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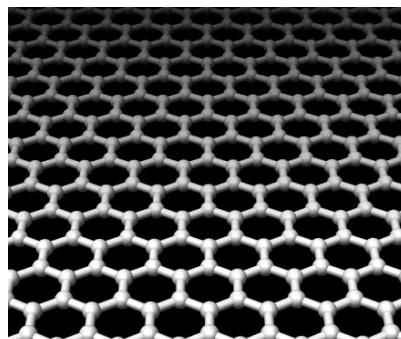
The Stochastic Scientist

Science-- there's something for everyone

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

[Carbon structures designed by water](#)

Carbon is a wonderfully utilitarian element, forming an essential part of DNA, protein and many other molecules necessary for life. Diamonds and pencil 'leads' are both made of carbon.

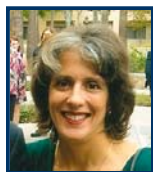


Graphene

A particularly interesting form of carbon is called [graphene](#). Graphene is one atom thick, and can be made into narrow ribbons, [fullerenes](#) such as [nanotubes](#) and Buckyballs (buckminsterfullerenes), and [nano-diamonds](#).

Petr Král's laboratory at the University of Illinois at Chicago [may have discovered](#) a way to shape graphene into even more complex shapes. In computer simulations, they carefully positioned tiny nanodroplets of water along sheets of graphene. Although the water and graphene do not bind to each other, the water droplets

About Me



Kathy Orlinsky

I'm a molecular biologist by training, having graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine in 1994. I've spent the intervening years at home, raising a little scientist.

[View my complete profile](#)

Stochastic Scientist? What's up with that?

Why the Stochastic Scientist? As I'm sure you all know, 'stochastic' is another word for 'random', which is what I intend for the focus of this blog. Although my formal training is as a molecular biologist, there are many other fields of science that are also fascinating and beautiful. It's my intention to blog about which ever scientific discovery or invention catches my, and hopefully your, fancy.

I also hope to inspire people to learn more