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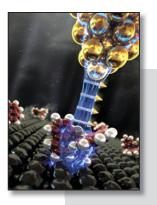
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as discussed in the articles in this issue. The image on the cover shows one example: spin-polarized scanning tunneling microscopy (STM) on a single molecule. Several molecules are bonded to a surface, where spin-split states are probed by polarized current from the STM tip. See the technical theme that begins on page **578**.



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The Materials Research Society (MRS), a not-for-profit scientific association founded in 1973 and headquartered in Warrendale, Pennsylvania, USA, promotes interdisciplinary materials research. Today, MRS is a growing, vibrant, member-driven organization of over 16,000 materials researchers spanning over 80 countries, from academia, industry, and government, and a recognized leader in the advancement of interdisciplinary materials research.

The Society's interdisciplinary approach differs from that of single-discipline professional societies because it promotes information exchange across many scientific and technical fields touching materials development. MRS conducts three major international annual meetings encompassing approximately 125 topical symposia, and also sponsors numerous single-topic scientific meetings. The Society recognizes professional and technical excellence and fosters technical interaction through University Chapters. In the international arena, MRS implements bilateral projects with partner organizations to benefit the worldwide materials community. The Materials Research Society Foundation helps the Society advance its mission by supporting various projects and initiatives.

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