

Special Issue

Liquid Metals: From Fundamentals to Applications

Message from the Guest Editors

Metal and alloy liquids at or near room temperature have intrigued humankind for centuries. Recently, mercury was phased out in ample applications due to its toxicity and safety concerns. In lieu of mercury, gallium-based liquid metals have garnered renewed attention by the scientific community due to their safety and a combination of advantageous thermophysical properties. Further interesting alloys are based on indium (i.e., Field's metal) and alkali metals. In particular, gallium-based alloys have been exploited for various applications, ranging from chemical (micro-)reactors and reaction environments (i.e., for galvanic replacement reactions and generation of thin metal oxides) via drug carriers to flexible electronics and thermal interface materials. The application of these alloys requires a fundamental understanding of liquid metals and their behavior (i.e., wetting, adhesion, alloying/corrosion/reactivity, viscosity, melting temperature and so on). Further, it necessitates detailed knowledge on the means to manipulate its properties and shape/location, i.e., for patterning techniques, and to limit liquid metal corrosion/embrittlement.

Guest Editors

Dr. Stephan Handschuh-Wang

College of New Materials and New Energies Shenzhen Technology University, Shenzhen, China

Dr. Ben Wang

School of Chemical and Environmental Engineering, Shenzhen University, Shenzhen, China

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
materials@mdpi.com

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Materials (ISSN 1996-1944) was launched in 2008. The journal covers twenty-five comprehensive topics: biomaterials, energy materials, advanced composites, advanced materials characterization, porous materials, manufacturing processes and systems, advanced nanomaterials and nanotechnology, smart materials, thin films and interfaces, catalytic materials, carbon materials, materials chemistry, materials physics, optics and photonics, corrosion, construction and building materials, materials simulation and design, electronic materials, advanced and functional ceramics and glasses, metals and alloys, soft matter, polymeric materials, quantum materials, mechanics of materials, green materials, general. *Materials* provides a unique opportunity to contribute high quality articles and to take advantage of its large readership.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Maryam Tabrizian

1. Department of Biomedical Engineering, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, McGill University, Montreal, QC H3A 2B6, Canada
2. Faculty of Dentistry and Oral Health Sciences, McGill University, 3640 Rue University, Montreal, QC H3A 0C7, Canada

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