Modelling and Design of Nanostructured Interfaces

Damien Thompson

Tyndall National Institute, University College Cork, Ireland damien.thompson@tyndall.ie

Abstract

In this talk I will discuss the difficulties in describing nanoscale physics and describe how computer simulations can aid experiments in the realization of nanostructured materials. I will present recent results on molecular modeling and design of nanostructured interfaces for technology applications. I will focus on self-assembled monolayer films on noble metals [1], metal oxide [2] and graphene [3]. I will also describe recent combined experiments and simulations of dendrimer-wrapped gold nanoparticles [4]. These (ultra)thin films and single-molecule nanostructures are used in molecular devices and also have potential applications in health and energy (Figure 1).

References

- [1] (a) Nerngchamnong, N.; Li, Y.; Qi, D.; Jian, L.; Thompson, D.; Nijhuis, C.A. (2013) The Role of van der Waals Forces in the Performance of Molecular Diodes. Nature Nanotechnology, accepted. (b) Perl, A.; Gomez-Casado, A.; Thompson, D.; Dam, H.; Jonkheijm, P.; Reinhoudt, D.; Huskens, J. (2011). Gradient-driven motion of multivalent ligand molecules along a surface functionalized with multiple receptors. Nature Chemistry, 3, 317-322.
- [2] O'Dwyer, C.; Gannon, G.; McNulty, D.; Buckley, D.N.; Thompson, D. (2012) Accommodating Curvature in a Highly Ordered Functionalized Metal Oxide Nanofiber: Synthesis, Characterization, and Multiscale Modeling of Layered Nanosheets. Chemistry of Materials, 24, 3981–3992.
- [3] Long, B.; Manning, M.; Burke, M.; Szafranek, B.N.; Visimberga, G.; Thompson, D.; Greer, J.C.; Povey, I.M.; MacHale, J.; Lejosne, G.; Neumaier, D.; Quinn, A.J. (2012) Non-Covalent Functionalization of Graphene Using Self-Assembly of Alkane-Amines. Advanced Functional Materials, 22, 717–725.
- [4] Thompson, D.; Hermes, J.P.; Quinn, A.J.; Mayor, M. (2012) Scanning the Potential Energy Surface for Synthesis of Dendrimer-Wrapped Gold Clusters: Design Rules for True Single-Molecule Nanostructures. ACS Nano, 6, 3007–3017.

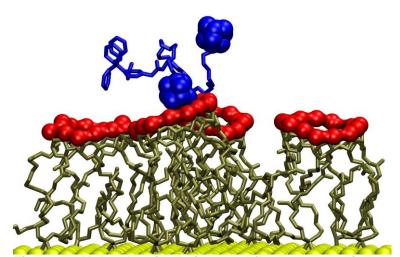


Figure 1 – Molecular simulations and fluorescence microscopy experiments can be combined to determine the structure, dynamics and energetics of the interface between a two-legged dendrimer molecule and a receptor-functionalised self-assembled monolayer on gold [1b].