



**The Abdus Salam  
International Centre for Theoretical Physics**



**2037-15**

## **Introduction to Optofluidics**

*1 - 5 June 2009*

**Optical manipulation of living cells in fluids**

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The Abdus Salam  
International Centre for Theoretical Physics



# Optical manipulation of living cells in fluids

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[www.tasc.infm.it/research/om/scheda.php](http://www.tasc.infm.it/research/om/scheda.php)



Laboratorio Nazionale  
Tecnologie Avanzate e nanoSCienza

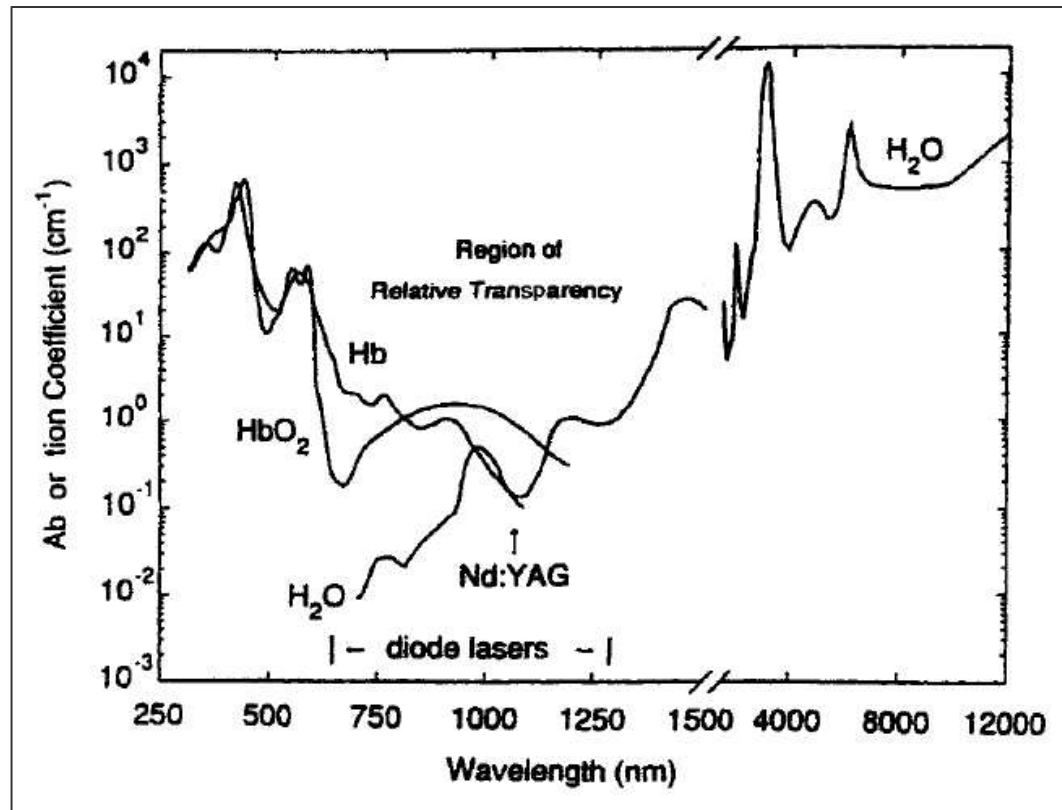
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - Istituto Nazionale per la Fisica della Materia

## OUTLINE

- **Damage-free trapping of living cells**
- **Examples Cell mechanical stress: (neurons, HeLa, RBC)**
  - 1 apply pN forces**
  - 2 measure pN forces measurements (neurons, HeLa, RBC)**
- **Change the cell environment, drug delivery vectors (functionalized beads, liposomes) – short discussion**
- **Conclusions/Discussion**

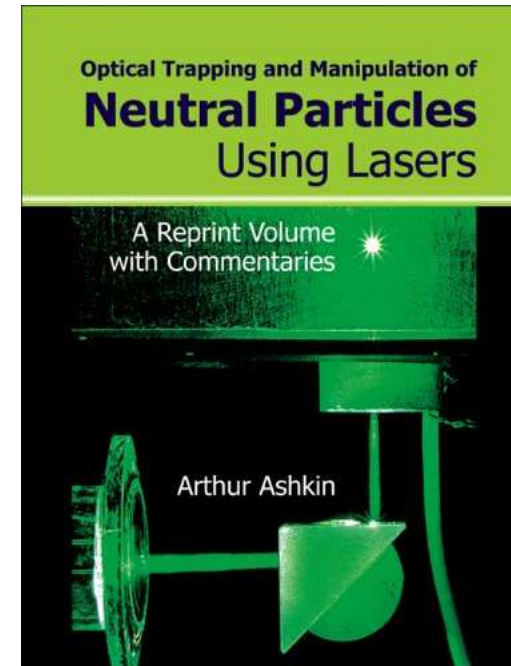
There is more discussion on cell mechanics in the pdf file available to be downloaded from ICTP - I2O web site.

## Does the laser trapping beam damage the cell ?



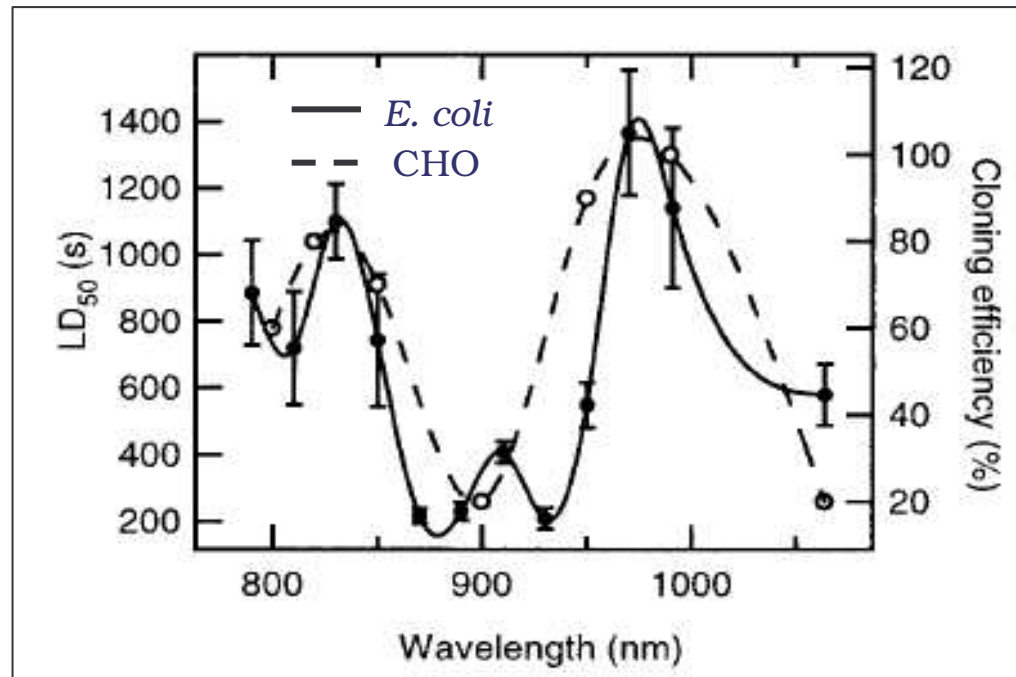
Plot of the optical absorption coefficients of hemoglobin (Hb), oxyhemoglobin (HbCh) and water versus the wavelength.

**Minimum cell damage: Infrared lasers**



A. Ashkin, J. M. Dziedzic and T. Yamane, Optical trapping and manipulation of single cells using infrared laser beams, *Nature* **330**, 769-771 (1987).

## Quantitative evaluation of photodamage ?

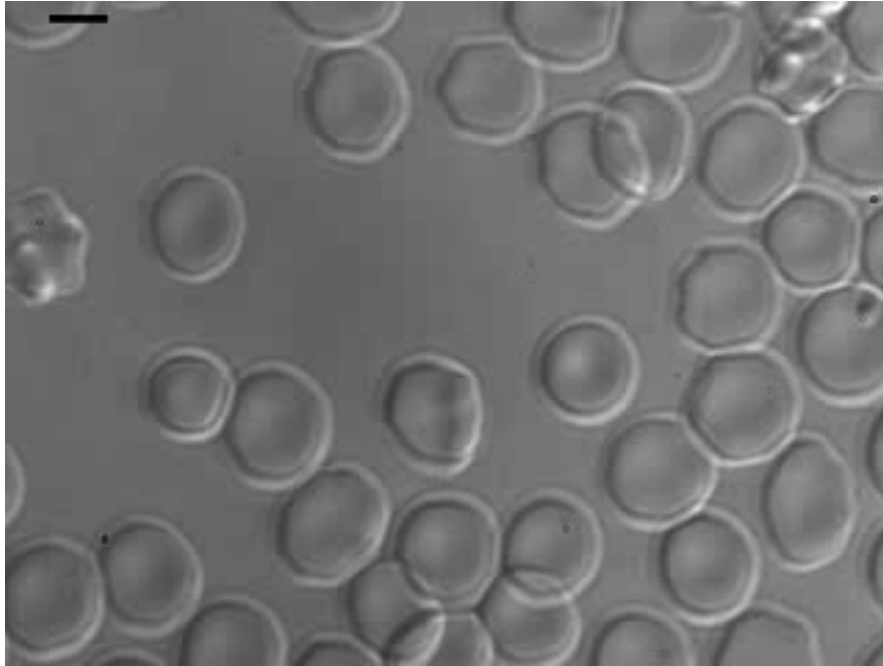


The wavelength dependence of photodamage in *E. coli* compared to Chinese Hamster Ovarian cells.

Liang *et al*, Biophys. J. **70**,1529 (1996)

K.C. Neuman *et al*, Biophys. J., **77**, 2856, (1999)

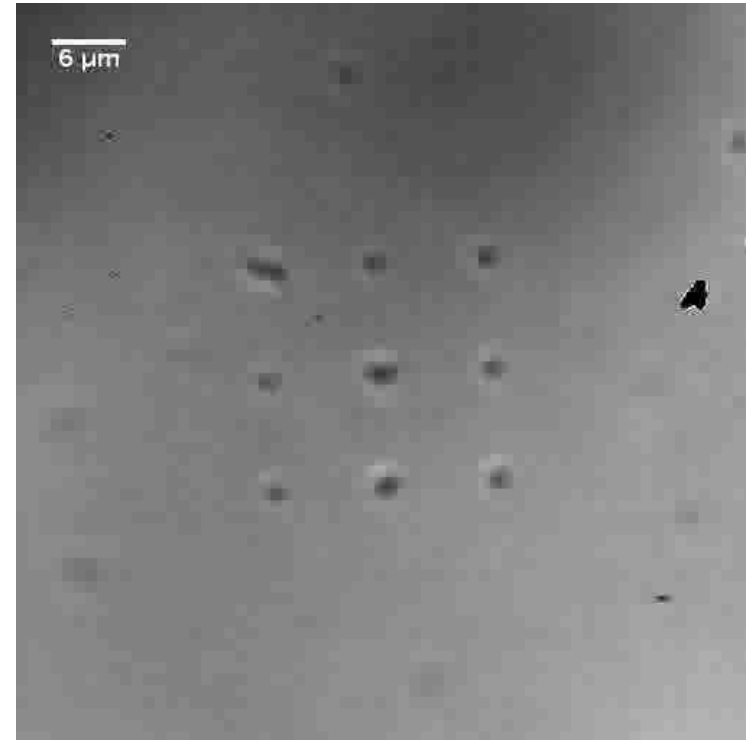
## Single cell trapping



**movie**

Red Blood Cell RBC single cell

## Cell array and sorting

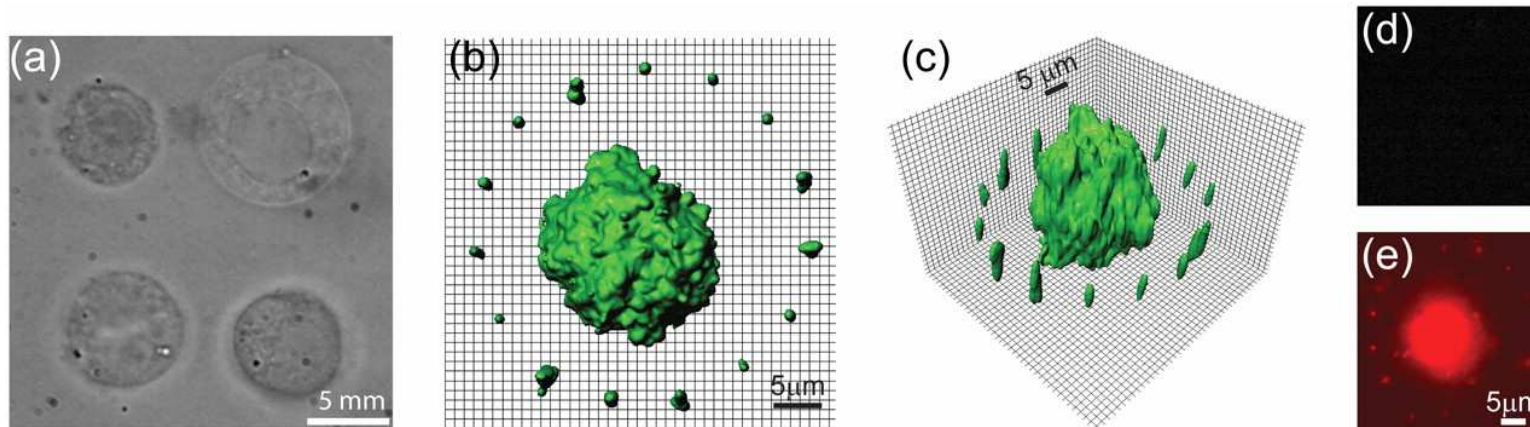


E. coli cells are trapped in a 3x3 array and the position of two cells is then interchanged

## Permanent assembly of 3D living cell microarrays

- The array is first configured by multiple traps created with AOD and SLM
- The position of the cells is fixed permanently using a photopolymerizable hydrogel

PEDGA = Polyethylene glycol diacrylate



Heterotypic microarray of Swiss 3T3 mouse fibroblast and *P. aeruginosa* bacteria.

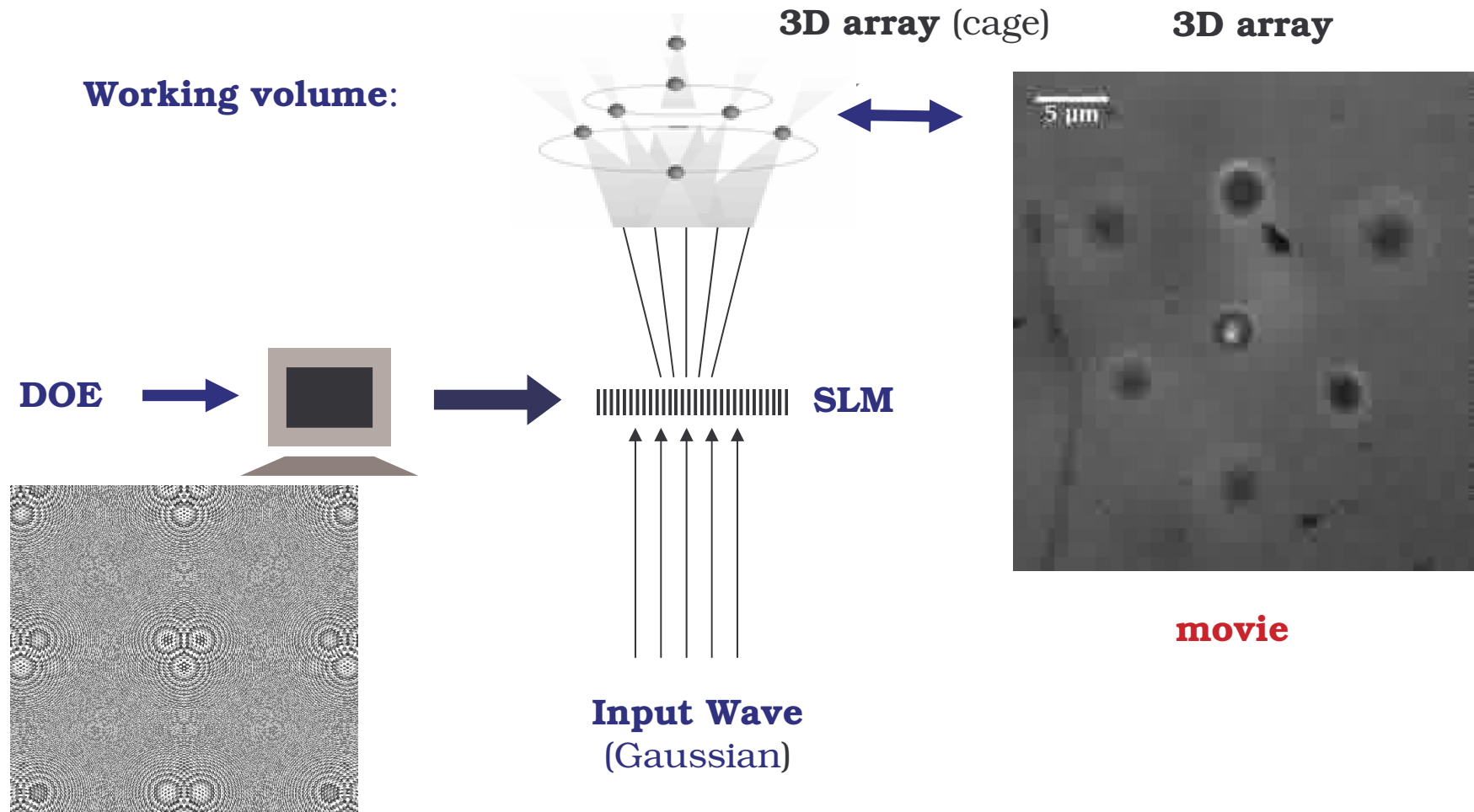
(a) Swiss 3T3 mouse fibroblasts trapped in a 2 x 2 2D array

(b,c) False-color isosurface reconstructions obtained from a confocal image of a Swiss 3T3 cell surrounded by a ring of 16 *P. aeruginosa*.

(d,e) Viability assay of the same heterotypic microarray showing an image obtained by exciting propidium iodide labels with 488 nm. The lack of red fluorescence in (d) indicates viability, but after killing the cells with ethanol the fluorescence is intensely red (e).

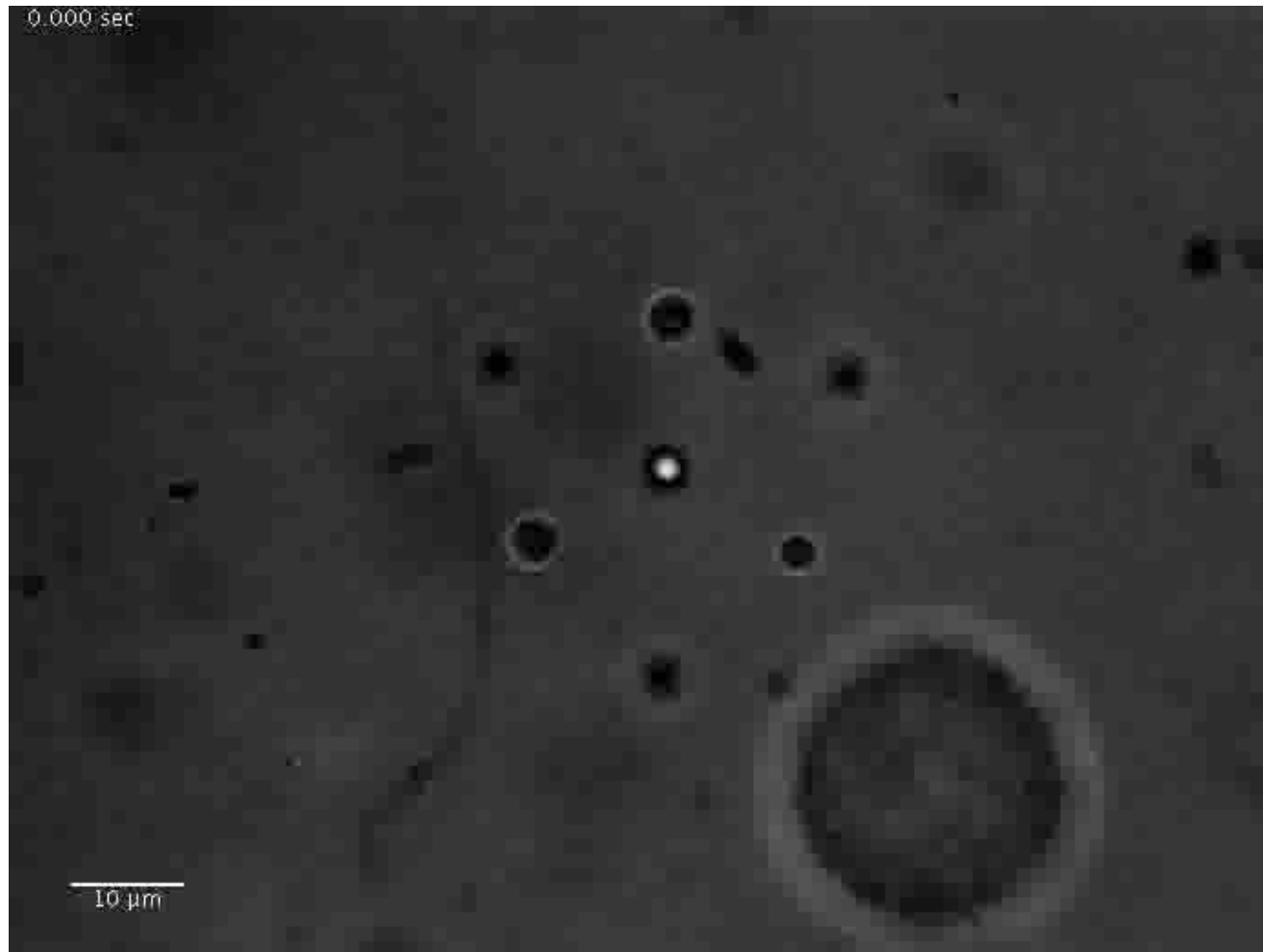
## Multiple trapping

by means of Diffractive Optical Elements (DOE)  
implemented on a Spatial Light Modulator (SLM)





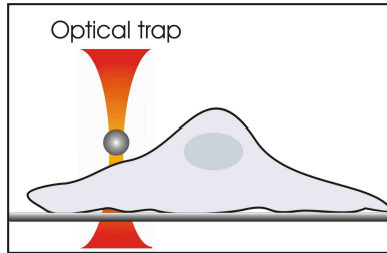
## Mechanical stimulation of cells with pN forces



HeLa cell under the dynamic cage

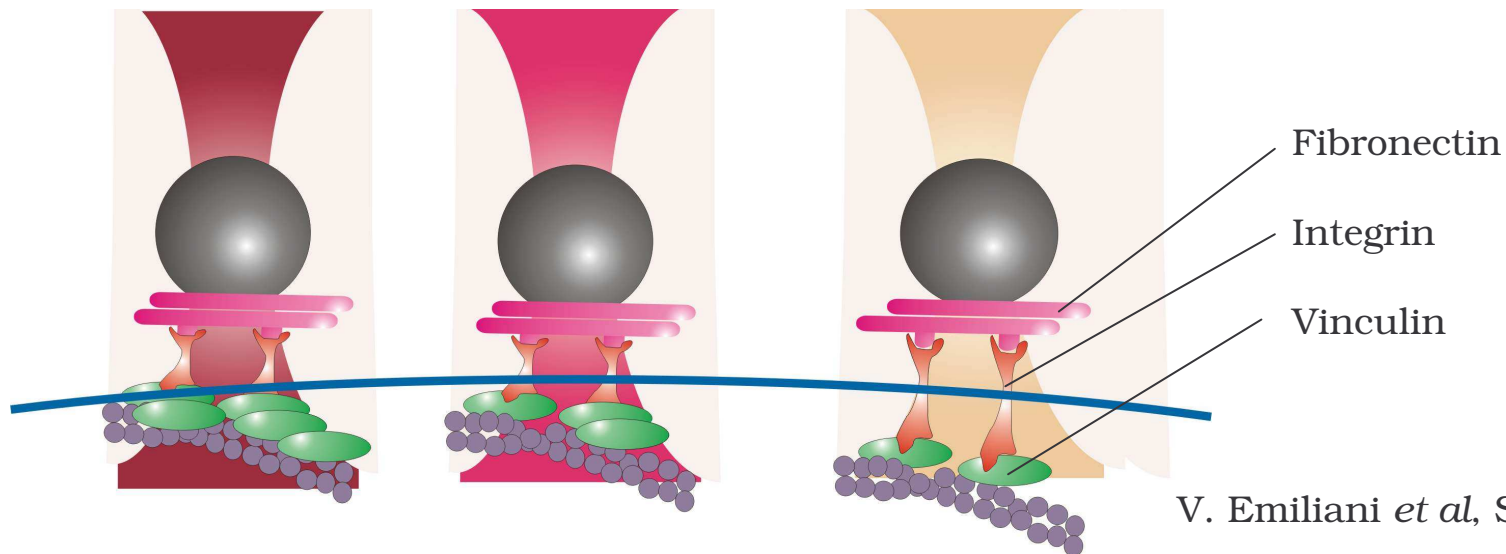
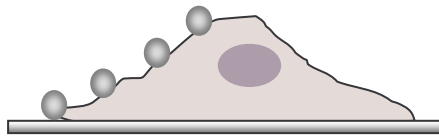
**movie**

**With the optical tweezers technique one can control very precisely the mechanical stimulation at the level of single or multiple adhesion sites**



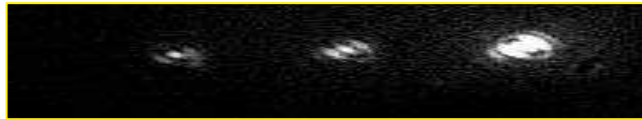
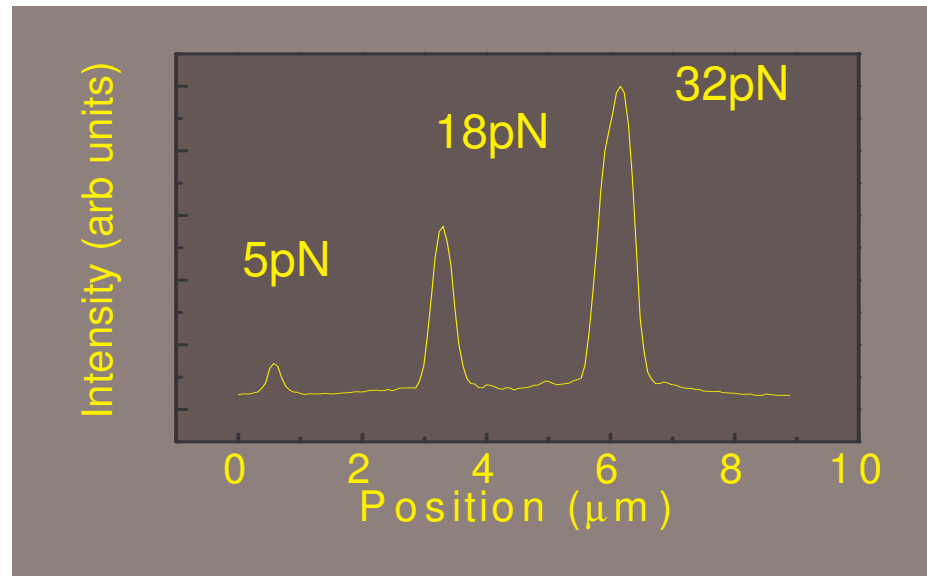
The multi force optical tweezers is combined with an epi-fluorescence microscope to monitor vinculin recruitment as a function of applied forces.

Fibronectin coated beads are manipulated on the dorsal surface of Vin-GFP transfected HeLa cell.

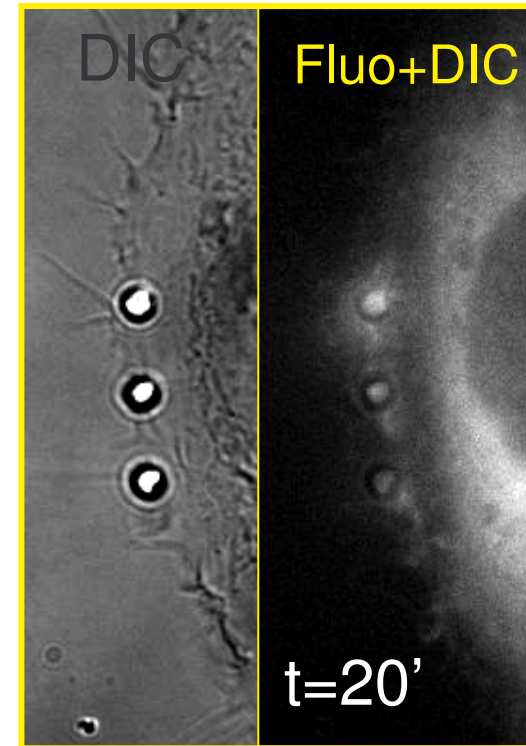


V. Emiliani *et al*, SPIE (2006)

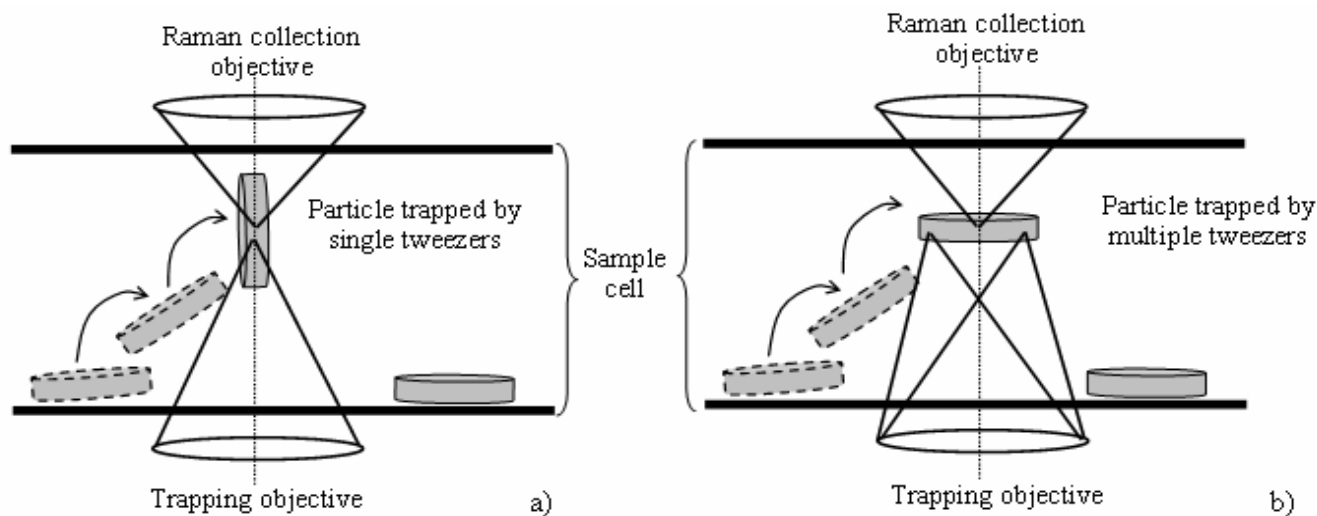
## Trap strength



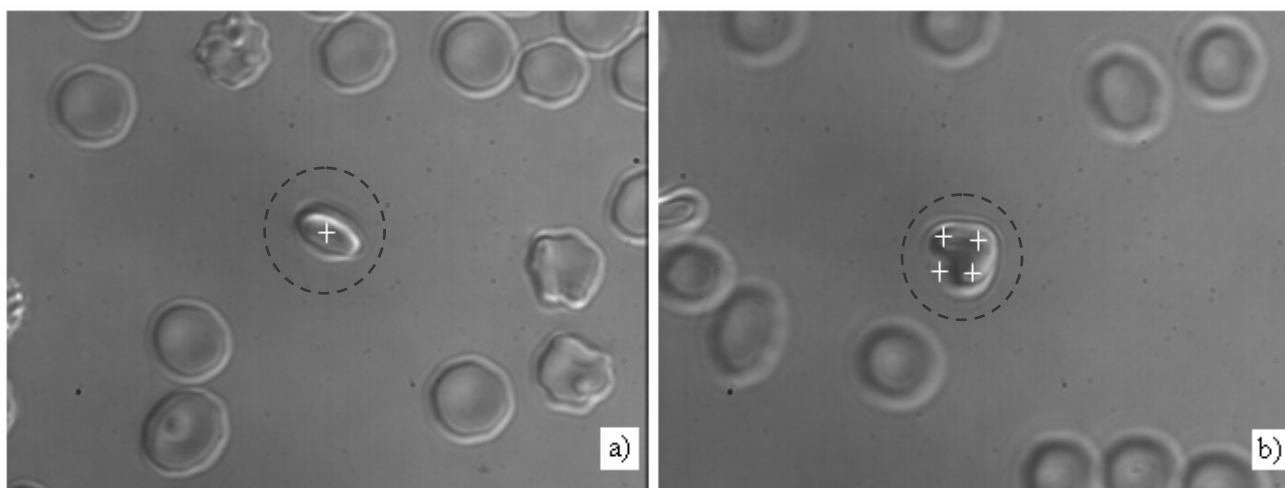
## Vinculin recruitment



## Changing the orientation of a RBC for microRaman mapping the cell



Orientation of a RBC trapped by:  
**single** optical tweezers a) and **four** optical tweezers b)



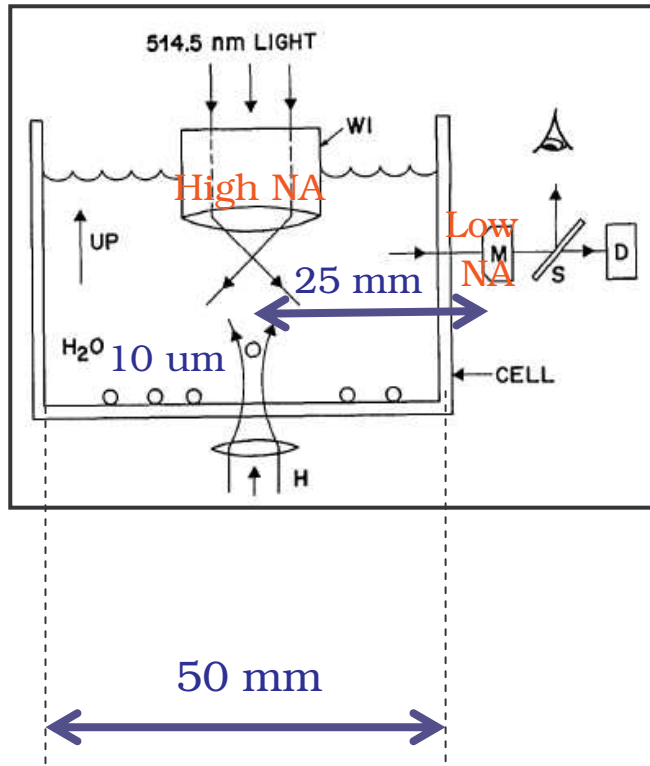
Raman imaging

(confocal microscope +  
cell scanning)

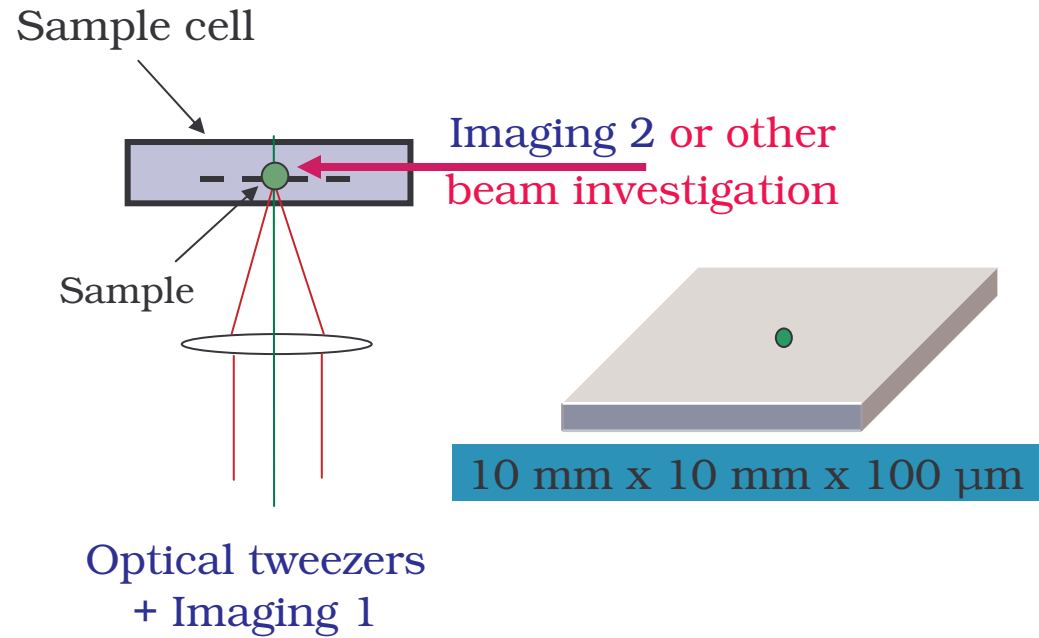
D. Cojoc *et al*, *SPIE*  
**5930**, 64, (2005)

## Double view imaging

**Ashkin's sample cell**



**Sample cell modification**



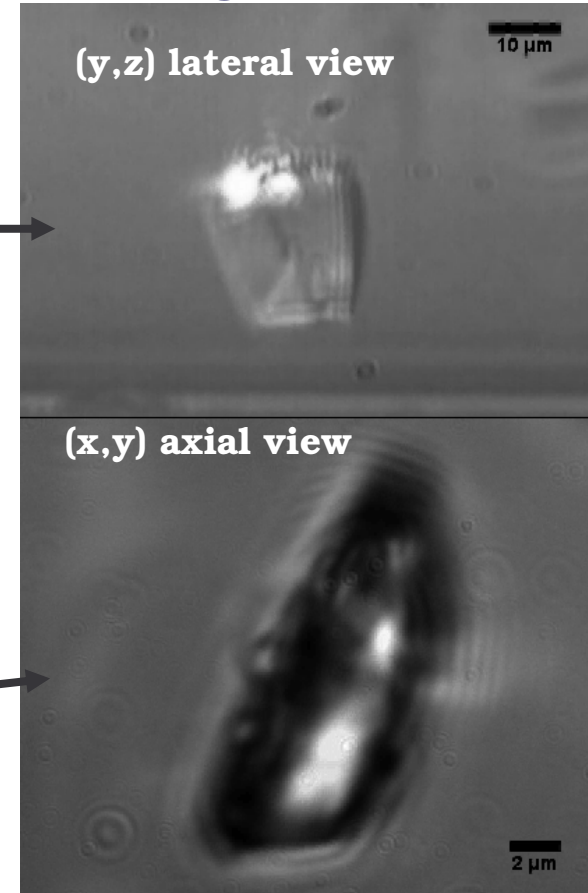
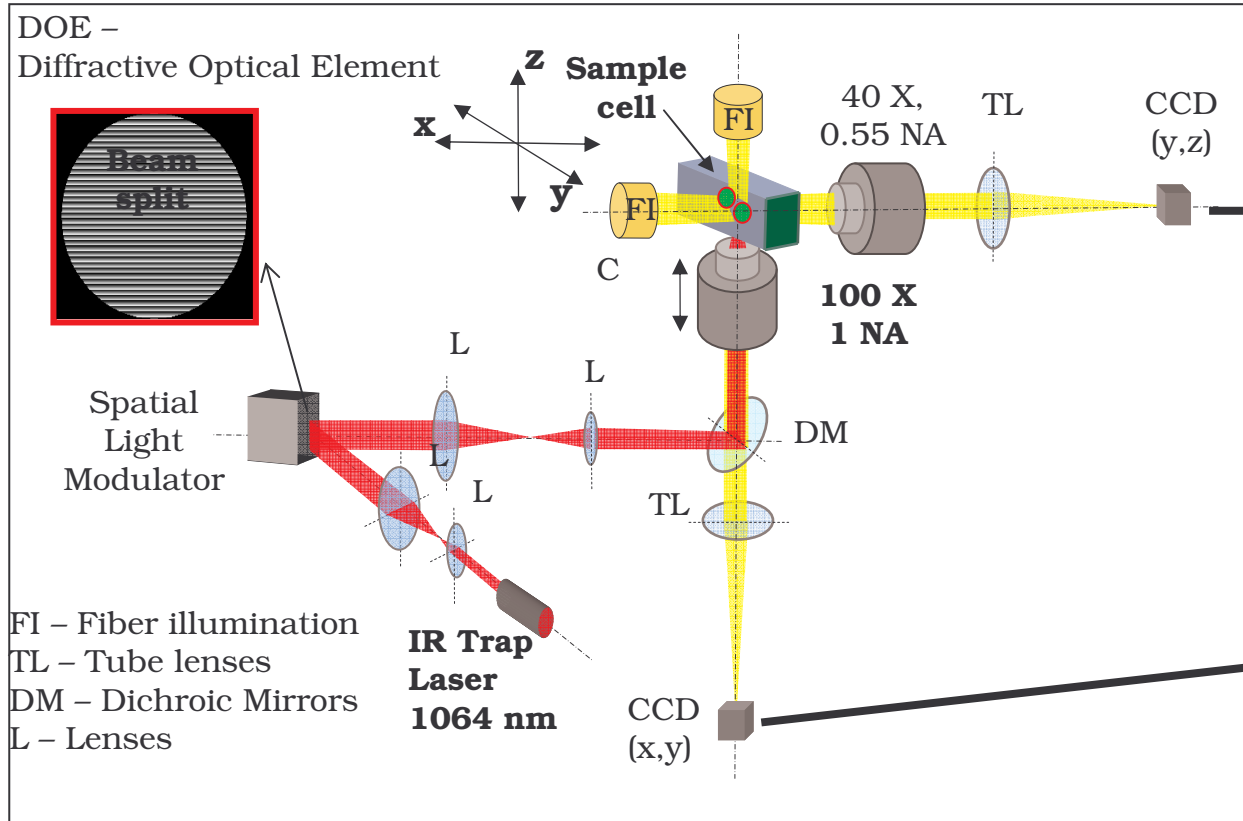
**Capillaries as sample cells**



**Inner diameter <100 μm**

## Double view setup

Piece of glass with irregular shape



**movie** Notice the different scale bar values

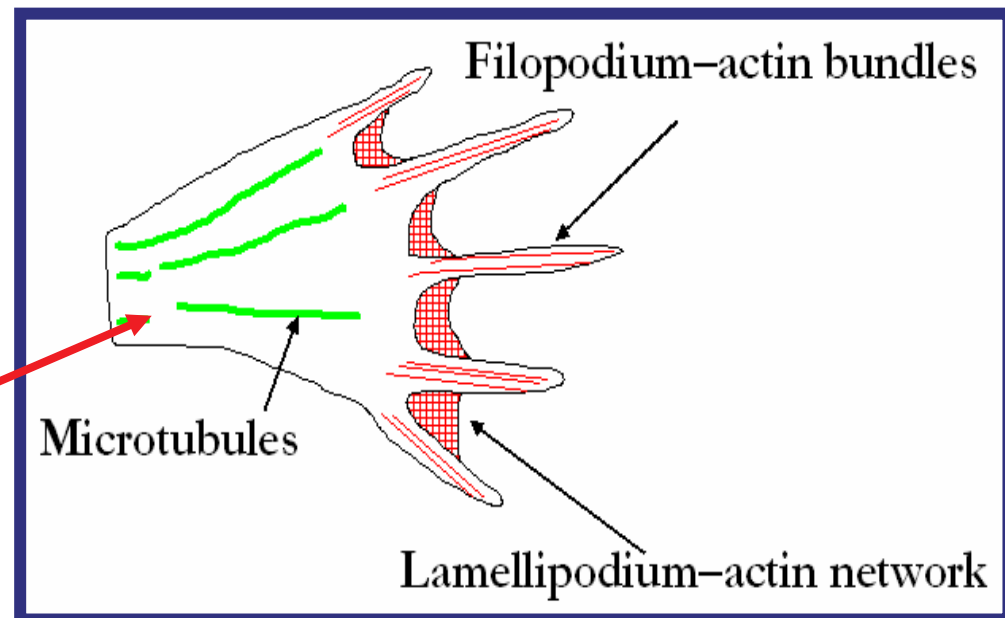
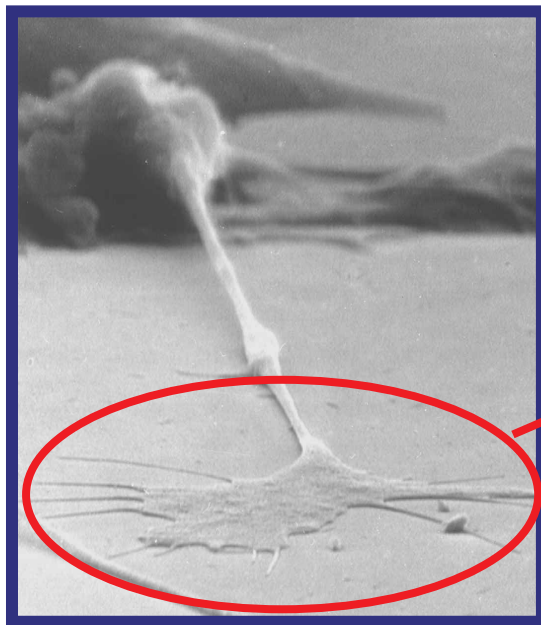
## Force measurements

### Motivation, goal, approaches

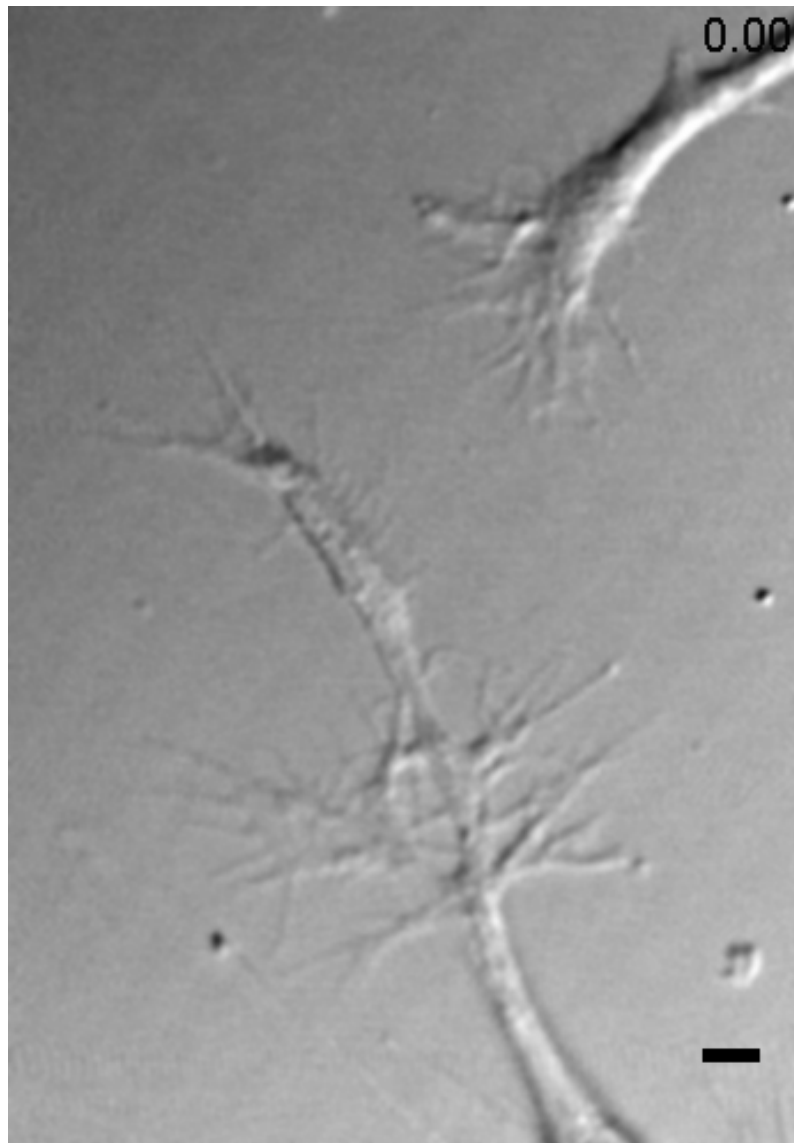
**Key determinant of axonal growth is the growth cone:**

*"They will adopt pre-determined directions and establish connections with defined neural or extra neural elements ... without deviations or errors, as if guided by an intelligent force ." 1890 RAMON Y CAJAL*

### Structural elements of the growth cone



## Growth cones sensing and connecting



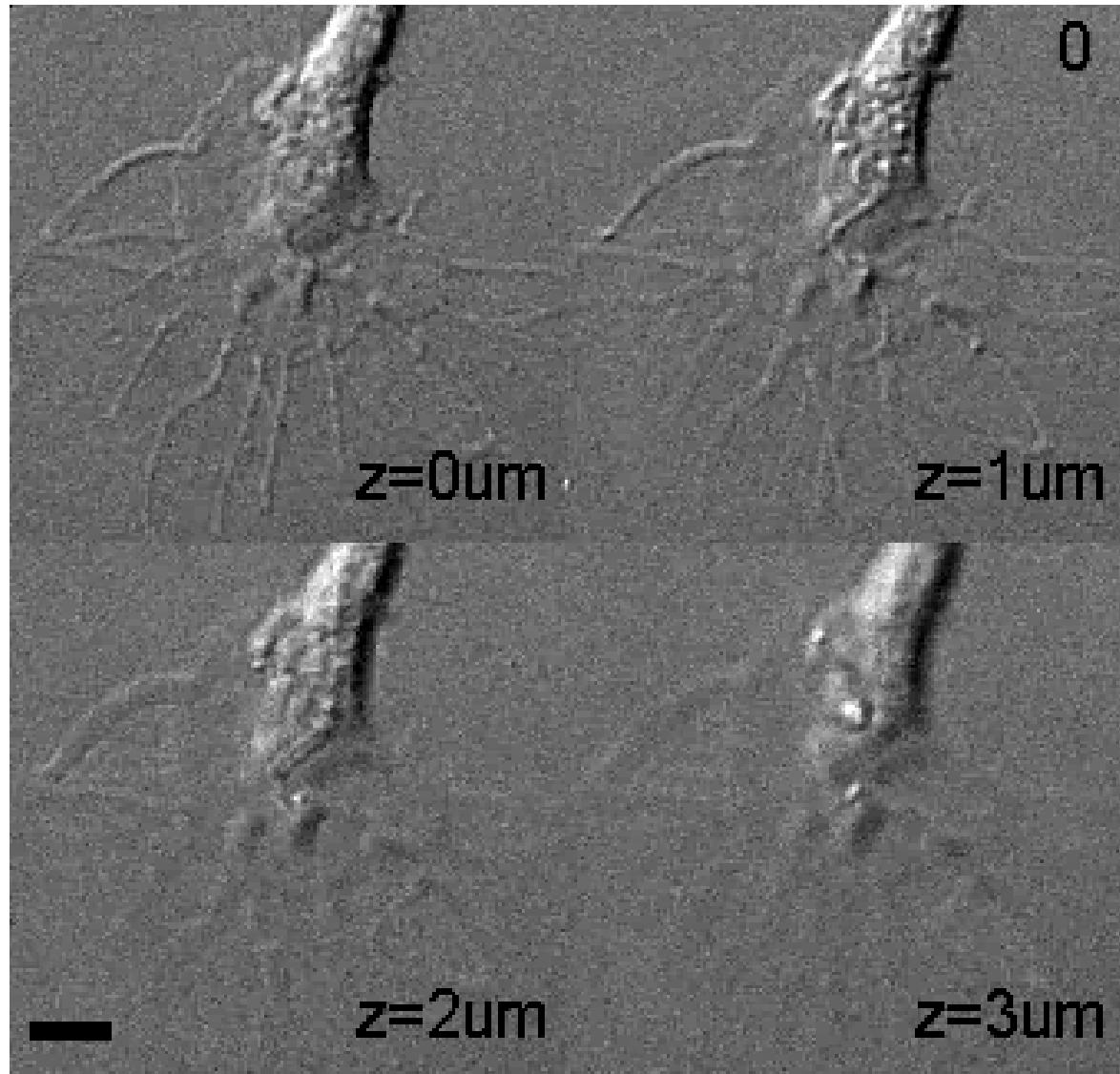
Scale Bar = 3  $\mu\text{m}$

Acquisition freq= 0.2Hz

Time in min.sec



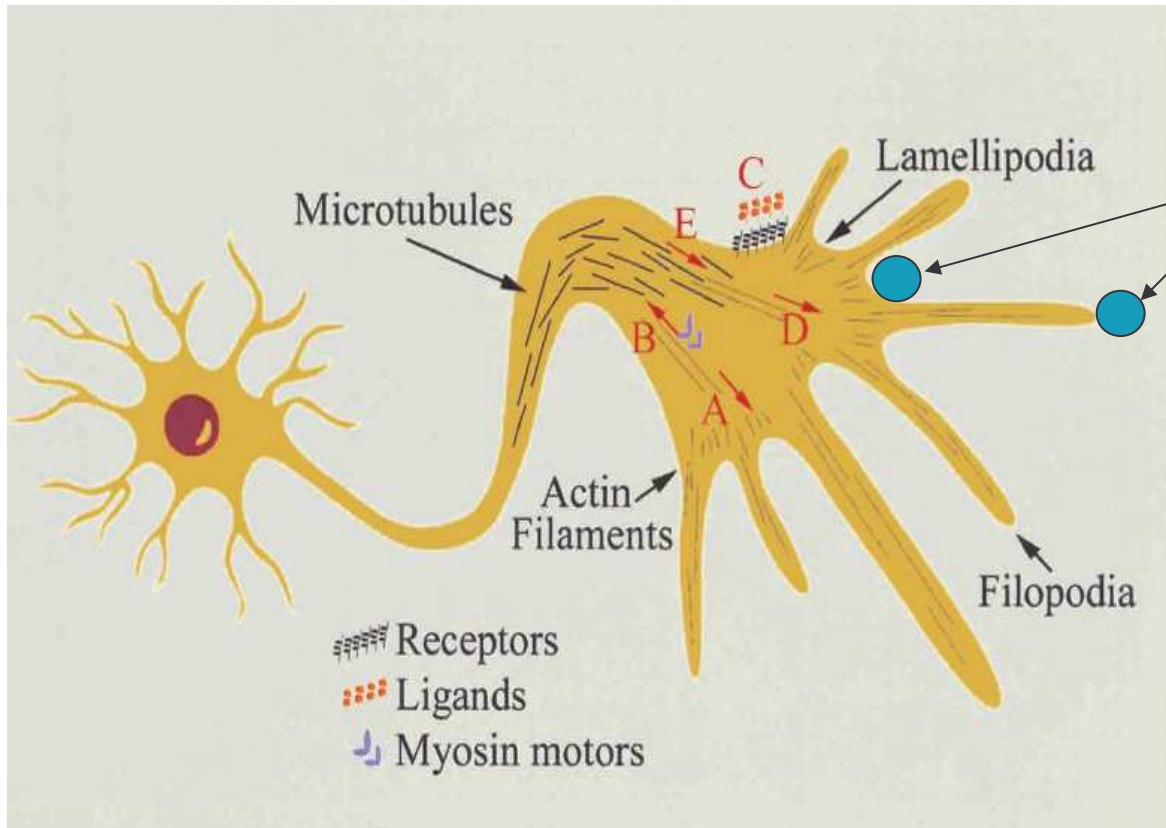
## Growth cone confocal microscopy



## Goal

measure the forces exerted by  
lamellipodia and filopodia

## Experimental Approach



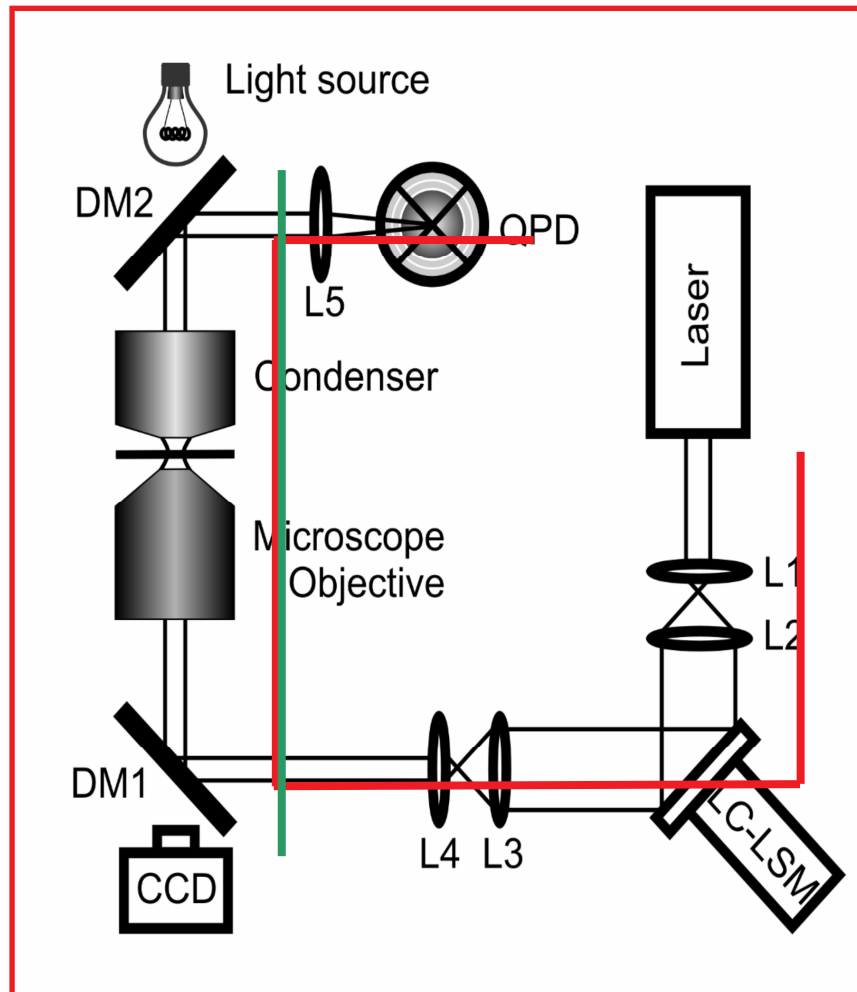
- Calibrate the trap
- Micro-beads trapped by IR laser and positioned in front of lamellipodia and/or filopodia
- Measure the fluctuations of the bead in the trap, due to its interaction with the motile structures, and convert them into forces.

J.L. Goldberg, *Genes and Dev.* **17** 941 (2003)

D. Cojoc *et al. PlosOne* 2007

## Optical Tweezers setup

Includes Optical Manipulation and Force Spectroscopy



$$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{K} \Delta \mathbf{x}$$

$K$  = stiffness of the trap (spring constant)

$\Delta \mathbf{x}$  = Displacement

LC-LSM: Liquid Crystal Spatial Light Modulator

CCD: Charged Coupled Device

$L_n$ : Lens 1,2,3,4,5

DM: Dichroic Mirror

QPD: Quadrant Photo-Diode

Bead position was determined by Back Focal plane (BFP) detection:

BFP of the condenser was imaged onto a QPD

## Experimental results

**Neurons** obtained from dorsal root ganglia (DRG), isolated from P0-12 rats and plated on poly-L-lysine-coated glass dishes. 48 hours after incubation in 50 ng/ml of nerve growth factor (NGF).

### Features of our setup

Trap stiffness: 5-100 pN/ $\mu\text{m}$

Resolution:  $\sim 10\text{nm}$  (1 nm)

Force range: 1-25 pN

Errors are about 10%

### (Some) Problems encountered:

Stuck beads to the substrate

Trapping and calibration close to the substrate ( $< 2\ \mu\text{m}$ ) and at  $T=37\ \text{C}$

Influence of floating particles on the interference pattern

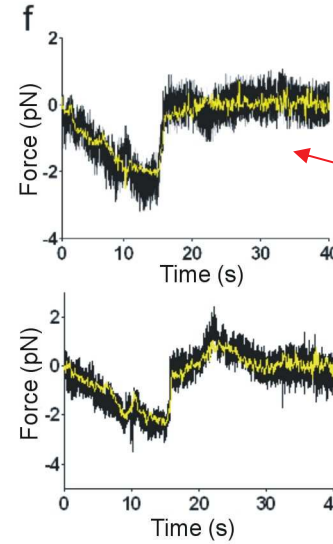
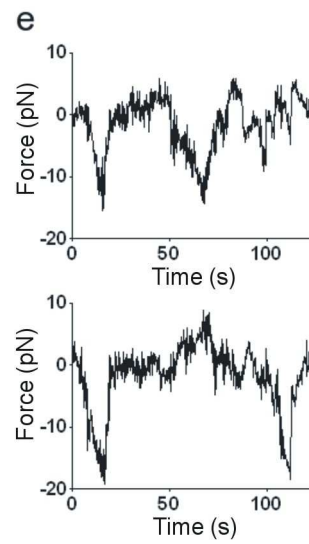
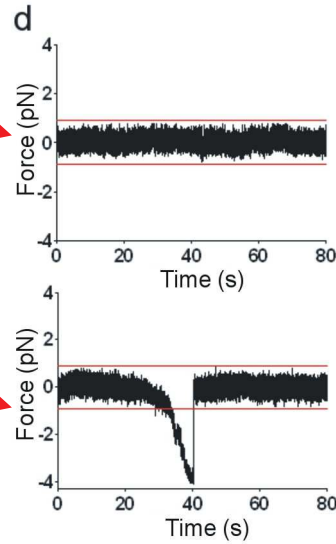
**Filopodia collisions reveal lower forces than expected ? Tam-Tam !**

## Criteria to define a collision



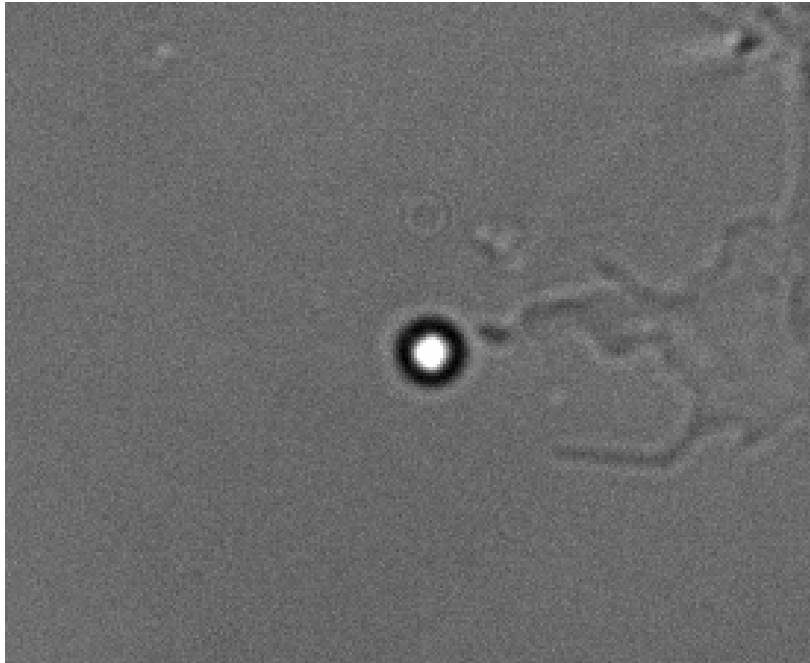
Measurement  
away from  
Neuron

Measurement  
during collision



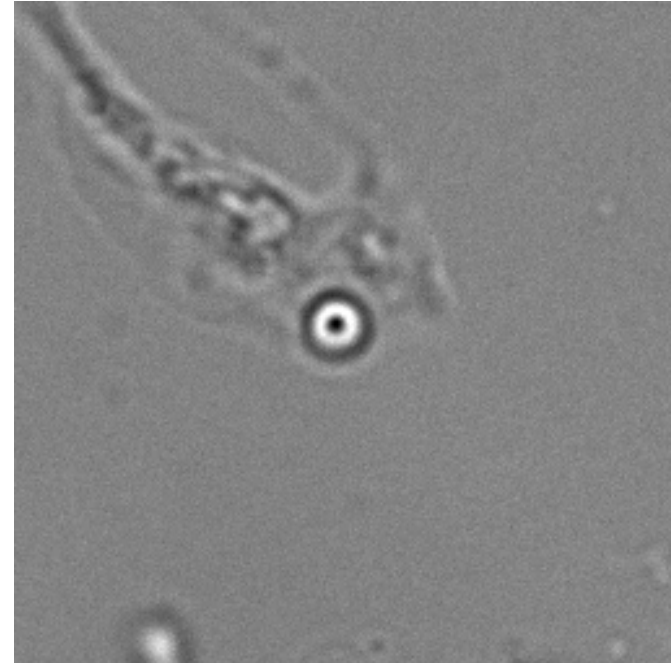
Measurements  
done by  
QPD & Video  
tracking  
Overlapped

## Results



**Filopodia 2 minutes event**

**$F_{\max} = 2\text{pN}$**

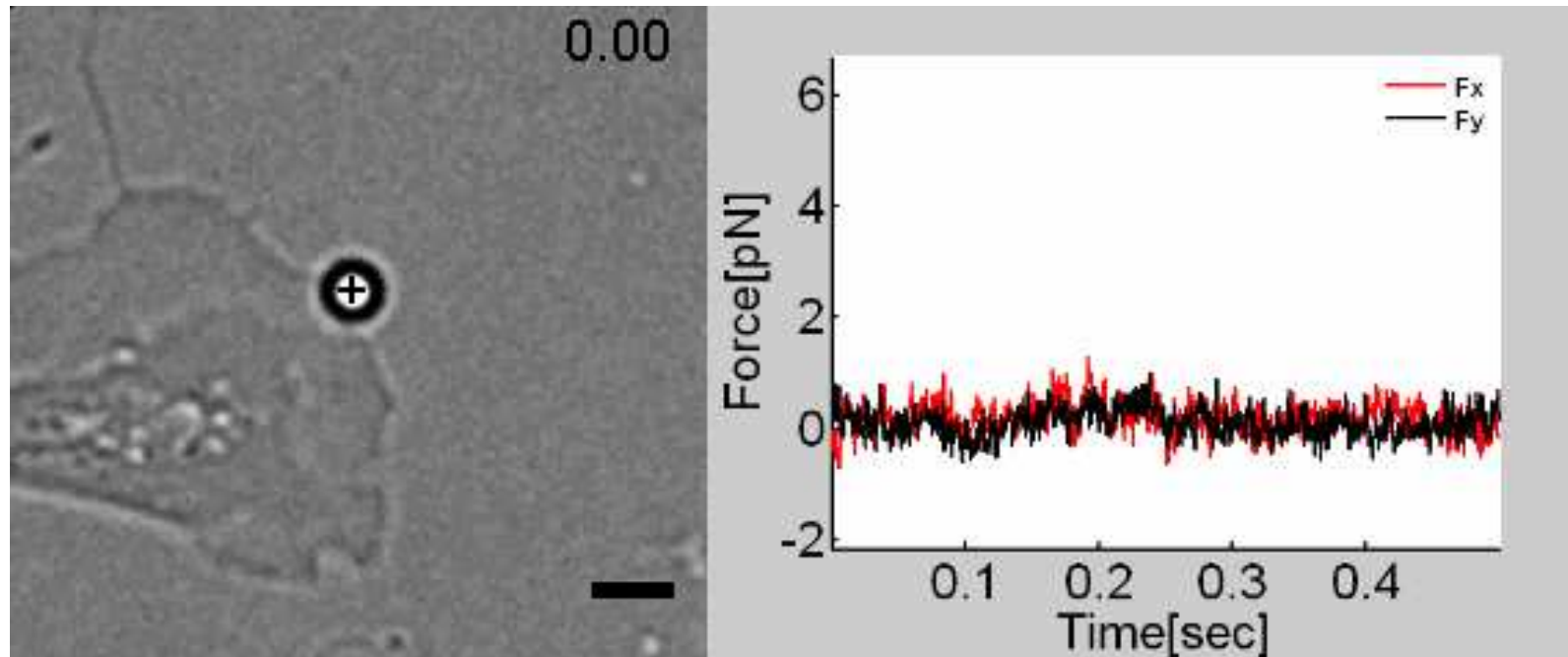


**Lamellipodia 2 minutes event**

**$F_{\max} \text{ measured} = 20\text{pN}$**

**$> 20 \text{ pN}$  possible**

## Force exerted by Lamellipodia



Acquisition rate: 20Hz

Scale Bar =  $2\mu\text{m}$

Time in seconds

Acquisition rate : 4KHz

Subsampled at : 2KHz

**OPTICAL TRAP**



```
graph LR; A[OPTICAL TRAP] --> B[SELECT AND MOVE A GIVEN CELL]; A --> C[REMOTELY APPLY CONTROLLED FORCES ON LIVING CELLS, INTERNAL PARTS OF CELLS, AND LARGE BIOLOGICAL MOLECULES WITHOUT OPTICAL DAMAGE]; A --> D[MEASURE MECHANICAL PROPERTIES (FOR INSTANCE, ELASTICITY) OF DIFFERENT PARTS OF CELLS]; A --> E[MEASURE THE FORCES GENERATED BY SINGLE MOTOR MOLECULES IN THE PICONEWTON RANGE]; A --> F[USING OPTICAL SPECTROSCOPY TO MEASURE TEMPERATURE, DNA STRUCTURE CELL VIABILITY, INTRACELLULAR pH OF A GIVEN SINGLE CELL];
```

SELECT AND MOVE A GIVEN CELL

REMOTELY APPLY CONTROLLED FORCES ON LIVING CELLS, INTERNAL PARTS OF CELLS, AND LARGE BIOLOGICAL MOLECULES WITHOUT OPTICAL DAMAGE

MEASURE MECHANICAL PROPERTIES (FOR INSTANCE, ELASTICITY) OF DIFFERENT PARTS OF CELLS

MEASURE THE FORCES GENERATED BY SINGLE MOTOR MOLECULES IN THE PICONEWTON RANGE

USING OPTICAL SPECTROSCOPY TO MEASURE

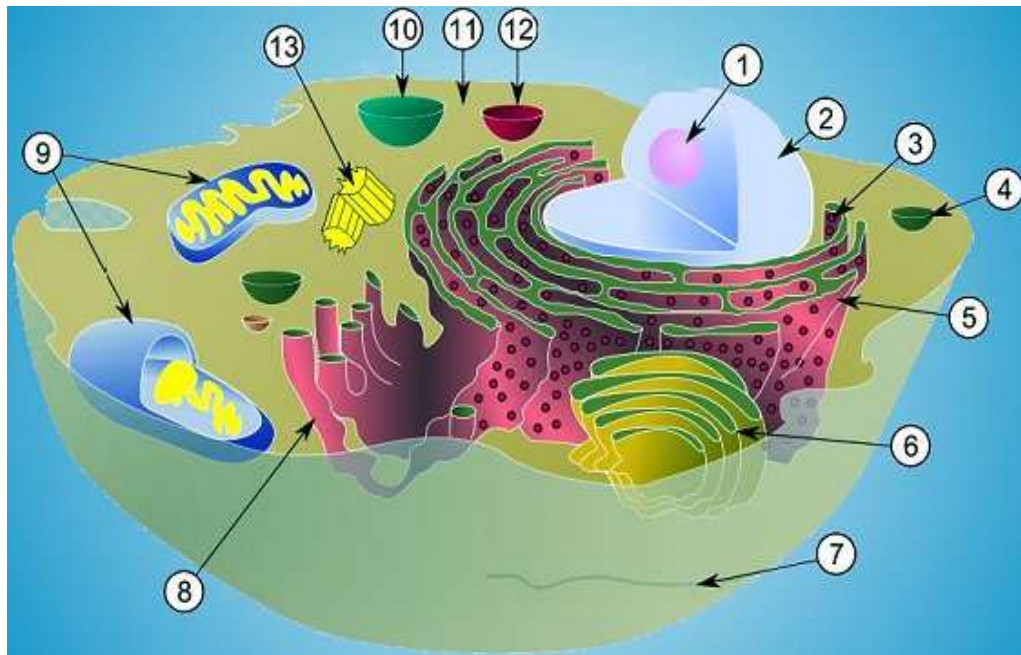
TEMPERATURE, DNA STRUCTURE

CELL VIABILITY, INTRACELLULAR pH

OF A GIVEN SINGLE CELL



## The cell

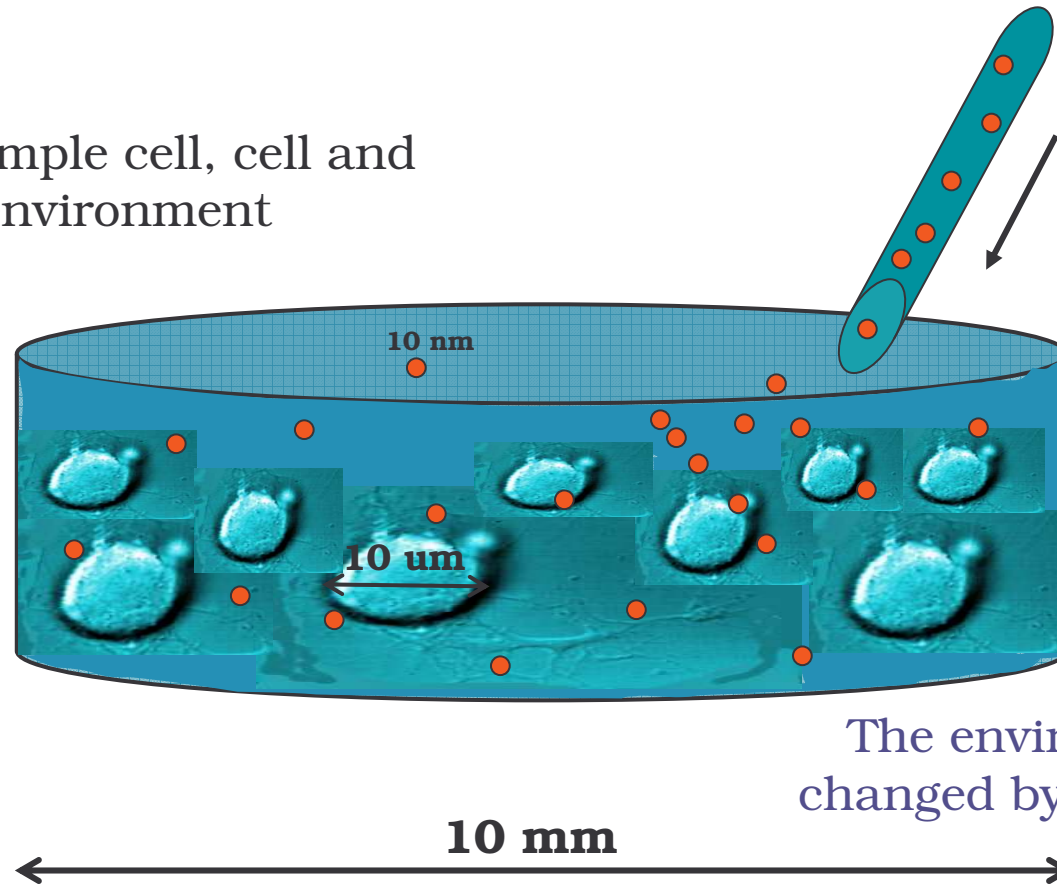


- 1) Nucleolus
- 2) Nucleus
- 3) Ribosome
- 4) Vesicle
- 5) Rough endoplasmic reticulum
- 6) Golgi apparatus (or "Golgi body")
- 7) Cytoskeleton
- 8) Smooth endoplasmic reticulum
- 9) Mitochondrion
- 10) Vacuole
- 11) Cytosol
- 12) Lysosome
- 13) Centriole

**Cell mechanics skipped see the pdf file**

- **Why and how to change the environment of a cell ?**
- **Optically driven micro-pumps**
- **Optically driven vectors**  
functionalized beads and filled liposomes

Typical sample cell, cell and its environment

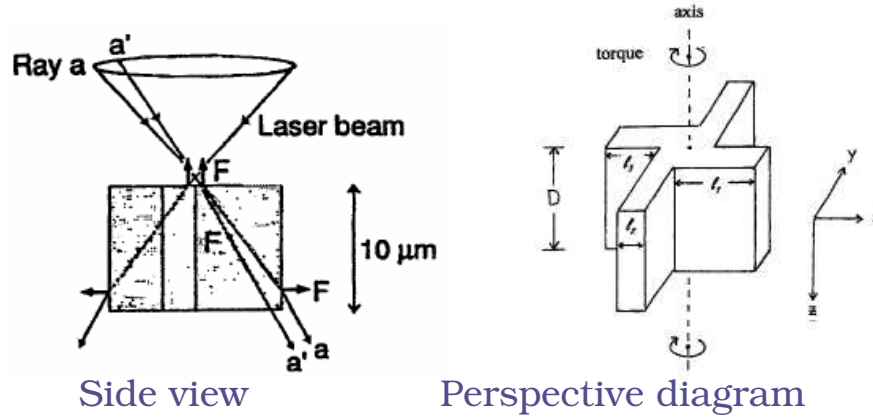


The environment is usually changed by micro-nano fluidics

- In general, the entire environment of the sample cell is changed
- For a localized delivery the cell position should be adapted to the micro-fluidic structure

- Why and how to change the environment of a cell ?
- **Optically driven micro-pumps**
- Optically driven vectors  
functionalized beads and filled liposomes

### Micro-fabricated rotors

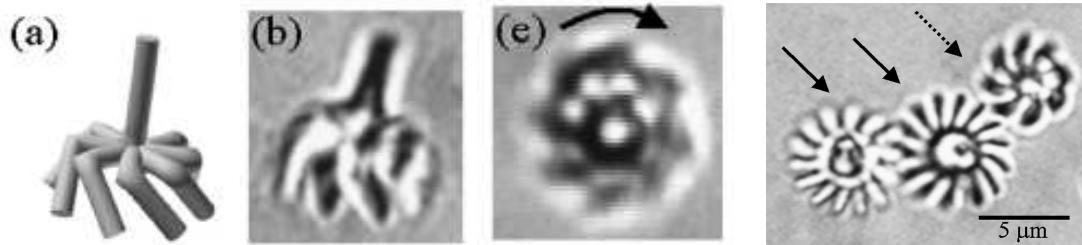


SiO<sub>2</sub>

22 rpm/80 mW

Optical lithography  
+ RIE

E. Higurashi *et al*,  
*Appl. Phys. Lett.* **64**, 2209 (1994)

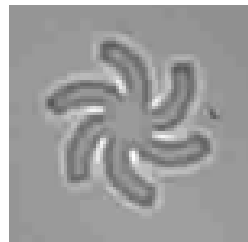


Norland resin

Two-photon lithography

20 rpm /80 mW

P. Galajda and P. Ormos,  
*Appl. Phys. Lett.* **78**, 249 (2001).



5  $\mu$ m

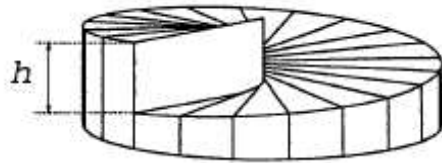
PMMA

E-Beam + X-ray lithography

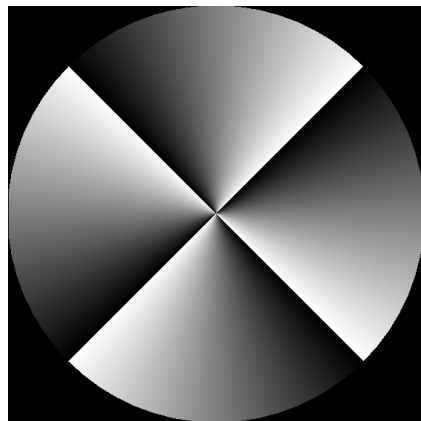
3 rpm/10mW

L. Businaro *et al*, TASC 2005

## Laguerre-Gauss beams and Optical angular momentum transfer

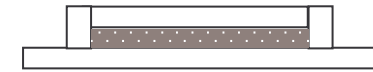


Spiral phase plate to convert a TEM<sub>00</sub> mode into a LG (Laguerre-Gauss) mode  
With topological charge  $m=1$ .



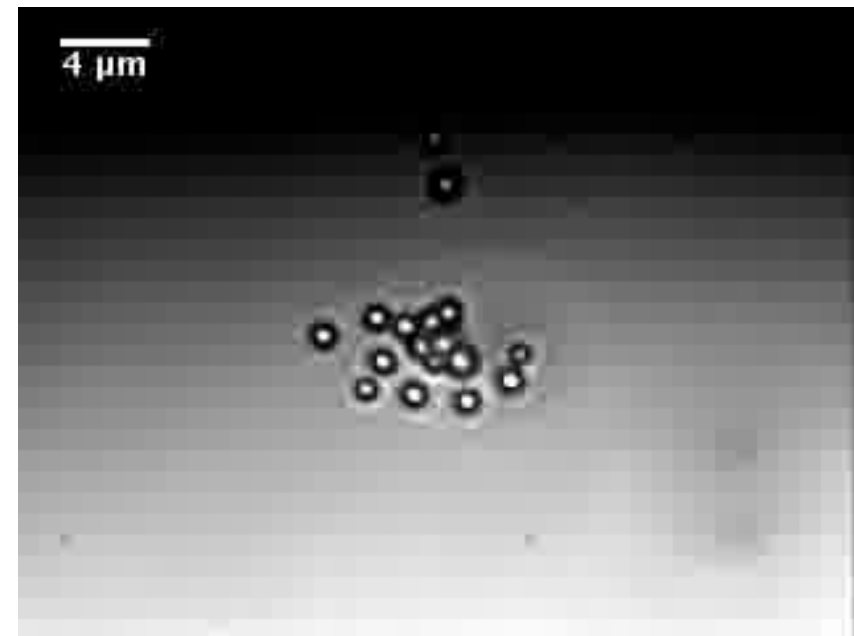
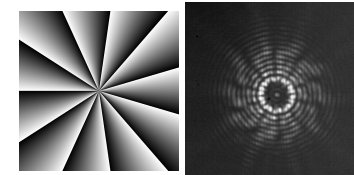
Phase diffractive optical element to convert a TEM<sub>00</sub> mode into a LG mode with topological charge  $m=4$

Sample cell



Micro-spheres: silica 1  $\mu\text{m}$

LG topological charge  $m=11$



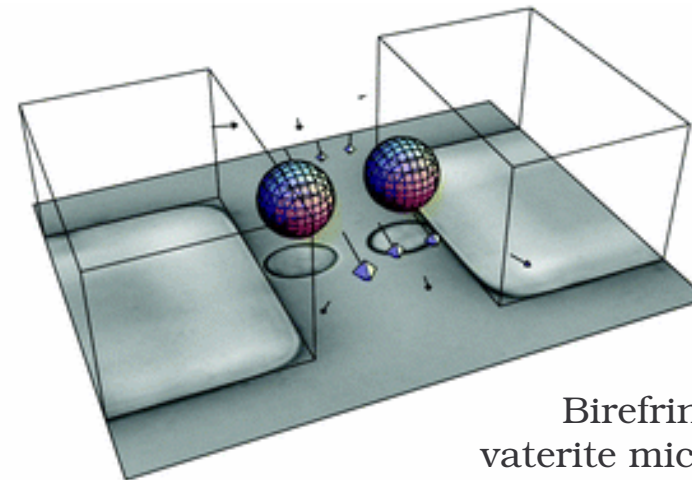
## Polarized light on birefringent particles

The transfer of spin angular momentum from a circularly polarised laser beam rotates the particles at up to 10 Hz.

### Crystal structure birefringence

CaCo<sub>3</sub> crystal trapped, aligned and rotated with a linear polarized laser beam H. Rubinshtein-Dunlop et al, Nature 1999

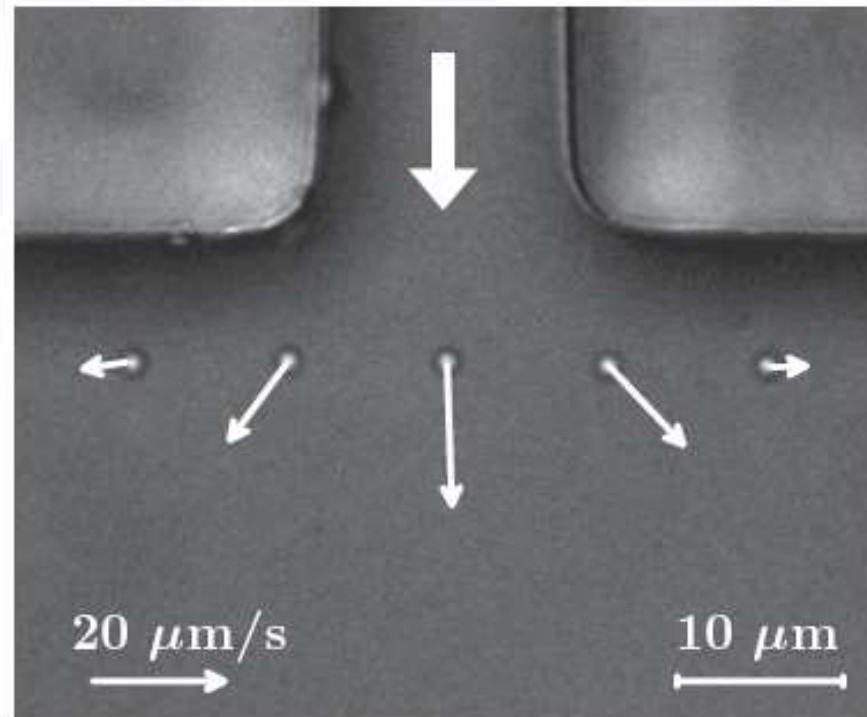
### Shape birefringence



Birefringent  
vaterite microspheres  
(4  $\mu\text{m}$ )

J. Leach *et al* Lab on a Chip, 2006, 6, 735

## Measuring the flow



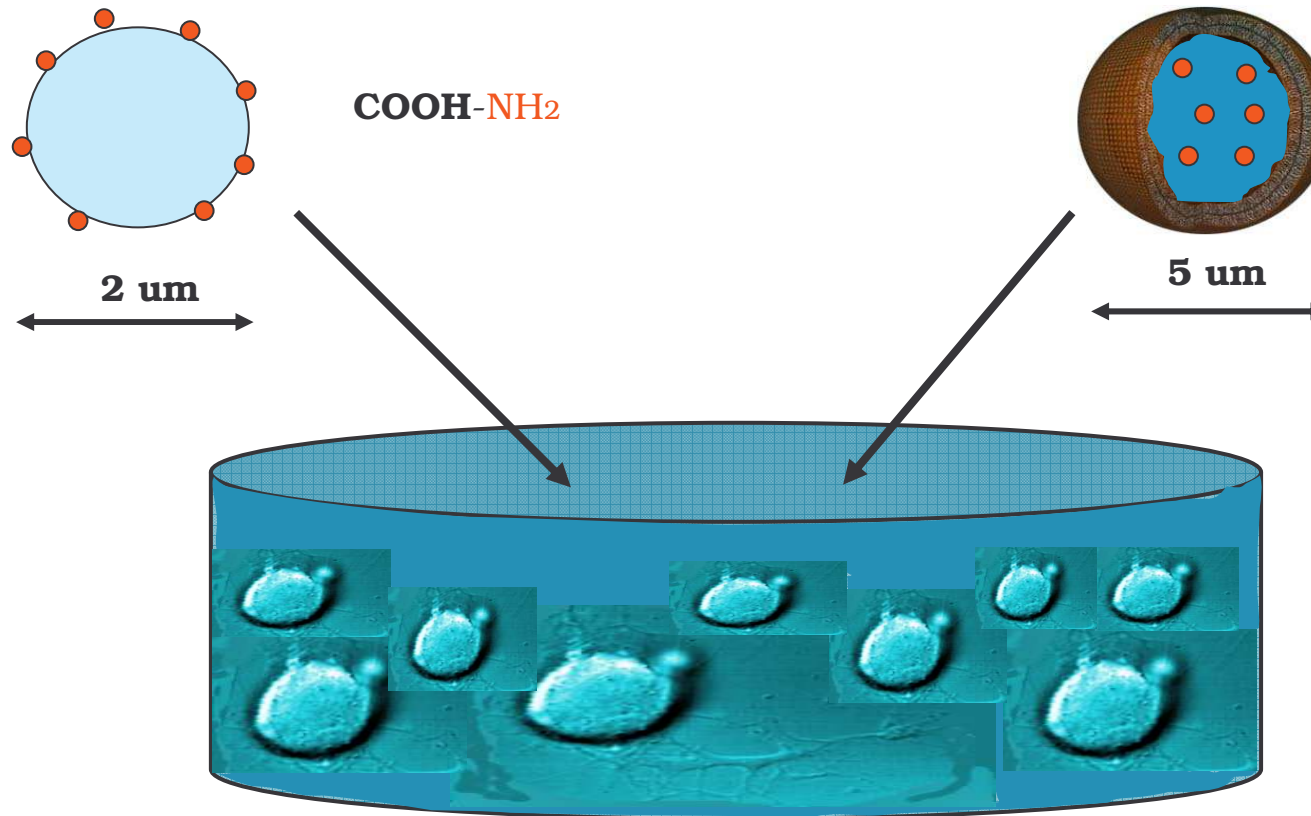
R. Di Leonardo et al, PRL **96**, 134502 (2006)



- Why and how to change the environment of a cell ?
- Optically driven micro-pumps  
a simple solution and the importance of the lateral view
- **Optically driven vectors**  
functionalized beads and filled liposomes

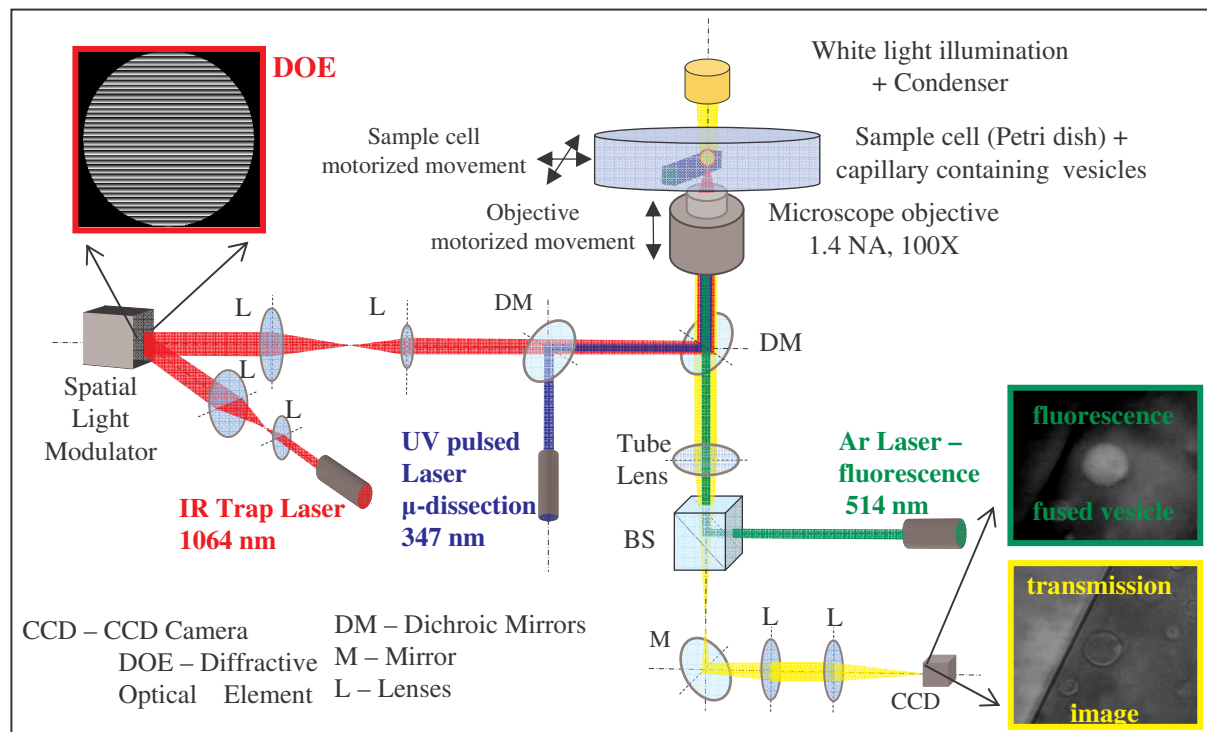
## Functionalized silica beads

## Filled liposomes



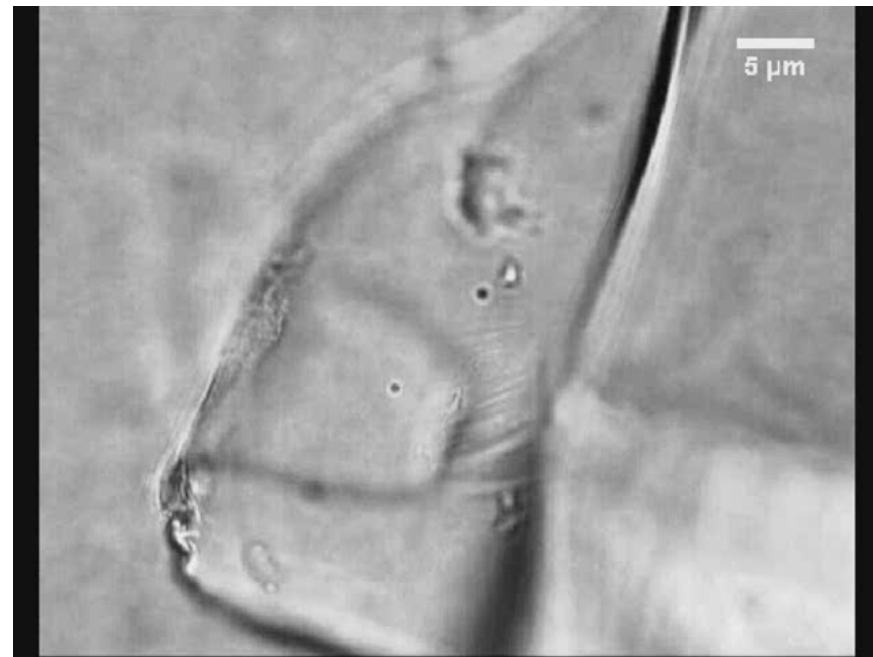
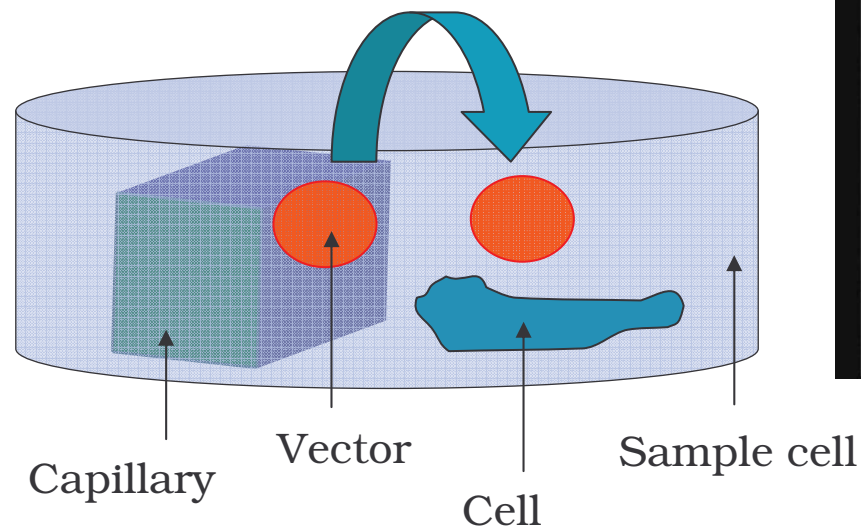
- The vectors are optically driven to precise defined location
- Delivery by contact (beads) or breaking the liposome

## LCM-CA (Laser Cell Manipulation – Chemical Analysis) Optical setup



The setup has been developed starting from an inverted Olympus microscope equipped with a PALM micro-dissection. CBM-TASC Functions: cell and vectors manipulation, fluorescence imaging, micro-dissection and micro-Raman spectroscopy (to come).

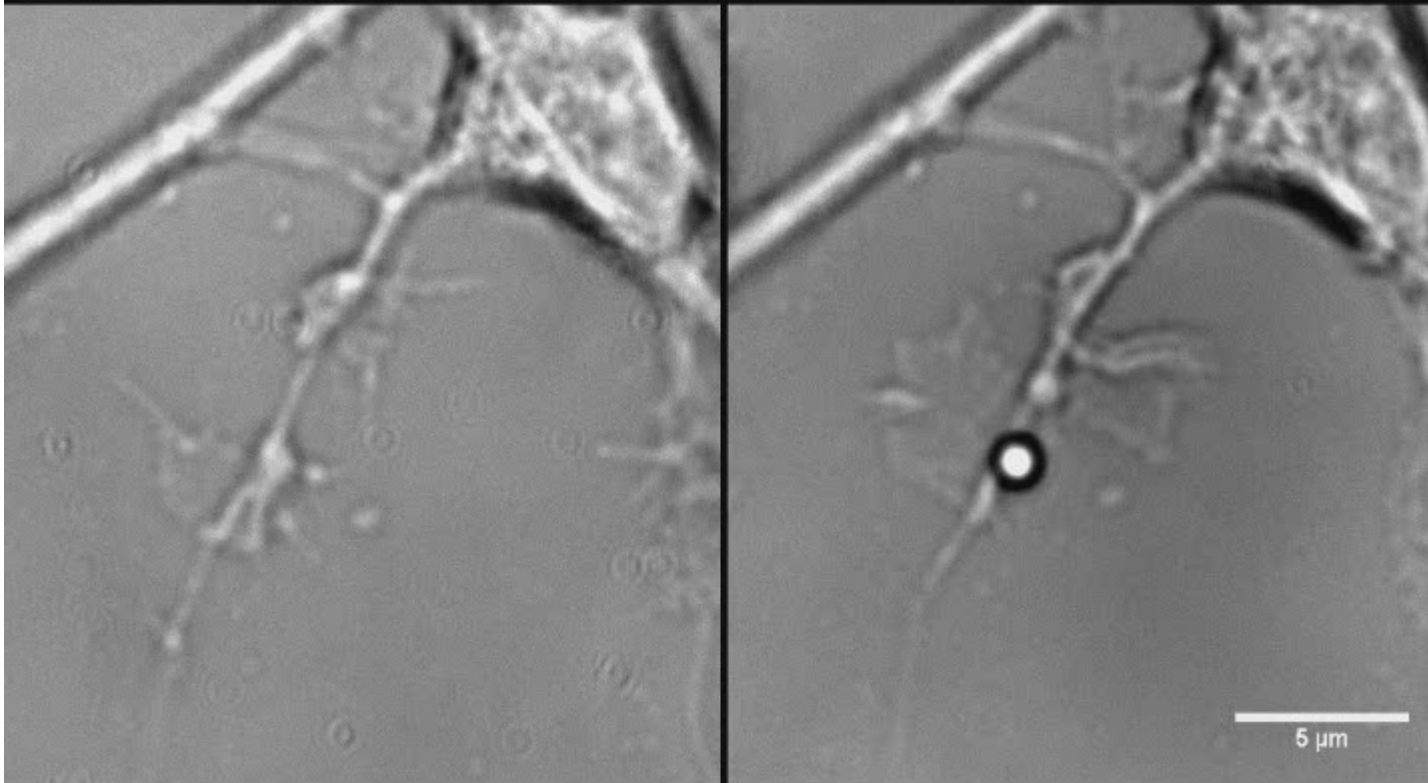
The vectors (beads or liposomes) are first placed in a capillary which is introduced in the sample cell and then the vectors optically transported



**LOCALIZED DELIVERY OF BDNF BY MEANS OF OPTICAL TWEEZERS**

**BDNF functionalized bead** BDNF = Brain Derived Neurotrophic Factor

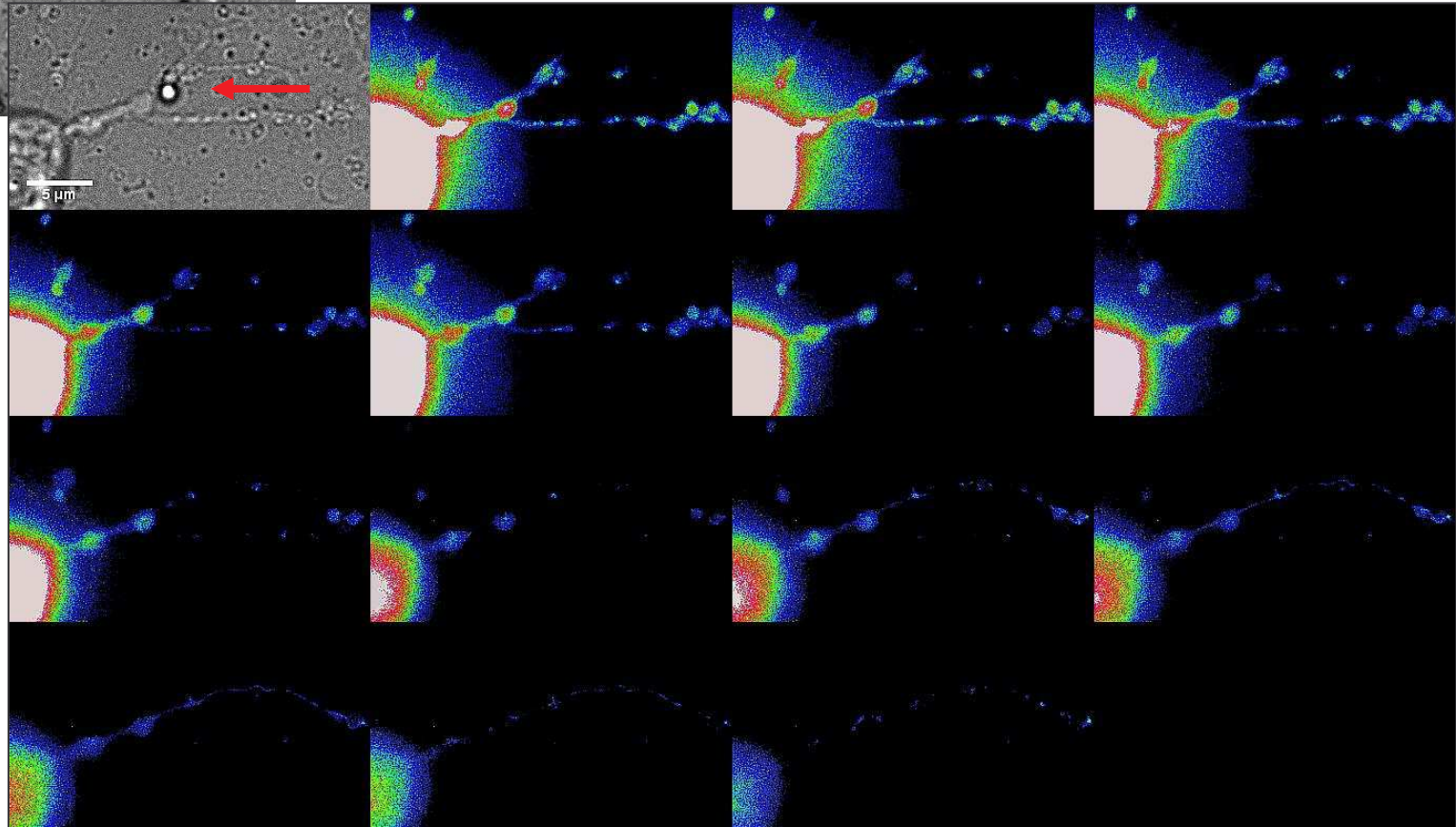
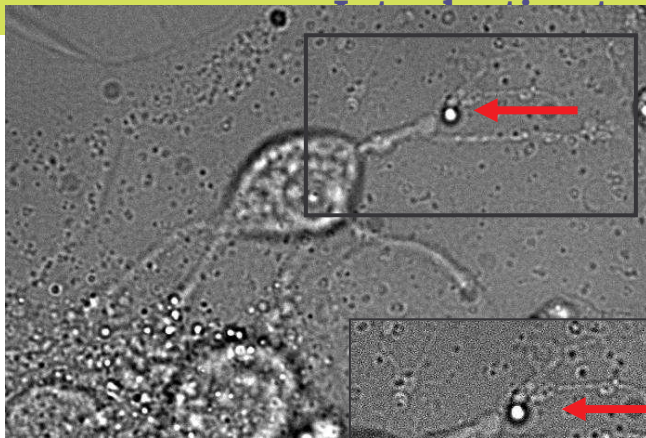
**PAOLO BEUZER – MSc thesis – 10/2008**



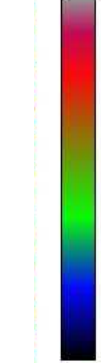
**Acknowledgment: Prof. Enrico TONGIORGI, Univ. Trieste**

## Ca<sup>2+</sup> fluorescence

Elisa D'ESTE PhD student

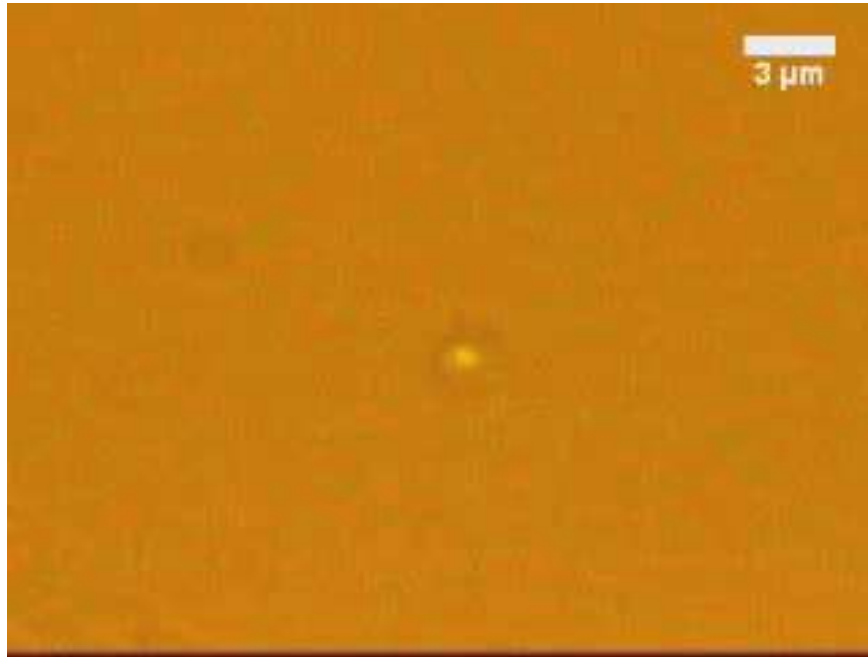


High Ca<sup>2+</sup>

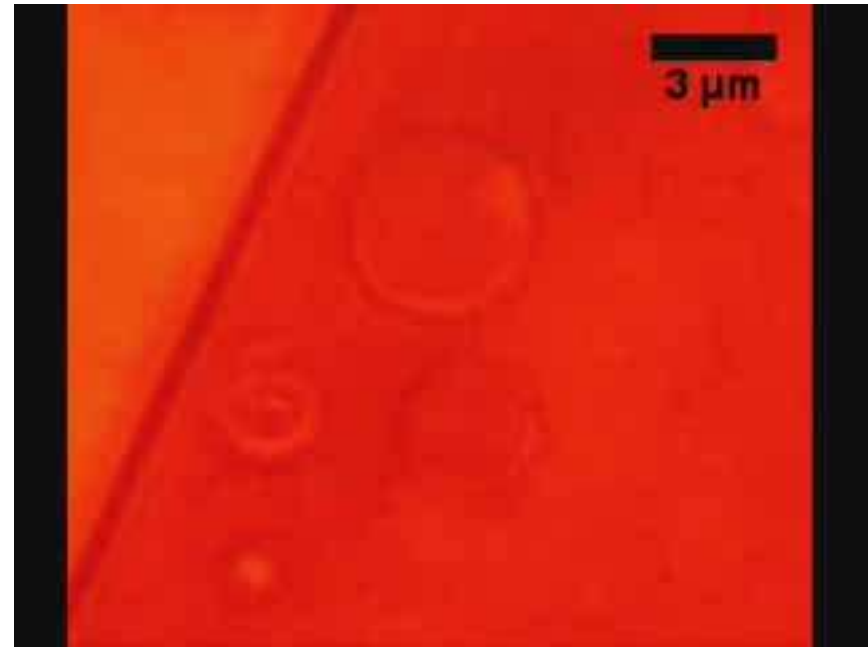


Low Ca<sup>2+</sup>

## Filled liposomes



Liposome positioned on an axon  
Fluorescence imaging



Liposome fusion

This is a proof of concept, preliminary results.

In both cases, liposomes are filled with a fluorophore.

## Acknowledgments

**Enrico Ferrari** – graduate, PhD student, postdoc, 2009 – LMB Cambridge

**Silvia Santucci** – postdoc

**Elisa D'Este** – PhD student 2009 →

**Federica Tavano** - PhD student 2009 →

**Ali Reza Moradi** – PhD student (2009 defended) ICTP Trieste/ Univ Iran

**Lara Selvaggi** – visiting PhD student (2008)

**Valeria Garbin** - PhD student (2007 defended) → Univ Twente

**Paolo Beuzer** – MSc 2008 → Univ Mainz

**Asiya Giniatulina** – MSc student 2007 → Univ Amsterdam

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**Enzo Di Fabrizio** – former leader LILIT group at TASC

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**Federico Salvador** – mechanical technician