distribution, composition, and assembly. For some applications, there are very stringent conditions on these parameters; in other applications less so. We must therefore understand the relationships between this stringency and the desired material or device properties. We also need to be concerned with the thermal, chemical, and structural stability of nanostructured materials and the devices made there from, in the face of both the temperature and changing chemistries of the environments in which these nanostructures are asked to function. A nanostructure that is only a nanostructure at the beginning of a process is not of much use to anybody, unless the process is over in a very short time or the process itself is the actual nanostructure advantage.

So for many applications, stability is an important consideration, and we must investigate whether natural stability is sufficient or whether we must additionally stabilize against changes that we cannot afford. To effectively commercialize and utilize the nanostructuring of matter we also need enhancements in statistically driven process control. Achieving reproducibility and scalability of nanoparticle synthesis and consolidation processes in nanostructuring/manufacturing are paramount if successful scale-up is to be effected and if what we do in the laboratory is to contribute to the society that pays for this research.

Given a commercial need, the viability of nanostructure production and utilization is wrapped up in the costs of precursors or raw materials, processing costs, and also the costs of dealing with effluent. It is the total integrated cost, in terms of raw materials, synthesis of the building blocks, manufacture of parts from those building blocks, and effluent clean-up costs, that is important and that will ultimately determine commercial viability. Establishing basic material structure-function relationships is now of great importance to a wide range of future applications in sensing, magneto-electronics, data storage, biomedical devices, catalysis, etc. and other functional devices.

Finally, in order for the field of nanostructure science and technology to truly reach fruition, it is an absolute necessity to create a new breed of researchers who can work across traditional disciplines and think "outside the box." Educating this new breed of researchers, who will either work across disciplines or know how to work with others in the interfaces between disciplines, is vital to the future of nanostructure science and technology. People must start thinking in unconventional ways if we are to take full advantage of the opportunities in this new and revolutionary field.

The participants in this NSF sponsored workshop are Sudipta Seal: Associate Professor, Nanoinitiative coordinator and the Organizer of the Workshop, Advanced Materials Processing and Analysis Center and Mechanical, Materials and Aerospace and Engineering, University of Central Florida (Title: Phase Stabilization in Nanocrystalline Zirconia – NANO PARTICLES in LARGE SCALE), M. J. Soileau: (Vice President Research), University of Central Florida (Title: Merging Science and Technology: A Coherent Sum), Fereshteh Ebrahimi: Professor, Materials Science and Engineering, University of Florida, Florida (Title: Structure and Properties of Electrodeposited Nanocrystalline FCC Ni-Fe Alloys – NANO STRUCTURAL MATERIALS), Carl. C. Koch: Professor, North Carolina State University, (Title: Top-down synthesis of nanostructured materials: mechanical and thermal processing methods – NANO SYNTHESIS & MECHANICAL, THERMAL PROPERTIES), Pelagia-Irene (Perena) Gouma Assistant Professor, SUNY at Stony Brook, Stony Brook (Title: Nanostructured Polymorphic Oxides for Advanced Chemosensors – NANO BIO SENSORS), Ramma Reddy: Professor, ACIPCO Professor and Associate Director, The University of Alabama, (Title: Processing of Nanoscale Materials – NANO MANUFACTURING), Merrilea Joyce Mayo: Professor & Scientist, GUIRR, The National Academies, (Title: Thermodynamics for nanosystems: grain and particle-size dependent phase diagrams – NANO – THERMODYNAMICS), Billie Abrams: Scientist and Post Doctoral Fellow, Sandia National Laboratory (Title: Degradation of nanoparticulate-coated and uncoated sulfide-based cathodoluminescent phosphors. – NANO ELECTRONICS), and Ilya Ovid'ko: Professor, Russian Academy of Sciences, Organizer of NN 2003 Conference on Nanomaterials and Nanotechnologies.

Sudipta Seal

NSF Nanotechnology Workshop Chair – NN 2003 Conference, Crete, Greece

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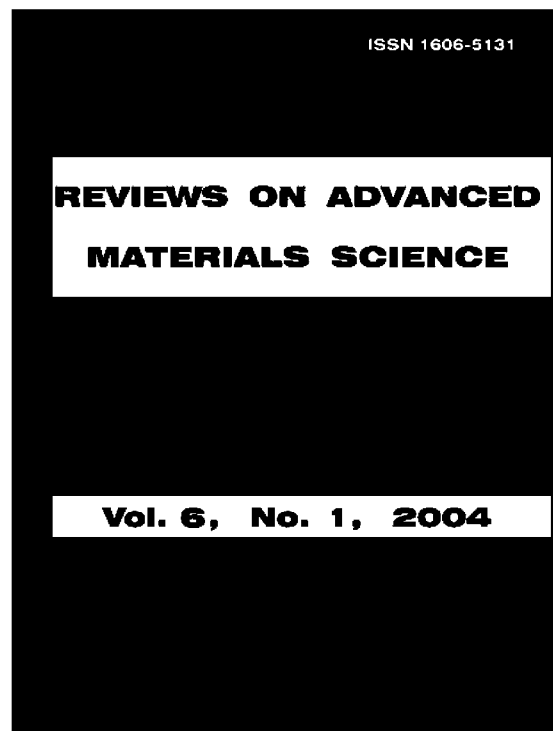
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