

David Weitz
Harvard University, USA

Title and abstract:

Structure and properties of interpenetrating biopolymer networks

This talk will describe the unusual properties of interpenetrating networks of biopolymers studied through self-assembly of reconstituted proteins. The results will also be compared to behavior observed in cells, and used to account for some biological consequences. In addition, I will describe new results which show the apparent and surprising contribution of phenomena commonly found in soft matter to the growth and structure of networks formed in cells. I will also describe other means of structuring these networks using microfluidics for precision control.