

**Materials Innovation for Better Batteries**

**Y. Shirley Meng**

**Energy Storage Research Alliance (ESRA), Argonne National Lab, USA**

**Laboratory for Energy Storage & Conversion, The University of Chicago, USA**

**Email: [shirleymeng@uchicago.edu](mailto:shirleymeng@uchicago.edu)**

High energy long life rechargeable battery is considered as the key enabling technology for deep de-carbonization. Energy storage in the electrochemical form is attractive because of its high efficiency and fast response time. Besides the technological importance, electrochemical devices also provide a unique platform for fundamental and applied materials science & research since *ion* movement is often accompanied by inherent complex phenomena related to phase changes, electronic structure changes and defect generation. In this talk, I will discuss a few new perspectives for energy storage materials including new superionic conductors, new intercalation compounds and their interfacial engineering. With recent advances in photon and electron characterization tools and computational methods, we are able to explore ionic mobility, charge transfer and phase transformations in electrode and electrolyte materials *in operando*, and map out the structure-properties relations in novel functional metals, ceramics and soft materials for next generation energy storage and conversion. ESRA is an Energy Innovation Hub funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) focused on energy storage and next-generation battery discovery. ESRA aims to enable transformative discoveries in materials chemistry, gain a fundamental understanding of electrochemical phenomena at the atomic scale, lay the scientific foundations for breakthroughs in energy storage technologies, and train the next-generation battery workforce to ensure U.S. scientific and economic leadership.