

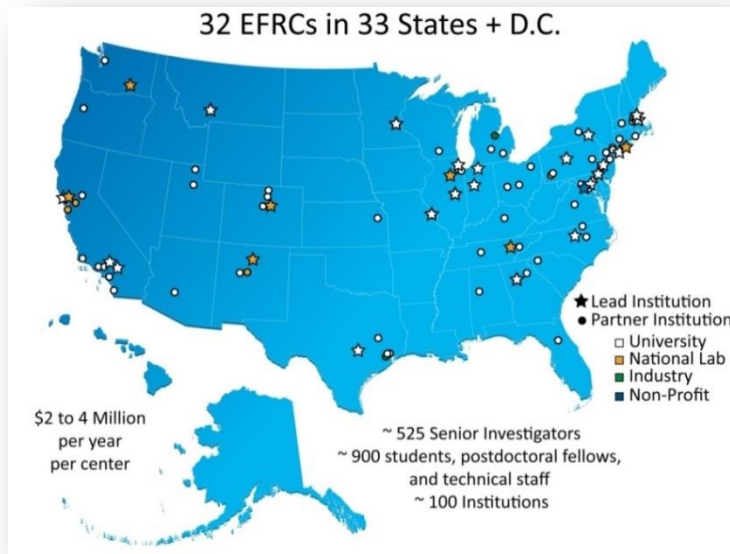
# ADVANCES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EFree AND DCO

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Maria Baldini  
*Geophysical Laboratory*  
*Carnegie Institution of Washington*

*DCO Executive Committee Meeting*  
*8-9 October 2015*  
*Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei Rome, Italy*

# Energy Frontier Research Center



integrated, multi-investigator Centers involving partnerships among universities, national laboratories, nonprofit organizations.

generate, supply, transmit, store, and use energy

fundamental research focusing on one or more “energy grand challenges”.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Science

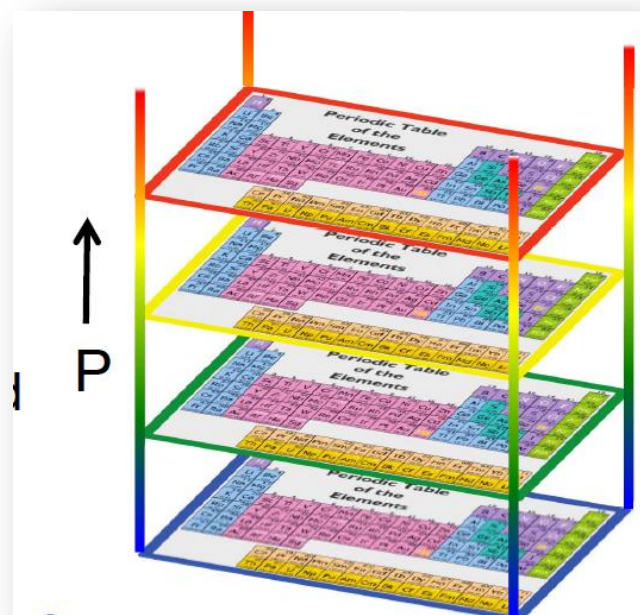
**EFrc**

Energy Frontier Research Center



## To accelerate the discovery and synthesis of new energy materials using extreme conditions

- High pressure is a unique variable to dramatically change the properties of materials. Novel phase and phenomena.
- Pressure provides a “**clean**” tool to decouple the interactions in a controlled manner. It is the ideal tool to deepen our understanding of material behavior.



# EFrce Energy Frontier Research in Extreme Environments Center

CARNEGIE  
INSTITUTION FOR  
SCIENCE



Exploit extreme environments to manipulate matter for next-generation materials

Understand fundamental factors that control performance

Synthesis and/or stabilization at ambient pressure

Broad university, national laboratory, industrial collaboration

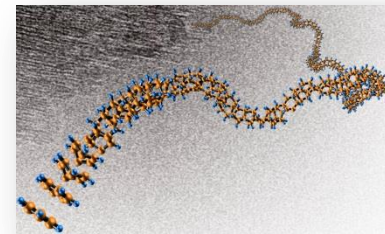




# EFree projects

## 1. New Nanophase Carbons

Goal: To stabilize and characterize new forms of carbon through tailored synthetic processes for the development of new structural materials (*Lead: Badding, Penn State*).

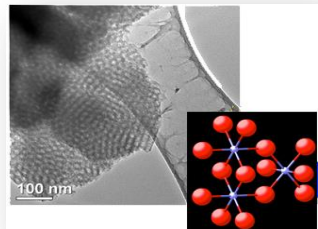


Carbon Nanotubes

## 2. Next Generation Mesoporous Materials

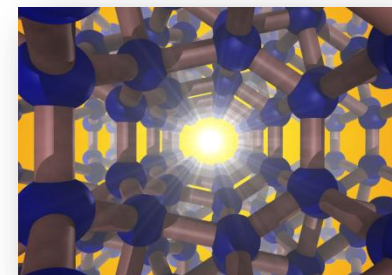
Goal: To obtain mesoporous and mesostructured crystalline materials through templated synthetic routes at high pressure for catalysis and related applications (*Lead: Landskron, Lehigh*).

Mesoporous Stishovite



## 3. New Solar Energy Materials

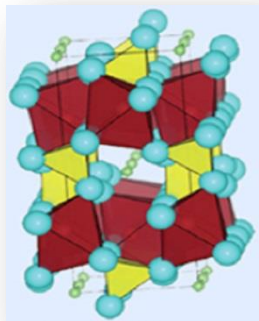
Goal: To synthesize new materials that will have a transformative impact on solar light absorption, conversion efficiencies and manufacturing costs (*Lead: Strobel, Carnegie*).



Open-Framework  $Si_{24}$

## 4. Ion Transport Processes

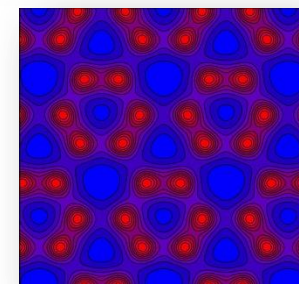
Goal: To characterize the structural features that underlie ion transport in battery materials (*Lead: Fultz, Caltech*).



$Li_xFePO_4$

## 5. Novel Transport in Hydrogen-Rich Materials

Goal: To uncover novel electron transport in hydrogen-rich materials for enhanced electrical transport (*Lead: Hemley, Carnegie*).

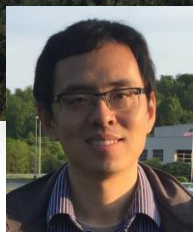


Graphenic Hydrogen

# EFree resources



Spallation Neutron Source  
(ORNL) - *NEUTRON SCATTERING*

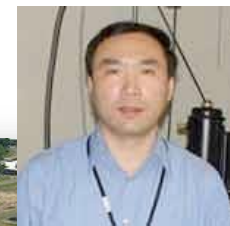


Chen Li  
*Neutron  
Scattering  
Coordinator*



Advanced Photon  
Source  
(ANL) - *X-RAY*

Zhenxian Liu  
*Carnegie IR Lead*



Maria Baldini  
*X-ray Coordinator*

Synchrotron IR facility at NSLS II





## Spectroscopy, scattering and imaging



In-situ characterization

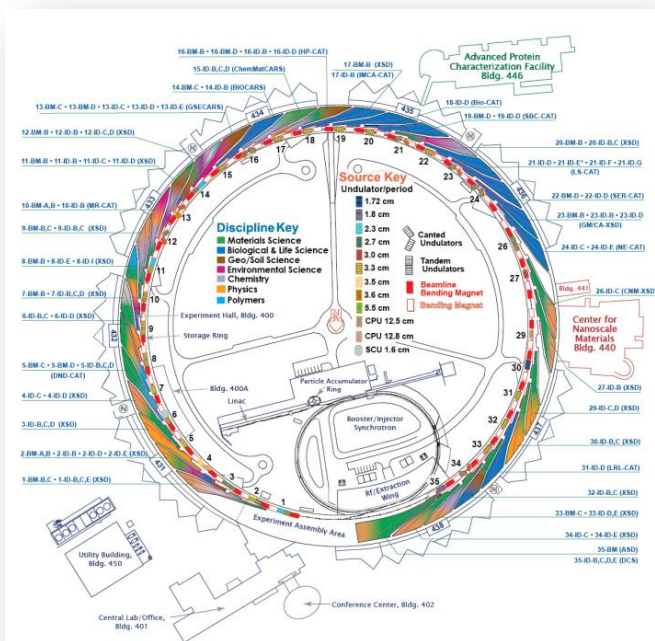
Micro, nano, amorphous

Magnetic and electronic properties

Structure and dynamics

Chemical bonding

Phonon density/oxidation state



- X-ray diffraction, PDF, EXAFS= Structural characterization
- X-ray absorption, X-ray Raman spectroscopy= chemical bonding (sp<sup>2</sup>/sp<sup>3</sup> bonding in C-related compounds)
- Transmission X-ray Microscopy (TXM), imaging= strain analysis, volume determination
- Small angle scattering= shape and distribution of porous

# EFree resources



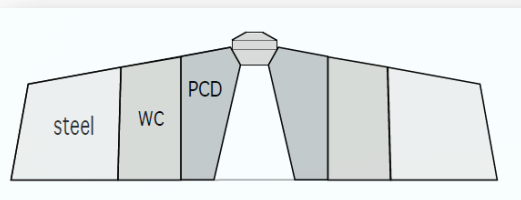
Reini Boehler

High P-T Technique  
Coordinator



- 90 GPa
- 82 degrees apertures

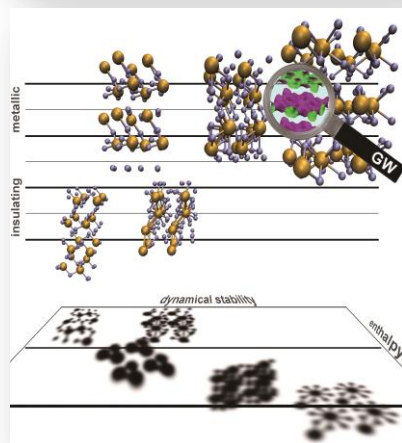
## Cells for neutron diffraction and spectroscopy



- **anvil:** type 1 natural (4 mm diameter)
- **seat:** polycryst. diamond

DuckYoung Kim

Computational  
Theory Coordinator

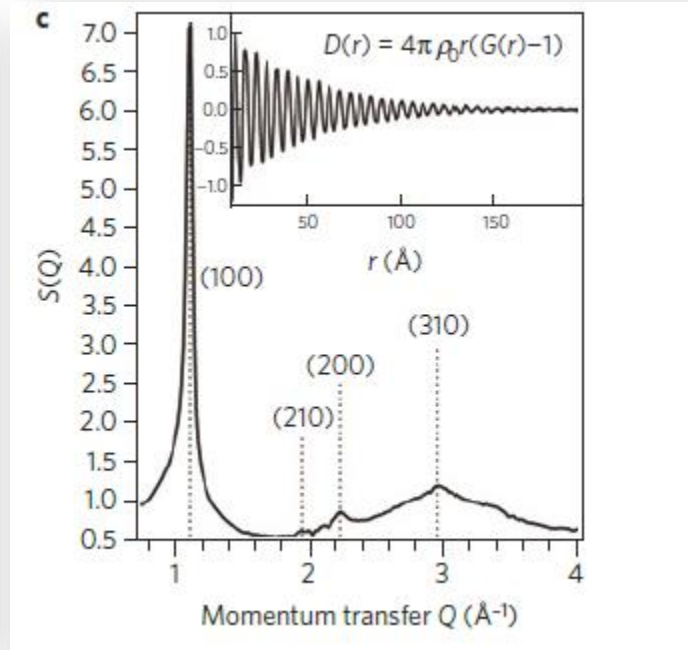


## Crystal structure predictions

## Electronic structure analysis

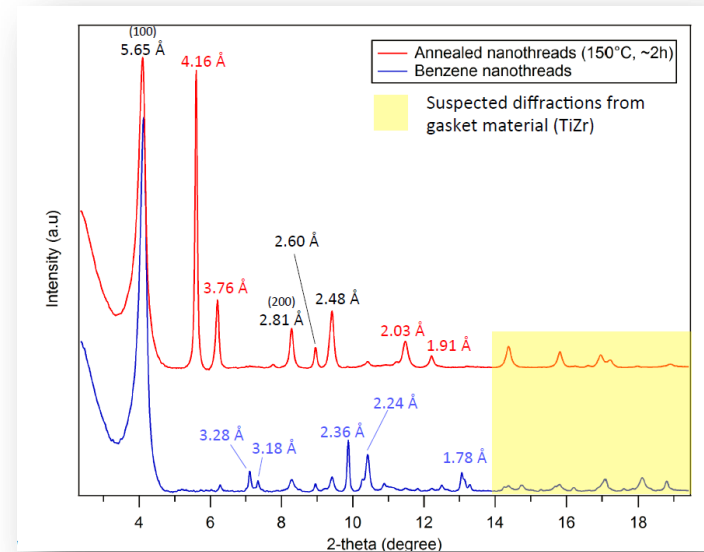


# Benzene-derived carbon nanothreads



Synthesis of a new carbon nanomaterial from benzene under pressure that is the thinnest possible thread of the diamond structure

These  $sp^3$  nanothreads should have diverse applications owing to their unique properties, including strength, compared to conventional  $sp^2$  carbon nanotubes

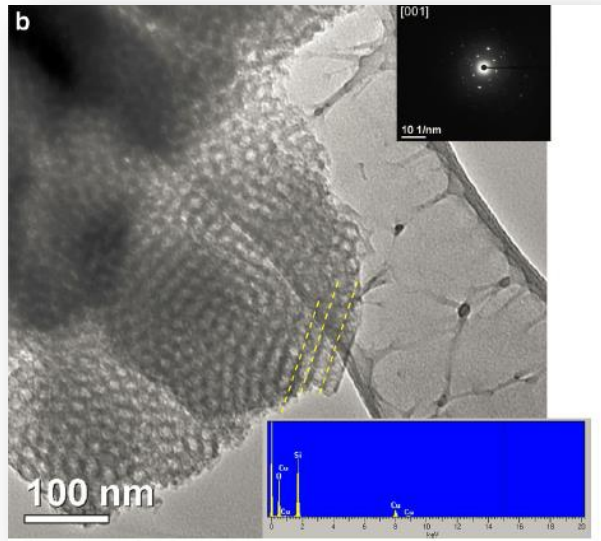


Fitzgibbons, T.C., et al., *Nat Mater*, (2014)

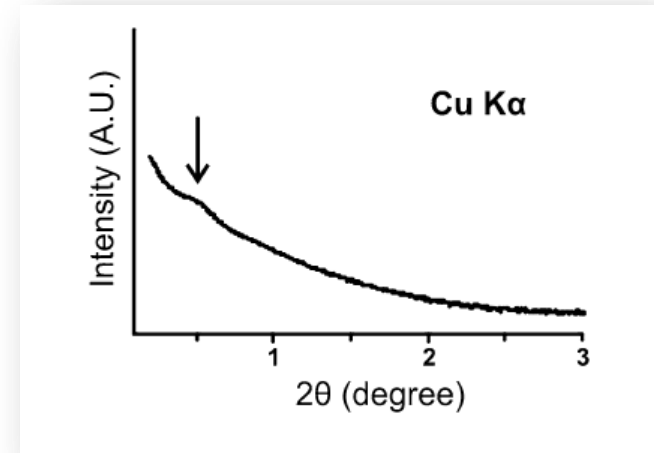
Xu E.-S. et al., *Nano Letters*, (2015)

synchrotron x-ray diffraction, neutron diffraction, TEM, Raman spectroscopy, NMR, and first principles calculations.

# Next generation mesoporous materials



- 9 GPa and 500 °C in a multianvil apparatus
- Mesopores with a wide pore size distribution,  $\sim 45$  m<sup>2</sup>/g, and pore volume  $\sim 0.15$  cm<sup>3</sup>/g



Stagno, V., et al. *Phys. Chem. Minerals* (2015).

The synthesis of mesoporous silica polymorphs offers the opportunity to investigate thermochemical properties for the interaction between stishovite and various guests, such as water H<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, CO to model fluid sequestration, mineral dissolution and growth under geologic conditions.

TEM, electron microscopy, gas adsorption, SAXS.

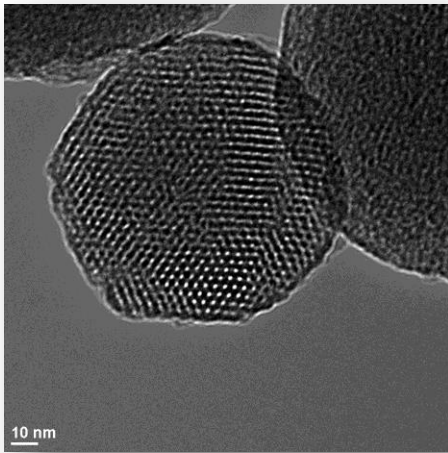
# Next generation mesoporous materials

Synthesize a periodic diamond-like mesostructures in mesoporous silicas at high pressure.

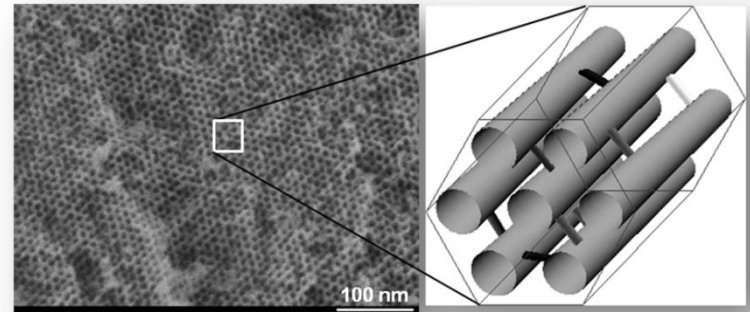


**Benzene**

SBA-16: cubic structure  
spherical meso-pores



SBA-15: hexagonal structure  
1D meso-channel

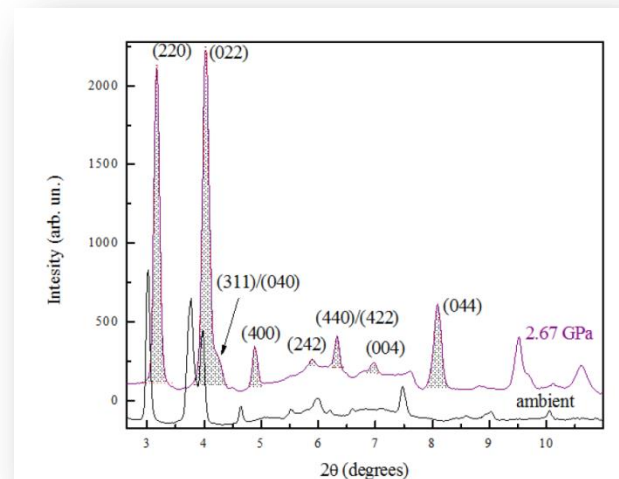
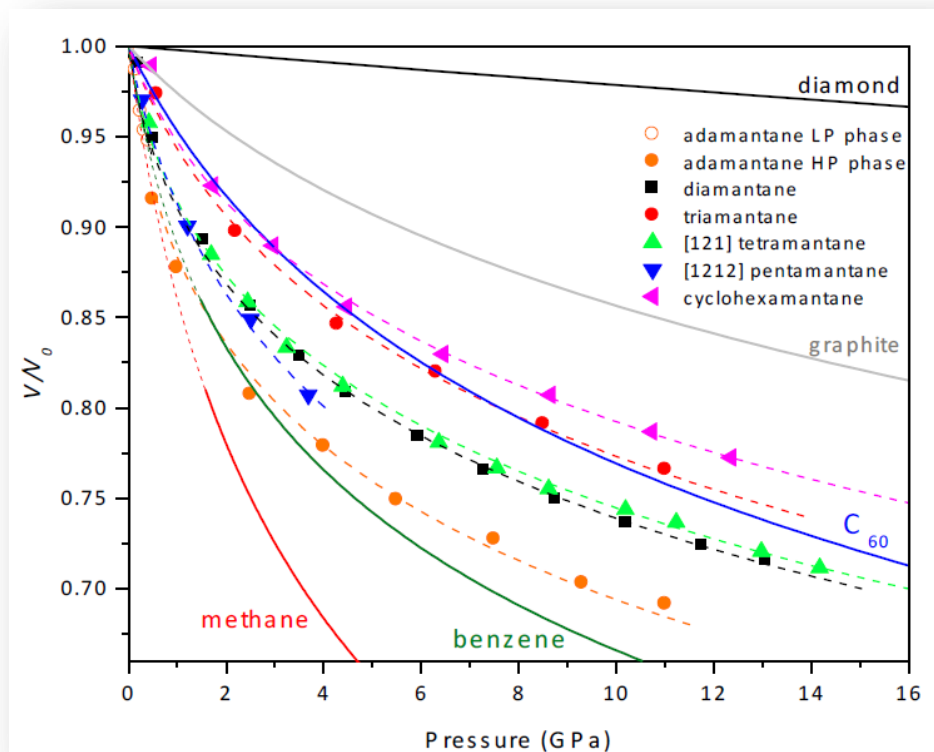
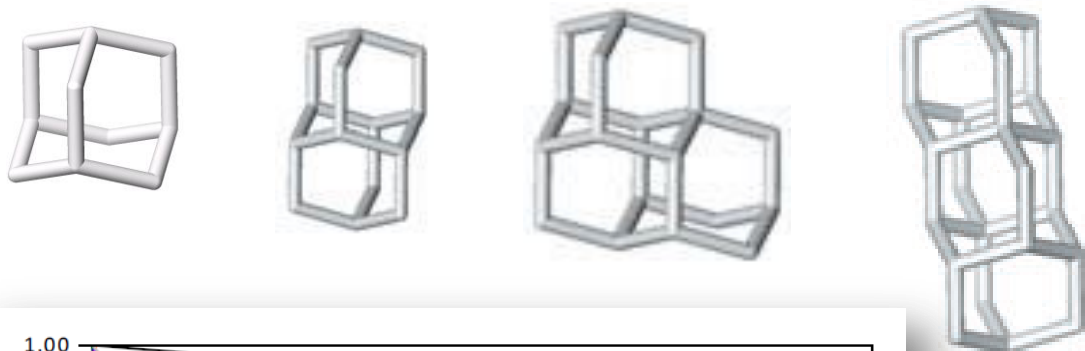


If polymerization into a three-dimensional polymer occurs  
adsorption, separation, and catalysis applications.



# Diamondoids

## Carbon cage molecules terminated with C-H bonds



High compressibility,  
easily triggered pressure-  
induced phase transitions.  
Large structural rigidity  
and molecular geometry  
dependent bulk modulus.

# Conclusions

- **Design, Synthesis and Kinetic Stabilization of Revolutionary Materials for Energy Conversion, Storage and Transport**
  - *Recovery from high P-T*
  - *Scale up*
- **Center for extreme conditions science**
  - *Interactions with national lab facilities*
  - *Technique development*
- **Synergy between theory and experiment**

