Experiments on Electron-Conducting Microbial Nanowires

Nature selfassembles a variety of interesting biological structures that result in functions that sustain life. Interestingly, some of these functions utilize phenomena that have been thought to occur only in inorganic, nonliving materials. One recent example was first discovered in a special type of bacteria--Geobacter sulfurreducens that possesses the ability to make electricity and transpo electrons over long distances through protein nanofilaments in a fashion which is similar to saltate metals. In this talk I will discuss experiments spanning more than a decade, during which the story of this novel phenomenon continues to unfold. These results suggest that there is much more to be discovered in the emerging research area dubbed "quantum biology."

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