

# Integrating Biology and Microsystems

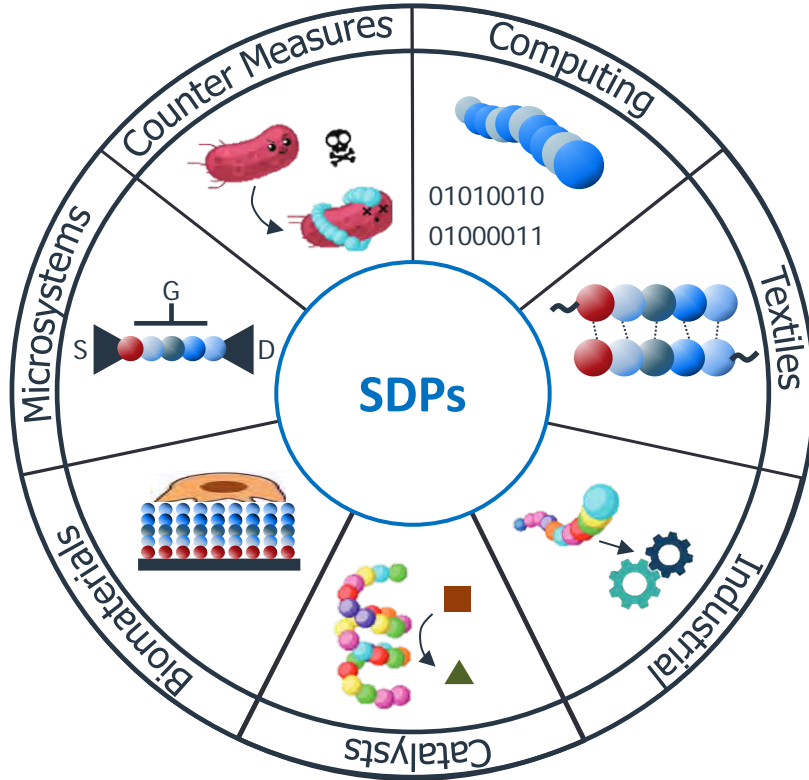
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Dr. John Hoffman, Program Manager, DARPA/MTO

July 24, 2025

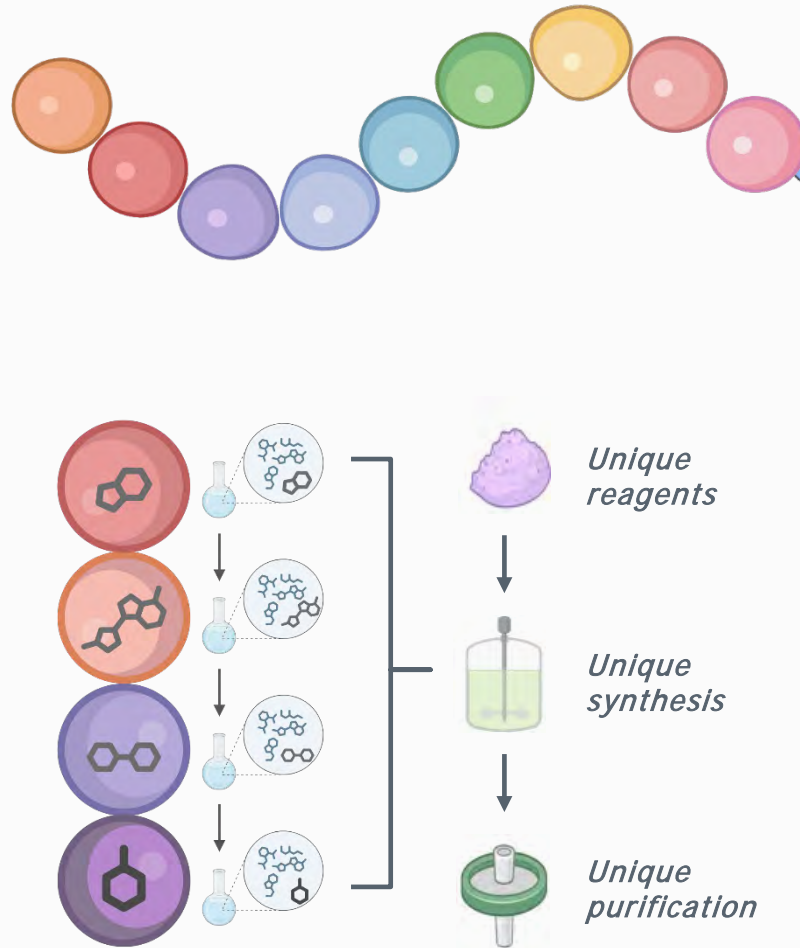


## Applications



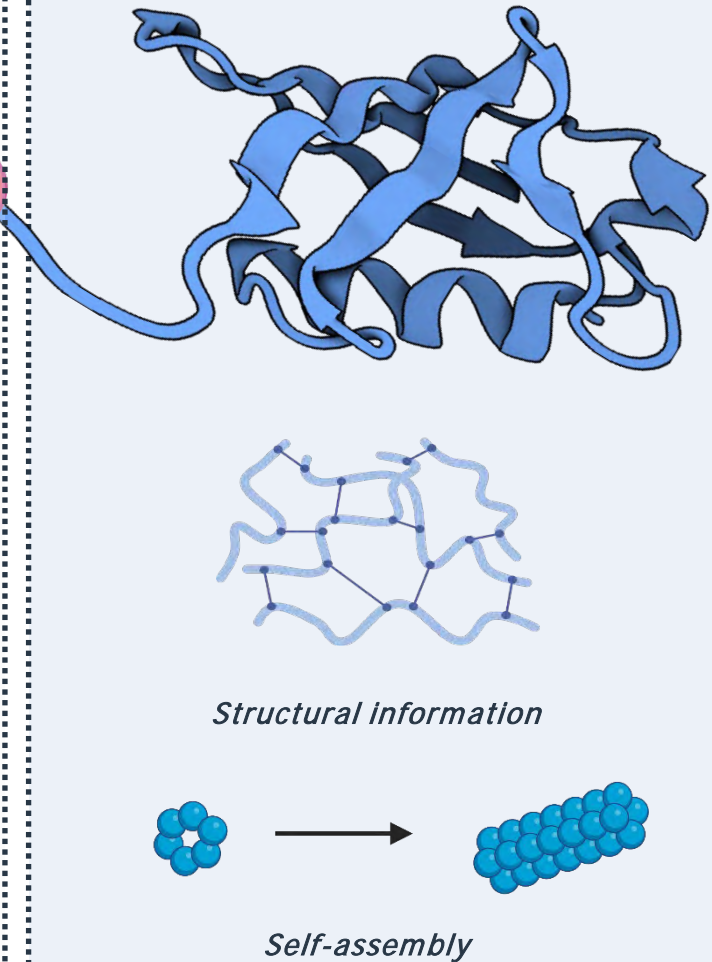
Novel, high-impact products that can't be manufactured any other way

## Sequence Limitations



Source: Biorender

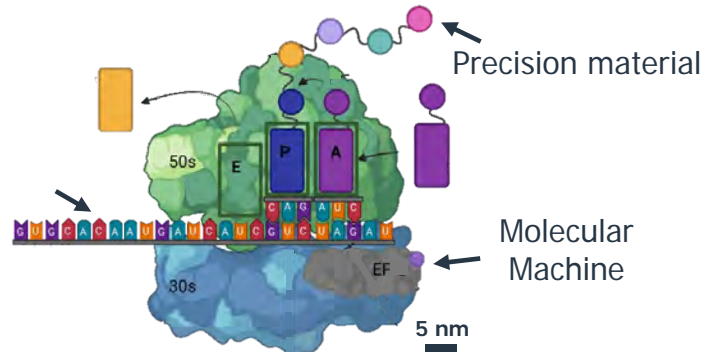
## Structure Limitations



Source: Biorender

## Nature's Machines

Ishida, A., et al., 10.1021/acs.chemrev.3c00912 (2024)

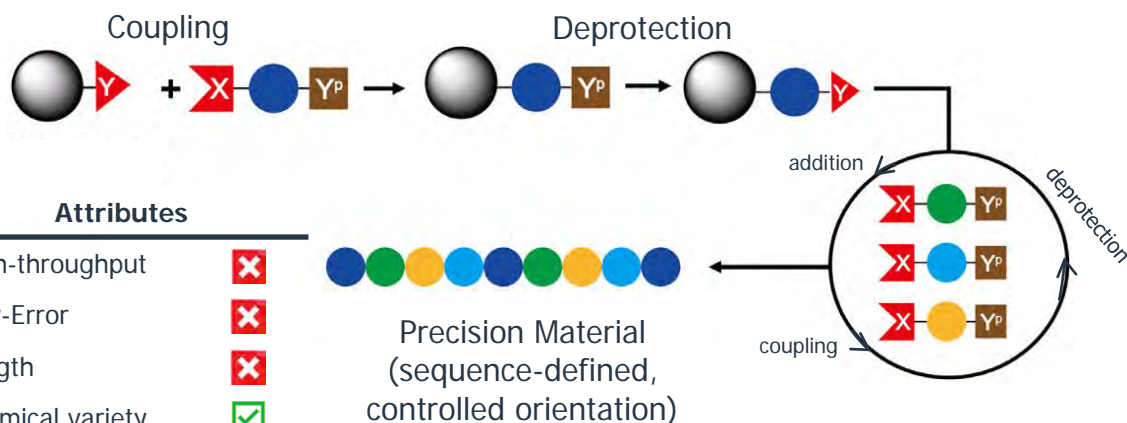


### Attributes

High-throughput	✓
Low-Error	✓
Length	✓
Chemical variety	✗

## Synthetic Chemistry

Shi, Q., et al., 10.1016/j.progpolymsci.2023.101677 (2023)

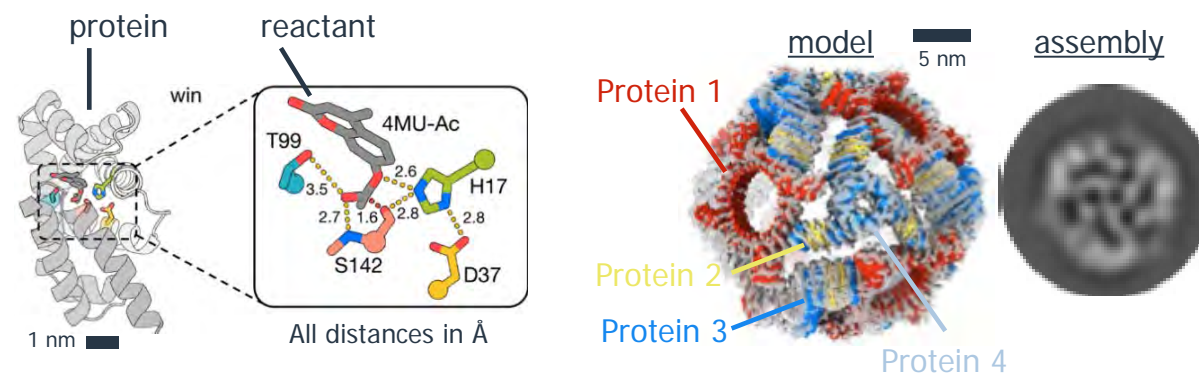


### Attributes

High-throughput	✗
Low-Error	✗
Length	✗
Chemical variety	✓



## Molecular Engineering



## Template directed precision synthesis

Lauko, A., et al., 10.1126/science.adu2454 (2025)

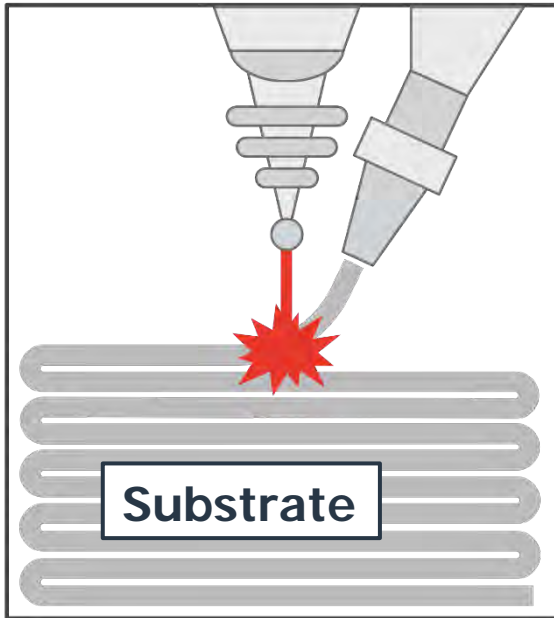


## Molecular self-assembly

Huddy, T.F., et al., 10.1038/s41586-024-07188-4 (2024)

**Sequence defined materials with wide chemical variety**

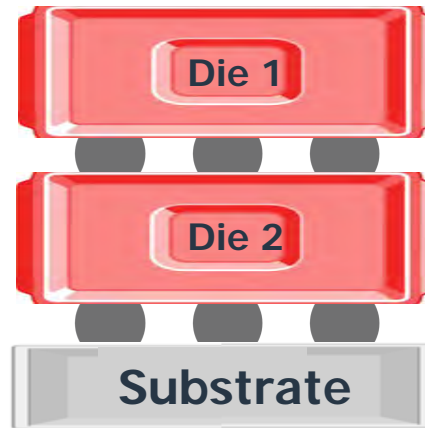
## Channel fabrication



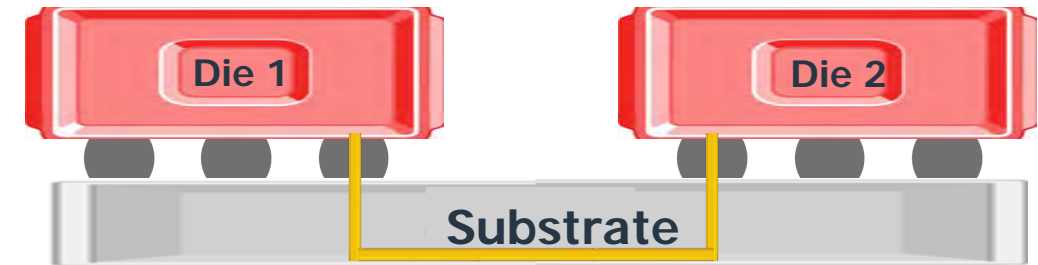
Source: Biorender



## Chip Integration



Source: Biorender



Source: Biorender

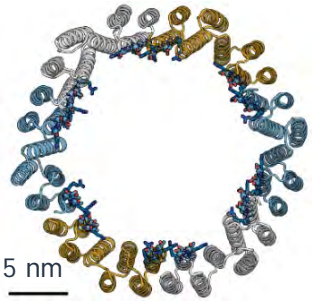
## Limitations

- Heat
- Assembly complexity
- Packing Density
- Bandwidth



## Nanometer scale templated growth

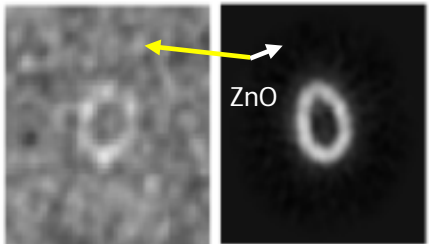
Source: <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2024.06.24.600095v1>



5 nm



Source: <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.1258361>

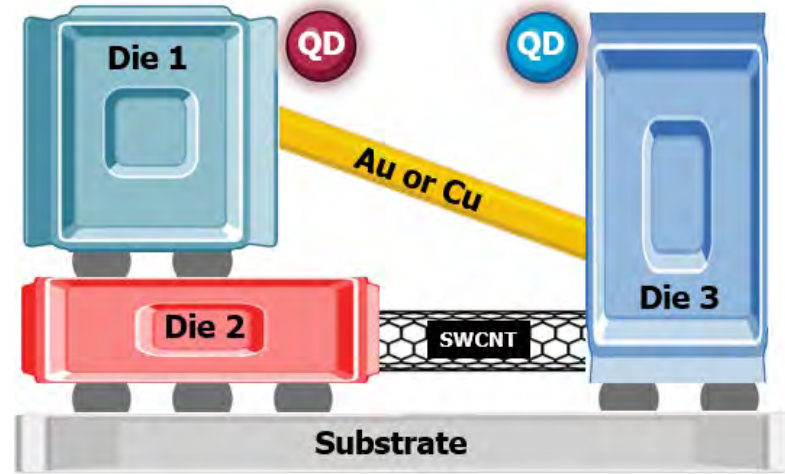


ZnO



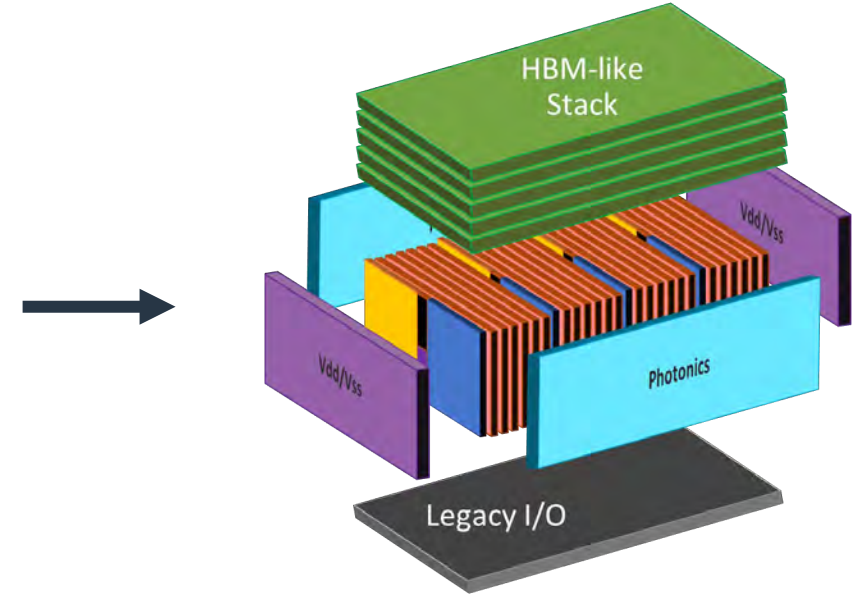
(Semi) conductor nucleation

## 3D microsystems



Source: Biorender

SWCNT: Single Walled Carbon Nanotube  
NP: Nanoparticle  
QD: Quantum Dot  
HBM: High Bandwidth Memory  
I/O: Input/output



Source: <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.1258361>

**Impact: Novel device architectures enabled by bio-inspired 3D fabrication across length scales**



[www.darpa.mil](http://www.darpa.mil)