

Mathematical Modeling of Squirming Micro-organisms at Low-Reynolds Numbers

Speaker: D. Palaniappan

Abstract: Artificial and/or biological micro-swimmers that can move and interact with each other at the microscopic scale show great promise in biomedical applications such as drug delivery and microsurgery. Successful application of these interacting swimmers to biomedical tasks relies on their ability to traverse biological fluids with challenging background flow fields. The seminal work by Lighthill [Commun. Pure Appl. Math., 109, (1952)] on the propulsion of ciliated micro-organisms serves as a reference for many modern studies on swimming of micro-organisms at low Reynolds numbers. In this talk, we discuss mathematical models capturing the swimming characteristics of microbes in various fluid environments.