

# SHANTANU KALLAKURI

+1-6072162577 | 310 Elan Village Lane, Unit 413, San Jose, CA 95134 | [shantanuk100@gmail.com](mailto:shantanuk100@gmail.com) | [sk3269@cornell.edu](mailto:sk3269@cornell.edu)  
<https://www.chemystery.org/> | [Google scholar](https://scholar.google.com/) | <https://linkedin.com/in/shantkall>

## EDUCATION

### Cornell University

Ithaca, NY

*M.S. with Thesis in Materials Science and Engineering*

*Aug. 2018 – May 2021*

- **Advisors:** Prof. [Richard Robinson](#) and Prof. [Tobias Hanrath](#)
- Thesis: 'Development of multiscale hierarchical structures from nanocluster mesophases' [10.7298/x221-2n24](#)
- Graduated with successful thesis defense, a co-op, patents and publication; (CGPA: 3.84/4)

### Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS) Pilani

Pilani, India

*Dual degree - B.E. in Chemical Engineering and M.Sc. in Chemistry*

*Aug. 2010 – Jul. 2015*

- **Advisor:** Prof. [Gokulnath Sabapathi](#), IICT (Indian Institute of Chemical Technology) (now at IISER-TVM)
- Thesis: 'Bi-conjugated Porphyrin and Sapphyrin macro-cycles for Dye-sensitized solar cells'
- Graduated with honors in both degrees & department rank 3 in Chemical engineering; (MGPA: 9.11/10, CGPA: 7.44/10)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Applied Materials Inc.

Santa Clara, CA

**Process Engineer** (Now Senior), Atomic Layer Deposition, Semiconductor Products Group

*Aug. 2021 – Present*

- Process owner for [Olympia](#) - Applied's primary line of dielectric Plasma-enhanced atomic layer deposition (PEALD) machines developing process & chemistry for emergent Gate-all-around (GAA) [transistors](#)
- Spearheading a 6 member team to develop plasma-based conformal film deposition processes for dielectric fill & liner applications in advanced-node logic & memory GAA process and integration flow (n+2, sub-1.5nm & beyond)
- Executed multiple IP-protected projects in this role leading to multi-million dollar sales for Applied Materials product at various logic and memory customers. Filed 6 technology patents (Four granted, others pending)

**Process Engineering Co-op** (Mid-degree), Varian division, Applied Materials (Massachusetts)

*Sep. 2019 – Sep. 2020*

- Developed, executed, showed proof-of-concept and patented processes for three applications in plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD) and reactive ion etch (RIE) using AMAT machines [Sculpta](#) & [Sym3](#)
- Developed process and chemistry on proprietary glass to etch AR/VR waveguides and photonic gratings using directional ribbon beams, 2.5D [grayscale lithography](#) & innovative masking to pattern nanotopographic features
- Developed PECVD process and chemistry for directional seeding and seam-free selective deposition of metal on Silicon and mixed Silicon substrates for Buried word-line (BWL) DRAM application

### Cornell University

Ithaca, NY

**Graduate Thesis** (Advisor: Prof. Richard Robinson), Materials Science & Engineering

*Aug. 2018 – May 2021*

- Developed a one-pot synthesis of functional quantum dot magic-sized nanocrystals (MSNC) that hierarchically self-assemble into 99.9% pure, 6% monodisperse thin-films & fibers through a DNA-like biomimetic mesophase
- These electromagnetically tunable thin-films scale 7 orders in magnitude (nm-cm), have huge chiral g-factors (1.30), support diverse chemistry and are analyzed with simple laser diffraction. Published in [Nature Materials](#)

### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Cambridge, MA

**Visiting Research Assistant** (Advisor: Prof. Julia Ortony), Materials Science & Engineering

*Feb. 2017 – Aug. 2017*

- Developed initial precursors and head-group synthesis protocols for amphiphilic self-assembly at Prof. Ortony's lab that were later used in heavy metal remediation and catalysis studies by the team. This material platform was further developed and published by the team in some great work in [Nature Nano](#)

### Brigham & Women's Hospital, Harvard-MIT HST

Cambridge, MA

**Research Assistant** (Advisor: Prof. Hadi Shafiee), Engineering for Medicine

*Aug. 2016 – Feb. 2017*

- Synthesized and surface-modified Janus Pt/Au nanomotors using Thiol cross-linking chemistry, Polymerase chain-reaction (PCR), Loop-mediated (LAMP) DNA amplification to spontaneously bind DNA to nanomotors
- Achieved 99% accurate HIV & Zika diagnosis by comparing the DNA-bound to free nanomotor velocities using cellphones for inexpensive point-of-care diagnosis. Research published in [ACS Nano](#) & [Nature Communications](#)

- Designed and synthesized a light-harvesting expanded *Porphyrin* (*Sapphyrin*) and characterized it using electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) for Dye-sensitized solar cell (DSSC) photosensitizer application
- Iterated through multiple pathways to successfully develop a high-yield solution based on *Thieno–pyrrole* (80%). The novelty was the donor- $\pi$  bridge-acceptor dye which integrates usually disparate electronic regions
- Integrated the dye with a  $TiO_2$  scaffold and *Carbon, Indium Tin Oxide (ITO)* counter-electrode to build a working cell. Achieved the objective for a dye with broad Q, Soret bands to allow high-efficiency DSSC (10.3%)

## CERTIFICATIONS

**Stanford:** *Harnessing the Power of AI/ML to Address New Engineering Challenges*: Comprehensive 15-week course covering Regression, Classification, Clustering, Support Vector Machines, Trees, Random Forests, Neural Networks and final AI project

## SKILLS

**Organic & Inorganic Synthesis:** Quantum-dots, core-shell nanoparticles, spinels, macrocycles, conductive polymers, donor-acceptors, Porphyrins; **Self-assembly:** Directed & amphiphilic; **Conjugation:** Thio/Azo binding, ligand chemistry, trap-states  
**Thin-film growth & nanopatterning:** Plasma-based chemical vapor deposition, Plasma-based atomic layer deposition, atomic layer etch, selective deposition and etch, directional deposition and etch, reactive ion etch, grayscale lithography  
**Characterization:** UV-Vis, XRD, NMR, FTIR, SAXS, OES, Ellipsometry, optical diffraction simulation, impedance spectroscopy  
**Simulation & modelling:** LAMMPS, GAMESS (Basic), Blender, Cinema4D, Solidworks, AutoCAD, Ansys Fluent  
**ML & AI:** Deep neural networks, support vector regression, logistic & linear regression, classification, clustering, trees  
**Programming:** Python (proficient), Java (proficient), C/C++, VBA, MatLab, JavaScript, SQL, HTML/CSS  
**Statistics:** Pandas, NumPy, Scikit-learn, Tensorflow, SciPy, Seaborn, Matplotlib, SAS (JMP), DOE

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & CONFERENCES

- Aix conference, Applied Materials** (2024) : "*Detect or defect: A CNN-powered AI-driven approach to semiconductor defect classification*" **S. Kallakuri**, Z. Zhang, R. Patil, L. Sun, M. Copic
- Nature Materials**, 21(5): 518-525 (2022) : "*Multiscale hierarchical structures from a nanocluster mesophase*" H. Han, **S. Kallakuri**, Y. Yao, C. B. Williamson, D. R. Nevers, B. H. Savitzky, R. S. Skye, M. Xu, O. Voznyy, J. Dshemuchadse, L. F. Kourkoutis, S. J. Weinstein, T. Hanrath, R. D. Robinson
- Nature Communications**, 9(1): 4282 (2018) : "*DNA-engineered micromotors powered by metal nanoparticles for motion-based cellphone diagnostics*" M. S. Draz, K. M. Kochehyoki, A. Vasan, D. Battalapalli, A. Sreeram, M. K. Kanakasabapathy, **S. Kallakuri**, A. Tsibris, D. R. Kuritzkes, H. Shafiee
- ACS Nano**, 12(6): 5709-5718 (2018) : "*Motion-based immunological detection of Zika Virus using Pt-nanomotors and a cellphone*" M. S. Draz, N. K. Lakshminaraasimulu, S. Krishnakumar, D. Battalapalli, A. Vasan, M. K. Kanakasabapathy, A. Sreeram, **S. Kallakuri**, P. Thirumalaraju, Y. Li, S. Hua, X. G. Yu, D. R. Kuritzkes, H. Shafiee
- Functionalized engineering materials & their applications**, 1(1):117-124 (2016) : "*Synthesis and characterization of templated Polyanilines: A new class of polymeric materials*" J. Avusula, **S. Kallakuri**, S. Jayanty

## SELECTED PATENTS

**US11956978B2** and **US20240040808A1** | *Techniques & devices using directional seeding & selective deposition* (2024)  
M. Zeeshan, K. Chan, **S. Kallakuri**, S. Varghese. Two IPs describing selective, angular dielectric & metal deposition

**US11749564B2** | *Techniques for void-free material depositions* (2023)  
M. Zeeshan, K. Chan, **S. Kallakuri**, S. Varghese, J. Hautala. This IP covers a foundational way to deposit metal in void-free manner for Buried Wordline (BWL) DRAM application in advanced transistors since voids raise resistance

**US11404314B2** | *Metal line patterning* (2022)  
S. Varghese, M. Zeeshan, **S. Kallakuri**, K. Chan. This method describes a process-flow for selective fin patterning through deposition + etch using Plasma-enhanced CVD and/or ALD for transistor Wordline and Bitline application

**US20220100078A1** | *Devices and methods for variable etch depths* (Submitted, Pending)  
M. Zeeshan, R. Bandy, P. Kurunczi, **S. Kallakuri**, T. Soldi, J. Olson. This IP covers a process-flow crucial to plasma etch process of waveguides and gratings on special glass (Various glass types) for augmented reality (AR) applications

**US20220119955A1** | *Techniques for variable deposition profiles* (Submitted, Pending)  
M. Zeeshan, **S. Kallakuri**, J. Olson. This IP describes etch techniques to modulate refractive index for AR gratings

## SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

**(2020) Applied Materials internship excellence award** & cash prize | **(2014-2015) T.I.M.E** undergraduate engineering & management scholarship | **(2013-2015) BITS Pilani MCN** (merit cum need) undergraduate scholarship | **(2015) Three Bronze** and **Two Gold** medals for university in Carrom and Soccer at national sports fests BOSM, SPREE, and ARENA | **(2014) Runner-up in National selection** for Carrom from Andhra Pradesh

## TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

---

- *Teaching assistant: (2020) MSE5860 - Atomic structure, Prof. Richard Robinson | (2020) ENGRG1160 - Intro to Engineering: Prof. Bruce Van Dover | (2018) MSE4330 - Energy materials, Prof. Richard Robinson*
- *Mentored 4 batches of 7th-10th grade students as an [Expanding your horizons \(EYH\)](#) student engineering mentor*
- *Taught and mentored 32 undergraduates in Chemistry and Physics on Chegg/InstaEdu over the course of 3 years*

## LEADERSHIP & OUTREACH

---

- *Project coordinator, [Asha](#): Raised over \$18000 in fund-raiser events (through concerts, workshops, and student-cooked dinners) for the non-profit, focused primarily on less privileged students in rural India*
- *Artist Liaison, [Spicmacay](#): Organized 8 fund-raising concerts for the non-profit to help popularize Indian Carnatic & Hindustani music through artistes like Sikkil Gurucharan & Pt. Ronu Majumdar*
- *Community outreach lead, [Yuva \(Youth under visionary action\)](#) & [Nirmaan](#): Organized over 6 summer education camps for 8th-10th grade students in Thimmapur & Dasarigudem villages focused on math and science education*
- *Event planner, [Make a Difference \(MAD\)](#): Regularly organize blood-donation drives (3+) & vaccine camps (2+)*