

served as the director of ETH Zürich's Materials Research Center for six years.

Spolenak studied physics at the Technical University of Vienna, Austria.



He completed his diploma thesis in the field of solid-state physics in 1995, and had a brief research term at the University of Pavia, Italy. In 1999, Spolenak

completed his dissertation on alloying effects in electromigration at the Max Planck Institute for Metals Research and the University of Stuttgart, Germany, and was awarded the Max Planck Society's Otto Hahn Medal. Prior to joining ETH Zürich, he spent time at Bell Laboratories, USA; the Advanced Light Source, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, USA; Lehigh University, USA; and the Max Planck Institute, Germany.

Spolenak's group focuses on the mechanical properties of metals at the

nanoscale and how these properties can be influenced by metallurgical approaches. His own recent research includes switchable semiconducting interference layers in the visible range at the nanometer length scale, color tuning in precious intermetallics, strain engineering to approach the direct bandgap in Ge, microstructure tuning by ion irradiation, size effects in high entropy alloys, and industry projects on coatings for biomedical materials and contact materials.

T. Venky Venkatesan is the director of the Nano Institute at the National



University of Singapore, where he is a professor of electrical and computer engineering, materials science and engineering, and physics. Previously, he

worked at Bell Laboratories, USA, and Bellcore, USA, for about 17 years before becoming a professor at the University of

Maryland for another 17 years. He is the inventor of the pulsed laser deposition (PLD) process. He has published over 650 papers and holds over 30 patents in the area of oxide thin films. He has had over 34 doctoral students, 35 post-doctoral students, and 40 undergraduates. He is also the founder and chairman of Neocera, a company specializing in PLD and magnetic field imaging systems.

Venkatesan is an academician of the Asia Pacific Academy of Materials, member of the Physics Policy Committee in Washington, DC, guest professor at Tsinghua University in China, member of the Board of Visitors at the University of Maryland, and the chairman of the American Physical Society's (APS) Forum of Industry and Applications of Physics. He is the recipient of the Bellcore Award of Excellence, the APS George E. Pake Prize in 2012, and the President's Gold Medal of the Institute of Physics Singapore. He is a Fellow of APS and of the World Innovation Forum.

ISCAN 2015 to be held October 26–29 in the United States

<http://www.iscan.vcu.edu>

The International Symposium on Clusters and Nanomaterials (ISCAN) 2015 will be held October 26–29, 2015, in Richmond, Va., USA. It is sponsored by Virginia Commonwealth University.

The symposium will focus on the role clusters and nanomaterials play in solving outstanding problems in energy and life sciences. In the area of energy, focus will be on solar, hydrogen, thermoelectric, and electrochemical storage

for energy applications. In the area of life sciences, the focus will be on bioactive, bioresponsive, and biomimetic materials; nanotoxicity; bioengineering; and regenerative medicine. Topics associated with both areas such as reactions, catalysis, electronic, optical, and magnetic properties will also be included. It will be an interdisciplinary exchange, bringing together researchers from physics, chemistry, biology, materials science, engineering, and medicine.

In addition to 14 plenary sessions of invited talks and two poster sessions, the symposium will feature oral presentations from contributed abstracts. **The abstract submission deadline is July 10. Early registration ends August 14. The manuscript submission deadline is November 29.**

More information can be accessed from the symposium website at <http://www.iscan.vcu.edu> or email at iscan@vcu.edu. □

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