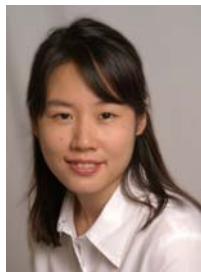


Speaker Profile



So-Jung Park,

Assistant professor, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Park is an assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania. She obtained her Ph.D. in Chemistry at Northwestern University in 2002 with a thesis on DNA-mediated assembly of nanostructured materials: structure, properties, and biodetection applications. Her PhD work was recognized by several prestigious awards including the ACS Nobel signature award. She then carried out her postdoctoral research at University of Texas at Austin, where she developed a new technique that allows for single molecule optical measurements correlated with electrical modulation for photophysical studies of conjugated polymers and nanocrystals.

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She joined the faculty of the department of chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania in the fall of 2005. Her research focuses on the nanoparticle/polymer hybrid materials and their applications in biomedicine and optoelectronic devices. Her current research topics involve 1) the cooperative self-assembly of nanoparticles and block-copolymers, 2) self-organizing conjugated polymers, and 3) DNA nanostructures for biological detection and medicine. The research projects aim to develop new functional composite materials via the self-assembly. She has shown that the cooperative self-assembly of nanoparticles and block-copolymers can be used to form ordered arrays of nanoparticles in solution phase. She not only uses polymers as a structural directing component but also incorporates functional polymers such as semiconducting and biological polymers into the composite system in order to control their electronic and biological properties.

Park received the NSF Career award and the ARO young investigator award in 2009.

