


Imperial College
London

Multidimensional fluorescence imaging & metrology

- for cell biology, drug discovery and clinical diagnosis



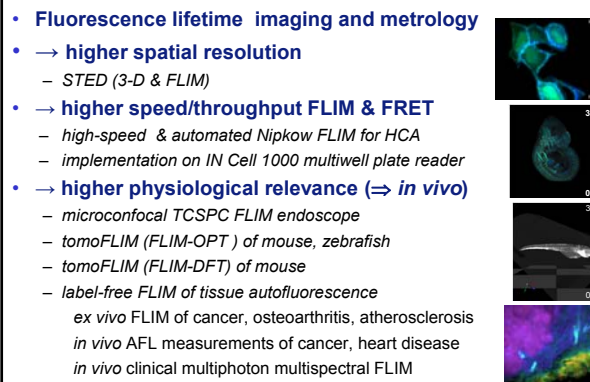
Paul French

Photonics Group,
Physics Department
Imperial College London

Imperial College
London

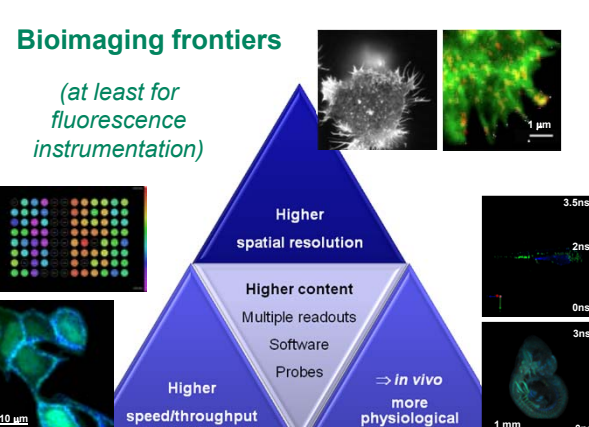
MDFI across the scales

- Fluorescence lifetime imaging and metrology
 - higher spatial resolution
 - STED (3-D & FLIM)
 - higher speed/throughput FLIM & FRET
 - high-speed & automated Nipkow FLIM for HCA
 - implementation on IN Cell 1000 multiwell plate reader
 - higher physiological relevance (⇒ *in vivo*)
 - microconfocal TCSPC FLIM endoscope
 - tomoFLIM (FLIM-OPT) of mouse, zebrafish
 - tomoFLIM (FLIM-DFT) of mouse
 - label-free FLIM of tissue autofluorescence
 - ex vivo FLIM of cancer, osteoarthritis, atherosclerosis
 - in vivo* AFL measurements of cancer, heart disease
 - in vivo* clinical multiphoton multispectral FLIM



Bioimaging frontiers

(at least for fluorescence instrumentation)



Higher spatial resolution


Higher content
Multiple readouts
Software
Probes

Higher speed/throughput

Higher physiological
⇒ *In vivo* more physiological

Imperial College
London

Multidimensional fluorescence imaging



Dominic Alibhai, Natalie Andrews, Lingling Chen, Sergio Coda, Pieter de Beule, David Grant, Douglas Kelly, Romain Laine, Hugh Manning, Dylan Owen, Stephane Oddos, Rakesh Patalay, Tom Robinson, Hugo Sinclair, Hugh Sparks, Sean Warren, Laurence Bugeon, Neil Galletly, Yuriy Alexandrov, Egidijus Auksonius, Alice Brown, Sunil Kumar, Peter Lanigan, Martin Lenz, Anca Margineanu, Ewan McGhee, Ian Munro, Jose Requejo-Isidro, Gordon Kennedy, Daniel Stuckey, Paul Tadrous, Harriet Taylor, Khadija Tahir, Clifford Talbot, James McGinty, Chris Dunsby, Mark Neil, Paul French

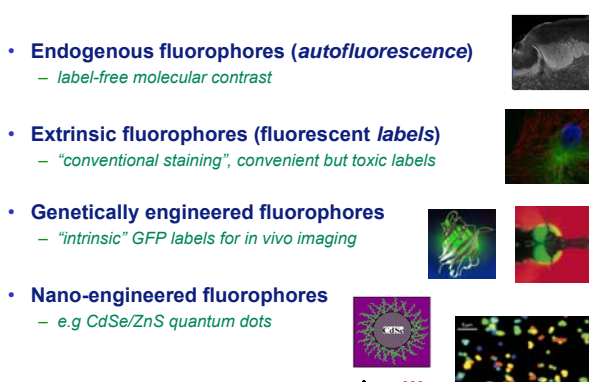
Praveen & Uma Anand
Geoff Baldwin
David Carling
Anthony Chu
Margaret Dallman
Dan Davis
Andrew deMello
Dan Elson
Mike Ferenczi
Jo Hajnal
Yoshifumi Itoh
Eric Lam
Alexander Lyon
Jonathon Lamb
Tony Magee
Ken MacLeod
Nicholas Peters
David Phillips
Guy Rutter
Ann Sandison
Alex Sardini
Gordon Stamp
Ed Tate
Andrew Thillainayagam...

Imperial College London
Biology, Chemistry (ICB),
Medicine, Physics

Support from:
BBSRC, BHF, TSB, EPSRC, EU, MRC, NIHR, Royal Society, Wellcome Trust... AstraZeneca, GE Healthcare, GSK, JenLab, Kentech Inst., Leica, Mauna Kea Tech., Perkin Elmer, Pfizer ...

Fluorescent opportunities

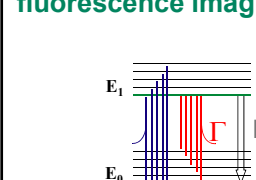
- Endogenous fluorophores (autofluorescence)
 - label-free molecular contrast
- Extrinsic fluorophores (fluorescent labels)
 - "conventional staining", convenient but toxic labels
- Genetically engineered fluorophores
 - "intrinsic" GFP labels for *in vivo* imaging
- Nano-engineered fluorophores
 - e.g CdSe/ZnS quantum dots



$\lambda_{exc} = 360 \text{ nm}$


Imperial College
London

Multidimensional fluorescence imaging

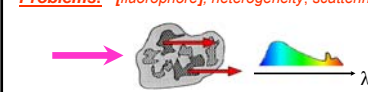


Intensity $\sim f(\eta)$, $\eta = \Gamma/(\Gamma+k)$

Wavelength, $\lambda \sim hc/(E_1-E_0)$



Problems: [fluorophore], heterogeneity, scattering and background fluorescence



Solution: ratiometric measurements

Multidimensional fluorescence imaging Imperial College London

$Intensity \sim f(\eta), \eta = \Gamma/(\Gamma+k)$
 $Wavelength, \lambda \sim hc/(E_1-E_0)$
 $Lifetime, \tau = 1/(\Gamma+k)$
 $Polarisation (\theta)$
 $Elapsed time$

Solution: ratiometric measurements

Multidimensional fluorescence imaging Imperial College London

$Intensity \sim f(\eta), \eta = \Gamma/(\Gamma+k)$
 $Wavelength, \lambda \sim hc/(E_1-E_0)$
 $Lifetime, \tau = 1/(\Gamma+k)$
 $Polarisation (\theta)$
 $Elapsed time$

optical molecular readouts

Molecular Biology Drug Discovery Clinical imaging

Multidimensional fluorescence imaging Imperial College London

$Intensity \sim f(\eta), \eta = \Gamma/(\Gamma+k)$
 $Wavelength, \lambda \sim hc/(E_1-E_0)$
 $Lifetime, \tau = 1/(\Gamma+k)$
 $Polarisation (\theta)$
 $Elapsed time$

Application of ultrafast laser and photonics technology to biomedical imaging

- maximise **information** from fluorescence signal

Multidimensional fluorescence imaging Imperial College London

$Intensity \sim f(\eta), \eta = \Gamma/(\Gamma+k)$
 $Wavelength, \lambda \sim hc/(E_1-E_0)$
 $Lifetime, \tau = 1/(\Gamma+k)$
 $Polarisation (\theta)$
 $Elapsed time$

endogenous
exogenous

Molecular Biology Drug Discovery Clinical imaging

Multidimensional fluorescence imaging Imperial College London

$Intensity \sim f(\eta), \eta = \Gamma/(\Gamma+k)$
 $Wavelength, \lambda \sim hc/(E_1-E_0)$
 $Lifetime, \tau = 1/(\Gamma+k)$
 $Polarisation (\theta)$
 $Elapsed time$

Sensing: imaging molecular (probe) environment **Label-free** molecular contrast

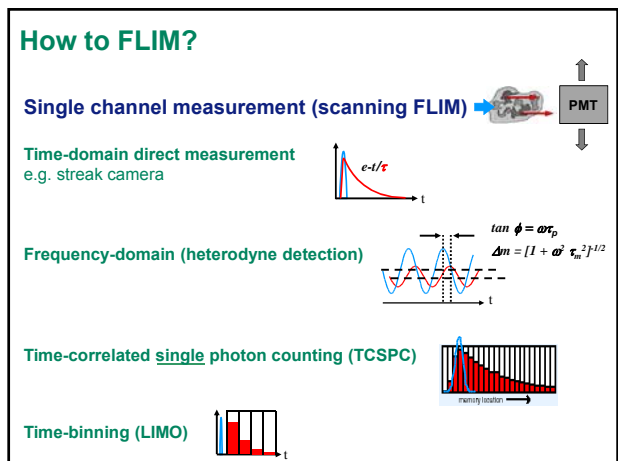
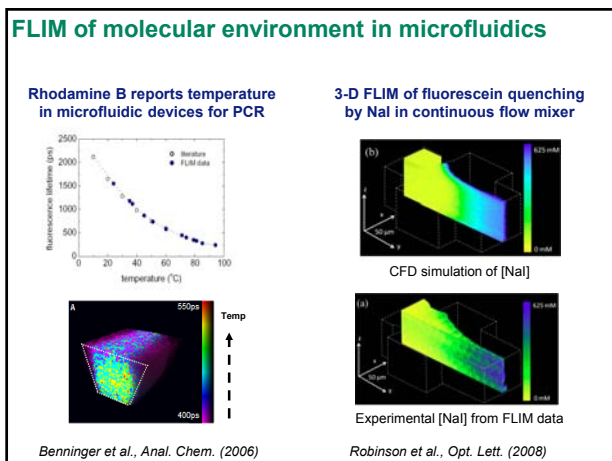
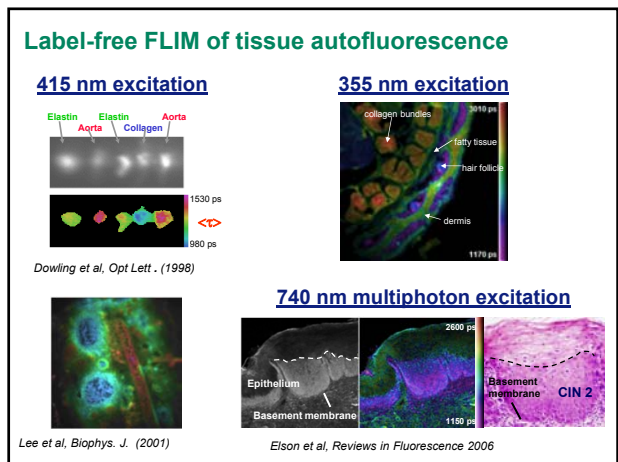
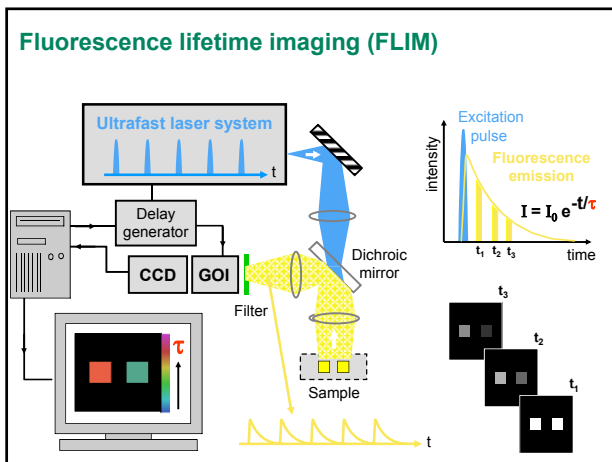
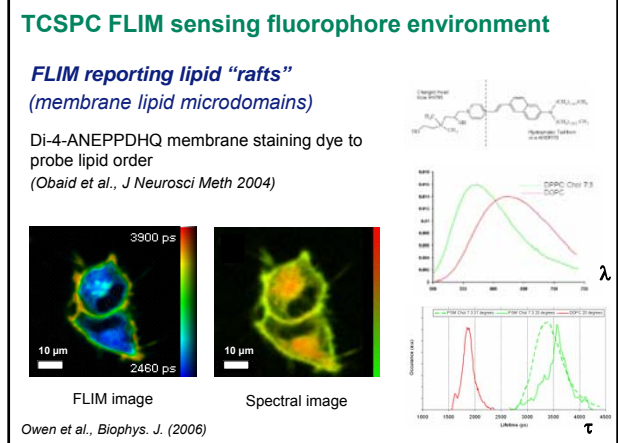
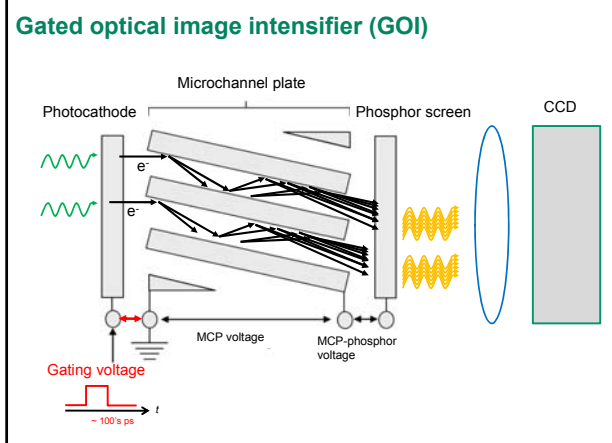
Molecular Biology 3D, *in vivo* models Clinical imaging

Fluorescence lifetime imaging (FLIM)

Ultrafast laser system

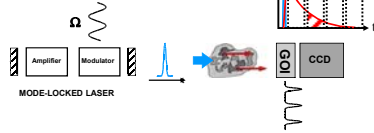
Excitation pulse
Fluorescence emission

CCD GOI Filter Dichroic mirror Sample

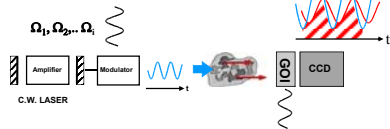


How to FLIM?

Wide-field time-gated FLIM (sampling)

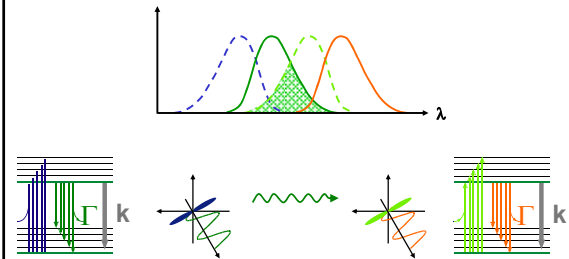


Wide-field frequency-domain FLIM (sampling)

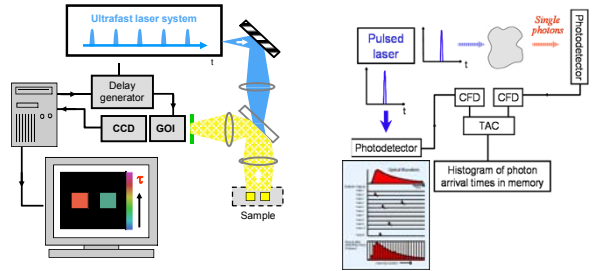


FLIM with exogenous fluorophores

FRET: Colocalisation and the spectroscopic ruler



(Time domain) FLIM technology



Wide-field time-gated imaging

Highest accuracy/second

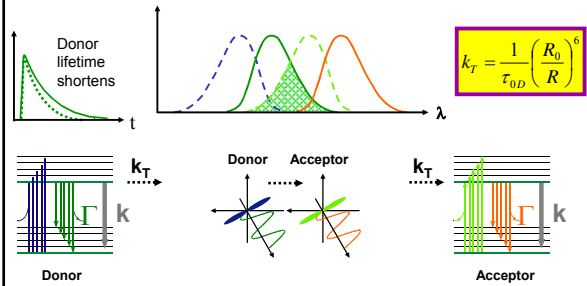
Confocal/MP TCSPC

Highest accuracy/photon

FLIM with exogenous fluorophores

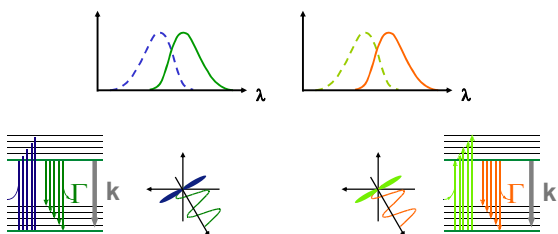
FRET: Colocalisation and the spectroscopic ruler

Förster Resonant Energy Transfer between fluorescent molecules over short (< 20 nm) distances : dipole-dipole interaction (NO PHOTONS)



FLIM with exogenous fluorophores

FRET: Colocalisation and the spectroscopic ruler

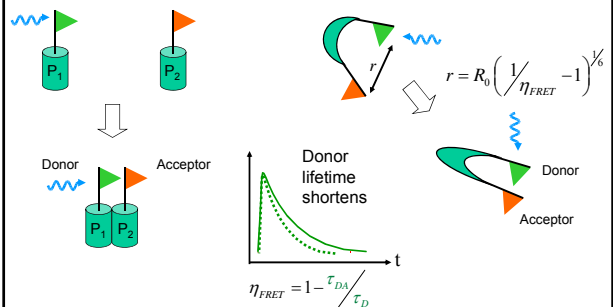


FLIM FRET to read out molecular dynamics

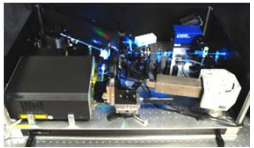
Förster Resonant Energy Transfer between fluorescent molecules over short (< 20 nm) distances : dipole-dipole interaction (NO PHOTONS)

e.g. protein binding

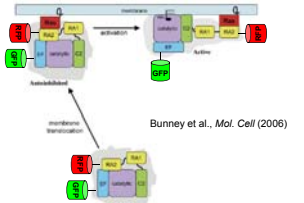
e.g. change in conformation



Multidimensional fluorometer with supercontinuum - for cuvette & fibre-optic probe measurements

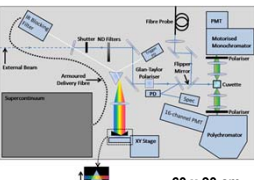


Conformational change of PLC β upon h-Ras binding

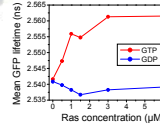


Bunney et al., Mol. Cell (2006)

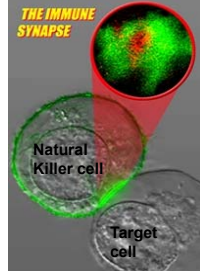
Now multiwell plate reader



60 x 90 cm



Imaging KIR2DL1 phosphorylation by FRET (studying immune system)

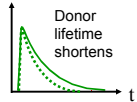


Cy3-labelled α-phosphotyrosine


KIR2DL1

FRET

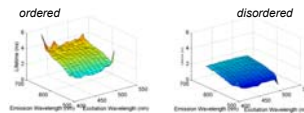
Donor emission



Multidimensional fluorometer with supercontinuum - for cuvette & fibre-optic probe measurements



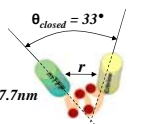
Membrane probe (di-4-ANEPPDHQ) of lipid order



Excitation, emission, lifetime in unilamellar vesicles in the ordered (DPPC7:Chol3) and disordered phase (DOPC).


Improved [Ca²⁺] FRET probe for FLIM readout

Troponin TNL15 → TFP-TnC



60 x 90 cm

Imaging KIR2DL1 phosphorylation by FRET (studying immune system)



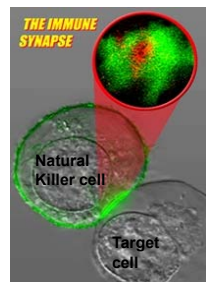
Donor emission

Treanor et al., J. Cell Biol., 2006

	KIR-GFP	KIR-GFP	Continuous	Discrete
D				
DA				

- FLIM/FRET can image phosphorylation of receptors, including KIR at the IS
- KIR phosphorylation:
 - requires a Src family kinase,
 - is spatially restricted to the NK cell IS
 - lasts several minutes
 - can occur at multiple synapses.
- KIR phosphorylation is not uniformly distributed at the synapse but occurs in nanoclusters.

Imaging KIR2DL1 phosphorylation by FRET (studying immune system)

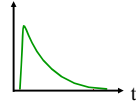


Cy3-labelled α-phosphotyrosine

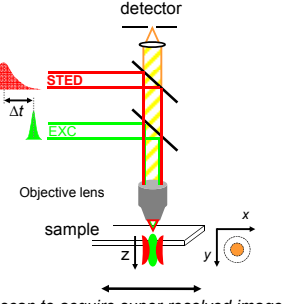
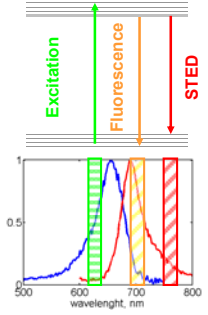
KIR2DL1

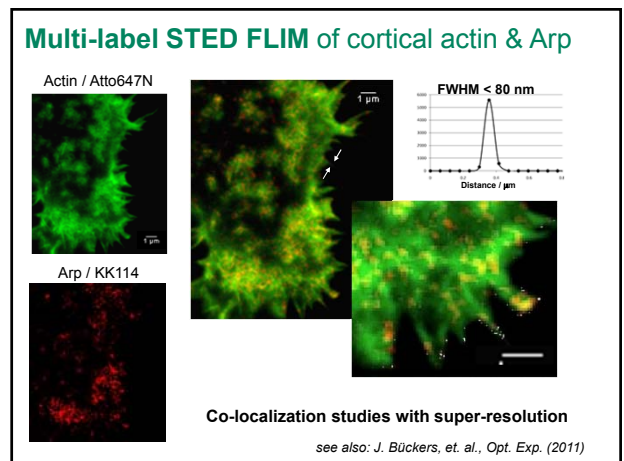
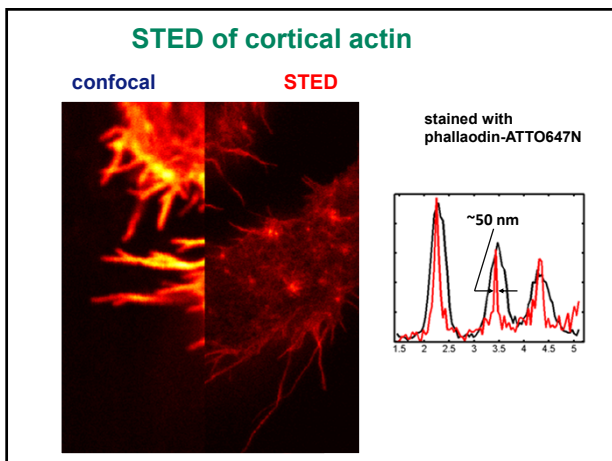
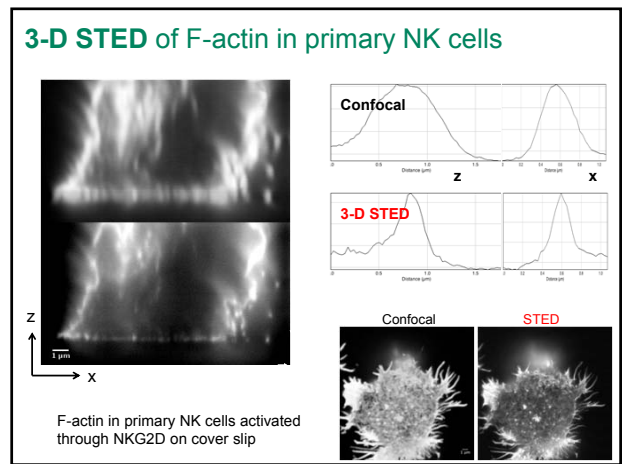
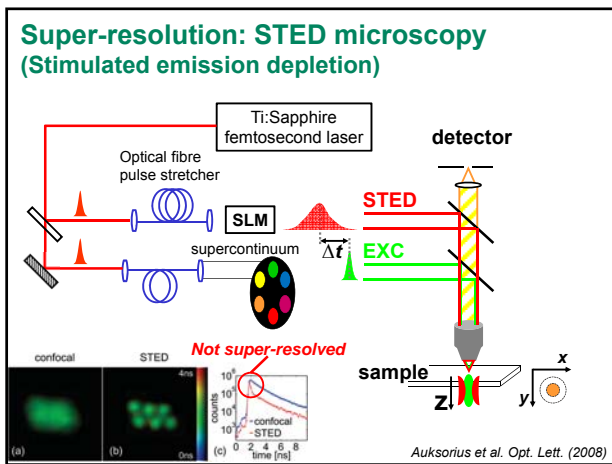
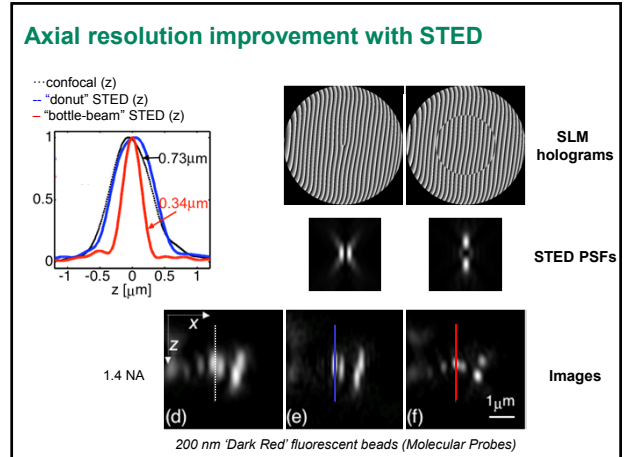
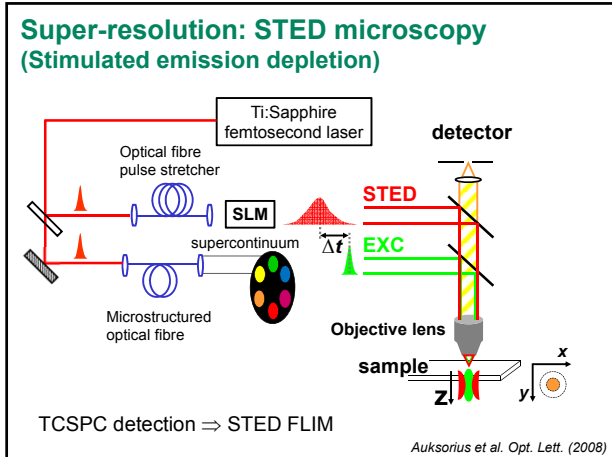
GFP

Donor emission



Super-resolution: STED (Stimulated emission depletion)



NP-STED?

ACS NANO

Article
 Nanoparticle-Assisted Stimulated-Emission-Depletion Nanoscopy
 Yonatan Sivan, Yamnick Sommeffaud, Stephane Kera-Cohen, John B. Pendry, and Stefan A. Maier
 ACS Nano, Just Accepted Manuscript • DOI: 10.1021/nm301992g • Publication Date (Web): 24 Apr 2012

Near field **plasmonic** resonance enhancement of stimulated emission and triplet decay rate
 ⇒ reduced power in STED beam
 ⇒ reduced photobleaching

Nipkow FLIM-FRET of Raf RBD/Ras-mRFP

Imaged after 10 minutes stimulation with EGF (5 s FLIM acquisition)

Raf-RBD-EGFP
 Intensity images
 FLIM of Raf-RBD-EGFP

HRas-mRFP
 Intensity images
 FLIM of HRas-mRFP

(RBD = Ras Binding Domain)
 Grant et al. Opt. Exp. (2007)

Wide-field optically-sectioned FLIM

Ultrafast laser
 Delay generator
 CCD
 GOI
 Filter
 Dichroic mirror
 Pinhole array
 Sample

FLIM of live COS cells with EGF
 Live cell FLIM/FRET of EGFP and EGFP-mRFP imaged at 5 frames/s:

Nipkow FLIM-FRET of Raf RBD/Ras FRET

High-speed ⇒ 3-D imaging and/or time lapse imaging

COS 7 cell expressing H-Ras-mRFP and Raf-RBD-EGFP imaged in 100 s after EGF stimulation

Z stack

Grant et al. Opt. Exp. (2007)

Raf RBD-EGFP with Ras-mRFP FRET

Agonist (e.g. EGF)
 Receptor
 P
 P
 P
 Adaptor
 FRET
 GEF
 Ras mRFP
 GDP
 GTP
 Raf RBD-EGFP
 Downstream signaling

(RBD = Ras Binding Domain)
 Imperial College London
 The Institute of Cancer Research

Nipkow FLIM-FRET of Raf RBD/Ras FRET

High-speed ⇒ 3-D imaging and/or time lapse imaging

COS 7 cell expressing H-Ras-mRFP and Raf-RBD-EGFP imaged in 100 s after EGF stimulation

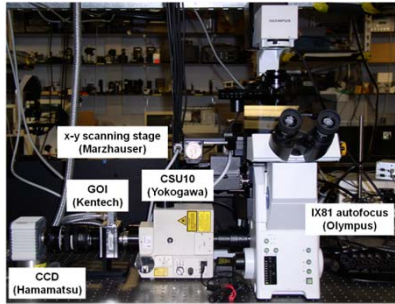
HRas-mRFP with Raf-RBD-EGFP in MDCK cells following EGF stimulation

Z stack
 Time lapse

6 s per FLIM image
 Grant et al. Opt. Exp. (2007)

Automated Nipkow FLIM plate reader

(1st prototype)



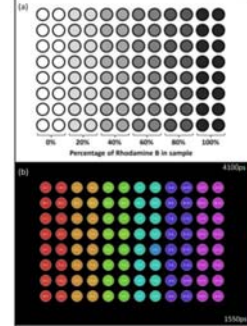
Tunable continuum source (Fianium)



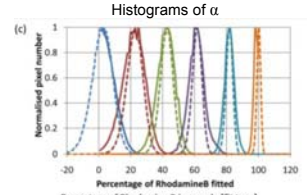
Automated FLIM multiwell plate reader

(based on GE Healthcare IN Cell 1000)

Mixtures of RhB/Rh6G



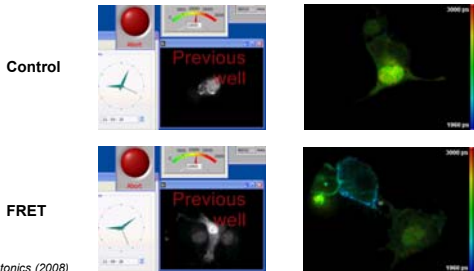
$$I = I_0 \left(\beta e^{-\tau/\tau_B} + (1-\beta) e^{-\tau/\tau_{6G}} \right)$$



Kumar et al. ChemPhysChem (2011)

Automated Nipkow FLIM multiwell plate reader

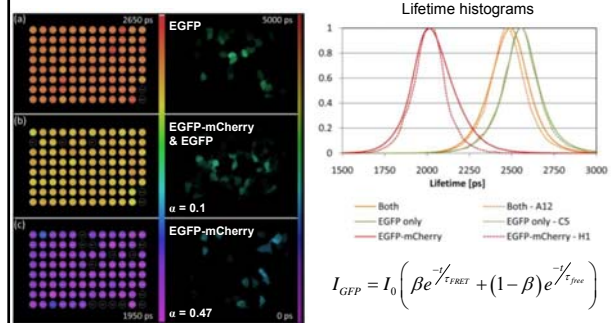
- Implemented on Olympus IX81 with autofocus and motorised stage
- Auto-find and auto-exposure algorithms
- Tested on live cells cotransfected with EGFP-Raf RBD and K-Ras mRFP
- Stimulation with EGF induces Raf binding to K-Ras



Talbot et al., J. Biophotonics (2008)

Automated FLIM multiwell plate reader

(based on GE Healthcare IN Cell 1000)



$$I_{GFP} = I_0 \left(\beta e^{-\tau/\tau_{FRET}} + (1-\beta) e^{-\tau/\tau_{free}} \right)$$

$\tau_{free} = 2516 \text{ ps}$; $\tau_{FRET} = 1068 \text{ ps}$

Kumar et al. ChemPhysChem (2011)

Technology Strategy Board
Driving Innovation

Ultrafast photonics for fluorescence imaging and time-resolved assays – TP:16401 – Proj:100297

TSB project: prototype FLIM multiwell plate reader

(based on GE Healthcare IN Cell 1000)

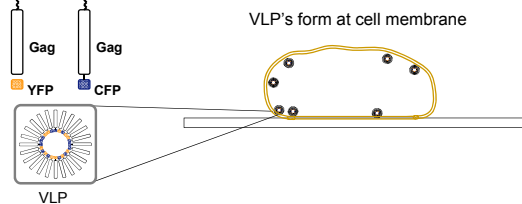
Established wide-field multiwell plate reader

- + Yokogawa CSU-X (more efficient)
- + wide-field time-gating
- + supercontinuum excitation source
- + FLIM/segmentation analysis
- + prescan mode

⇒ <~15 min/96 well plate for FLIM of FP-labelled live cells

FLIM-FRET of HIV-1 Gag Aggregation

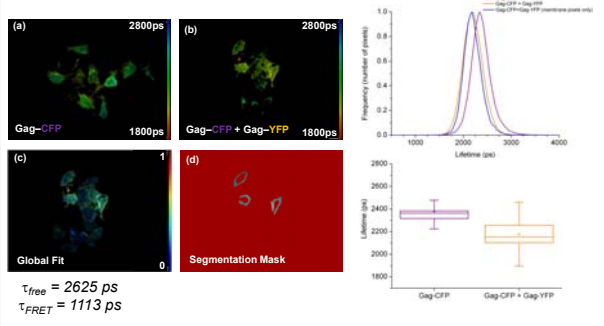
- HIV-1 Gag protein oligomerisation in HIV-1 virus-like particles (VLPs) within HeLa cells.



Stochastic labelling of Gag with both CFP and YFP should produce FRET
⇒ readout of HIV-1 formation

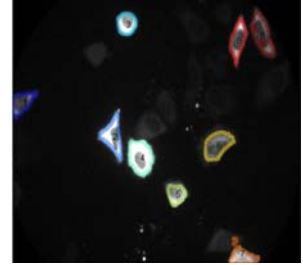
Automated FLIM-FRET of protein oligomerisation

HIV-1 Gag-CFP and Gag-YFP in VLPs in fixed HeLa cells (using modified Nipkow FLIM IN Cell 1000)



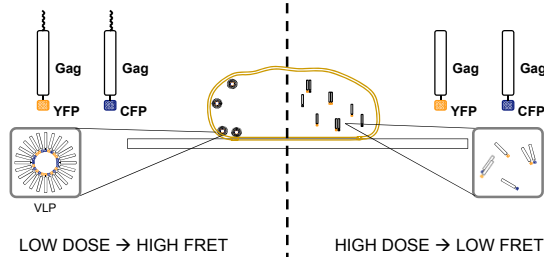
HIV-1 Gag Assay: Automatic image segmentation for improved contrast

- VLP formation occurs at the cell plasma membrane.
- Use automatic segmentation routines to create membrane regions of interest (ROIs).
- Each ROI is binned to a single decay.
- Increases S/N.
- Results in single (average) lifetime value per cell membrane.

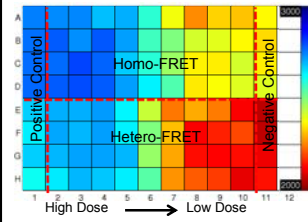


HIV-1 Gag Assay: Disruption of NMT enzymes

- HIV-1 Gag membrane binding requires endogenous NMT enzymes to add myristic acid moiety to N-terminus.
- Through use of an inhibitor of the NMT enzymes we disrupted HIV-1 Gag protein's ability to form VLPs.



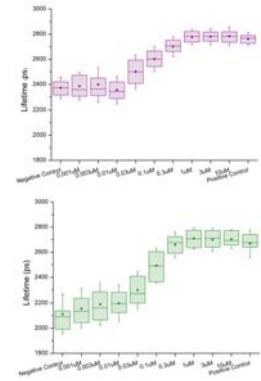
HIV-1 Gag Assay: Using high speed FLIM for HCA



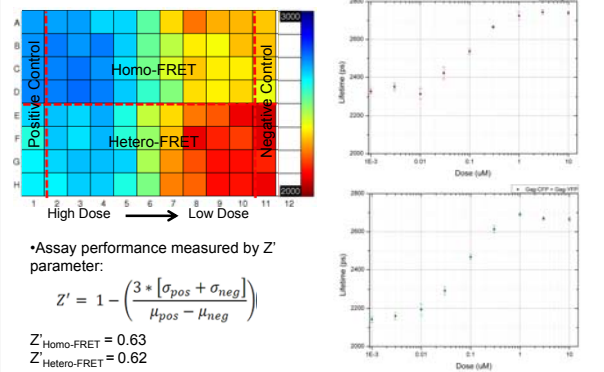
- Image segmentation leads to improvement in assay performance:

$$Z'_{\text{Homo-FRET}} = 0.75$$

$$Z'_{\text{Hetero-FRET}} = 0.67$$



HIV-1 Gag Assay: Using high speed FLIM for HCA



Label-free FLIM of metabolites in live cells

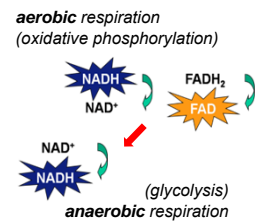
Autofluorescence from NAD(P)H (excited in u.v.) and flavoproteins, e.g. FAD (excited in blue)

Complex decay profiles → approximate to double exponential

Can read out changes in metabolic pathways e.g. aerobic → anaerobic respiration (e.g. hypoxia, cancer)

- NADH intensity increases
- NADH τ_1 ~ constant
- NADH τ_2 ~ decreases
- NADH τ_{mean} ~ decreases

- FAD intensity decreases
- FAD τ_{mean} ~ decreases?



Label-free toxicology: Multiwell plate FLIM of NADH

Doxorubicin is cardiotoxic
 - linked with decline in oxidative phosphorylation

FLIM of live MCF7 cells treated with Doxorubicin (360 nm excitation)

	7	8	9	10	11
A	0	0.01	0.1	1	10
B	0	0.01	0.1	1	10
C	0	0.01	0.1	1	10
D	0	0.01	0.1	1	10
E	0	0.01	0.1	1	10
F	0	0.01	0.1	1	10
G	0	0.01	0.1	1	10
H	0	0.01	0.1	1	10

MCF7-WT 6h Dox treatment

Optical Projection Tomography

Sharpe et al, Science (2002)
 Optical analogue of X-ray CT
 - transparent samples (chemically cleared)
 - size <1cm diameter

Mouse embryo neurofilament labelled with Alexa-488 conjugated antibody

TCSPC FLIM with a confocal endomicroscope

FLIM of pollen grains

FLIM FRET in live *Cos* cells with eGFP and eGFP-mCherry

1 s FLIM acquisitions

Kennedy et al., J Biophotonics (2009)
Kumar et al. ChemPhysChem (2011)

Optical Projection Tomography

Sharpe et al, Science (2002)
 Optical analogue of X-ray CT
 - transparent samples (chemically cleared)
 - size <1cm diameter

Mouse embryo neurofilament labelled with Alexa-488 conjugated antibody

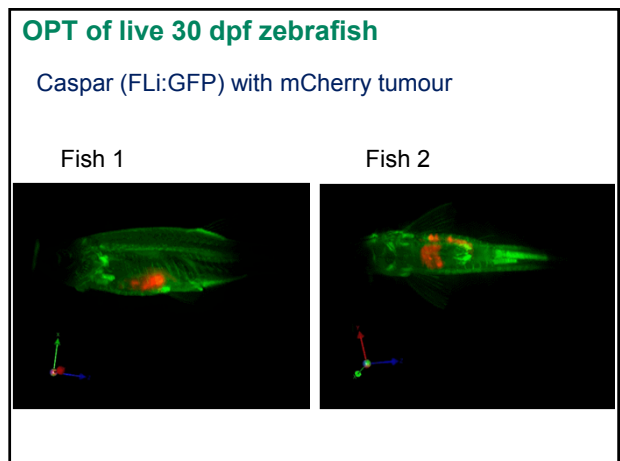
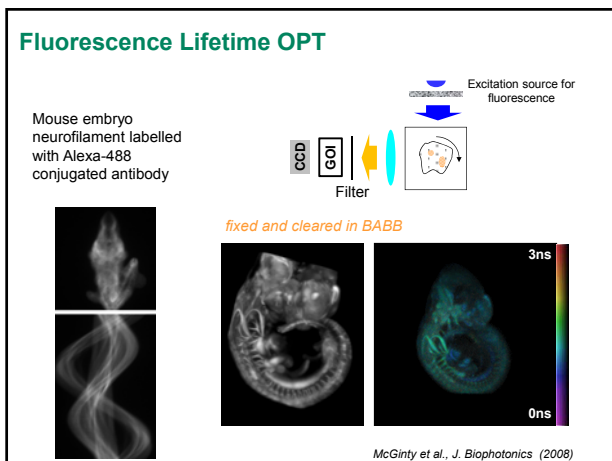
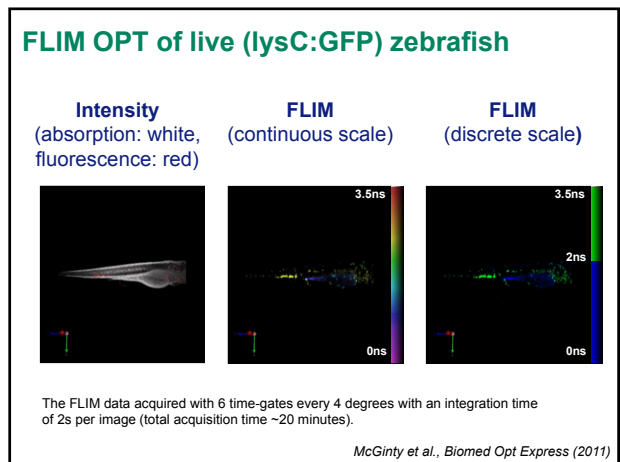
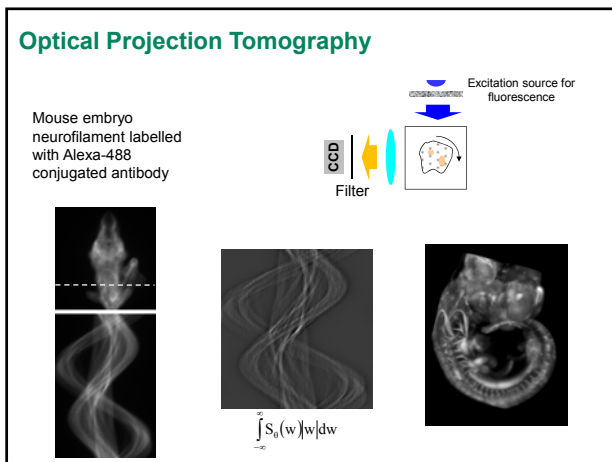
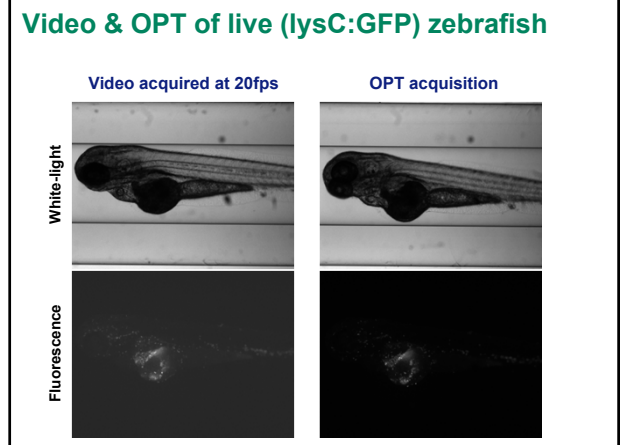
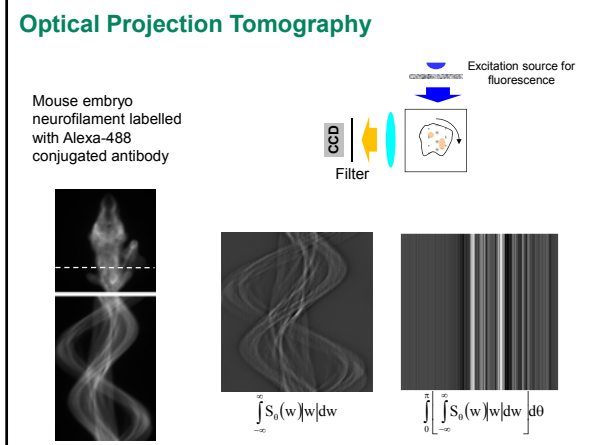
Optical Projection Tomography

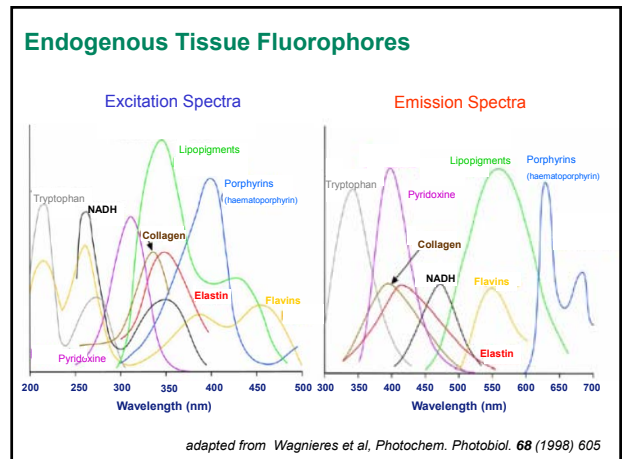
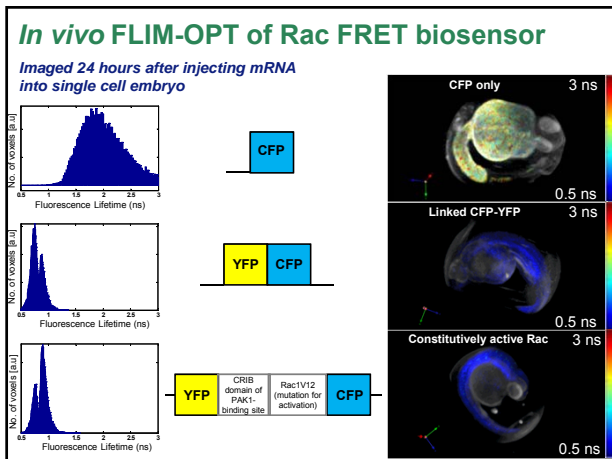
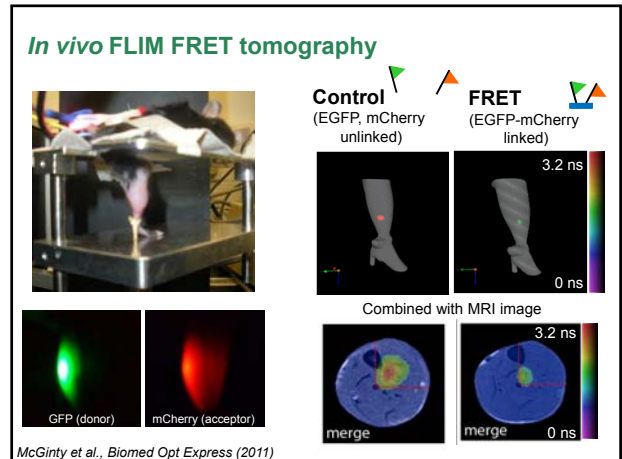
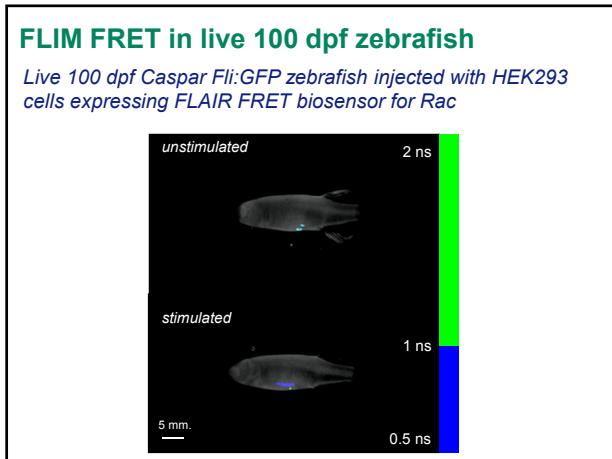
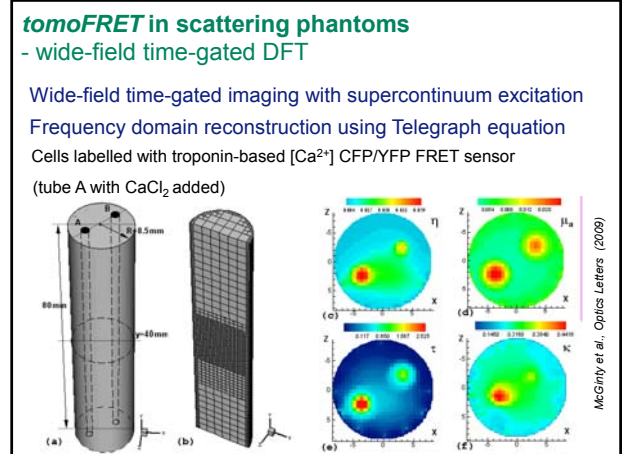
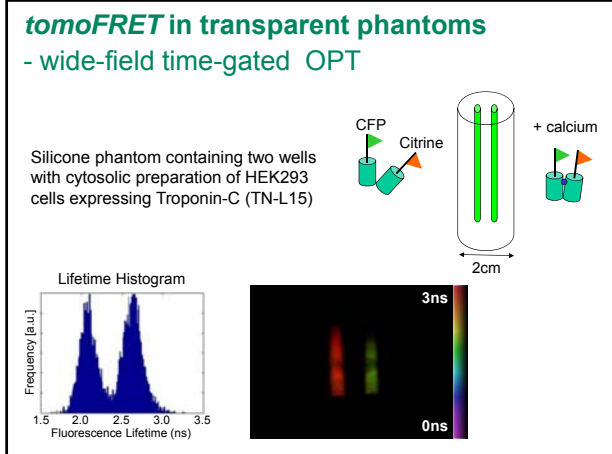
Sharpe et al, Science (2002)
 Optical analogue of X-ray CT
 - transparent samples (chemically cleared)
 - size <1cm diameter

Optical Projection Tomography

Mouse embryo neurofilament labelled with Alexa-488 conjugated antibody

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S_o(w) |w| dw$$



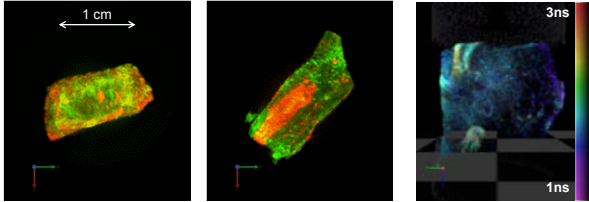


OPT of unstained clinical resections

Application to rapid clinical histopathology – label-free?

Fixed in formalin, dehydrated and cleared in BABB

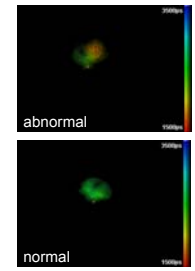
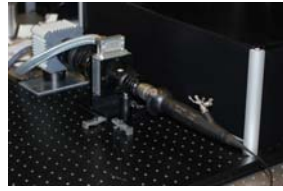
Metastatic tumour in liver Metastatic tumour in liver tomoFLIM of lung tissue



Green – fluorescence $\lambda > 500$ nm, excited at 460 nm
Red – white light absorption

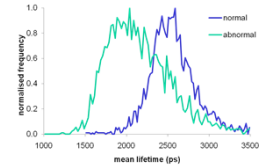
Wide-field FLIM endoscope

Karl Storz Flex X ureteroscope

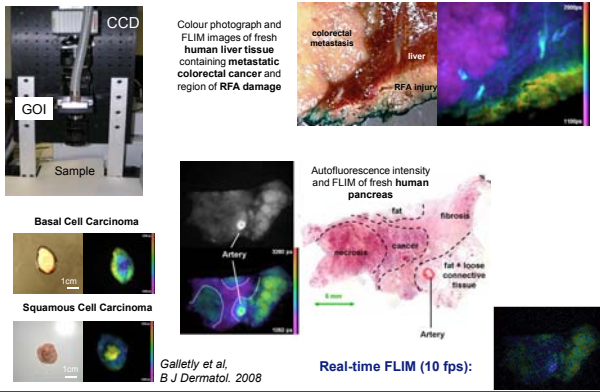


Ex vivo FLIM of normal & cancerous biopsies

405nm excitation, 430nm long pass filter

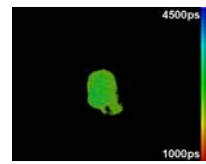


Clinical wide-field FLIM of fresh human tissue

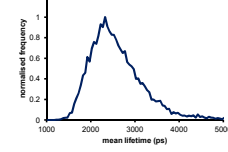


Handheld FLIM arthroscope

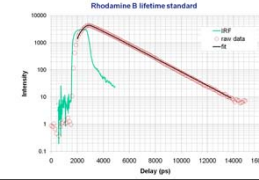
Tru-cut bladder biopsy (~3 mm)



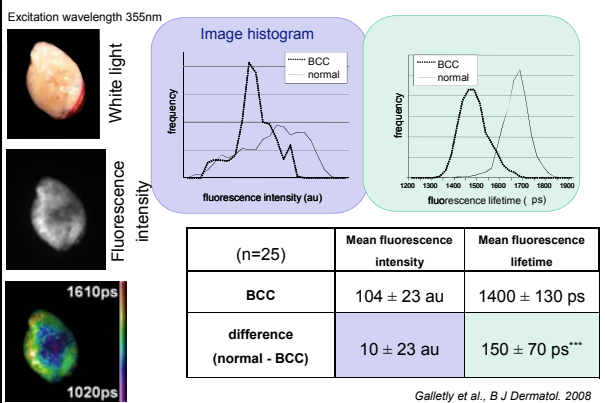
405 nm excitation, 1.2 s acquisition



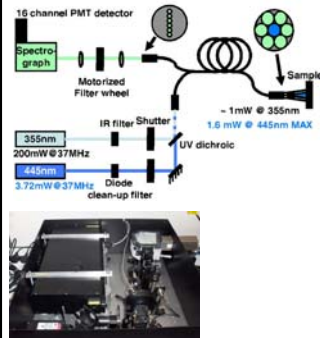
Kentech Instruments Ltd



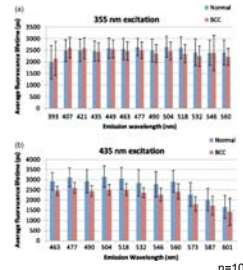
Wide-field FLIM of freshly resected human skin



Clinical hyperspectral fluorescence lifetime fibre-optic probe



Preliminary study of 23 ex vivo human skin samples (NOT fixed)



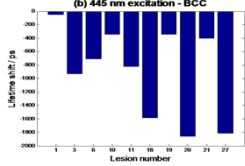
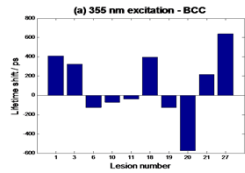
De Beule et al., Rev. Sci Instr. (2007)

Clinical hyperspectral fluorescence lifetime probe

In vivo measurements
(27 clinically diagnosed skin lesions at Lund University hospital)



Now in clinical trial for GI cancer at Charing Cross Hospital

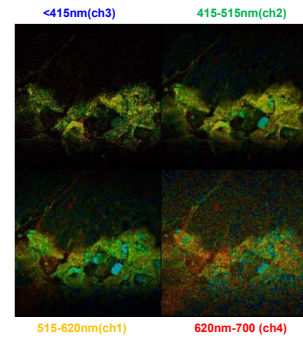
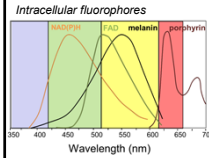


Thompson et al, J Biophotonics (2012)

4 Channels – ex vivo images

Dysplastic naevus imaged with the multichannel FLIM detector unit

- <415nm(ch3)
collagen, SHG
- 415-515nm(ch2)
collagen, elastin, FAD, keratin, melanin, NAD(P)H,
- 515-620nm(ch1)
elastin FAD, keratin, melanin
- 620nm-700 (ch4)
melanin, porphyrins



Clinical FLIM of human tissue in vivo

DermaInspect clinical multiphoton microscope

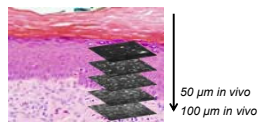


Imperial College London
Multispectral FLIM

<http://www.jenlab.de/DermaInspect-R.29.0.html>



JenLab - Kibero - IBMT - Imperial - Modena - tp21

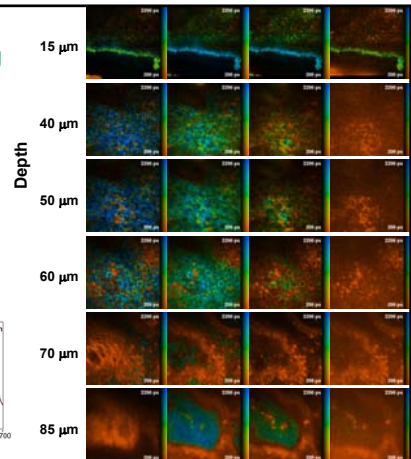
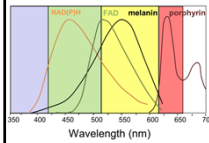


4 channel FLIM – in vivo imaging



Normal skin - medial forearm

Acquisition Time 25.5s/depth
Excitation @ 760nm
Images 177µm x 177µm

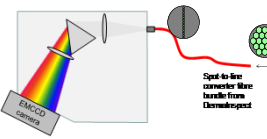
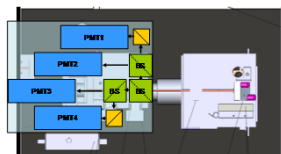


Clinical FLIM of human tissue in vivo

DermaInspect clinical multiphoton microscope

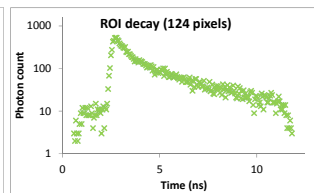
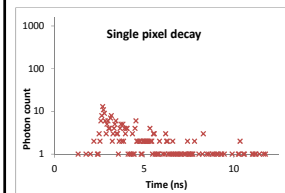
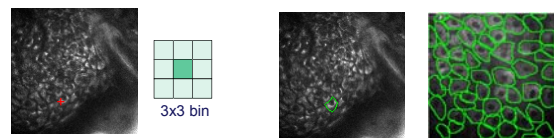


Imperial College London
Multispectral FLIM



IRF measured using gold nanorods: broadband impulse (Talbot et al, Opt Exp 2011)

Segmentation ⇒ cellular autofluorescence lifetime



Clinical skin FLIM

Discrimination analysis

Per cell analysis, **BCC v. Normal**
Top 5 spectral/lifetime/morphological parameters ranked by discrimination

Diagnosis	Patients	Cells	%
BCC	10	2377	27.1
Melanoma	6	809	9.2
Naevus	15	2905	33.1
Normal (in vivo)	14	2696	30.6
Total	45 patients	8787	100.0

Channel/Lifetime component

- Red/Short AUC = 0.82
- Blue/Short AUC = 0.80
- Yellow/Short AUC = 0.77
- Red/Long AUC = 0.74
- Green/Long AUC = 0.73

Cellular morphology: AUC ≤ 0.66
Spectral components: AUC ≤ 0.63

Multidimensional fluorescence imaging

Imperial College London

“Thank you”

The Institute of Cancer Research

AstraZeneca, GE Healthcare, gsk, GlaxoSmithKline, PerkinElmer, Pfizer, JenLab

b, STORZ, Mauna Kea Technologies, Kentech Instruments

THE ROYAL SOCIETY, BBSRC, EPSRC, MRC, wellcome trust

Technology Strategy Board, dti, European Union, NHS National Institute for Health Research