
Image acquisition by two-photon microscopy

Microscopy Methods in Biomedicine

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History



1931

Maria Goeppert-Mayer

Über Elementarakte mit zwei Quantensprüngen," Ann. Phys. 9(3), 273–294

Über Elementarakte mit zwei Quantensprüngen

Von Maria Goeppert-Mayer

(Göttinger Dissertation)

(Mit 5 Figuren)

Einleitung

Der erste Teil dieser Arbeit beschäftigt sich mit dem Zusammenwirken zweier Lichtquanten in einem Elementarakt. Mit Hilfe der Diracschen Dispersionstheorie¹⁾ wird die Wahrscheinlichkeit eines dem Ramaneffekt analogen Prozesses,

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1961

Kaiser and Garrett

Two-Photon Excitation in $\text{CaF}_2:\text{Eu}^{2+}$," Phys. Rev. Lett. 7(6), 229–231

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 6

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

SEPTEMBER 15, 1961

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W. Kaiser and C. G. B. Garrett

Bell Telephone Laboratories, Murray Hill, New Jersey

(Received August 28, 1961)

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responding to the diameter of the incident light beam. When pure CaF_2 was illuminated by the optical maser in the same way, no light with

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1990

Denk, Strickler and Webb

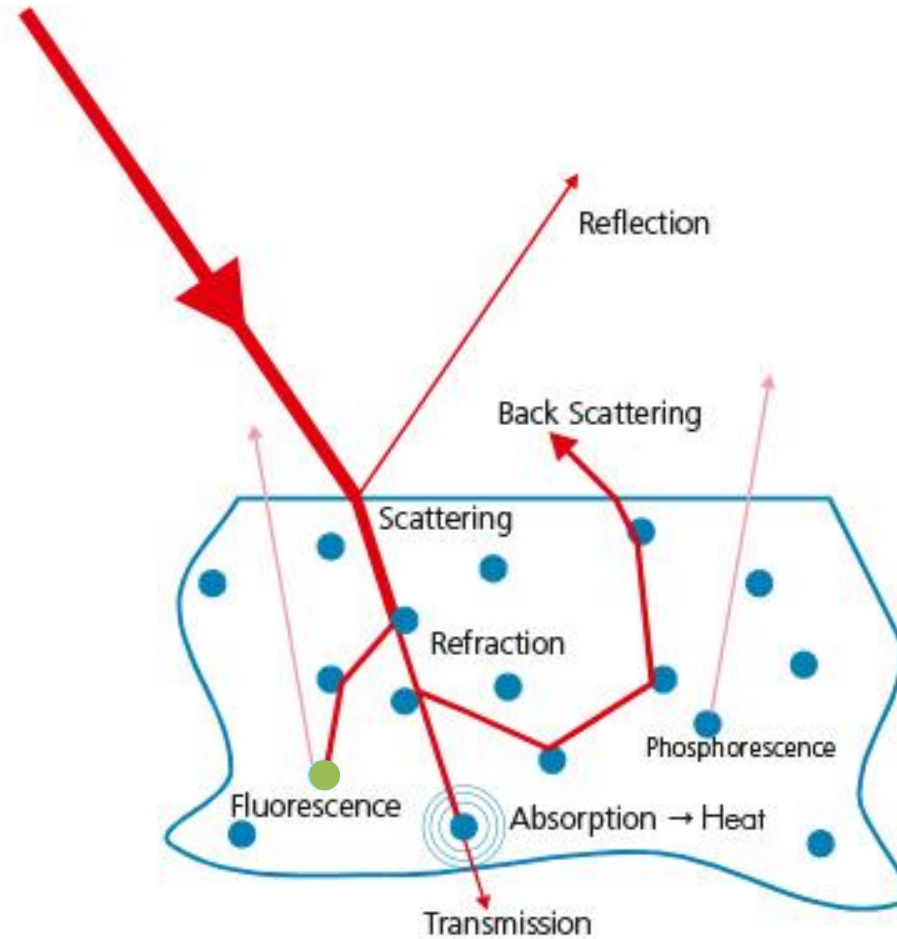
Two-photon laser scanning fluorescence microscopy, Science. 1990 Apr 6; 248(4951):73-6.

Two-Photon Laser Scanning Fluorescence Microscopy

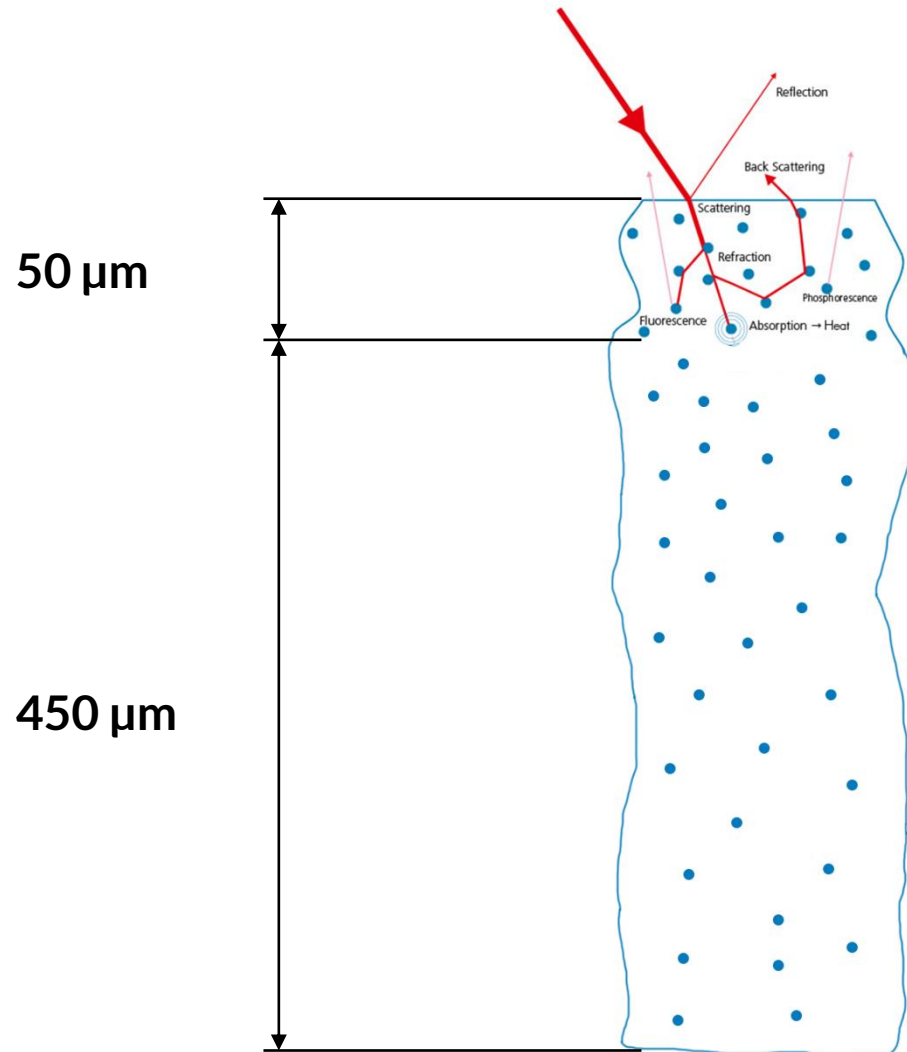
WINFRIED DENK,* JAMES H. STRICKLER, WATT W. WEBB

Molecular excitation by the simultaneous absorption of two photons provides intrinsic three-dimensional resolution in laser scanning fluorescence microscopy. The excitation of fluorophores having single-photon absorption in the ultraviolet with a stream of strongly focused subpicosecond pulses of red laser light has made possible fluorescence images of living cells and other microscopic objects. The fluorescence emission increased quadratically with the excitation intensity so that fluorescence and photobleaching were confined to the vicinity of the focal plane as expected for cooperative two-photon excitation. This technique also provides unprecedented capabilities for three-dimensional, spatially resolved photochemistry, particularly photolytic release of caged effector molecules.

Samples & Light Interaction



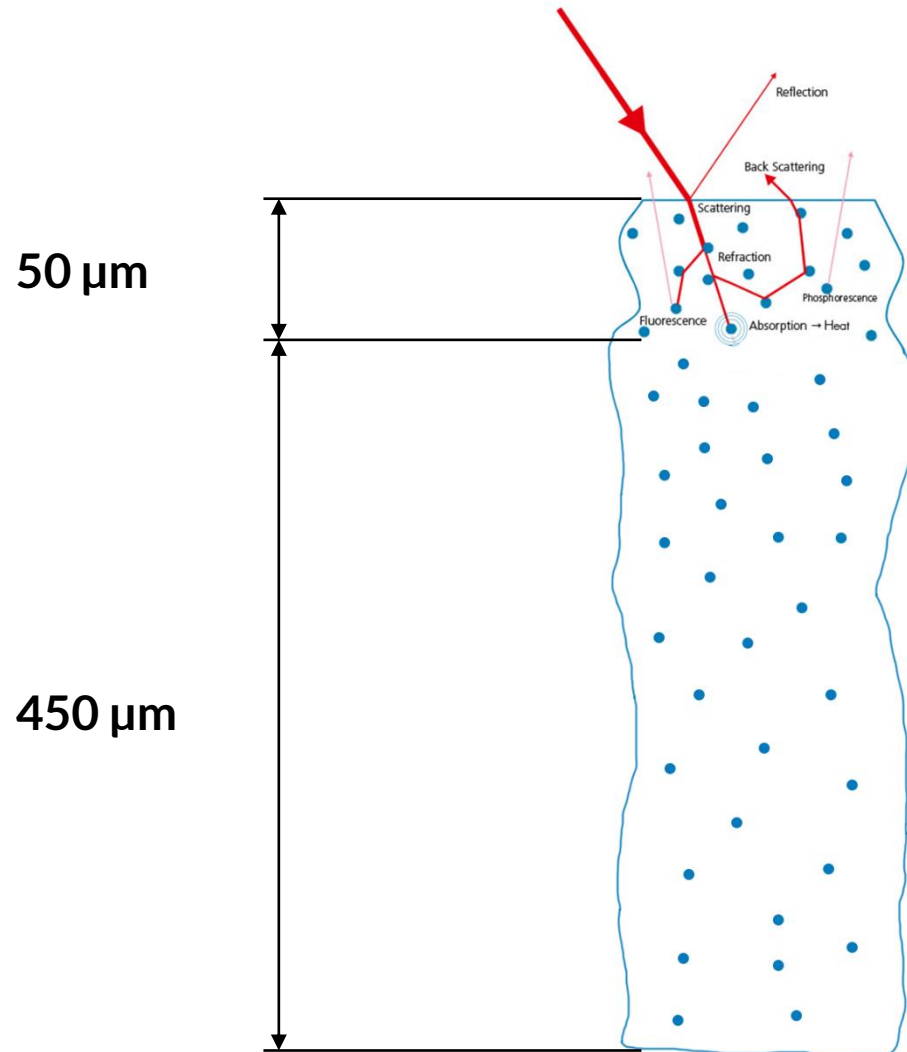
Samples & Light Interaction



3D sample



Samples & Light Interaction

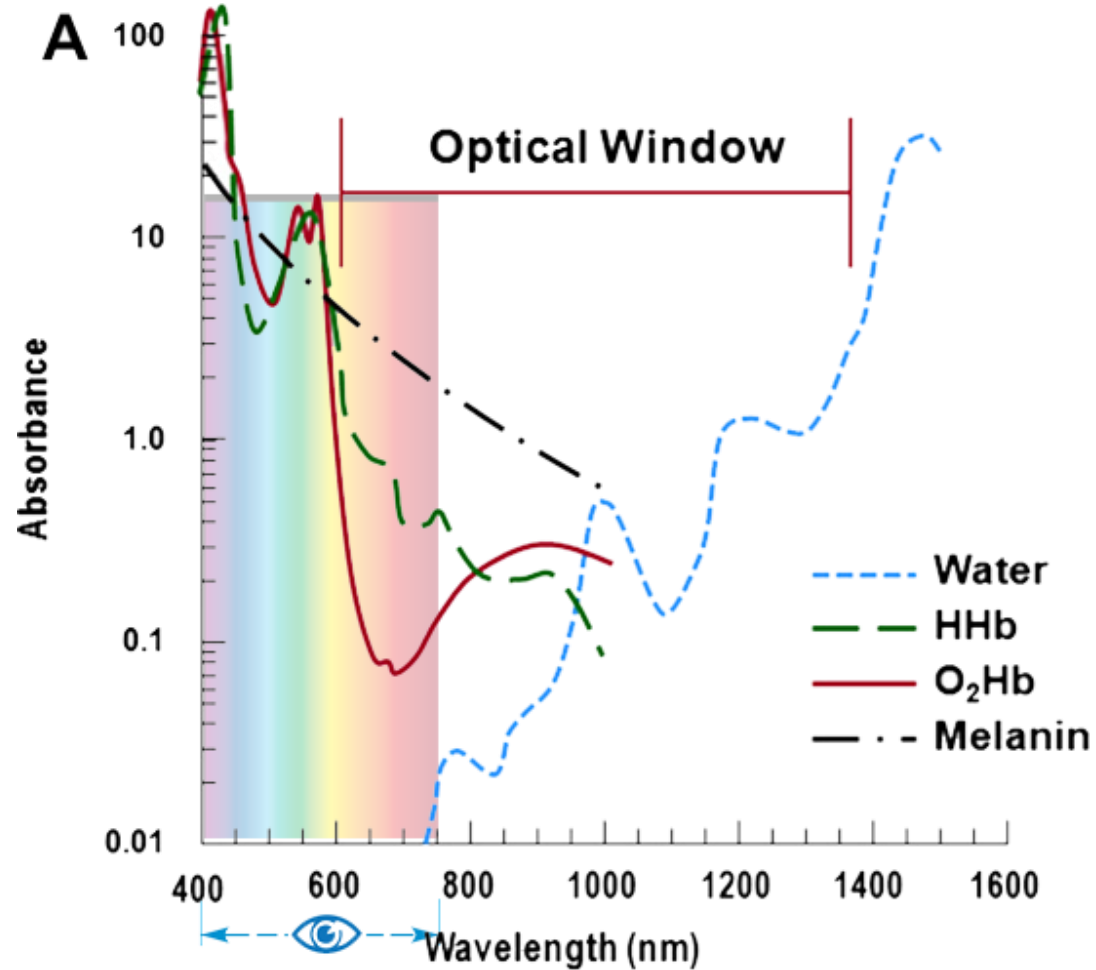


- Deeper to the sample

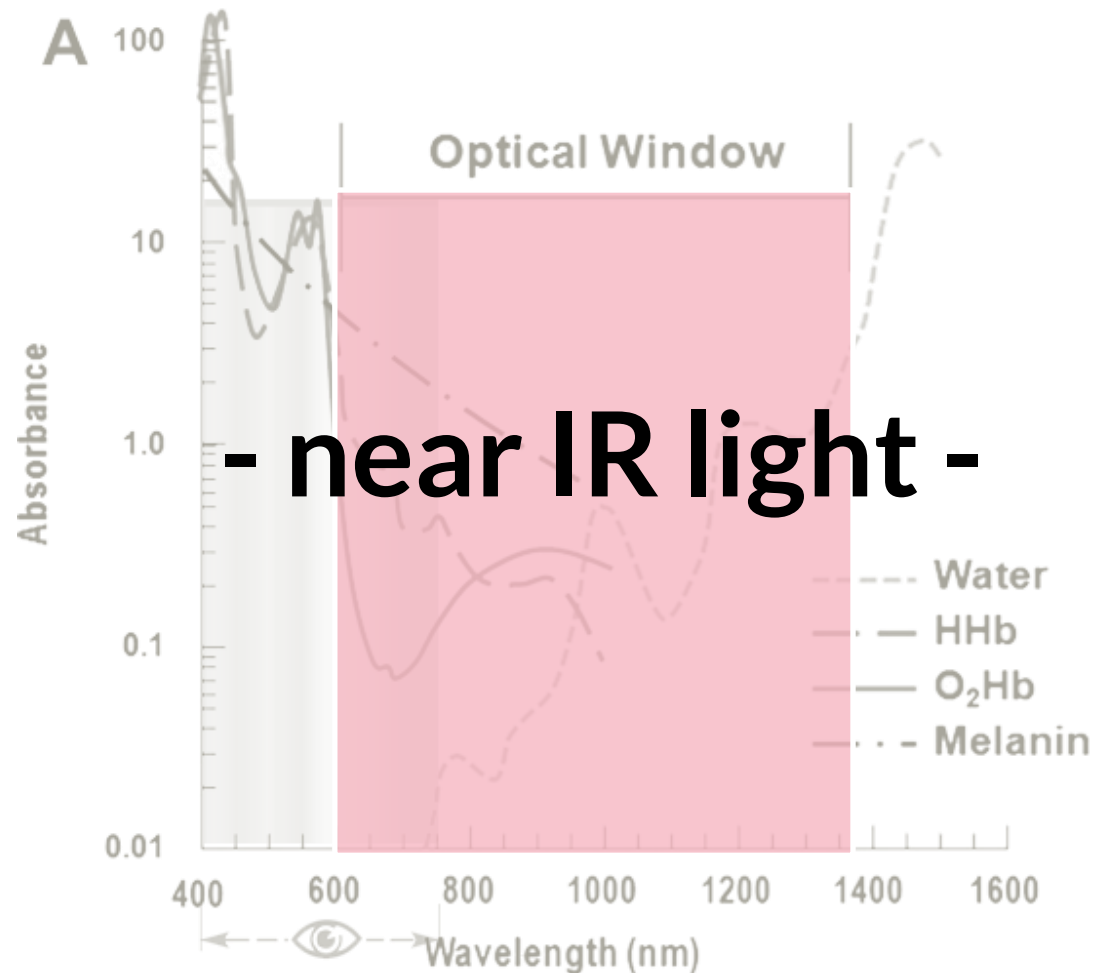


- Less damage to the sample

Deeper into the sample



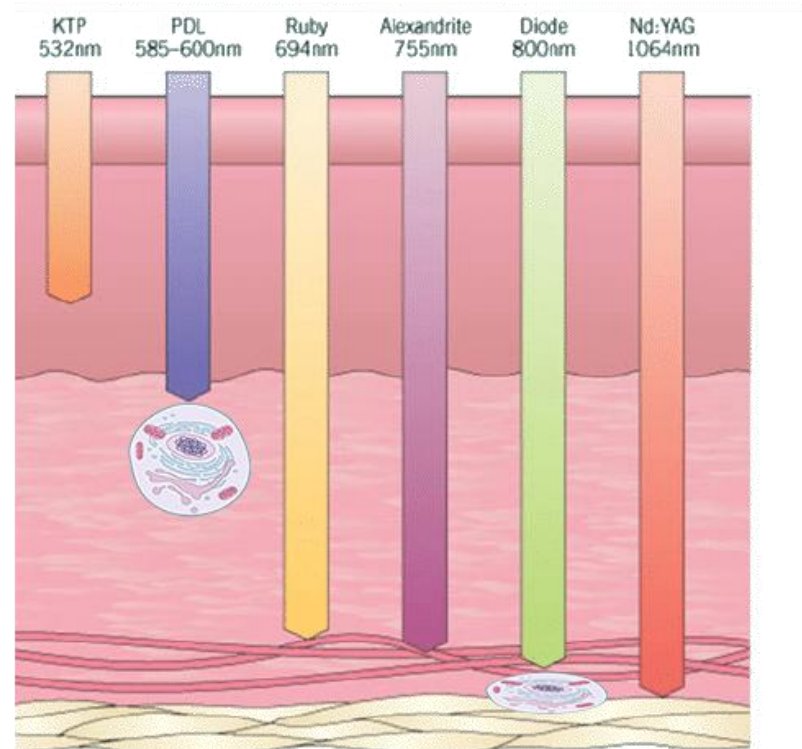
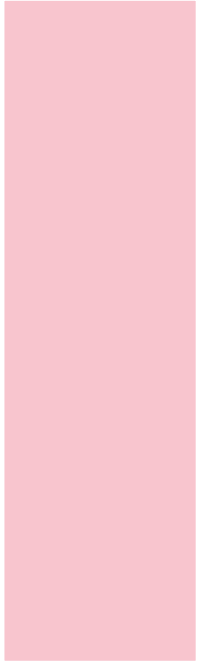
Deeper into the sample



Deeper into the sample



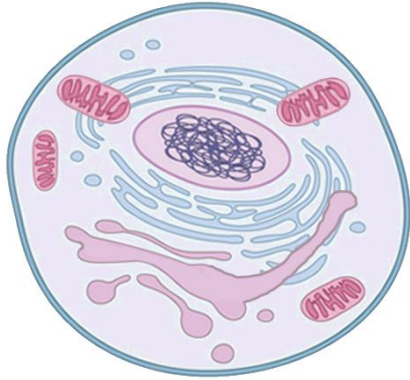
IR light



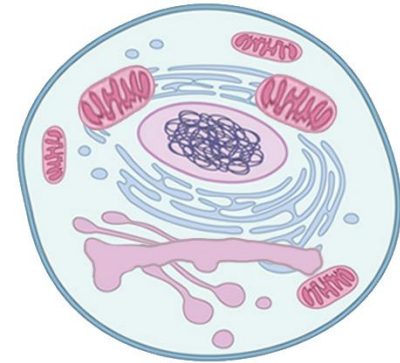
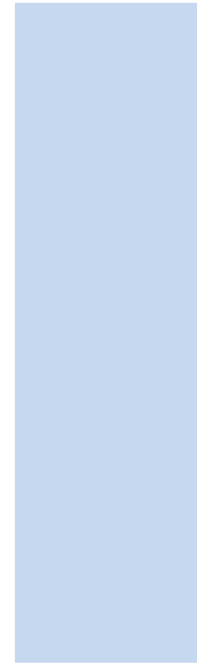
Less damage to the sample



IR light



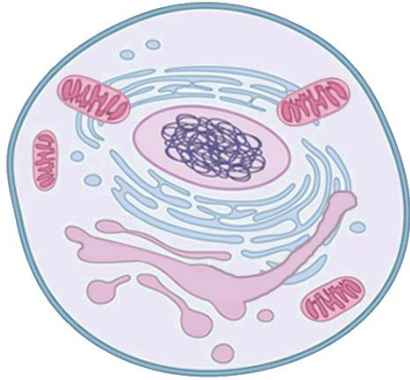
UV light



Less damage to the sample



IR light

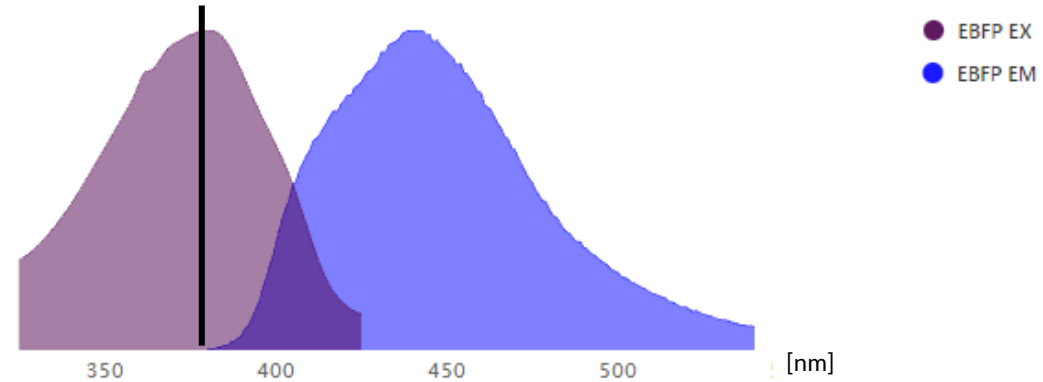
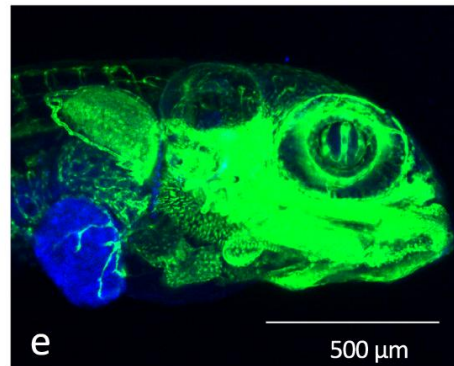
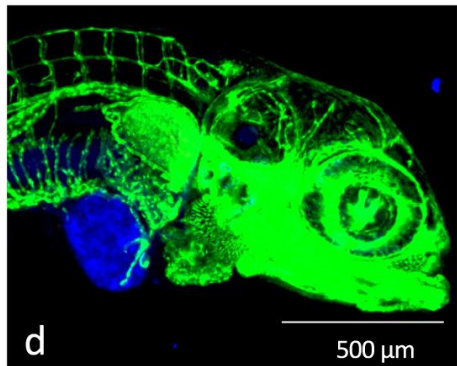
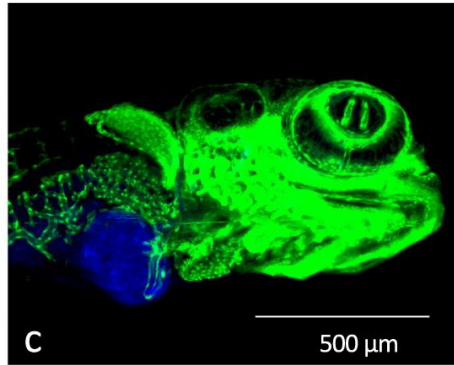
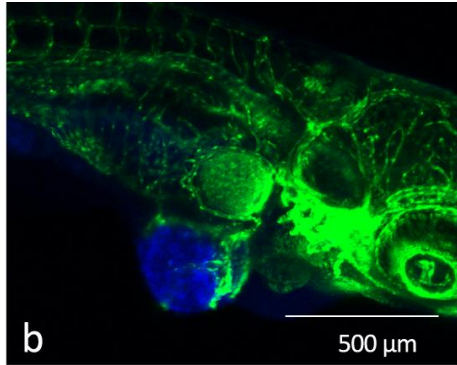


- No UV light
- Excites only ROI

1-photon experiment



BFP-encoding mTagBFP2-Lifeact-7 plasmid

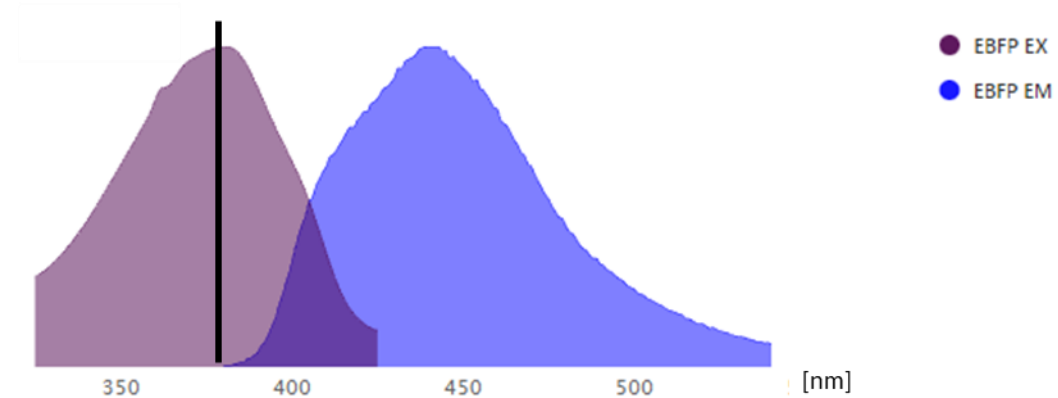
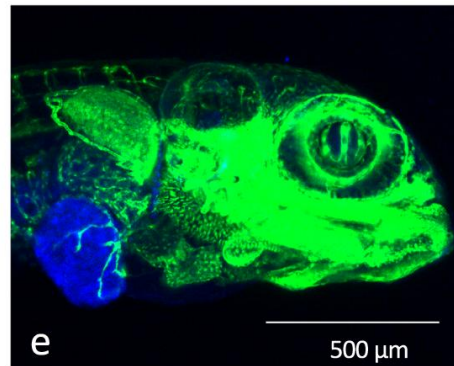
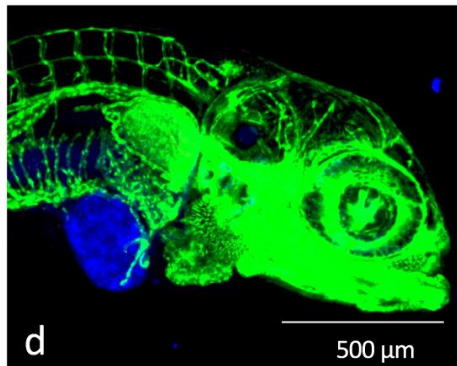
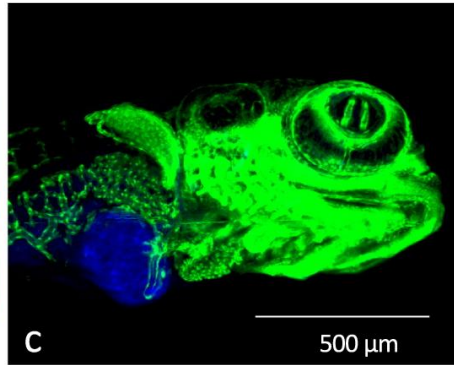
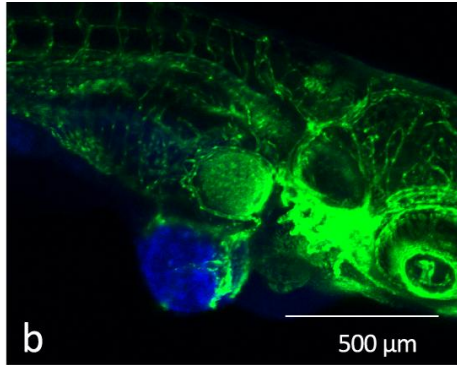


- UV – blue excitation light

1-photon experiment



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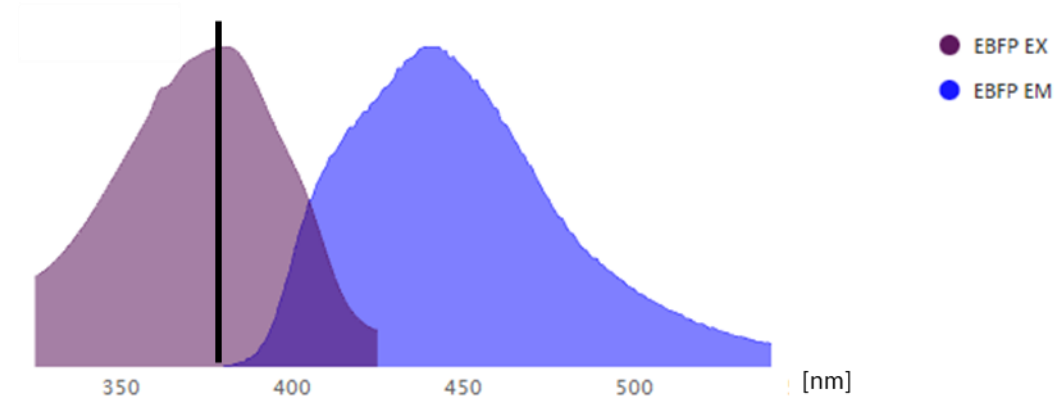
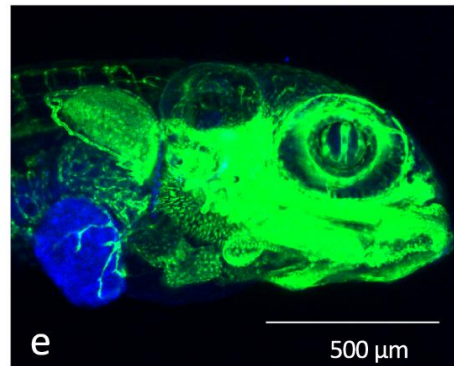
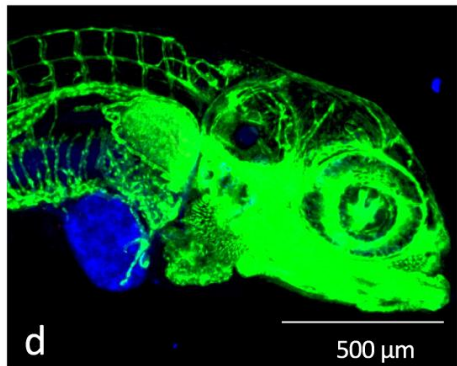
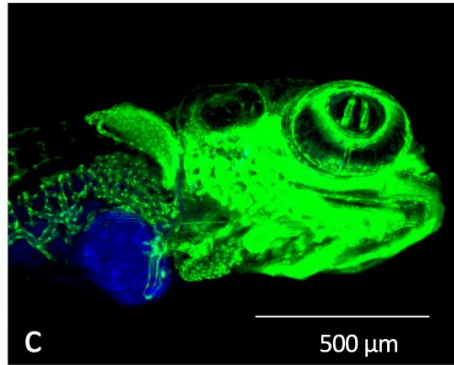
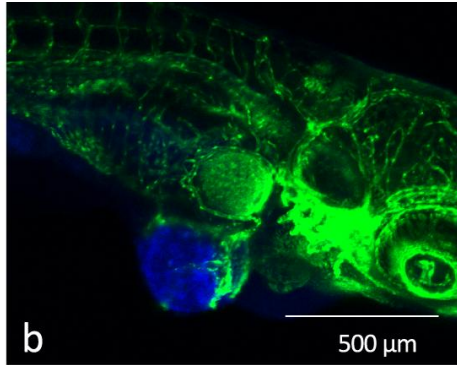
- UV – blue excitation light
- Not only ROI excited



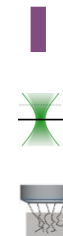
1-photon experiment



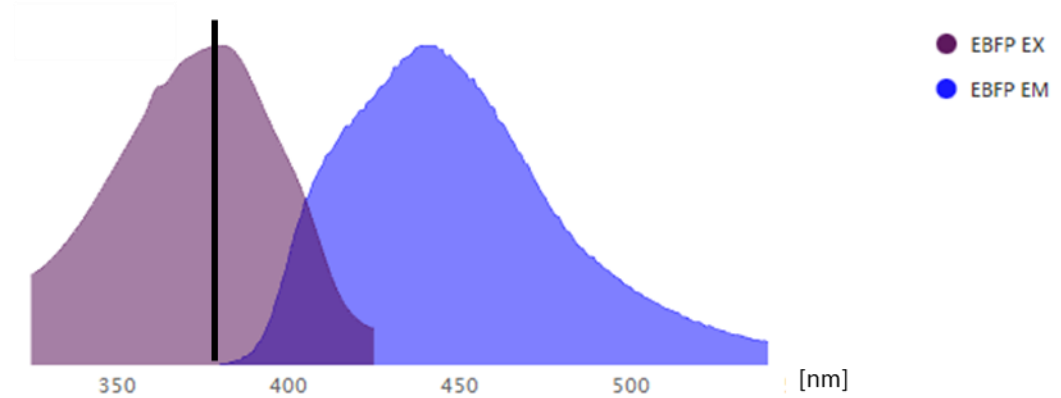
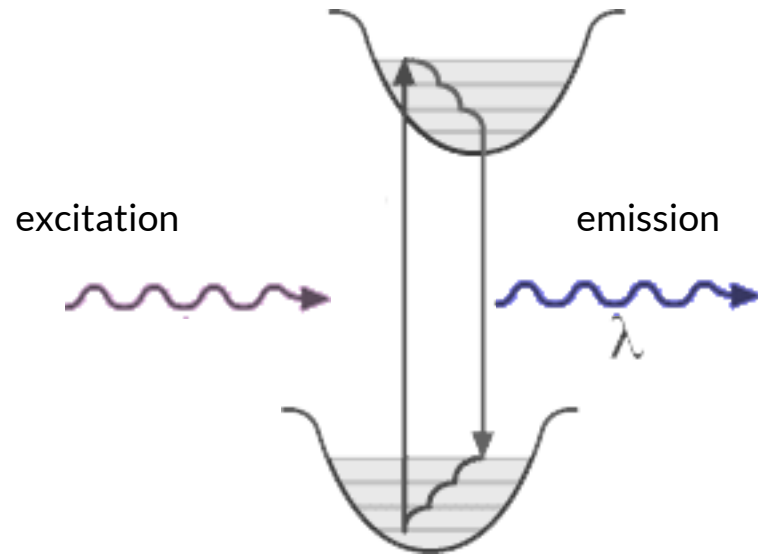
BFP-encoding mTagBFP2-Lifeact-7 plasmid



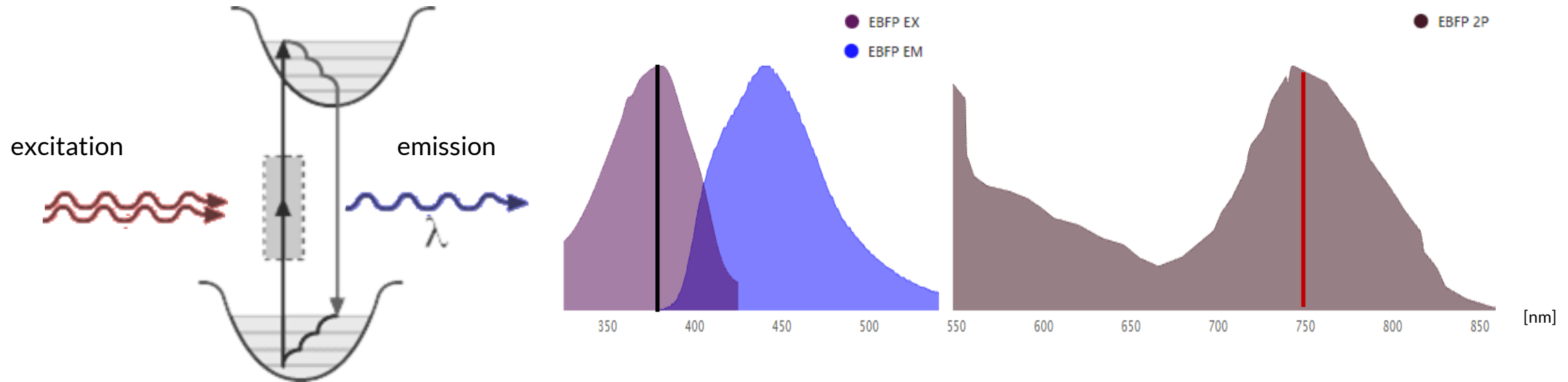
- UV – blue excitation light
- Not only ROI excited
- Penetration depth



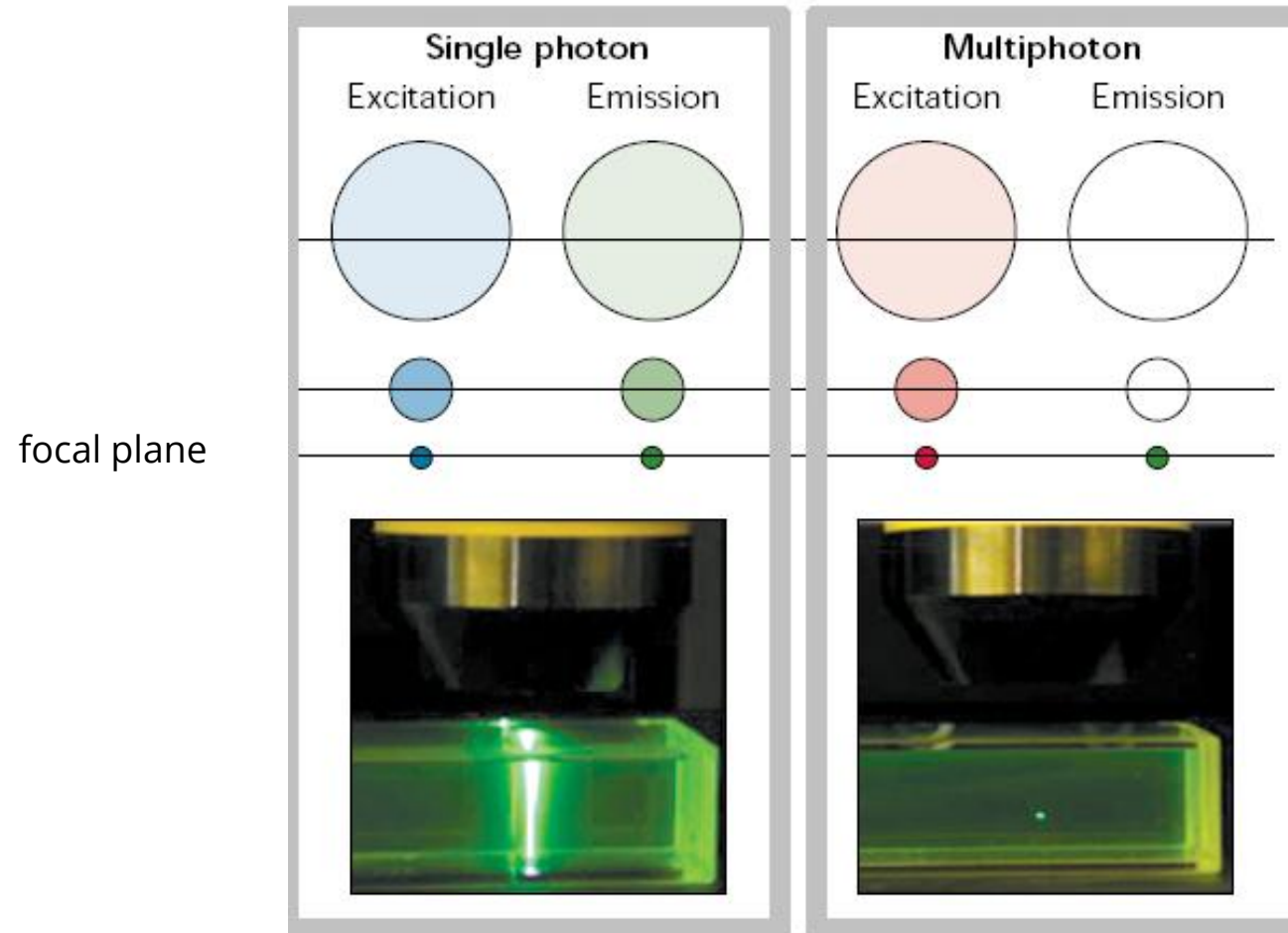
1-photon experiment



1-photon vs 2-photon experiment



1-photon vs 2-photon

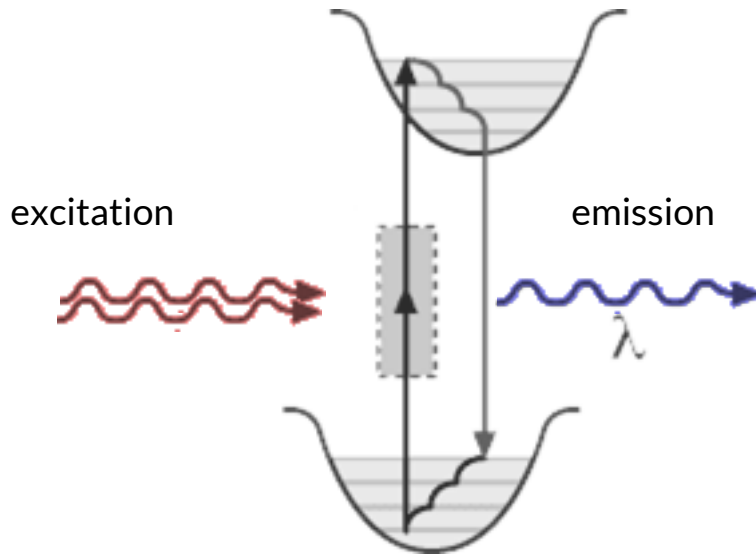


1-photon vs 2-photon



waiting for ...

2-photon



$$n_{2PE} = \frac{p_{ave}^2 \delta}{\Delta \tau \Delta \nu^2} \left(\frac{NA^2}{2\hbar c \lambda} \right)^2$$

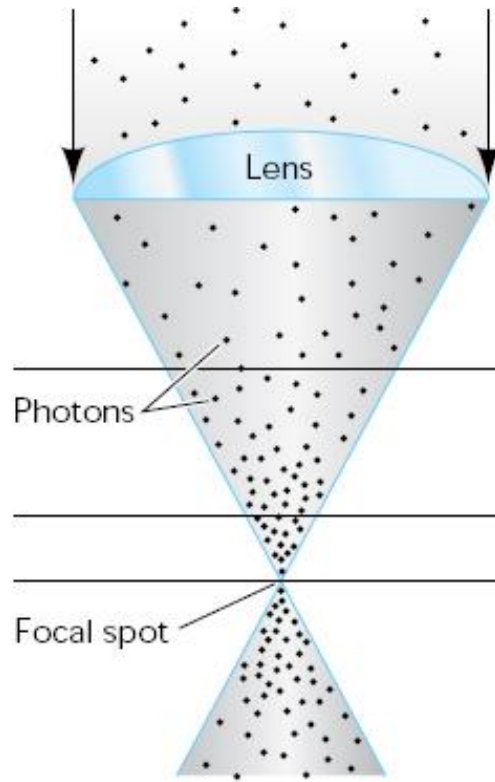
Denk et al. – ref 9. (1990)

- High average (peak) power
- High NA
- Short pulse duration
- Low repetition rate

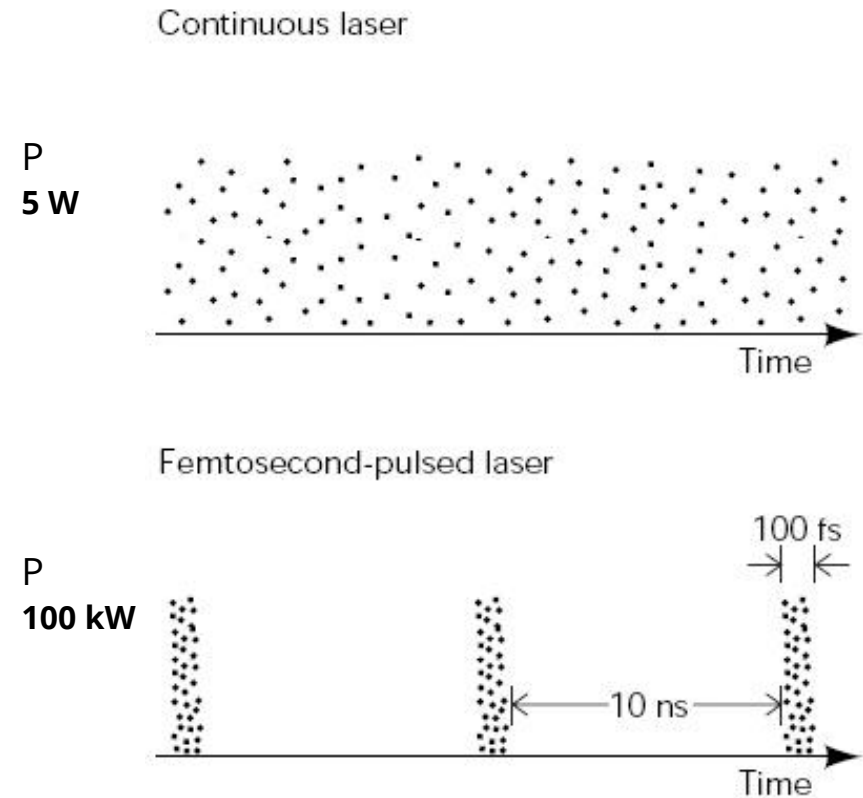
2-photon



spatial compression



temporal compression



2-photon hardware – laser source



$$n_{2PE} = \frac{p_{ave}^2 \delta}{\Delta \tau \Delta \nu^2} \left(\frac{NA^2}{2\hbar c \lambda} \right)^2$$



Output A	Specification
Wavelength Range (nm)	680-1300nm
Output power (mW)	
700nm	1300
800nm	1400
900nm	1300
1000nm	1100
1200nm	800
1300nm	600
Output B	
Wavelength (nm)	1040nm
Output power (mW)	>1500

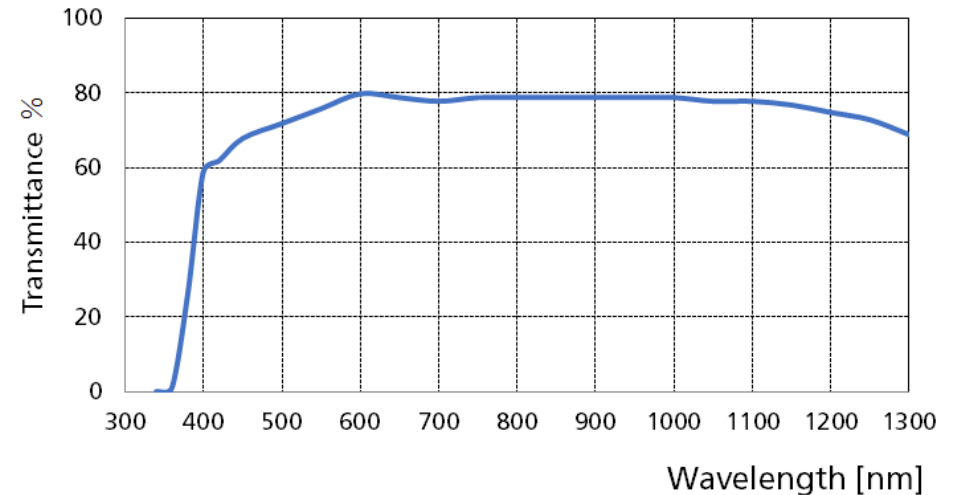
2-photon hardware – objective



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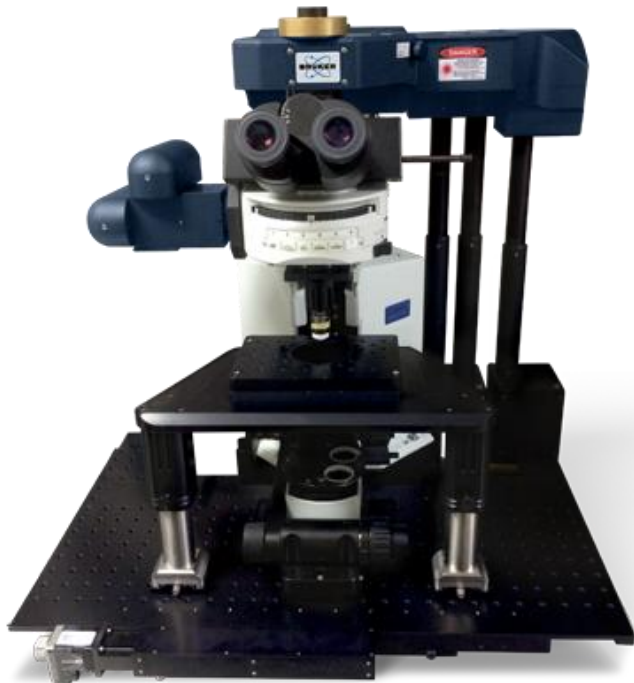
- High NA
- High WD
- Large FOV
- High transmittance



2-photon hardware



Bruker Ultima



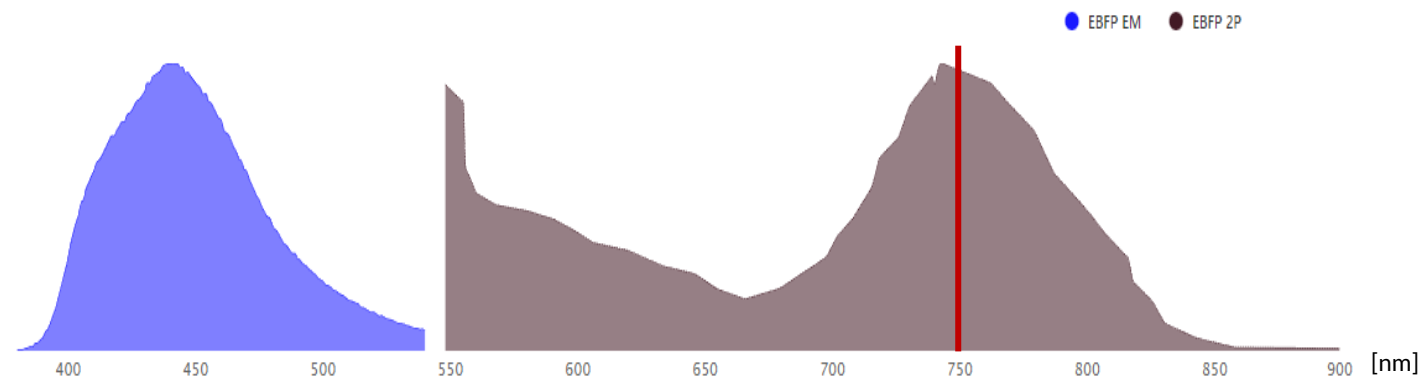
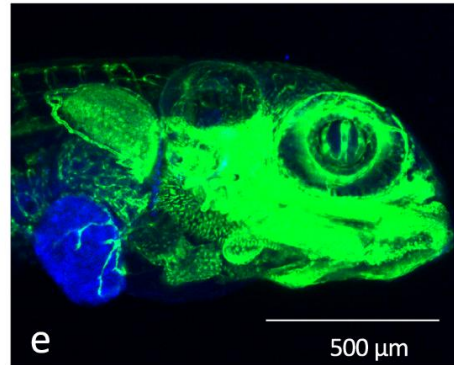
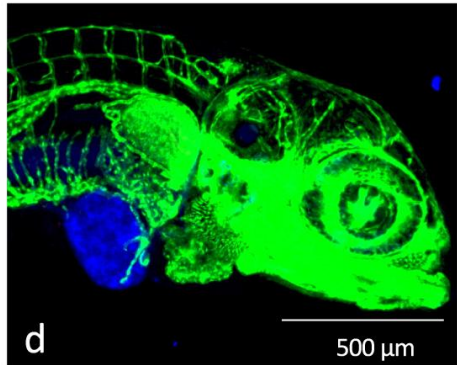
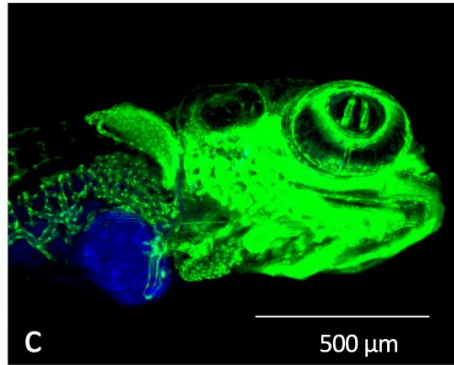
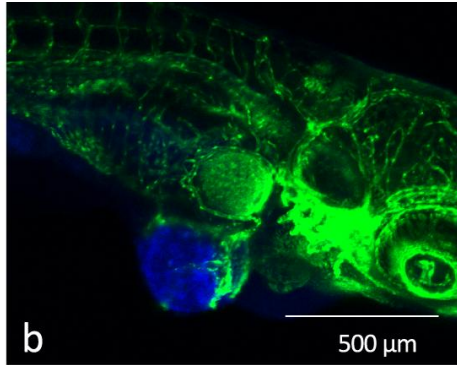
Leica Stellaris 8



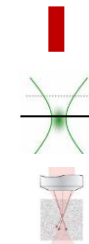
2-photon experiment



BFP-encoding mTagBFP2-Lifeact-7 plasmid



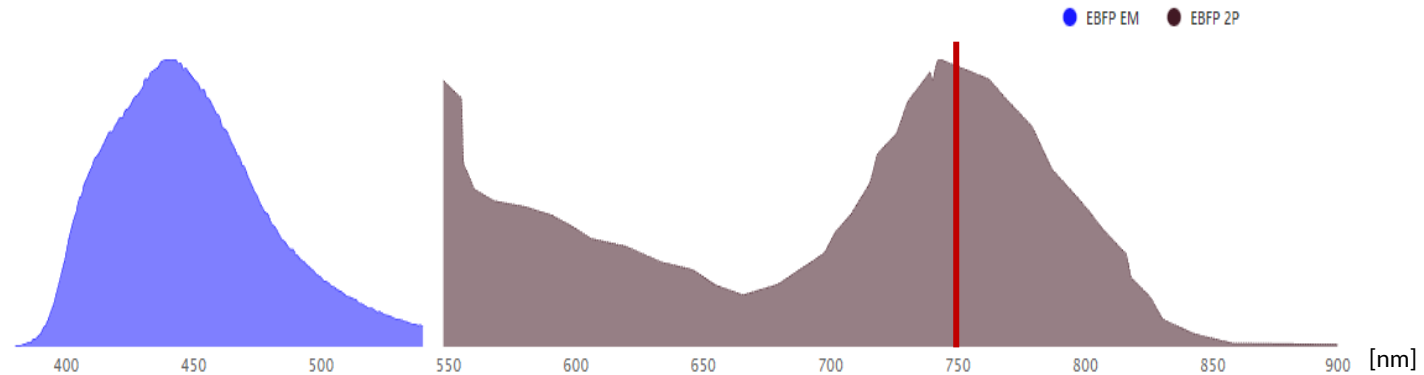
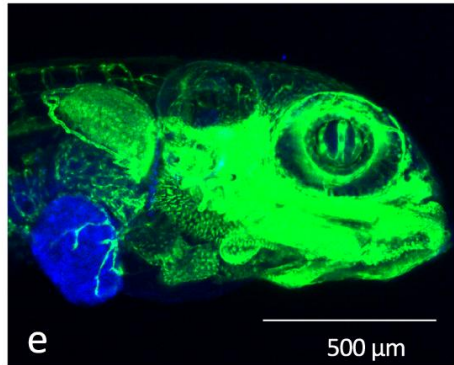
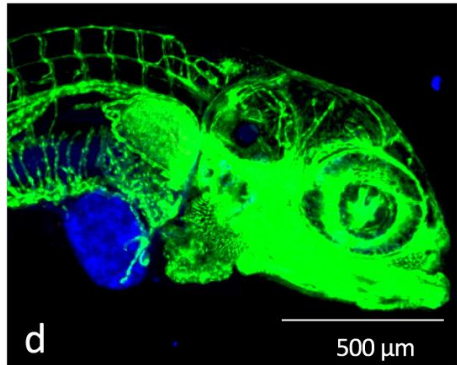
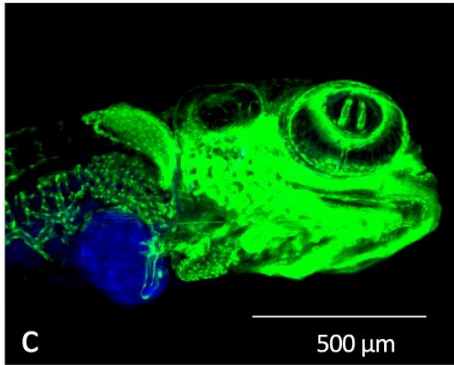
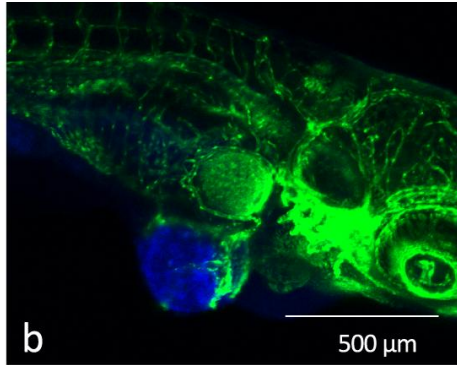
- IR light
- Only ROI excited
- Penetration depth



2-photon experiment



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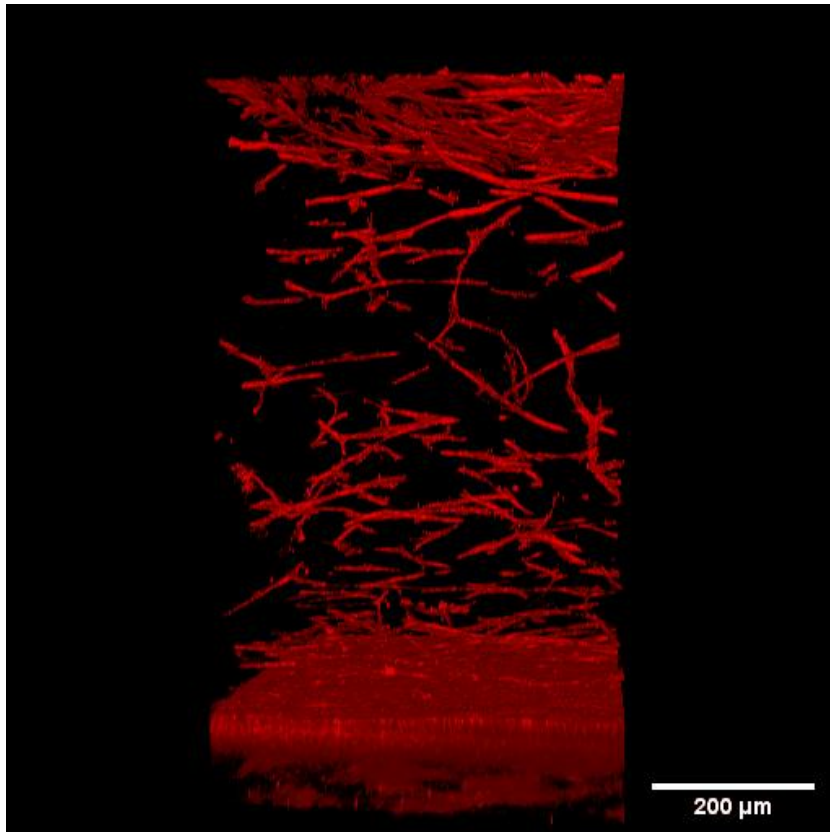
- Lower resolution
- Broader excitation spectra
- Less photons
- Photobleaching



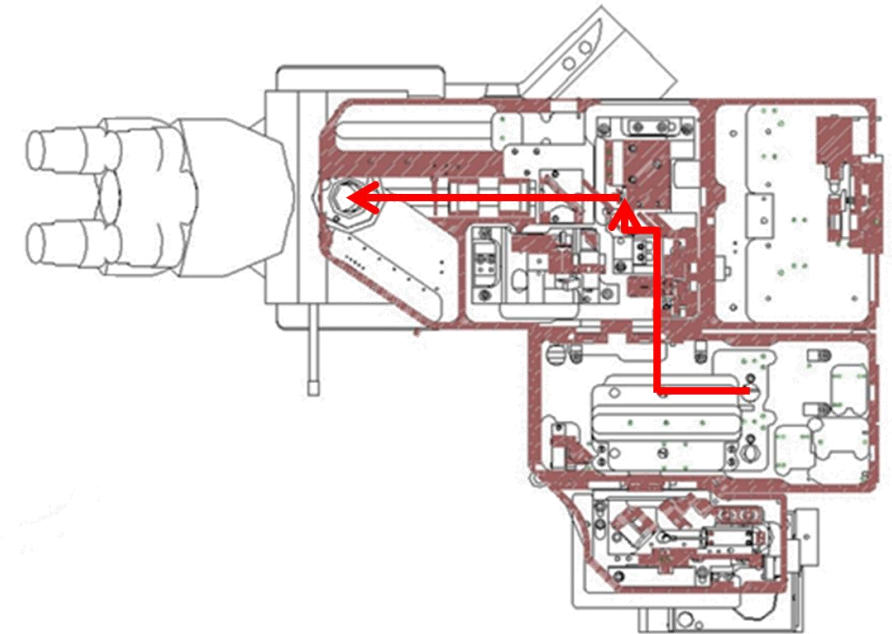
2-photon – standard imaging



3D tissue engineered skin construct



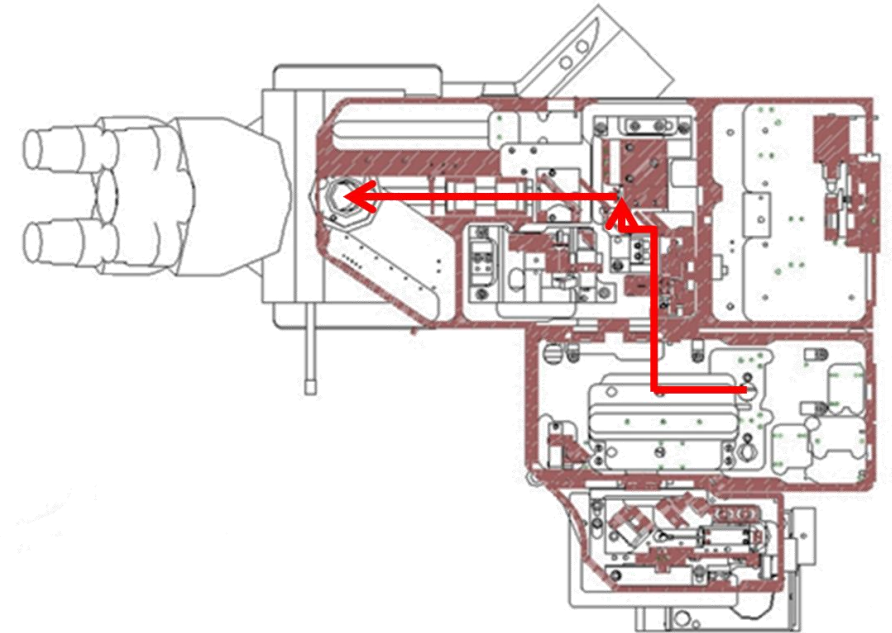
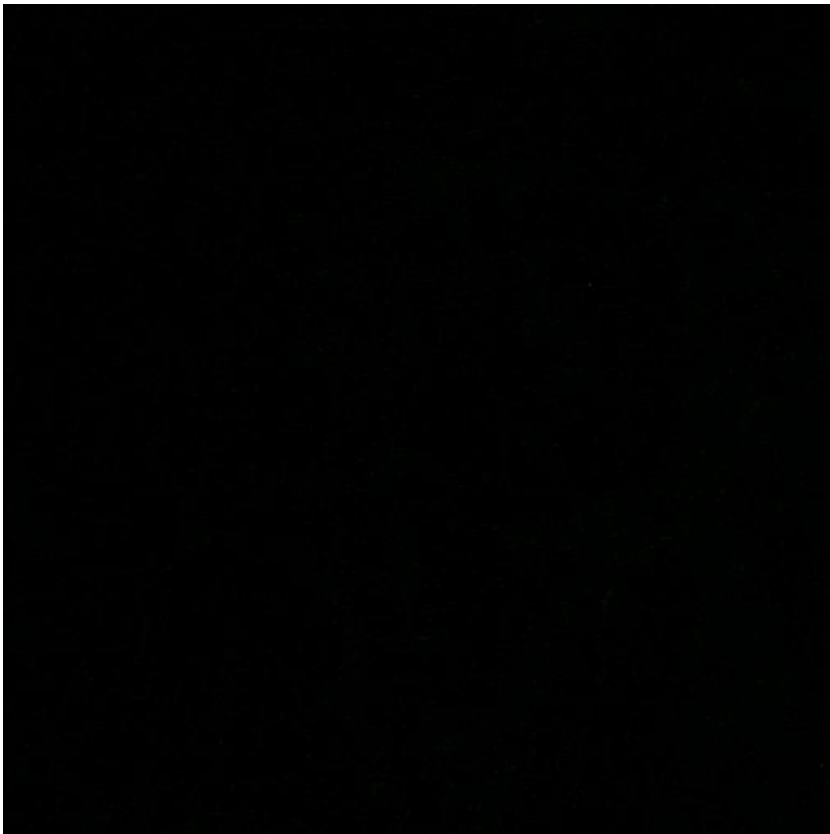
Zikmundova M.



2-photon – standard imaging



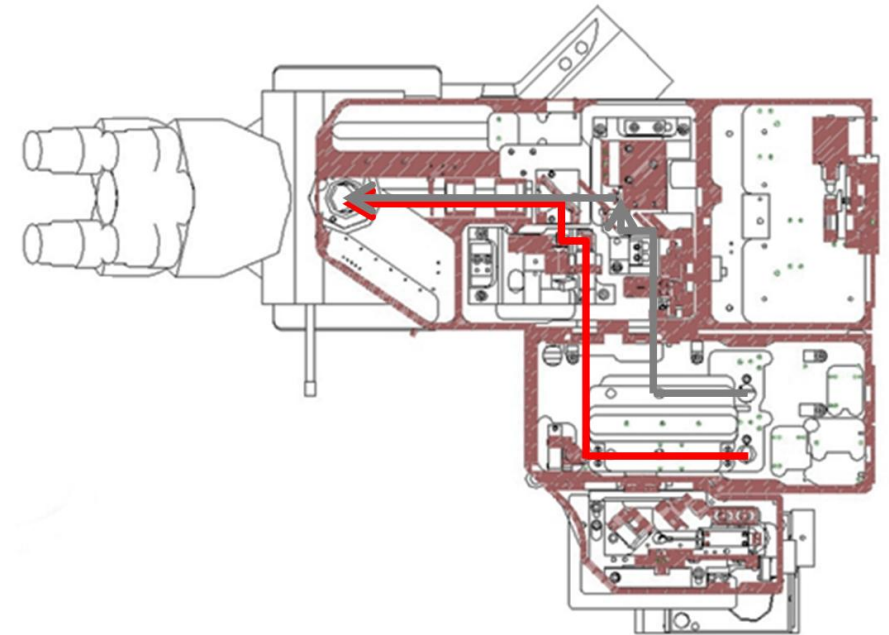
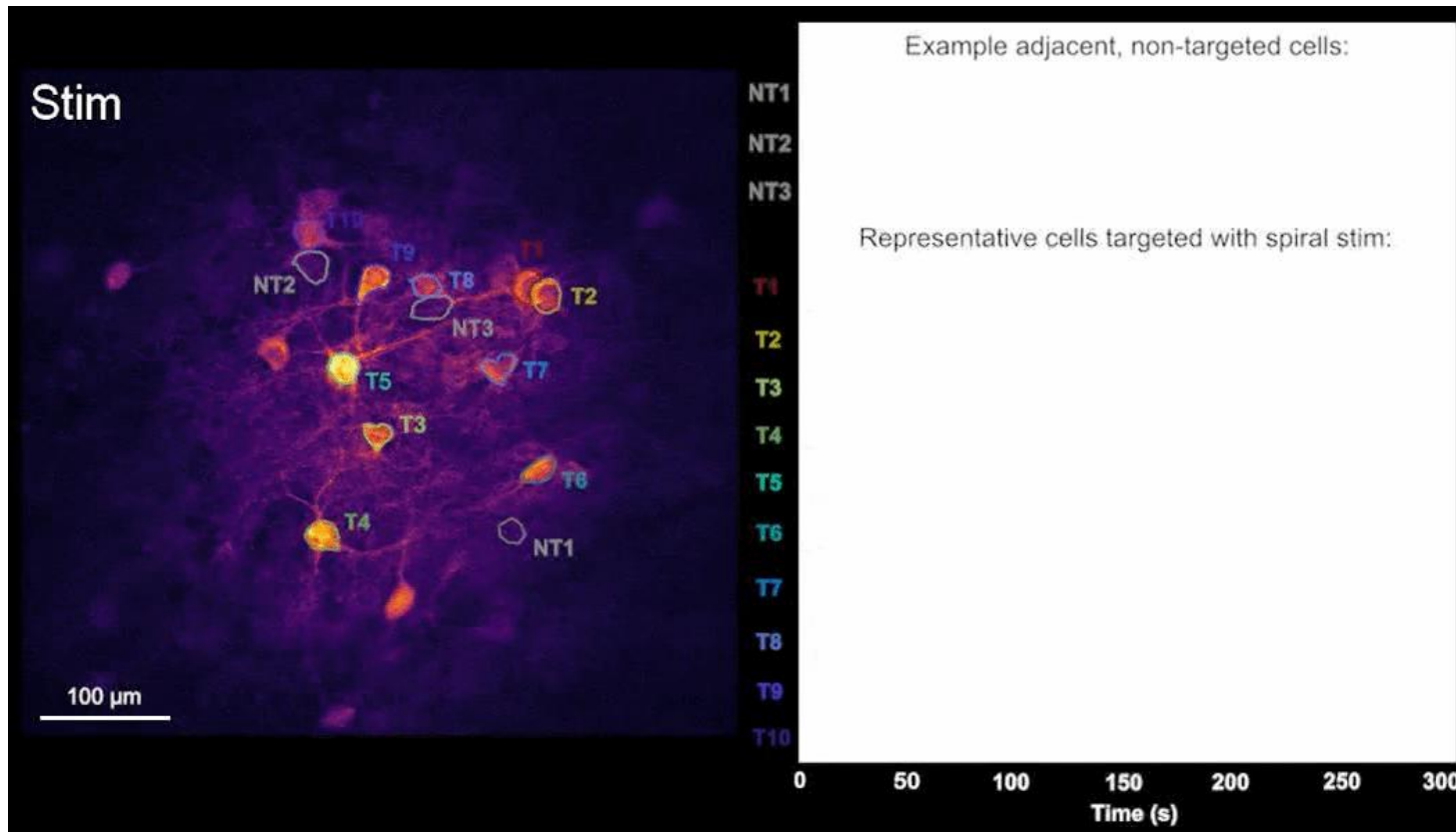
Fluorescein – blood flow through cranial window



2-photon – photoactivation



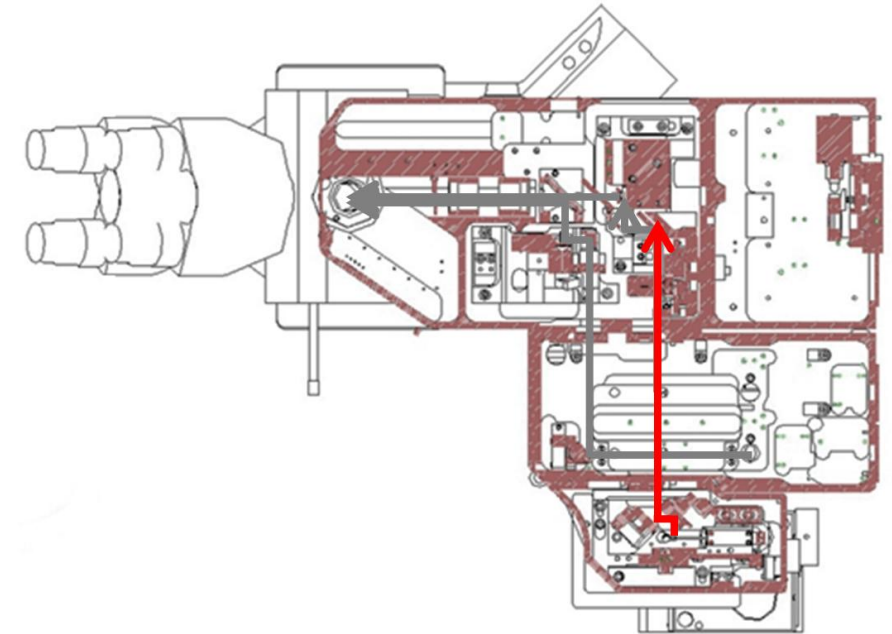
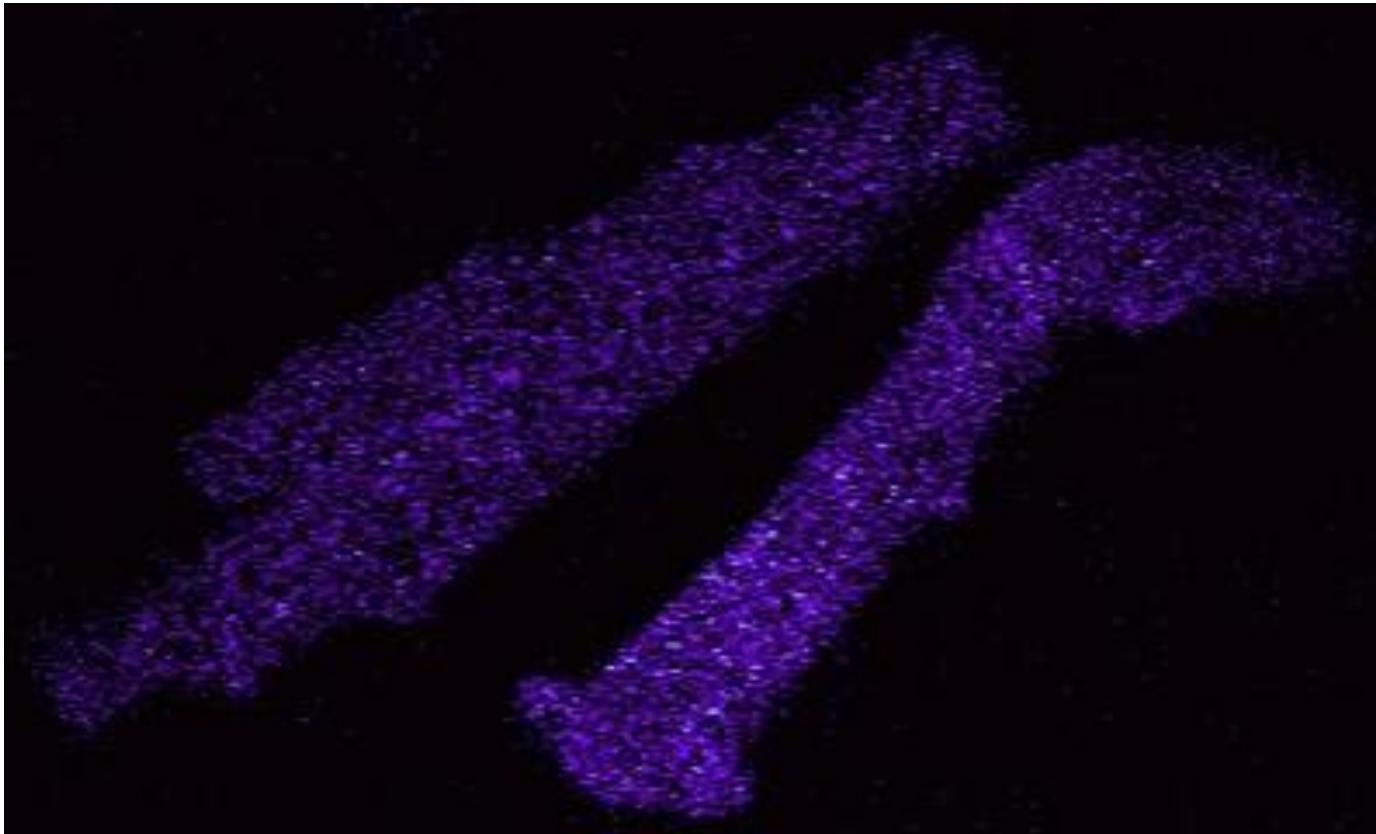
Activation of social-stimuli responsive neurons is linked to feeding behavior



2-photon – resonant imaging



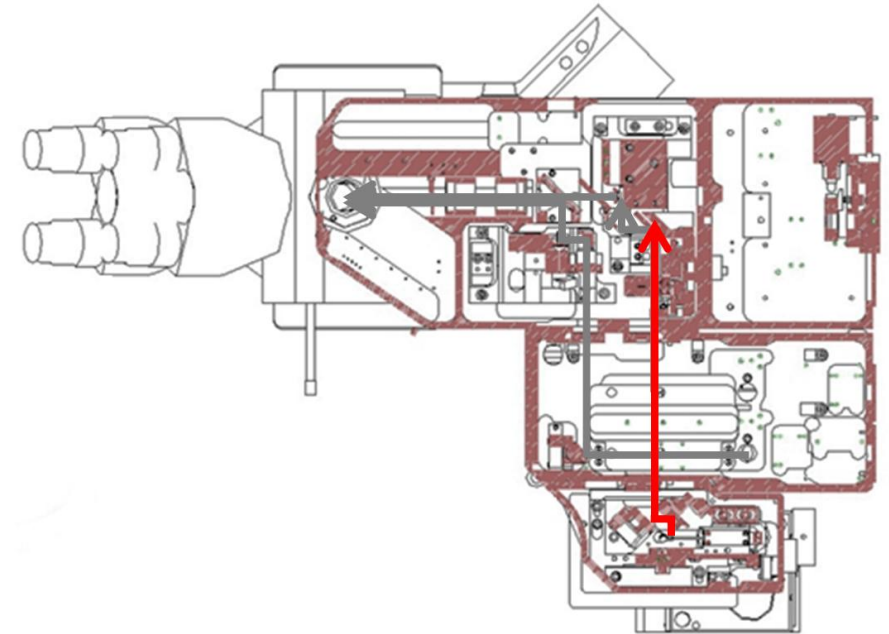
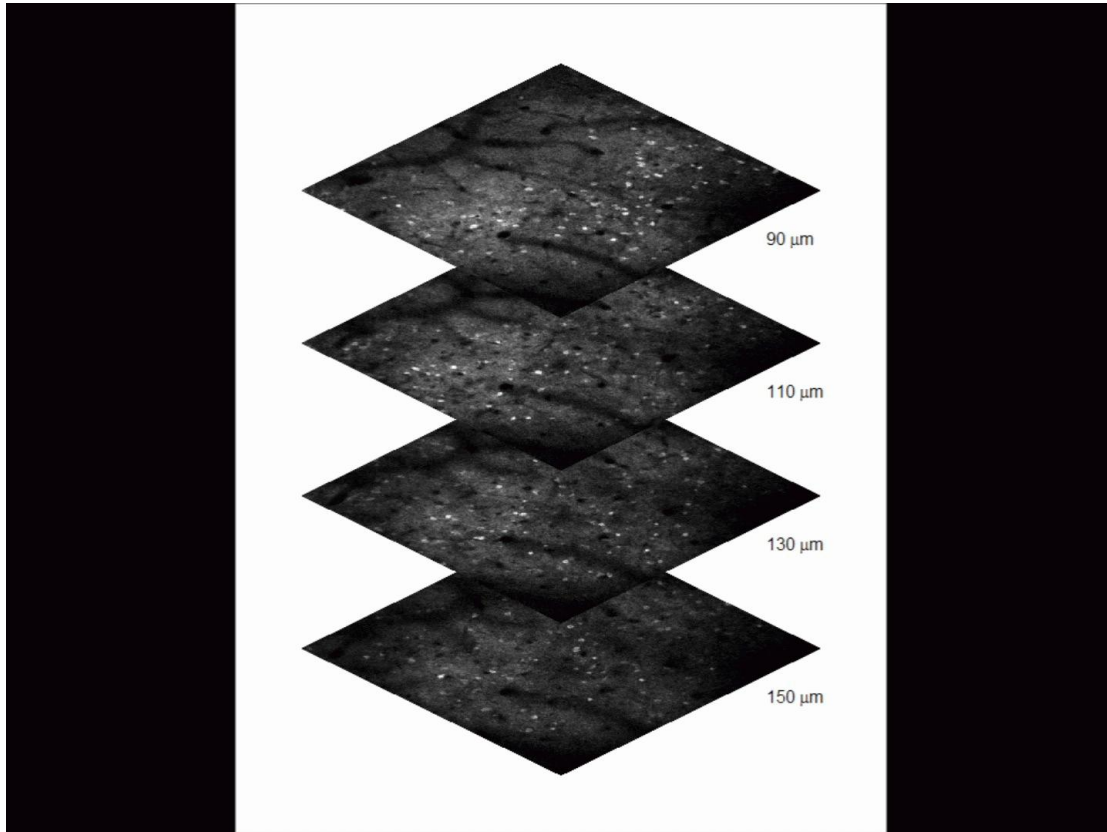
Calcium waves in cardiac muscles



2-photon – volumetric imaging



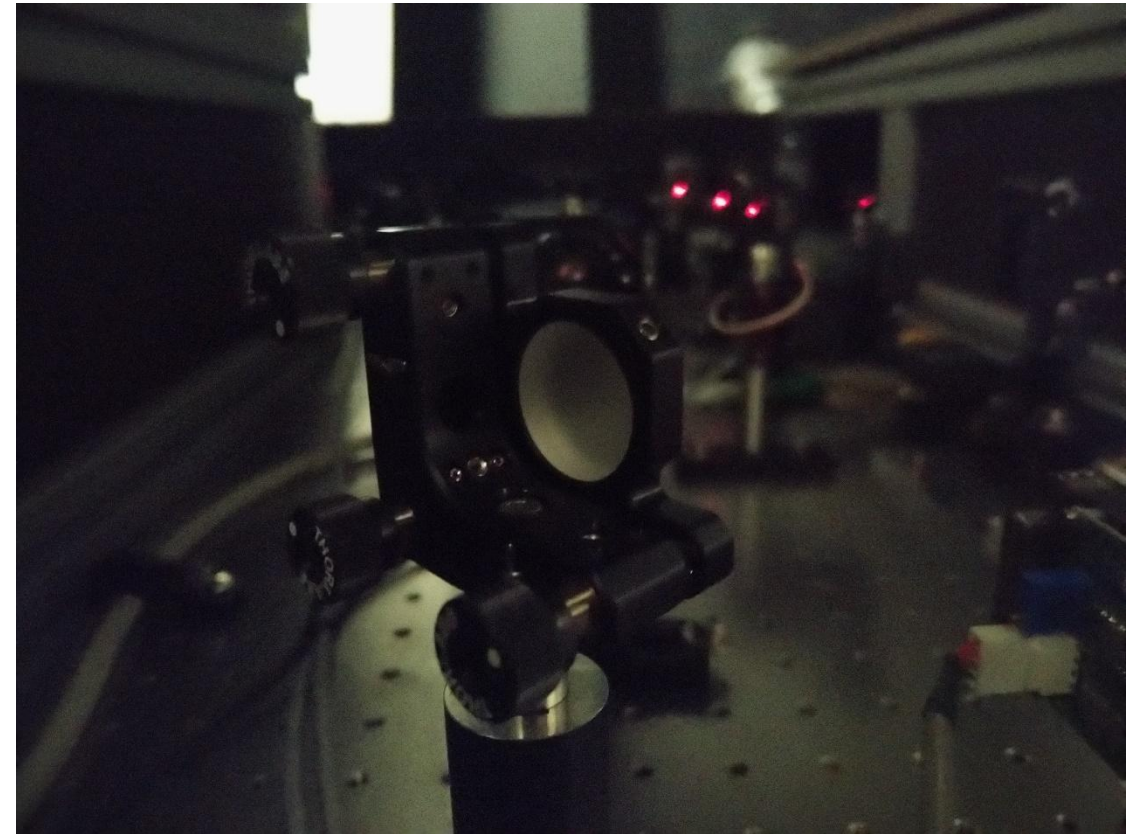
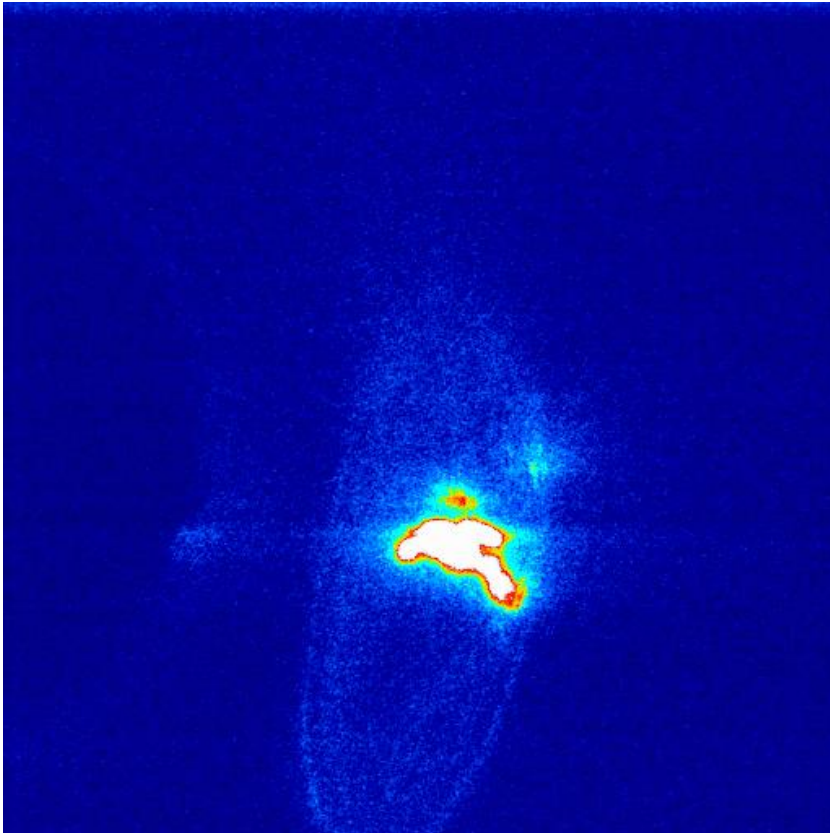
Volumetric imaging through cranial window



2-photon – flexibility



Automated stage correction – API



E. Scheer, Cori Bargmann Laboratory, Rockefeller University

What next ...

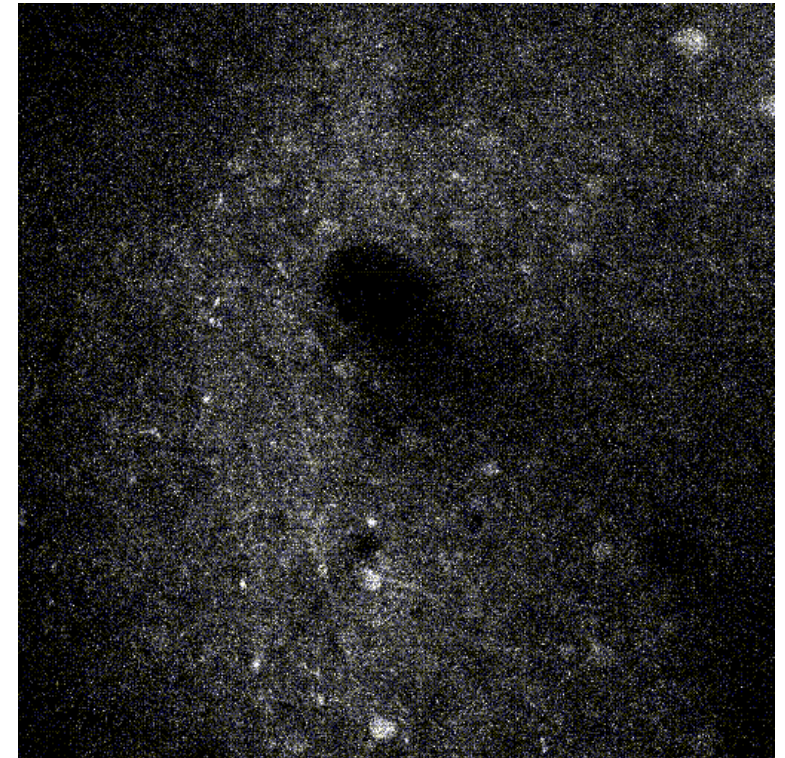


3-photon fluorescence imaging IEM

Label-free techniques

- Autofluorescence
- Raman (CARS, SRS)
- Second Harmonic Generation (SHG)
- Third Harmonic Generation (THG)

Spinning disk with Brillouin modality IPHYS



Prakash Kara lab, U.Minnesota

upcoming events 2025!



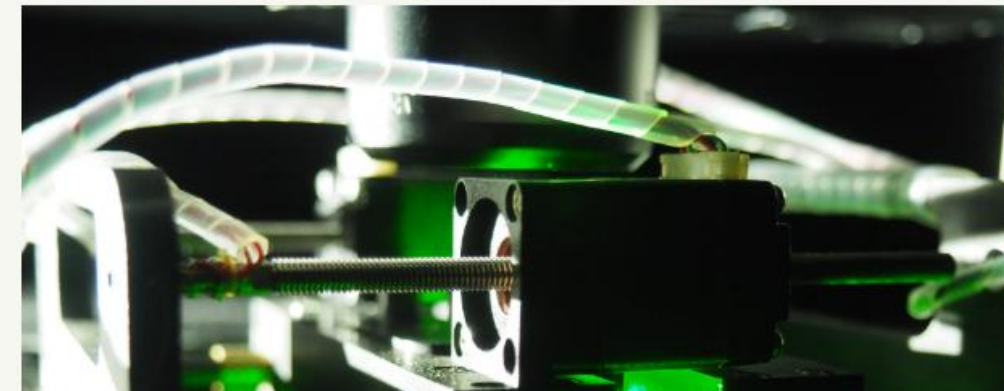
10. – . 11.12. 2025 **Mechanical characterization of biological samples using correlative methods**
- registration open

September 2026 **Advanced Course on Preclinical Imaging**
- registration in 2025

Mechanical characterization of biological samples using correlative methods

Time: 09.12. 2025 – 10.12. 2025

Location: Building Da I. Institute of Physiology, CAS, Vídeňská 108
142 00 Praha 4, Czech Republic





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