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**Nano Propellers may Be Tomorrow's Drug Deliverers**



Researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago have created a theoretical blueprint for assembling a nanoscale propeller with molecule-sized blades.

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Scientists say the propeller opens the possibility of targeting medicines and regularising their flow in and out of cells.

Petr Král, Assistant Professor of chemistry at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and his laboratory co-workers, used classical

molecular dynamics simulations to learn how tiny propellers pump liquids.

They found that at the molecular level the chemistry of the propeller's blades and their sensitivity to water plays a big role in determining whether the propeller pumps efficiently or just spins with little effect.

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If the blades have a hydrophobic, or water-repelling nature, the pump a lot of water. But if they are hydrophilic -- water-attracting -- they become clogged with water molecules and pump poorly, the study showed.

"Pumping rates and efficiencies in the hydrophilic and hydrophobic forms can differ by an order of magnitude, which was not expected," said Prof. Kral.

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