

News Release



California Research Alliance by BASF establishes more than 25 research projects in three years

- **BASF and UC Berkeley extend alliance for five years**
- **Anniversary Symposium marks progress of industry, university research collaboration**
- **Advancement made in intermetallic nanomaterials research**

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NJ, April 25, 2017 – Many scientific discoveries and patent applications have resulted from more than 25 research projects underway since West Coast universities and BASF established the California Research Alliance (CARA) by BASF in 2014. This multidisciplinary collaboration headed by the College of Chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) conducts research on new inorganic and other advanced materials, biosciences and their applications.

To mark three years of CARA researchers working alongside BASF counterparts, members of these universities, guest professors, students, and BASF have convened for an Anniversary Symposium, April 24-25, 2017, at UC Berkeley to address recent research advancements. During the event, leaders from UC Berkeley and BASF announced a five-year extension of the CARA collaboration at a signing ceremony.

“Our California Research Alliance brings together an entire university system with BASF’s global R&D organization. We see that as a great opportunity demonstrating the power of connecting academia and industry to drive innovation,” said Peter Eckes, President of

April 25, 2017
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"Three years and 25 research projects later, CARA has proven to be a big success," said Paul Alivisatos, Berkeley's Vice Chancellor for Research and a campus chemistry professor. "I'm delighted, but not surprised, because basic and applied research are not distinct activities. They are woven together and reinforce each other. That's why, like other CARA researchers, I am looking forward to several more years of cooperation with BASF."

Significant progress on intermetallic nanoparticles research

Over the last three years, BASF experts and researchers from UC Berkeley, Stanford University, UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara, UC San Francisco and UC Los Angeles, have worked together on multiple research projects to make new materials, advance the functionality and performance of materials and develop methods and tools for tailoring the interaction between chemicals and biological systems.

One recent advancement was achieved by a joint team active in the field of catalysis. The researchers developed a synthesis of binary intermetallic nanoparticles from a combination of noble and base metals, which have the potential to be used in catalysis applications.

"Previously, there were only physical methods for manufacturing very small quantities of such intermetallic nanoparticles. With this newly discovered chemical approach, a critical first step was taken towards preparation of these materials in large scales, which is a prerequisite for assessing their potential for industrial catalysis," said Peter Walther, Senior Vice President, Heterogeneous Catalysis, BASF. "The extensive nanoparticles expertise and application know-how at CARA combined with guidance provided to the postdoctoral researchers by Professor Paul Alivisatos and BASF were certainly decisive for the development of this new method."

Following the successful tests at UC Berkeley, the synthesis of the nanoparticles and their potential application in catalysis is being further evaluated in BASF laboratories in Ludwigshafen, Germany.

About BASF

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