



Center for Nanoscale  
Chemical-Electrical-Mechanical  
Manufacturing Systems

# E-Jet: A Printing-based Approach for Nano- manufacturing

## Andrew Alleyne



an NSF-sponsored center for nanoscale science and engineering



# Outline



**NanoCEMMS Overview**

**E-jet Challenges and Solutions**

**Demonstrated Accomplishments**



# Vision for Nano-CEMMS



**Vision:** Manufacturing at the nanoscale:

- Is routine and practical,
- Resides on well-developed scientific knowledge
- Supported by a diverse, educated workforce

**Core Activities of Center Research:**

- Nanofluidic and ionic transport
- Practical and efficient 'fluidic-based' nanomanufacturing
- Miniaturization and heterogeneous integration



# Research Motivation



## Emerging Paradigm in New Product Development

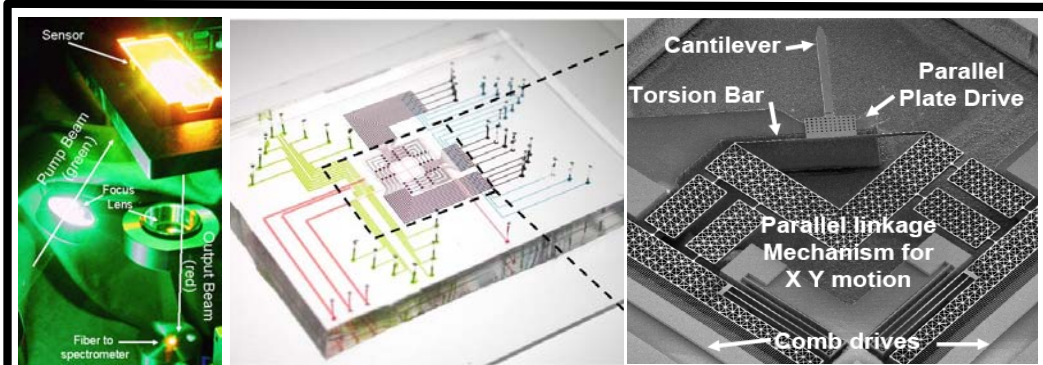
- Direct, heterogeneous integration of functions into products rather than by assembly

The collage features several images with labels:

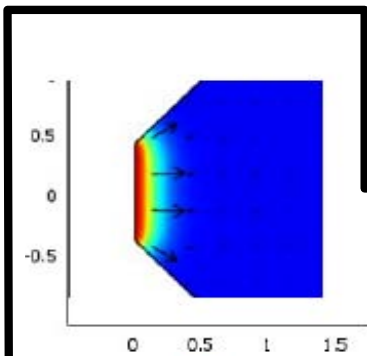
- Instrumented Balloon Catheter:** A transparent catheter with a red balloon and yellow sensors.
- Printed Electronics:** A grid of small, square electronic components on a substrate.
- Flexible Stretchable Lighting:** A grid of small, square light-emitting diodes (LEDs) on a flexible substrate.
- Flexible Solar Panels:** A grid of small, square solar cells on a flexible substrate.
- Bio compatible electronics:** A close-up of a flexible electronic device integrated with biological tissue.
- Opto-electro-fluidic chips:** A microfluidic chip with a silicon substrate, VCSEL dies, and a PDMS network. Labels include "Fluid inlet", "PDMS network", "VCSEL dies", and "Silicon substrate".
- Conformal Electro-optics:** A circular, flexible electro-optic device with a grid of electrodes. A scale bar indicates 2 cm.



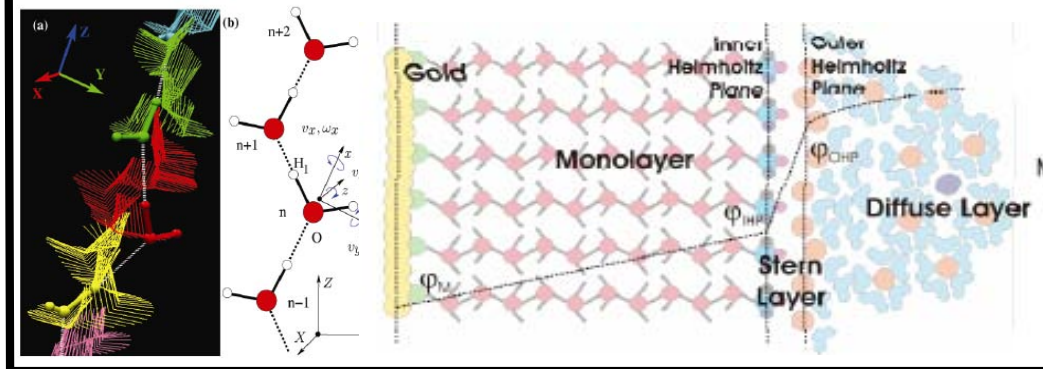
# Research Integration



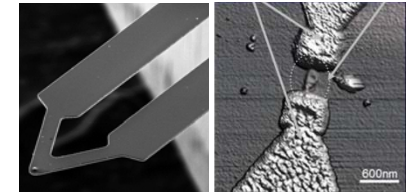
Nanoscale Sensing,  
Fabrication & Positioning



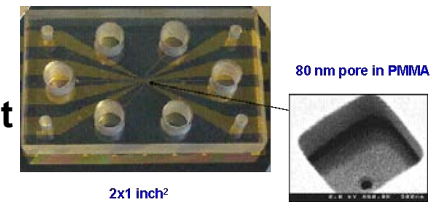
Fundamentals Micro-Nano  
Fluidic & Ionic Transport



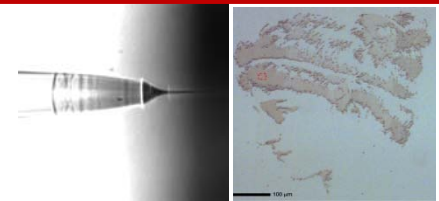
Tip-based  
Processes



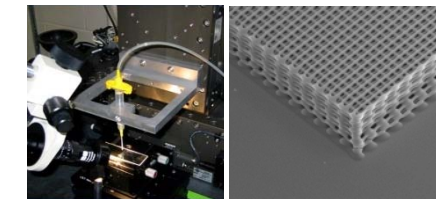
Molecular  
Gate Toolbit



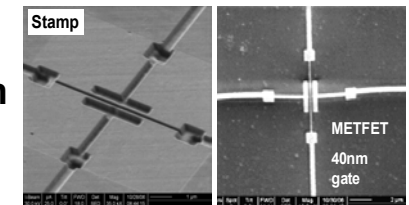
Electro-jet  
Writing



Direct Ink  
Writing



Electro-Chem  
Processes



Basic Research and Enabling Technologies



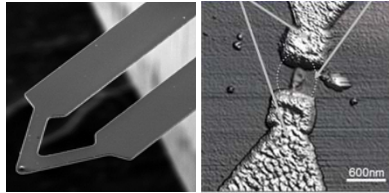
Nanostructure Creation



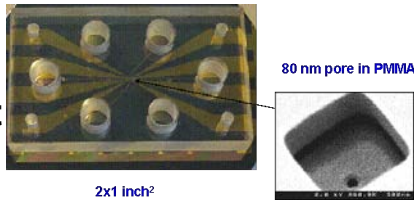
# Pathway to Nano-enabled Systems



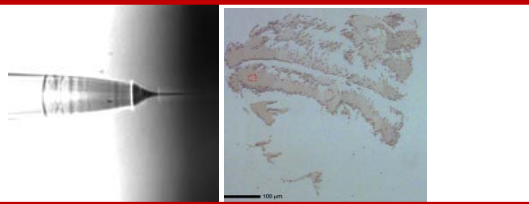
Tip-based Processes



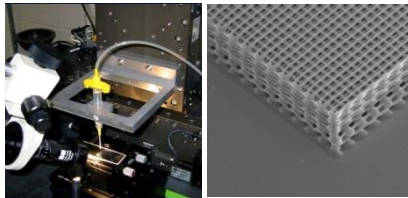
Molecular Gate Toolbit



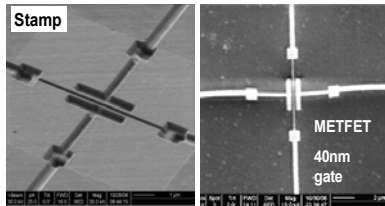
Electro-jet Writing



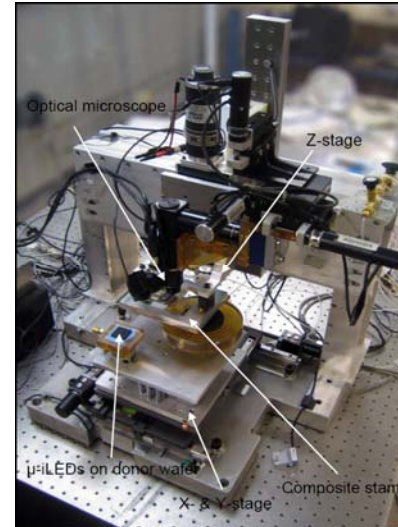
Direct Ink Writing



Electro-Chem Processes

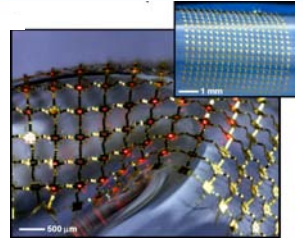


OTHER PROCESSES

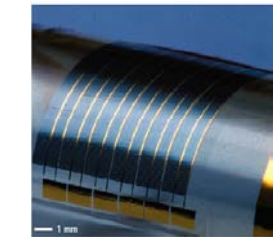


Micro Transfer Printing

Flexible Solid-State Lighting & Displays



High Performance Printed Electronics



Photovoltaics

Nanostructure Creation



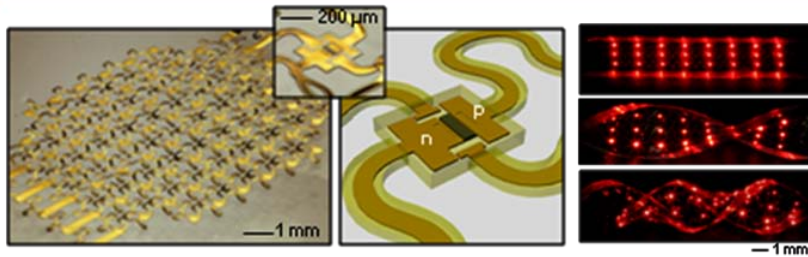
Integration



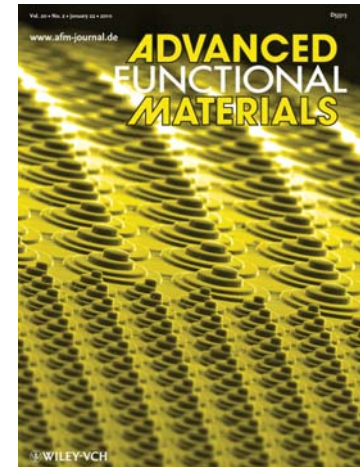
Products



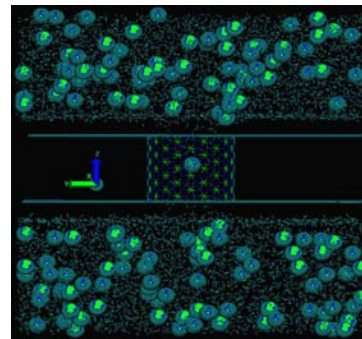
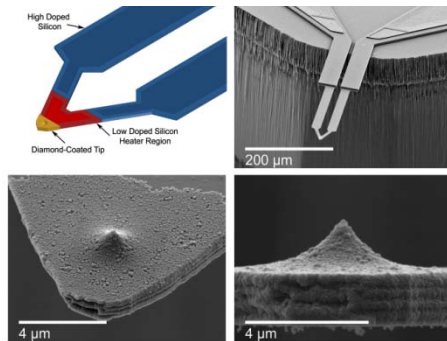
# Research Accomplishments for Last Year



Thermal Transfer Printing Process

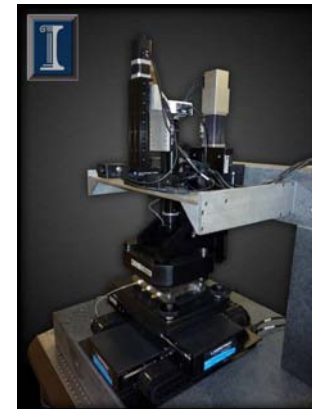


Flexible Lighting Systems

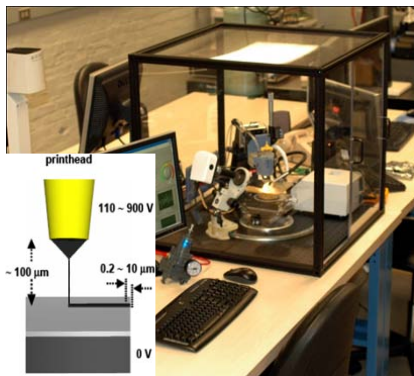


Transport in Boron Nitride Nanotubes

Ultrananocrystalline Diamond Cantilever Tips

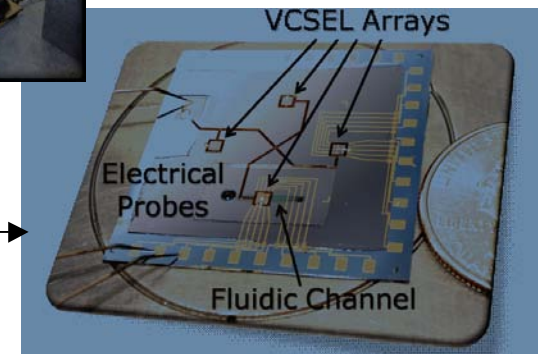


Large Area Transfer Printer



Affordable E-jet Printer with  $\times 10^3$  Speed Increase

Optofluidic Microchips





# Research Outcome for Last Year



- By the numbers.....
  - Publications
    - 128 Journal papers
    - 38 Conference papers
    - 63 with multiple NSEC authors
  - Patents
    - 5 Invention disclosures
    - 13 Patent applications
    - 3 Patents allowed
    - 5 License
  - Graduate Students
    - 7 PhD graduates
    - 5 MS graduates



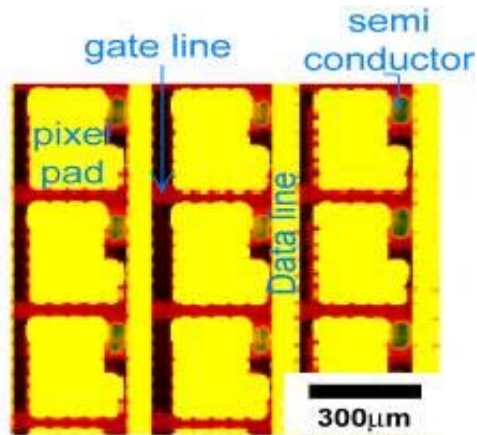




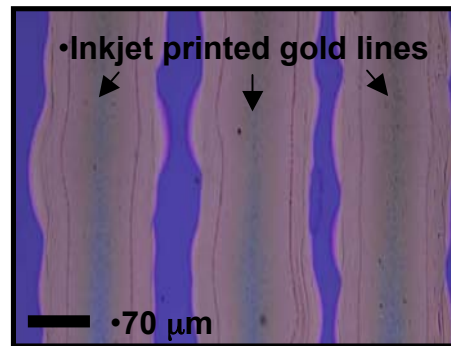
# Conventional Inkjet Technology



## •For Printed Electronics



•transistors



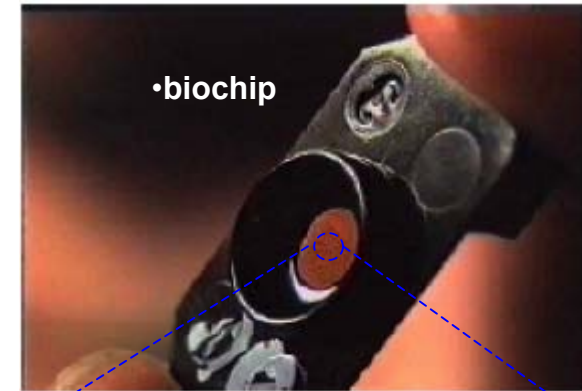
•electrodes



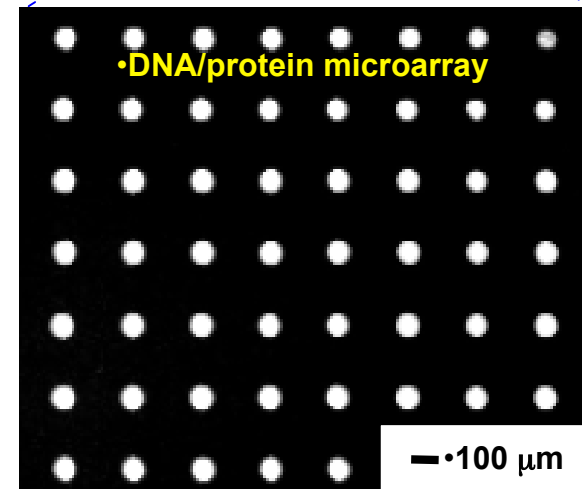
•Color filters for  
8G large LCD  
•(Sharp, 2006)

•Science, 290, 2123 (2000), APL, 85, 3304 (2004)

## •For Biotechnology



•biochip



•DNA/protein microarray

•Nature Biotech., 18, 438 (2000)

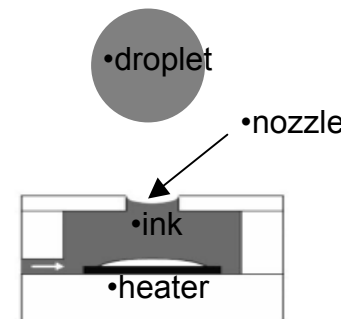


# Limits on Conventional Inkjet Technology

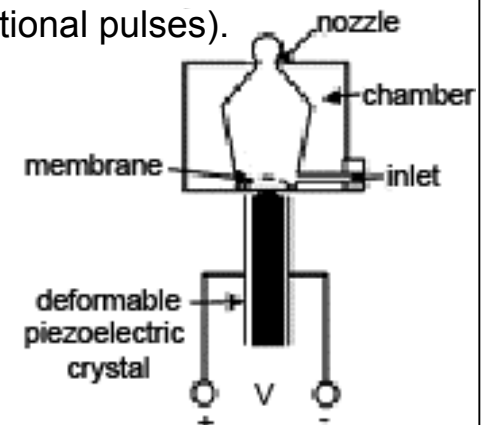


## •Current inkjet techniques: thermal or piezoelectric types

•: to push an ink through the nozzle by  $\Delta P$  ( $\Delta P$  is generated by thermal or vibrational pulses).



•thermal inkjet



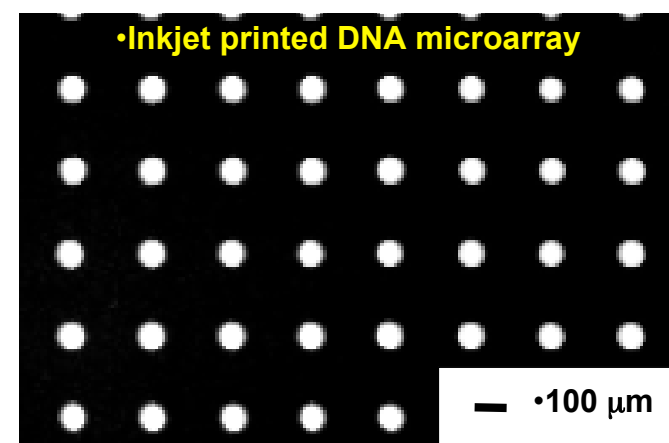
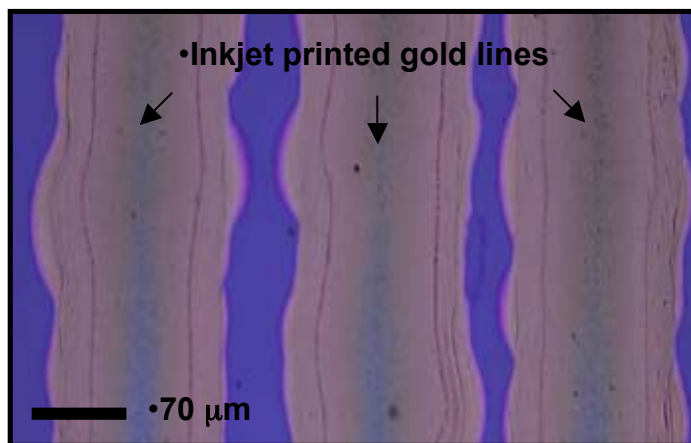
•piezoelectric inkjet

•: Limitation to reduce nozzle sizes (min.:  $\sim 3 \mu\text{m}$ )

•: Droplet diameters bigger than the nozzle sizes

•: Droplet placement errors caused by statistical deviation of jet trajectory

• $\Rightarrow$  Coarse printing resolution :  $\sim 1 \text{ pL}$  in droplet volume (dot diameter:  $\sim 10 \mu\text{m}$ )

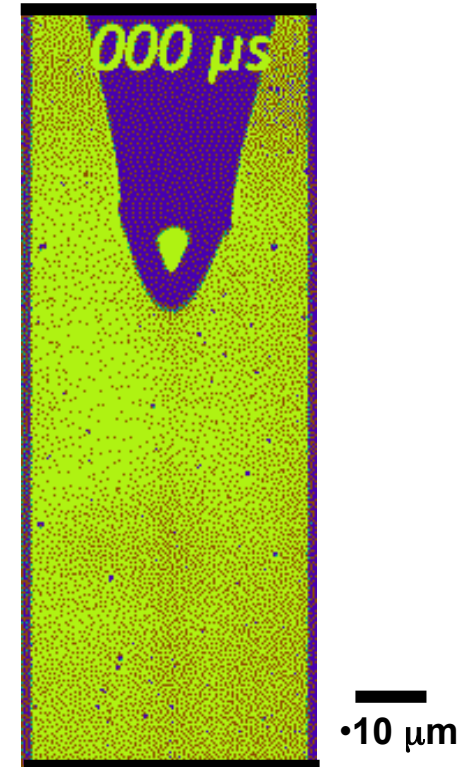
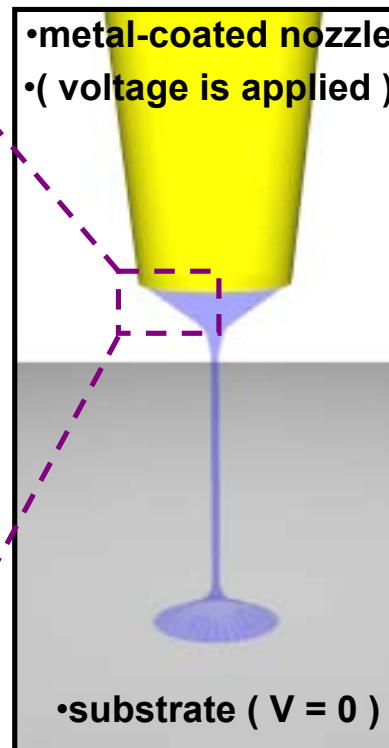
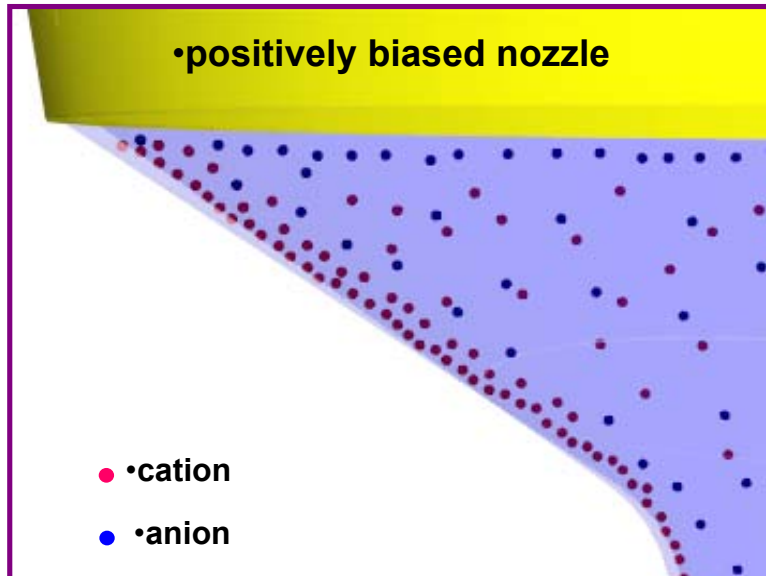




# Electrohydrodynamic Jet (E-jet) Printing



•[ example of positive ion mode ]



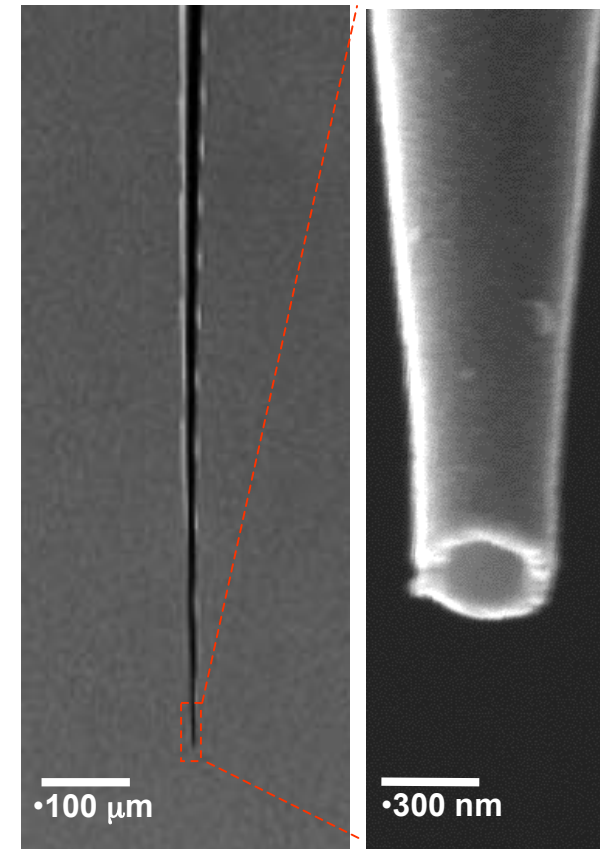
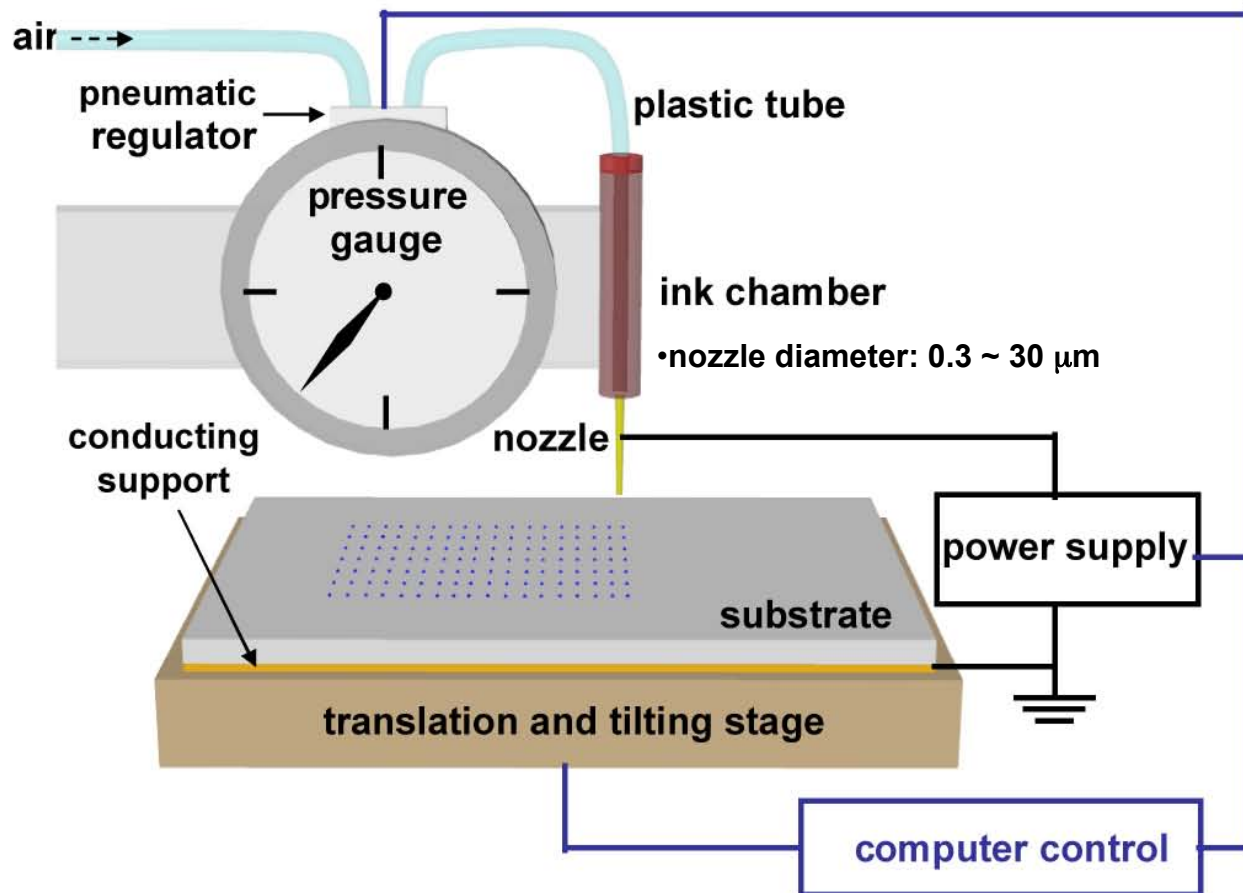
$$Q \approx \frac{\pi d_N^4}{128 \mu L} \left( \Delta P + \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 E^2 - \frac{4\gamma}{d_N} \right)$$

•*Appl Phys Lett* 92, 123109 (2008)

•*Nature Mater.*, 6, 782 (2007)



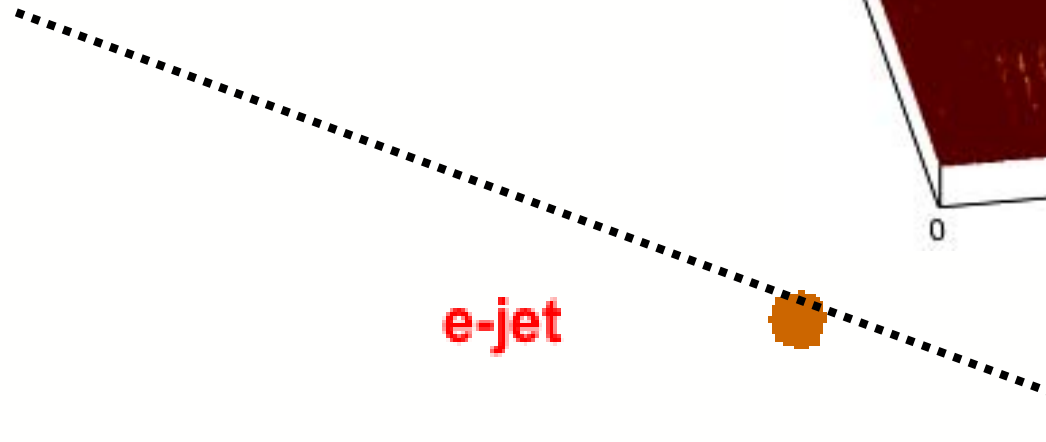
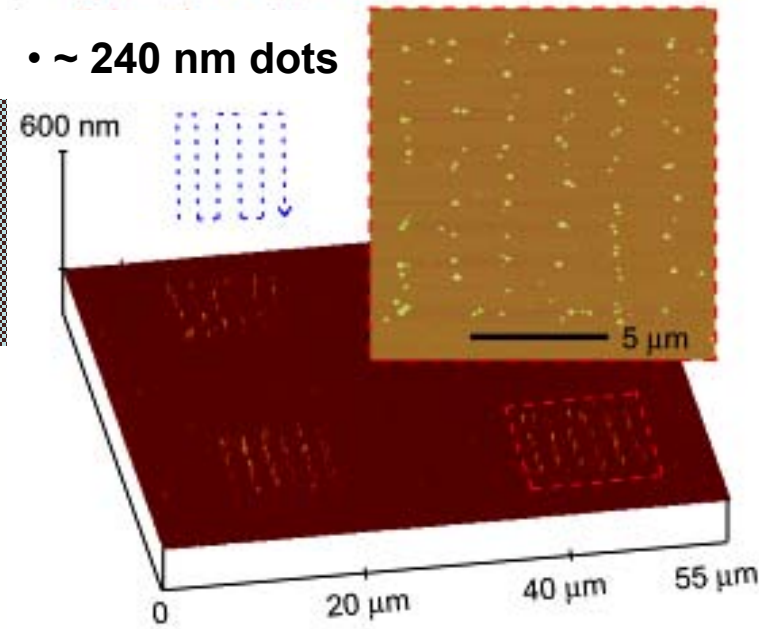
# High Resolution E-Jet Printing



•*Nature Mater.*, 6, 782 (2007)



# High Resolution E-Jet Printing



e-jet

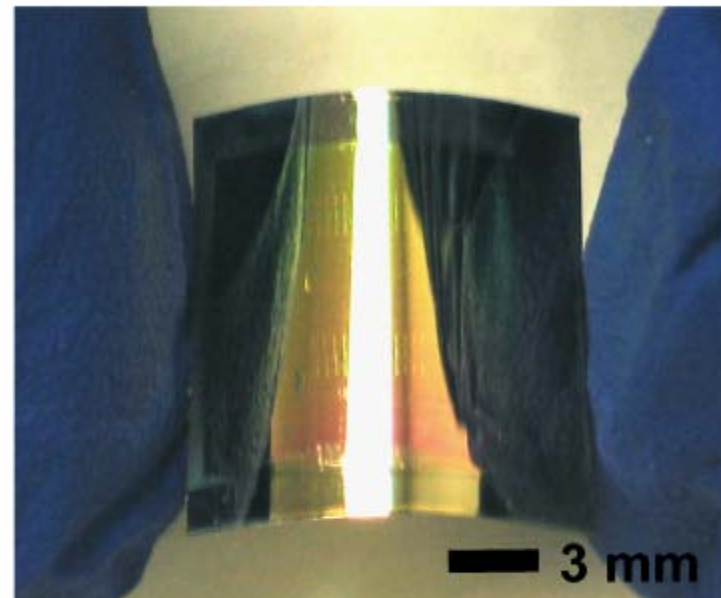
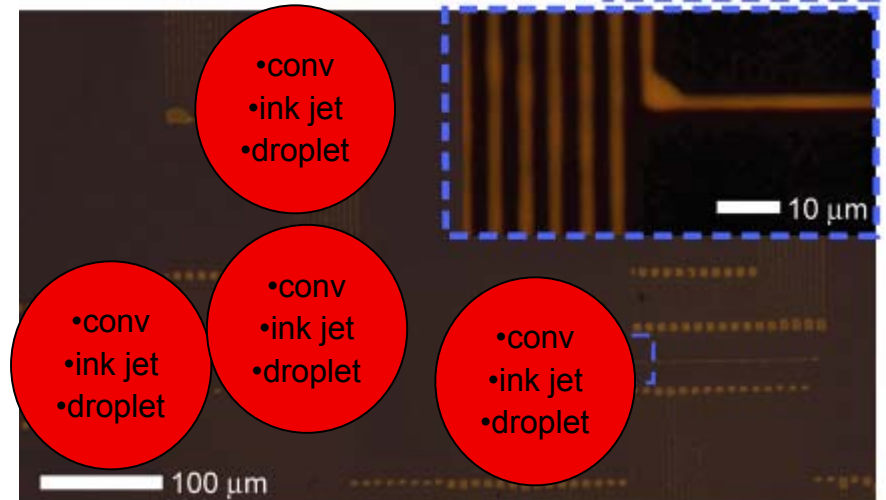
$$\bullet \text{dot} \sim (\text{nozzle})^{1/2}$$

● •Nature Mater. 6, 782 (2007) -- UIUC

● •PNAS, 105, 4976 (2008) -- AIST



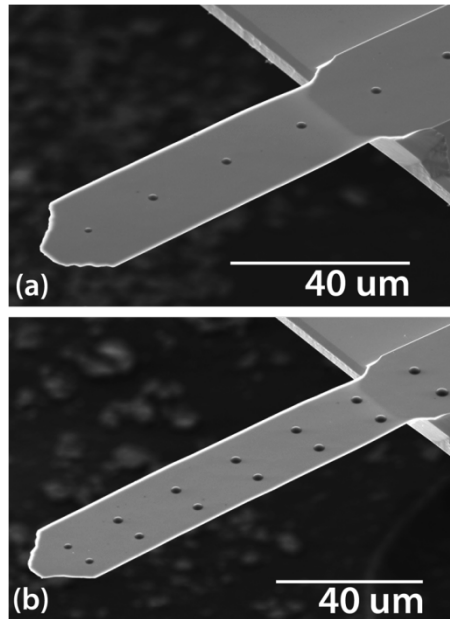
# Printed Patterns



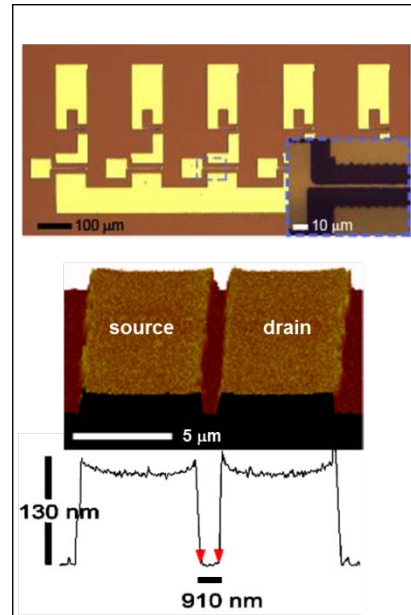
•*Nature Mater.*, 6, 782 (2007)



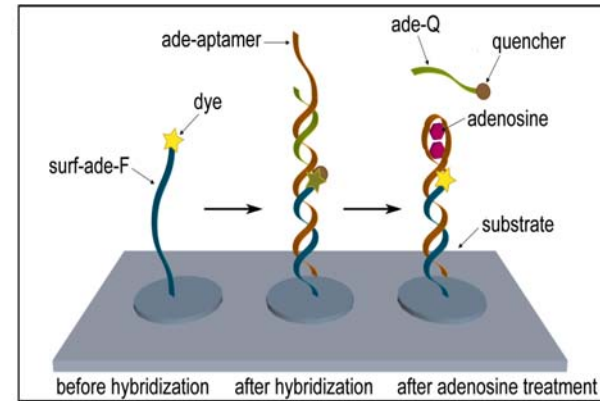
# Diversity of Materials



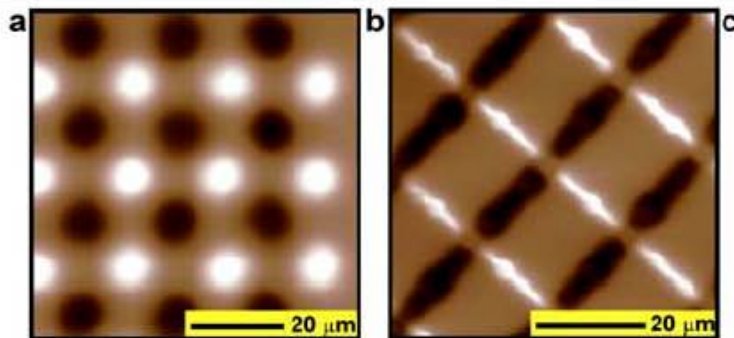
Polymers



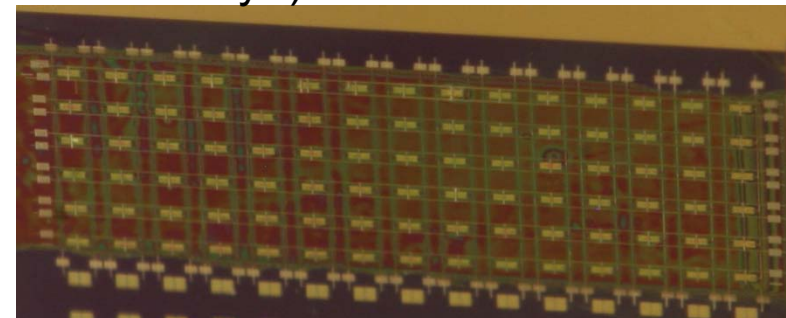
SWNT Source & Drain  
Electrode Printing



ss-DNA (with biotin & fl dye)



Charge Printing



Ag pads/interconnects for 6x15 TFT array

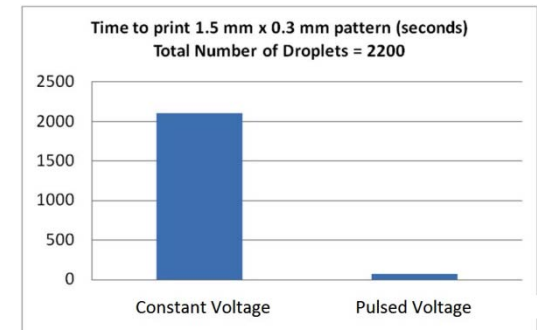
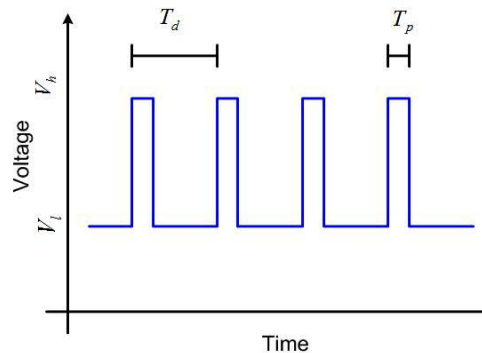
• *Various papers (2007-2010)*



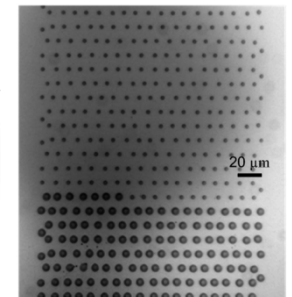
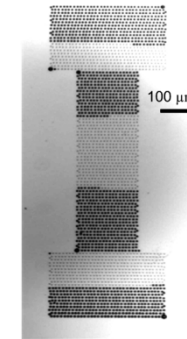
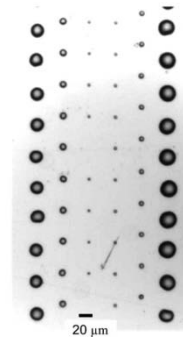
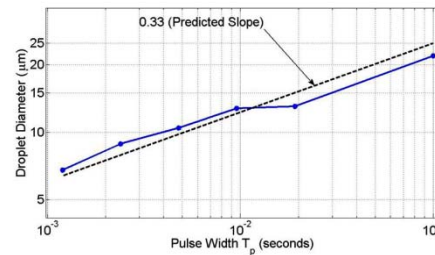
# Manufacturing Capabilities



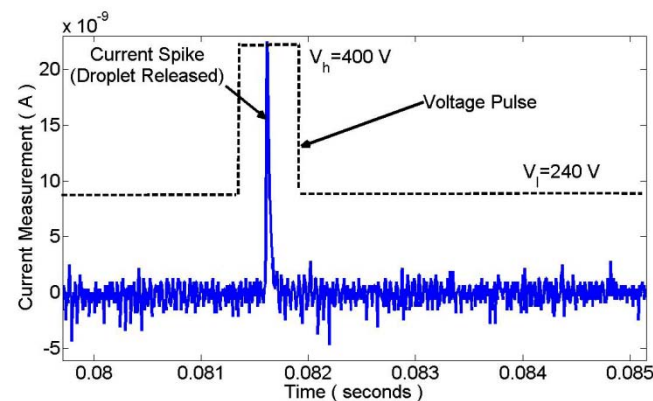
- High Throughput  
– 25k drops/sec



- Size control  
– On the fly



- Drop on demand  
– Overlay control





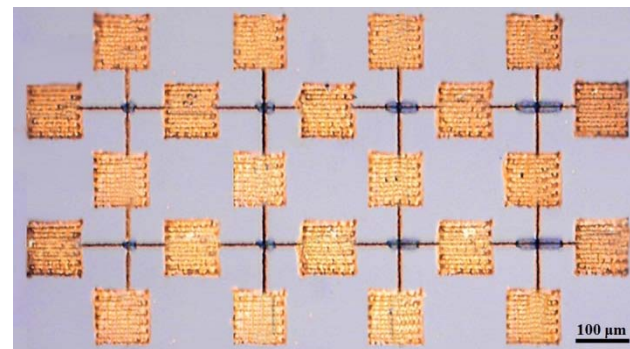
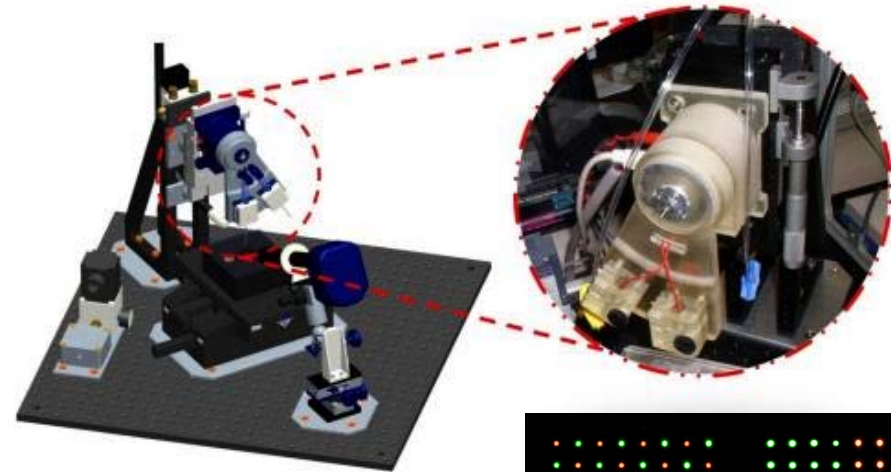


# Manufacturing Capabilities

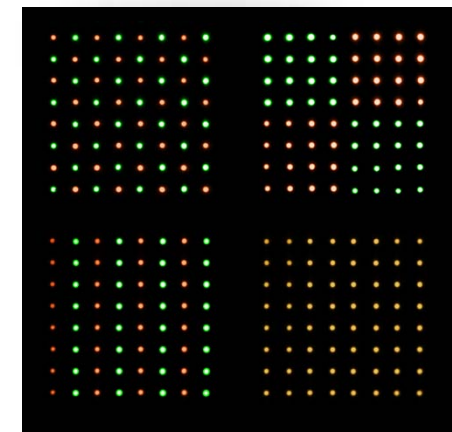


- Desktop E-jet system
  - E-jet printer that can be used for research, testing, development
  - Designs available
  - Installations at 2 larger industry sites to date
  - Multiple university disseminations

- Multi-nozzle print head



Silver interconnects



Rhodamine & FITC drop-on-demand  
(8 micron drops, limited by FL detection)

• *IFAC CEP (2010) & Unpublished*

w/ Kayuzo Shigeti  
& Youngkwan Kim