

Printing Functional Materials

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The Science of Digital Fabrication – 3.7.13



Several advances needed for 3D printing of high performance, functional materials



“Before this personal manufacturing revolution can take place, though, researchers will need to develop a broader array of robust printing materials...”

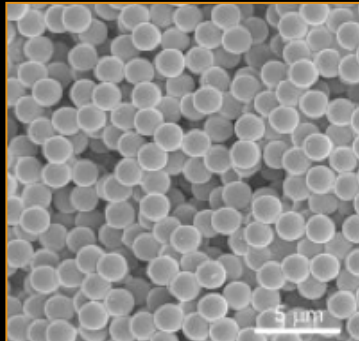
“... rapidly growing market, \$1 B sales...
about 70% of market is prototyping”

Specific Objectives and Needs

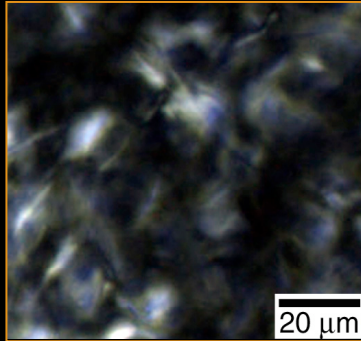
- Broaden materials palette
 - Integration of heterogeneous materials
 - Digitally specify form and function
 - Print and fold - architectural complexity
 - Improve feature resolution by 100x
 - Improve throughput by 100x
- ... expedite transformation from rapid prototyping to manufacturing of advanced materials

Functional inks designed for printing

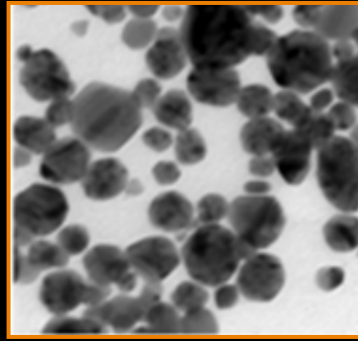
colloidal inks



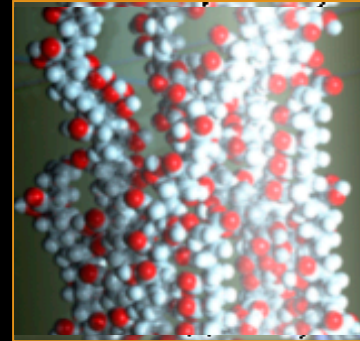
fugitive inks



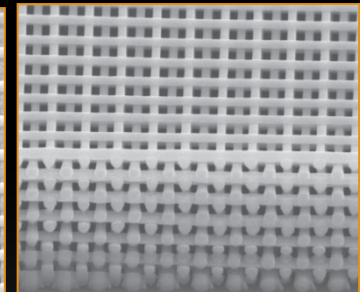
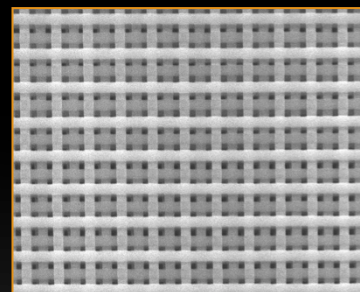
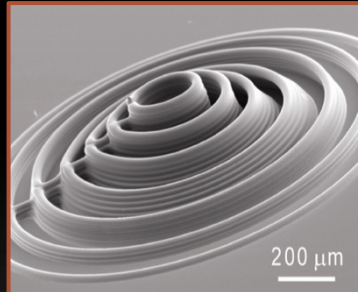
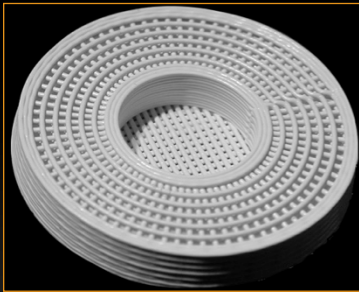
nanoparticle inks



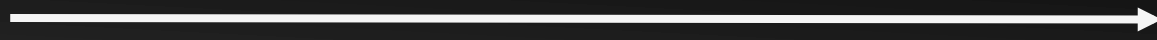
polymer inks



sol-gel inks



250 μm



250 nm

patterned feature size

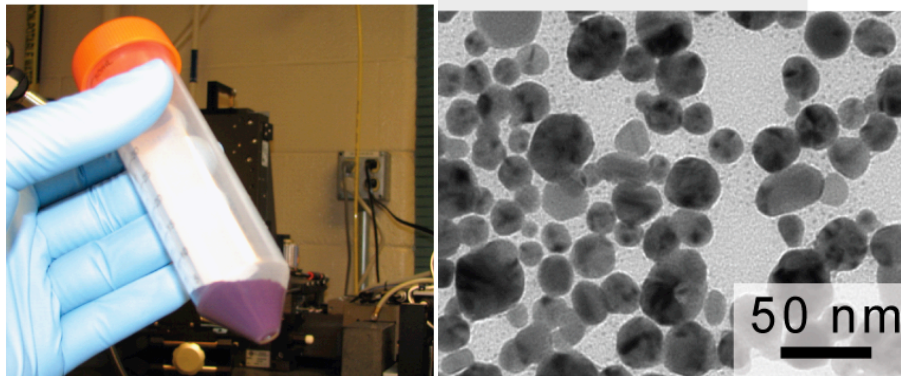
Key Attributes:

- Highly concentrated, water-based formulations
- Engineered flow and printing behavior
- Specifically tailored for targeted functionality

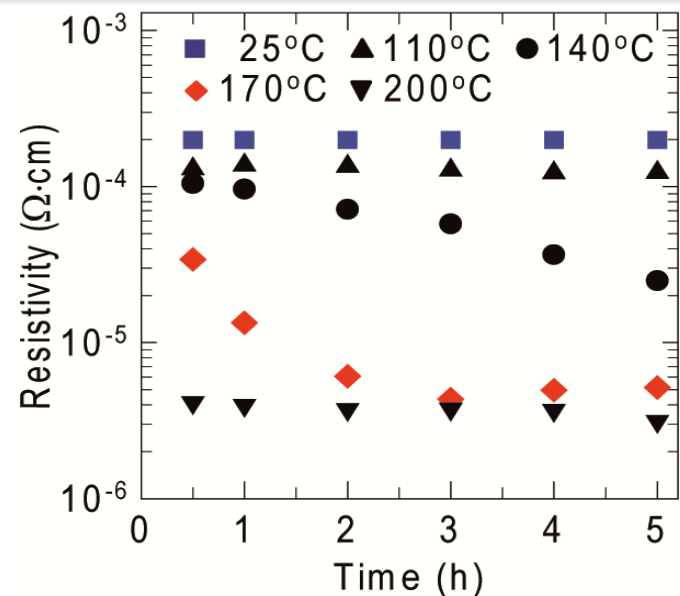
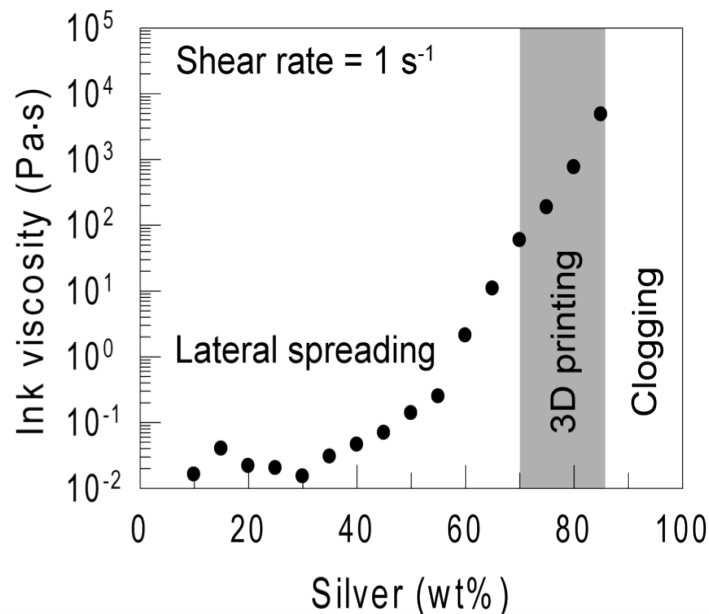
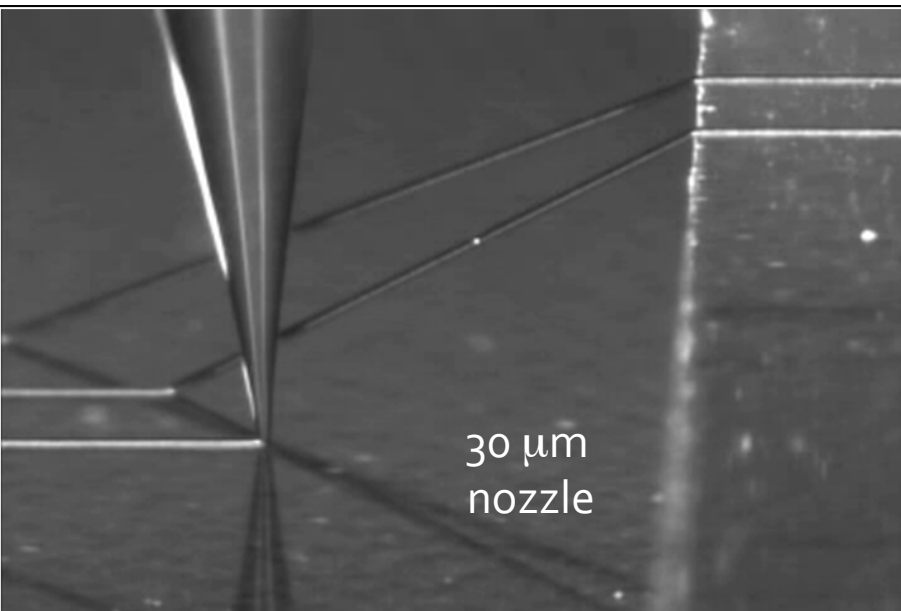
Conductive inks for printed electronics

Silver Particle Inks

Sonication (60 °C, ~2 h)

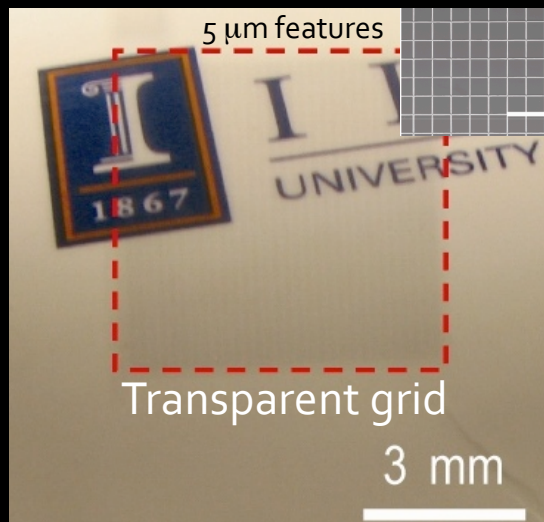


20 nm average, 5 – 50 nm distribution

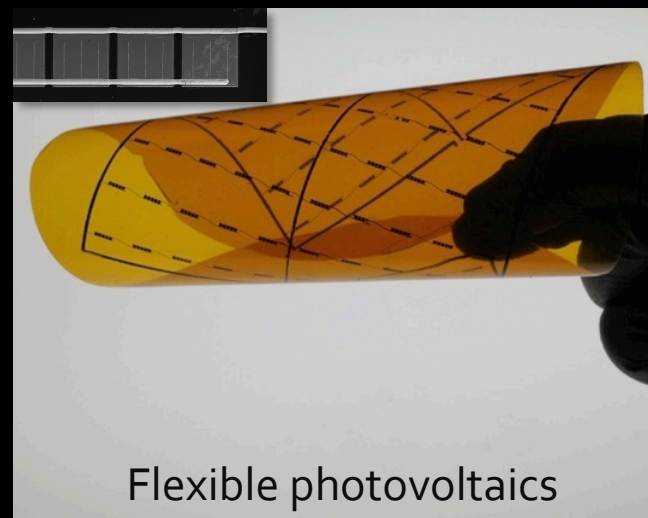


Conductive inks for printed electronics

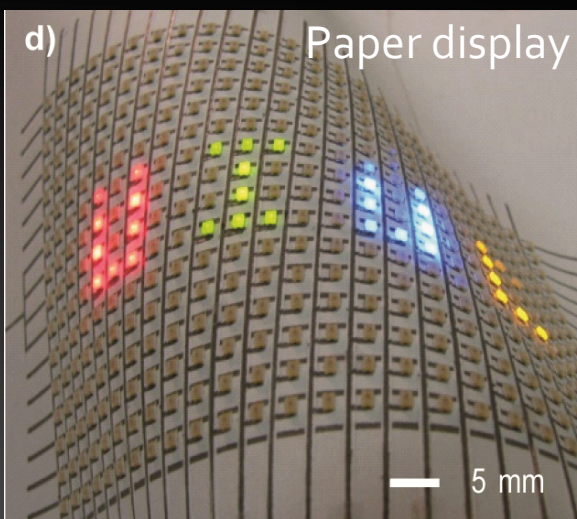
Pen-on-Paper Flexible Electronics



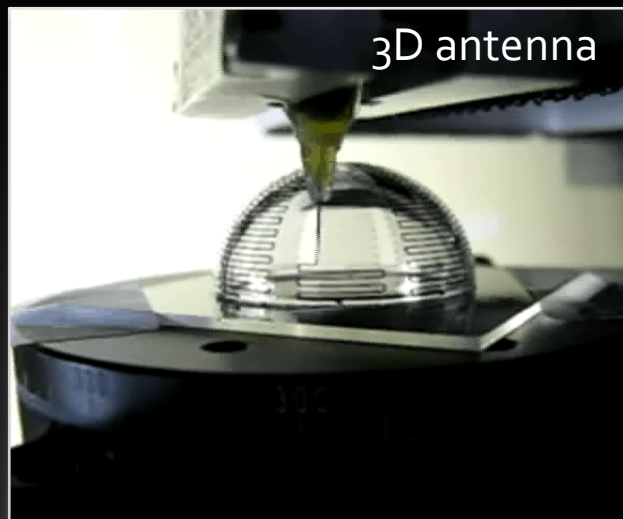
Flexible photovoltaics



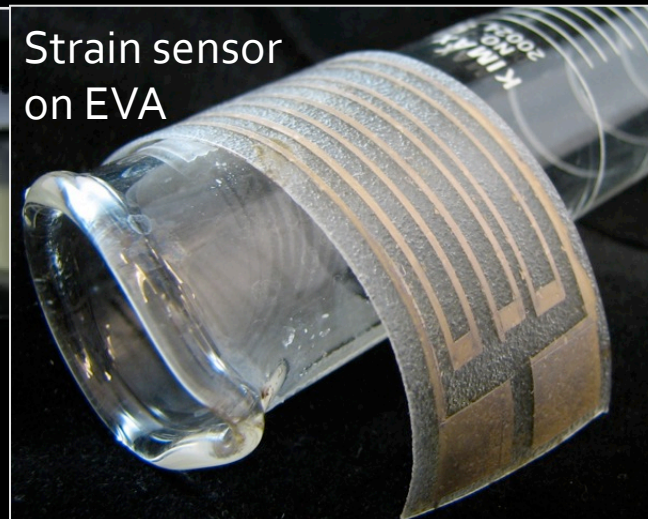
d) Paper display



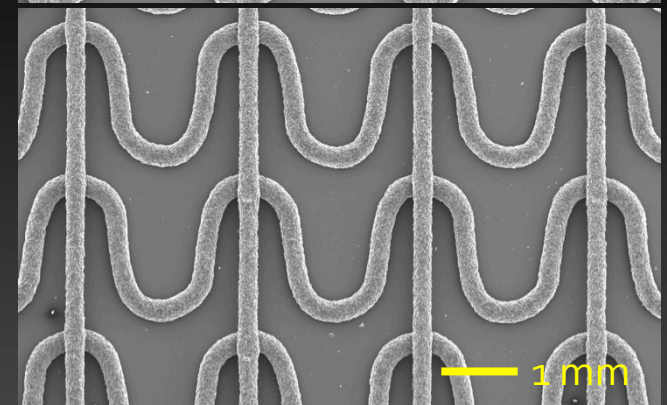
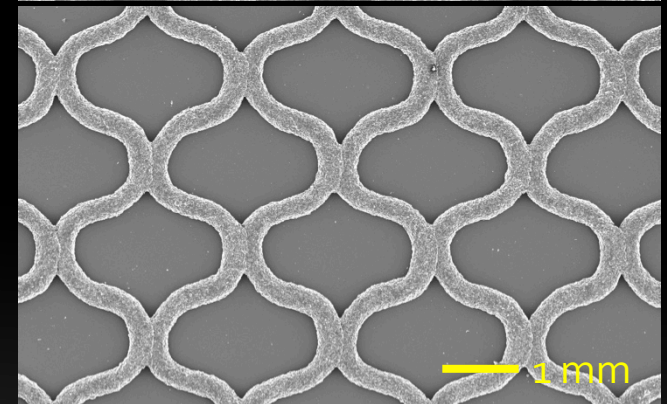
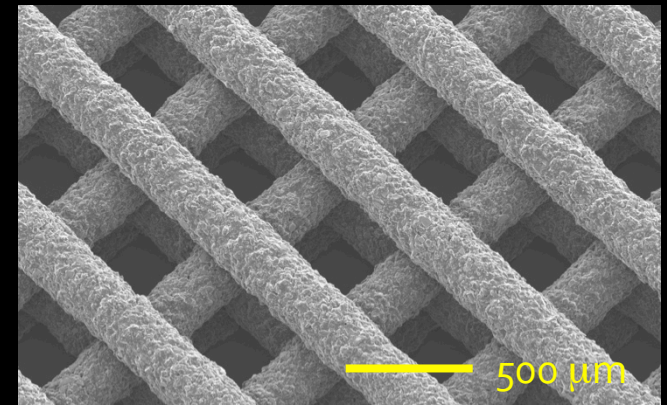
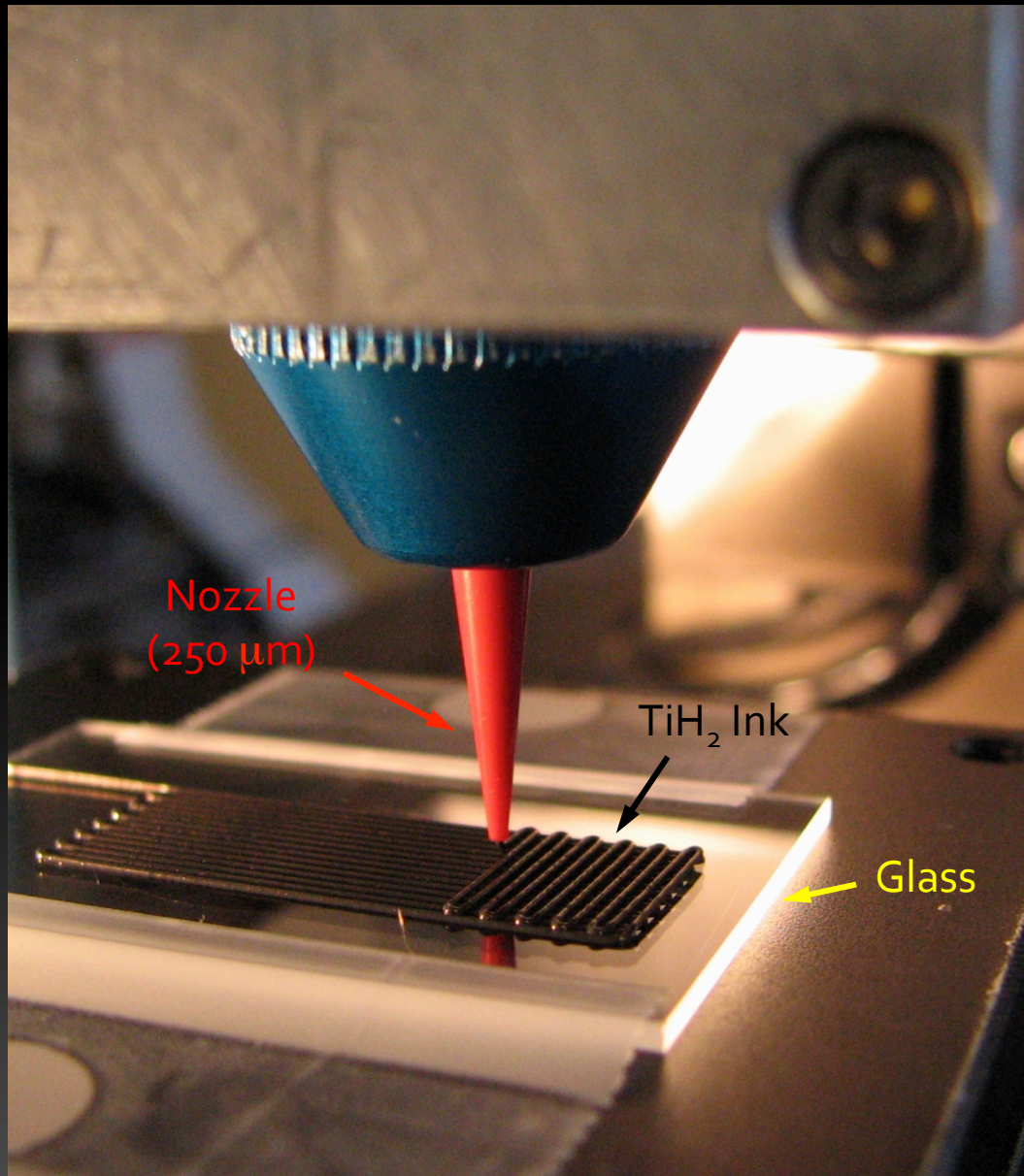
3D antenna



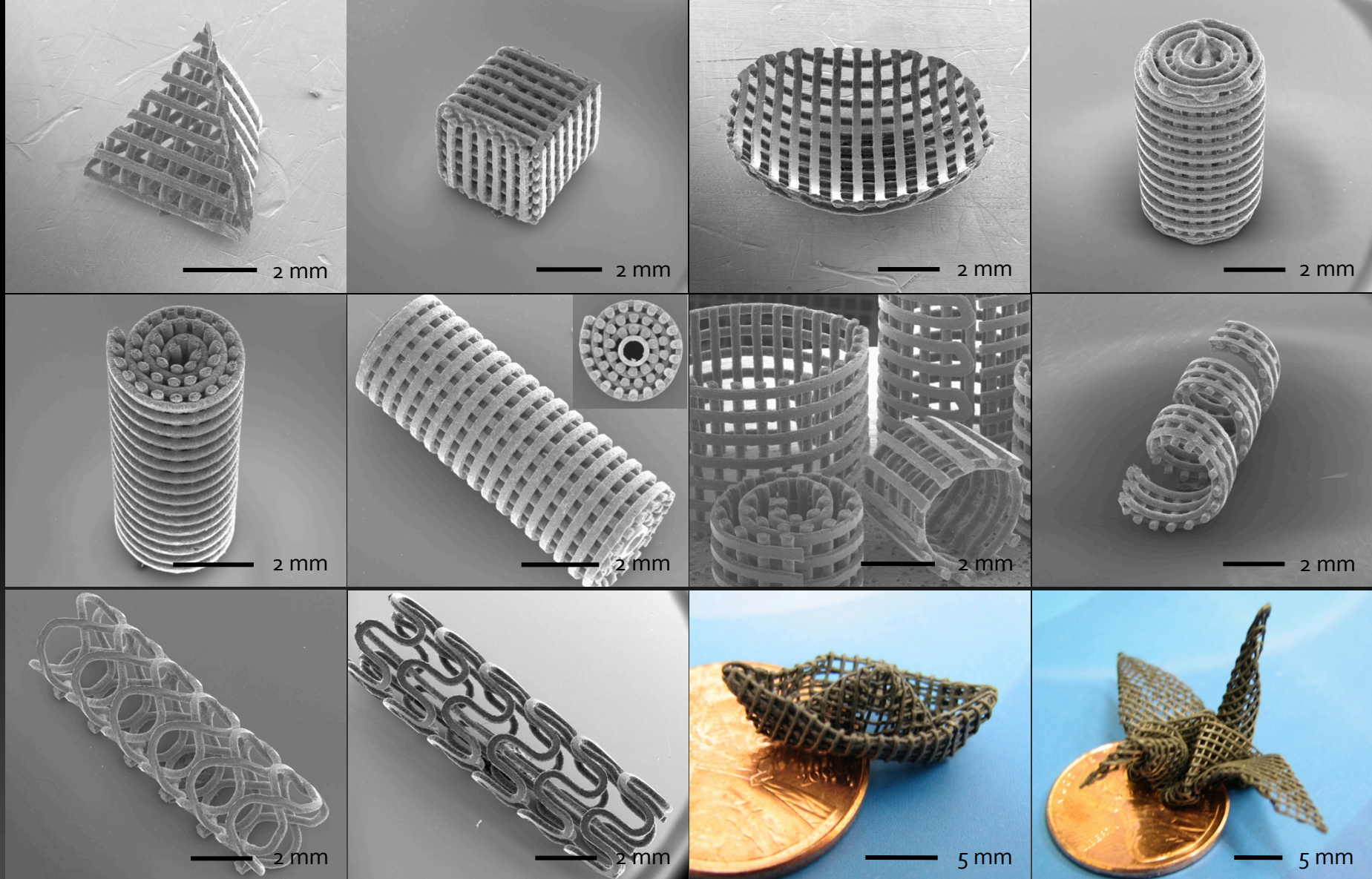
Strain sensor on EVA



Printed origami – simple route to complex 3D forms

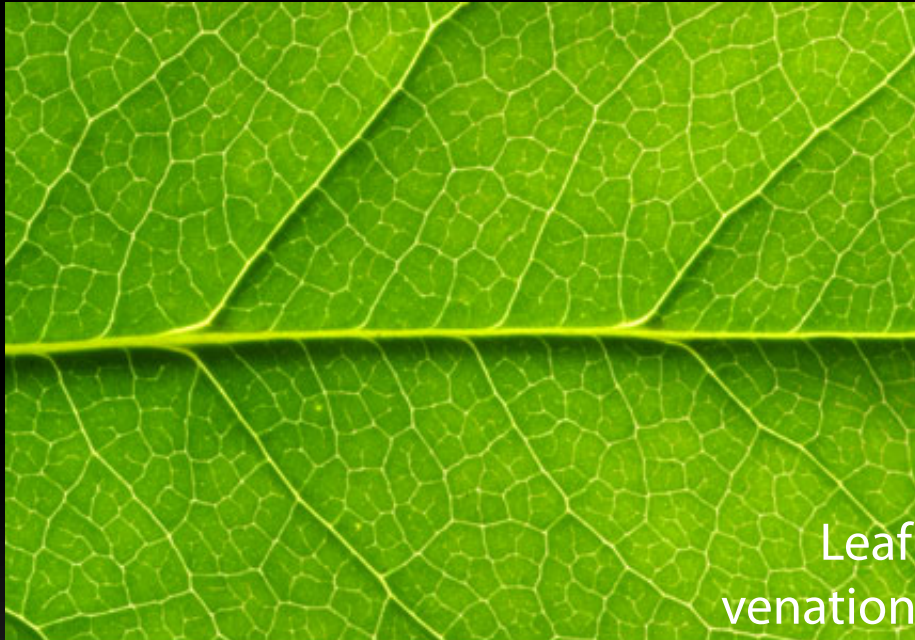


Printed origami structures



Embedding microvascular networks enables multifunctionality

2D



3D



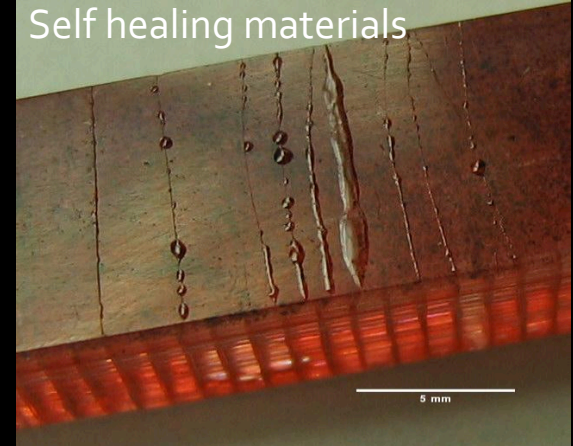
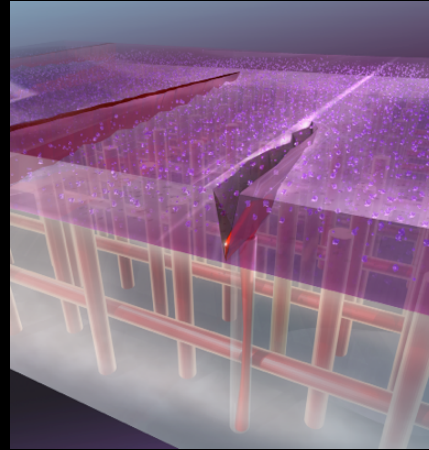
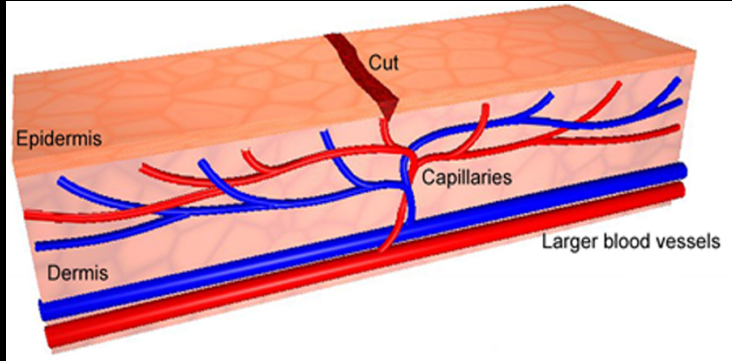
Vascular networks enable important biological functions:

- Nutrient transport
- Temperature regulation
- Healing tissue damage

Potential Impact: self healing/cooling, tissue engineering, soft robotics...

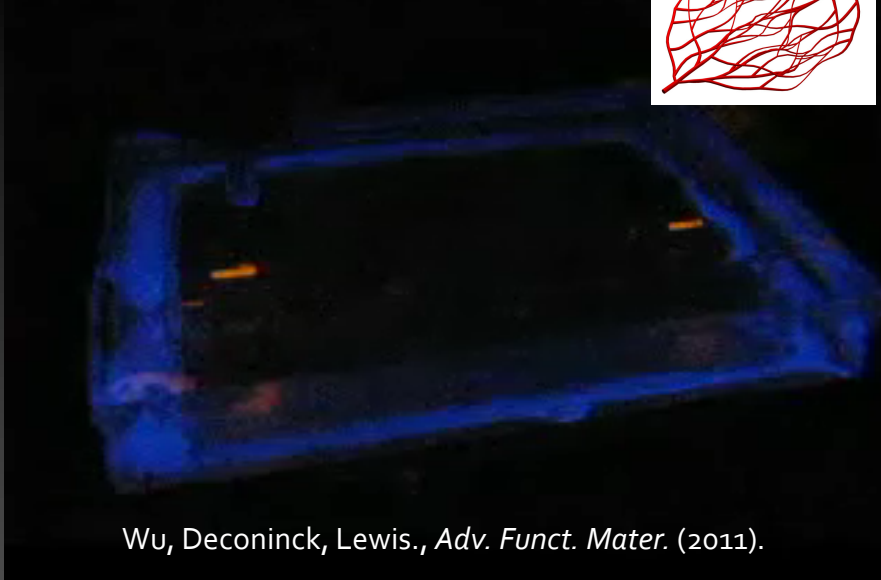
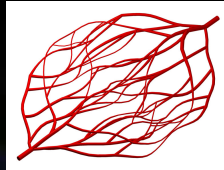
3D microvascular architectures

Bioinspiration

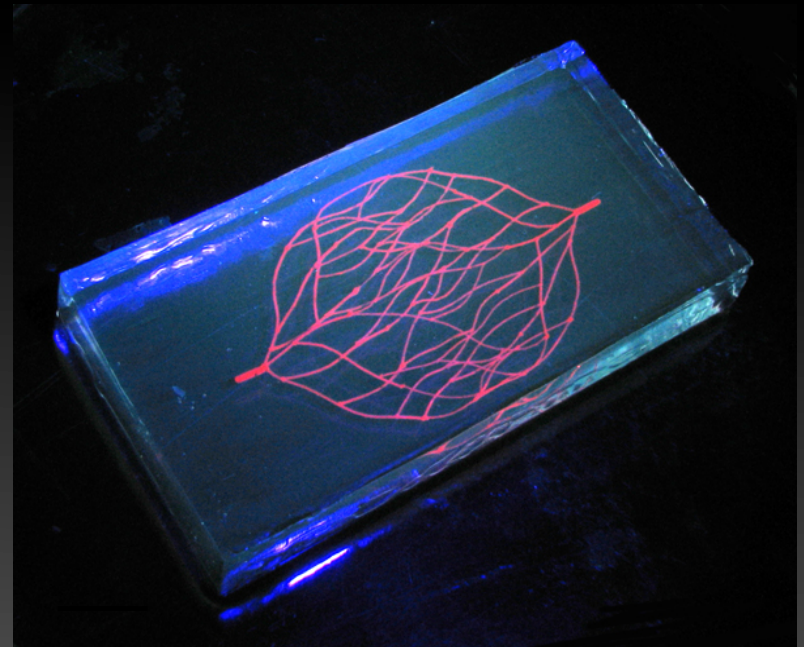


Toohey, Sottos, Lewis, Moore, White., *Nature Mater.* (2007).

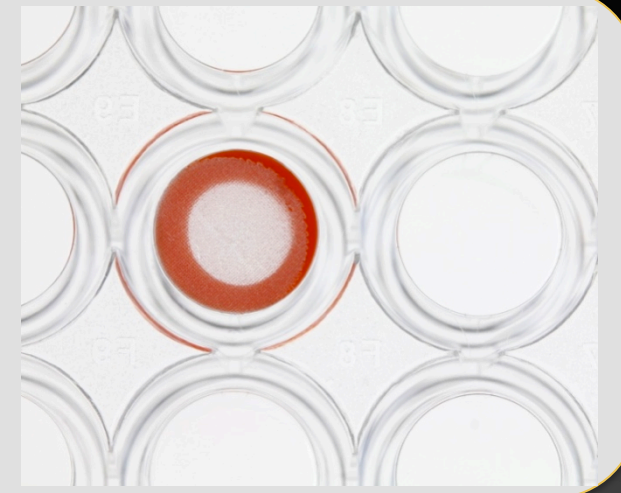
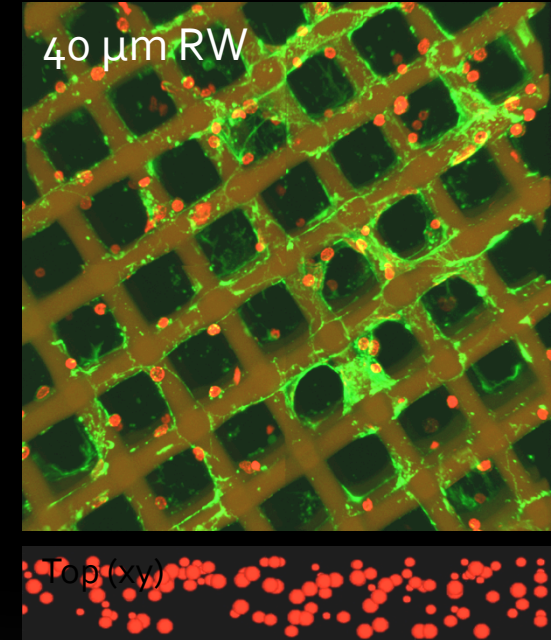
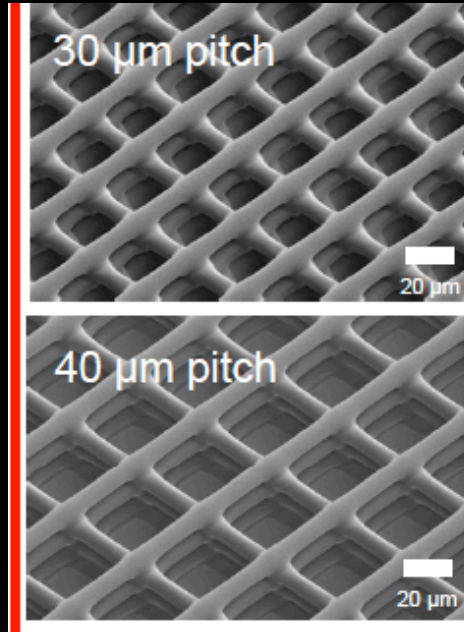
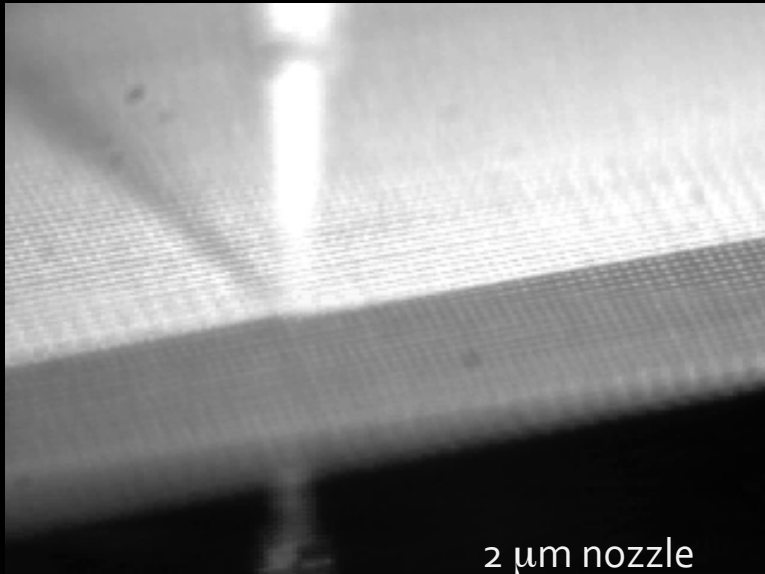
Biomimetic vascularization



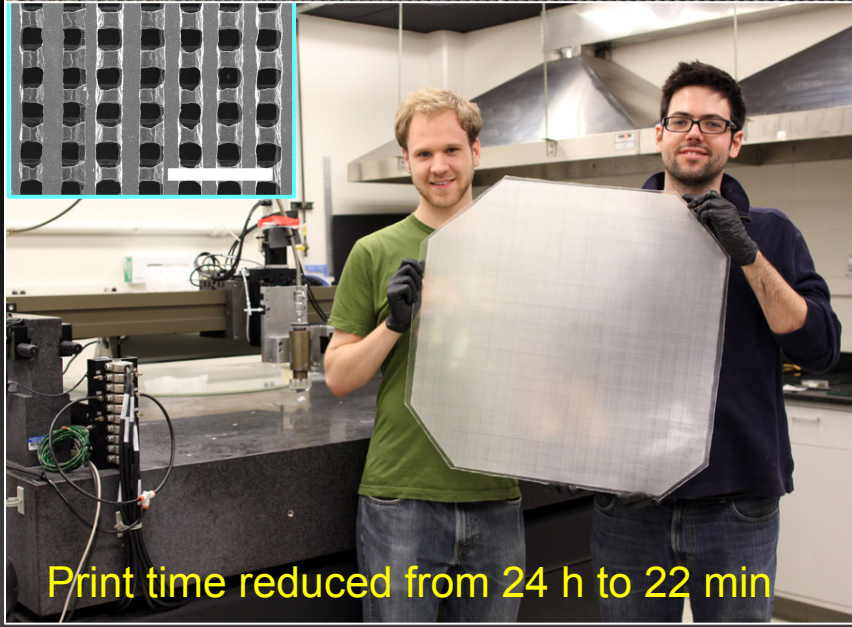
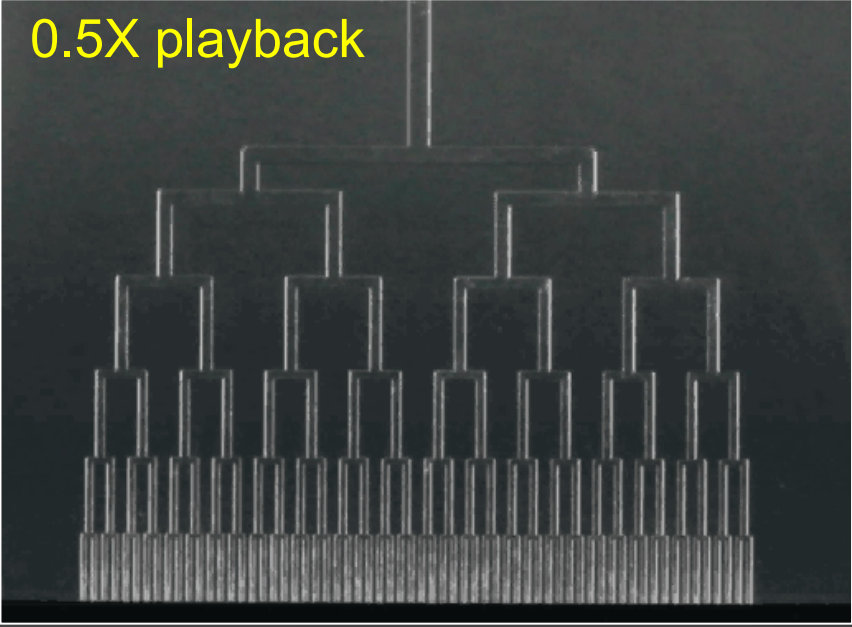
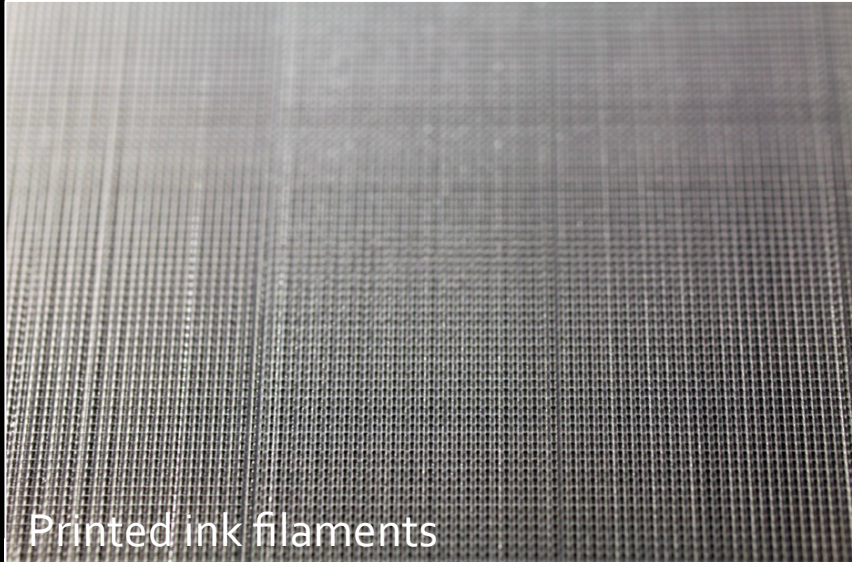
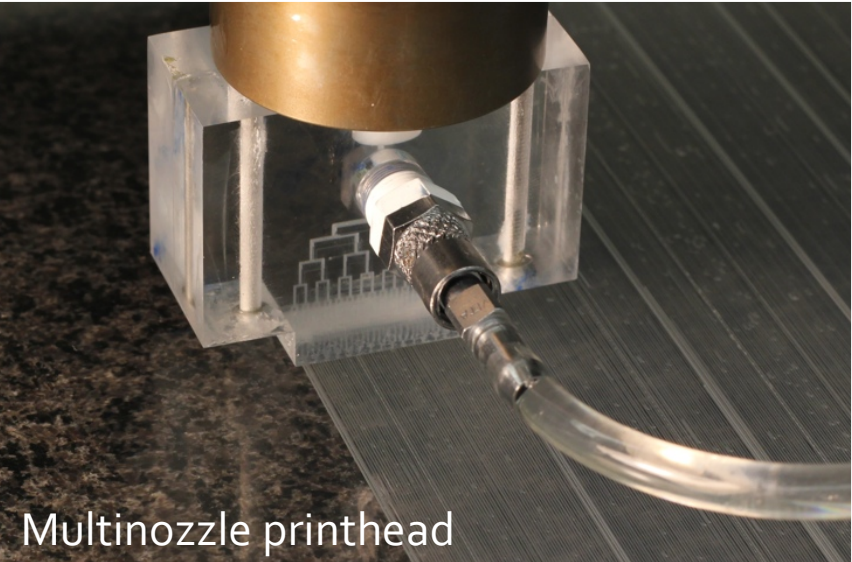
Wu, Deconinck, Lewis., *Adv. Funct. Mater.* (2011).



3D hydrogel scaffolds for tissue engineering

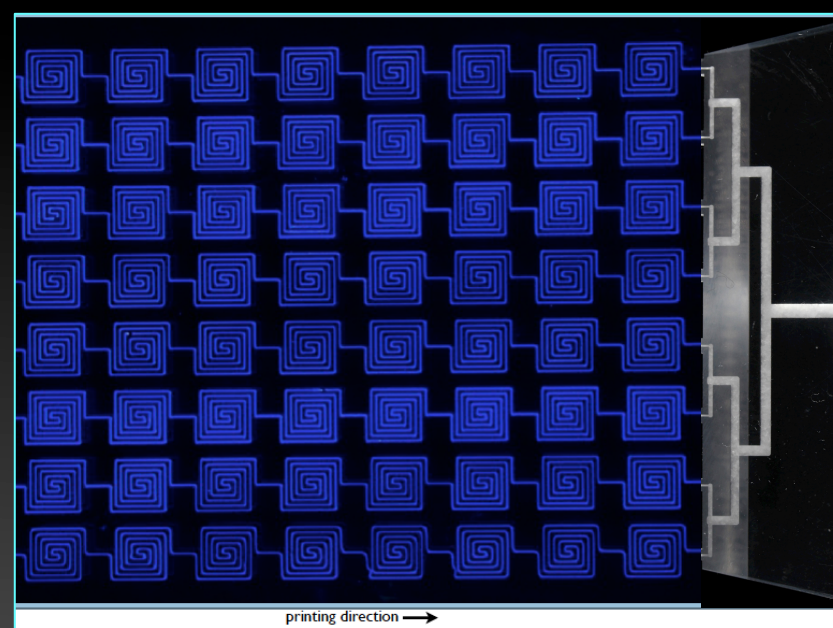
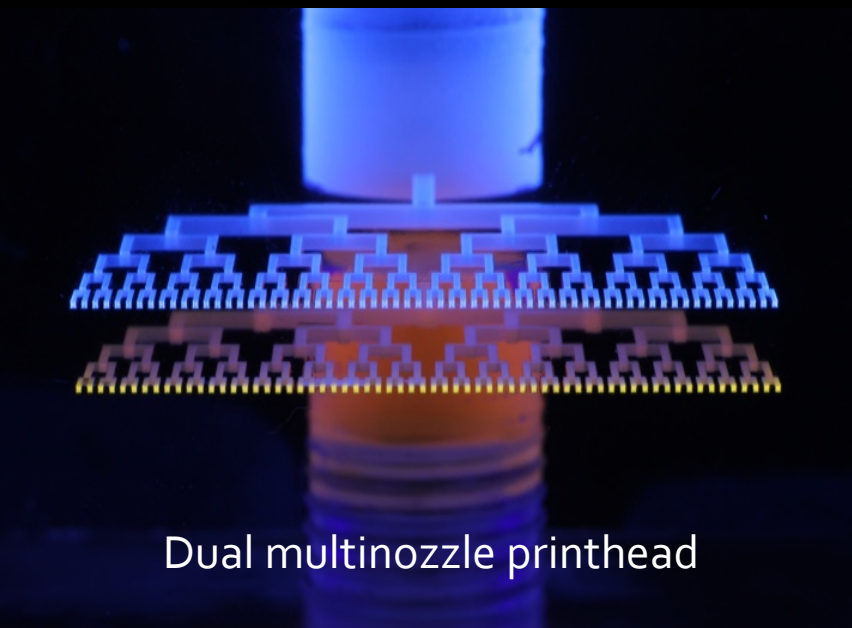
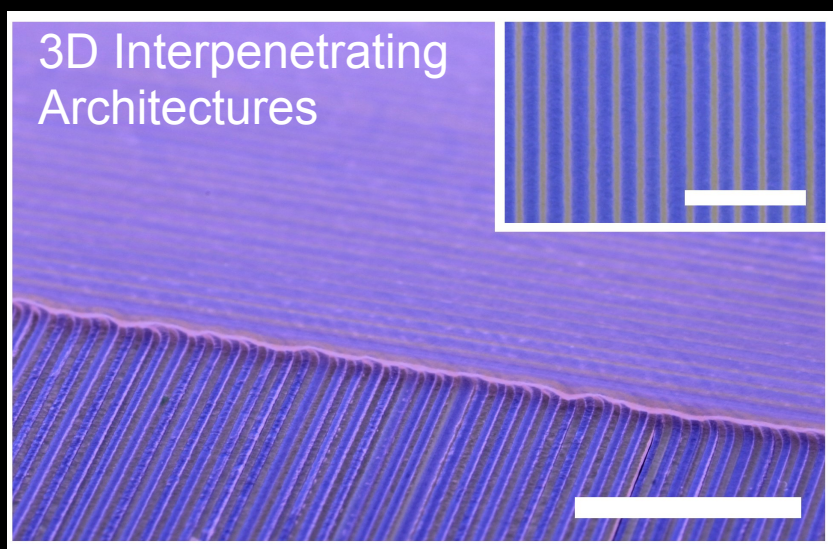
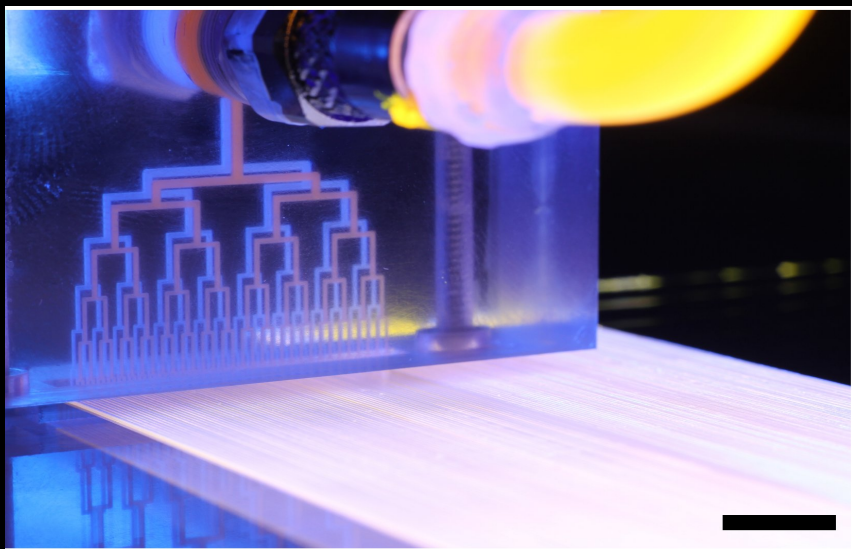


High throughput printing of 3D architectures



Large-area (1 m²) 3D structures printed in minutes using multinozzle printheads

High throughput printing of 3D architectures



Large-area (1 m²) 3D structures printed in minutes using multinozzle printheads

Thank you!



Lewis group

