

Microrobots for Medicine

**Simone Schuerle, PhD
Associate Professor
ETH Zurich**



**MEDICAL
MICROSYSTEMS**

Interactive Sequence

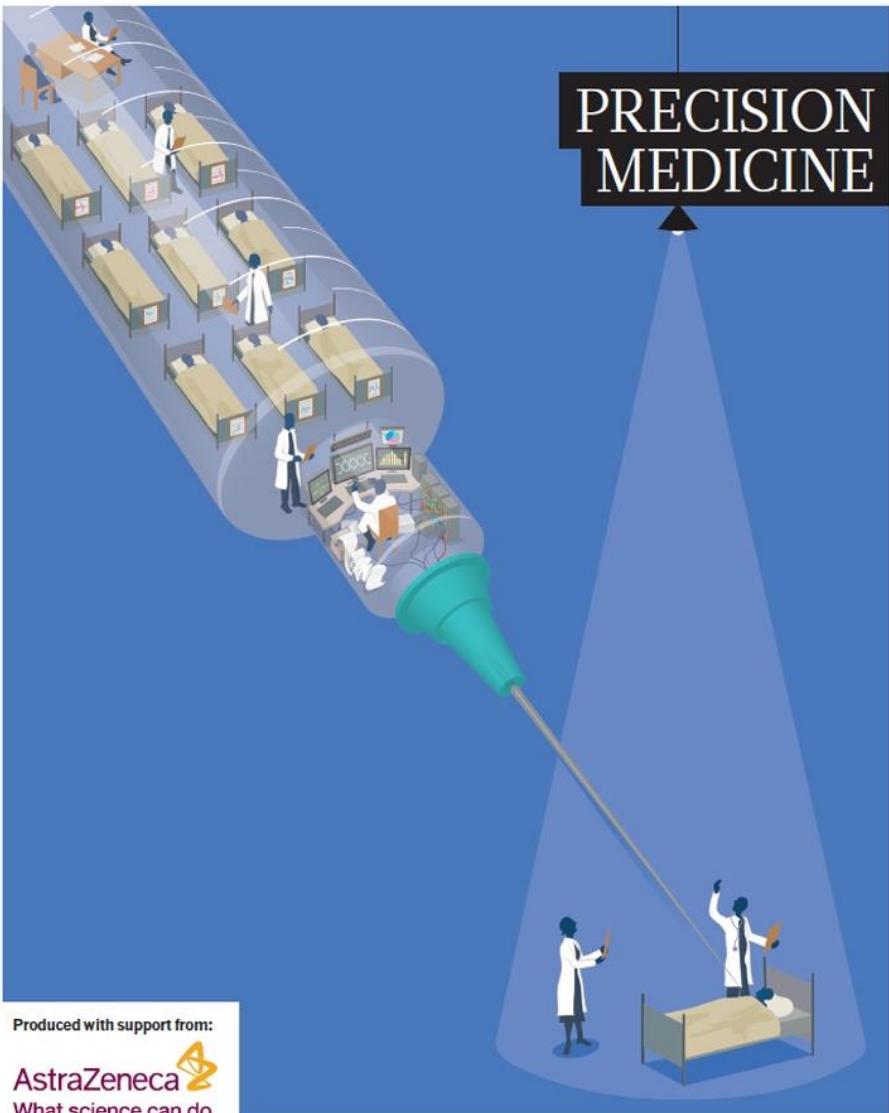


- Whiat is your background?
- What comes to your mind when you hear about microorrbots for medicine?

 3 min

Trend towards precision medicine

nature **INSIGHT**

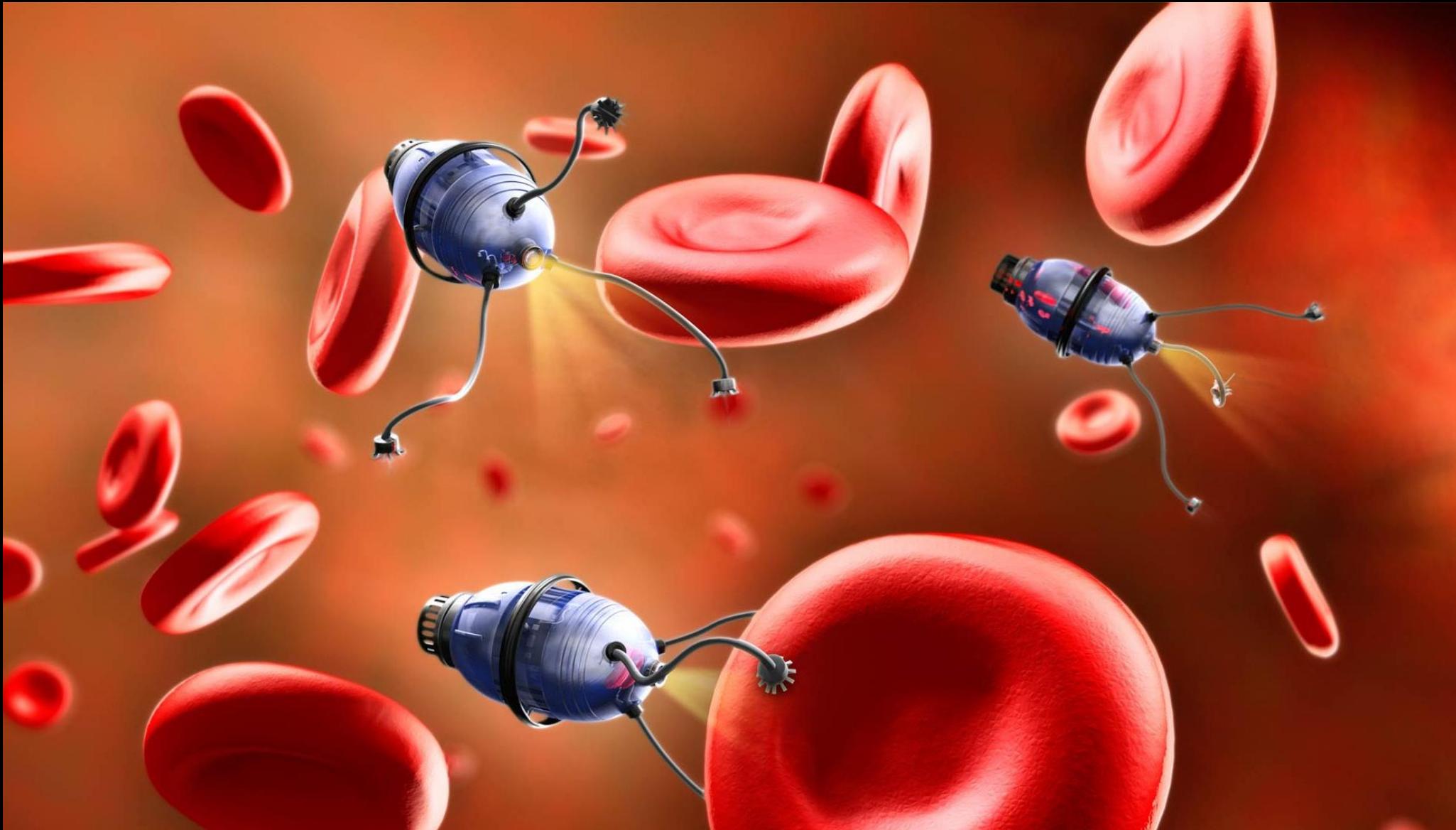


Produced with support from:

AstraZeneca 
What science can do

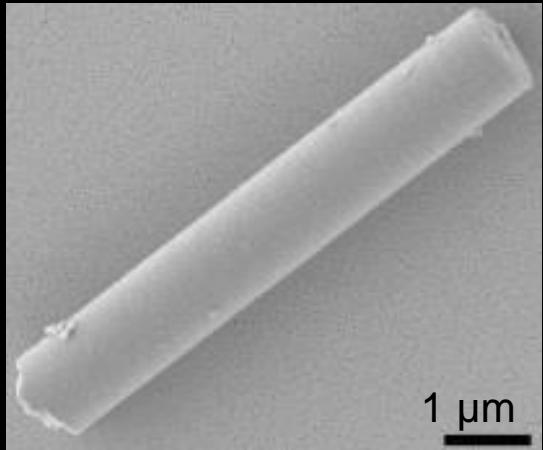
**We need new tools to
improve diagnosis at the
point of care and treat
diseases in a more
targeted fashion**

Microrobots for medicine...



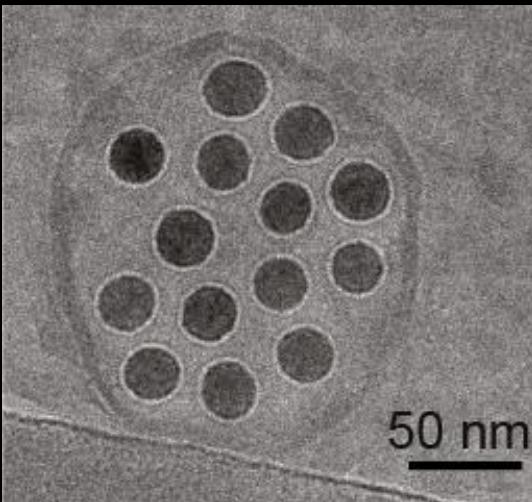
Google search result for “microrobot”

...might look more like that



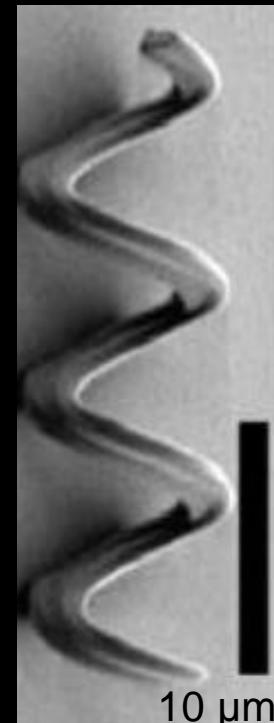
**Synthetic
inorganic**

Assgeirsson et al, Lab Chip, 2021



**Synthetic
organic & inorganic**

Schuerle et al, Nanoletters, 2016



Bio-inspired

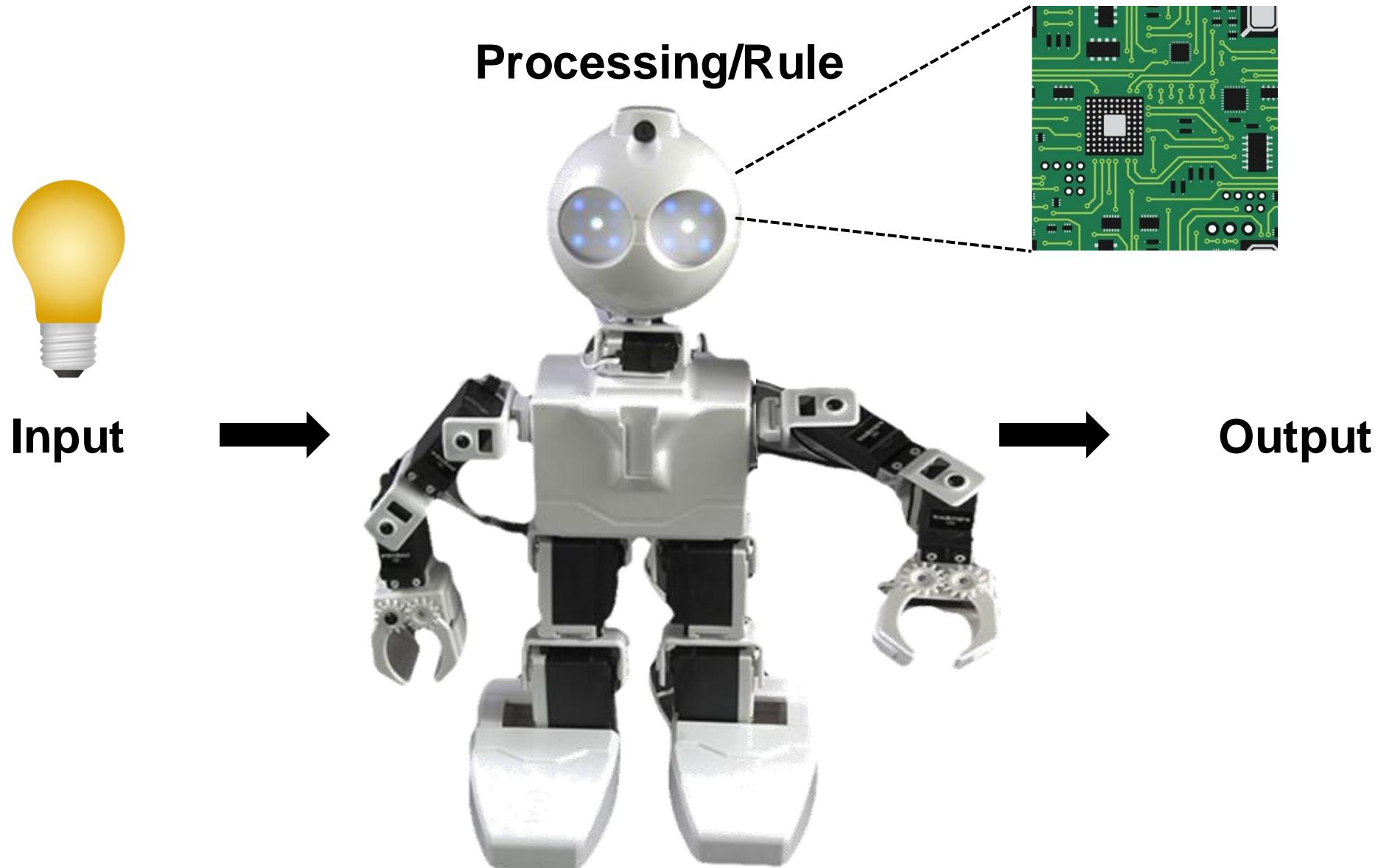
Schuerle et al, Sci Adv, 2019



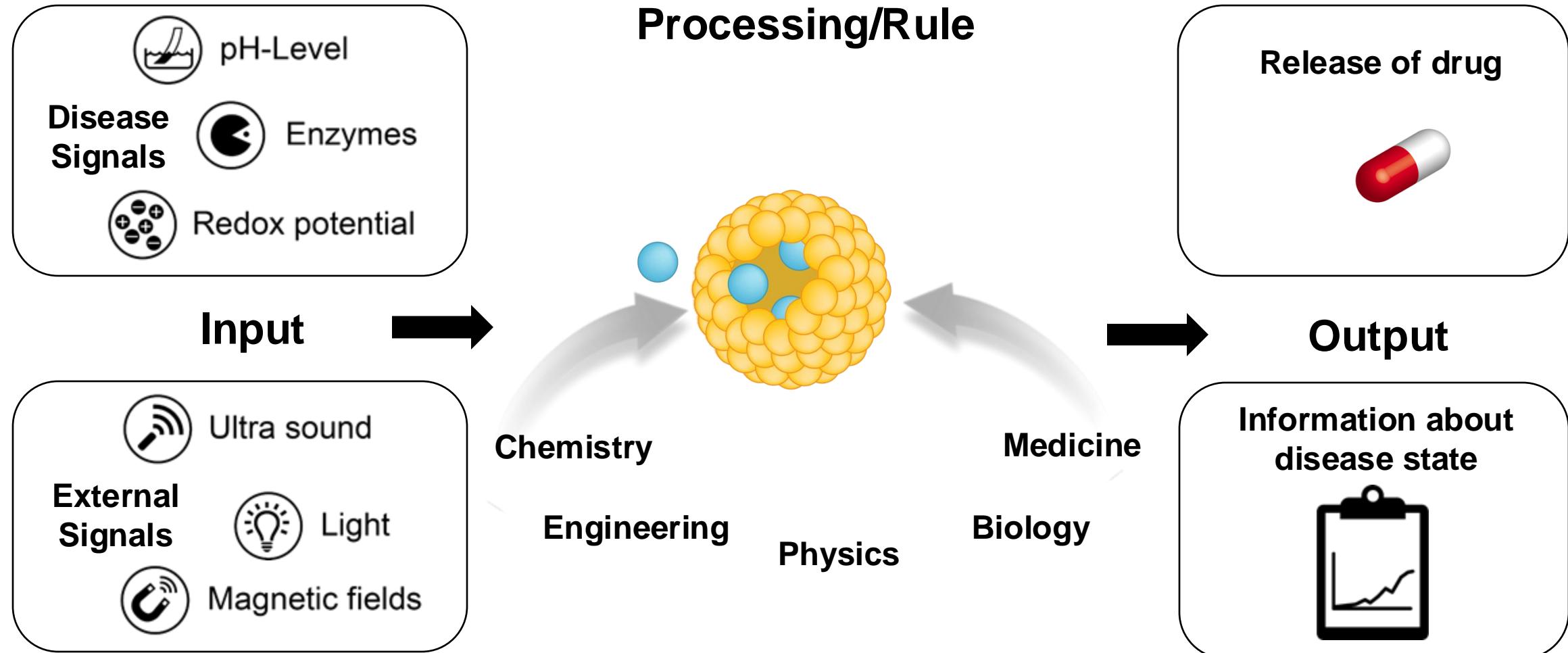
Biological/Biohybrid

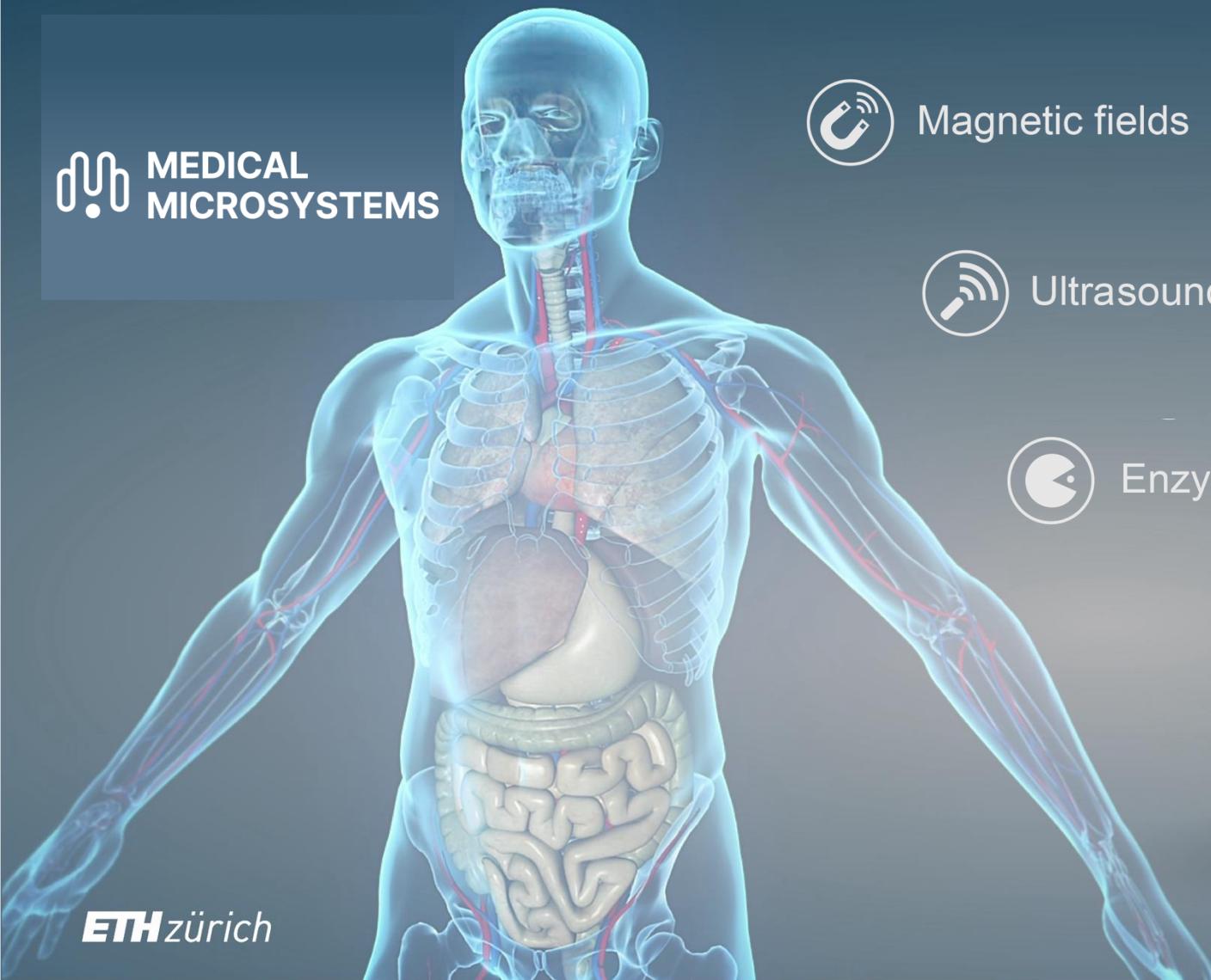
Schuerle et al, Sci Adv, 2019

Principles from robotics



Principles from robotics





Magnetic fields



Ultrasound



Enzymes

Microrobots for

1

Cell & tissue probing

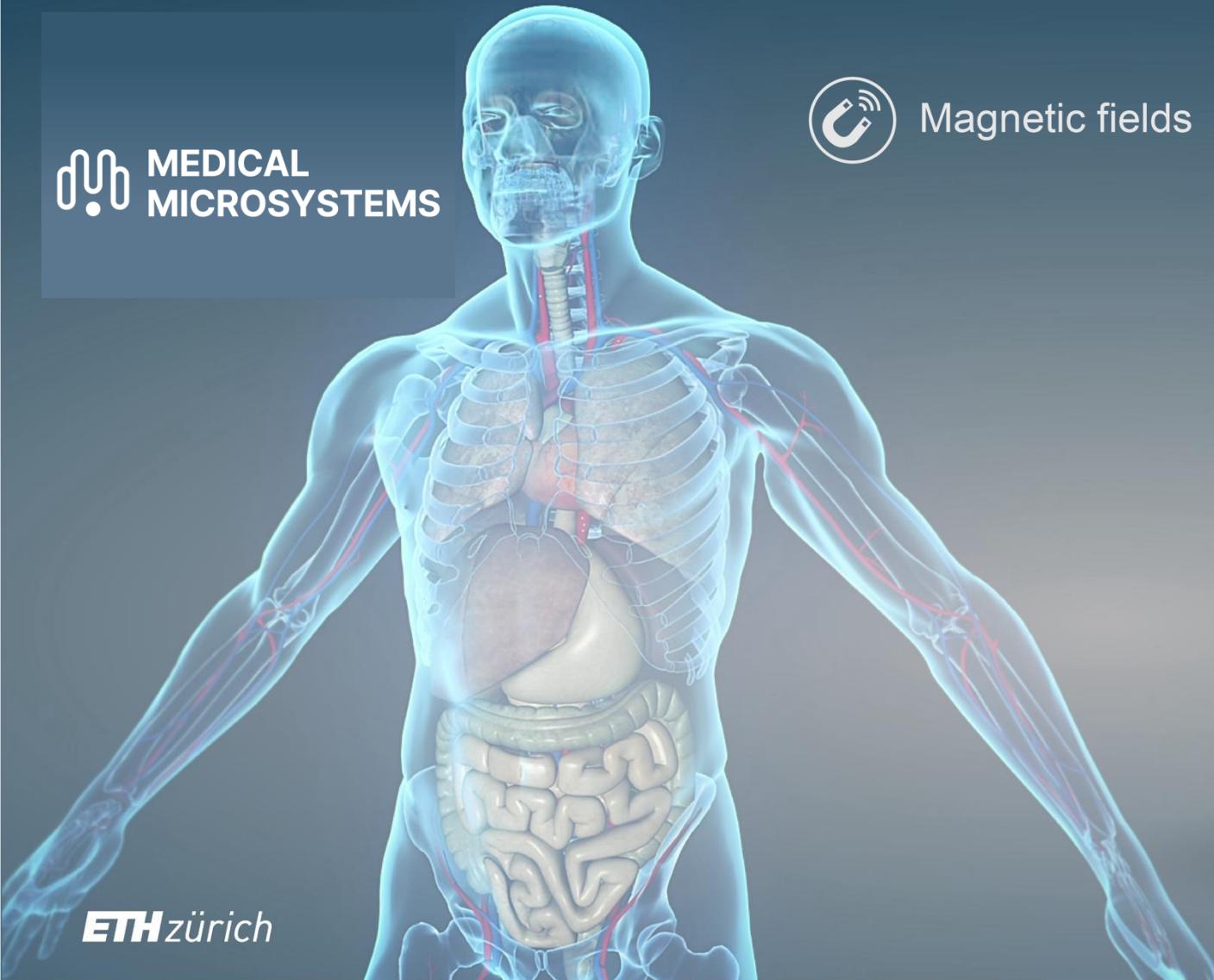
2

Biosensing & diagnostics

3

Drug delivery

 MEDICAL
MICROSYSTEMS



Magnetic fields

Microrobots for

1

Cell & tissue probing

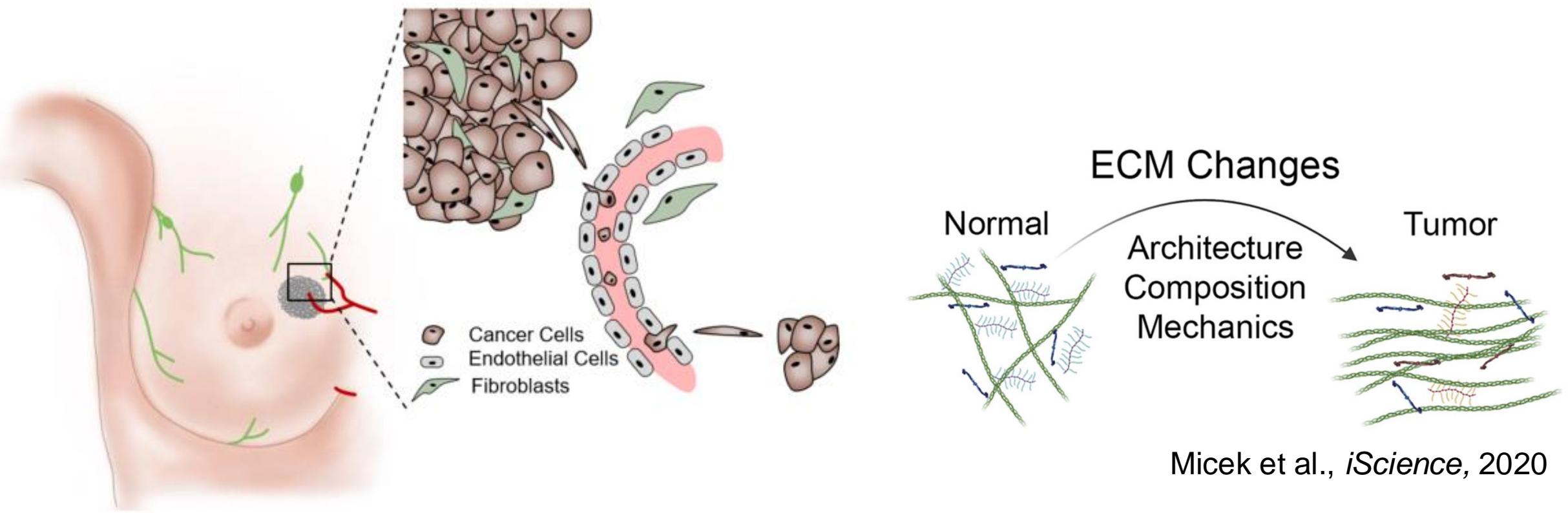
2

Biosensing & diagnostics

3

Drug delivery

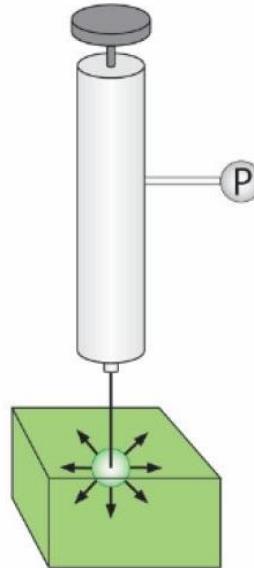
Tissue stiffening as a driver in cancer progression



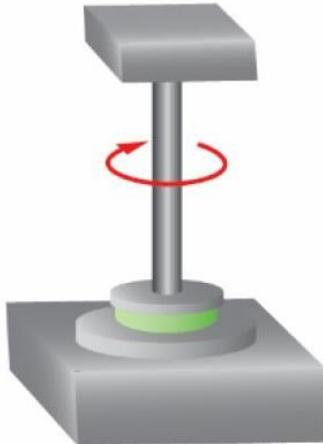
Understanding and altering tissue mechanics at the microscale to inform drug development

Probing mechanical properties at the microscale

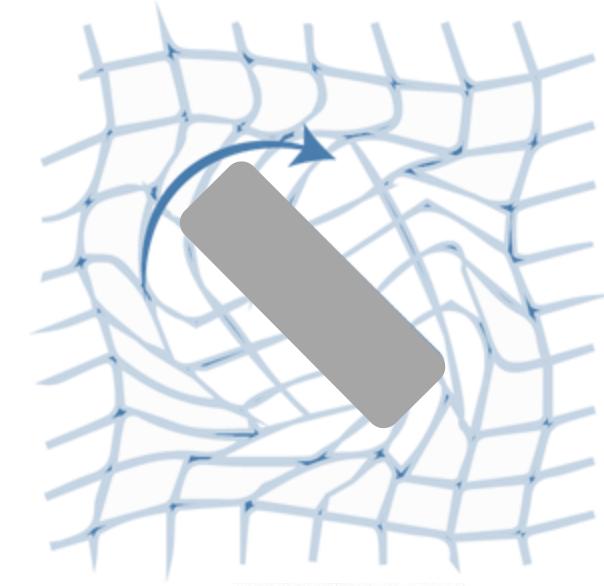
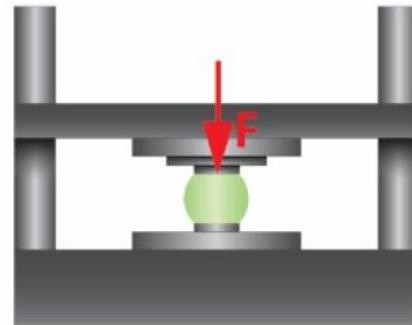
Cavitation Rheology
Modulus: Pa-kPa



Shear Rheology
Modulus: Pa-MPa



Compression Testing
Modulus: kPa-GPa



in situ microprobe to infer
local shear moduli

Magnetism

Interactive Sequence



- Form groups of 3-4 students
- Think about the following questions:
 - What do you know about magnetism?
 - Which classes of magnetism do you know?
 - To which category belongs human tissue?

⌚ 5 min

Classes of magnetism

Can utilize the susceptibility to categorize types of magnetism $\chi = \frac{\vec{M}}{\vec{H}}$

- χ is small and negative ($\sim -10^{-5} - 10^{-6}$): DIAMAGNETIC

examples: gold, copper, silver, bismuth, silica, many molecules (and superconductors)

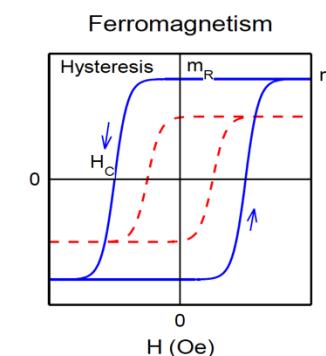
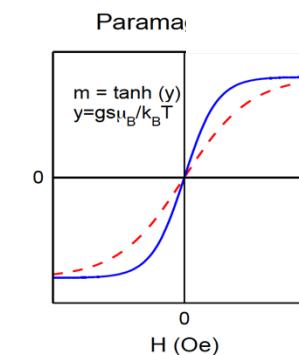
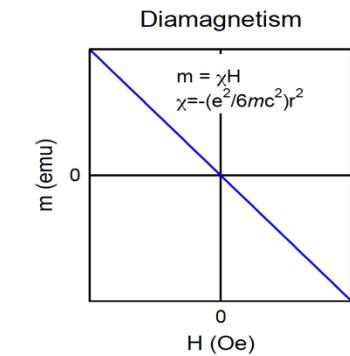
- χ is small and positive ($\sim 10^{-3}$ or 10^{-6}): PARAMAGNETIC

examples: aluminum, platinum, manganese

- χ is large and positive ($>>1$; $50 - 10,000$): FERROMAGNETIC

examples: iron, cobalt, gadolinium

$\nearrow \downarrow \leftarrow \uparrow \leftarrow \rightarrow \uparrow \nearrow \downarrow \searrow$ \longrightarrow Paramagnetic $M = 0$
 $\uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow$ \longrightarrow Ferromagnetic $M > 0$
 $\uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow$ \longrightarrow Antiferromagnetic $M = 0$
 $\uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow$ \longrightarrow Ferrimagnetic $M > 0$



Levitating frog und strawberry

Levitating frog



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1vyB-05i6E>

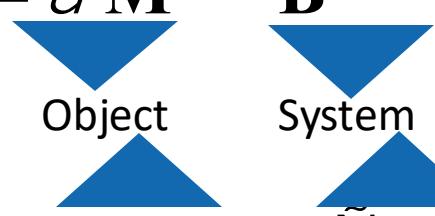
Levitating strawberry



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uY8btfJZ9Z8>

Applying magnetic forces and torques

Magnetic Torque:

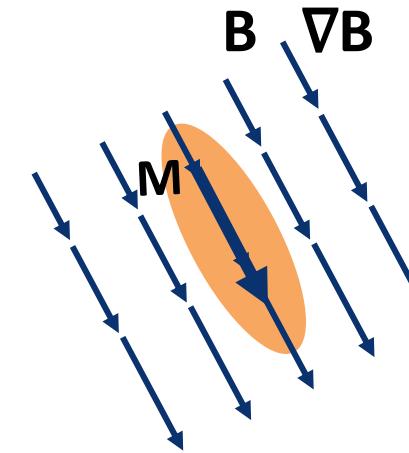
$$\mathbf{T} = \mu \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{B}$$


Magnetic Force:

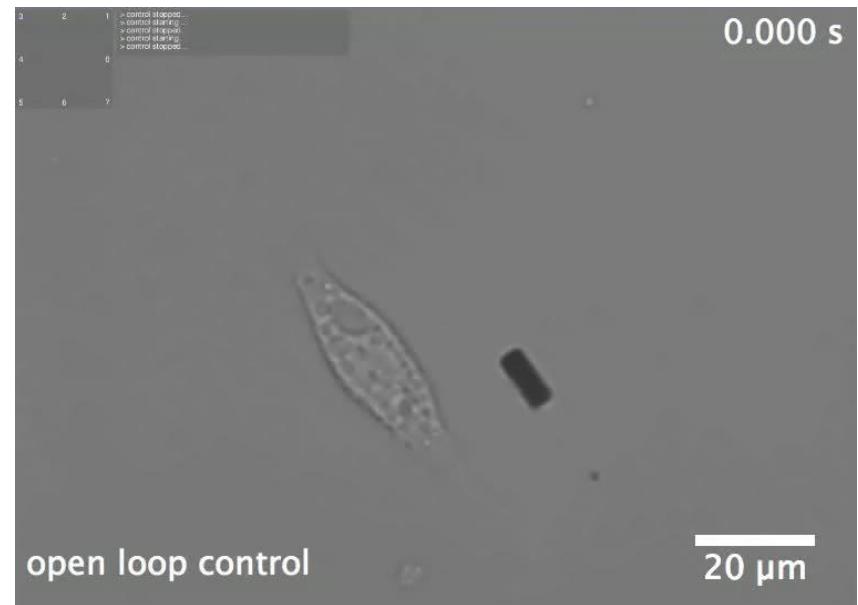
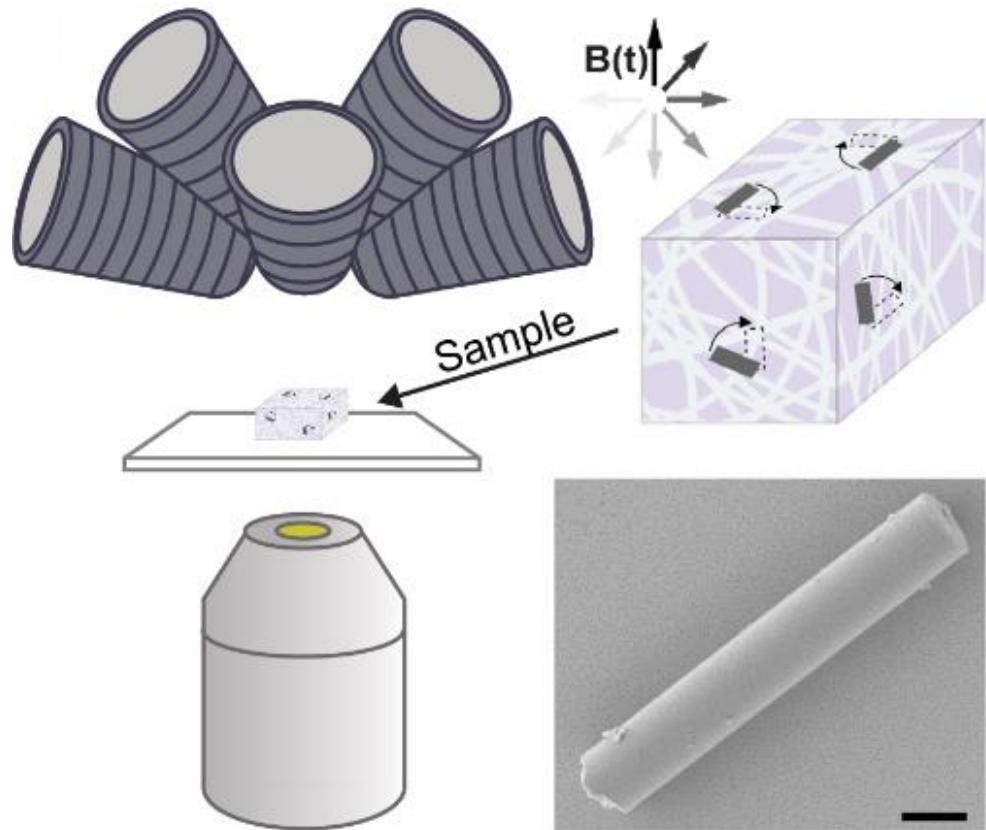
$$\mathbf{F} = \mu (\mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{N}) \mathbf{B}$$

$$\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$


$$\mathbf{F} = \mu \hat{\mathbf{e}} \cdot \frac{\mathbf{B}}{\mathbf{B}_x} \frac{\mathbf{B}}{\mathbf{B}_y} \frac{\mathbf{B}}{\mathbf{B}_z} \hat{\mathbf{u}}^T \mathbf{M}$$



Microrobots for wireless *in situ* probing of tissues



Kummer et al., *IEEE Transactions on Robotics*, 2010

Schuerle et al., *IEEE Transactions on Magnetism and Magnetic Materials*, 2013

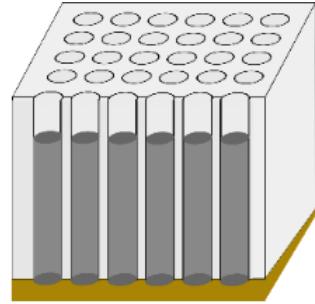
Conflict of interest disclosure:
Simone Schuerle is co-founder of Magnebotix AG

Fabrication of magnetic microrobots for tissue probing

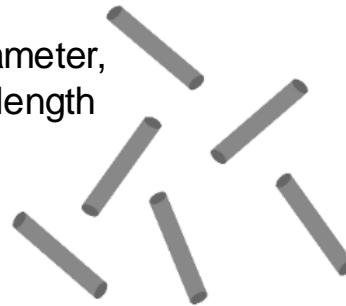


Dr. Asgeirsson

Microrobot synthesis

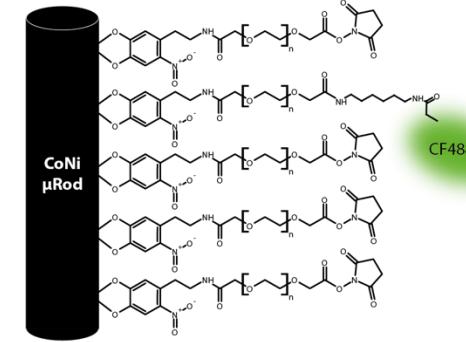


1-3 μm diameter,
10-20 μm length



In collaboration by Prof. Salvador Pané, D-MATL

Microrobot functionalization



20% ND-PEG-CF488A, 80% ND-PEG-NHS



Dr. Christiansen

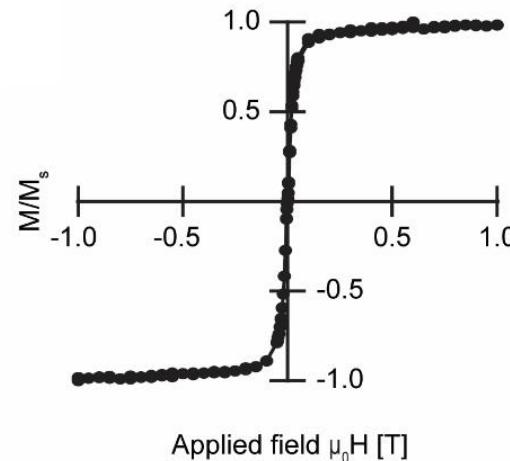
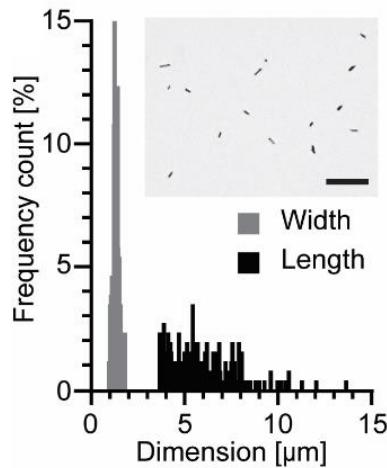


Dr. Valentin

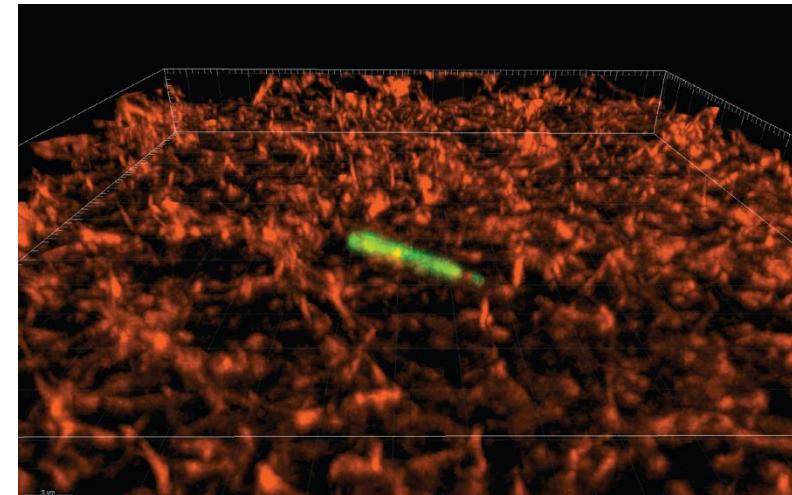


Dr. Nima Mirkhani

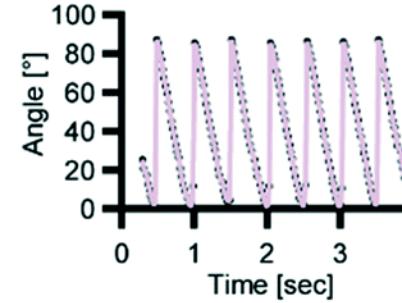
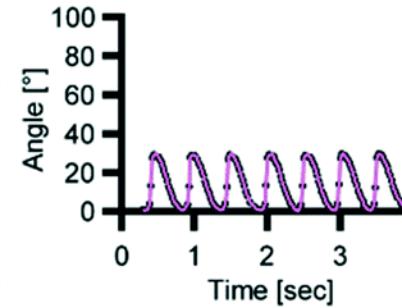
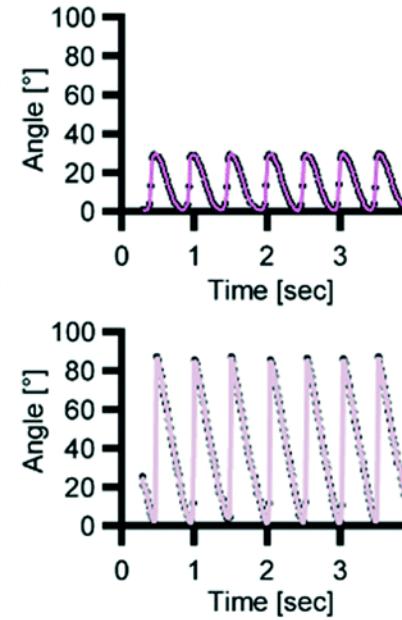
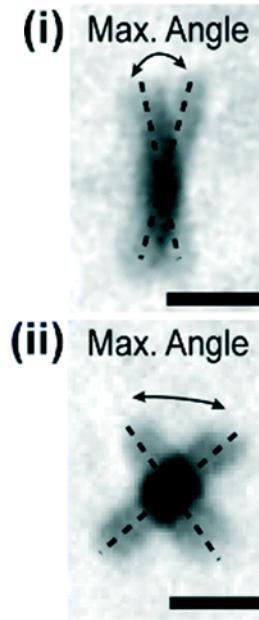
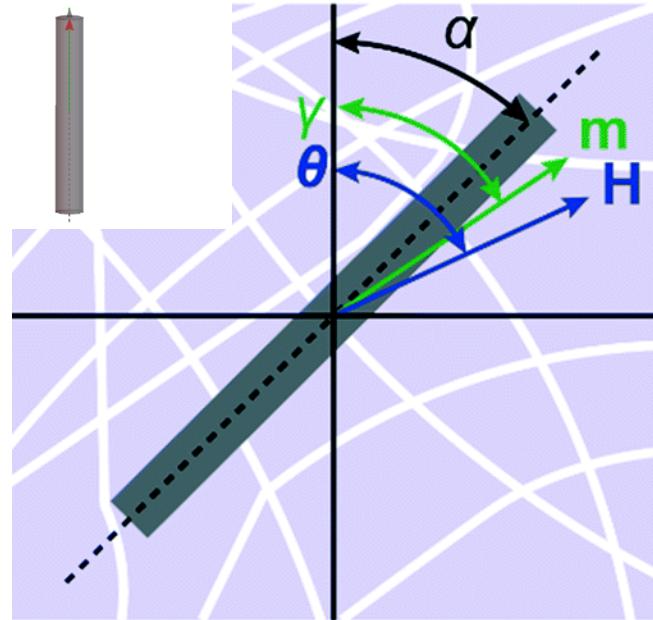
Microrobot characterization



Microrobot embedding



Microrobot actuation and readout: extracting local estimated shear moduli



Stiff

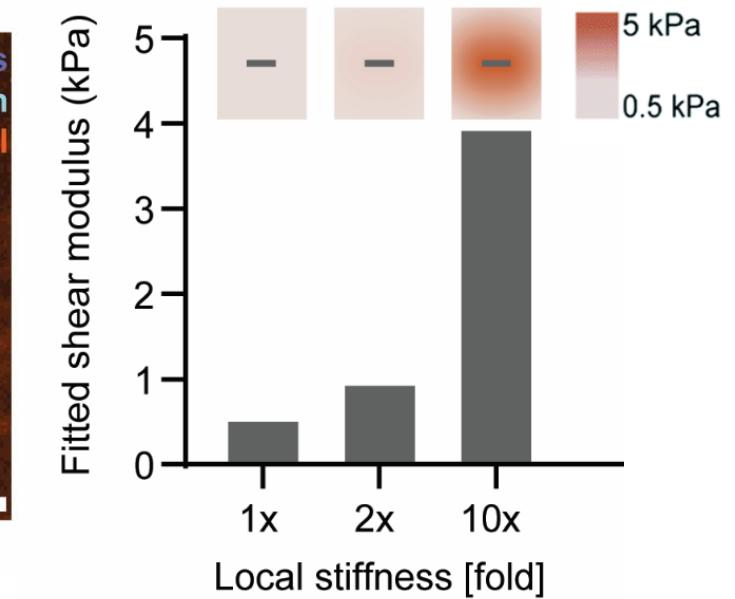
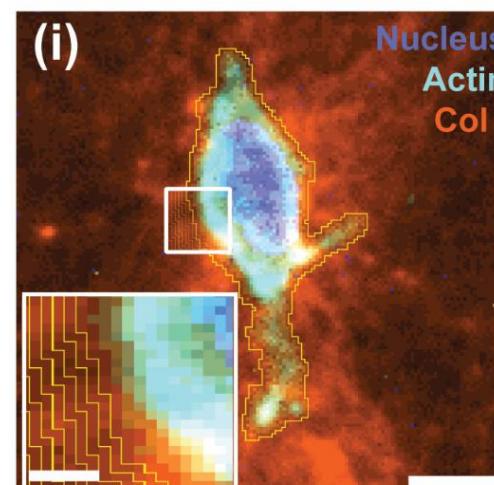
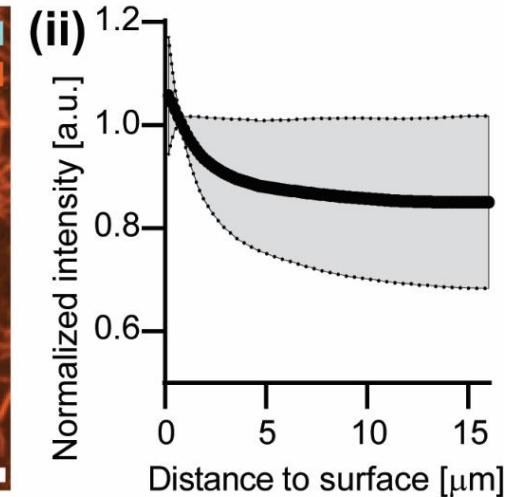
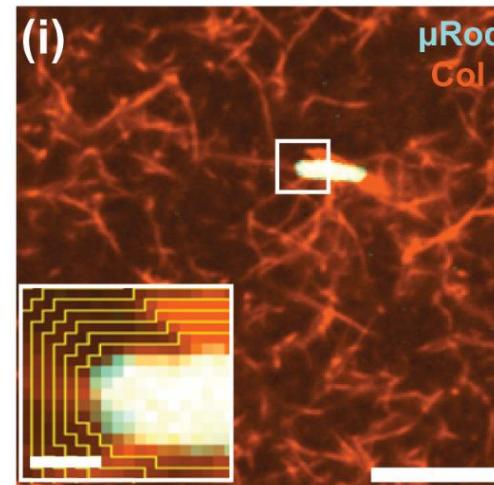
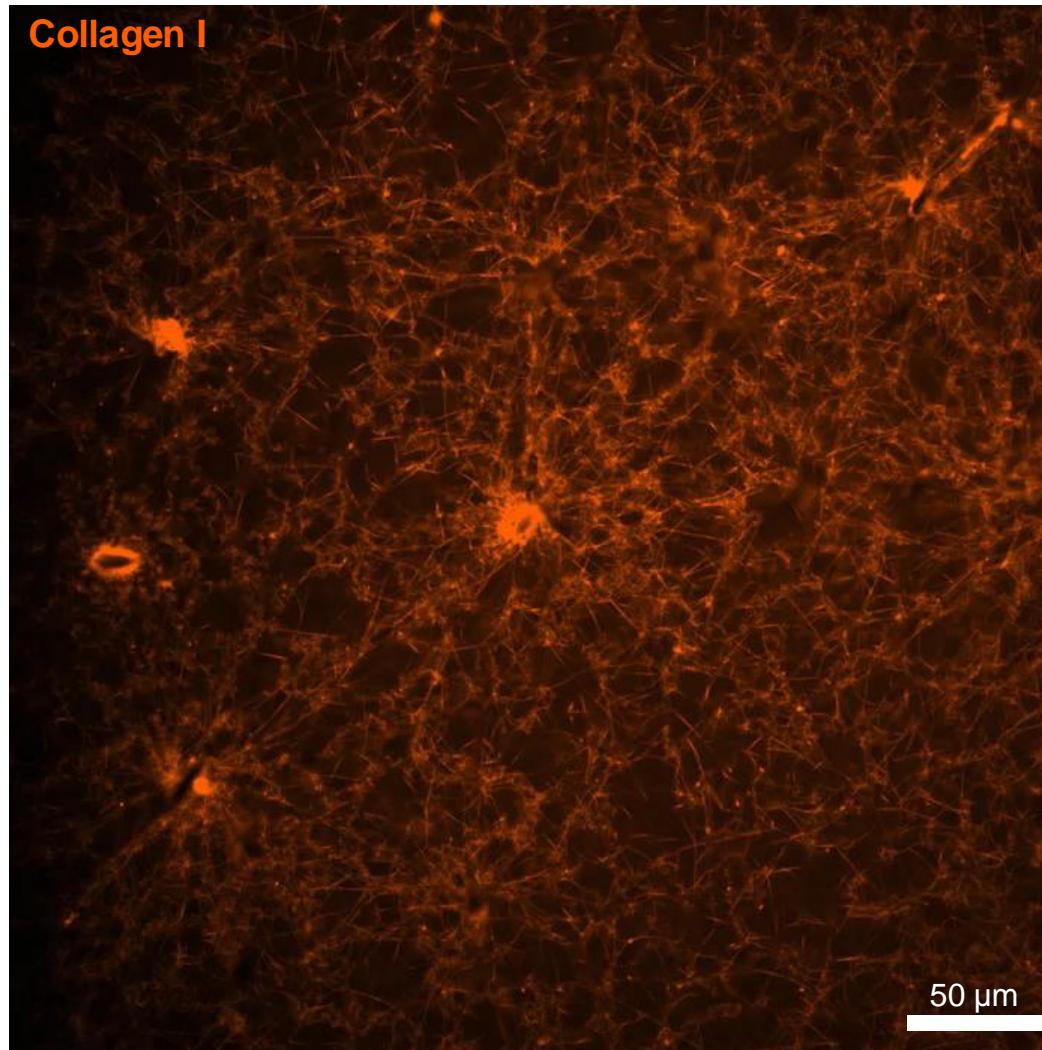
Less stiff

$$U(\gamma, \alpha, \theta) = U_{mech}(\alpha) + U_{field}(\gamma, \theta) + U_{ani}(\gamma, \alpha)$$

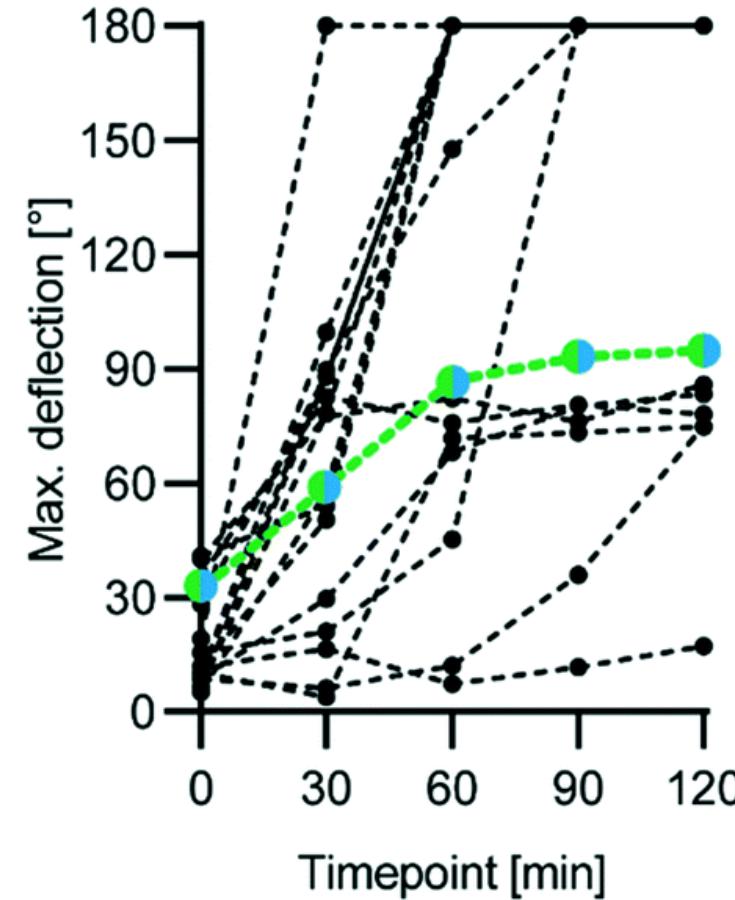
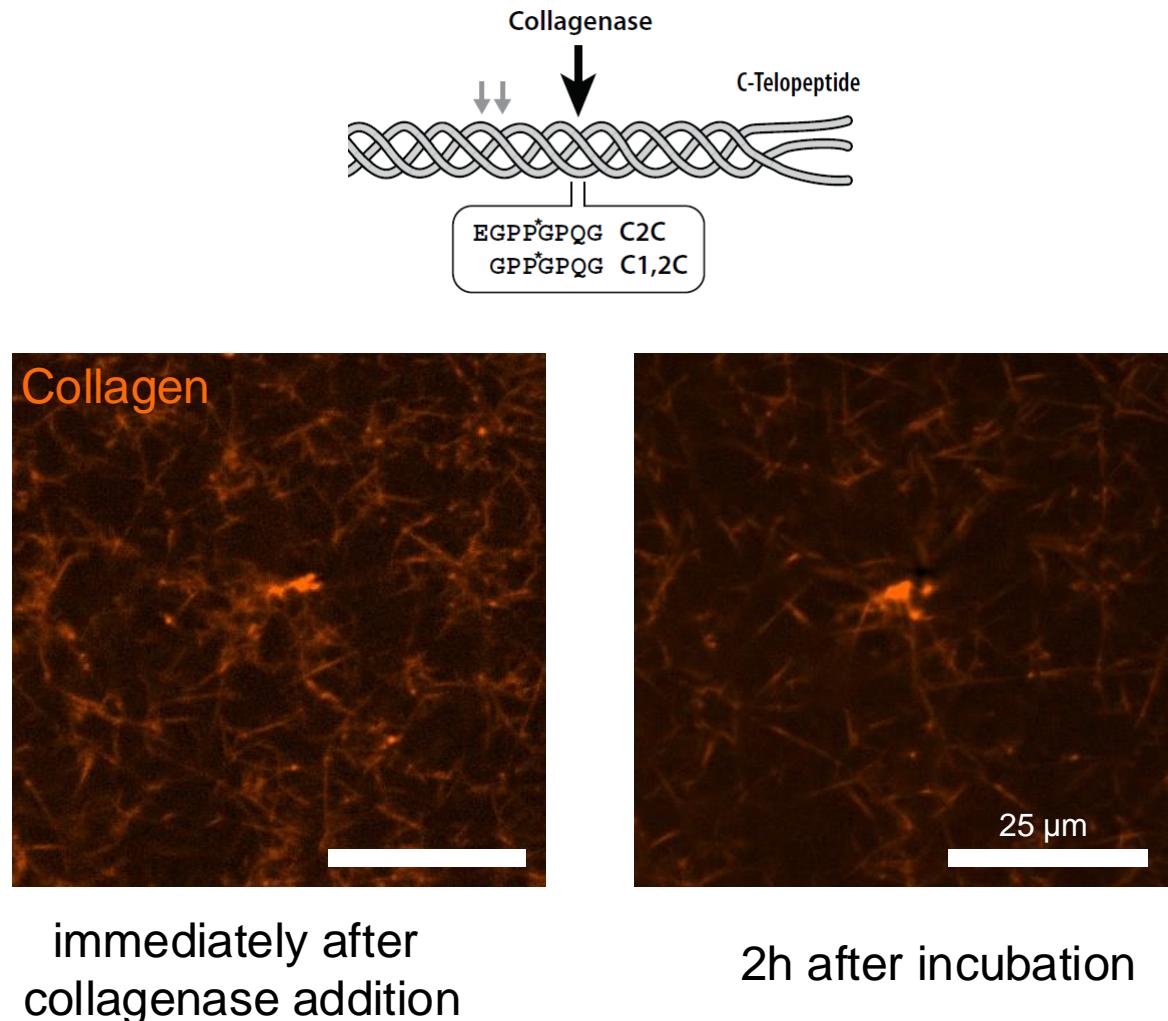


Effective shear moduli G

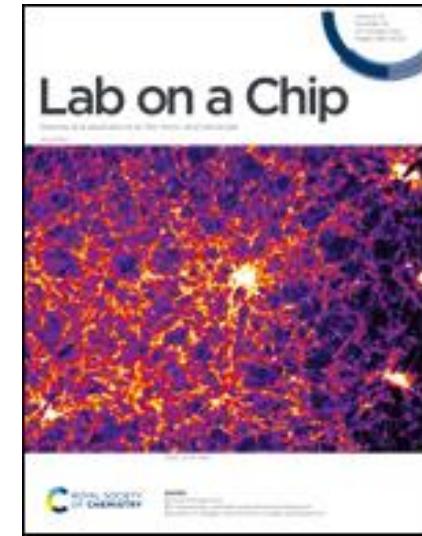
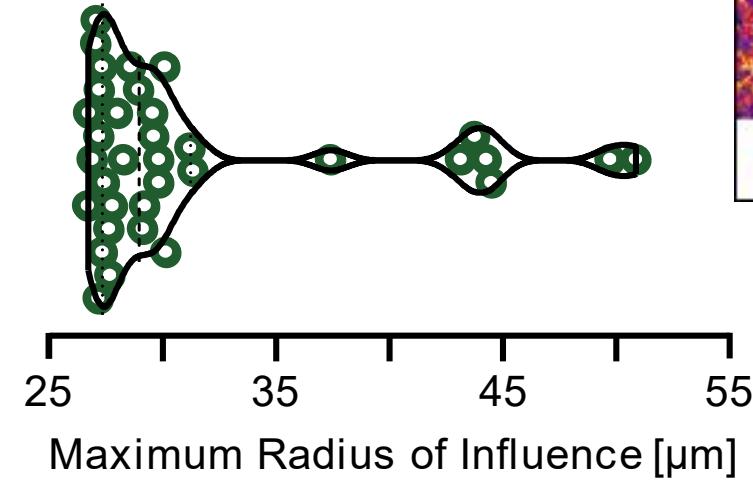
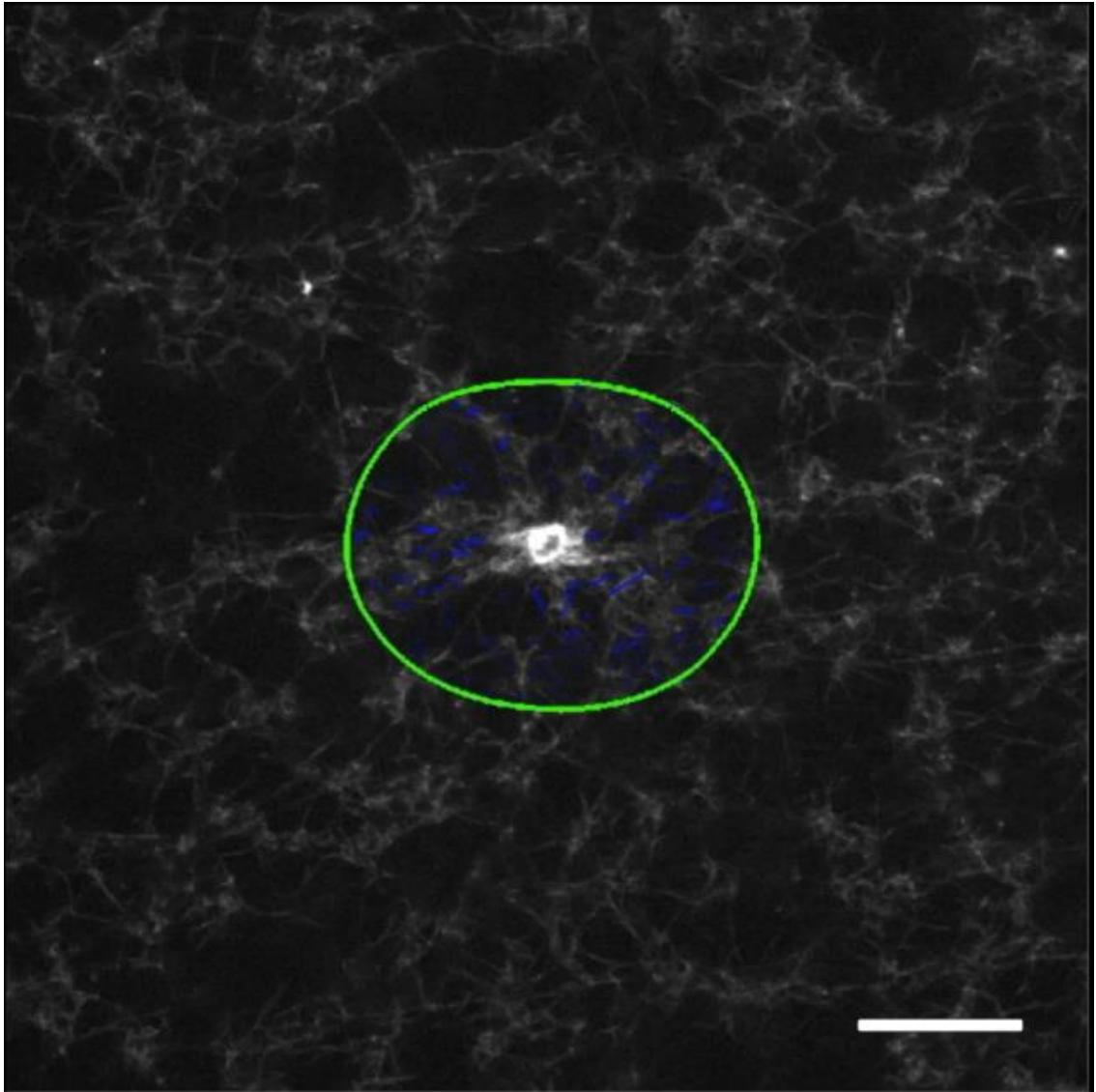
Probing the mechanical environment of a cell *in vitro*



Stiffness probing with temporal resolution μRods sense matrix softening during enzymatic degradation

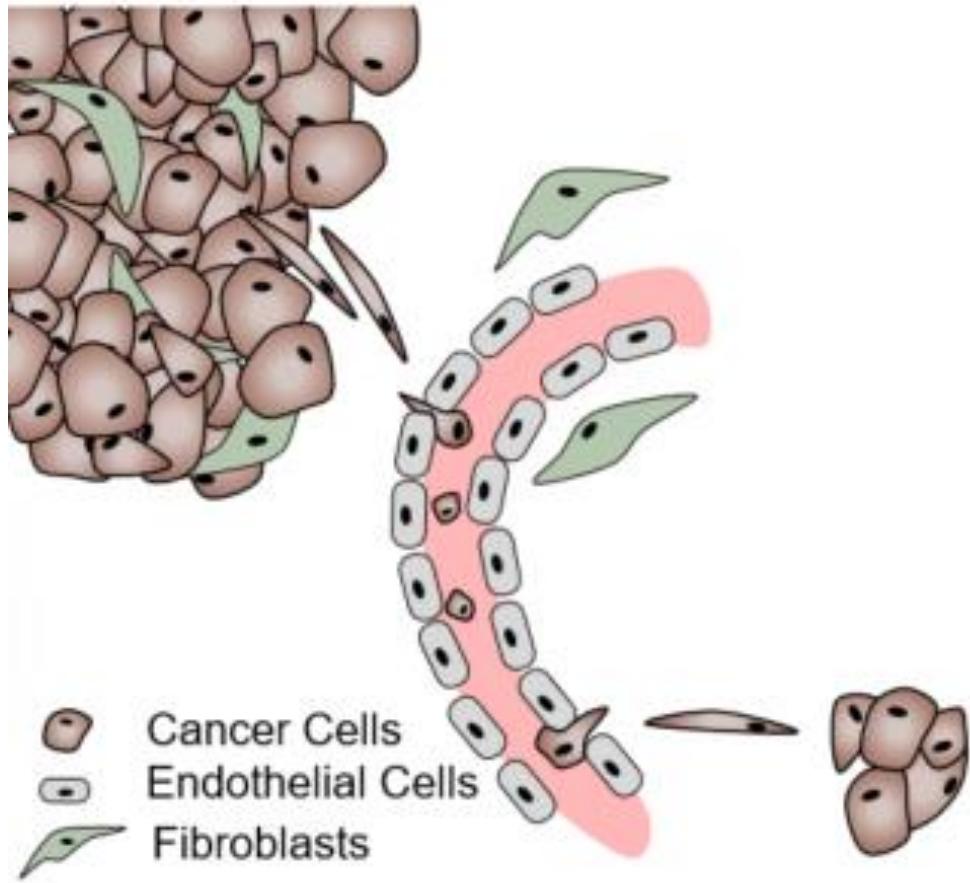


Applying controlled mechanical cues



Our microrobots deflect collagen matrices over several tens of micron and can apply tens of pNm torques, similar to cell contractile moments!

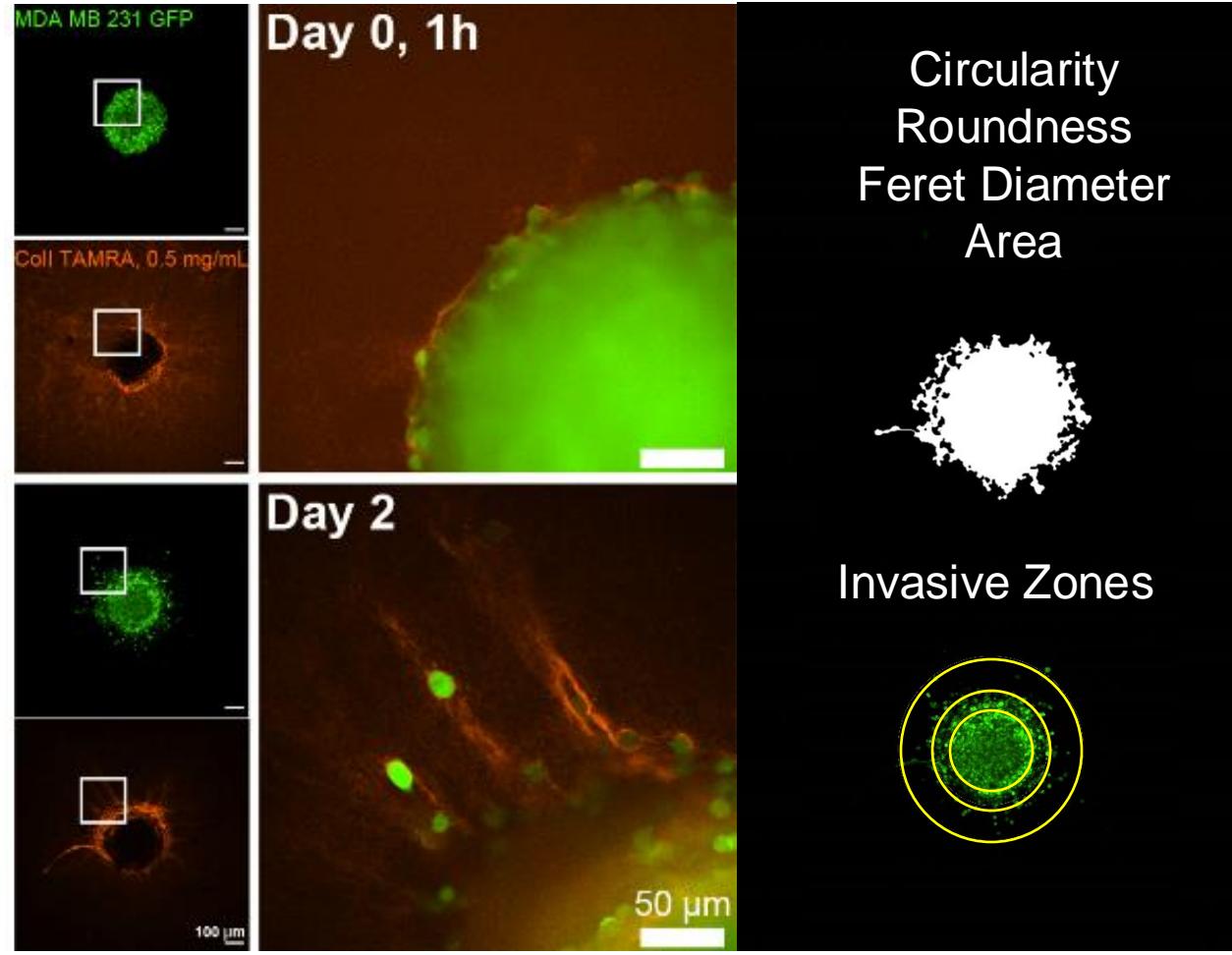
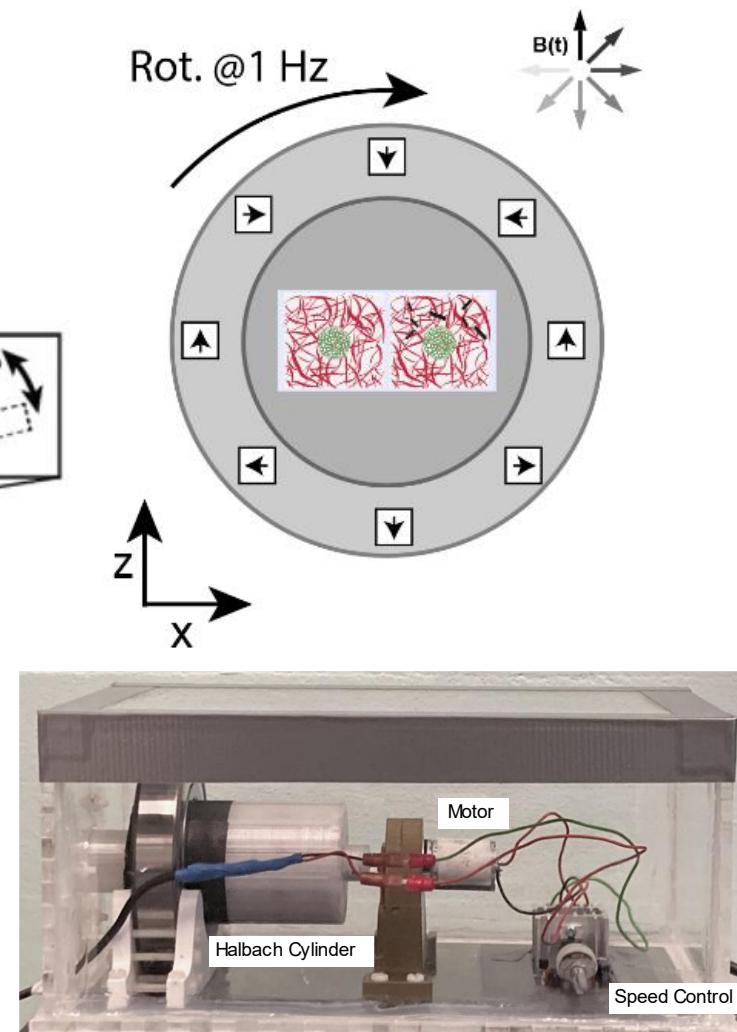
Applying controlled mechanical cues to the tumor microenvironment



How do mechanical cues affect cancer invasion?

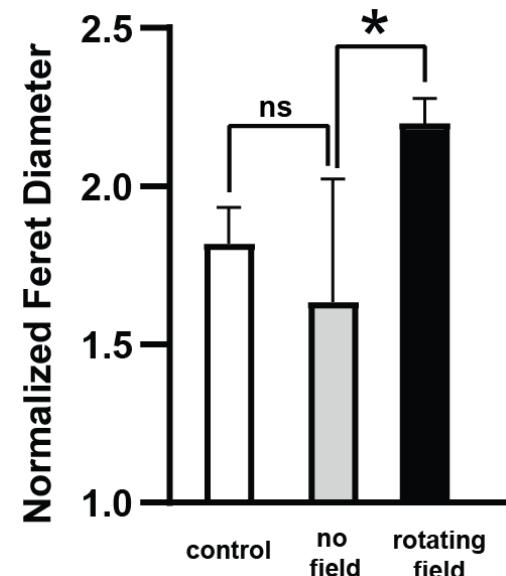
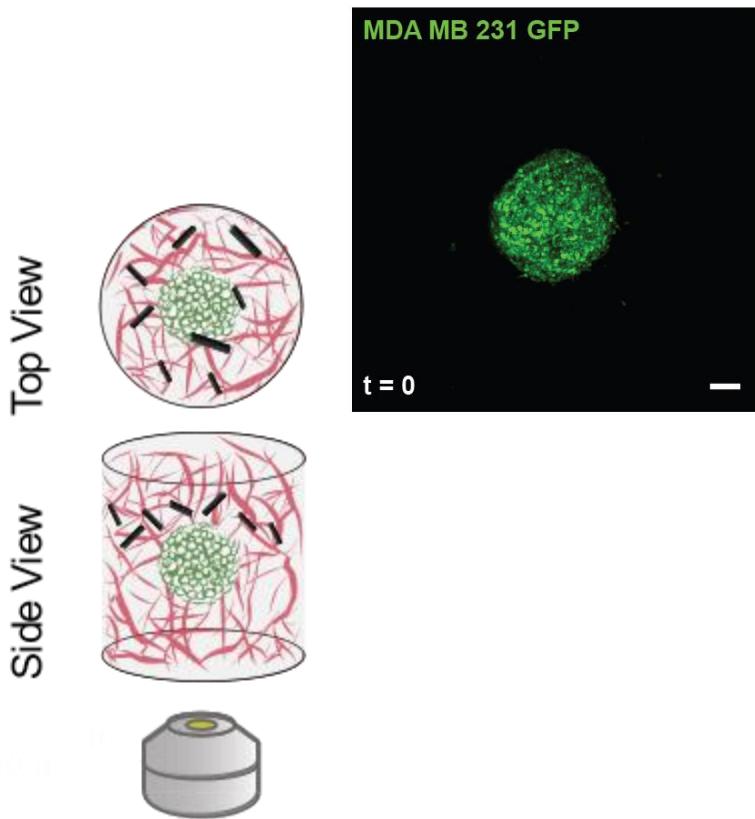
Applying controlled mechanical cues to the tumor microenvironment

How do
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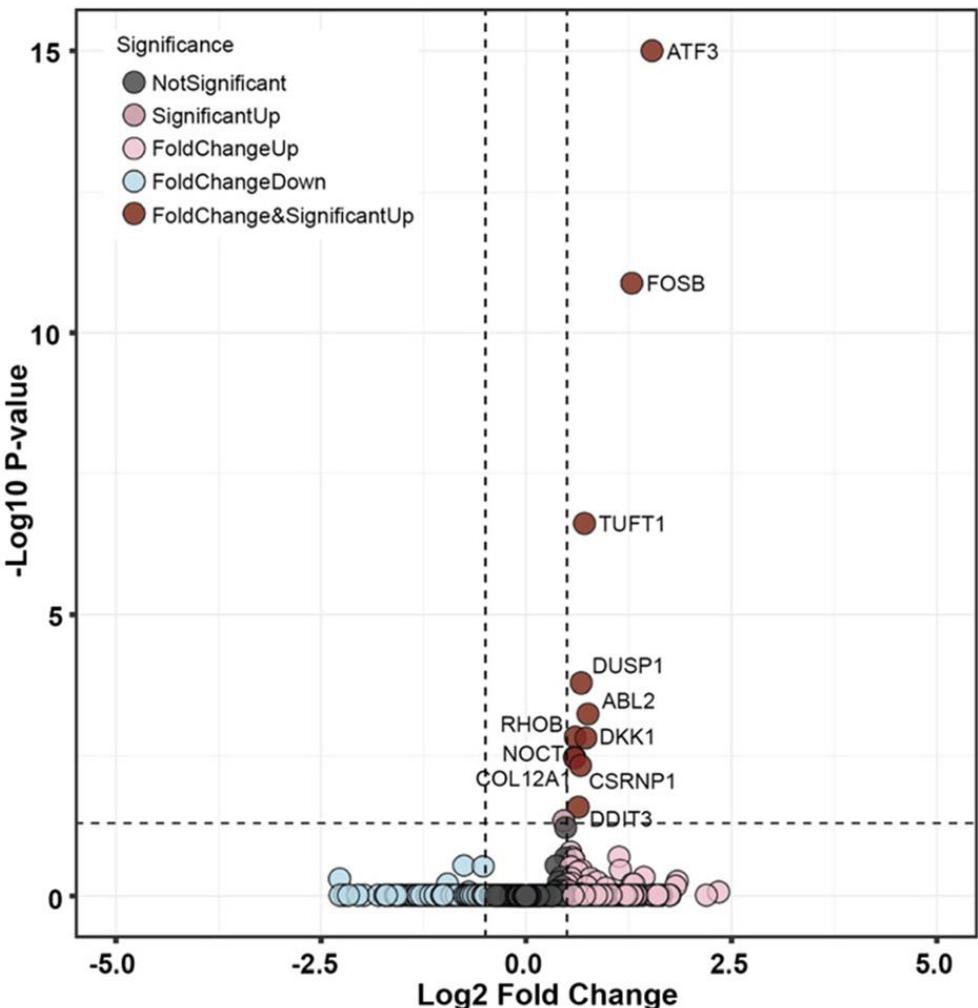


In collaboration with Ece Su Idliz and Nicola Acteo

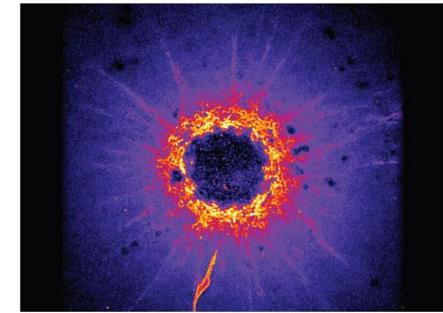
Mechanical cues drive cancer cell invasion



Magnetically induced mechanical deformation triggers expression of migration- and mechano-related genes



Asgeirsson *et al.*,
Biomaterials Science, 2023

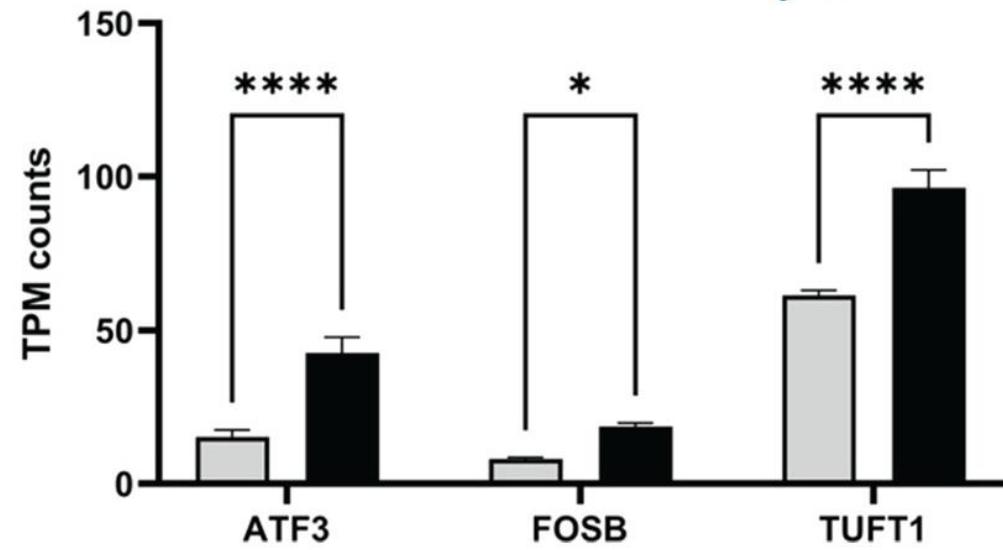


Showcasing research from the Responsive Biomedical Systems Laboratory, headed by Professor Simone Schürle, at the Institute of Translational Medicine, Department of Health Sciences & Technology, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland.
Magnetically controlled cyclic microscale deformation of 3D in vitro cancer model environments in a non-invasive manner. The results show that cyclic deformation of the tumor microenvironment promotes the invasion of MDA-MB 231 cancer cells from 3D tumor spheroids into the surrounding extracellular matrix *in vitro*.
This article presents an approach to mechanically actuate 3D in vitro cancer model environments in a non-invasive manner. The results show that cyclic deformation of the tumor microenvironment promotes the invasion of MDA-MB 231 cancer cells from 3D tumor spheroids into the surrounding extracellular matrix *in vitro*.

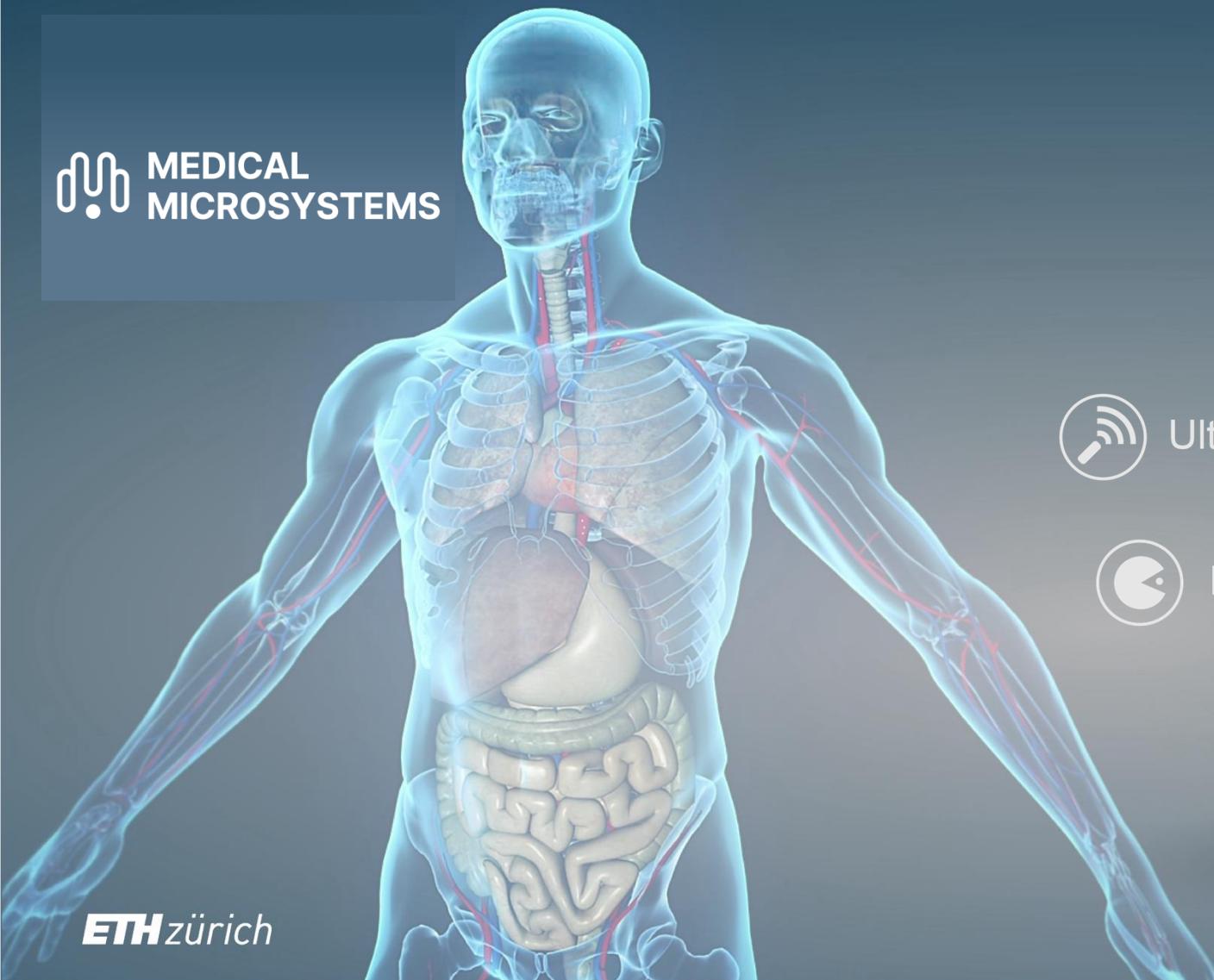


As featured in:
Biomaterials Science
See Simone Schürle *et al.*, *Biomater. Sci.* 2023, 11, 7541.

■ Rods, No Field
■ Rods, Rotating Field

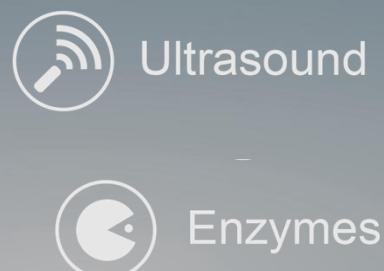


In collaboration with Ece Su Idliz and Nicola Acteo



Microrobots for

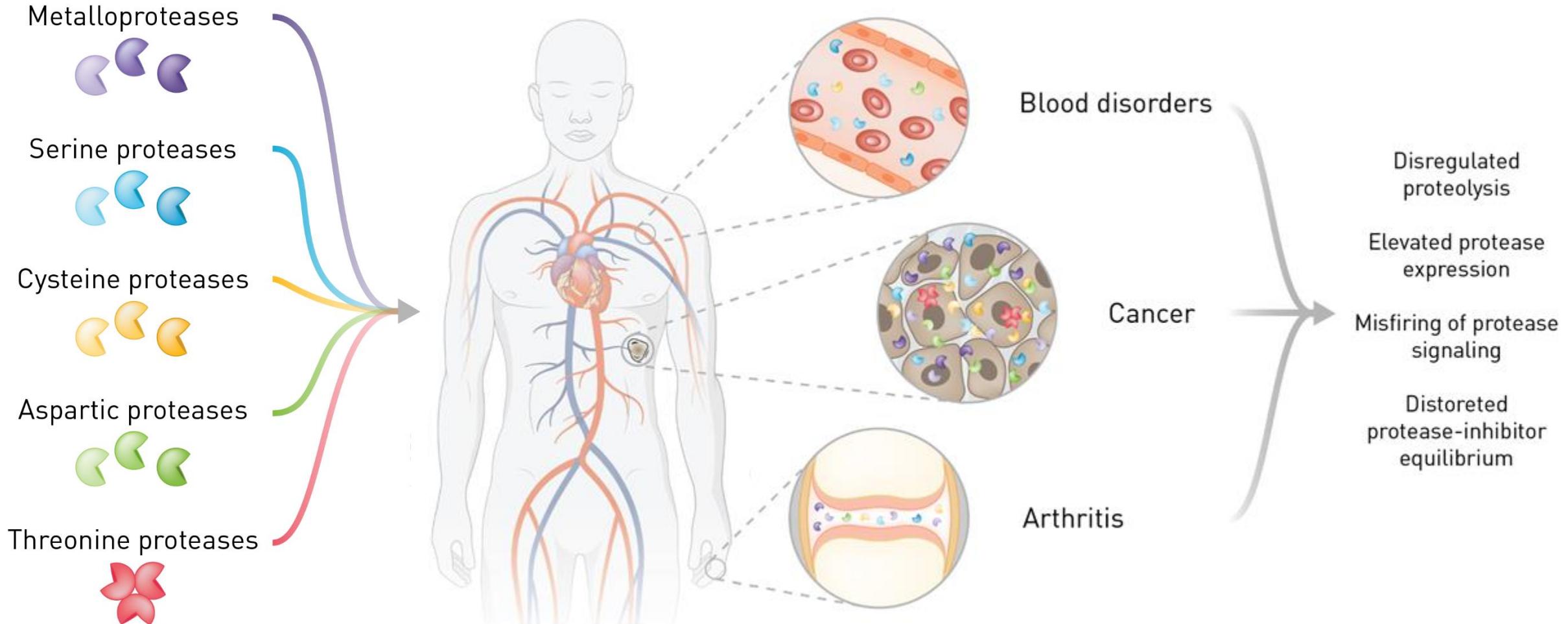
- 1 Cell & tissue probing



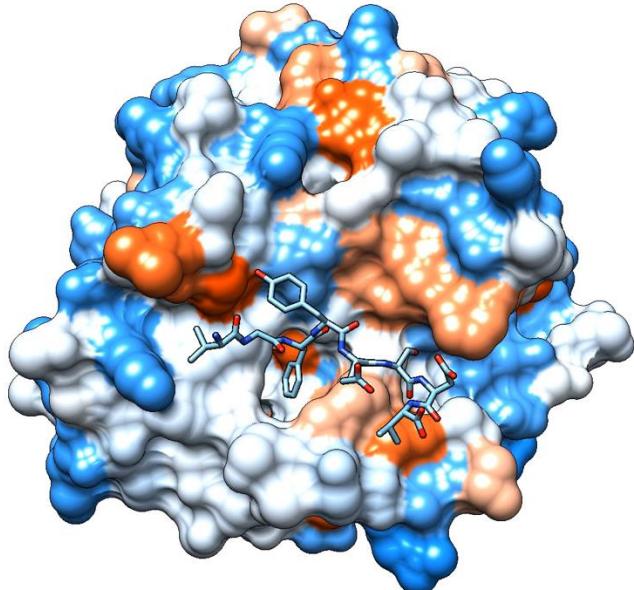
- 2 Biosensing & diagnostics

- 3 Drug delivery

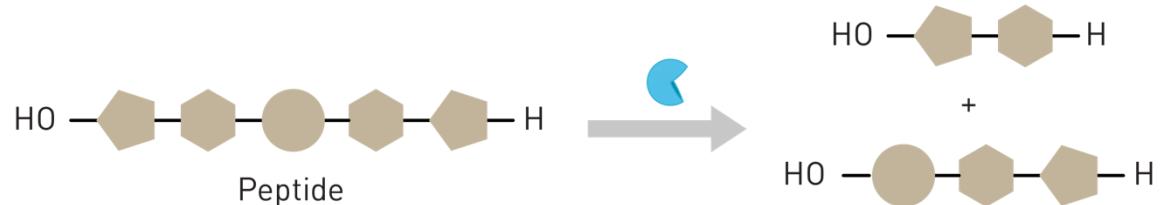
Proteases are an important hallmark of disease



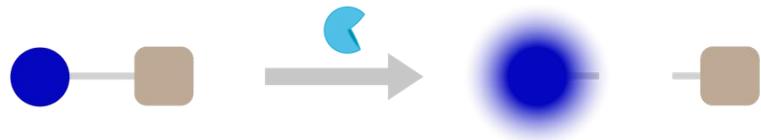
Proteases are molecular scissors



Proteases break peptide bonds via hydrolysis

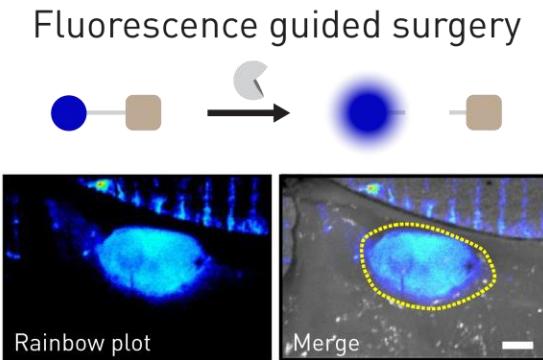


Protease activity can be measured with peptide substrates and quenched fluorescent probes



VGYESDV octapeptide cleaved by MMP-2

Biosensing of proteases



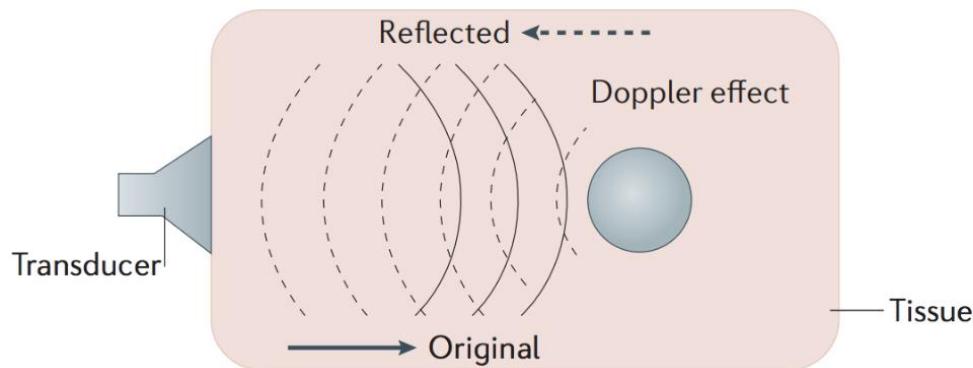
J.C. Widen et al., *Nat. Bio. Med. Eng.*, 2021

Ultrasound imaging

- 1 to 10 MHz sound waves
- Mechanical wave propagates at a speed dependent on the acoustic impedance of the medium
- Respective echo signal is used to construct an image
- Imaging depth limited in most organs to approx. 10 cm
- High resolution
- High endogenous contrast



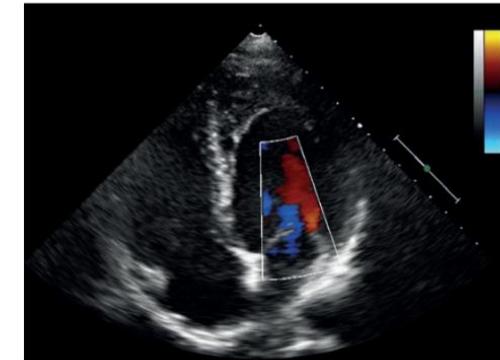
Ultrasound



Fetus (ultrasound)

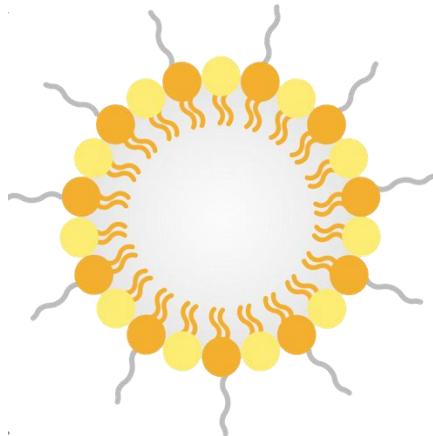


Cardiac (ultrasound Doppler)



Microbubbles offer a platform to integrate responsiveness

Microbubble as ultrasound contrast agents



- Primary lipid (90 %)
- Emulsifier lipid (10 %)
- Gas core

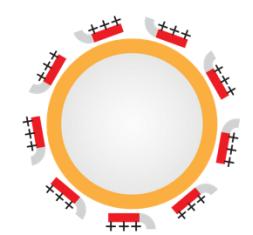
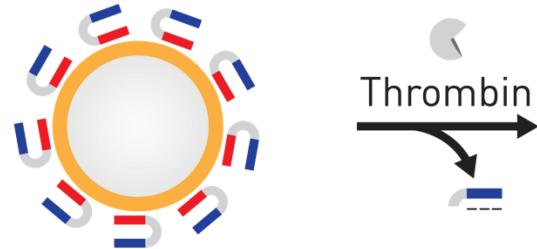


P.L. Allan et al., *Clinical Ultrasound*, 2011

Incorporation of responsiveness through modulation of the shell

Chemical modulation of shell parameters

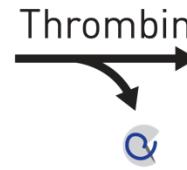
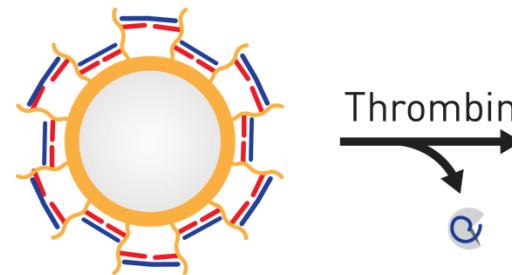
Targeting ability



J. Lux et al., *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces*, 2017

Mechanical modulation of shell through aptamer hybridization

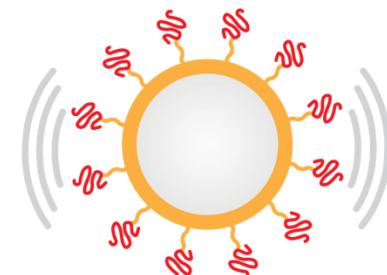
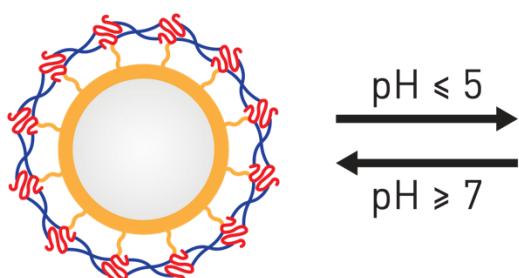
Nonlinear ultrasound



M.A. Nakatsuka et al., *Adv. Mater.*, 2012

Mechanical modulation of shell through pH-based cleavage

Nonlinear ultrasound



M.W.N. Burns et al., *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces*, 2020

Mechanical modulation of bacterial gas vesicles through protease cleavage

Nonlinear ultrasound



A. Lakshmanan et al., *Nat. Chem. Bio.*, 2020

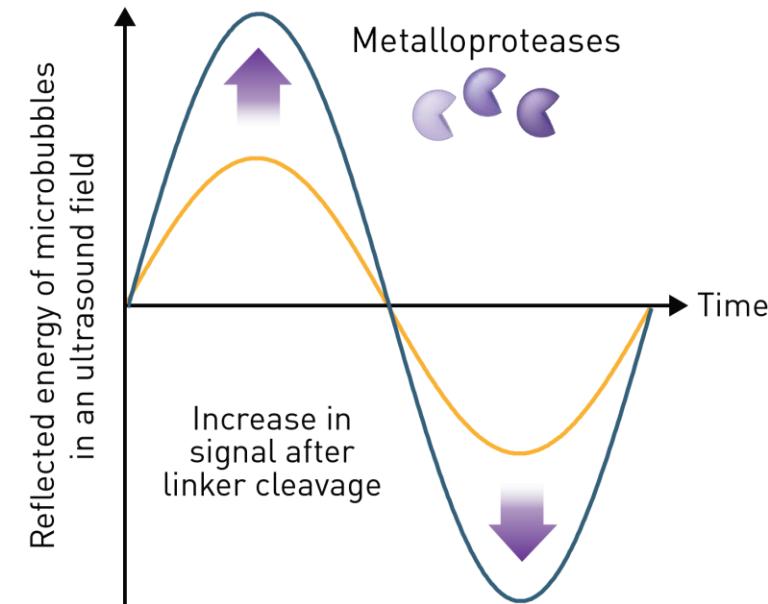
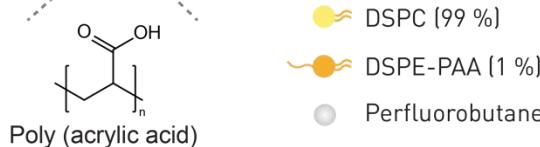
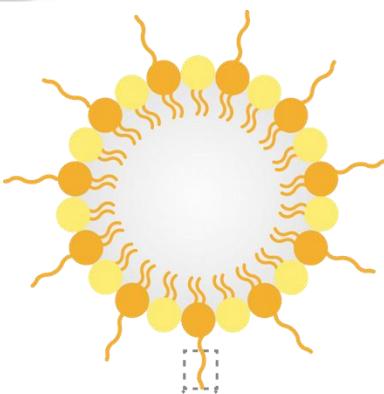
Protease responsive ultrasound contrast agents (PRUCAs)



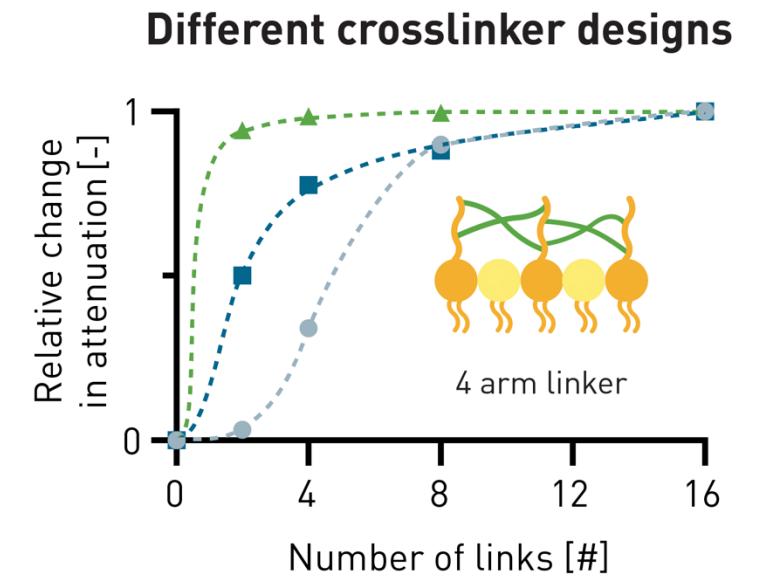
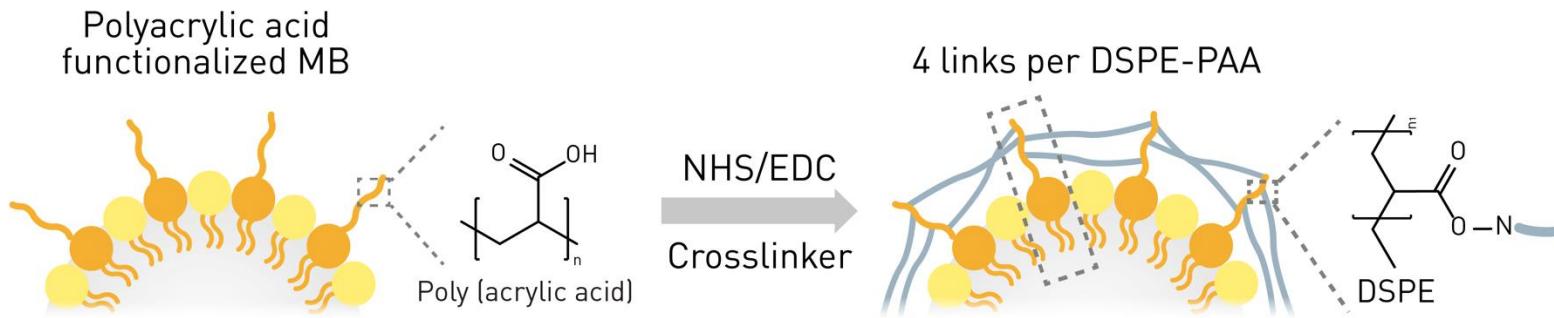
Dr. Dragana Ristanovic



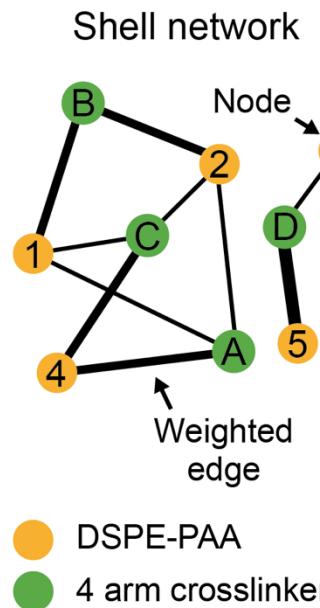
PAA-functionalized
microbubble



Crosslinking modulates mechanical properties of microbubbles



Network model predicts observed influence of crosslinker

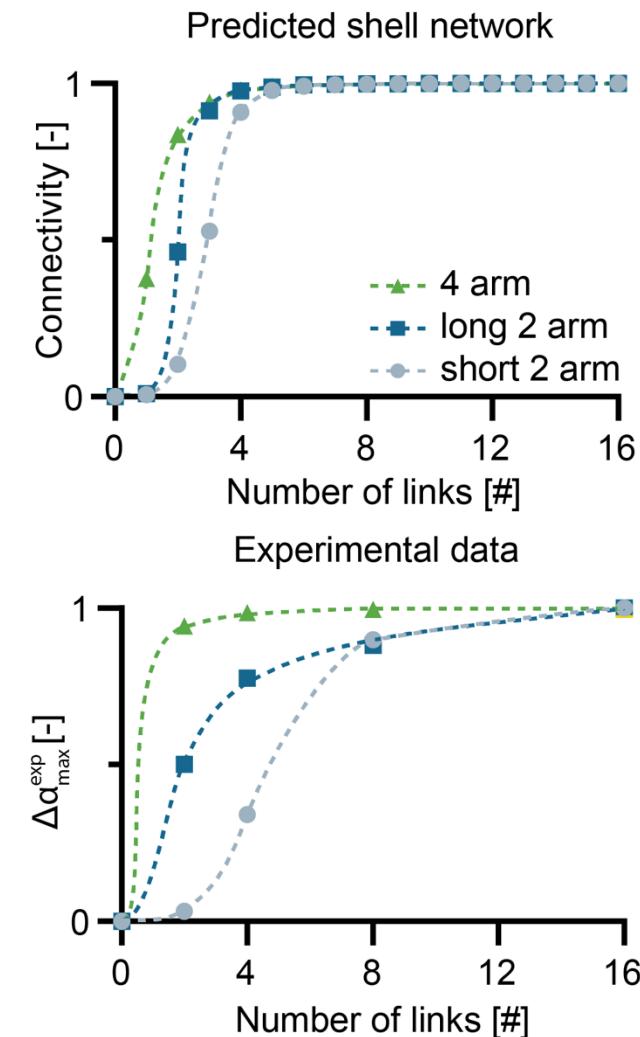
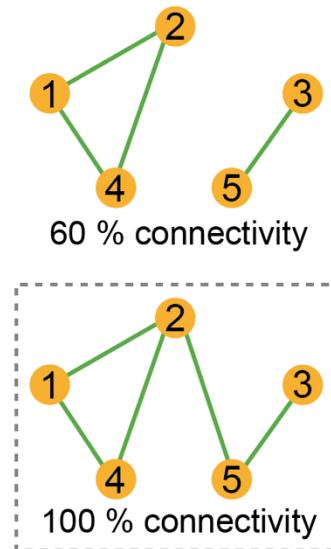


Incidence matrix

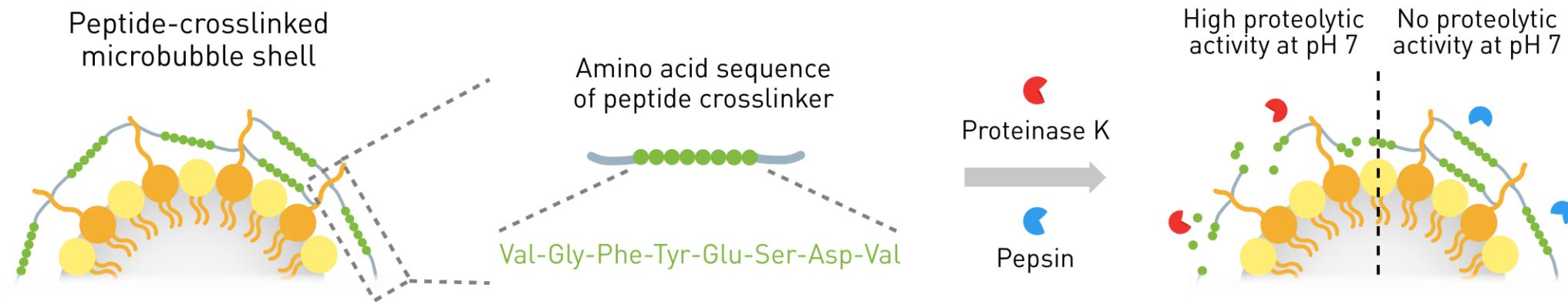
	A	B	C	D
1	1	2	1	0
2	1	2	1	0
3	0	0	0	1
4	2	0	2	0
5	0	0	0	3

Sum

Bipartide projection



Peptide-crosslinked microbubbles report proteolytic activity



Diagnostic targets

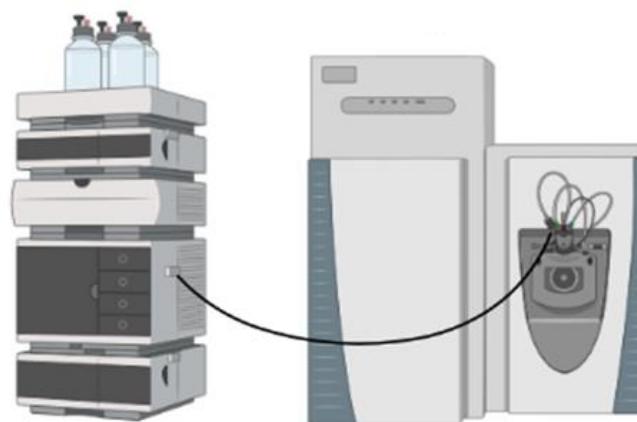
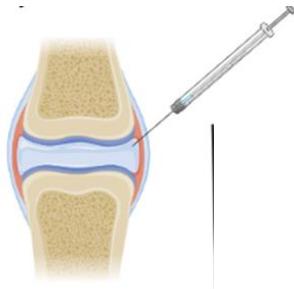
We are now working on applying this concept for

- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Lung fibrosis
- Skin fibrosis
- Infection

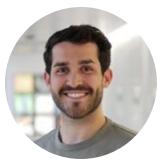
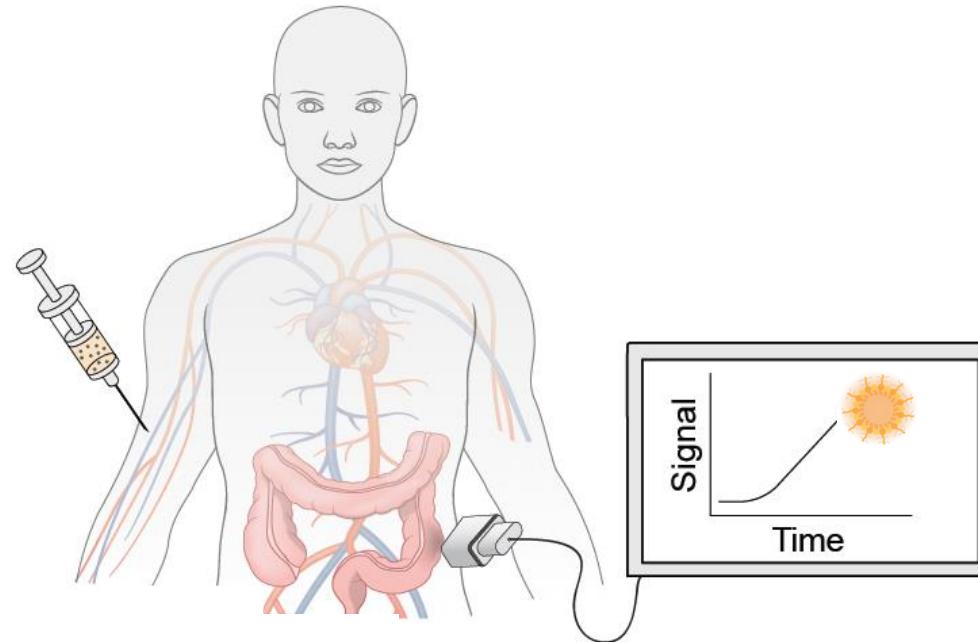
Gut biopsy samples



Synovial fluid samples



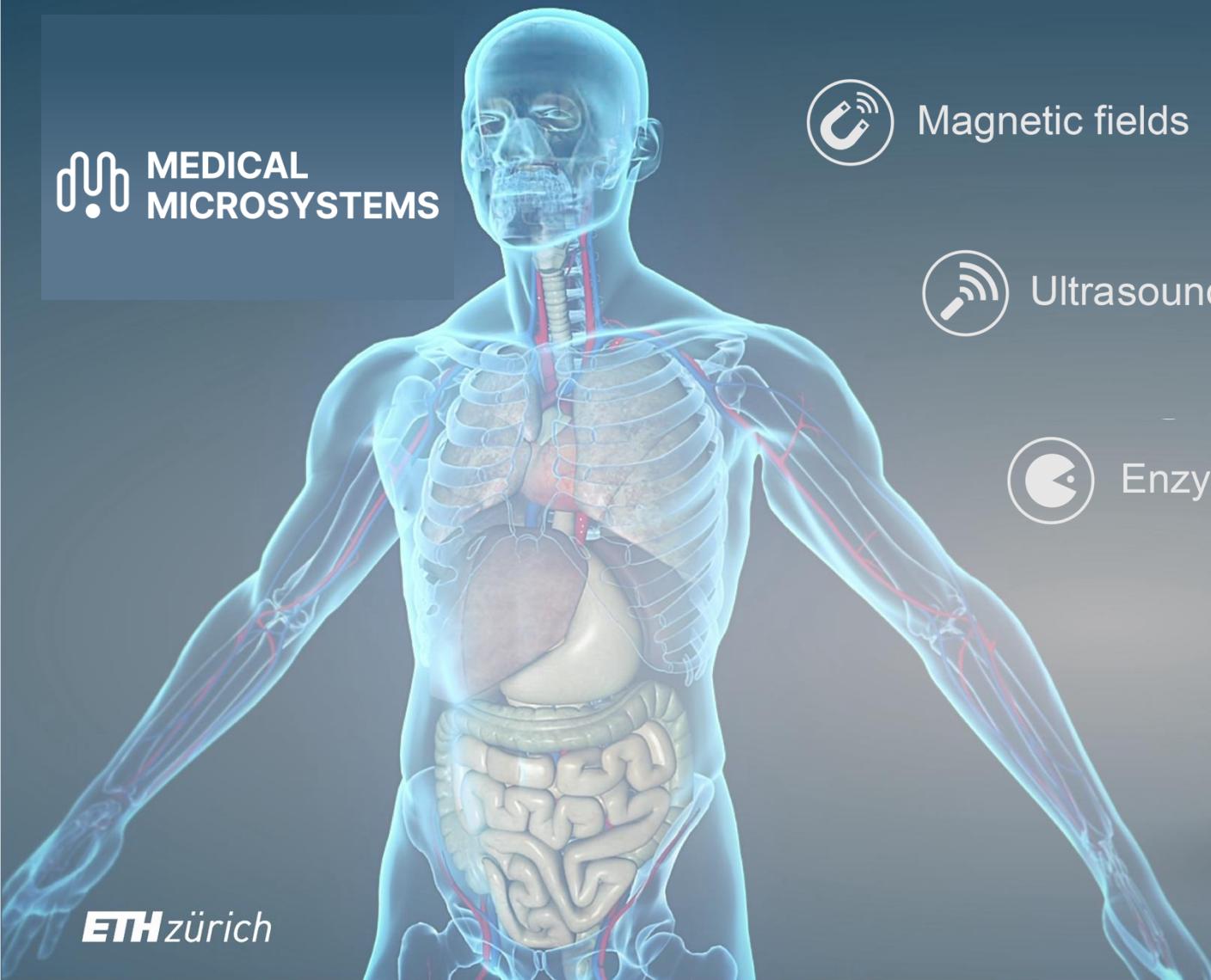
LC-MS/MS analysis of the proteome and the intrinsic peptidome



Pascal Poc



Ines Oberhuber



Magnetic fields



Ultrasound



Enzymes

Microrobots for

1

Cell & tissue probing

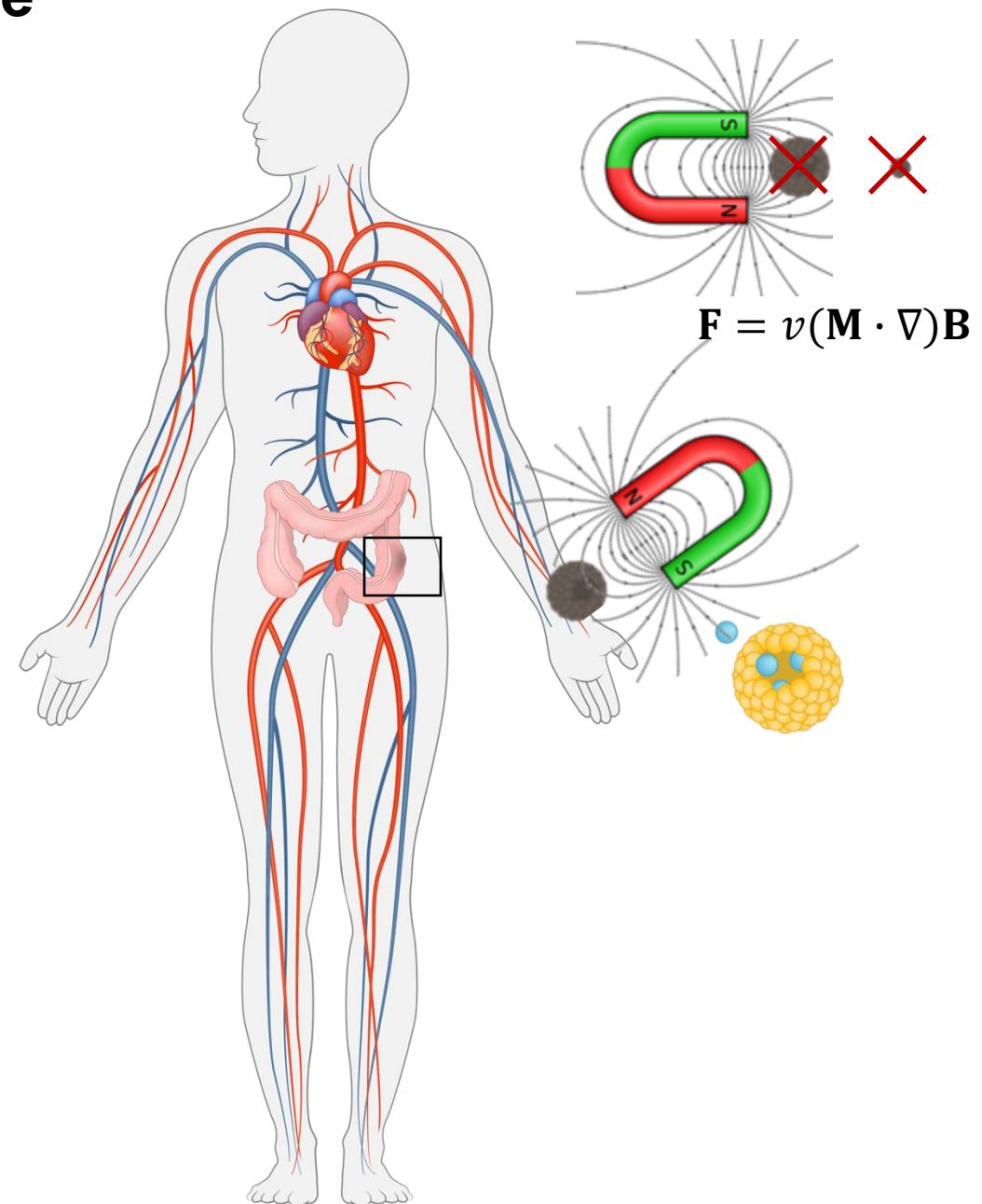
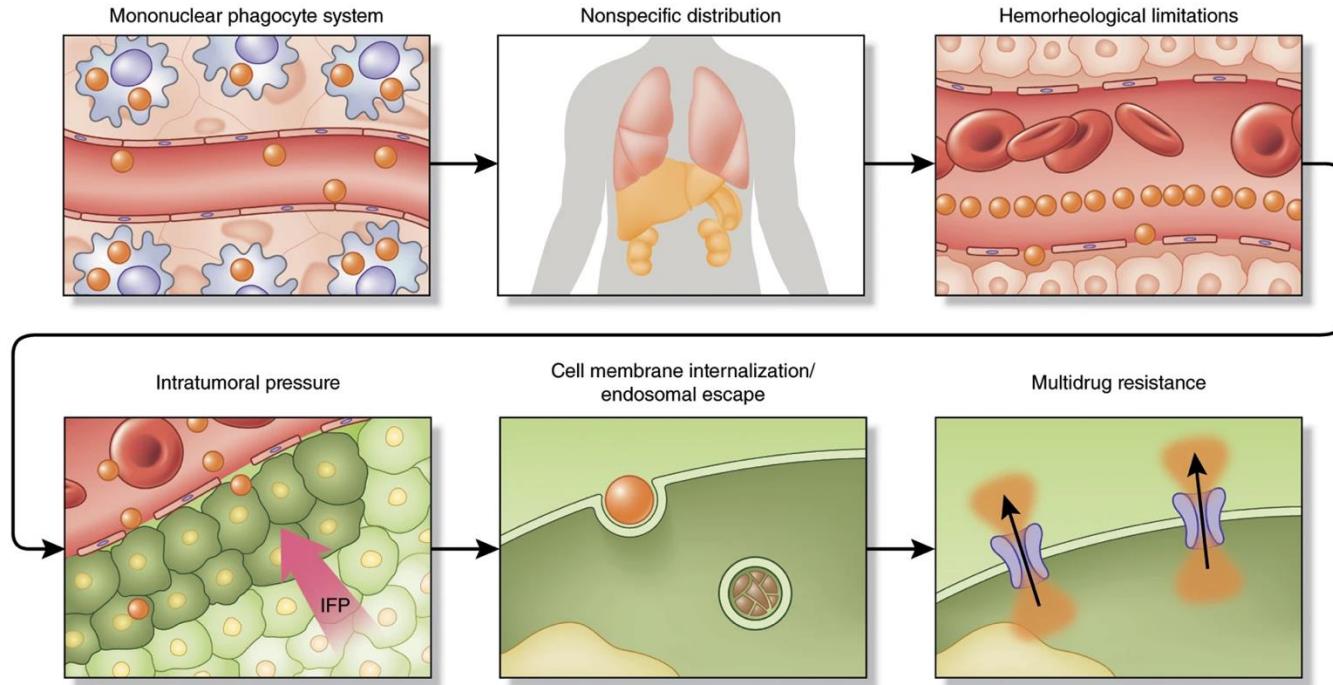
2

Biosensing & diagnostics

3

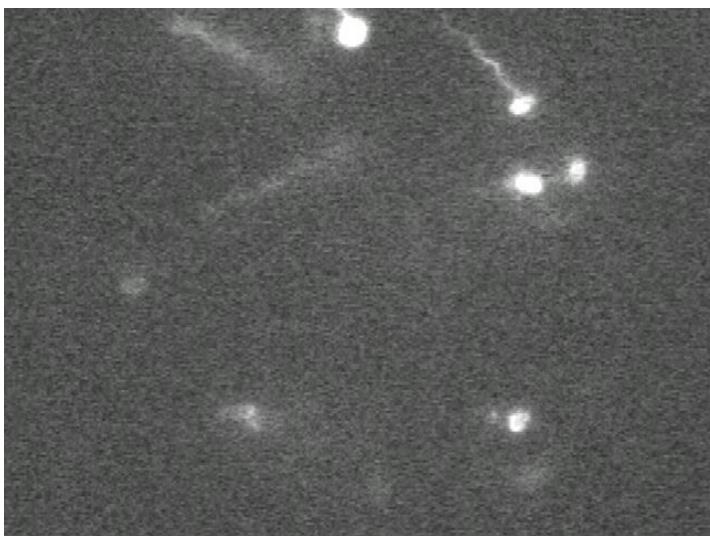
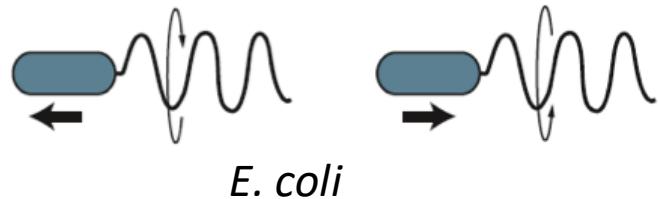
Drug delivery

The delivery problem of (cancer) nanomedicine



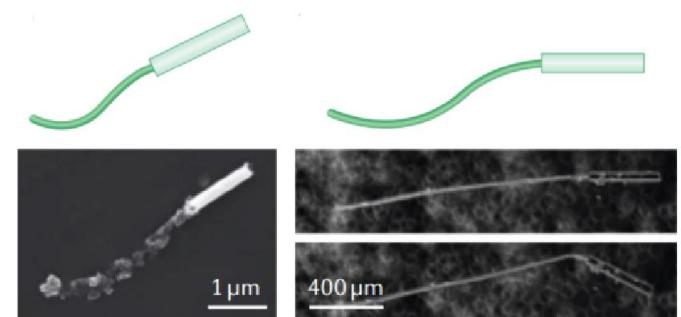
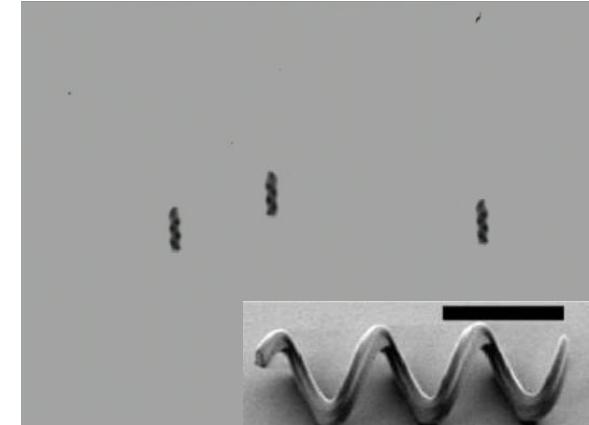
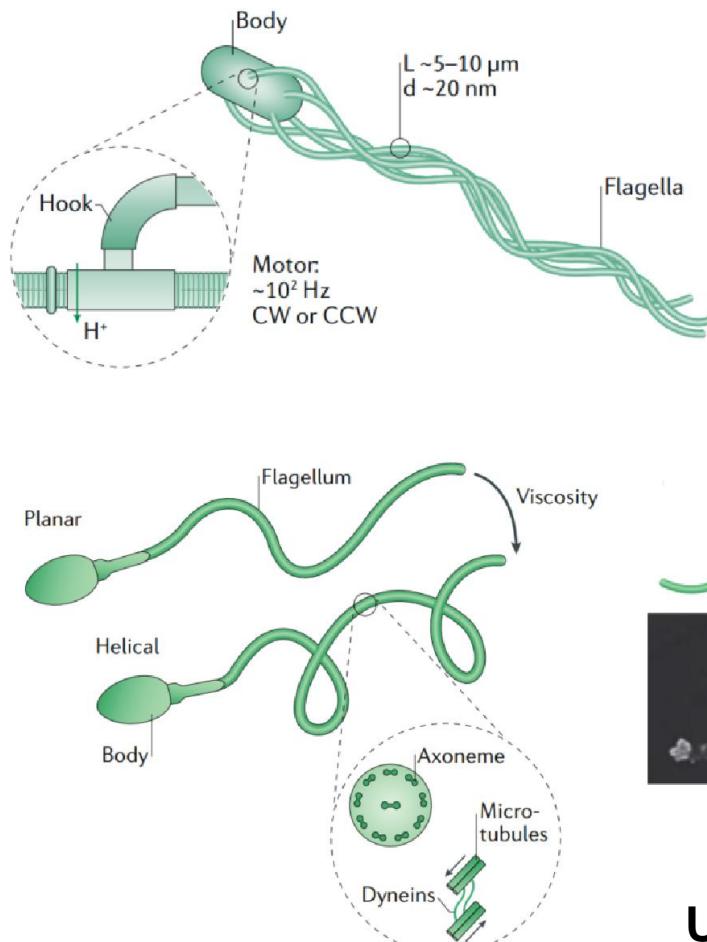
Only a dismal fraction of nanoparticle-based drugs reaches the tumor sites

Bioinspired microrobots as delivery vehicles



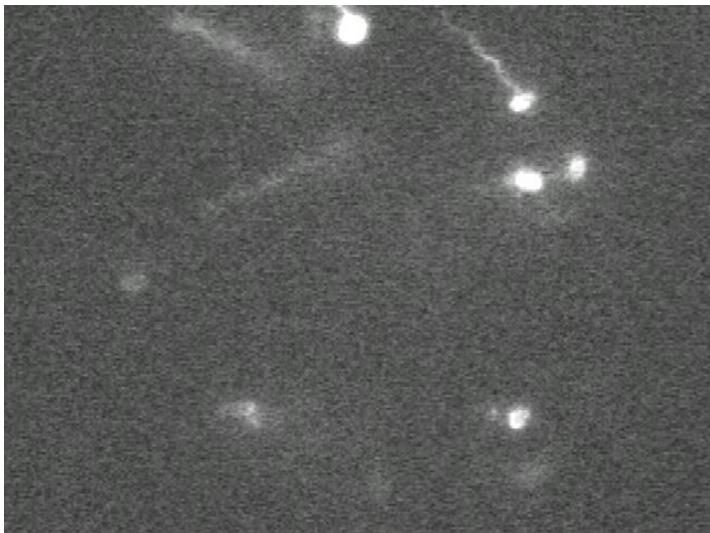
Video: Howard Berg

Non-reciprocal motion as effective means for propulsion at the Low Reynolds numbers



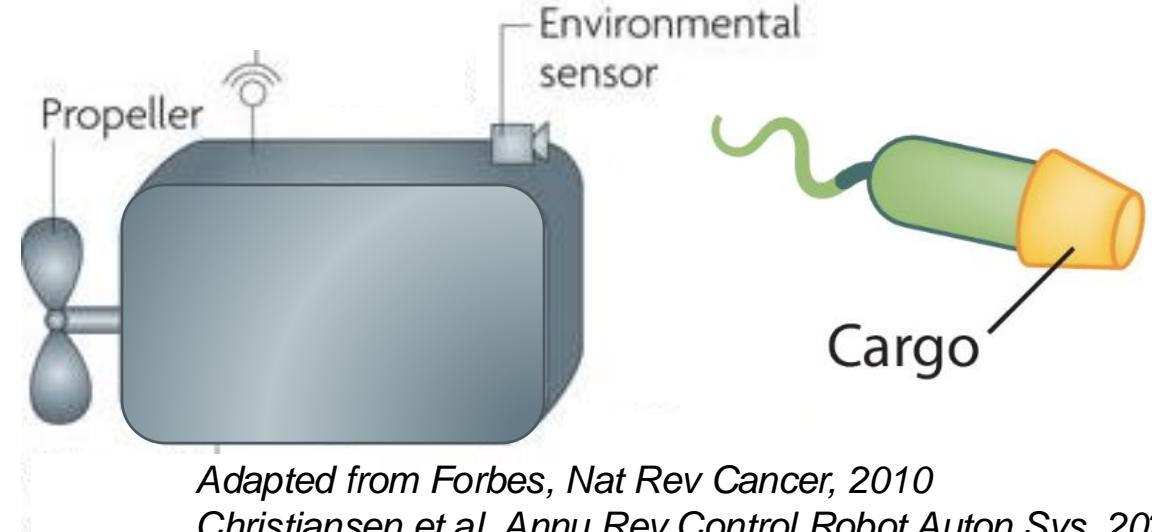
Using magnetic fields as external motor

Biological/biohybrid microrobots: a robotics perspective



Video: Howard Berg

Non-reciprocal motion as effective means for propulsion at the Low Reynolds numbers

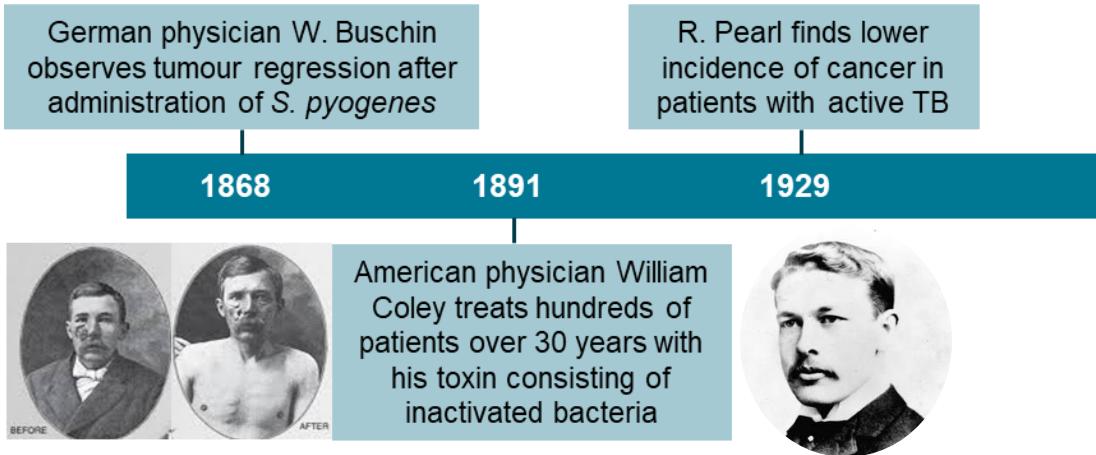


Adapted from Forbes, Nat Rev Cancer, 2010
Christiansen et al, Annu Rev Control Robot Auton Sys, 2022

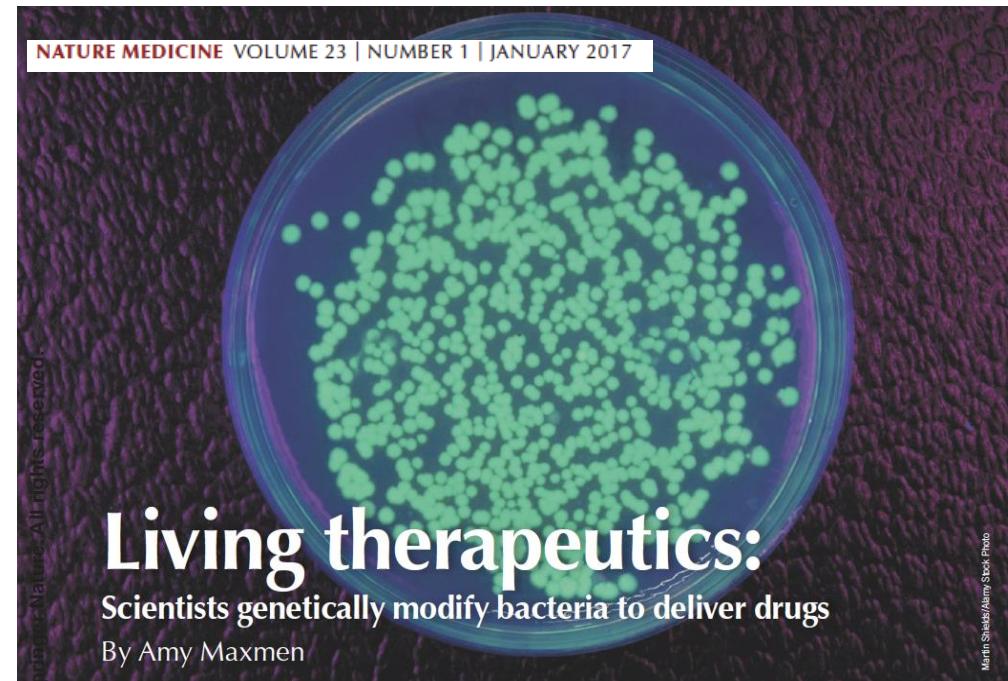
Bacteria are somewhat smart “microrobots”

- On board sensing, e.g. chemotaxis
- Self propulsion

Bacteria for medical applications– a (b)old idea



- Oldest form of immunotherapy, experiencing a renaissance
- Anaerobic bacteria amplify in tumors
- They provoke immune response
- Native or genetically engineered for on board drug production



□ CNV-NT: *Clostridium novyi-NT* – Tumor-fighting Bacteria

Source: In-licensed from Johns Hopkins University
Stage: Phase I

But...

- Clinical trials limited to intratumoral injection
 - Only about 1% of intravenously administered dose reaches tumor
 - Limited tumor penetration
 - Limited tolerable dose

Need for effective control to increase safety and efficacy at acceptable dosages

Effective powering



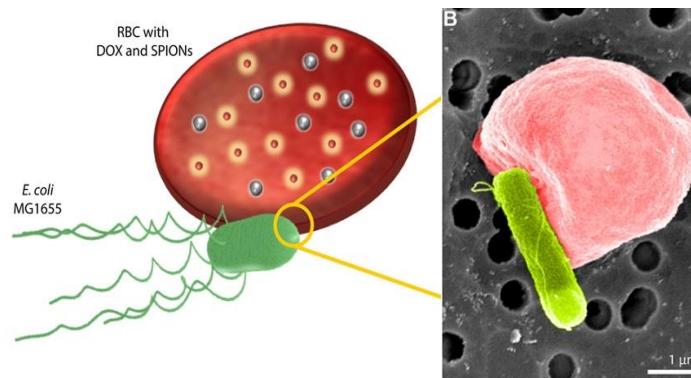
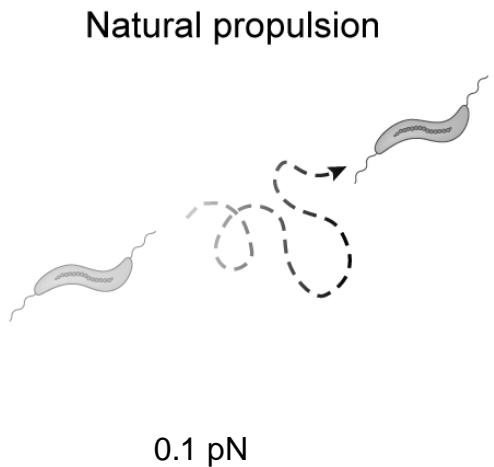
Feedback and Tracking



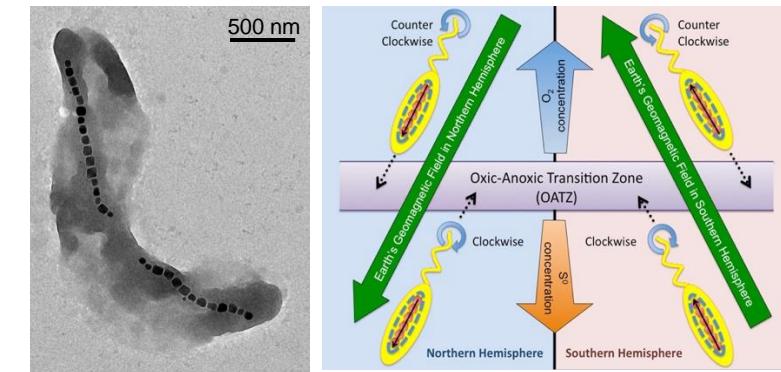
Controllability



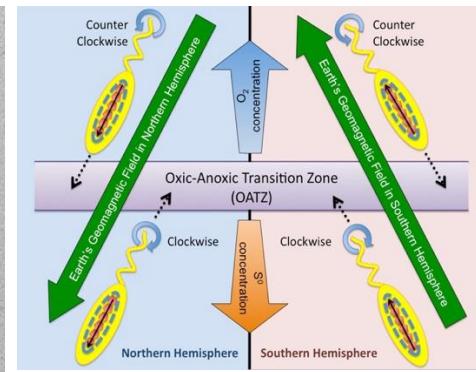
Means to magnetically control living bacteria-based microrobots



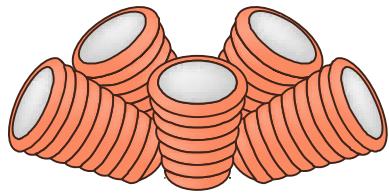
Alapan et al. *Sci Rob*, 2018



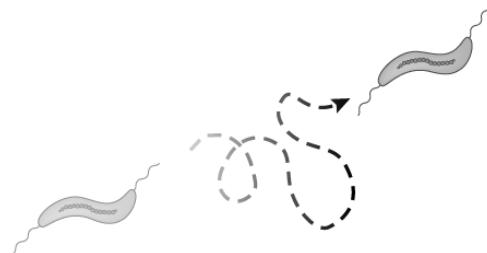
Schuerle et al., *Sci. Adv.*, 2019



Means to magnetically control living bacteria-based microrobots

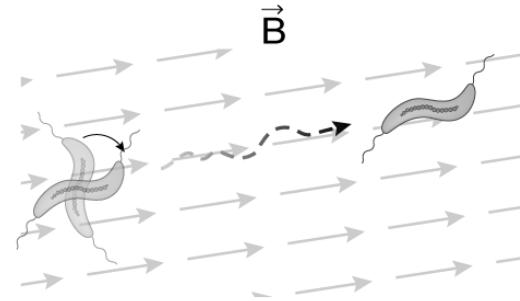


Natural propulsion



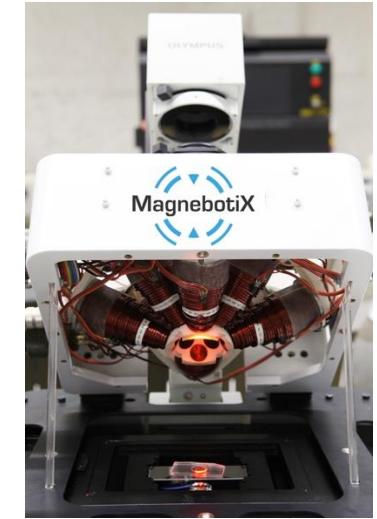
0.1 pN

Directing magnetic field

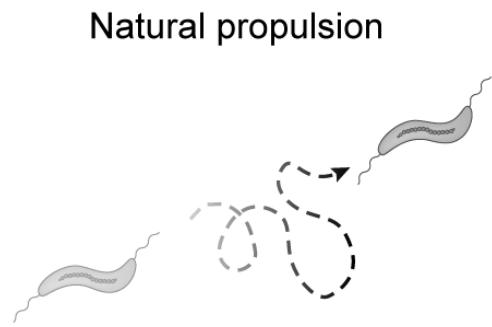
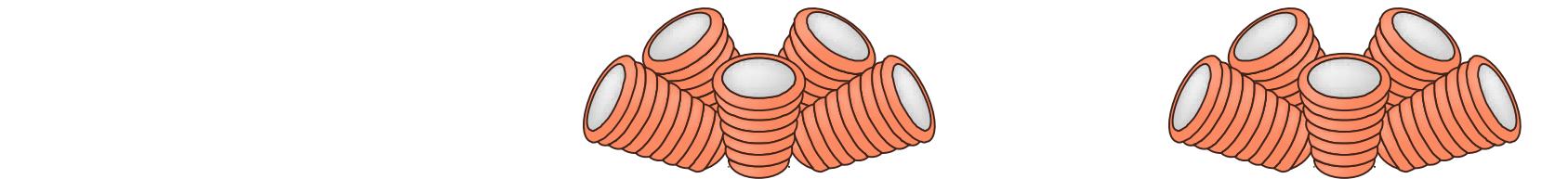


0.1 pN

Limited by molecular motor
Limited to paratumoral
injections

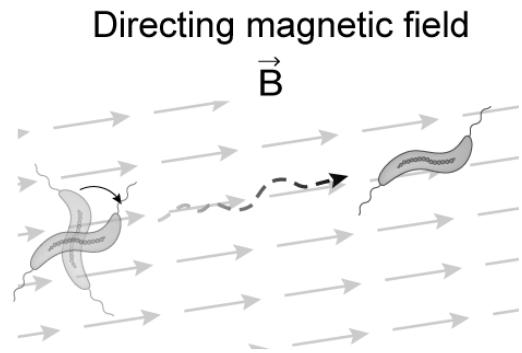


Means to magnetically control living bacteria-based microrobots



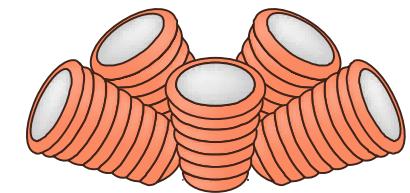
Natural propulsion

0.1 pN



Directing magnetic field

0.1 pN



Magnetic field gradient

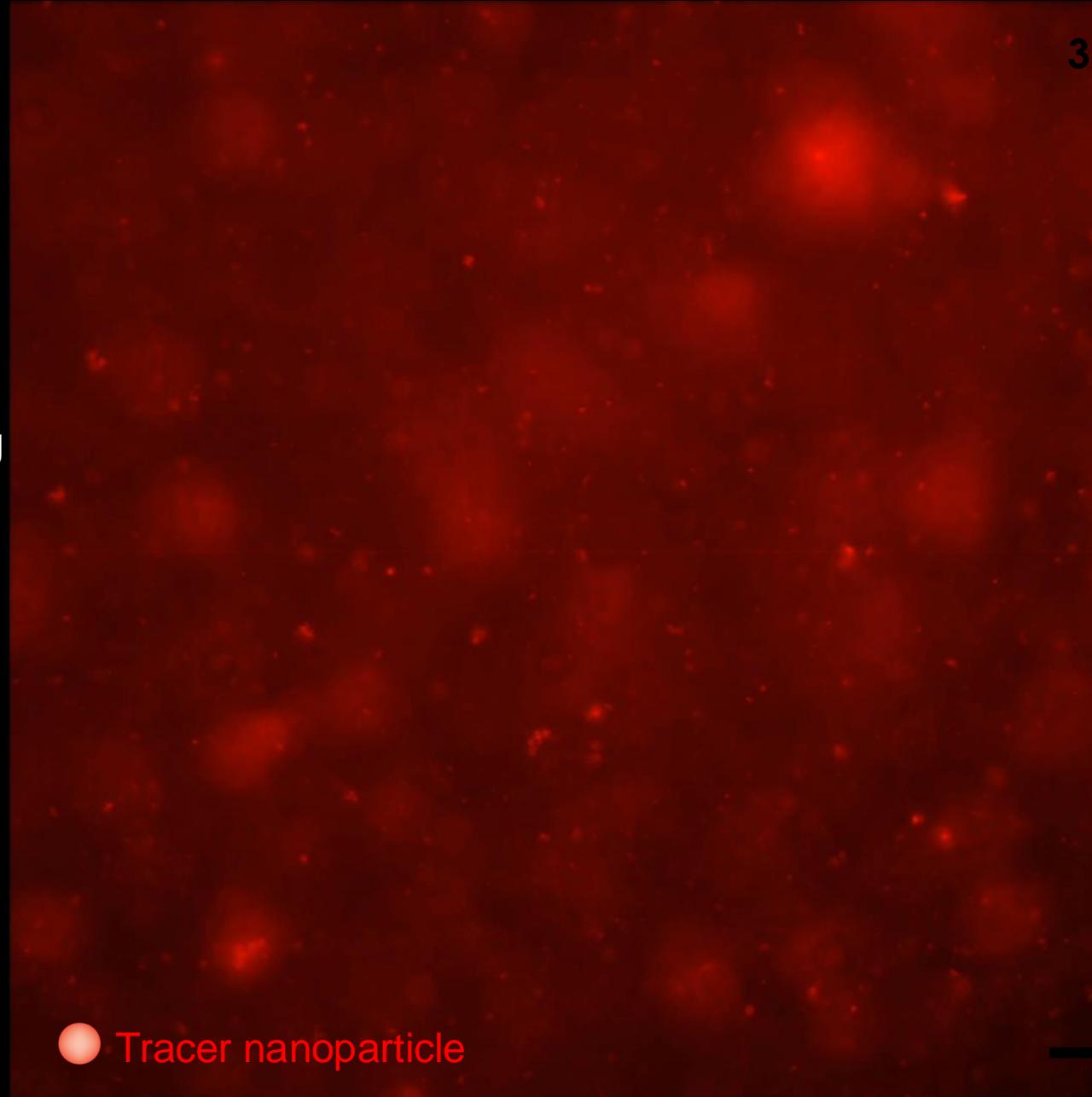
1 pN
1300 T/m

Limited by molecular motor
Limited to paratumoral
injections

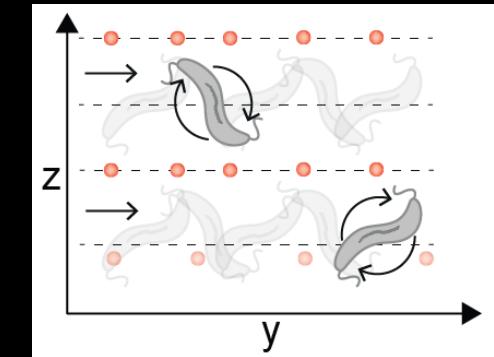
Poorly scalable
Limited to
superficial targets

Magnetic torque based bacterial swarm control is powerful

Effective powering
and control!

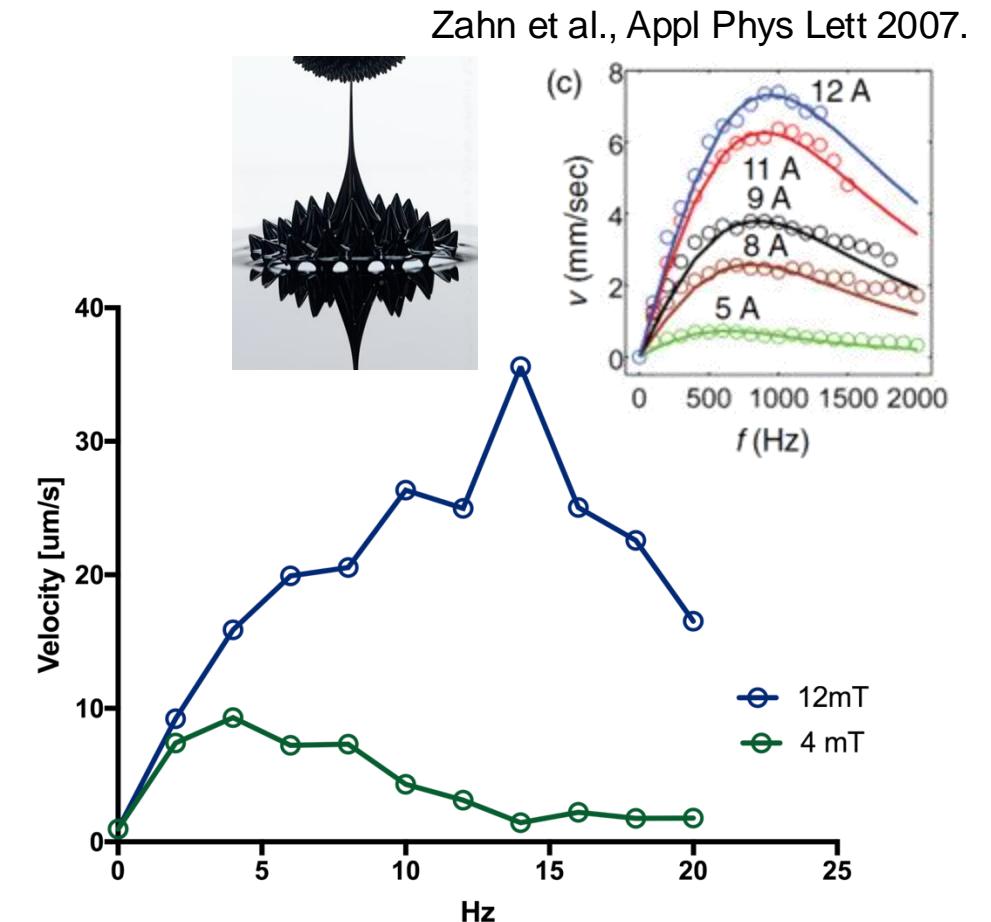
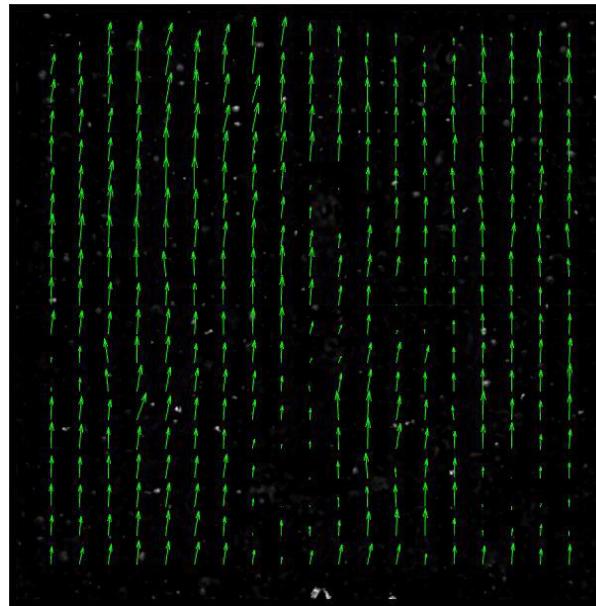
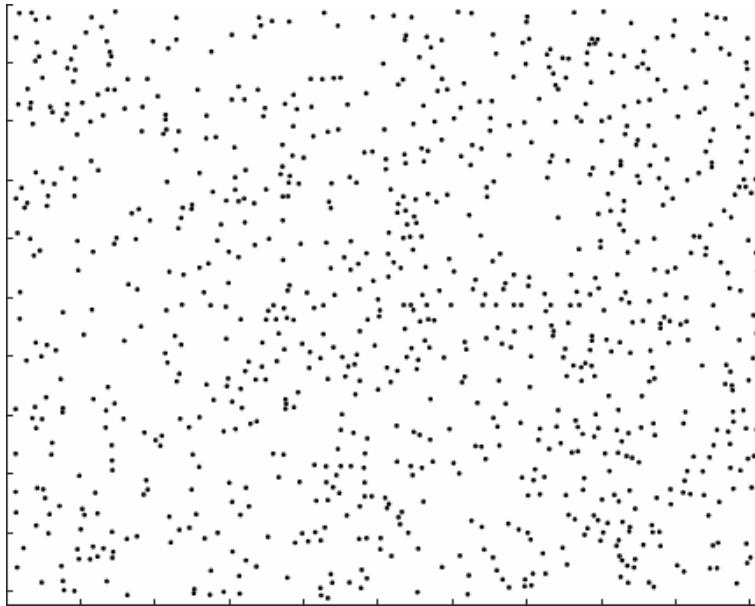


● Tracer nanoparticle



Schuerle et al., *Sci Adv* 2019

Ferrohydrodynamics with bacterial swarms as living ferrofluids



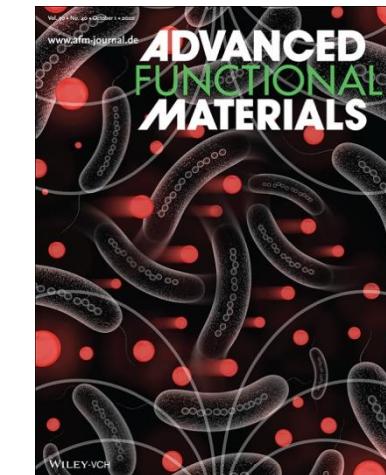
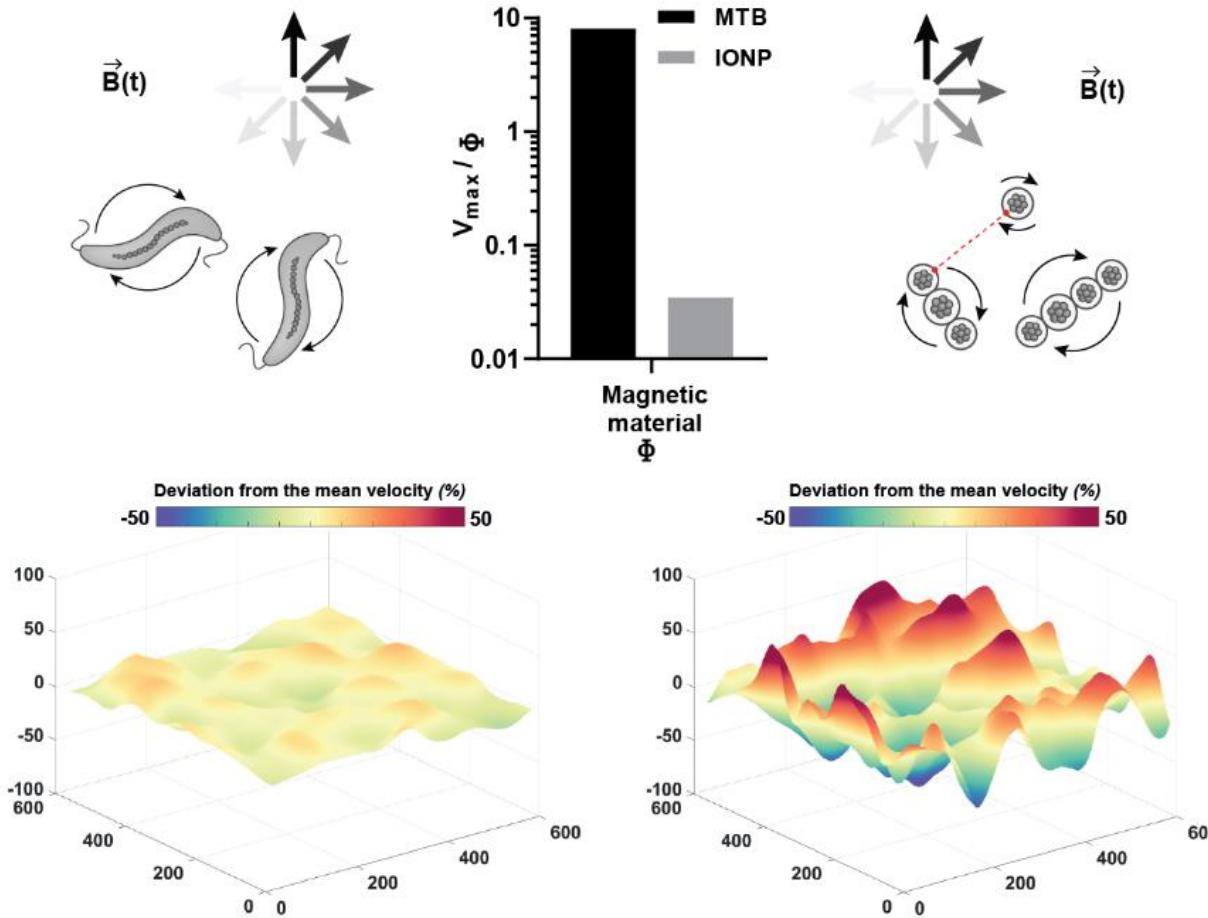
Response of bacterial swarms under rotating magnetic fields similar to synthetic ferrofluids

Magnetotactic bacteria generate higher flow rates



Dr. Nima Mirkhani

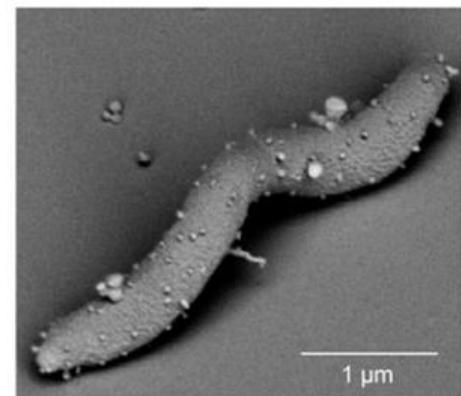
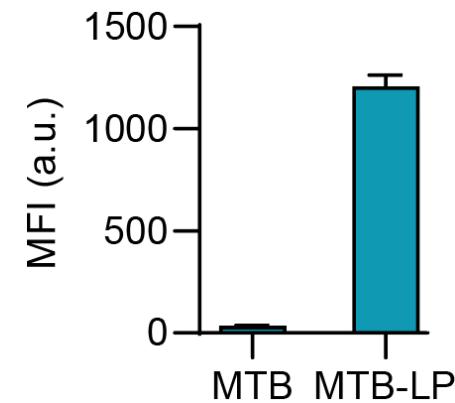
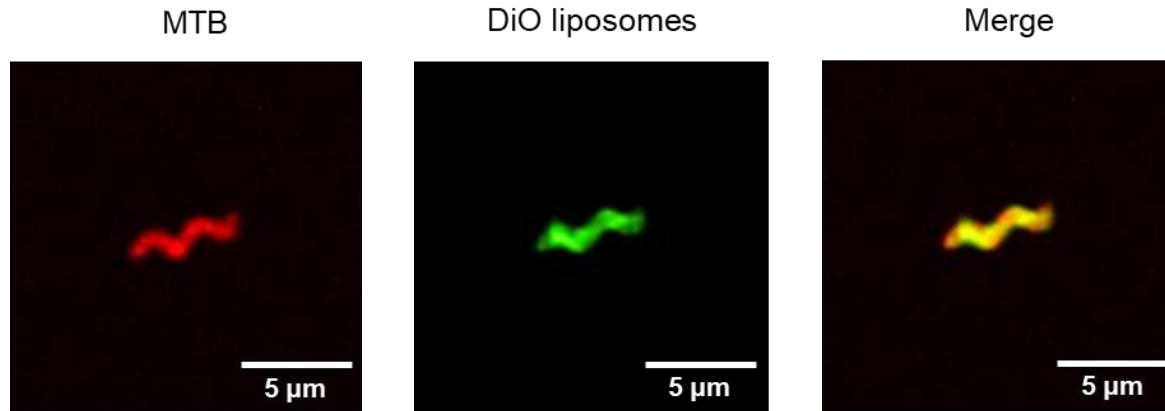
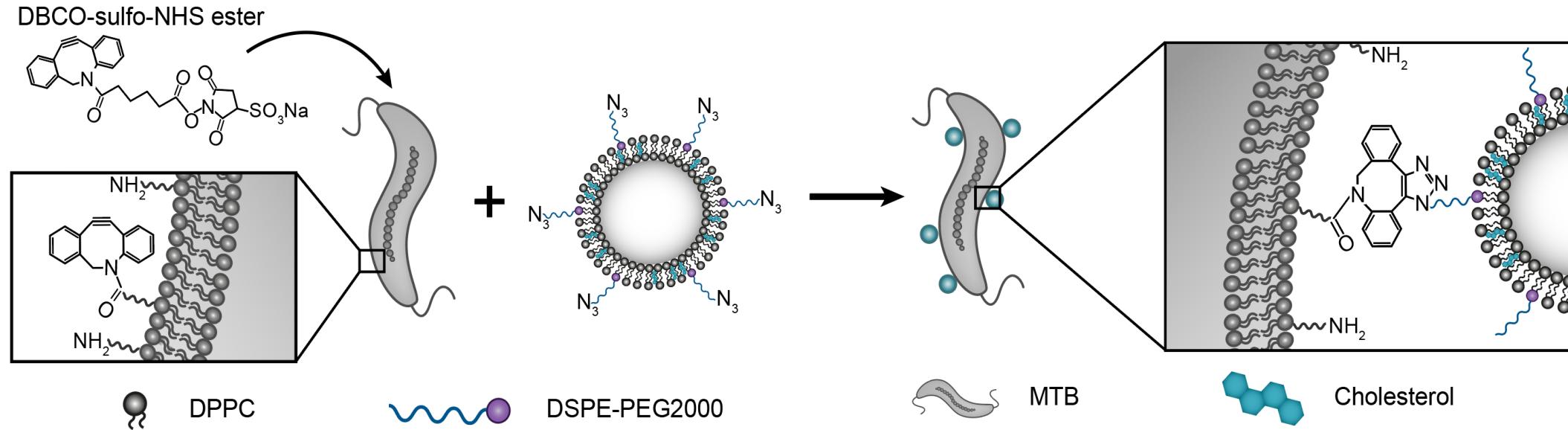
- Relatively large and elongated bacterial body
- Shape anisotropy and magnetic ordering of magnetosome chains



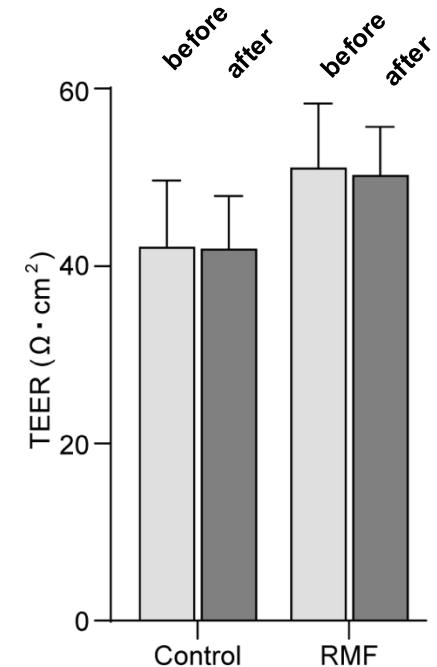
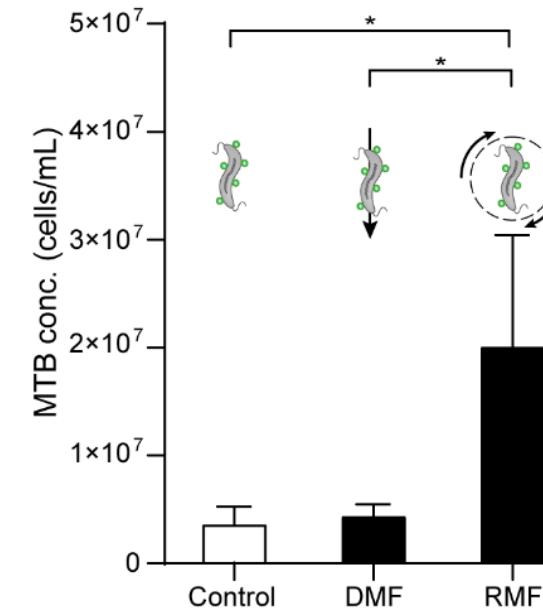
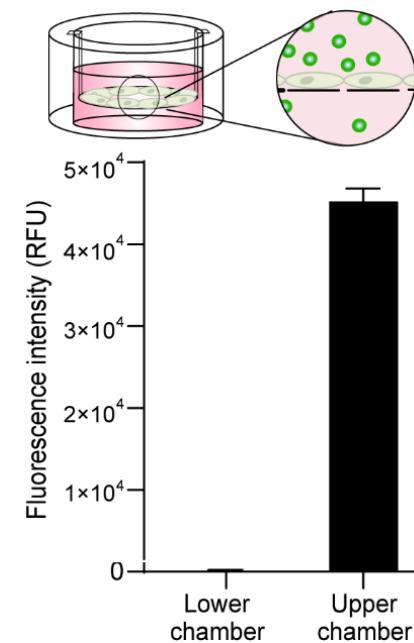
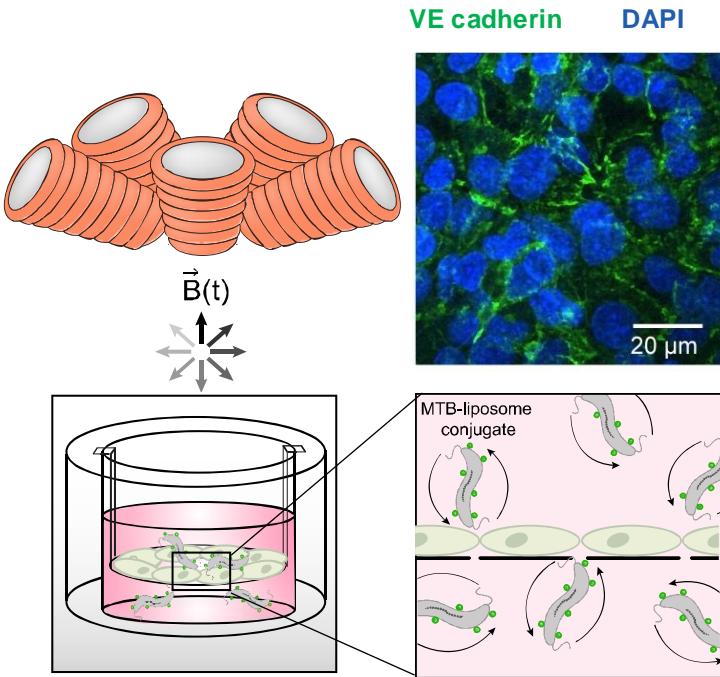
Living microrobots with liposomes as versatile drug nanocargo



Dr.
Tintotenda
Gwisai



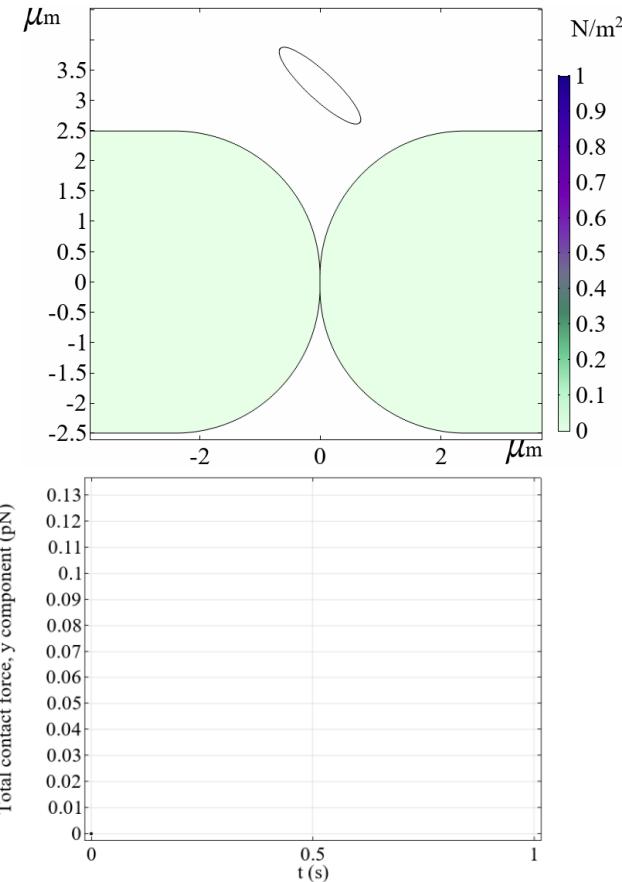
Torque driven magnetic control of living microrobots increases transport across physiological barriers



RMF = 24 Hz, 20 mT, 1 hour, $n = 3$, $*P < 0.05$

Higher applied forces are needed to break and open cell-cell junctions

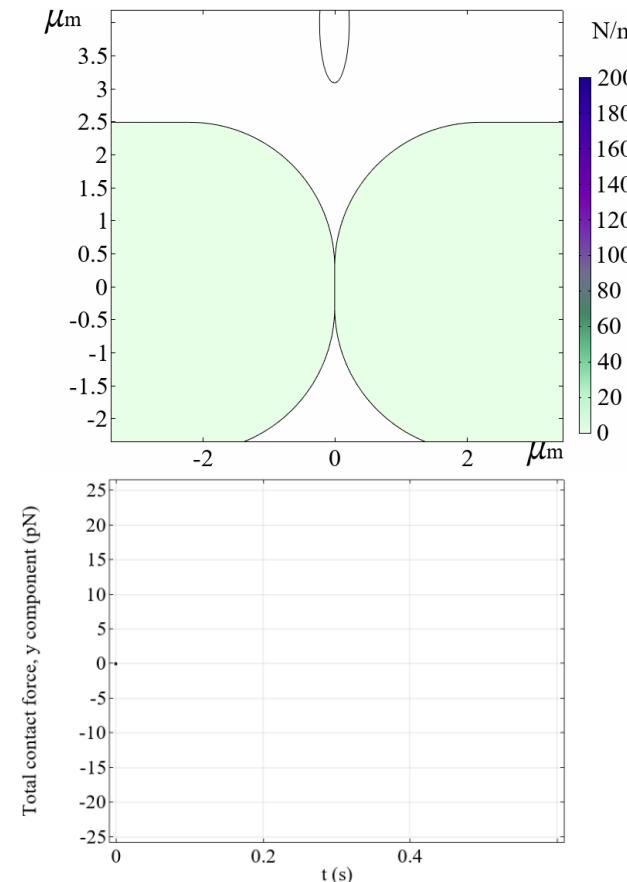
Contact force caused by the rotational actuation near a junction



~ 0.1 pN

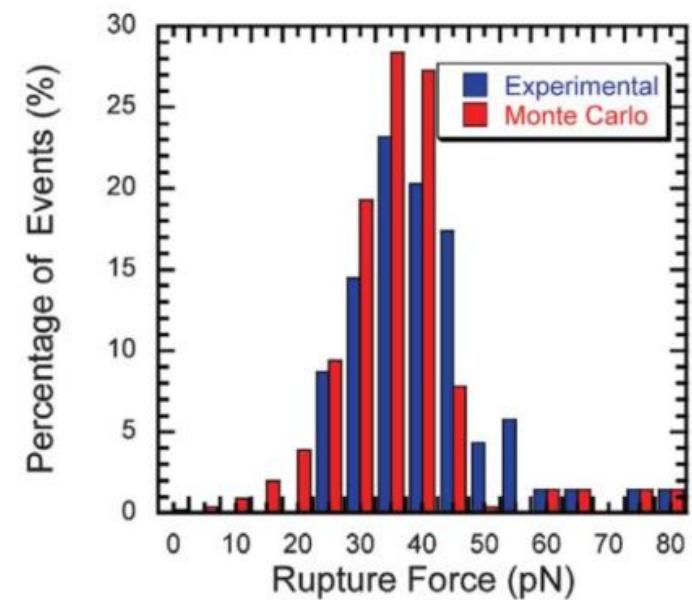
<

Elastic resistance profile of a micron-sized object passing through a junction



~ 10 pN

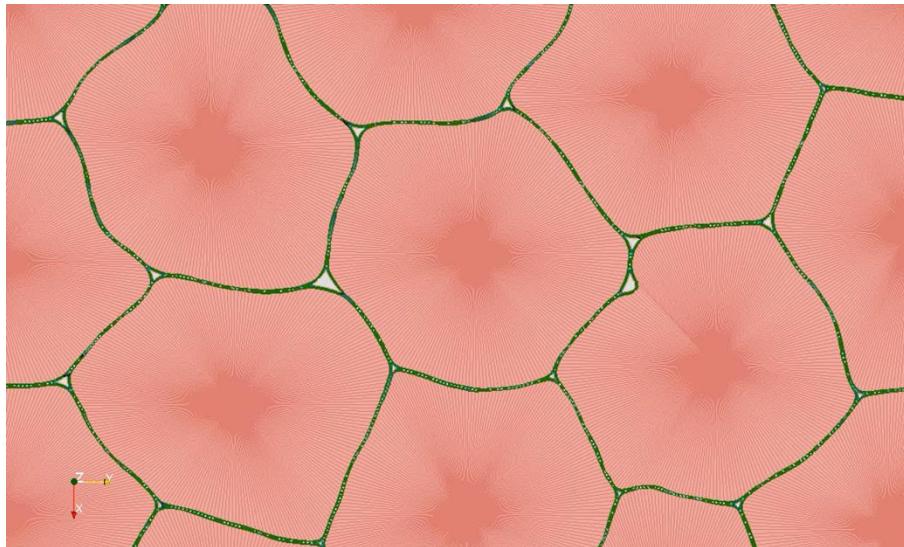
Distributions of forces required to break single VE-cadherin/VE-cadherin bonds



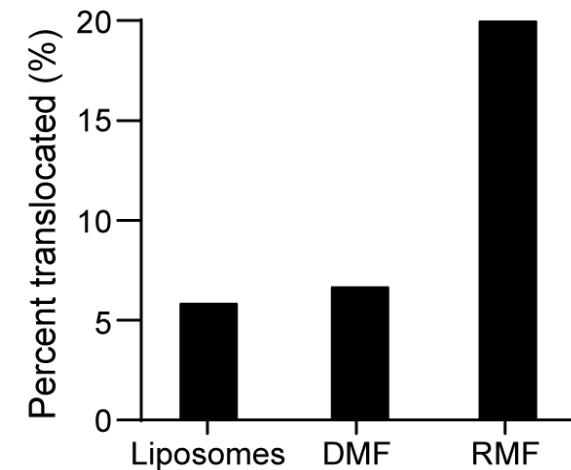
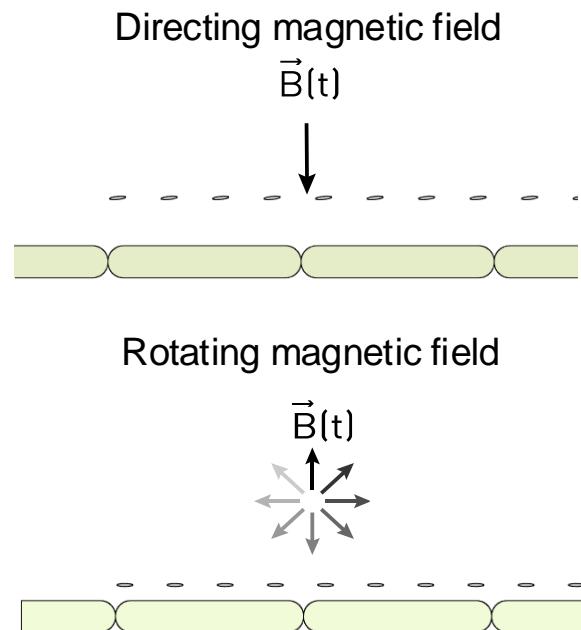
Panorchan, P., et al, *J. Mol. Biol.* (2006) 358, 665–674

~ 10 pN

Increased surface exploration as driving mechanism of translocation



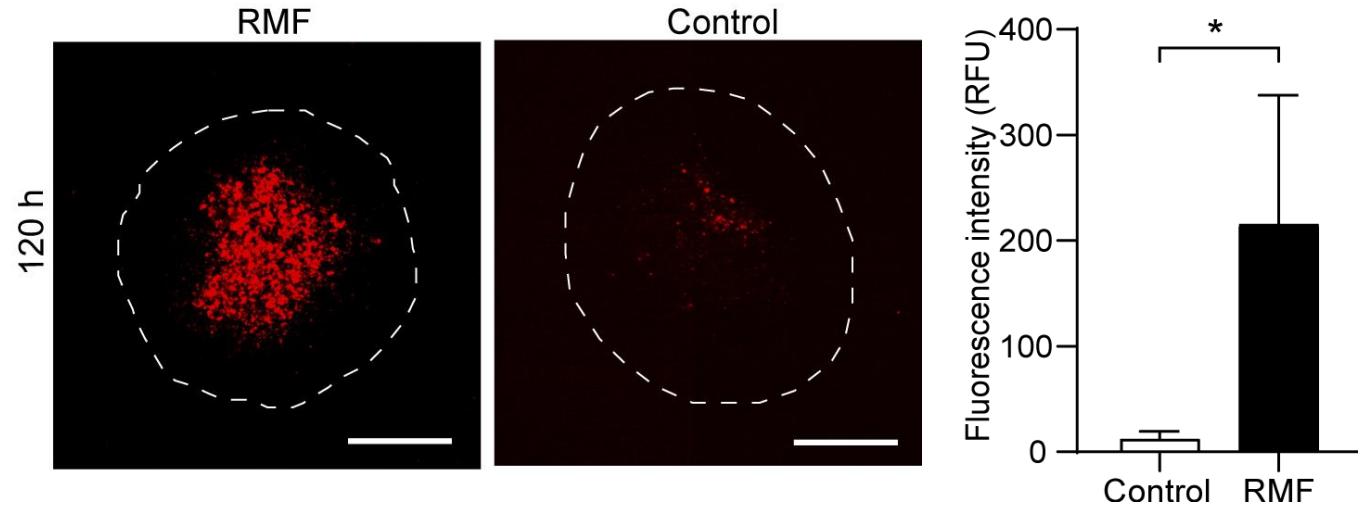
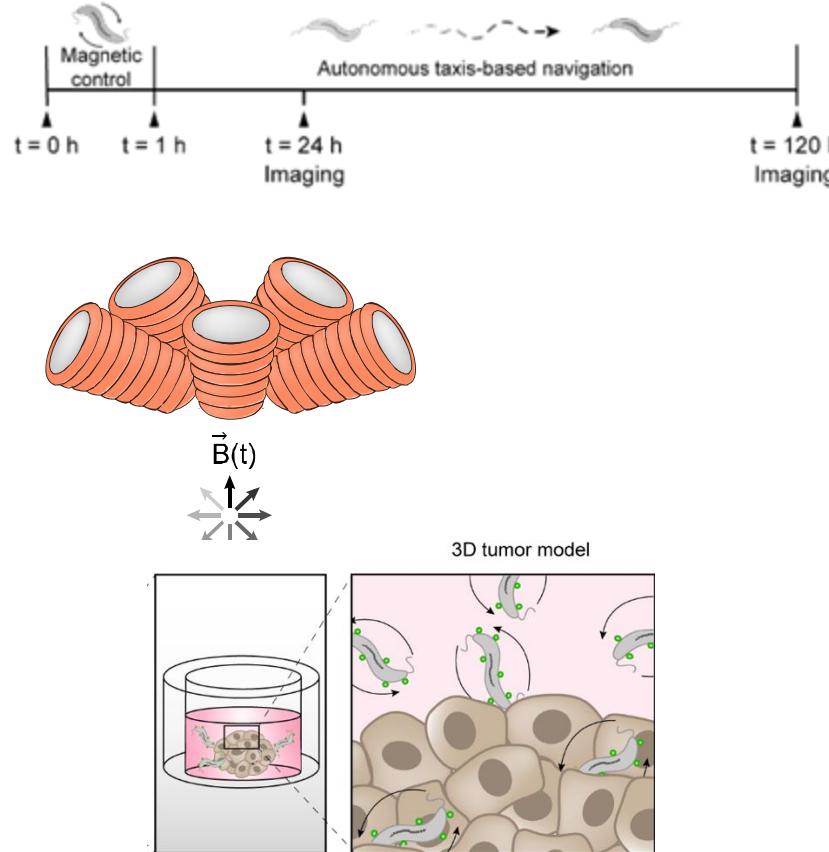
Escribano, J., *PLoS Comput Biol*, 2019, 15(5)



Torque driven control increases infiltration in 3D tumor models



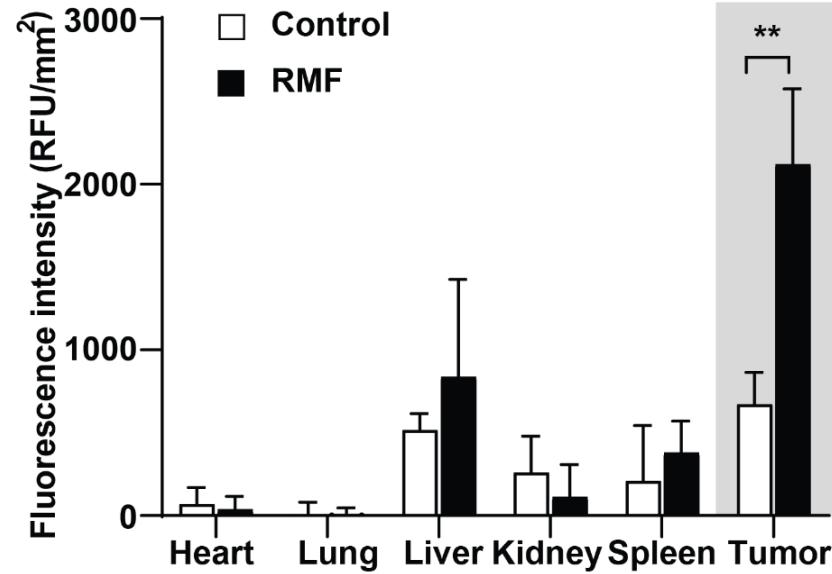
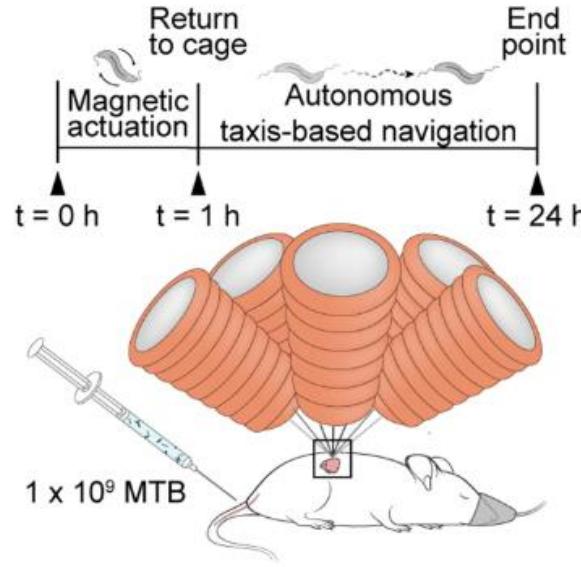
MCF-7 (breast adenocarcinoma)
spheroids model avascular solid tumors



RMF = 24 Hz, 20 mT, 1 hour; $n = 3$; * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$; Scale bar = 200 μm

Magnetic torque-driven motion with taxis-based navigation results in robust tumor colonization

Torque driven control increases tumor infiltration of living microrobots



We introduced a hybrid control approach leveraging torque-driven control and autonomous tumor taxis by combining robotics and biology

Research highlights

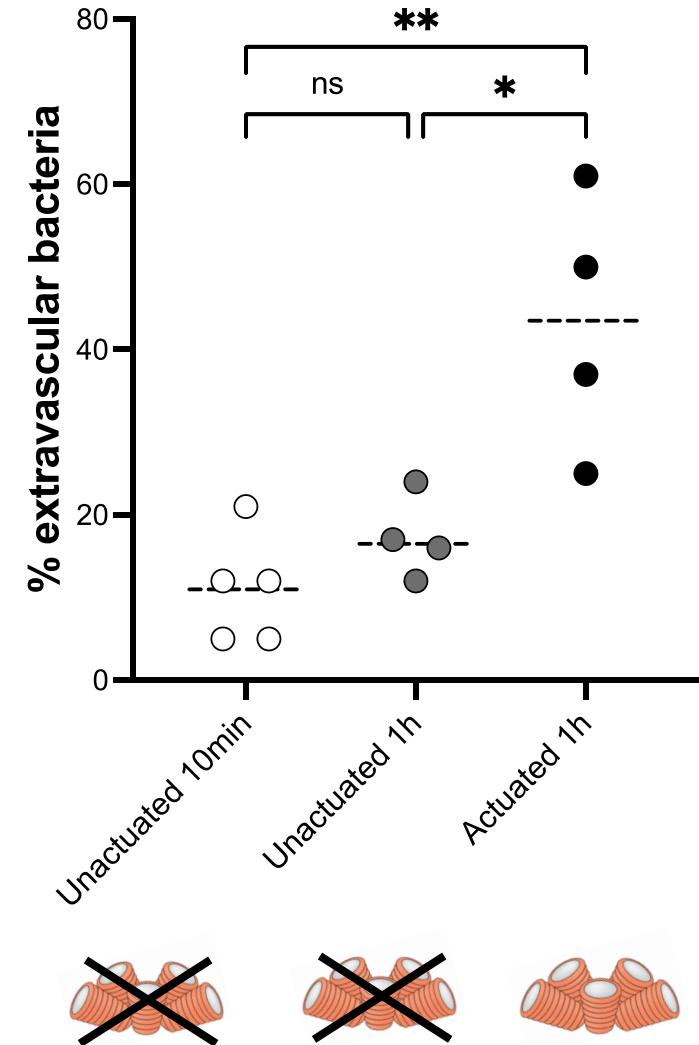
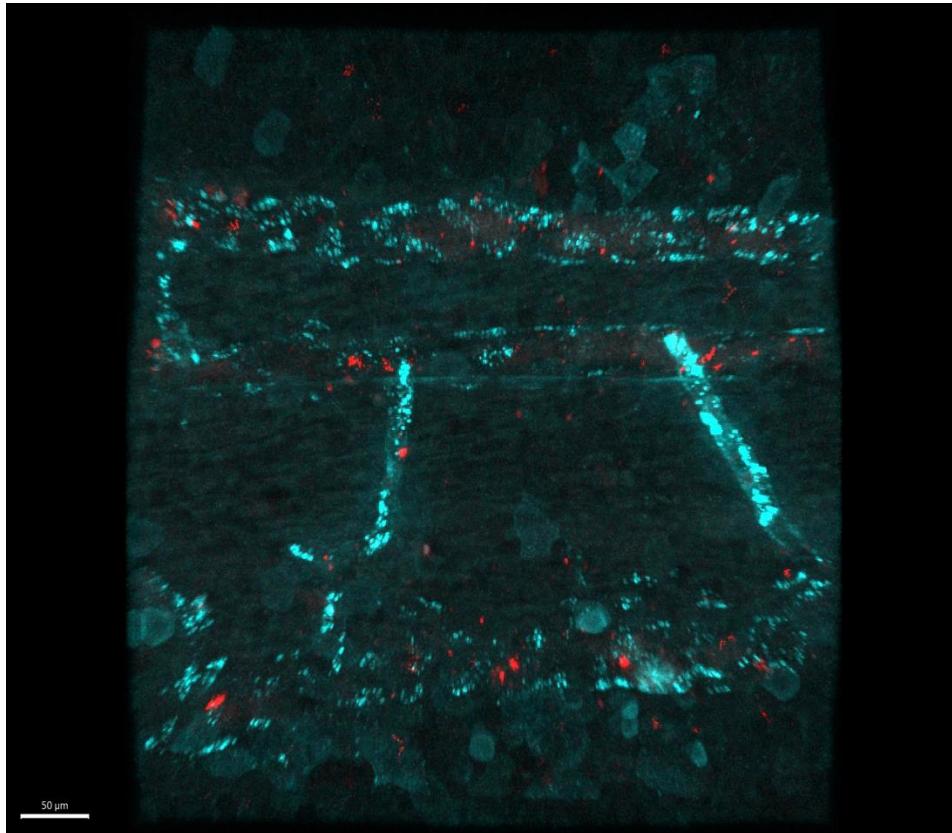
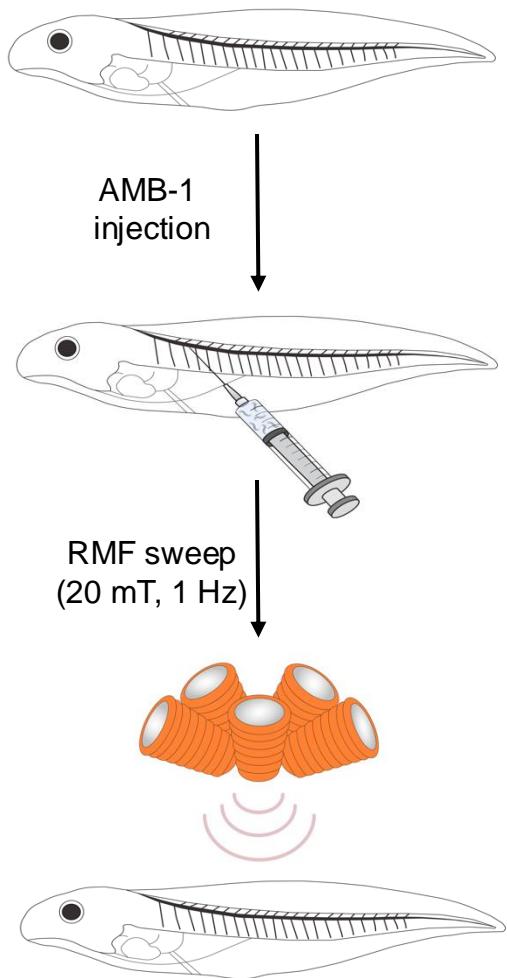
nature reviews bioengineering

Microrobotics

Living microrobots target cancer



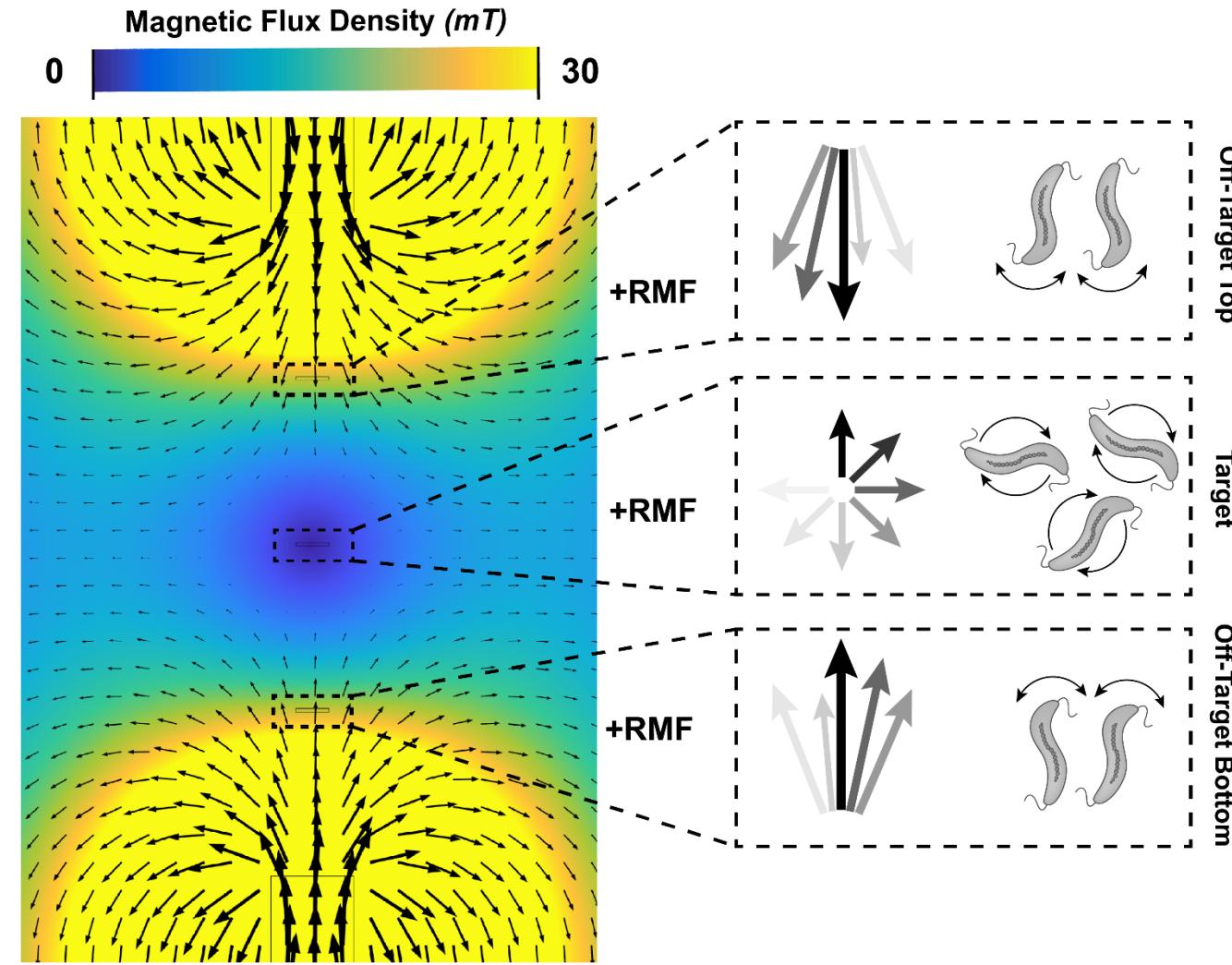
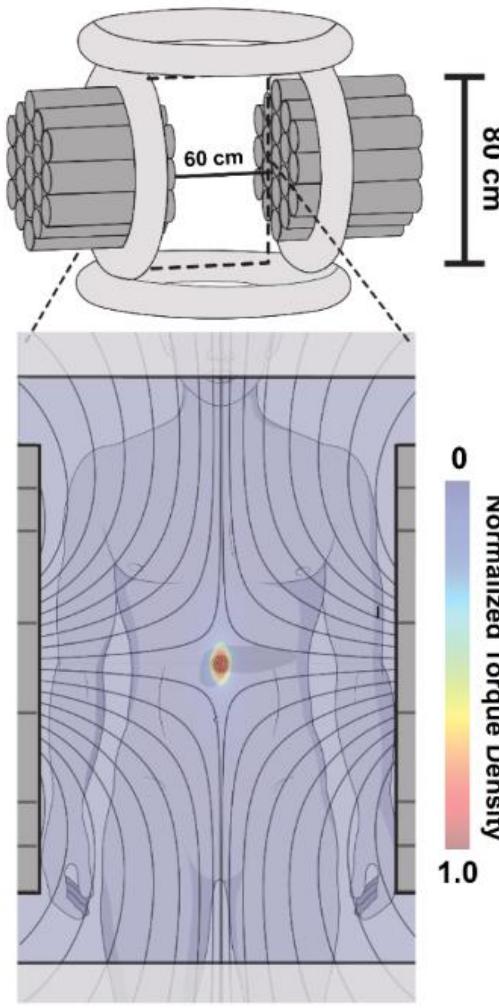
Live imaging of microrobot extravasation in embryos of *X. laevis*



unpublished

In collaboration with Taiyo Yamamoto, Lienkamp group (UZH, Institute of Anatomy)

Can we increase spatial selectivity and scale to human patients?

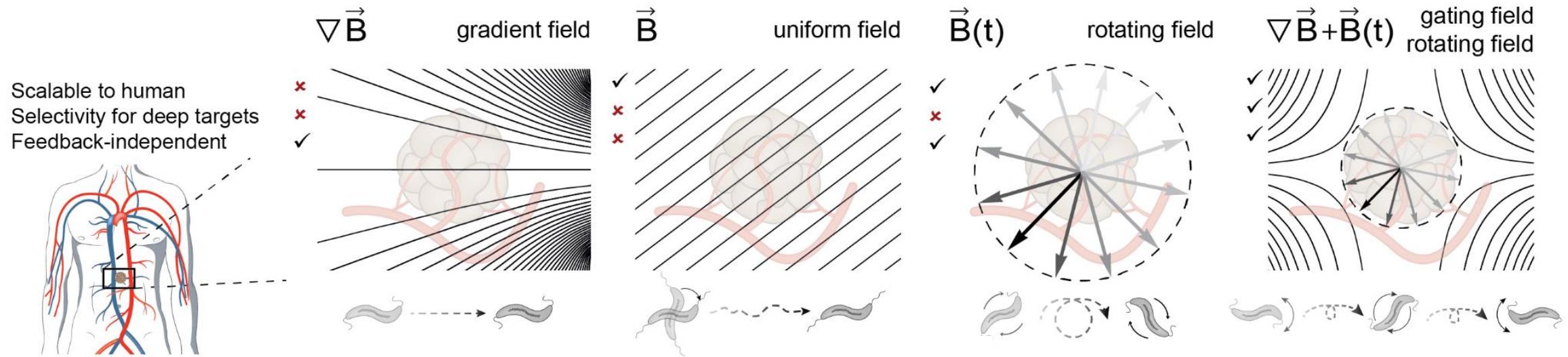


Dr. Nima Mirkhani

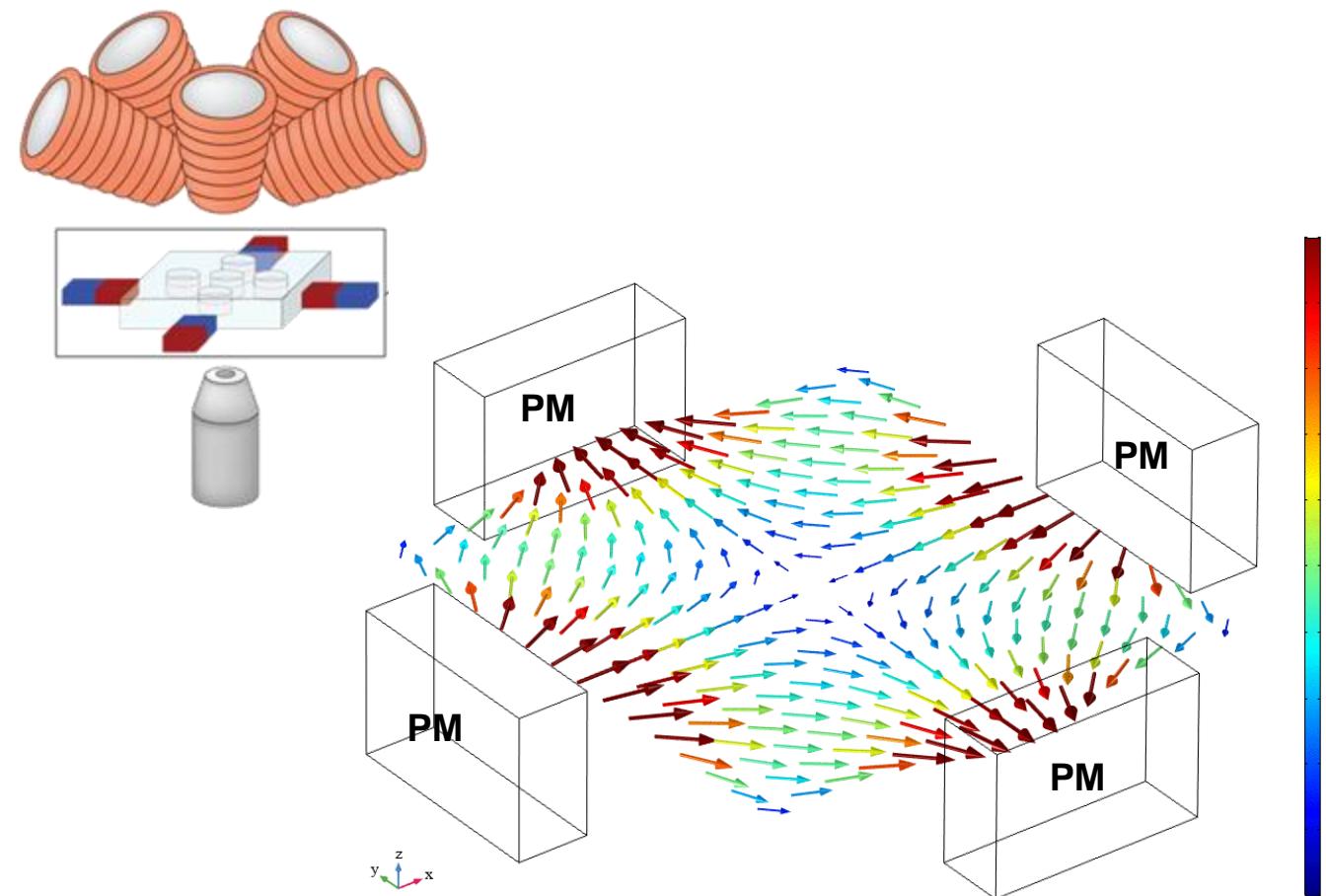


Dr. Michael Christiansen

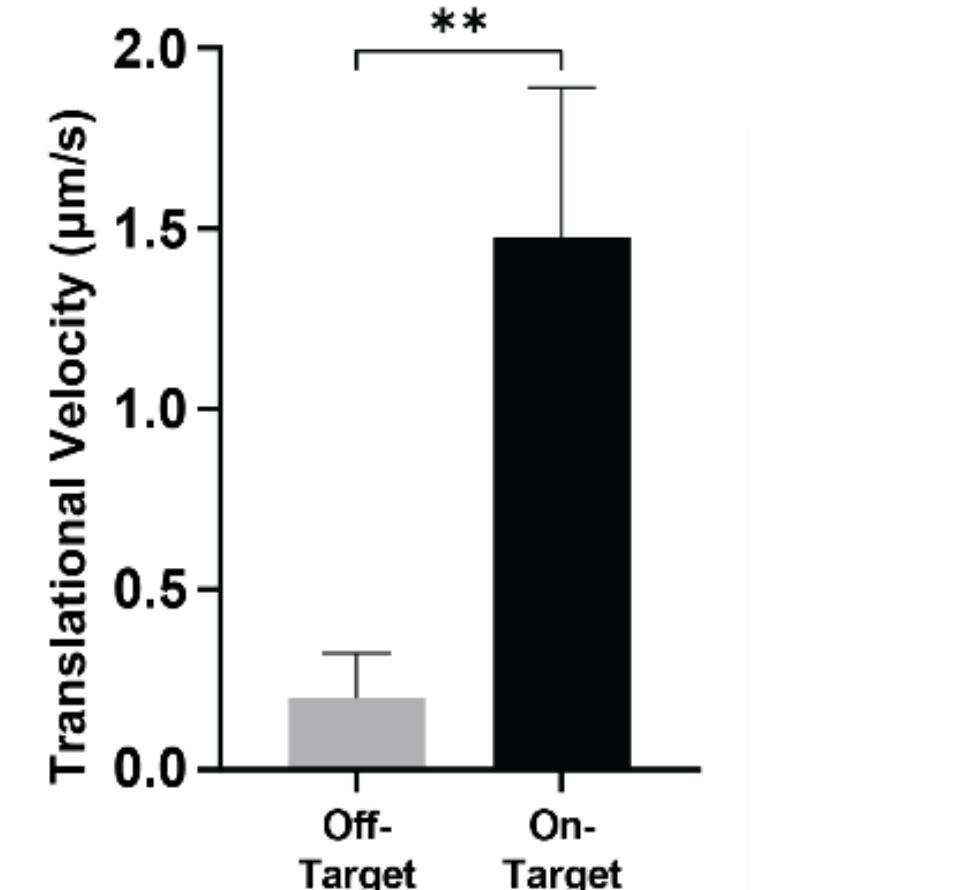
Can we increase spatial selectivity and scale to human patients?



Focussing torque to enhance safety and efficacy

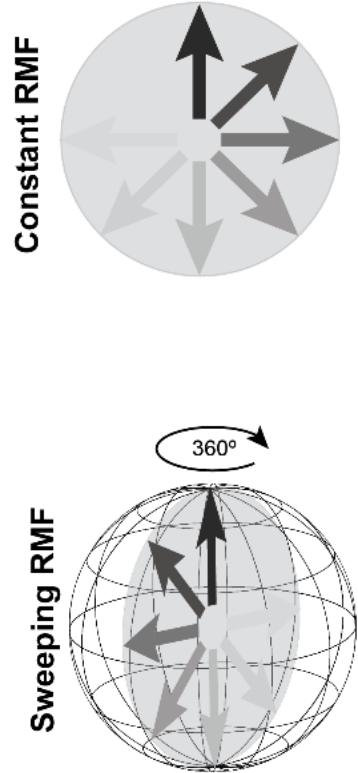
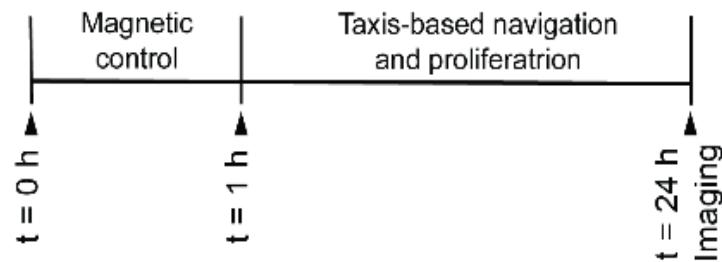
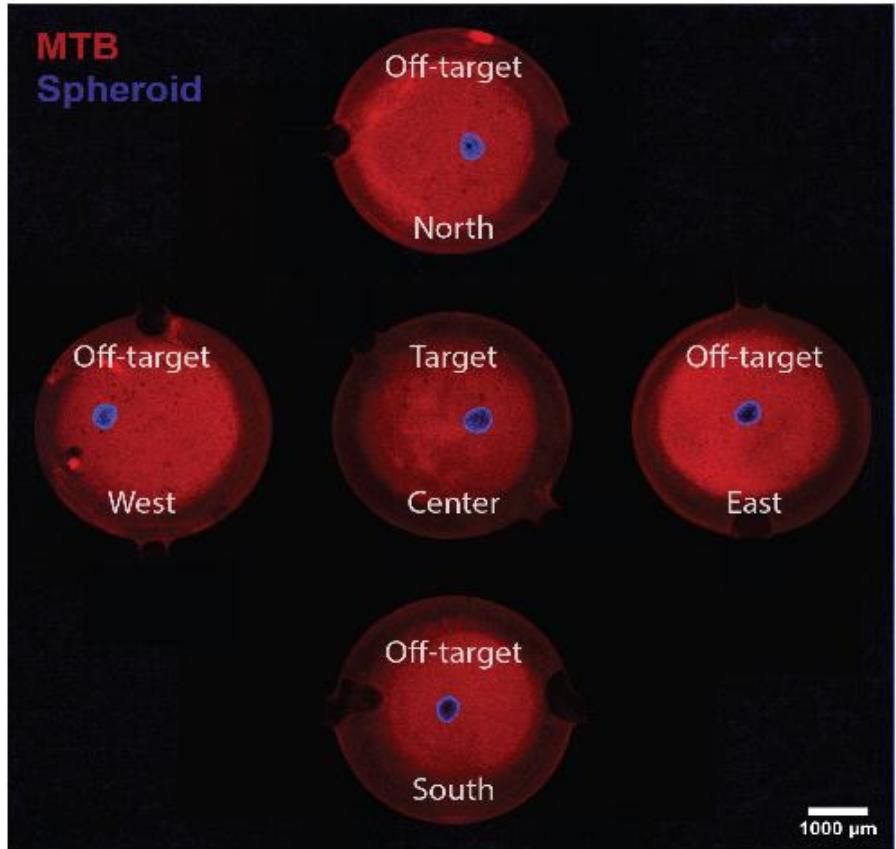


RMF + Permanent Magnet (PM)

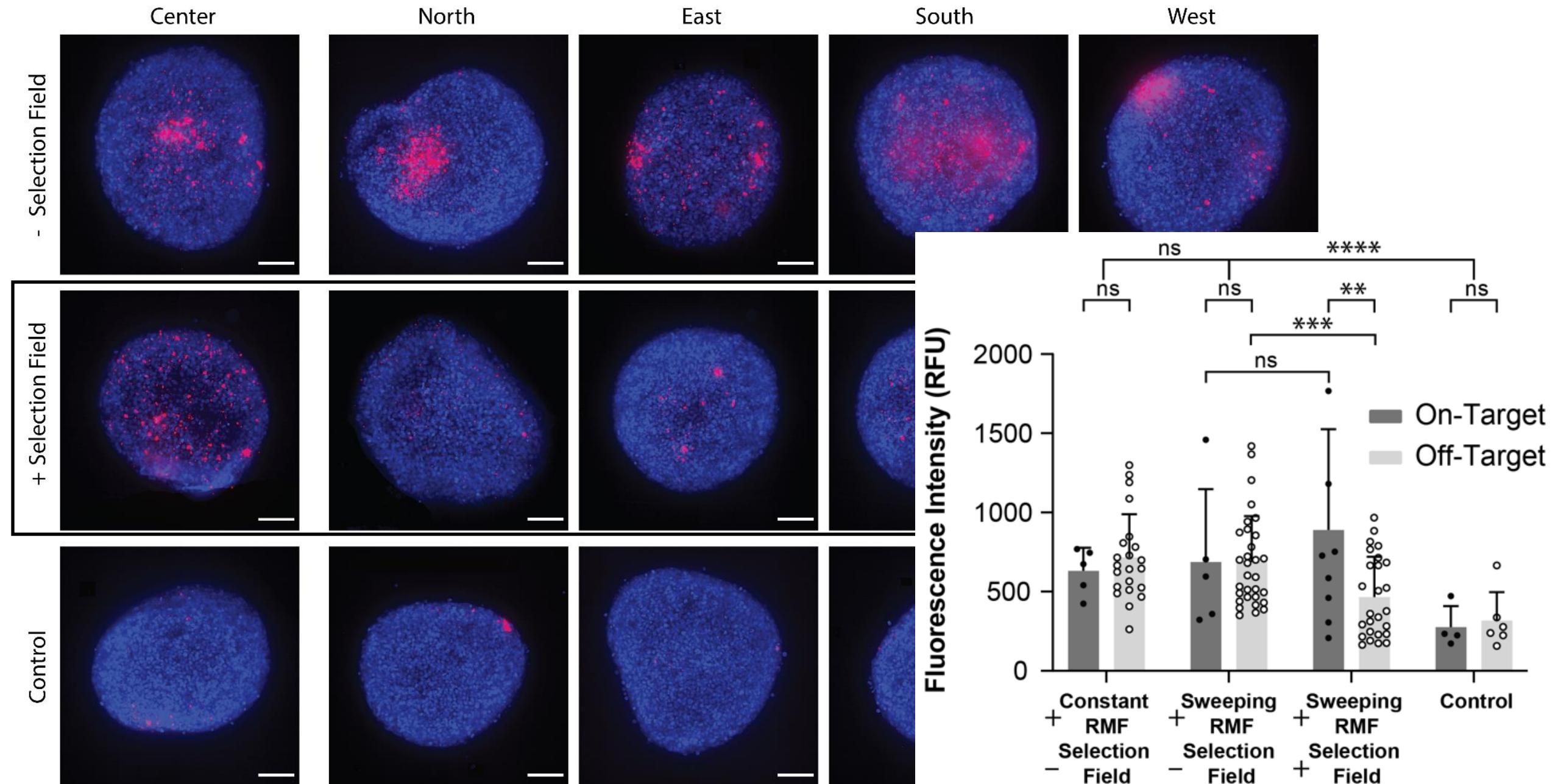


Suppression of torque actuation in off target regions

Sweeping fields to actuate open loop in 3D: no position feedback needed



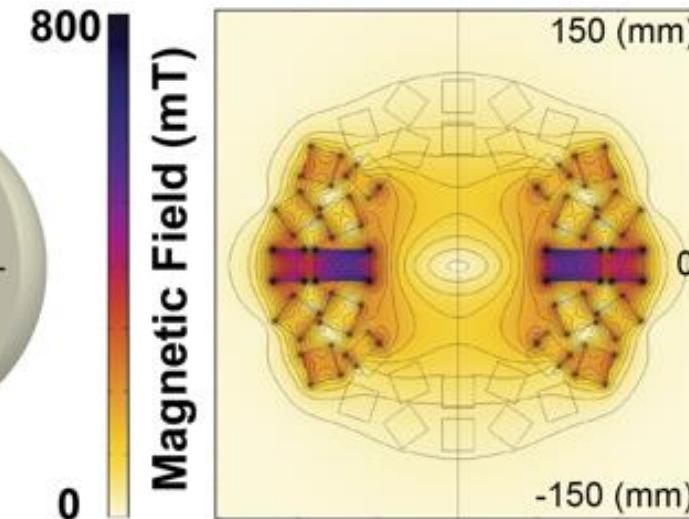
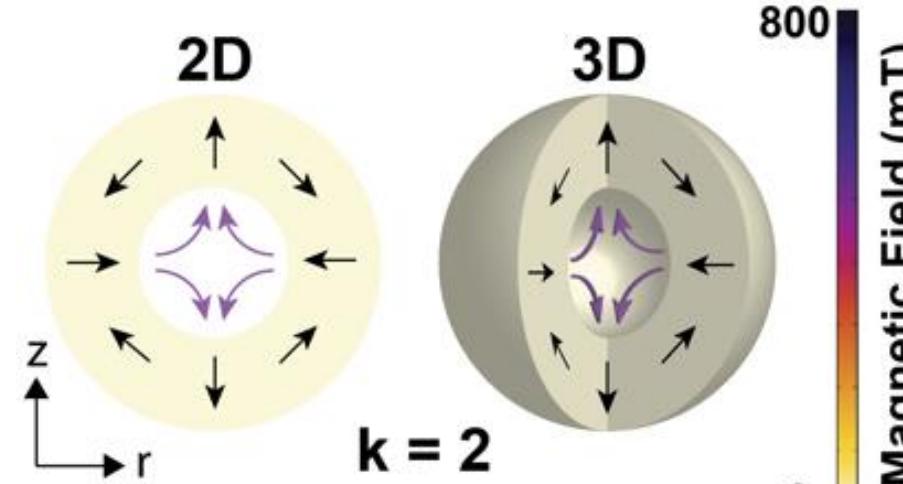
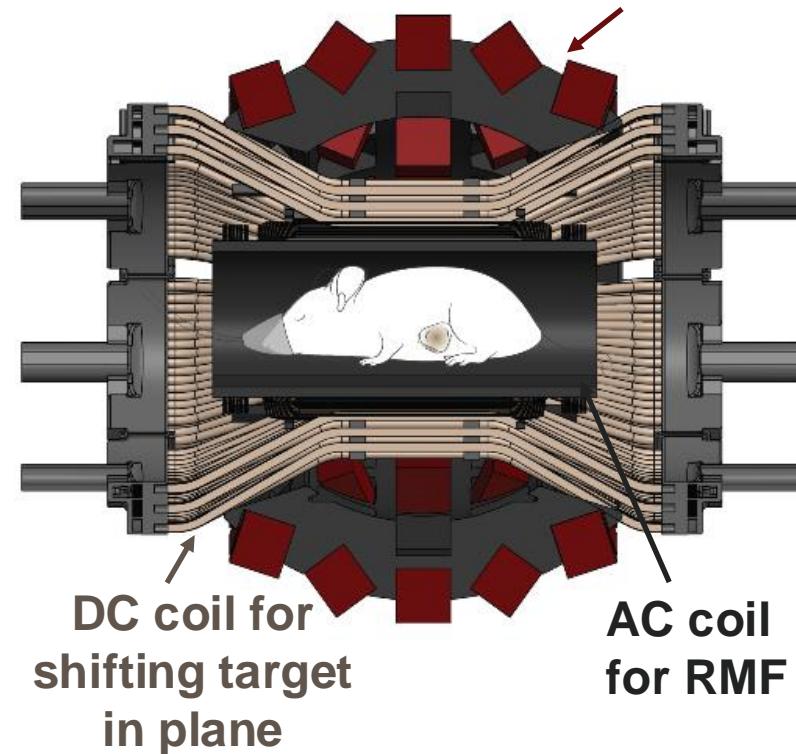
Torque focusing controls tumor colonization spatially



Design of an in vivo torque focusing setup



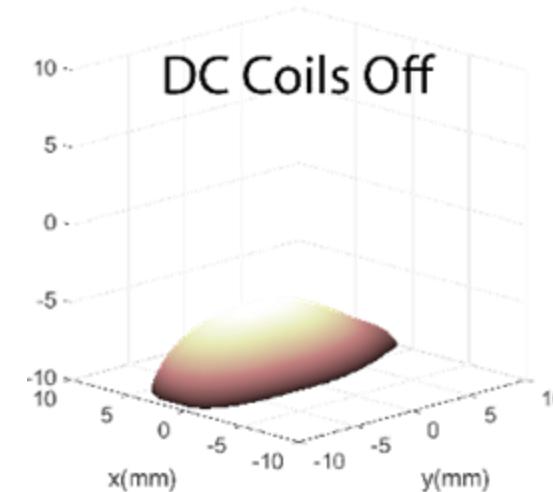
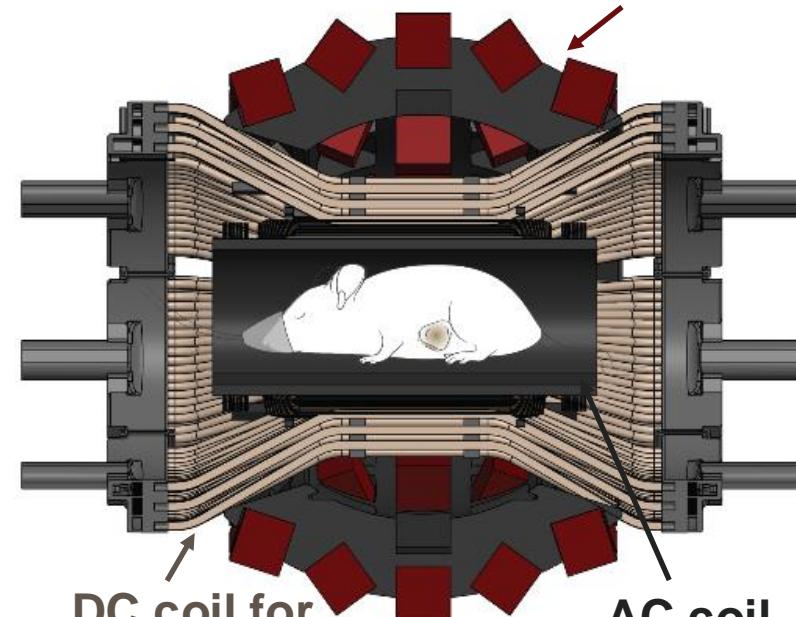
Permanent magnets
("magic sphere" for zero point)



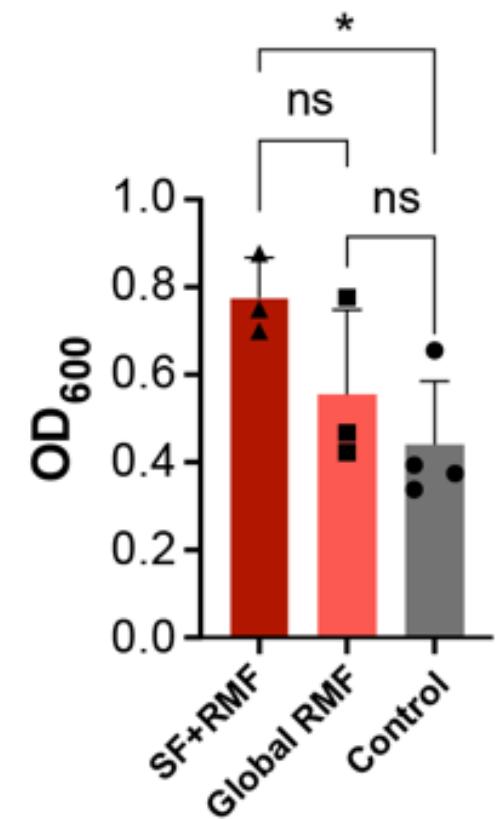
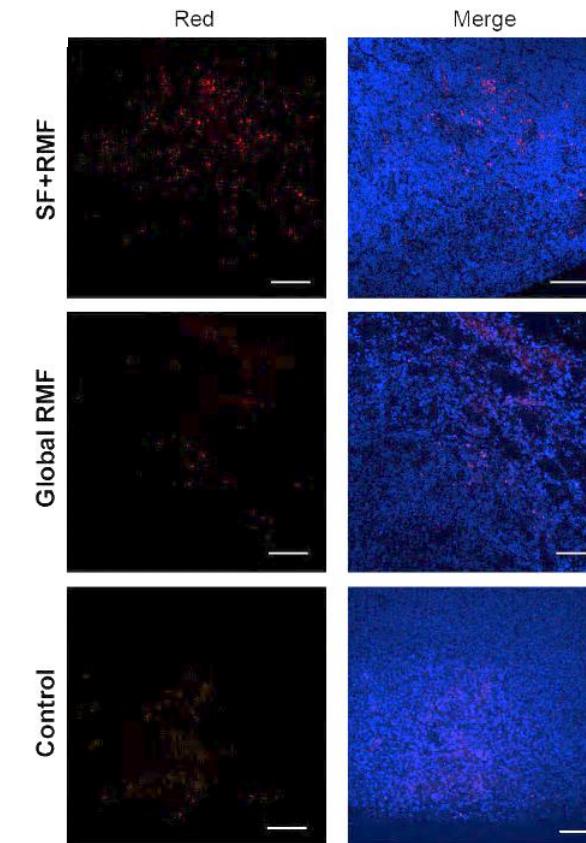
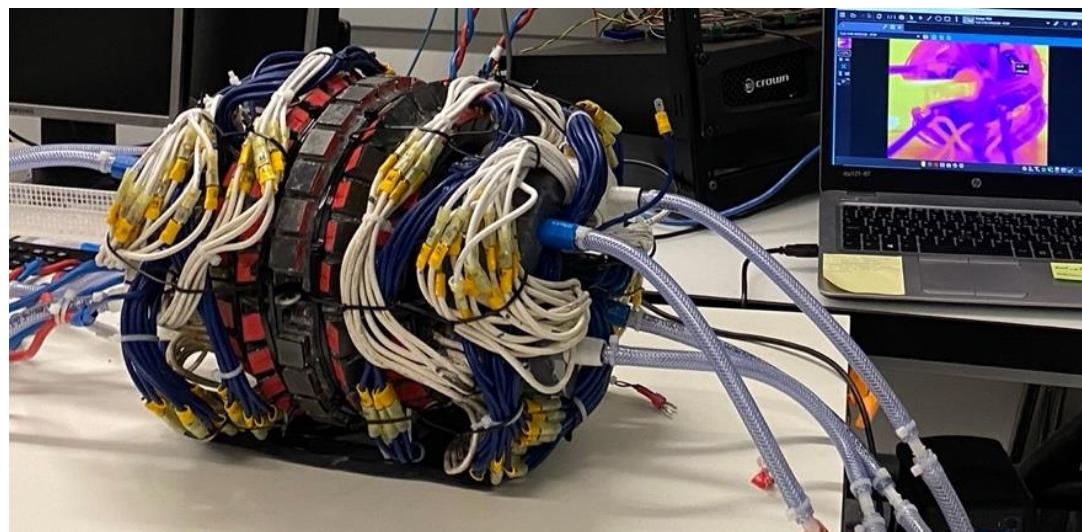
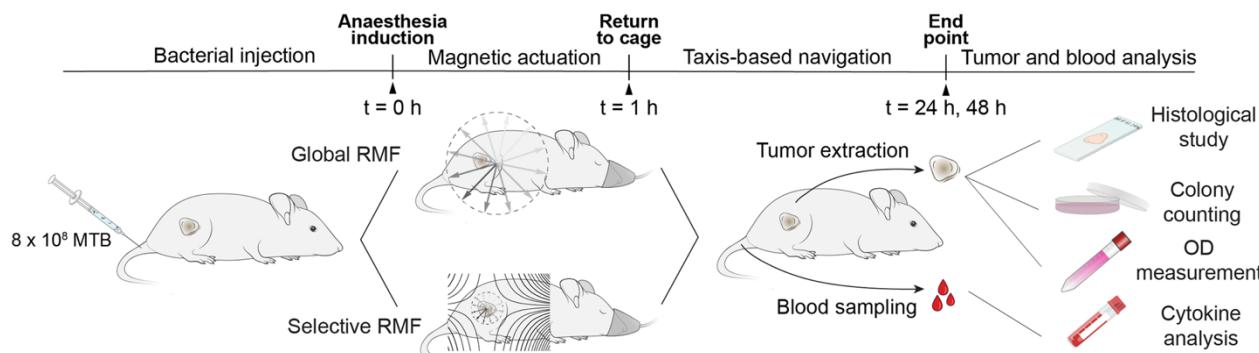
Design of an in vivo torque focusing setup



Permanent magnets
("magic sphere" for zero point)



Proof of concept demonstrates further increase in tumor accumulation

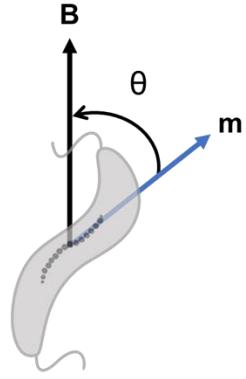
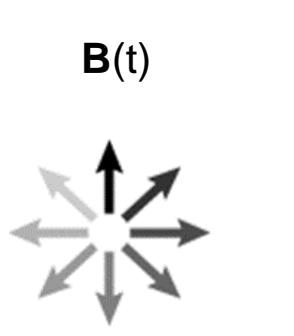


Increasing spatial selectivity down to mm resolution through suppression of actuation in off target regions

Finally: integrating feedback via inductive detection

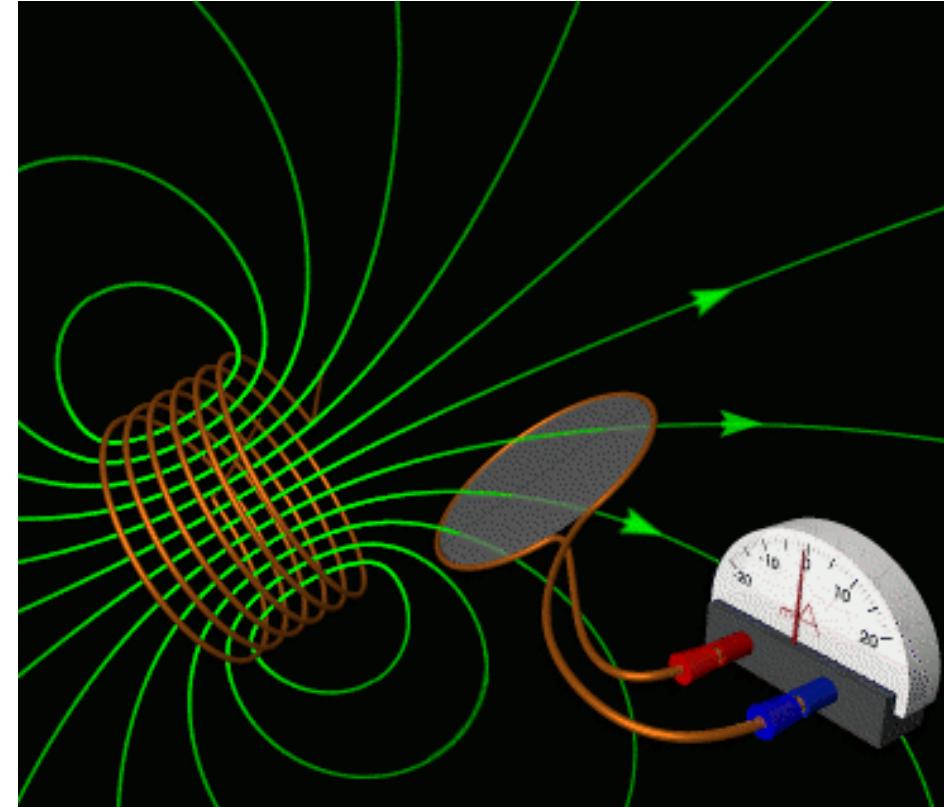


Dr. Michael Christiansen



m - magnetic dipole moment
B - external magnetic field
 θ - steady state lag angle

Making use of Faraday's law of induction



Media source: [Wikimedia Commons](#). CC BY-SA Ponor

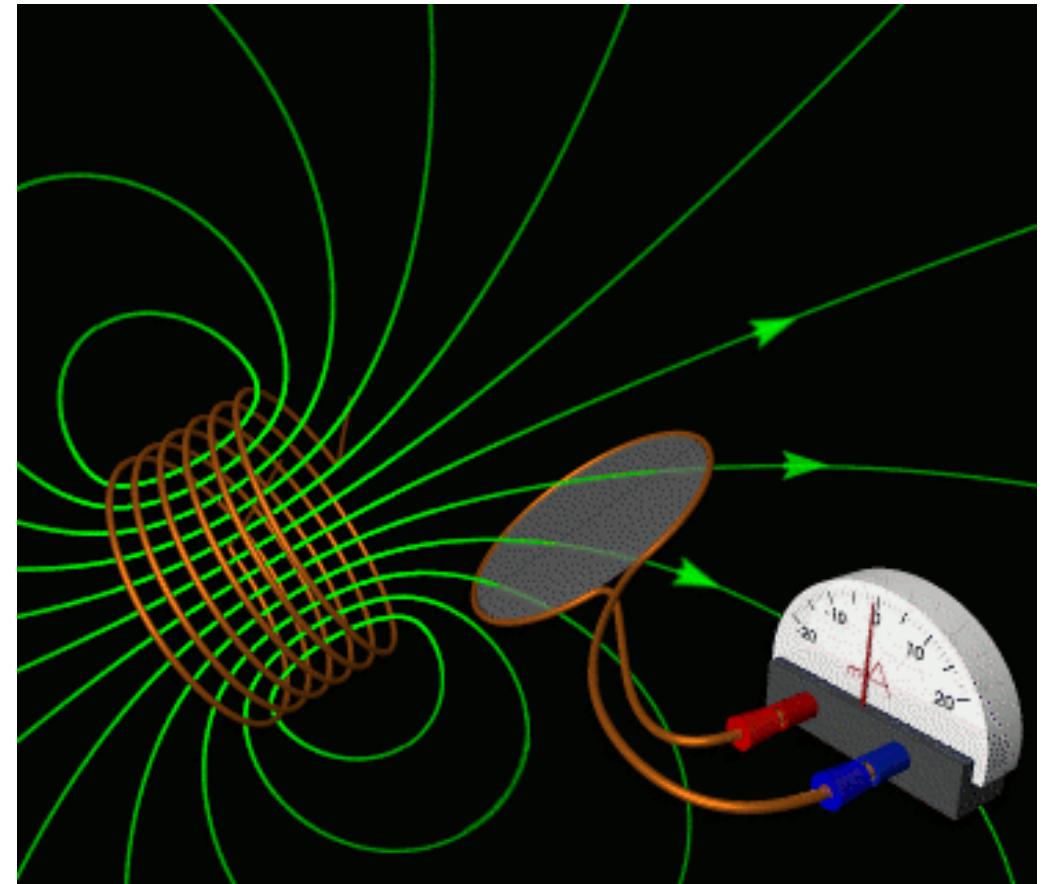
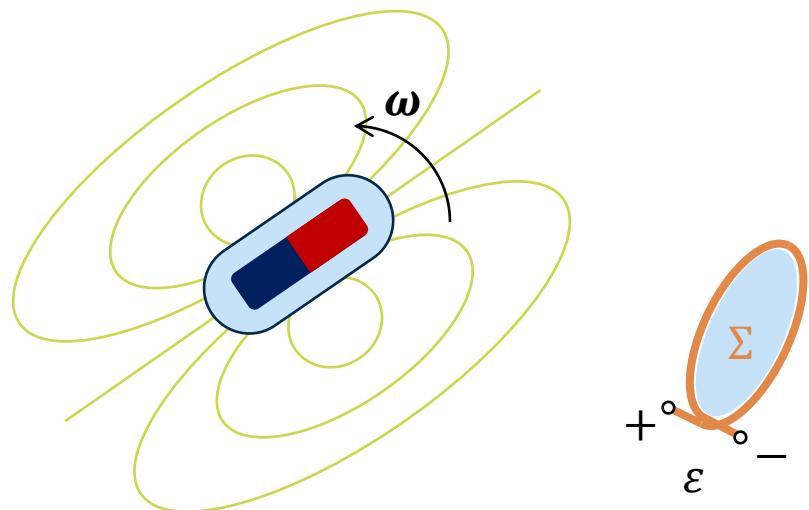
Inductive Detection Basics

$$\mathcal{E} = -\frac{d\Phi_B}{dt}$$

Electromotive force (~ Voltage)

Magnetic flux through the loop

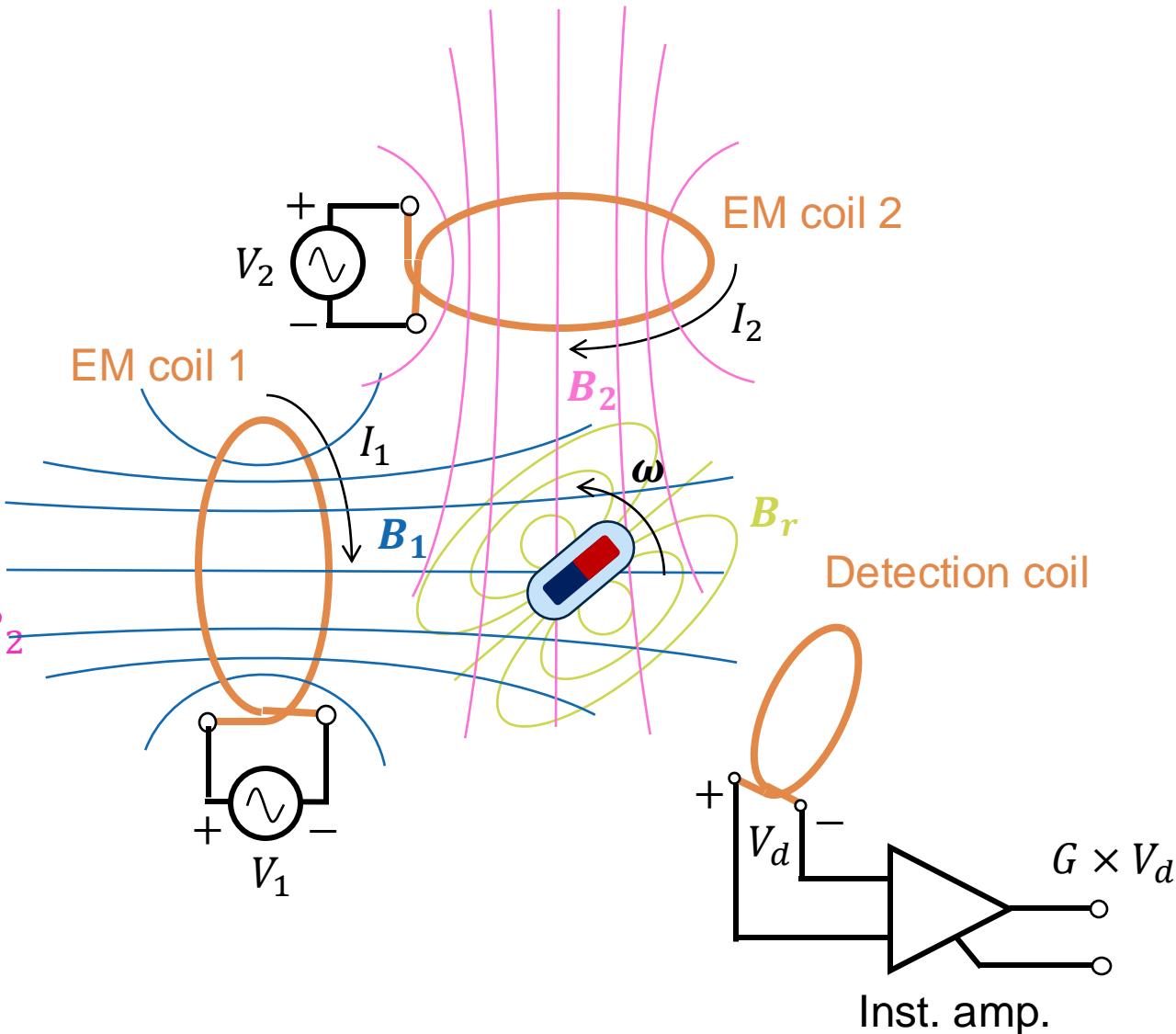
$$\Phi_B = \int_{\Sigma} \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{A}$$



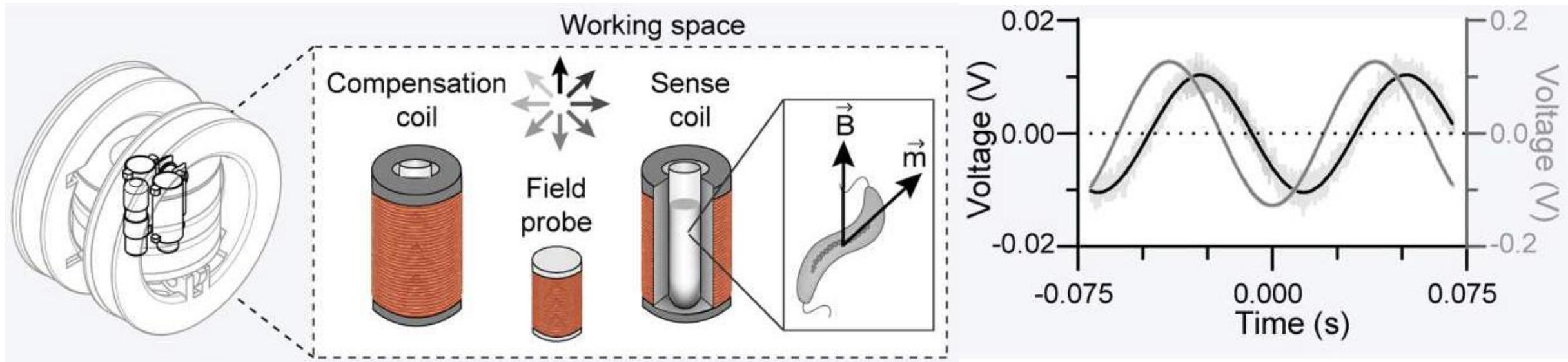
Media source: [Wikimedia Commons](#). CC BY-SA Ponor

Inductive Detection Basics

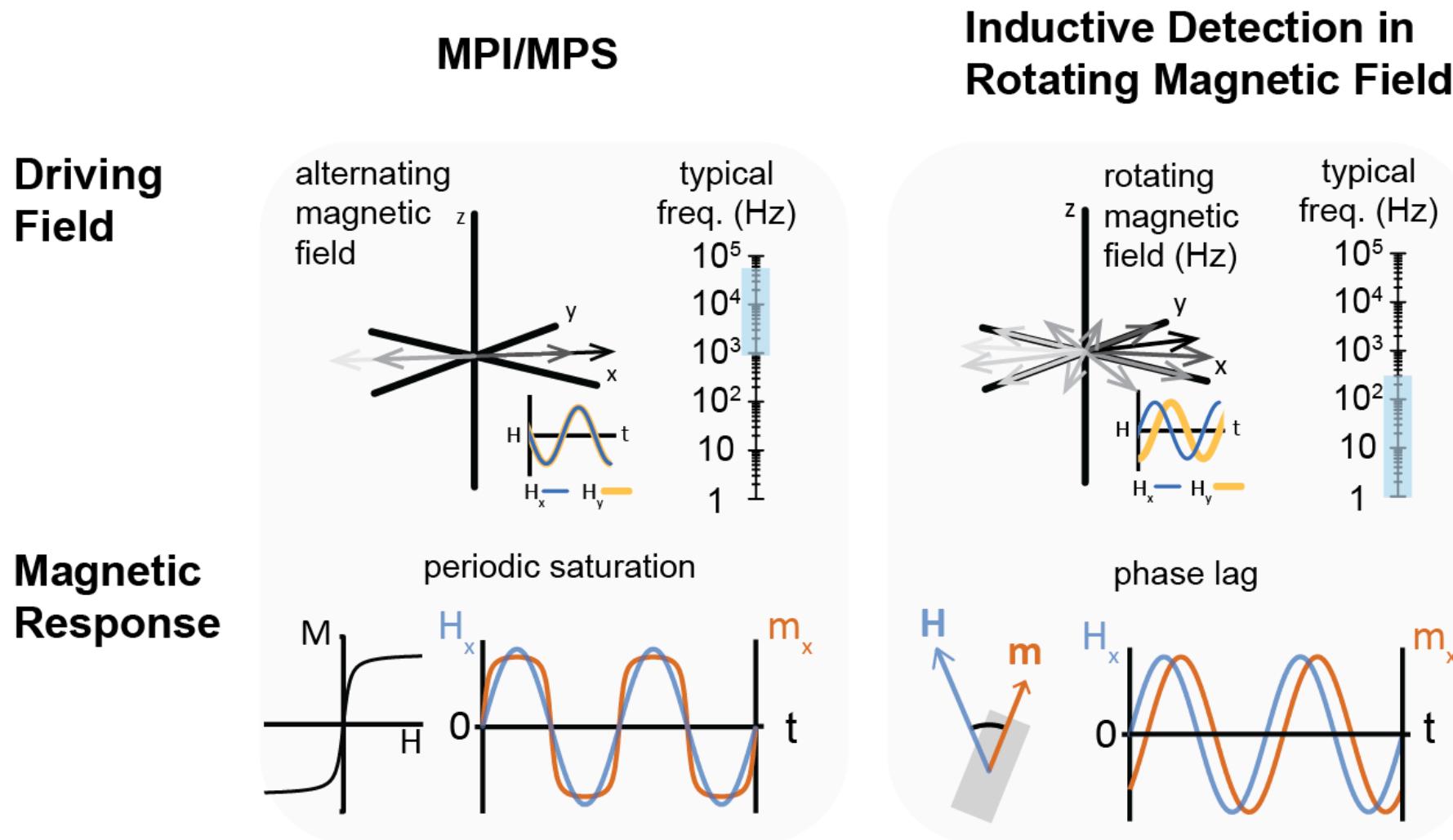
- We drive the electromagnets (EM) with sinusoidal voltages
 - $V_1 = |V_1| \cos \omega t$
 - $V_2 = |V_2| \sin \omega t$
- This creates a rotating magnetic field (RMF) $\mathbf{B}_1 + \mathbf{B}_2$.
- The RMF causes the magnetic robot to spin.
- The time-varying magnetic fields $\mathbf{B}_r + \mathbf{B}_1 + \mathbf{B}_2$ create an emf (voltage) in the detection coil.



Finally: integrating feedback via inductive detection

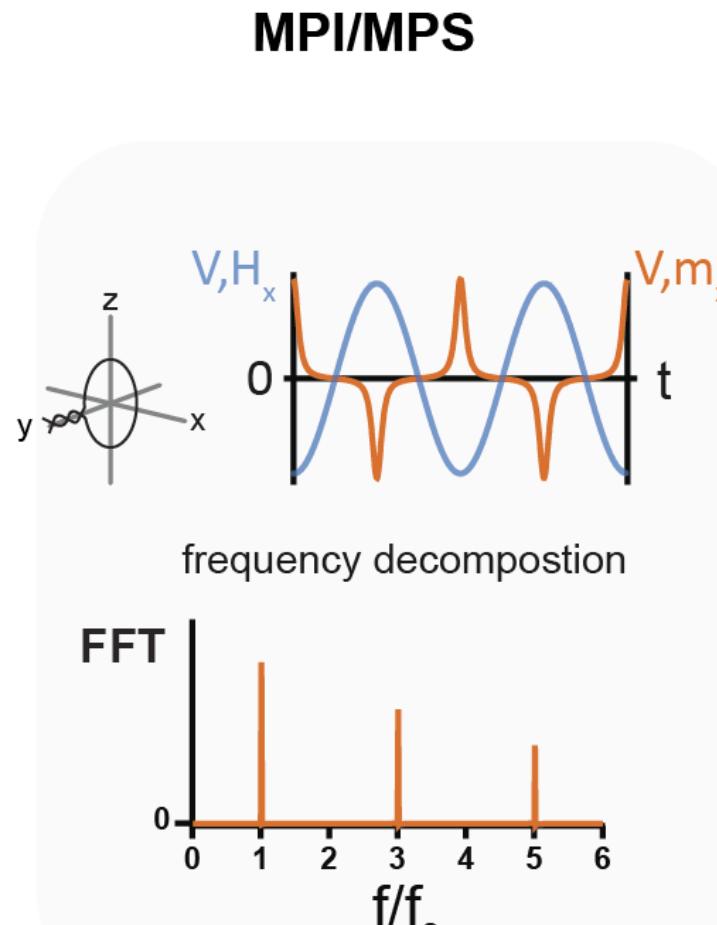


Key Differences between Inductive Detection in MPI and Rotating Fields



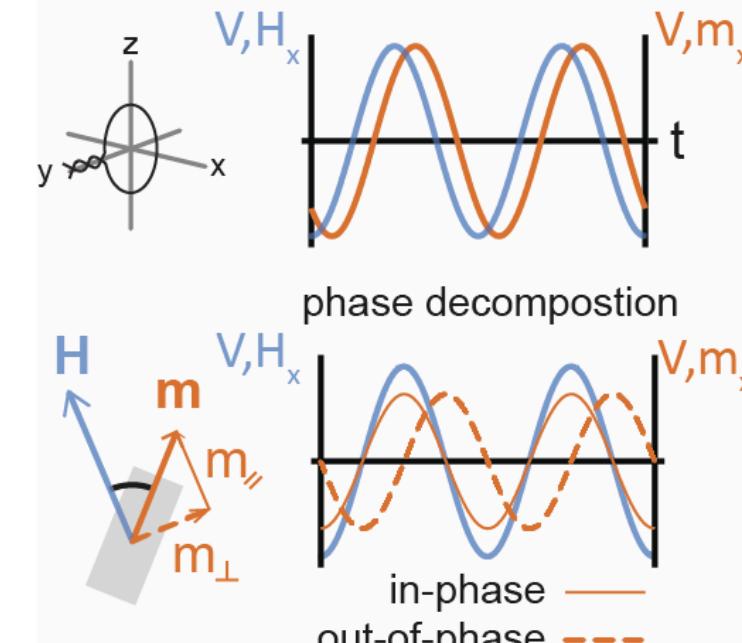
Key Differences between Inductive Detection in MPI and Rotating Fields

Inductive Signal

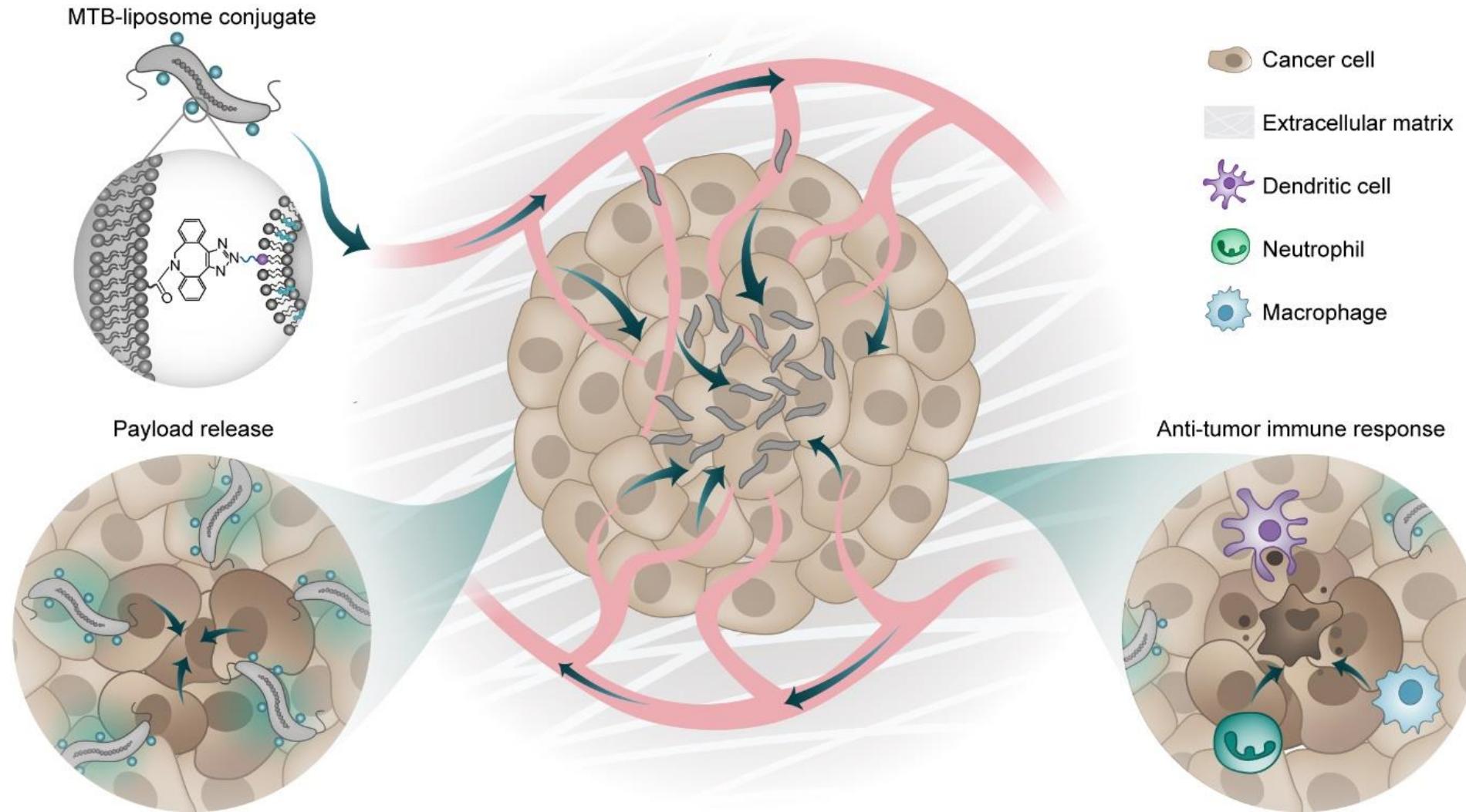


Signal Isolation

Inductive Detection in Rotating Magnetic Fields



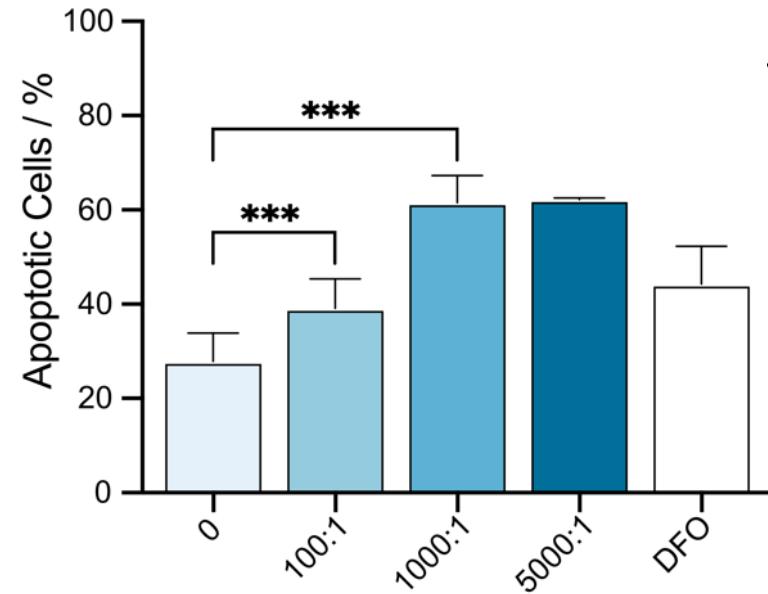
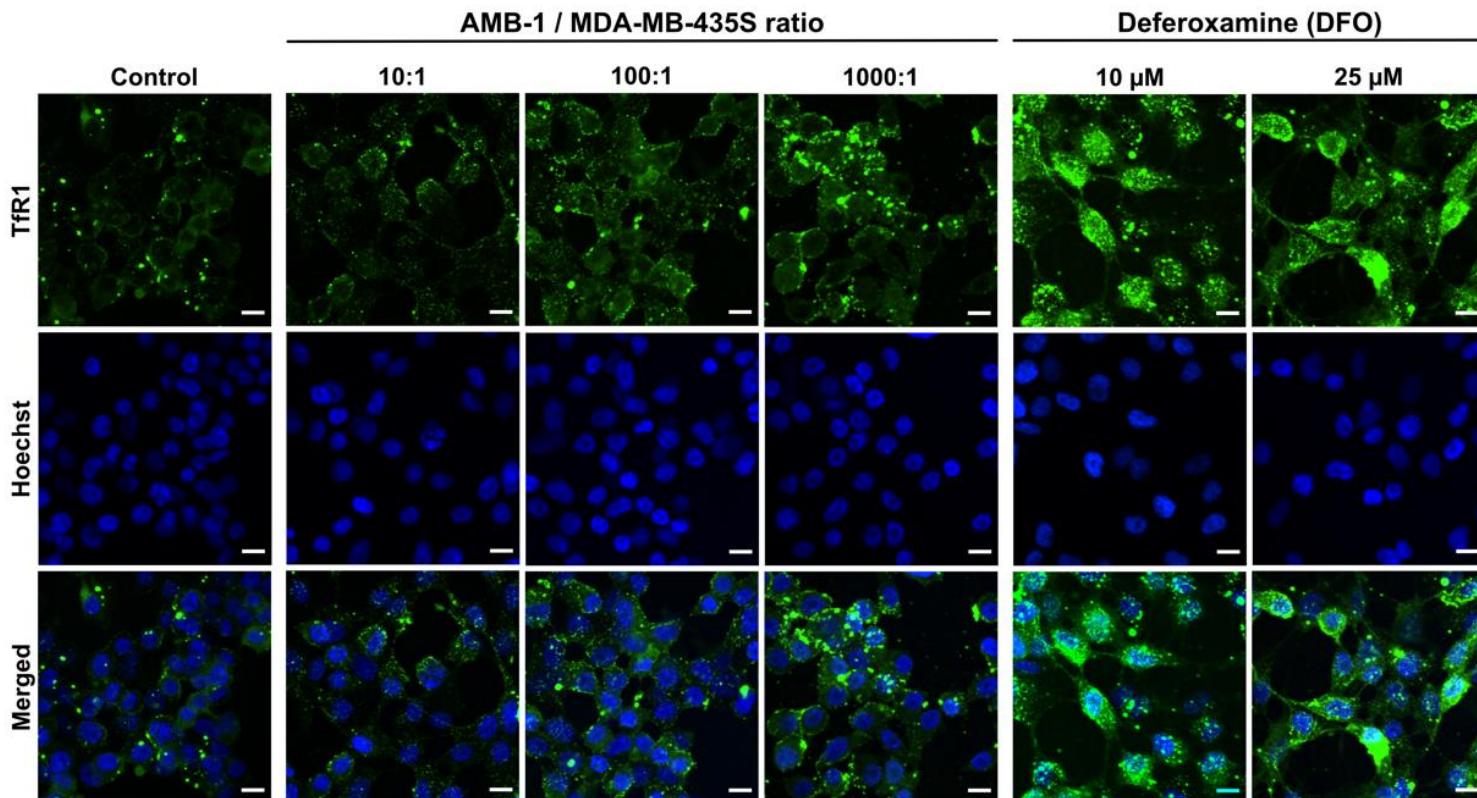
Investigating and engineering therapeutic pathways



Innate capability as living iron chelator

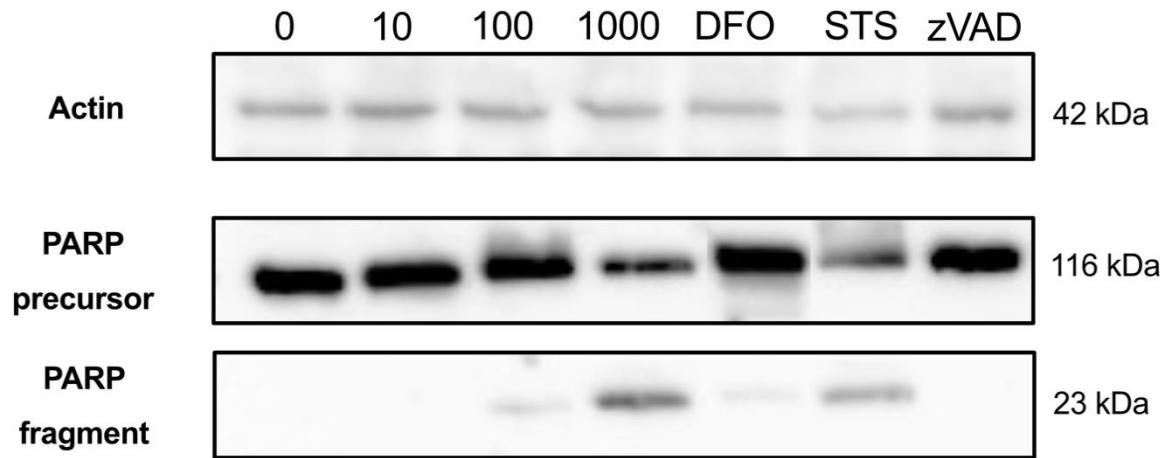
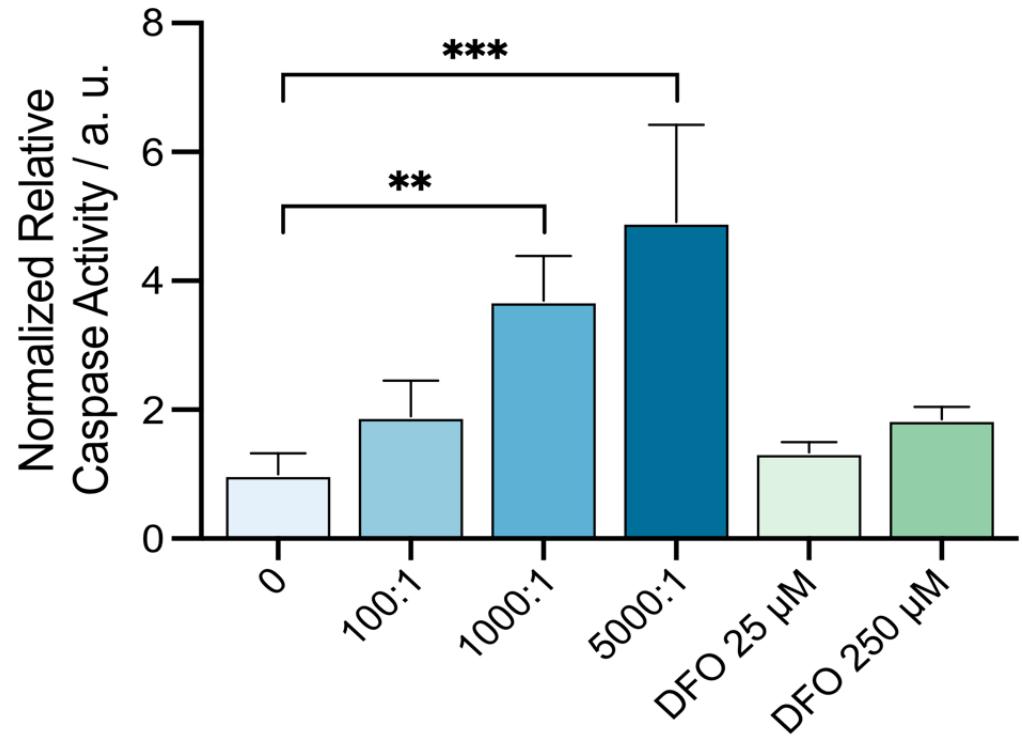


Dr. Stefano
Menghini



AMB-1 upregulate TfR1 expression and induce apoptosis

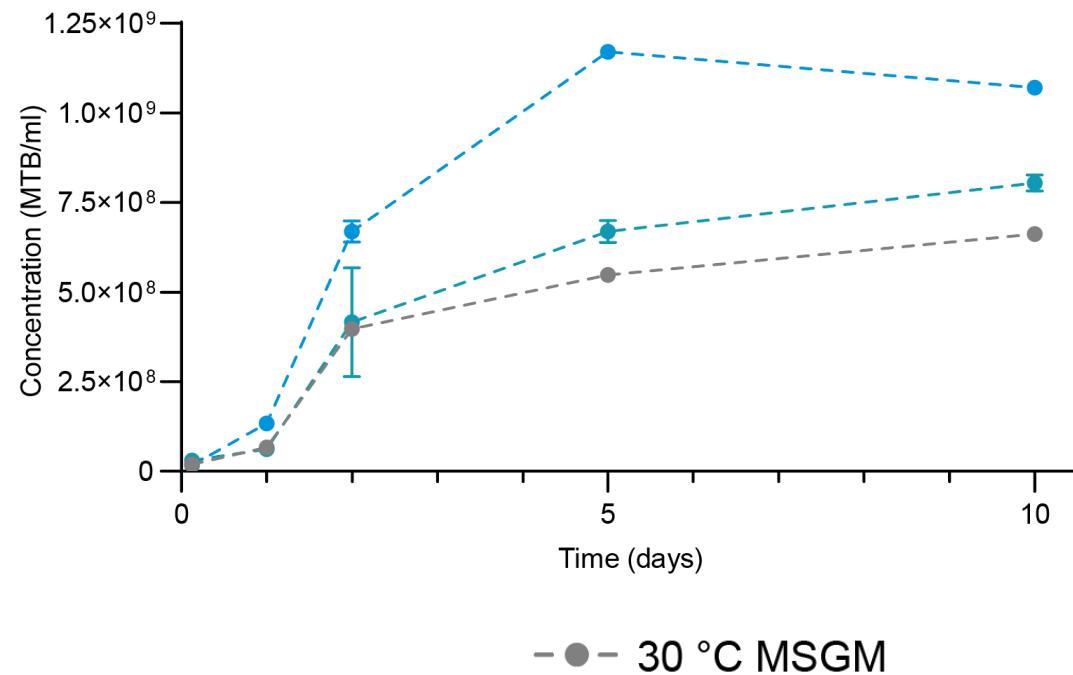
And they trigger caspase activity and apoptotic markers



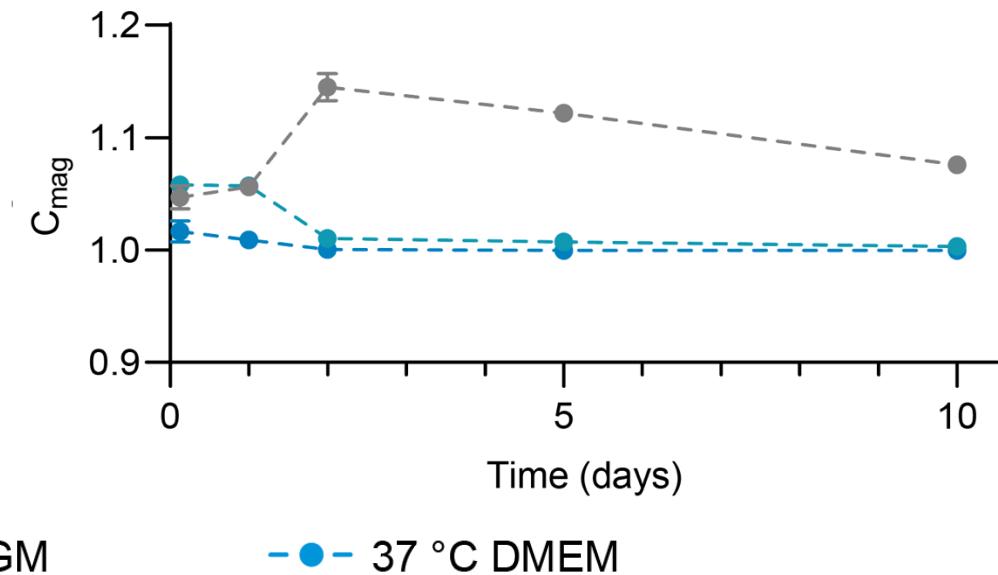
AMB-1 proliferate under physiological conditions



Dr. Tino Gwisai

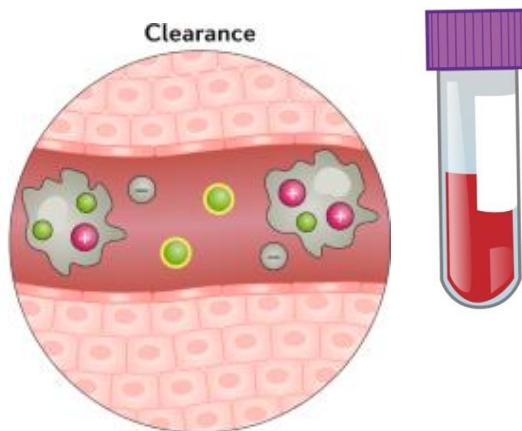


$$C_{\text{mag}} = \frac{OD_{\parallel}}{OD_{\perp}}$$

MTB proliferate at $37\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, which has implications for tumour colonisation

And remain viable with comparatively low clearance in human whole blood



Magnetic actuation should be applied within 1 hour when viable, magnetic MTB may still be in circulation

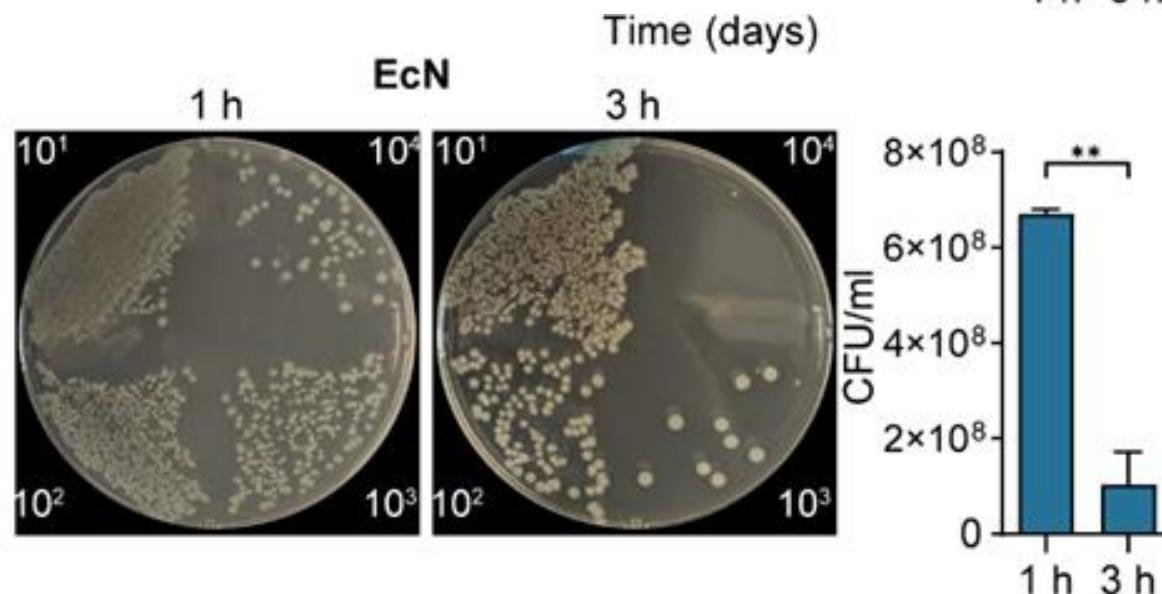
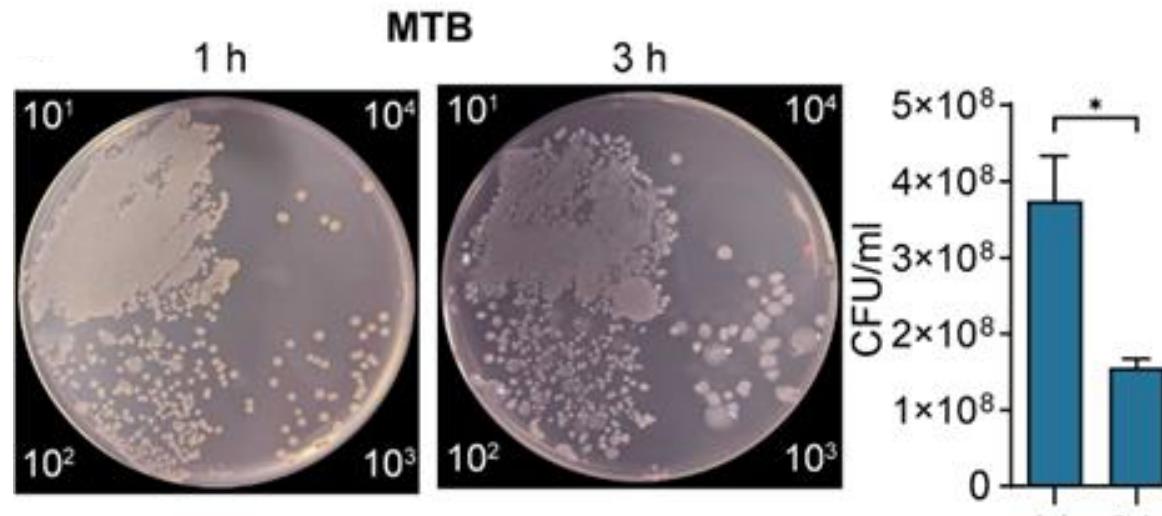
SCIENCE IMMUNOLOGY | RESEARCH ARTICLE

INNATE IMMUNITY

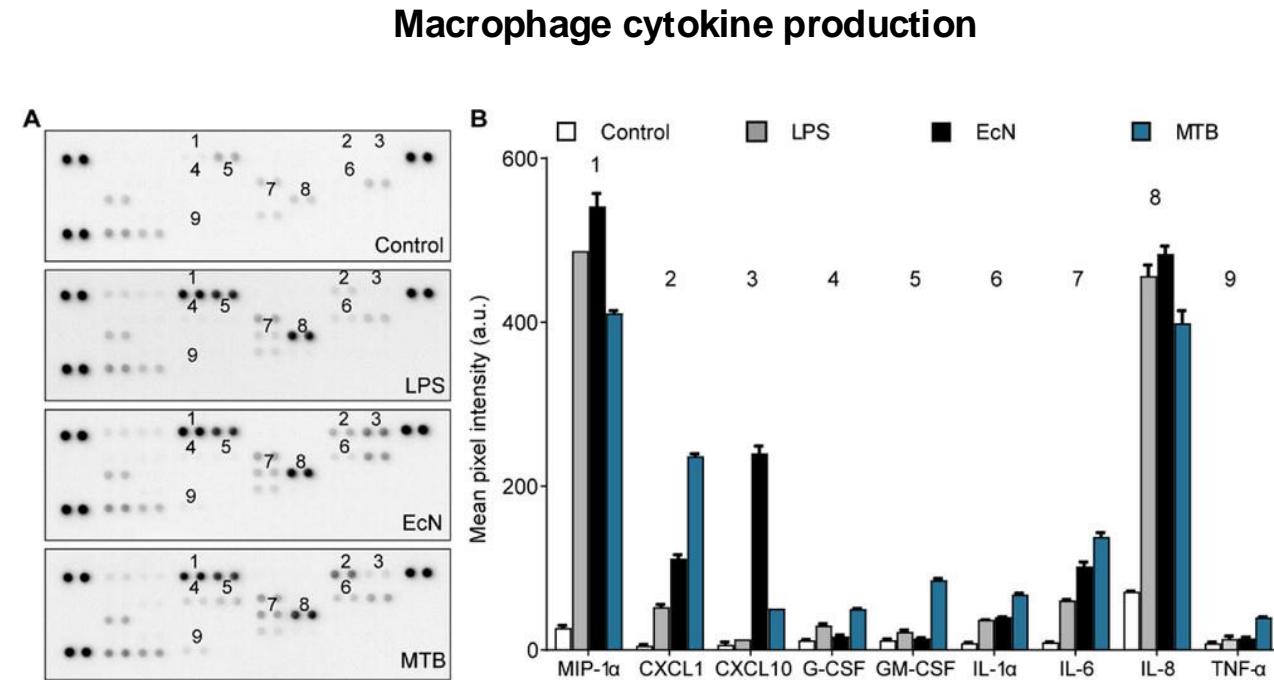
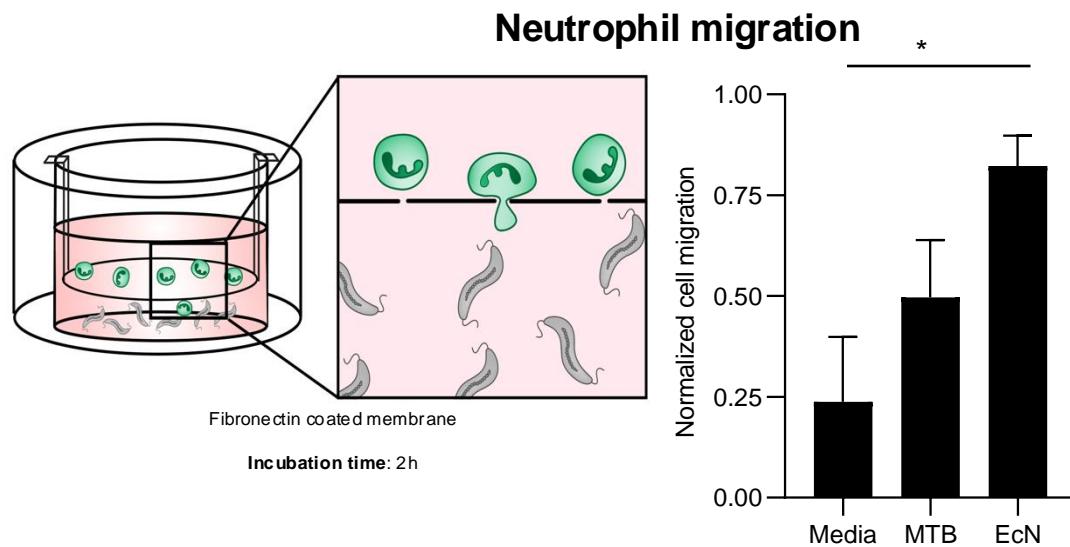
Deep-sea microbes as tools to refine the rules of innate immune pattern recognition

Anna E. Gauthier^{1,2,3}, Courtney E. Chandler⁴, Valentina Poli⁵, Francesca M. Gardner⁴, Aranteiti Tekiau⁶, Richard Smith⁴, Kevin S. Bonham⁷, Erik E. Cordes⁸, Timothy M. Shank⁹, Ivan Zanoni⁵, David R. Goodlett^{4,10}, Steven J. Biller⁷, Robert K. Ernst⁴, Randi D. Rotjan^{3*}, Jonathan C. Kagan^{1*}

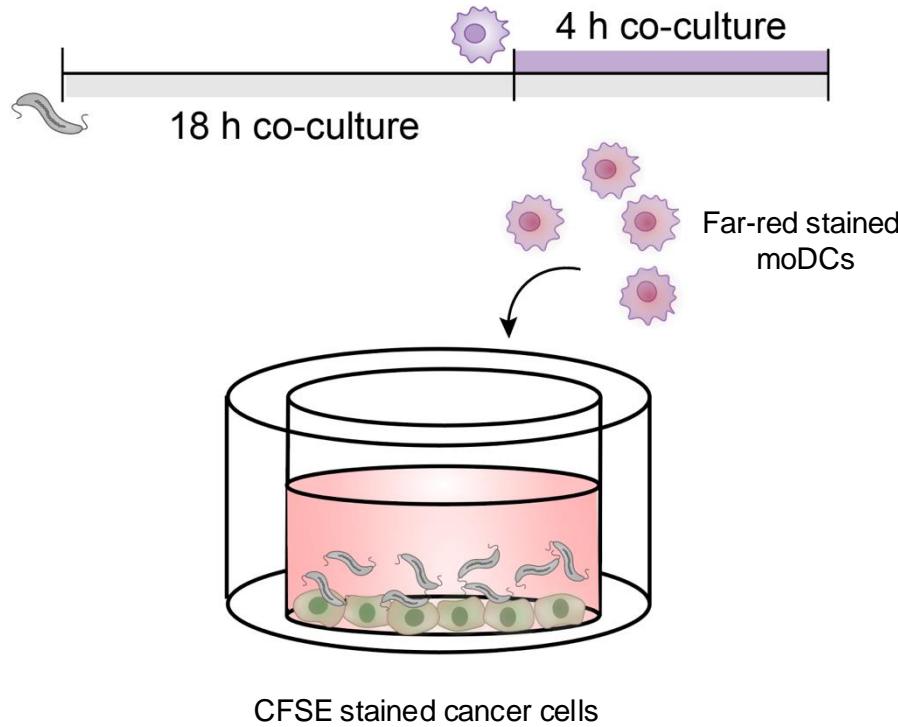
“[...]LPS receptors were unable to detect 80% of deep-sea bacteria examined [...]”



AMB-1 increases expression of proinflammatory cytokines

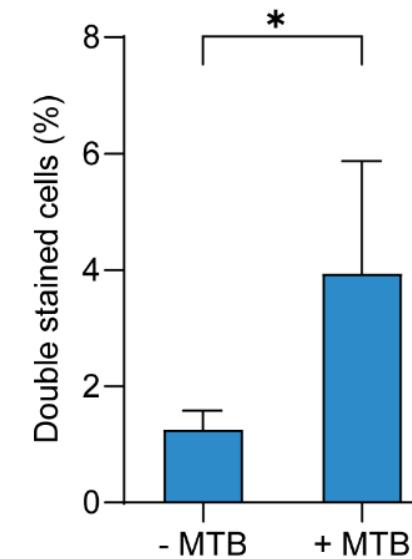
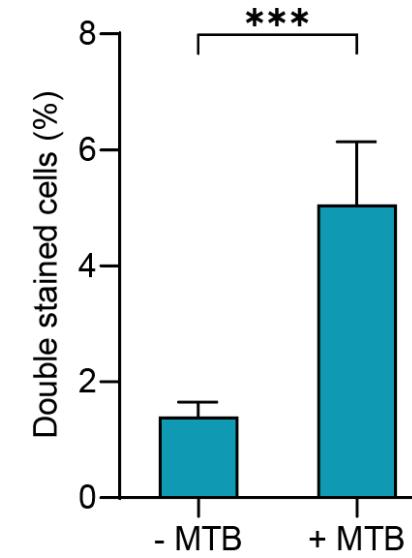


AMB-1 induce moDC maturation and increase the uptake of cancer cell material

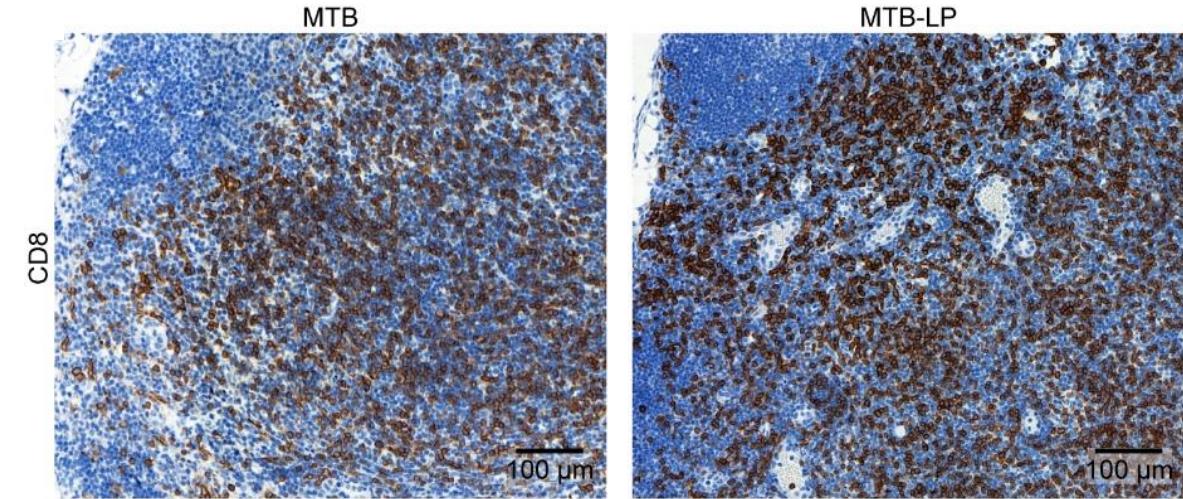
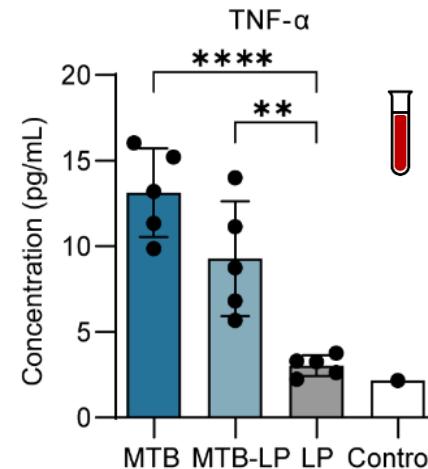
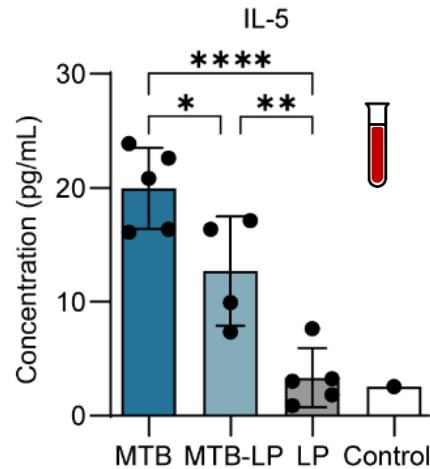
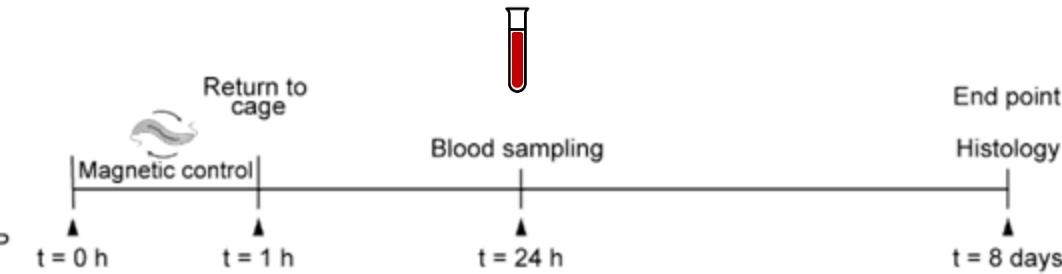
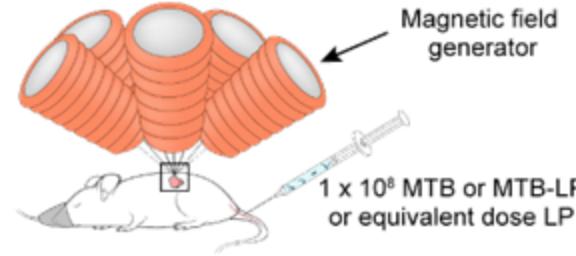
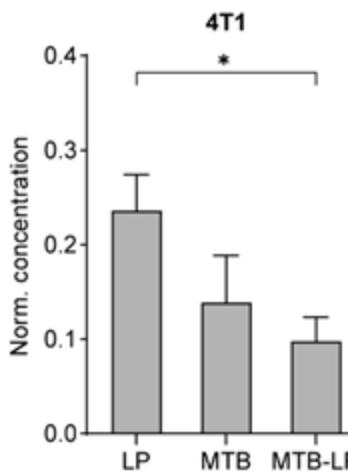
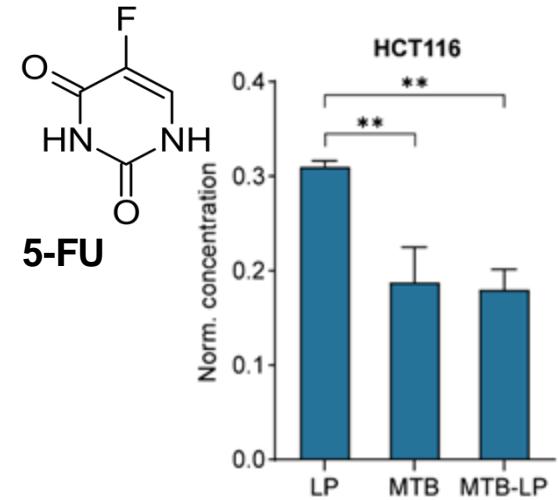


Far red & CFSE positive cells

Far red & CD83 positive cells



Bacterial microrobots: AMB-1 with cargo trigger desired immune response



Increased serum level cytokines with positive consequences regarding differentiation and recruitment of T helper cells

CD8+ cells and CD4+ cells infiltration into tumors

Can we make synthetic microrobots similar to the desired properties of bacteria?



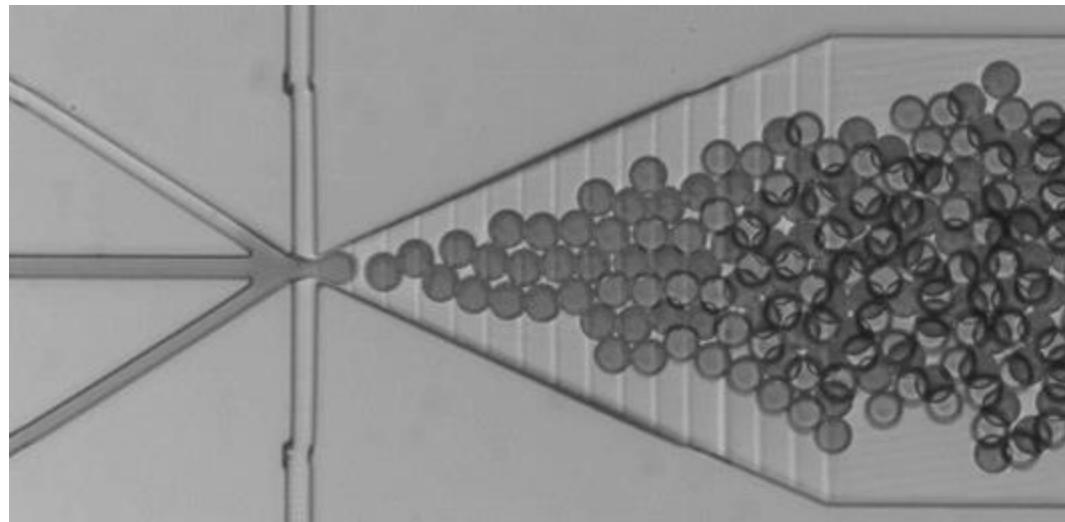
Yimo Yan

Droplet-based microfluidics for synthesis of microrobots inspired by magnetotactic bacteria

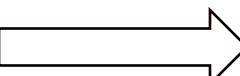
Hydrogel: Poly(ethylene glycol) diacrylate (PEGDA)

Photo initiator: Lap

Magnetic particle: Magnetite MNPs, 10nm

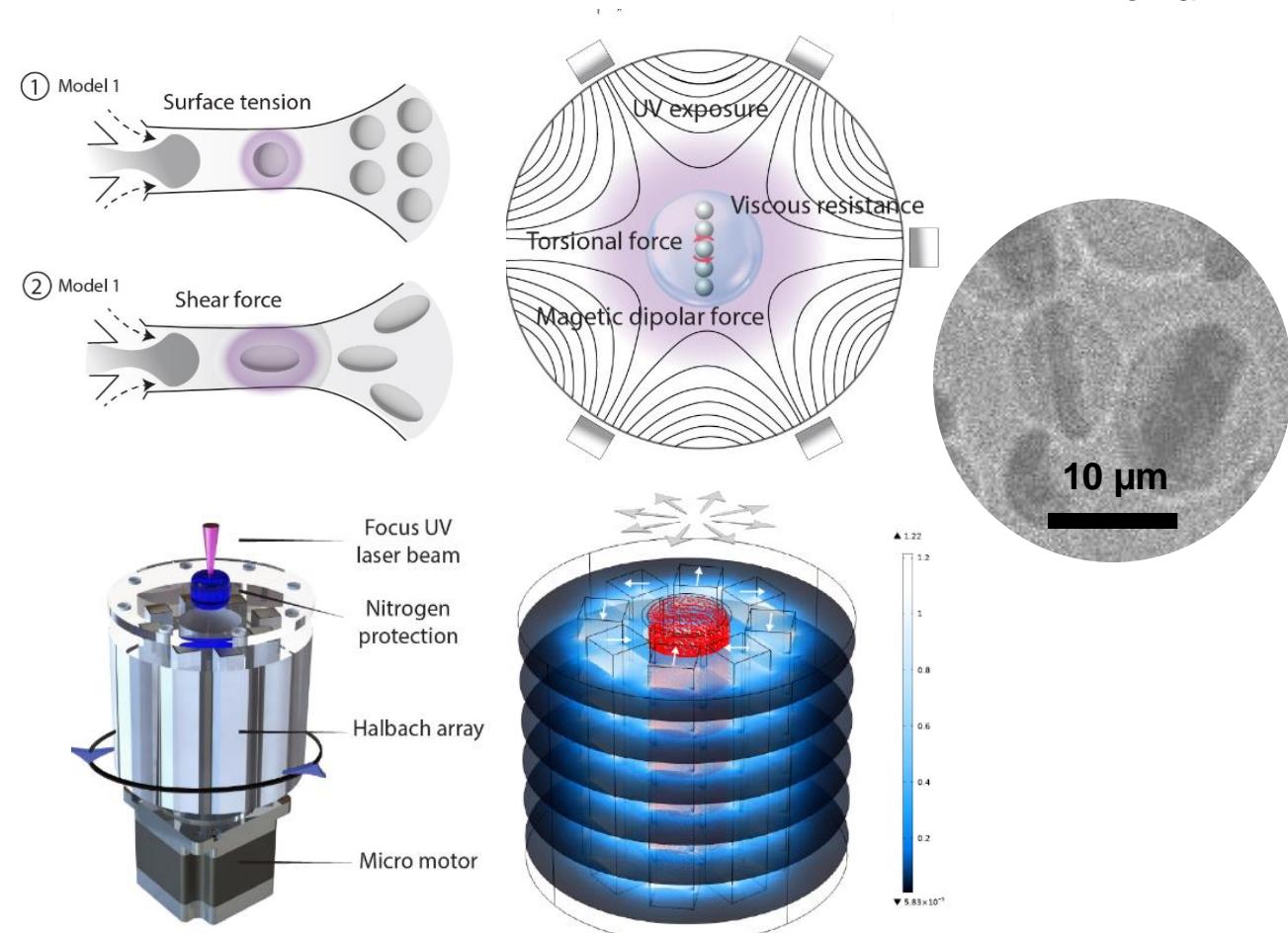


Magnetic hydrogel droplet generation

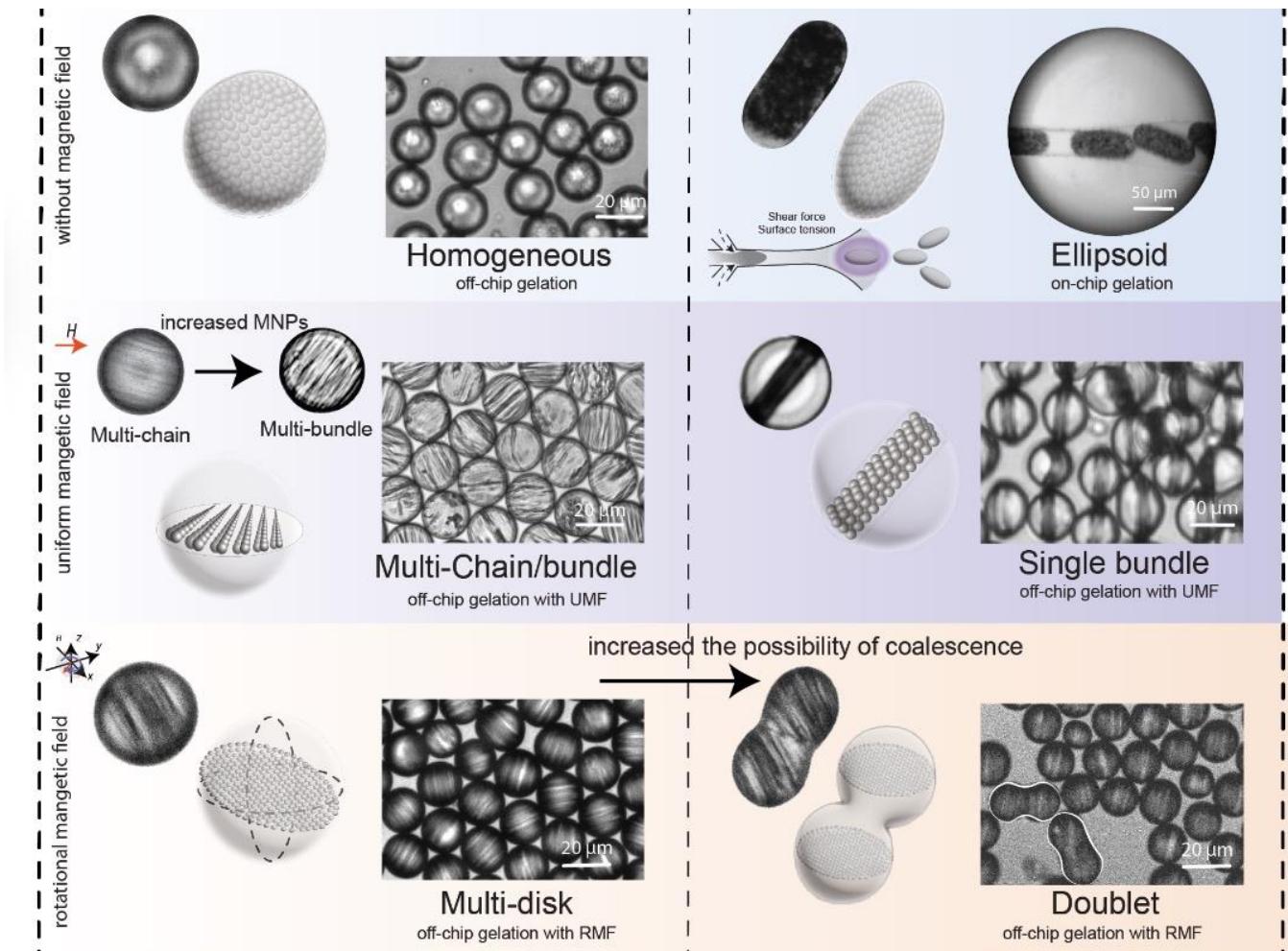


Photopolymerization under magnetic field

in collaboration with Prof. Andrew deMello



Encoding magnetic responsiveness



22%

23%

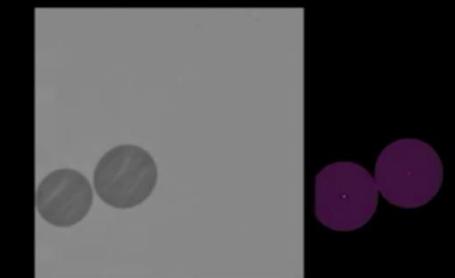
26%

Distinct supradomains

Distinct interactions

Multi-chain microrobot

Multi-disk microrobot

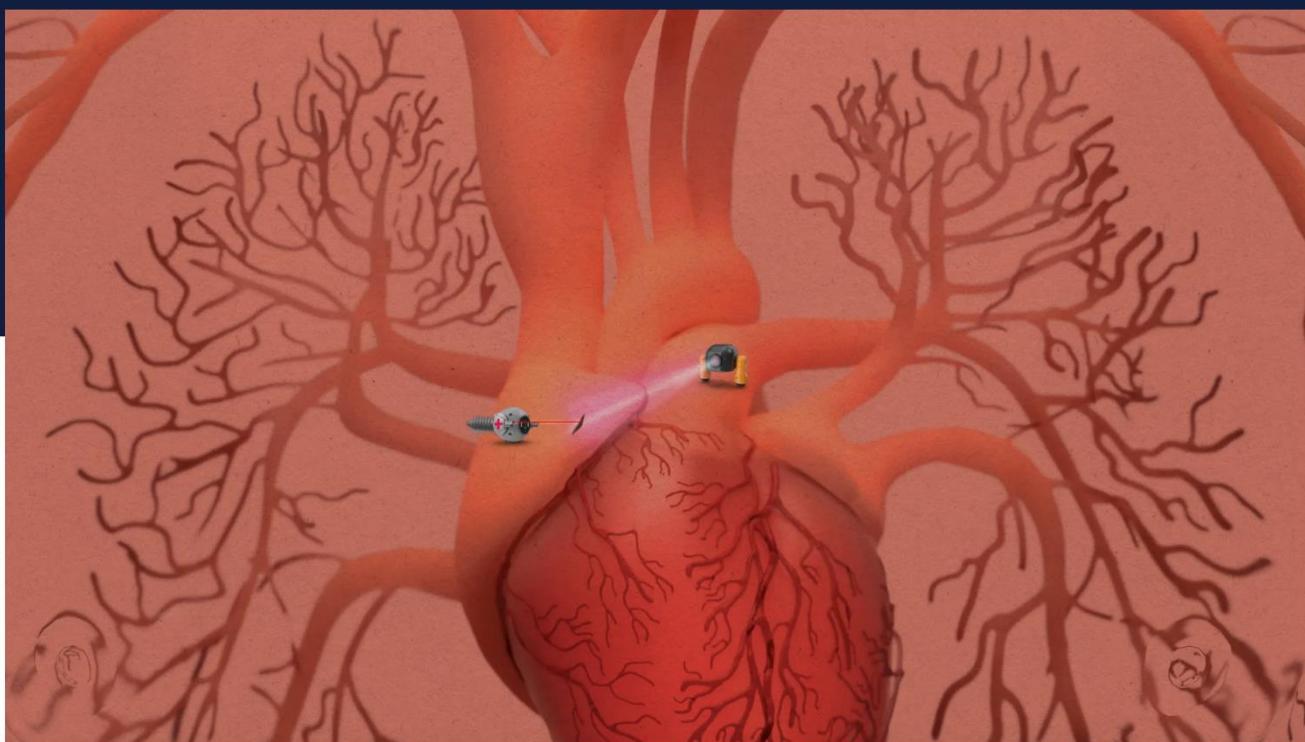


Medical microrobots that can travel inside your body are (still) on their way

Microrobots released into the body could bust up clots, deliver cancer drugs, and even guide listless sperm to their target.

By Cassandra Willyard

December 8, 2023



Microrobots are helpful tools

- **To study mechanical cues at the cellular scale**
- **To locally report protease for diagnostics**
- **To improve efficacy of drug delivery**

Vast biomedical application space to explore

THANKS to my team, collaborators and funding agencies



Team

- Dr. Claire Schirmer
- Dr. Michael Christiansen
- Dr. Cameron Forbrigger
- Dr. Johannes Bücheler
- Yimo Yan, PhD student
- Pascal Poc, PhD student
- Ines Oberhuber, PhD student
- Xiang Wang, PhD student
- Fan Li, PhD student
- Elena Totter, PhD student
- Tim Grossrieder, PhD student
- Emilie Einsiedel, PhD student
- All MML semester students

NOVARTIS



The
Branco Weiss
Fellowship
Society in Science



Alumni

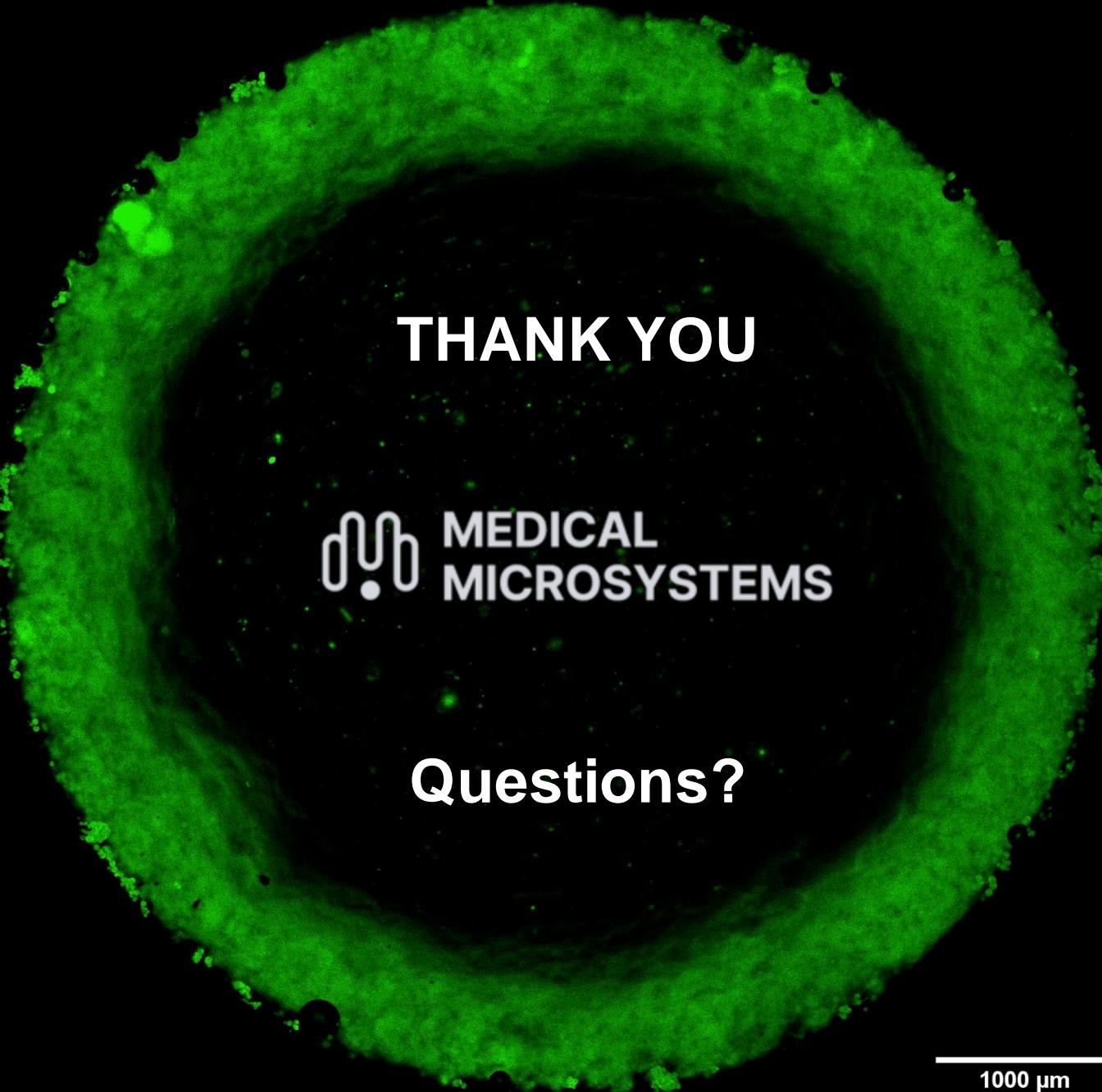
- Dr. Nima Mirkhani (Postdoc, Oxford University)
- Dr. Tinotenda Gwisai (Postdoc at Novartis)
- Dr. Stefano Menghini (CEO of biomed startup)

Collaborators

- Prof. Nicola Aceto, ETHZ
- Prof. Andrew Di Mello, ETHZ
- Prof. Volkmar Falk, Charité Berlin
- Dr. Nikola Cesavoric, ETHZ
- Prof. Tal Danino, Columbia University



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SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



THANK YOU



Questions?

1000 μ m