

# TOWARD NANOWARE DEVICES

--utilizing nanofibers--

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# ICAFPM 2019

**THE 9<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON ADVANCED FIBERS  
AND POLYMER MATERIALS**



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# PREAMBLE

Adjustment and control of nanofiber diameter.

A powerful way to see atoms inside segments of polymer molecules.

Polymer molecules that are fundamental to biology and life.

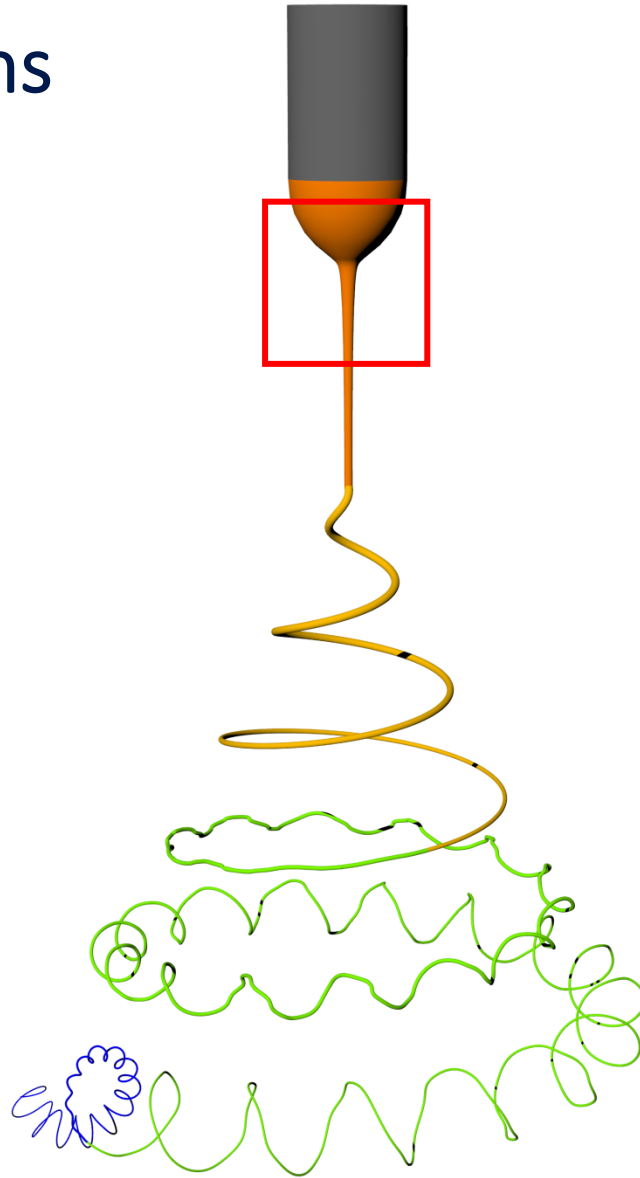
What evolved protein molecules can do with electric forces.

Leading to scaffolds and devices for biological applications.

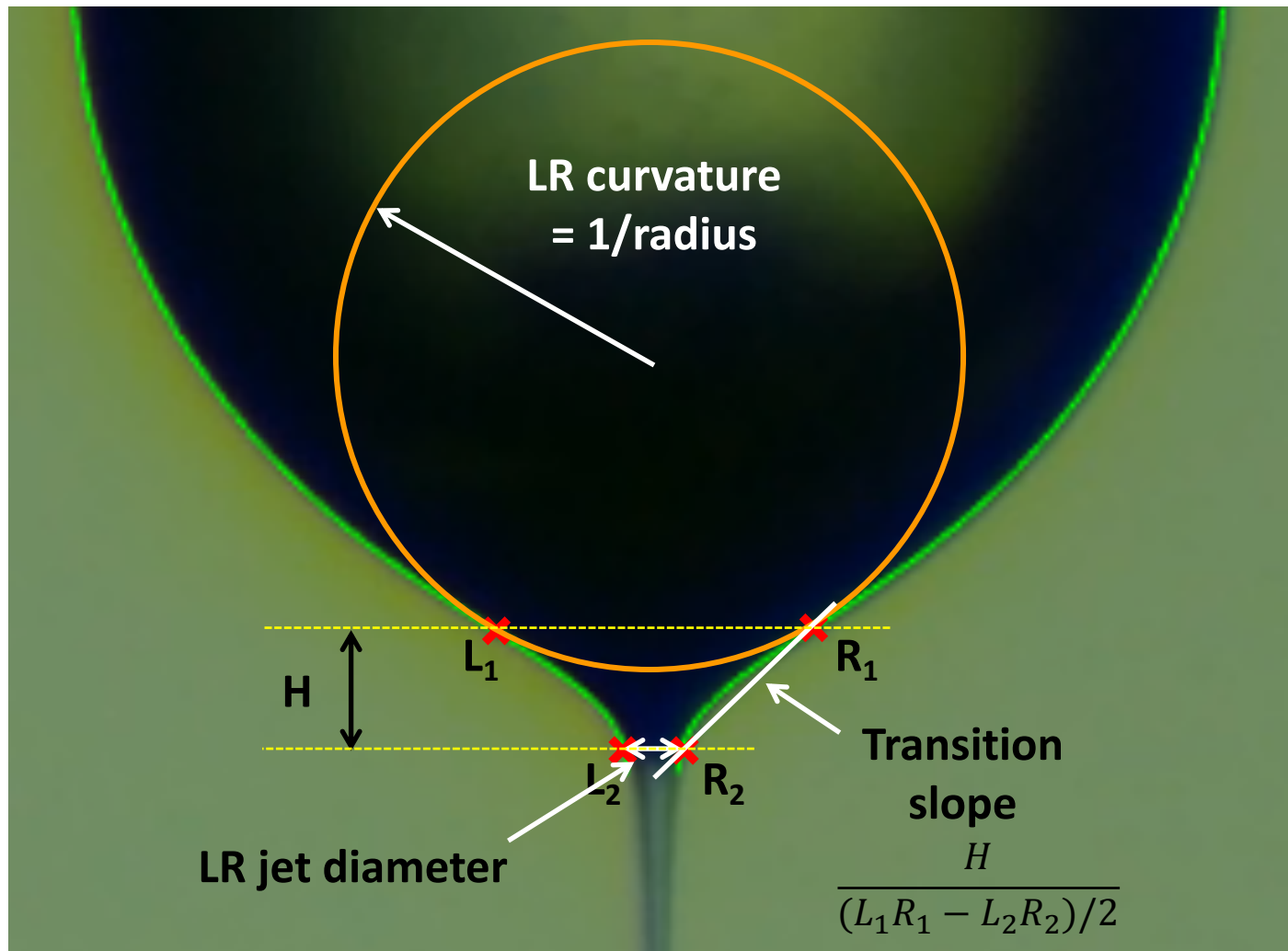


# **Adjustable Control of Nanofiber Diameter**

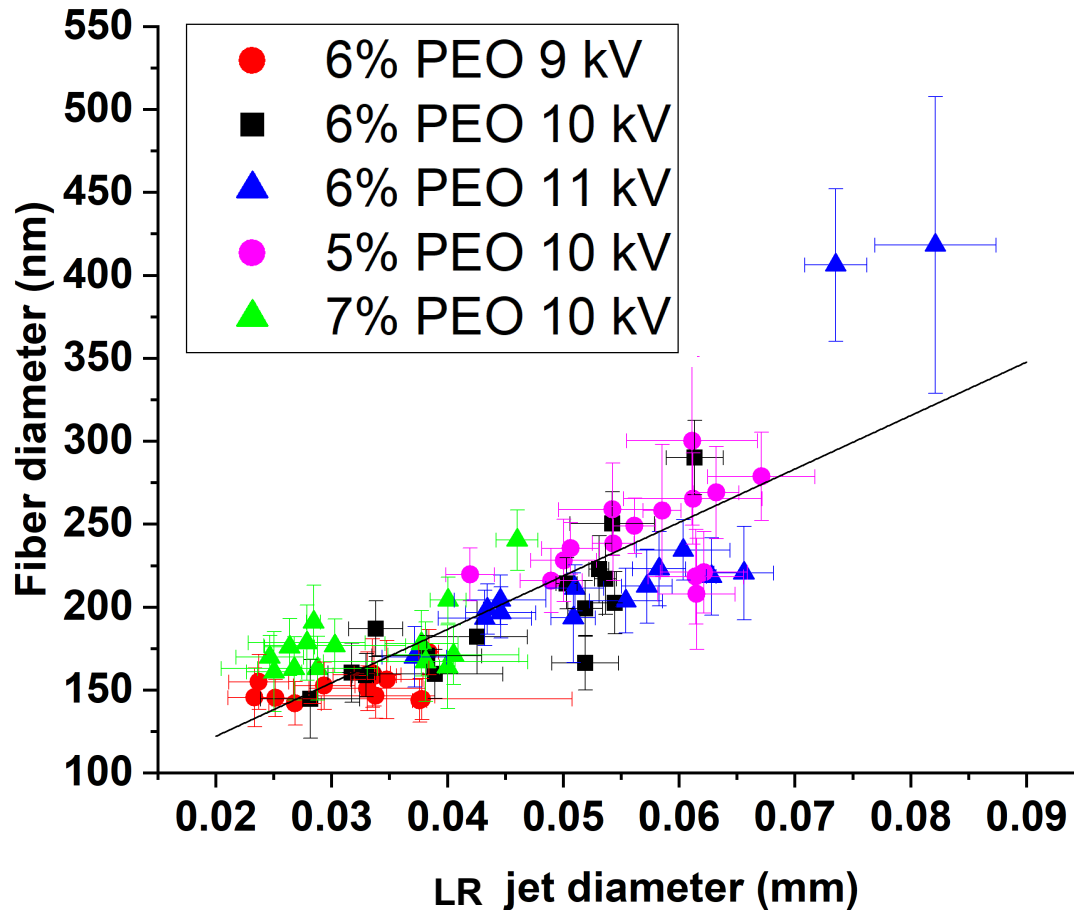
# Transformations



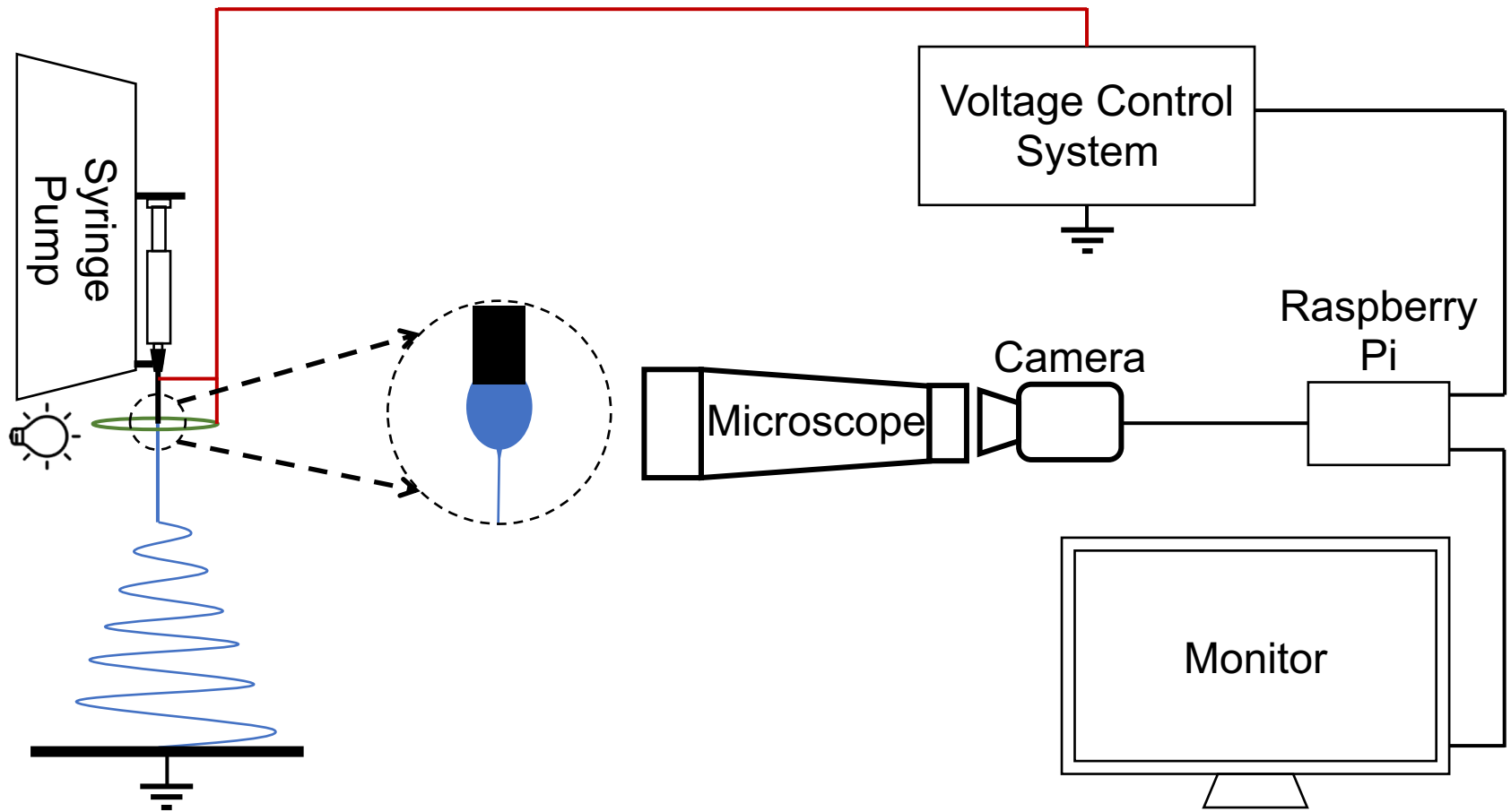
# Definition of three shape parameters



Correlation between fiber diameter and initial jet diameter is not affected by the variation in voltage or in the concentration of polymer solution



# Online controlled electrospinning



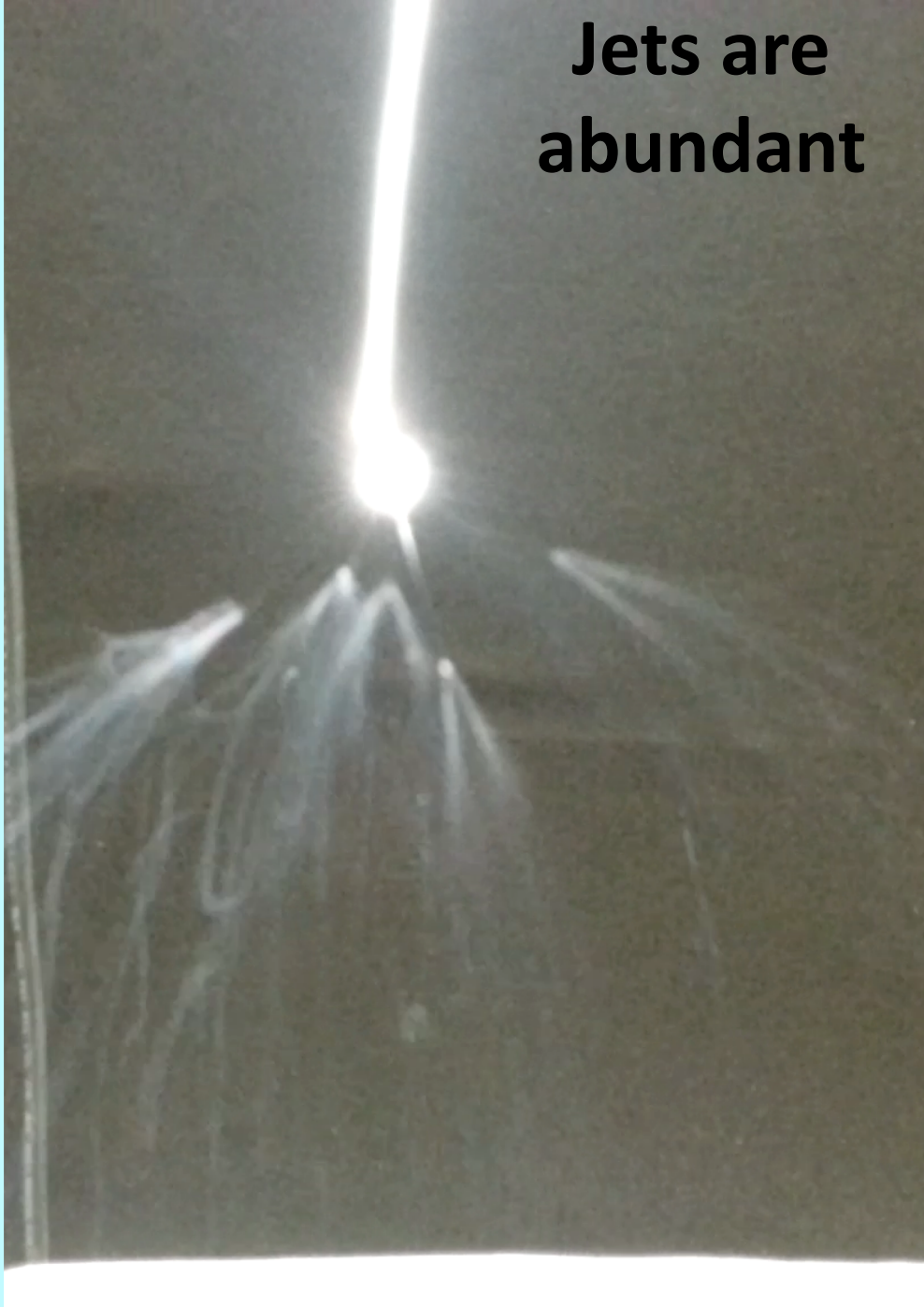




# **Inside nanofibers**



**Jets are  
abundant**



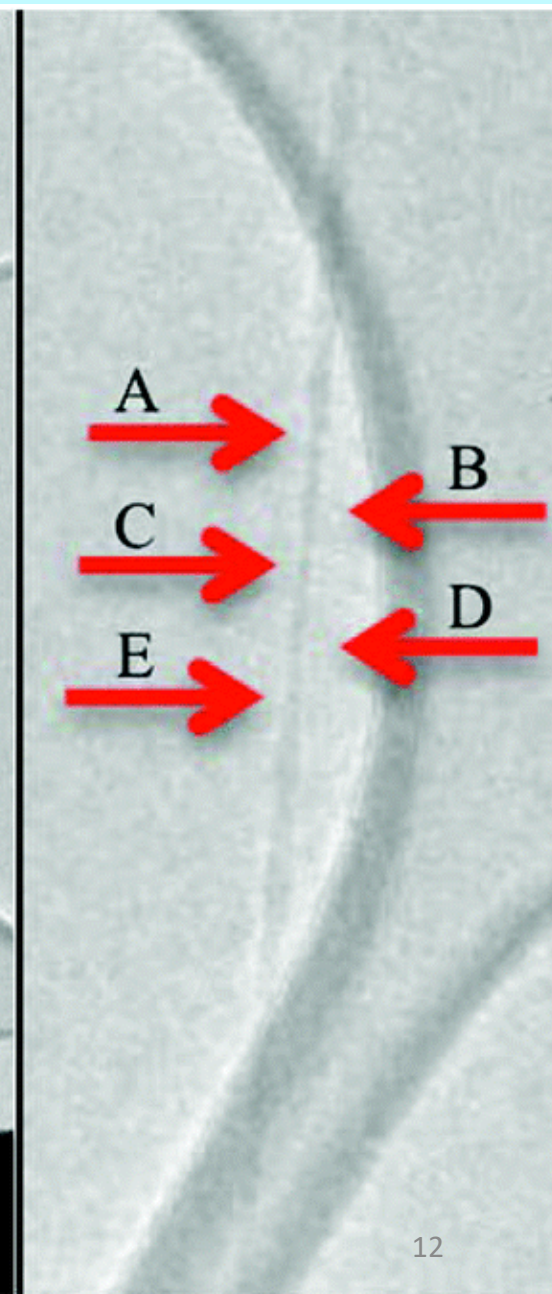
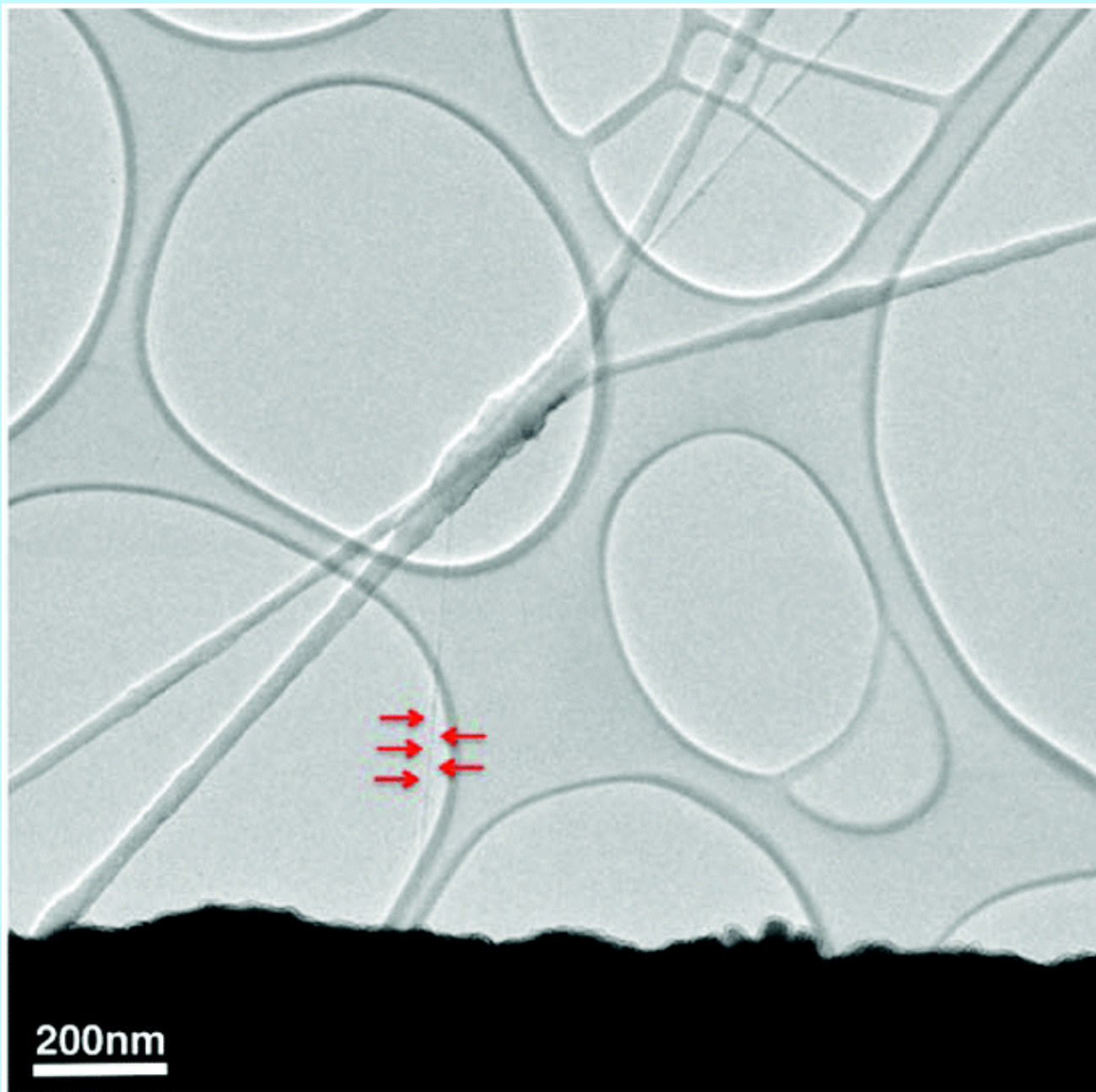




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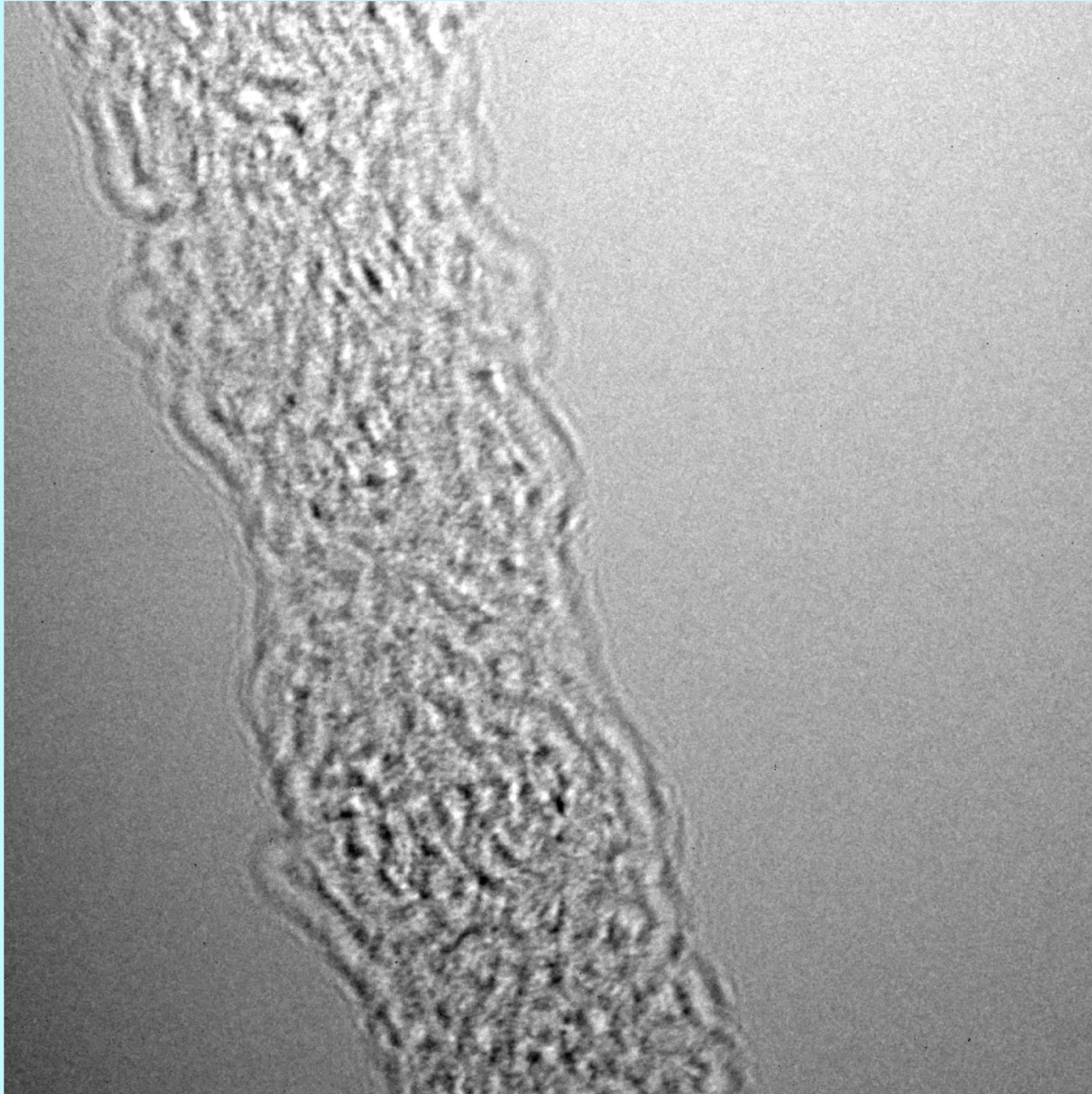


# Grid, lacey film, nanofibers, thinner nanofibers

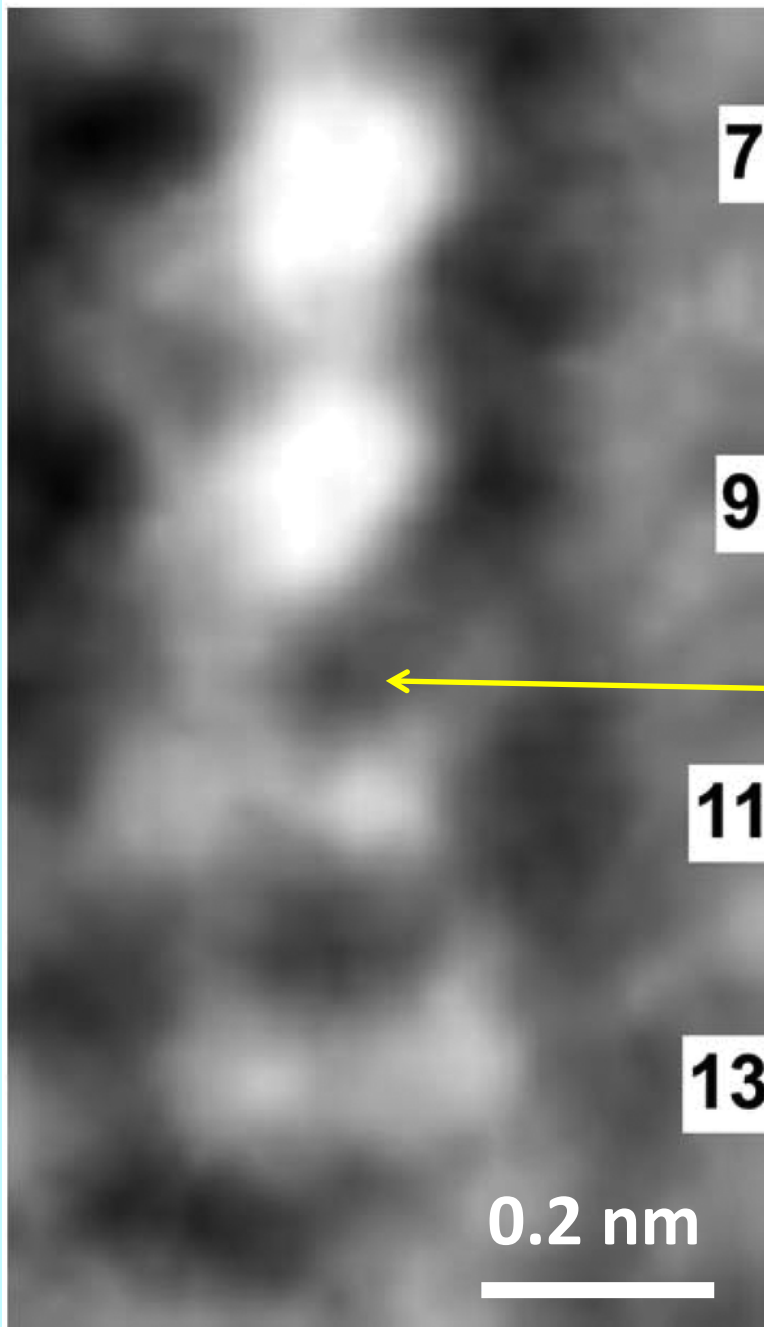




# Movie (through focus)



# Twisted and bent PVDF molecule



7 and 9 each show two superimposed fluorine atoms.

**Twist**

The four dimmer dots at 11 and at 13 are fluorine atoms separated by a center-to-center horizontal distance of 0.2 nm (2 angstroms).

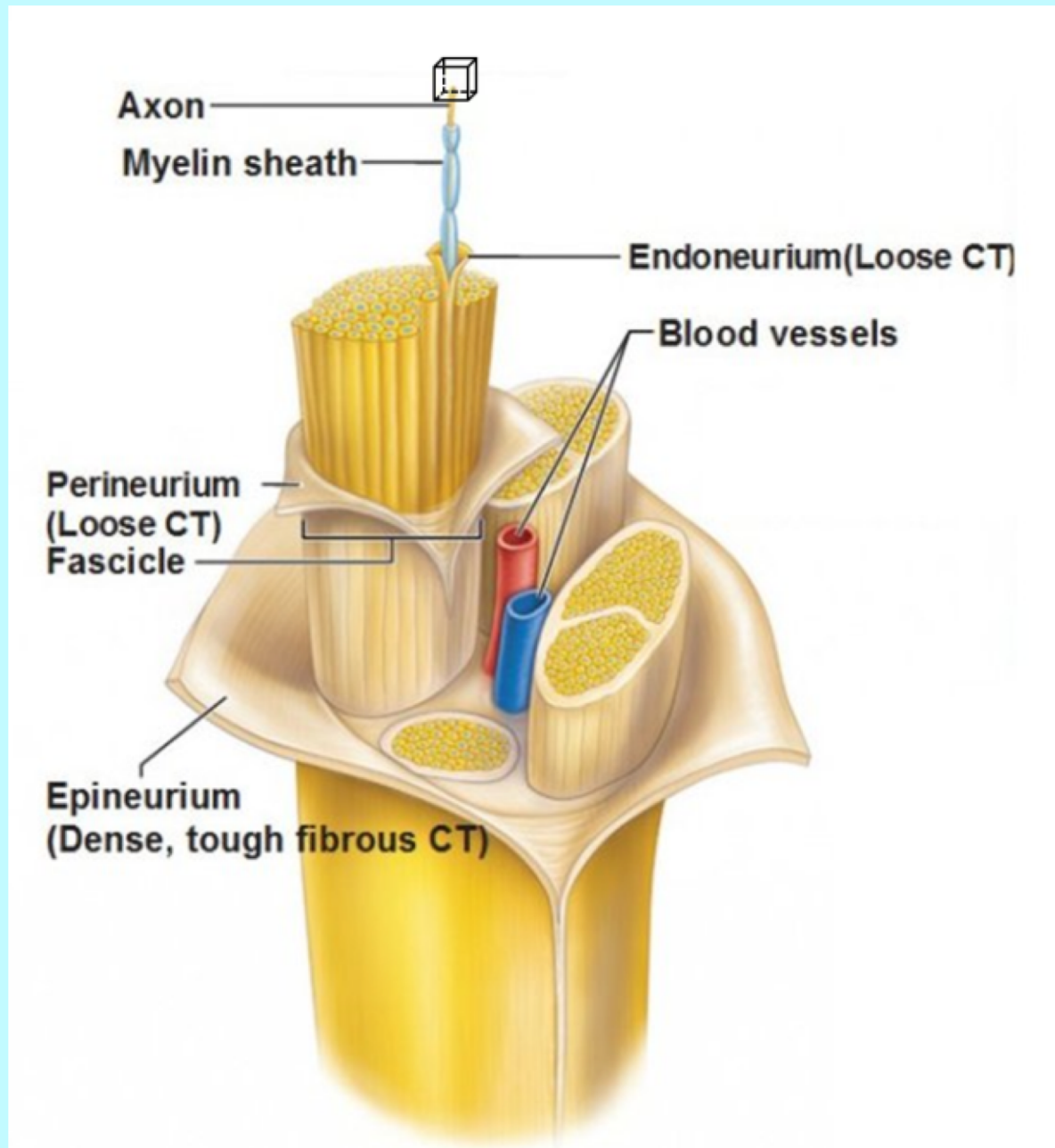
# Nanoware

such as conducting nanofibers  
which function like evolved  
protein in eels and nerves





Catania, Kenneth. "The shocking predatory strike of the electric eel." *Science* 346, no. 6214 (2014): 1231-1234.



Tubulin  
molecules  
~ 8nm

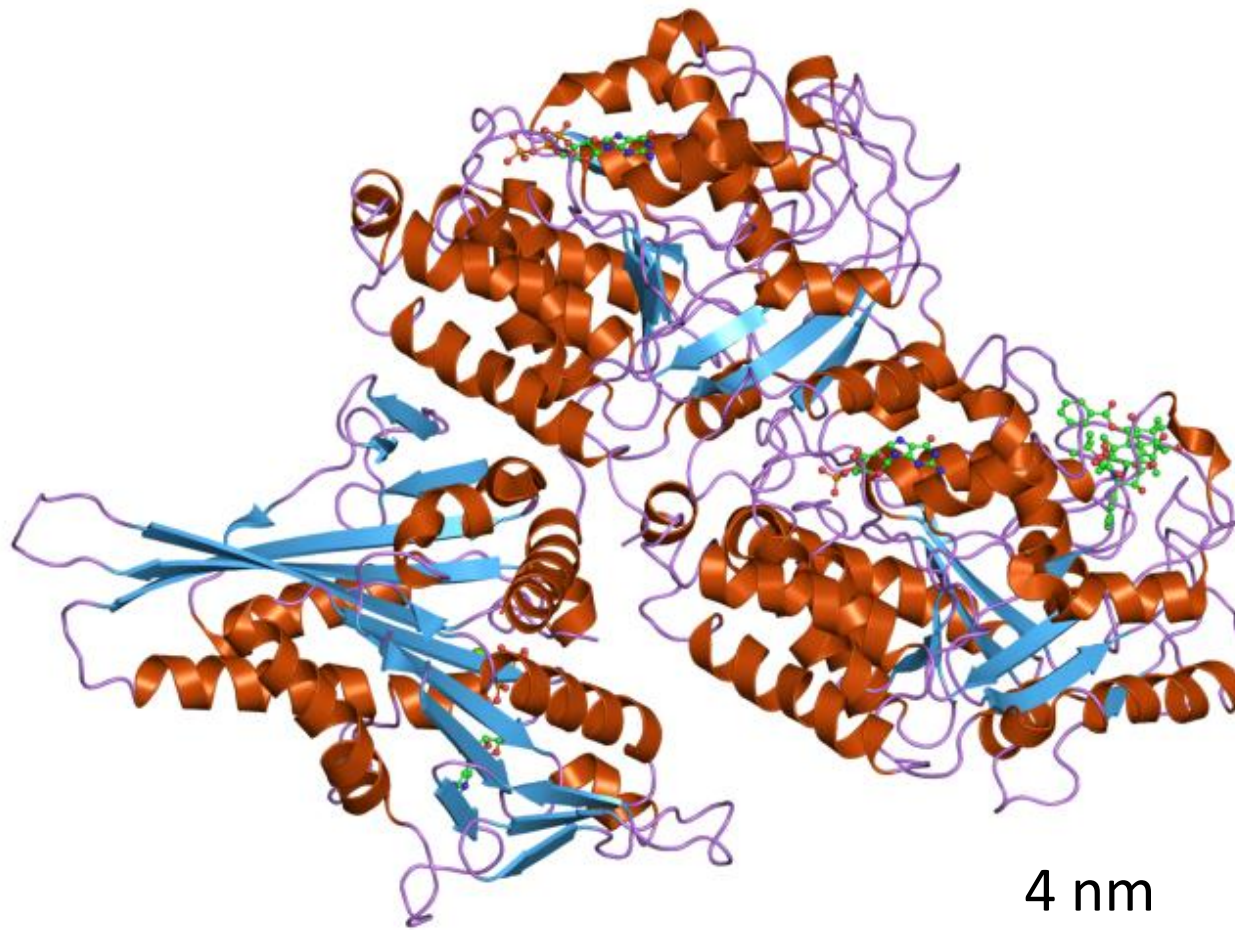
*polymerization*

Microtubules  
~1-100 $\mu$ m

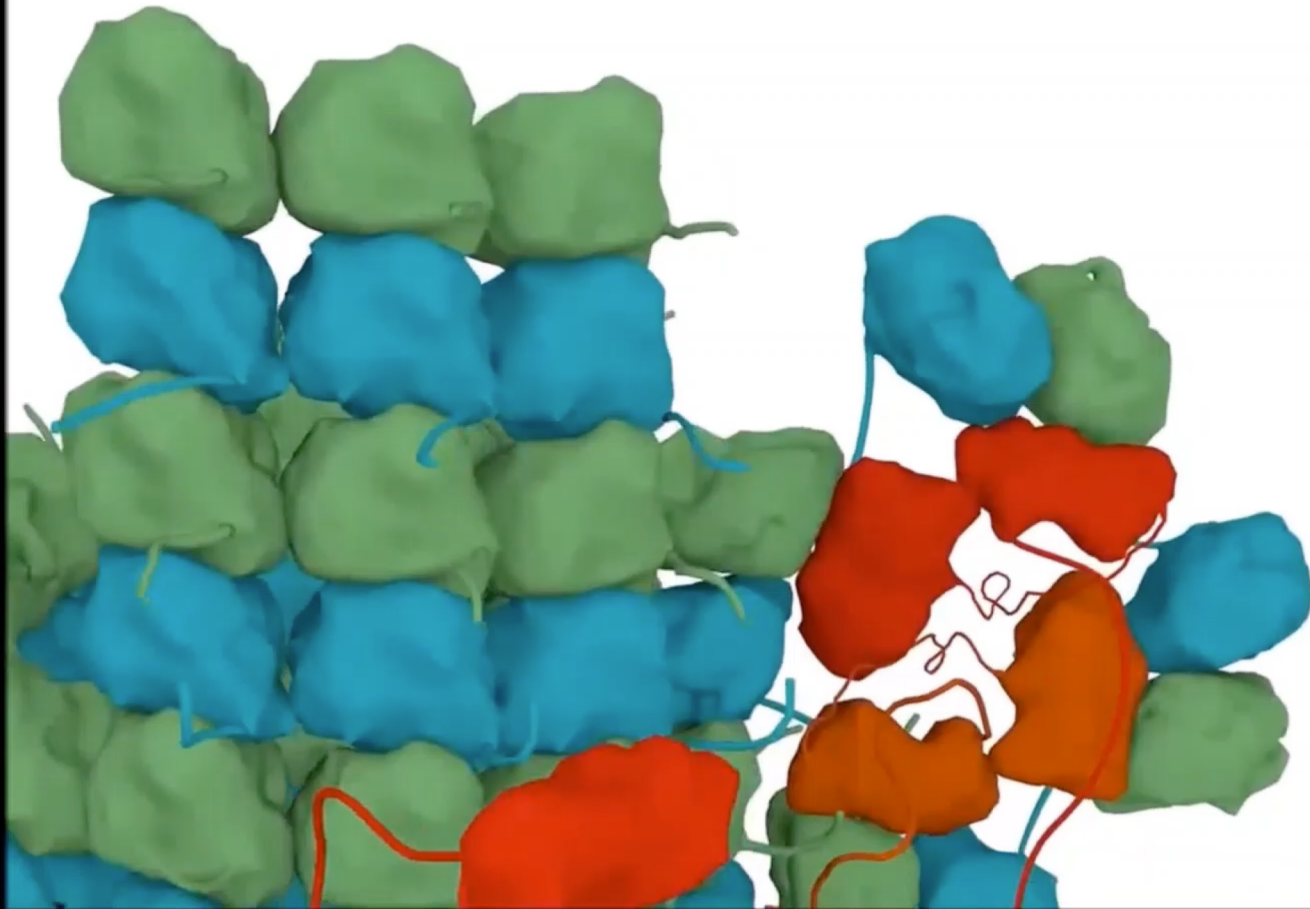
*depolymerization*







4 nm

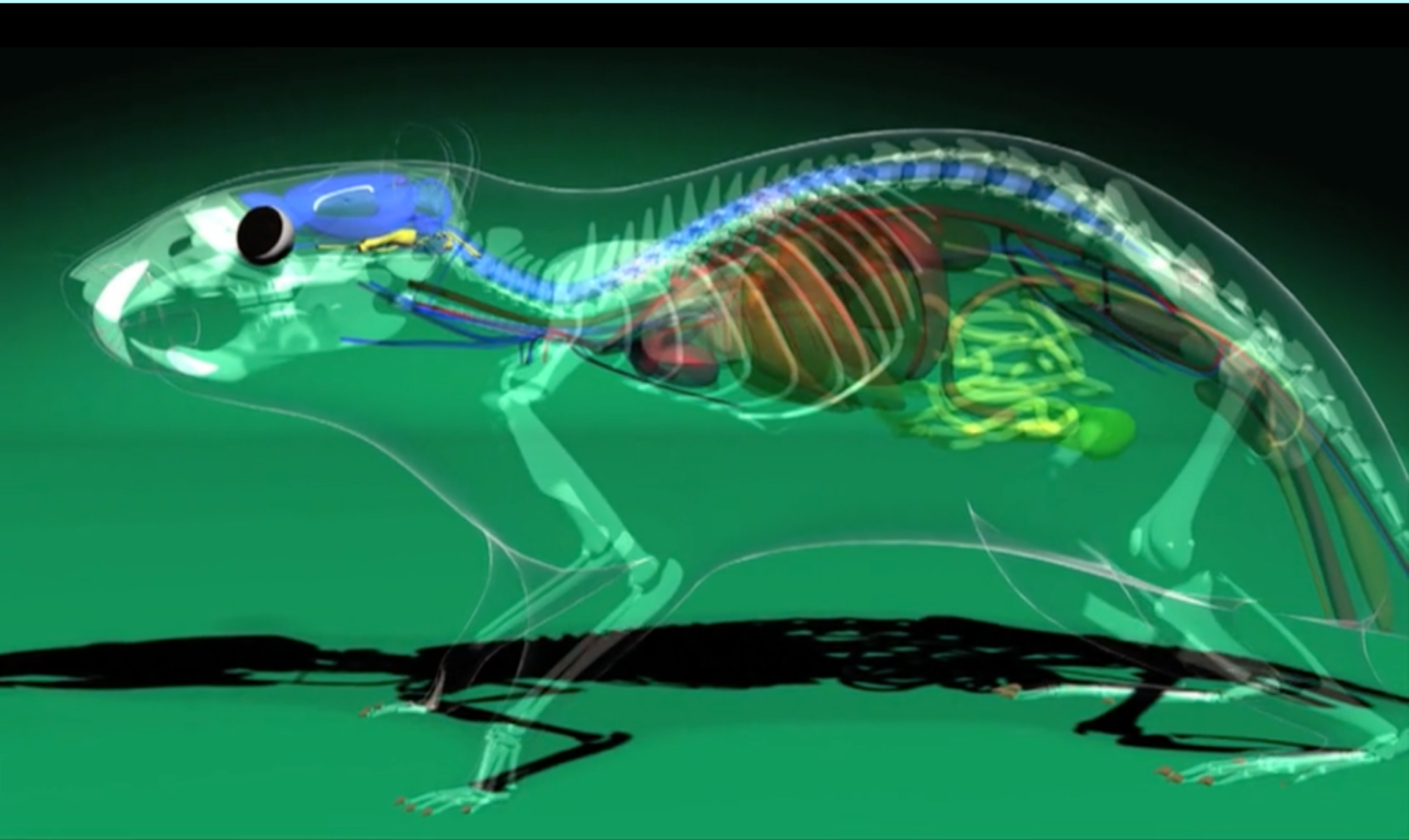


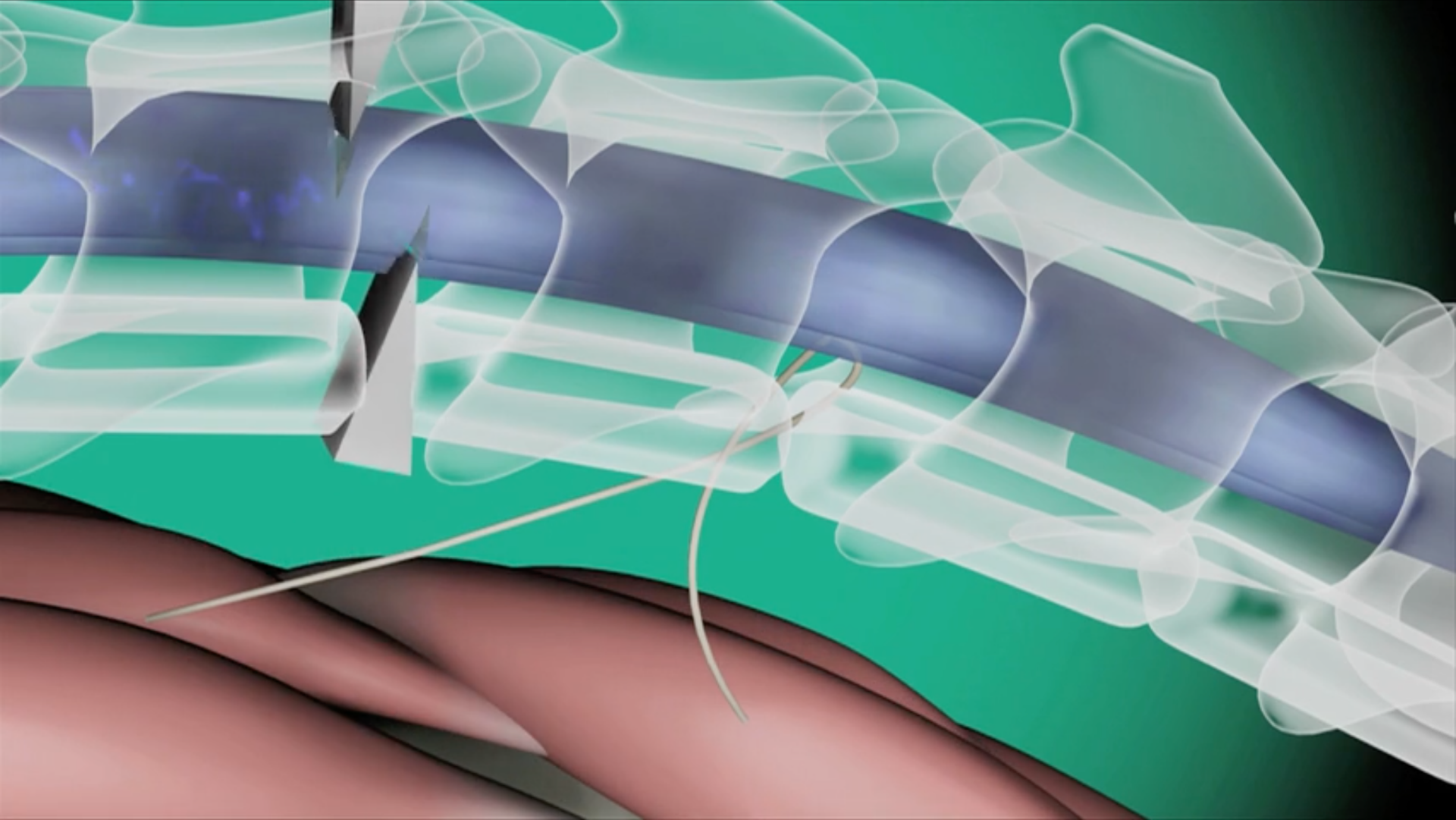
A man with dark hair, wearing a white button-down shirt, is speaking and gesturing with his hands. He is positioned in front of a window with a view of dense green foliage. The text 'REPAIR OF CUT NERVES' is overlaid in white on the right side of the image.

# REPAIR OF CUT NERVES

Grégoire Courtine  
Swiss Federal Institute of technology (EPFL)

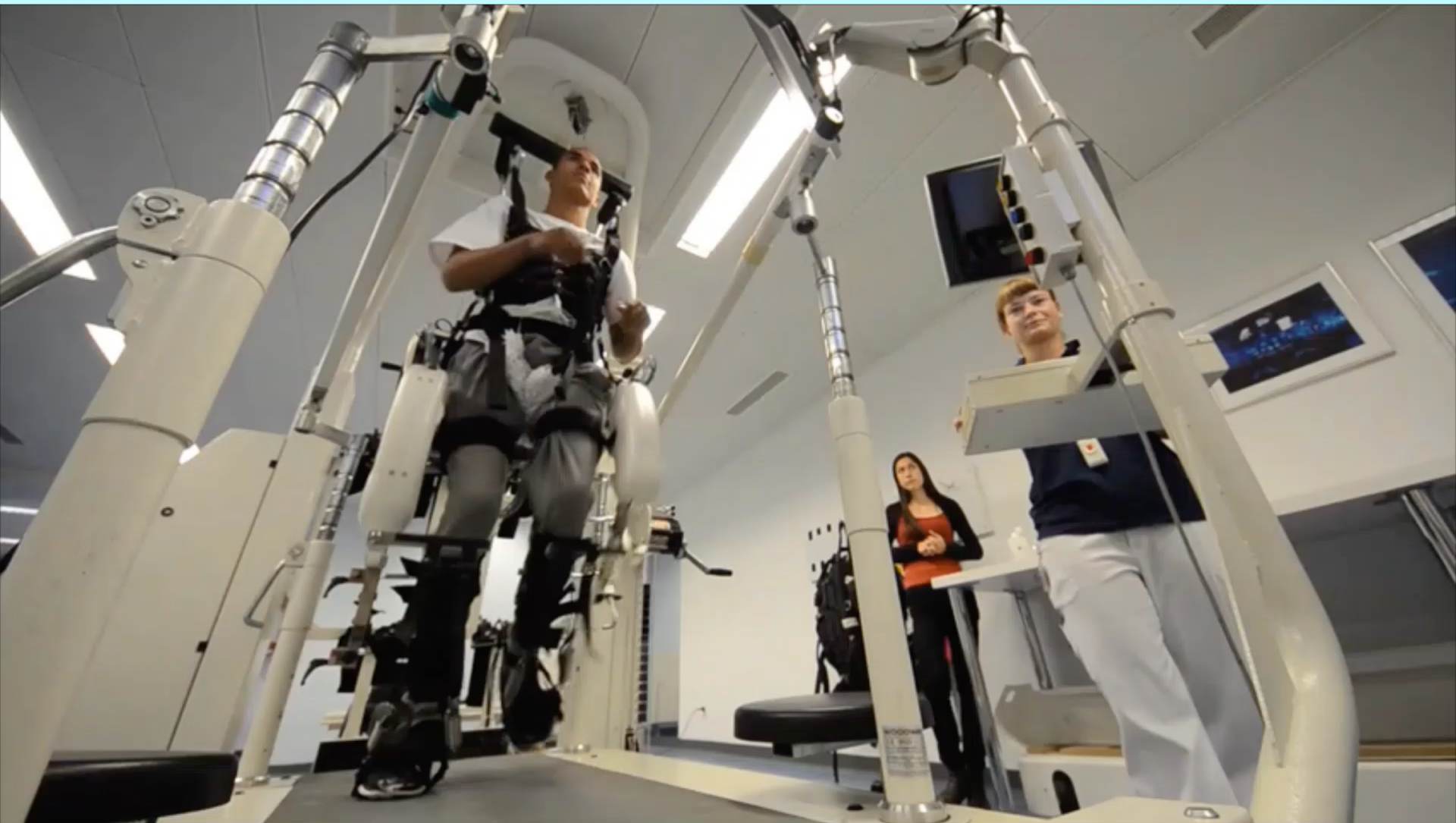












Could we use bundles of conducting nanofibers to splice severed nerves, to restore function without all the external hardware?



# Acknowledgements

- All my students and postdocs
- Colleagues
- The University of Akron
- Donghua University
- Everyone who has inspired me, criticized me, used my work and from whom I have adopted ideas

You saw atoms inside segments of polymer molecules.

Adjustment and control of nanofiber diameter.

What evolved protein molecules can do with electric forces.

Leading to scaffolds and devices for biological applications.

**THE END**