

Study on slippery Liquid-infused Porous surface coatings with low glass transition temperature polymers for extra-corporeal circulation

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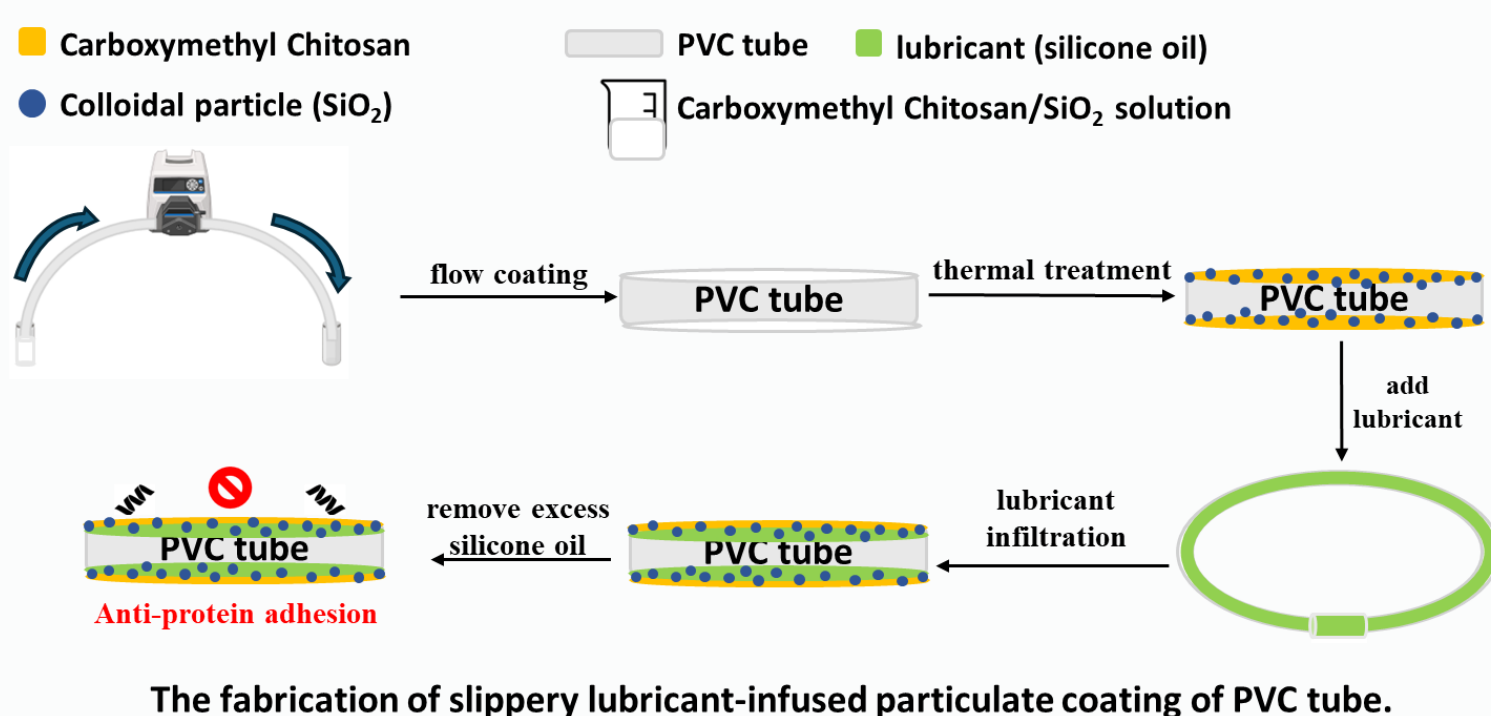
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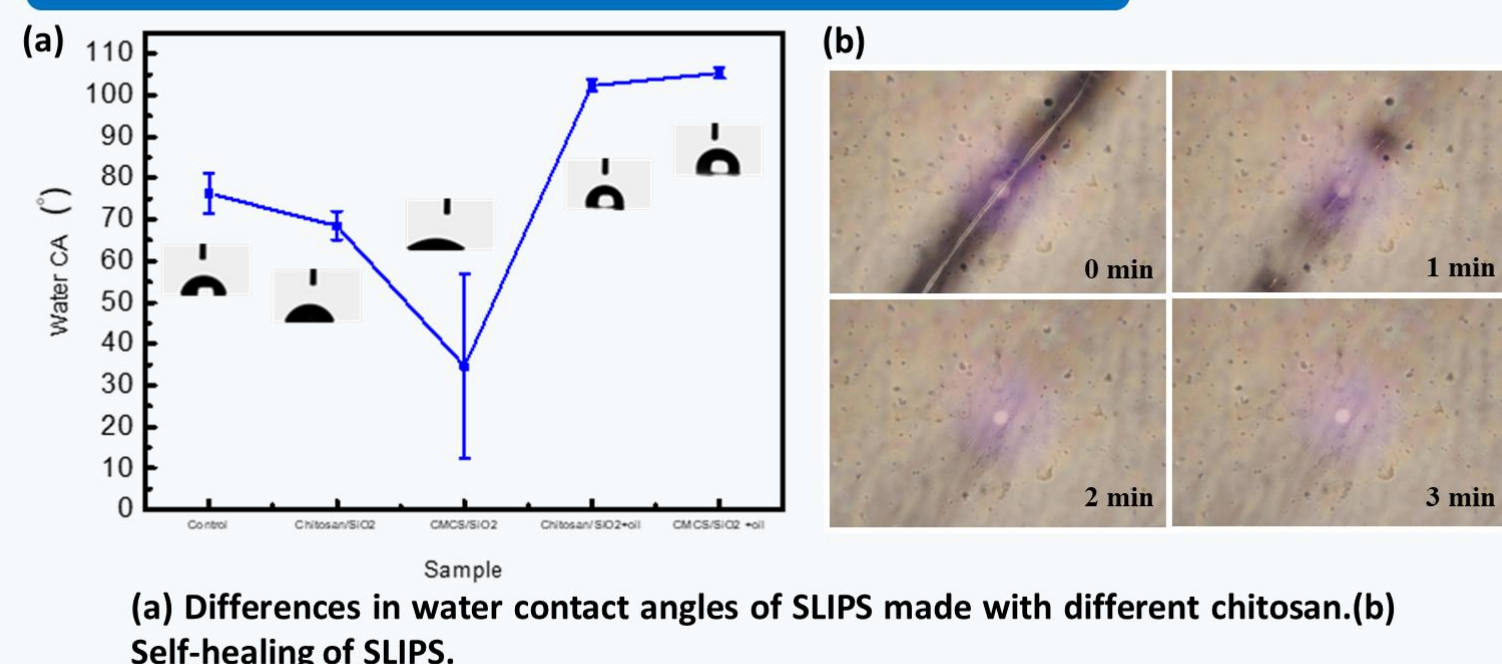
Abstract

Inspired by the pitcher plant, this study employs the slippery liquid-infused porous surface (SLIPS) technique to fabricate an anti-fouling coating aimed at reducing red blood cell damage during blood transport in extracorporeal circulation tubing. The coating is constructed by forming a special structure composed of carboxymethyl chitosan (CMCS) and silica nanoparticles on the substrate, thereby creating a porous surface without the use of surfactants. Biocompatible silicone oil is infused into the pores via capillary action to form a stable SLIPS structure. The coating exhibits excellent sliding performance against various liquids such as water, alcohol, milk, and coffee, with a water contact angle of approximately 105.3° and a sliding angle below 10° , indicating superior liquid repellency. In addition, the coating demonstrates multiple functionalities, including anti-icing, anti-protein adsorption, and self-healing properties, effectively preventing the adhesion of contaminants and biomolecules. The core feature of this study lies in achieving anti-fouling performance comparable to fluorinated materials without the use of fluorine-containing compounds, while maintaining biodegradability, facile fabrication, and environmental friendliness. The coating constructed from carboxymethyl chitosan and silica nanoparticles can be applied to low-surface-energy PVC materials used in extracorporeal circulation tubing, showing great potential in anti-fouling, biomedical device, and surface modification applications.

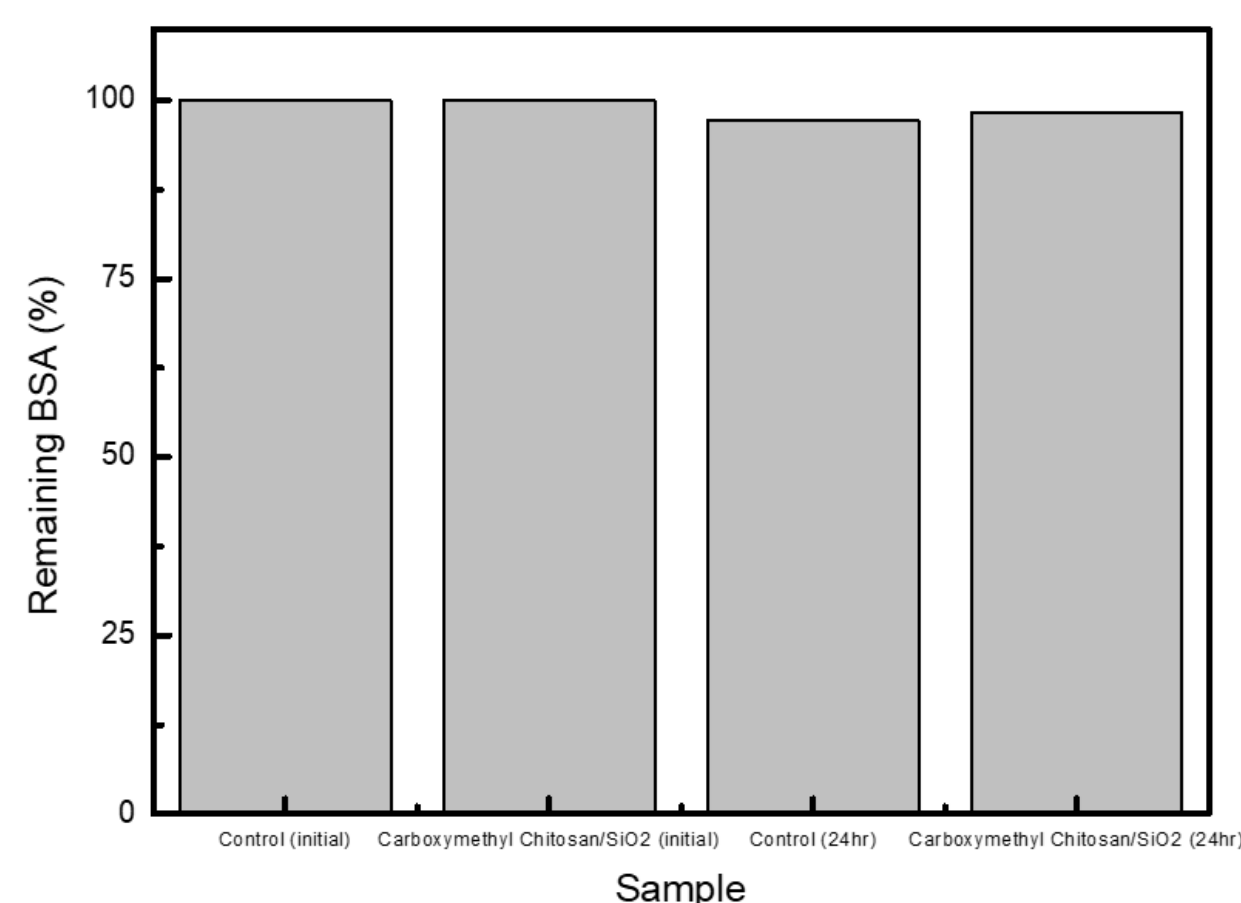
Experimental section



Water contact angle and self-healing

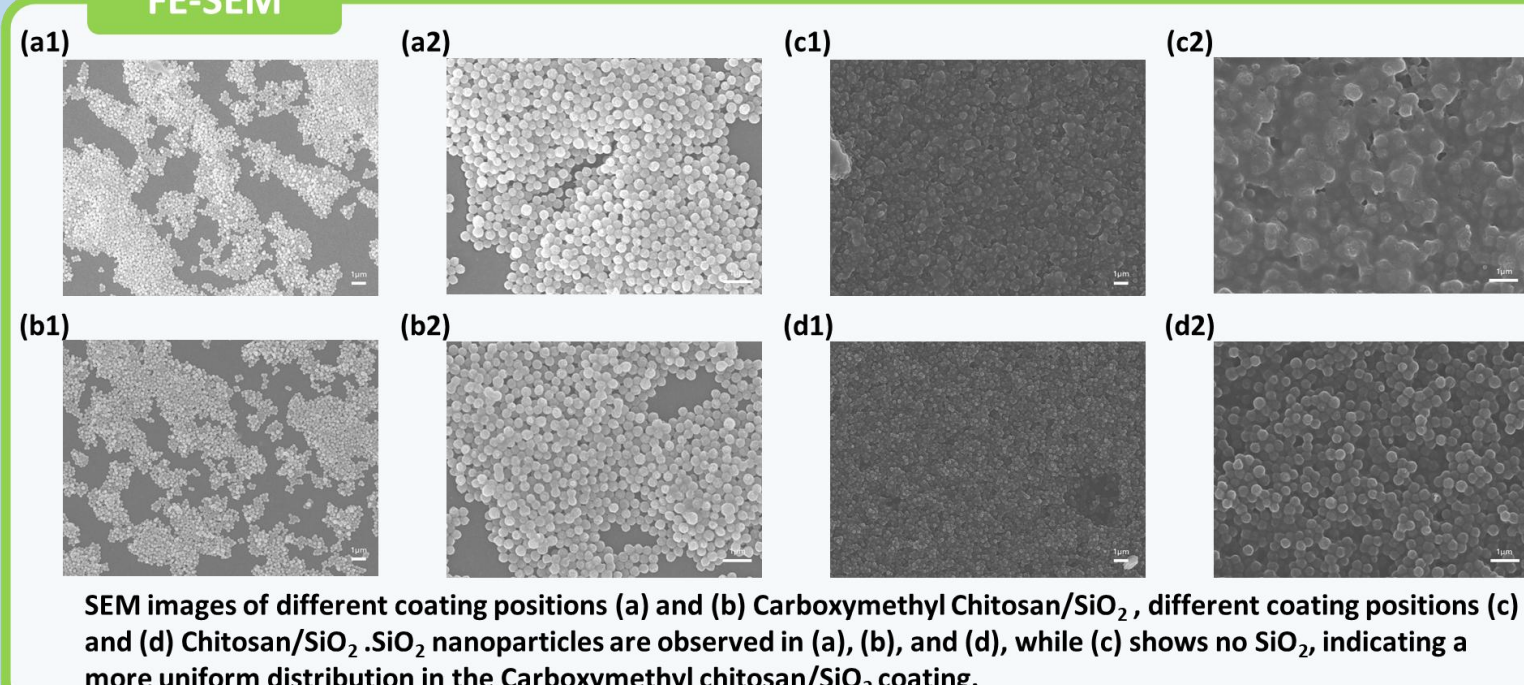


Anti-protein adsorption

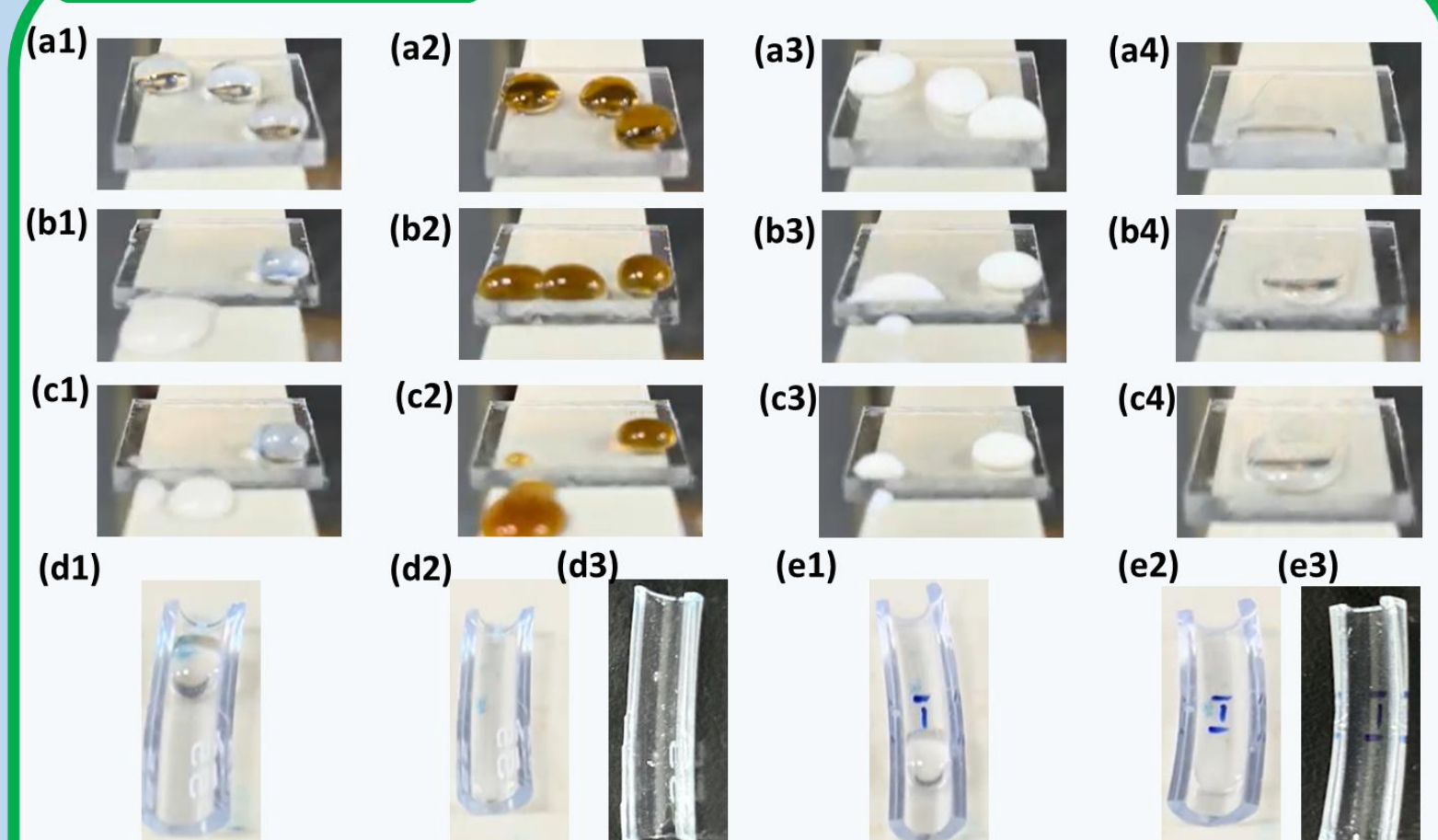


Anti-protein adsorption for Control and Carboxymethyl Chitosan/SiO₂ BSA remaining (%) after 24 hr.

FE-SEM

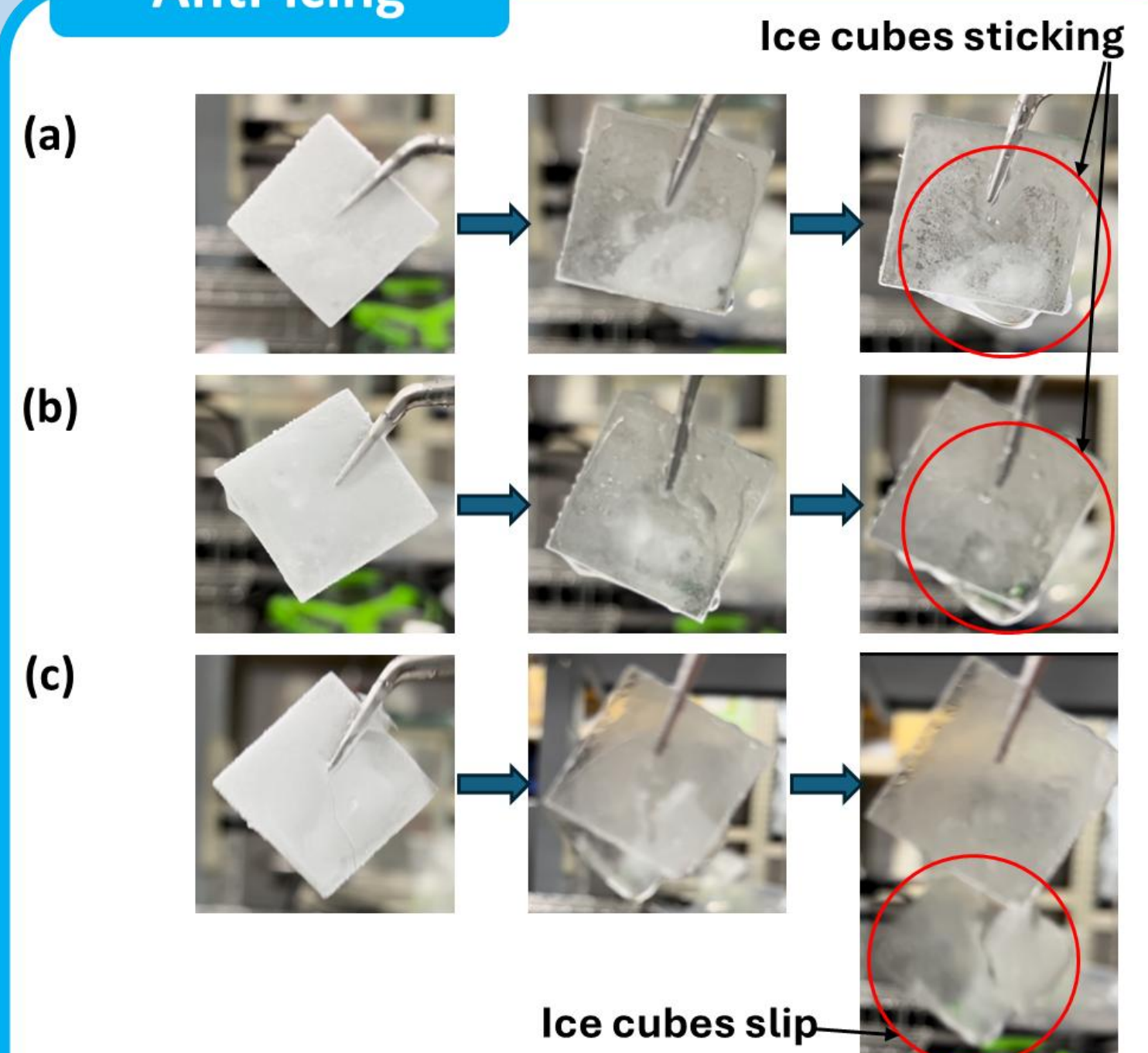


Anti-fouling



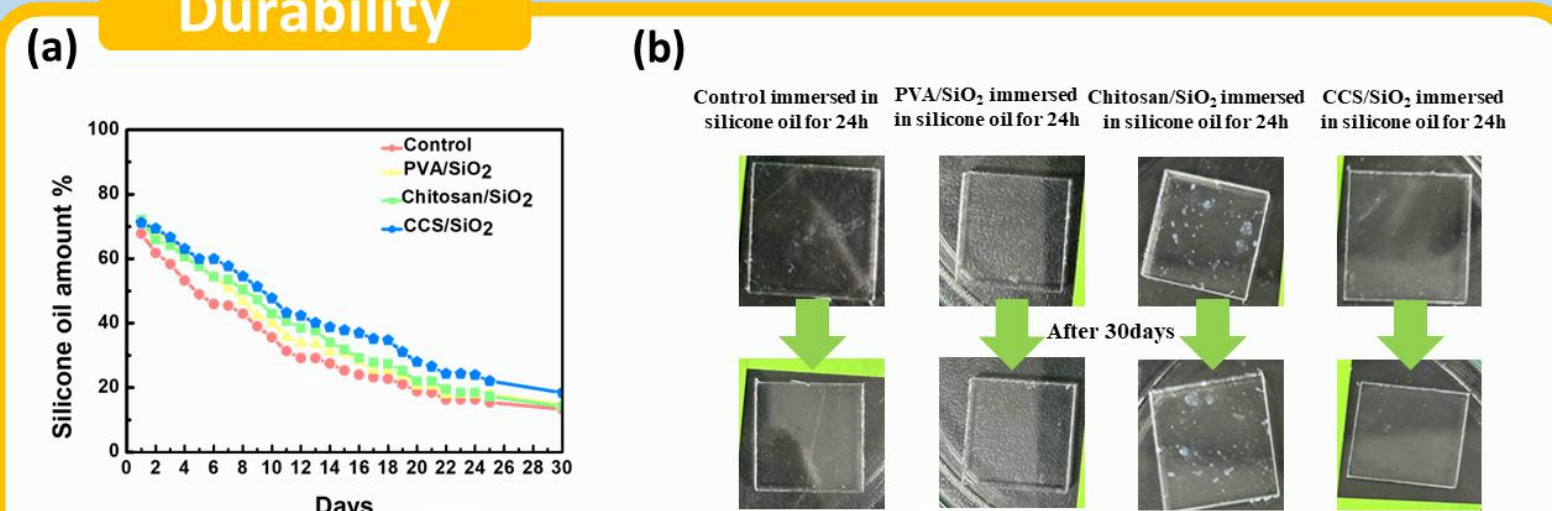
Photographs of four liquids, from left to right: water, coffee, milk, and alcohol on (a) Control (b) Chitosan/SiO₂ (c) Carboxymethyl Chitosan/SiO₂, demonstrate the anti-fouling ability of these surfaces. Drip water and alcohol to (d) Control and (e) Carboxymethyl Chitosan/SiO₂, PVC tube demonstrate the anti-fouling ability of these surfaces.

Anti-icing



Anti-icing process for (a) Control, (b) Chitosan/SiO₂, (c) Carboxymethyl Chitosan/SiO₂.

Durability



Durability of (a) different interlayers to make silicone oil form a lubricating layer on the porous surface, (b) difference in surface lubrication after 30 days.