



**PAVONE**  
HIGH-THROUGHPUT  
MECHANICAL SCREENING  
PLATFORM

## PAVONE Nanoindenter\_manufactured by Optics11 Life

- Located in Room 2060 /2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Biocity/Department of Cell Biology
- Contact Professor Cecilia Sahlgren ([cecilia.sahlgren@abo.fi](mailto:cecilia.sahlgren@abo.fi)) for instrument access
- <https://www.optics11life.com/products/pavone-nanoindenter/>

# Mechanobiology

**Bridge the gap between biology, physics, engineering, and material science**

❖ **Explore the biomechanics of biological systems**

How physical forces and mechanical properties shape living organism's structure, function and behavior, from single cells to complex tissues.

❖ **Tuning biomaterial mechanics to guide biological response**

Biomaterials are designed not only to provide structure support

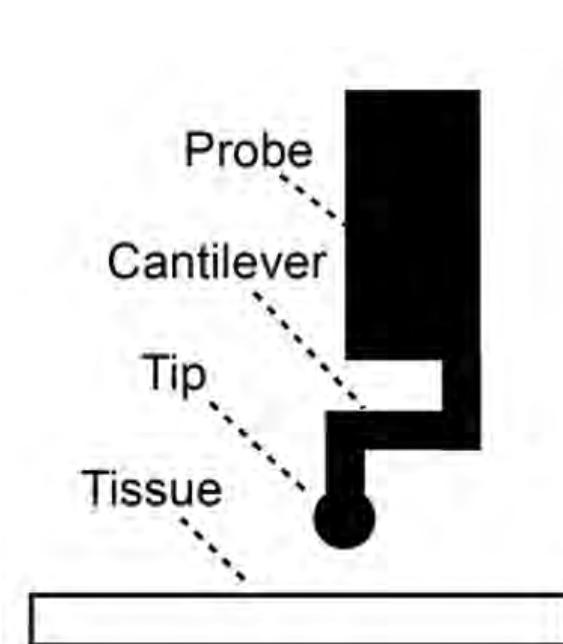
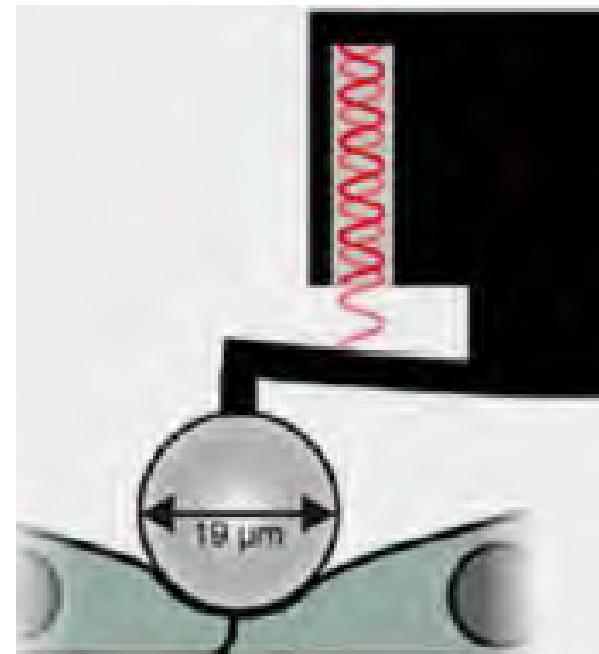
By manipulating mechanical cues, biomaterials are engineered to regulate specific biological responses and to create 3D structure that closely replicate native tissues

# Microscale indentation to probe soft- and living matter at the microscale

- **Optics11 Life** developed advanced indenters for high-resolution measurement of large biological samples, such as cells, tissues, organoids, and biomaterials.
- This technology enables property mapping across scales, from 1 to over 200  $\mu\text{m}$  contact areas, and continuous mapping over large regions up to tens of  $\text{cm}^2$ .
- Atomic force microscopy is confined to small areas, while rheometry measures bulk properties, missing local variations.

## Optics11 Life Technology

- Unique fiber sensors - optical interferometry
- Silicon cantilevers, glass sphere
- Measure force & depth of indentation
- In any culture medium or in air



MICRO-MACRO  
SCALE MAPPING

SOFT-STIFF  
MATERIALS

STABLE FRAME

HIGH-FORCE  
PRECISION

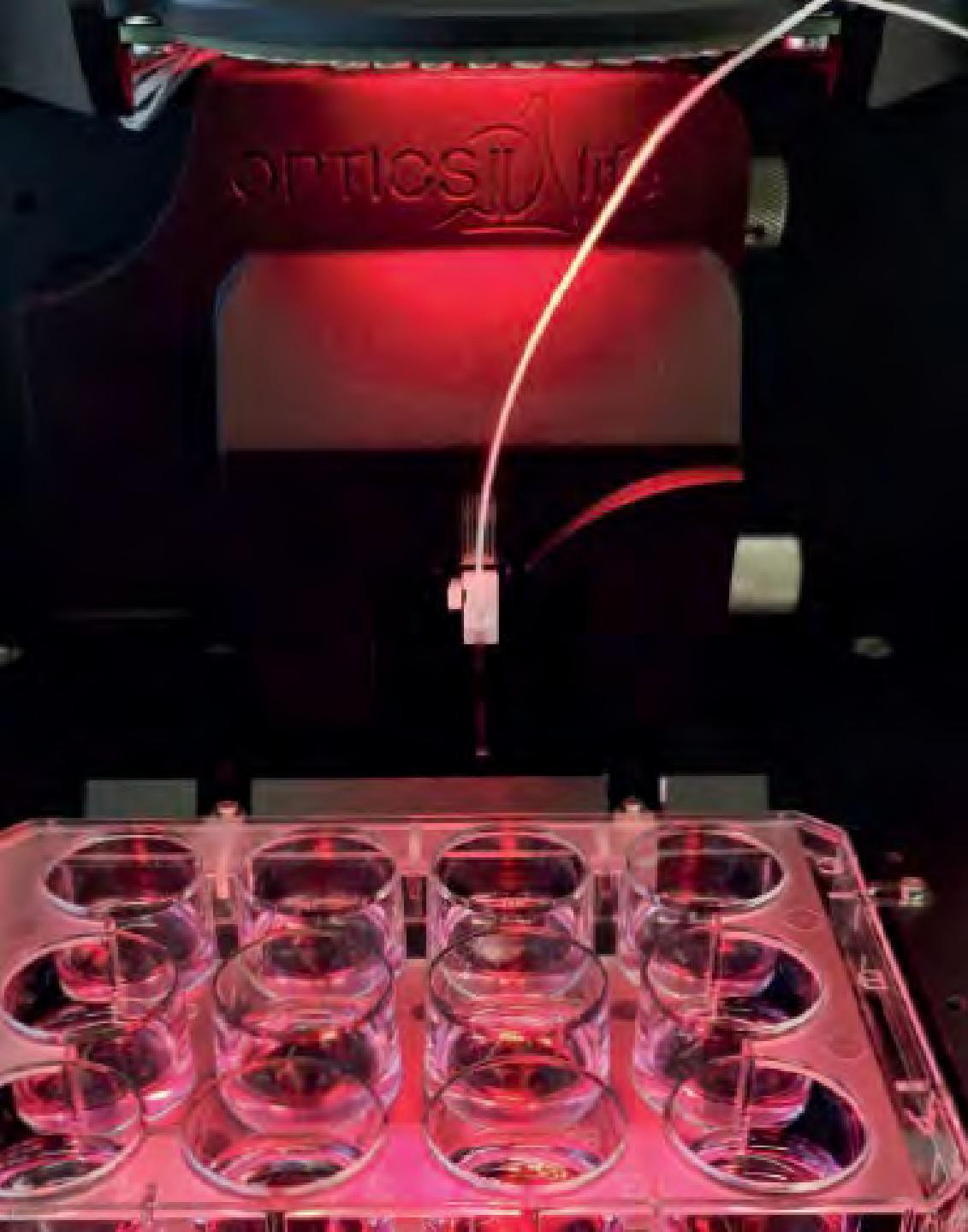
TWO WELL  
PLATES

TEMPERATURE  
CONTROL

ON BOARD  
MICROSCOPE

OPTICS  
life

PRECISE  
POSITIONING



# Key Functions and Features

- **Micro-rheology**
- **Integrated functions**

Mechanotesting, microscopy, and environmental control into one device

Indentation locations can be overlapped with the image of sample for structure-stiffness correlation analysis

Bright-field; Phase-contrast; Fluorescence (optional)

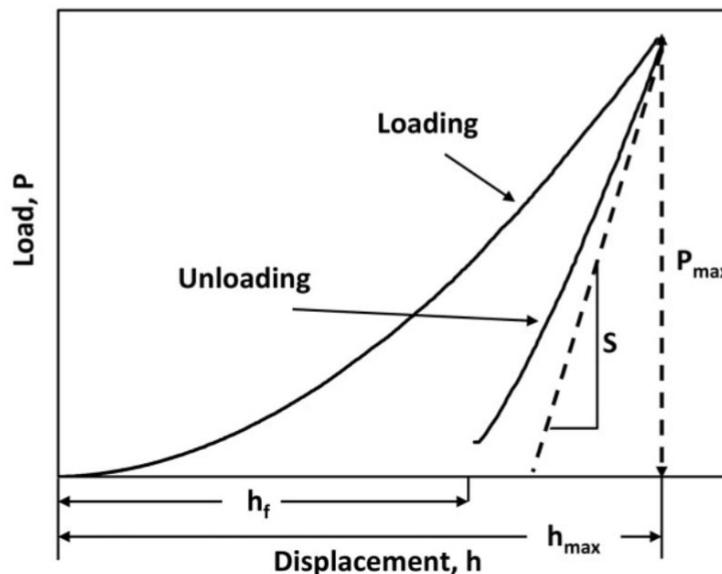
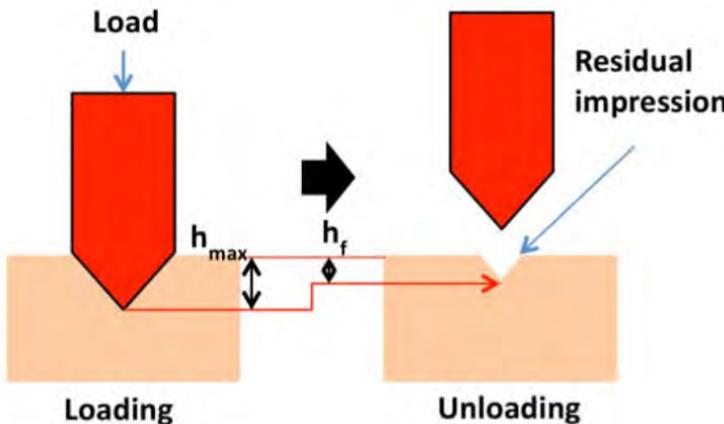
- **High-throughput automation**

Precise stage control and surface finding of the sample

Automated experimental workflows in micro-plates without the need of user supervision

# It follows similar principles as nanoindenters probe hard surfaces with sharp diamond tip (Berkovich)

A diamond probe indents the sample surface, measuring the applied load and penetration depth to calculate the contact area, which determines material hardness.



$$E_r = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2\beta} \frac{S}{\sqrt{A_c}}$$

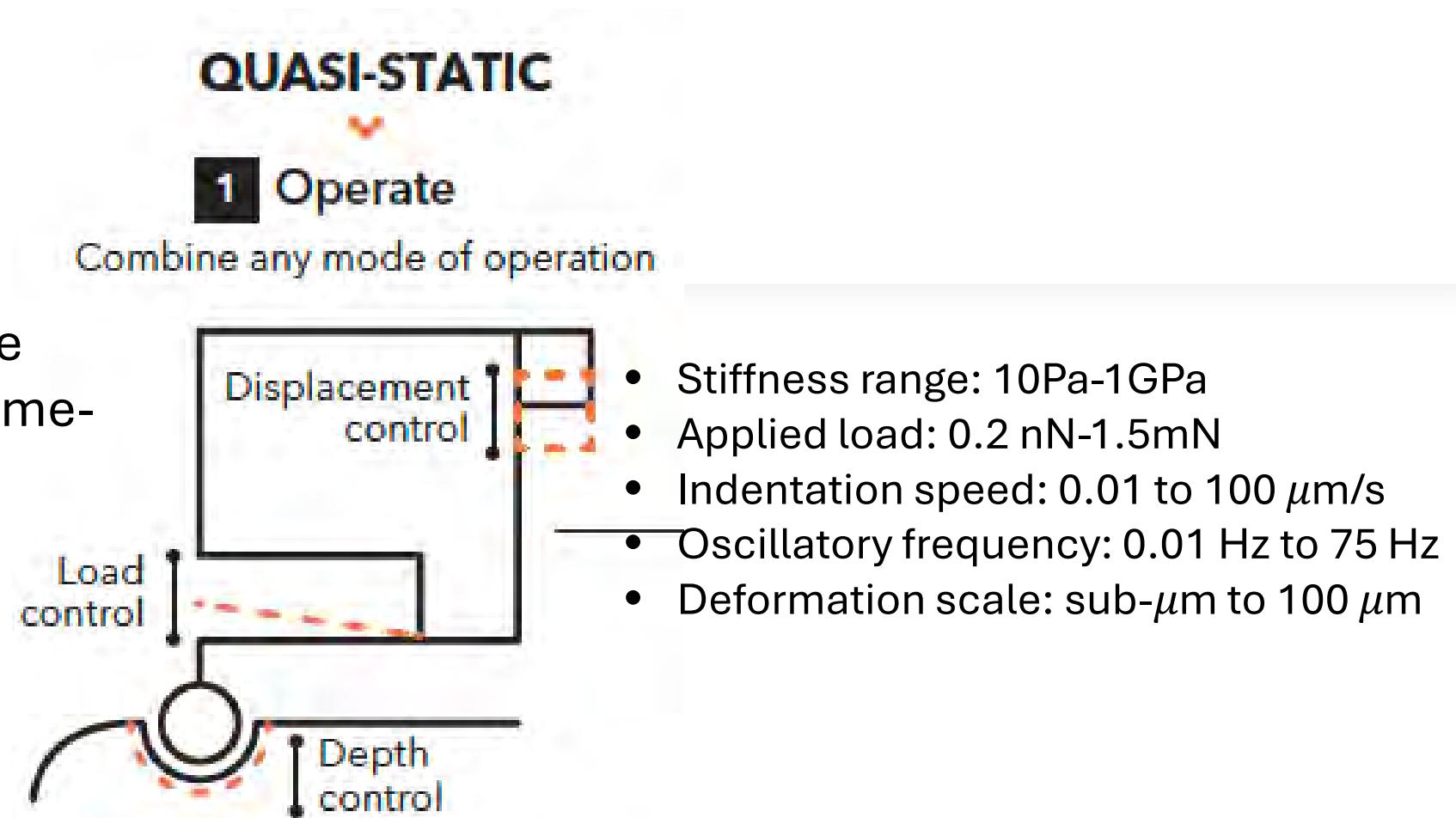
Where:

- $S = dP/dh$  = unloading stiffness
- $A_c$  = contact area
- $\beta$  = geometric correction factor

1. Load-displacement curve showing the process of loading and unloading.  $S$  is the contact stiffness of unloading.
2. The Oliver-Pharr method extracts hardness and elastic modulus as a reduced modulus, from nanoindentation by analyzing the elastic unloading stiffness and correcting for contact geometry and area.
3. Nanoindentation measures elastic response, not tensile modulus directly

# Micro-rheology

- Quasi-static
- Dynamic oscillatory profile
- Stress-relaxation/creep (time-dependent deformation)

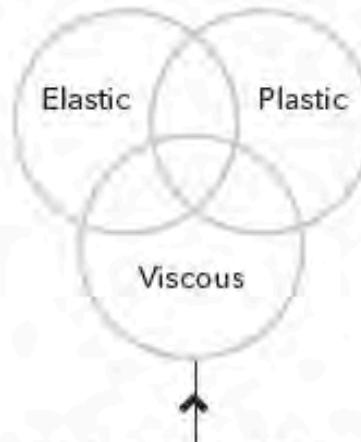


“A tiny, controlled poke that reveals how elastically stiff and how plastically resistant a small volume of material is.” (Suggested by ChatGPT)

## CONTROL MODES

### 3 Measure

Measure the mechanical properties



## RHEOLOGY (DMA)

### 2 Indent

With any indentation profile

Quasi-static profile

A graph showing a quasi-static indentation profile. The vertical axis represents force or depth, and the horizontal axis represents position. The profile is a smooth, downward-sloping curve.

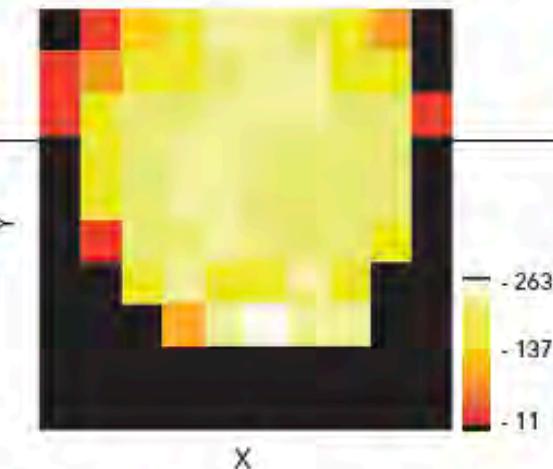
Dynamic oscillatory profile

A graph showing a dynamic oscillatory indentation profile. The vertical axis represents force or depth, and the horizontal axis represents position. The profile shows a series of small, high-frequency oscillations superimposed on a larger, low-frequency profile.

## MAPPING

### Young's modules

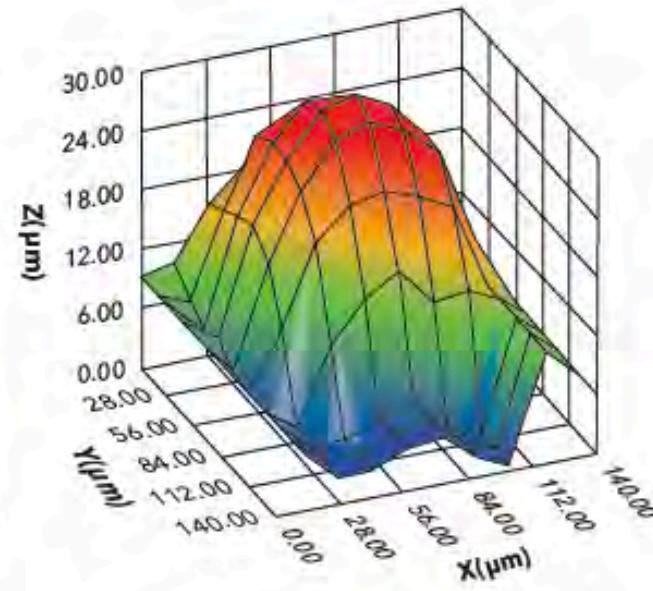
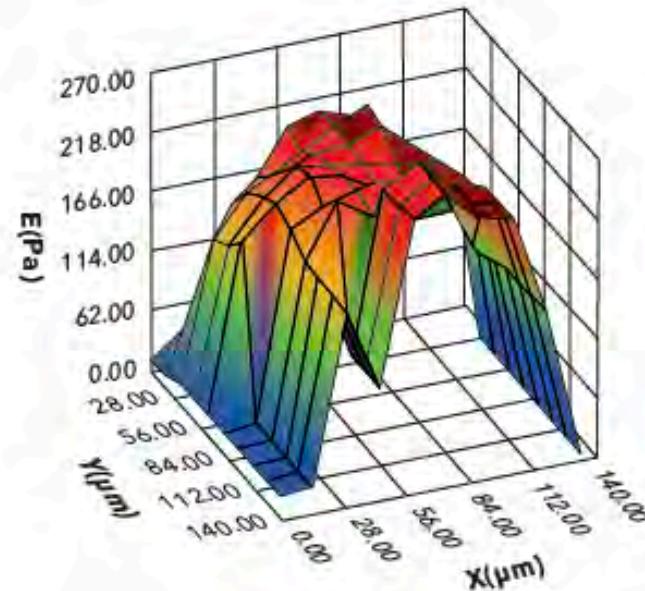
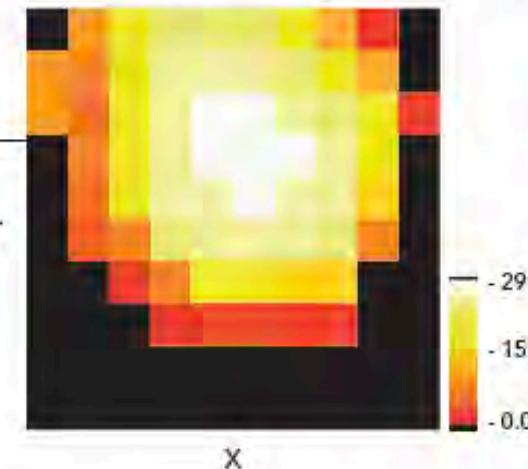
$E$ (Pa)



## TOPOGRAPHY

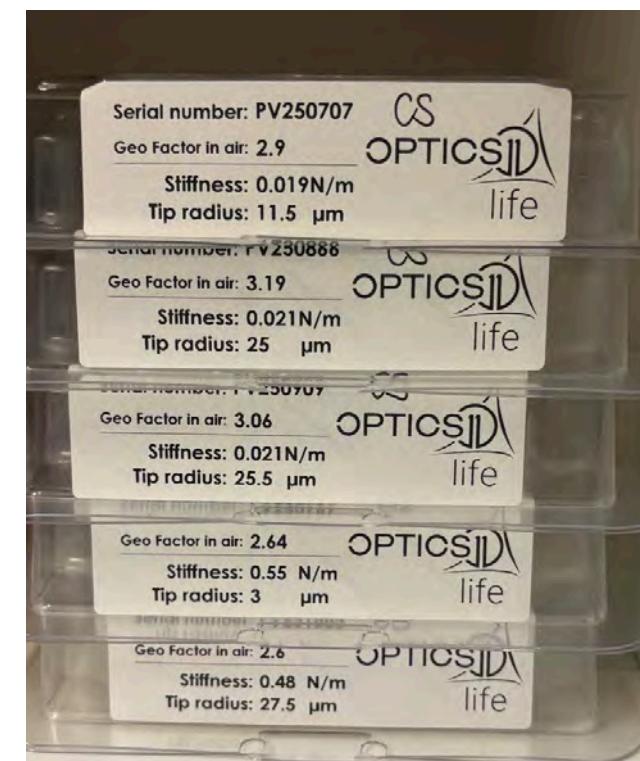
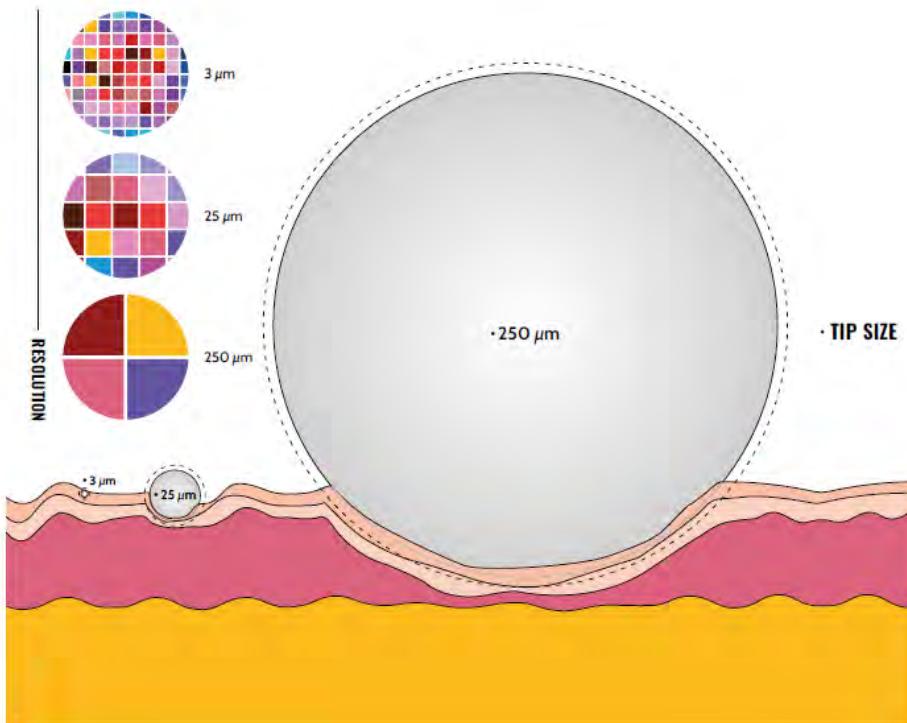
### Topography

$Z$ ( $\mu$ m)



# Tip size and cantilever stiffness are specific

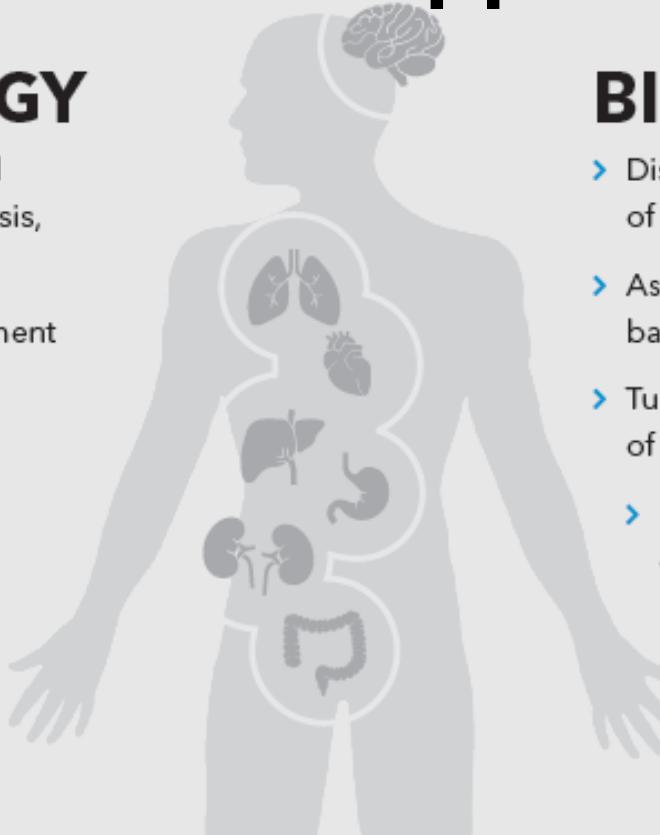
- **Cantilever stiffness**, in terms of the spring constant, needs to match the measuring system
- Large tips can measure bulk properties over large areas, minimizing the effect of irregularities on rough surfaces.
- Smaller tips offer higher resolution and can distinguish topological and mechanical heterogeneities at a fine scale.



# Where PAVONE can be applied?

## MECHANOBIOLOGY

- Engineer disease models with abnormal mechanical microenvironment e.g. fibrosis, cancer, inflammation.
- Mimic *in vivo* mechanical microenvironment (compare with native tissues).
- Assess mechanical phenotype of your cell culture.
- Mechanically characterized pathological tissues.
- Study effects of drugs to mechanical integrity of cells and tissue constructs.



## BIOFABRICATION

- Discover mechanical implications of new biofabrication procedures.
- Assess reproducibility of your batch processing.
- Tune mechanical properties of your biomaterials.
- Report mechanical degradation over time.
  - Characterize swelling behavior.
  - Build mechanically relevant modular tissues.

### Samples

- Single cells and monolayers
- Spheroids and organoids
- Ex vivo tissues
- 3D cell culture models
- Embryos

### Samples

- Hydrogels, gels, micogels
- Scaffold, ECM
- Thin films, coatings
- Polymers

# HIGH-THROUGHPUT WORKFLOW FOR CELL OR SPHEROID TESTING

