

David Gracias (Brief Biography)

David Gracias*, was born in 1972 in Bombay, and is married to Rael Heredia. He completed his undergraduate studies at [IIT Kharagpur](#) and received his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in 1999. His Ph.D. advisor was [Gabor Somorjai](#) and his interdisciplinary thesis research which involved collaborations with [Yuen-Ron Shen](#) (Physics) and [Kyriakos Komvopoulos](#) (Mechanical Engineering) was focused on the development and application of non-linear optical spectroscopy and probe microscopy to study polymer and biomaterial interfaces. David did post- doctoral research on surface modification and self-assembly with [George Whitesides](#) at Harvard, and learned integrated circuit fabrication as a Senior Engineer at [Intel](#).

In 2003, Dr. Gracias joined the Johns Hopkins University where he is now an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. His research interests span multiple disciplines and are broadly related to the fabrication, self-assembly and characterization of biotic / abiotic systems, devices and materials at very small size scales. He has given over 70 invited talks in these areas and his research group has been funded by the NIH, NSF, DOD, private foundations and industry to address problems in basic science, electronics, optics, medicine, and alternative energy.

Dr. Gracias's research has resulted in 121 scientific articles, including 78 in research journals and 20 issued patents. His research has been published or highlighted in prominent research journals such as Science, Nature Communications, Nature Nanotechnology, Nature Photonics, Nature Physics, Nature Chemistry, PNAS and press portals such as the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, Forbes and Discover Magazine.

Dr. Gracias's notable awards include the NIH Director's New Innovator Award, NSF Career Award, Humboldt Fellowship for Experienced Researchers, Beckman Young Investigator Award, Camille Dreyfus Teacher Scholar Award, Maryland Academy of Sciences Outstanding Young Engineer Award and the DuPont Young Professor Award.

*Many people are curious how a person from India might be named David Gracias. David's lineage is from [Goa](#), a region on the west coast of present day India bordering the Arabian Sea. Goa was a colony and the capital of the Portuguese empire in the East from 1510 to 1961. Since 1961 Goa has become a part of India.

There are many theories about the name "Gracias". One is that Gracias has the connotation of a variant of the English word "gracious". Another competing theory is that the entire village was named after the catholic priest who was responsible for our religious conversion from Hinduism to Catholicism at some point in the 18th century.