## **BIO-INSPIRED ELECTRONICS: THE POWER OF DE NOVO PEPTIDE DESIGN**

Nurit Ashkenasy

## Department of Materials Engineering and the Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel

Billions of years of natural evolution have resulted in a vast array of proteins that drive diverse biological processes. Harnessing the remarkable functionality of these natural molecular machines offers immense potential for advancing modern technologies. In line with this vision, our research group utilizes *denovo*-designed peptides to create materials that not only mimic key elements of proteins but also enhance their suitability for electronic applications. In this talk, I will present the development of electron- and proton-conducting materials, as well as advanced surface functionalization layers. These examples illustrate how *de novo*-designed peptides serve as powerful building blocks for novel, high-performance, biocompatible, and environmentally friendly organic and hybrid electronic materials.

## References

- 1. D. Ivnitski *et al.*, "Structure Polymorphism Strongly influences the conductivity of peptide fibrils" *Angewandte Chemie Int. Ed.*, **55**, 9988 (2016).
- 2. O. Silberbush, *et al.*, "Significant enhancement of proton transport in bioinspired peptide fibrils by single acidic or basic amino acid mutation" *Adv. Func. Mat.* 27, 1616-3028 (2017).
- 3. Samala Murali Mohan *et al.*,"Proton-Conductive Melanin-Like Fibers through Enzymatic Oxidation of a Self-Assembling Peptide", *Adv. Mat.*, **32**, 2003511 (2020)
- 4. Glionna, Chiara; et al., "Dynamic Surface Layer Coiled Coil Proteins Processing Analogto-Digital Information" J. Amer. Chem. Soc. 143, 17441 (2021).
- 5. Naomi Kramer *et al.*, "Modular Modification of the Two-Dimensional Electronic Properties of Graphene by Bio-Inspired Functionalization" *Appl. Surf. Sci.*, **574**, 151643 (2022).
- 6. S. Censor, *et al.*, "Long-Range Proton Channels Constructed via Hierarchical Peptide Self-Assembly". *Adv. Mater.*, **36**, 2409248 (2024).