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Chemical & Engineering News

Cover Story

November 19, 2007

Volume 85, Number 47

pp. 15-20

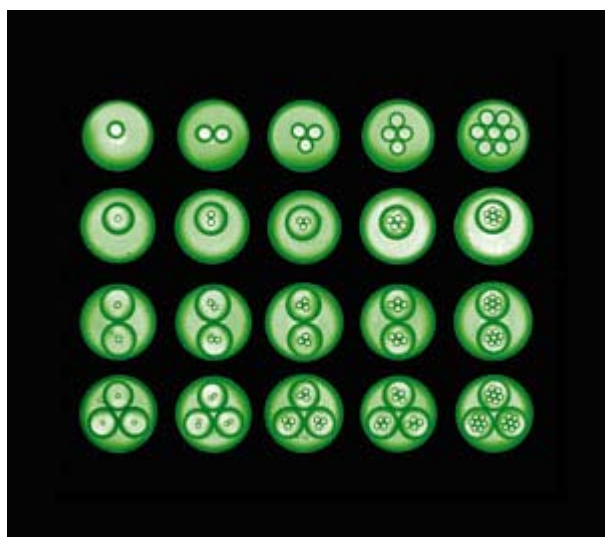
Suits and Lab Coats

Industry draws on academic know-how to help develop specialty chemicals and other new materials

[Marc S. Reisch](#)

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Universities obtain funding from a variety of sources to support scientific research. Government is the largest benefactor, but endowments, foundation grants, gifts from wealthy individuals, and alumni donations all can influence research projects. And then there is the matter of support from private industry.



Harvard University/Liang-Yin Chu/Weitz Lab Group

Captivating research Multiple emulsions formed with microfluidic devices can be used to create drops within drops for ingredient encapsulation and controlled release.

Chemical and life sciences companies have long had an interest in university research that could lead, for instance, to electronic chemicals that make computers run faster or reagents that quickly diagnose disease. Support from industry can be a welcome supplement to a school's research budget; it can also raise fears of more insidious consequences, such as inappropriate enrichment of a corporate donor or faculty member or an inclination to influence government policies that are more favorable to the interests of a corporate sponsor.

Industry contributes a growing piece of the overall research-funding pie. According to a recent survey of