Enhanced Adhesion Strength of ZnO Nanopillar Arrays of Flexible Substartes for Artificial Basilar Membrane

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Piezoelectric zinc oxide (ZnO) nanopillar arrays were grown on flexible substrates to make an artificial basilar membrane (ABM) which has a xylophone-like structure. The ZnO nanopillars were synthesized in solution at low temperatures (< 100 oC). To selectively fabricate the xylophone-like ABM structure, a hybrid approach combining top-down photolithography and bottom-up chemical growth has been used. A special concern was focused on the adhesion enhancement of ZnO nanopillar arrays on a flexible substrate. Strong adhesion of nanopillars on polyimide was achieved by oxygen-plasma treatment followed by fluorinated-carbon deposition on the plasma-treated substrate. The characterization of ZnO nanopillar arrays and the process optimization of ABM fabrication have been carried out in terms of structural and electrical properties.