

Dynamics of a deformable droplet enclosing active particles

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Biological cells are dynamic systems that undergo complex transformations (e.g., division, growth, and translocation) in the absence of external control. Neutrophils of the immune system are a prime example of such complex, cell-autonomous locomotion. These cells exhibit directed motion as they sense and move towards bacteria while navigating a forest of red blood cells. An artificial system that mimics this type of behavior would hold enormous potential for the next generation of autonomous micro-robotic systems.

Recently, locomotion of non-living cell-like objects has been realized experimentally in my Lab using fluo-

I will discuss our progress in understanding the mechanisms of the motility and role of the deform-

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