

## Templating Copper on Polymer/DNA Hybrid Nanowires

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**Abstract :** DNA-templated poly(N-substituted pyrrole)bipyridinium nanowires were synthesised at room temperature using the chemical oxidation method. The resulting CPs/DNA hybrids have been characterised using electronic and vibrational spectroscopic methods especially Ultraviolet-Visible (UV-Vis) spectroscopy and FTIR spectroscopy. The nanowires morphology was characterised using Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM). The electrical properties of the prepared nanowires were characterised using Electrostatic Force Microscopy (EFM), and measured using conductive AFM (c-AFM) and two terminal I/V technique, where the temperature dependence of the conductivity was probed. The conductivities of the prepared CPs/DNA nanowires are generally lower than PPy/DNA nanowires showing the large effect on N-alkylation in decreasing the conductivity of the polymer, but these are higher than the conductivity of their corresponding bulk films. This enhancement in conductivity could be attributed to the ordering of the polymer chains on DNA during the templating process. The prepared CPs/DNA nanowires were used as templates for the growth of copper nanowires at room temperature using aqueous solution of  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  as a source of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  and ascorbic acid as reducing agent. AFM images showed that these nanowires were uniform and continuous compared to copper nanowires prepared using the templating method directly onto DNA. Electrical characterization of the nanowires by c-AFM revealed slight improvement in conductivity of these nanowires (Cu-CPs/DNA) compared to CPs/DNA nanowires before metallisation.

**Keywords :** templating, copper nanowires, polymer/DNA hybrid, chemical oxidation method

**Conference Title :** ICPEN 2014 : International Conference on Precision Engineering and Nanotechnology

**Conference Location :** Penang, Malaysia

**Conference Dates :** December 04-05, 2014