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Dr. Shawn M. Dirk received his B.S. degree from the department of chemistry at Millersville University of Pennsylvania in 1998 and his Ph.D. in chemistry from Rice University in 2002 under the guidance of Professor James M. Tour, working in the field of molecular electronics. He then spent two years as a Post-doc at Sandia National Laboratories before taking his current position as a Senior Member of the

Technical Staff at Sandia National Laboratories where he has been for the previous five years. Dr. Dirk's current research focuses on materials development in the areas of surface chemistry, self-assembly, sensor science, molecular electronics, nanocomposites, biomaterials and electronic material development. Dr. Dirk has co-authored 35 publications and holds 1 patent.