

Engineered Peptides for Controlled Nanofiber Assembly

Dara

Van

Gough

Jill S. Wheeler, Shengfeng Cheng,

Mark Stevens, and Erik D. Spoerke

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

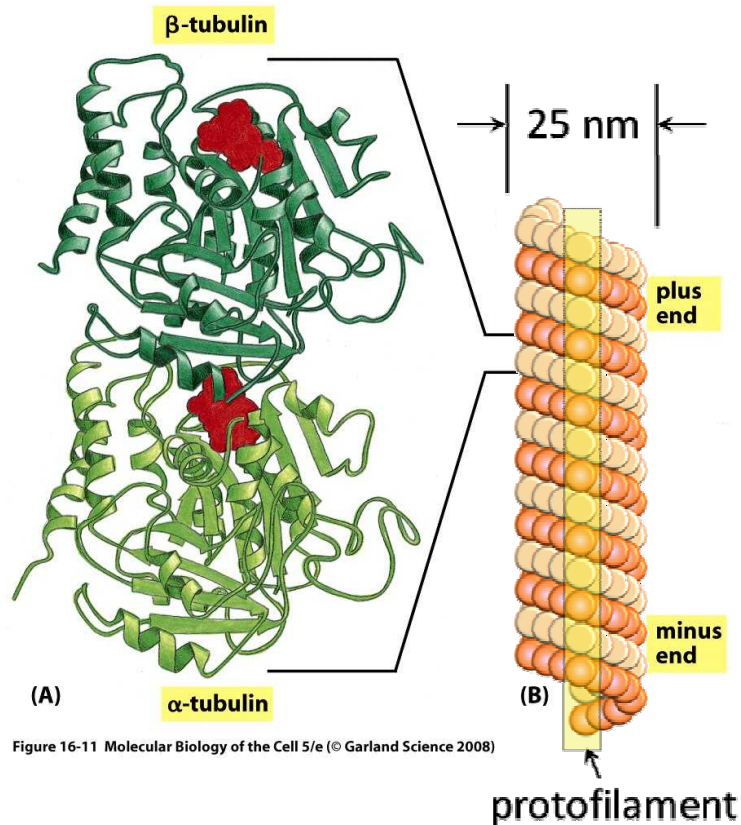
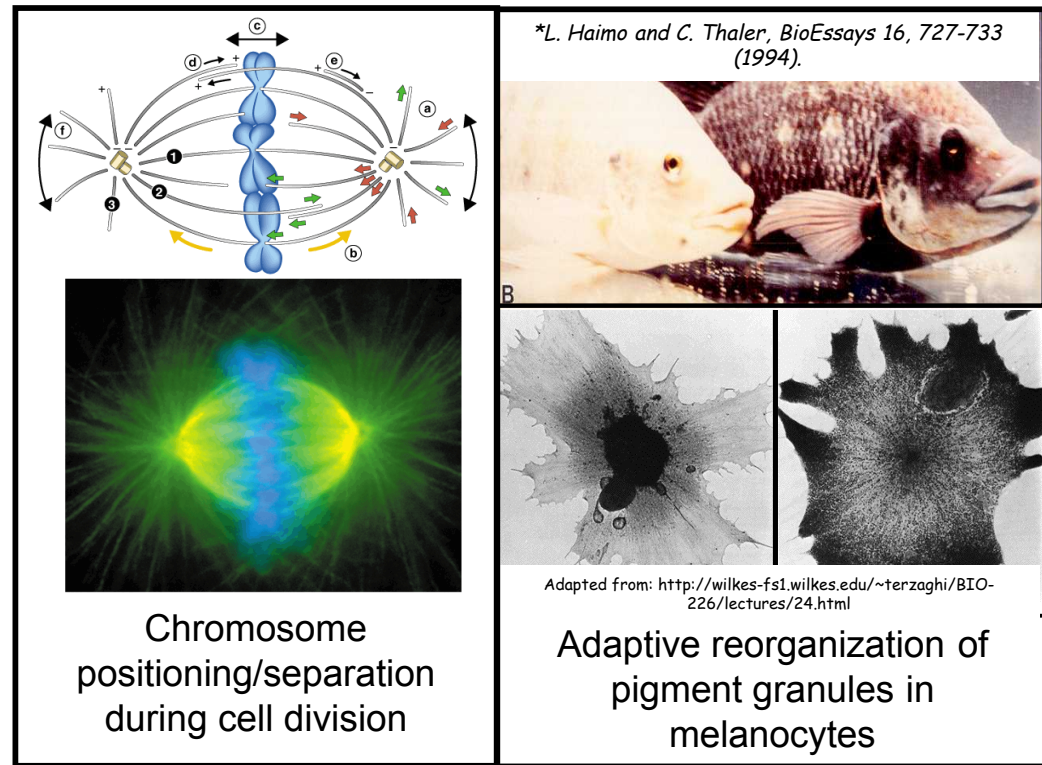


Figure 16-11 Molecular Biology of the Cell 5/e (© Garland Science 2008)



Key Characteristics of Microtubules:

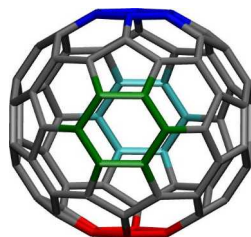
- Polymerized from nanoscale building blocks
 - α -tubulin/ β -tubulin dimers
 - Balance of Lateral and Vertical interactions
- 1-Dimensional Nanostructures
- Biomolecular Polarity (α - β asymmetry)
- Building Block Chemistry and Form Direct Assembled Architecture
- Programmable Assembly/Disassembly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

Simulation Established Design Rules

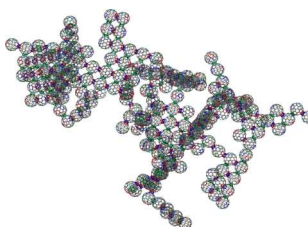
Symmetry of shape and interactions is key to determining self-assembled morphology

Monomer Building blocks

Sphere with symmetric attractive sites



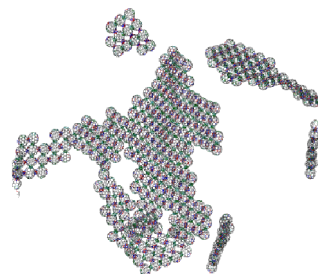
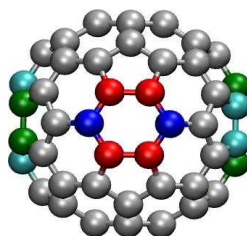
Polymerized Structures



Assembly Parameters

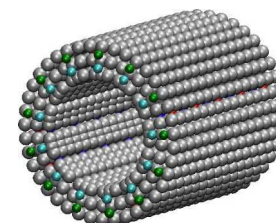
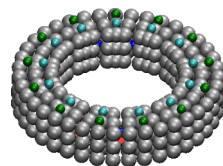
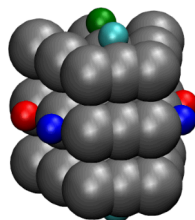
- Gray sites are repulsive
- Red:blue and green:cyan are attractive
- Like colored sites are repulsive

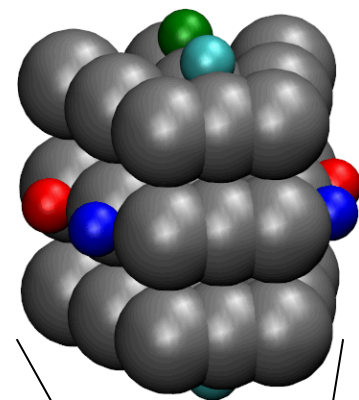
Sphere with broken symmetry



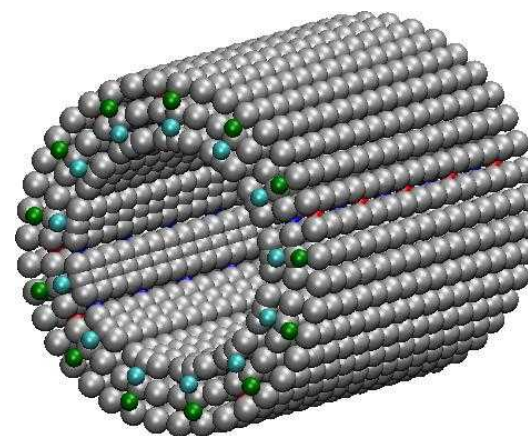
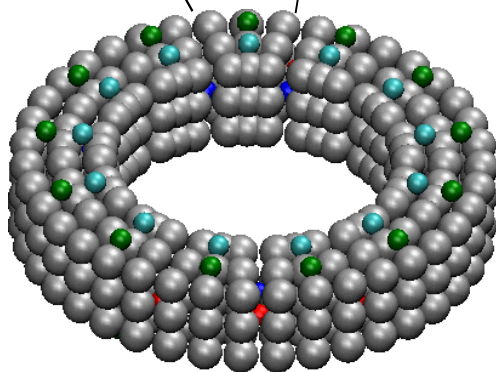
Monomer shapes as well as strength and geometric distribution of interaction potentials on each monomer are critical

Wedge with broken symmetry





x 13

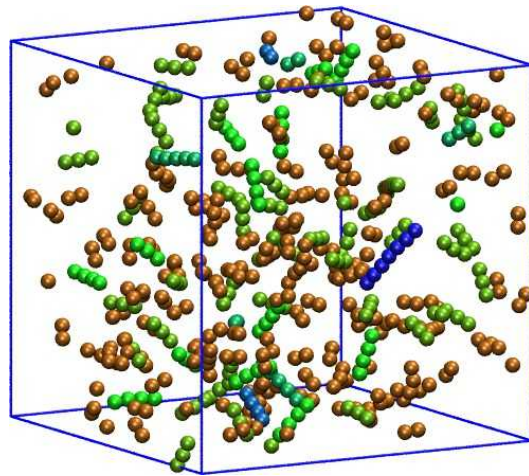


Wedge monomers with broken symmetry provide:

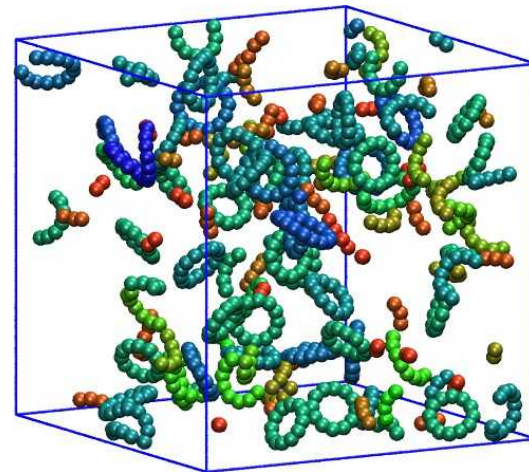
- Shape
- Lateral Interactions
- Vertical Interactions
- Molecular Orientation

Wedge assembly behavior

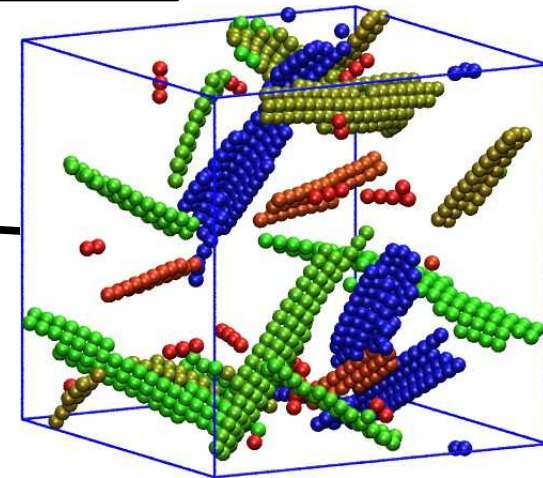
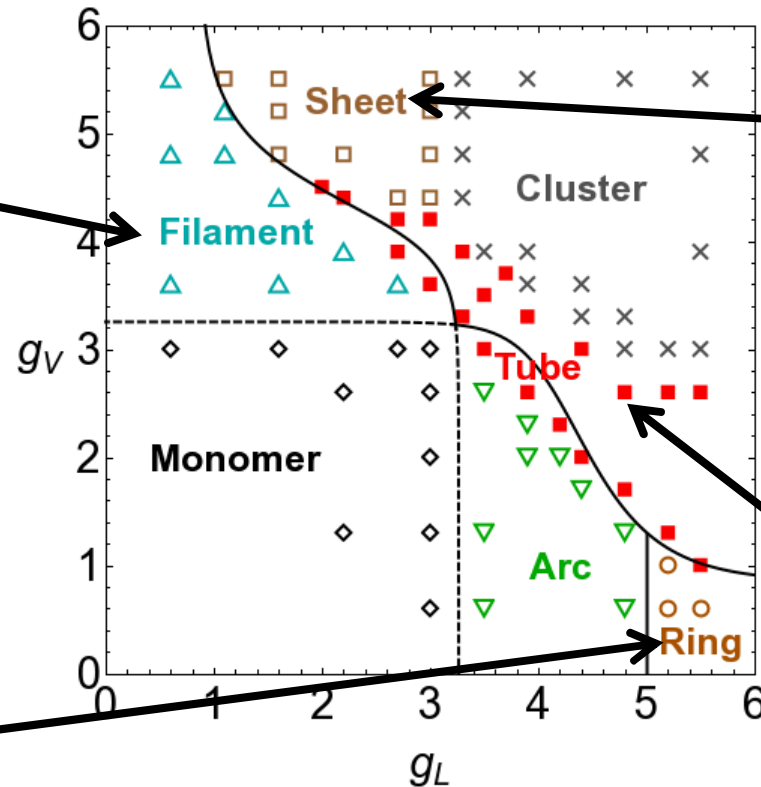
Tuning the lateral and vertical interaction parameters drives the assembly of filaments, rings, sheets, and tubes



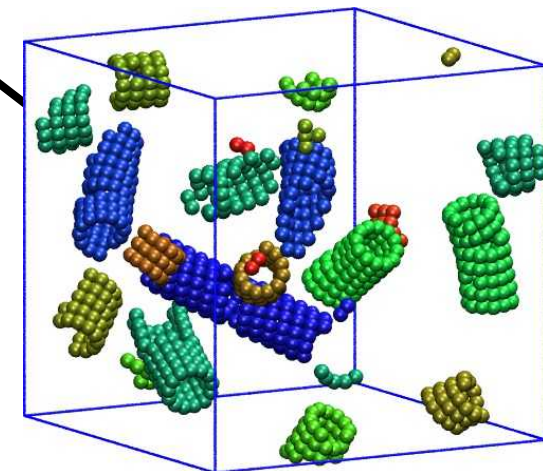
Filaments



Rings



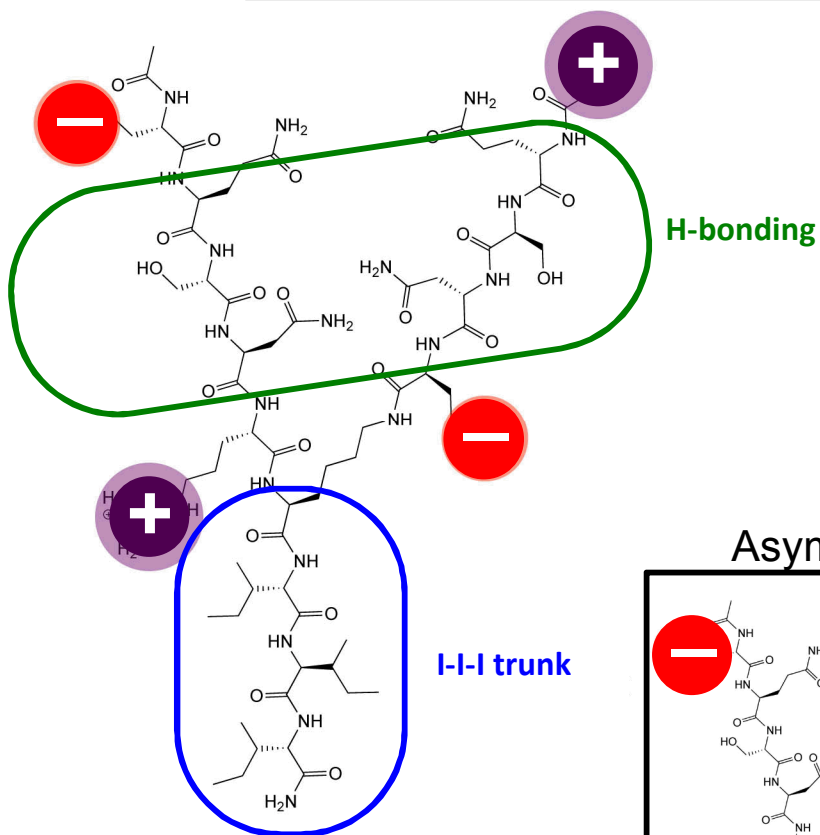
Curved sheets



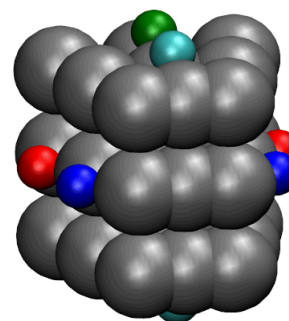
Hollow tubes

Peptide building blocks

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

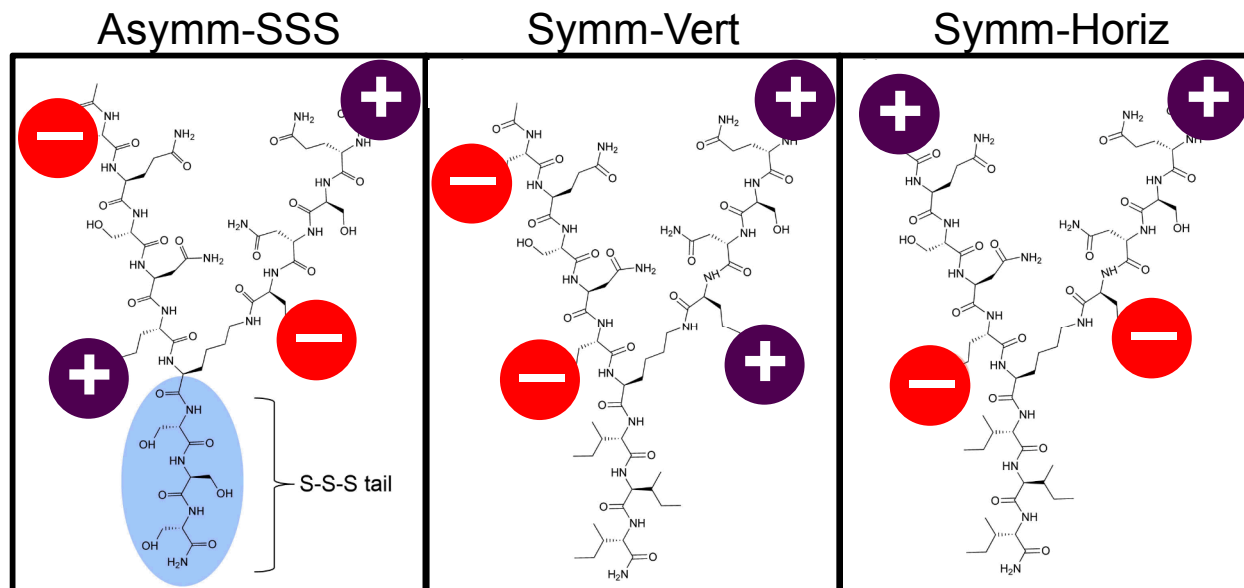


Asymm-Wedge



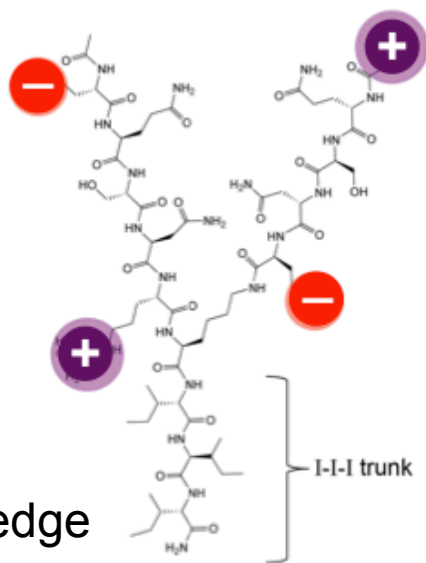
Variable Parameters:

- Peptide size, shape
- Electrostatic charge
- Amphiphilicity
- Hydrogen Bonding
- Molecular Asymmetry



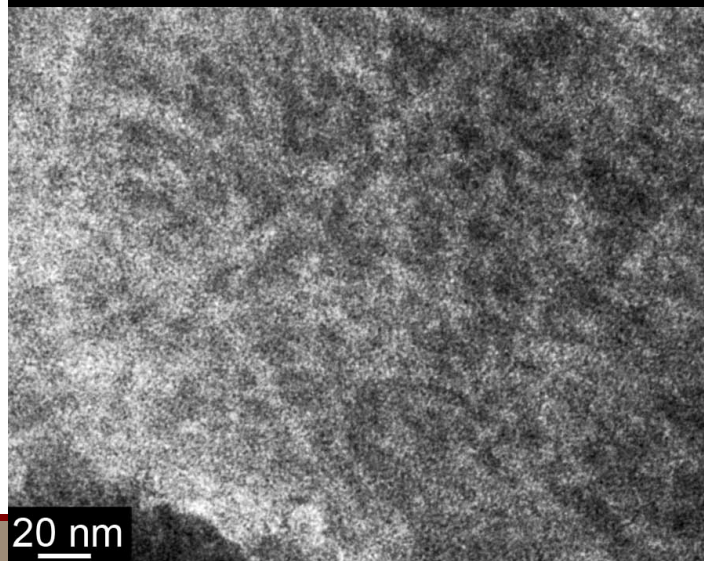
Asymm-Wedge self-assembles into nanofibers

Asymmetry of charge and hydrophilicity promote nanofiber formation

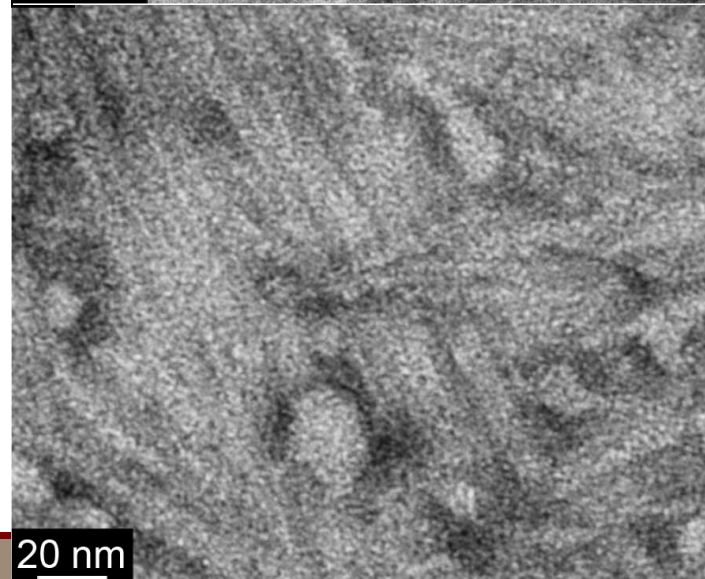
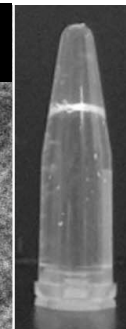
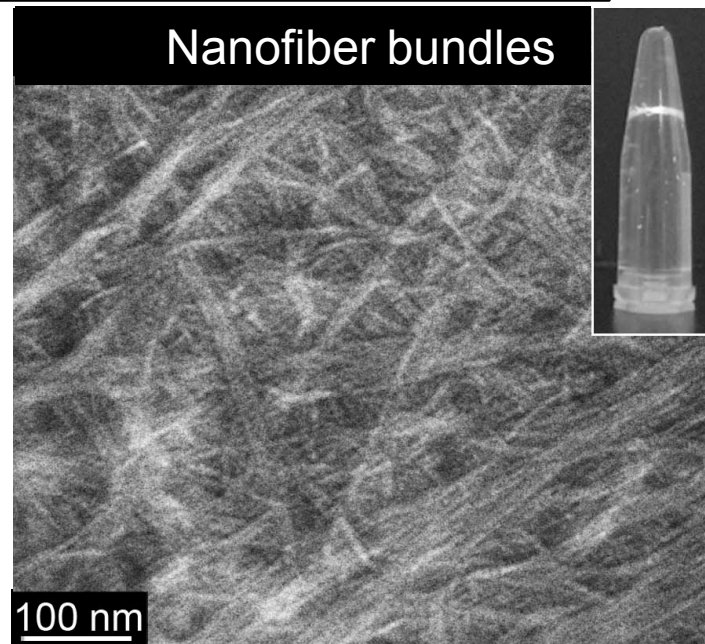


Asymm-Wedge

Individual nanofibers

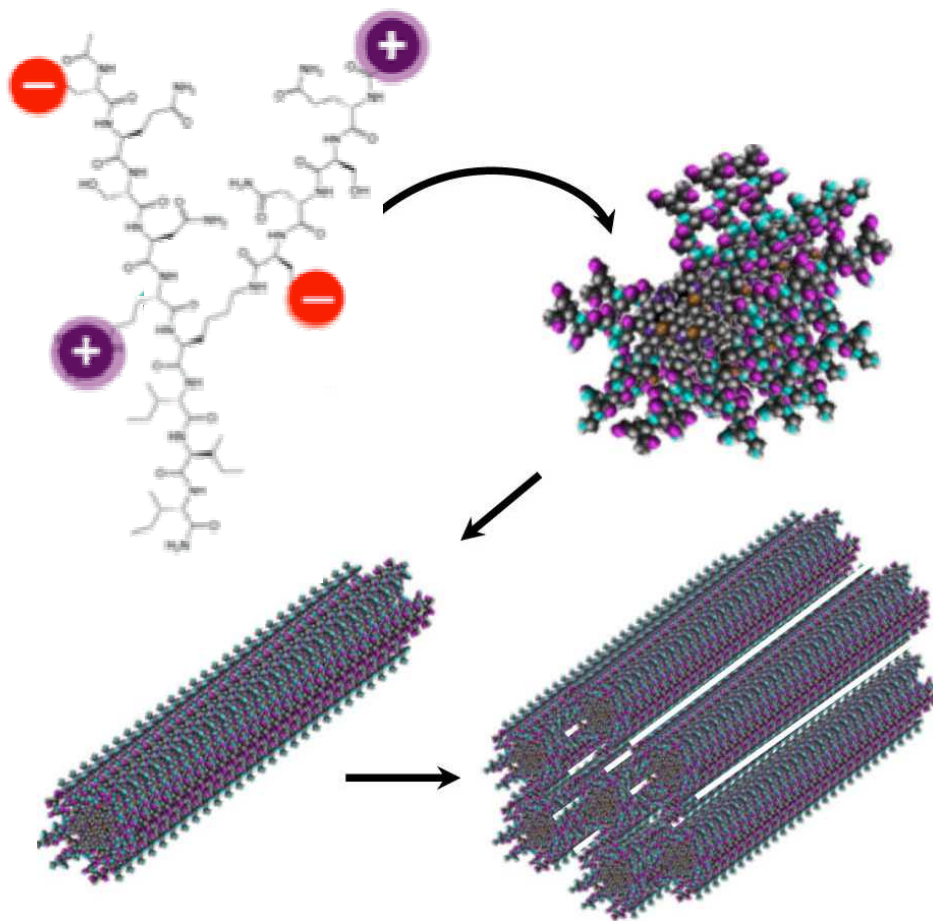


Nanofiber bundles

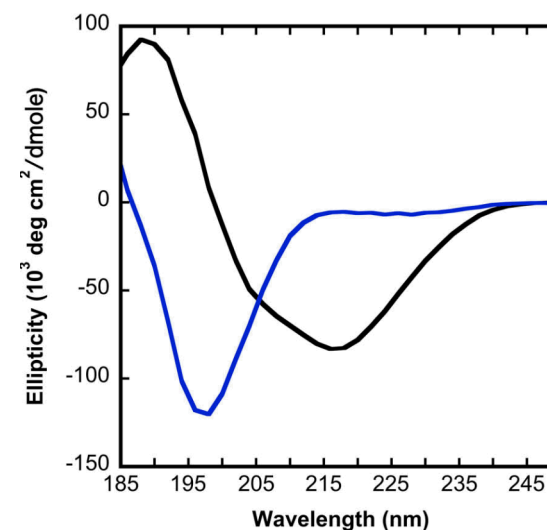
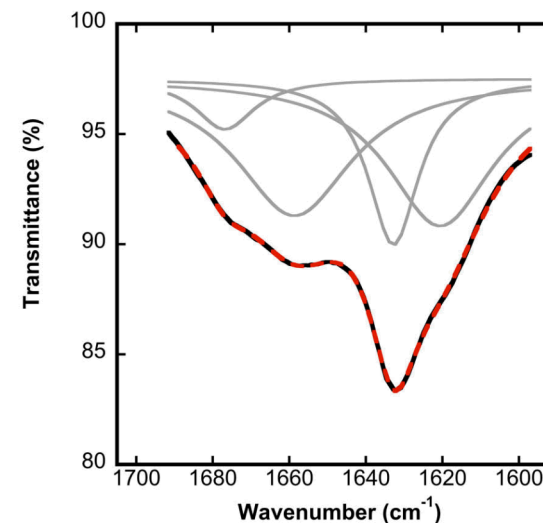


Peptide ordering within nanofibers

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

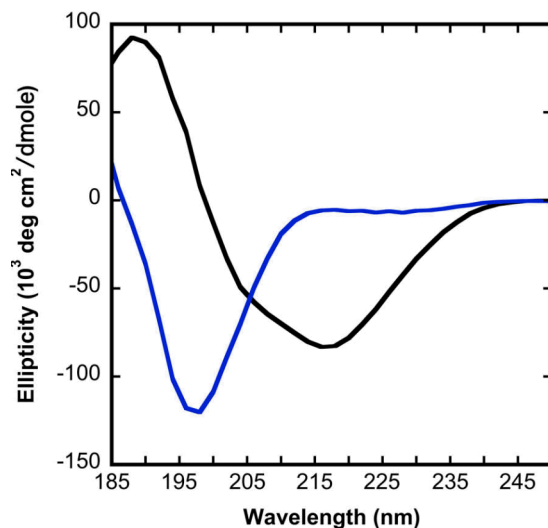
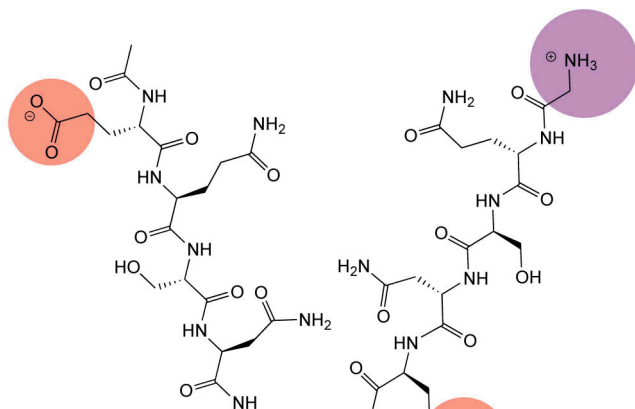


Observe nanofibers assemble into bundles

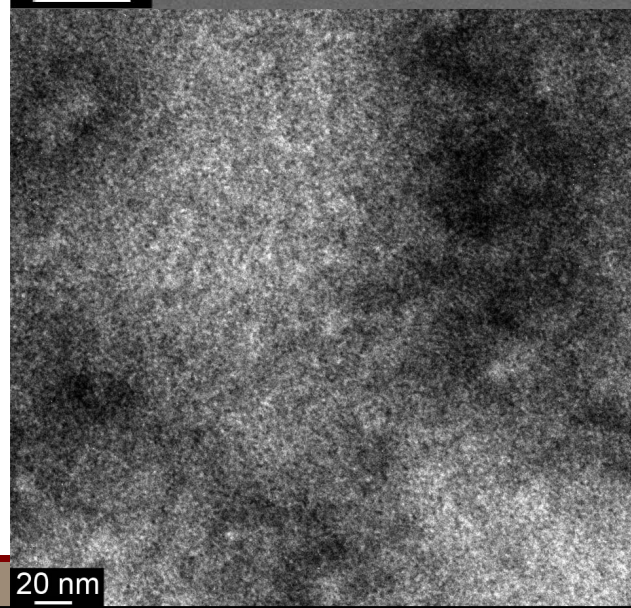
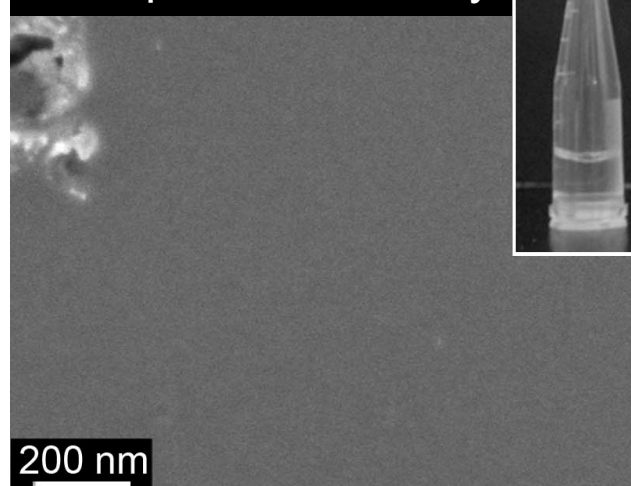


Probing hydrophilic asymmetry

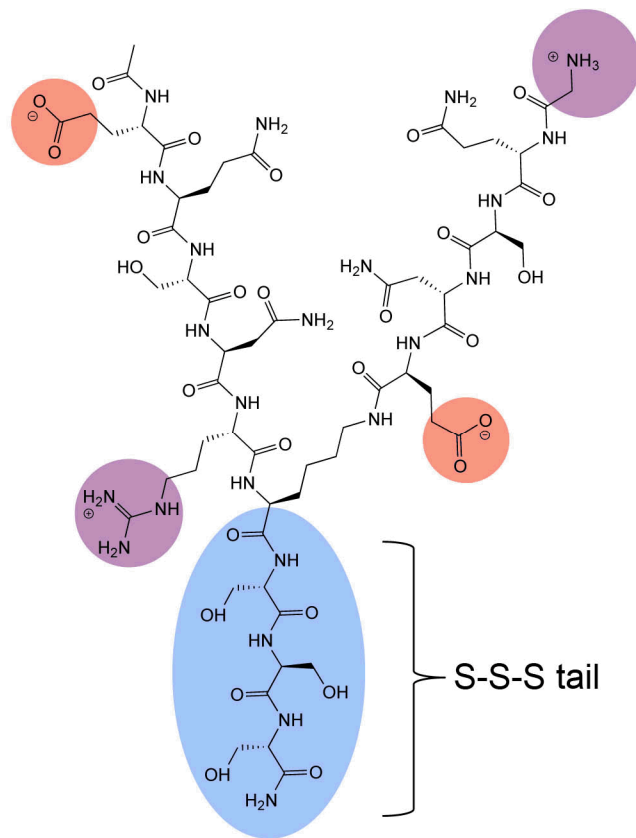
β -sheet promoting amino acid sequences do not ensure nanofiber formation. Hydrophilic asymmetry is key.



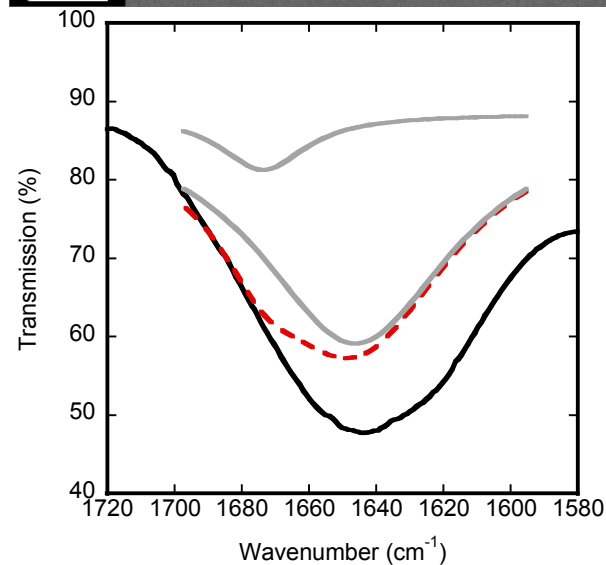
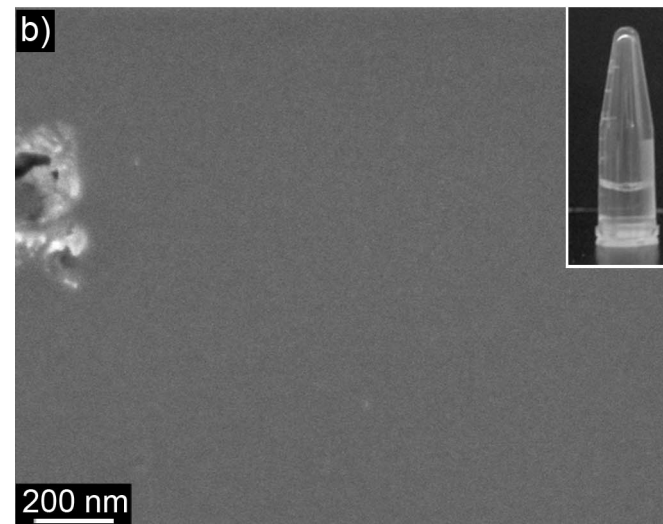
Amorphous assembly



Hydrophilic asymmetry

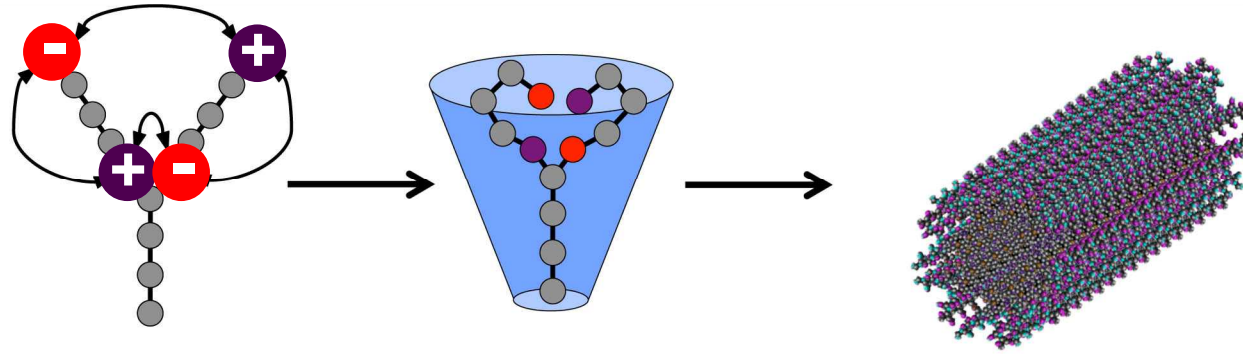


Asymm-SSS

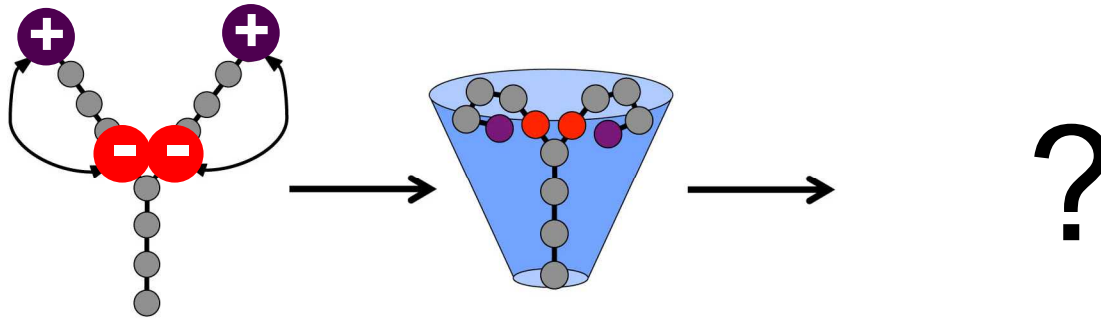


Morphology of self-assembled peptides

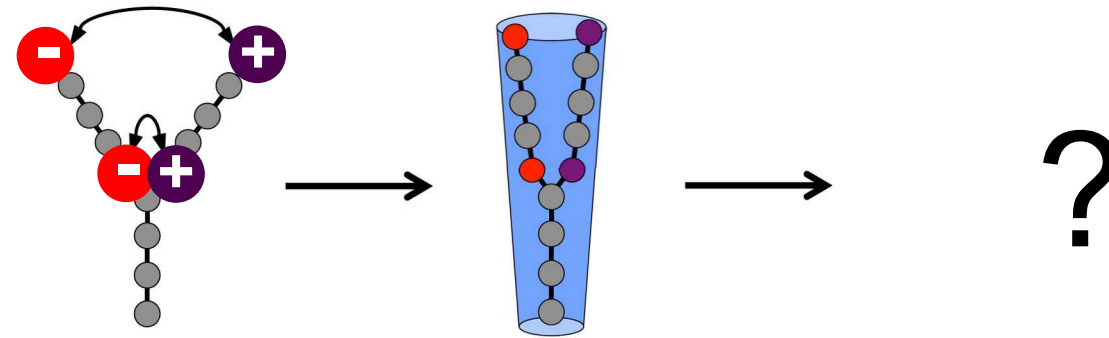
Asymm-Wedge



Symm-Horiz



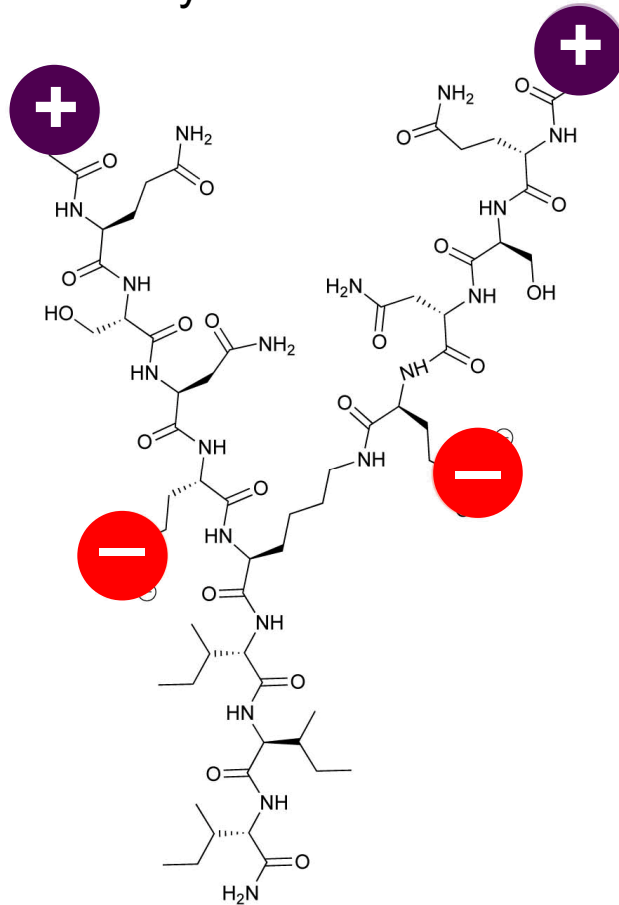
Symm-Vert



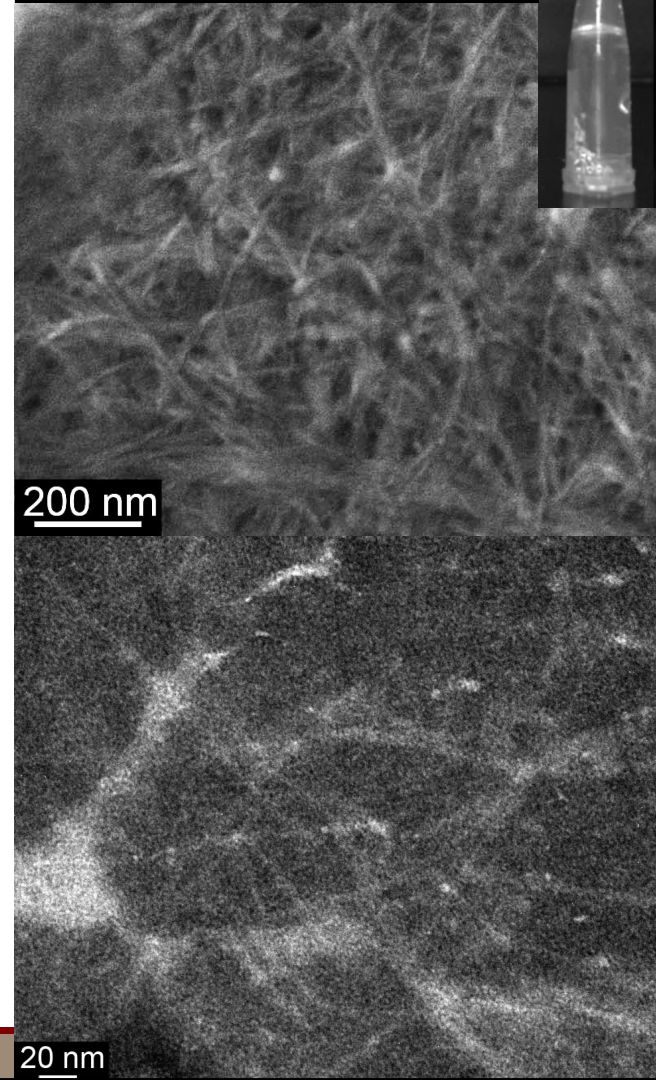
Lateral charge symmetry

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

Symm-Horiz



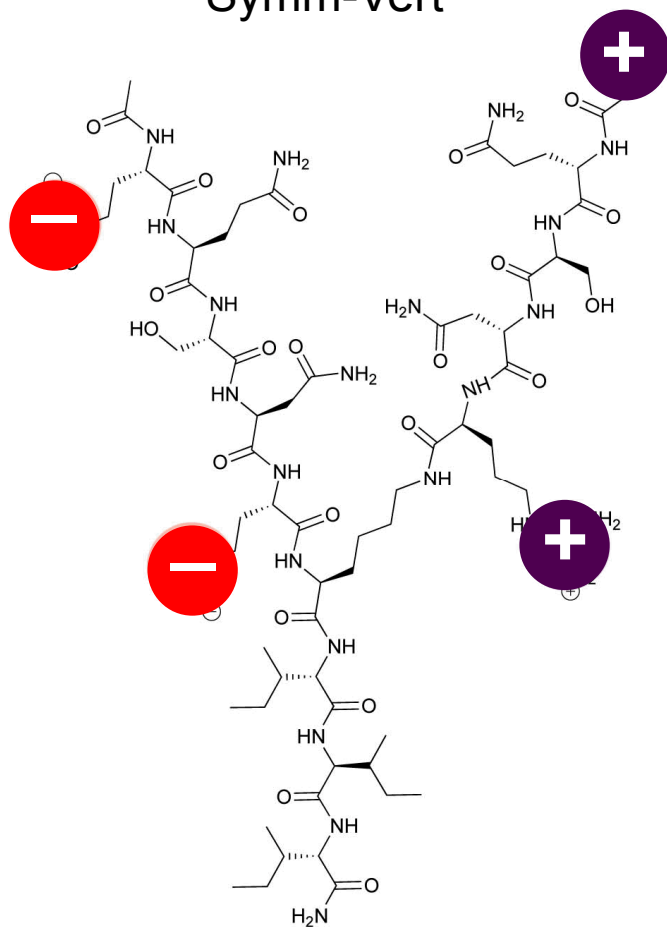
Nanofiber bundles



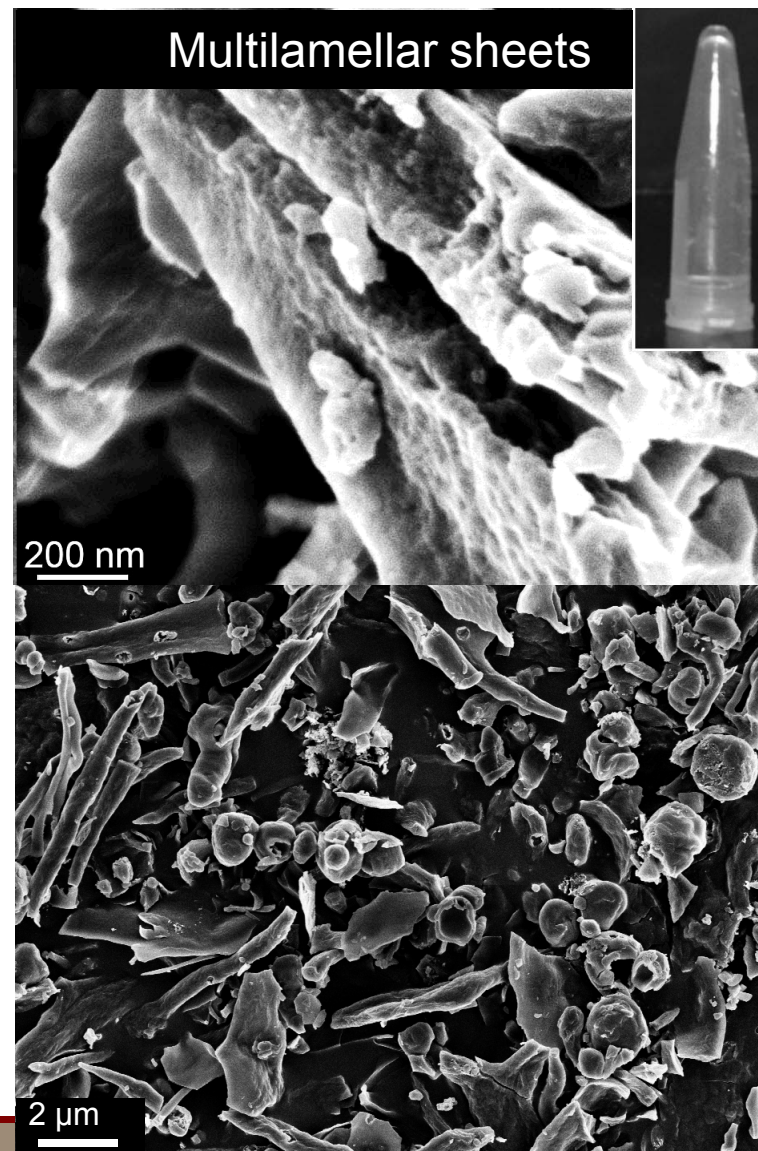
Lateral charge asymmetry

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

Symm-Vert

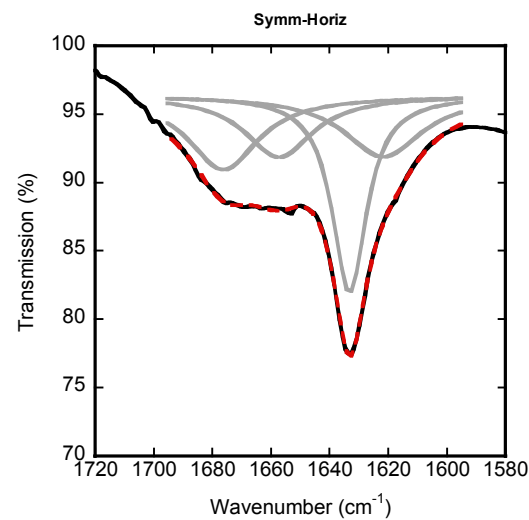
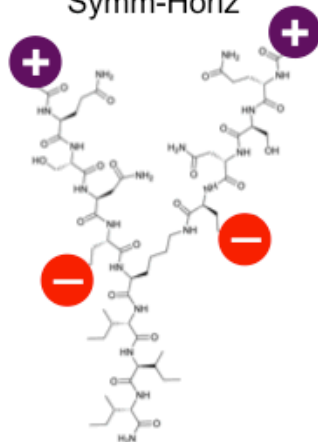


Multilamellar sheets

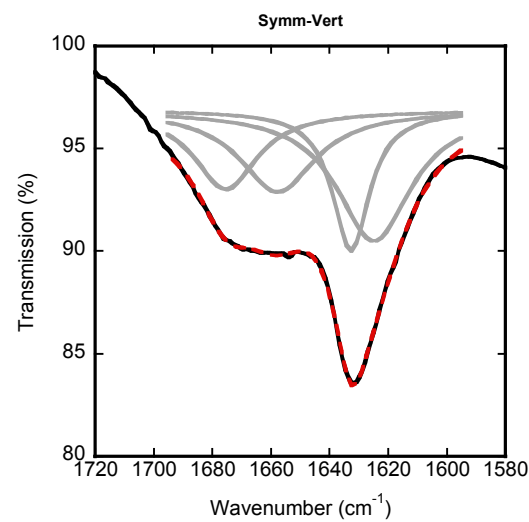
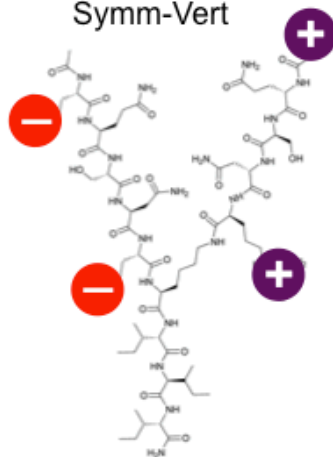


β -sheet formation is observed spectroscopically

Symm-Horiz

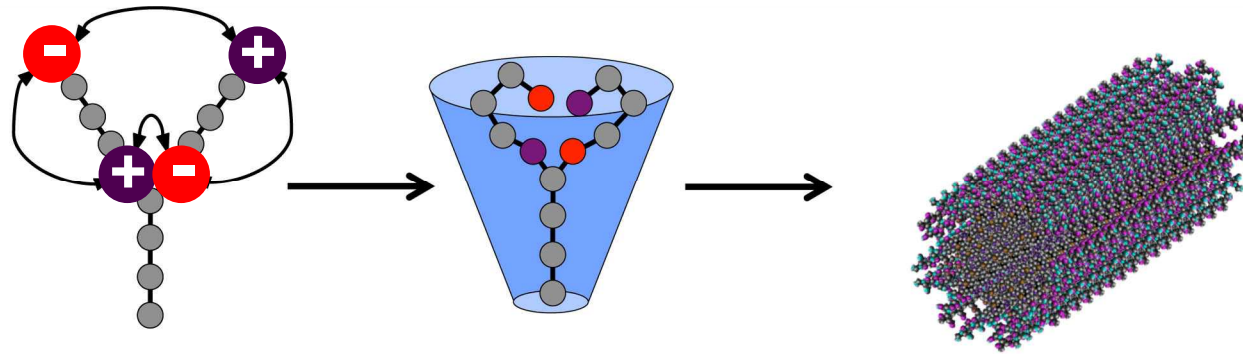


Symm-Vert

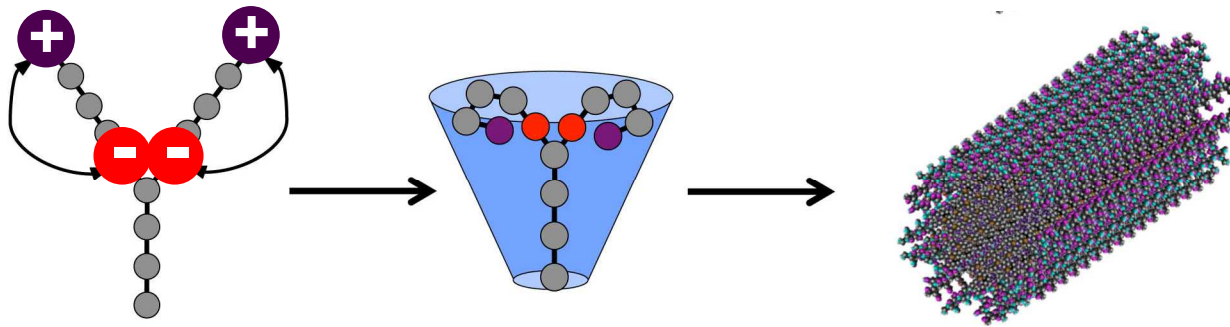


Model for morphologies observed

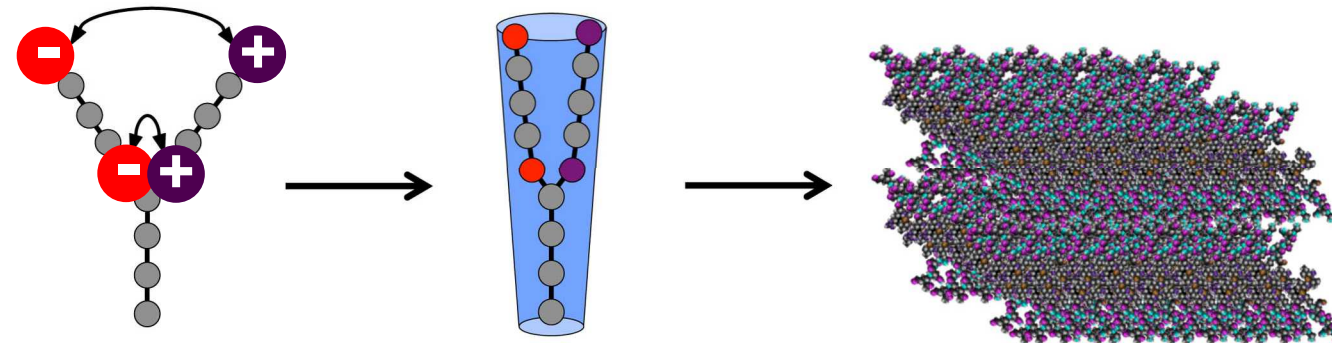
Asymm-Wedge



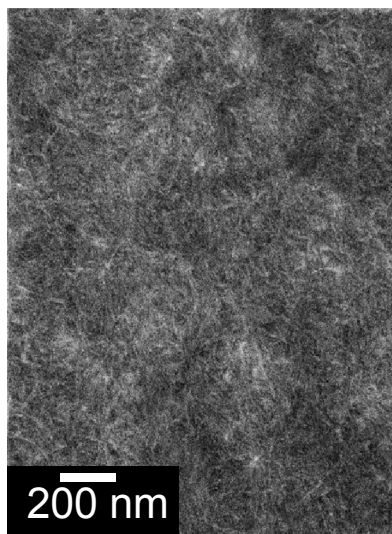
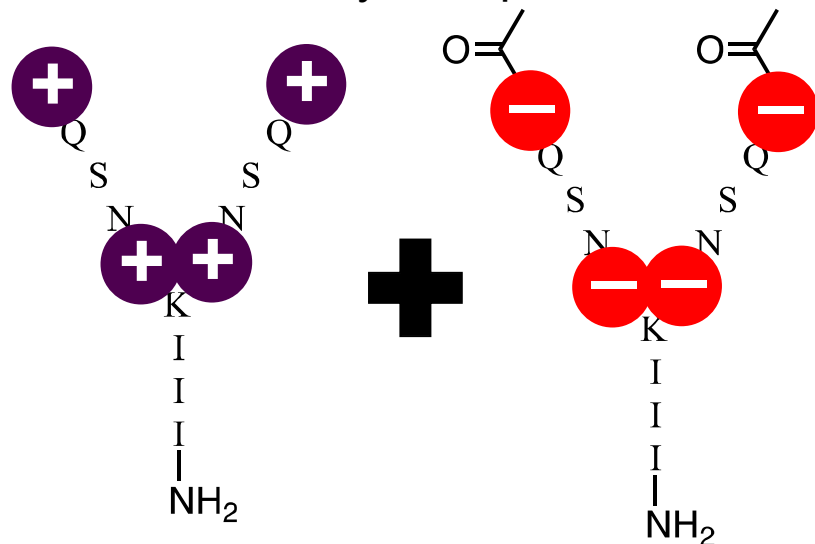
Symm-Horiz



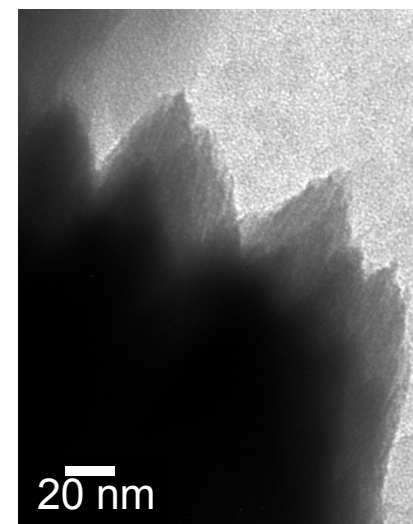
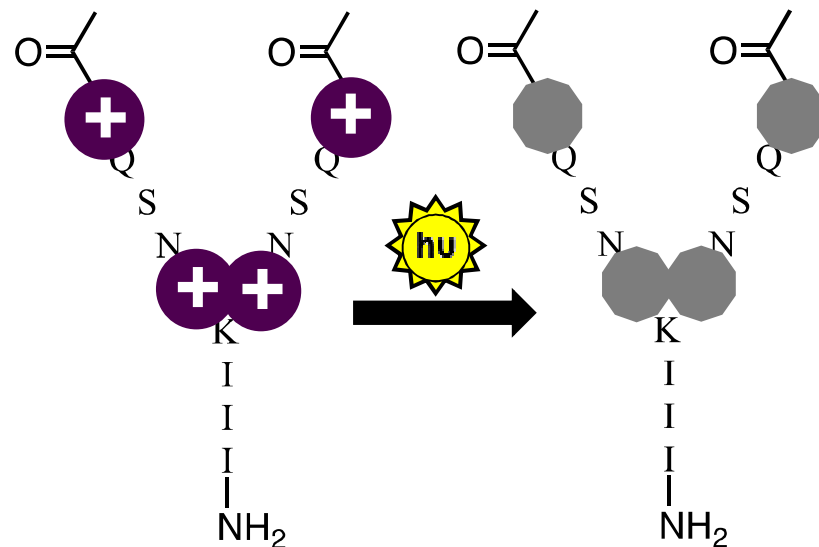
Symm-Vert



Assembly of α , β -dimers

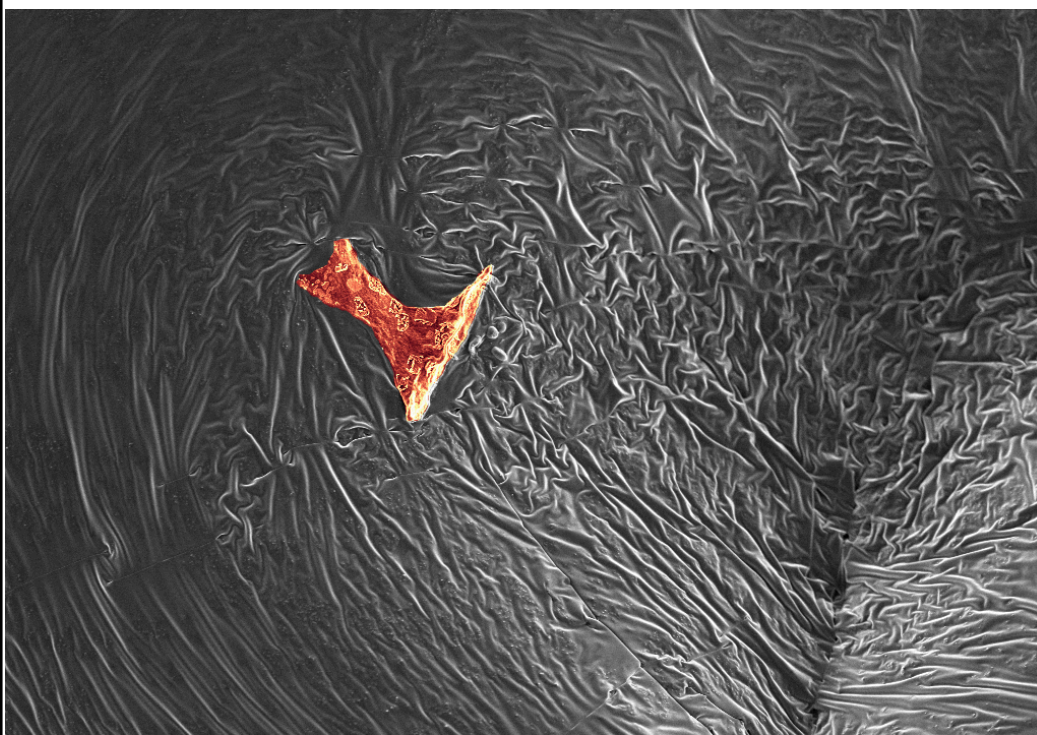


Light activated self-assembly



With D. Wheeler

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

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Erik Spoerke

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Shengfeng Cheng

Bruce Bunker

George Bachand

David Wheeler

Bonnie McKenzie



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

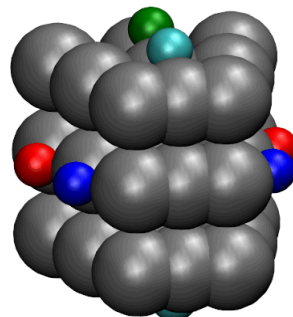


Simulation-Inspired Peptide Wedges

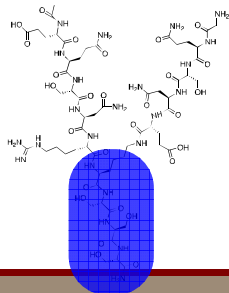
Peptide Wedges provide a unique experimental platform for probing the effects of monomer design on supramolecular assembly.

Variable Parameters:

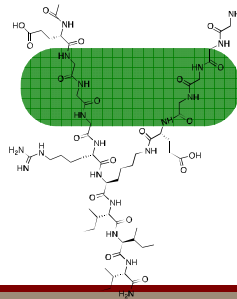
- Peptide size, shape
- Electrostatic charge
- Amphiphilicity
- Hydrogen Bonding
- Molecular Asymmetry



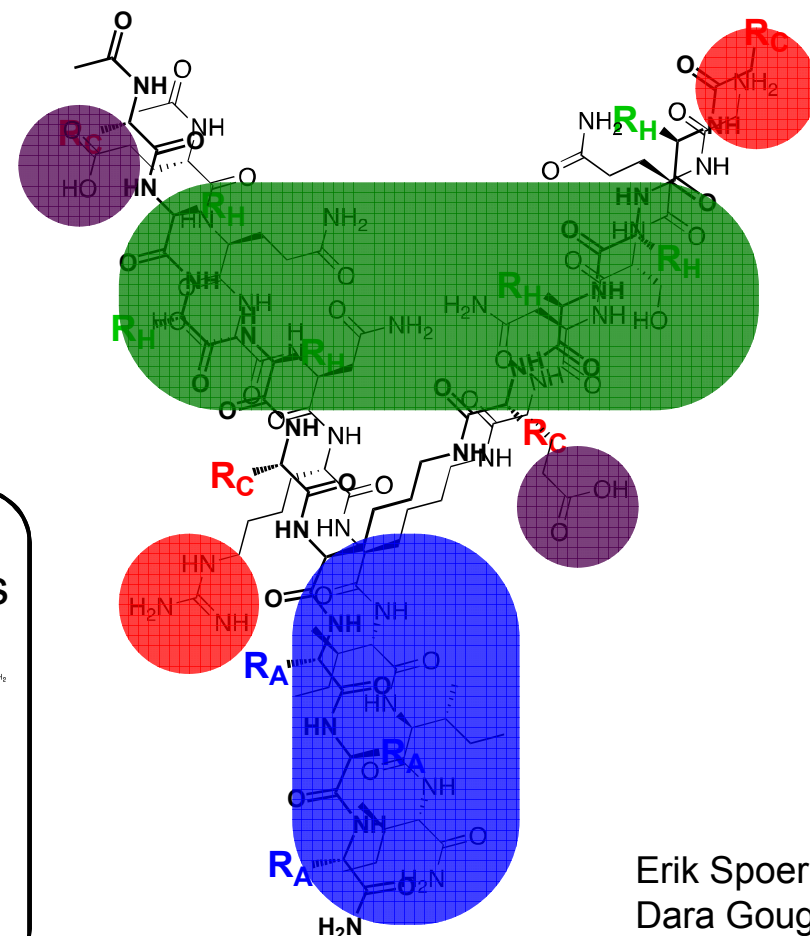
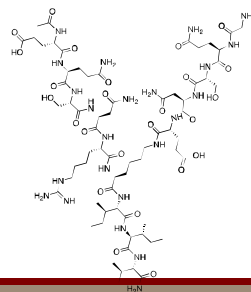
Hydrophilic



Reduced H-Bonding



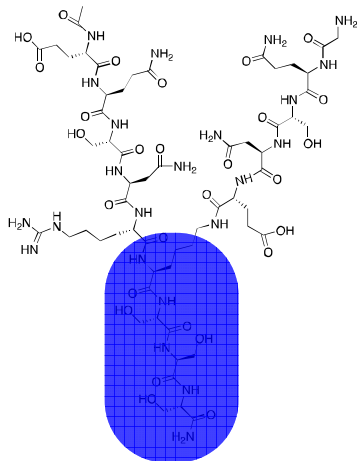
No Modifications



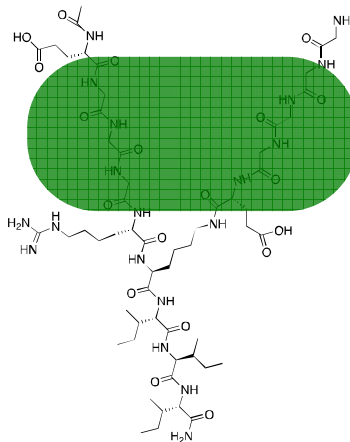
Varying Peptide Composition Affects Molecular Self-Assembly

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

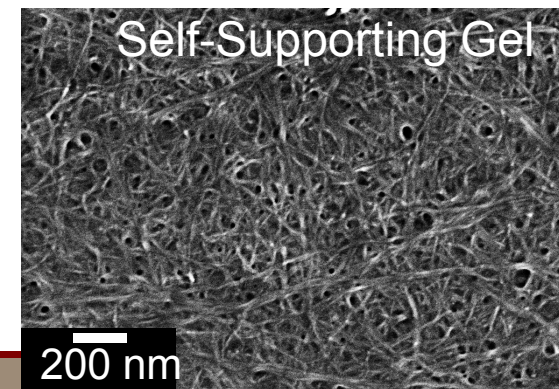
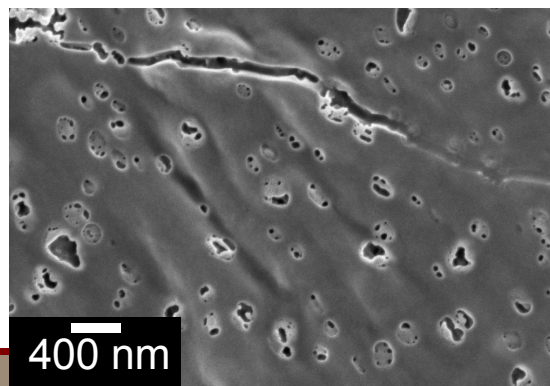
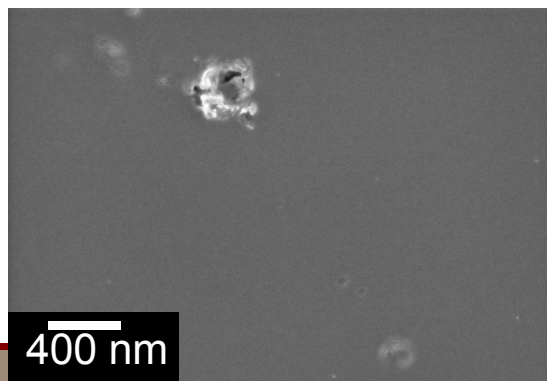
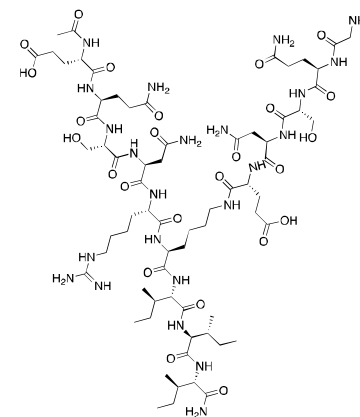
Hydrophilic



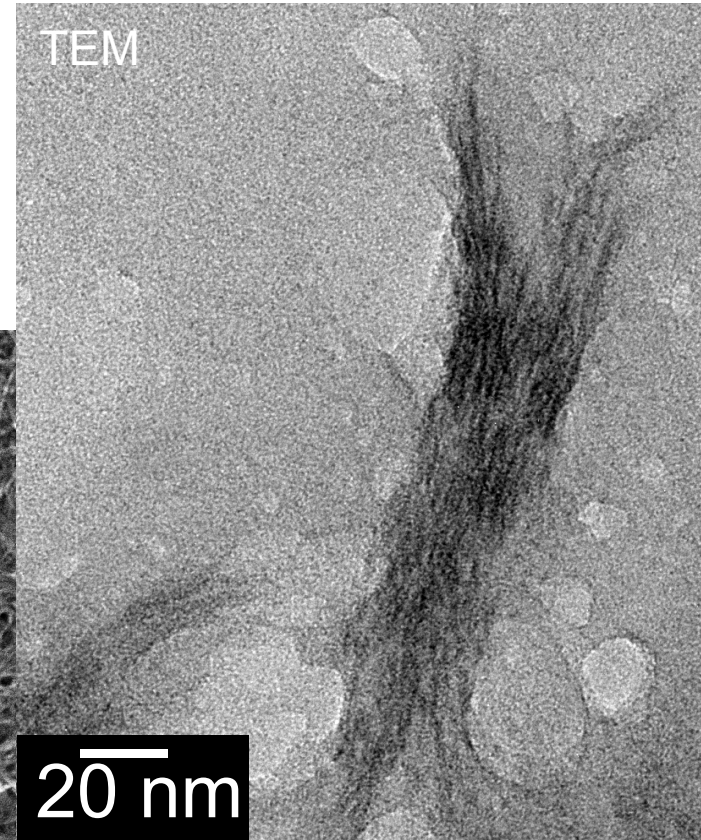
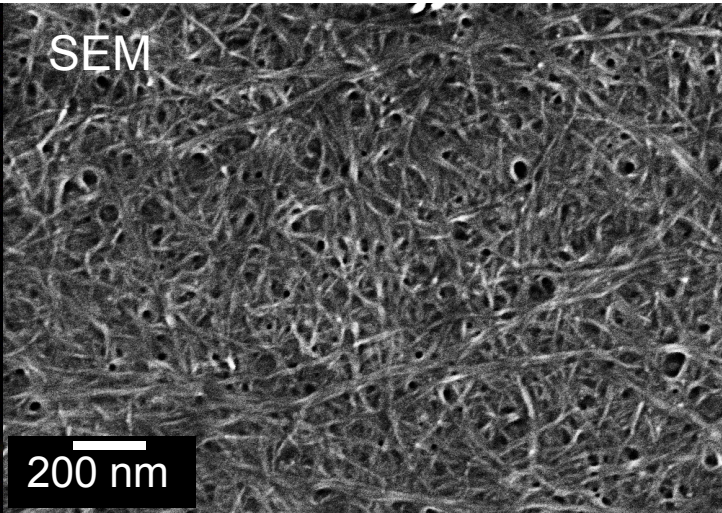
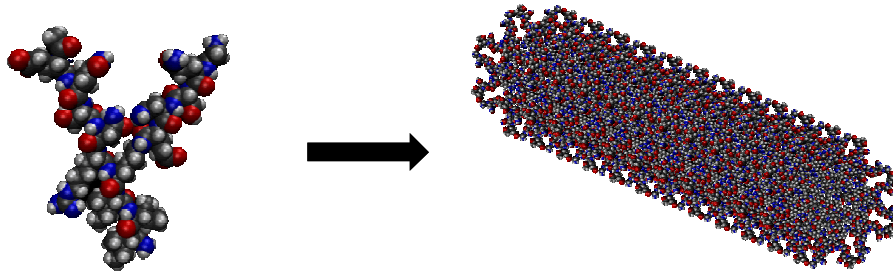
Reduced H-Bonding



Wedge 1



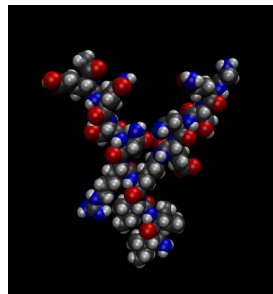
Asymmetric Wedge Assembly into Nanofiber Gels



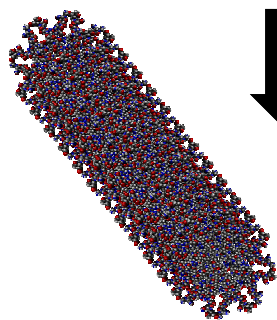
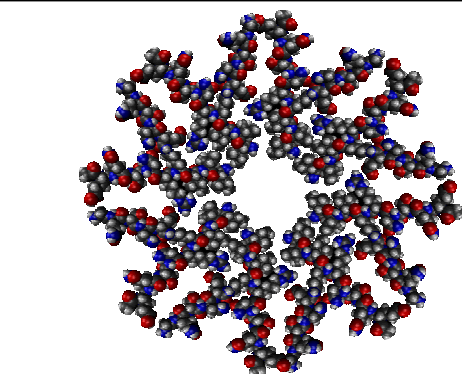
Peptide Wedges with 1) Hydrogen Bonding, 2) Electrostatic Charge, and 3) Amphiphilic Character form self-supporting gels comprising uniform nanofibers

~3.7 nm across

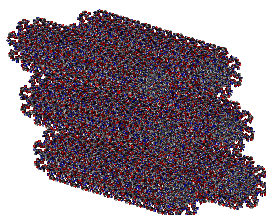
Variable Assembly of Peptide Wedges



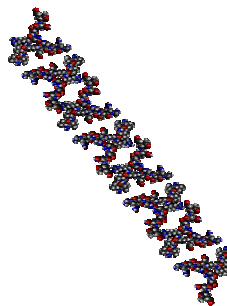
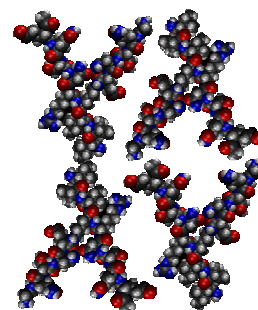
Variations in Wedge structure and chemistry could produce dramatically varied assemblies.



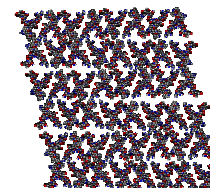
Fibers



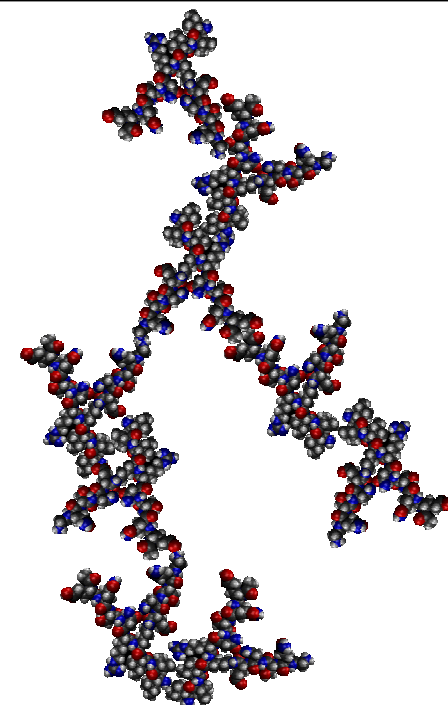
Bundles



Ribbons



Sheets



Random Network