

# Characterization of engineered nanomaterials for health studies

Eric A. Grulke, Chemical & Materials Engineering  
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

egrulke@engr.uky.edu

In Vitro Studies of the Effects of Engineered Nanomaterials (ENMs)

In Vivo Studies of the Effects of Engineered Nanomaterials (ENMs)

## Nanomaterials & human health + Instrumentation, metrology and analytical methods

3<sup>rd</sup> NNI Workshop on nanoEHS research needs  
17-18 November 2009  
Arlington, VA

# Definitions



Dispersions of TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles in EtOH.  
2 wt% titania.

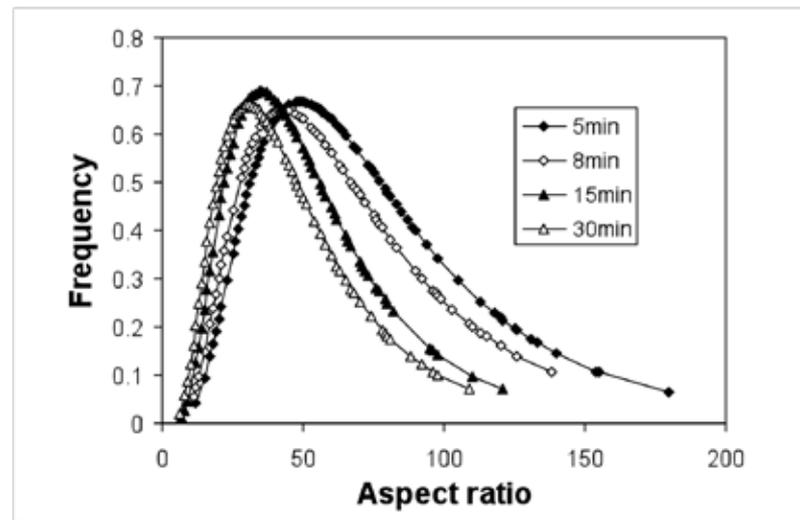
All primary particles:  
 $10 < D < 50$  nm.

Primary particle	smallest identifiable subdivision in a particulate system, maybe subunits of aggregates.
Aggregate	a cohesive mass consisting of particulate subunits
Hard-aggregate	an aggregate that cannot be easily redispersed (in a liquid) by the application of moderate mechanical agitation (shaking, stirring or ultrasonication) and/or mild chemical treatment, consist of subunits that have been chemically bonded or fused.
Agglomerate	In a suspension, an aggregate held together by physical or electrostatic forces.

NIST guide (*The Use of Nomenclature in Dispersion Science and Technology*, V. A. Hackley and C. F. Ferraris, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Special Publication 960-3, August 2001, 72 pp 5)

- Engineered nanomaterials (ENMs): at least one dimension between 1 to 100 nm.
- These dimensions can lead to novel catalytic, optical and other properties, but raise concerns about their potential environmental and health risks.
- The physico-chemical properties of ENMs, such as size and size distribution, shape and surface chemistry, are critical to achieve accurate and reliable toxicity evaluation.

Differential lognormal frequency distribution of MWNT aspect ratios for different sonication times. Thermal and rheological properties of carbon nanotube-in-oil dispersions, Yang et al., *J. Appl. Phys.*, **99** (11), 114307/1-114307/8, 2006.



OECD nanomaterials list, typical endpoints

Materials approach to NP characterization: mapping hazard assessment needs to physico-chemical properties to analytical methods

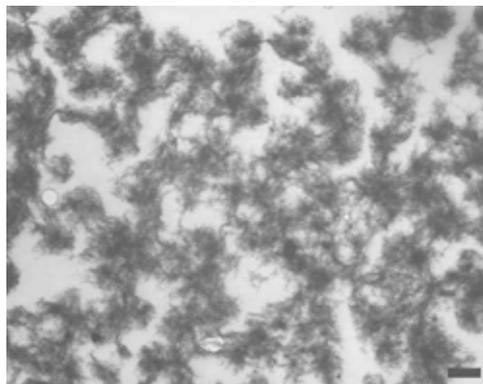
Characterization examples

Research 'gap' analysis

# OUTLINE

# OECD ENM list for testing

MWNTs dispersed in poly( $\alpha$ -olefin). 3 min ultrasonication. Solid bar is 200 nm.



- Carbon-based
  - Fullerenes (C<sub>60</sub>)
  - SWCNTs
  - MWCNTs
  - Carbon black
- Silver nanoparticles
- Iron nanoparticles
- Nanoclays
- TiO<sub>2</sub>
- Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>
- CeO<sub>2</sub>
- ZnO
- SiO<sub>2</sub>
- Polystyrene
- Dendrimers

## OECD Endpoints

- Nanomaterial information (9)
- Physico-chemical properties (17)
- Material safety (3)
- Environmental fate (15)
- Environmental toxicity (6)
- Mammalian toxicity (7)

# OECD endpoints

Many physico-chemical properties are established in the manufacturing process and the post-synthesis processing for a specific application.

Example: CNTs.

Carbon nanotubes are not readily dispersible in most fluids. Dispersion is improved by chemical etching, coupling agents, surfactants, dispersants, polymer wrapping, etc... These modifications often change the transport properties of the nanotubes.

<b>Nanomaterial info/ID</b>
Name
CAS number
Structural formula, structure
Composition, purity
Morphology
Surface chemistry
Commercial uses
Catalytic activity
Synthesis method

Primary particles

<b>Physical-chemical properties</b>	
Agglomeration, aggregation	Surface chemistry
Water solubility	Photocatalytic activity
Crystallinity	Pour density
Dustiness	Porosity
Crystallite size	Octanol-water partition coefficient
TEM	Redox potential
PSD	Radical formation potential
Specific surface area	Other
z-potential	

Some endpoints map to multiple PC properties.  
Example: morphology

Properties list includes test methods (TEM, surface area, z-potential) + properties.

## Materials Science

- BIOMATERIALS
- Composites
- MAGNETIC MATERIALS
- METALS
- Electronic, optical, photonic
- Superconducting materials
- POLYMERS
- Catalysts
- Nanomaterials

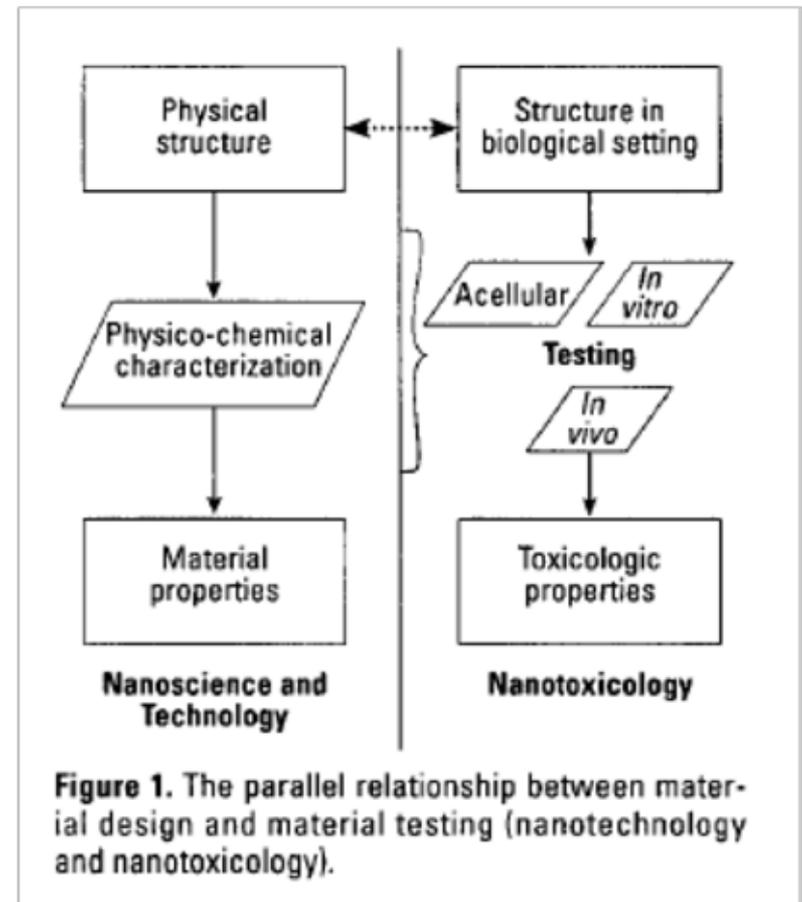
Hazards assessment of nanoparticles

Mapping physico-chemical properties to the hazards assessment

Mapping analytical methods to physico-chemical properties

# MATERIALS APPROACH TO NP CHARACTERIZATION

Extensive physico-chemical characterization  
Capacity for macromolecular perturbation  
Potential for transport of toxic molecules  
Translocation  
Agglomeration state  
Chemical composition

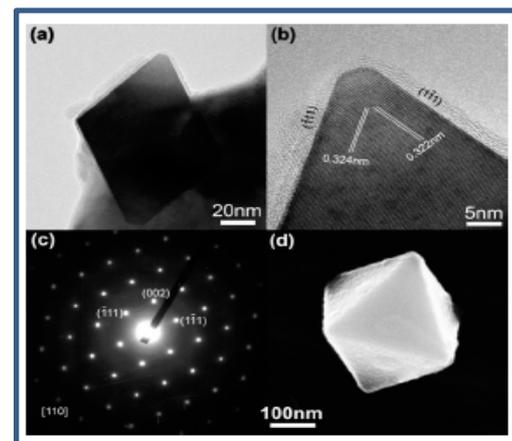


## HAZARD ASSESSMENT FOR NANOPARTICLES

Meeting report: hazard assessment of nanomaterials-report from an interdisciplinary workshop, Balbus, J. M., et al., *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 115(11), 1654-1659 (2007)

# Difference between chemicals and nanomaterials in toxicological studies

*Template-Free Hydrothermal Synthesis of CeO<sub>2</sub> Nano-octahedrons and Nanorods: Investigation of the Morphology Evolution by Lai Yan, Ranbo Yu, Jun Chen, and Xianran Xing, CRYSTAL GROWTH & DESIGN 2008 VOL. 8, NO. 5 1474–1477*



<i>Difference in toxicological study</i>	<i>Molecule</i>	<i>Solubility</i>	<i>Shape</i>	<i>Dose</i>	<i>Interaction with biological system</i>	<i>Alteration of property in biological environment</i>
<b>Chemicals</b>	1	good (uniform solution)	N/A (in solution)	mass, volume	at molecular level / whole molecule	N/A
<b>Nanomaterials</b>	>1	poor (colloid)	edges, corners and exposure surfaces	surface area, particle number and surface activity	surface first (exposure surface, coating et al.)	aggregates/agglomerates; absorbance of protein

# Hazard assessment mapped to physico-chemical properties

Information need	Component	AS-PREPARED	BIOLOGICAL SETTINGS	
<b>Physico-chemical</b>	structure	G	R	
	surface properties	G	R	
	biologically available surface area	R	R	
	composition	G	G	
	reactive oxygen	G	Y	
	dose metric	N/A	Y	
<b>ADME - translocation</b>		<b>ACELLULAR</b>	<b>CELLULAR</b>	<b>IN VIVO</b>
	NP tracking tags	G	Y	Y
	agglomeration	N/A	Y	Y
	solubility	G	Y	R
	transmembrane	N/A	Y	R
	bio-accumulation	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>NP biochemistry</b>		<b>EX VIVO</b>	<b>IN VIVO</b>	
	catalytic activity	Y	R	
	macromolecular perturbations	G	Y	
	carriers	G	G	

RED: no agreed upon test method; high priority for development.

YELLOW: test methods available, no consensus on proper method.

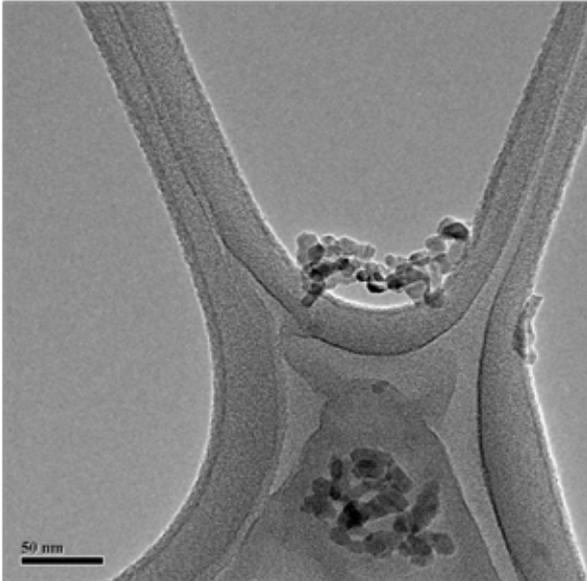
: common usage that could lead to standardization

Meeting report: hazard assessment of nanomaterials-report from an interdisciplinary workshop, Balbus, J. M., et al., *Environmental Health Perspectives*, **115**(11), 1654-1659 (2007)

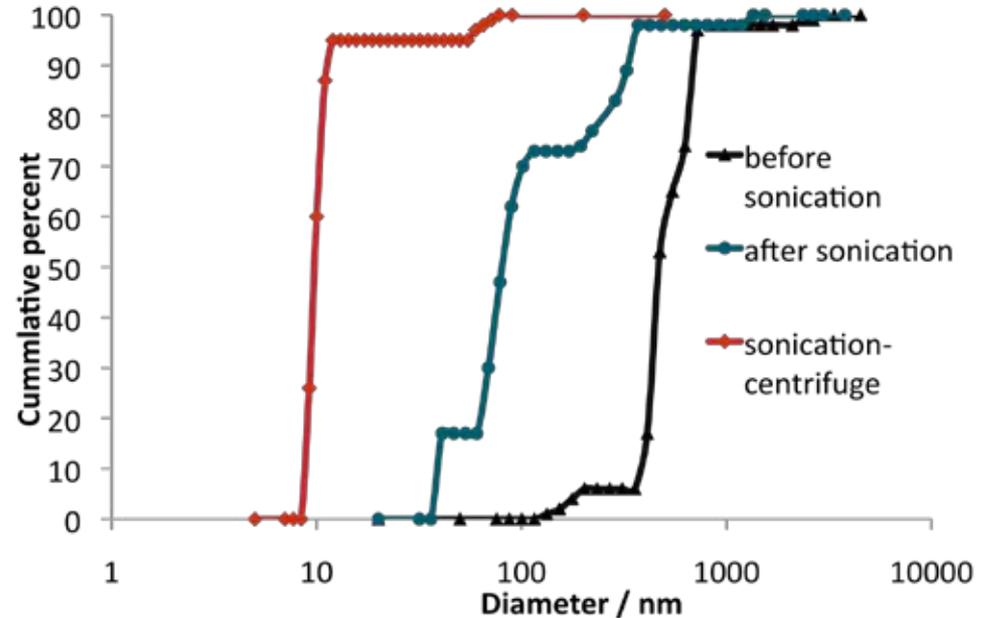
# Short case study: alumina toxicity to mouse epithelial cells

NP toxicity info	Case study: alumina toxicity to mouse epithelial cells
Phys-chem char.	Complex morphology; as a common abrasive, exposure to Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> is likely to result in dermal sorption
Macromolecular interactions	Interaction with blood proteins likely
Transport of toxins	-OH surface groups may interact with other toxic substances, allowing these nanoparticles to act as carriers
Translocation	Endothelial cells, < 200 nm
Agglomeration state	Desired: no/controlled agglomeration, monodisperse nanoparticles within key size ranges to probe biological membrane 'gaps'
Chemical comp.	Crystalline nanoparticles should have low contaminants (< 1000 ppm) expected

# Defined dose with known PSD



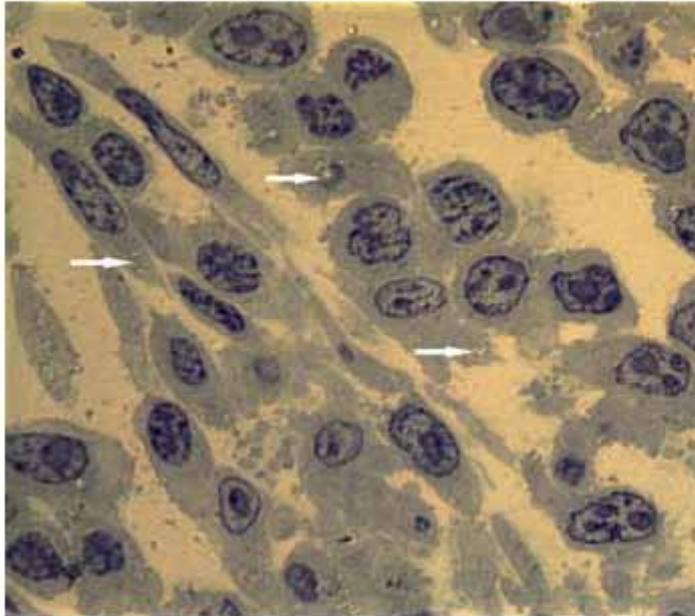
Alumina, CAS# 1344-28-1, ga,  
99.98 %, primary particle size of  
10-20 nm, commercial supplier.  
TEM confirmation of PSD after  
sonication.



DLS cumulative vol% distribution of  
sonicated, centrifuged alumina sample.  
This sample has a known dose: **0.6 wt%  
alumina with all particles < 100 nm.**

# In-vitro study of alumina NPs

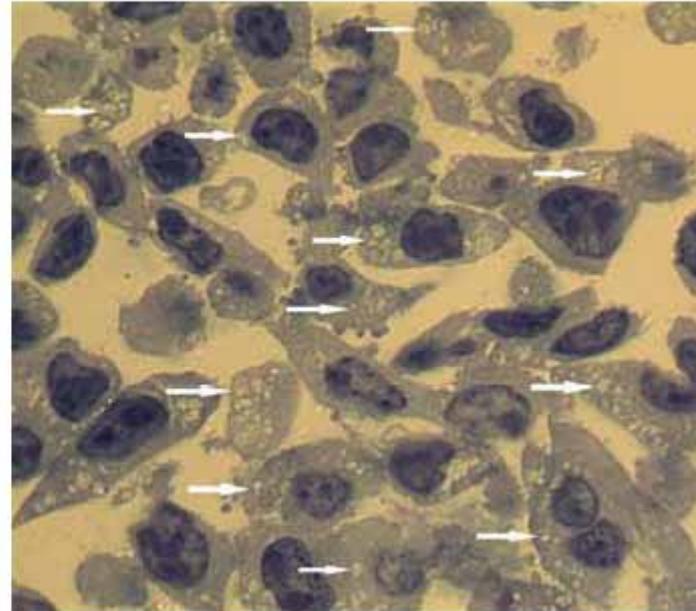
Control (non-nano  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ )



Mouse epithelial cells (JB6) treated with non-sonicated particles showing uptake of particles in **some** cells.

D

$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (diameter-20 nm)



Treated with sonicated/dispersed particles, virtually **all** cells contain refractory inclusions (arrows).

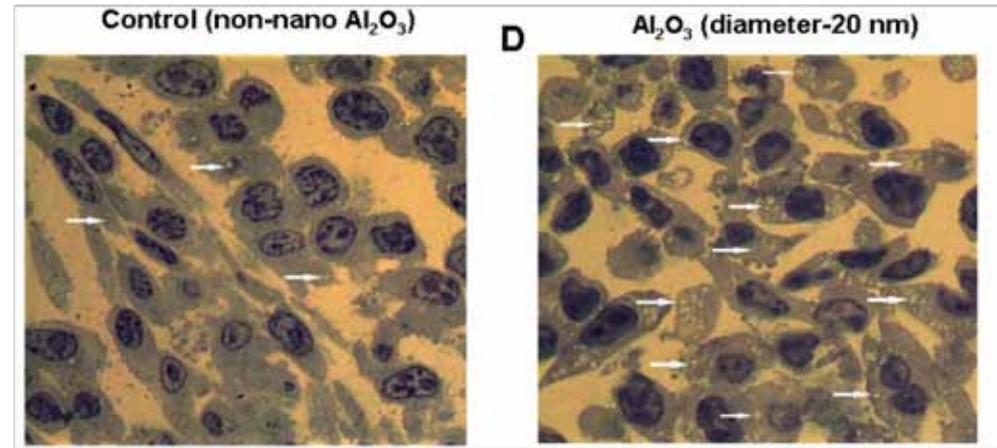
*S. Dey, V. Bakthavatchalu, M. T. Tseng, P. Wu, R. L. Florence, E. A. Grulke, R. A. Yokel, S. K. Dhar, H. Yang, Y. Chen and D. K. St Clair, Carcinogenesis vol.29 no.10 pp.1920–1929, 2008.*

\*\*\*-primary method;  
\*\* - secondary method;  
\*-correlating method

<i>Physico-chemical properties of NPs</i>	TEM	SEM	DLS	FTIR	XRD	$\zeta$	BET
primary particle size	***	*	**		*		**
shape	**	**					
particle size distribution	**	**	***				
agglomeration	*	**	***	*		***	
suspension stability			***	*		***	
valence state	*** (EELS)						
surface charge, functionality			**	**		**	
composition	**	*			***		

## MAPPING PHYSICO-CHEMICAL PROPERTIES TO ANALYTICAL METHODS

This mapping of physico-chemical properties to analytical methods has been used to characterize nanoparticles for nanocomposite applications.



Biological structure 'gaps'

Expanded 'toolkit' for *in vitro*, *in vivo* systems

Morphology

Composition

Surface properties

Aqueous dispersions

## CHARACTERIZATION EXAMPLES

# Biological structure 'gaps'

Biological structure	Diameter or junction space	Size criteria to physically go through the structure
capillary [1]	5-10 $\mu\text{m}$ in diameter	< 5 $\mu\text{m}$
phagosome [2]	>0.25 $\mu\text{m}$ in diameter	£ 250 nm
gap junctions between cells [3]	3 - 25 nm	< 25 nm or <3 nm
blood-brain barrier (tight junction) [4]	~4 nm	< 4 nm

[1]. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, item 'capillary'

[2] *The Cell: A molecular approach*, fourth edition, 2007 by Geoffrey M. Cooper, p556-557

[3] 'Review of medical physiology', fourteenth edition, by William F. Ganong, 1989, p12

[4] Kniessel U and Wolburg H 2000. Tight junctions of the blood-brain barrier. *Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology* 20: 57-76.

# PC properties/analytical method

Property	example systems	analytical methods
<b>Morphology (as received)</b>		
<b>primary particle size</b>	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> dose/response	TEM, SEM, DLS, FTIR, BET
<b>primary particle shape</b>	CeO <sub>2</sub> : spheroid, disk, rod	TEM, SEM
<b>particle size distribution</b>	MWNT, TiO <sub>2</sub>	DLS, SEM, TEM
<b>agglomeration</b>	silica, titania, alumina, ceria	DLS, ζ-potential, SEM, TEM, FTIR
<b>aggregation</b>	TiO <sub>2</sub> gas phase synthesis	DLS, ζ-potential, SEM, TEM, FTIR
<b>Composition</b>	Fly ash (environmental sample)	synthesis method; use; XRD, TEM, SEM, (PIXE)
<b>Surface properties</b>		
<b>valence state</b>	CeO <sub>2</sub>	TEM/EELS
<b>surface charge</b>	Ag, dendrimers	ζ-potential, DLS
<b>functionalization</b>	ZnO	ζ-potential, DLS, FTIR
<b>reactivity</b>	CeO <sub>2</sub>	various
<b>Aqueous dispersions</b>		
<b>ions/acids/bases</b>	silica, titania, alumina, ceria	ζ-potential, DLS [TEM]
<b>proteins</b>	2 proteins on Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	ζ-potential, DLS [TEM]
<b>coupling agents</b>	ZnO	ζ-potential, FTIR, TGA
<b>surfactants</b>	Au + CTAB	ζ-potential, FTIR, dialysis
<b>dispersants</b>	diblock copolymers on ex-foliated graphite	ζ-potential, FTIR, TGA
<b>electrostatic stabilizers</b>	ceria, titania	ζ-potential, DLS [TEM]
<b>temperature</b>	diblock copolymers on ex-foliated graphite	rheology, DLS
<b>surface energy</b>	ceria, dendrimer?	K <sub>ow</sub> measurement; AFM
TEM- transmission electron microscopy, SEM - scanning electron microscopy, DLS - dynamic light scattering,		
FTIR - Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy, BET - surface area analysis, z-potential -		
TEM/EELS - electron energy loss spectroscopy, TGA - thermogravimetric analysis,		
rheology, Kow - octanol/water partition coefficient		

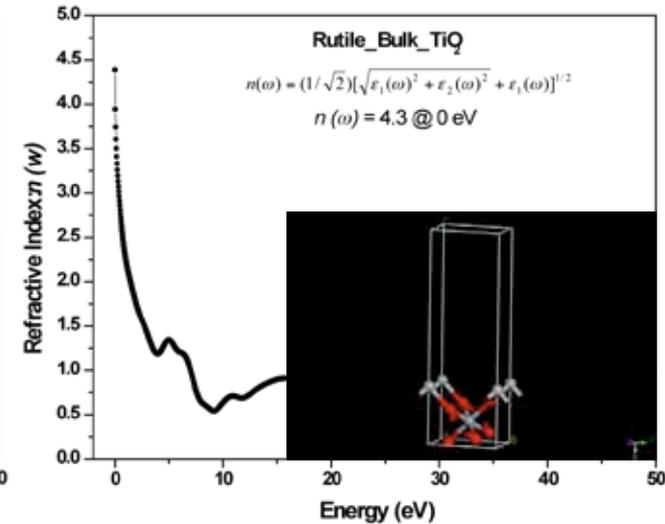
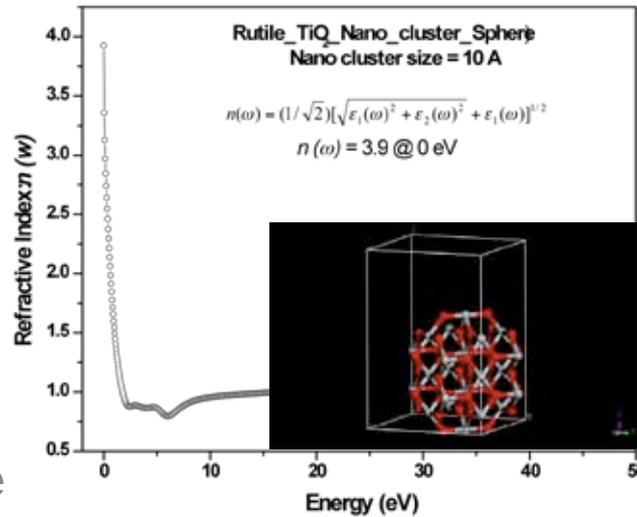
## Materials Science Tools

- **NANOPARTICLES:** TEM, SEM, AFM, XPS, XRD, FTIR, MALDI/TOF/MS, NMR
- **MOLECULAR MODELING:** in some cases, molecular modeling of nanoparticle properties can identify how properties changes with particle size.
- **COLLOIDS:** z -potential, DLS
- **DENDRIMERS:** highly branched molecules with charged groups; a dendrimer with charged outer groups could be hydrophilic externally, carrying a hydrophobic molecule(s) in its interior. Example: drug delivery

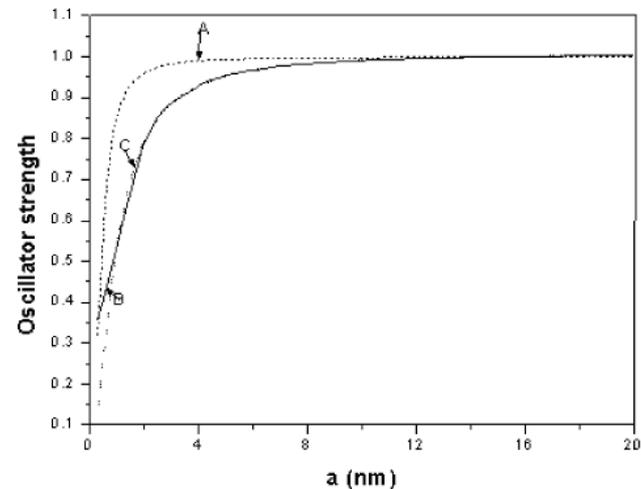
Molecular modeling can be related to EELS spectra. CASTEP example

- primary particle size
- primary particle shape
- particle size distribution (PSD)
- agglomeration
- aggregation
- Example: lot-to-lot variation

# MORPHOLOGY

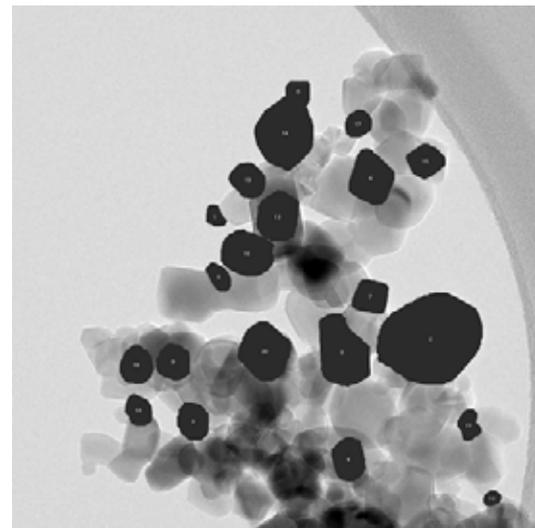
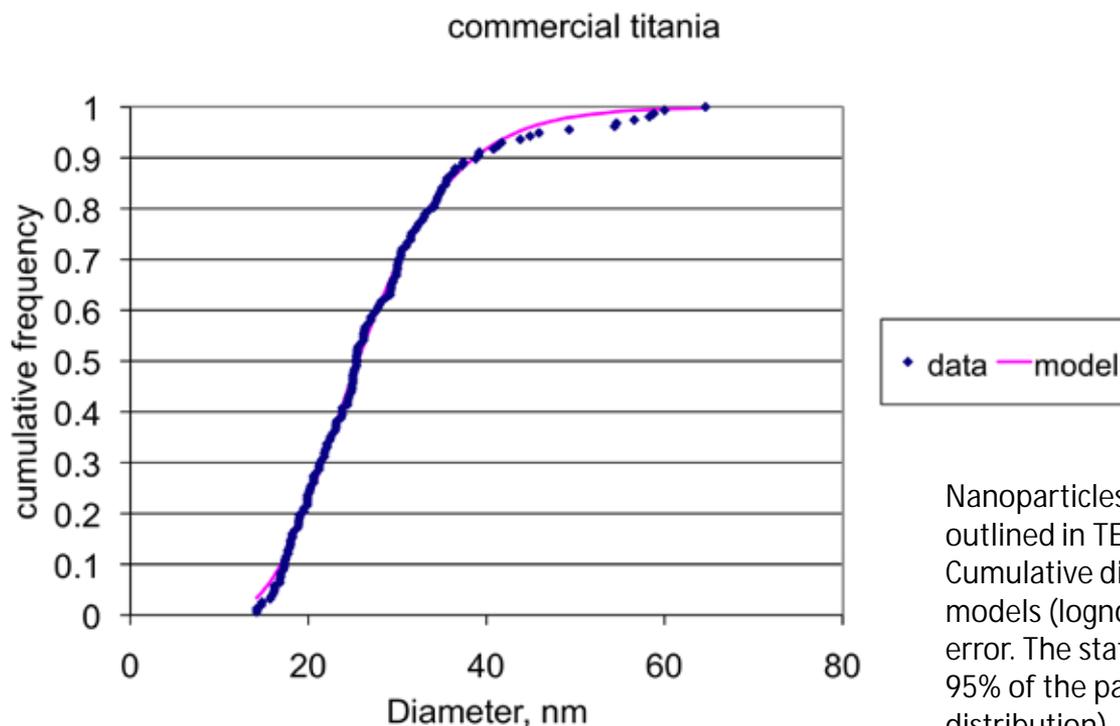


Size-dependent energy band gap and dielectric constant within the generalized Penn model applied to a semiconductor nanocrystallite, Sharma, A.C.,. Journal of Applied Physics, 2006. 100(8): p. 084301/1-084301/8.



# Primary particle size distribution: titania

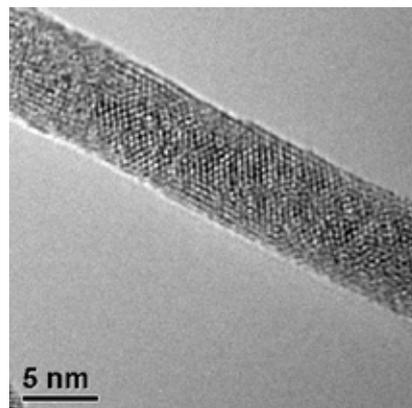
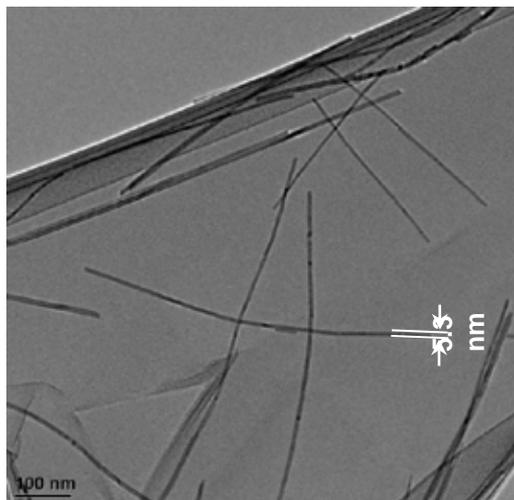
95 vol % of the sample is  $18 < D < 44$  nm.  
 $D_{\max} < 100$  nm. Commercial titania.



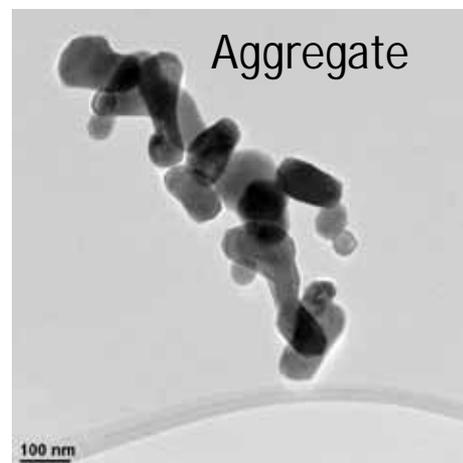
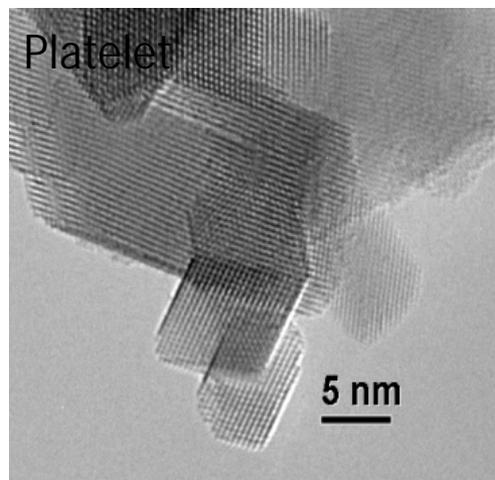
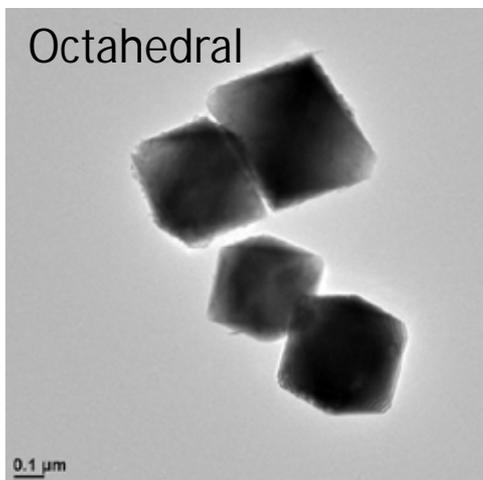
Nanoparticles ( $N > 100$ ) with 'clean' edges are identified and outlined in TEM images using Digital Micrograph®. Cumulative distribution data are fitted with statistical models (lognormal, etc.), identifying  $D_{ave}$ , average standard error. The statistical model is used to compute the range for 95% of the particles observed (primary particle size distribution).

Data obtained under contract PR-NC-08-10414 for Kevin Dreher, USEPA, ORD, NHEERL, Research Triangle Park, NC

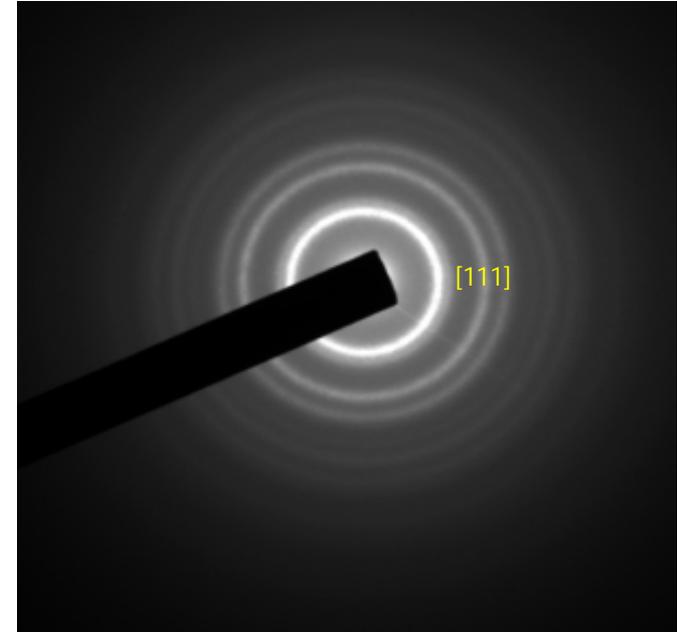
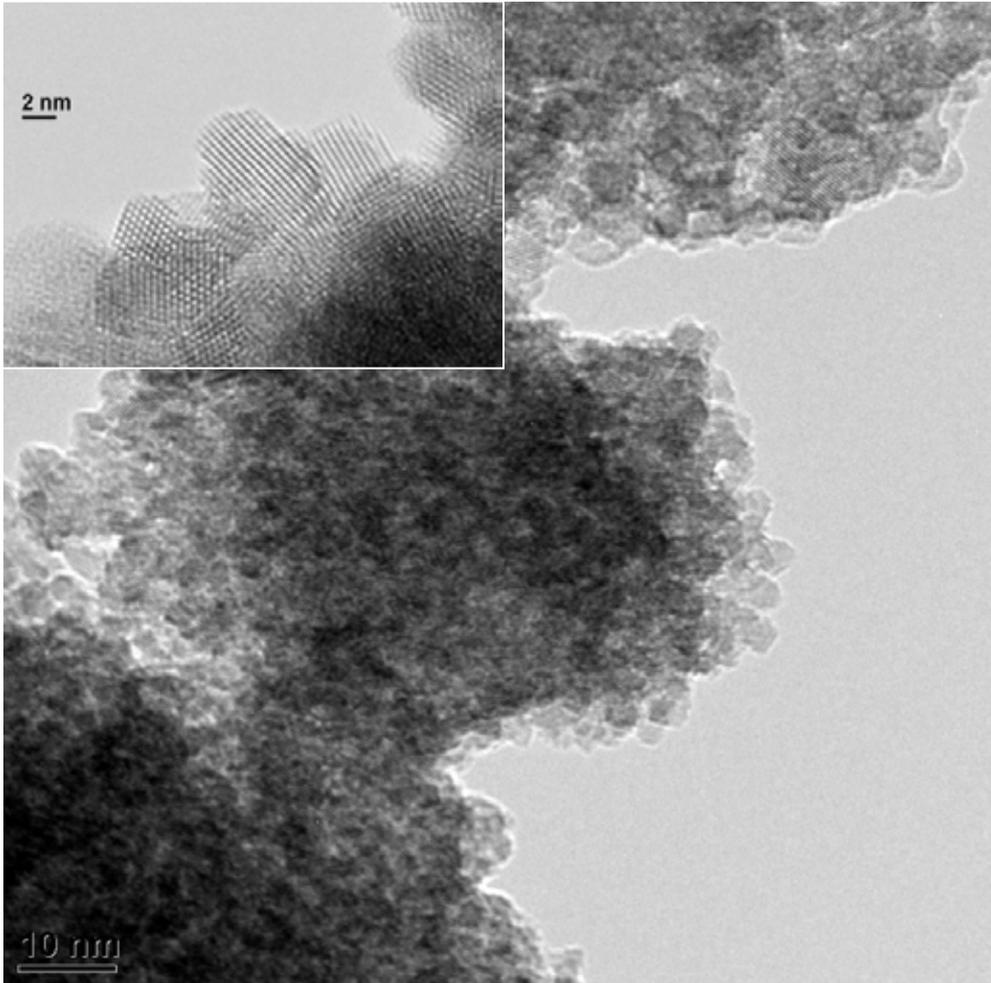
# Primary particle shape: ceria



Shapes via liquid phase synthesis. Nanorods grew on octahedral 'seeds'. Platelet and aggregate are commercial samples via vapor phase synthesis



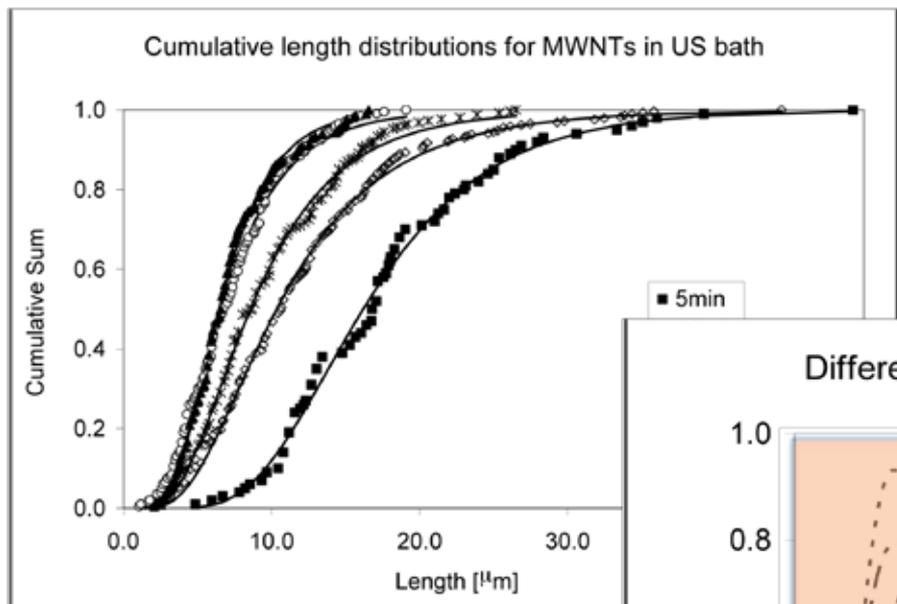
# Primary particle size



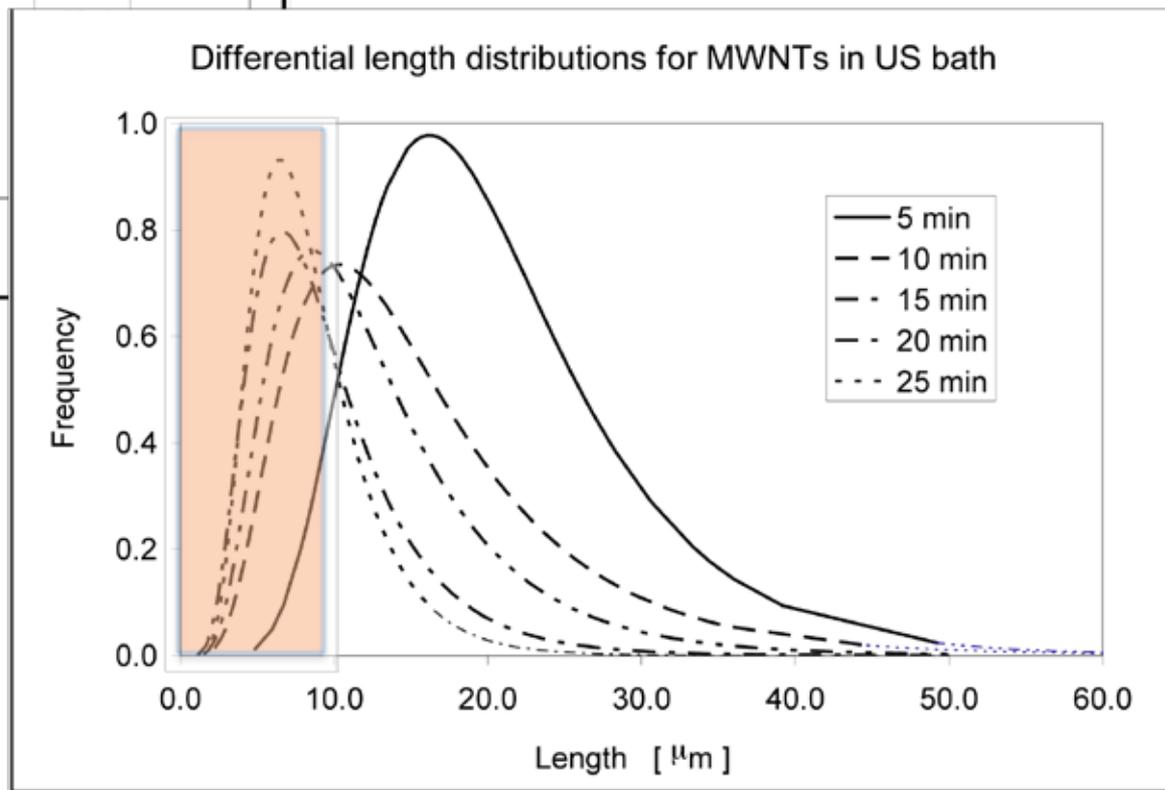
**Ceria. Primary particle size: ~5nm;  
Shape: platelet;  
HRTEM and electron diffraction pattern:  
High crystallinity**

**TEM shows primary particle size,  
but is not definitive about  
aggregation/agglomeration.**

# Particle size distribution: MWNTs



Ultrasonication is often used to disperse carbon nanotubes in liquids: it also fractures the tubes, changing their length distribution.



**Above:** cumulative frequency MWNT length distributions of 100+ individual tubes. Lognormal models shown as solid lines

**Right:** differential frequency distributions. Fraction of material less than 10  $\mu\text{m}$  in length in orange rectangle. **15 $\mu\text{m}$  cutoff for material to be engulfed by macrophages.**

# Particle size distribution: TiO<sub>2</sub> aggregates (Degussa P25)

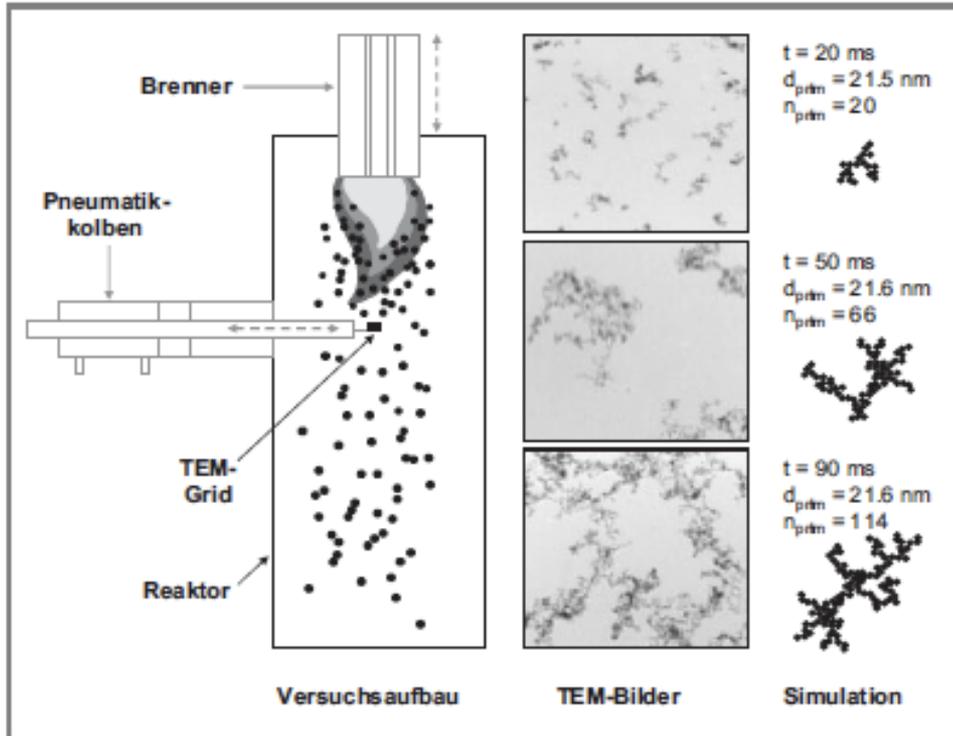


Abbildung 3. Schema des an einen Flammenreaktor angebautes TEM-Grid-Samplingsystems, TEM-Bilder und entsprechende Simulationsergebnisse.

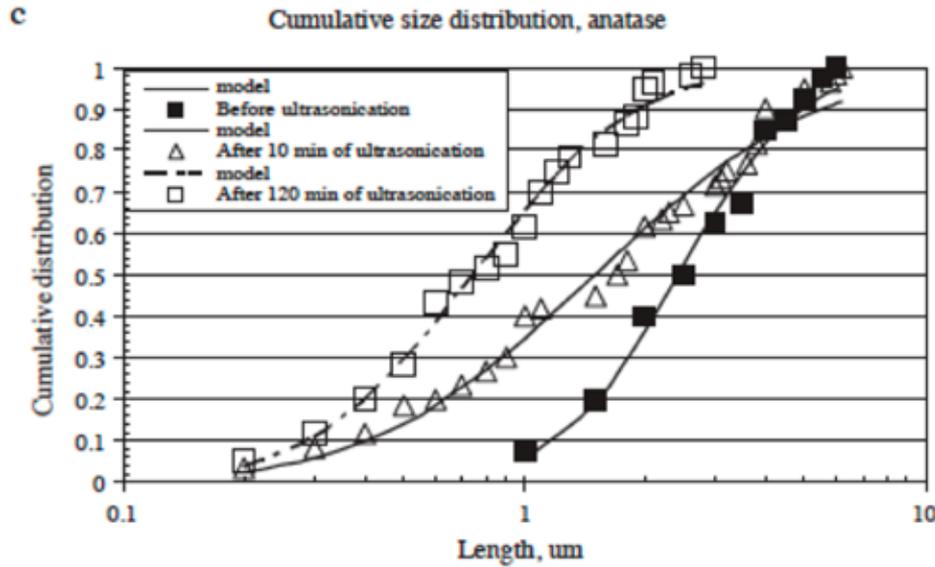
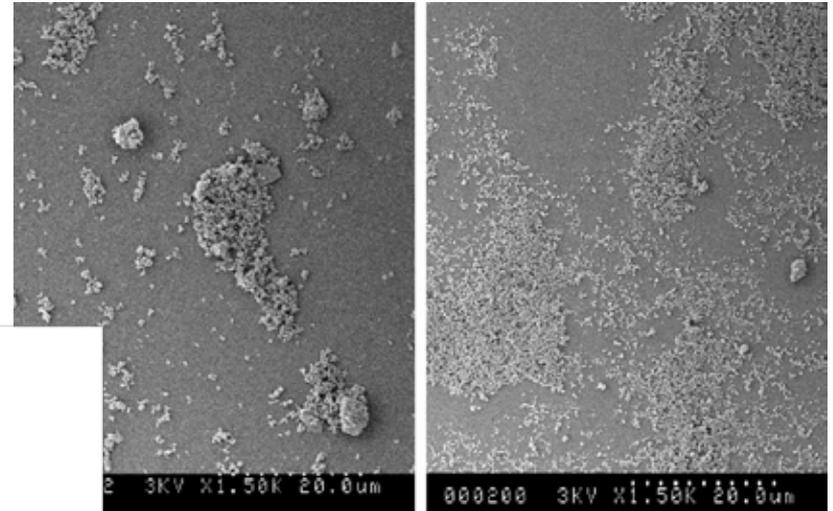
Mechanical handling of nanoparticle powders often fractures fused aggregates, changing the dose of a specific particle size. Determining the fraction of the sample that can penetrate biological structures is a challenge.

Correlation between simulations and actual product demonstrate fundamental understanding of the synthesis process, which can lead to better process control and higher product uniformity.

A. Gutsch, J. Averdung, H. Muhlenweg, Chemie Ingenieur Technik, 77(9), 1377-1392 (2005). Flame synthesis of metal oxide nanoparticles – ZnO, CeO<sub>2</sub>, ZrO<sub>2</sub>, ITO, ...

# Particle size distribution: TiO<sub>2</sub> aggregates (Degussa P25)

**PSD challenge:** ~ 3 orders of magnitude between smallest primary particle and largest aggregate. Aggregate porosity is difficult to measure, so a number- or volume-based distribution is difficult to compute.



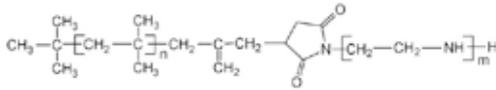
What is the dose of a specific size range?

Mandzy et al., Breakage of TiO<sub>2</sub> aggregates in electrostatically stabilized aqueous dispersions, *Powder Technology*, **160**, 121 (2005).

# Dispersant agglomeration:

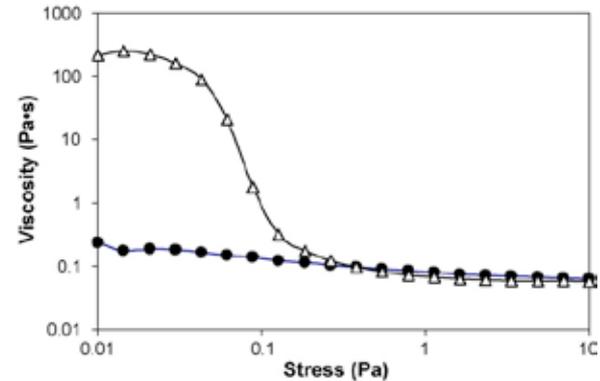
MWNTs in poly( $\alpha$ -olefin), PIBSI di-block copolymer dispersant

PIBSI. Poly(isobutylene succinimide)

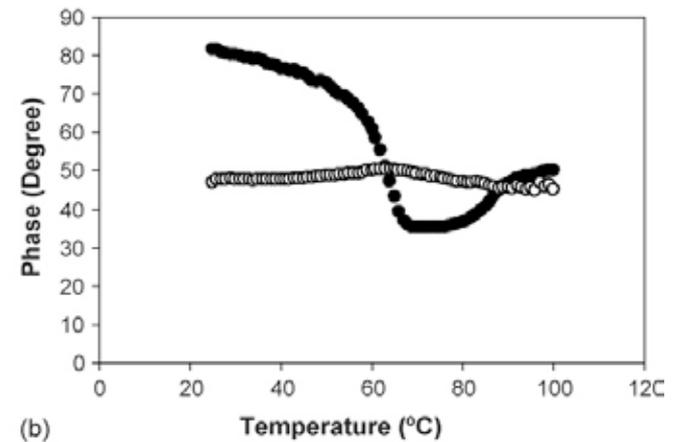
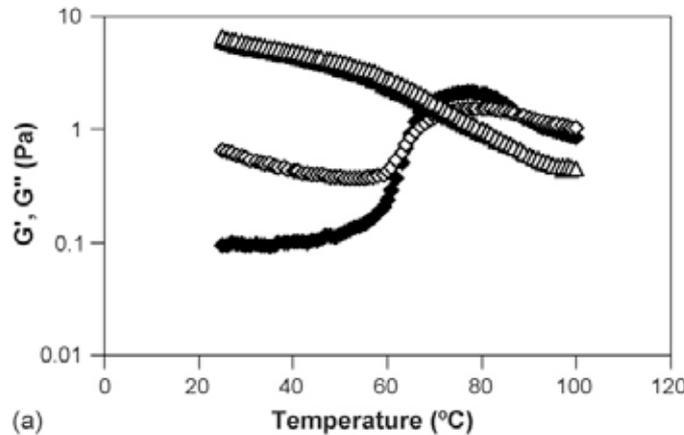


Temperature effects on the rheological properties of carbon nanotube-in-oil dispersions, Yang et al., *Colloids Surf., A*, **298**(3) 216 (2007).

Short chain PIBSI does not disperse CNTs. Short chain (550 Mw) PIBSI D: long chain (1000 Mw) PIBSI  $\Phi$



Bulk property measurement, rheology, that reflects dispersion of nanoparticles.



Long chain PIBSI agglomerates at  $T > 60^\circ \text{C}$  per phase angle vs. T CURVES. Short chain (550 Mw) PIBSI D: long chain (1000 Mw) PIBSI  $\Phi$

# Lot-to-lot variability

- 3 commercial samples of CeO<sub>2</sub> – 3 lots of one catalog #
- Manufacturer:  $D_{\text{ave,primary}} \sim 70\text{-}105$  nm; surface area 8-12 m<sup>2</sup>/g

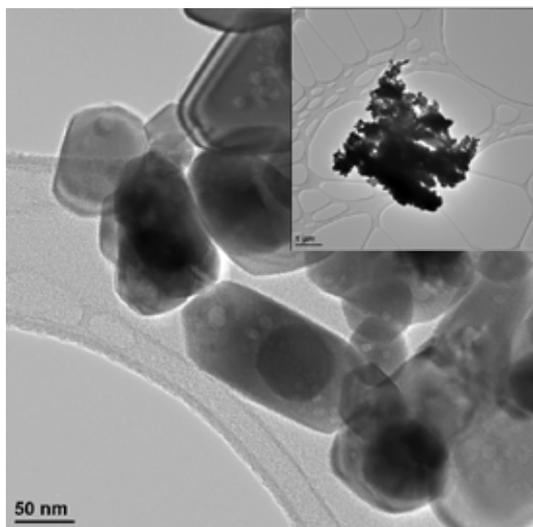
Sample	XRD	BET, m <sup>2</sup> /g	$D_{\text{aver}}$ primary particle, TEM, nm	$D_{\text{aver}}$ apparent, DLS, nm
	<b>99.9% pure</b>	<b>8-12</b>	<b>70-105</b>	
1	ceria	7.35	68	85 (n), 487 (v)
2	ceria	7.67	44	70 (n), 1120 (v)
3	ceria	10.1	59	430 (n), 8400 (v)
n - number-based diameter; v-volume-based diameter				

For unimodal, spheroid samples, surface area increases as  $D_{\text{ave}}$  decreases. The PSDs of these primary particles are multimodal.

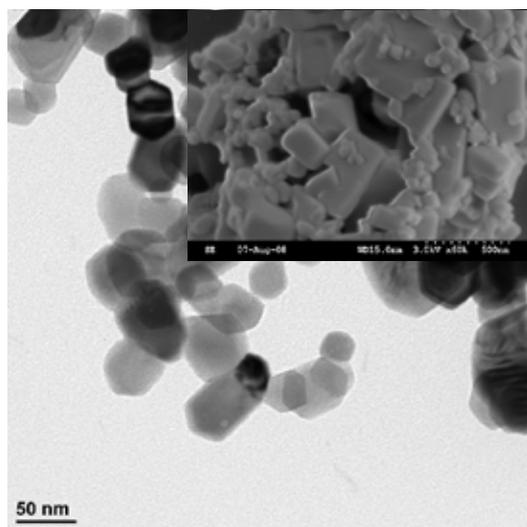
Data obtained under contract PR-NC-08-10414 for Kevin Dreher, USEPA, ORD, NHEERL, Research Triangle Park, NC

# Primary particles & aggregates

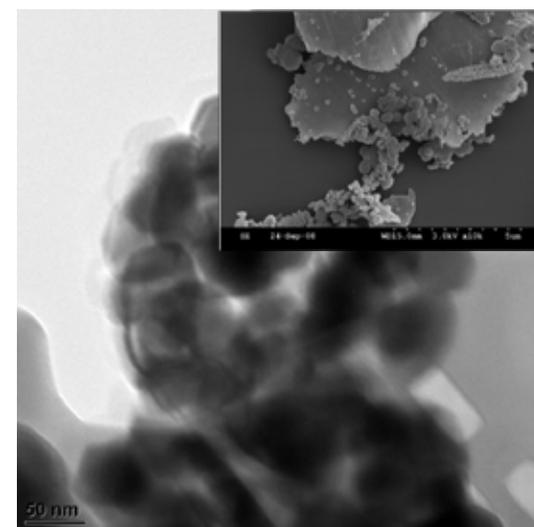
Sample 1 ( $D_{p,ave}$  68 nm)



Sample 2 ( $D_{p,ave}$  44 nm)



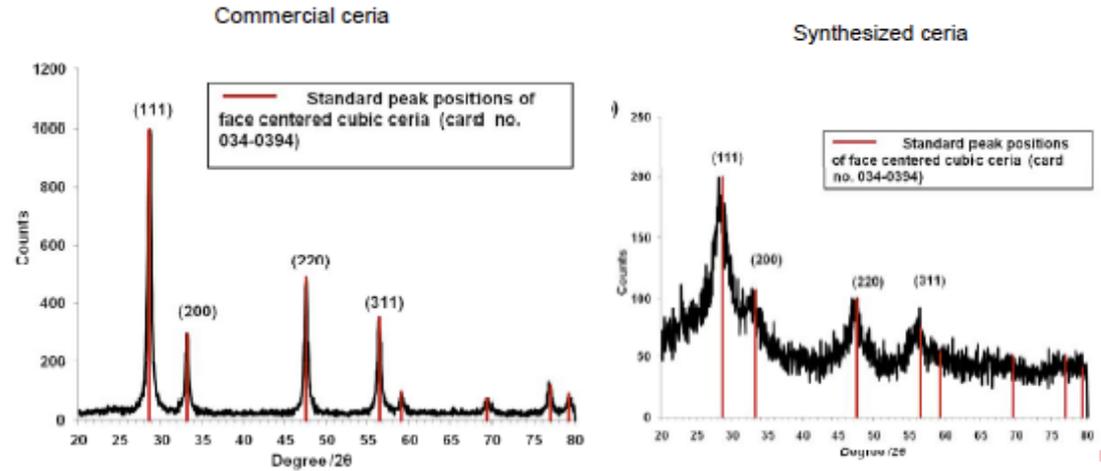
Sample 3 ( $D_{p,ave}$  59 nm)



Aggregates seem to have different morphologies.

Data obtained under contract PR-NC-08-10414 for Kevin Dreher, USEPA, ORD, NHEERL, Research Triangle Park, NC

XRD – x-ray diffraction patterns from commercial ceria nanoparticles (~30 nm) and synthesized ceria (~5 nm), showing the presence of the same crystal planes, but broader peaks for the smaller nanoparticles.



Synthesis & use establish critical physico-chemical properties  
 Example –fly ash from electrostatic precipitator (the ‘starting’  
 nanomaterial for environmental studies)

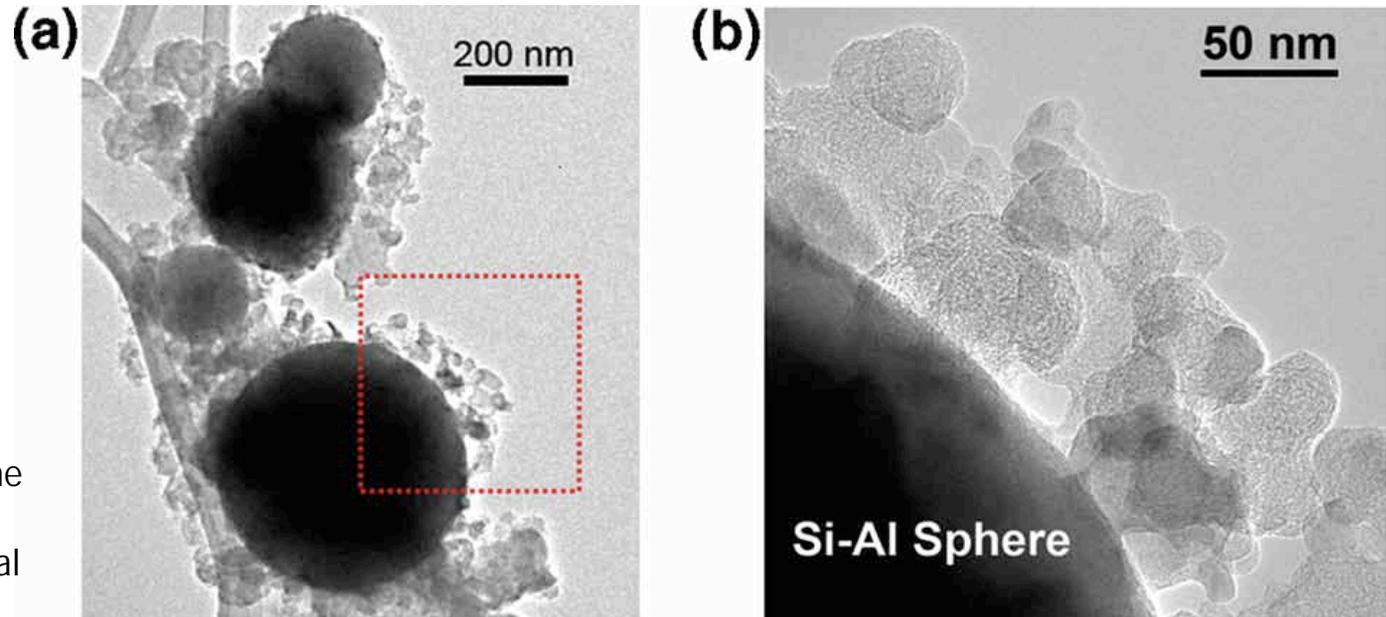
# COMPOSITION

Association of the sites of heavy metals with nanoscale carbon in a Kentucky electrostatic precipitator fly ash, Hower, J.C., Graham, U.M., Dozier, A., Tseng, M.T., Khari, R.A., *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, **42**, 8471 (2008). HRTEM-STEM-EELS.

Characterization of fly ash from Kentucky power plants, Hower, J.C., Robertson, J.D., Thomas, G. A., Wong, A. S., Schram, W.H., Graham, U.S., Rathbone, R. F., Robl, T. L., *Fuel*, **75** (4), 403 (1996).PIXE.

# Combustion processes generate 'nanoproducts' + micron-sized particles

A combination of high-resolution transmission electron microscopy, scanning transmission electron microscopy, and electron energy-loss spectroscopy (HRTEM-STEM-EELS) was used to study fly ashes produced from the combustion of an eastern Kentucky coal at a southeastern-Kentucky wallfired pulverized coal utility boiler.

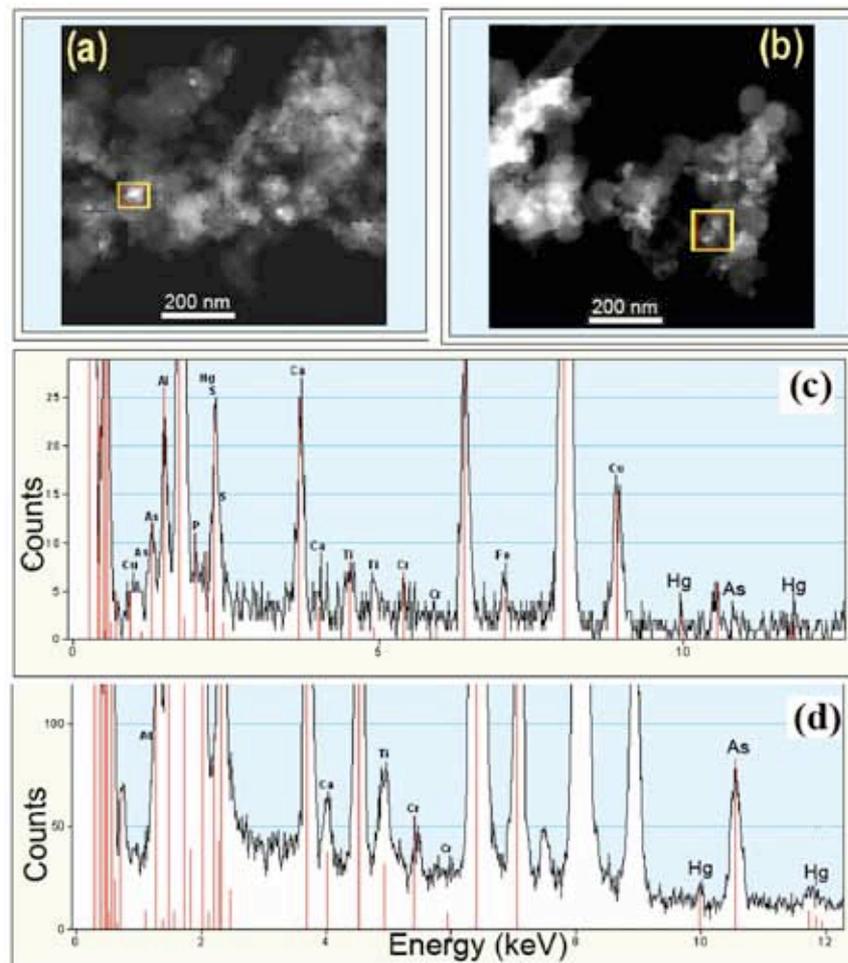


**FIGURE 1. (a) HRTEM image of nanometer-sized C deposits intergrown with Si-Al glassy fly ash particles (dark spheres); (b) insert showing agglomerated nanocarbons with soot-like appearance coating fly ash sphere in a porous shell or nanocoating.**

# STEM for composition analysis

**FIGURE 5. STEM images of C-rich nanoclusters with Fe-rich inclusions; with the respective spectra for the points in a and b shown in c and d, respectively. Note the presence of As and Hg in the spectrum. Both As and Hg show stronger, more highly defined signals than the points shown on Figure S1, but Se does not occur at significant levels in these fields.**

The STEM EELS analyses can be used to determine the composition within nanoparticle aggregates. In this case Hg is associated with the nanocarbon, and arsenic, Se, Pb, Co, and traces of Ti and Ba are in Fe-rich particles within the nanocarbon deposits. Other methods can be used to identify trace components throughout the sample.



valence state –  $\text{Ce}^{3+}/\text{Ce}^{4+}$  on NP surface

surface charge – z-potential, ceria dispersions in water

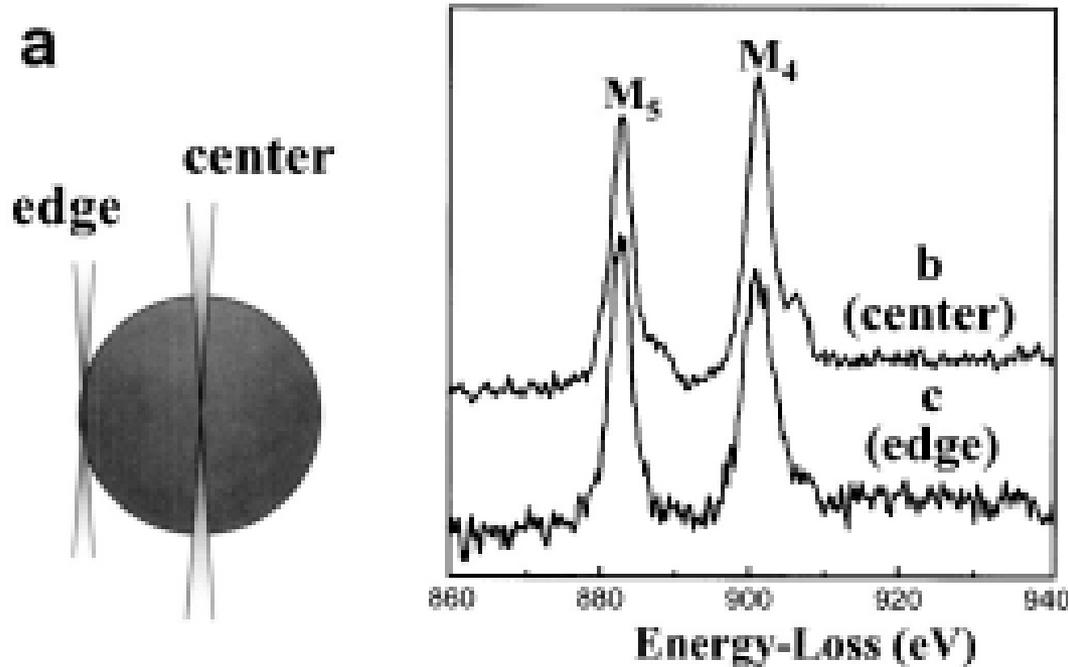
Functionalization – citrate ion stabilization

reactivity – ‘Tier one’

# **SURFACE PROPERTIES**

# Valence state: $Ce^{3+}/Ce^{4+}$

## EELS of ceria nanoparticles.



**Oxidation state and lattice expansion of  $CeO_{2-x}$  nanoparticles as a function of particle size**, Lijun Wu, H. J. Wiesmann, A. R. Moodenbaugh, R. F. Klie, Yimei Zhu, D. O. Welch, and M. Suenaga, *Phys. Rev. B*, 69, 125415 (2004)

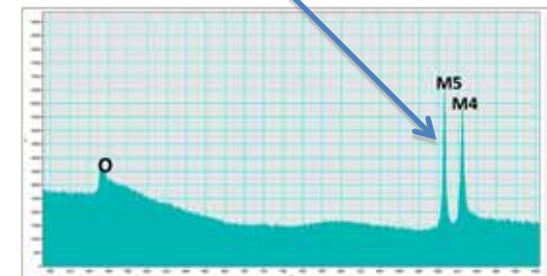
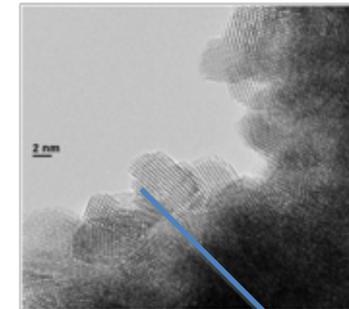


FIG. 5. (a) Experimental setup to measure the difference in the  $M_5/M_4$  ratios between the surface and interior of a particle. The signal will mostly come from the surface when the beam is focused at the edge, while it will mainly come from the interior when the beam is focused at the center. EELS spectra obtained from the center (b) and edge (c) of a particle with  $d = 15$  nm.

# Reported EELS of ceria

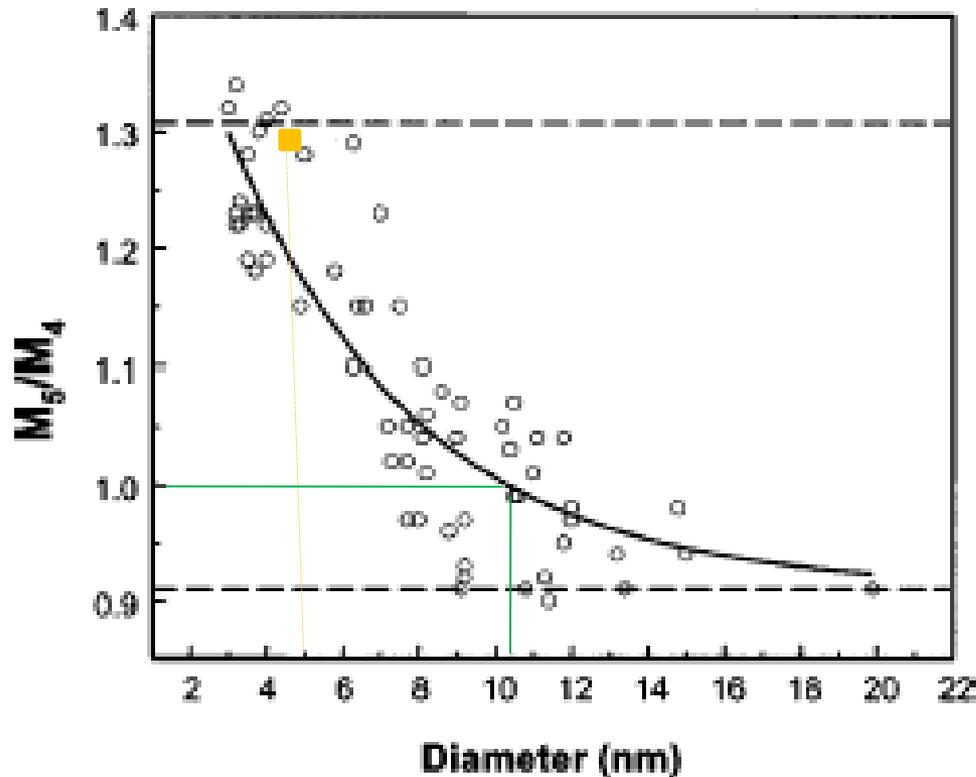


FIG. 7. Dependence of the  $M_5/M_4$  ratios on the particle size of  $CeO_{2-x}$  nanoparticles. A fitted curve based on an exponential function is represented by the solid line.

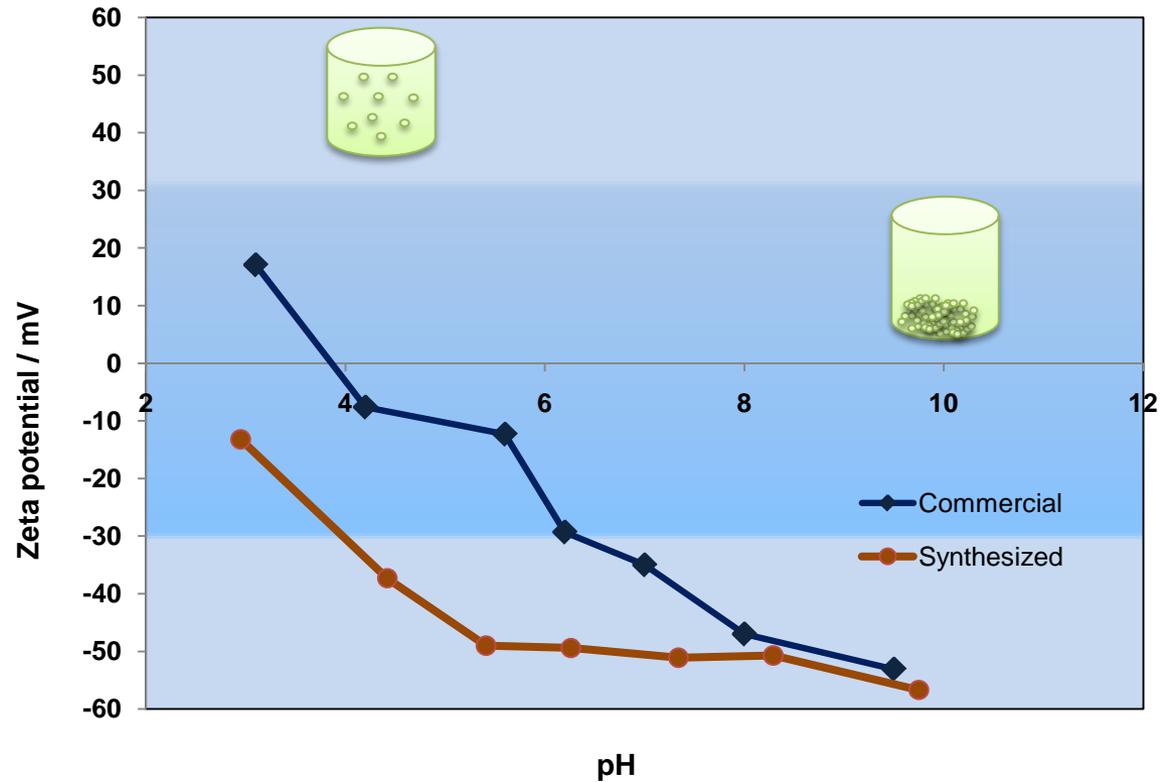
$Ce^{3+}/Ce^{4+}$  ratio is also observable in the UV-visible range. The 230 – 260 nm spectral range corresponds to the  $Ce^{3+}$  concentration, while the absorbance in the 300-400 nm range related to the concentration of  $Ce^{4+}$ .

*The role of cerium redox state in the SOD mimetic activity of nanoceria, Eric G. Heckert a, Ajay S. Karakoti , Sudipta Seal, William T. Self , Biomaterials 29 (2008) 2705–2709*

Particles with diameters larger than 11 nm should have the ratio of  $M_5 / M_4$  less than 1.

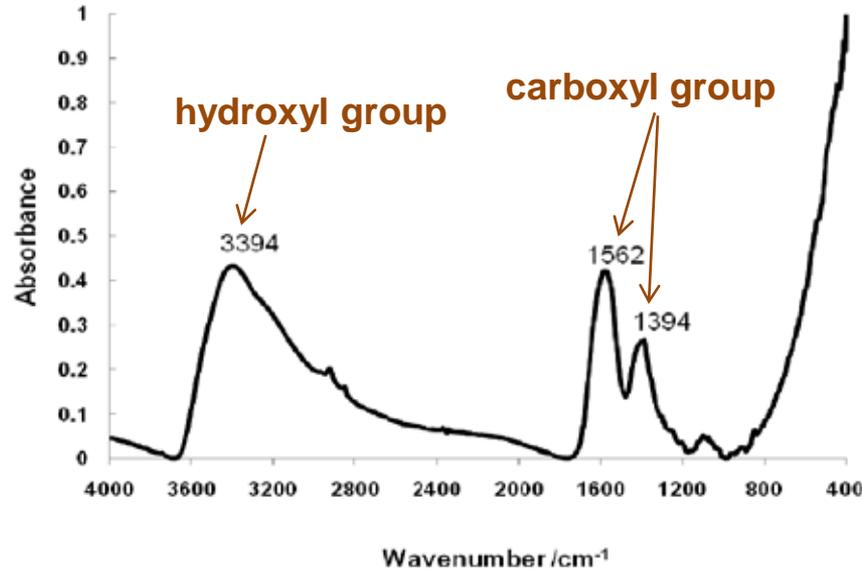
# Surface charge. z-potential. Ceria

$|\zeta| > 30$  mV: criterion for electrostatic stabilization of solutes in water



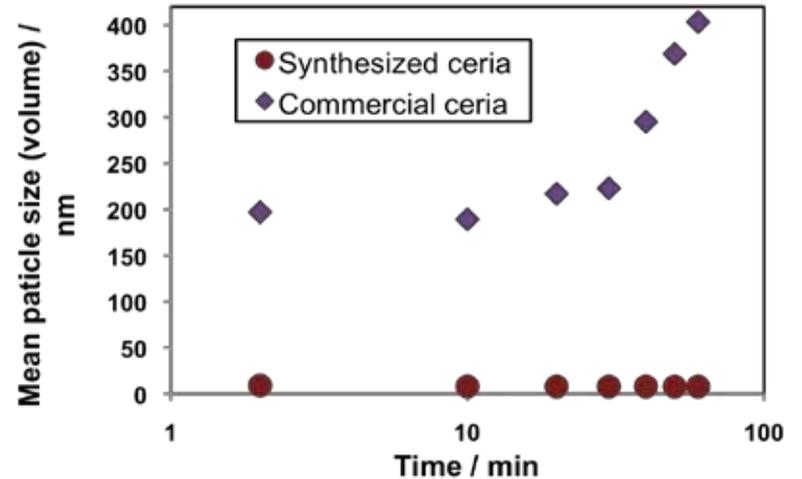
	pH (as supplied or produced)	Zeta potential (mV)	Stability of dispersion
Commercial	4.2	- 8	bad
Synthesized	8.5	- 51	good

# Functionalization: acid stabilizing metal oxide



Citric acid on synthesized ceria NP surface. ATR-FTIR on powder sample.

Little effect of temperature on the stability of ceria w/citric acid @ T= 37 °C. Commercial product slowly agglomerates @ T=37 °C.



# Reactivity

## Materials Science

- BIOMATERIALS
- Composites
- MAGNETIC MATERIALS
- METALS
- Electronic, optical, photonic
- Superconducting materials
- POLYMERS
- Catalysts
- Nanomaterials

ENM	soluble	dispersable	surface groups	reactivity
fullerene	very low		if added	free radicals
SWNT		yes	if added	
MWNT		yes	various, acid-etching	residual metal catalysts
carbon black		yes	various, acid-etching	
silver	as salts	yes	various	anti-bacterial rxn.
iron		yes	-OH	Fe <sup>0</sup> , Fe <sup>2+</sup> /Fe <sup>3+</sup> ?
nanoclay		yes	exfoliation system	sorption of small molecules
titania		yes	-OH	photocatalytic
alumina		yes	-OH	
ceria		yes	-OH	Ce <sup>3+</sup> /Ce <sup>4+</sup> redox reactions
silica		yes	-OH	
zinc oxide	< pH 6		-OH	
polystyrene		yes	if added	surfactant dissociation
dendrimers	yes		+/- sites	protein complexes

A Tier-one list of reactivities for OECD ENMs. The synthesis pathway, manufacturing systems, and end-use applications help establish whether dispersing aids are used, which chemical groups are on the ENM surfaces, residual catalysts, and the chemical reactivity.

Ions – metal oxide nanoparticles in saline, buffers, T

Protein sorption – alumina, titania

coupling agents - ZnO

Redox reactions - ceria

Surfactants – Au nanoparticles with CTAB

Steric stabilizers – proteins sorbed on Au nanoparticles

Other – dispersants, surface energy

# AQUEOUS DISPERSIONS

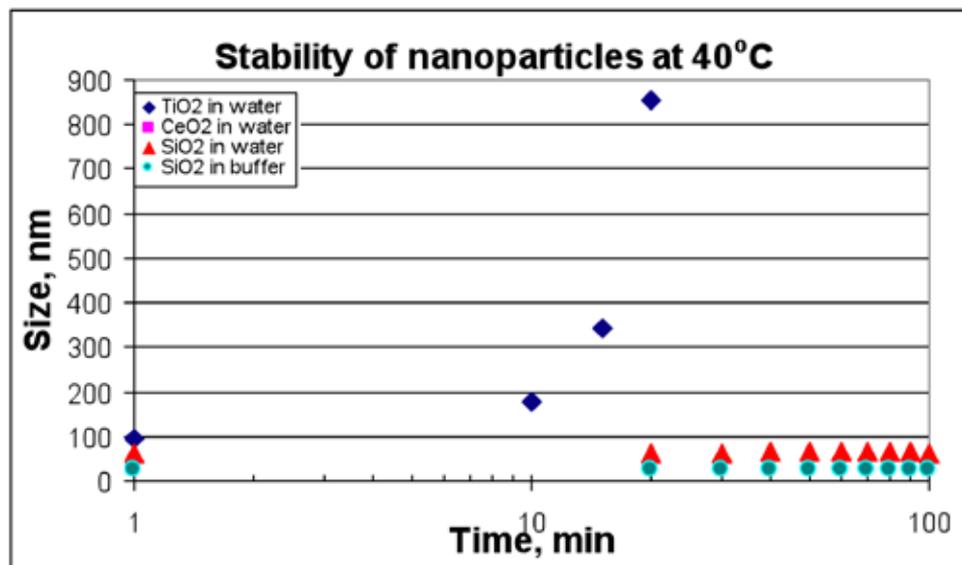
# Ions:

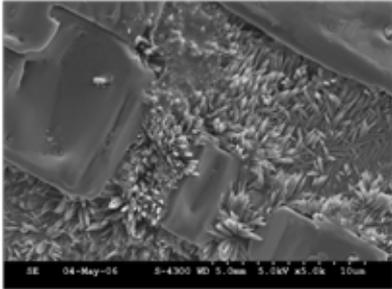
0.9% NaCl, temperature

Sample	parameter	Volume-based PSDs, nm		
		no additive	0.9 wt% NaCl	
			20 min.	24 hr.
in-lab ceria	$D_{ave}$	8.5	9.1	8.4
	90 % range	5.7 - 12.0	6.0 - 12.9	5.6 - 12.1
commercial	$D_{ave}$	127	1730	precipitated
	90 % range	70.9 - 205	678 - 3450	N/A

Stability in 0.9 wt% saline

Effects of T on dispersion stability





# Dispersion stabilities: water, Krebs-Henseleit buffer

- Commercial ceria in water, stabilized with acid
- Titania in ethanol, stabilized with acid
- Commercial alumina in water
- Commercial silica in water, silane coupling agent?
- All had average PS < 100 nm
- All suspensions were 2 wt %

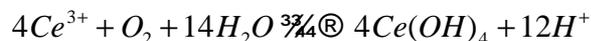
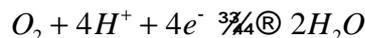
Material	Solvent	D <sub>ave</sub> , original media, DLS	Stability in water, 40°C	Stability in buffer, 40°C
<b>CeO<sub>2</sub></b>	water	~26 nm	Yes	No
<b>TiO<sub>2</sub></b>	EtOH	~50 nm	No	No
<b>Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub></b>	powder	~94 nm	No	No
<b>SiO<sub>2</sub></b>	water	~12 nm	Yes	Yes

- NPs can precipitate with salts often present in the body, and can act as seed crystals
- In the absence of precipitation with divalent salts, NPs in water solution can agglomerate slowly when raised to body temperature
- Agglomeration is likely related to changes in the electrostatic stabilization with T

# REDOX reactions

## NANOPARTICLES IN CELLS: $Ce^{3+}/Ce^{4+}$ WITH PH, $H_2O_2$

$Ce^{3+}/Ce(IV)-O_2$ :  
oxidation



$$\log \frac{[Ce(OH)_4]}{[Ce^{3+}]} = 3pH - 12.81 + \frac{1}{4} \log p_{O_2}$$

$Ce^{3+}/Ce(IV) - H_2O_2$ : reduction,  
 $0.7 < pH < 2.1$

$$\log \frac{[Ce^{3+}]}{[Ce(OH)^{3+}]} = 16.95 + \frac{1}{2} \log [H_2O_2] - \frac{1}{2} \log p_{O_2}$$

$Ce^{3+}/Ce(IV) - H_2O_2$ : oxidation



$$\log \frac{[Ce(OH)^{3+}]}{[Ce^{3+}]} = 1.319 + \frac{1}{2} \log [H_2O_2]$$

$$\log \frac{[Ce(OH)_2^{2+}]}{[Ce^{3+}]} = pH + 0.60 + \frac{1}{2} \log [H_2O_2]$$

$$\log \frac{[Ce(OH)_4]}{[Ce^{3+}]} = 3pH - 3.567 + \frac{1}{2} \log [H_2O_2]$$

$$\log \frac{[CeO_{2(precip)}]}{[Ce^{3+}]} = 3pH + 1.961 + \frac{1}{2} \log [H_2O_2]$$

Catalysis of other reactions: neat, oxidizing agents, + reducing agents

Electrochemical potential of cerium vs. pH; air or hydrogen peroxide

Application – possibility of in-cell dissolution at non-physiological pH

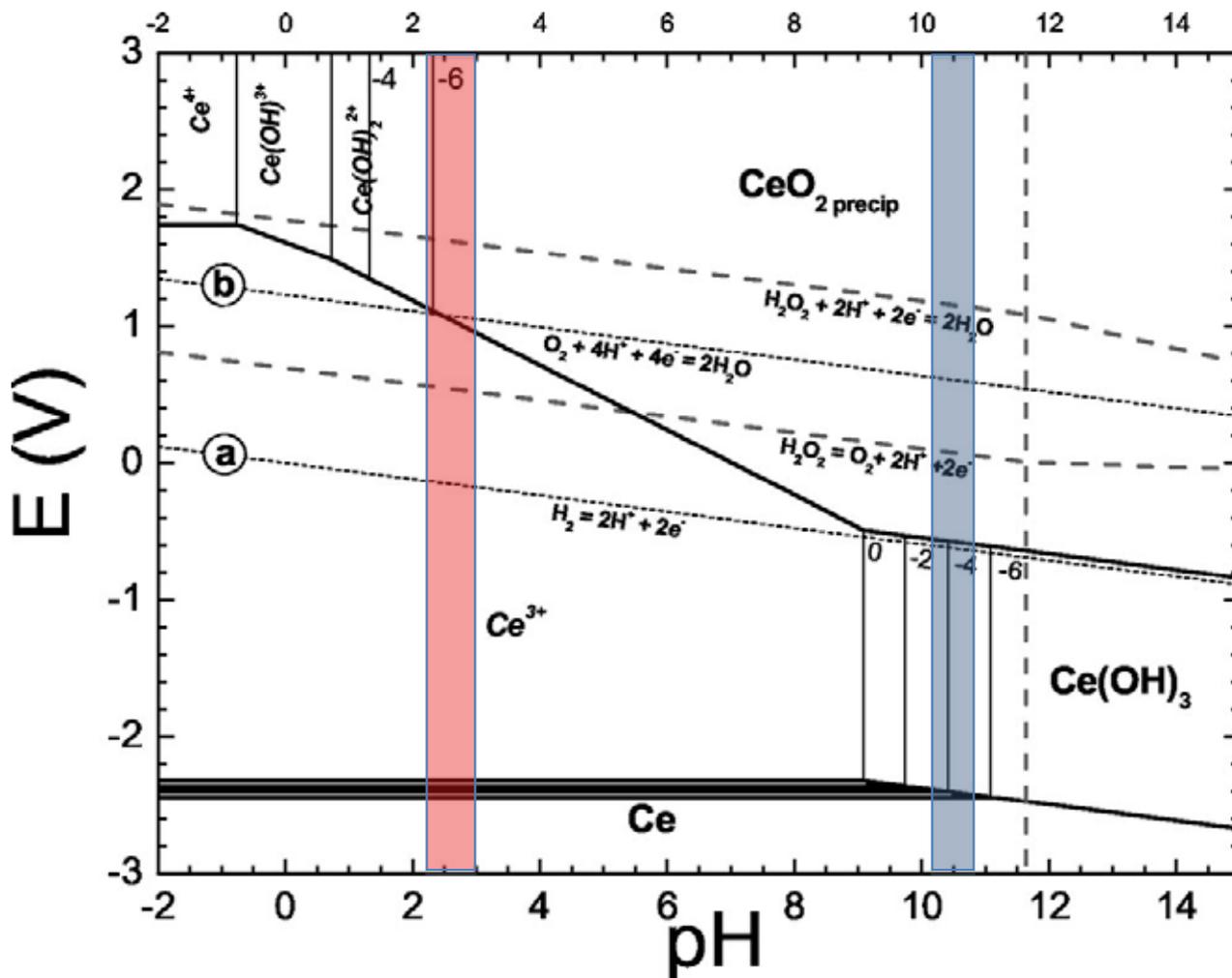
Electrochemical deposition of  $CeO_2$  anti-corrosion coating on aluminum to replace hexavalent chromium systems, Yu, P., The phase stability of cerium species in aqueous systems, II. Ce(III/IV)- $H_2O-H_2O_2/O_2$  Systems., *J. Electrochem. Soc.*, **153** (1), C74 (2006).

•  $H_2O_2$  can oxidize or reduce Ce based on pH  
• Oxidation of  $Ce^{3+}$  to  $Ce^{4+}$  may be done by  $H_2O_2$  or O

Ox/Rd couples
$O_2/H_2O$
$O_2/H_2O_2$
$H_2O_2/H_2O$
$Ce^{4+}/Ce^{3+}$
$Ce(OH)^{3+}/Ce^{3+}$
$Ce(OH)_2^{2+}/Ce^{3+}$
$Ce(OH)_4/Ce^{3+}$
$CeO_{2(precip)}/Ce^{3+}$

# Simplified Pourbaix diagram Ce(III)/Ce(IV)-H<sub>2</sub>O-O<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

Small ceria NPs have high levels of Ce<sup>3+</sup> on their surfaces – can dissolution be catalyzed? Some subcell structures can be acidic/oxidizing (pink) or basic/reducing (blue). Do NPs get to these structures, and can they participate in oxidation or reduction electrochemistry?

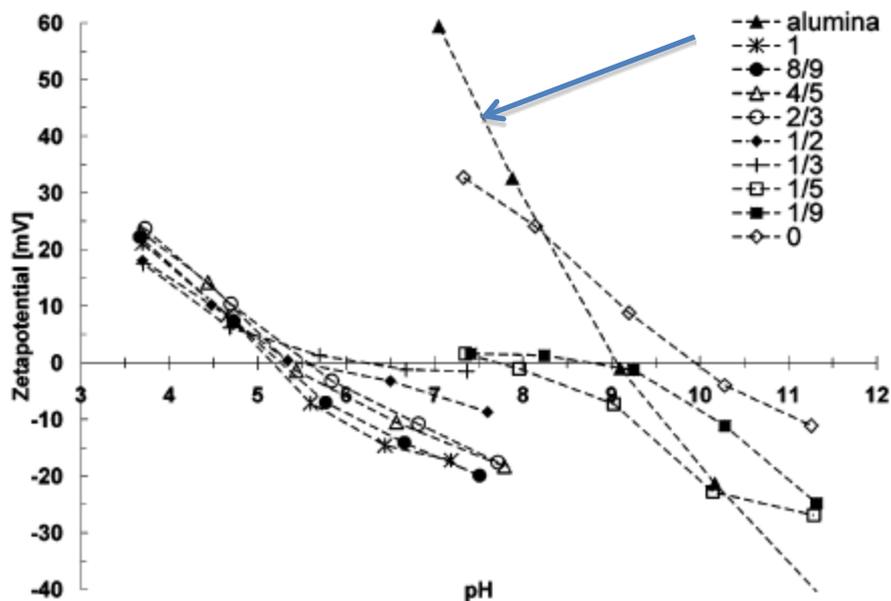


# Protein sorption: Binary protein mixture on $\alpha$ -alumina

$\alpha$ -alumina –  $D_{50} = 116$  nm

calcined to remove acid groups; ionic strength < 1 mM KCl; 1000 ng protein/cm<sup>2</sup> NP; 16 hr sorption [ <5 min.]; isoelectric point ( $\alpha$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) = 9.1; BSA = 5.2 [+ charge]; lysozyme = 9.9 [- charge]; proteins mask the surface

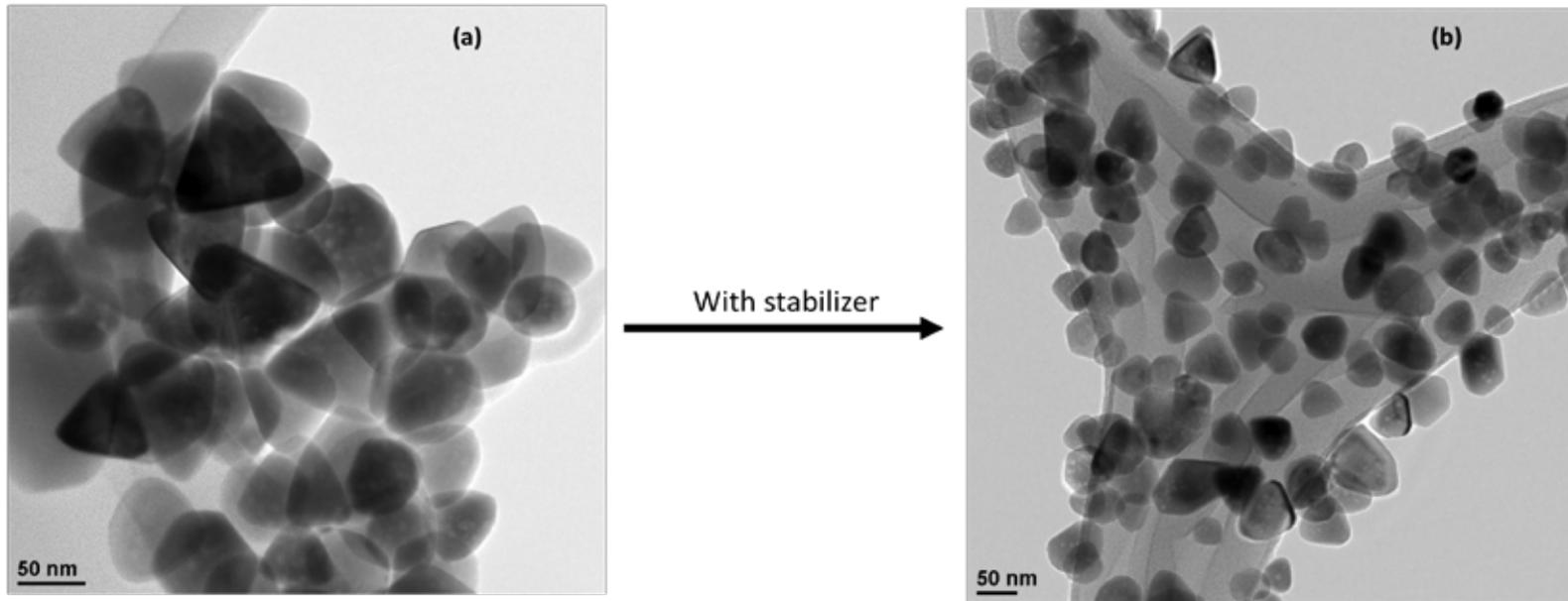
Research needs: kinetics; links between z-potential, NP surface energy and NP partitioning to solid surfaces; what is the reactivity of sterically protected NP surfaces? Positively charged metal oxides (TiO<sub>2</sub>) show similar effects.



**Figure 1.** Zeta potential measurements of 2 vol % alumina suspensions with and without adsorbed protein mixtures of different BSA to LSZ mole fractions after 16 h. The total added protein amount was 0.5321 g, which equals 1000 ng/cm<sup>2</sup> normalized to the alumina surface area.

Prediction method for the isoelectric point of binary protein mixtures of BSA and Lysozyme adsorbed on colloidal titania and alumina particles, K. Rezwan, L.P.Meier, L. J. Gauckler,, *Langmuir*, 2005, **21**, 3493-3497.

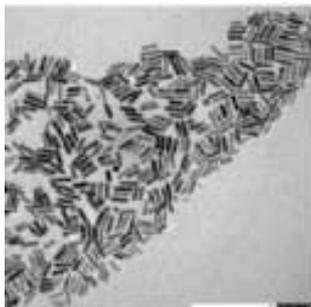
# Coupling agents: ZnO



Zinc oxide nanoparticles have  $-OH$  groups on their surfaces and are relatively hydrophilic (LHS shows as-synthesized ZnO nanoparticles agglomerating on a lacey carbon grid (TEM)). A coupling agent (RHS) alters the surface energy so the nanoparticles selectively adhere to the carbon surface rather than to each other.

Some nanoparticle products are treated by the manufacturer to improve their dispersion in specific solvent systems.

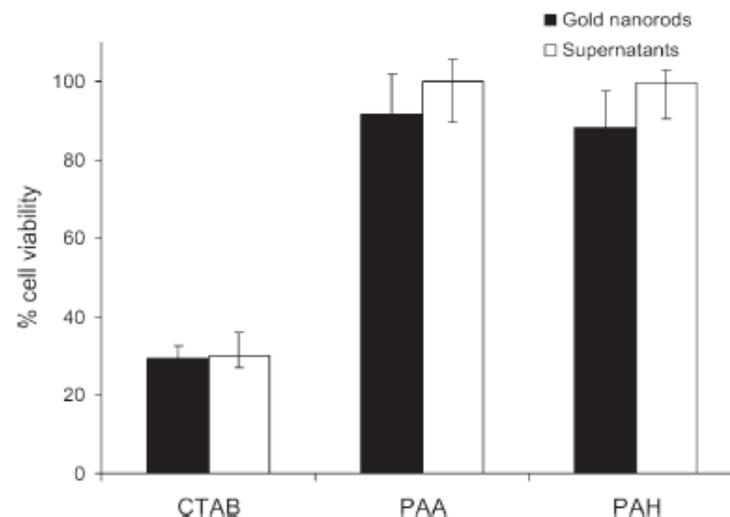
# Surfactants: CTAB-capped Au nanorods



Gold nanorods were synthesized using CTAB (cetyltrimethyl ammonium bromide) which directed NP growth in a preferred axial direction. Tests with human colon carcinoma cells (HT-29) showed that apparent toxicity was due to free CTAB in solution (desorbing from the nanorods).

Serum proteins from the media sorbed to the nanorods, giving them a uniform charge. One possible mechanism for receptor-mediated endocytosis may be cellular recognition of the proteins sorbed to the nanorods.

**Surfactants stabilize nanoparticles, but can dissociate *in vitro* or *in vivo*. Toxicity effects may be due to the surfactant, not the nanoparticle.**

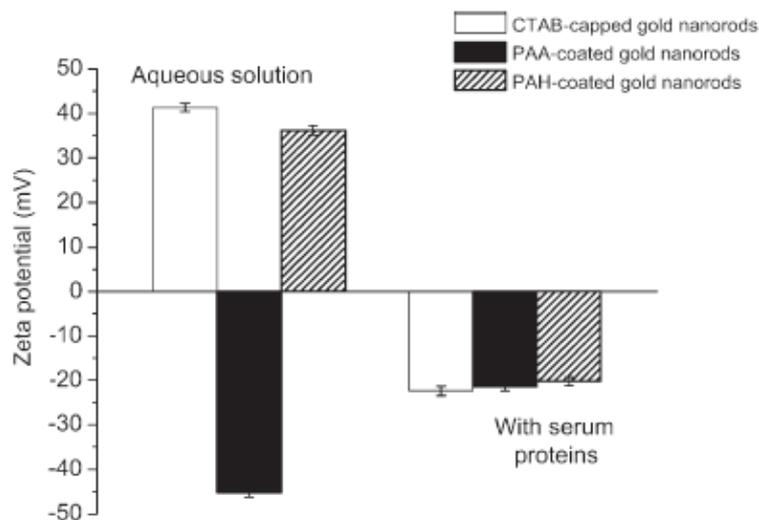


**Figure 4.** Viability of HT-29 cells exposed to 0.4 nM of CTAB-, PAA-, and PAH-coated gold nanorod solutions (filled bars) and their supernatants (open bars) for four days. Aspect ratios of all gold nanorods were 4.1. Error bars represent one standard deviation.

Overcoating the CTAB/Au nanorods with positively (PAH) or negatively (PAA) charged polymers improved cell viability.

Cellular uptake and cytotoxicity of gold nanorods: molecular origin of cytotoxicity and surface effects, Alkilany, A.A., Nagaria, P. K., Hexel, C. R., Shaw, T. J., Murphy, C. J. Wyatt, M. D., *Small*, 5(6), 701 (2009).

# Steric stabilization: protein sorption on Au nanorods



**Figure 7.** Effective surface charge (zeta potential) of gold nanorods coated with CTAB, PAA, and PAH in water before exposure to growth media and after exposure to growth media with serum proteins (containing 10% bovine serum albumin). All gold nanorods were centrifuged after 30 minutes of exposure and re-suspended in deionized water before measurements were obtained. Aspect ratio for all gold nanorods was 4.1. Error bars represent one standard deviation.

Poly(acrylic acid) [-] and poly(allylamine) hydrochloride [+] were coated on Au nanorods stabilized by CTAB. Surface charge reached a steady state 5 minutes after exposure to growth media with serum proteins (10% BSA). BSA has an isoelectric point of 4.6, and exhibits a negative charge at physiological pH. BSA is known to sorb to both negatively and positively charged surfaces.

Sorbed proteins can provide steric stabilization since  $|z| < 30$ . Note: PAA and PAH provide electrostatic stabilization since each produces surfaces with  $|z| > 30$ .

Cellular uptake and cytotoxicity of gold nanorods: molecular origin of cytotoxicity and surface effects, Alkilany, A.A., Nagaria, P. K., Hexel, C. R., Shaw, T. J., Murphy, C. J. Wyatt, M. D., *Small*, 5(6), 701 (2009).

Instrumentation, metrology and analytical methods  
Nanomaterials and human health

# RESEARCH 'GAP' ANALYSIS

# Instrumentation, metrology 'gaps'

NSTC, NNI Strategy for nanotechnology-related environmental, health and safety research, 2008, p.18

Prioritized EHS research needs	Specific tasks
1. Detect ENMs in biological matrices, the environment, the workplace	Suite of analytical methods can address many immediate questions
2. Relate modification to ENM physico-chemical properties	Partitioning of ENMs to hydrophilic and hydrophobic fluids and surfaces
3. Develop standardized assessments of PSDs, shape, structure, surface area	Automated, rapid analysis of PSD and composition is needed
4. Certified reference materials for physico-chemical characterization of ENMs	Standard samples with known surface treatments
5. Characterization methods for ENM spatio-chemical composition, purity, heterogeneity	Suite of analytical methods can address many immediate questions

# Human health research 'gaps'

NSTC, NNI Strategy for nanotechnology-related environmental, health and safety research, 2008, p. 24

Prioritized EHS research needs	Specific tasks
1. Understand absorption and transport of ENMs throughout the body	Suite of analytical methods to find NPs in tissues, cells
2. Quantify & characterize ENMs exposure, ENMs in biological matrices	As-fed dose by size/shape; NP stability in media, T and other environmental conditions; surface reactivity
3. <i>In vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> assays/models to predict <i>in vivo</i> human responses	
4. Relate ENM properties to inhalation, ingestion and dermal uptake, assess body burden	Dose-response for inhalation, dermal exposures; known NP stability, surface chemistry
5. Interactions between the body and ENMs at the molecular, cellular, and tissue levels	NP partitioning to fluids and surfaces; long-term reactivity;

After a clean  
jump over the  
'characterization',  
obstacle, ...



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

..., you'll be ready to look ahead for the next fence.



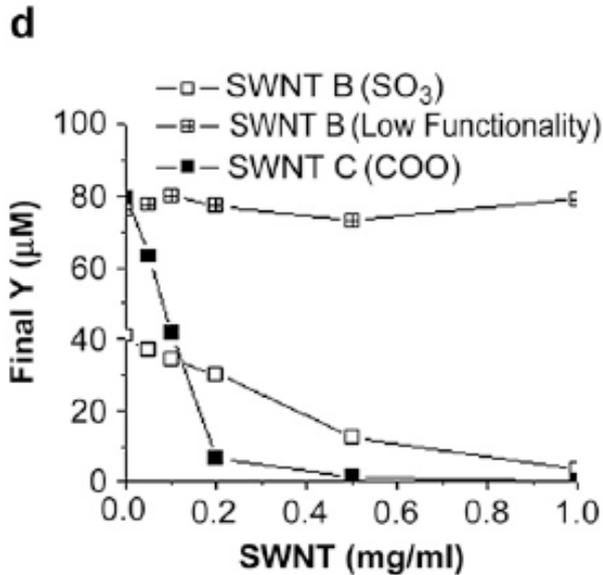
## ANY QUESTIONS?

My thanks to:

D.A. Butterfield, U. Graham, M. Tseng, J. Unrine, R. Yokel.

V. Kanniah, G.C. Laine, N. Mandzy, B.H. Wang, P. Wu.

# Inhibition by trace catalyst levels



The inhibition of neuronal calcium ion channels by trace levels of yttrium released from carbon nanotubes, I.M. Jakubek, S. Marangoudakis, J. Raingo, X.Y. Liu, E. Lipscombe, R. H. Hurt, *Biomaterials*, **30**, 6351 (2009).

SWNTs can be used to transmit electrical stimulation to cultured neurons. In this case, inhibition of calcium ion channels was linked to trace amounts of yttrium leached from the SWNTs

