

Engineered Peptides for Controlled Nanofiber Assembly

Dara

Van

Gough

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Microtubules as inspiration

Exploring microtubules and motor proteins as tools for nanomaterials assembly is motivated by their ability to dynamically organize nanomaterials precisely and scalably in nature

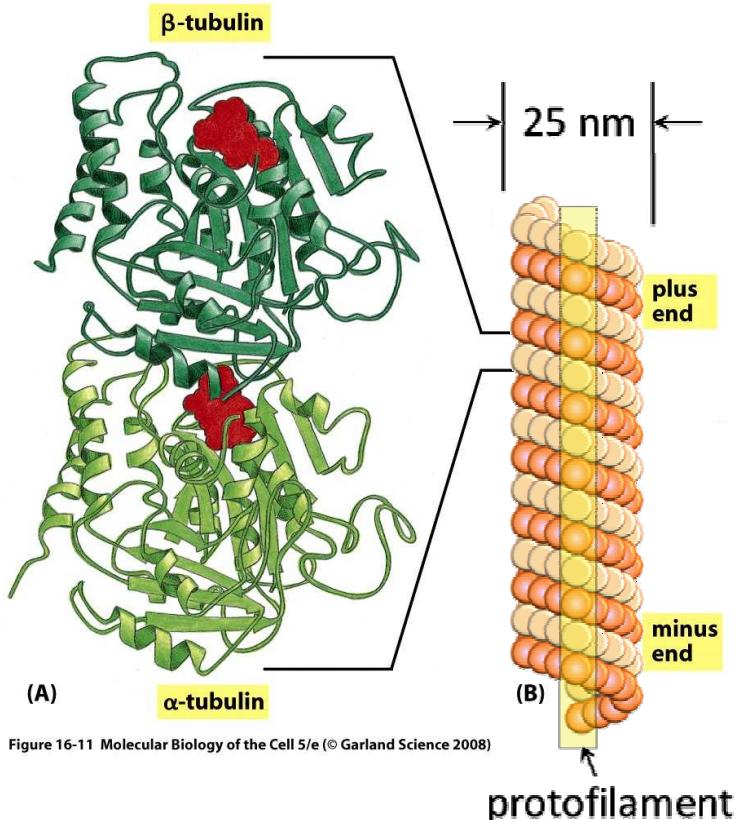
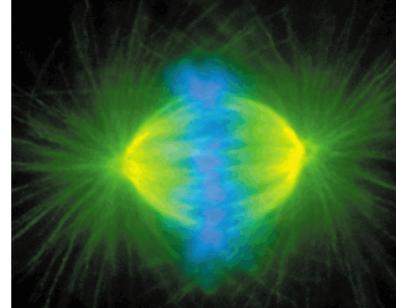
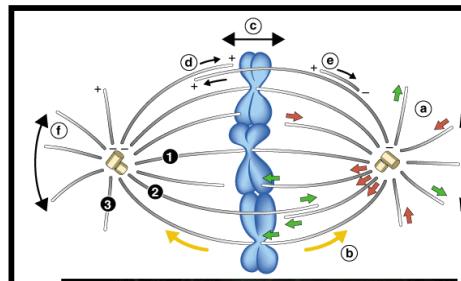
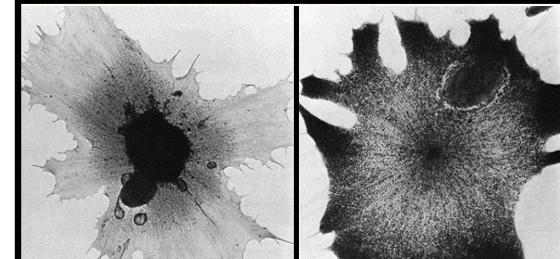


Figure 16-11 Molecular Biology of the Cell 5/e (© Garland Science 2008)



Chromosome positioning/separation during cell division

*L. Haimo and C. Thaler, *BioEssays* 16, 727-733 (1994).



Adapted from: <http://wilkes-fs1.wilkes.edu/~terzaghi/BIO-226/lectures/24.html>

Adaptive reorganization of pigment granules in melanocytes

Key Characteristics of Microtubules:

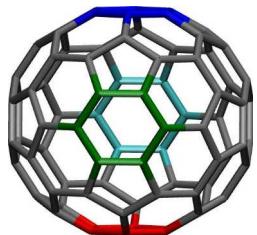
- Polymerized from nanoscale building blocks
 - α -tubulin/ β -tubulin dimers
 - Balance of Lateral and Vertical interactions
- 1-Dimensional Nanostructures
- Biomolecular Polarity (α - β asymmetry)
- Building Block Chemistry and Form Direct Assembled Architecture
- Programmable Assembly/Disassembly (chemical and thermal)
- Secondary Assembly (MT organization)
- Motor Protein Interactions

Simulation Established Design Rules

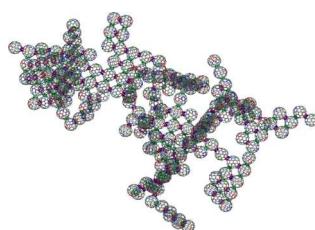
Symmetry of shape and interactions is key to determining self-assembled morphology

Monomer Building blocks

Sphere with symmetric attractive sites



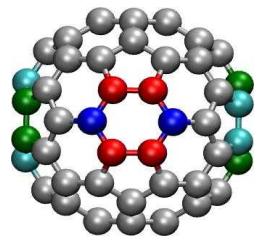
Polymerized Structures



Assembly Parameters

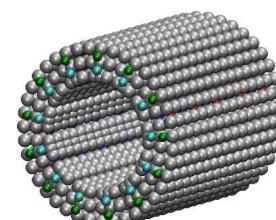
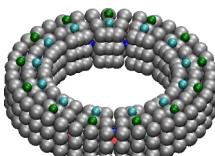
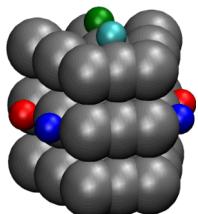
- Gray sites are repulsive
- Red:blue and green:cyan are attractive
- Like colored sites are repulsive

Sphere with broken symmetry

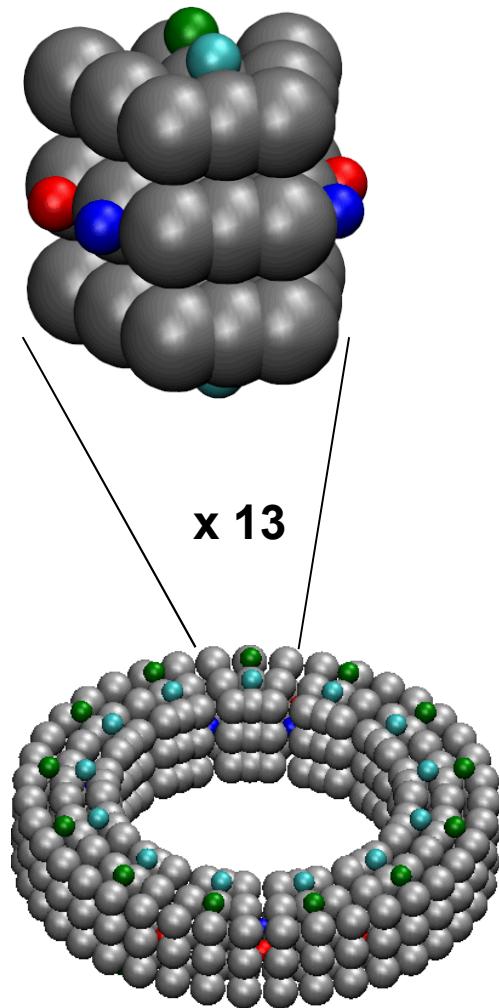


Monomer shapes as well as strength and geometric distribution of interaction potentials on each monomer are critical

Wedge with broken symmetry

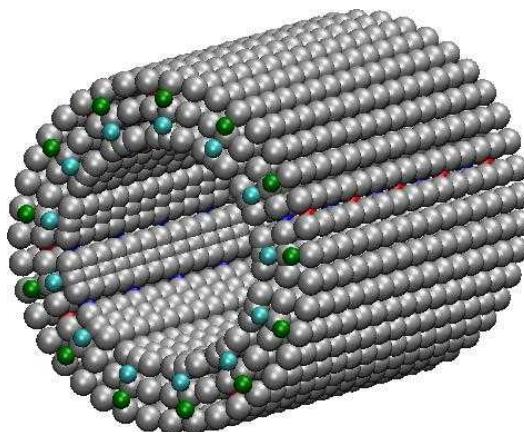


Asymmetric Wedge Building Blocks



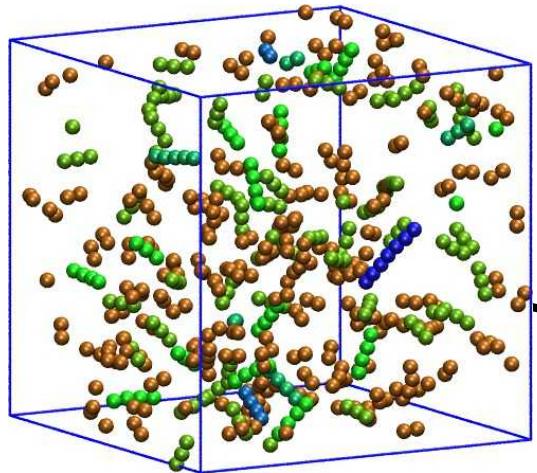
Wedge monomers with broken symmetry provide:

- Shape
- Lateral Interactions
- Vertical Interactions
- Molecular Orientation

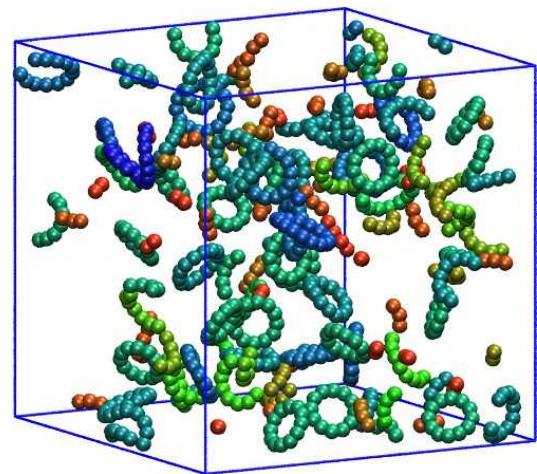


Wedge assembly behavior

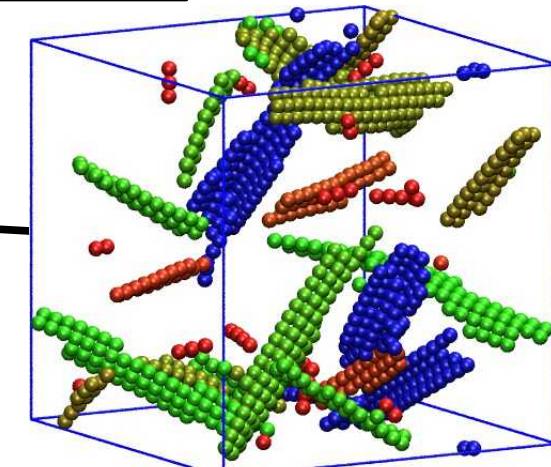
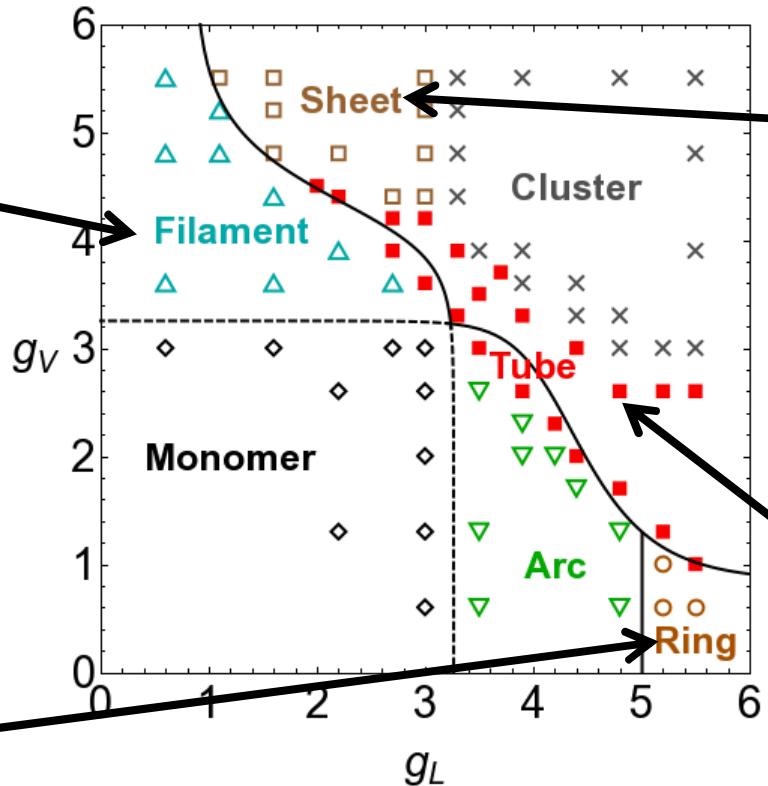
Tuning the lateral and vertical interaction parameters drives the assembly of filaments, rings, sheets, and tubes



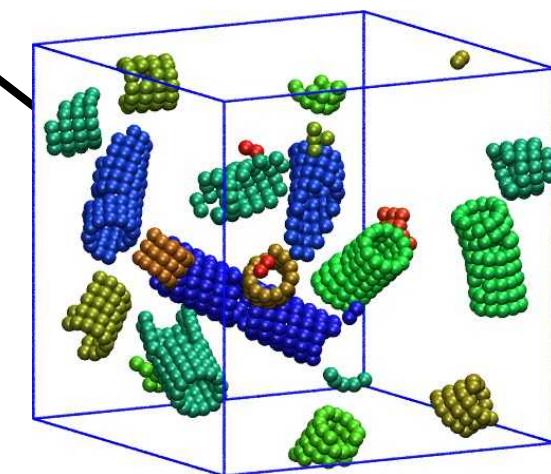
Filaments



Rings



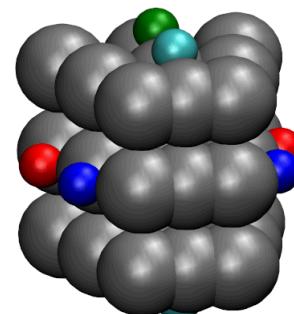
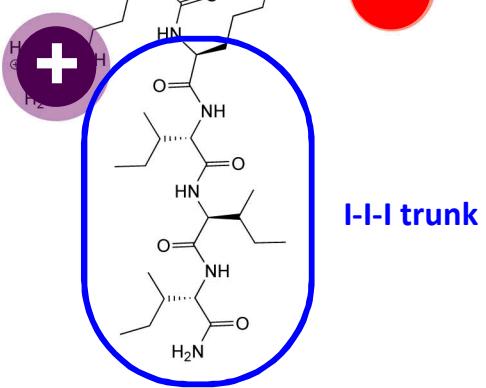
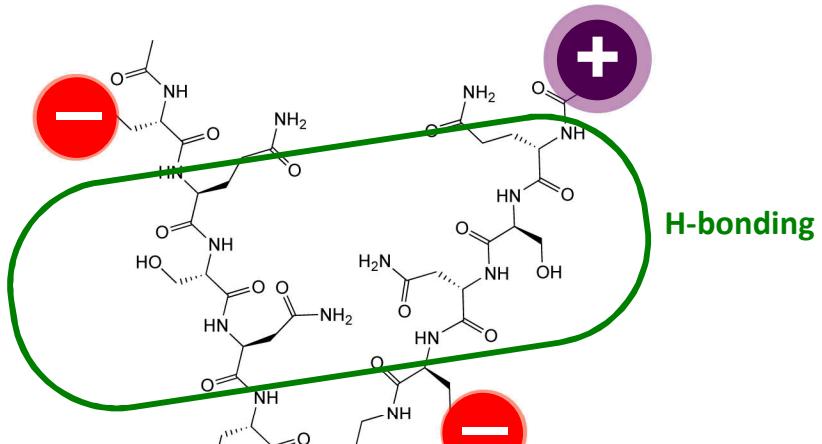
Curved sheets



Hollow tubes

Peptide building blocks

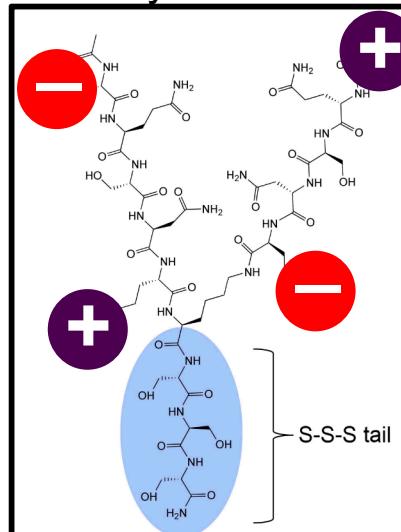
Peptide wedges provide a unique experimental platform for probing the effects of monomer design on supramolecular assembly.



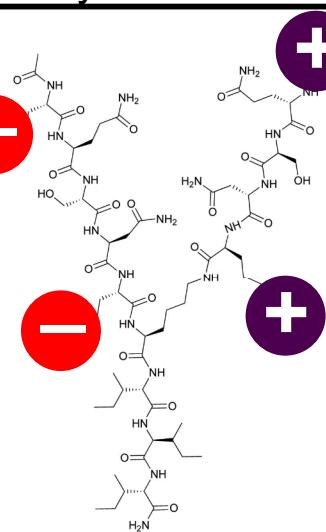
Variable Parameters:

Peptide size, shape
Electrostatic charge
Amphiphilicity
Hydrogen Bonding
Molecular Asymmetry

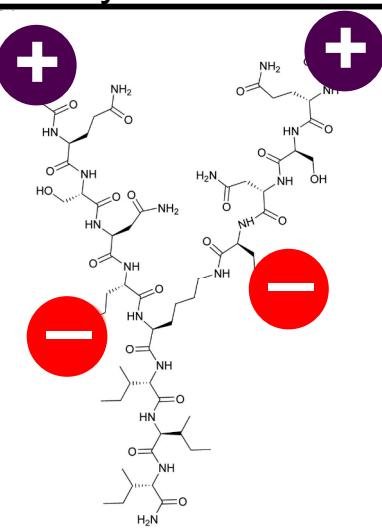
Asymm-SSS



Symm-Vert

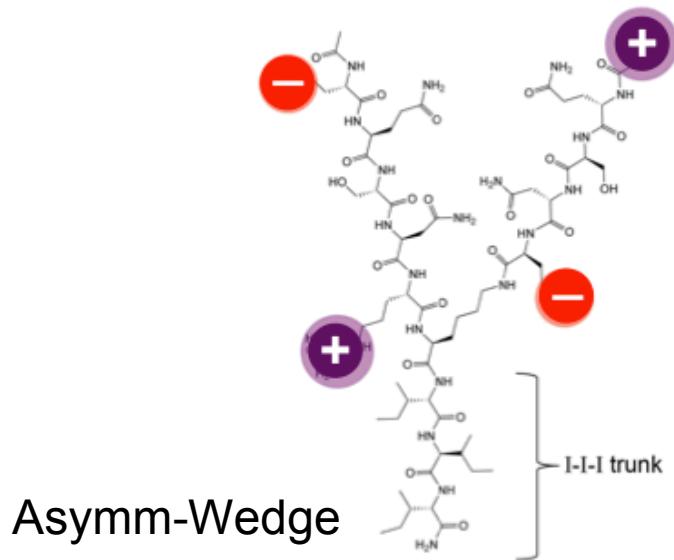


Symm-Horiz

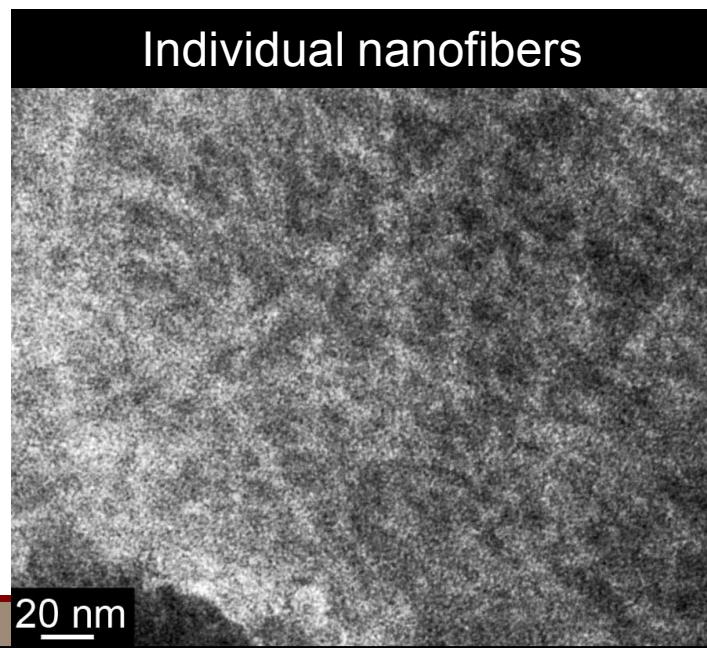


Asymm-Wedge self-assembles into nanofibers

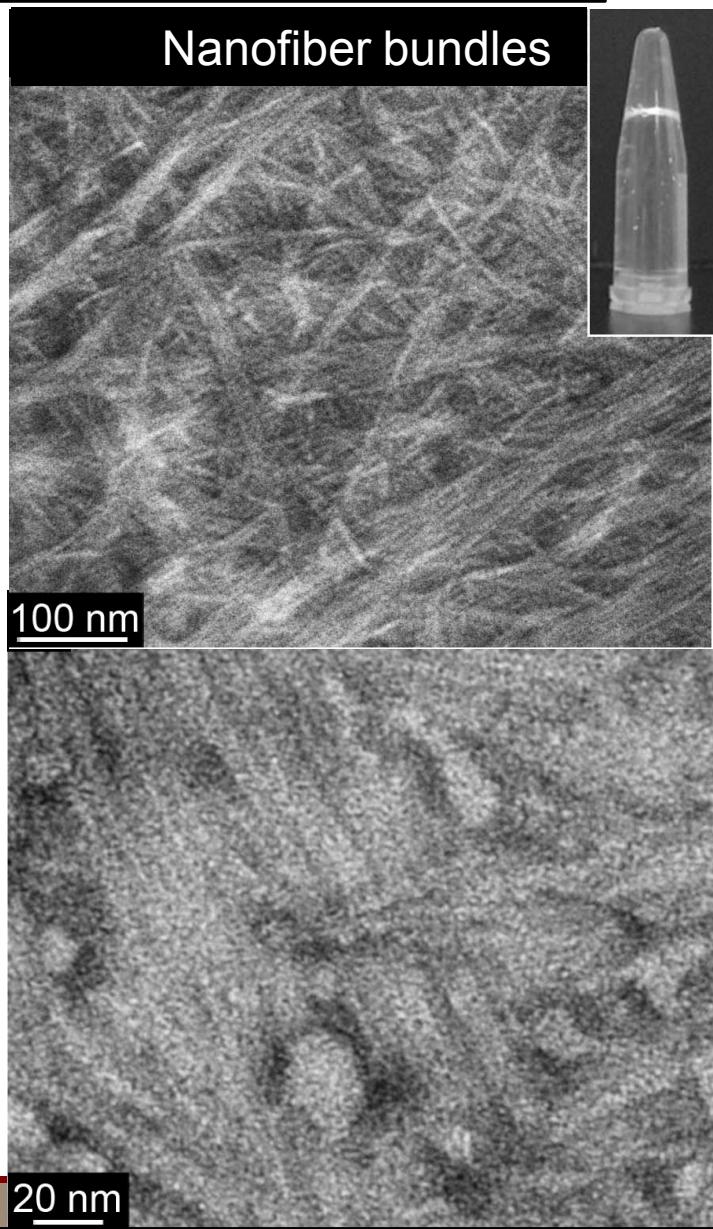
Asymmetry of charge and hydrophilicity promote nanofiber formation



Asymm-Wedge



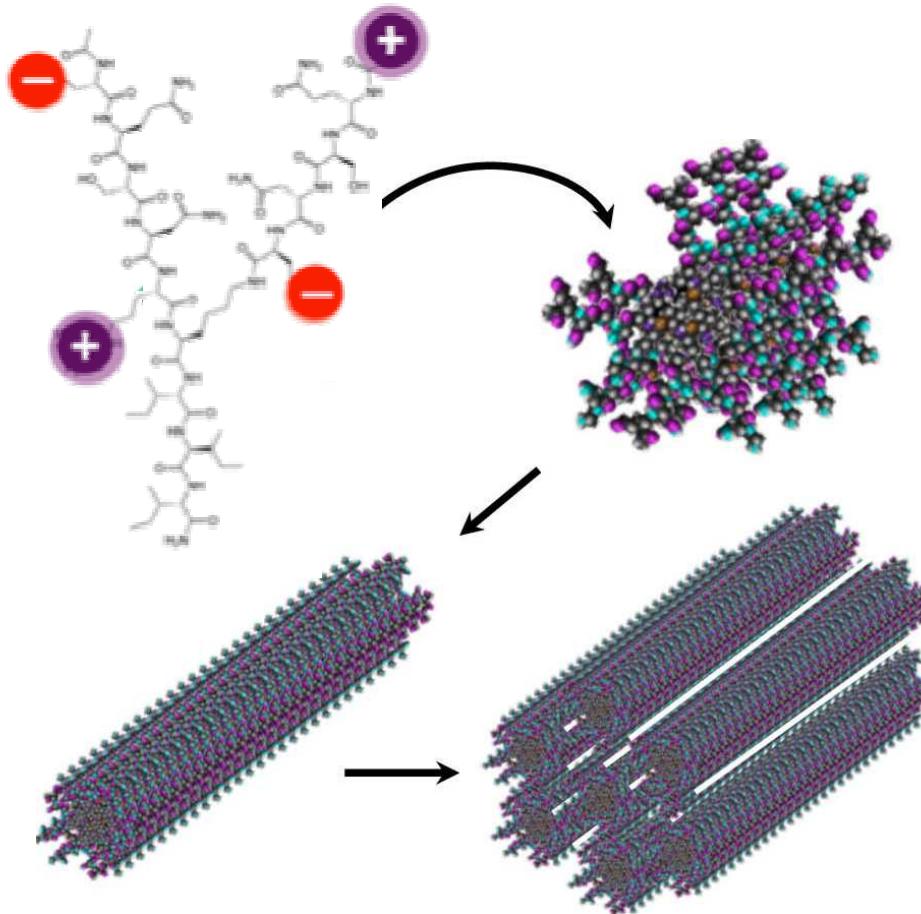
Individual nanofibers



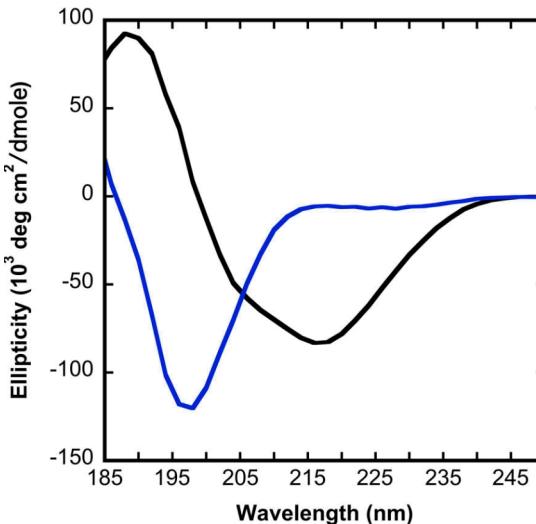
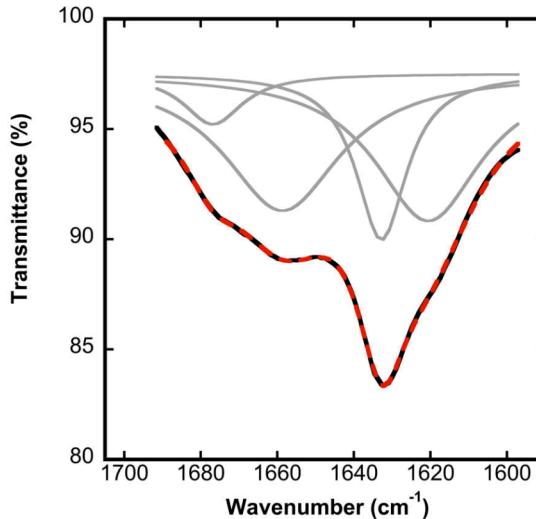
Nanofiber bundles

Peptide ordering within nanofibers

β -sheet formation is expected in cylindrical peptide assemblies and is observed spectroscopically

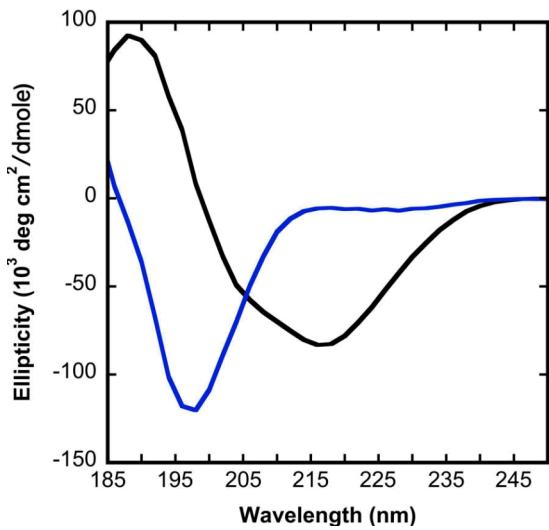
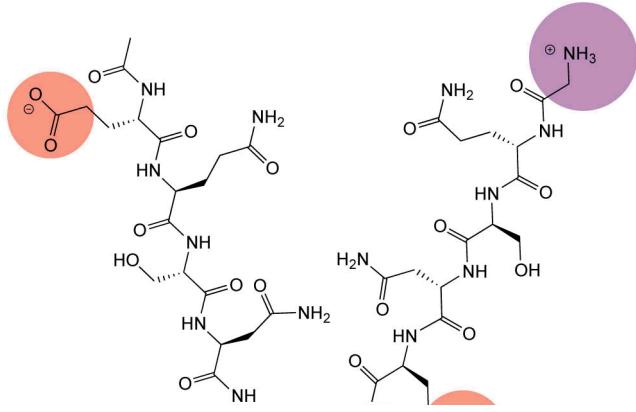


Observe nanofibers assemble into bundles

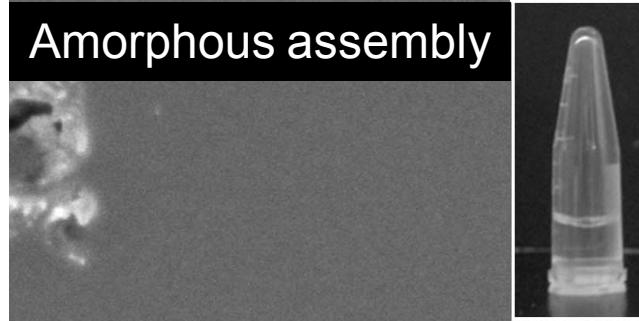


Probing hydrophilic asymmetry

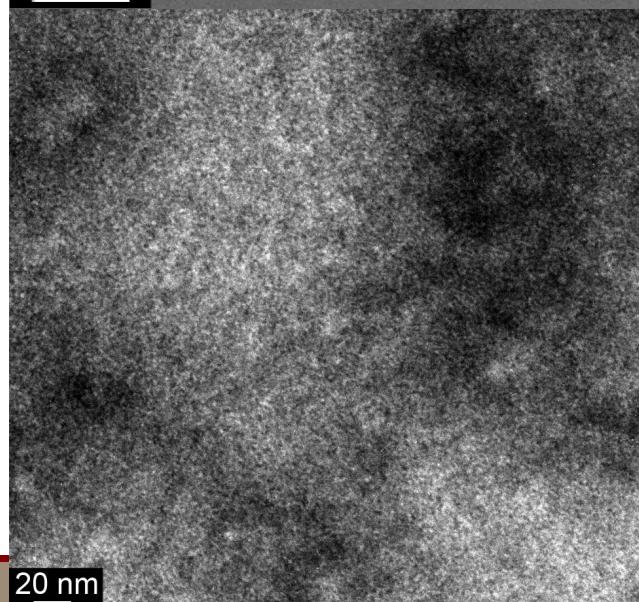
β -sheet promoting amino acid sequences do not ensure nanofiber formation. Hydrophilic asymmetry is key.



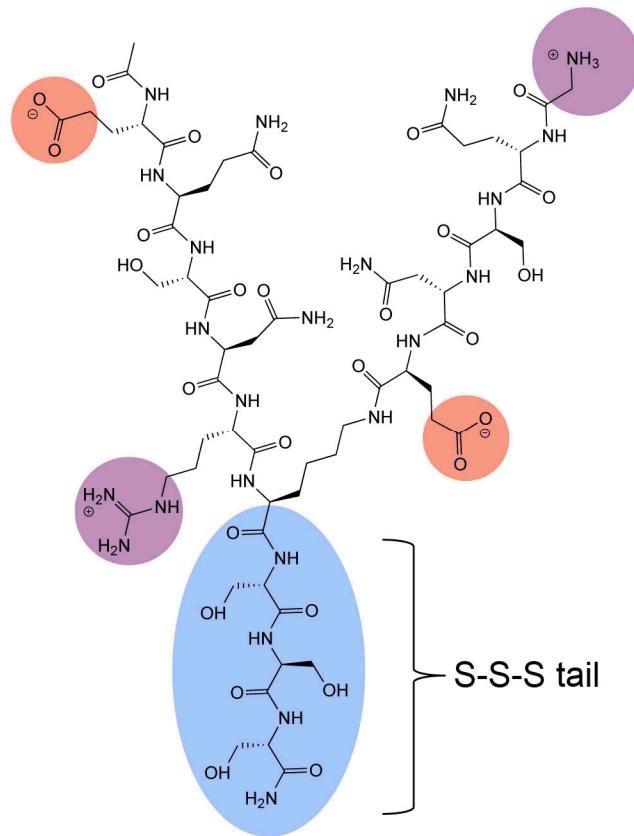
Amorphous assembly



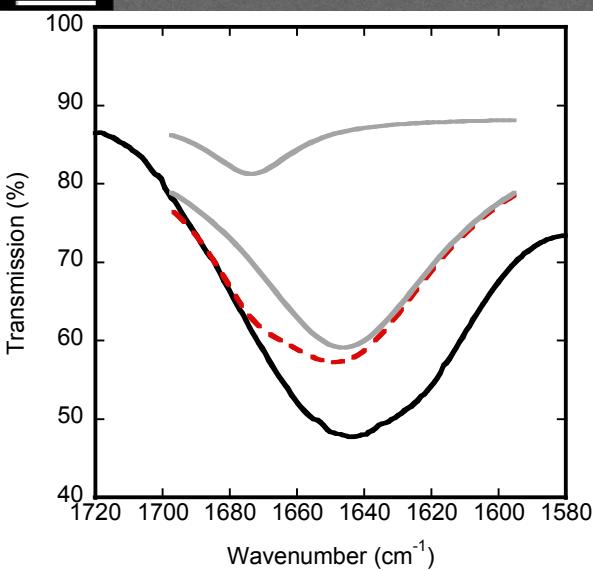
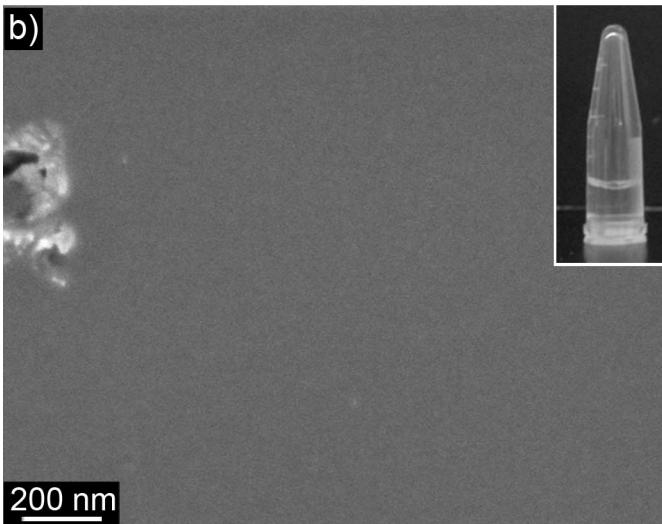
200 nm



Hydrophilic asymmetry

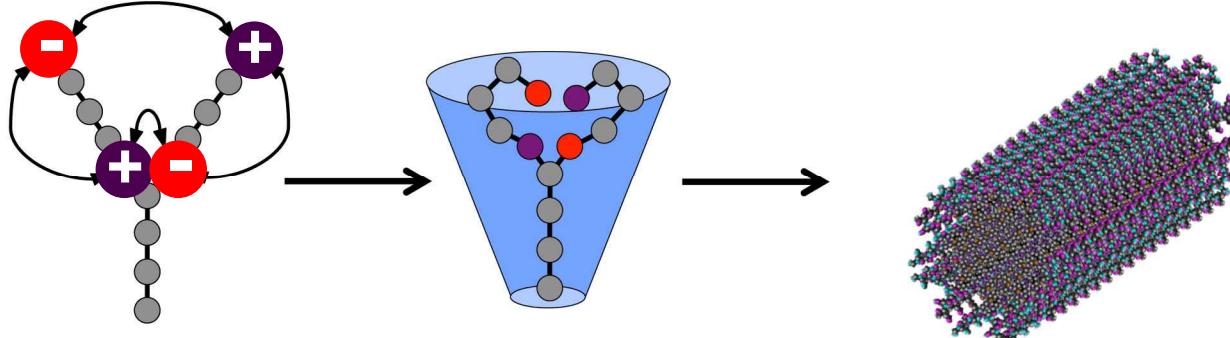


Asymm-SSS

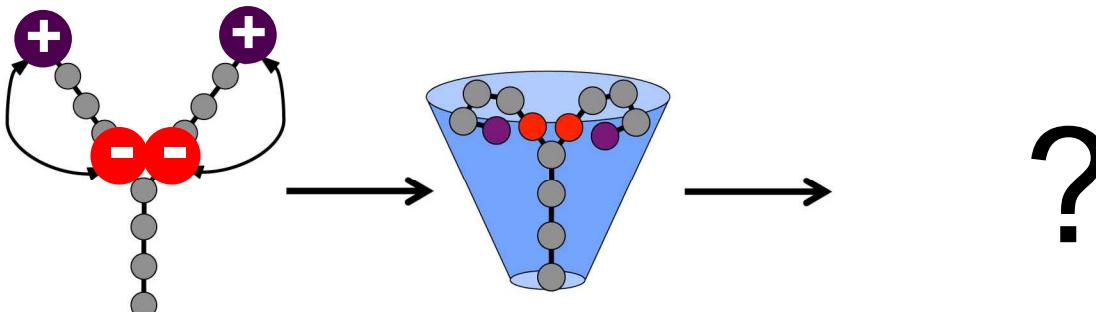


Morphology of self-assembled peptides

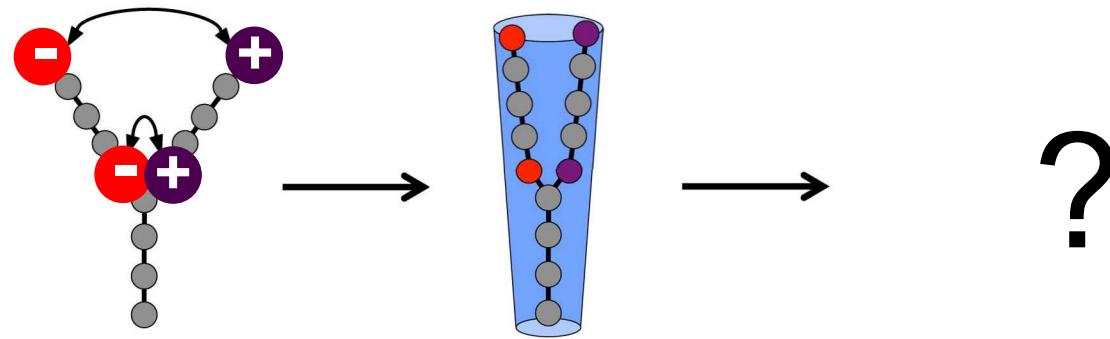
Asymm-Wedge



Symm-Horiz



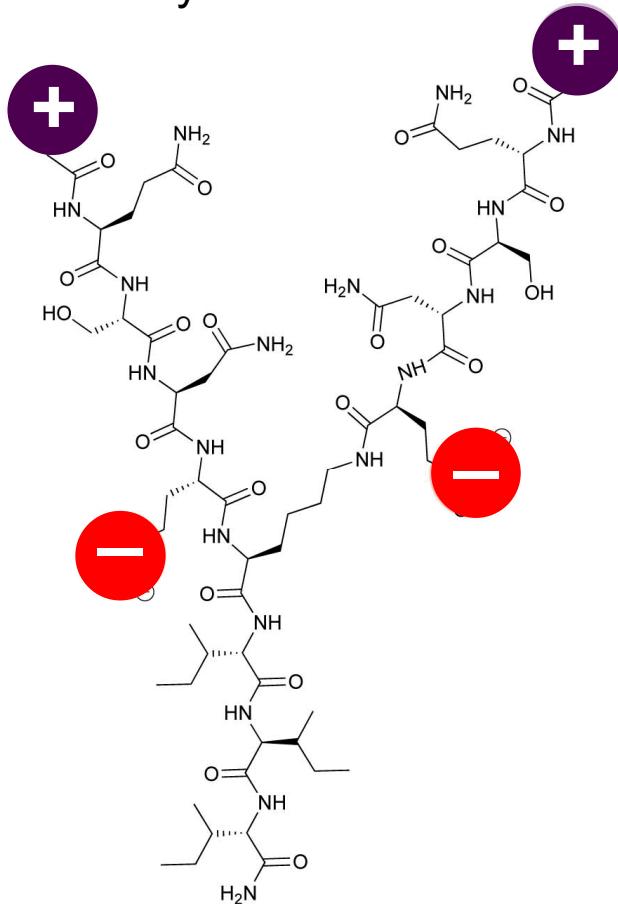
Symm-Vert



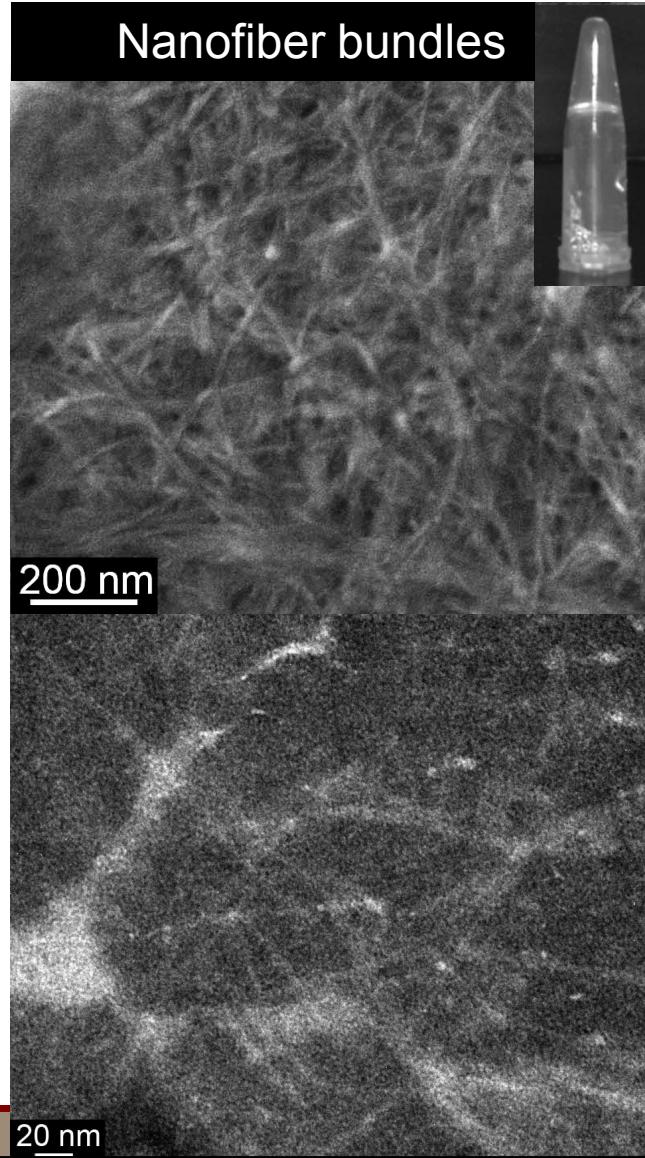
Lateral charge symmetry

Hydrophilic asymmetry combined with lateral charge symmetry promotes β -sheet and nanofiber formation

Symm-Horiz



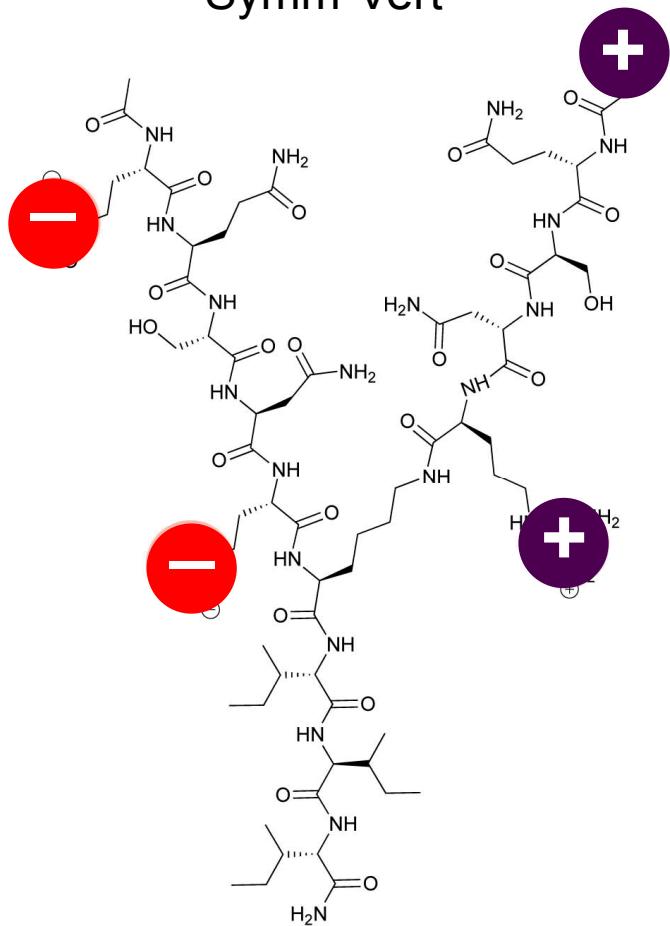
Nanofiber bundles



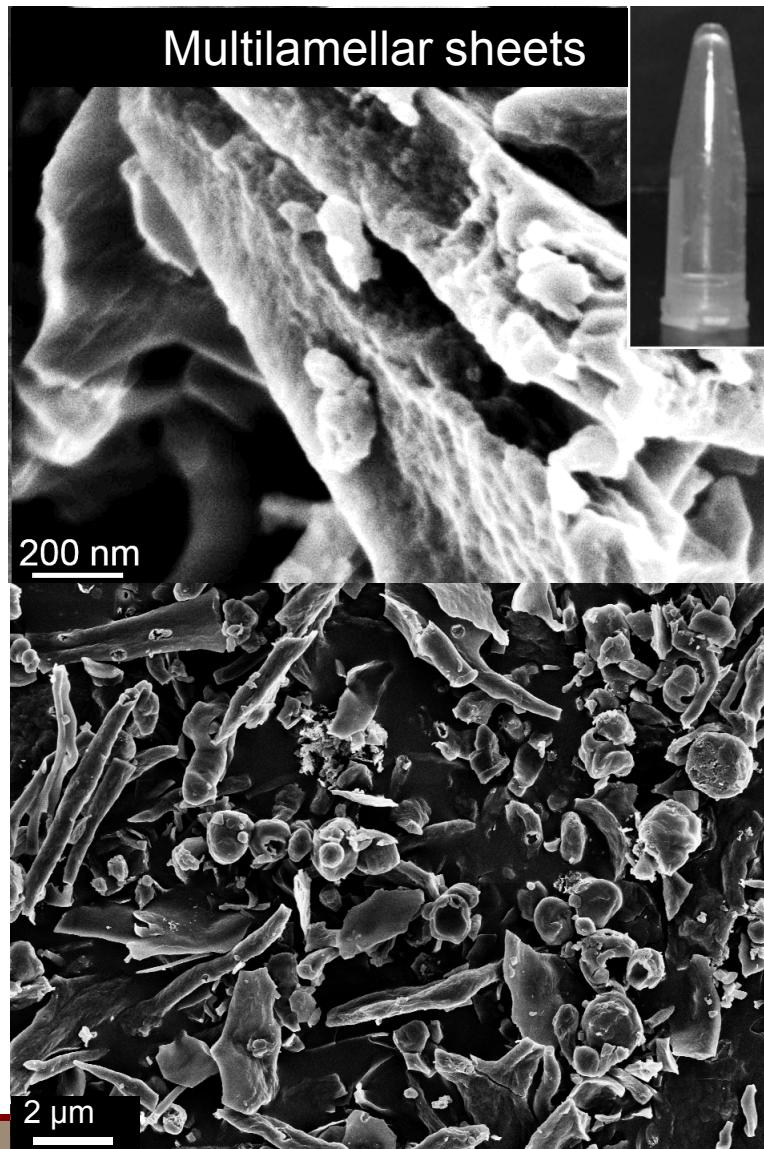
Lateral charge asymmetry

Hydrophilic asymmetry combined with lateral charge symmetry promotes β -sheet and multi-lamellar sheet formation

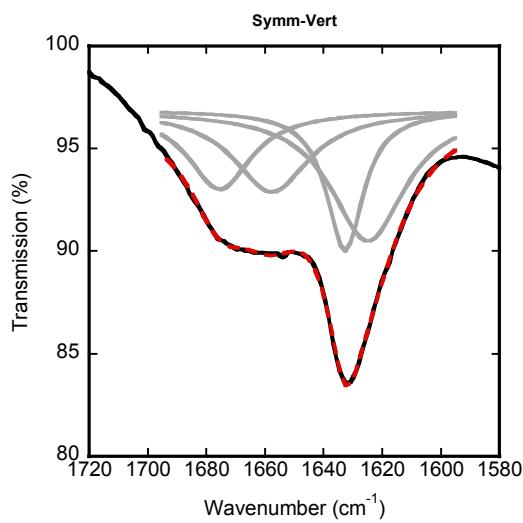
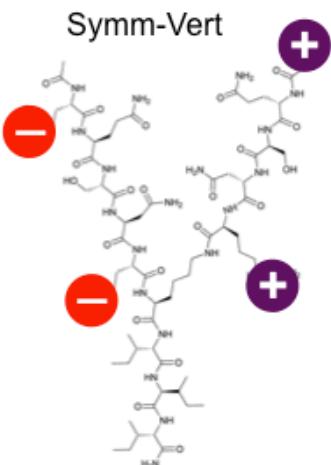
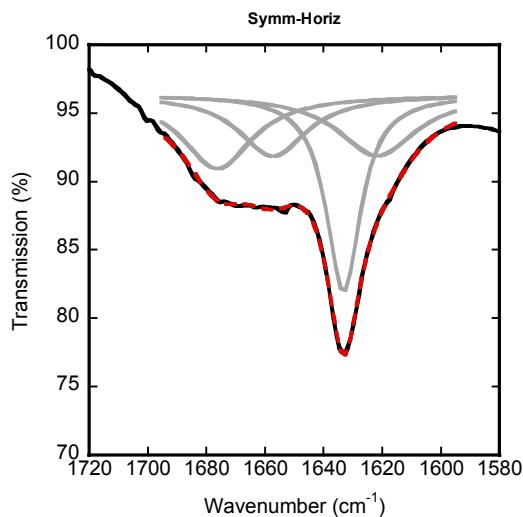
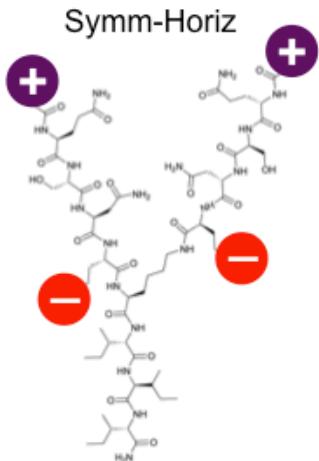
Symm-Vert



Multilamellar sheets

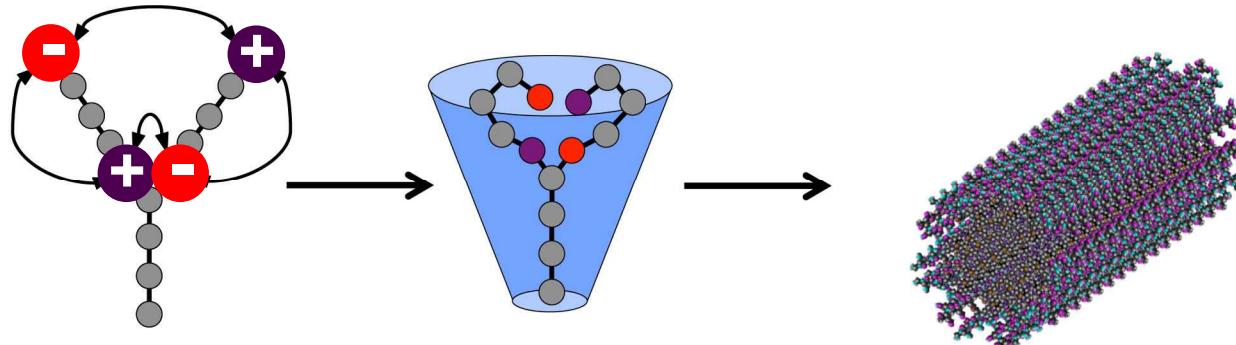


β -sheet formation is observed spectroscopically

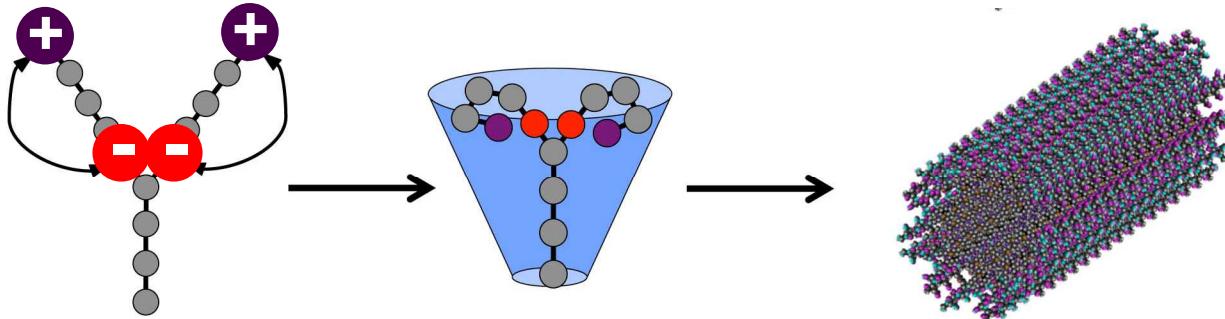


Model for morphologies observed

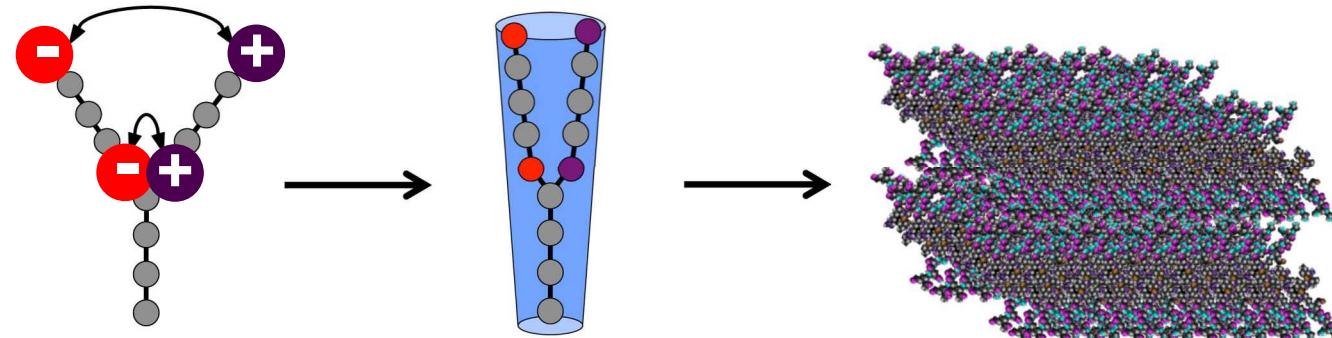
Asymm-Wedge



Symm-Horiz

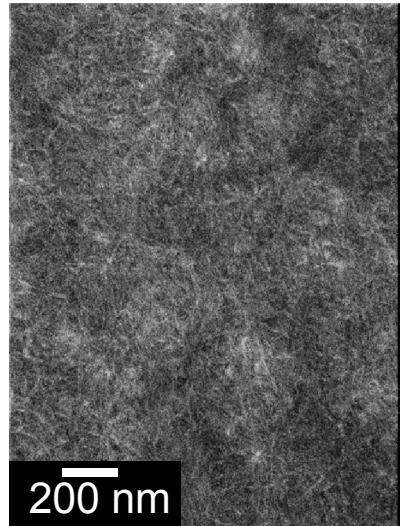
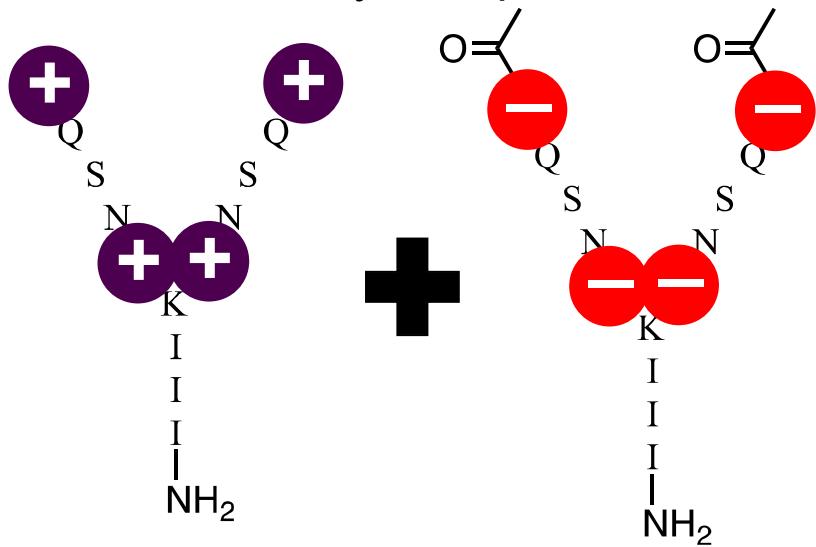


Symm-Vert

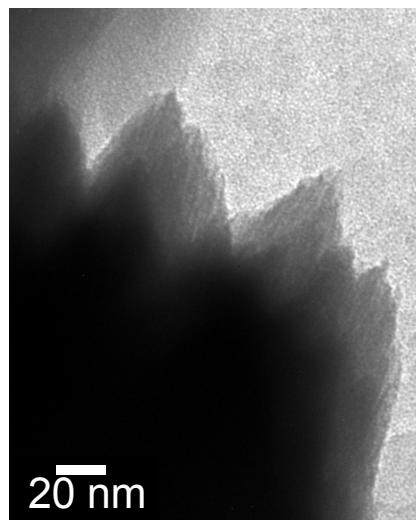
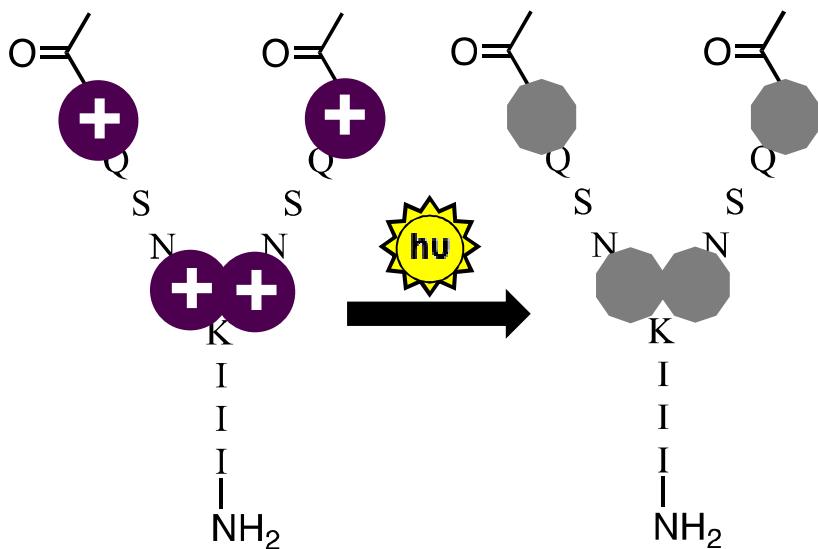


Ongoing work

Assembly of α , β -dimers

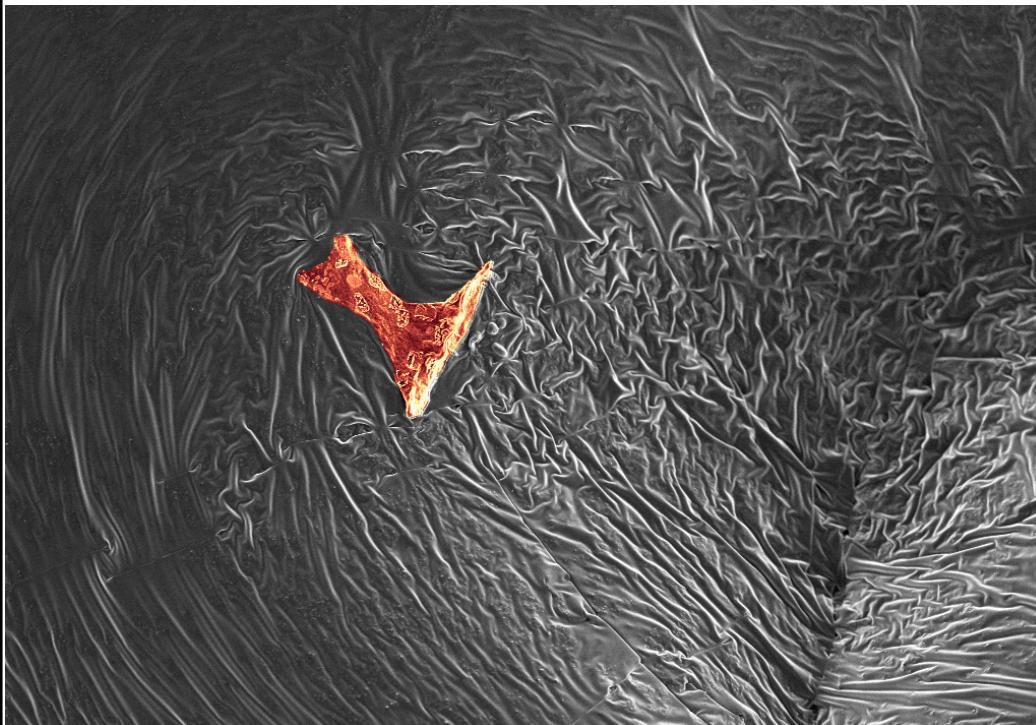


Light activated self-assembly



With D. Wheeler

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“Summer dress” made from wedge-nanofiber fabric in a micro-whirlpool

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Jill Wheeler
Erik Spoerke
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Bruce Bunker
George Bachand
David Wheeler
Bonnie McKenzie



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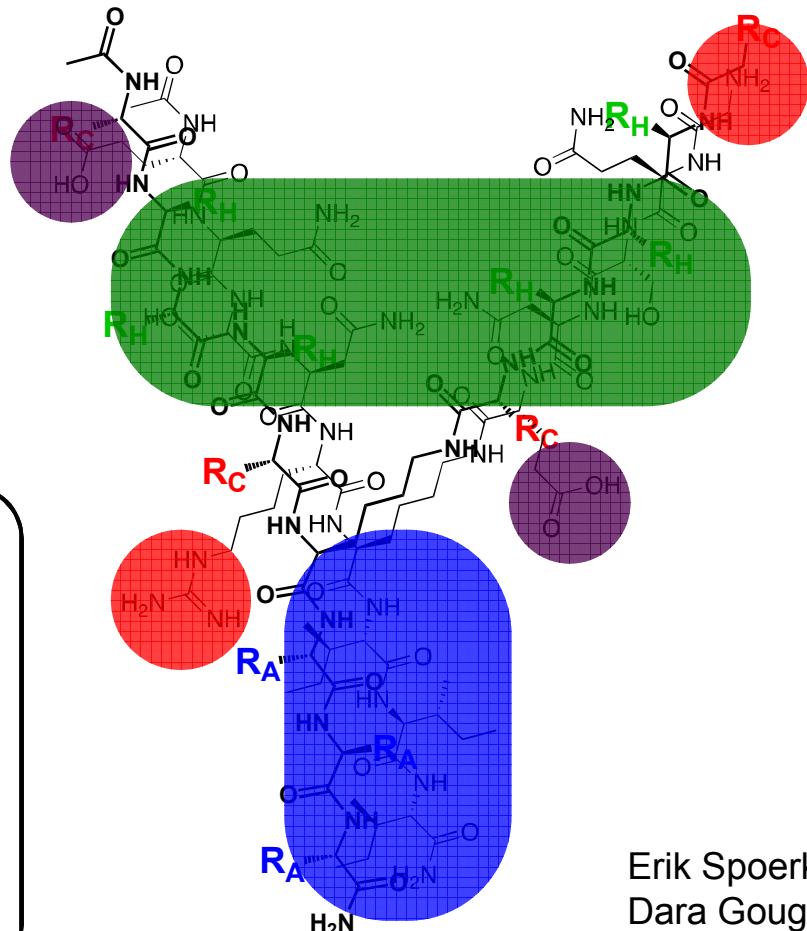
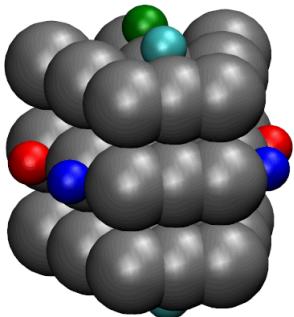


Simulation-Inspired Peptide Wedges

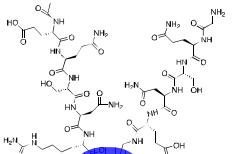
Peptide Wedges provide a unique experimental platform for probing the effects of monomer design on supramolecular assembly.

Variable Parameters:

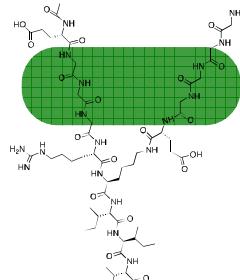
Peptide size, shape
Electrostatic charge
Amphiphilicity
Hydrogen Bonding
Molecular Asymmetry



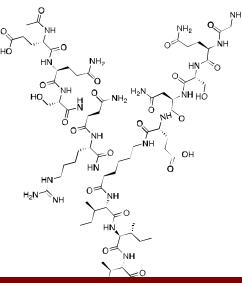
Hydrophilic



Reduced H-Bonding



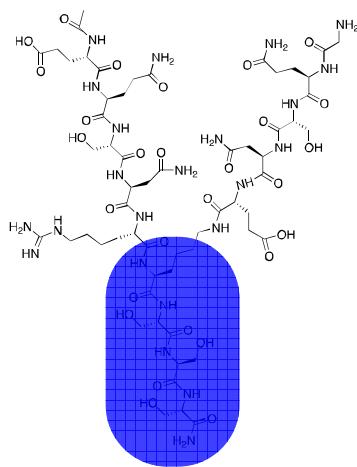
No Modifications



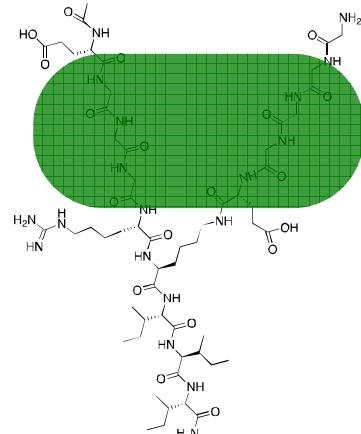
Varying Peptide Composition Affects Molecular Self-Assembly

Modifying either the amphiphilic or hydrogen bonding portions of the wedges prevents nanofiber formation!

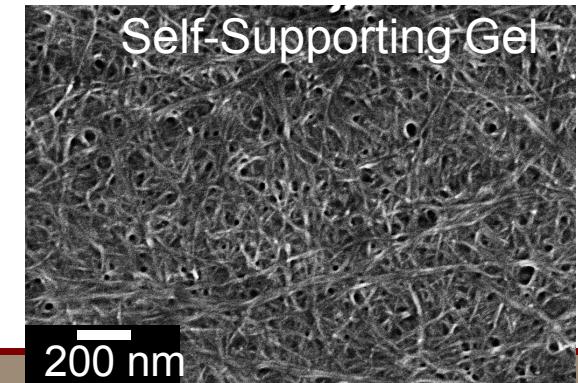
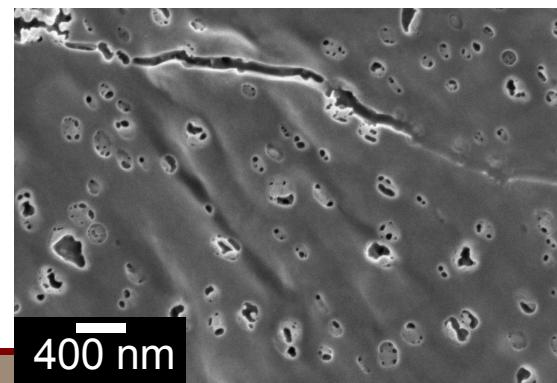
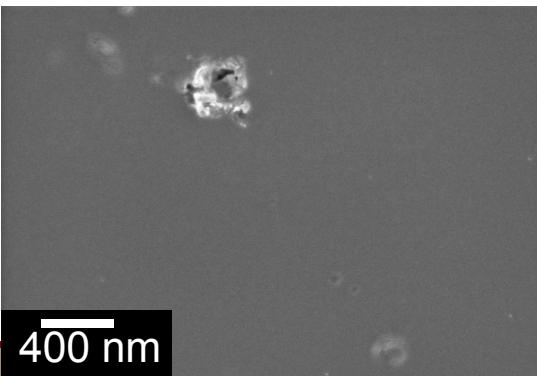
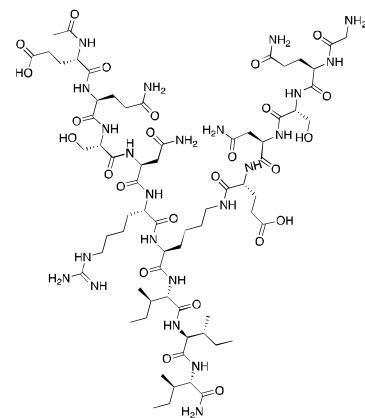
Hydrophilic



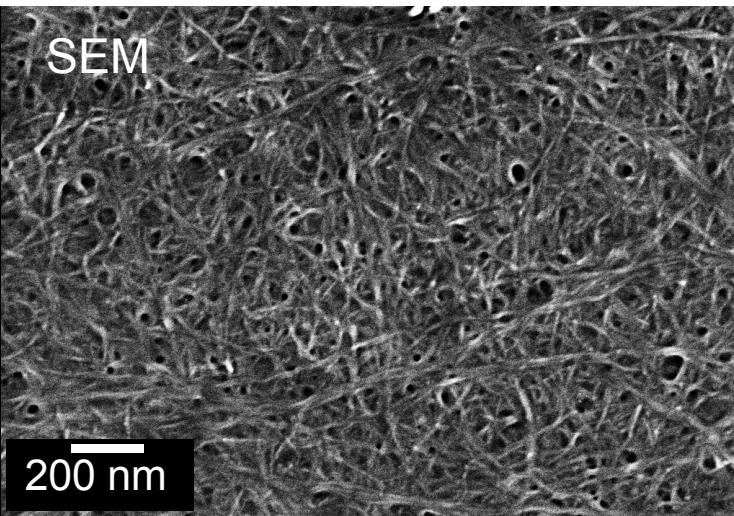
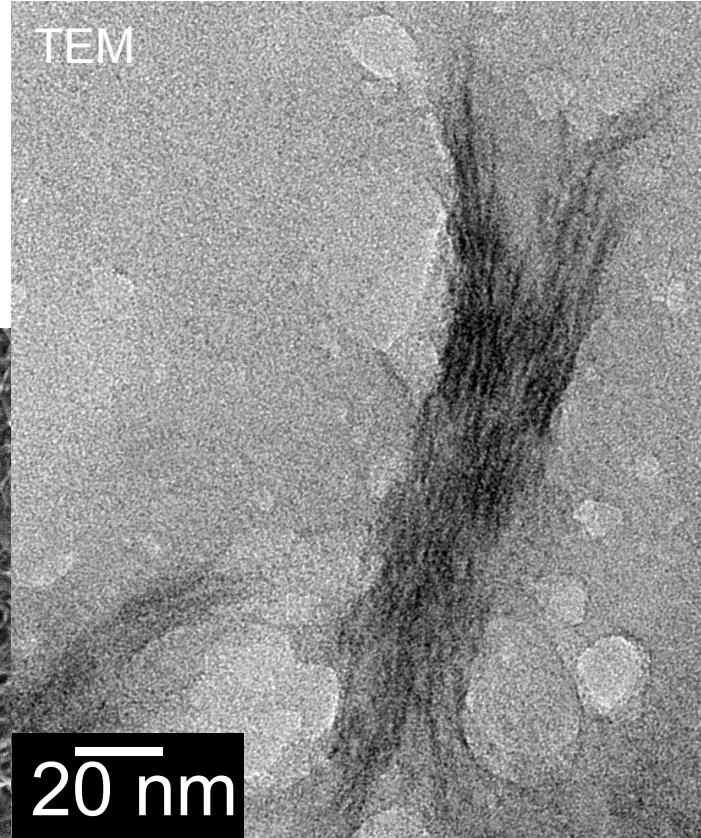
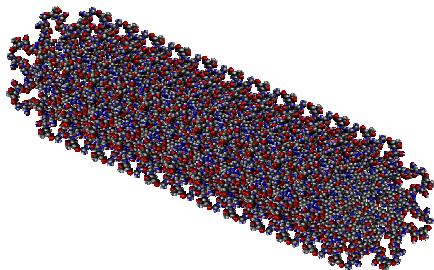
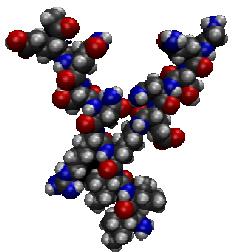
Reduced H-Bonding



Wedge 1



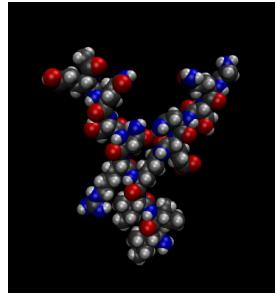
Asymmetric Wedge Assembly into Nanofiber Gels



Self-supporting gel formed at ~ 10 mg/mL in neutral water

Peptide Wedges with 1) Hydrogen Bonding, 2) Electrostatic Charge, and 3) Amphiphilic Character form self-supporting gels comprising uniform nanofibers ~ 3.7 nm across

Variable Assembly of Peptide Wedges



Variations in Wedge structure and chemistry could produce dramatically varied assemblies.

