



Exponent[®]
Engineering & Scientific Consulting

Michael Synodis, Ph.D., P.E., CFEI

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Professional Profile

Dr. Synodis specializes in the failure analysis, safety testing, and quality analysis of lithium-ion batteries and battery powered products. He supports clients across a range of sectors, including consumer electronics, e-mobility, electric vehicles, and residential and utility energy storage systems.

Dr. Synodis has led numerous product liability litigation investigations and has conducted dozens of inspections related to battery failures and fires. He has extensive experience utilizing X-ray imaging, computed tomography (CT), optical microscopy, and scanning electron microscopy (SEM) to evaluate batteries and battery-related materials.

Dr. Synodis also assists clients in their development of battery products by performing design reviews and manufacturing quality evaluations. He is experienced in performing battery safety and abuse testing at the cell, module, and system level, including both customized abuse testing and standard-guided testing (e.g., UL 1642, SAE J2464, UL 9540A).

Dr. Synodis is a chemical engineer by training. Prior to joining Exponent, he was a graduate research associate at the University of Pennsylvania, where he completed his PhD. In his time at Penn he developed processes based on MEMS techniques for the fabrication of micro-lithium-ion and micro-zinc-air batteries for use in high rate and on-chip power applications. Dr. Synodis has expertise with micro-fabrication technologies, including electrodeposition, sputter deposition, lithography, evaporative deposition, and laser micromachining. His thesis contained work on developing optimized electro-polymerization conditions of conductive polymers for use laminated multilayer microstructures.

Dr. Synodis also previously worked in manufacturing for L'Oreal USA in Piscataway, NJ, where he focused on optimizing line efficiencies and improving supply chain flexibility.

Academic Credentials & Professional Honors

Ph.D., Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, University of Pennsylvania, 2019

M.S., Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, University of Pennsylvania, 2017

B.S., Chemical Engineering, Bucknell University, 2013

Licenses and Certifications

Professional Engineer Chemical, California, #7066

Professional Engineer Chemical, Massachusetts, #59631

Professional Engineer Chemical, New York, #110464

Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI)

Prior Experience

Manufacturing, L'Oreal USA

Graduate Researcher, MicroSensors and MicroActuators Lab, University of Pennsylvania

Publications

Synodis, M. J., Porter, C. L., Vo, N. M., Reszka, A. J., Gross, M. D., & Snyder, R. C. (2013). A model to predict percolation threshold and effective conductivity of infiltrated electrodes for solid oxide fuel cells. *Journal of The Electrochemical Society*, 160(11), F1216-F1224.

Synodis, M. J., Kim, M., Allen, M. G., & Allen, S. A. B. (2019). 3D lithium ion battery fabrication via scalable stacked multilayer electrodeposition. *Journal of Micromechanics and Microengineering*, 29(5), 055006.

Synodis, M., Pikul, J., Bidstrup Allen, S.A., Allen, M.G. (2020). Vertically Integrated High Voltage Zn-Air Batteries Enabled by Stacked Multilayer Electrodeposition. *Journal of Power Sources*, 449, 227566.

Synodis, M., Pyo, J. B., Kim, M., Oh, H., Wang, X., & Allen, M. G. (2020). Fully additive fabrication of electrically anisotropic multilayer materials based on sequential electrodeposition. *Journal of Microelectromechanical Systems*, 29(6), 1510-1517.

Synodis, M., Pyo, J. B., Kim, M., Wang, X., & Allen, M. G. (2020). Lithographically patterned polypyrrole multilayer microstructures via sidewall-controlled electropolymerization. *Journal of Micromechanics and Microengineering*, 31(2), 025008.

Presentations

Synodis, M. J., Kim, M., Allen, S. A. B., & Allen, M. G. (2018, January). MEMS enabled scalable fabrication of high performance lithium ion battery electrodes. In 2018 IEEE Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS) (pp. 600-603). IEEE.

Synodis, M., Pikul, J., Allen, S. A. B., & Allen, M. (2019, June). Integrated Fabrication of Serially Connected High Voltage Microbatteries via Multilayer Electrodeposition. In 2019 20th International Conference on Solid-State Sensors, Actuators and Microsystems & Eurosensors XXXIII (TRANSDUCERS & EUROSENSORS XXXIII) (pp. 789-792). IEEE.

Synodis, M., Warden, D.J., Schuh, Brandon (2024, November). Burning Concerns: A Micromobility Battery Safety Roadmap. *Micromobility America 2024*.

Peer Reviews

Journal of Micromechanics and Microengineering