



ED SUBA JR./Akron Beacon Journal

A recent study has confirmed what cat owners have long known: Cats understand when spoken to, but they choose to ignore most of what people say.

# Study: Our cats understand us, but they don't really care

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI  
*Akron Beacon Journal*

The agony of unrequited

A study by two University of Tokyo researchers, published by Springer in

stress of moving them to strange surroundings had no role in the outcome of

bred and have evolved "to follow their owner's orders, but cats have not been."

# Micron Advanced Light Microscopy Course 2018

## lecture 7 Live Cell Imaging

<http://www.micron.ox.ac.uk/microngroup/resources.php>

Richard M Parton - [Richard.Parton@bioch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Richard.Parton@bioch.ox.ac.uk)  
Department of Biochemistry  
University of Oxford

# Live Cell Imaging

- Reasons for live cell imaging
- Requirements for live cell imaging
  - Experimental design
  - Choice and setup of equipment
  - Collect every photon
  - Image processing and analysis



# Reasons for live imaging: Fixed vs Live



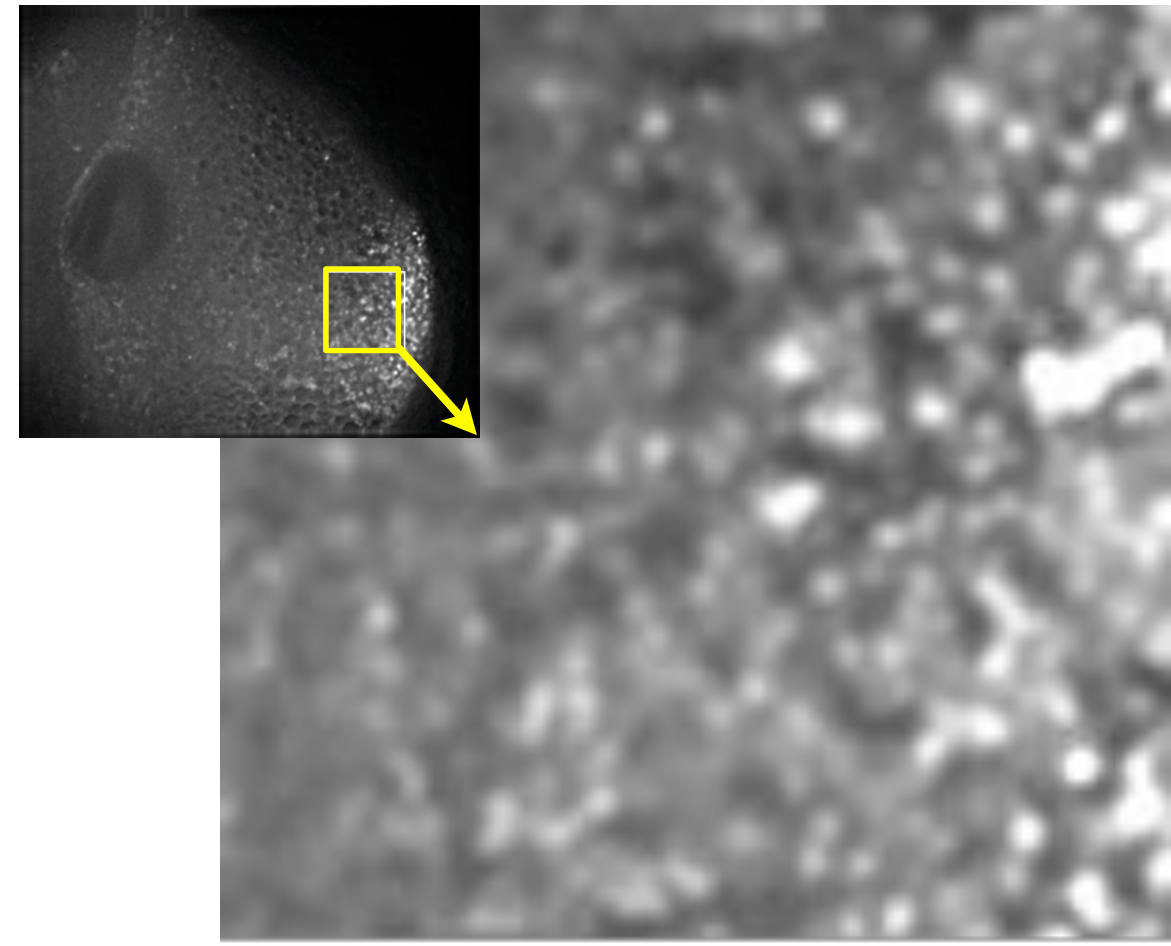
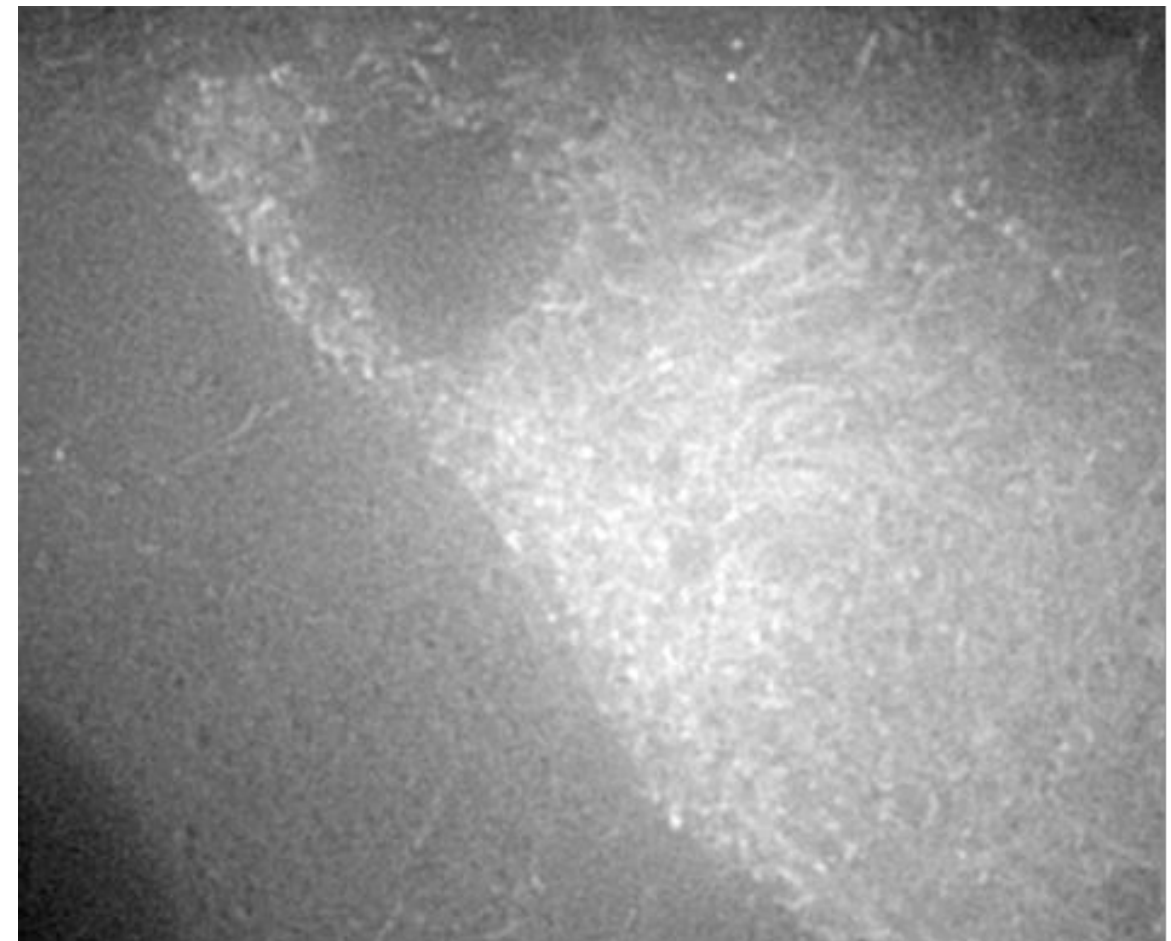
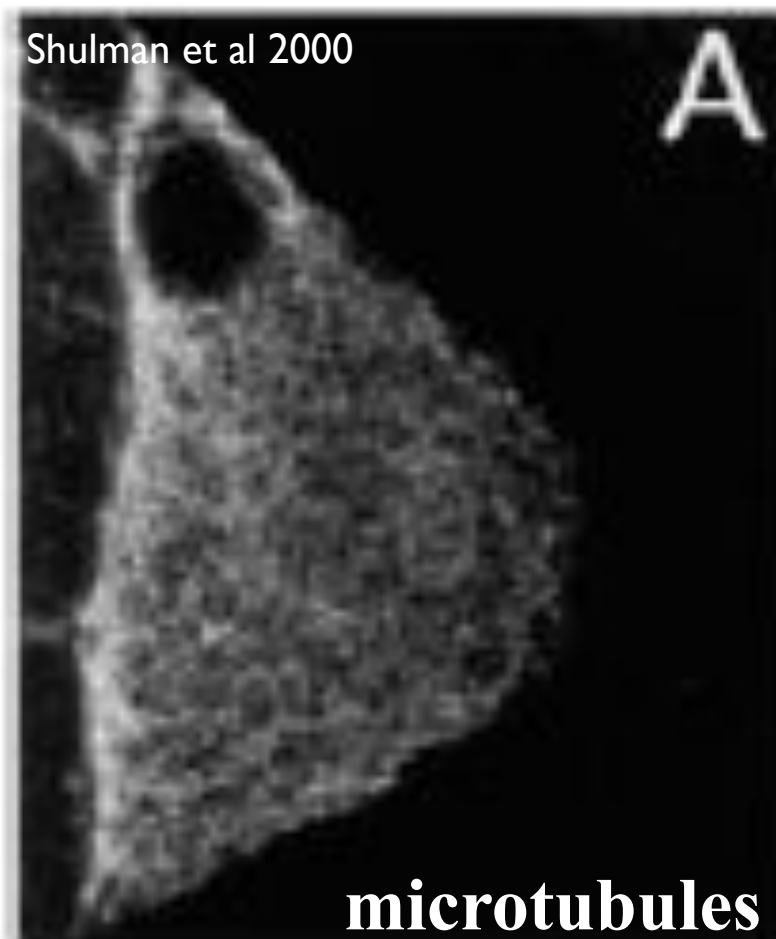
Fixed



Live

# Fixed

# Live

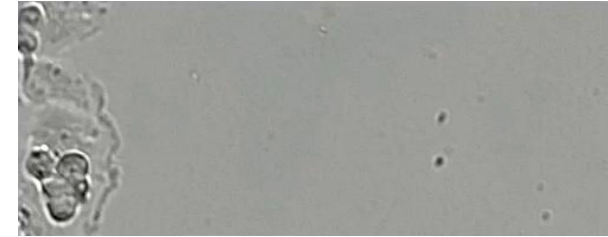




# Reasons for live imaging

1) Can follow the order of sequential events in real time

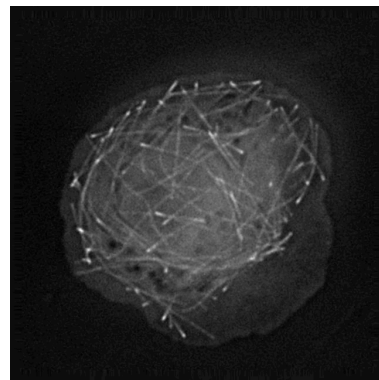
time-course of cell  
migration - Andrea  
Linford Barr lab



2) Can monitor the kinetics of dynamic processes:

- active transport vs diffusion
- Microtubule turnover

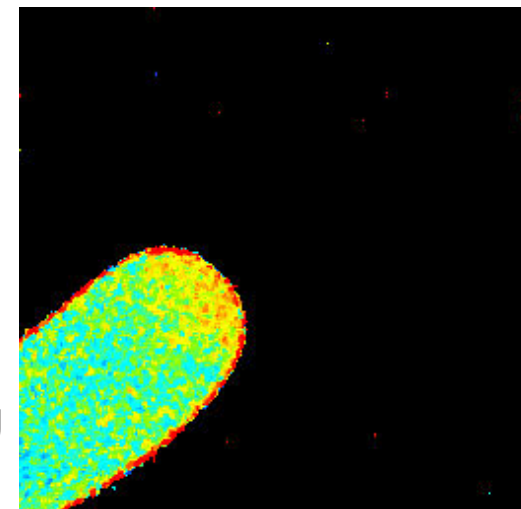
Macrophage:  
EB1-GFP  
tagged MT



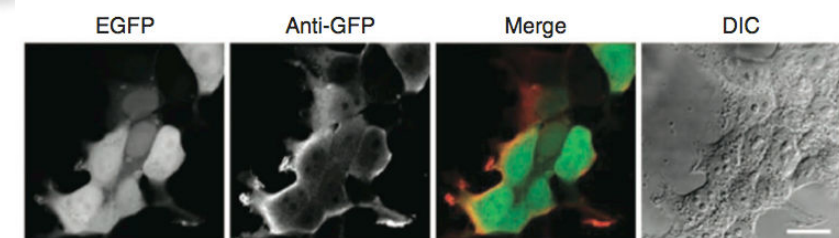
3) Can record sensitive or transient processes:

- Calcium signalling transients
- Ion gradients
- membrane potential

Calcium ratio imaging  
pollen tube

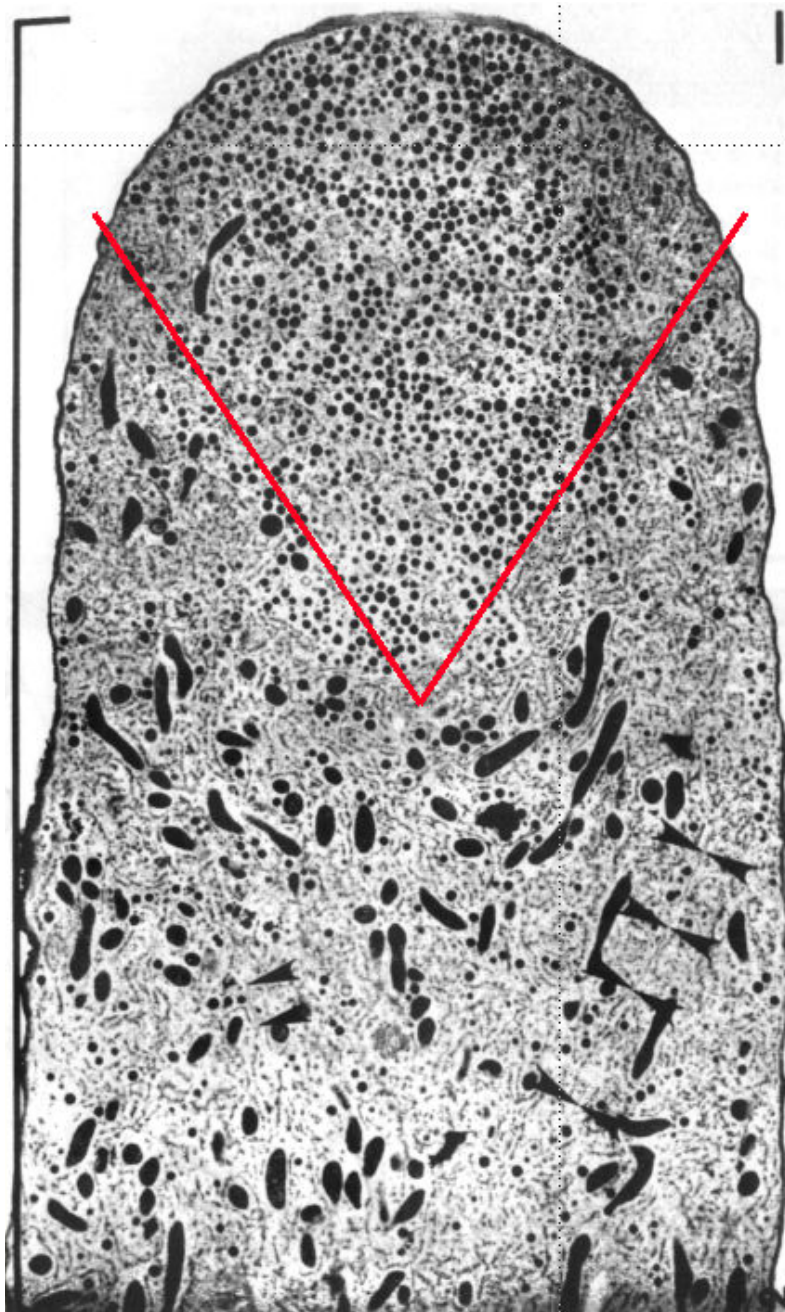


4) You can believe what you see - no fixation artefacts



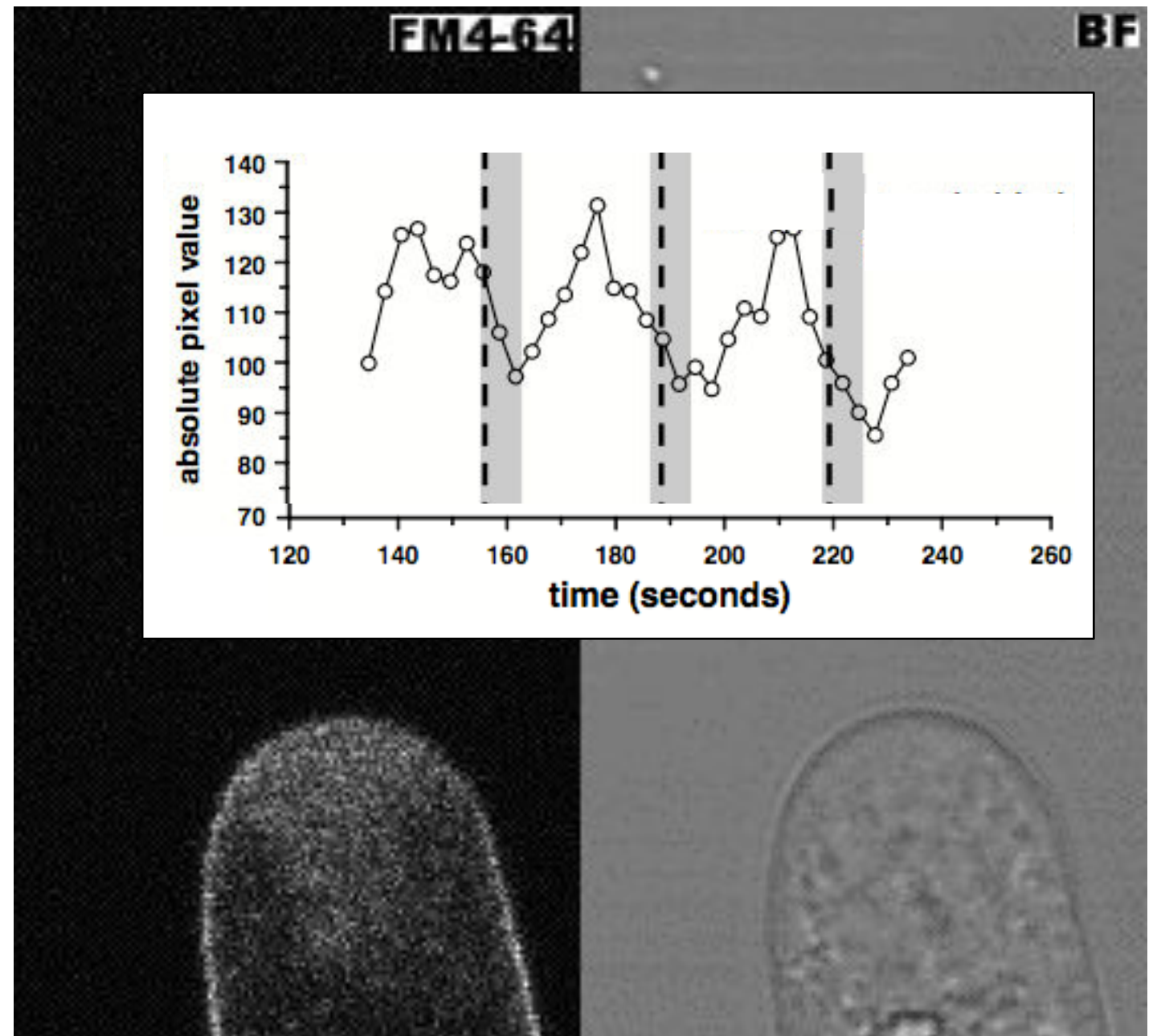
# Can monitor the kinetics of dynamic processes

Fixed - EM



**Electron Micrograph From**  
Lancelle, S.A.; Cresti, M.; Hepler, P.K. (1997)  
*Protoplasma* 196, 21-33.

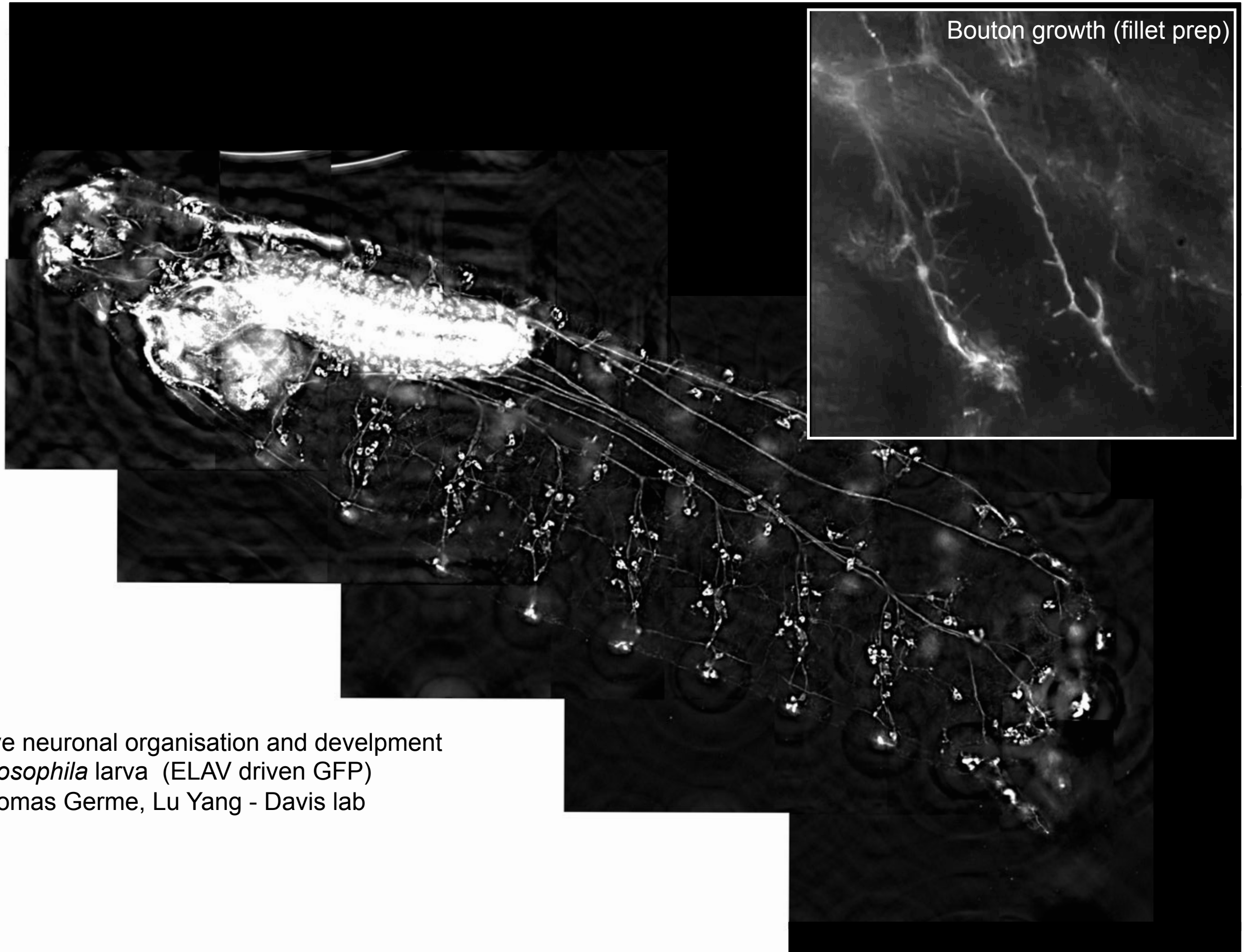
Live



FM4-64 labelling of the plasma membrane  
and apical vesicles in a living pollen tube  
Parton *et al*, 2001. JCS



# Can follow the order of sequential events in real time

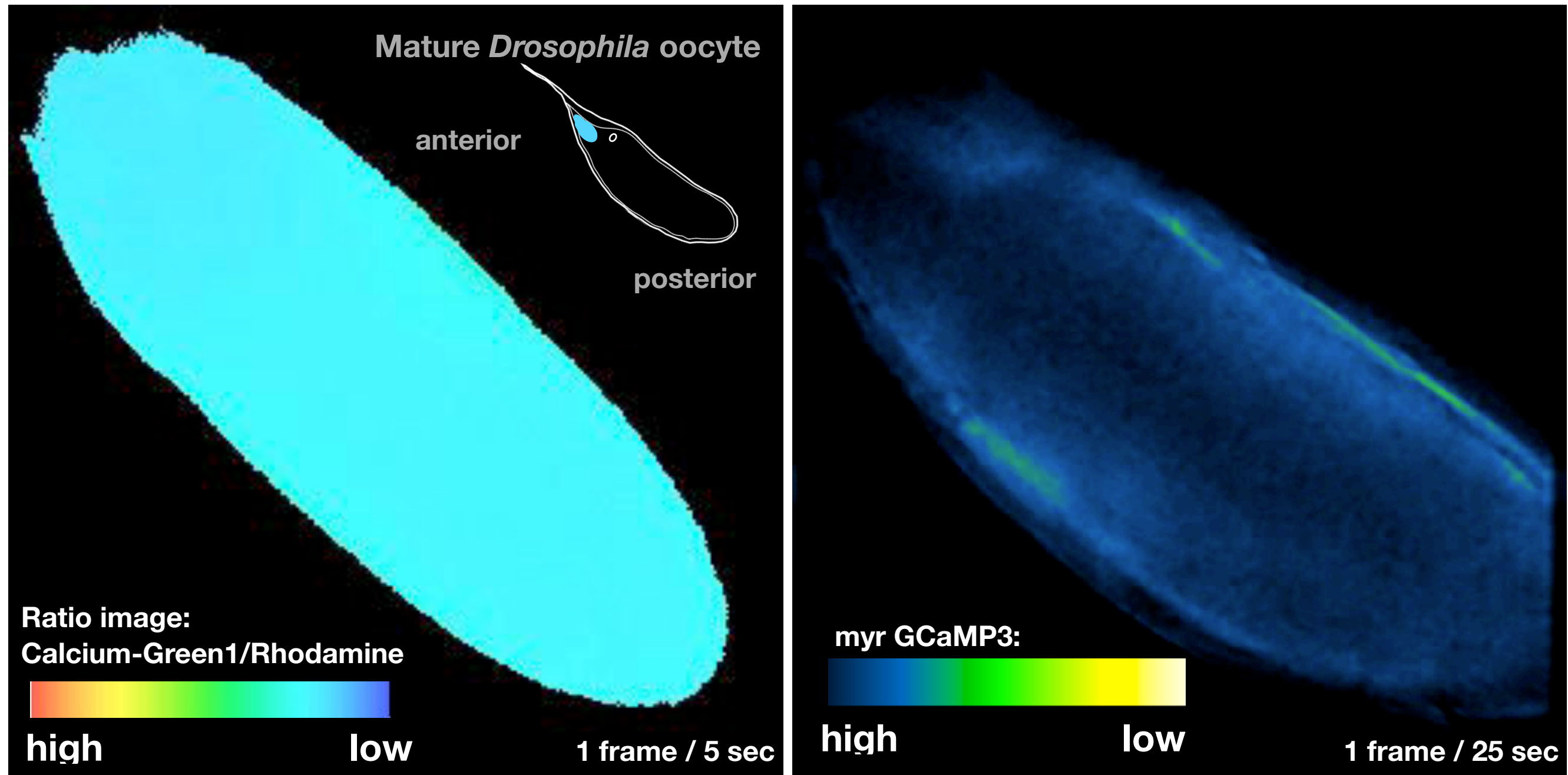


Live neuronal organisation and development  
*Drosophila* larva (ELAV driven GFP)  
Thomas Germe, Lu Yang - Davis lab



# Can record sensitive or transient processes

## Calcium transient upon activation



York-Andersen, A. H., Parton, R. M., Bi, C. J., Bromley, C. L., Davis, I., & Weil, T. T. (2015). A single and rapid calcium wave at egg activation in *Drosophila*. *Biology Open*, 4(4), 553–560. <http://doi.org/10.1242/bio.201411296>

# Live imaging as an experimental tool:

- Photoactivation / FRAP - for kinetics
- FCS / FCCS / RICS - correlation spectroscopies
  - for molecular kinetics and associations
- Photoactivation - cage probe release
  - stimulation / drug release

<https://www.thermofisher.com/us/en/home/references/molecular-probes-the-handbook/crosslinking-and-photoactivatable-reagents/photoactivatable-reagents-including-photoreactive-crosslinkers-and-caged-probes.html>



# Live imaging as an experimental tool:

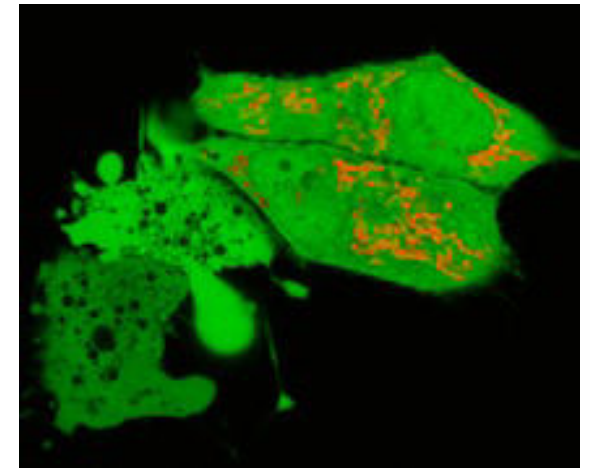
Using light to manipulate cell behaviour:

- “**Killer red**” genetically encoded photosensitiser  
CALI = chromophore assisted light inactivation

Reactive oxygen species in photochemistry of the red fluorescent protein “Killer Red”

Vegh et al, Chem. Commun., 2011,47, 4887-4889

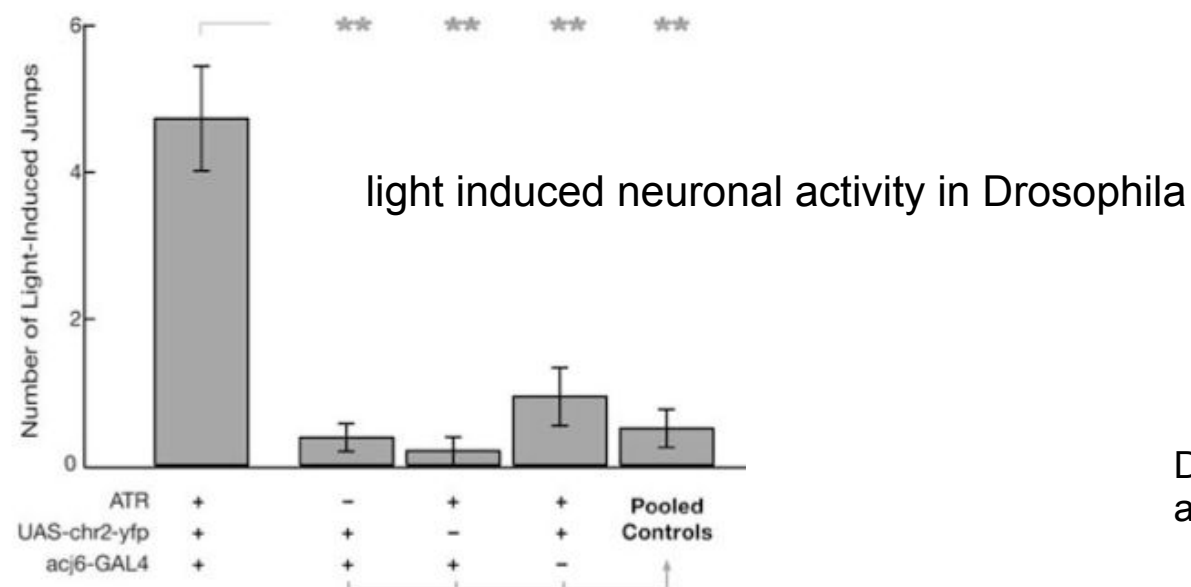
DOI: 10.1039/C0CC05713D



EVROGEN - Killer red expressed in mitochondria

- **Channelrhodopsin-2 (ChR2)** photo-induced behaviour through light activation of cation-selective ion channels

Zimmermann, G., et al. (2009). Manipulation of an Innate Escape Response in Drosophila: Photoexcitation of acj6 Neurons Induces the Escape Response. PLoS ONE, 4(4), e5100. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0005100.g005



D42-GAL4 motor neuron driver and three copies of UAS-chr2::yfp

T.Germe

“Photoexcitation of acj6 neurons is sufficient to induce a startle response”

You can believe what you see mostly!

## Immunolabeling artifacts and the need for live-cell imaging

Ulrike Schnell, Freark Dijk, Klaas A Sjollema & Ben N G Giepmans  
Nature Methods, 9(2), 152–158. doi:10.1038/nmeth.1855

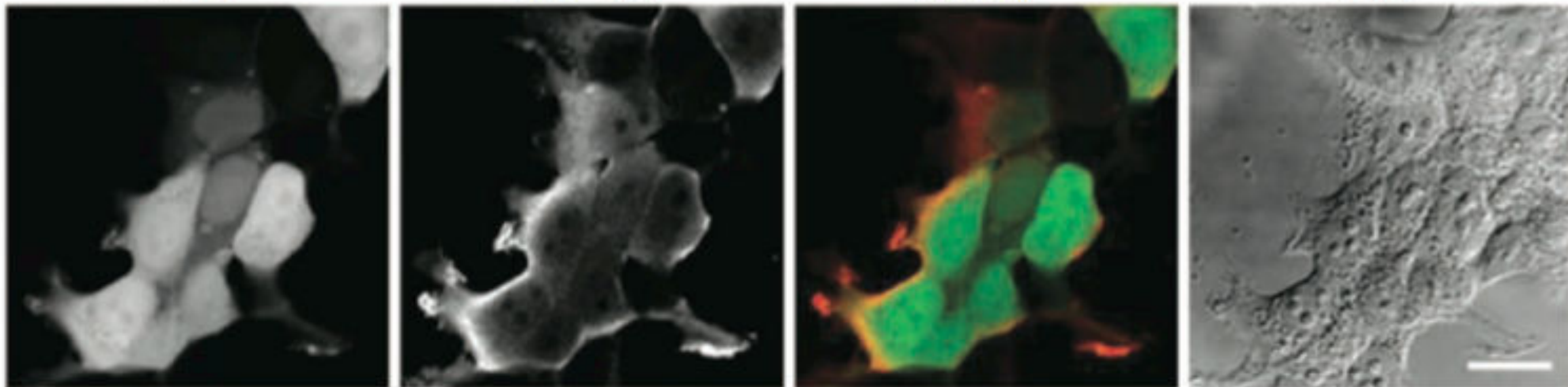
avoids fixation artefacts

EGFP

Anti-GFP

Merge

DIC

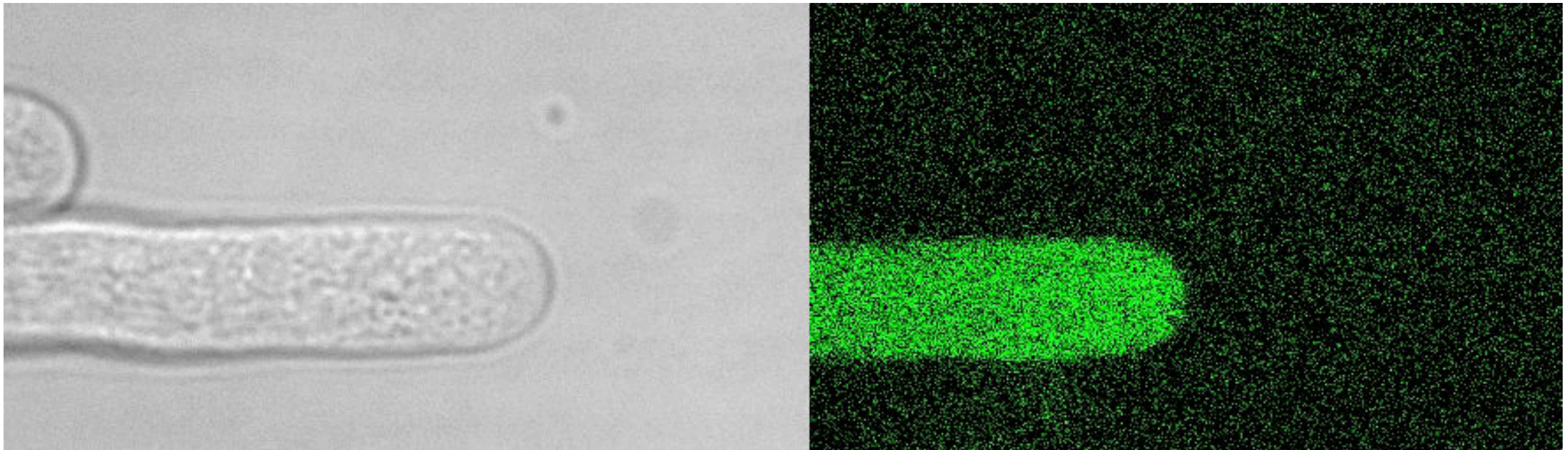




But....

You can believe what you see?

Imaged cells might behave abnormally!



Cytoplasmic GFP in a living *Lilium* pollen tube imaged by multiphoton (800 nm)

Death by imaging!



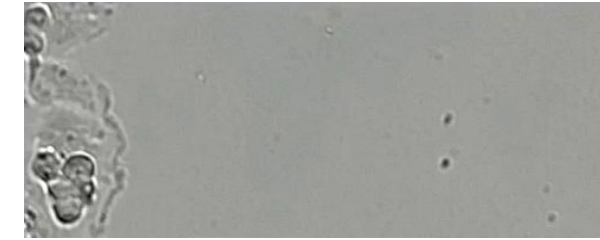
## Cautionary note:

- The microscope stage is no place for a cell!
- “live cell” labels can still be toxic
- mis-expression or aberrant behaviour of GFP tagged proteins
- labelled live cells are **more sensitive** to imaging (photons)
- stressed live cells are **more sensitive** to imaging
- mutants are often **more sensitive** to imaging

# But live cell imaging is still brilliant!

## 2) Can follow the order of sequential events in real time

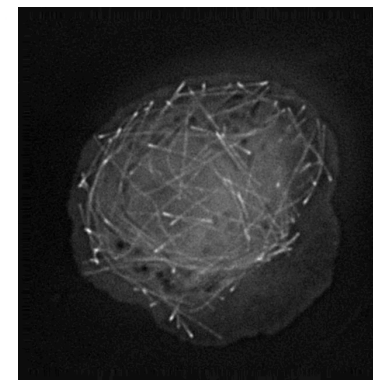
time-course of cell  
migration - Andrea  
Linford Barr lab



## 3) Can monitor the kinetics of dynamic processes:

- active transport vs diffusion
- Microtubule turnover

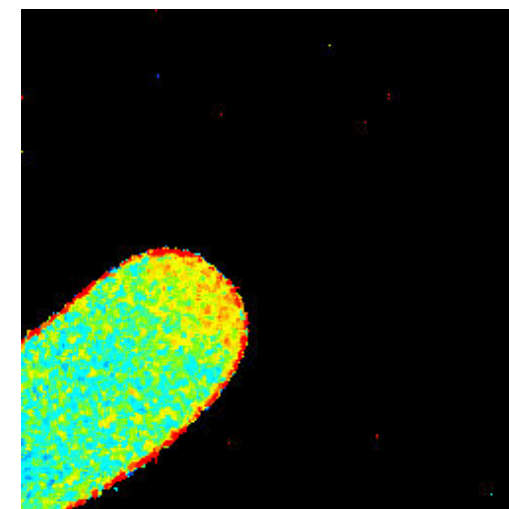
Macrophage:  
EB1-GFP  
tagged MT



## 4) Can record sensitive or transient processes:

- Calcium signalling transients
- Ion gradients
- membrane potential

Calcium ratio imaging  
pollen tube



do the appropriate controls!



# Do the appropriate controls:

- **compare** results to know behaviour e.g. expected division rate
- **compare** with results under less stringent imaging conditions
- **compare** with results from alternative approaches
- **compare** with different imaging modalities / labels
- check the **WT behaves as expected** before looking at mutants

**Optimise your imaging!**

# Requirements for live cell imaging:



Careful balance of conflicting interests?

What is important  
in microscopy?

What is also important  
in live-cell imaging?

1. Resolution

2. Sampling

3. Contrast

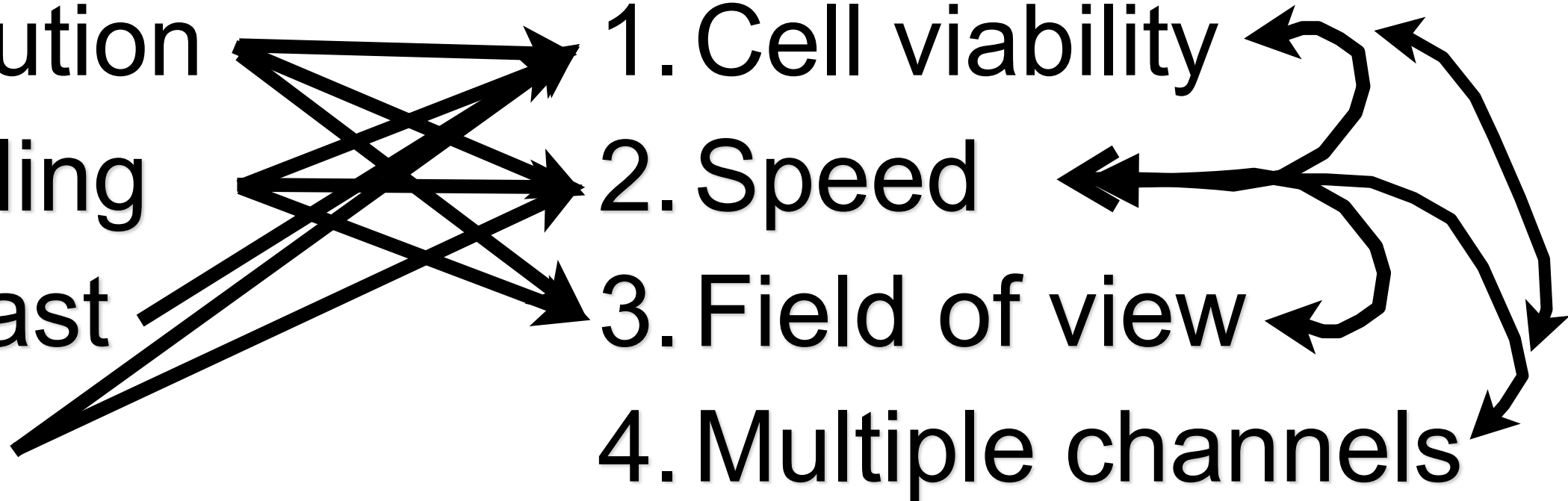
4. Noise

1. Cell viability

2. Speed

3. Field of view

4. Multiple channels





What is important  
in microscopy?

What is also important  
in live-cell imaging?

1. Resolution

2. Sampling

3. Contrast

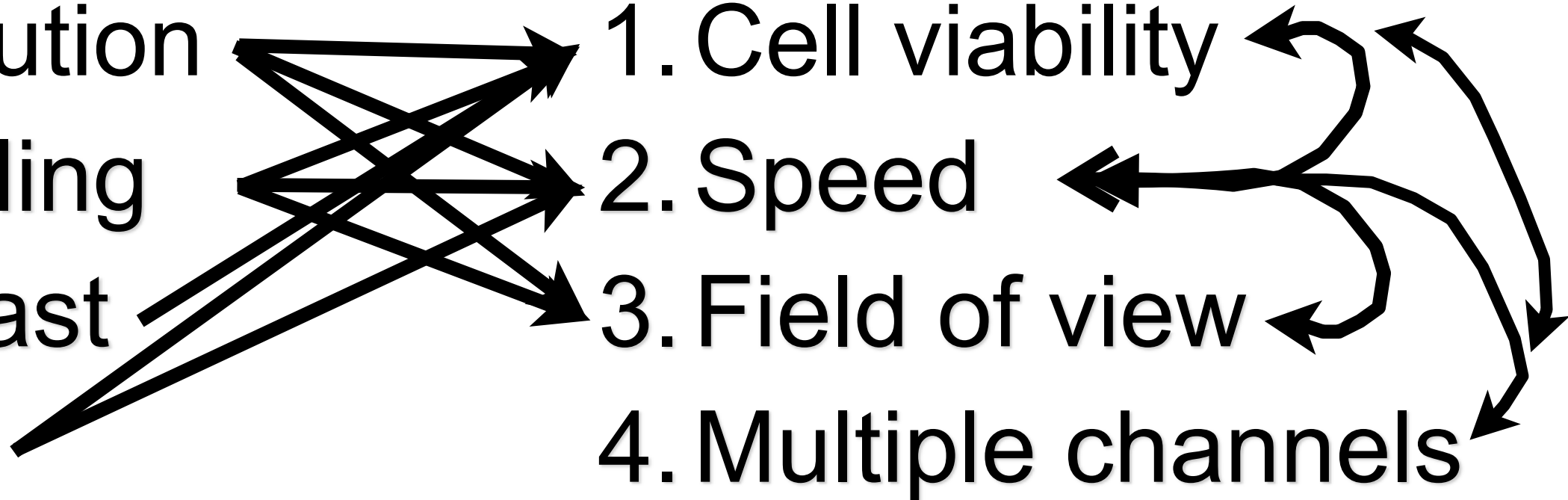
4. Noise

1. Cell viability

2. Speed

3. Field of view

4. Multiple channels



Live-cell imaging is a compromise!

# Requirements for live cell imaging:

1. Optimise your experimental design
2. Choose your technique carefully
3. Set up you imaging equipment properly
4. Collect every photon

# Optimise your experimental design:

- What do you need from your imaging?

Quantitative data

Spatial information

Temporal information

**Goal Setting!**



# Choice of equipment and technique:

Depends upon:

- 1) What you want to see - experimental design
- 2) Your experimental material
- 3) What is available
- 4) Your budget

**There is no, one, perfect technique!**

# Choice of microscope stand

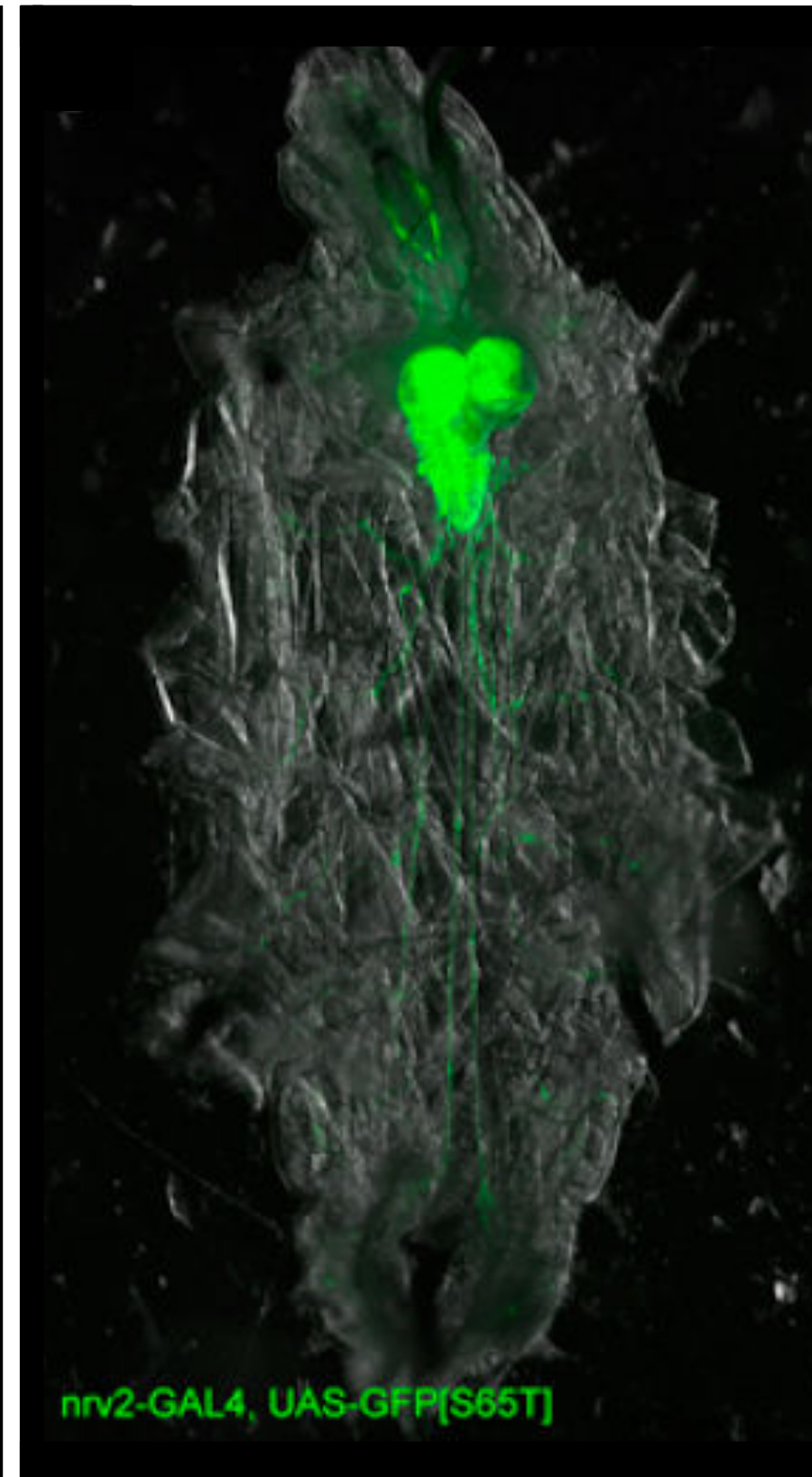
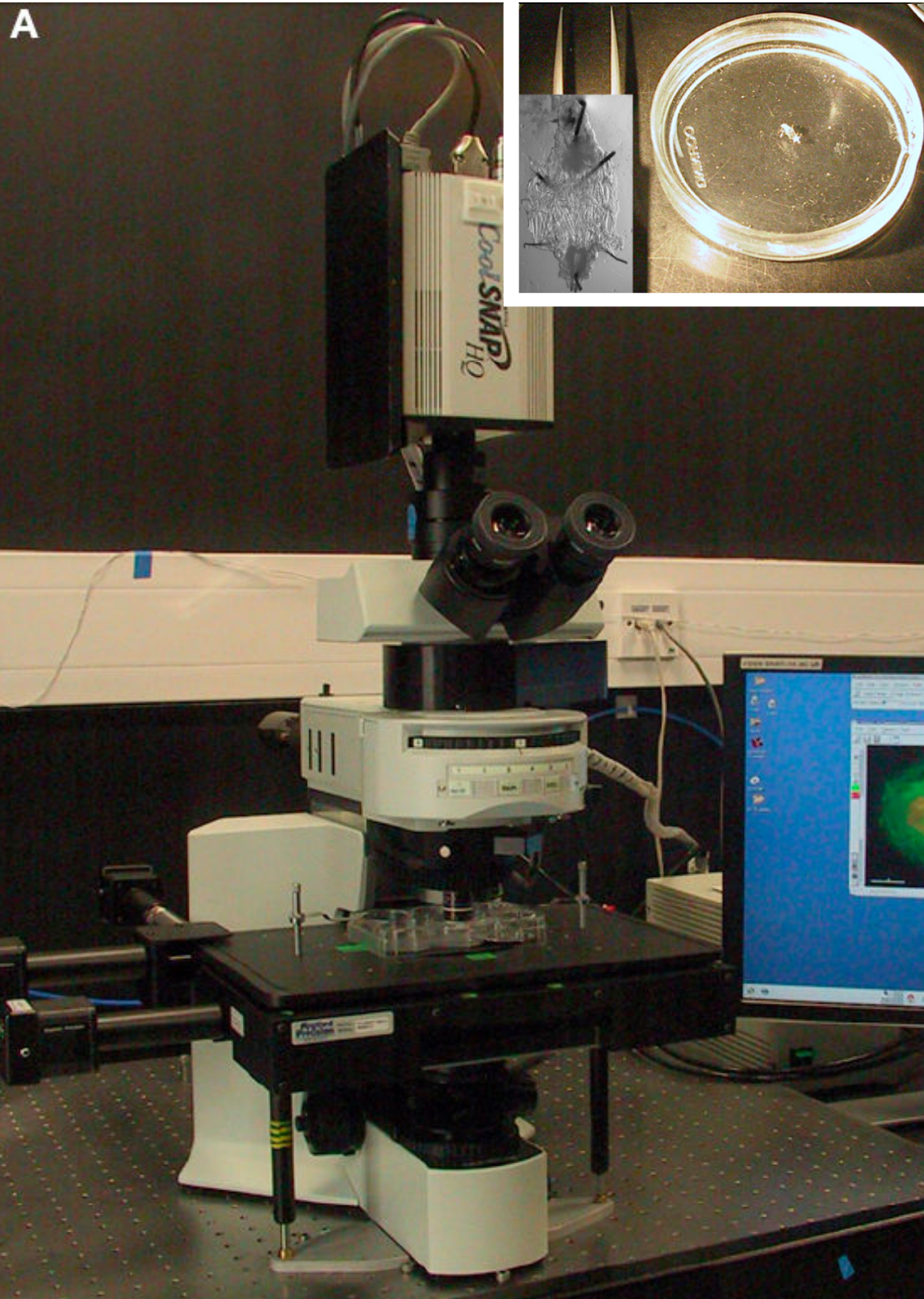
- The modern epifluorescence microscope

Upright microscope (lens **above** specimen)

Inverted microscope (lens **below** specimen)

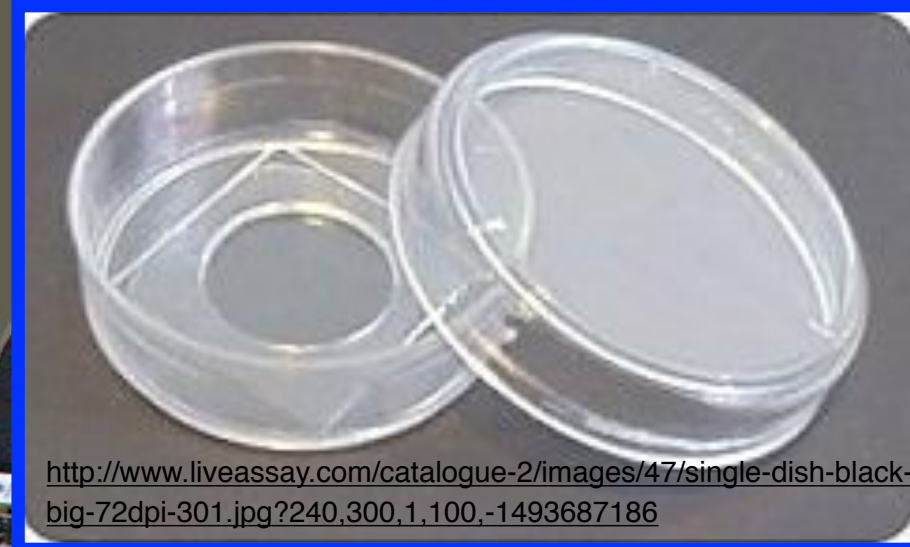
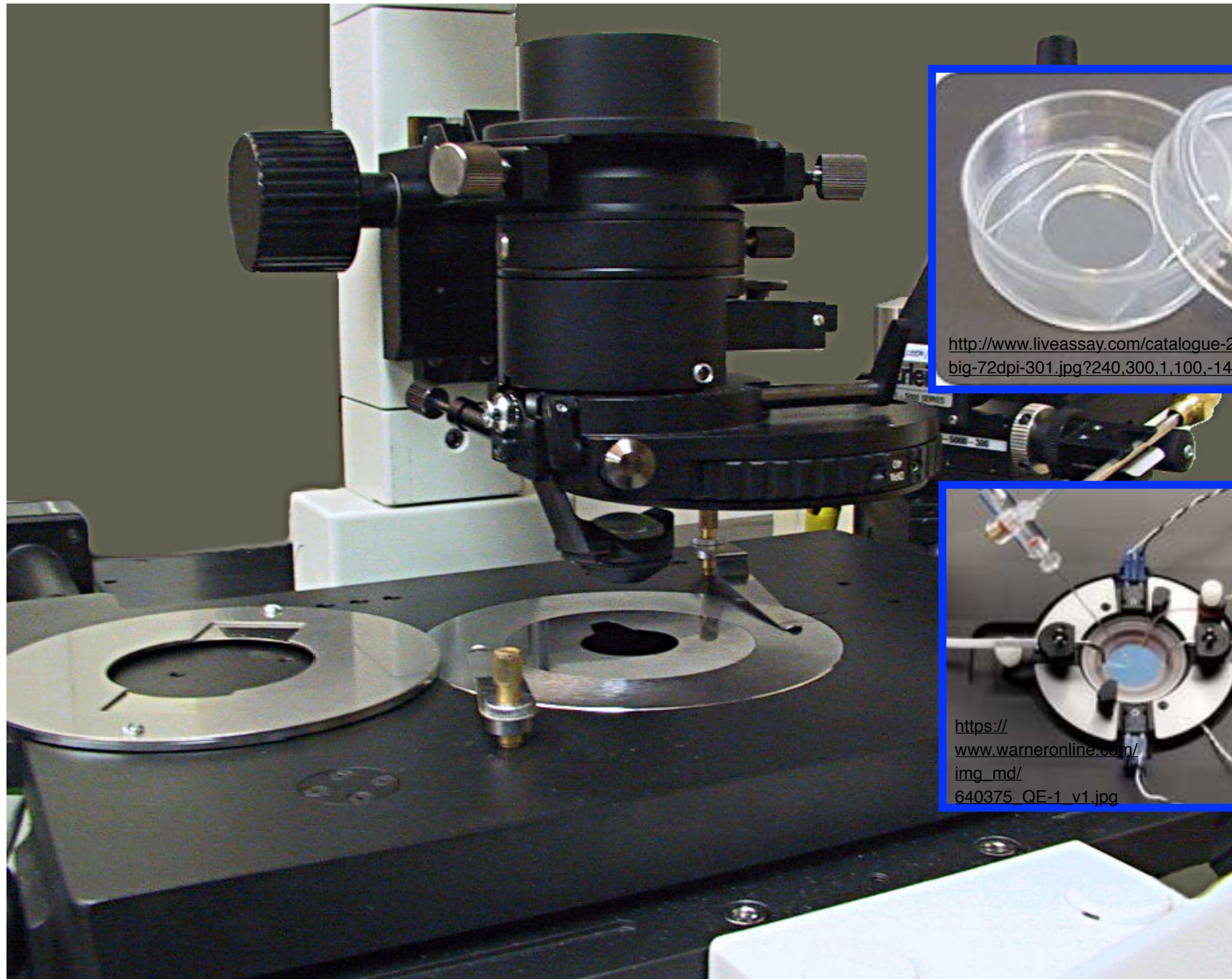


# Upright microscope - larval fillet prep





# Inverted microscope - injection



<http://www.liveassay.com/catalogue-2/images/47/single-dish-black-big-72dpi-301.jpg?240,300,1,100,-1493687186>



[https://www.warneronline.com/img\\_md/640375\\_QE-1\\_v1.jpg](https://www.warneronline.com/img_md/640375_QE-1_v1.jpg)



# There is a microscope stand for everything....

27



Thorlabs - B scope: [www.thorlabs.de/newgrouppage9.cfm?objectgroup\\_id=6611](http://www.thorlabs.de/newgrouppage9.cfm?objectgroup_id=6611)

The Thorlabs scope is set up to rotate about an axis that is in the plane of focus. So you can be looking at a cell and then, while imaging, rotate the scope (since it's motorized) and still keep looking at the same thing, just from a different angle.

be inventive..

# Choice of imaging technique...

## **Use a confocal for:**

Bright, thick specimens with low contrast

To generate high resolution 3D image reconstructions

Easy simultaneous multichannel imaging

## **Use wide-field deconvolution / Spinning Disc confocal for:**

Weakly fluorescent, sensitive specimens

Following fast dynamic events

## **Use TIRF for:**

Imaging with high contrast within 100 nm of the coverslip



# Confocal vs Widefield Deconvolution

## Confocal (optical configuration)

- **Discards out-of-focus light** using a pinhole in the light path
- Less sensitive - throws away light, generally poorer signal to noise
- More convenient - immediate high contrast images, even with **single Z sections**.
- Electronic zoom
- Deals well with **strong but diffuse signal with a lot of out-of-focus light** (low contrast)
- Confocal images can be deconvolved as well

## Widefield Deconvolution (processing)

- **Reassigns out-of-focus light** to its point of origin
- More sensitive (and quantitative) - Better signal to noise ratio
- Less convenient - requires time consuming (post acquisition) calculations, **best with multiple Z sections**.
- Better for **point sources** of light and **weak signals**

## point scanning confocal

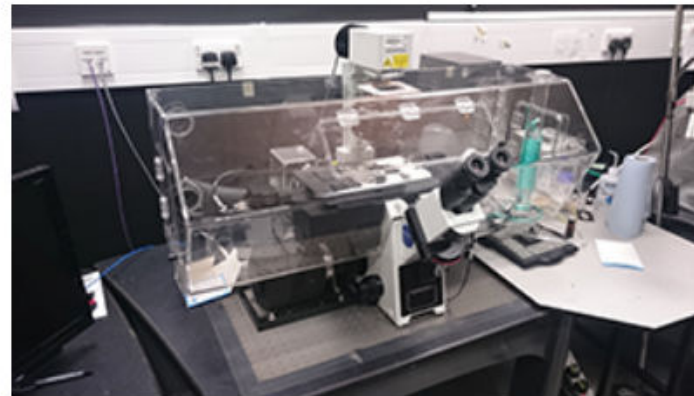
System operational



Live Cell / DNA damage Olympus

## Wide Field Decon

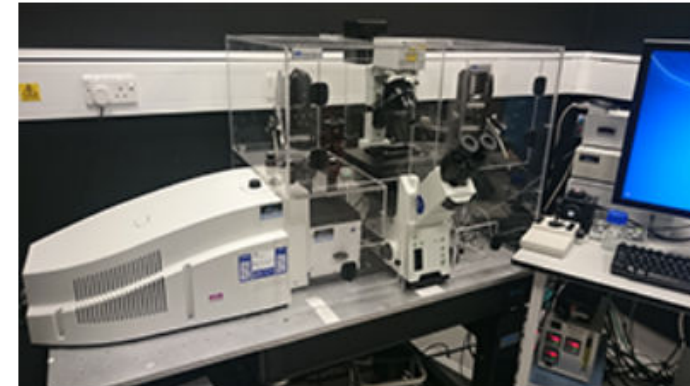
System operational



The DV core microscopes are wide-field deconvolution systems.

## Spinning Disc

System operational



Nasmyth Perkin-Elmer spinning disk confocal.

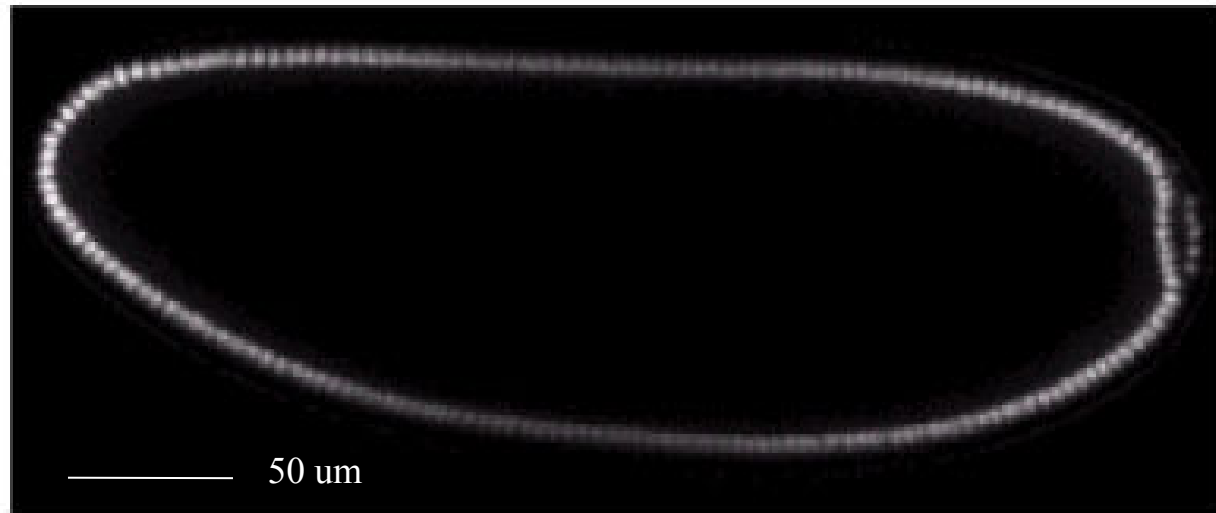
## PALM/TIRF

System operational

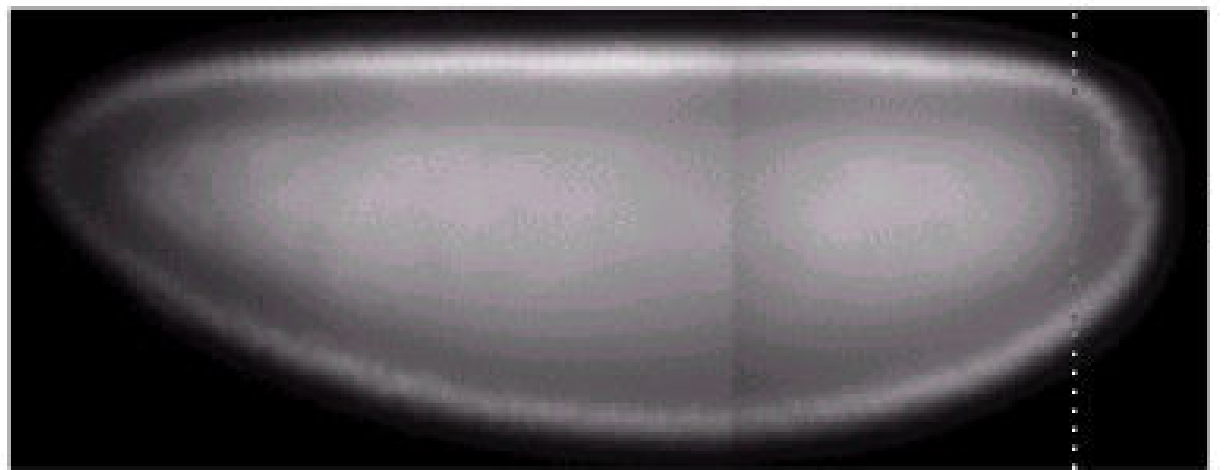


# Choice of imaging technique: Example of a thick specimen

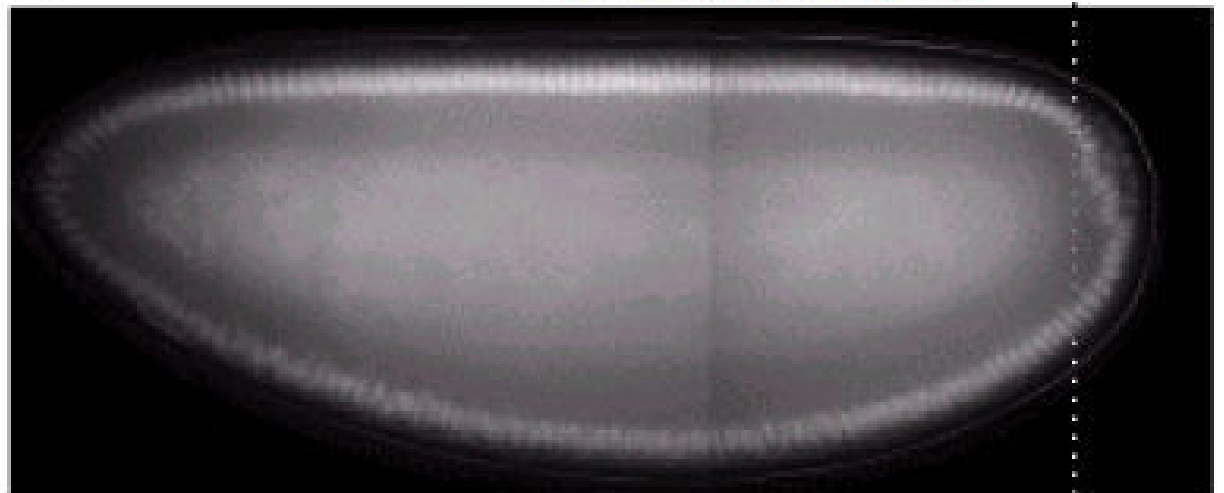
Confocal



Wide-field



WF- deconvolved



Drosophila embryo, nls GFP  
Thick, bright specimen



For really thick specimens

consider....

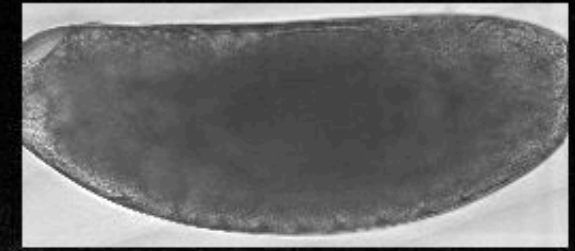
multiphoton  
DLSM/SPIM - light sheet  
Adaptive-optics



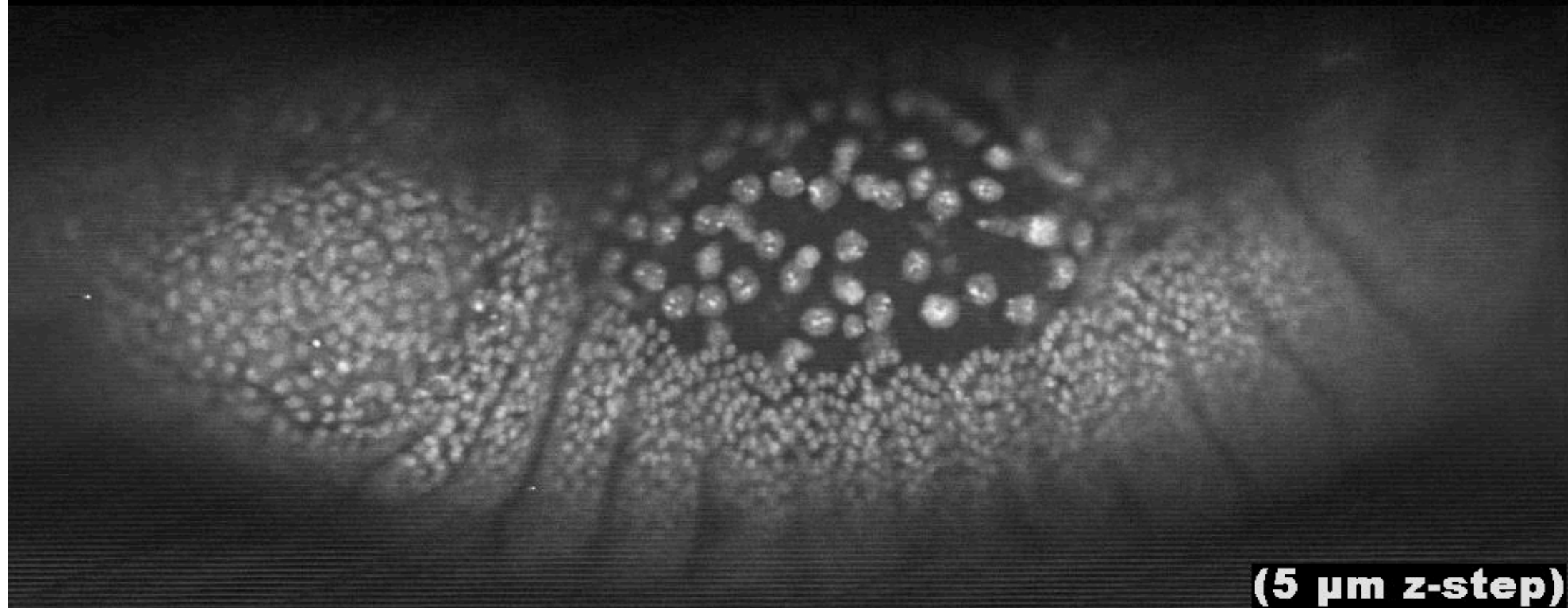
<http://animalzfun.blogspot.co.uk/2012/09/fat-cats-awesome-photographs.html>

# Multiphoton

**Confocal**

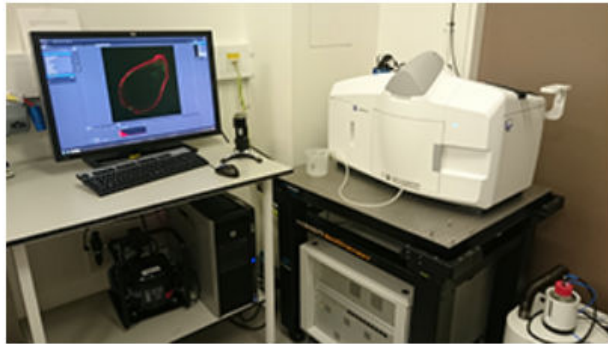


**Multiphoton**



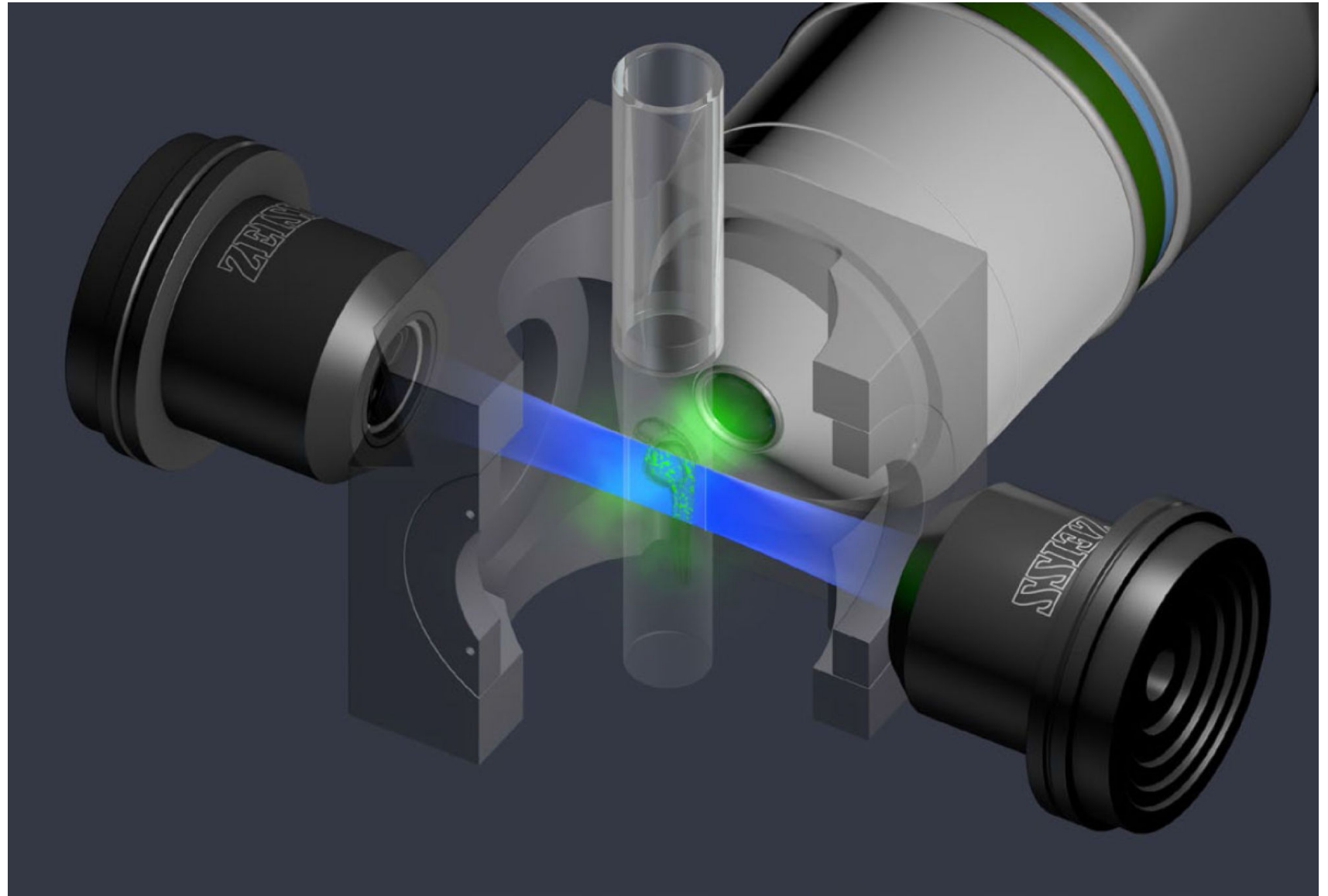
**(5  $\mu\text{m}$  z-step)**

System operational



Zeiss Z1 light-sheet microscope

# SPIM - Zeiss Z1 Selective Plane Imaging

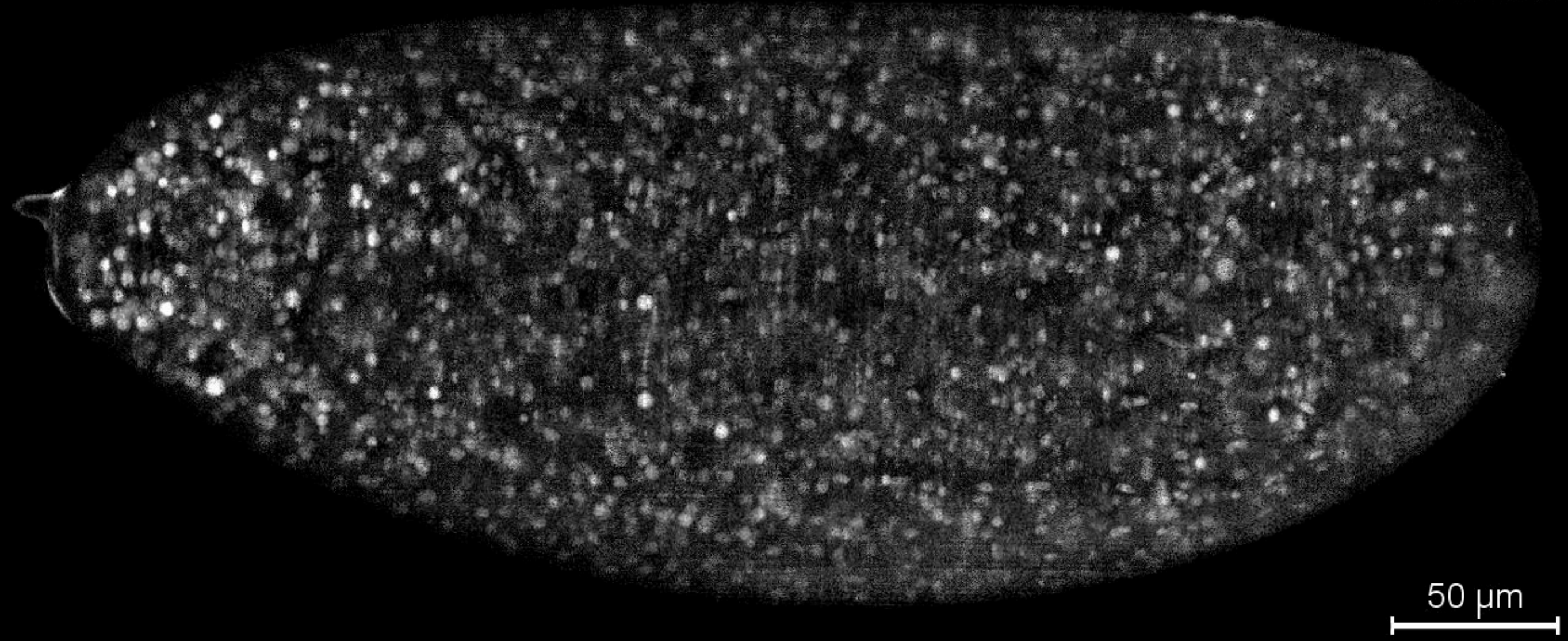


[http://downloads.micron.ox.ac.uk/lectures/micron\\_course\\_2014/Lecture\\_13\\_light\\_sheet\\_microscopy.pdf](http://downloads.micron.ox.ac.uk/lectures/micron_course_2014/Lecture_13_light_sheet_microscopy.pdf)



# Selective Plane Imaging, Light sheet microscope

01:20:00



Raju Tomer, Khaled Khairy, Fernando Amat & Philipp J Keller

simultaneous multiview light-sheet microscopy

<https://images.nature.com/original/nature-assets/nmeth/journal/v9/n7/extref/nmeth.2062-sv1.mov> doi:10.1038/nmeth.2062

If the choice is not obvious...



it's worth trying different ones....



For live cell imaging catch every photon:



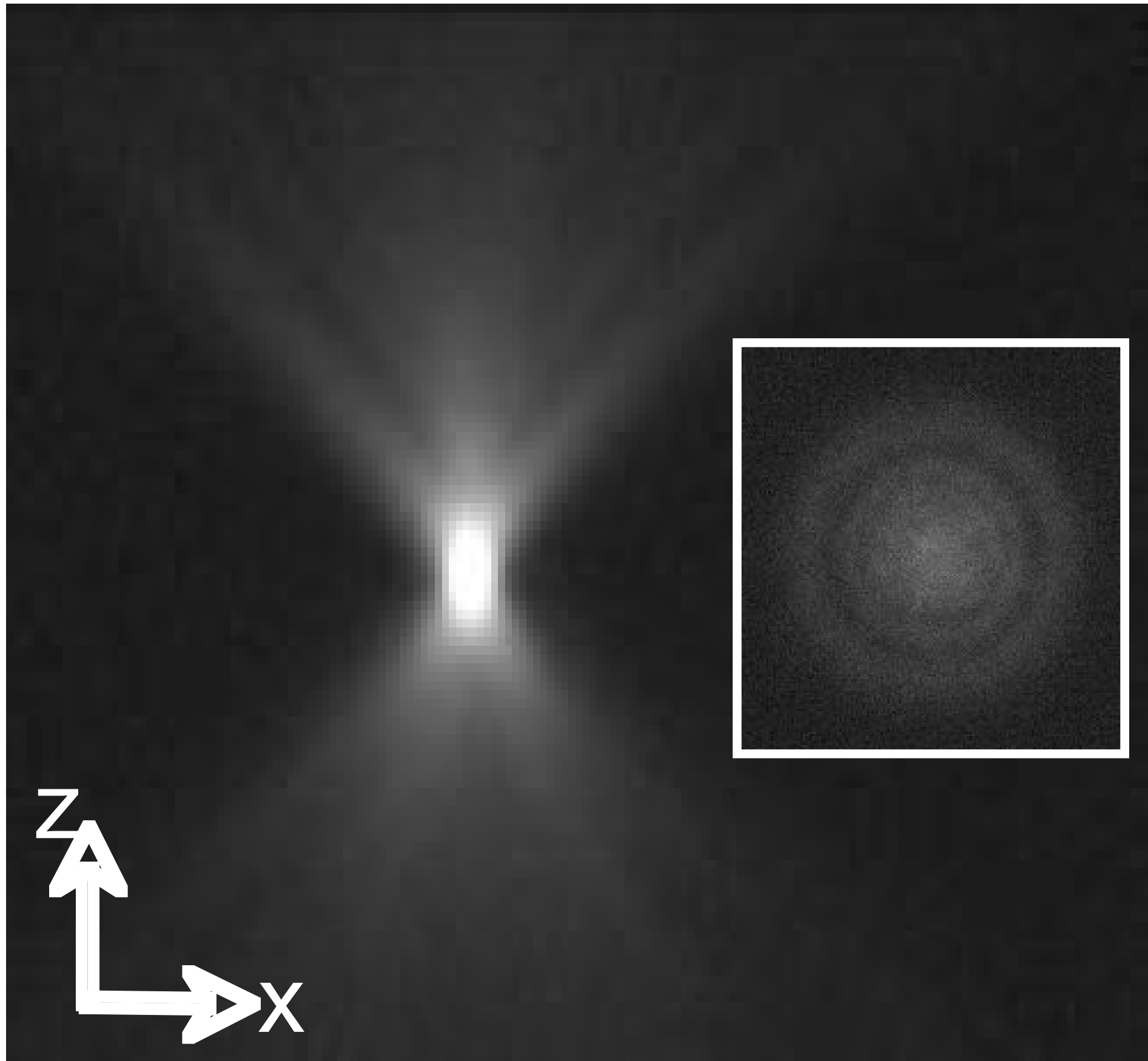


# Be economical with your light budget - Hardware

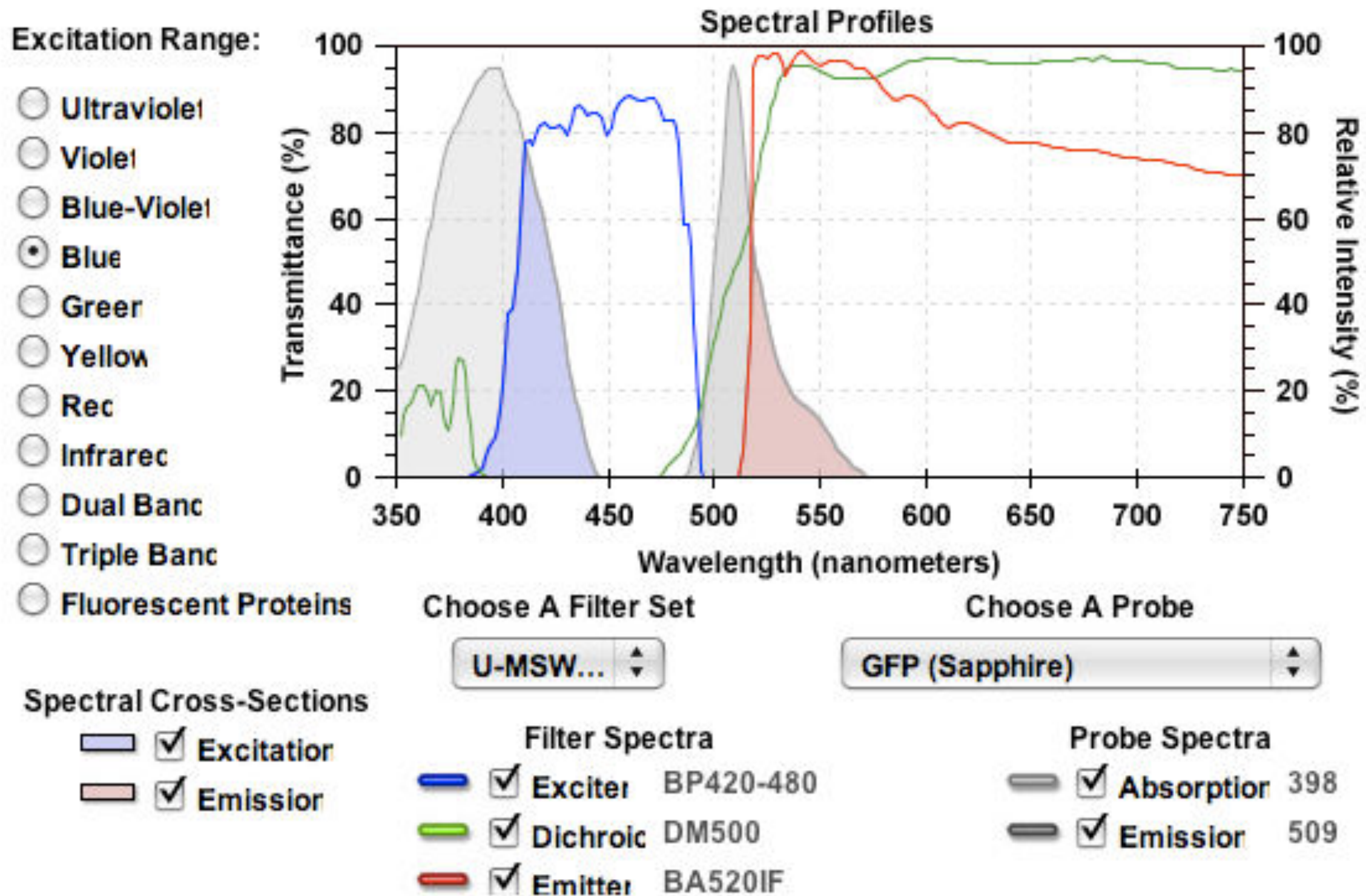
- Optimised filter sets for your probes
  - hard coated “ET” filter sets
  - filter free “spectral” options
- Choose the best lens for the job
  - Oil immersion
  - water immersion
  - RI matching immersion
- Optimised synchronisation of illumination, exposure and readout
  - “real time” system controllers
  - fast shuttering
  - diode light sources
- Sensitive detectors
  - Deep Cooled CCD's
  - EMCCD's
  - back-thinned sCMOS
- Set up your equipment properly
  - alignment
  - aberration correction

**\*LECTURE M3\***

Setup your imaging equipment properly:



# Matching Fluorescent Probes to Filter-Sets





# Lens choice: [http://www.olympusamerica.com/seg\\_section/uis2/seg\\_uis2.asp](http://www.olympusamerica.com/seg_section/uis2/seg_uis2.asp)

- **Low mag, Low NA air objectives** (x4 - x40 dry, to 0.95 NA):
  - Can image deep, long working distance (mm)
  - Wide field of view
  - Low resolution
  - Low mag leads to undersampling
- **Dipping, Water, multi-immersion objectives** (x20 - x100 to 1.0 NA):
  - Can image relatively deep, working distance (200  $\mu$ m - mm)
  - Reduced field of view
  - Increased resolution
  - High mag options for better sampling



# Lenses: [http://www.olympusamerica.com/seg\\_section/uis2/seg\\_uis2.asp](http://www.olympusamerica.com/seg_section/uis2/seg_uis2.asp)

- High mag, High NA oil objectives (x40 - x150 oil, 1.35 to 1.45 NA):

Problems imaging deep, short working distance (170  $\mu\text{m}$ )

Prone to spherical aberration

High resolution

Good light efficiency (High NA)

High mag allows appropriate sampling

Often highly corrected, flat field (plan), colour corrected

( apo chromatic)



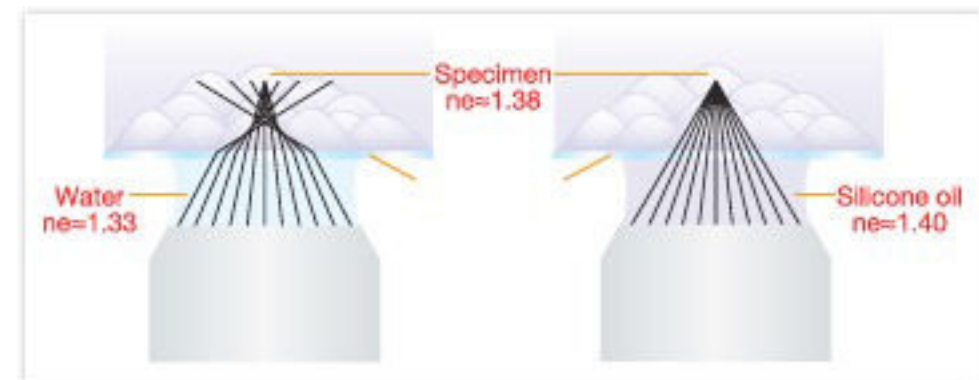
# Lenses:

- Specialist Objectives - Water/glycerol immersion objectives



## - silicone immersion objectives

[http://www.olympusamerica.com/seg\\_section/seg\\_silicone\\_oil\\_objectives.asp](http://www.olympusamerica.com/seg_section/seg_silicone_oil_objectives.asp)



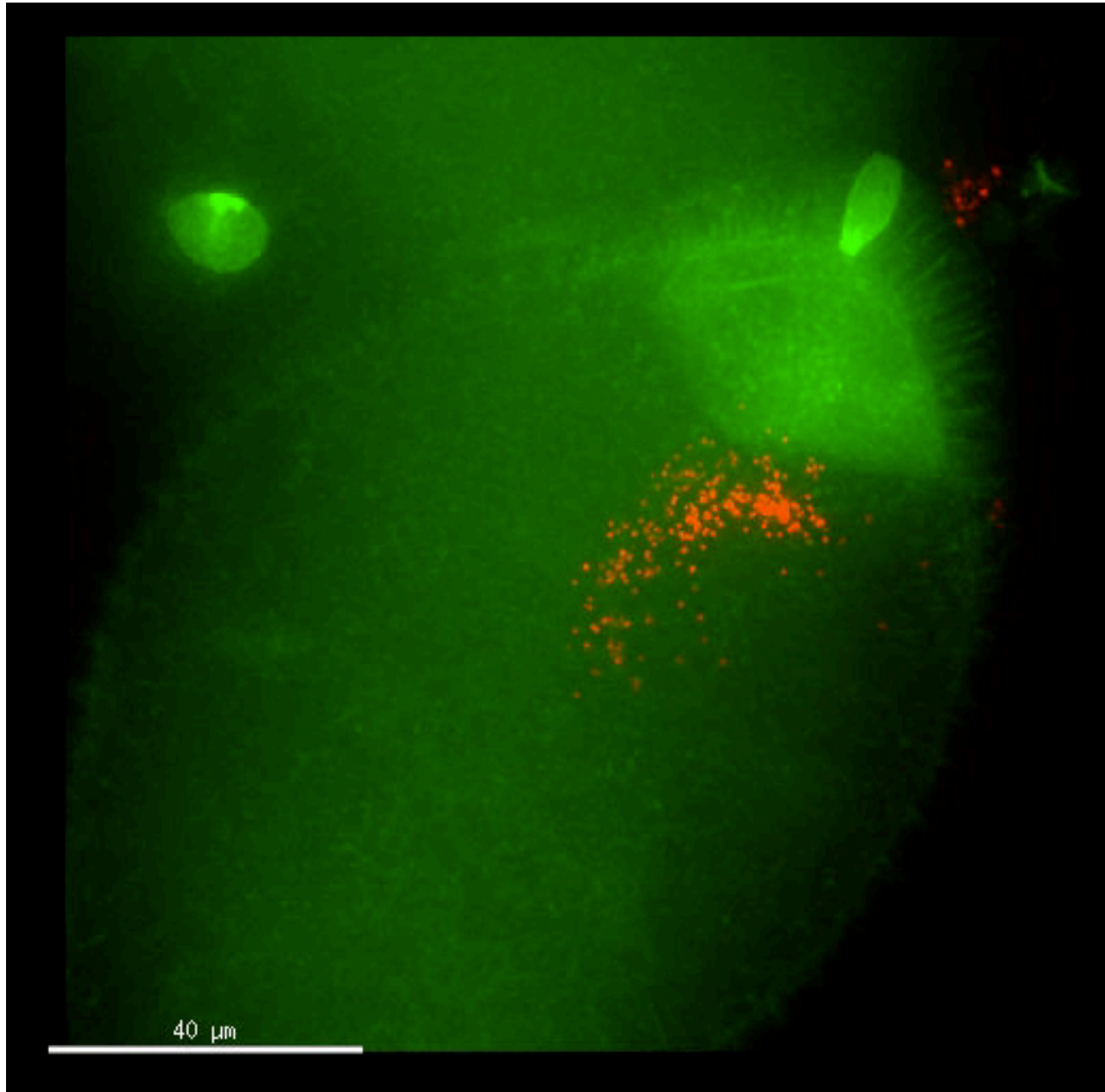
deeper imaging into live samples

**Very Expensive!!**



# Correcting Spherical Aberration:

- Evaluate of spherical aberration with depth
- Explore corrective collar settings
- Automate correction

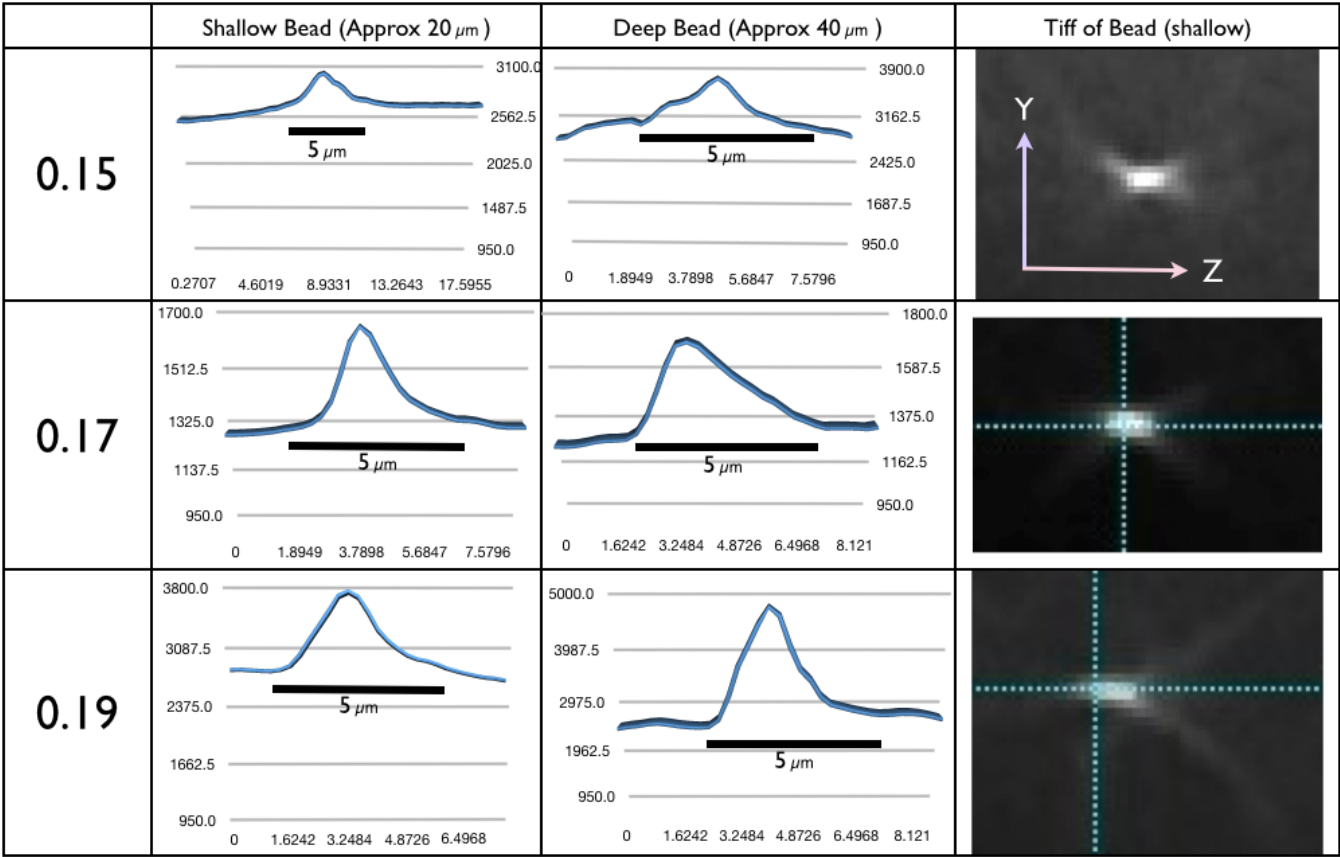


ActinGFP expressing *Drosophila* egg chamber injected with 100 nm red beads



## Data Taken with Manual Lever

Line profiles (Y axis - pixel intensity, X axis - zstack value in microns)

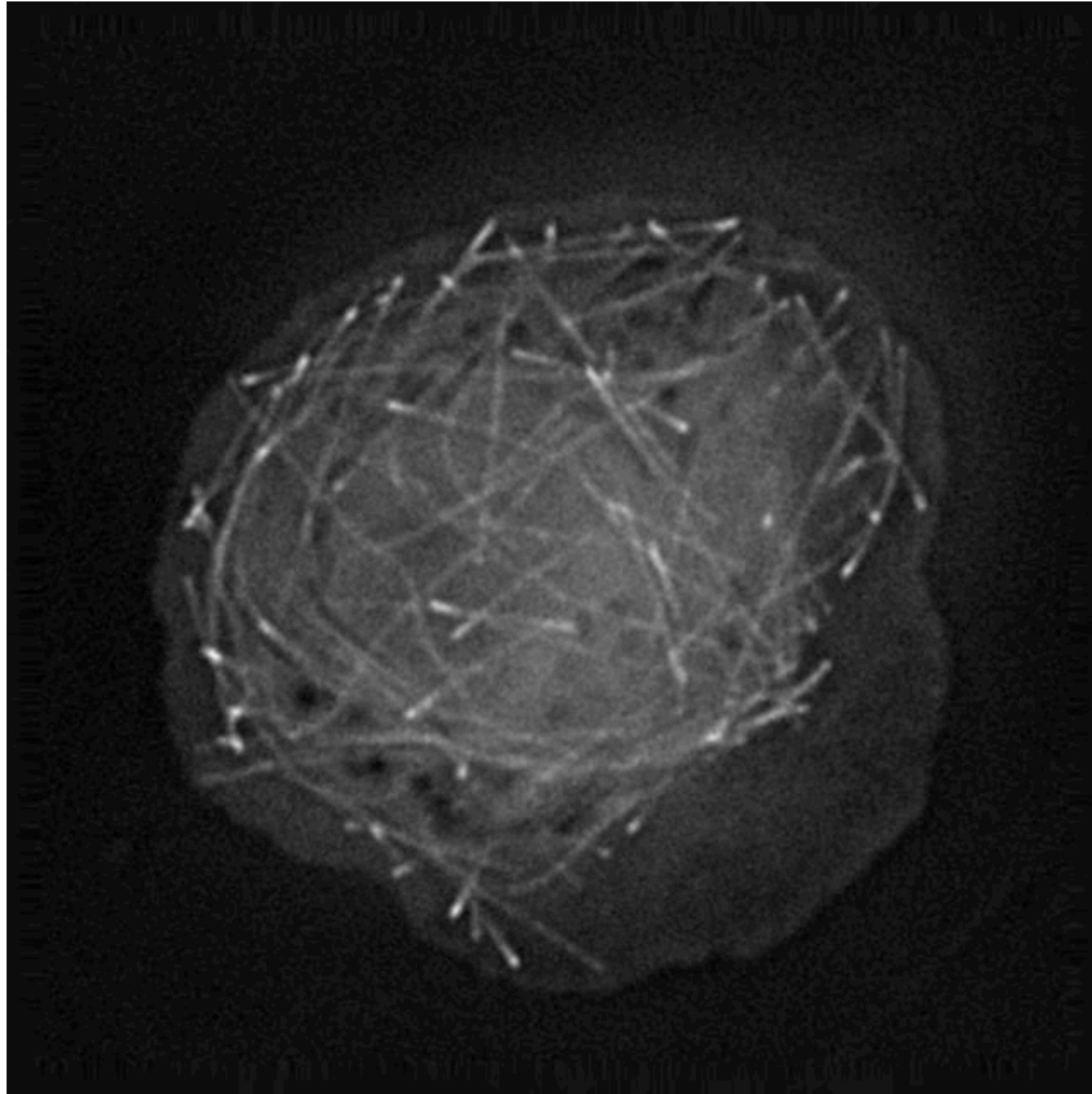


Jonathan Sturt, RMP: x60 SI lens - manual collar correction

# Be economical with your light budget - best practice

- Close down the field iris to cover just the region of interest
- Use bright-field to minimise light exposure
- Choose good labels
- Careful specimen preparation
- Make use of denoising algorithms

# Choose your dyes / labels carefully! **\*\*Lectures 4 / 5\*\***



Macrophage: GFP microtubules



# Specimen Preparation:

- Oil objectives image best close to the coverslip

Mount the specimen appropriately

Use alternative immersion lenses

- Vibration / movement can degrade imaging

Adhere cells to substrates

Tricks to keep specimens still

- Ensure the viability of your sample

Media / drying out

Temperature / CO<sub>2</sub>

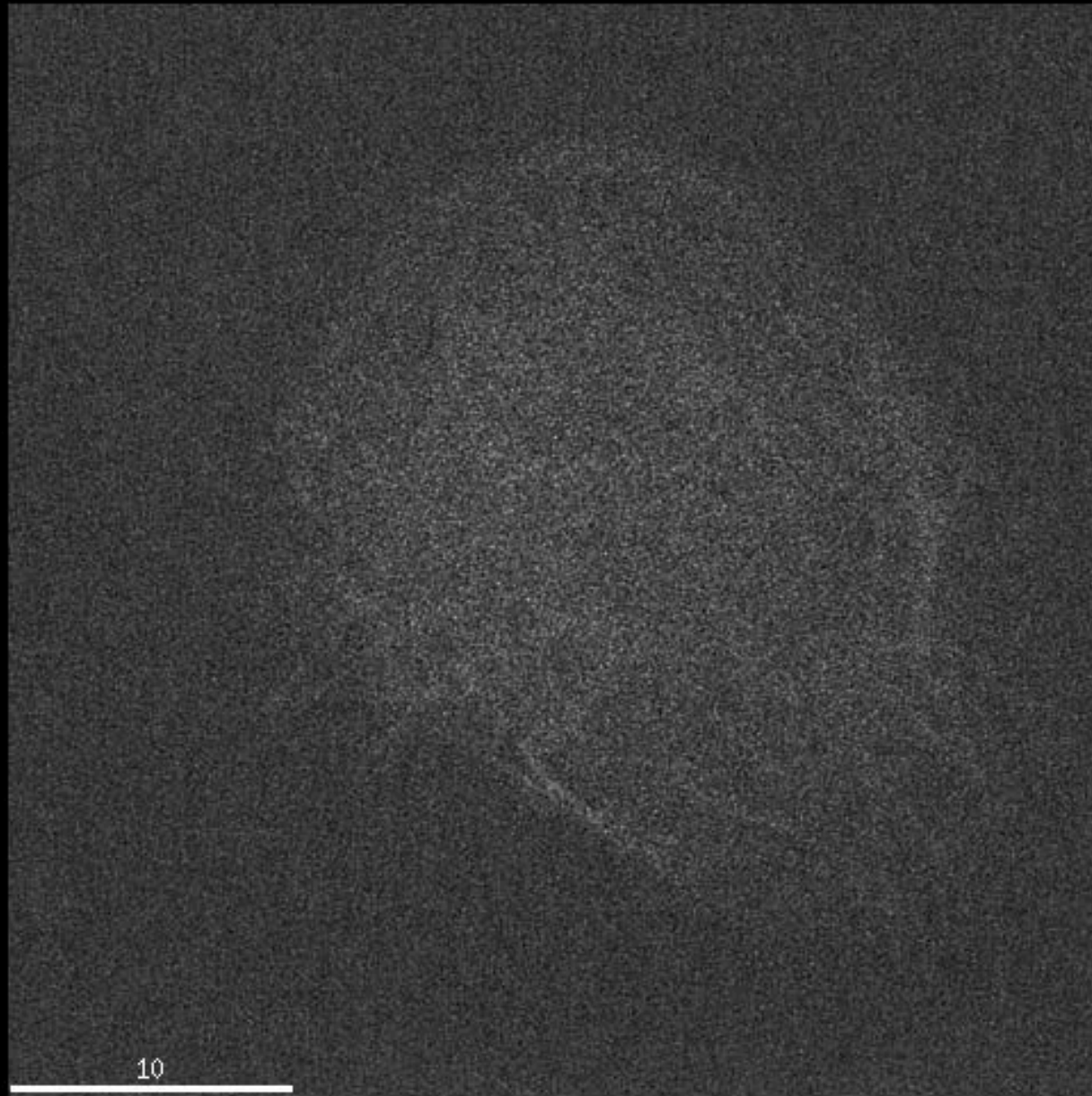
# Using Image Processing:



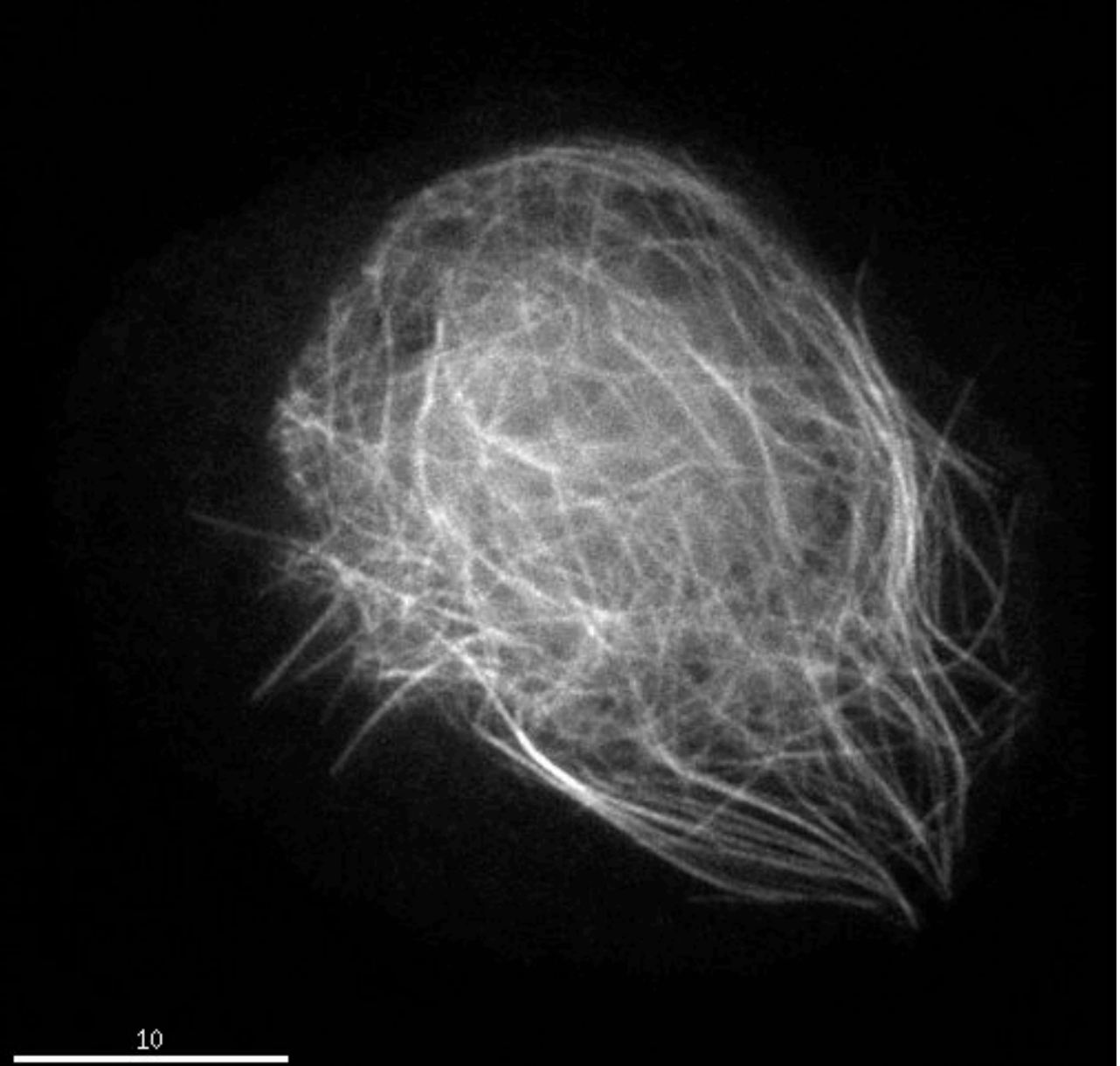
"I want you to make me the fairest  
of them all."

# Denoising - imaging with 10-100 x less light

8 ms exposure, 0.1% 488 Laser power



8 ms exposure, 10% 488 Laser power



Live Macrophage: Jupiter-GFP labeling microtubules; 7Z, 3 stacks per second

Jerome Boulanger: SAFIR Denoising software

Integrated into Priism by the John Sedat Group UCSF

J. Boulanger, C. Kervrann, and P. Bouthemy, "Space-time adaptation for patch-based image sequence restoration," *IEEE Trans. on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence*, vol. 29, no. 6, pp. 1096ñ1102, June 2007

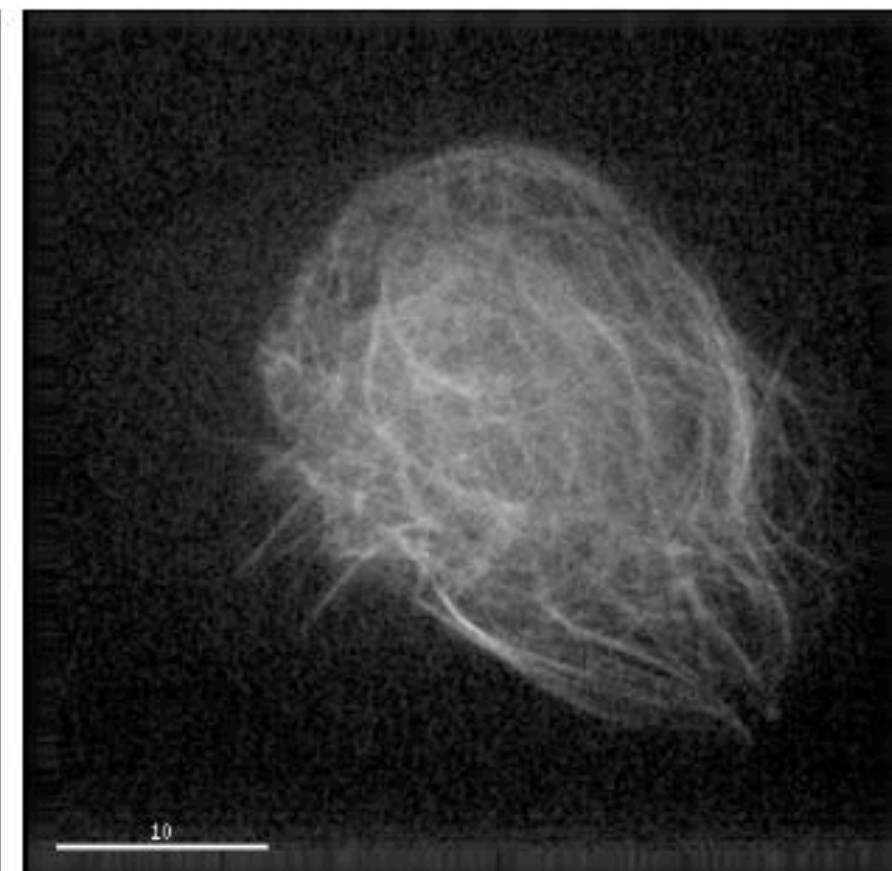
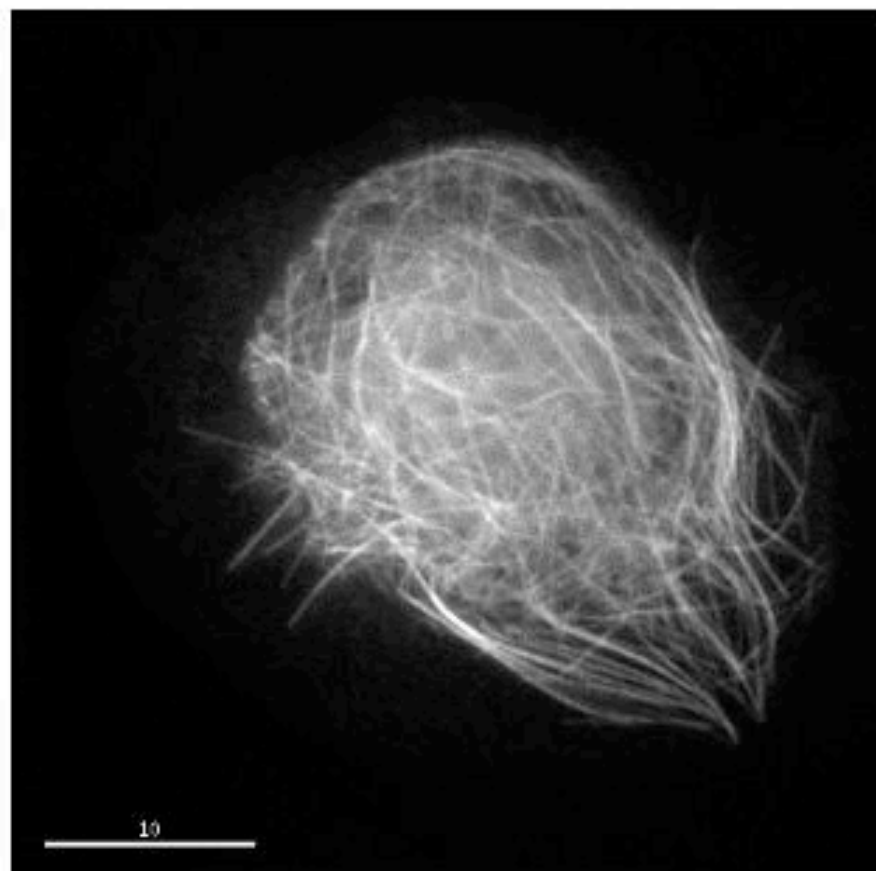
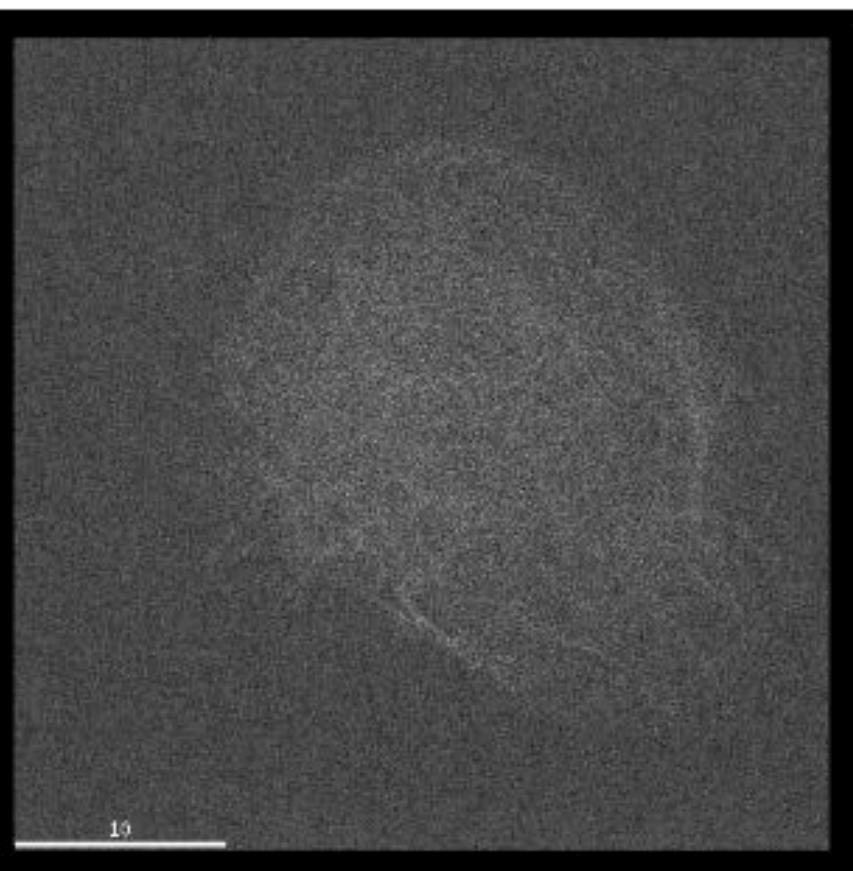


# Denoising - imaging with 10-100 x less light!

8 ms ex, 0.1% 488 laser

8 ms ex, 10% 488 laser

8 ms ex, 0.1% 488 laser - Denoised



Live Macrophage: Jupiter-GFP labeling microtubules; 7Z, 3 stacks per second

Jerome Boulanger: SAFIR Denoising software

Integrated into Priism by the John Sedat Group UCSF

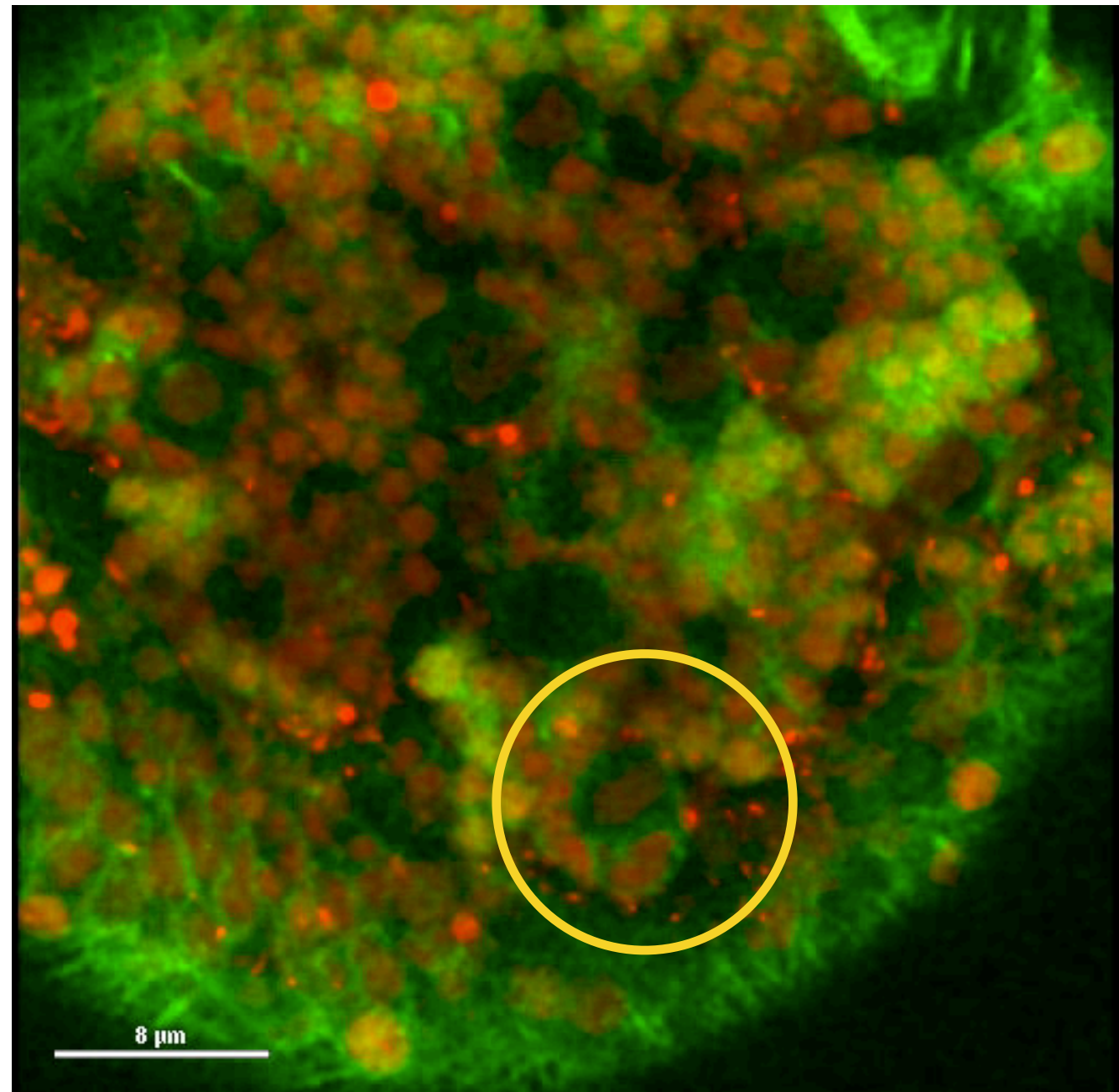
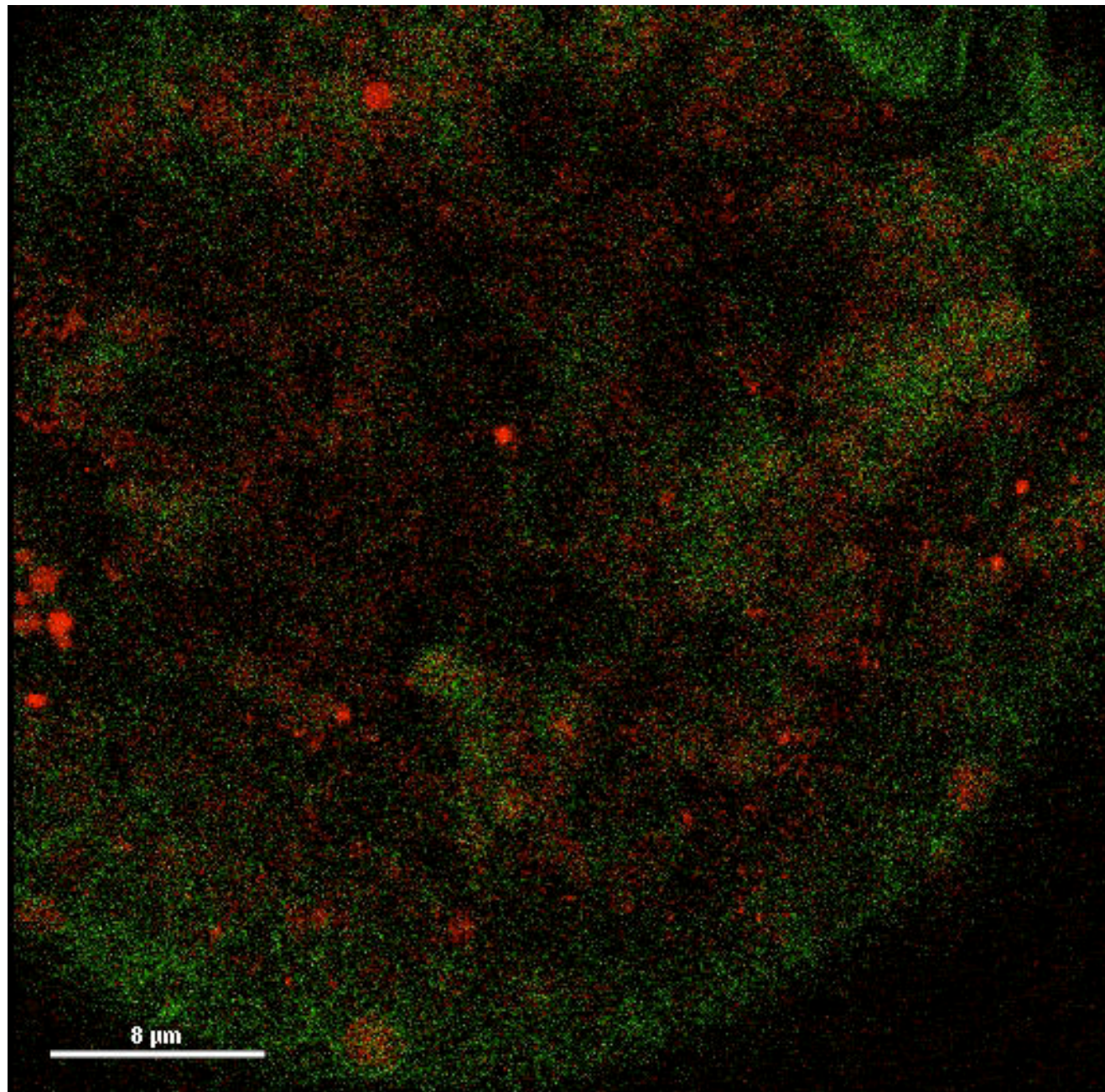
J. Boulanger, C. Kervrann, and P. Bouthemy, "Space-time adaptation for patch-based image sequence restoration," *IEEE Trans. on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence*, vol. 29, no. 6, pp. 1096–1102, June 2007



# Denoising - imaging with 10-100 x less light!

**Raw: low laser, no averaging, 60Z, 12 hr (43,200 images)**

**Patch-Based Denoising**



Live ex vivo *Drosophila* larval brain: Jupiter-GFP labeling microtubules; HisRFP nuclei (M Hailstone, RM Parton)





# SUMMARY:

Optimise your experimental design



Select the right approach



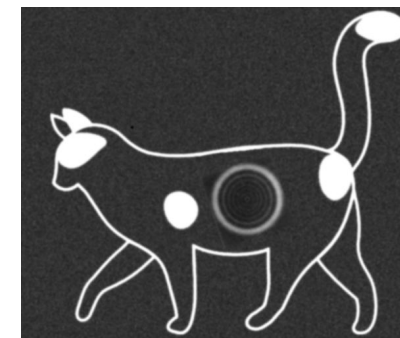
Catch every photon



Set up your equipment properly



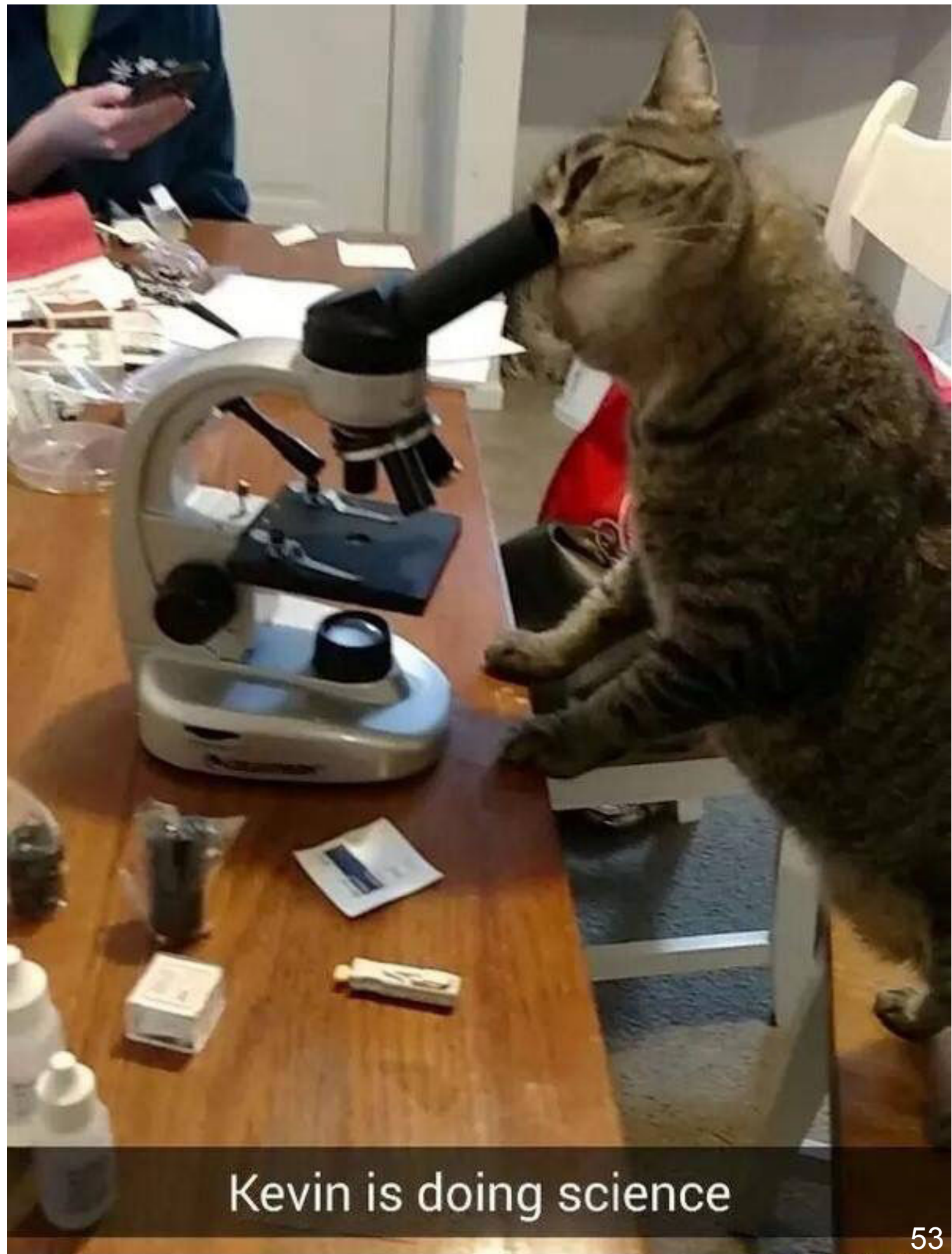
Correct Aberrations





END

(Dog-lover friendly format  
available upon request)



Kevin is doing science