

Biomedical Nanorobots: A 'Fantastic Voyage'

Joseph Wang

Department of Nanoengineering
University of California San Diego
San Diego, CA 92093, USA

Nanoscale robots that can effectively convert diverse energy sources into movement and forces represent a rapidly emerging and fascinating robotic research area. Such nanoscale robots offer impressive capabilities, including greatly enhanced power and cargo-towing forces, multi-functionality, easy surface functionalization, and versatility. The new capabilities of modern nanorobots indicate immense potential for a variety of biomedical applications, and should have major impact on disease diagnosis, treatment, and prevention [1]. Recent *in vivo* applications using different types of biocompatible and biodegradable microrobots will be illustrated, including enhanced drug delivery towards enhanced treatment of stomach bacterial infection, active vaccine delivery, autonomous gastric fluid neutralization, the ability to selectively localize at desirable segments of the GI tract, or efficient intracellular delivery of functional proteins and nucleic acids.

References

1. "Micro/nanorobots for biomedicine: Delivery, Surgery, Sensing, and Detoxification " J. Li, B. Esteban-Fernández de Ávila, W. Gao, L. Zhang, J. Wang, *Science Robotic* 2(2017)eaam6431.