

# Water Clusters with Superatom Electronic States

Dr. Juan C. Noveron  
University of Texas at El Paso

November 6, 2017

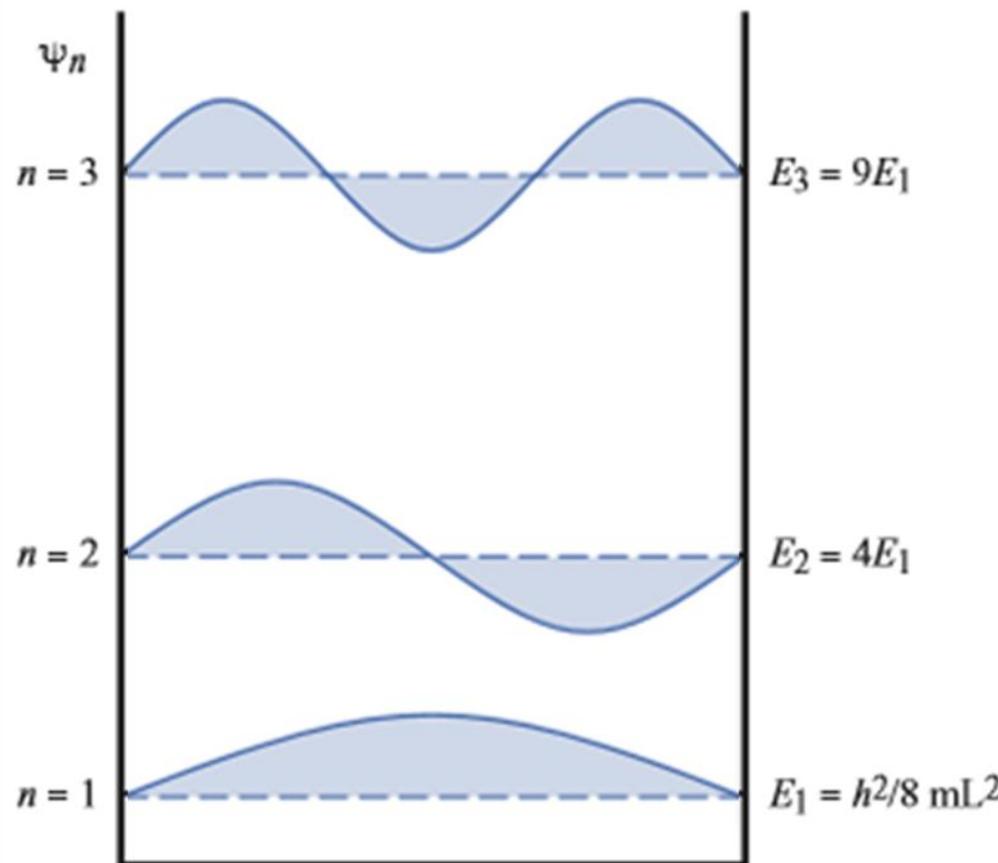
# Outline

- Introduction
  - Atomic and Molecular Orbitals
  - Superatom Molecular Orbitals
    - Buckminsterfullerene C<sub>60</sub>
- Superatom Water Clusters
- Applications
  - Antimicrobial Nanostructured Water Clusters
- Synthesis of Nanostructured Water Clusters
- Acknowledgements

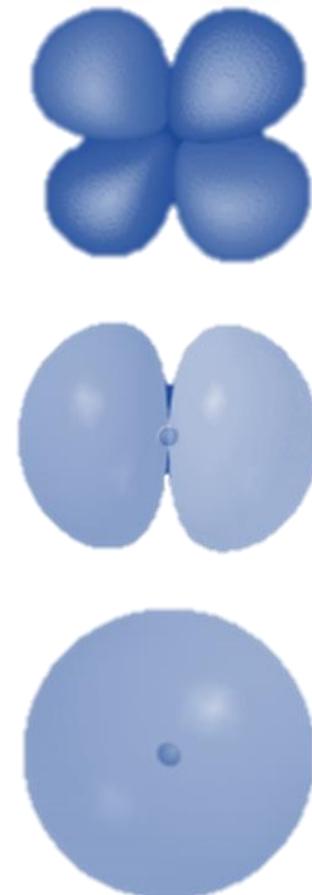
# Atomic Orbitals

The Schrodinger Equation

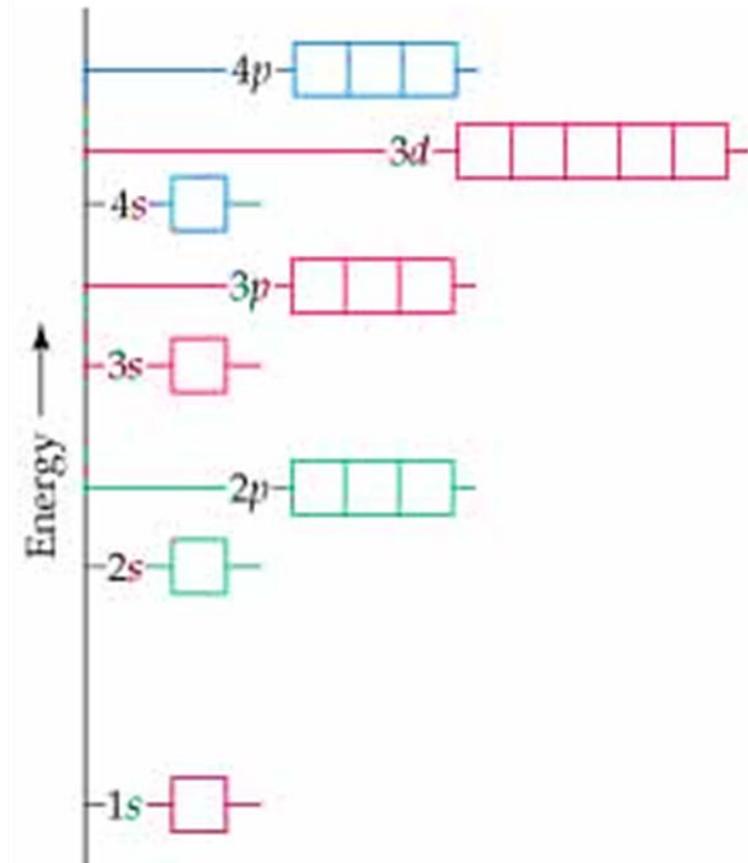
$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + U(x)\psi(x) = E\psi(x)$$



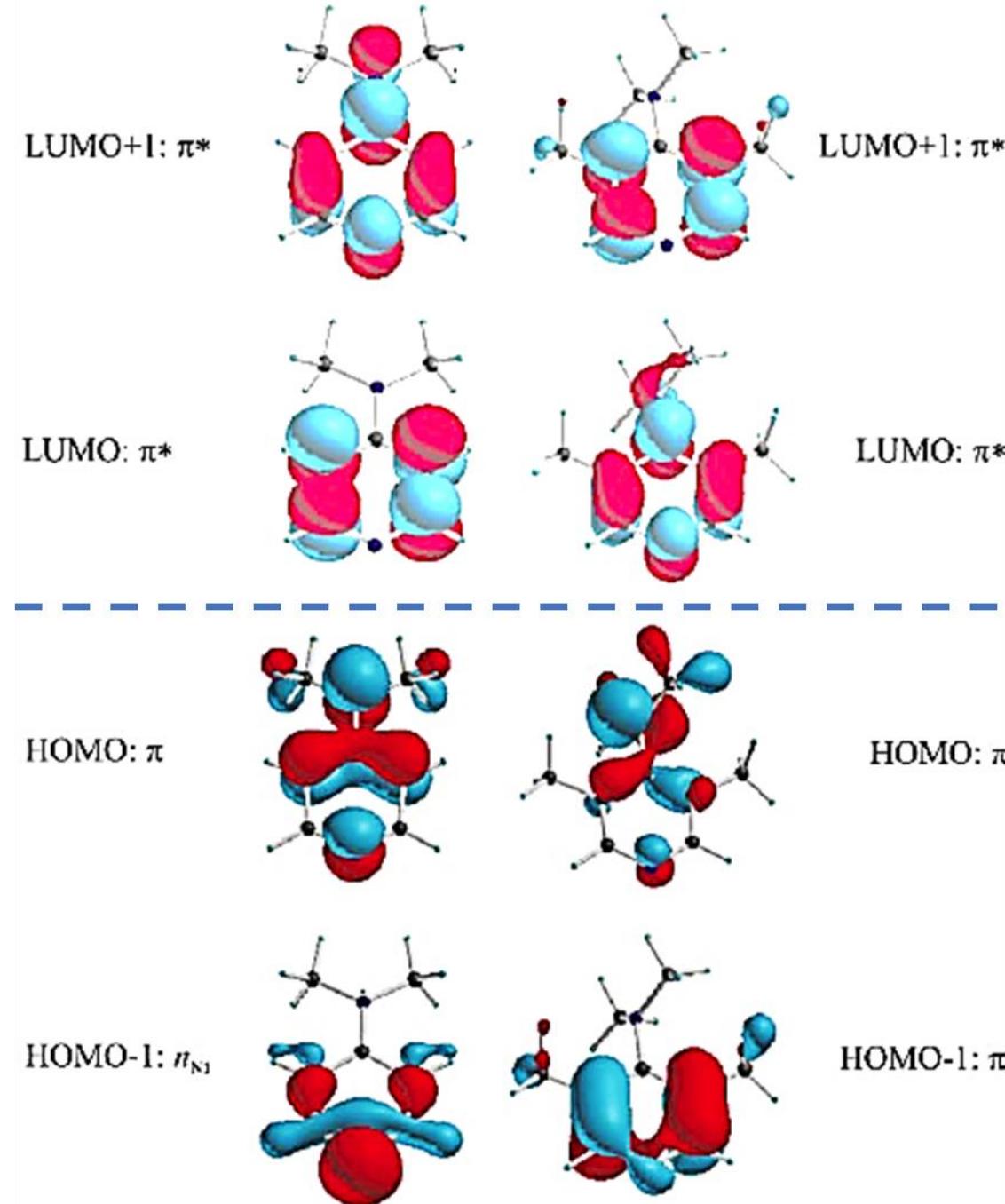
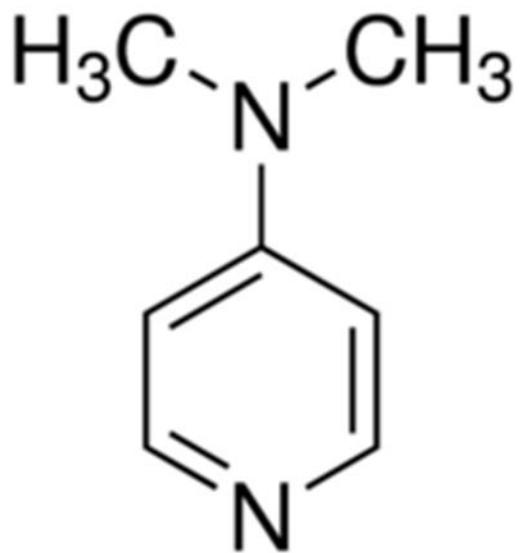
Particle in a Box



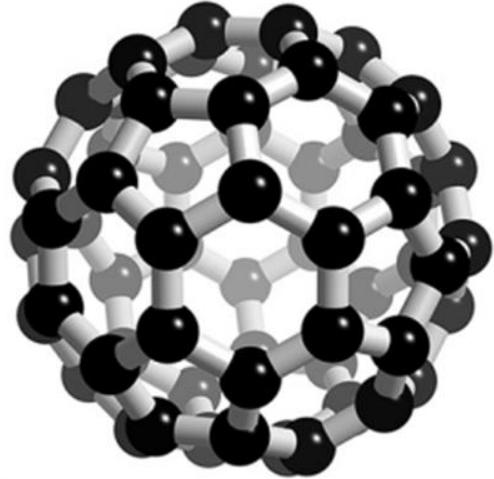
Hydrogen Atom



# Molecular Orbitals



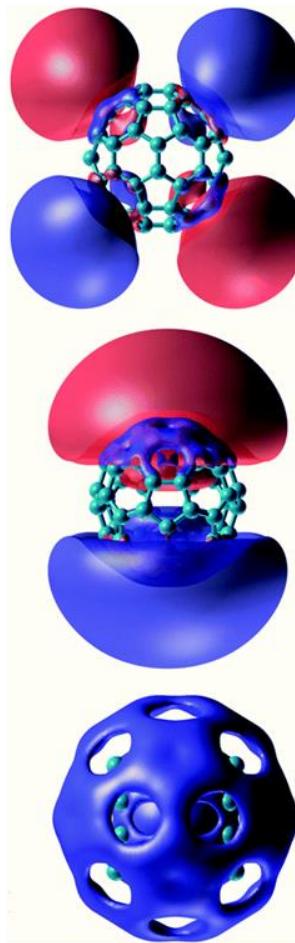
# Superatom Molecular Orbitals



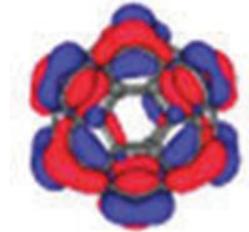
Buckminsterfullerene C<sub>60</sub>

Feng, M. et al. *Science*, 2008, 320, 359.

Prof. Hrvoje Petek (U. of Pittsburgh)

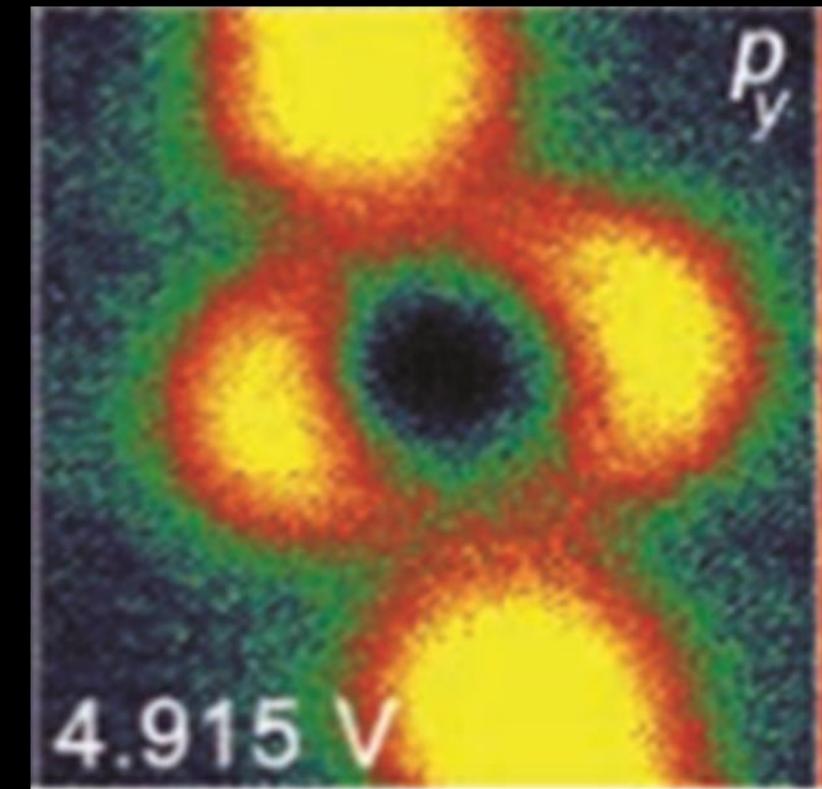
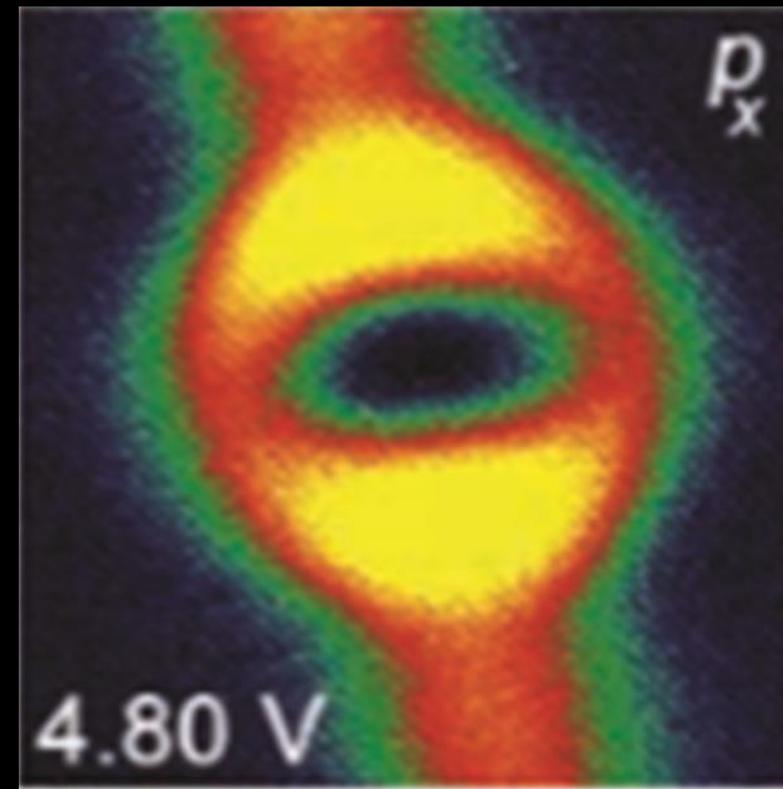
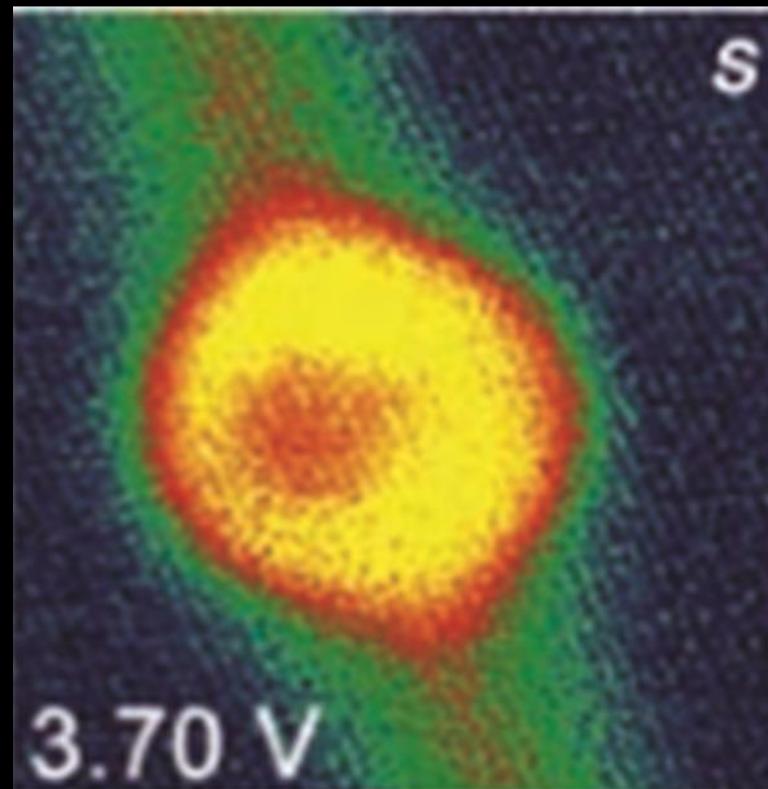


Lowest Unoccupied  
Molecular Orbital  
(LUMO)



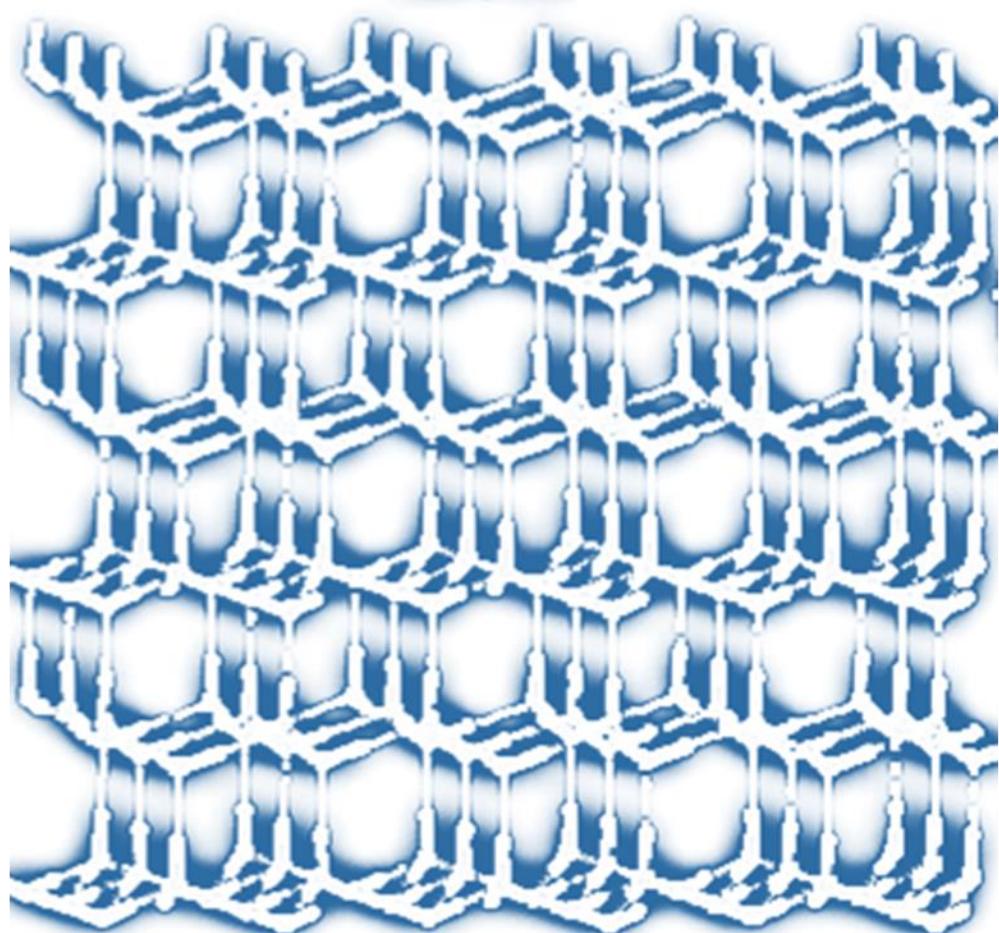
Highest Occupied  
Molecular Orbital  
(HOMO)

# Low Temperature STM on C<sub>60</sub>

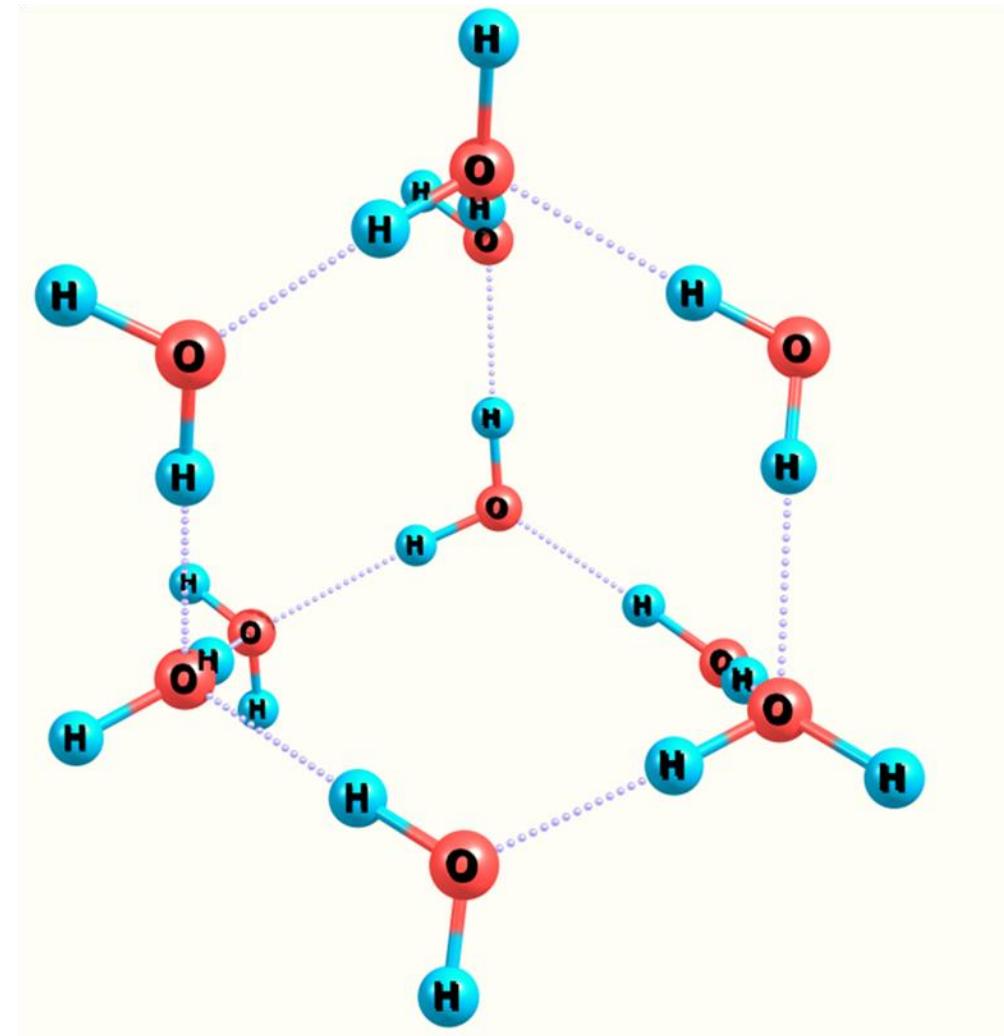


# Superatom Electronic State in Nanostructured Water

## I<sub>c</sub> – type Hexagonal ice



Space group P6<sub>3</sub>/mmc; symmetry D6h



# Superatom Electronic States in the Adamantanoid Water Cluster

Cluster optimized  
at MP2/6-  
311++G(d,p)-PCM  
plotted at 0.01 au  
isosurface

$E = -50.04 \text{ kcal/mol}$

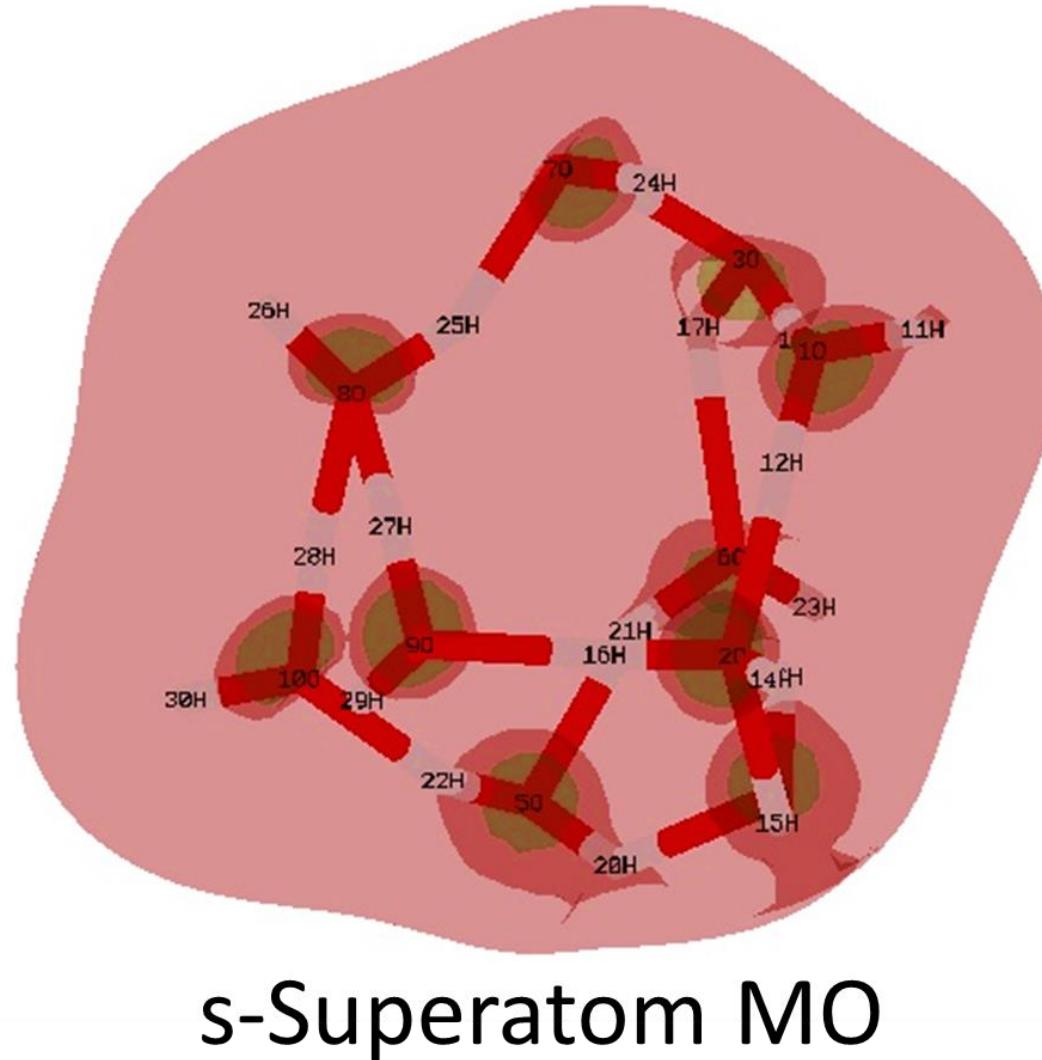


Highest Occupied  
Molecular Orbital  
(HOMO)

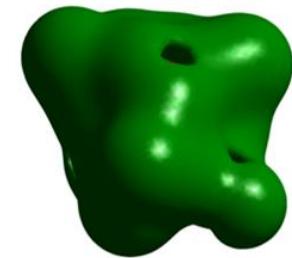
# Superatom Electronic States in the Adamantanoid Water Cluster

LUMOs of  $(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{10}$   
cluster optimized at  
MP2/6-  
311++G(d,p)-PCM  
plotted at 0.01 au  
isosurface

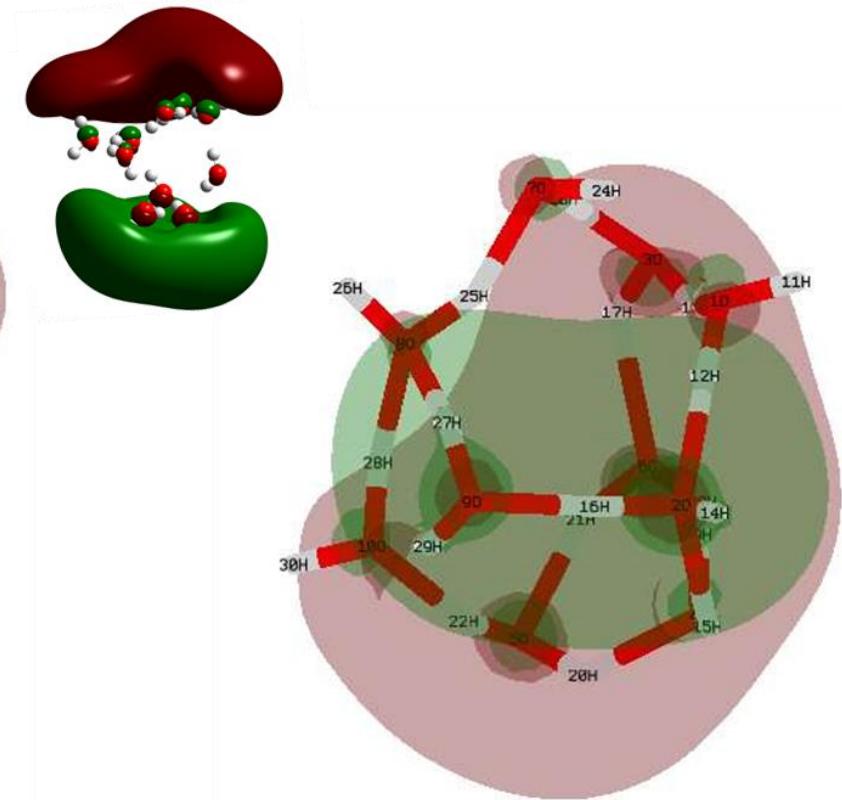
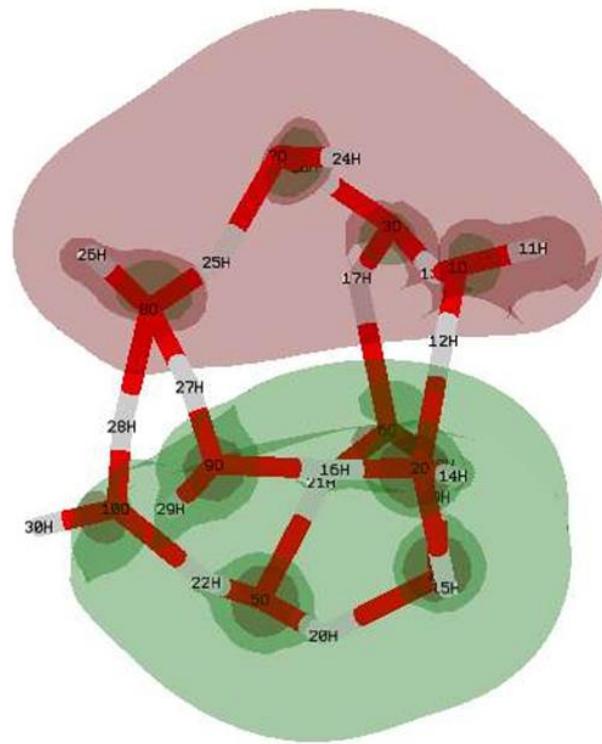
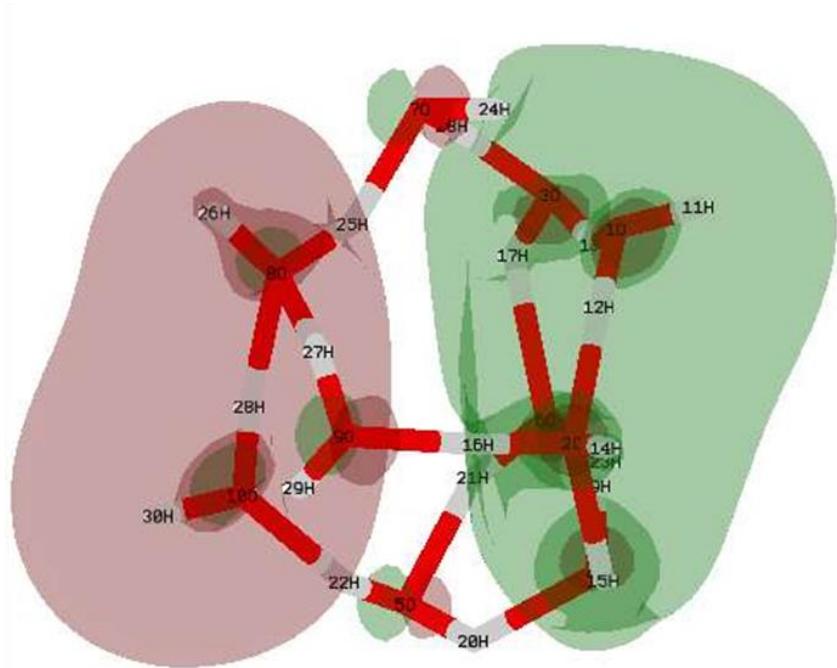
$E = -0.0392 \text{ eV}$   
**LUMO**



Lowest Unoccupied  
Molecular Orbital  
**(LUMO)**

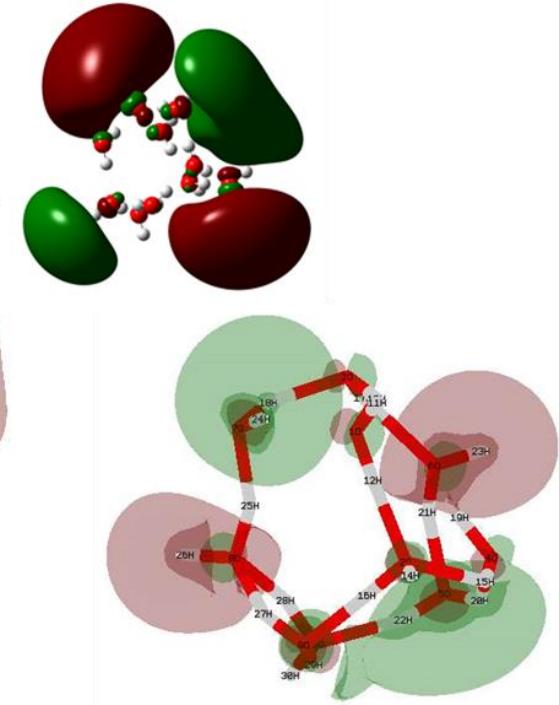
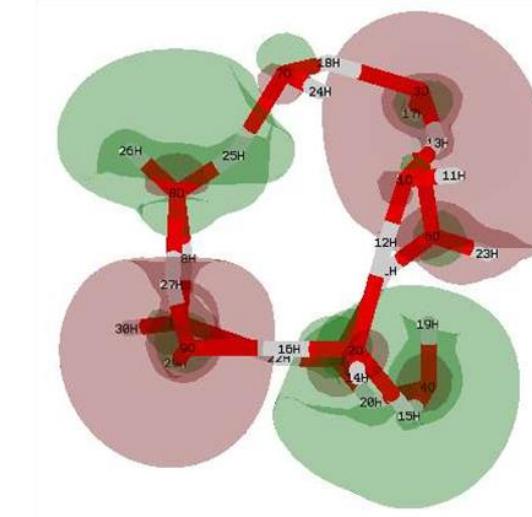
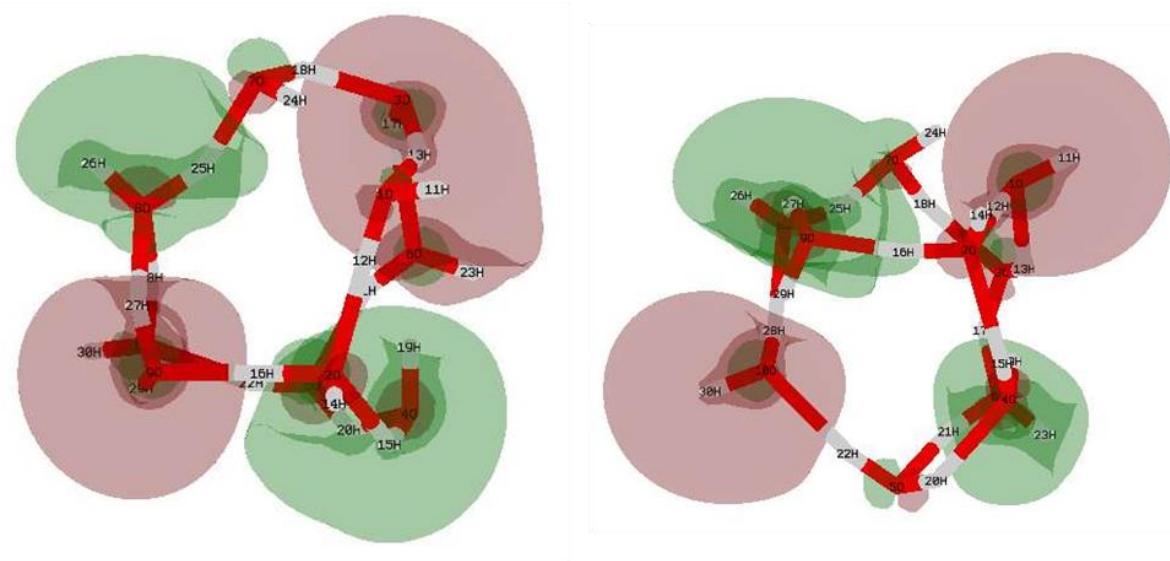


# Superatom Electronic States in the Adamantanoid Water Cluster



p-Superatom MO

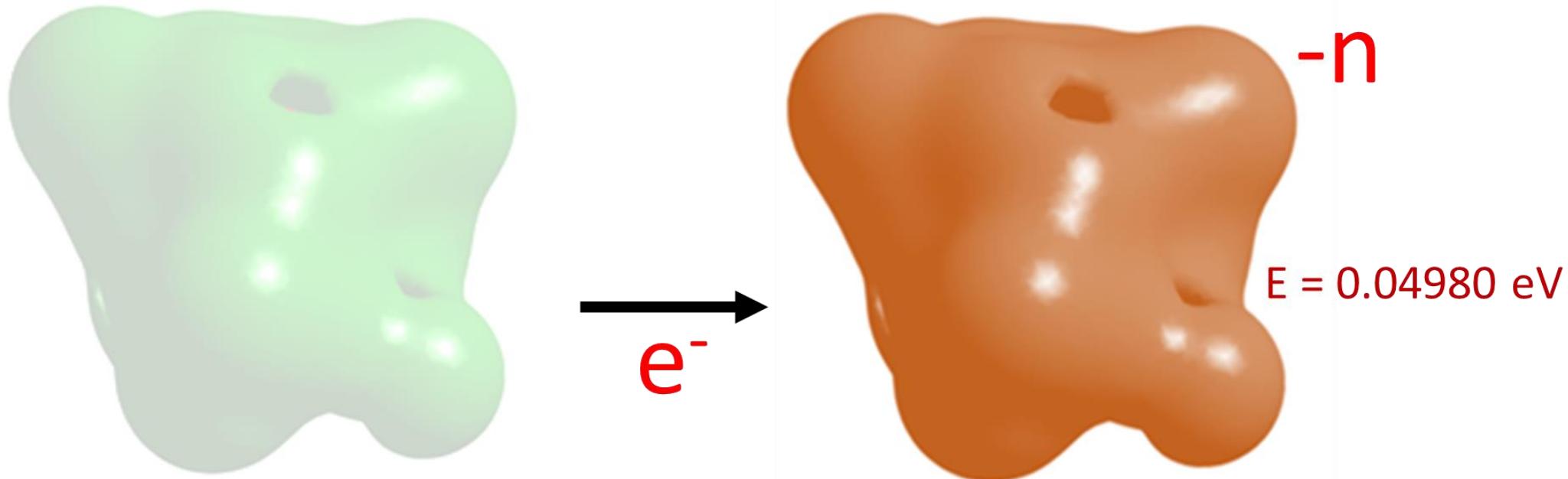
# Superatom Electronic States in the Adamantanoid Water Cluster



$E = 0.0781 \text{ to } 0.0992 \text{ eV}$

d-Superatom MO

## Superatom Electronic States in the Adamantanoid Water Cluster



$$\Delta = 0.4398 \text{ eV} = 2,819 \text{ nm (Near IR)}$$

$$\text{Electron affinity} = -26.82 \text{ kcal/mol}$$

# Applications of Nanostructured Water Clusters

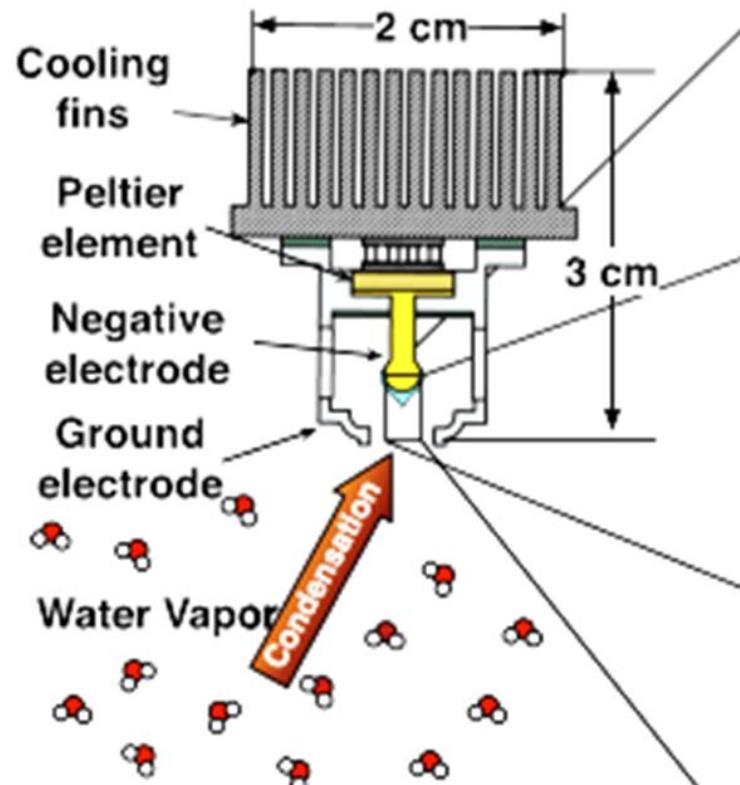
## Prof. Philip Demokritou (Harvard U.)

Pyrgiotakis, G., et al. *Nanomedicine Nanotech. Biol. and Med.*, **2014**, *10*, 1175.  
*Environ. Sci. Tech.* **2015**, *49*, 3737.

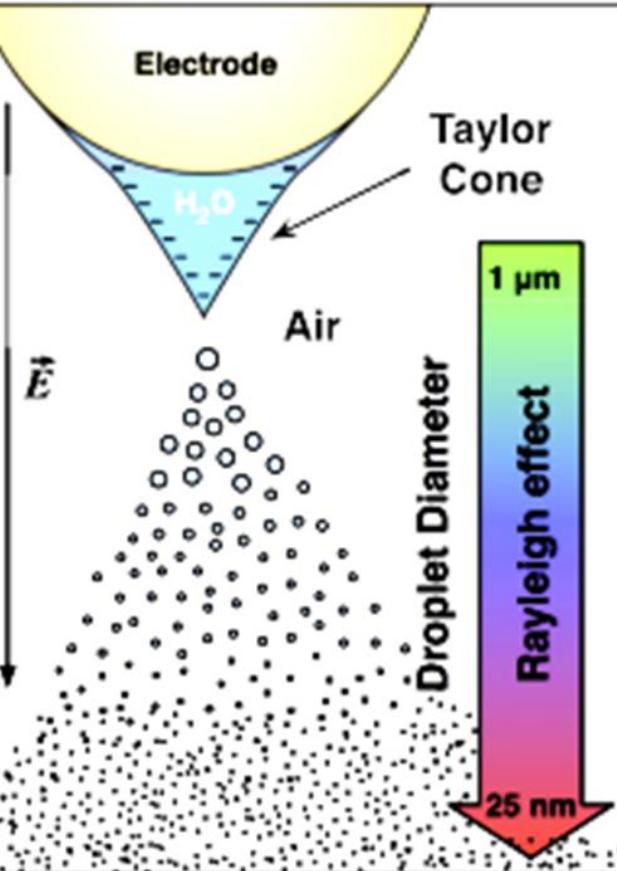
Peltier Electrode

5 kV

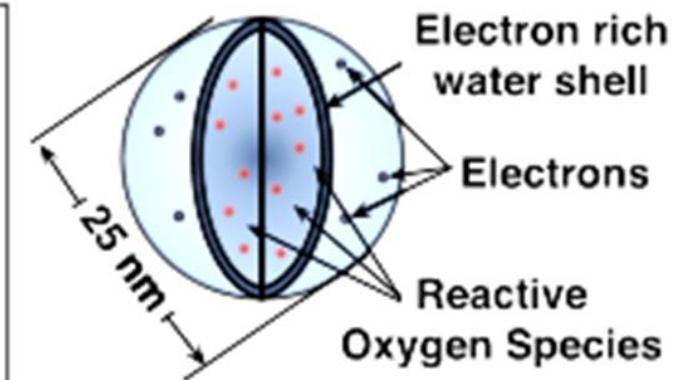
### A) Electrospray Module



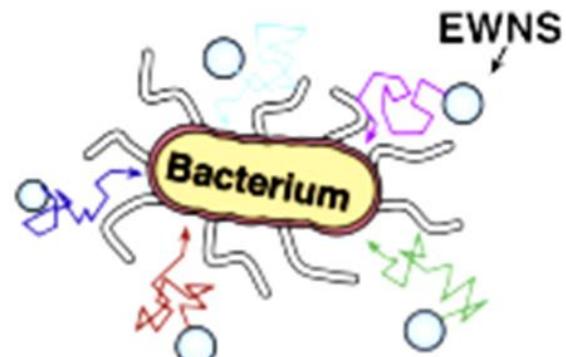
### B) Electrospray Process



### C) Structure of the EWNS

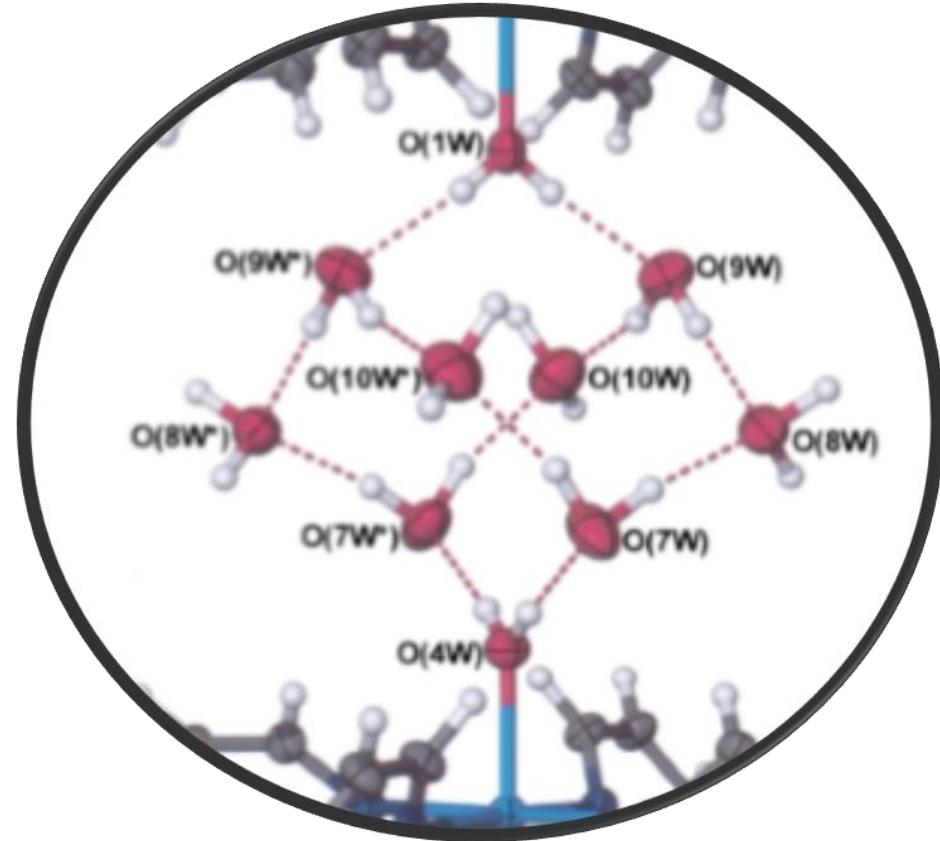
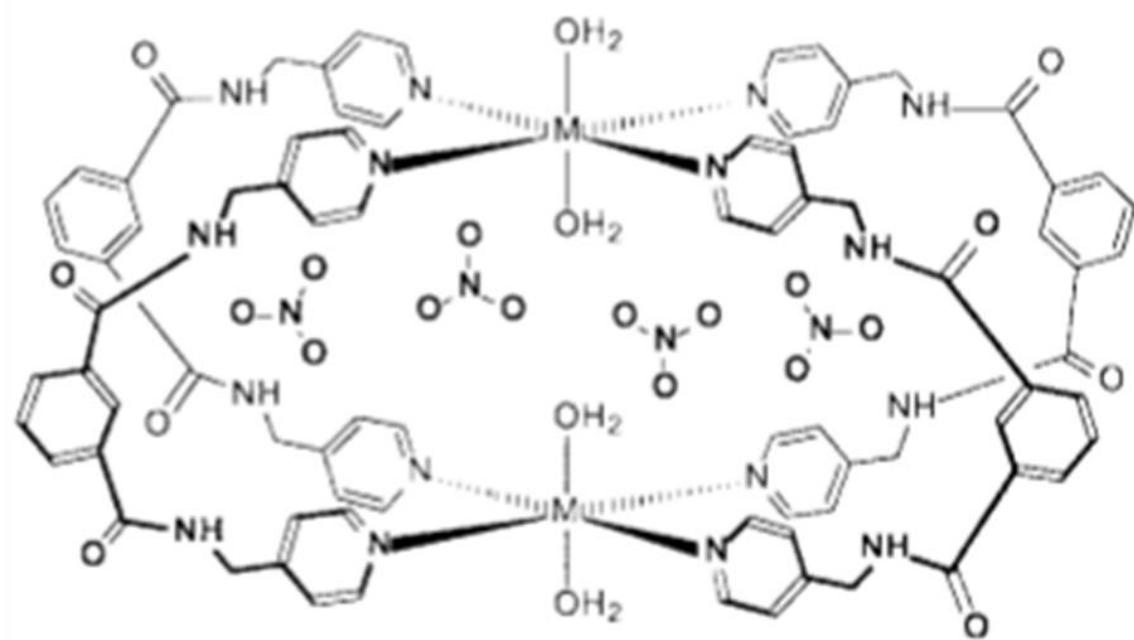


### D. EWNS Bacteria Interactions in the air



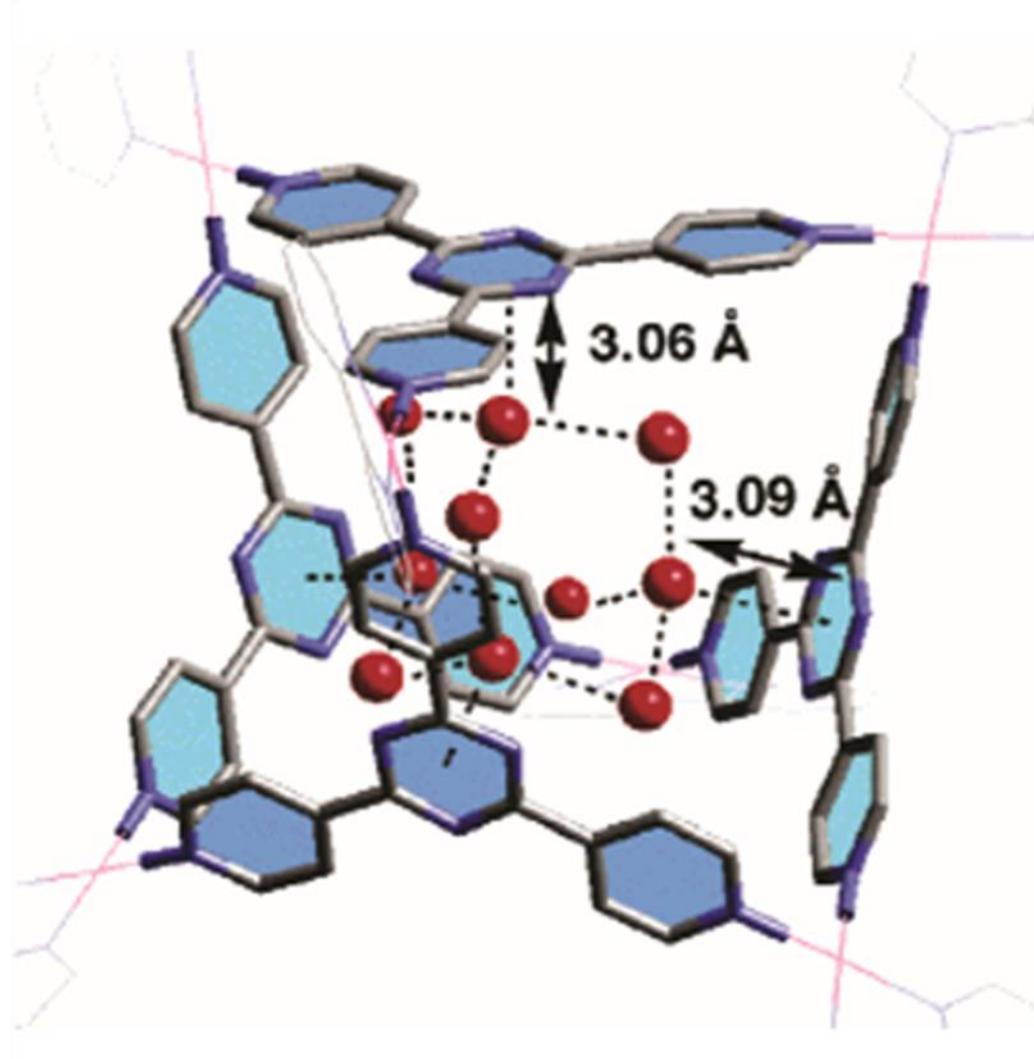
*Isolation of Nanostructured Water Clusters*

# Isolation of Nanostructured Water Clusters



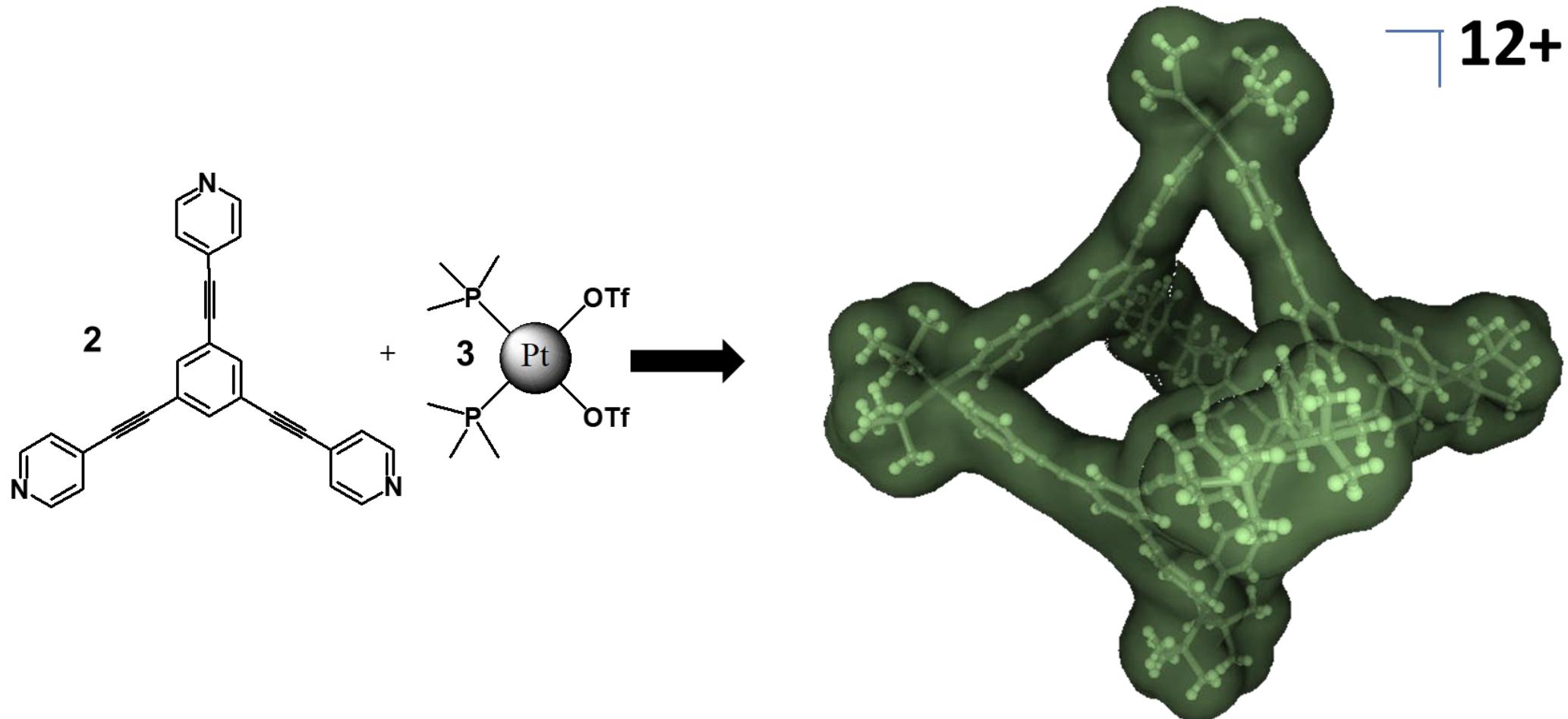
Barbour L. J., et al. *Chem. Comm.* **2000**, 859.

# Isolation of Nanostructured Water Clusters

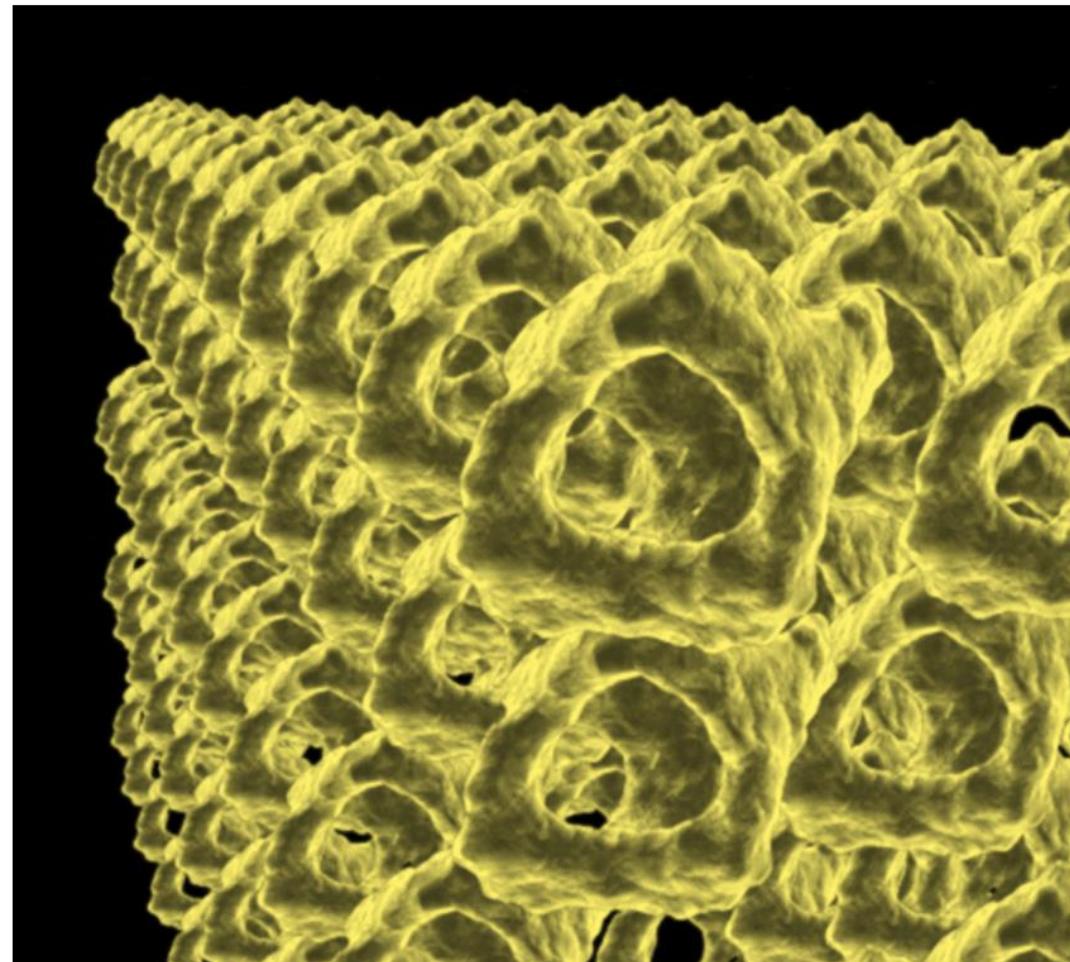
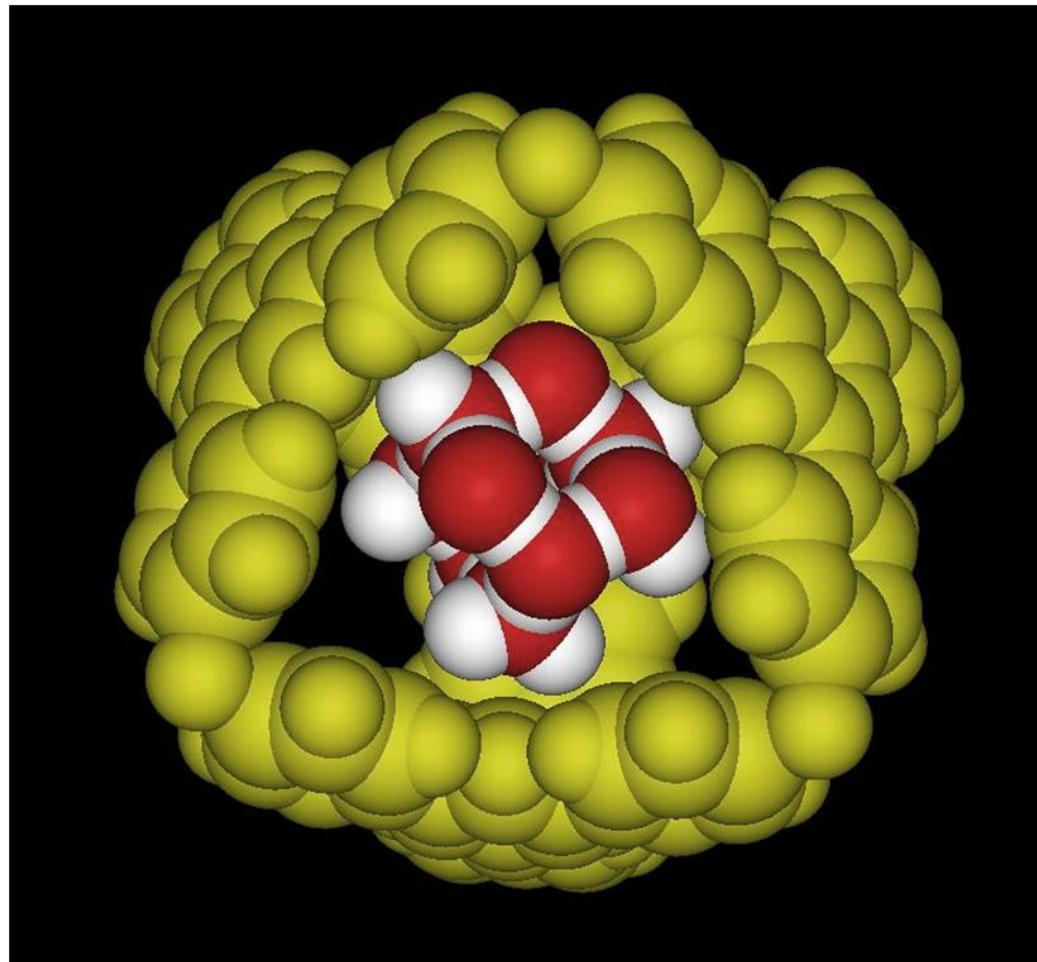


Yoshizawa, M., et al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, 127, 2798.

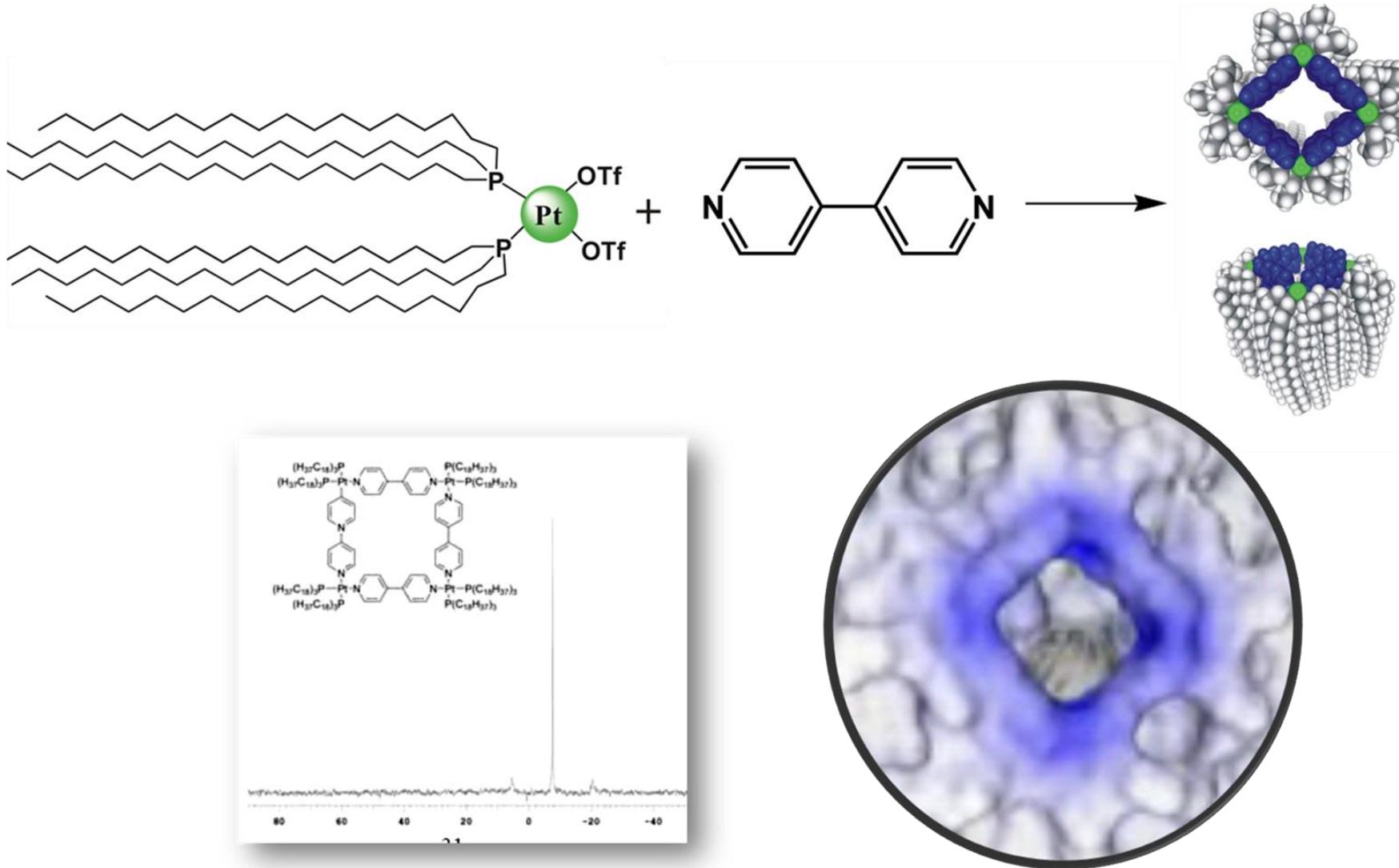
# Self-assembled Capsule for Nanostructured Water Clusters



# Advanced materials for the pre-formation of water nanoclusters

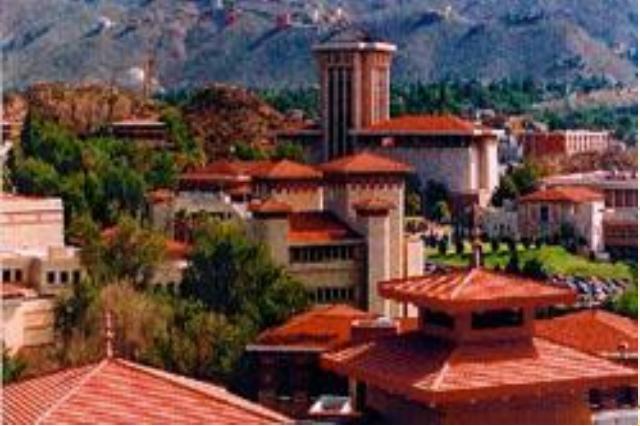


# Self-assembled 1 nm pores for Nanostructured Water Clusters

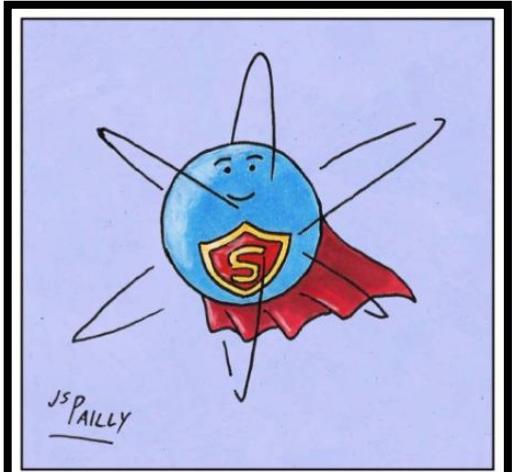


# Summary

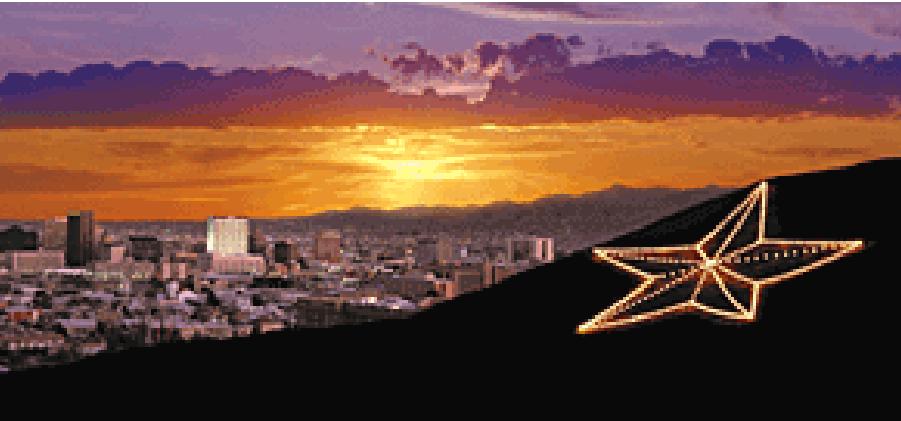
- Nanostructured water allows for the emergence of Superatom Electronic States with important electronic and optical properties
- DFT calculations predict high electron affinity in Superatom Molecular Orbitals
- Nanostructured water can form within hydrophobic cavities
- Novel nanostructured water clusters may play key roles in biology and advanced materials



The Ralph&Kathleen  
Ponce de Leon Endowment



## Acknowledgements



Gabriel Salazar  
Paulette Ramirez  
Alma Escobosa  
Abril Chavez  
Noemi Dominguez  
Miguel Carrillo  
Cesar Hernandez  
Ahshan Arif  
Jacobo Garcia  
**Homero Dominguez**  
**Ruben Casillas**  
Luis Barrera  
Tariqul Islam  
**Dr. Andrew Pardo**  
**Dr. Sai K. Katla**  
**Dr. Neetha Mohan**  
Dr. Suman Sirimulla  
**Dr. Juan C. Noveron**