

# Solvent-Free Polymer Films: from Inception to Commercialization

**Prof. Karen K. Gleason**  
**Alexander and I. Michael Kasser Professor**  
**Department of Chemical Engineering**  
**MIT**



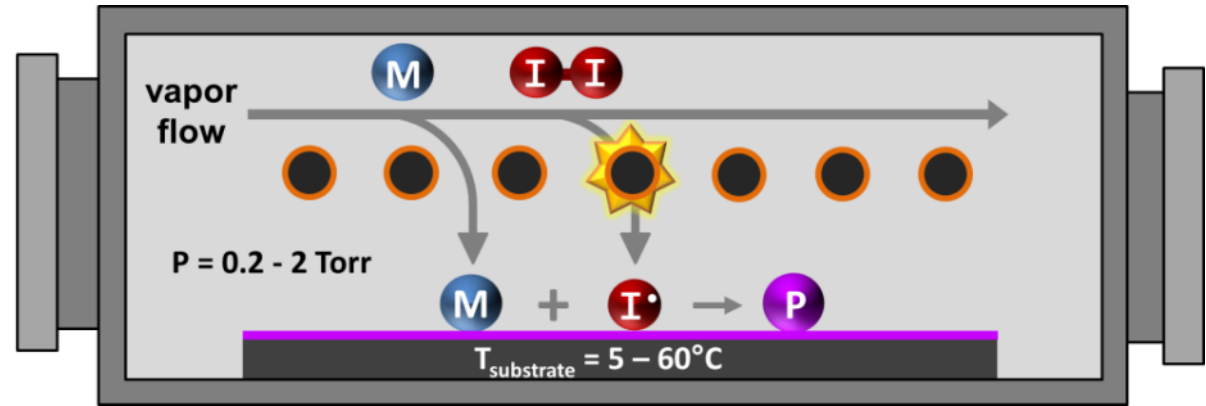
**Chief Scientific Advisor**  
**GVD Corporation**



# Surface Modification by CVD Polymers

iCVD

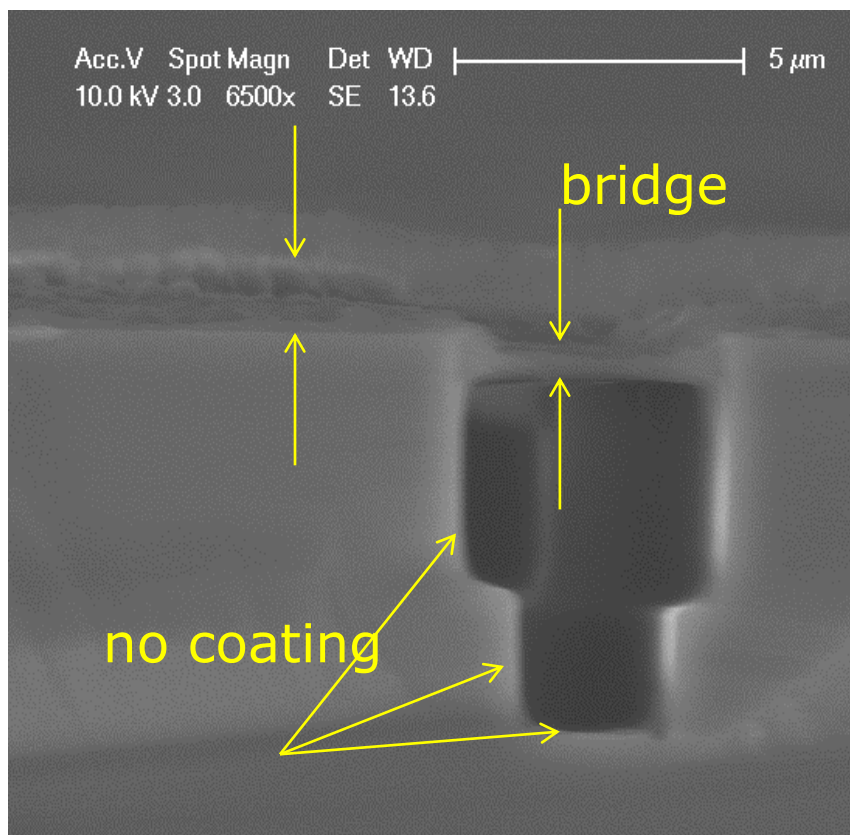
- *Functional Organic Surfaces (>70 polymers)*
- *Ultrathin (<30 nm)*
- *Conformal*
- *Grafted (high adhesion)*
- *Scales to large areas and roll-to-roll manufacturing*
- *Versatile surface composition & applications*



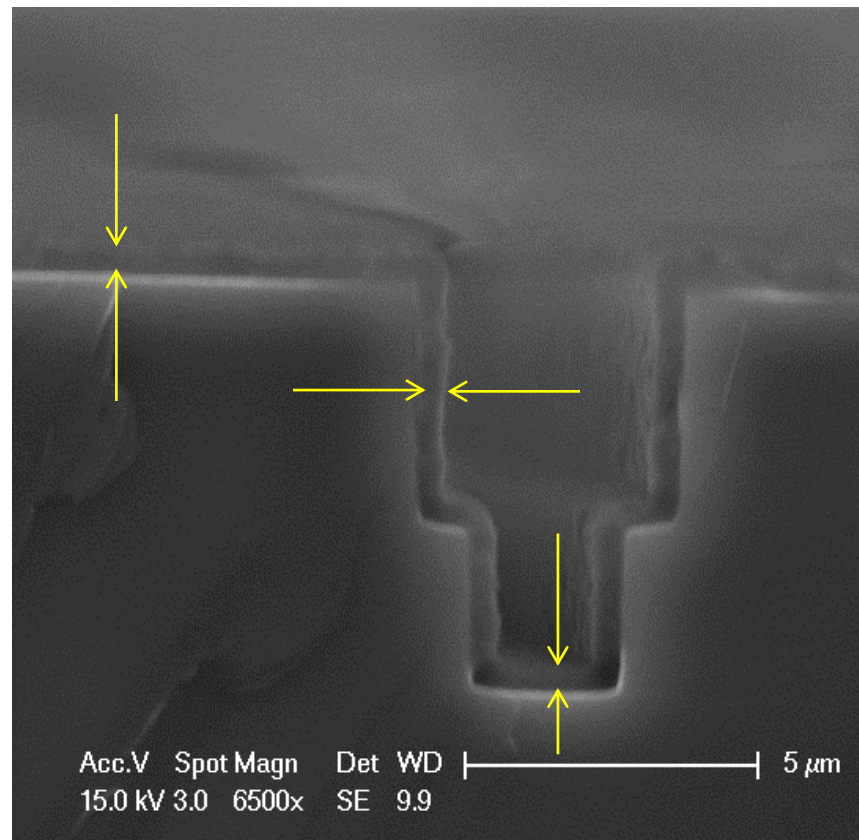
[www.gvdcorp.com](http://www.gvdcorp.com)

# Conformal coverage over microstructures

fluoropolymer over a tiered via in Si



**Liquid condensation:  
bridging**



**iCVD: conformal,  
showing uniform  
thickness over the  
entire feature**

# Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE)

PTFE is top of its class in almost all of its properties:

- Lowest coefficient-of-friction
- Highest chemical resistance
- Lowest dielectric constant
- Low surface energy (hydrophobic)

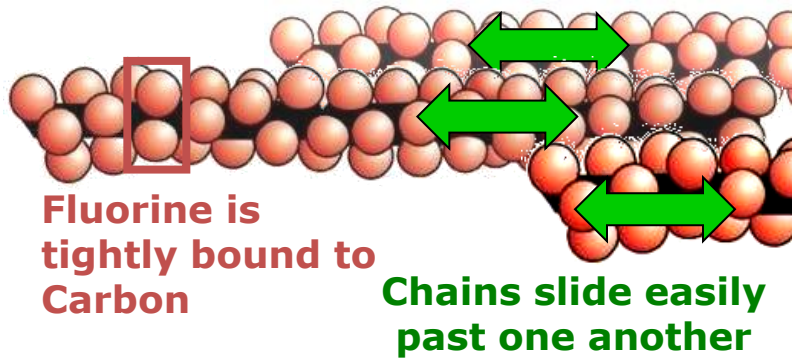
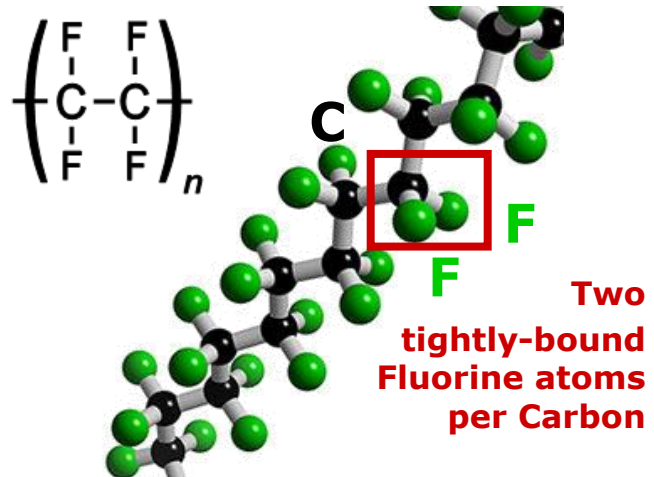
Unique properties derive from unique chemical structure:

- Fluorine = chemical/thermal resistance
- Compact chains sliding = lubricity

**BUT.... Traditional PTFE coating requires:**

- Priming surface
- Spraying
- Curing at high temp (370°C = 700°F)

**iCVD PTFE provides same material properties without harsh processing**







## ❖ History

- ❖ Founded in 2001 – spinout from MIT based on Dr. Karen Gleason’s polymer coating technology

## ❖ Executive Team

- ❖ Hilton Pryce Lewis, Ph.D., Founder, President & CEO
- ❖ Shannan O’Shaughnessy, Ph.D., CTO

## ❖ Business Model

- ❖ Coating services and technology licensing with lease of equipment

## ❖ Revenue Sources

- ❖ **Commercial customers**
  - ❖ Major semiconductor part manufacturer (GVD coatings used for lubricity)
  - ❖ Major rubber manufacturer (GVD coatings used for mold release)
- ❖ **Government funding**
  - ❖ SBIR funding from Navy, Air Force, Army, DARPA, NIH, NSF, DOE, EPA
  - ❖ **Current Phase II SBIRs** with Navy, NIH, and EPA

# GVD Capabilities

- ❖ **Cambridge, MA – R&D Headquarters**
  - ❖ 4,500 square feet of office and laboratory space
  - ❖ Eight chemical vapor deposition coating reactors
  - ❖ Humidity chamber and analytical instrumentation
- ❖ **Greenville, SC – Manufacturing Facility**
  - ❖ 5,400 square feet of production space
  - ❖ Two fully-automated production coating systems
  - ❖ Production capacity: >1,000 tire molds per year





Ultrathin Polymer Coatings

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Dramatically improving molding processes with GVD's mold release technology.

[COATING SERVICES](#)

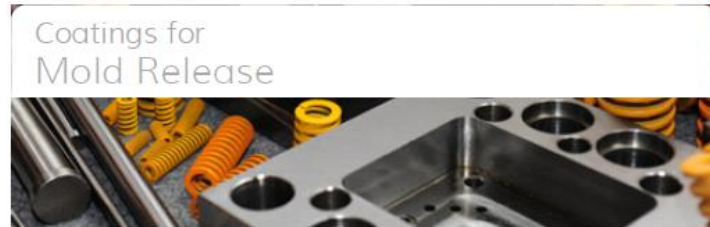
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Coatings for Electronics Protection

Thin conformal coatings for printed circuit boards



Coatings for Mold Release

Permanent release agents for molds and molded parts







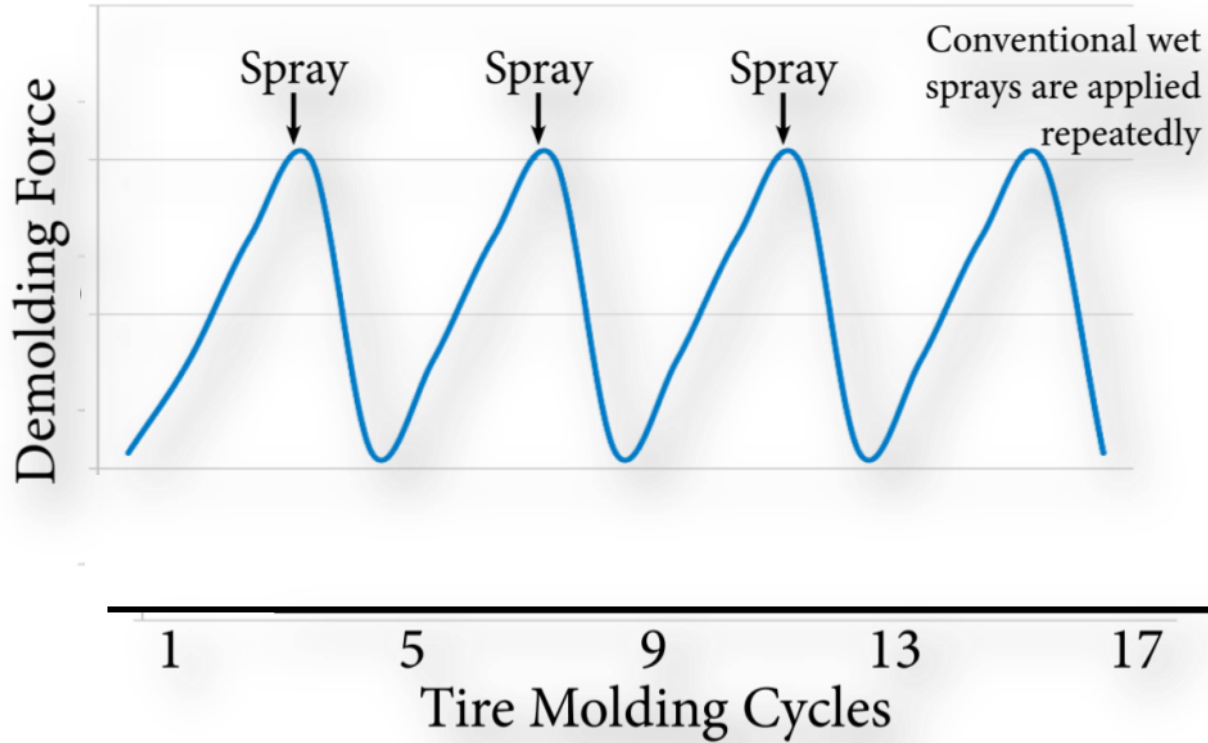
# RapidRelease™ Coatings for Tire Manufacturing



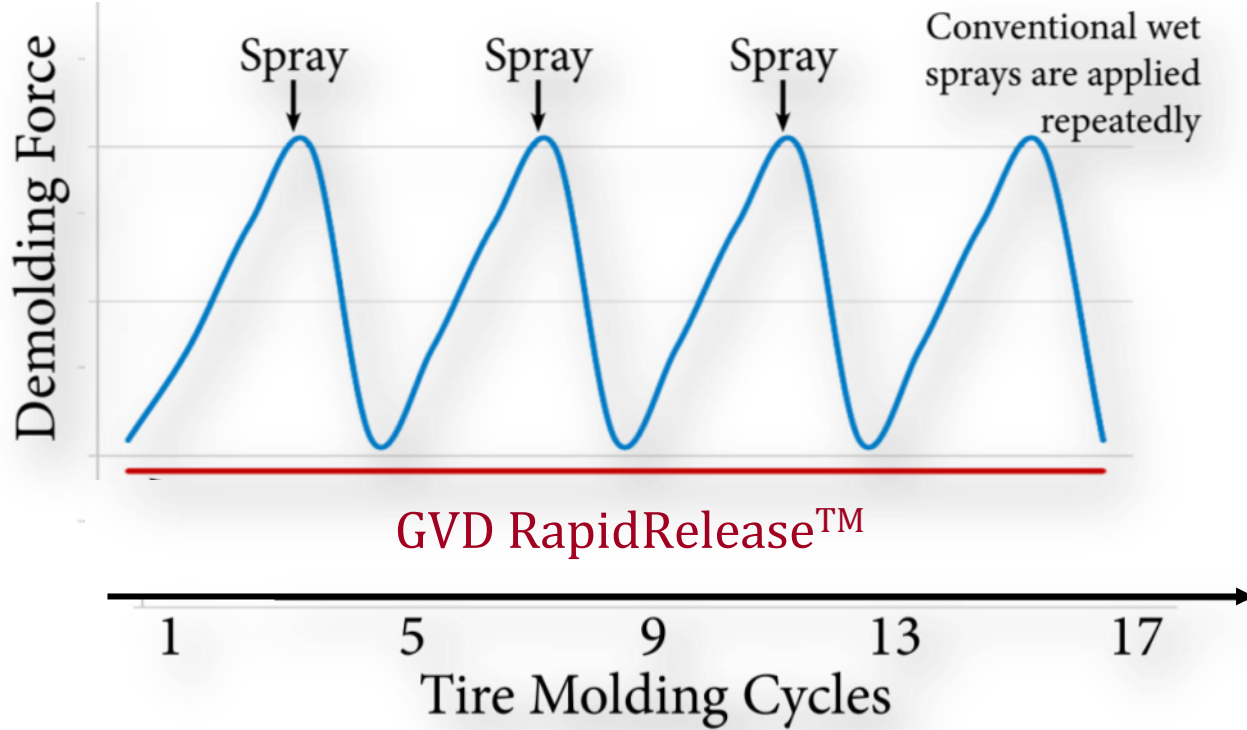
David E. Sauriol  
Director of Sales  
[dsauriol@gvdcorp.com](mailto:dsauriol@gvdcorp.com)  
(617) 233-7157



# Simplifying Tire Demolding

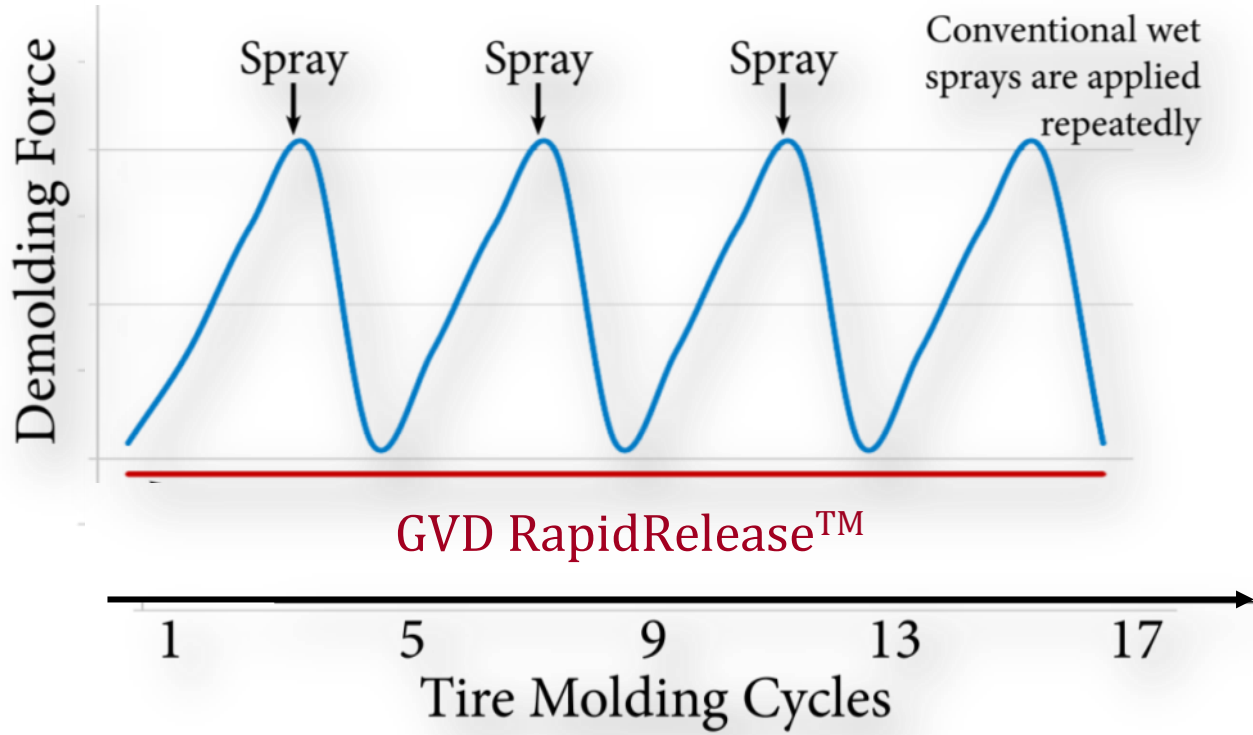


# Simplifying Tire Demolding



**>4500 cure cycles**

# Simplifying Tire Demolding



**>4500 cure cycles**

***ERC analogy: spin on vs CVD low k dielectrics!***



## RapidRelease™ Coating System

- True permanent mold release coating
- *Eliminate spray/paint mold release*



EPA Phase II SBIR  
for continued development

- Extend mold uptime and service life
- Improve tire quality and consistency
- Enable challenging rubber chemistry
- Enable more aggressive tread design



**Mold fouling** caused by  
buildup of rubber and  
release paint/ lube on  
mold and inside vents



# Coating Equipment Types

*i-Trek Radial Coating System*



(Tire Tread Molds)

*Echelon Horizontal Coating System*



(Sidewalls, Bead Rings, Etc.)

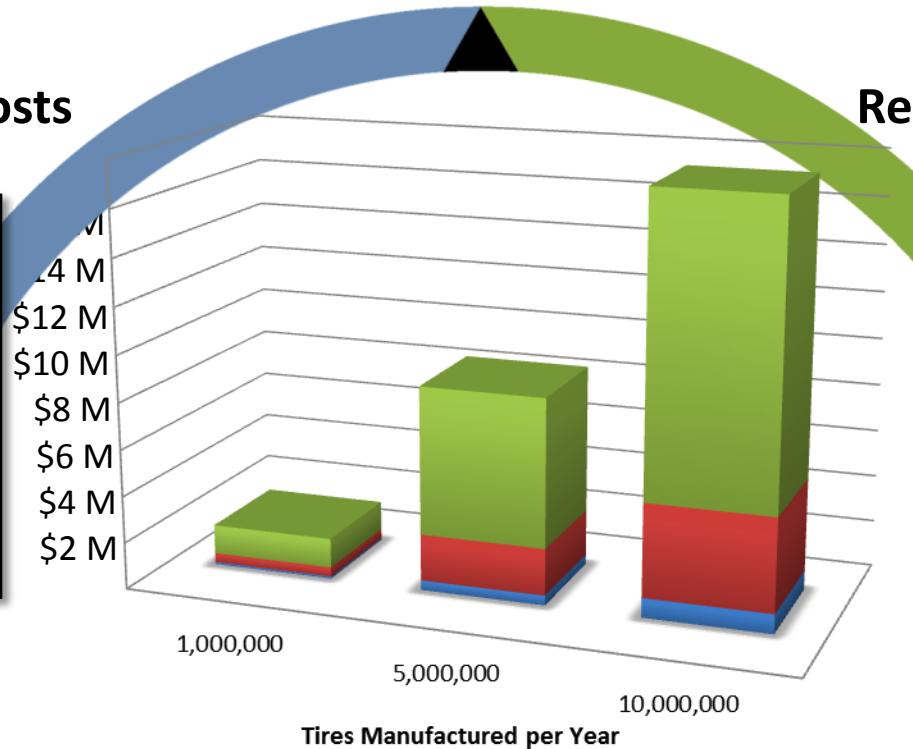
# Tangible Financial Benefits

## Reduced Cleaning Costs



### Reduce/Eliminate:

- Tire paint/lube
- CO<sub>2</sub> cleaning
- Labor



## Recapture Lost Production



### Save Time:

- No mold release spray
- Less demolding time
- Reduced cleaning frequency

## Reduced Scrap Rates



Bad finish

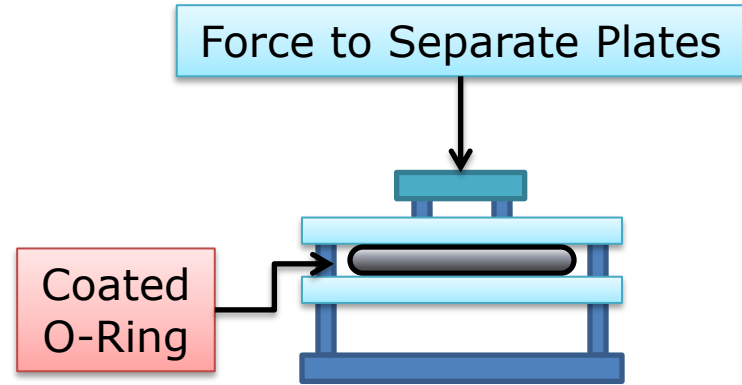
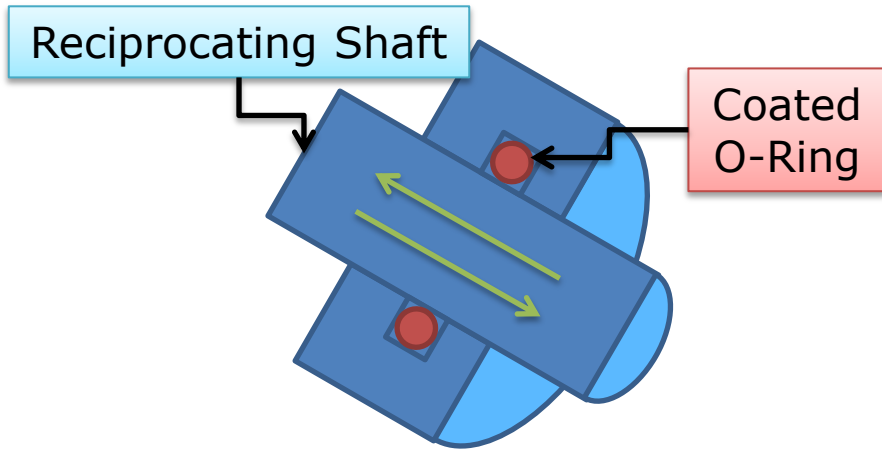


Good finish

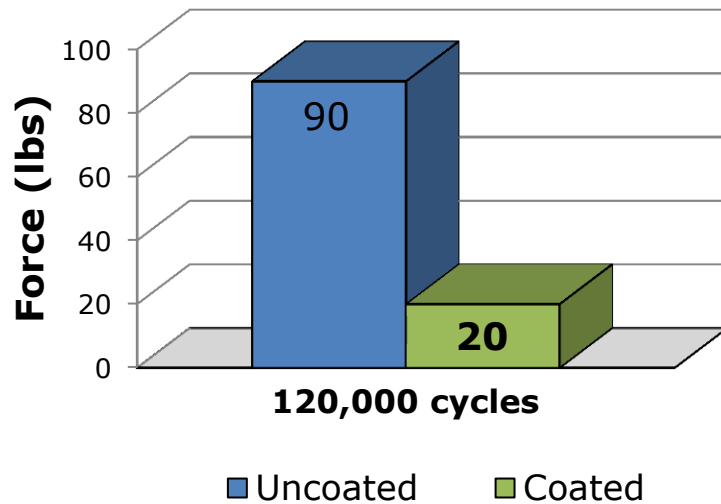
### Achieve:

- Less tire sticking
- Improved rubber flow
- Lower release forces

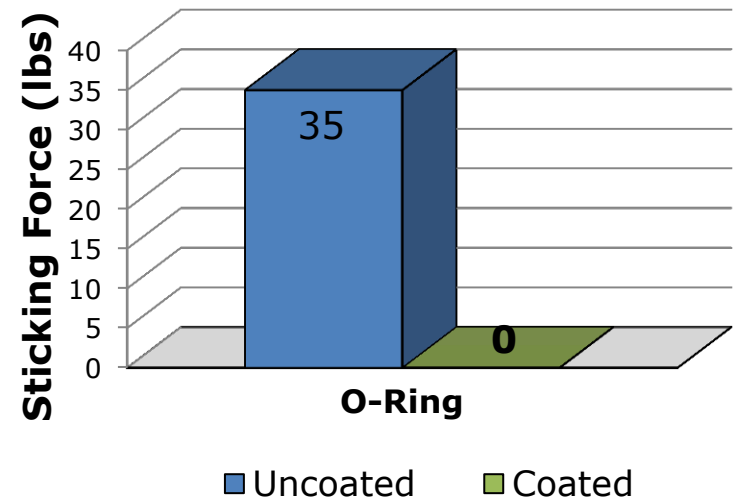
# Application - Dry Lubrication



## Friction Force



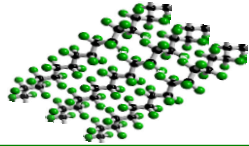
## Sticking Force



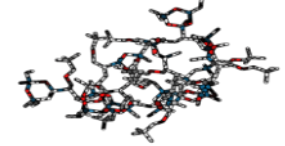
# Application - Electronics Protection

GVD introduces iCVD PTFE\* fluoropolymer and Exilis polysiloxane ultrathin coatings for electronics protection. **Breathable coatings** allow water vapor to pass through, but **prevent moisture condensation** on board and component surfaces.

**GVD PTFE**



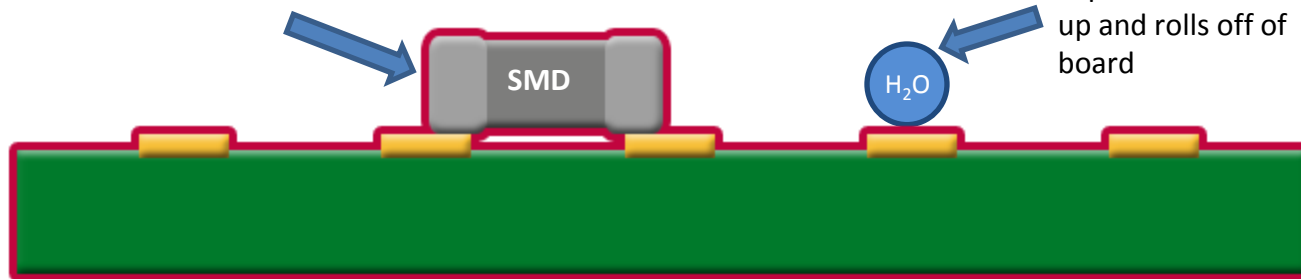
**GVD Exilis**



## Performance Premiums:

- Negligible RF Impact
- High dielectric strength
- Nano-to-Micron Scale Thickness
- Excellent adhesion + pinhole free provides superior reliability

Conformal coverage of board components



Water rolls off ordinary cloth coated with GVD's PTFE

\*PTFE=polytetrafluoroethylene (akin to Teflon® by DuPont)



# iLab Coating System

A powerful, easy-to-use tool for depositing a broad range (**70+**) of polymer compositions on virtually any surface

With its small footprint, high performance, customizable configurations and low cost of ownership, the iLab Coating System was designed specifically to bring cutting-edge vapor deposition technology to the laboratory

## How does it work?

A polymer vapor deposition method that creates a revolutionary processing platform which produces ultrathin polymer coatings in a single step without solvents, heat or additional processing equipment.



Austin Nowak, Sales Engineer  
617-661-0060 x38  
anowak@gvdcorp.com

# How is it being used?

## Undergraduate Course Tool

- [University of Connecticut](#)
- Northeastern University

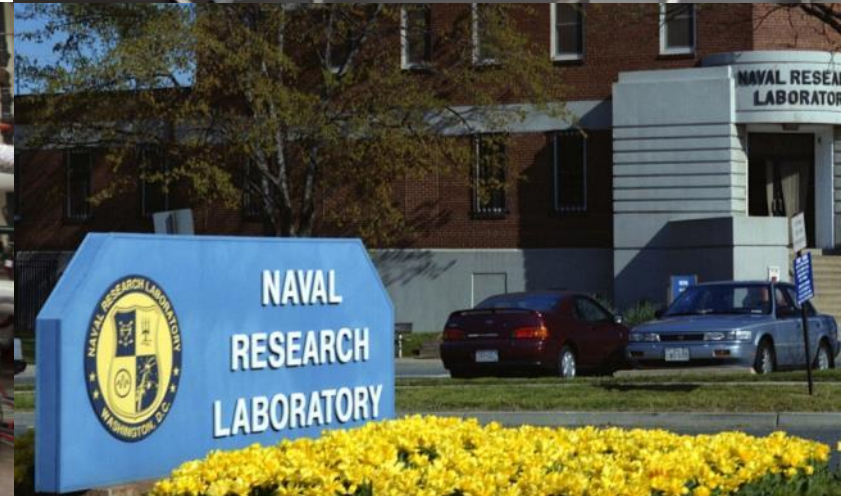
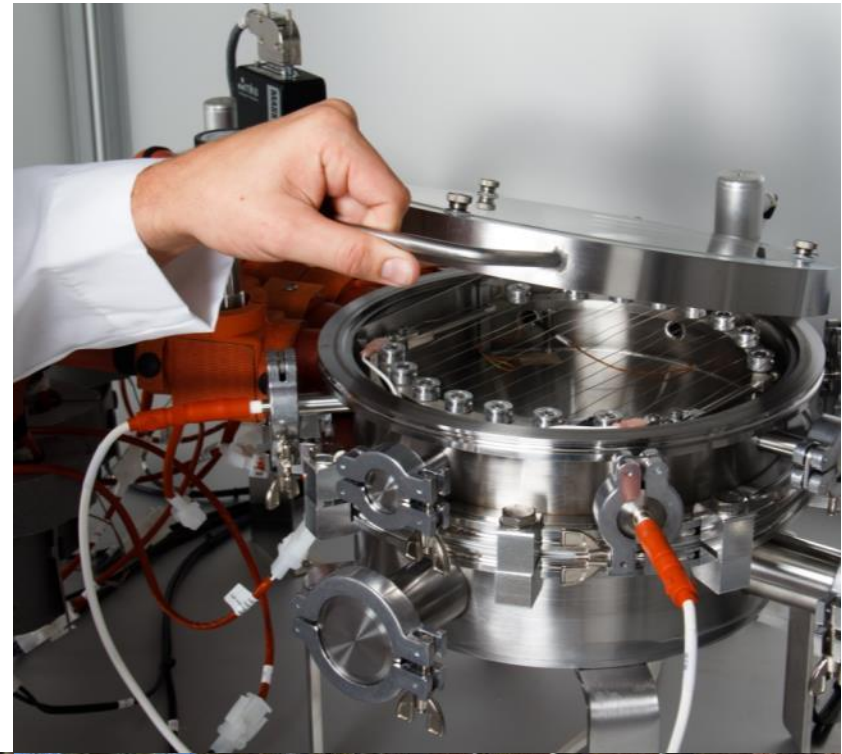
## Graduate Research Tool

- [University of Southern California](#)

## Corporate Product Development

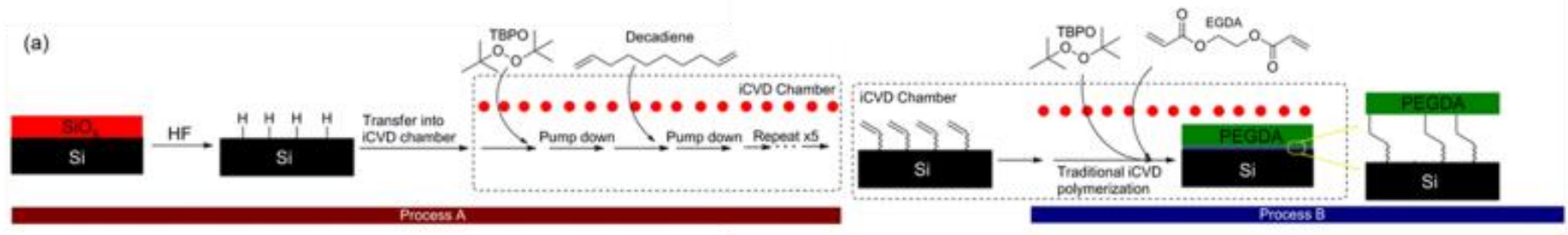
## Research Laboratory Development

- [Naval Research Laboratory](#)

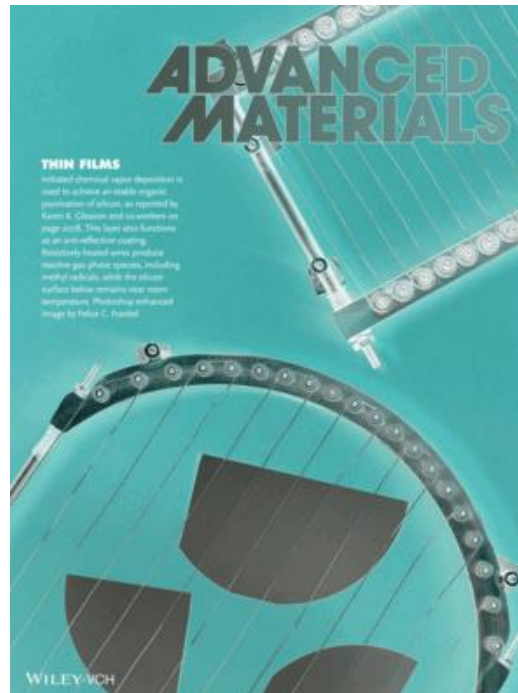


# *polymer CVD research continues*

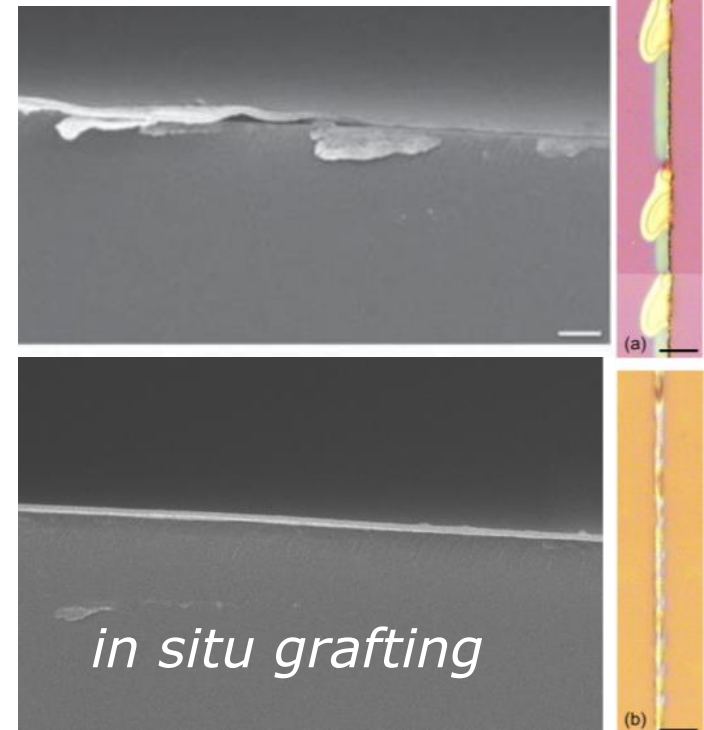
## *room temperature passivation of Si*



- Room temperature process lowers energy input and cost
  - passivation and antireflection coating (ARC) in single step
- Si to polymer bonding (grafting) created in situ by CVD polymerization enhances adhesion

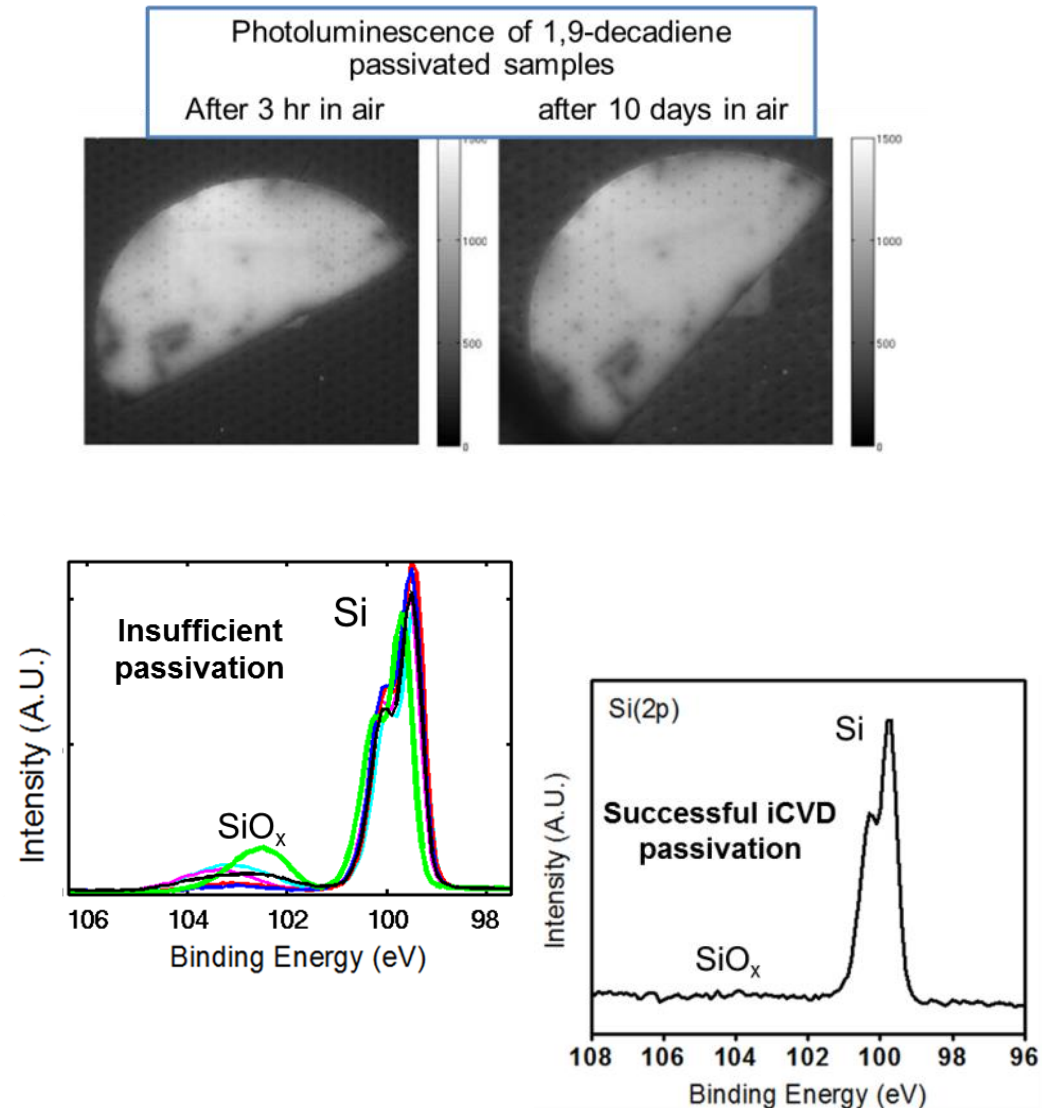
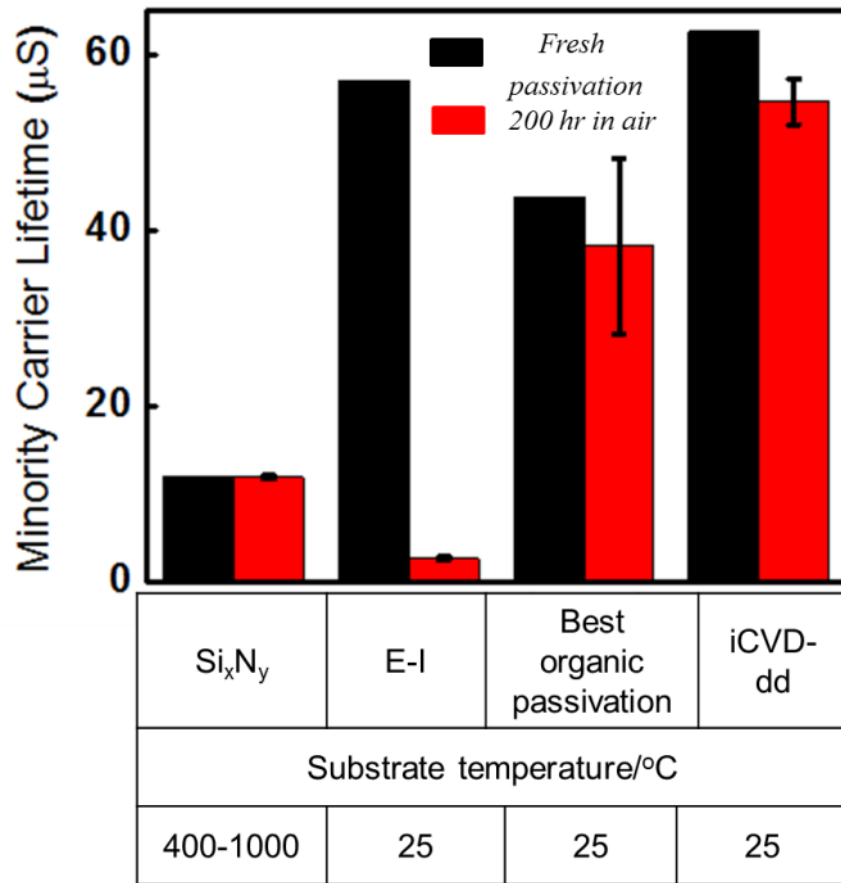


R. Yang, T. Buonassisi, K.K. Gleason, *Advanced Materials*, 25, 2077 (2013).





# iCVD Room Temperature Passivation

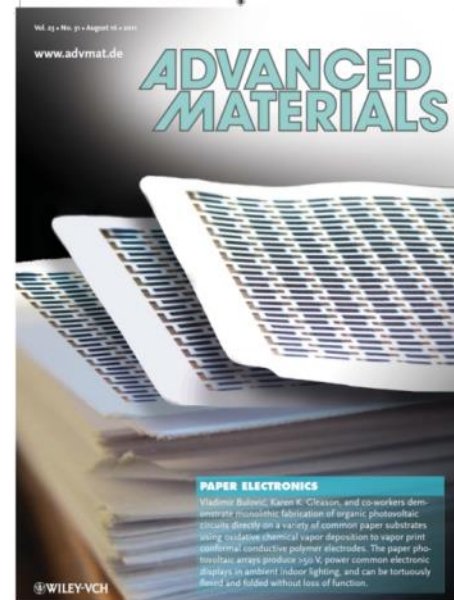
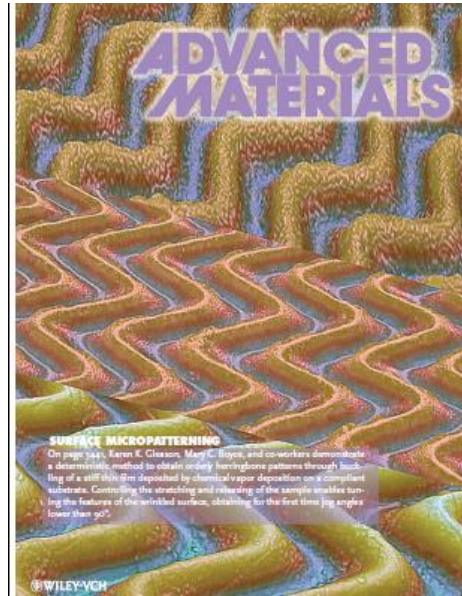




# Recent Polymer CVD from MIT

**2D wrinkling  
patterns**

2012, 24, 5441.

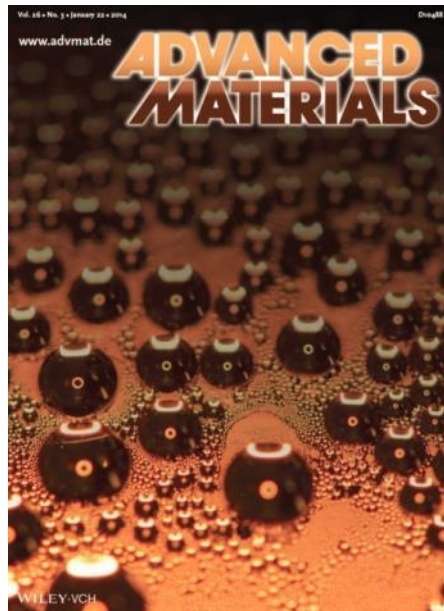


**paper  
photo-  
voltaics**

2011, 23, 3500.

**durable  
surfaces for  
efficient  
condensation  
heat transfer**

2014, 26, 418–423

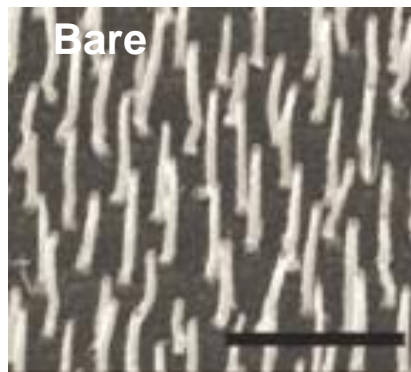


**biosensor**

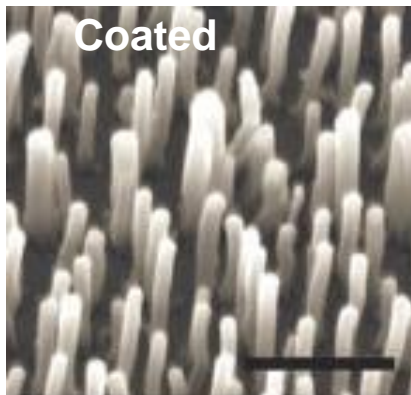
2011, 21, 4328.



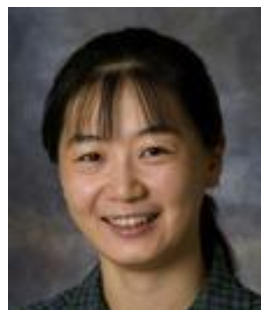
# Polymer CVD from around the world



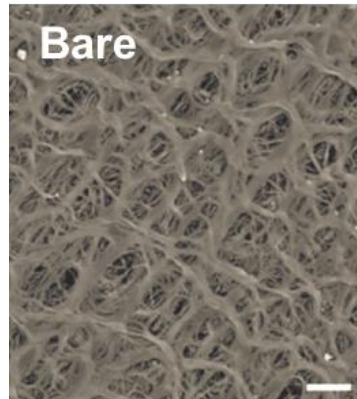
Conformal  
Coating  
Of  
CNTs  
(bar = 2  $\mu\text{m}$ )



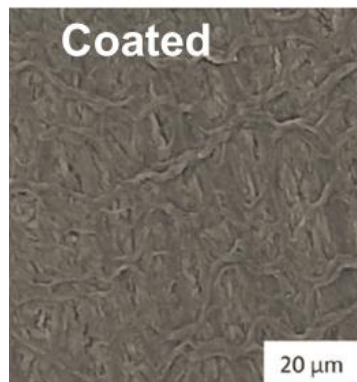
*J. Mater. Chem.*, 2012, **22**, 2449–2455



Prof. Jessie  
Mao  
Oklahoma  
State



Fuel  
Cell  
Membranes



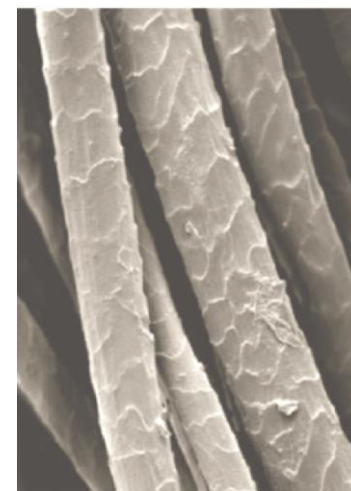
*Polymer* 54 (2013) 24–30



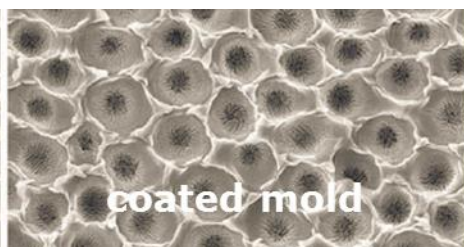
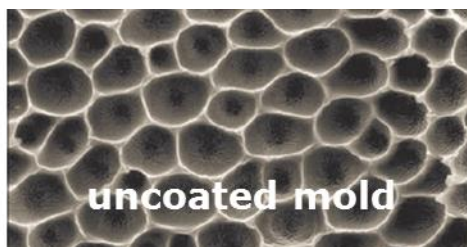
Prof. Anna  
Coclite

TU Graz  
(Austria)

iCVD on wool  
New Zealand



*ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces*  
2013, **5**, 1548–1555

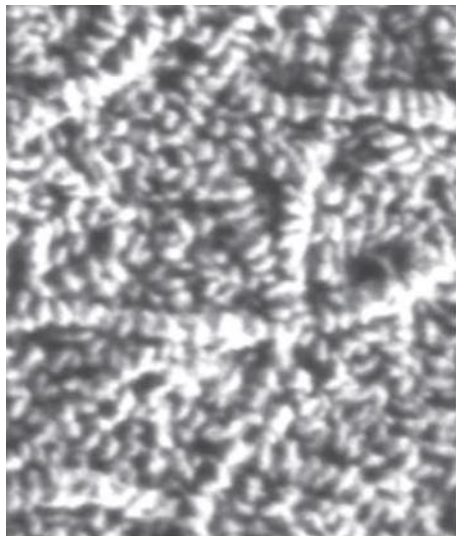


iCVD for Micromolding: Dr. Mustafa Karaman, Selcuk University (Turkey)

*Applied Surface Science* 259 (2012) 542–546



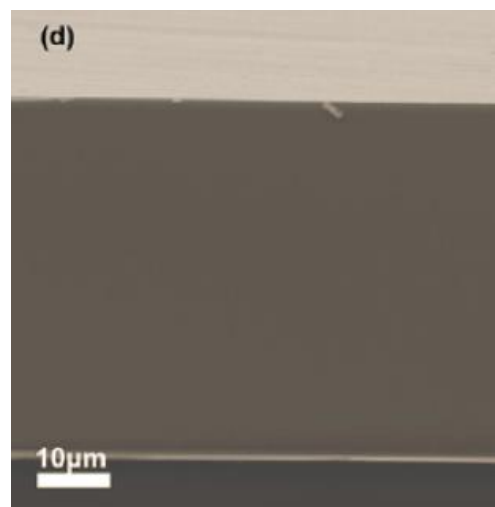
# Polymer CVD from around the world



13 nm iCVD PTFE  
Crystallites on CNTs  
Prof. Ken Lau, Drexel



Macromol. Rapid. Comm.  
2013, 34, 251



*Langmuir* 2012, 28, 16580

high deposition  
rate, smooth iCVD  
surfaces

Prof. Mitch  
Anthamatten  
Univ. Rochester

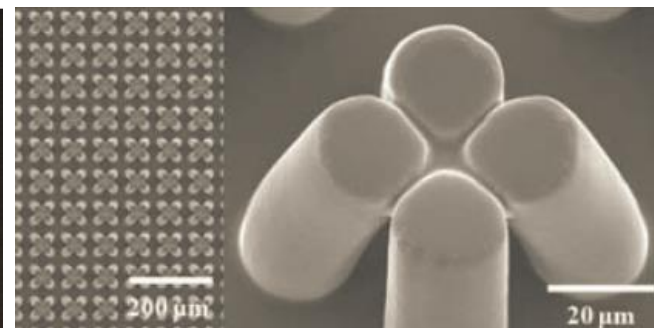
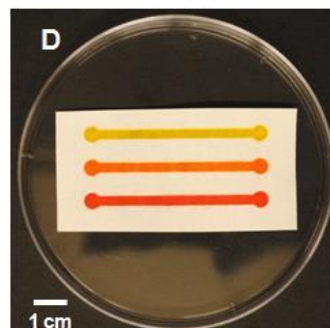


iCVD Wafer Bonding  
Prof. Magnus Bergkvist  
Suny Albany

MRS Proc. 2014, 1648



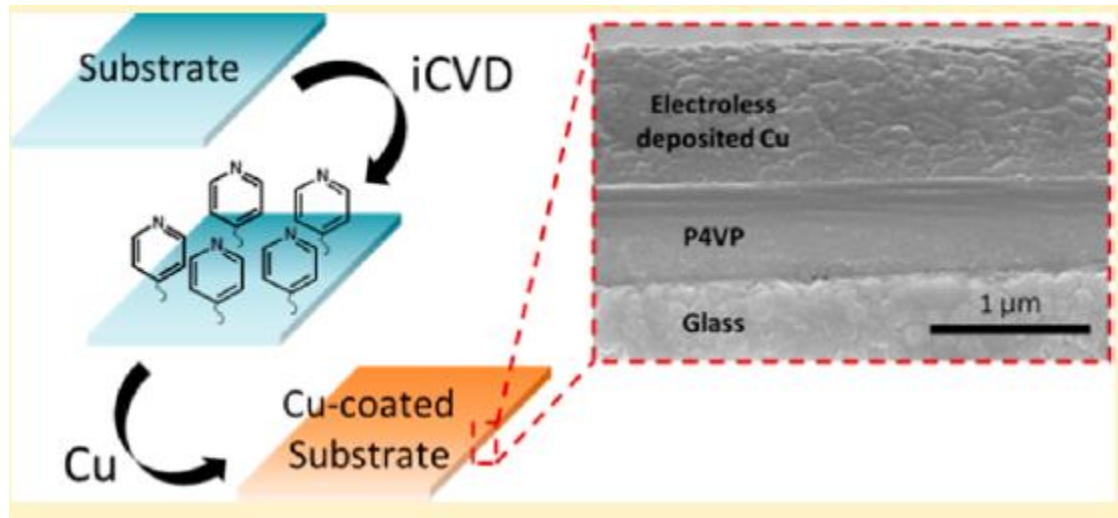
*Anal. Chem.* 2012, 84, 10129



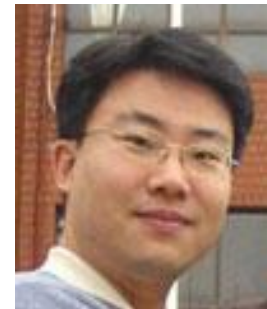
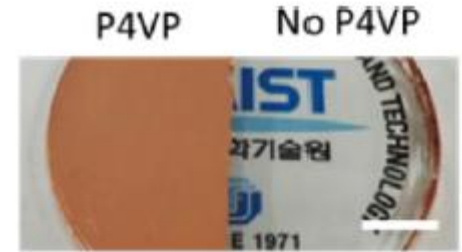
*ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* 2011, 3, 4201

Paper-based Microfluidics for Medical Diagnostics  
And iCVD for Self Assembly  
Prof. Malancha Gupta, USC

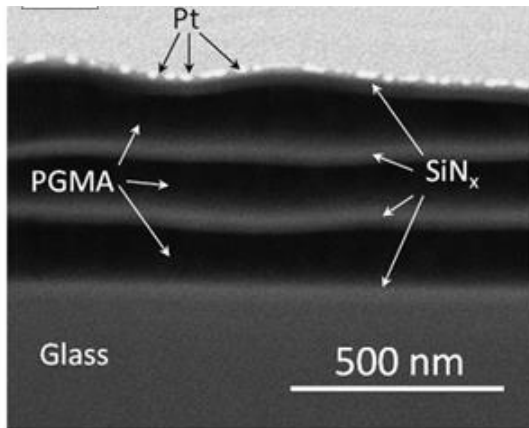
# Polymer CVD from around the world



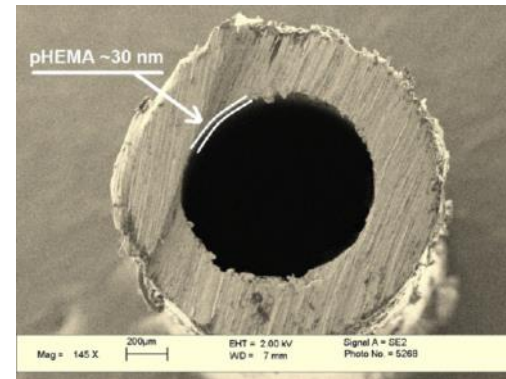
*Langmuir* 2014, 30, 916–921



Adhesion Enhancement of Electroless Deposited Cu: Prof. Sung Gap Im, KAIST (Korea)



iCVD PGMA Multilayer Barriers: Prof. Ruud Schropp, TU Eindhoven (Netherlands)



Heat Transfer Enhancement inside tubes  
Prof. Gozde Ince Sabanchi U. (Turkey)

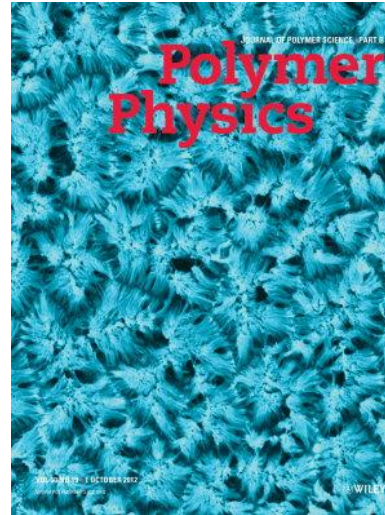


# Polymer Chemical Vapor Deposition Reviews

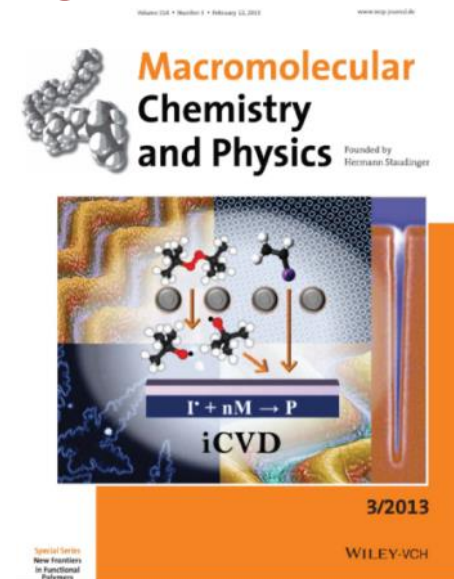
IOP PUBLISHING  
Rep. Prog. Phys. 75 (2012) 016501 (40pp)

REPORTS ON PROGRESS IN PHYSICS  
doi:10.1088/0034-4885/75/1/016501

**CVD of polymeric thin films: applications in sensors, biotechnology, microelectronics/organic electronics, microfluidics, MEMS, composites and membranes**



2012, 50, 1329



2013, 1, 302

2013, 25, 5392.

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REVIEW

## 25th Anniversary Article: CVD Polymers: A New Paradigm for Surface Modification and Device Fabrication

*Anna Maria Coclite, Rachel M. Howden, David C. Borrelli, Christy D. Petruczok, Rong Yang, Jose Luis Yagüe, Asli Ugur, Nan Chen, Sunghwan Lee, Won Jun Jo, Andong Liu, Xiaoxue Wang, and Karen K. Gleason\**