Measuring Mass Transfer of *n***‑Hexane and 2‑Chloroethyl Ethyl Sulfide in Sorbent/Polymer Fiber Composites Using a Volumetric Adsorption Apparatus**

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developed a new Fickian diffusion model for cylindrical shapes to fit the dynamic adsorption data obtained from a commercial volumetric adsorption apparatus and found that mass transport behavior in composite fibers closely resembled that in the pure PIM fibers, regardless of MOF loading. Moreover, we found that *n*-hexane adsorption mirrors that of CEES, indicating that it could be used as a structural mimic for future adsorption studies of the sulfur mustard simulant. These preliminary insights and the new model introduced in this work lay the groundwork for the design of next-generation composite materials for practical applications.

KEYWORDS: *metal*−*organic frameworks, fibers, composites, mass transport, surface permeation*

■ **INTRODUCTION**

Metal−organic frameworks (MOFs) are porous, crystalline materials $\overline{}^1$ $\overline{}^1$ that are promising adsorbents and/or catalysts for a multitude of applications.[2](#page-6-0)−[6](#page-6-0) However, their practical application can be hindered by the fact that these nanoporous MOFs are often synthesized in a powder form with nanometer or micron sized particles. Therefore, the implementation of MOFs for relevant applications requires additional processing techniques. Shape and form engineering methods, such as pelletization, extrusion, or granulation, $7-11$ $7-11$ $7-11$ are effective strategies for the integration of MOF crystallites in industrial applications. Beyond these approaches, interest has grown in the incorporation of MOFs onto support materials to generate a composite material that enables their use in practical applications.

chloroethyl ethyl sulfide (CEES), a sulfur mustard simulant. We

Substrates that have previously been explored include membranes,^{[12](#page-6-0)} ceramics,^{[13](#page-6-0)} foams,^{[14](#page-7-0)} and fibers.^{[15](#page-7-0)−[24](#page-7-0)} Of note are MOF-based composites fabricated with fibers 15,25 15,25 15,25 15,25 15,25 that provide the final material with processability, which is advantageous for the development of personal protective equipment against chemical warfare agents.^{[19](#page-7-0),[20](#page-7-0),[26](#page-7-0)−[30](#page-7-0)} MOF/ fiber composites can be fabricated using methods including a MOF-first strategy, a MOF attachment strategy, and a fiberfirst strategy.^{[25](#page-7-0)} Due to the varying properties that may arise based on the assembly of the MOF and fibers, it is critical to develop structure−property relationships, particularly relating to diffusion, within these systems.

Studying mass transport in porous materials is necessary for their application as both catalysts and adsorbents.[31](#page-7-0)−[33](#page-7-0) However, delineating the relative contributions to mass transport from diffusion within the bulk material versus surface permeation remains challenging.^{[34,35](#page-7-0)} Care must be taken to apply the most accurate models when fitting experimental data. For instance, transport in fibrous materials can be considered along their axial^{[36](#page-7-0)} or radial directions, $37,38$ ultimately dependent on the fiber structure and aspect ratio. 39 In addition, experimental characterization of molecular transport typically requires specialized and expensive facilities, such as confocal

Raman microscopy^{[40](#page-7-0)} or infrared Raman microscopy;^{[41](#page-7-0)} although these methods provide beneficial insights, they suffer from limited accessibility, inhibiting the development of new applications of porous materials.

Herein, we synthesized MOF/fiber composites using MOF-808, a borderline micro/mesoporous $Zr(IV)$ -based MOF with 6-connected nodes and tritopic linkers, 42 which we obtained using an aqueous synthesis, 43 and an amidoxime-functionalized polymer of intrinsic microporosity (PIM) known as PIM-1- AX.^{[44](#page-7-0)−[46](#page-7-0)} PIMs are inherently microporous owing to their highly rigid and contorted molecular structures that cannot fill space efficiently. $47-49$ $47-49$ $47-49$ These hydrophobic polymers have been demonstrated to be effective for toxic gas capture^{[50](#page-8-0)} and to be breathable but not permeable to liquid water, which are desirable qualities for protective $gen.⁵¹$ $gen.⁵¹$ $gen.⁵¹$ We previously demonstrated that porous fibrous mats of the amidoximefunctionalized PIM and a polyoxometalate were effective for the oxidative degradation of 2-chloroethyl ethyl sulfide (CEES), a sulfur mustard simulant.^{[46](#page-7-0)} As such, in our study of reactive fibers, we elected to utilize PIM-1-AX for this work. Through an electrospinning process, we successfully encapsulated varying loadings of MOF-808 particles within PIM-1-AX (Figure 1). We also developed a new Fickian diffusion model

Figure 1. Depiction of MOF/PIM-1-AX composite fiber, where PIM-1-AX encapsulates MOF-808 particles.

to quantitatively characterize the surface permeation and inpore diffusion of molecules in MOF/fiber composites having cylindrical shapes. The new diffusion model takes input data from a commercial volumetric adsorption instrument, $52,53$ which is readily accessible in many laboratories compared to other specialized facilities for studying molecular diffusion. Finally, we looked at the adsorption and mass transport of *n*hexane and CEES in these composite materials.

Scheme 1. Reaction of PIM-1 to PIM-1-AX

■ **EXPERIMENTAL METHODS**
 PIM-1-AX Synthesis. We first synthesized PIM-1 through the aromatic nucleophilic substitution reaction between 3,3,3′,3′-tetramethyl-1,1["]-spirobisindane-5,5',6,6'-tetrol and 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoroph-
thalonitrile.^{45,47,50} To introduce the amidoxime moiety, the nitrile To introduce the amidoxime moiety, the nitrile groups of PIM-1 were reacted with hydroxylamine, yielding PIM-1- AX (Scheme 1).^{44,45,[50](#page-8-0)} Both PIMs were characterized using ¹H nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy ([Figure](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acsami.4c02117/suppl_file/am4c02117_si_002.pdf) S1) and diffuse reflectance infrared Fourier transform spectroscopy (DRIFTS) [\(Figure](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acsami.4c02117/suppl_file/am4c02117_si_002.pdf) S2). Complete conversion from PIM-1 to PIM-1-AX was confirmed by comparing the DRIFTS spectra, which showed the loss of the nitrile peak occurring at 2239 cm⁻¹ [\(Figure](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acsami.4c02117/suppl_file/am4c02117_si_002.pdf) S2).⁴

Electrospinning Fibers. MOF-808 and PIM-1-AX fiber composites were synthesized via an electrospinning process, $46,50,51,54$ $46,50,51,54$ $46,50,51,54$ $46,50,51,54$ technique that uses electrostatic forces to produce fibers from polymer solutions. Conditions (polymer concentration, solvent, flow rate, voltage, and distance between tip and collector) were optimized to obtain bead-free and uniform fibers. Further information can be found in the Supporting [Information](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acsami.4c02117/suppl_file/am4c02117_si_002.pdf).

Fickian Diffusion Model for Materials having Cylindrical Shapes. Brandani and co-workers developed Fickian transport models that are compatible with widely available volumetric measurement systems. The theoretical framework allows them to consider the effects of diffusion^{[53](#page-8-0)} and surface resistance^{[55](#page-8-0)} separately or in a combined manner.^{[56](#page-8-0)} In this work, we performed transient uptake measurements on a Micromeritics 3Flex Surface Characterization Analyzer, which has an accuracy limit of 10[−]⁶ Torr. When rendering the instrument to its most basic components, it consists of a dosing cell and an uptake (or sample) cell that are separated by a valve (Figure 2). Transient pressure data were collected during the

Figure 2. Depiction of a volumetric adsorption system.

entire duration of the isotherm measurements; each new dose of the probe introduced to the uptake cell was fitted to the Fickian transport model. To minimize error in our mass transport measurements, low pressure regions prior to the saturation of the porous materials were analyzed so that the changes in pressure could most accurately be measured by the instrument.^{[52](#page-8-0)} Mass transfer in MOF-808 was fitted according to our previously published protocol, which uses the assumption of spherical particles.^{52,53,[56](#page-8-0)} However, due to the high aspect ratio of the fibers, arising from the continuous generation of the fibers via the electrospinning process, a new diffusion model is needed to capture transport in an infinitely long cylindrical shape where mass transport occurs in a radial direction.³

Here we adopted the framework of Brandani et al. and extended the theory to materials of cylindrical shapes. By assuming the ideal gas condition in the system when the pressure is sufficiently low, the mass balance of the volumetric adsorption system [\(Figure](#page-1-0) 2) in each dosing cycle is described by the following equations:

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}n}{\mathrm{d}t} = -\frac{V_d}{\mathcal{R}T_d} \frac{\mathrm{d}P_d}{\mathrm{d}t} \tag{1}
$$

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}n}{\mathrm{d}t} = \overline{\chi} \left(P_d - P_u \right) \tag{2}
$$

$$
\frac{dn}{dt} = \varepsilon V_u \frac{dc}{dt} + V_s \frac{d\overline{q}}{dt}
$$
\n(3)

Equation 1 assumes ideal gas behavior and relates the rate of mass change (dn/dt) in the uptake cell to the rate of pressure change (dP_d/dt) *dt*) in the dosing cell (subscript *d*) at temperature T_d , where V_d and $\mathcal R$ are the volume of the dosing cell and gas constant, respectively. Equation 2 accounts for the effect of the valve resistance on the mass flow from the dosing cell to the uptake cell, where $\bar{\chi}$ is the valve constant that is intrinsic to the instrument, and P_{μ} is the pressure in the uptake cell (subscript *u*). Equation 3 establishes the mass balance in the uptake cell, i.e., the total rate of mass change (*dn*/*dt*) is equal to the summation of the mass change in the (free) volume of the uptake cell (the first term on the right) and the mass change in the adsorbed phase (the second term on the right). Here we assume that the volume of the solid adsorbent, V_s , is negligible compared to the volume of the uptake cell, V_u ; thus the void fraction of the uptake cell, ϵ , is simply 1. The rate of change of spatially averaged adsorbed concentration, d*q*̅/d*t*, can be derived from spatially averaging of Fick's second law in a cylindrical geometry over the entire cylindrical material.

By solving eqs 1−3 together with Fick's second law in a cylindrical geometry^{[57](#page-8-0)} in the Laplace domain (full derivation is available in the Supporting [Information\)](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acsami.4c02117/suppl_file/am4c02117_si_002.pdf), we can obtain an expression for the dimensionless pressure in the dosing cell, $\rho_d = (P_d - P_u^0)/(P_\infty - P_u^0)$, where P_u^0 and P_∞ are initial pressure $(t = 0,$ superscript 0) in the uptake cell and the equilibrium pressure $(t = \infty)$, subscript ∞), respectively. The expression is given by

$$
\frac{\rho_d}{\rho_d^0} = \frac{2\delta}{1 + 2\gamma + 2\delta} + \sum_{i=1}^M a_i \exp\left(-\beta_i^2 \frac{D}{R^2} t\right)
$$
(4)

where $M = 100$ was used in our calculations, and

$$
a_{i} = \frac{z_{i} - \gamma \beta_{i}^{2} + \omega \delta}{\omega \delta + z_{i} - \gamma \beta_{i}^{2} + (\omega - \beta_{i}^{2}) \left(\gamma - \frac{z_{i}}{2\beta_{i}} \left(\frac{1}{\beta_{i}} + \frac{J_{0} - J_{2}}{2J_{1}}\right) + \frac{z_{i}^{2}}{2\beta_{i}} \left(\frac{1}{\beta_{i}} + \frac{1}{\alpha \beta_{i}} + \frac{J_{0} - J_{2}}{2\alpha J_{1}}\right)\right)}
$$
(5)

$$
z_i = \frac{\omega \delta \beta_i^2}{\omega - \beta_i^2} + \gamma \beta_i^2 \tag{6}
$$

and β _{*i*} are the positive (nonzero) roots of the following transcendental equation:

$$
\frac{\alpha \beta J_1}{\alpha J_0 - \beta J_1} + z_i = 0
$$
\n⁽⁷⁾

In eqs 5 and 7, the Bessel functions of the first kind $J_n(\beta_i)$ ($n =$ 0, 1, 2) are written as shorthand J_n for convenience. ρ_d^0 is the initial dimensionless pressure in the dosing cell in a certain dosing cycle, and *R* is the radius of the cylindrical fiber (composites). The in-pore transport diffusivity is *D*, and α = *kR*/*D* where *k* is the surface permeability of the adsorbent. *δ*, *γ*, and *ω* are dimensionless parameters that contain information about the volumetric system and the adsorption process (see

the Supporting [Information](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acsami.4c02117/suppl_file/am4c02117_si_002.pdf)), with $\omega \propto \overline{\chi}/D$.
Since the equilibrium pressures P_{∞} and initial pressures P_d^0 and P_u^0 are known from experiments, we can obtain a relation for *δ* and *γ* from eq 4, as the second term on the right-hand side of the equation simply vanishes at $t = \infty$:

$$
\frac{(P_{\infty} - P_u^0)}{(P_d^0 - P_u^0)} = \frac{2\delta}{1 + 2\gamma + 2\delta}
$$
\n(8)

We also note that according to the definitions of δ and γ (see the Supporting [Information](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acsami.4c02117/suppl_file/am4c02117_si_002.pdf) for details), we can obtain the additional relation:

$$
\frac{\delta}{\gamma} = \frac{V_d T_u}{\epsilon V_u T_d} \tag{9}
$$

where V_{d} , V_{ω} , T_{d} , and T_{u} are known constants that are intrinsic to the experimental setup. The void fraction ϵ is assumed to be 1. Then using eqs 8 and 9, we can solve for both *δ* and *γ*.

As mentioned by Brandani,⁵³ the valve constant, $\bar{\chi}$, determines the initial pressure response. We found that the rate of initial pressure drops in *ρ*_d in our data varies across different pressure doses. Thus, unlike Son et al.^{[52](#page-8-0)} where $\bar{\chi}$ was preserved as a constant for all pressure doses fits, here we treated $\overline{\chi}$ as a fitting parameter for each pressure dose. This leaves *D*, *α*, and *ω* as unknown parameters, which were fitted by minimizing the root-mean-square error (RMSE) between the model predictions using eqs 4−7 and the experimental reduced pressure drop, σ_{D} , in the dosing cell, defined as⁵

$$
\sigma_{D} = \frac{P_d - P_{\infty}}{P_d^0 - P_{\infty}} = \frac{\rho_d (P_{\infty} - P_u^0) + P_u^0 - P_{\infty}}{P_d^0 - P_{\infty}}
$$
\n(10)

Multiple initial guesses were attempted for fitting parameters *D*, *α*, and *ω*, and the final fitting was chosen to have the lowest RMSE among all trial fittings, yielding the transport diffusivity *D* and the surface permeability k as the primary outputs of the model. Figure 3 shows a representative fitting to the experimental transient adsorption data using the new cylindrical model. We have implemented our model in a Python Jupyter notebook. The code and an example

Figure 3. Representative fitting of the new cylindrical transport model (purple line) to the experimental transient adsorption data (black points connected with line), in a semilog plot of reduced pressure drop *σ^D* versus time for *n*-hexane adsorption in 10% w/w MOF-808/ PIM-1-AX fibers at 298 K and pressure dose around 3.7 Torr. The experimental data file for this system is available in the [Supporting](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acsami.4c02117/suppl_file/am4c02117_si_001.zip) [Information](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acsami.4c02117/suppl_file/am4c02117_si_001.zip) and is ready to use with the provided Python code for model fitting.

Figure 4. SEM images of A) MOF-808, B) PIM-1-AX fibers, C) 10% w/w MOF-808/PIM-1-AX fibers, and D) 30% w/w MOF-808/PIM-1-AX fibers. Scale bars represent 2 *μ*m for A and 5 *μ*m for B−D.

Figure 5. Characterization of MOF-808/PIM-1-AX composites. A) PXRD patterns. B) Back scattering electron image (top) and EDS map of Zr L*α*1 (bottom) of 10% w/w MOF-808/PIM-1-AX fiber. C) Back scattering electron image (top) and EDS map of Zr L*α*1 (bottom) of 30% w/w MOF-808/PIM-1-AX fiber. Scale bars represent 5 *μ*m.

experimental data input file (data in [Figure](#page-2-0) 3) are available in the Supporting [Information.](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acsami.4c02117/suppl_file/am4c02117_si_002.pdf)

■ **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

We first verified the successful incorporation of ∼1 *μ*m MOF particles into polymeric fibers using scanning electron microscopy (SEM). SEM images revealed an average particle size of 1.1 \pm 0.2 μ m for MOF-808 (Figure 4A) and average fiber widths of 2.3 \pm 0.5 μ m for PIM-1-AX (Figure 4B), 0.8 \pm 0.3 *μ*m for 10% w/w MOF-808/PIM-1-AX (Figure 4C), and 0.7 ± 0.4 *μ*m for 30% w/w MOF-808/PIM-1-AX (Figure 4D). As the fiber widths for the composites were not uniform, owing to the differences between the regions with pure PIM-1-AX compared to MOF-808/PIM-1-AX, we estimated the fiber radial dimension to be an average of the two. SEM images additionally confirmed that the fiber samples were uniform and bead-free.

To corroborate the incorporation and encapsulation of MOF-808 inside the polymer fibers, we used powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) as well as energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS). The characteristic MOF-808 peaks remained intact in the PXRD patterns of the MOF-808/PIM-1-AX composites (Figure 5A). Moreover, backscattering electron images and EDS maps confirmed the encapsulation of the

MOF-808 particles by PIM-1-AX (Figures 5B,C), rather than MOF attachment on the exterior of the fibers. Finally, to quantify the amount of Zr in the fibers, we obtained inductively coupled plasma-optical emission spectroscopy (ICP-OES) results, which confirmed loadings of 10.4 ± 0.1 wt % and 34.0 ± 0.4 wt % MOF-808 in the composites (Table 1). As such, measurements conducted with our composite materials will be denoted as 10% w/w MOF-808/PIM-1-AX and 30% w/w MOF-808/PIM-1-AX. Notably, the final MOF-808 loadings were consistent with the initial quantities used with their respective electrospinning solutions and were comparable among various areas of the fibers, which alludes to the fairly uniform dispersion of the MOF particles.

Finally, we measured nitrogen sorption isotherms of the materials at 77 K [\(Figure](#page-4-0) 6) to probe their textural properties. As anticipated, the pore volumes and BET areas increased with increasing MOF-808 incorporation, due to the higher porosity of the MOF compared to the PIM-1-AX. BET areas were calculated to be 2100 m^2/g for MOF-808, 415 m^2/g for PIM-1-AX, 615 m²/g for 10% w/w MOF-808/PIM-1-AX, and 1000 m2 /g for 30% w/w MOF-808/PIM-1-AX. The ∼7 and ∼17 Å pores of PIM-1-AX and MOF-808, respectively, were maintained in the composite systems ([Figure](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acsami.4c02117/suppl_file/am4c02117_si_002.pdf) S3). Moreover, using the assumption that the porosity of the pure PIM

Figure 6. Nitrogen adsorption (closed markers) and desorption (open markers) isotherms at 77 K of MOF-808, PIF-1-AX, and two composite materials.

polymer was maintained, the BET areas of MOF-808 were calculated to be 2340 m^2/g for the 10% w/w MOF-808/PIM-1-AX fiber and 2135 m^2/g for the 30% w/w MOF-808/PIM-1-AX fibers, indicating that MOF accessibility was maintained. We used the successfully synthesized composite fibers for the sorption measurements ([Figures](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acsami.4c02117/suppl_file/am4c02117_si_002.pdf) S4 and S5) and mass transport quantification [\(Figures](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acsami.4c02117/suppl_file/am4c02117_si_002.pdf) S6−S11) for this study.

We began our adsorption and transport studies by using *n*hexane as a structural mimic for CEES (Figure 7). The loading of *n*-hexane at saturation was consistent with N_2 sorption

measurements, where higher porosity materials resulted in higher *n*-hexane uptake (Figure 7A). At lower pressure regions, the samples with PIM-1-AX had higher affinity for *n*-hexane, owing to the organophilic nature of the PIM (Figure 7B). When looking at the surface permeabilities of the samples (Figure 7C), no clear differences were apparent for the composite materials and the pure MOF. However, when looking at the intrinsic surface permeability *k*/*R* (Figure 7D), which removes the particle size dependence for easier comparison across different samples, we can begin to see a moderate trend of decreasing *k*/R with increasing MOF loadings. Intrinsic surface permeability is proportional to 1/ *τbar*, where *τbar* is the mean lifetime if the transport process is exclusively controlled by the surface barrier. $58,59$ $58,59$ The pure PIM-1-AX fibers had the largest intrinsic surface permeabilities, whereas the pure MOF-808 particles had the lowest. MOF-808 and 30% w/w MOF-808/PIM-1-AX have intrinsic surface permeabilities around 0.01 s⁻¹, which have previously been attributed to surface defects.^{[60](#page-8-0)–[62](#page-8-0)} In contrast, while the PIM-1-AX and 10% w/w MOF-808/PIM-1-AX fibers commenced at 0.01 s^{-1} , the surface barriers decreased with higher pressures with intrinsic surface permeabilities increasing approximately 6- and 3-fold, respectively, at 2 Torr. As all materials are microporous, with MOF-808 containing pore apertures of 14 Å that lead into the \sim 17 Å cavities, we hypothesize that MOF-808 deviates from its ideal structure and has surface defects, e.g., permanently collapsed and blocked channel termini upon materials activation, present that induce the observed surface barriers. This may explain the independence of the surface permeability on external pressure for MOF-808 (Figure $7C,D$.^{[62](#page-8-0)} The correlation between pressure and surface permeability increases as the concentration of MOF-808 in fiber samples decreases. While future work is required to better understand this phenomenon, we posit that the increase of

Figure 7. *n*-Hexane isotherms at 298 K of MOF-808, PIM-1-AX fibers, and MOF-808/PIM-1-AX fiber composites. A) Full isotherms. B) Low pressure region. C) Surface permeabilities. D) Intrinsic surface permeabilities.

Figure 8. CEES isotherms at 298 K of MOF-808, PIM-1-AX fibers, and MOF-808/PIM-1-AX fiber composites. A) Full isotherms. B) Low pressure region. C) Surface permeabilities. D) Intrinsic surface permeabilities.

external pressure facilitates the entrance of molecules into PIM micropores. The higher *n*-hexane density at the PIM fiber surface can possibly facilitate diffusion through the partially occluded channel termini, 62 while such effects are smeared by the increased loading of MOFs that contain permanently collapsed channel termini at or near the surface. We note, however, that these observed differences are minor as the intrinsic surface permeabilities are within the same order of magnitude.

Similar to our previous mass transport studies, $52,62$ $52,62$ the fitted dimensionless parameter, $\alpha = kR/D$, in this study was less than 1 and lower than 0.1 in most experimental trials. This indicates that the transport process into the porous material was dominated by the surface barriers.⁵⁸ In practice, we found that starting from different initial guesses, a good model fitting might end up with drastically different *D* values (differing by 1 order of magnitude for example), while the fitted surface permeability, *k*, is almost identical across different runs. As such, we were only able to reliably determine the surface permeability and unable to accurately quantify the in-pore transport diffusivity, *D*, in our fiber samples.

The adsorption isotherms of CEES (Figure 8A,B) in our samples were similar to those of *n*-hexane, indicating that *n*hexane can serve as a reasonable structural mimic of CEES to study adsorption behavior. When considering mass transfer, the intrinsic surface permeabilities of CEES in all fiber samples compared to those of *n*-hexane had more negligible differences (Figure 8D). All fiber samples had slightly higher intrinsic surface permeabilities of around 0.015 s^{-1} compared to 0.01 s⁻¹ for the MOF-808 particles (Figure 8D). As the variability of intrinsic surface permeability among fiber samples was minor, however, there were no trends evident, deviating from

the *n*-hexane results and indicating that *n*-hexane would not serve as an accurate simulant for mass transport studies within similar project scopes to ours. We hypothesize that across our different fiber samples, surface permeation is not favorable due to the stronger adsorbate−adsorbent interactions, e.g., halogen bonding, present when using CEES as a probe. The interactions present may result in strong adsorption onto the surface of the fibers, slowing down the movement of the probe molecules into the pores. Notably, while experimental efforts have been made to understand equilibrium adsorption of CWAs and their simulants in MOFs, $63,64$ $63,64$ $63,64$ diffusion studies have predominantly been limited to computational efforts.^{65-[67](#page-8-0)} Therefore, this work will provide the community with preliminary insights into the diffusivity of a CWA simulant in both MOFs and MOF/fiber composites.

■ **CONCLUSIONS**

Through an electrospinning process, we successfully encapsulated 10% w/w and 30% w/w MOF-808 particles within PIM-1-AX. Using a newly developed cylindrical Fickian diffusion model, we quantified mass transport properties of both *n*hexane and CEES, a sulfur mustard simulant in these materials. We found that transport is dominated by surface barriers, and diffusion within the bulk of the composite materials is fast in comparison. While there were minor differences in the mass transport properties of the composite fiber materials, overall, the intrinsic surface permeabilities were comparable across different types of PIM/MOF composites and pure PIM fibers, indicating that MOF/fiber composites can be implemented without negative ramifications on mass transfer. Additionally, our results demonstrate that as adsorption behavior is similar for *n*-hexane and CEES, the former could be used in future

sorption studies as a more accessible structural mimic. We hope that these preliminary results will not only serve as a guide to the community for the rational design of MOF composite systems but that the developed cylindrical diffusion model will also encourage others to explore mass transport in composite fibers.

■ **ASSOCIATED CONTENT**

\bullet Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at [https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsami.4c02117](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsami.4c02117?goto=supporting-info).

Python Jupyter notebook for performing the transport model fitting and an example experimental data input file [\(ZIP](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acsami.4c02117/suppl_file/am4c02117_si_001.zip))

Experimental procedures, powder X-ray diffraction patterns, N_2 isotherm, pore size distribution, DRIFTS, NMR spectra, detailed derivation for the cylindrical transport model, and replicate fittings [\(PDF\)](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acsami.4c02117/suppl_file/am4c02117_si_002.pdf)

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Author Contributions

F.A.S. and K.S. contributed equally to this work.

Notes

The authors declare the following competing financial $interest(s)$: O.K.F. and R.Q.S. have a financial interest in NuMat Technologies, a startup company that is seeking to commercialize MOFs.

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