

Emma for Students

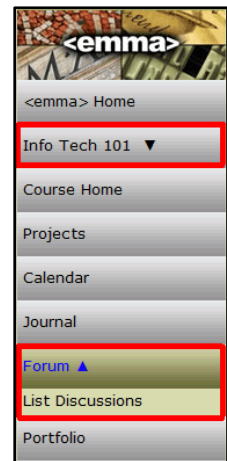
Lesson 3: Forums and Journals

Internet Forums

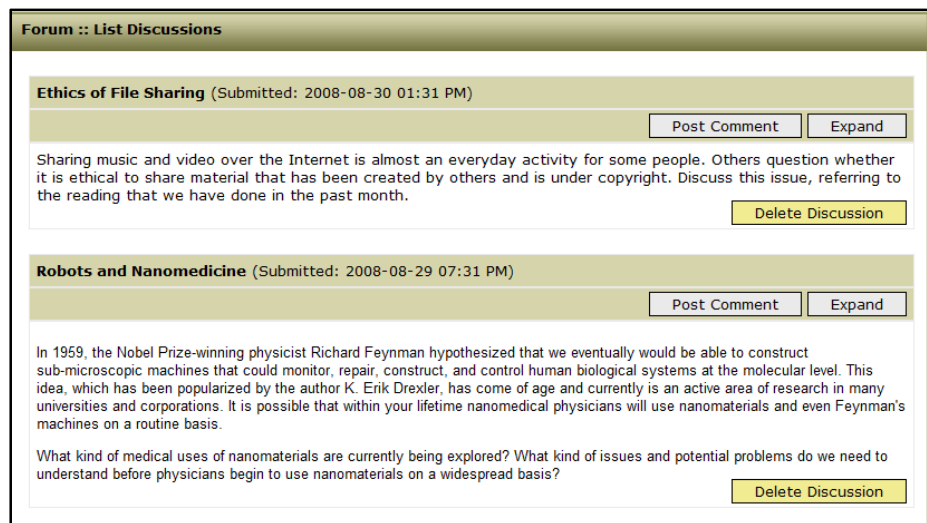
Internet forums are web-based applications for holding online discussions and posting user-generated content¹. They are also commonly referred to as Web forums, message boards, discussion boards, (electronic) discussion groups, discussion forums, and bulletin boards. These forums have the advantage of being both asynchronous and non-localized, so that faculty and students can make contributions at any time and from any place with an Internet connection.

Entering a Forum

Go to your course in the list on the left side of <emma> and click on **Forums**. When you click on **List Discussions**, you should see a list of discussions.



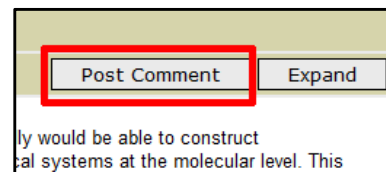
An example is shown below.



¹ "Internet Forums." Wikipedia. 5-May-2008. < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_forum >

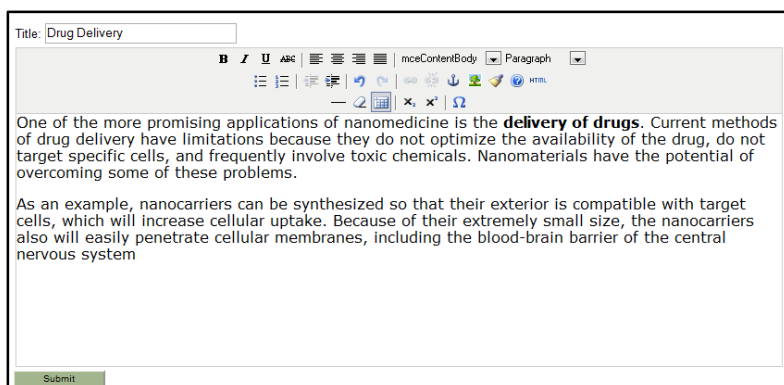
Posting a Comment

You can post a comment on a discussion's introductory text by clicking on the **Post Comment** button.



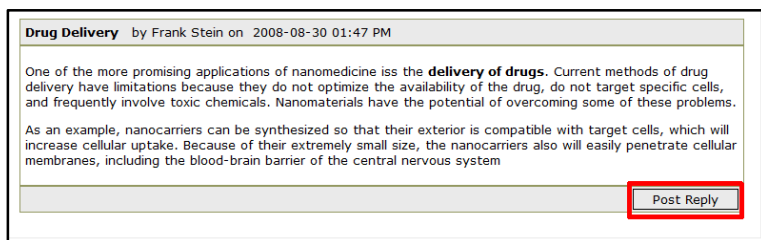
A text entry window appears, in which you can enter your comment (including a title).

Notice that it is possible to emphasize text in a bold, italics, or underlined font.



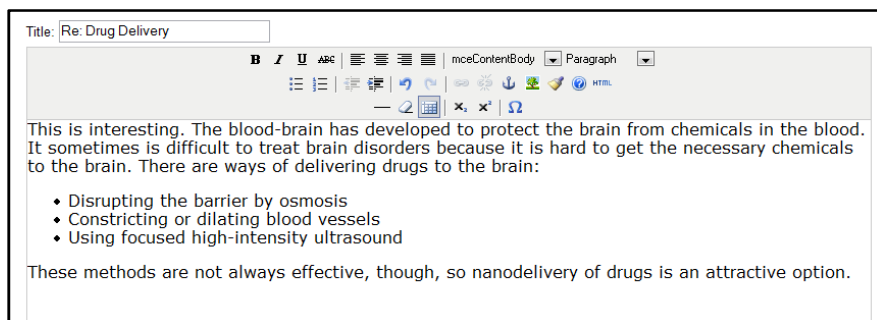
Reply to a Posting

If you want to reply to one of the posted comments, you can click on the **Post Reply** button.



As usual, a text entry window will appear.

Click on **Submit** when ready.



The reply will be posted within the comment it references.

Robots and Nanomedicine (Submitted: 2008-08-29 07:31 PM)

Post Comment Expand

In 1959, the Nobel Prize-winning physicist Richard Feynman hypothesized that we eventually would be able to construct sub-microscopic machines that could monitor, repair, construct, and control human biological systems at the molecular level. This idea, which has been popularized by the author K. Erik Drexler, has come of age and currently is an active area of research in many universities and corporations. It is possible that within your lifetime nanomedical physicians will use nanomaterials and even Feynman's machines on a routine basis.

What kind of medical uses of nanomaterials are currently being explored? What kind of issues and potential problems do we need to understand before physicians begin to use nanomaterials on a widespread basis?

Drug Delivery by Frank Stein on 2008-08-30 01:47 PM

One of the more promising applications of nanomedicine is the **delivery of drugs**. Current methods of drug delivery have limitations because they do not optimize the availability of the drug, do not target specific cells, and frequently involve toxic chemicals. Nanomaterials have the potential of overcoming some of these problems.

As an example, nanocarriers can be synthesized so that their exterior is compatible with target cells, which will increase cellular uptake. Because of their extremely small size, the nanocarriers also will easily penetrate cellular membranes, including the blood-brain barrier of the central nervous system

re: Drug Delivery by Jane Doe on 2008-08-31 11:59 AM

This is interesting. The blood-brain has developed to protect the brain from chemicals in the blood. It sometimes is difficult to treat brain disorders because it is hard to get the necessary chemicals to the brain. There are ways of delivering drugs to the brain:

- Disrupting the barrier by osmosis
- Constricting or dilating blood vessels
- Using focused high-intensity ultrasound

These methods are not always effective, though, so nanodelivery of drugs is an attractive option.

Delete Comment

Adding a Hyperlink or a Picture

You may want to reference a web page by linking it from a forum posting. As an example, suppose that you have become interested in medical nanorobots and have found a good web site at <http://www.medicalnanorobots.com/>. You want to post a comment about this field and include a hyperlink to the web site you have found.

Post the comment shown at the right. Then **select** the phrase “medical nanorobots” and click on the **hyperlink icon**.

Medical Nanorobots

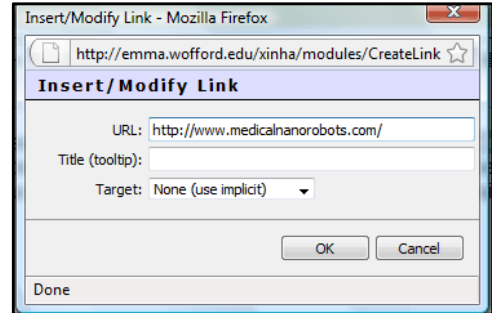
Forum Entry Body

Normal Arial size B I U S A x x¹

Robert Freitas is working on designing, building, and deploying large numbers of [medical nanorobots](#) within the human body. This is a fairly controversial project because of the potential dangers, but it also has tremendous possibilities - quick recovery from physical trauma, for example.

Paste the URL in the “Insert/Modify Link” window that appears.

Click on **OK**.



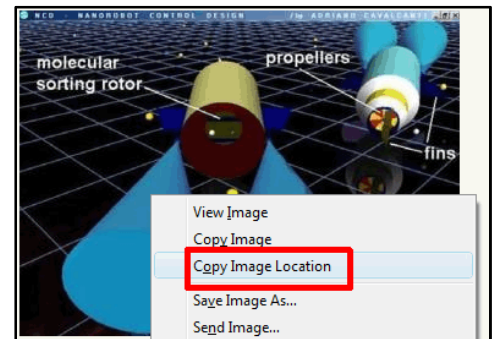
The phrase now is hyperlinked within the text.

Robert Freitas is working on designing, building, and deploying large numbers of [medical nanorobots](http://www.medicalnanorobots.com/) within the human body. This is a fairly controversial project because of the potential dangers, but it also has tremendous possibilities - quick recovery from physical trauma, for example.

You also have found some articles on the use of medical nanorobots to deliver drugs, including a conceptual picture of what a nanorobot might look like. The image you want to include is available on the web at the URL below:

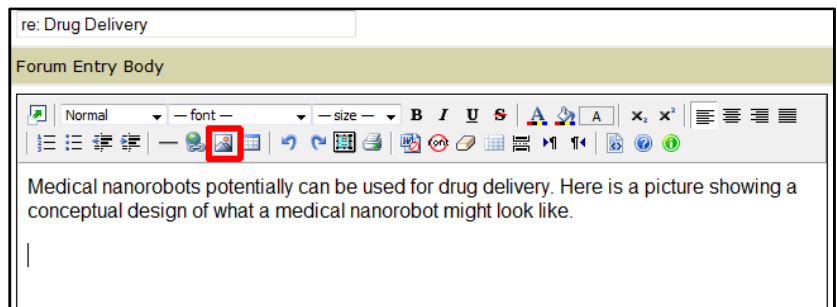
http://www.blogsforcompanies.com/TTimages/nanorobots_sensors.jpg

In Firefox, right-click on the image and select **Copy image location** from the menu. This copies the URL of the image so that you do not need to write it down.



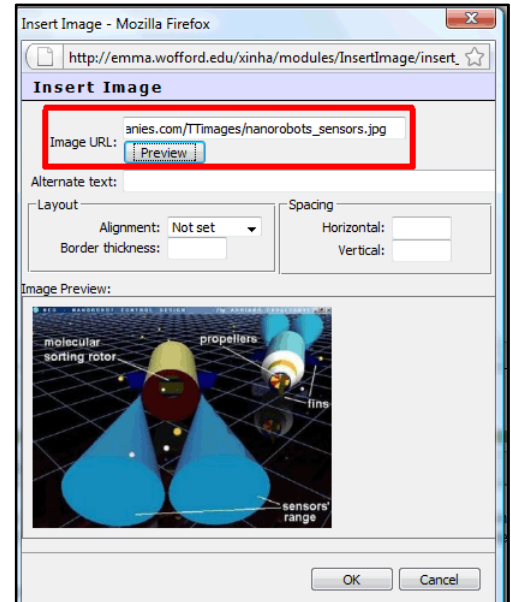
Post a comment in the Drug Delivery thread.

To include the picture in the comment, click on the **image icon**.

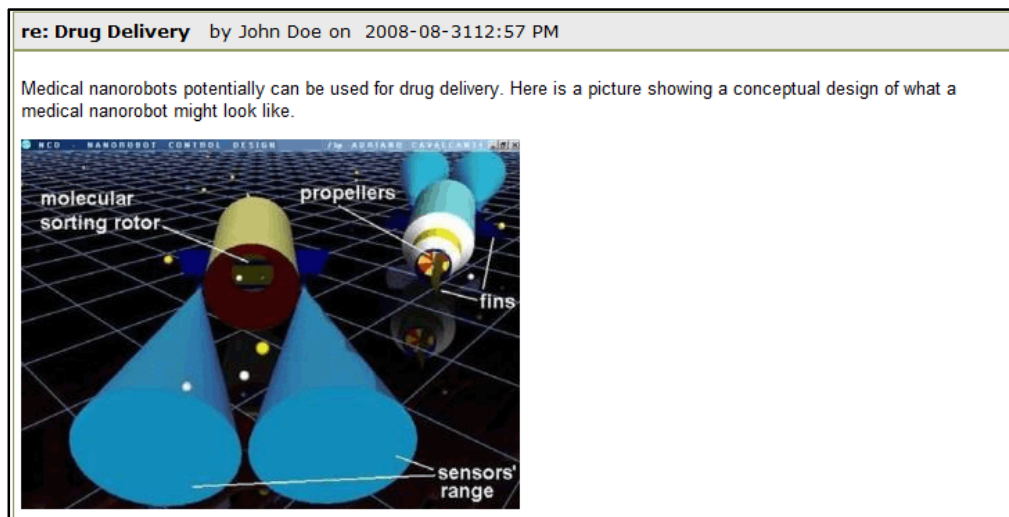


Paste the URL in the “Insert Image” window that appears. You can click on the **Preview** button to preview the image.

Click on **OK** when you are ready.



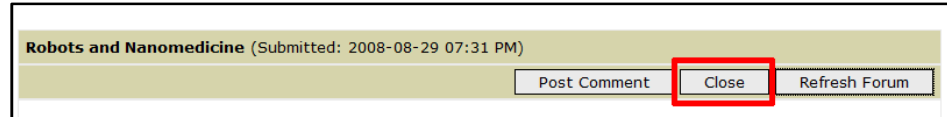
The comment should include the picture.



NOTE: I would not recommend using images stored on your own personal computer because I doubt that the <emma> server can find them.

Closing a Forum

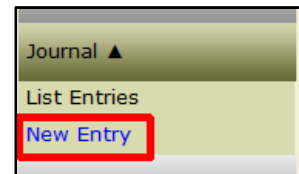
Click on **Close Forum** to collapse the display of the forum so that only the original question is shown.



Making a Journal Entry

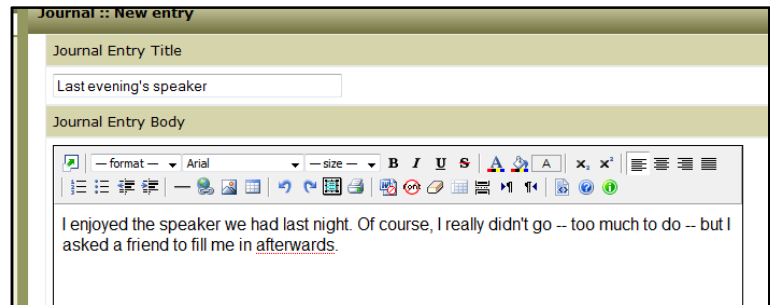
A journal is like a private blog in which the instructor is the only reader. It is a useful way for students to privately submit informal writing assignments to their instructor without review by their classmates – responses to a speaker, reviews of a film, etc.

To make a journal entry, you should click on **Journal** in the course menu and then click on **New Entry**.



You can make the entry in the workspace in the next window.

Click on **Submit** when the entry has been made.



The new entry will show up in the list. These entries will only be visible to you and your instructor(s).

