

Giving New Life to Materials for Energy, Electronics, and the Environment

There are many properties of living systems that could be harnessed by researchers to make advanced technologies that are smarter, more adaptable, and are synthesized to be compatible with the environment. One approach to designing future technologies is to evolve organisms to work with a more diverse set of building blocks. These materials could address many scientific and technological problems in electronics, military, medicine, and energy applications. Examples include a virus-enabled lithium ion rechargeable battery that has many improved properties over conventional batteries, as well as materials for solar and display technologies.

The Wulff Lecture is an introductory, general-audience, entertaining lecture which serves to educate, inspire, and encourage MIT undergraduates to take up study in the field of materials science and engineering and related fields. The entire MIT community, particularly freshmen, is invited to attend. The Wulff Lecture honors the late Professor John Wulff, a skilled, provocative, and entertaining teacher who inaugurated a new approach to teaching the popular freshman subject: 3.091 Introduction to Solid State Chemistry.

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