

# *Sustainable Carbon: Graphene Water and eco-friendly conducting rubbers, electrocatalysts and supercapacitors*

**Alain Pénicaud**

Centre de Recherche Paul Pascal, CNRS, Université Bordeaux-I

[penicaud@crpp-bordeaux.cnrs.fr](mailto:penicaud@crpp-bordeaux.cnrs.fr)



université  
de **BORDEAUX**

# Outline

---

- Eau de Graphène (graphene water):  
Additive free Single layer graphene in water

- Carbon Waters : the Company

- Multi layer Graphene from food waste ?
  - conducting rubbers
  - electrocatalysts
  - supercapacitors



# Graphene :

a single layer of hexagonally arranged carbon atoms



painting by Bleue Roy, <http://www.bleue-roy.com/Animals/animals.html>

The ultimate membrane:



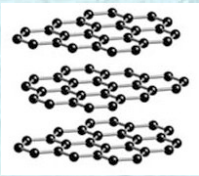
All surface material  
thinnest  
strongest  
flexible yet tough  
electrical conductor  
Thermal conductor

**Q: How to transfer the property of the individual object to a macroscopic material ?**

**A: By properly exfoliating graphite**

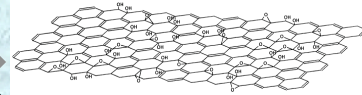
# Liquid formulations of graphene

## • Reduced graphene oxide (RGO):



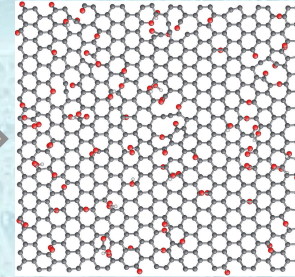
Graphite

Sulfuric acid  
/  $\text{KMnO}_4$



GO

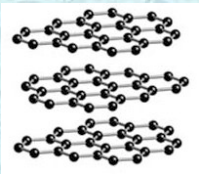
Reduction



RGO

- full exfoliation
- water Soluble
- Defects

## • Mechanical exfoliation in liquids:



Graphite



Surfactant



Mechanical energy

- Low cost
- Distribution of thickness (1 to 20 layers)
- Concentration < 0.07 g/L
- Surfactants or toxic solvents (NMP)

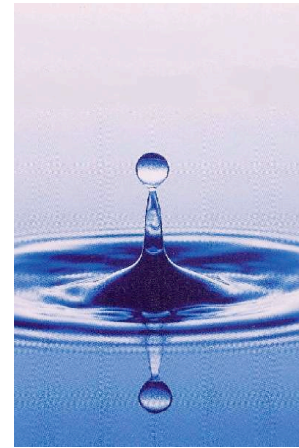
## • Reductive Dissolution: ....

- You ~~cannot~~ **can** get 100 %  
single layer graphene in  
water



**Oil**

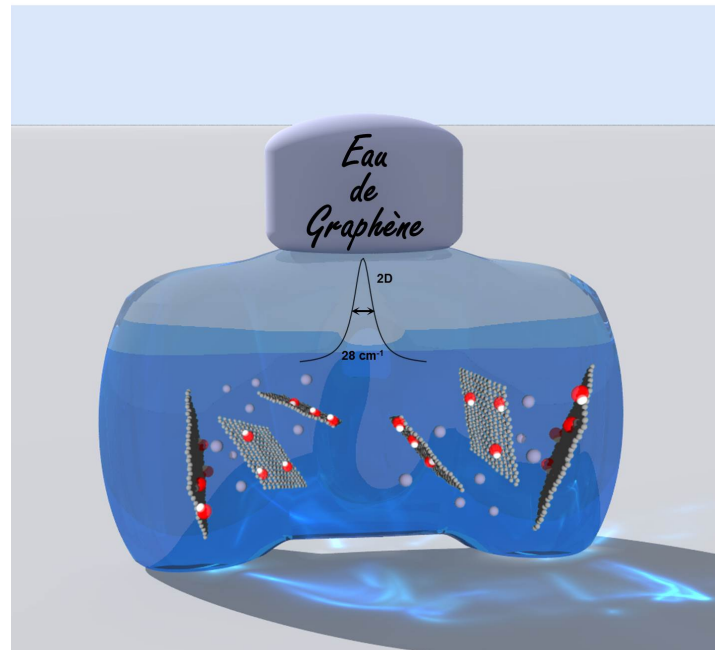
+



**Water**



George Bepete

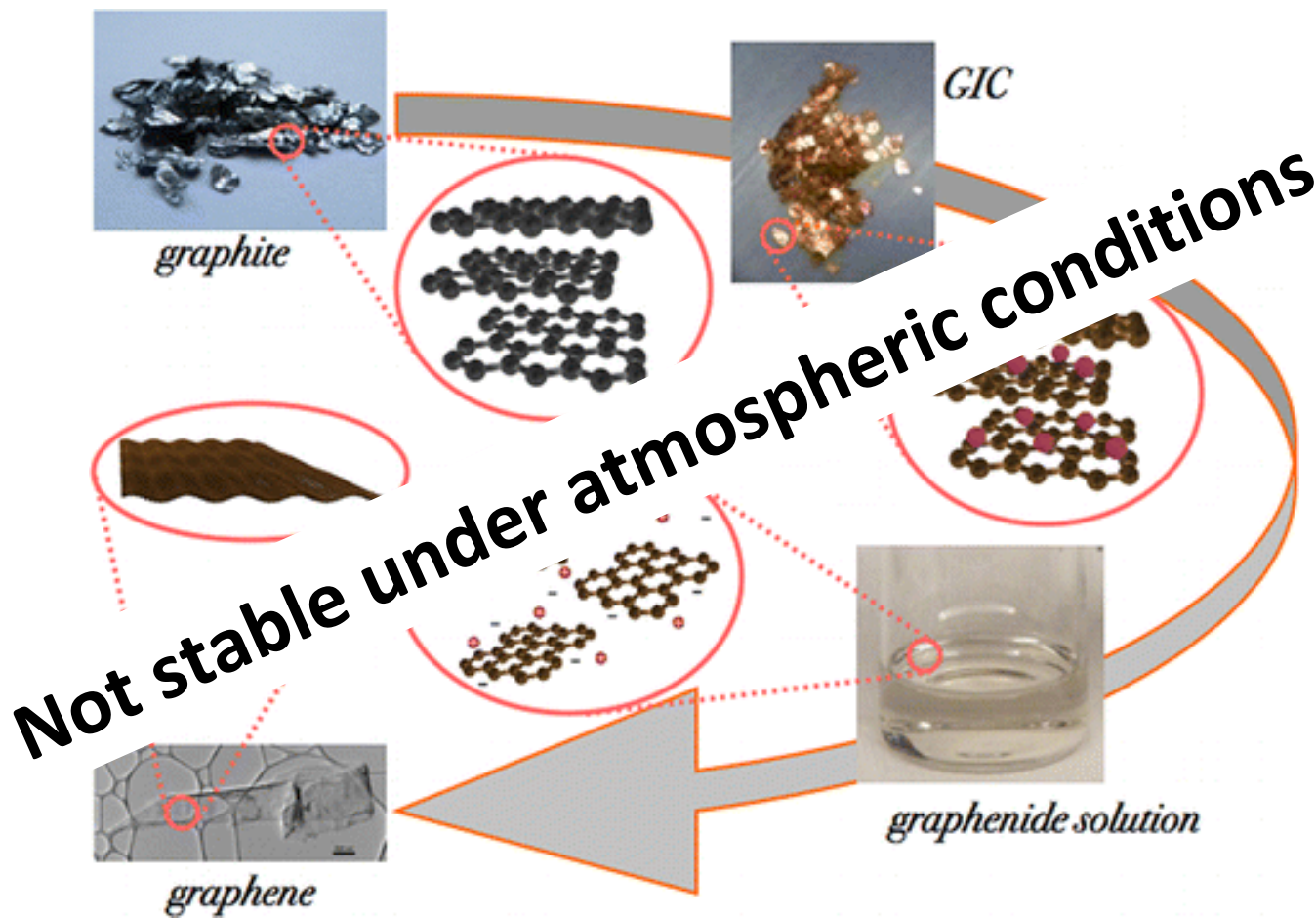


# *Eau de Graphène*



# Full exfoliation to SLG

## Dissolution of GICs in aprotic solvents

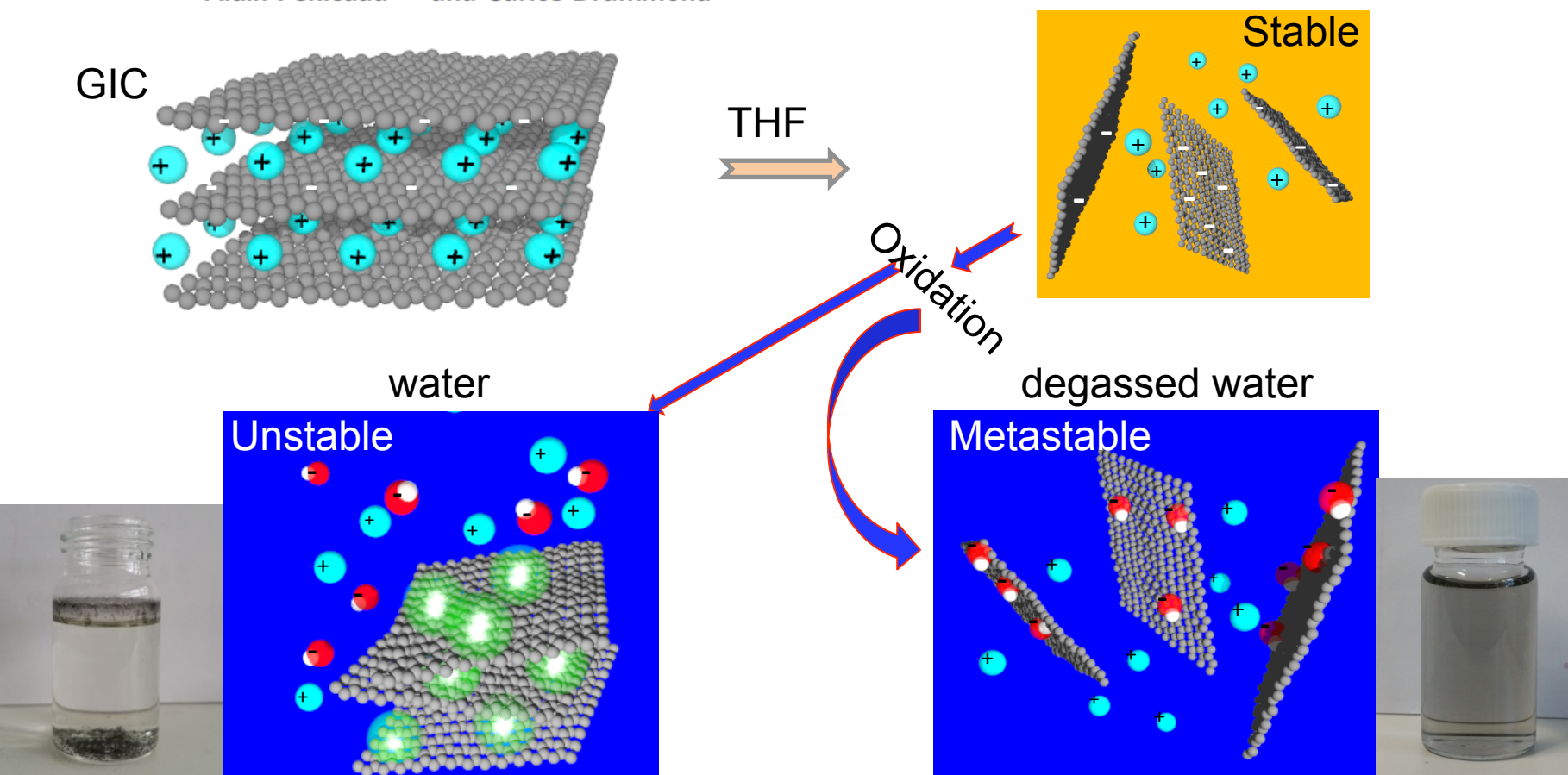


Drummond & Penicaud., *Acc. Chem. Res.* (2013)

Valles *et al.*, *JACS.* (2008) Englert *et al.*, *Nat. Chem.* (2011) Catheline *et al.*, *Soft Matter.* (2012) Milner *et al.*, *JACS.* (2012)

# Surfactant-free single-layer graphene in water

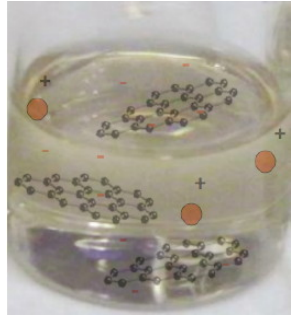
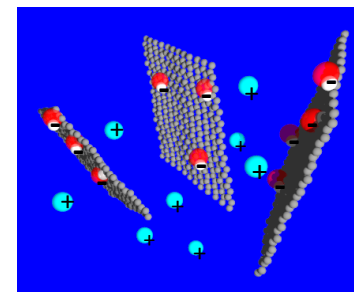
George Bepete<sup>1,2</sup>, Eric Anglaret<sup>3</sup>, Luca Ortolani<sup>4</sup>, Vittorio Morandi<sup>4</sup>, Kai Huang<sup>1,2</sup>,  
Alain Pénicaud<sup>1,2\*</sup> and Carlos Drummond<sup>1,2\*</sup>



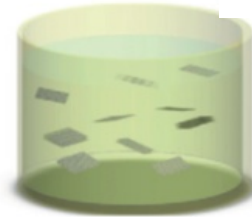
Bepete *et al.*, Nature Chem, 2017, J. Phys. Chem C, 2016, Phys. Status Solidi RRL 2016

Alain Pénicaud, CNRS-Université de Bordeaux penicaud@crpp-bordeaux.cnrs.fr

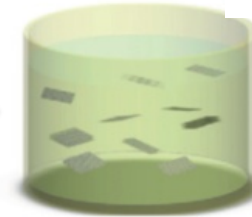
NanoSpain Bilbao, March 15 2018



Oxidation



Addition of water



Normal water



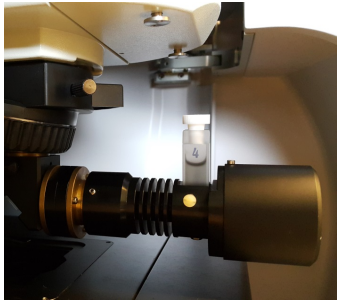
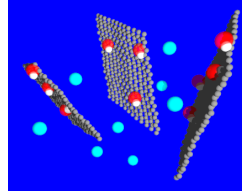
pH = 11

Degassed water

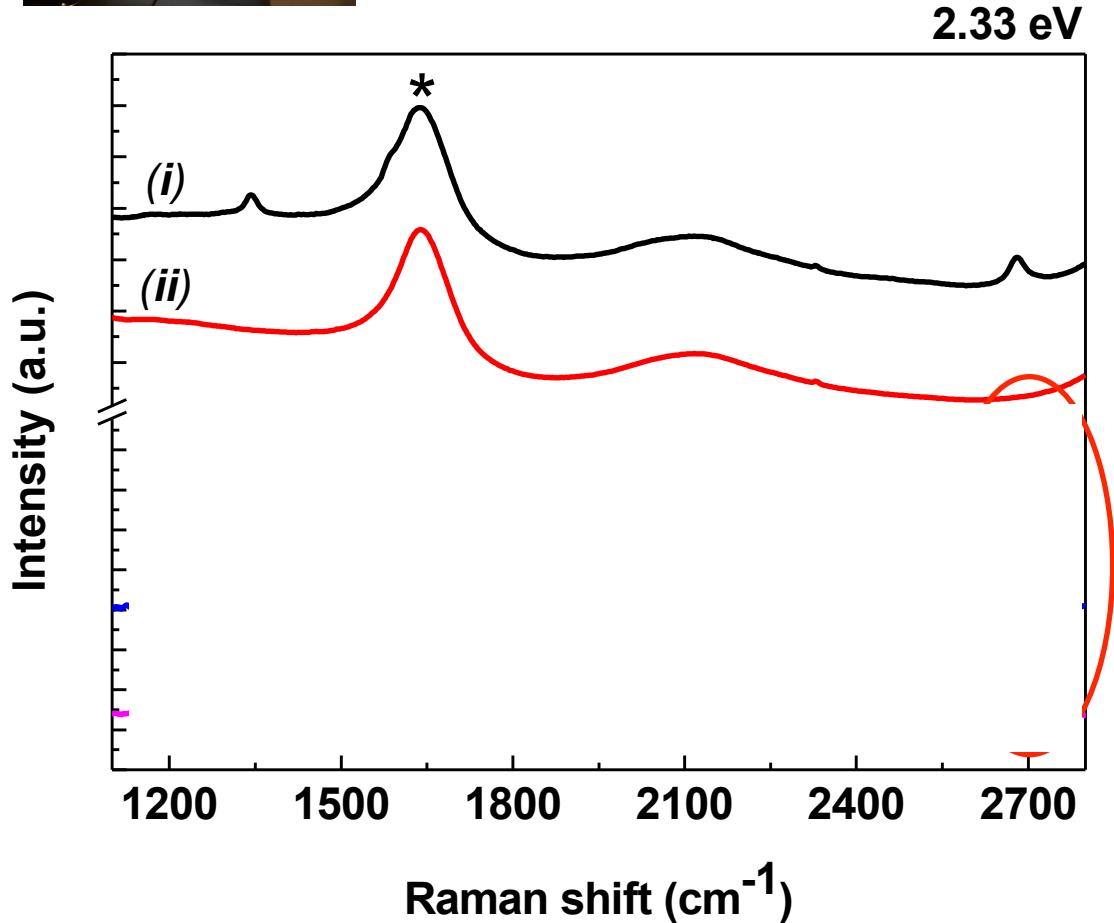


pH = 8

# Raman signatures of graphene in water



In liquid !



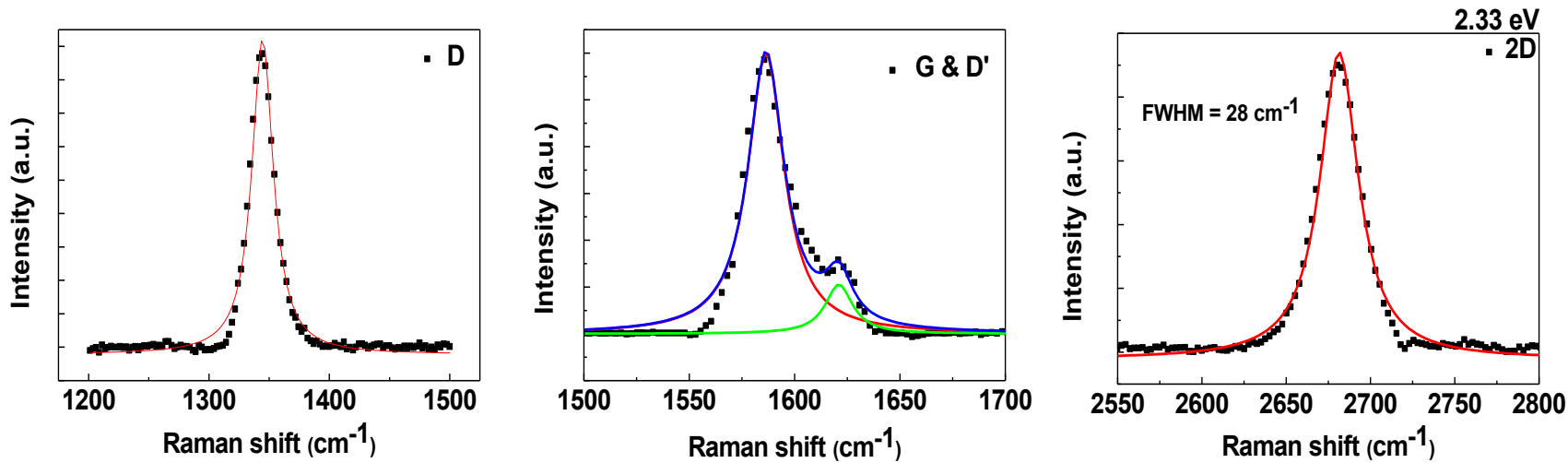
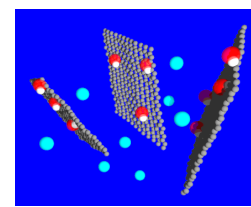
Graphene in water

Water

Graphene in water after water substraction

NaC stabilized graphene After water substraction

# Raman signatures of SLG in water



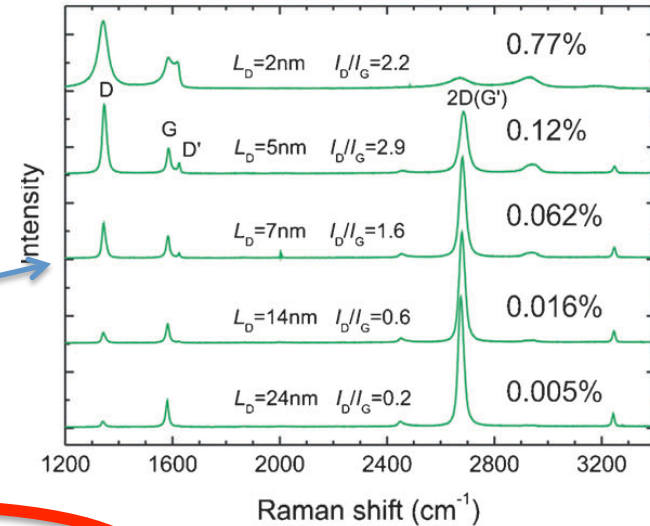
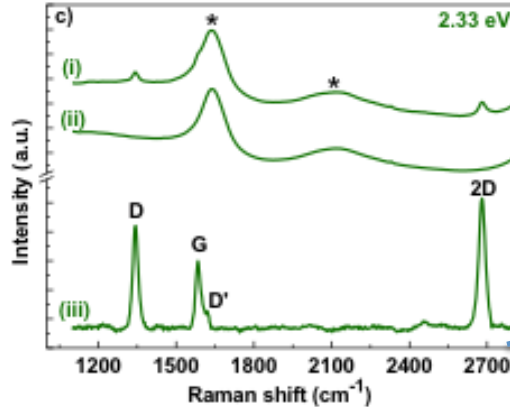
Excitation Energy (eV)	D		G		D'		2D	
	$\omega$	$\Delta$	$\omega$	$\Delta$	$\omega$	$\Delta$	$\omega$	$\Delta$
2.33	1345	27	1586	21	1620	16	2681	28

**Symmetric, narrow and intense 2D band**  
 → signature of SLG

Bepete et al., J. Phys. Chem C, 2016

# D band : concentration of defects ?

Lucchese Carbon (2010)

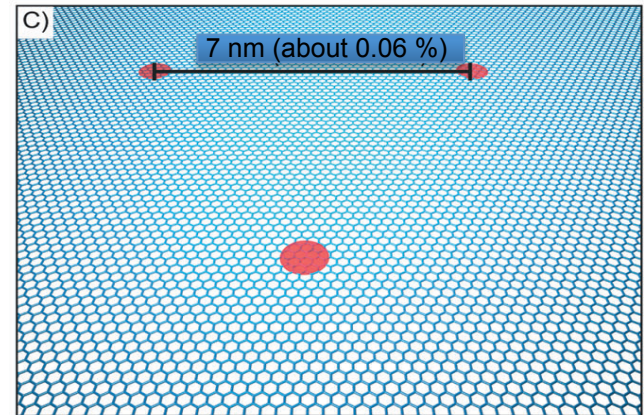
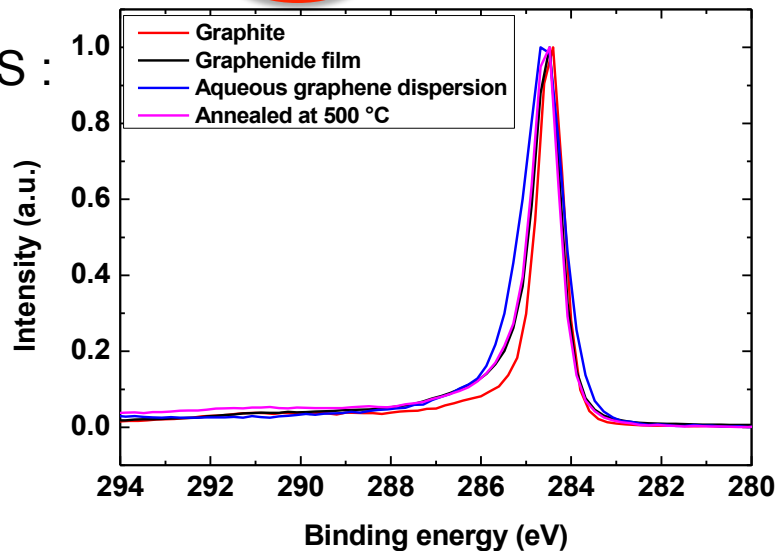


$E_L$ / eV	ID/IG	ID/ID'
2.33	1.6	9.0

600 ppm defects

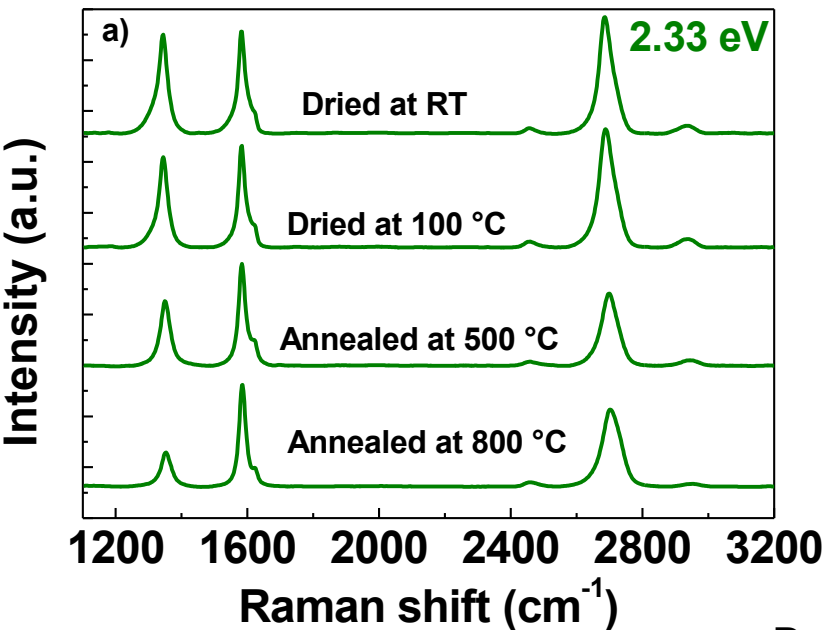
Cançado et al.. Nano Lett. (2011)

XPS :



Adapted from: Eigler & Hirsch Angew. Chemie (2014)

# Films from EdG at 2.33 eV



Film Treatment	2D		$A_D/A_G$	$I_D/I_{D'}$
	$\omega$	2G		
Aqueous dispersion	2681	28	1.5	9.0
As made film	2688	51	1.3	7.1
100 °C film	2691	55	1.1	6.1
500 °C film	2699	59	0.9	4.0
800 °C film	2705	65	0.5	3.0

Defect analysis : Casiraghi et al. Nanolett. 2012, PRB 2013

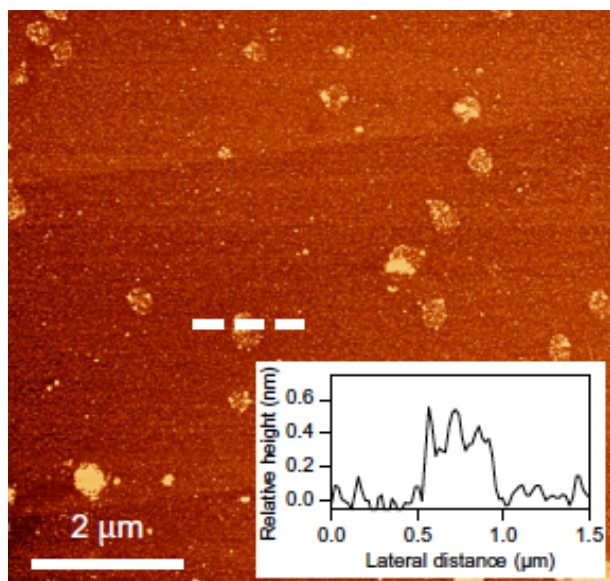
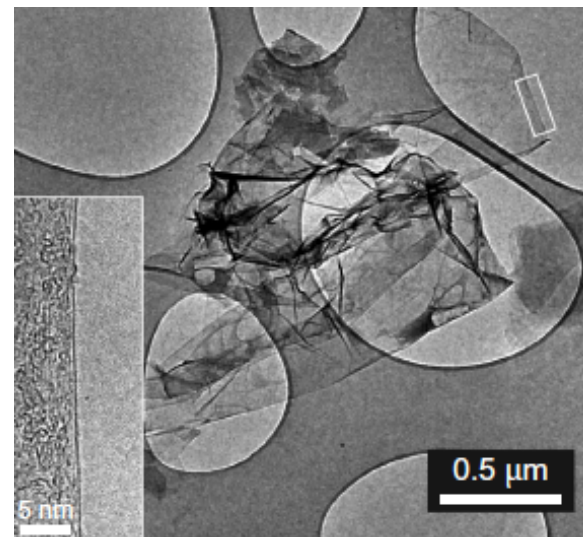
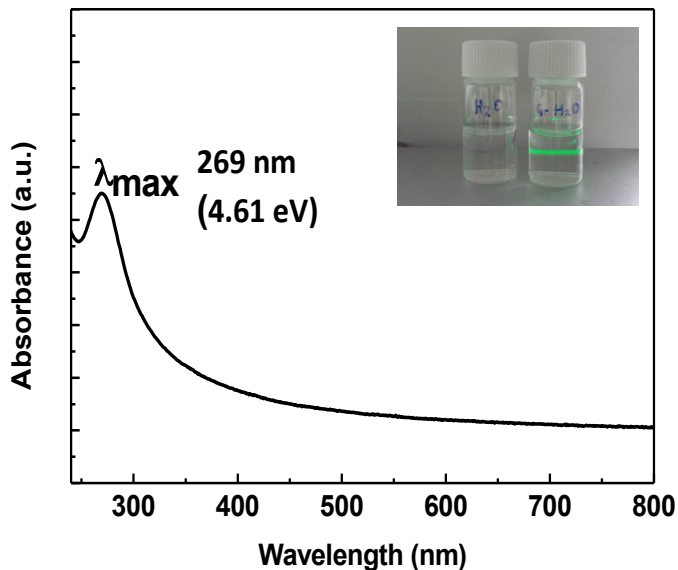
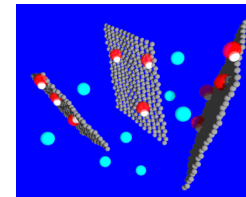
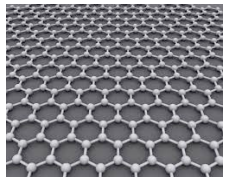
**After annealing, all sp<sup>3</sup> defects removed: only edges left**

$$\sigma = 32 \text{ kS/m} \rightarrow \rho = 0.003 \text{ } \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$$

(carbon inks  $\rho = 10 \text{ } \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ , Ag inks  $10^{-6} \text{ } \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ )

**Light, flexible, inert, conductive coatings**

# Other evidences of SLG in “eau de graphene”



**SLG in *degassed* water  
(no surfactant/organic additives)**

**$c=0.16$  g/L  $\approx$  200 m<sup>2</sup>/L , pH=8**

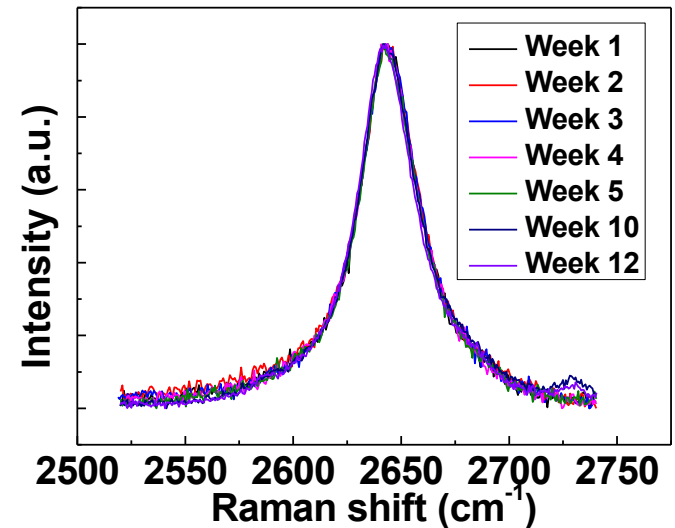
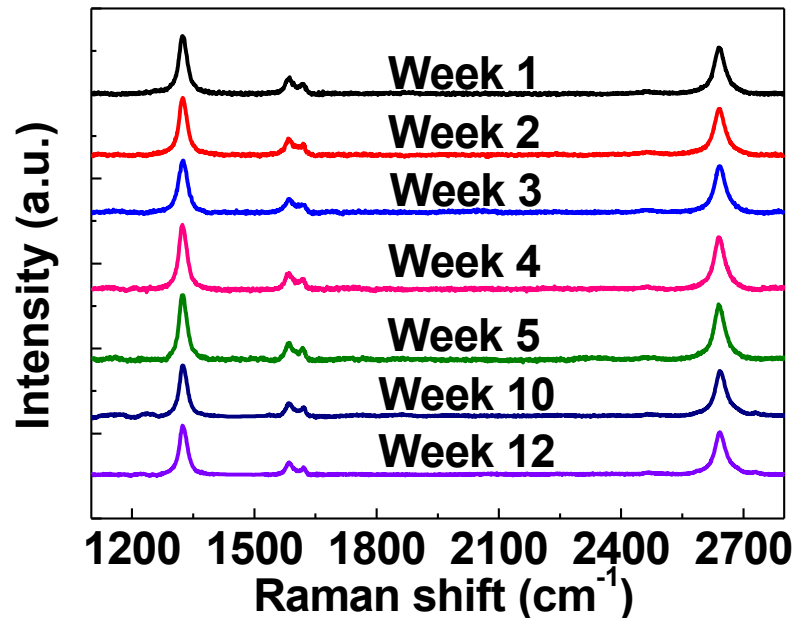
**Typical flake size 100 nm-1 μm**

*Bepete et al., Nature Chemistry, 2016*



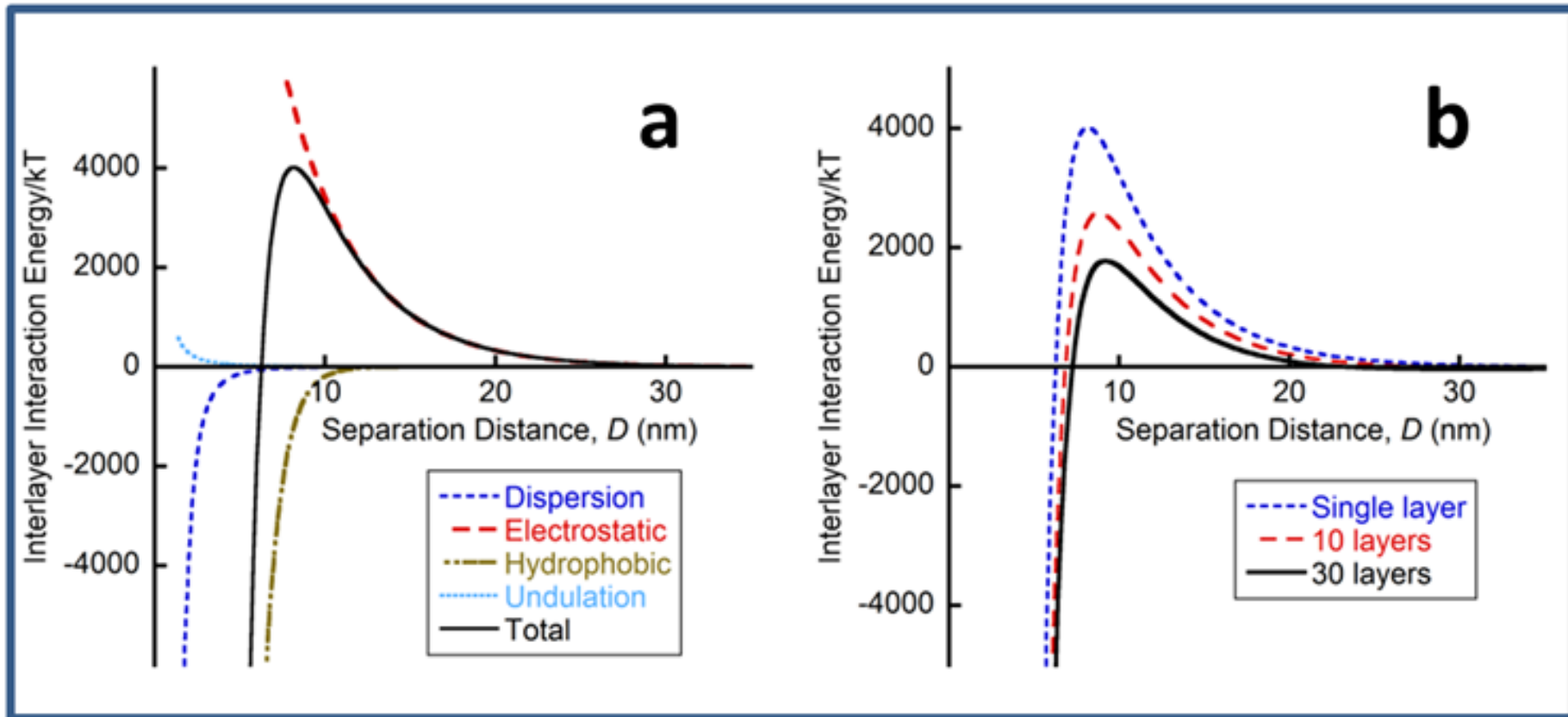
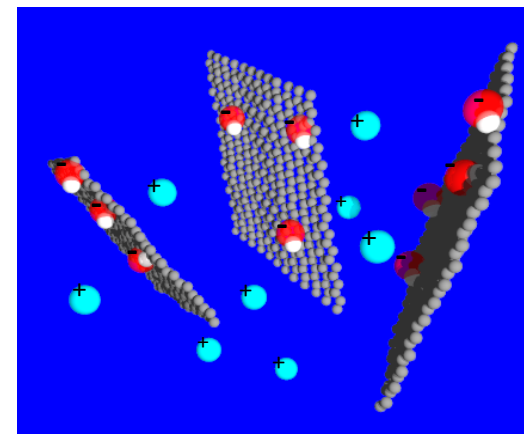
# Stability of SLG dispersions

## Raman spectroscopy



Same 2D linewidth after 12 weeks...

# The ingredients behind (meta)stability. I



# Eau de Nanotube

(Nanotube Water)



See Eric Anglaret's talk

# 99,95% pure & 100% safe liquid graphene

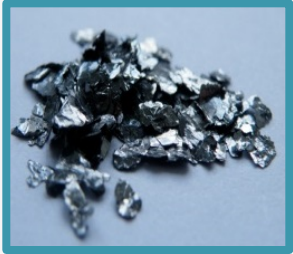
for high-performance materials

INDUSTRY SOLUTIONS

GRAPHENE DISPERSIONS

<https://www.carbon-waters.com/>

# Carbon Waters : Graphene processing for industry

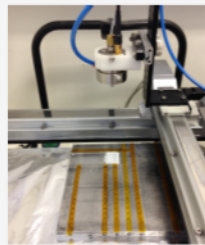


*Exclusive licensing  
of 3 patents,*

- No free nanoparticles
- No chemical agents
- Extremely stable
- Very high quality and no defect materials
- Can be printed on several surfaces
- Easy to scale-up



Liquid organic nanomaterial  
solution



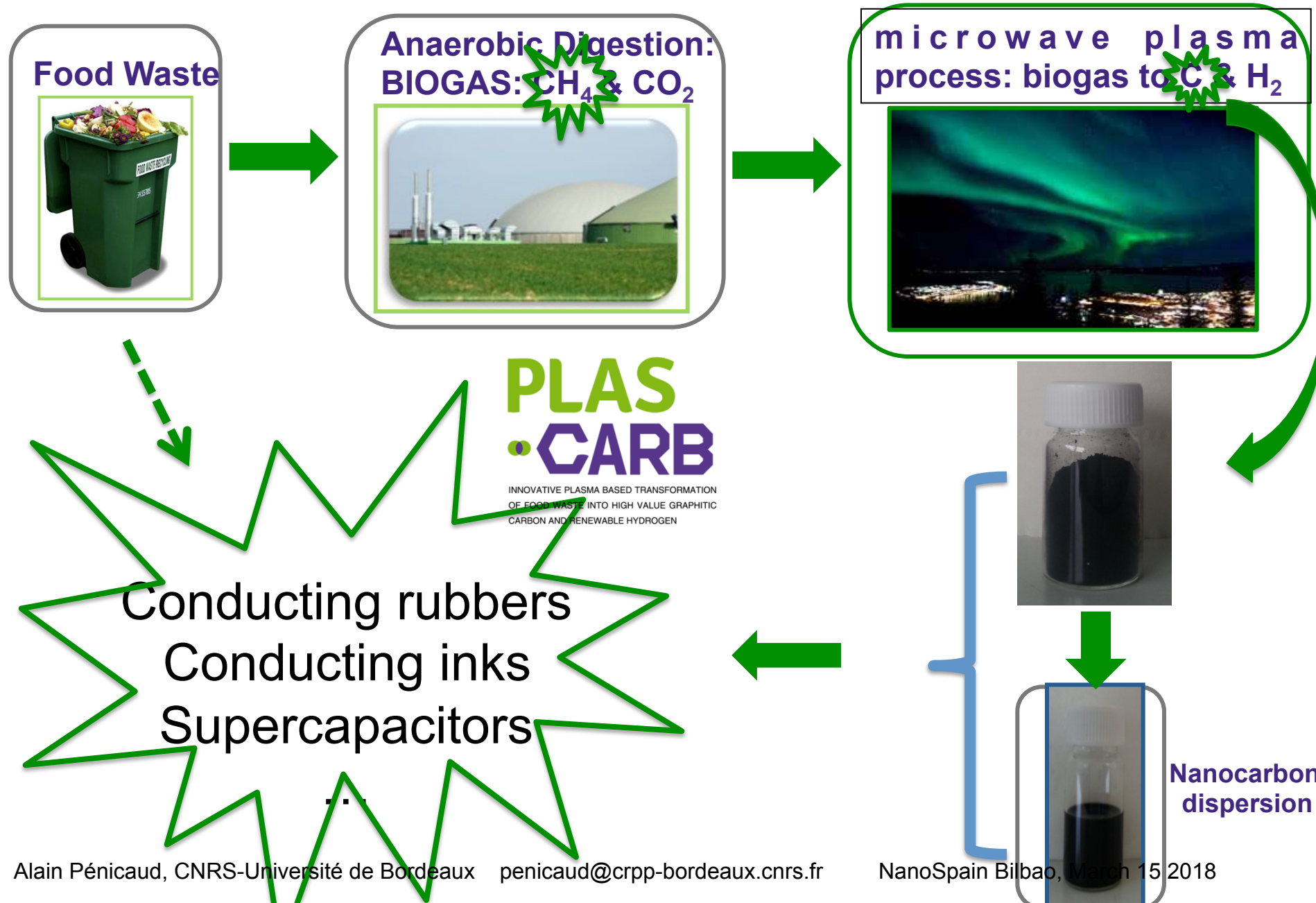
Surface printing

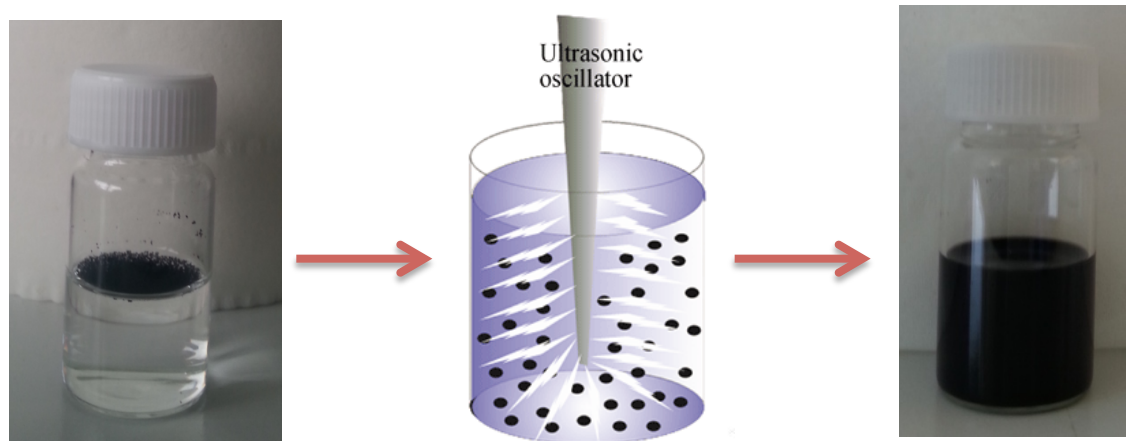


Surfaces with enhanced  
and reinforced properties

**Carbon Waters : production and sales of nanocarbons and  
nanocarbon printed surfaces**

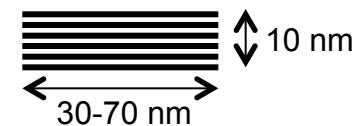
# Multilayer graphene from food waste





## Graphitic nanocarbon :

- Graphitic nature (turbostratic)
- High conductivity ( $\sigma \sim 100$  S/m)
- Nanopucks of ca 20-30 graphene layers
- Size distribution:
  - Average thickness = 10 nm
  - lateral size = 30 - 70 nm



Carbon Nanopucks

# Applications : Rubber Composites



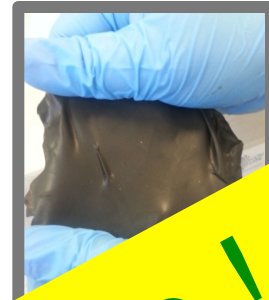
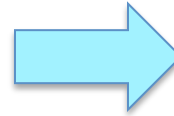
Katerina  
Kampiotti



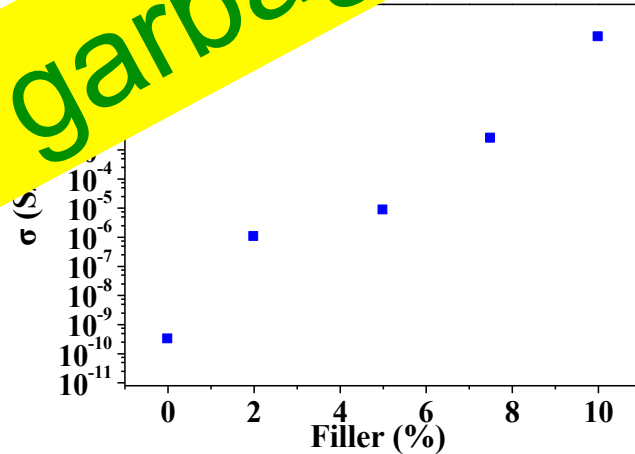
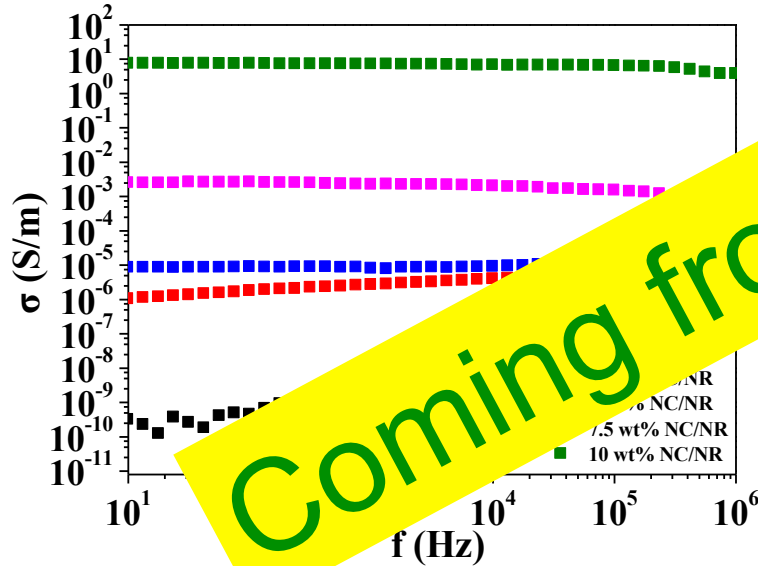
NR



NC



NR/NC  
nanocomposites



**Coming from garbage!**

**10 wt% NC/NR. 10 orders of magnitude better electrical conductivity !!!**

Kampiotti et al., ACS Omega 2018

Collab. Aldo Zarbin's group, Curitiba, Brazil

**YouTube : From compost to composites: An eco-friendly way to improve rubber**

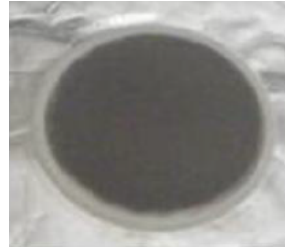


# Applications : Inks

## Filtration



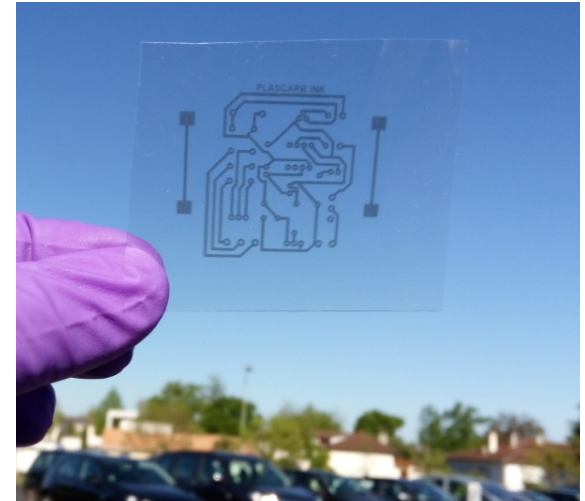
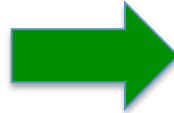
filtration on membrane →



$$\rho = 2 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$$

(carbon black inks  $\rho = 1 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ )

## Ink-jet printing



20 prints on PET

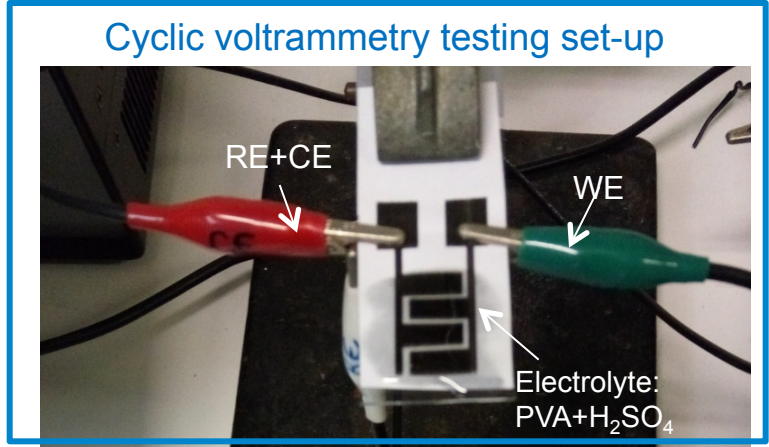
Hof, Kampioti, Huang et al., Carbon 2017

# Flexible micro supercapacitor by inkjet printing



Kai Huang

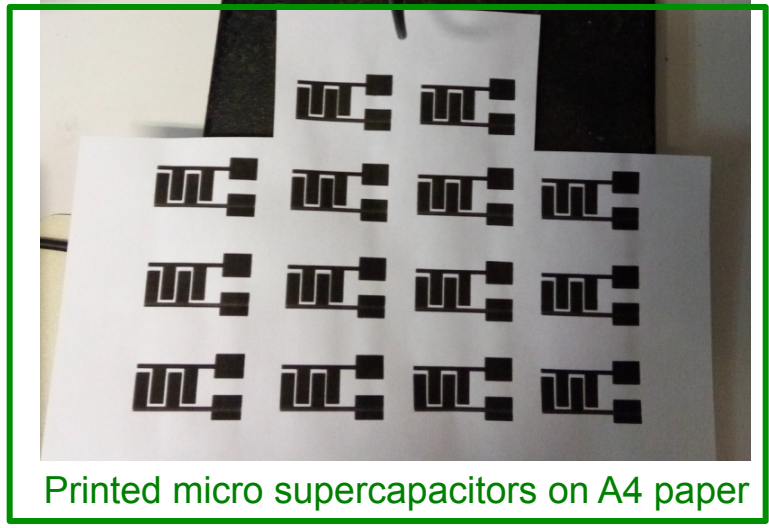
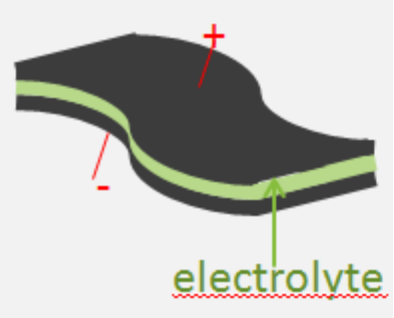
Canon printer

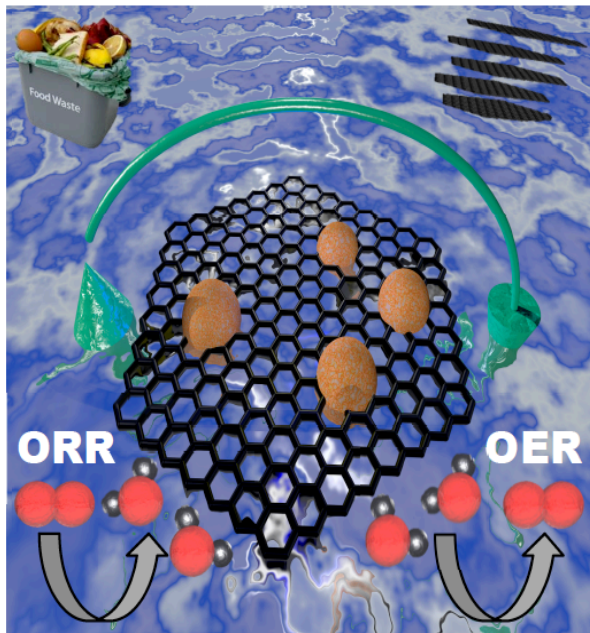


In-plane MSC



Sandwich MSC

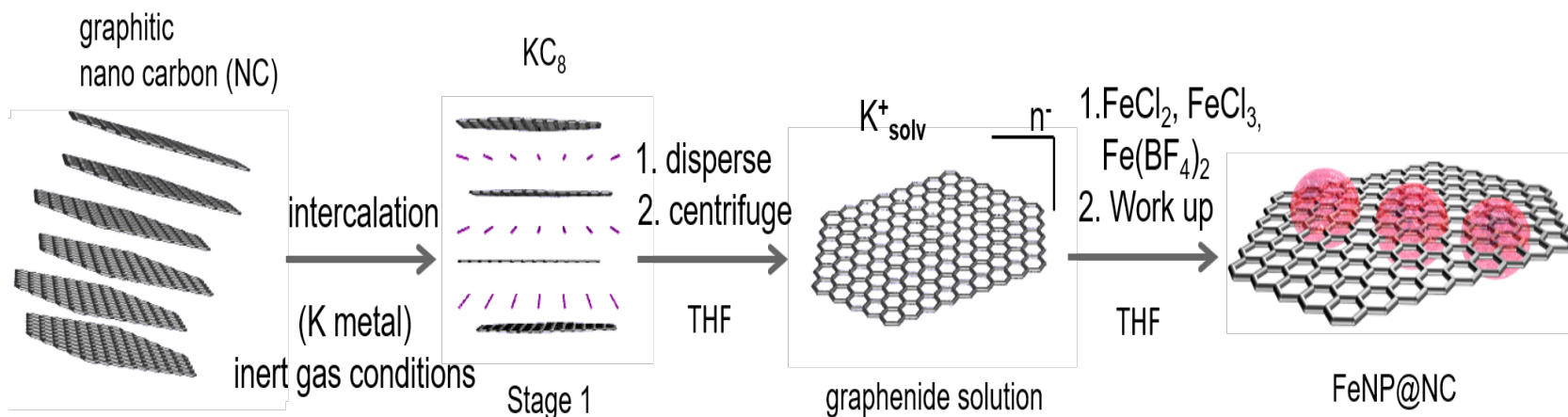




# From Food Waste to Efficient Bifunctional Nonprecious Electrocatalyst



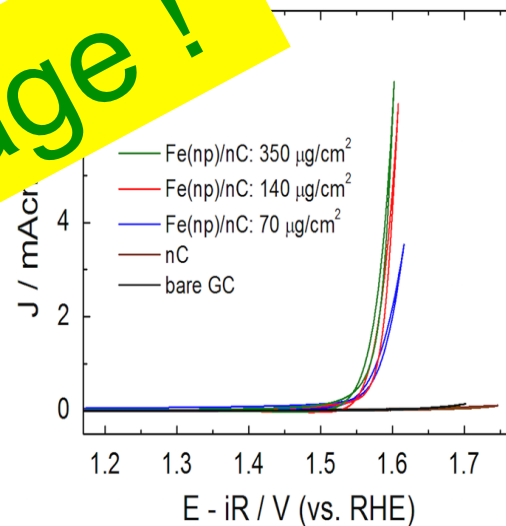
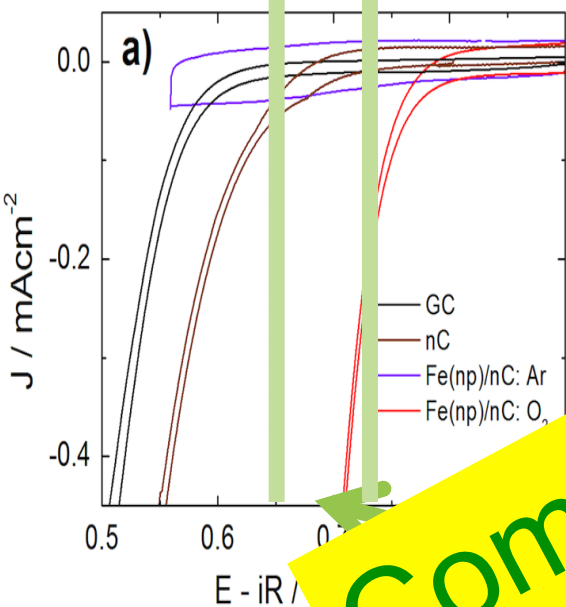
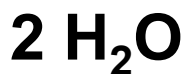
Ferdinand Hof



Hof, F. et al. Chem. Eur. J. 2017

# Oxygen reduction reaction (ORR)

# Oxygen evolution reaction (OER)



Coming from garbage!

Commercial Pt catalysts  
for fuel cells exhibit an overpotential  
of 0.5 - 0.6 V vs RHE  
theoretical value:  $E^\circ = 1.22 \text{ V vs RHE}$

**GC** bare glassy carbon  
**nC** graphitic nano carbon

Hof, F. et al. Chem. Eur. J. 2017

# Conclusion

---

- **Single layer Graphene can be stabilized in water with no additives.**
- **Raman signature of graphene in a liquid**
- **Carbon Waters company**
- **Few layer graphene from food waste**
- **Eco friendly Conducting inks, rubbers, supercapacitors, ...**





université  
de BORDEAUX

ANR

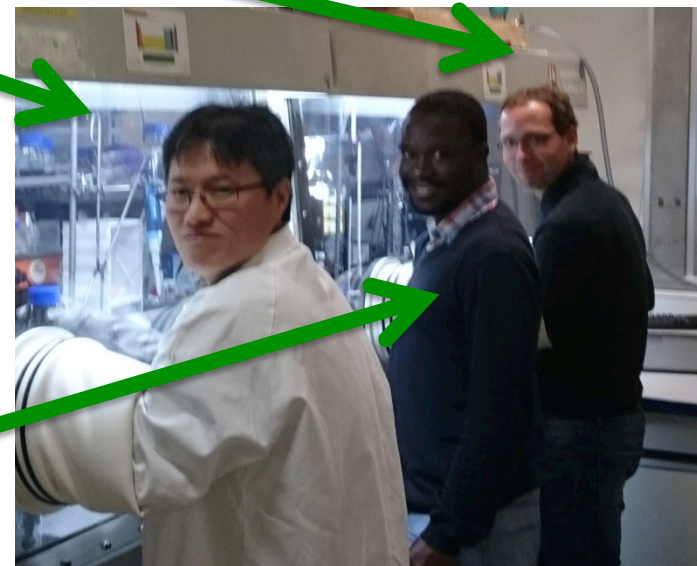
PLASCARB



**Plascarb project :**  
**Katerina Kampioti**  
**Dr Ferdinand Hof**  
**Dr Kai Huang**



**Rubber composites**  
**Prof. A. Zarbin (Curitiba)**  
**Dr Carolina Matos (“)**

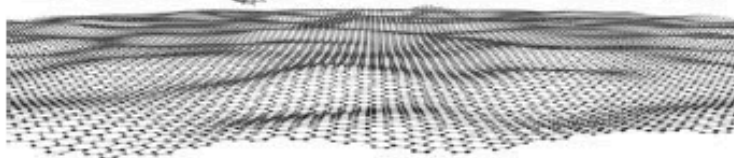


**Eau de Graphène:**  
**Dr George Bepete**  
**Dr Carlos Drummond**  
**Prof. Eric Anglaret (Montpellier University)**  
**Dr Luca Ortolani (CNR Bologna)**  
**Dr Vittorio Morandi (CNR Bologna)**



**Carbon Waters project:**  
**Dr A. Chesneau, Dr. F. Dragin, Dr. J. Messner**

# Chem on Tubes 2018



April 22 – 26, 2018  
Biarritz, France

## International Meeting on the Chemistry of Graphene and Carbon Nanotubes

### Scope

All sessions will be devoted  
to both graphene and carbon nanotubes

- Functionalization, dispersion, sorting
- Electrochemistry, devices
- Composites, foams, coatings
- Energy storage, conversion
- Nanomedicine, biosensors
- Functional membranes
- Catalysis
- Other topics



Photo (cropped) "L'Hôtel du Palais", by [Daniel Villafruela](#),  
under Creative Commons license [\[CC BY-SA 4.0\]](#), via [Wikimedia Commons](#).

**Still time to submit a poster or to attend**

**Abstract submission deadline: December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**Registration deadline: February 2, 2018**  
**Inquiries: [chemontubes@crpp-bordeaux.cnrs.fr](mailto:chemontubes@crpp-bordeaux.cnrs.fr)**

Type « chemontubes 2018 » in your favorite search engine