

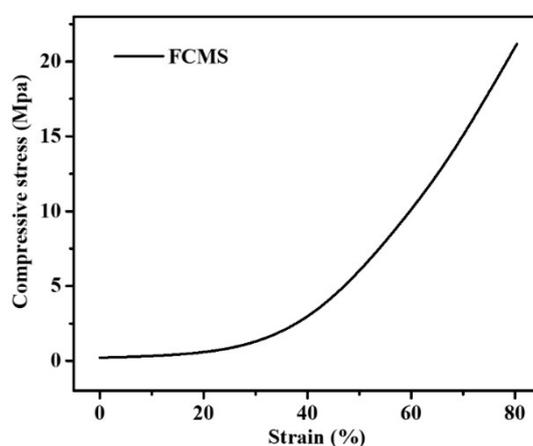
## Supplementary material

### Favorable lithium deposition behaviors on flexible carbon microtube skeleton enable a high-performance lithium metal anode

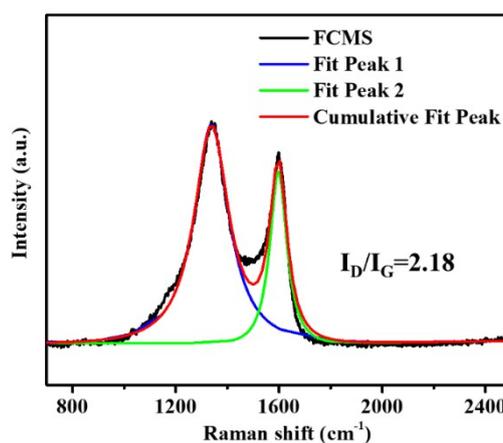
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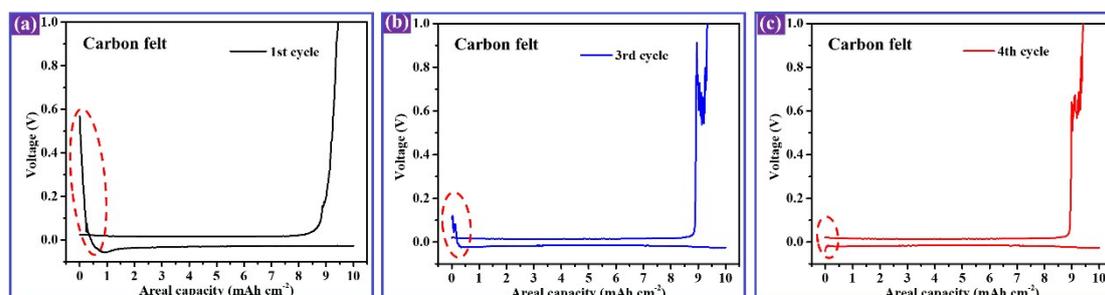
**Fig. S1** Compressive stress-strain curve of the FCMS



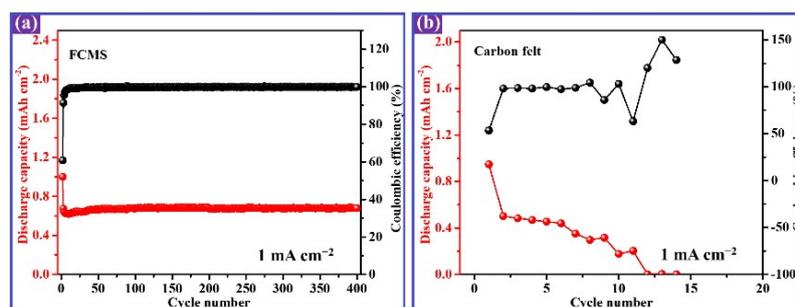
**Fig. S2** Fitted Raman spectra of the FCMS

**Table S1.** Comparison of areal capacity and current density in Coulombic efficiency tests of various current collectors.

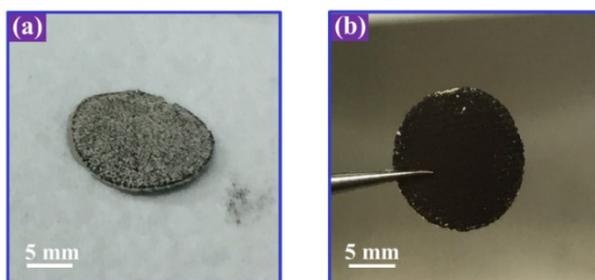
Current collectors	Areal capacity (mAh cm <sup>-2</sup> )	Current density (mA cm <sup>-2</sup> )	Year	Ref
3D Cu foil	2	0.5	2015	[1]
Au NPs coated hollow carbon	1	0.5	2016	[2]
Ag NPs coated CNF	1	0.5	2017	[3]
Graphitized CFs	8	0.5	2017	[4]
N-doped graphene modified porous Cu	1-4	0.5-1	2018	[5]
3D TiC/C Core/Shell Nanowire	1	1	2018	[6]
3D F-doped graphene	1	0.5-2	2018	[7]
3D nitrogen-enriched carbon sponge	1-3	0.5-1	2018	[8]
<b>flexible carbon microtube skeleton</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>our work</b>



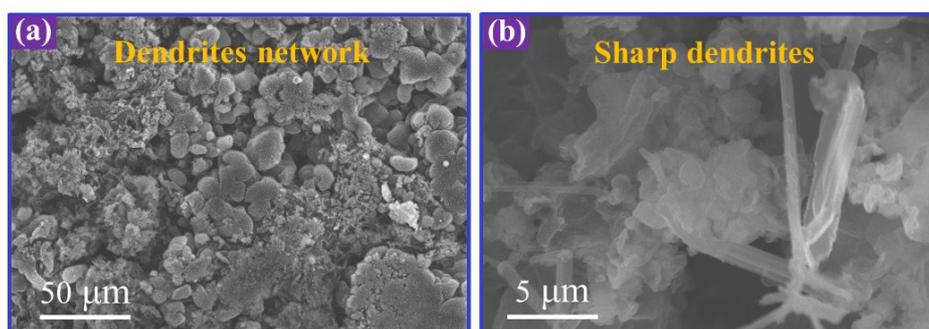
**Fig. S3** Discharge/charge voltage profiles of carbon felt at 1 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> for 10 mA h cm<sup>-2</sup> (a) 1st cycle, (b) 3rd cycle and (c) 4th cycle.



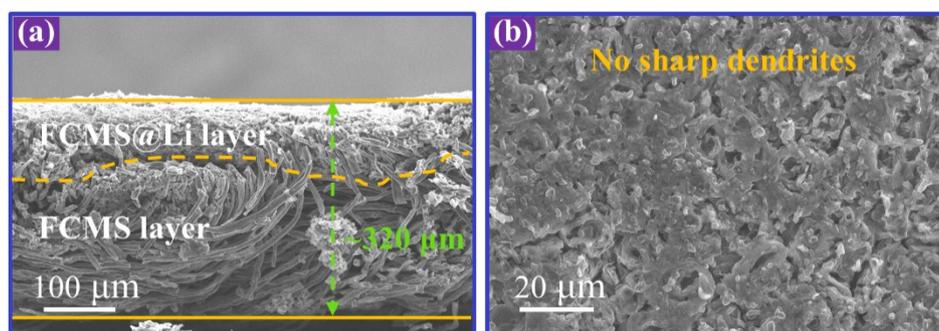
**Fig. S4** Cycling performance of FCMS and carbon felt between 0 and 1 V at 1 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>.



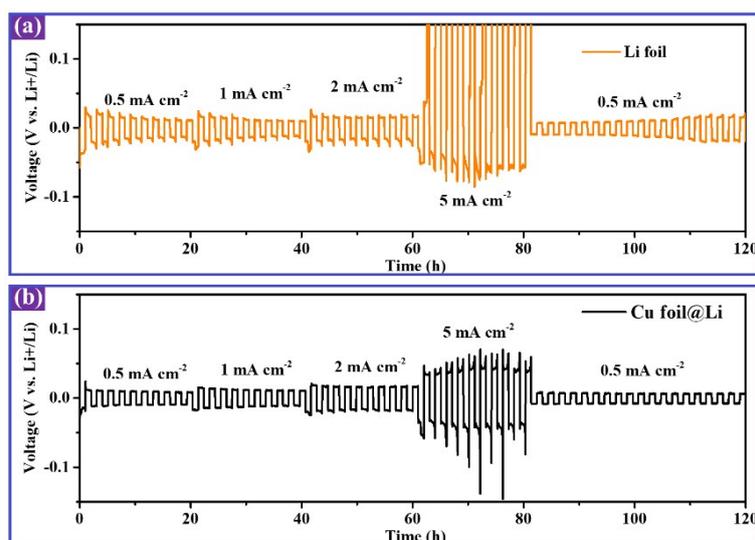
**Fig. S5** Photograph of FCMS after plating  $\square 10 \text{ mAh cm}^{-2}$  of Li at  $1 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}$  for 10th cycle, (a) the side facing separator and (b) the back of it.



**Fig. S6** (a) Cu foil after plating  $10 \text{ mAh cm}^{-2}$  of Li and (b) corresponding enlarged SEM image for 10th cycle at  $1 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}$ .



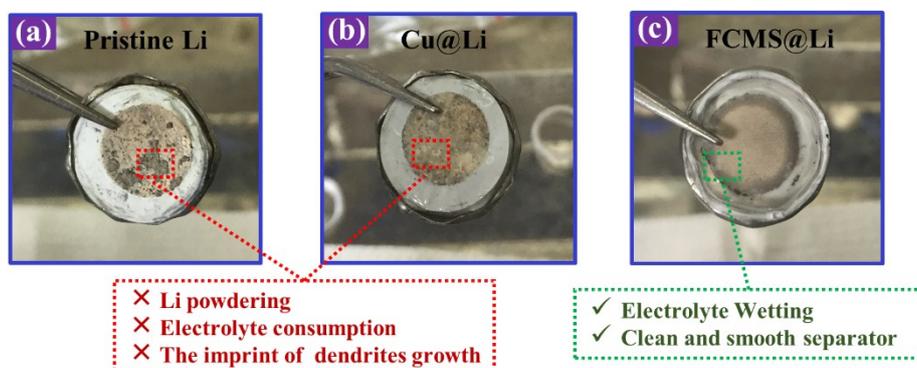
**Fig. S7** (a) Cross-sectional SEM image of the FCMS@Li electrode after cycling for 1000 h in symmetric cell ( $1 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}$  for  $2 \text{ mAh cm}^{-2}$ ); (b) corresponding surface SEM image.



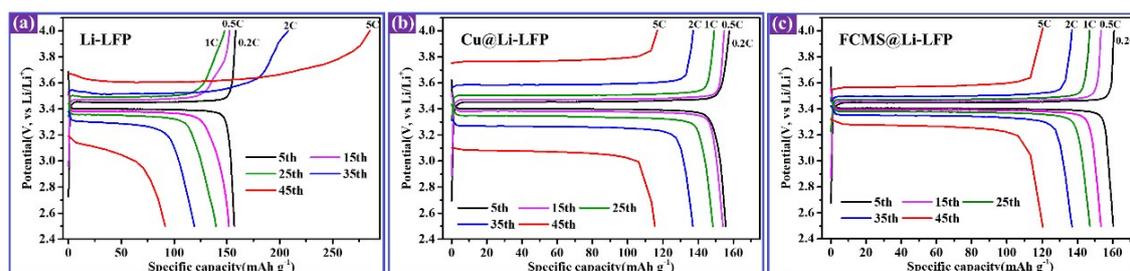
**Fig. S8** Rate capability of (a) pristine Li symmetric cell and (b) Cu foil@Li symmetric cell at current densities of 0.5, 1, 2 and 5 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> for 1 h.

**Table S2.** Comparison of galvanostatic cycling performance of symmetric Li cells with different composite Li anodes.

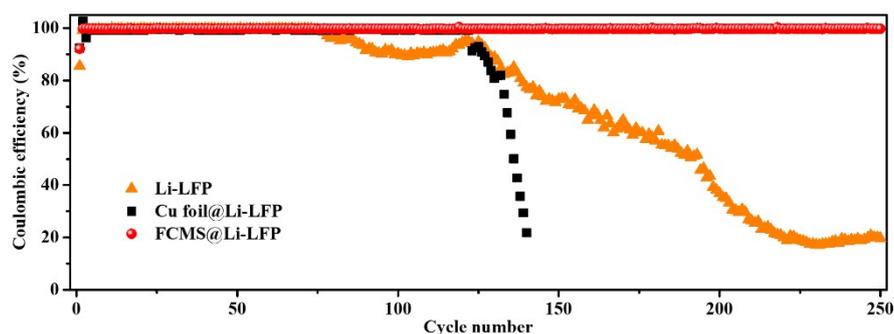
Ref	Electrolyte (1 M LiTFSI in DOL/DME)	Current density (mA cm <sup>-2</sup> )	Areal capacity (mAh cm <sup>-2</sup> )	Cycling performance
[1]	no additive	0.2	0.5	600 h
[2]	-	-	-	-
[3]	no additive	0.5	1	500 h
[4]	1 wt% LiNO <sub>3</sub>	2	1	300 h
[5]	-	-	-	-
[6]	1 wt% LiNO <sub>3</sub>	0.5-3	1	200 h
[7]	2 wt% LiNO <sub>3</sub>	1	2	350 h
[8]	1 wt% LiNO <sub>3</sub>	0.5	0.5	320 h
<b>our work</b>	<b>1wt% LiNO<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1000 h</b>
		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>450 h</b>



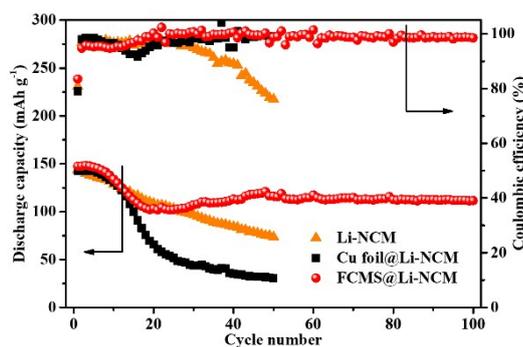
**Fig. S9** Photographs of separators in disassembled (a) Li symmetric cell, (b) Cu foil@Li symmetric cell and (c) FCMS@Li symmetric cell after cycling for 500 h (1 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> for 2 mAh cm<sup>-2</sup>).



**Fig. S10** Charge-discharge curves of full cells with (a) pristine Li, (b) Cu foil@Li and (c) FCMS@Li as anodes at 0.2 C, 0.5 C, 1 C, 2 C and 5 C.



**Fig. S11** Coulombic efficiencies of three types of full cells.



**Fig. S12** Cycling performance of cells with NCM523 cathode and different Li anodes at 0.5 C in a common carbonate-based electrolyte.

## References

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