

Molecular-level Design Strategy in 2D-Organic Frameworks for Efficient Desalination and Resource Recovery

Dinesh Shetty^{1, 2}

Najat Maher Aldaqqa,¹ Rajesh Dhanushkoti,¹ Sushil Kumar¹ José I Martínez³

¹Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi, 127788, UAE

²Center for Catalysis & Separations (CeCaS), Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi, 127788, UAE

³Instituto de Ciencia de Materiales de Madrid (ICMM-CSIC), Madrid, Spain

dinesh.shetty@ku.ac.ae

Abstract (Arial 10)

Capacitive deionization (CDI) has emerged as a transformative, energy-effective, and cost-effective solution for sustainable desalination technology, offering fresh water from brackish. Hybrid CDI (HCDI), which operates via a faradic storage mechanism is considered the next generation of CDI due to its superior desalination capacity and charge efficiency.¹ However, the current system suffers from a low desalination rate and short-term stability, primarily due to inefficient charge transfer, restricted ion transport, and structural instability.^{2, 3} HCDI can also be used for resource recovery from brine and/or wastewater. In both applications of HCDI, the molecular-level design of electrode materials plays a crucial role.⁴ To tackle these challenges, we have been working on rationally designing 2D-organic framework materials by utilizing their structural and functional tunability. Our findings revealed a remarkable chloride ion removal capacity (Cl-RC) of 71.5 mg g⁻¹ in 1300 ppm saline solution with a noteworthy removal capacity rate (Cl- RCR) of 1.85 mg g⁻¹ min⁻¹.⁵ Also, we have a series of materials showing highly selective (>99%) recovery of Li from brine with excellent efficiency.⁶ The talk will focus on design principles and performance metrics of novel electrode materials developed in my group.

References

- [1] Mauter, M. S. et al. The role of nanotechnology in tackling global water challenges. *Nat. Sustain.* 1, 166–175 (2018).
- [2] Sun, K. et al. Electrocapacitive Deionization: Mechanisms, Electrodes, and Cell Designs. *Adv. Funct. Mater.* 33, 2213578 (2023).
- [3] Gamaethirallalage, J. G. et al. Recent advances in ion selectivity with capacitive deionization. *Energy Environ. Sci.* 14, 1095–1120 (2021).
- [4] Kumar, S., Aldaqqa, N. M., Alhseinat, E. & **Shetty, D***. Electrode Materials for Desalination of Water via Capacitive Deionization. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 62, e202302180 (2023).
- [5] Aldaqqa, N. M., Kumar, S., Martinez, J. I., Elmerhi, N., Alhseinat, E. & **Shetty, D*** Surface Engineered 2D-β-ketoenamine Covalent Organic Framework for Superior Dechlorination via Hybrid Capacitive Deionization, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 137 (37), e202510345 (2025).
- [6] Dhanushkotti, R., Mohammed, A. K., Ranjeesh, K. C., Krishnegowda, H. M., Aldaqqa, N. M. & **Shetty, D***. Inherited Nitrogen Distribution Control in Covalent Organic Framework Cathodes for Efficient Electrochemical Lithium Recovery via Capacitive Deionization, *Adv. Sci.* 2417140 (2025)

Figures



Figure 1: Novel strategy to develop 2D-organic framework electrode materials for efficient desalination.