

## Electronic Supplementary Information

# Synthesis and Characterization of Carbon Coated Sponge-like Tin Oxide (SnO<sub>x</sub>) Films and Their Application as Electrode Materials in Lithium Ion Batteries

*Nils Mohri,<sup>1§</sup> Bernd Oschmann,<sup>2,3§</sup> Franziska Mueller,<sup>4,5</sup> Nina Laszczynski,<sup>4,5</sup> Jan von Zamory,<sup>4,5</sup>  
Stefano Passerini,<sup>4,5</sup> Rudolf Zentel,<sup>2,\*</sup> and Wolfgang Tremel<sup>1,\*</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry, University of Mainz, Duesbergweg 10–14,  
55128 Mainz, Germany, \*email: [tremel@uni-mainz.de](mailto:tremel@uni-mainz.de)

<sup>2</sup>Institute for Organic Chemistry, University of Mainz, Duesbergweg 10-14, 55128 Mainz,  
Germany

<sup>3</sup>Graduate School Materials Science in Mainz, Staudinger Weg 9, 55128, Mainz, Germany

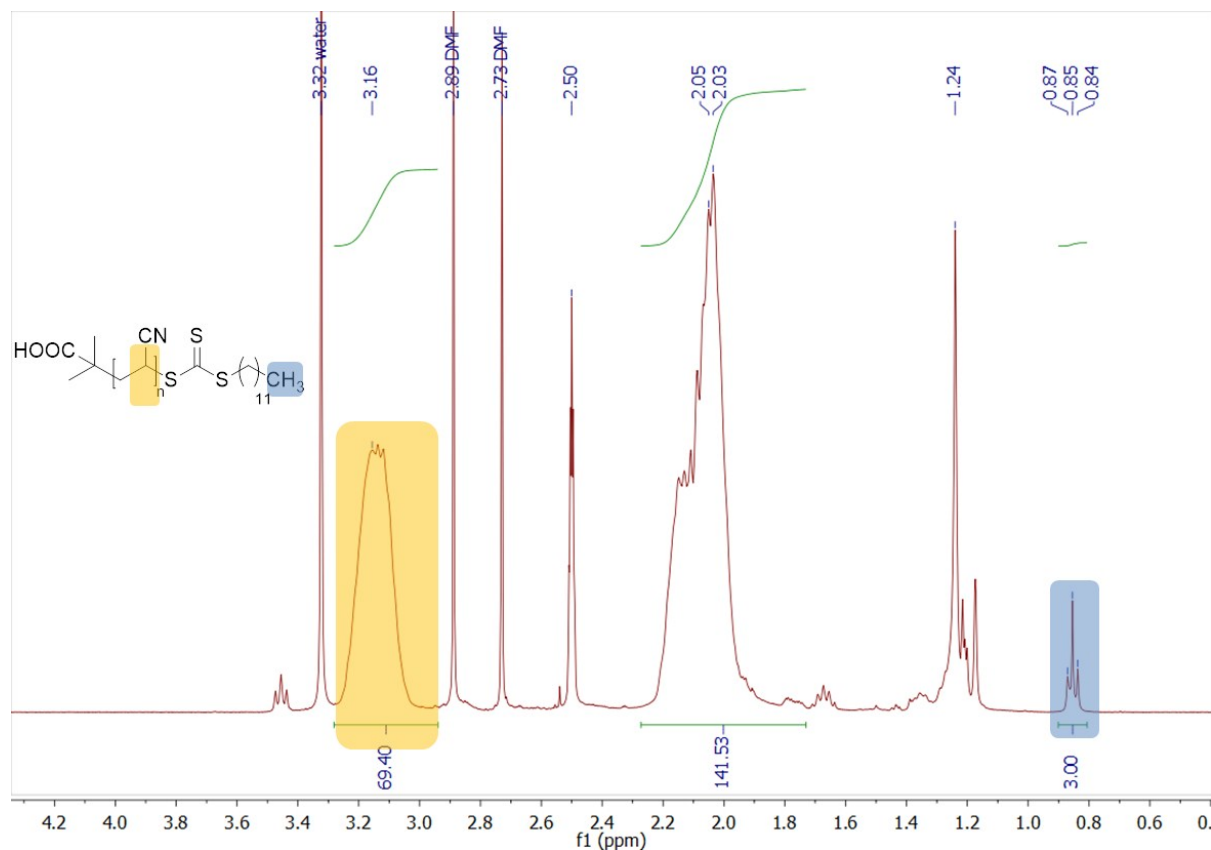
<sup>4</sup>Helmholtz Institute Ulm (HIU), Electrochemistry I, § Helmholtzstr. 11, 89081 Ulm, Germany

§ Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), P.O. Box 3640, 76021 Karlsruhe, Germany,

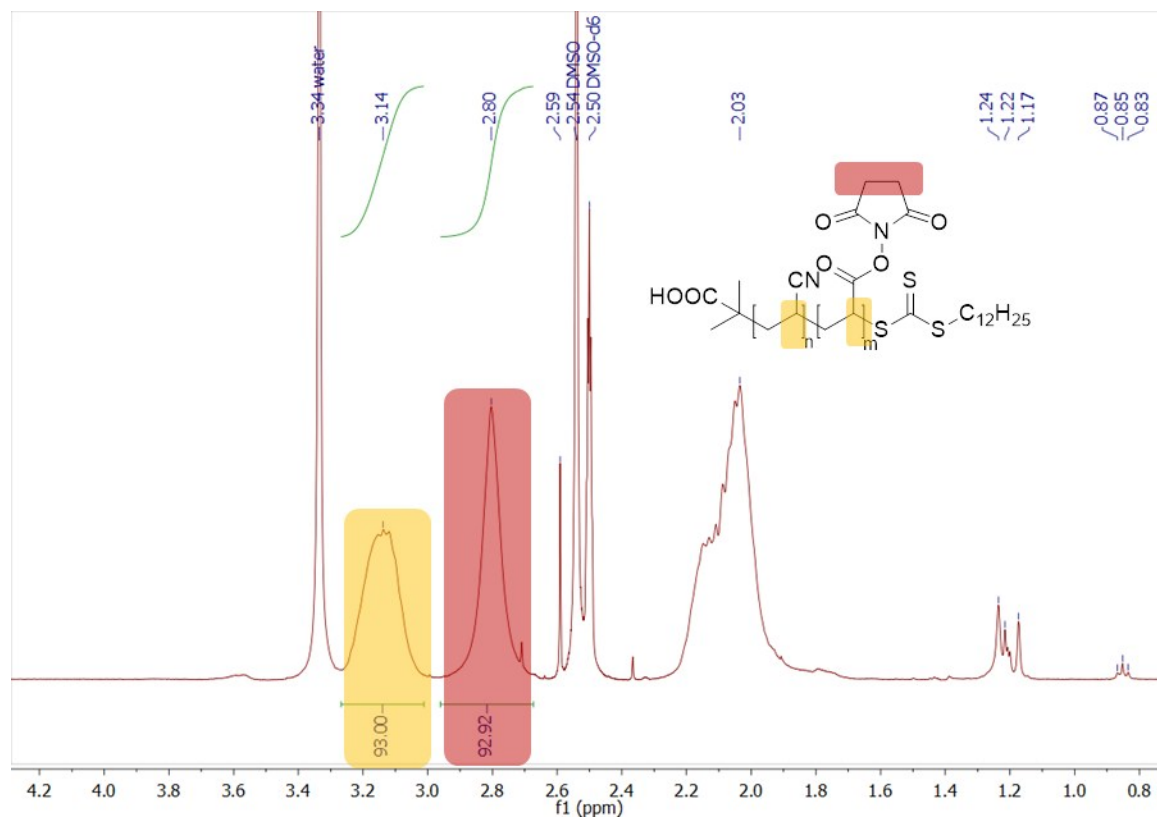
<sup>5</sup>Institute of Physical Chemistry & MEET Battery Research Center, University of Muenster,  
Corrensstr. 28/30 & 46, 48149 Muenster, Germany

§ These authors contributed equally to this study.

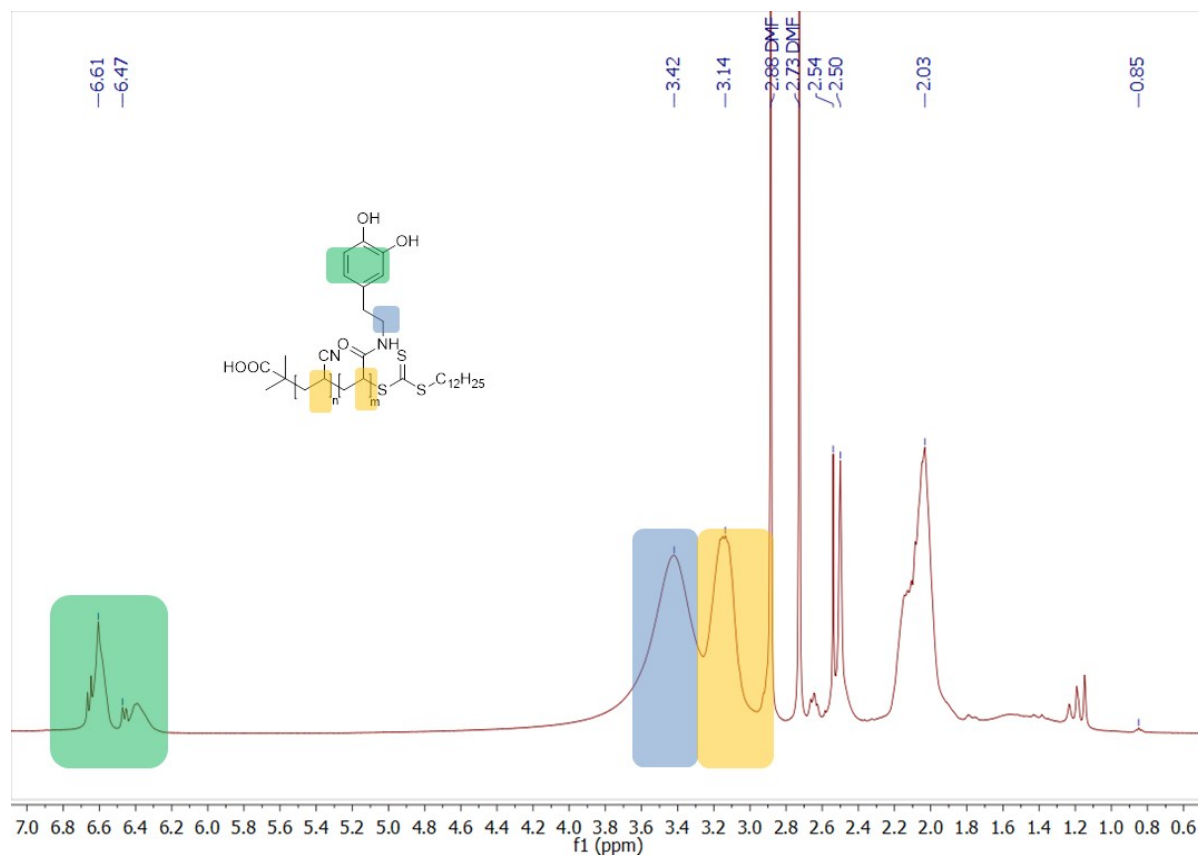
Keywords: Tin dioxide • Anodization • Batteries • Coating



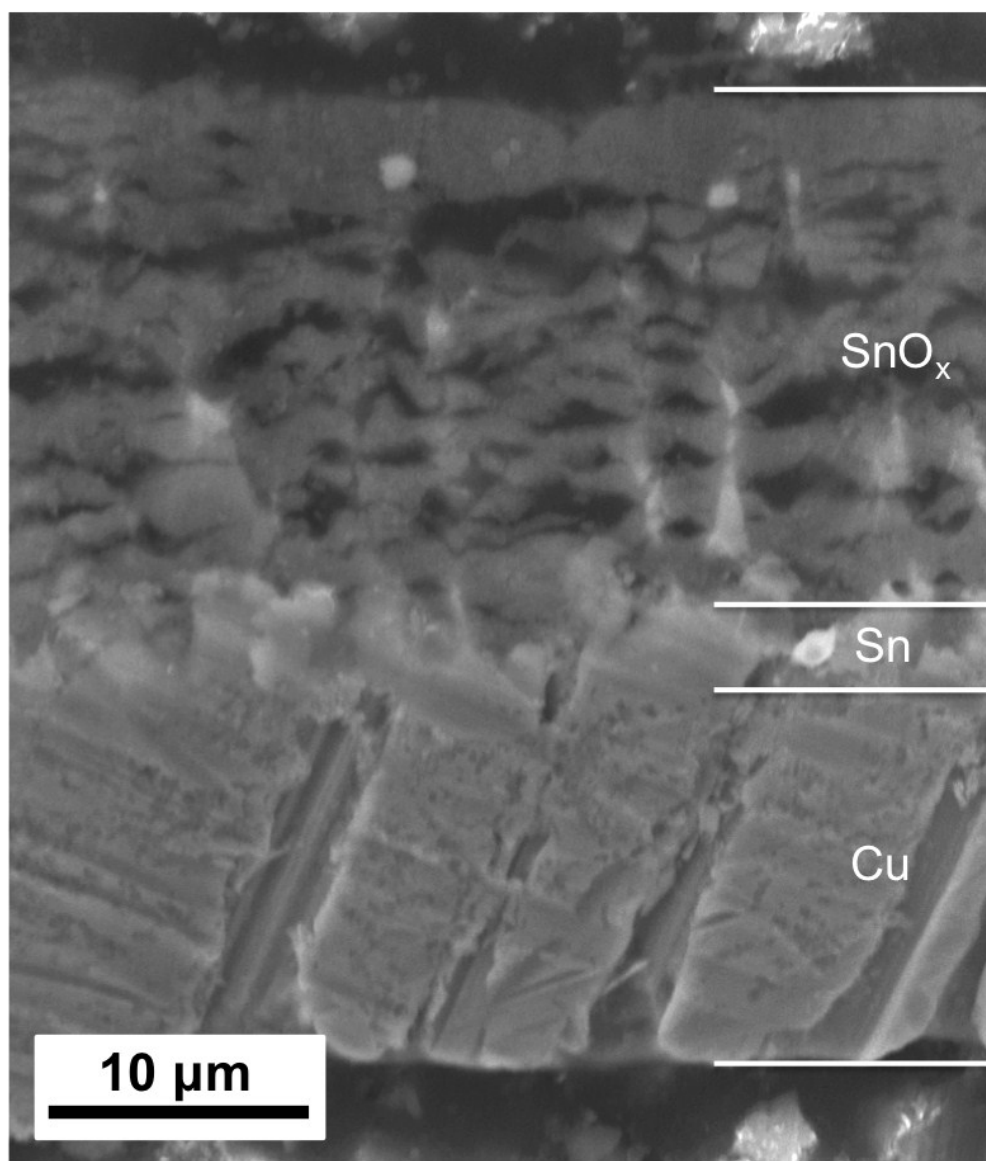
**Figure S1.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of polyacrylonitrile. The number average of the molecular weight is determined to be 70, as confirmed by the ratio of the integrals of the signals at 0.85 ppm (CH<sub>3</sub>-group of the chain transfer agent end-group) and the signal at 3.16 ppm (CH-backbone signal of the polyacrylonitrile).



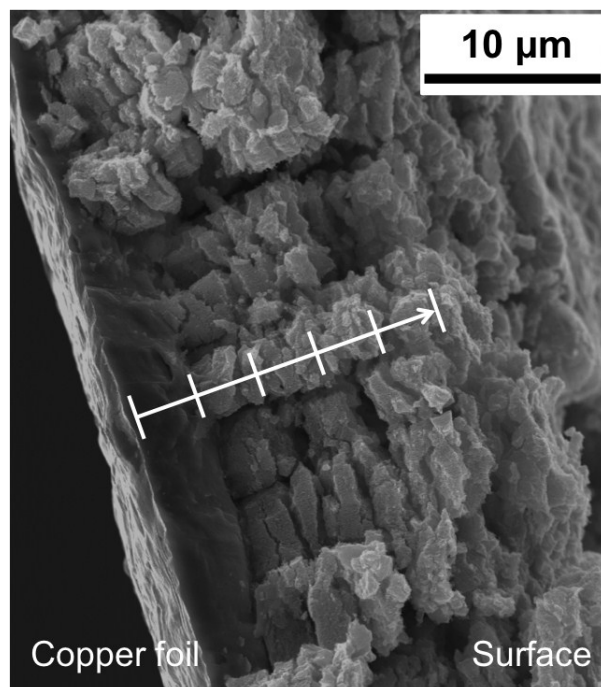
**Figure S2.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of poly(acrylonitrile-block-N-acryloxysuccinimide).



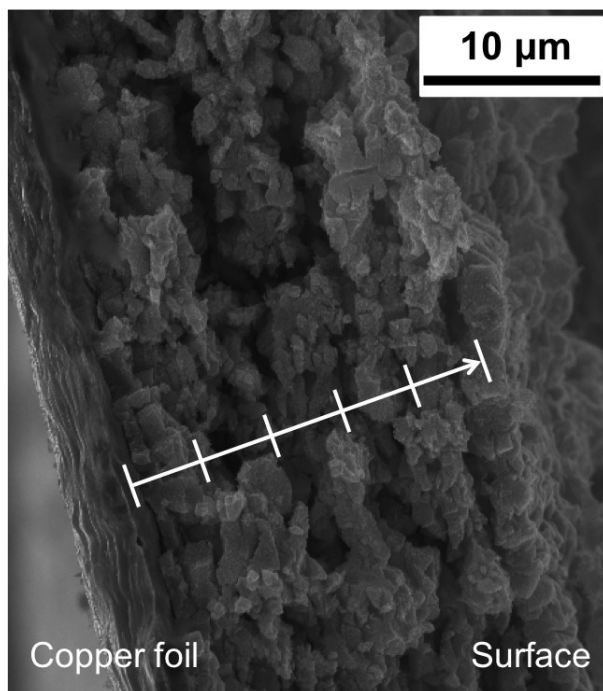
**Figure S3.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of poly(acrylonitrile-block-dopamine acrylamide) showing both the typical polyacrylonitrile signals and the dopamine acrylamide signals.



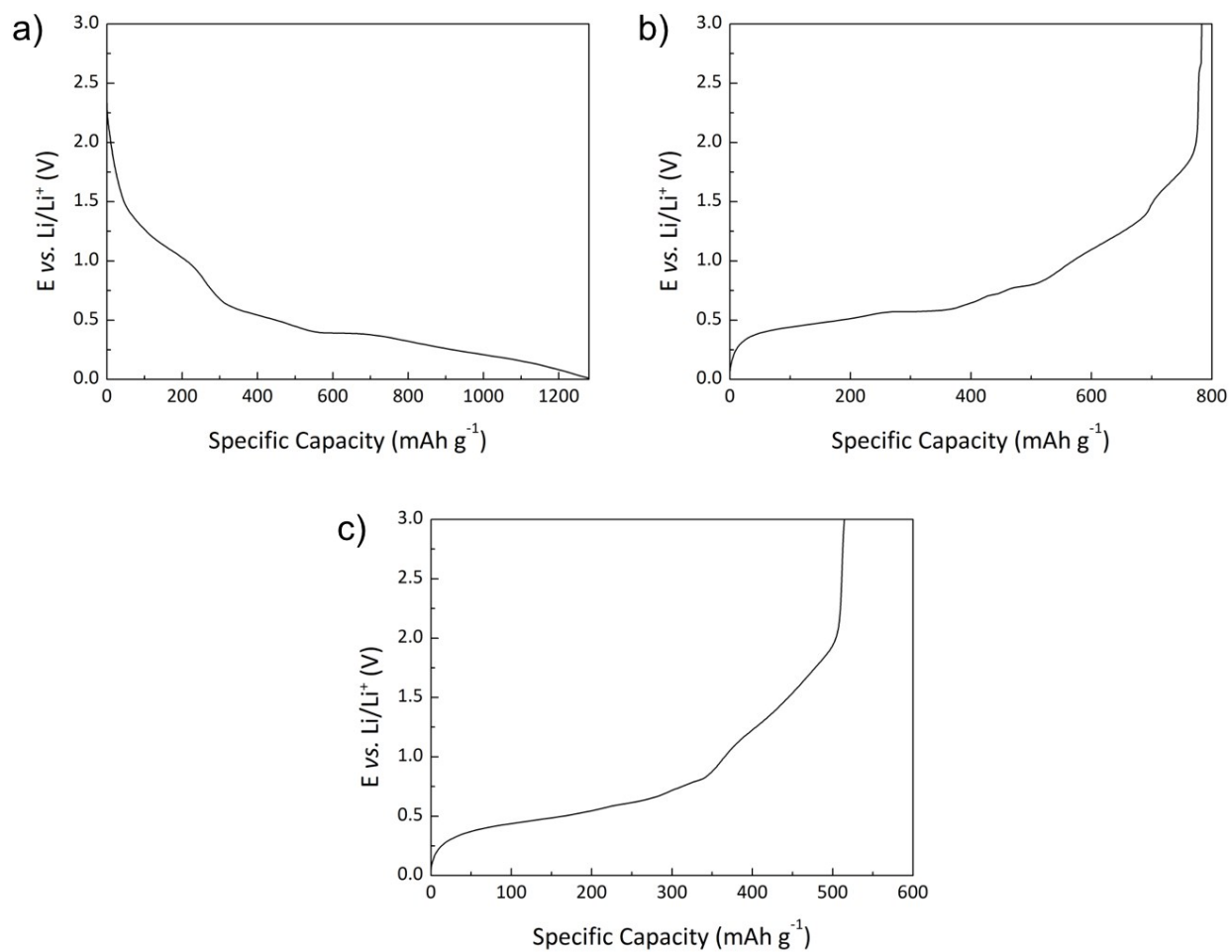
**Figure S4.** Cross section SEM image of coated sample. Top: Sponge-like nanoporous SnO<sub>x</sub> (grey), cracks from oxygen evolution breaking up regular tubular structure (black). Middle: Tin gluing layer connecting nanoporous tin oxide to underlying copper foil. Bottom: Copper foil.



**Figure S5.** Cross section SEM image of carbon coated SnO<sub>x</sub> sponge. The arrow shows the direction of measurement with lines indicating measuring points for EDX



**Figure S6.** Cross section SEM image of carbon coated SnO<sub>x</sub> sponge. The arrow shows the direction of measurement with lines indicating measuring points for EDX.



**Figure S7.** Potential profile of the first discharge (a), first charge (b) and fifth charge (c) of the corresponding XRD measurements shown in Figure 12. Cut-off potential: 0.01 V and 3.0 V.



**Table S1** Atomic Concentrations for measured elements of anodized sample

	C	O	Cu	Sn
1	5.07	0	92.7187	2.2129
2	0	8.5573	55.002	36.4406
3	0	38.9735	4.415	56.6115
4	0	38.0204	2.751	59.2285
5	0	41.0113	1.6139	57.3748
6	0	40.2376	2.9094	54.2173

**Table S2.** Atomic Concentrations for measured elements of carbon coated sample

	C	O	Cu	Sn
1	0.00	0.73	95.31	3.95
2	3.42	27.73	8.86	59.99
3	3.05	29.56	3.44	63.95
4	2.09	31.45	2.87	63.59
5	0.98	14.90	2.81	81.31
6	1.52	8.68	1.52	87.49

**Table S3.** Summary of discharge capacity of various SnO<sub>x</sub>-based materials.

System	discharge capacity / mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	Current density / mA g <sup>-1</sup>	Number of cycles	Relative content of active material within the electrode	Reference
C-coated anodized sponges	400	50	50	95-97 wt.%	Present study
anodized SnO <sub>x</sub> sponges	300	130	20	78 wt.%	1
SnO <sub>2</sub> hollow nanostructures	500	160	40	80 wt.%	2
SnO <sub>2</sub> nanoboxes	570	160	40	70 wt.%	3
SnO <sub>2</sub> nanowires	300	100	50	75 wt.%	4
SnO <sub>2</sub> polypyrrole nanocomposites	400	50	20	80 wt.%	5
Tin oxide nanoflowers	500	88	20	75 wt.%	6

## References

- 1 J. W. Lee, S.-J. Park, and H.-C. Shin, Electrochemical Characterization of Anodic Tin Oxides with Nano-Porous Structure. *Korean J. Mater. Res.* 2011, **21**, 21-27.
- 2 X. W. Lou, Y. Wang, C. Yuan, J. Y. Lee, and L. A. Archer, Template-Free Synthesis of SnO<sub>2</sub> Hollow Nanostructures with High Lithium Storage Capacity. *Adv. Mater.* 2006, **18**, 2325-2329.
- 3 Z. Wang, D. Luan, F. Y. C. Boey, and X. W. Lou, Fast Formation of SnO<sub>2</sub> Nanoboxes with Enhanced Lithium Storage Capability. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2011, **133**, 4738-4741.
- 4 M.-S. Park, G.-X. Wang, Y.-M. Kang, D. Wexler, S.-X. Dou, and H.-K. Liu, Preparation and Electrochemical Properties of SnO<sub>2</sub> Nanowires for Application in Lithium-Ion Batteries. *Angew. Chem.* 2007, **119**, 764-767.
- 5 L. Yuan, J. Wang, S. Y. Chew, J. Chen, Z. P. Guo, L. Zhao, K. Konstantinov, JH. K. Liu, Synthesis and characterization of SnO<sub>2</sub>-polypyrrole composite for lithium-ion battery. *J. Power Sources* 2007, 174, 1183-1187.
- 6 J. Ning, Q. Dai, T. Jiang, K. Men, D. Liu, N. Xiao, C. Li, D. Li, B. Liu, B. Zou, G. Zou, and W. W. Yu, Facile Synthesis of Tin Oxide Nanoflowers: A Potential High-Capacity Lithium-Ion-Storage Material. *Langmuir* 2009, **25**, 1818-1821.