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Kwanwoo Shin received his B.S. from Chemistry Department at Sogang University, and M.S at KAIST, Korea. He received his Ph.D. degree in Materials Science and Engineering at Stony Brook University for his work on nanostructured polymer thin films in 2000. He worked then as a guest scientist at the NIST Center for Neutron Science from 2000 to 2002. In 2002, he joined the faculty as an assistant professor in Department of Materials Science and Engineering at the Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST). He is now a full professor in Chemistry Department in Sogang University, Korea, and the founding director of the Institute of Biological Interfaces at Sogang University. He was a visiting professor at School of Engineering and Applied Science, Harvard University from 2012-2013.

His research interests mainly lie in the interdisciplinary area, which can be termed as "biological interfaces", using two-dimensional organic monolayers, and supported bilayers as model cellular membrane systems, along with various microscopes and scattering techniques. Recently he is actively participating in educational activities at under-developed countries, and working to initiate academic and research approaches in "appropriated technology", including paper-based biosensors, and on-site 3D printing with polymeric composite materials.

He is a representative of Bio-REF, the Korea's 1st bio-dedicated neutron beamline at HANARO, and doing a leading role in various neutron and X-ray related community.

He has received a number of awards; Distinguished Lectureship Award from the Chemical Society of Japan in 2010, Invited Lecturer of Asia Excellence from the Polymer Society of Japan, and Wiley 2008 Young Chemist Award from the Korean Chemical Society.

He has published more than 110 peer-reviewed papers, and 30 domestic and international patents. Currently he is an advisor of about 20 MS and Ph.D students in Sogang University.