

**MIMETAS**  
the organ-on-a-chip company



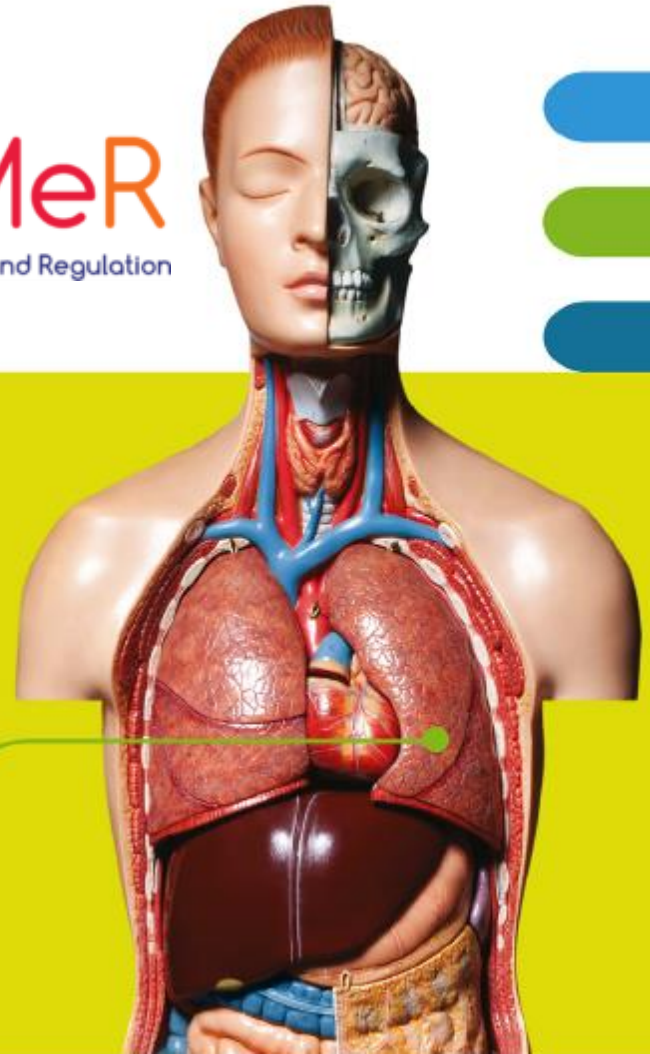
**PoLiMeR**  
Polymers in the Liver - Metabolism and Regulation

# Human Tissue Models for Better Therapies

Dorota Kurek

PoLiMeR lecture

09-09-2012





# Lecture overview

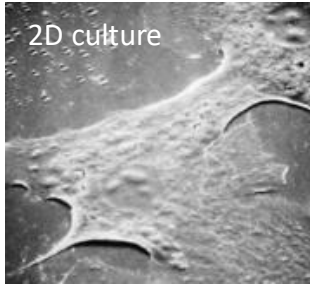
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- In vitro tissue culture
- Limitations of current in vitro models
- Introduction to the 3D organ-on-a-chip
- Building 3D tissues:
  - Modeling gut in vitro
  - Adding complexity

# A leap forward in physiological relevance

## The challenge of reductionism:

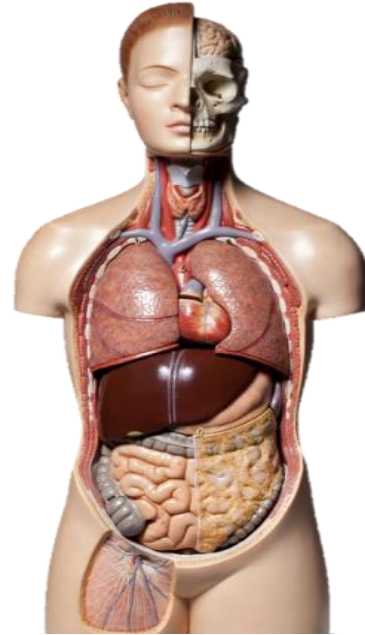
*“Make things as simple as possible, but not simpler”, Albert Einstein*



Animal testing

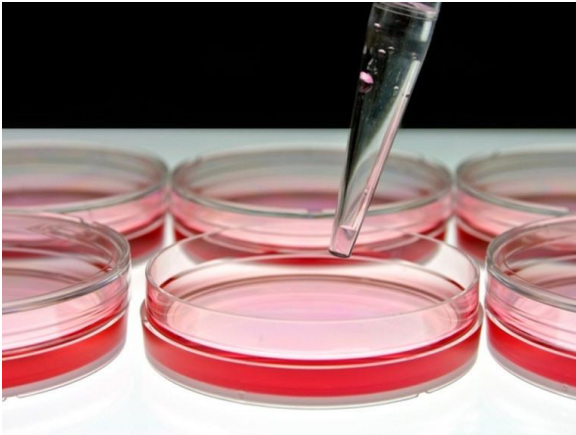


Human  
Organotypic  
Models





# Cell culture last decades

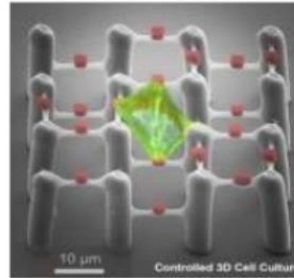




# 3D culture techniques

## a) Scaffold Based

- Polymeric Hard Scaffolds
- Biologic Scaffolds
- Micropatterned Surface Microplates



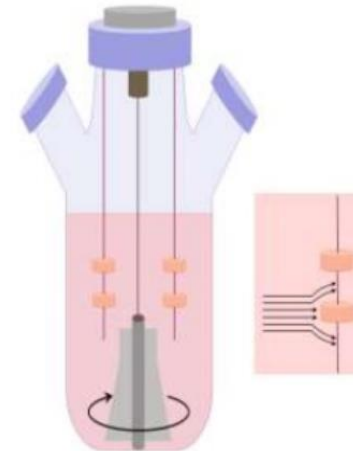
Scaffold Based

## b) Non Scaffold Based

- Hanging Drop Microplates
- Spheroid Microplates containing Ultra-Low Attachment (ULA) coating
- Microfluidic 3D cell culture



Non Scaffold Based

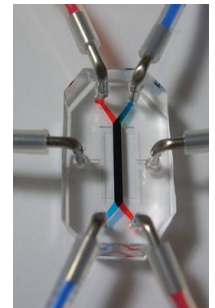
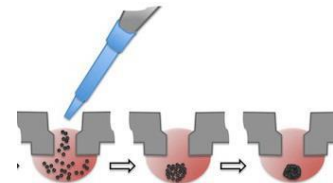


3D Cell culture Bioreactor

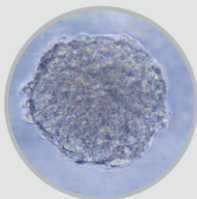
## c) Bioreactors



3D Cell Culture Gels



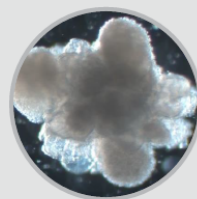
# 3D Microtissues – Terminology and Definitions



Spheroid: HepG2

## Spheroid

A spheroid is a 3D cellular aggregate composed of one or more cell types that grow and proliferate, and may exhibit enhanced physiological responses but do not undergo differentiation or self-organization. They are typically derived from primary tissues or immortalized cell lines.



PSC-derived organoid

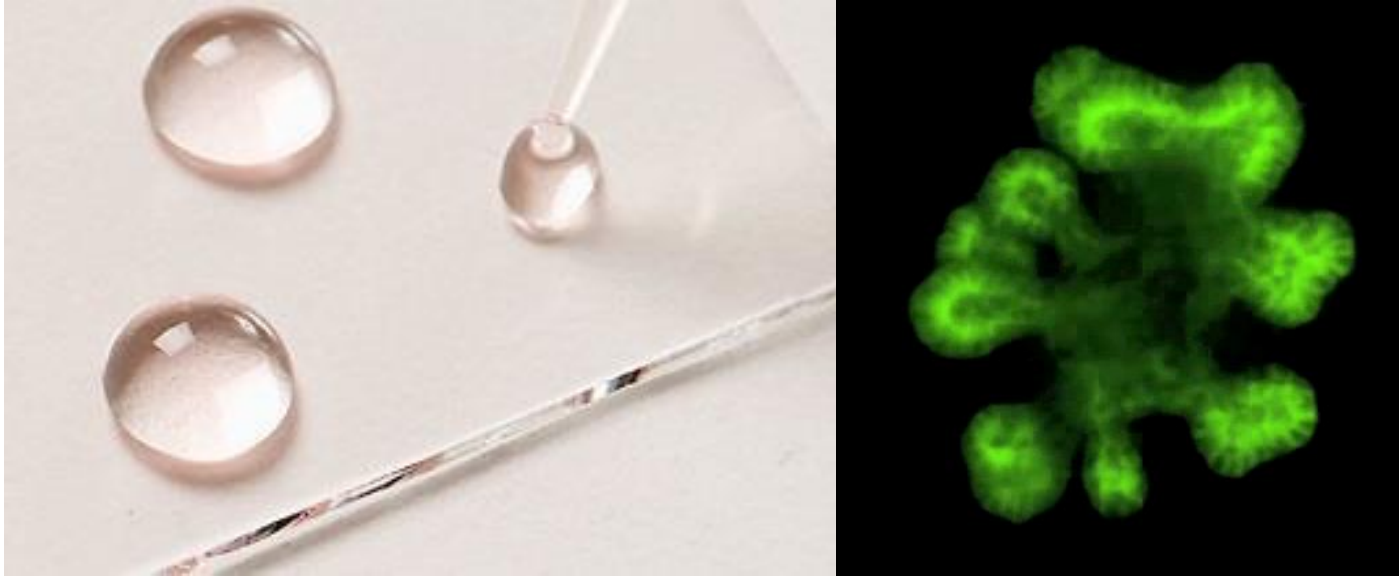
## Organoid

“An ‘organoid’ is a 3D structure derived from either pluripotent stem cells (PSCs), neonatal tissue stem cells, or adult stem and progenitor cells, in which cells spontaneously self-organize into properly differentiated functional cell types and progenitors, and which resemble their *in vivo* counterpart and recapitulate at least some function of the organ.”

Huch M, Koo BY (2015) Modeling mouse and human development using organoid cultures. *Development*.



# 3D cell culture



Why do we need better 3D models?

# Maximizing the Drug Discovery Pipeline With 3D Models

Emphasis on throughput

Emphasis on validation

Timeline of drug discovery

Target selection

Lead generation

Lead optimization

Preclinical

Clinical

Routine *in vitro* screens

Routine *in vivo* studies

Regulatory studies



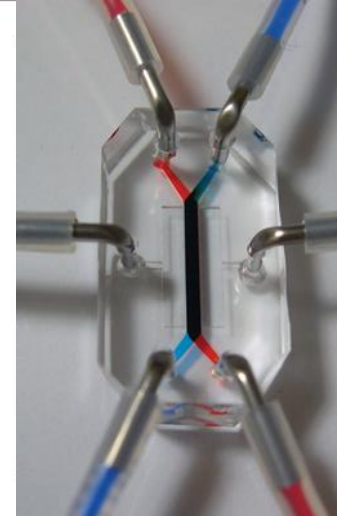
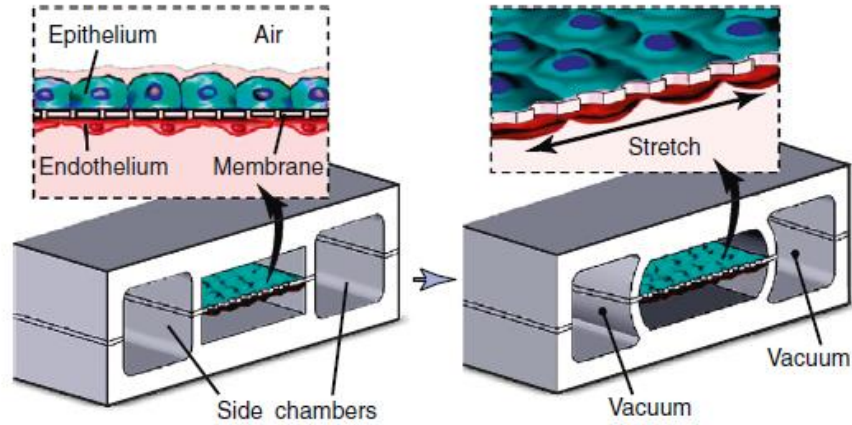
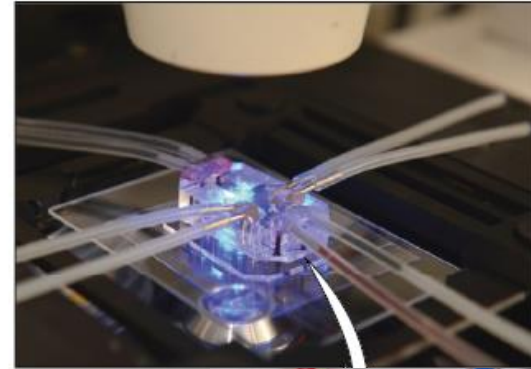
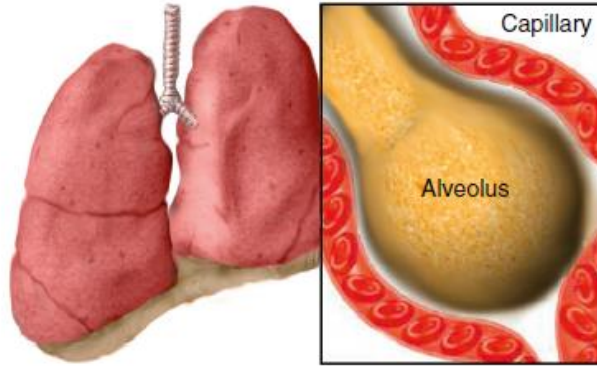
- Bring biological relevance upstream in the process
- Improve *in vitro* predictivity/problem-solving capability

- Use 3D cultures to confirm 2D culture results
- Recapitulate human physiology more closely
- Reduce number of *in vivo* investigative studies



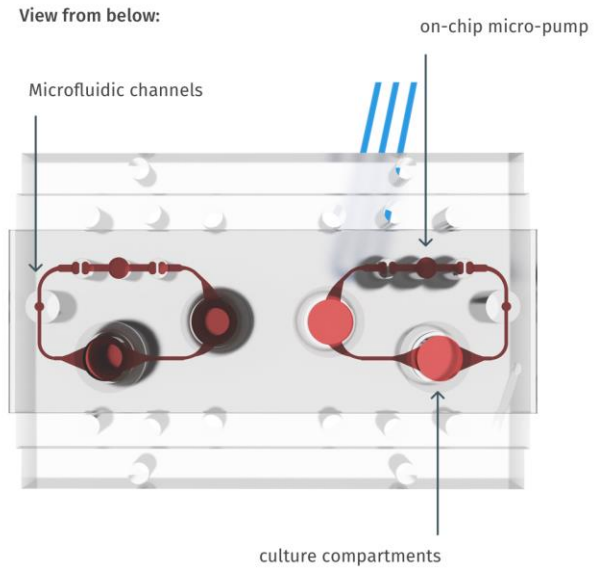
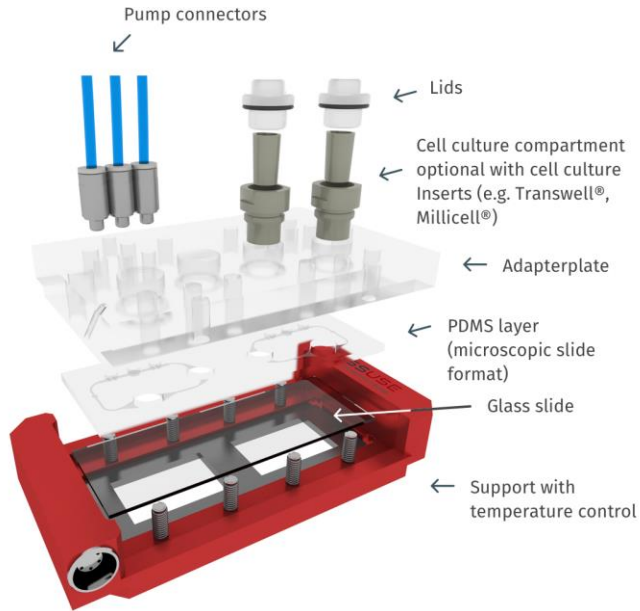


# Organ-on-a-Chip



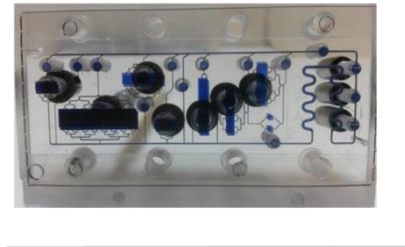
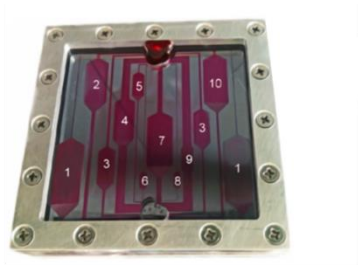
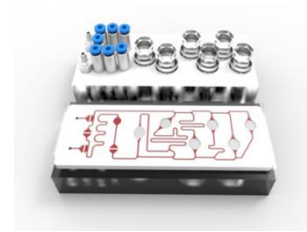
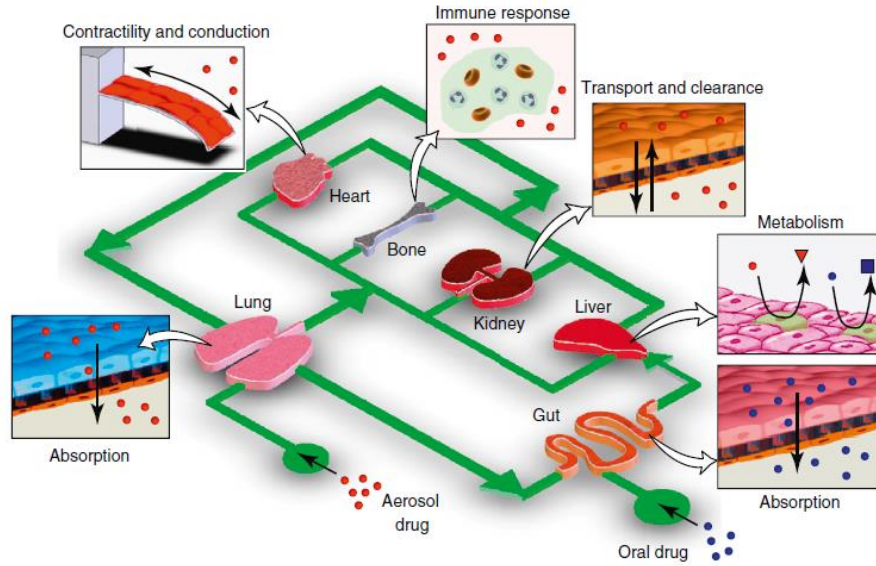


# Multi-organ Chip





# Towards a Human-on-a-Chip?

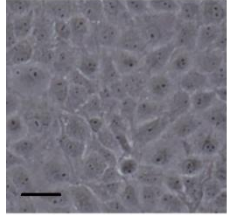




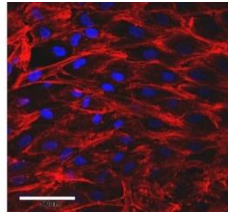
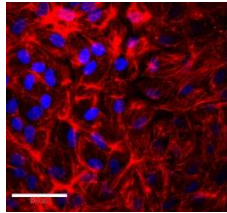
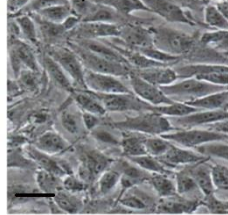
# What are the limitations of the current models?

## Flow

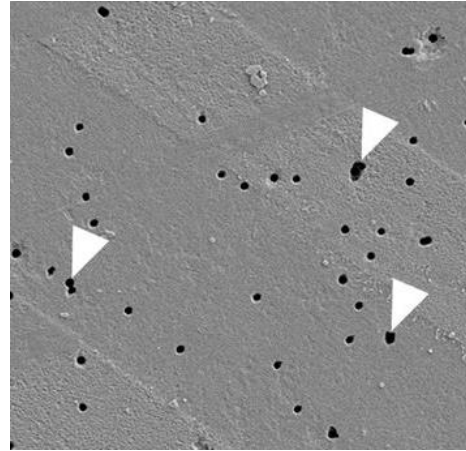
Static



24h perfusion



## Membranes



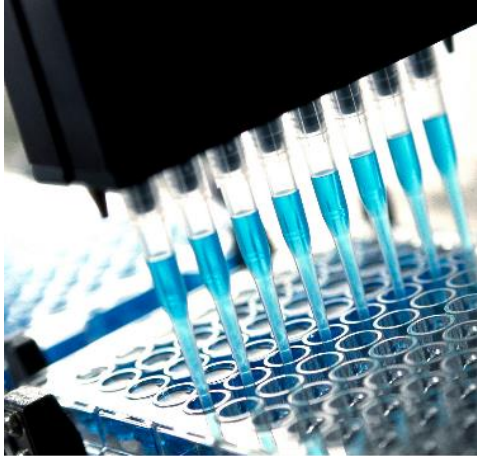
## Imaging





# What are the limitations of the current models?

## Throughput



## Reagent consumption



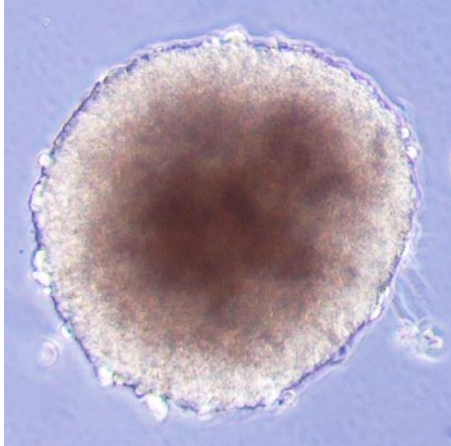
## Compatibility



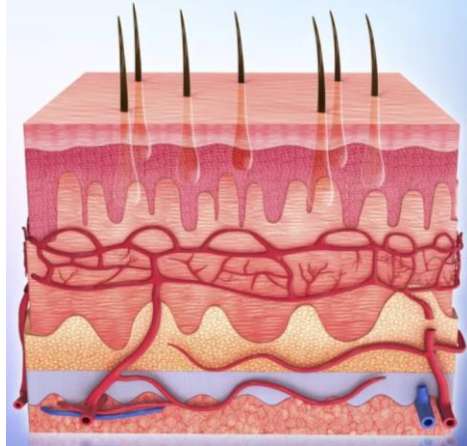


# What are the limitations of the current models?

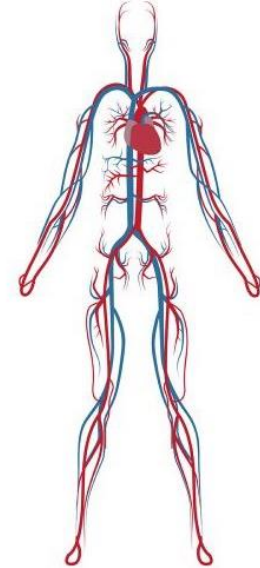
## Diffusion limits



## Tissue complexity



## Lack of vessels





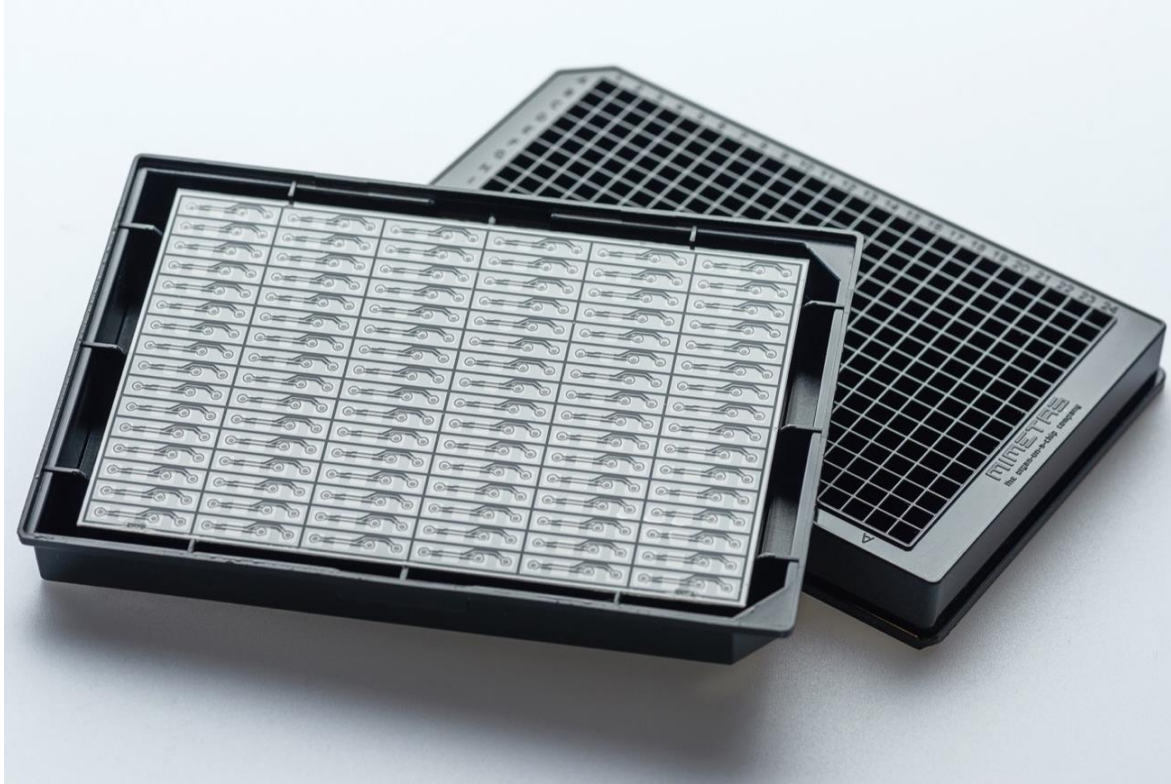
# Model development: relevant parameters

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- Culture vessel type
- Readout assays
- Tissue selection
- Tissue complexity
- Cell source
- Extracellular matrix
- Seeding density
- Medium composition
- Seeding orientation
- Flow settings



# Microfluidics in OrganoPlate®



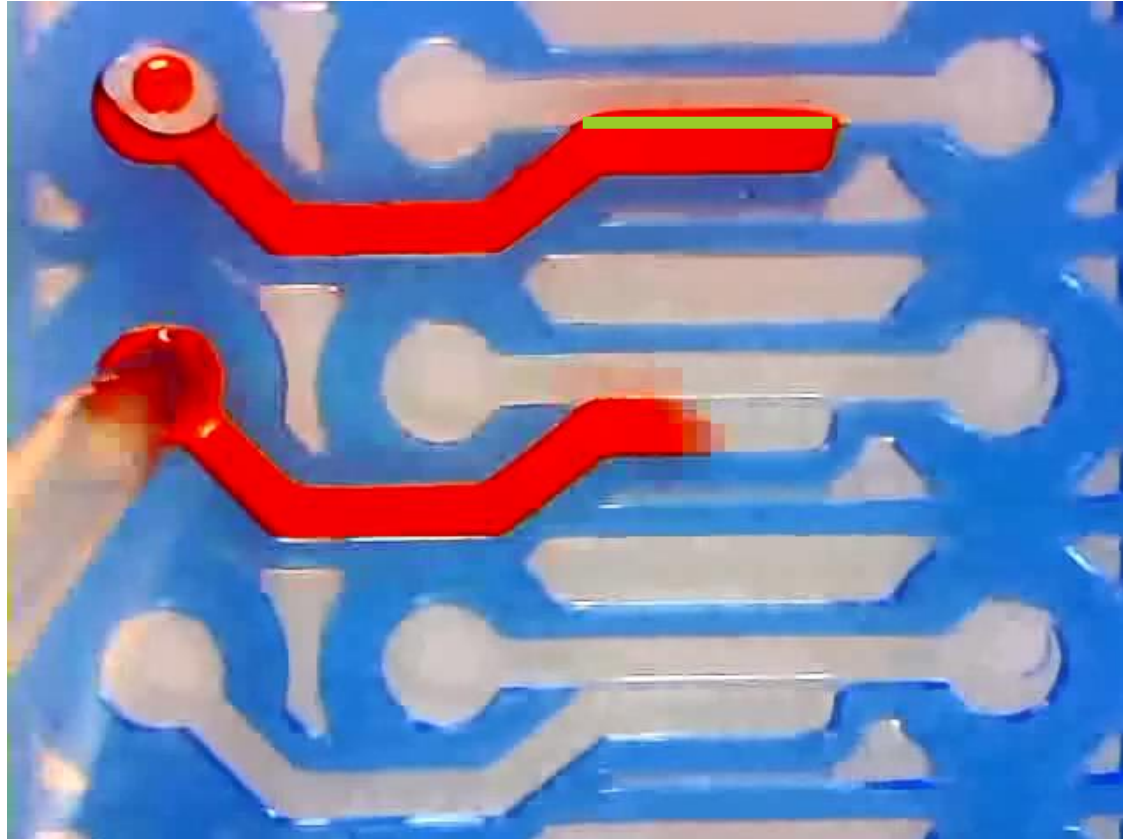
- 3-Dimensional culture
- Flow
- Multiple cell types
- Fully compatible





# PhaseGuide™ Technology

PhaseGuide™

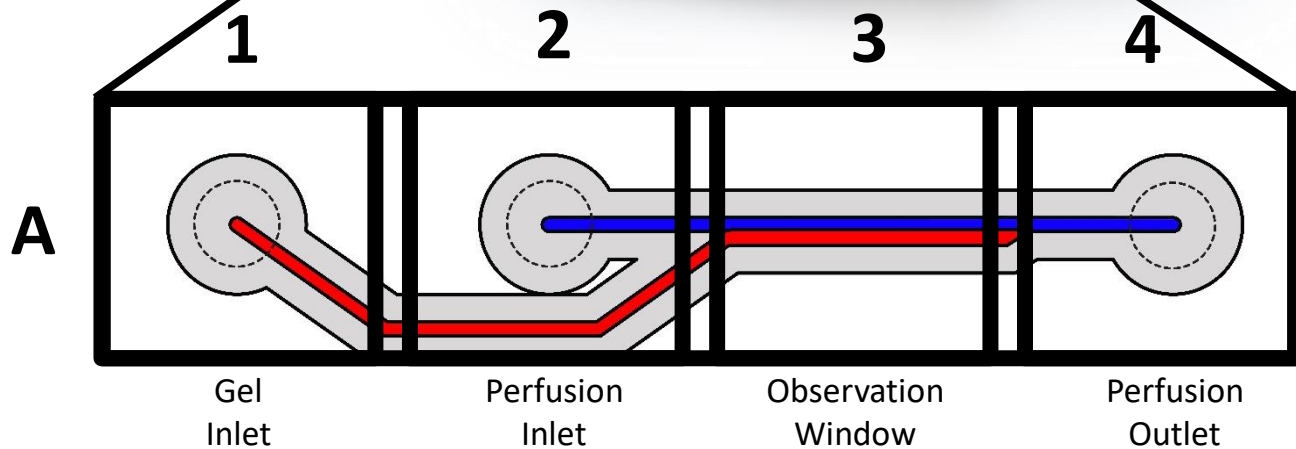


# The 2-lane OrganoPlate®

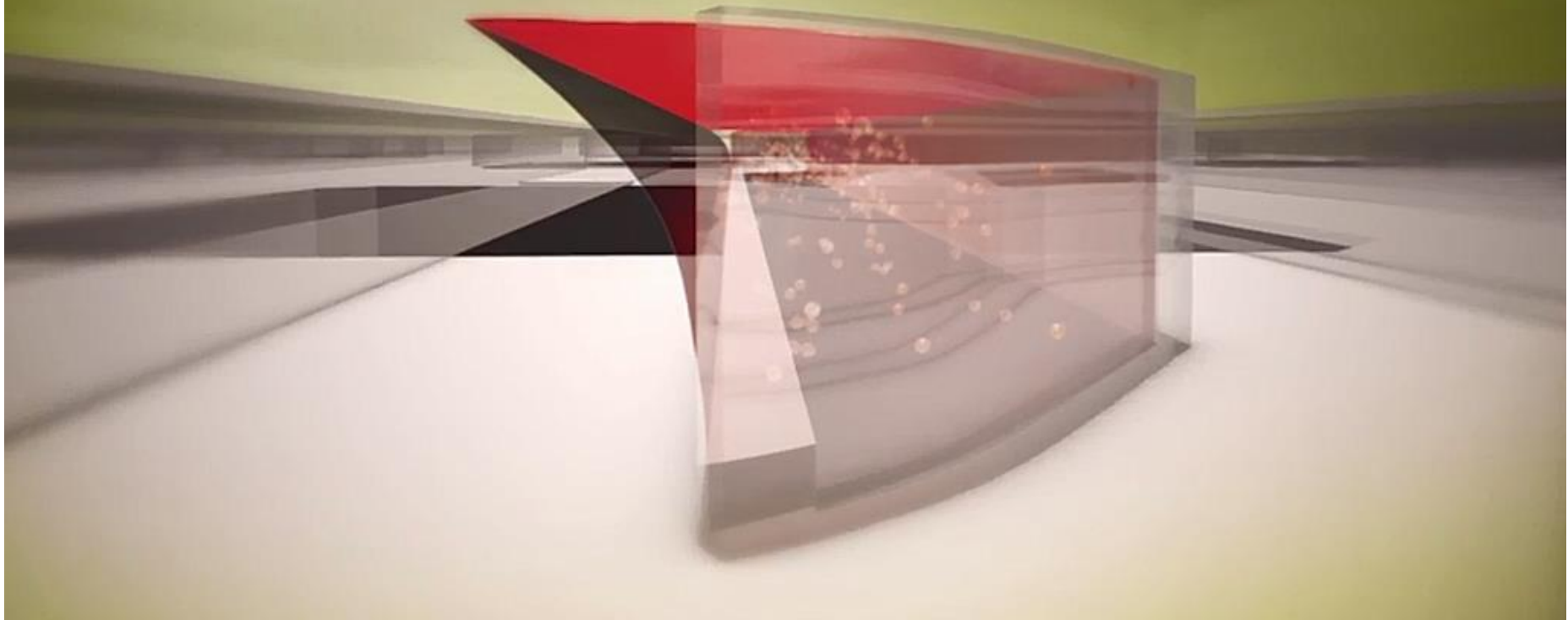
- 96x chips per OrganoPlate®



- Single chip



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhFETKQqJY0>

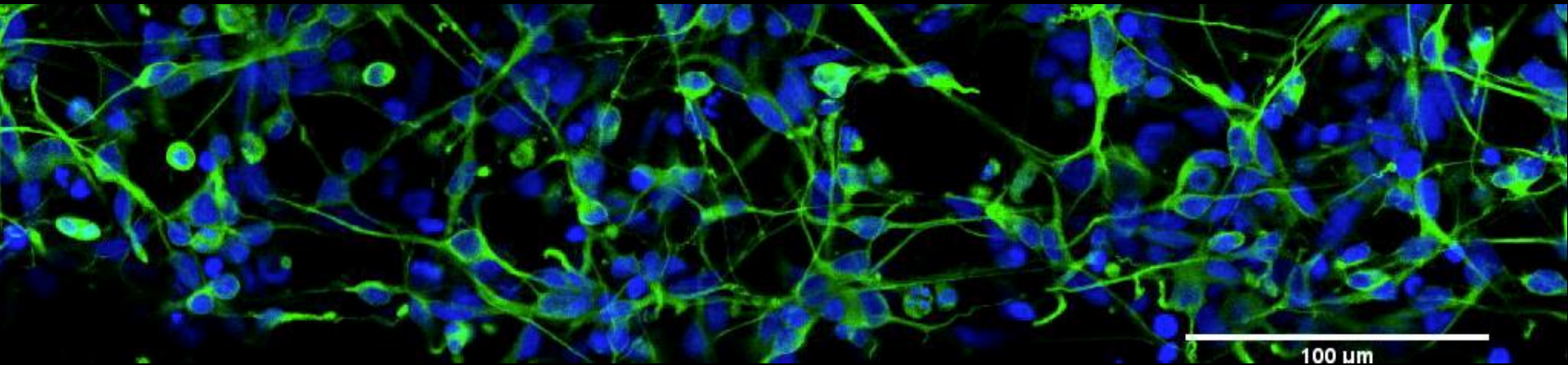




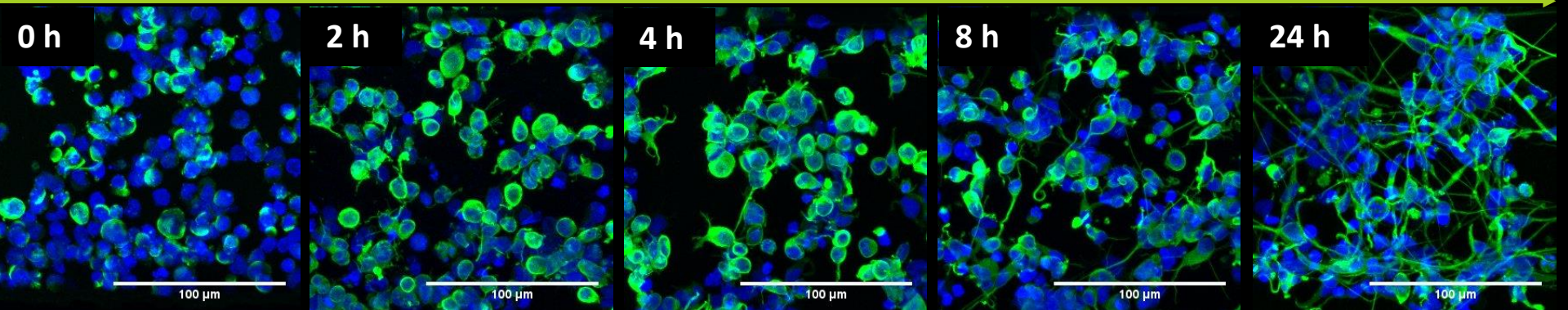
# iPS-derived 3D neuronal networks

neurons in ECM

medium

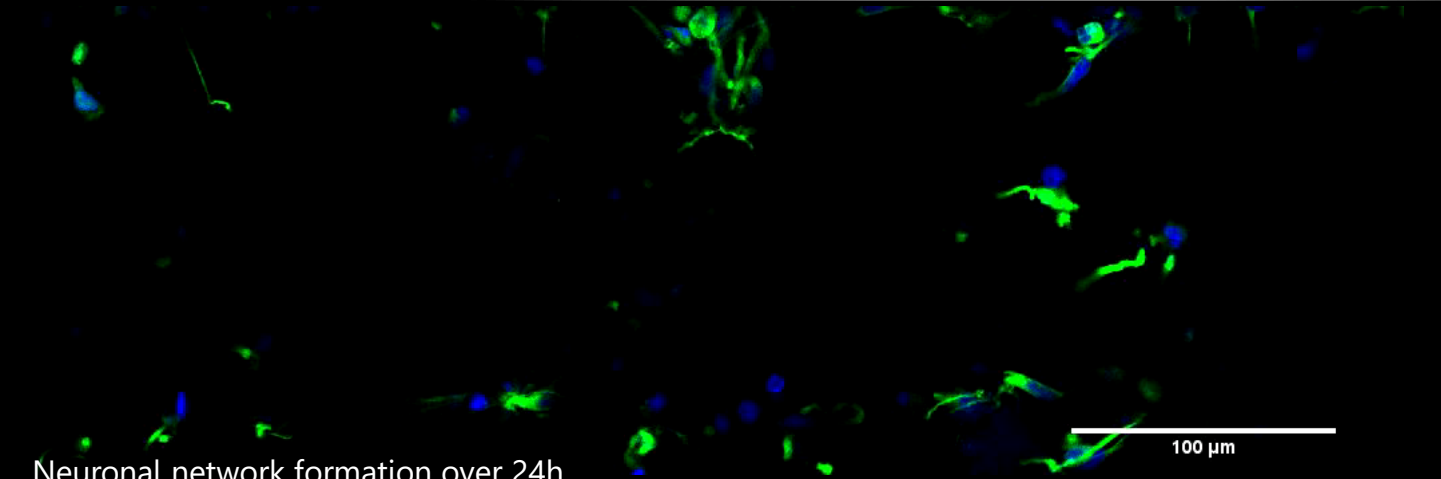


**Rapid network formation directly after seeding in OrganoPlate®**

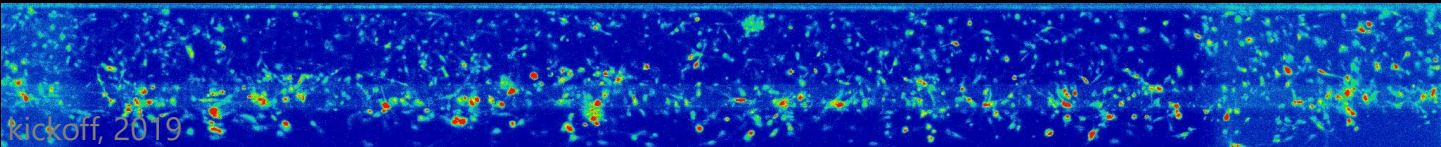
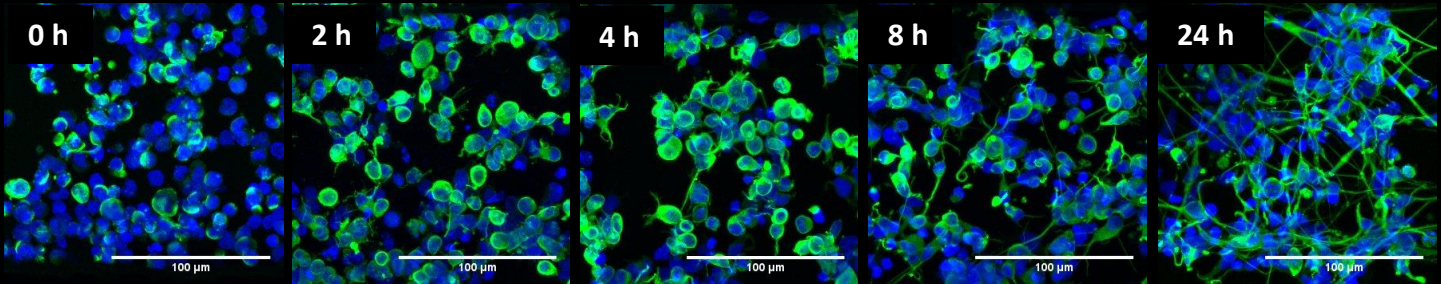




# iPSC-derived 3D neuronal networks

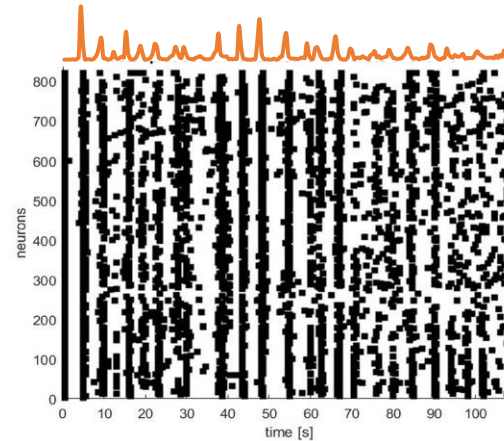
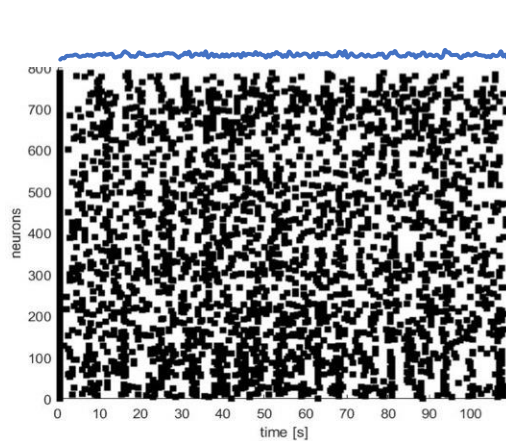
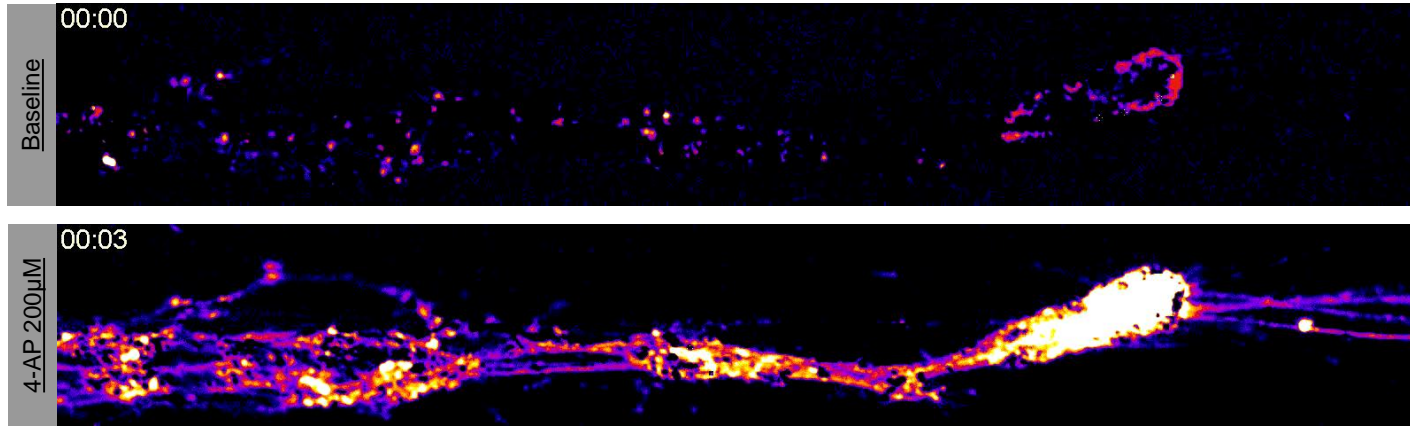


Neuronal network formation over 24h





# Inducing seizure



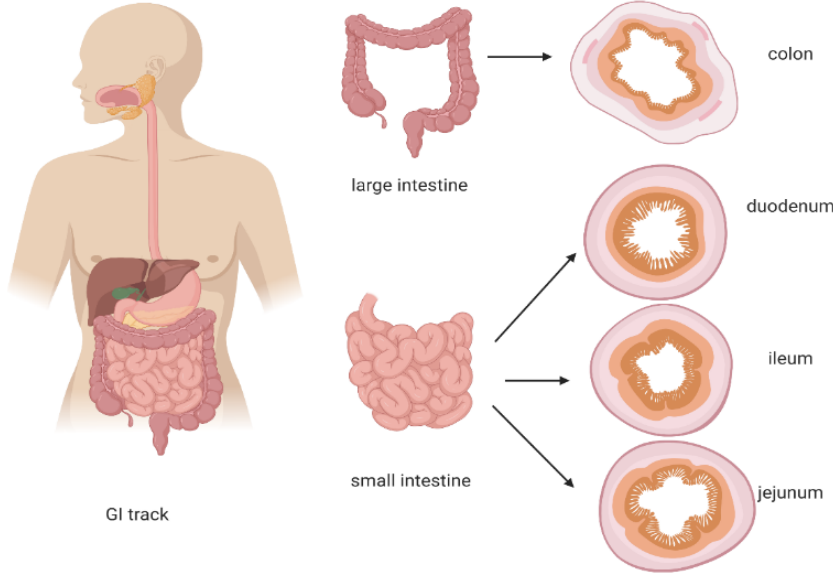
- ❖ Synchronicity observed in 4-AP exposed cultures (day 19)



# How to set up 3D organotypic culture models?



# Model development - In vitro Gut



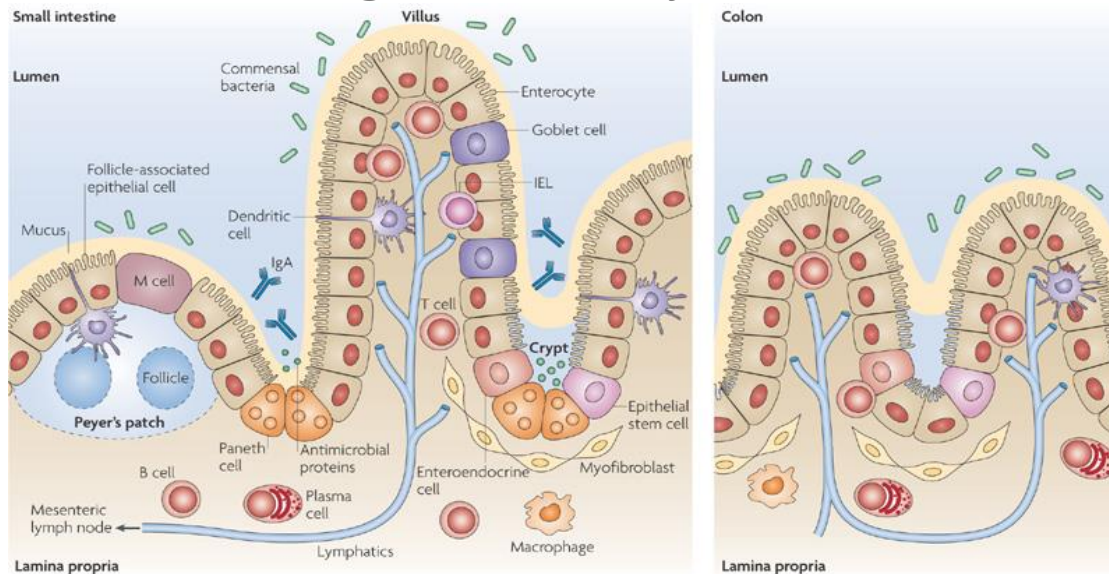
- The gut is part of the gastrointestinal tract
  - Large intestine (cecum, colon, rectum, and anus)
  - Small intestine (duodenum, ileum, and jejunum)
- Important for absorption of orally delivered drugs
- Dysfunction involved in many different diseases
  - Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)
  - Acute and chronic enteritis/ colitis
  - Peptic ulcers (affecting the duodenum)
  - Coeliac disease
  - Whipple's disease
  - Cancer
  - &&&



# Model development: required organ complexity

*"Make things as simple as possible, but not simpler", Albert Einstein*

- Depends on your research question
  - E.g. Colon barrier integrity upon toxicant stimuli
  - Or Disease modelling: Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)



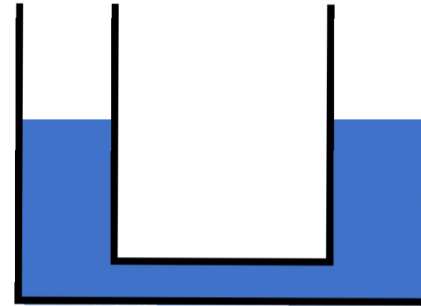
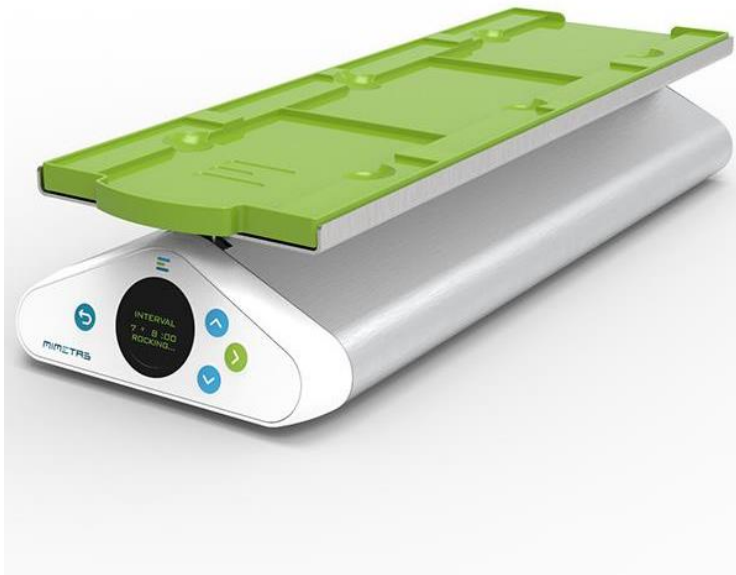
Nature Reviews | Immunology

Abreu et al 2010 Nat Rev Immu

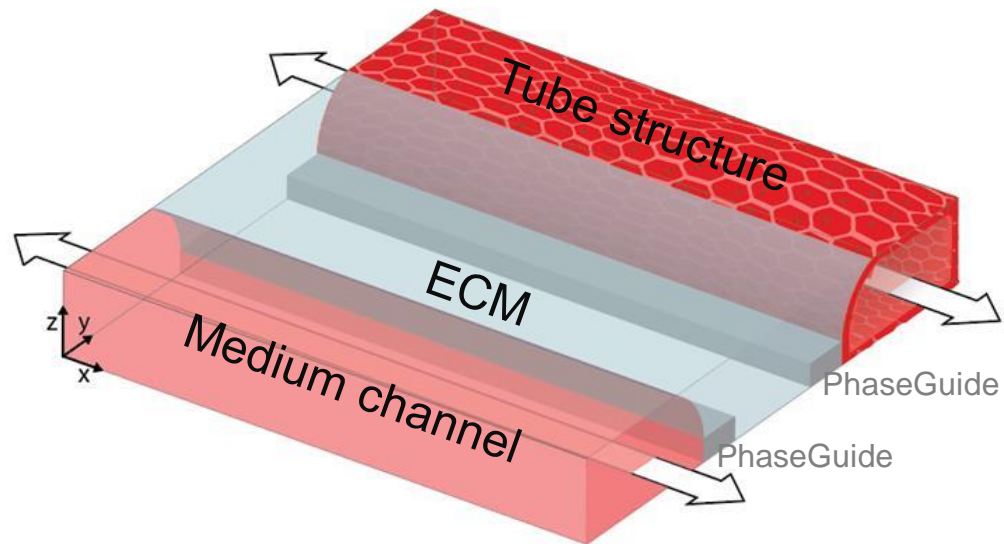
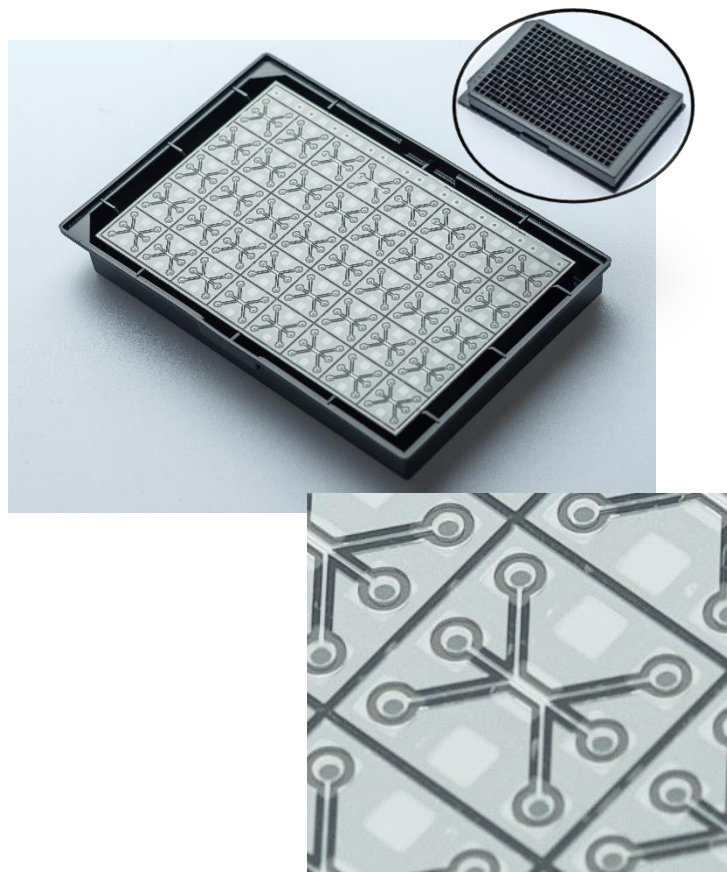


# Continuous passive perfusion (bidirectional)

- Organoplates<sup>®</sup> are placed on top of the rocker platform inside the incubator



# Growing Tubules in the OrganoPlate® 3-lane

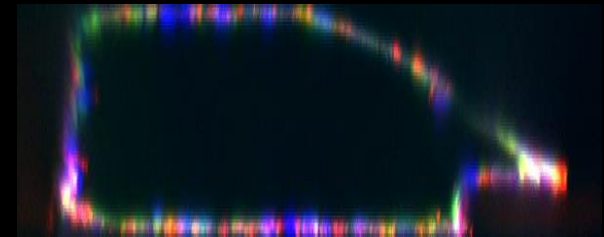
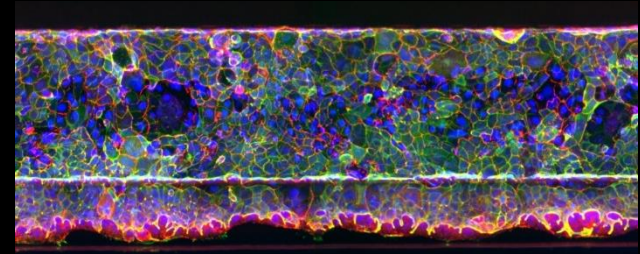
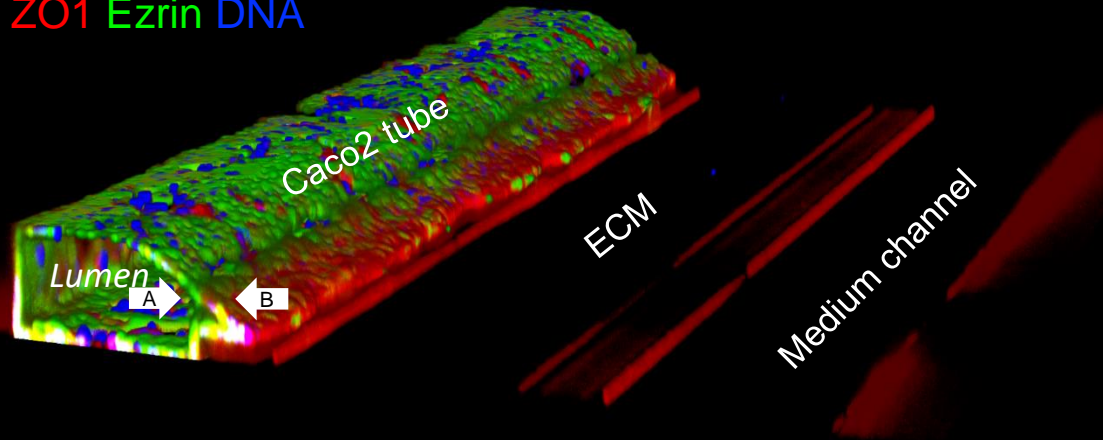




# Growing Caco-2 gut tubules

- **Caco-2 intestinal model** forms tubular structures with accessible apical and basal sides, expressing various drugs transporters

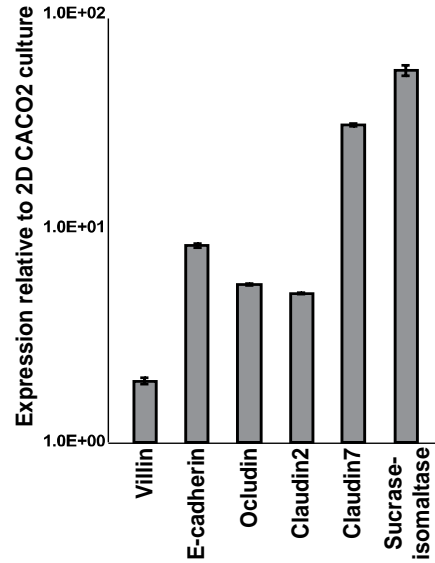
ZO1 Ezrin DNA





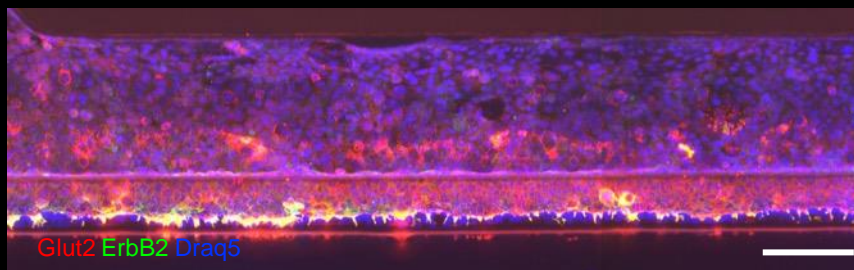
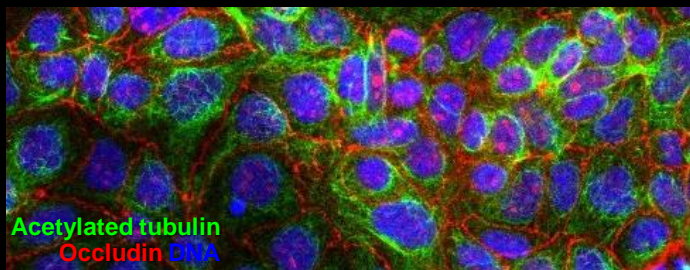
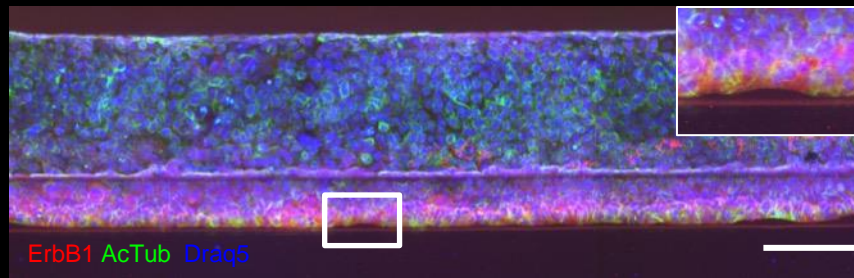
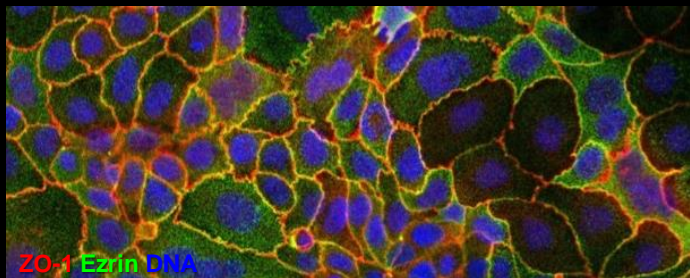
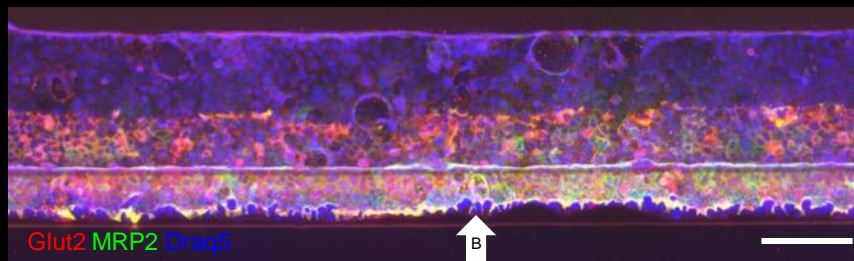
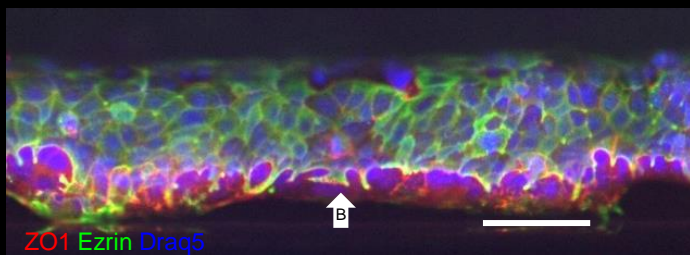
# Gut - 2D vs 3D gene expression

- Caco-2 cells cultured in the OrganoPlate® show upregulation of a myriad of gut markers compared to Caco-2 cells cultured in 2D



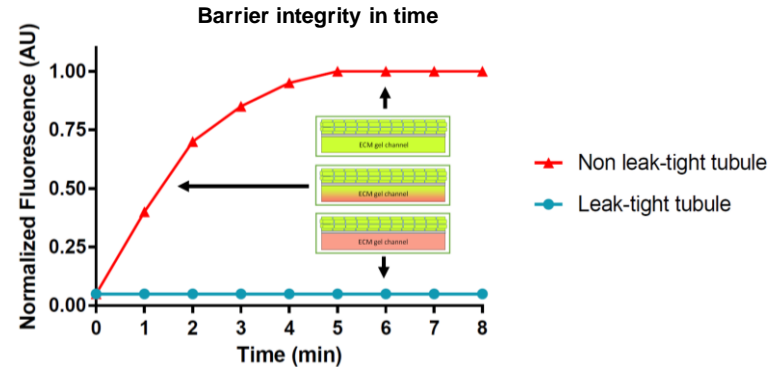
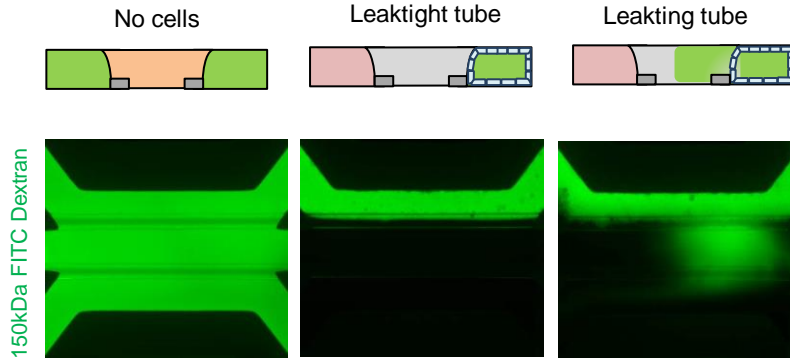
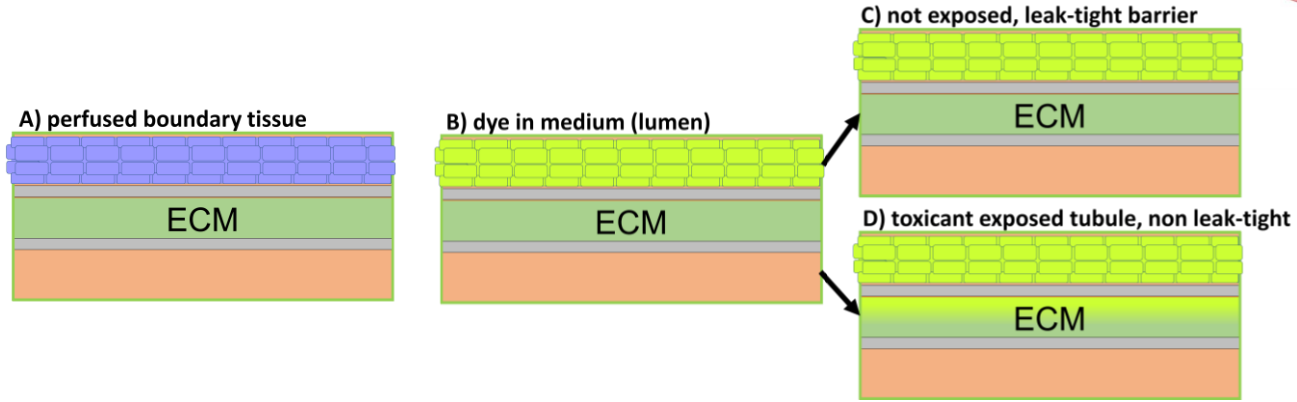
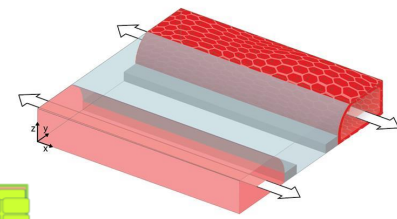


# Caco-2 gut tubes in OrganoPlates<sup>®</sup>



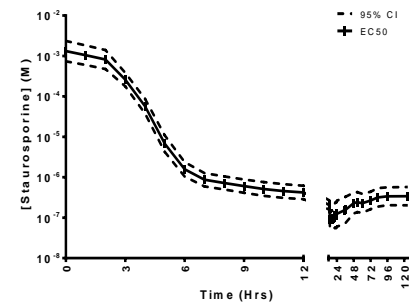
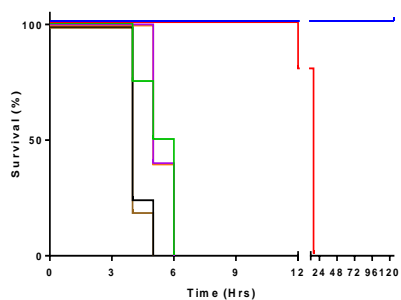
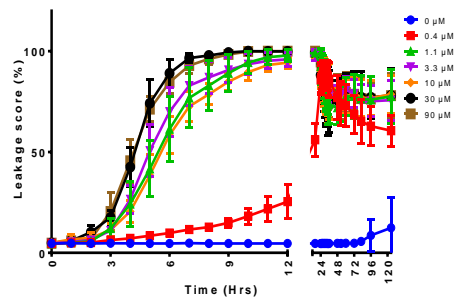
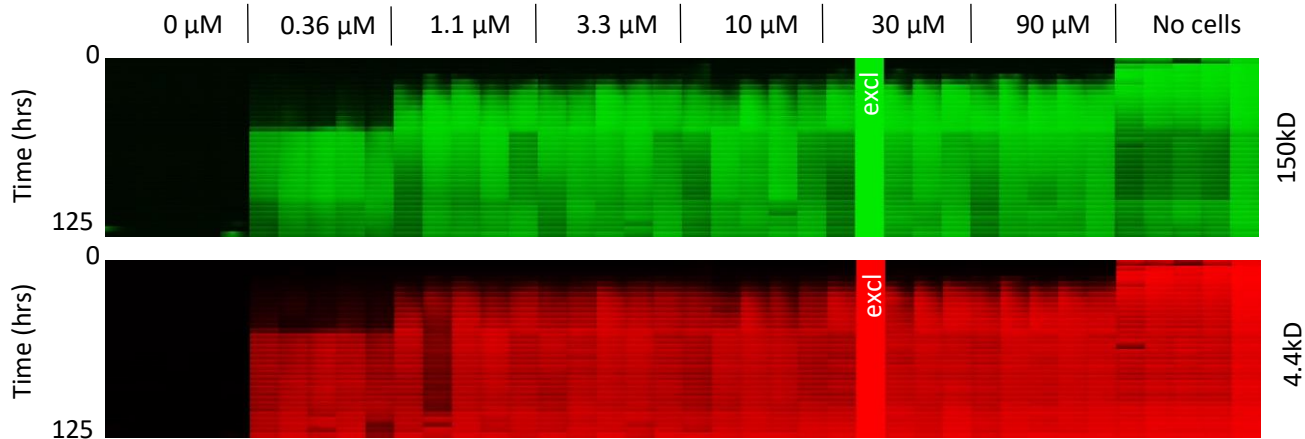
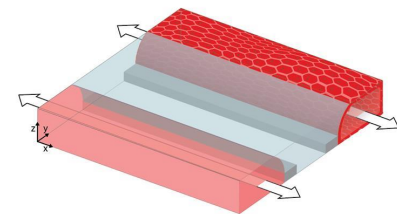


# Real-time barrier integrity assay





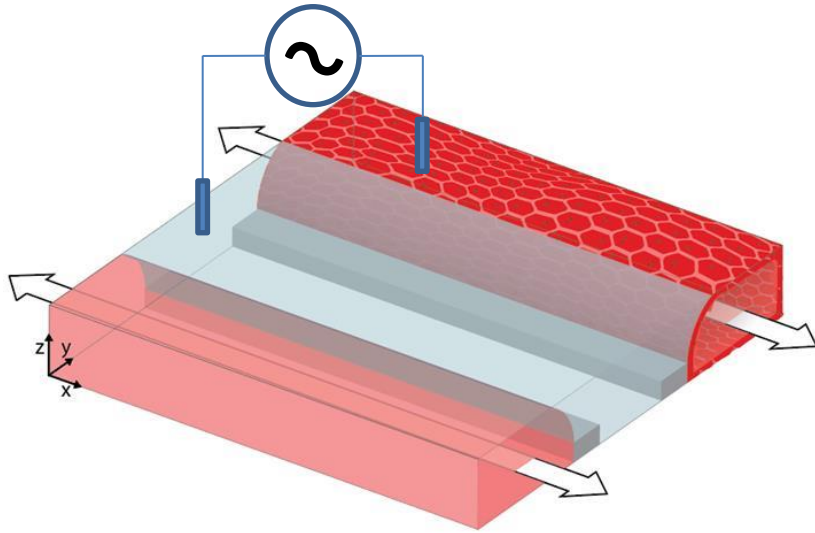
# Staurosporine-induced gut toxicity



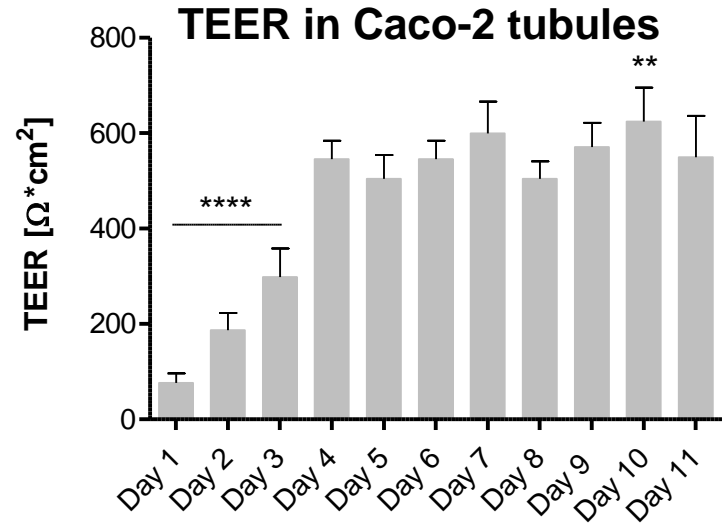
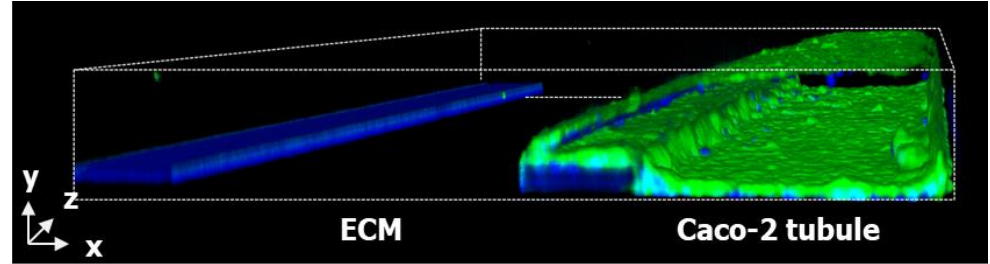




# OrganoTEER – barrier assessment



- Viability
- Toxicity
- Efficacy
- Quality control

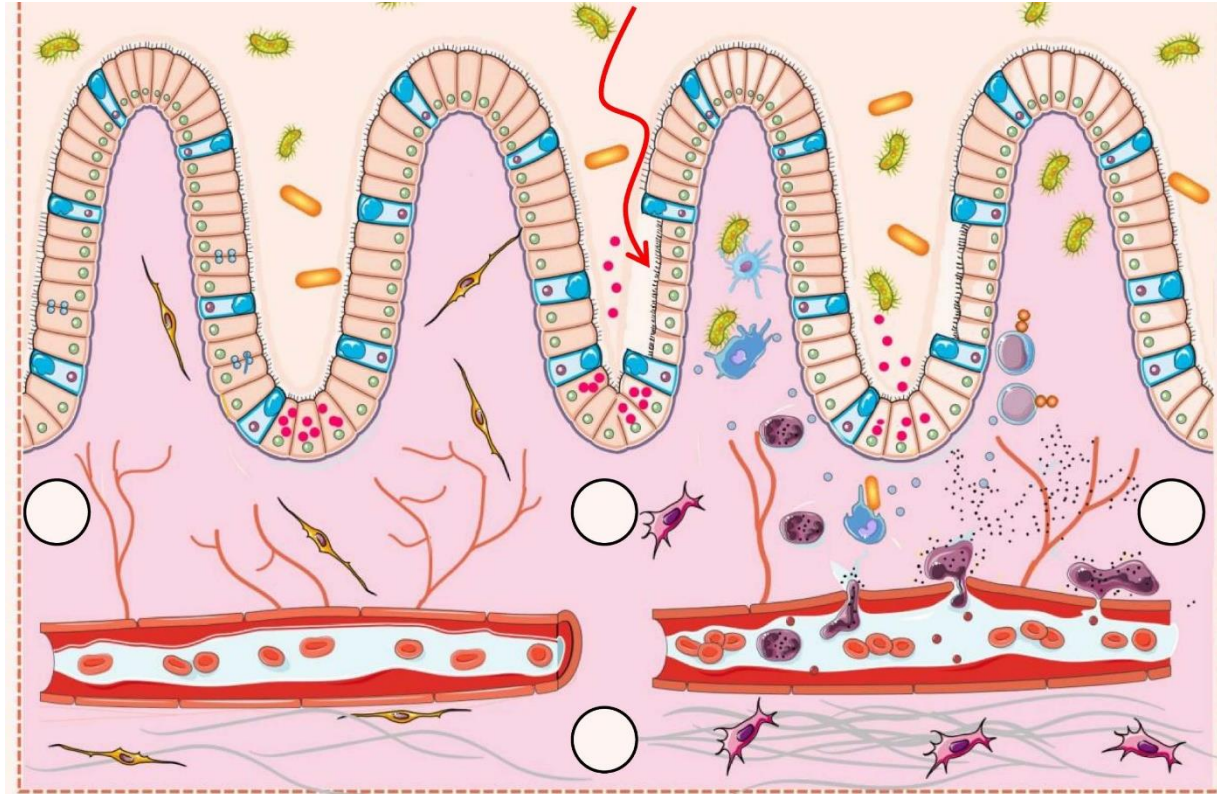




# Disease modelling – gut inflammation

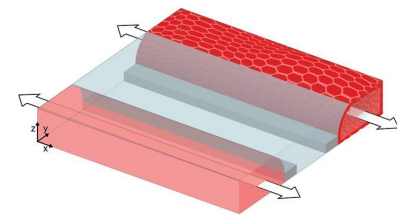
## Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)

Healthy vs diseased





# Disease modelling – gut inflammation

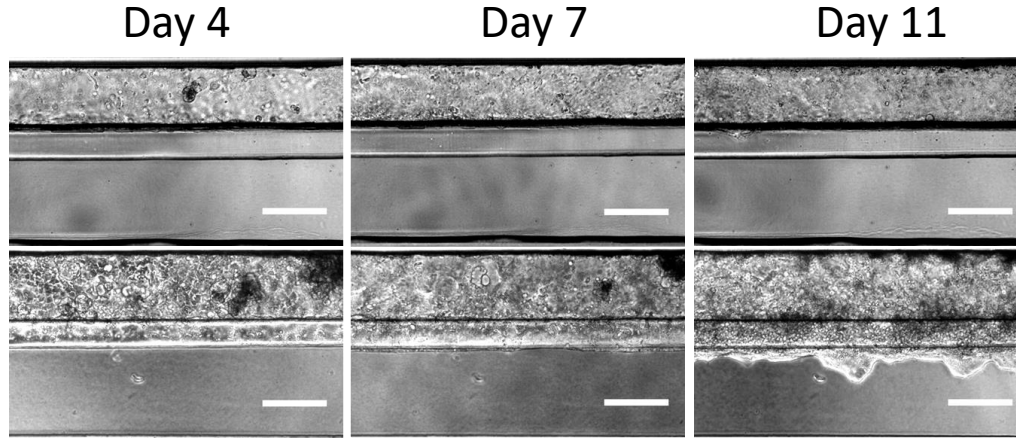


Beaurivage et al 2019 Int J Mol Sci

**Galápagos**

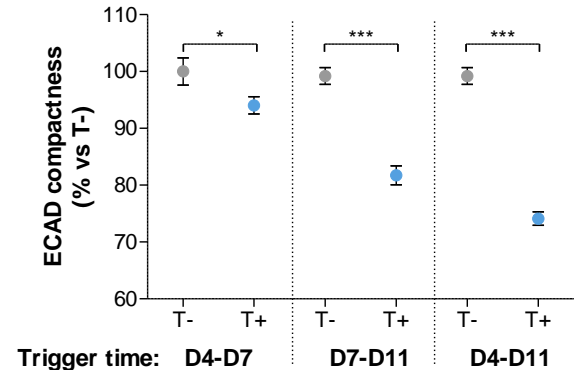
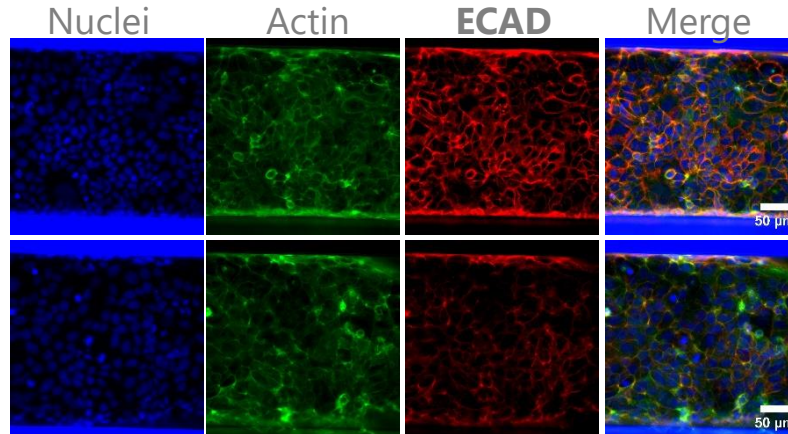
Control gut tubules

+ inflammatory trigger (cytokines)



Control gut tubules

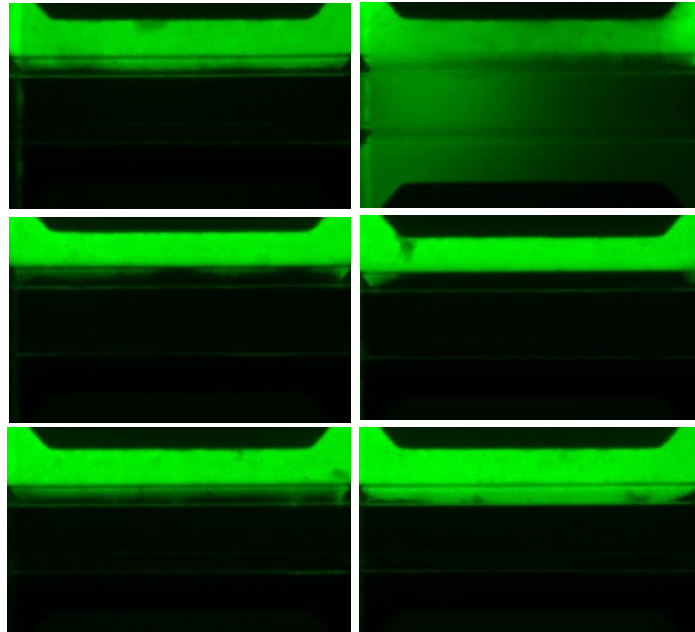
+ inflammatory trigger 72h



# Inflamed Gut-on-a-Chip Model for Drug Discovery

Non induced controls

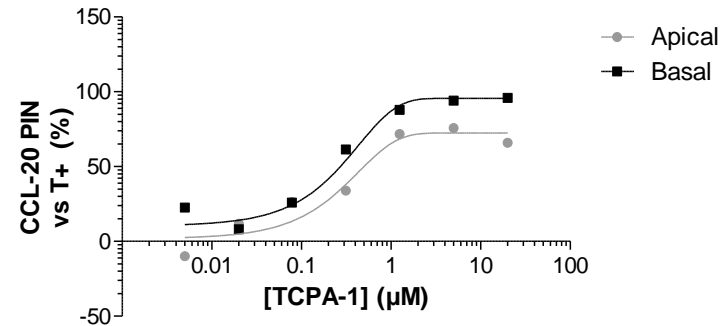
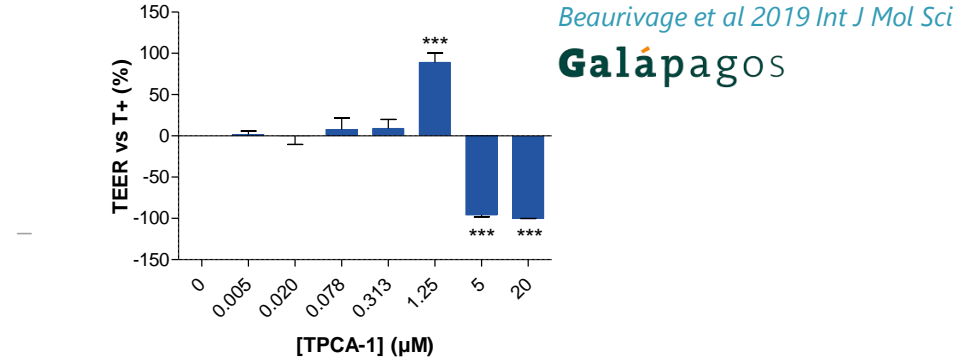
+Cytokine induced IBD



Unspecific knock-down, vehicle control

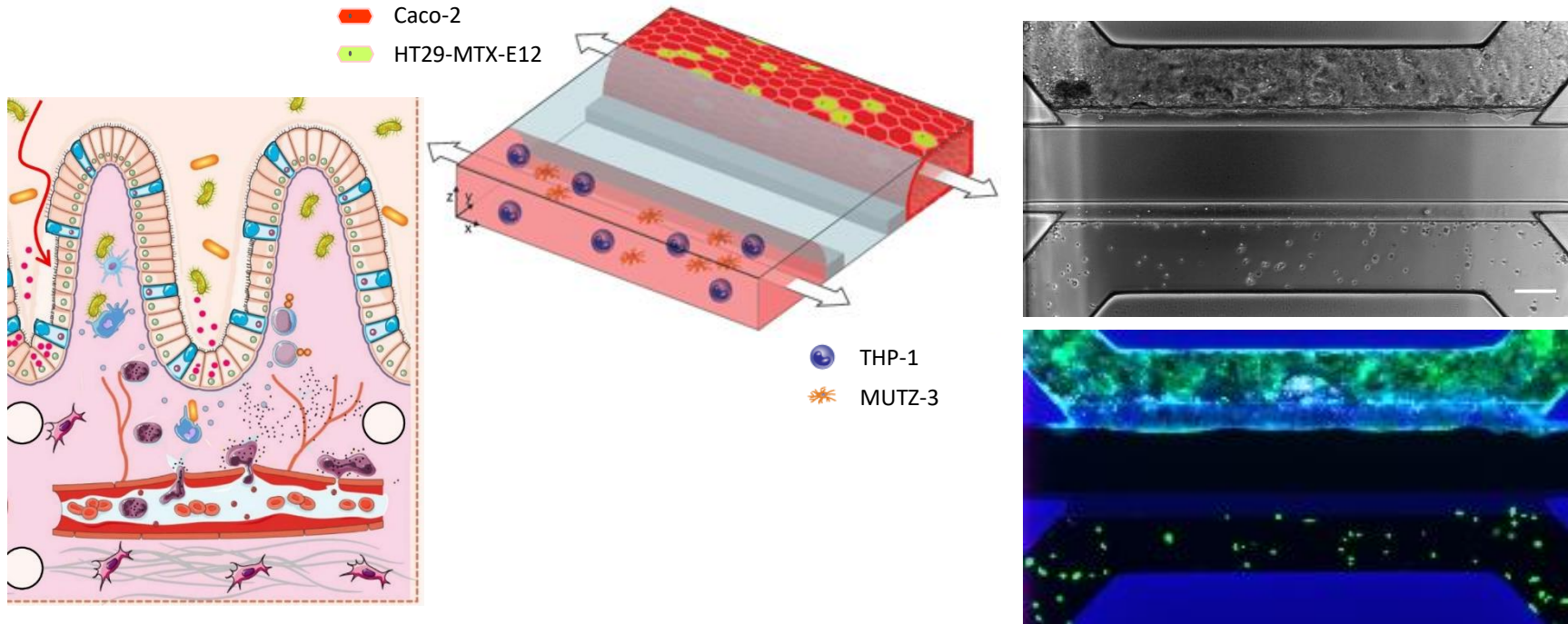
+ IBD target knock-down (CCL20)

+ IBD specific Compound (TPCA1)



- Adenoviral Knockdown of Inflammatory Effectors Prevents IBD-like Phenotype in Caco-2
- Exposure to anti-inflammatory TPCA-1 Prevent the Inflammatory State of Caco-2 Tubules

# An intestine-on-a-chip model of plug and play modularity to study inflammatory processes

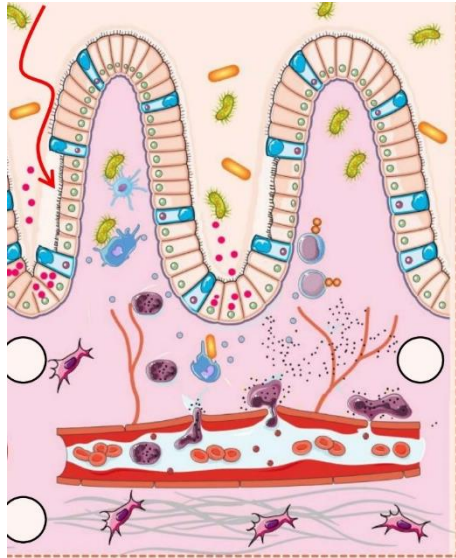


# Adding more complexity to gut model

## Disease characteristic

## Multiple cell interactions and readouts

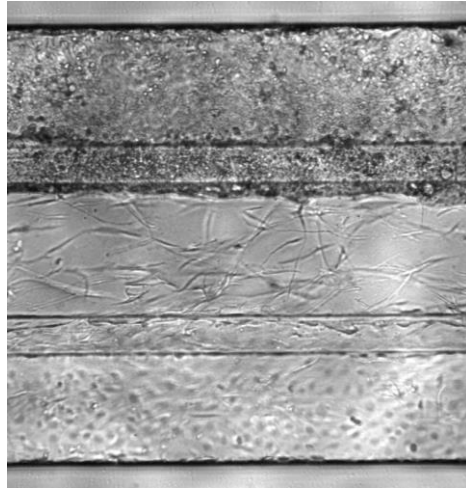
Gut model with intestinal tube, stroma and endothelial vessel containing immune components



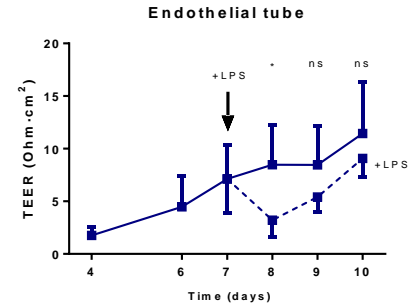
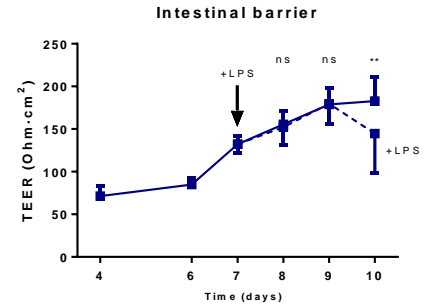
Gut tubule  
(enterocytes and goblet cells)

Intestinal  
myofibroblasts

Vasculature with  
immune cells  
(macrophages and  
dendritic cells)

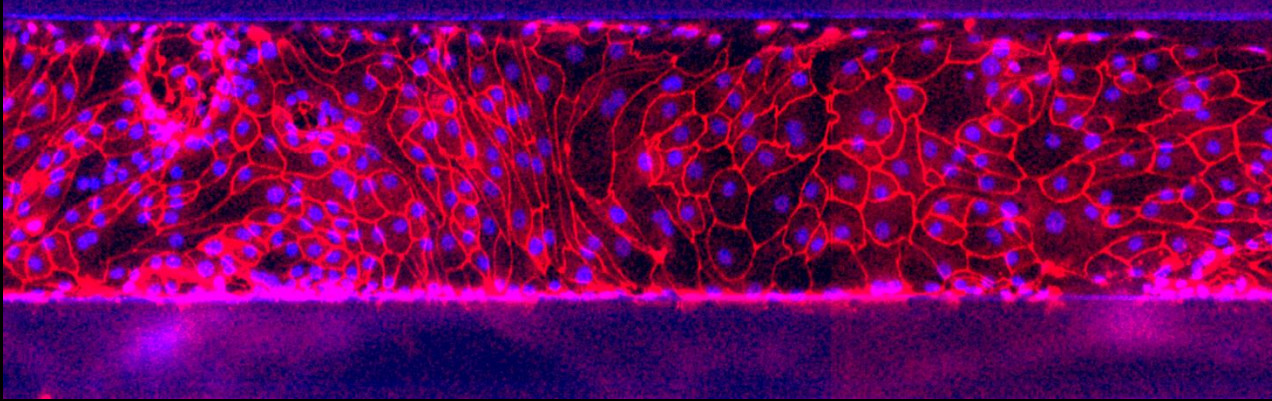


Intestinal epithelial and endothelial barrier assessment in OrganoPlate

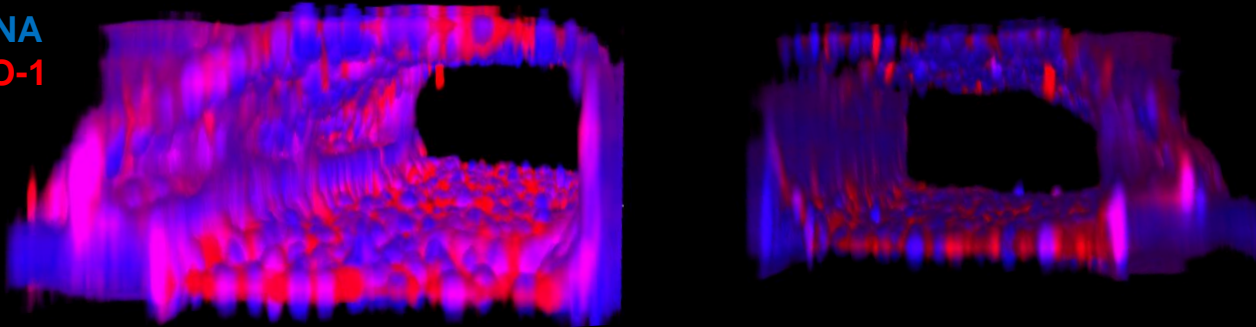




# Human Colon Organoid tubules in OrganoPlate



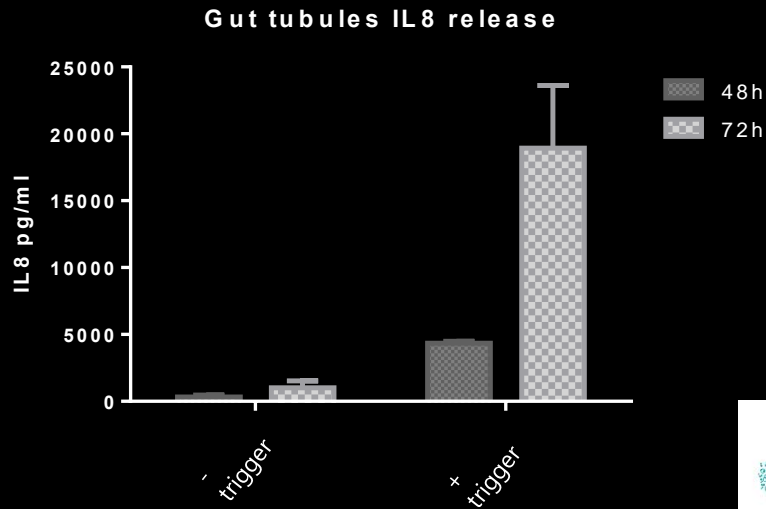
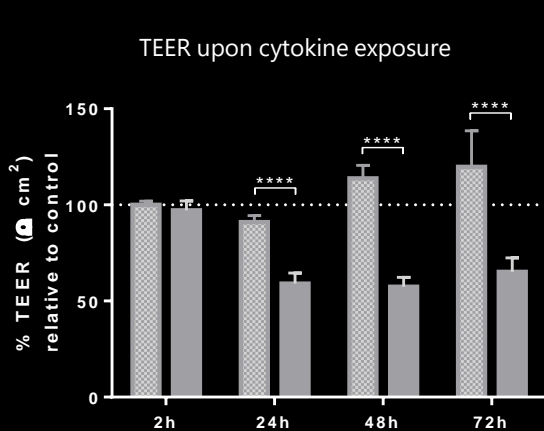
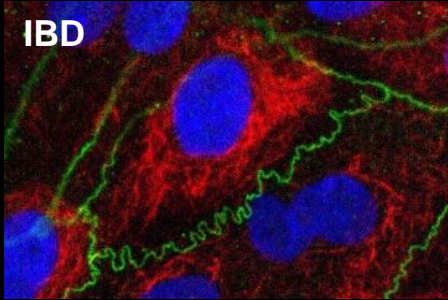
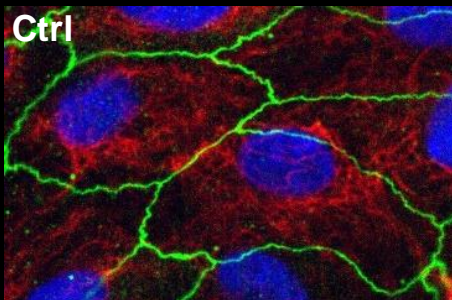
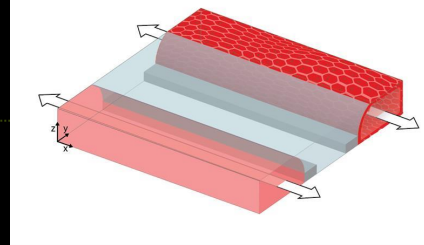
DNA  
ZO-1



- 3D perfused hC tubule formation with apical and basal access

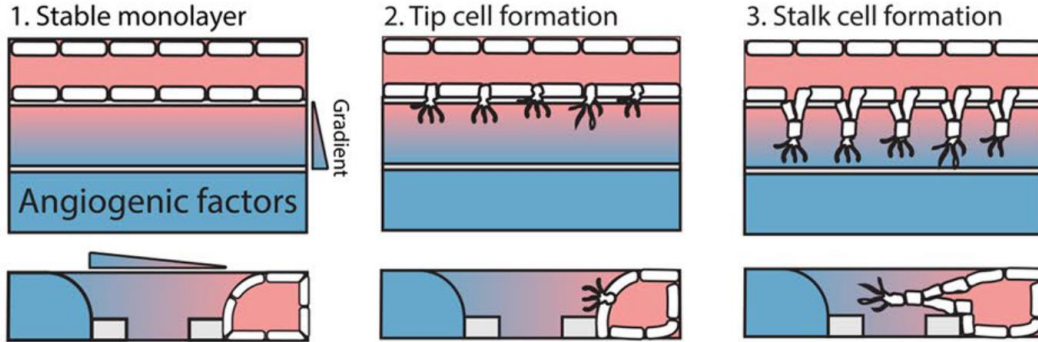


# IBD modelling in colon organoid tubules

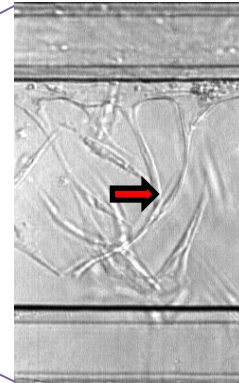




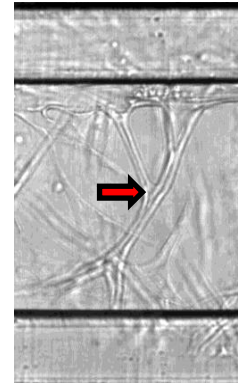
# Blood vessel in the OrganoPlate® 3-lane



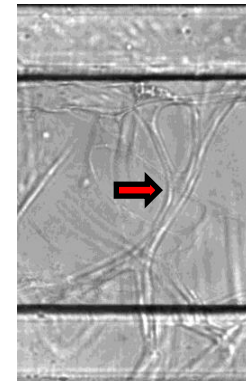
Exposure to a gradient of pro-angiogenic factors induces vascular sprouting from endothelial vessels



Day 2  
Angiogenic sprouting  
and merging



Day 3  
Fusion of capillaries  
and lumen formation



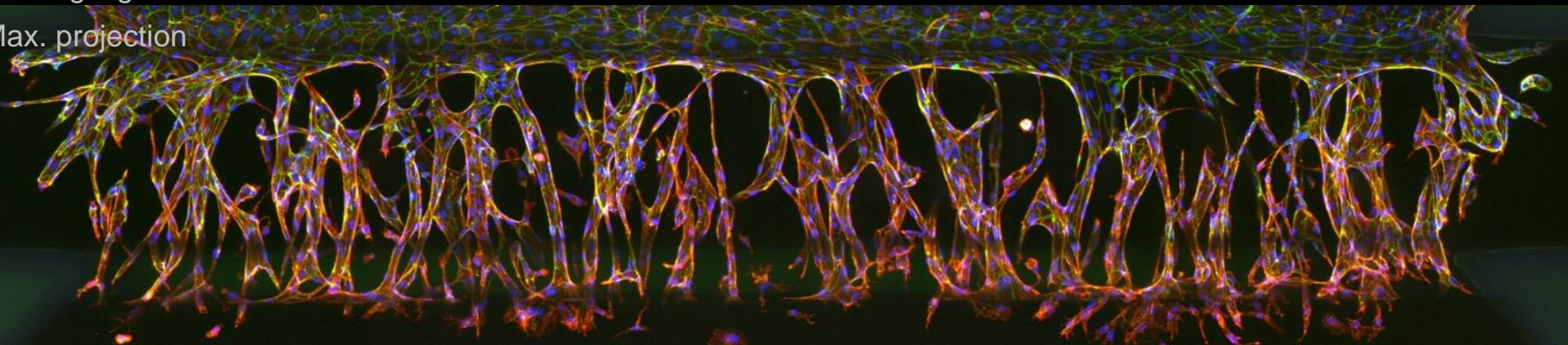
Day 4  
Lumen widening



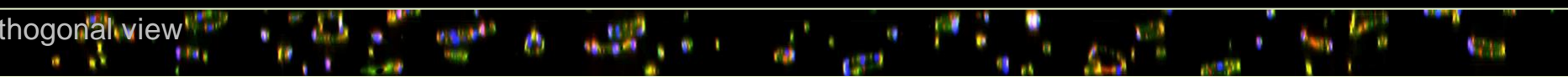
# Angiogenic Sprouts

Staining legend: DNA VE-Cadherin Actin

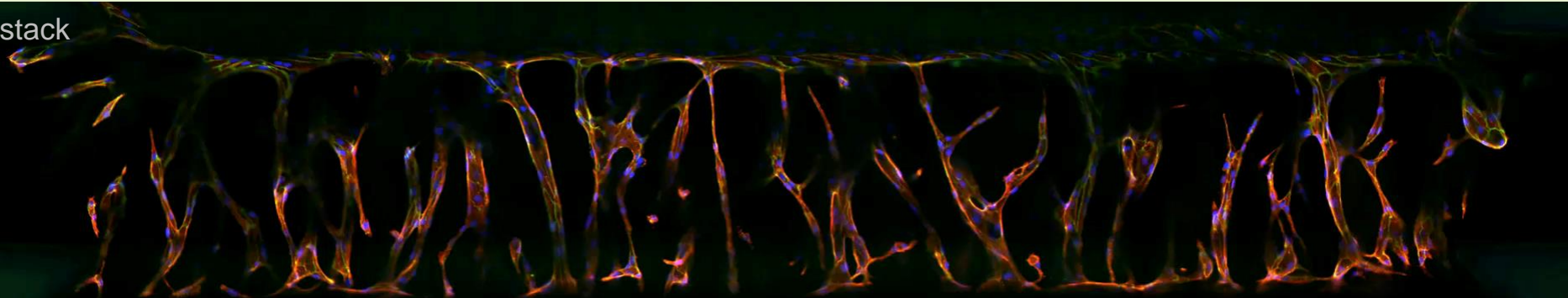
Max. projection



Orthogonal view

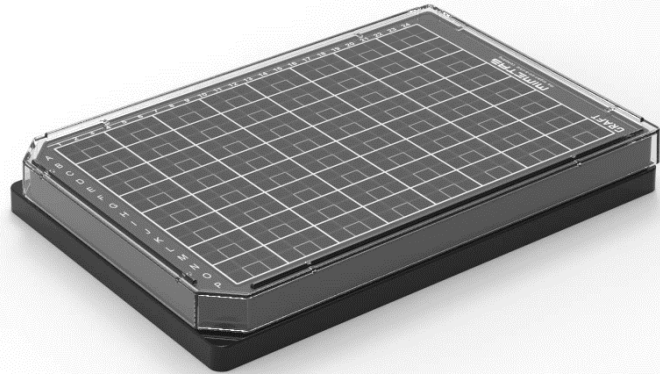


Z-stack



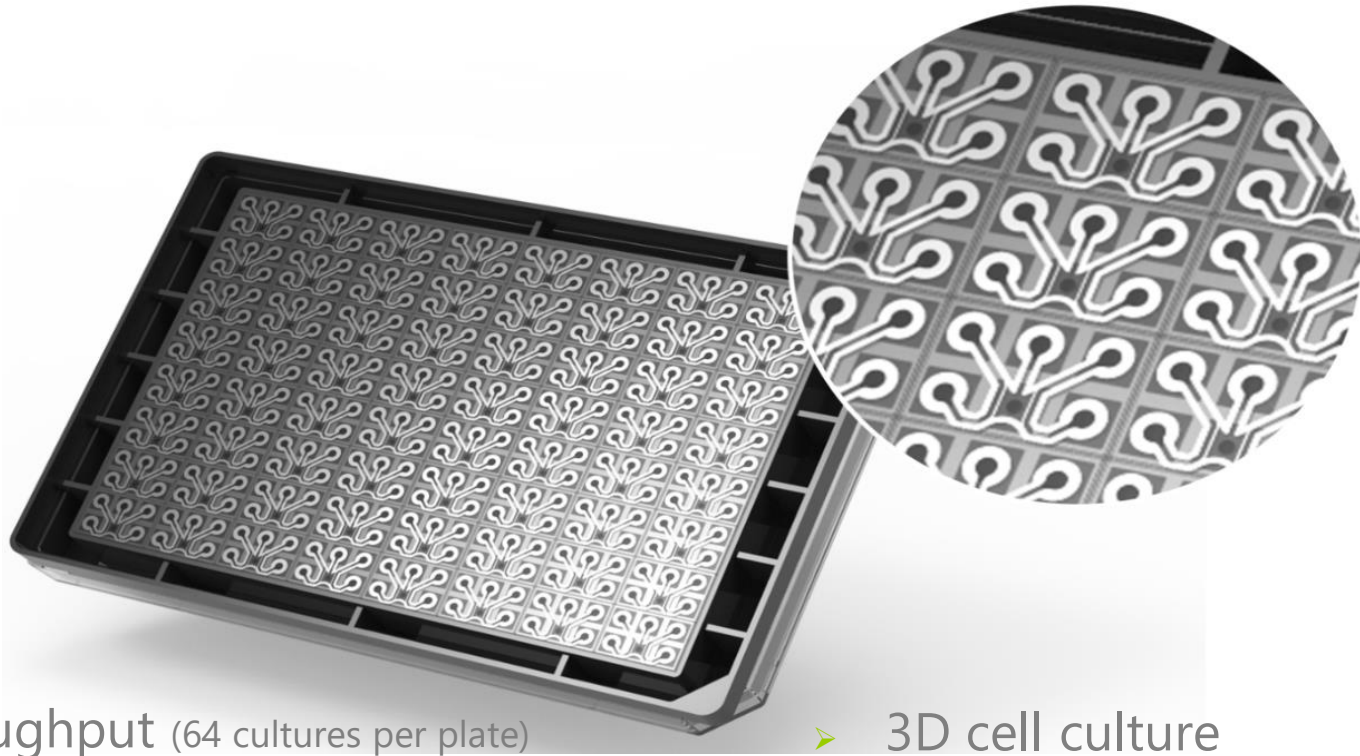


# OrganoPlate® Graft



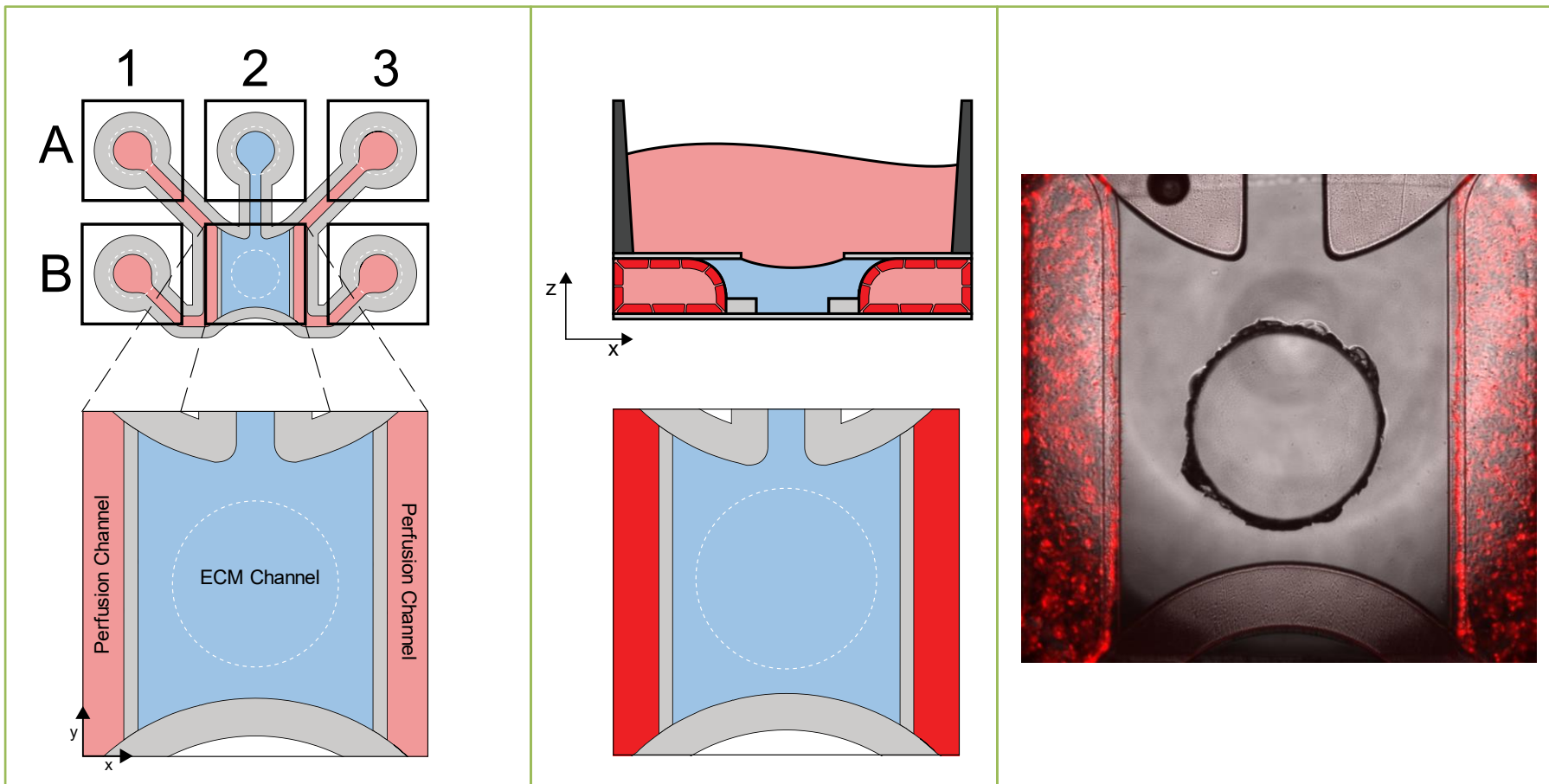


# OrganoPlate® Graft



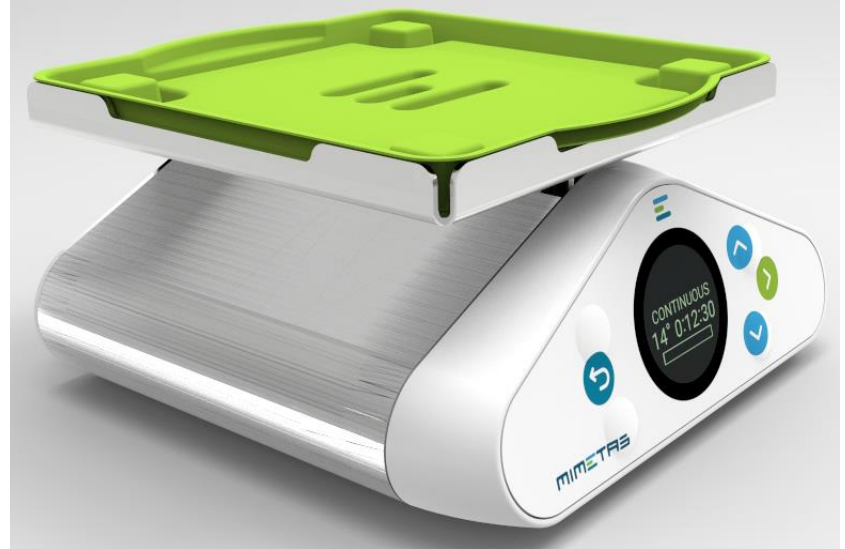
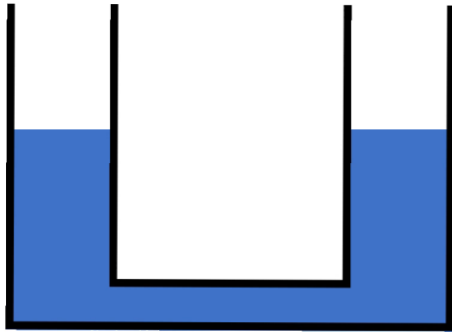
- Throughput (64 cultures per plate)
- Membrane-free
- Pump-free perfusion
- 3D cell culture
- Complex co-cultures
- Excellent imaging

# Phase 1: 3D tube formation with Endothelial Cells



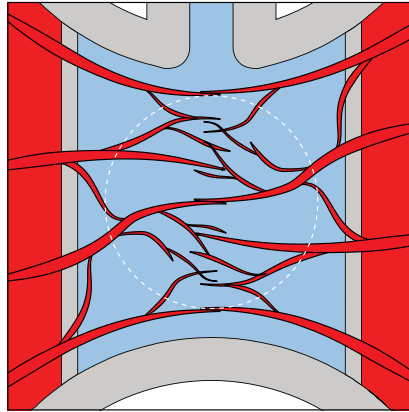
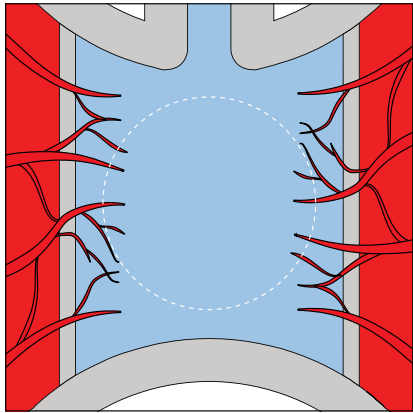
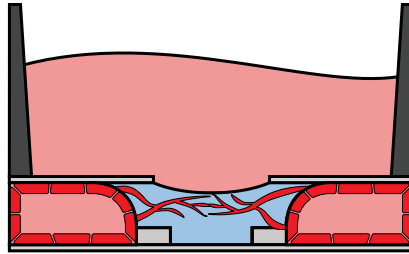
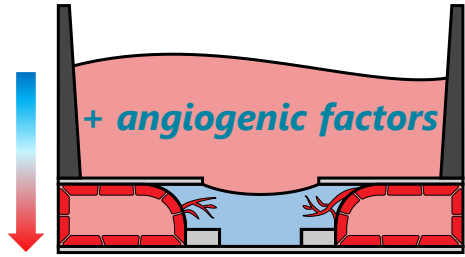


# Continuous perfusion

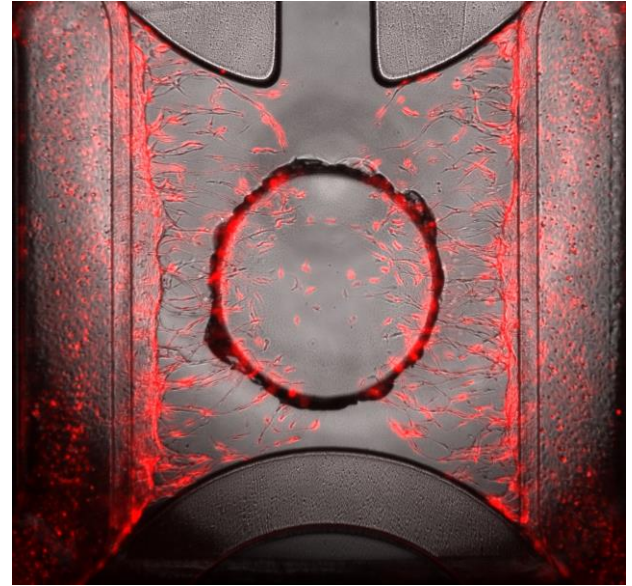




## Phase 2: *Vascular bed formation*

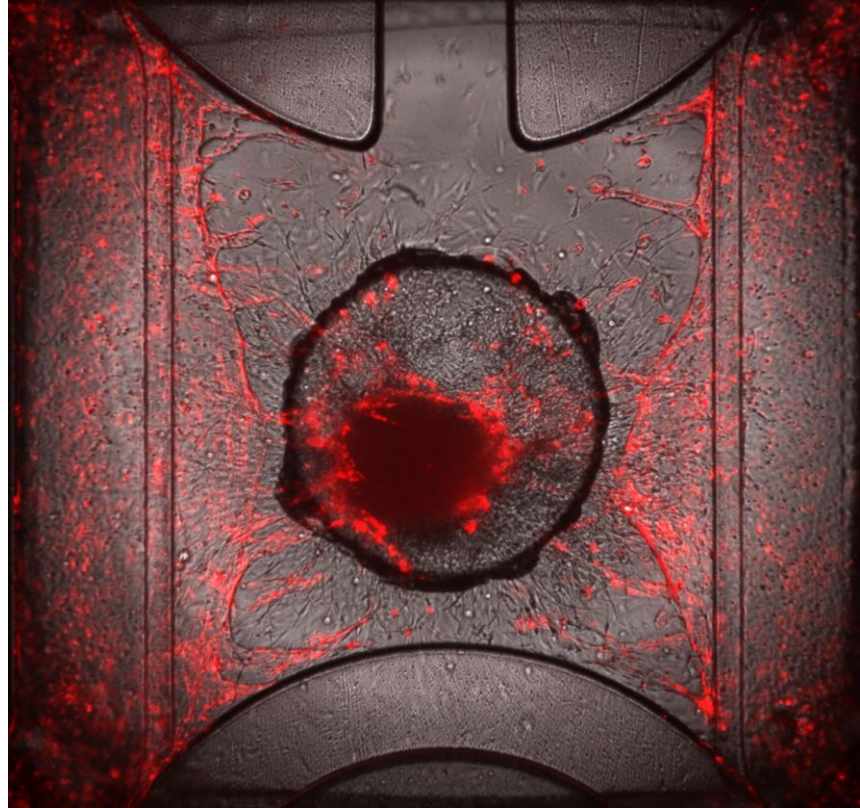
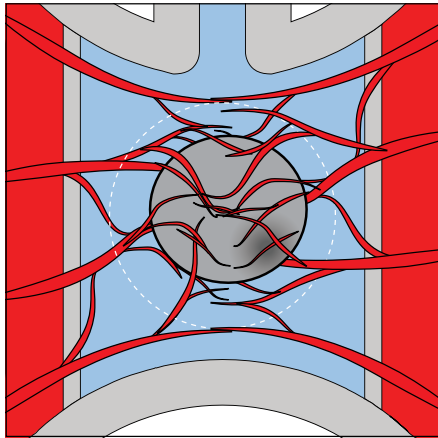
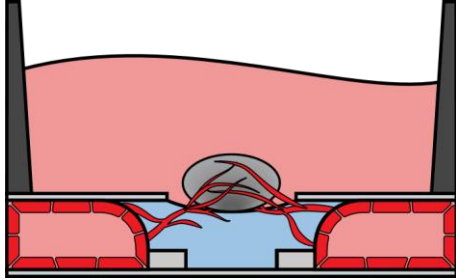


**Gradient  
of angiogenic factors** 



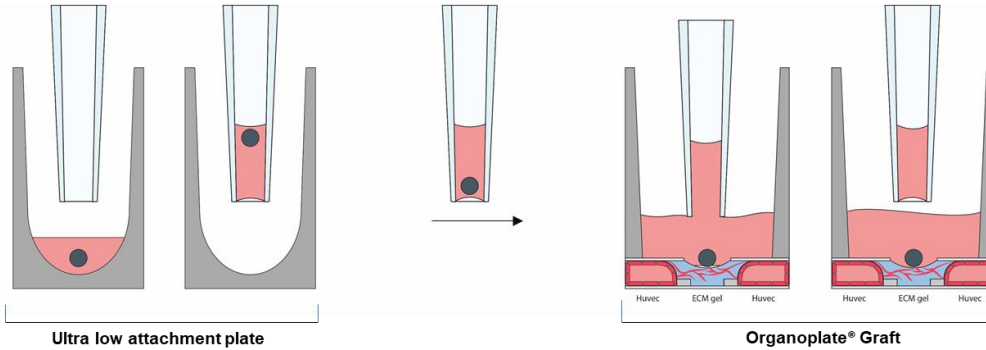


## Phase 3: *Tissue transplantation*

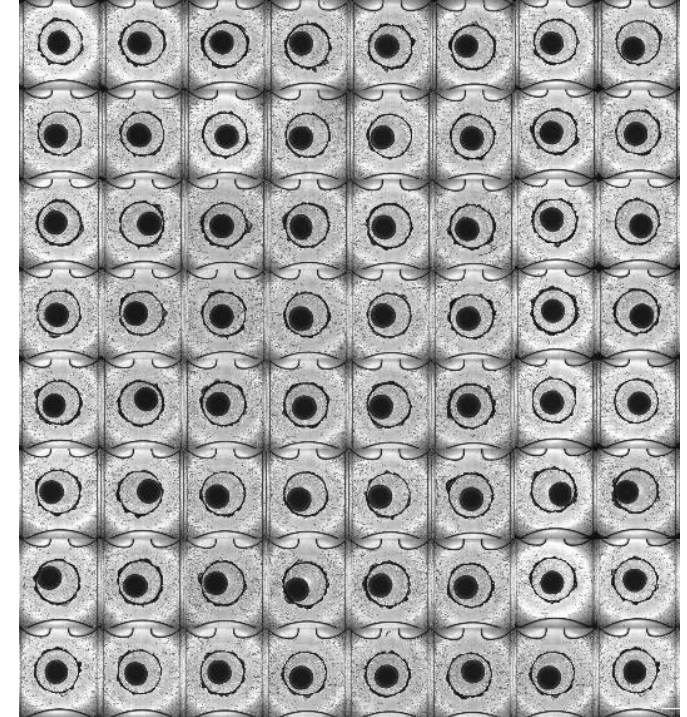
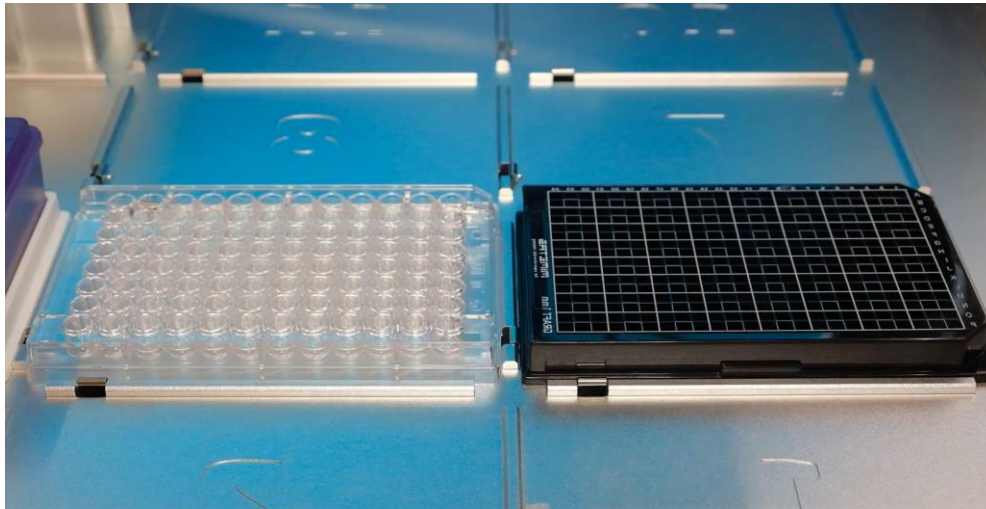




# Compatible with automation

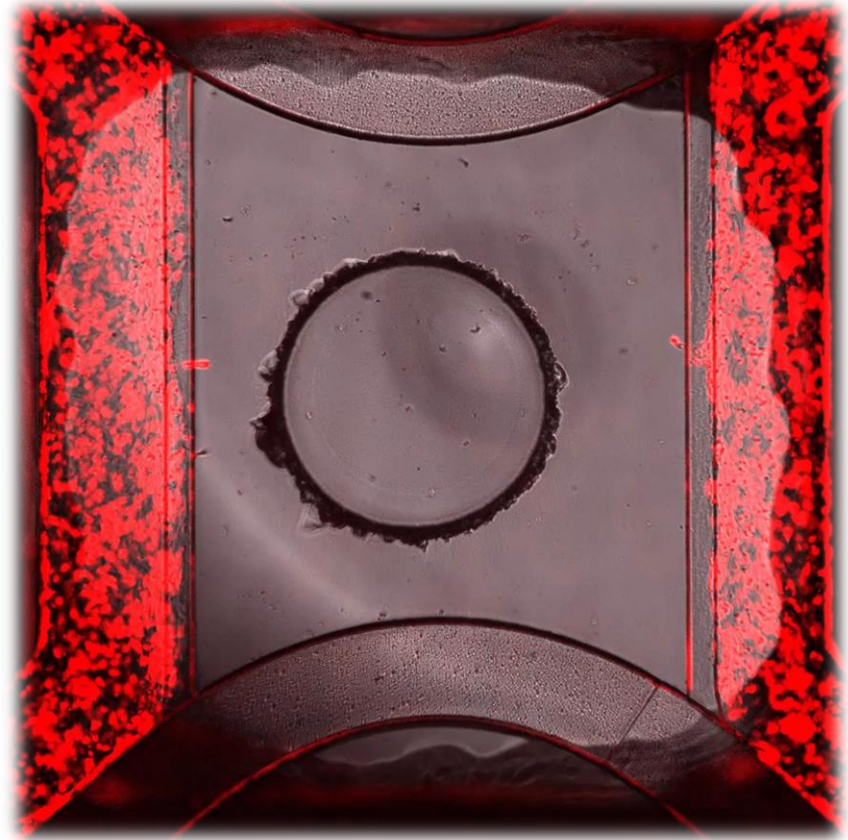
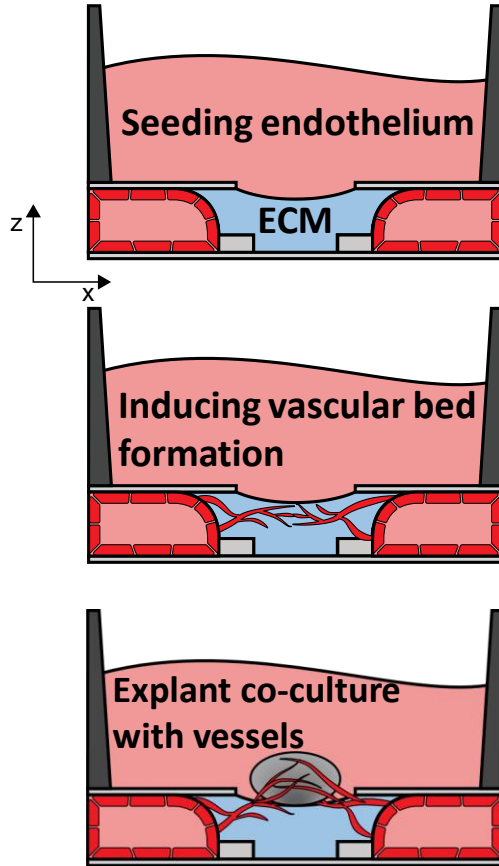


64 individual microtissues  
ready for vascularization



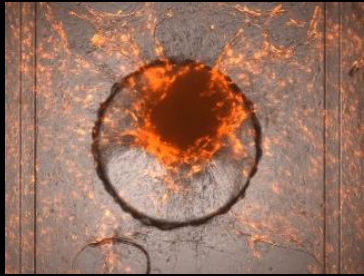


# Tissue vascularization in OrganoPlate Graft®



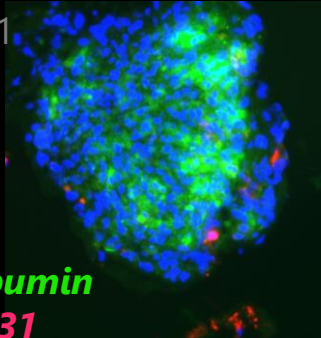


# Liver microtissue vascularization in OrganoPlate Graft

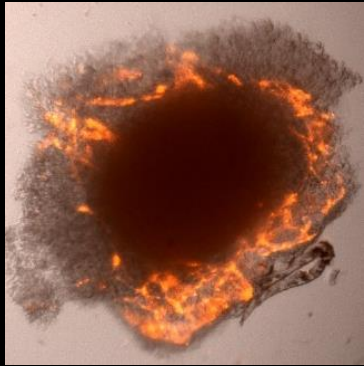


**RFP**

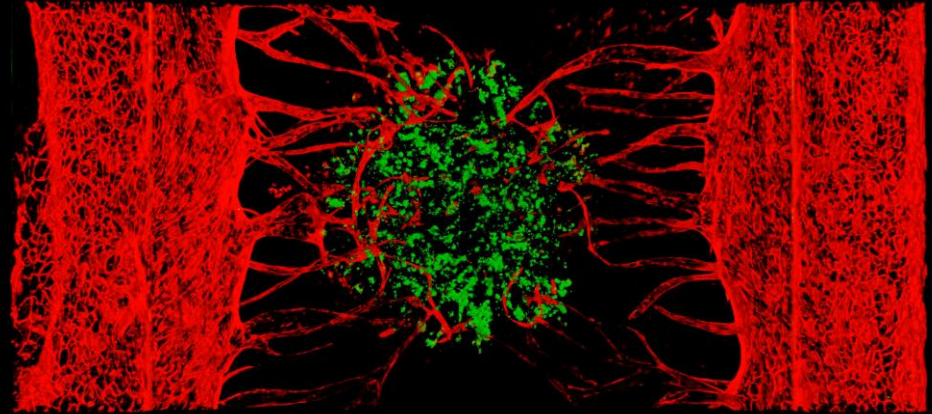
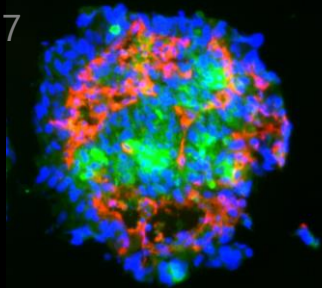
Day 1



**Albumin**  
**CD31**  
**Nuclei**



Day 7

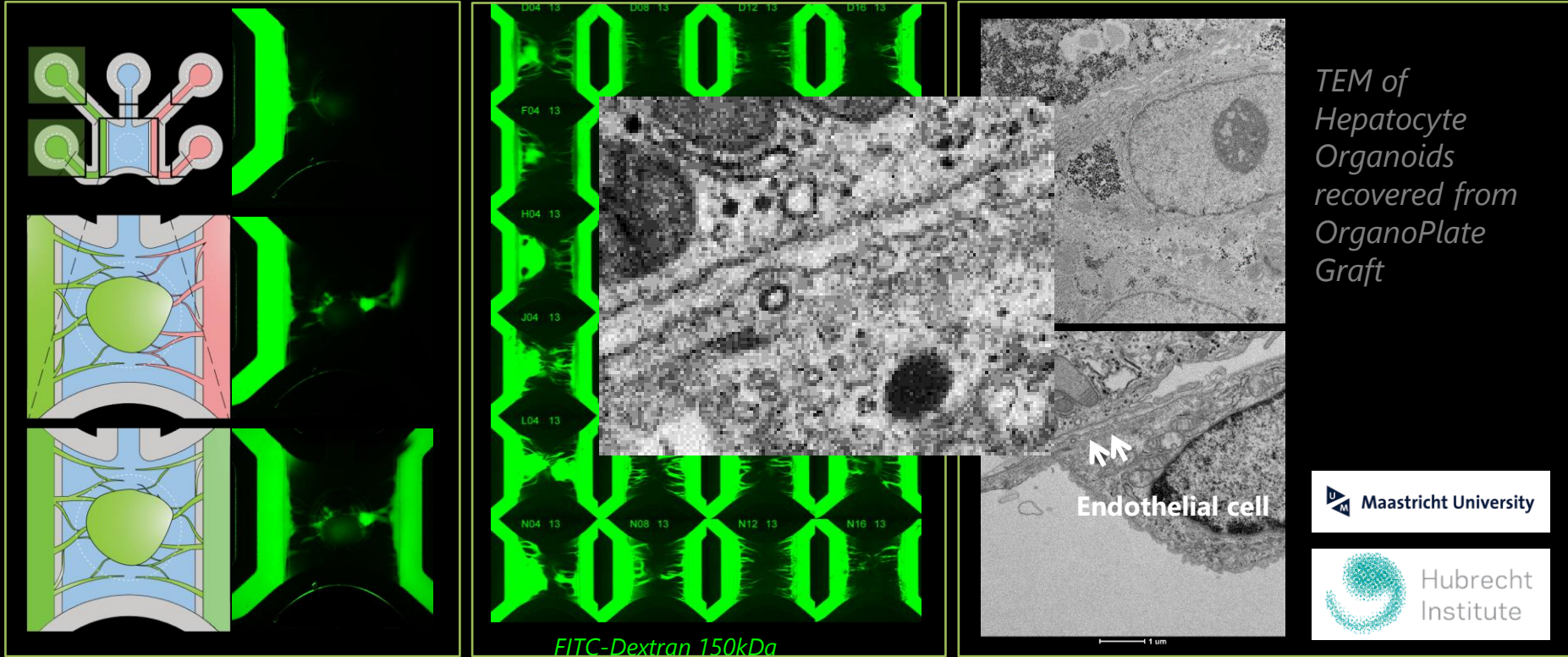


**Albumin**  
**CD31**

- Sectioning of liver microtissues recovered from OrganoPlate Graft and 3D imaging show vessels penetrating liver microtissues



# Vessel stabilization in co-culture with microtissues



*TEM of Hepatocyte Organoids recovered from OrganoPlate Graft*

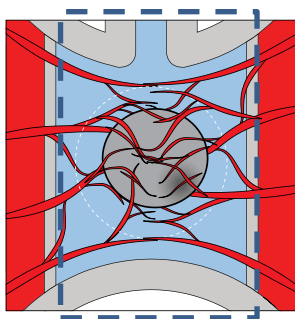
Endothelial cell



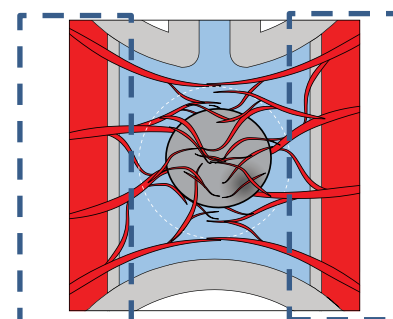
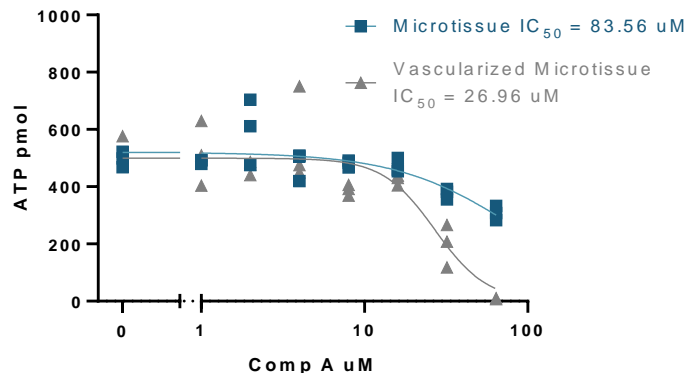
- Reproducibly stable vessels over the subsequent 21 days of co-culture with microtissues



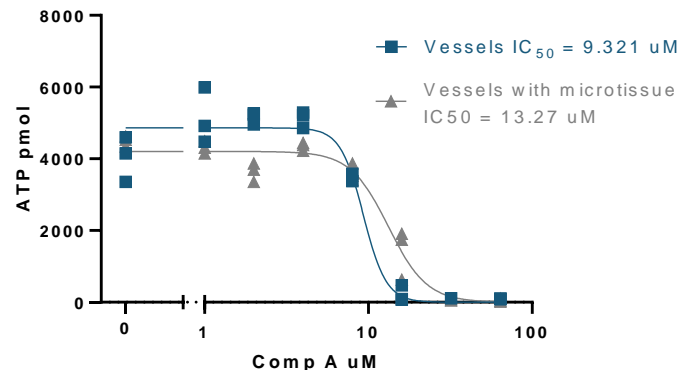
# DILI in vascularized liver tissue



Microtissue dose-response curve (comp A)



Vessel Dose-response curve (Comp A)

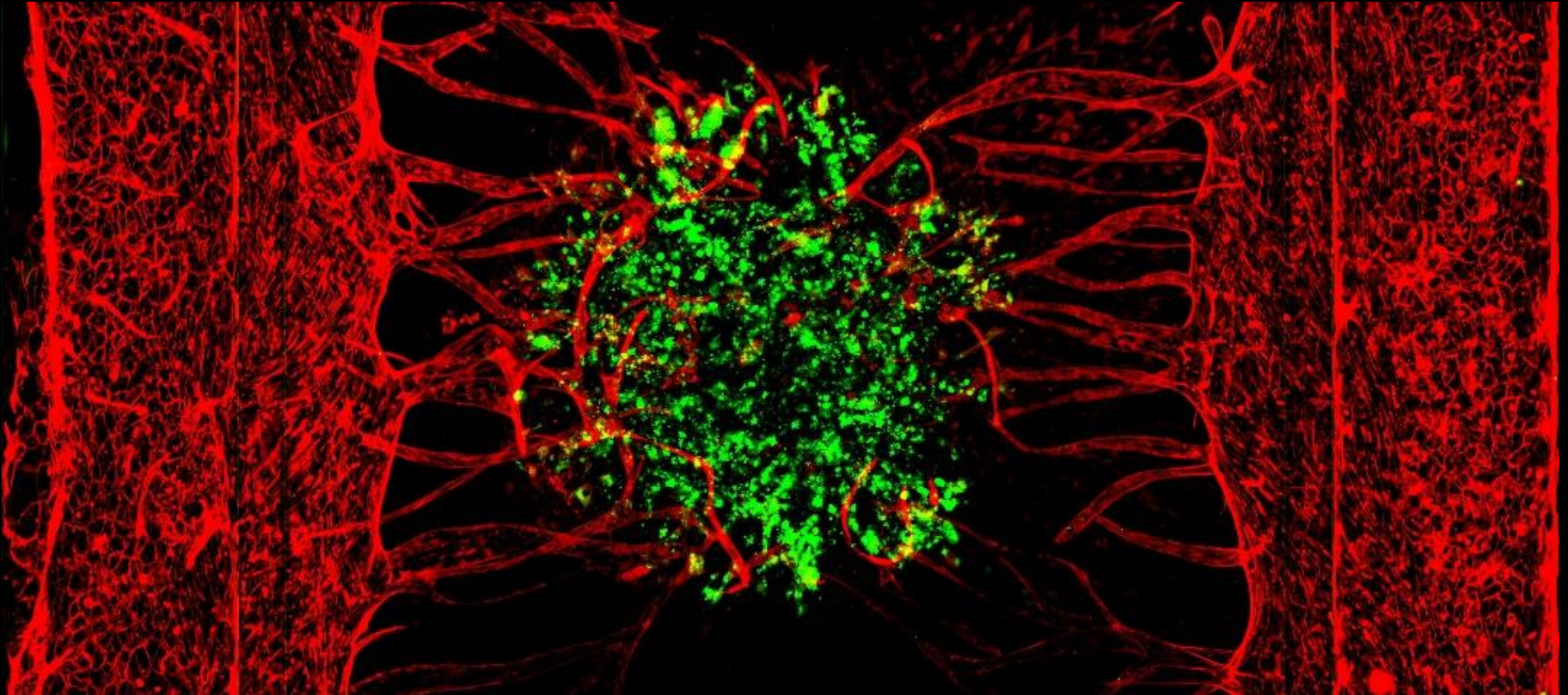


- Vascularised liver microtissue is more sensitive to compound A
- Protective function liver microtissue on vascular tox



# Connecting patient tissue with human vasculature

- Applications: vascularizing xenografts, organoids, spheroids

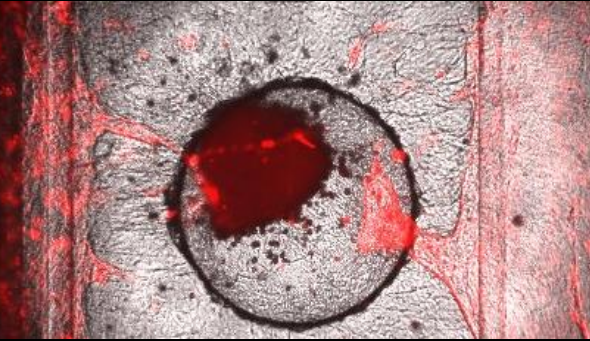


Vessels Microtissue



# Tumor tissues in the OrganoPlate Graft

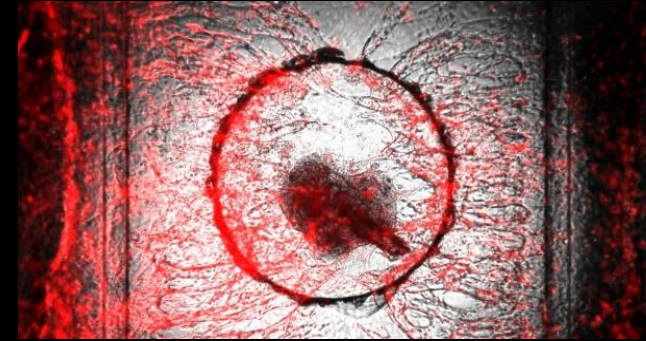
Glioma spheroids



HNSCC organoids



Ovary Cancer explant



- Glioma OMS interact with vascular bed, cells migrating into the ECM
- Head-and-neck organoids and vascular bed interaction
- Ovary cancer explant shows massive interaction with vascular beds.

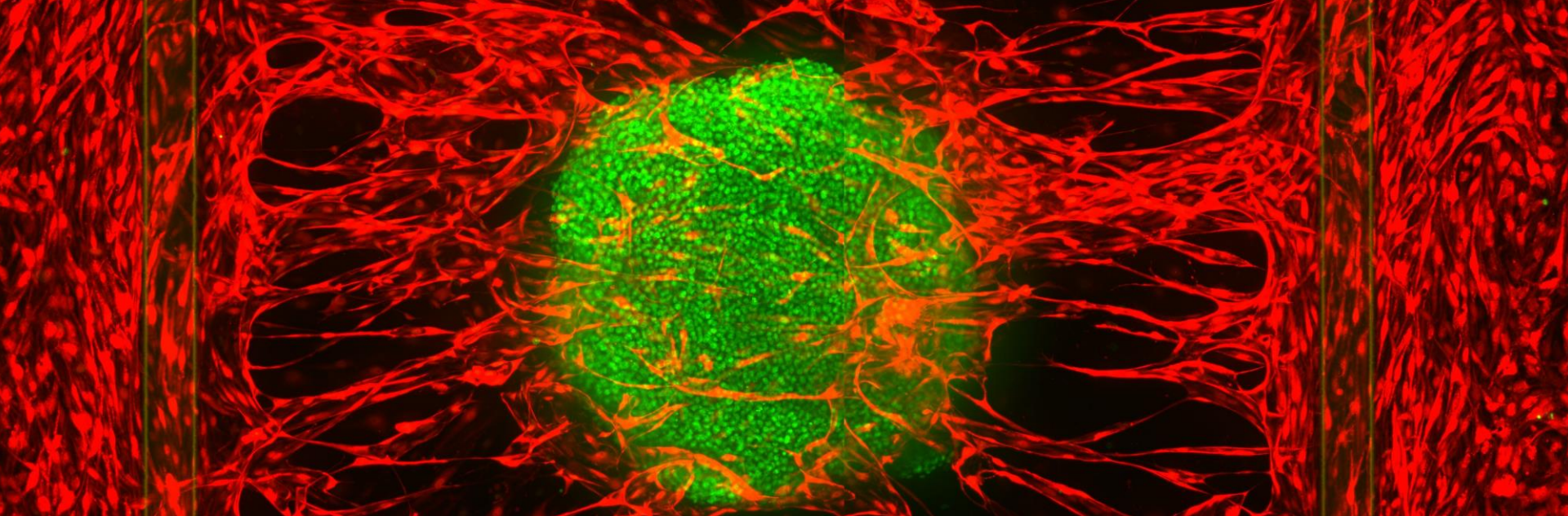


## Take home message

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- Organotypic models recapitulate human physiology
- Improve in vitro predictivity
- Reduce number of in vivo investigative studies





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[www.mimetas.com](http://www.mimetas.com)

**MIMETAS**  
the organ-on-a-chip company



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 848429 and 812616 and Interreg, project Biomat on microfluidic chip 433