SIR WILLIAM DUNN SCHOOL OF PATHOLOGY



Advanced EM techniques: 3D and Correlative light and electron microscopy

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Electron Microscopy: Basic Methods Workshop



Correlative Light & Electron Microscopy (CLEM) Overview

 Using Correlative Light and Electron Microscopy (CLEM) techniques, the same cell/tissue area is imaged with Light Microscopy (LM) and Electron Microscopy (EM). In this way, proteins, organelles or cells of interest can be localised within an ultrastructural context.





CLEM applications Pinpointing specific cells and localising proteins





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CLEM of HEK cells expressing EphA2-mVenus (E Johnson & R Kaufmann)

CLEM with super-resolution microscopy SMLM with standard fluorescent proteins



- Blinking/switching capability of standard FPs (GFP, YFP, mRuby) can be preserved using an optimised EM sample preparation protocol
 - Excellent structural resolution (40-50 nm) at fluorescence level with SMLM
 - · Very good ultrastructural preservation and good contrast
 - Allows highly precise correlation between LM and TEM images

From: Johnson et al (2015) Scientific Reports, 5

CLEM with super-resolution microscopy PALM with osmium resistant fluorescent proteins



From: Paez-Segala et al (2015) Nature Methods

CLEM with super-resolution microscopy Summary

- CLEM puts fluorescently labelled organelles/proteins within their ultrastructural context
- Combining super-resolution microscopy and TEM is a highly precise method for correlating fluorescence and ultrastructure
- There are many different ways to perform CLEM, most are available here at Oxford







SEM can be used to generate 'TEM' images by detecting backscattered electrons, beam electrons that have been elastically scattered/deflected by high atomic number elements (heavy metals) in the sample



One method for generating a 3D high resolution image stack is to use serial block face sectioning with the Gatan 3View system









3D EM Techniques TEM - Electron tomography

- Thicker sections (150-300 nm) on filmed slot grids with gold fiducial markers
- Use specialised tomography holder for dual axis tilting of the specimen
- Reconstruct using modelling software



3D EM Techniques TEM - Electron tomography



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