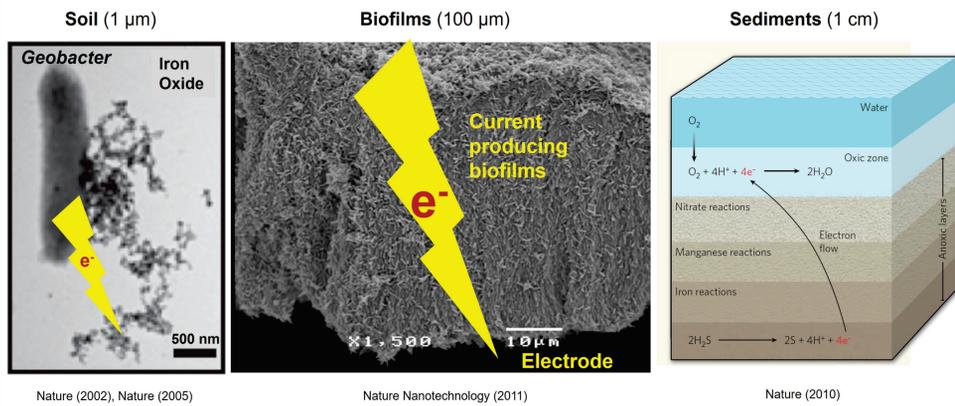




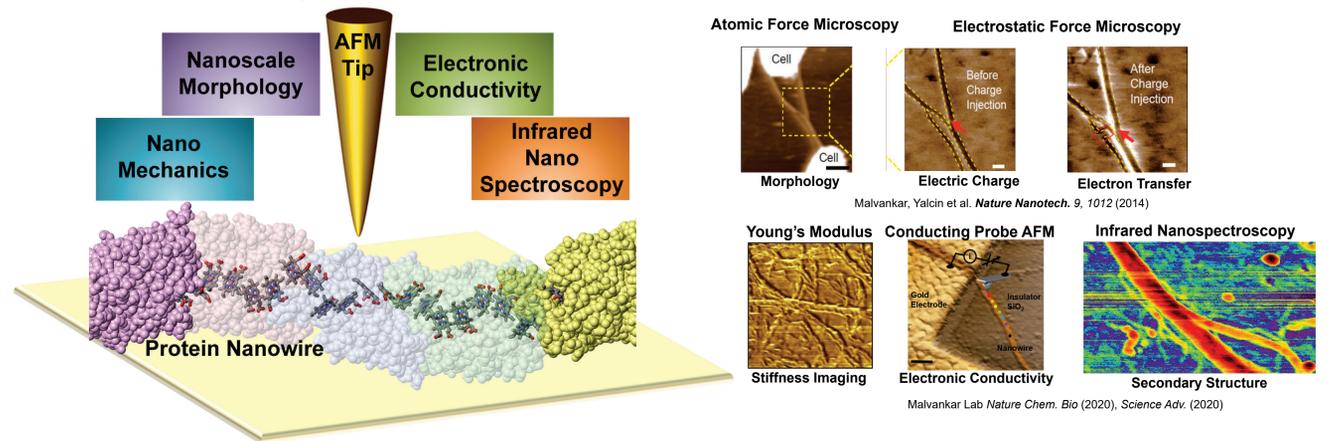
# Electronic control of bacterial behavior via protein nanowires

Nikhil Malvankar Asst. Professor of Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry, Microbial Sciences Institute, Yale

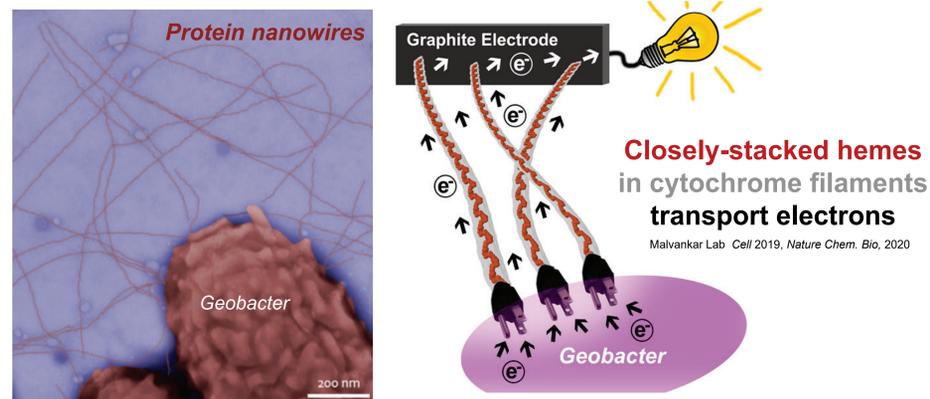
Many environmentally-important bacteria respire by exhaling electrons over 100-10,000 times their size using protein nanowires as a snorkel



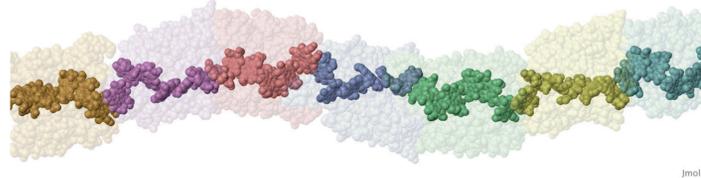
## Multimodal Imaging of Bacterial Electron Transfer with Nanowire Structure and Functions



We have found that these nanowires are made up of cytochromes

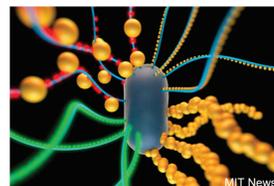


Protein surrounding hemes functions as insulation for nanowires

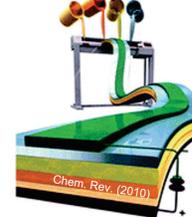


## Bacteria-powered Multifunctional Materials and Technologies based on Protein Nanowires

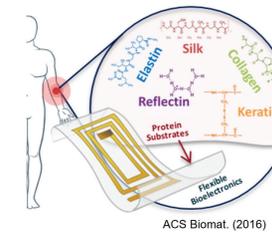
**Bacterial Factory**  
Electronics & Photonics



**Fast & Scalable Synthesis**  
5 seconds for 1GB Chip



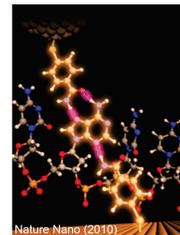
**Flexible**



**Regenerative Electronics**



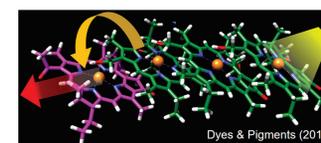
**DNA Sequencing**



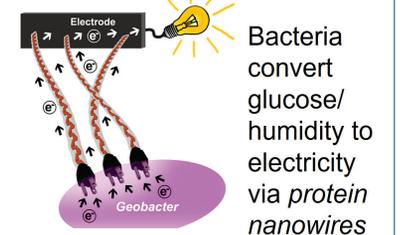
**Computing**



**Light Harvesting**



**Self-Powered Body Sensors**



Secretion & Polymerization Machinery

Biologists

## Protein Nanowire Lab @ Yale

Synthetic Nanowires

Chemists

Design Principles

Theory/Modeling

Assembly apparatus

Structural Biologist

Blind men & the filament: Understanding structure & function of microbial nanowires. *Current Opinion in Chemical Biology* (2020)

Conduction Mechanism

Physicist

### Three major research themes

- Nanowire diversity and biological role:** We are finding that nanowires are widespread in diverse bacterial species and are used for a broad range of physiological and ecological functions.
- Assembly machinery:** We are identifying the nanowire assembly machinery using genetic tools combined with x-ray crystallography and cryo-electron microscopy and tomography.
- Conductivity Mechanism:** Existing models of biological electron transfer cannot fully explain such high conductivity in proteins. We are building a new fundamental framework by performing conductivity measurements as a function of several physical and chemical probes.

JOIN US! Our highly interdisciplinary team is solving many mysteries of bacterial nanowires

Yangqi Gu  
Vishok Srikanth  
Joey Erwin  
Fadel Samatey (RS)  
Cong Shen  
Aldo Salazar Morales  
Yuri Londer (RS)

Biochemistry/  
Structural  
Biology

Molecular  
Biology/  
Microbiology

## Protein Nanowires Lab

Biophysics  
/Chemistry

Theory/  
Computation

RS: Research Scientist; PD: Postdoc

Catharine Shipp  
Sophia Yi (PD)  
Jens Neu (PD)  
Sibel E. Yalcin (RS)  
Jackie Mendes (Tech)  
Peter Dahl, Guna M.  
Matthew Pfeffer (PD)



Collaborators:  
Victor Batista (Theory)  
Gary Brudvig (EPR)  
Isaacs (Synthetic Biology)

Please come chat with us to match your interests with our training opportunities. Rotation projects are experimentally or computationally oriented with possibilities of combining both and no background in a specific discipline is necessary.