**Claims:**

1. A porous polytetrafluoroethylene membrane comprising a nonwoven web having a microstructure of substantially only microfibrils fused at crossover points, said membrane has a percent balance of orthogonal dimensions that is within 10%; and further wherein the membrane has an IPA flux to pore size value ratio of 3 to 30 for a pore size of 1 micron or lower having a tensile peak stress in each of the machine direction and the cross direction of up 130 MPa, at room temperature.