Abstract: Graphitic surfaces (e.g., graphite, graphene, carbon nanotubes) have long been believed to be hydrophobic. However, our recent work showed that such surfaces are in fact mildly hydrophilic. The previously observed hydrophobicity is caused by adsorption of airborne hydrocarbon contamination. This talk will discuss these related issues, with a special focus on the wetting transition and its implications in carbon materials research.

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