

### Mitigation of MIC from the material and its surface

Dake Xu, Professor Eurocorr 2017, Prague, Czech



Background

### BS and MS in Bioengineering

#### Microbiology, Molecular biology

Ph.D, Institute for Corrosion and Multiphase Technology, Ohio
 University, 2008-2013 Ph.D advisor: Tingyue Gu
 Corrosion, Bioelectrochemistry

Associate Professor, Institute of Metal Research,
 Chinese Academy of Sciences, 2013-2017

Material, Electrochemistry

Professor, Northeastern University (China), 2017

 Research interests: Biocorrosion, antibacterial material and biomaterial, biofilm and biocide. Mainly focused in the mechanism and mitigation of marine MIC and biofouling.

- Published more than 50 peer-review MIC-related journal papers.
- Editorial board member of NPJ Material degradation.
- 6 Ph.D and 12 master students in my group (3 international graduate students).





### Extracellular electron transfer (EET) in microbial fuel cell (MFC)

Direct Electron Transfer (DET)
 Direct cell wall-metal surface contact
 Pili (conductive nanowires).

 Mediated Electron Transfer (MET)
 FAD and riboflavin can act as electron shuttles. Some other chemicals such as H<sub>2</sub> are also used as electron carriers.



### ✓ MIC is analogous to the biocathode process of MFC.





Biocatalytic cathodic sulfate reduction (BCSR) by sessile sulfate-reducing bacteria (SRB) on the iron surface:

```
Anodic: 4Fe \rightarrow 4Fe^{2+} + 8e^{-1}
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Cathodic:  $SO_4^{2-} + 9H^+ + 8e^- \rightarrow HS^- + 4H_2O$ 

Mechanism for MIC by SRB utilization of electrons from iron oxidation for sulfate reduction. BCSR can explain why and how MIC due to SRB happens.

## **1. EET explains how MIC occurs**

# The cathodic reactions take place in the cytoplasm of the corrosive bacteria, which is defined as "biocathode" in MFC.



### $\checkmark$ EET is the key to investigate the MIC mechanisms.

## **1. EET explains how MIC occurs**

### **Electron mediators promote MIC caused by SRB**





## 1. EET explains how MIC occurs

Electron mediators promote MIC caused by Nitrate-reducing bacteria (NRB)



Bioelectrochemistry, 118:38-46, 2017

## Breakthrough (Proof of EET in MIC)



2

Time (days)

3

100-

0

0

We found the genes that determined the expression of electron mediators. Then we overexpressed these genes using synthetic microbiology methods to figure out if MIC was accelerated.

### Work in progress!!!



Breakthrough (Proof of EET in MIC)



## Breakthrough (Proof of EET in MIC)



Another electroactive biofilm confirmed the important role of MET in MIC process.

✓ MET was proved in MIC from genetic level.

-	Redox couple		п	E°´ (Mv)	
	2CO <sub>2</sub> + 2acetate /hexose		8	-670	
	Fe <sup>2+</sup> /Fe <sup>3</sup>	←	2	-447	
	$CO_2$ + acetate/lactate		4	-430	+44′/ mV
	CO <sub>2</sub> /formate		2	-432	$\mathbf{A}$
	$2H^{+}/H_{2}$		2	-414	
				(−270 to −30	00) <sup>a</sup>
	Acetate/ethanol		4	-390	
	CO <sub>2</sub> /methanol		6	-370	
	2Acetate/butyrate		4	-290	
	2CO <sub>2</sub> /acetate		8	-290	Redox Couple
	$CO_2/CH_4$		8	-244	
SRB	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> /HS		8	-217 (-200)	$\supset$ /
	Fumarate/succinate		2	+33	
	$NO_2^-/NH_3$		6	+330	
	NO <sub>3</sub> /NH <sub>3</sub>		8	+360	+360  or  +760  mV
NRB??	<b>P</b> $? NO_3^-/NO_2^ NO_3^-/NH_4^+ = 358 \text{ mV}$		2	+430	+300  or  +700  mv
	$2NO_3^-/N_2$		10	+760	
	$O_2/2H_2O$		4	+818	$E^{0} = 80^{7} \text{ mV or } 120^{7} \text{ mV}$
	$H_2O_2/2H_2O$		2	+1350	$\Delta G^{o'}$ = -nFE°' < 0
		• ,			

✓ Electrogenic bacteria corrode for maintenance energy.

 $\checkmark$  NRB is corrosive, and should be more aggressive than SRB.

## Starvation of organic carbon accelerates MIC due to SRB (Field condition)

Medium	Sessile Cell Count (cells/cm <sup>2</sup> )
Full medium (ATCC 1249 Medium)	≥10 <sup>6</sup>
Full medium minus 90% carbon source	≥10 <sup>5</sup>
Full medium minus 99% carbon source	$\geq 10^{4}$
Full medium minus 100% carbon source	$\geq 10^{4}$





#### Int Biodeterior Biodegrad, 91:74-81, 2014

### Starvation of organic carbon accelerates MIC due to NRB



Corrosion Sci. 2017



In the absence of organic electron donors, the sulfate reducing Bacterium *D. vulgaris* could survive for a long period, up to 55 days.

Only when the methanogenic strains are deprived of energy sources such as organic carbon, they start to turn aggressive towards carbon steel, causing increased corrosion, indicating that the phenomenon is likely not strain specific.

Corrosion Sci,90:89-100, 2015 Corrosion Sci,119:102-111, 2017

### **On-demand electron transfer**

Starvation triggers pilus formation for better DET to harvest more electrons.



Sherar et al. Corrosion Sci, 53:955–960, 2011

Currently DET is still disputable. Cogent and direct evidence is needed to prove the occurrence of DET.

## **3. MIC classification**



#### Major drawbacks:

(1) We demonstrated that MET of EET played a key role in MIC due to SRB. We further confirmed MET in MIC from genetic level (data unpublished).

(2)  $H_2S$  corrosion was not a sole chemical corrosion phenomenon.

- 1. Corrosion 70, 4, pp. 351-365, 2014.
- 2. Corrosion 71, 3, pp. 316-325, 2015.
- 3. Corrosion 71, 8, pp. 945-960, 2015.
- 4. Corrosion 70, 4, pp. 375-389, 2014.



#### **EET - MIC (electroactive or electrogenic biofilm)**

Biofilms rely on anaerobic respiration for energy. Oxidant (e.g., sulfate and nitrate) is reduced inside cells under biocatalysis. SRB, NRB, methanogens, etc. intentionally cause corrosion for energy.

#### **Metabolites - MIC**

Fermentative bacteria and fungi in biofilms secrete organic acids. The produced oxidants (organic acids, H<sup>+</sup>, etc.) in MIC are reduced outside cells without biocatalysis.

May or may not be intentional. These oxidants will corrode in conventional chemical corrosion (such as acetic acid corrosion) without biofilms! APB (and some SRB and NRB) that perform anaerobic fermentation cause this type of MIC.

## 4. D-amino acids as biocide enhancer



Signal molecules as button to control the disperse of biofilm GICNAC MURNAC GICNAC MURNAC GICNAC MurNAc L-Ala I-Ala D-Glu D44 D-Glu Exponentia m-DAP-D-Ala m-DAP m-DAF D-Ala NH D-Glu ċo I-Ala MurNAc GICNAC MurNAc GICNAC GICNAC MurNAc ĊH3 CO L-Ala GICNAC MurNAC GICNAC MurNAC GICNAC MurN D-Glu L-Ala L-Ala M4-Met D-Glu D44-Met D-Glu Stationary m-DAP - D-Ala m-DAP D-Ala m-DAP D-Glu I-AI= MurNAc GICNAC MurNAc GICNAC



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Research review paper

Current and emerging environmentally-friendly systems for fouling control in the marine environment

Jeanette E. Gittens<sup>a</sup>, Thomas J. Smith<sup>a,\*</sup>, Rami Suleiman<sup>b</sup>, Robert Akid<sup>c</sup>

p-Amino acids have been found to disrupt bacterial biofilms and are promising components for novel antifouling systems. In experiments by Xu et al. (2012), a combination of p-tyrosine and the "green" biocide tetrakis hydroxymethyl phosphonium sulfate (THPS) has been found to inhibit formation of biofilms of the corrosion-causing SRB Desulfovibrio vulgaris in laboratory tests on carbon steel surfaces over a period of seven days. Results showed that at a concentration of only 1 ppm, p-tyrosine was able to reduce the amount of THPS required to kill the SRB biofilm from 100 to 50 ppm (Xu et al., 2012).

Tingyue Gu, Dake Xu, Compositions and Methods for treating biofilms. PCT Patent Application No. PCT/US12/52417. Patent WO2013032961A1

### Advantages of D-amino acids as biocide enhancer

1. Broad-spectrum signal molecular

MurNAc

- 2. Low toxicity
- 3. Biodegradable
- 4. Low price

Microbiologically Influenced Corrosion (MIC) Resistance of a Novel Cu-bearing 2205 Duplex Stainless Steel in the Presence of a Marine *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Biofilm

Work done@IMR



- MIC corrodes carbon steel.
- MIC attacks 304/304L SS, 316/316L SS, 2205 DSS and 2707 HDSS.
- MIC even attacks Copper and Ti.



**316L pitting corrosion due to SRB after coculture for 7 days** 



### **Biofilms** are responsible for MIC

### SRB Biofilm

### **NRB Biofilm**



50-80 µm thick, dense and iron sulfide rich

150-200 µm thick, patchy and fluffy

It is widely accepted that MIC related pitting corrosion is caused by the biofilm. So if the biofilm can be effectively inhibited or mitigated, the occurrence of pitting corrosion due to MIC can be considerably decreased.

Larson et al., NACE Paper 07507, 2007

## Mitigation of MIC

### **Current Mitigation Methods**

•Biocides/Biostats (THPS and glutaraldehyde, etc.)

Problems with toxicity, resistance, high costs, strict environmental regulations.

Physical scrubbing (pigging)
Some pipelines cannot be pigged.



Microbial competition

NRB can be used to mitigate souring, but not necessarily MIC. Because they are corrosive bugs!

In USA, \$1.2 billon was spent annually on biocide to fight MIC. Aim to eradicate biofilm (planktonic cells are much easier to be killed). Biofilms are far more difficult to eradicate than planktonic cells. 10X or higher doses. 1,000X reported.

### **Antibacterial Stainless Steels**

Copper ions show strong antibacterial ability, and copper is a vital alloy element. Based on this, adding suitable quantity of copper is the technical approach to develop antibacterial stainless steel.

IMR developed various types of stainless steel, including austenitic antibacterial SS (304-Cu, 316L-Cu, 317L-Cu, 201-Cu), ferritic antibacterial SS (430-Cu) and martensitic antibacterial SS (420-Cu, 2Cr13Mo-Cu,17-4PH Cu).

A newly developed 2205-Cu duplex SS was aimed to mitigate the MIC due to corrosive microbes in marine environments.

### **Broad antibacterial spectrum**

	Antibacterial rate (%)				
Experimental bacteria	Ferritic antibacterial	Austenitic antibacterial	Contrast		
	stainless steel	stainless steel	steel		
Escherichia coli ATCC25922	99.9	99.9	0		
Shigella fexneri ATCC12022	99.0	99.5	0		
Pseudomonas aeruginosa ATCC9721	99.9	99.9	0		

### Antibacterial spectrum of the antibacterial stainless steels against the gramnegative bacteria.

### **Broad antibacterial spectrum**

	Antibacterial rate (%)				
Experimental bacteria	Ferritic antibacterial	Austenitic antibacterial	Contrast		
	stainless steel	stainless steel	steel		
Staphylococcus epidermis ATCC14990	99.9	99.9	0		
Sarcina lutea ATCC9341-A	99.9	99.9	0		
Serratia marcescens ATCC8100	98.2	99.5	0		
Bacillus pumilus ATCC14884	97.7	92.4	0		
Enterococcus faecalis ATCC29212	91.0	93.6	0		

### Antibacterial spectrum of the antibacterial stainless steels against the grampositive bacteria.

### **Antibacterial stainless steel**





Tap water exposed in air after 24h, (A) 304 SS, (B) 304–Cu, 1-Live/Dead staining, 2-Live sessile cells, and 3-Dead sessile cells.

### **Antibacterial stainless steel**



Cultured in 0.9% NaCl solution for 24h

### **Antibacterial stainless steel**



Maximal biofilm thickness: 27.43 µm



Maximal biofilm thickness: 44.68 µm

#### Cultured in 0.9% NaCl solution for 24h in presence of E. coli

### MIC resistance test of 304-Cu against *Escherichia coli*

Electrochemical parameters for stainless steel specimens exposed to LB medium with and without *E.coli*.

Spec	imen	Solutions	Time (day)	E <sub>corr</sub> (mV)	E <sub>pit</sub> (mV)	I <sub>corr</sub> (μA/cm²)
		LB	2	-131	332	0.03
			21	-131	325	0.19
304	I SS	LB+bacteria	2	-286	221	1.42
			21	-519	-369	4.98
		LB	2	-186	161	0.03
204	304-Cu SS		21	-187	168	0.07
304-0			2	-192	264	0.08
		LB+bacteria	21	-324	-174	1.24

## Corrosion characteristics of stainless steels exposed to LB medium with *E. coli* for 21 days.

Specimen	Specimen Maximum pit depth (μm)		R <sub>a</sub> (μm)	Weight loss (mg/cm <sup>2</sup> )
304 SS	13.4	0.23	1.17±0.03	0.6±0.05
304-Cu SS	8.3	0.14	0.65±0.02	0.2±0.03



304 SS

304-Cu SS



Summary:

Unlike traditional mitigation methods, the innovative idea of this research is to utilize the antibacterial stainless steel surface (the Cu-rich phase and the Cu ions released from the matrix) where the biofilm attached to directly mitigate the corrosive biofilm.



## 2205-Cu DSS mitigated MIC

- Pseudomonas aeruginosa is a Gram-negative motile rod bacterium widely distributed in nature.
- *P. aeruginosa* is an aerobic marine corrosive microbe, which have caused many MIC cases.
- It has been recognized as the pioneer colonizer in the process of biofilm formation.

### **Biofilm formation + Corrosive**



**2205 DSS** 

2205 DSS has been widely used in the marine environments, such as ships, offshore platform, subsea equipment, coastal facility and the use of seawater cooling equipment.











## 2205-Cu DSS mitigated MIC

### **Antibacterial Stainless Steel used in marine environment**

2205 duplex SS is widely used in marine environments. In recent, the failures of 2205 DSS due to MIC were reported. The MIC resistance of a novel Cu-bearing 2205 Duplex Stainless Steel (2205 Cu-DSS) against an aerobic marine *P. aeruginosa* biofilm was investigated.





Microstructure of 2205 Cu-DSS after

- (a) solution at 1050°C.
- (b) solution at 1050°C, and aging at 540°C for 4 h.

### **Mechanical properties**

Samples	$\delta_{s}$ (MPa)	$\delta_{b}$ (MPa)	σ (%)	ψ (%)	H (Hv)
а	540	770	76	38	380
b	636	886	74	32	471
С	571	810	77	30	369

Where  $\delta_s$  is the yield strength,  $\delta_b$  tensile strength,  $\sigma$  elongation,  $\psi$  cross sectional area and hardness H.

- a. commercial 2205 DSS
- b. 2205 Cu-DSS after solution and aging treatment
- c. 2205 Cu-DSS after solution treatment

The mechanical properties of 2205-Cu were slightly better than those of the commercial 2205.
#### **MIC resistance test – Linear polarization resistance**



The variations of *R*p with exposure time for 2205 DSS and 2205 Cu-DSS coupons in the presence of *P. aeruginosa* at 30°C.

The R<sub>p</sub> of 2205-Cu was larger than that of the commercial 2205, indicating its better MIC resistance against *P. aeruginosa*.

## 2205-Cu DSS mitigated MIC



	Sterile medium		After inoculation	
	2205 DSS	2205 Cu-DSS	2205 DSS	2205 Cu-DSS
$E_{corr}$ / mV (Vs. SCE)	-308.2	-478.5	-135.2	-437.1
$i_{corr}$ / (µA cm <sup>2</sup> )	0.01	0.13	0.20	0.04
$\beta_a(V/dec)$	0.18	0.99	0.56	0.62
$\beta_c$ (V / dec)	-0.09	-0.08	-0.58	-0.20

#### 2205-Cu DSS mitigated MIC

#### **MIC** resistance test – Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy



The Bode plots of 2205 DSS and 2205 Cu-DSS coupons with or without exposure to *P. aeruginosa* biofilm: (a) 2205 Cu-DSS in the medium inoculated with *P. aeruginosa*, (b) 2205 DSS in the medium inoculated with *P. aeruginosa*, (c) 2205 DSS in the uninoculated medium, and (d) 2205 Cu-DSS in the uninoculated medium.

MIC resistance test – The equivalent physical models and the corresponding circuit models



(a) a single, and (b) a double layer model with a biofilm.

#### **MIC resistance test – The efficiency of MIC resistance**

Day	11	13	14
η <sub>p</sub> %	n/a	n/a	89
η <sub>R</sub> %	57	81	88

$$\eta_{p} = \frac{i_{corr(uninh)} - i_{corr(inh)}}{i_{corr(uninh)}} \times 100\%$$
$$\eta_{R} = \frac{R_{ct(inh)} - R_{ct(uninh)}}{R_{ct(inh)}} \times 100\%$$

The inhibition efficiency of 2205 Cu-DSS in the presence of *P. aeruginosa*.

 $\eta_p$  was calculated by the  $i_{corr}$  of 2205-Cu DSS vs. the  $i_{corr}$  of 2205 DSS in the presence of *P. aeruginosa*.

 $\eta_R$  was calculated by the  $R_{ct}$  of 2205-Cu DSS vs. the  $R_{ct}$  of 2205 DSS in the presence of P. aeruginosa.

*i*<sub>corr(uninh)</sub> and R<sub>ct(uninh)</sub> 2205 DSS+ *P. aeruginosa* 

*i*<sub>corr(inh)</sub> and R<sub>ct(inh)</sub> 2205-Cu DSS + *P. aeruginosa* 

The  $\eta_p$  and  $\eta_R$  demonstrate that the 2205-Cu DSS showed its MIC resistance against *P*. aeruginosa after 11 days.



#### **MIC** resistance test – Live/Dead staining



CLSM to investigate the growth of the *P. aeruginosa* biofilm on the surface of: (a) 2205 DSS after 1 day, (b) 2205 Cu-DSS after 1 day, (c) 2205 DSS after 7 days, and (d) 2205 Cu-DSS after 7 days.

## 2205-Cu DSS mitigated MIC



(a) 2205 DSS in the presence of *P. aeruginosa* after 7 days, (b) 2205-Cu DSS in the presence of *P. aeruginosa* after 7 days, (c) 2205 DSS in the presence of *P. aeruginosa* after 14 days, and (d) 2205-Cu DSS in the presence of *P. aeruginosa* after 14 days.

The Live/Dead staining and SEM images confirmed the strong biofilm removal efficacy of 2205-Cu DSS compared with 2205 DSS.



#### **MIC resistance test – Surface morphology observation**



The CLSM 3-D images of (a) 2205 Cu-DSS and (b) 2205 DSS incubated in the medium inoculated with *P. aeruginosa* for 14 days.

The MIC resistance performance of 2205-Cu was supported by the pit depth data.



2205-Cu DSS possessed strong MIC pitting resistance.



2205 Cu-DSS showed considerably larger CPT values, indicating its strong pitting resistance.

## 2205-Cu DSS mitigated MIC

#### **MIC resistance test – Surface analysis**



(a) The wide XPS spectra of the surface of the 2205 DSS and 2205 Cu-DSS in the medium with and without *P. aeruginosa* after 14 days of incubation,(b) the high resolution XPS spectra of Cl 2p for 2205 Cu-DSS with exposure to *P. aeruginosa* after 14 days of incubation, and (c) the high resolution XPS spectra of Cl 2p for 2205 DSS with exposure to *P. aeruginosa* after 14 days of incubation.

#### A protective Cu<sub>2</sub>(OH)<sub>3</sub>Cl layer was formed on the 2205 Cu-DSS surface.



#### 3D atom probe



3D reconstruction of the atom positions and isoconcentration surface for regions containing >10% Cu for Fe, Cr, Cu, Mo, Ni, C and N based on the orange isosurfaces.

Copper was "evenly" distributed in the 2205-Cu DSS.

#### Initial inoculation of 10<sup>5</sup> cells/ml *P. aeruginosa* in artificial seawater for 1, 3, 5 days.



Width:318.20 µm Height:318.20 µm Depth: 24 µm | Width:318.20 µm Height:318.20 µm Depth: 12 µm

Width:318.20 µm Height:318.20 µm Depth: 33 µm

#### Initial inoculation of 10<sup>3</sup> cells/ml *P. aeruginosa* in artificial seawater for 1, 3, 5 days.





Time (days)





Forward primer: 5'-AGACACCGTCCAGACTCCTAC-3'

Reverse primer: 5'-CCAACTTGCTGAACCACCTAC-3'

Quantitative PCR further confirmed the strong antibacterial ability of 2205 Cu-DSS.

## Environmental toxicity of 2205-Cu DSS



#### No death and abnormality

2205 Cu-DSS was environmentally safe.



Biofilm and pit morphology of 2205 DSS (A, C) and 2205-Cu DSS (B, D) after the 7-day incubation with nitrate reducing *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* PAO1 in anaerobic condition. Data provided by Prof Tingyue Gu, Ohio University.

#### 2205 Cu-DSS effectively mitigated anaerobic biofilm.

#### 2205-Cu DSS mitigated MIC



2205 Cu-DSS effectively mitigated anaerobic MIC.



#### The possible MIC resistance mechanism



The Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions released from the Cu-rich phases and the direct contact killing by the  $\epsilon$ -Cu phases synergistically mitigated the corrosion biofilm and MIC.



#### **Conclusion:**

➤The newly designed 2205-Cu DSS was found to be a potential anti-MIC material used in marine environments.

➤The novelty is that a new method is developed to mitigate MIC from the material aspect.

> The investigation of 2<sup>nd</sup> generation 2205-Cu DSS is ongoing to pursue a better antibacterial ability with broad spectrum.

# Mussel-inspired superhydrophobic surfaces with enhanced corrosion resistance and dual-action antibacterial and anti-MIC properties



**Cooperated with Prof. Dawei Zhang** 

## Background



Improving the hydrophobic (hydrophilic) of the material surface: (1) reducing (improving) the surface energy of the material, (2) changing the surface microstructure and increasing the surface roughness.





Mimicing the natural nanostructure (superhydrophobic) is not enough to prevent the biofilm formation and attachment.



#### Preparation of superhydrophobic surface



## Surface micro-topography







Surface wettability



#### **Corrosion resistance**



□ The chelation of polydopamine (PDA) film with Fe showed a protective effect on stainless steel substrate.

□ The gas film formed by the superhydrophobic surface improved the corrosion resistance.

## **Biofilm prevention of** *E. coli*



Bare surface (BS) Ag-deposited surface Superhydrophobic surface (ADS) (SS)

## Biofilm prevention of S. aureus



## Biofilm mitigation (E. coli)



ADS

SS

#### **Biofilm mitigation (***S. aureus* )



## **Biofilm thickness and coverage**



## Planktonic cell inhibition (OD<sub>600nm</sub>)



1 day: the superhydrophobic surface inhibited the attachment of the biofilm, most of the bacteria were in planktonic status, leading to a high OD value of the SS.

3 day: with the release of Ag<sup>+</sup> from SS, the growing of bacteria was inhibited, so the increase rate of the OD value significantly decreased.

Release of Ag<sup>+</sup>



□ The fast release of Ag<sup>+</sup> from nanosilver surface at the beginning of immersing was not good for long-term antibacterial effect.

□ The superhydrophobic surface gradually released Ag<sup>+</sup>.
Cytotoxicity (CCK-8)



□ The nanosilver surface showed the highest cytotoxicity, while the cytotoxicity was decreased for superhydrophobic surface because of the release inhibition of Ag<sup>+</sup>.

## **Antibacterial mechanism of SS surface**



□ The superhydrophobic surface separated the surface and the medium in initial immersing stage, reduced the adhesion of the biofilm, and inhibited the release of Ag<sup>+</sup>.

□The superhydrophobic surface and released Ag<sup>+</sup> ions synergistically mitigated the biofilm.

## Antibacterial superhydrophilic surface



S. aureus



## **Conclusion:**

➢A superhydrophobic (hydrophilic) surface was constructed on the surface of 316L stainless steel by self-assembly of polydopamine, nano-silver particles and PFDT.

>Biofilm was synergistically inhibited by the superhydrophobic surface and the released silver ions.

➤The superhydrophilic surface also exhibited strong anti-biofilm ability.



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