

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46

Fast, multicolor 3-D imaging of brain organoids with a new single-objective two-photon virtual light-sheet microscope*

Irina Rakotoson,^{1,2,3,4+} Brigitte Delhomme,^{1,2,3+} Philippe Djian,^{1,2,3+} Andreas Deeg,⁵ Maia Brunstein,^{1,2,3} Christian Seebacher,⁵ Rainer Uhl,⁵ Clément Ricard,^{1,2,3,§} and Martin Oheim^{1,2,3,§,✉}

¹CNRS UMR 8118, Brain Physiology Laboratory, Paris F-75006, France

²Fédération de Recherche en Neurosciences CNRS FR 3636, Paris F-75006, France

³Faculté de Sciences Fondamentales et Biomédicales, Université Paris Descartes, PRES Sorbonne Paris Cité, F-75006 Paris, France

⁴Master programme: BCPP (Biologie cellulaire physiologie et pathologie), spécialité Neurosciences

⁵TILL.id, Am Klopferspitz 19, D-82153 Planegg/Martinsried, Munich, Germany

* *corresponding author*

Martin Oheim

martin.oheim@parisdescartes.fr

⁺co-first authors

[§]co-last authors

* Elements of this work has been published in the Master thesis of I.R. [1]

The authors declare not conflict of interest. Rainer Uhl is the founder and owner of TILL.id, Andreas Deeg and Christian Seebacher are employees of TILL.id.

The funders of this study had no hands on the outcome or interpretation of the obtained results.

47 **ABSTRACT**

48

49 Human inducible pluripotent stem cells (hiPSCs) hold a large potential for disease modeling.
50 hiPSC-derived human astrocyte and neuronal cultures permit investigations of neural signal-
51 ing pathways with subcellular resolution. Combinatorial cultures, and three-dimensional (3-D)
52 embryonic bodies enlarge the scope of investigations to multi-cellular phenomena. At the
53 highest level of complexity, brain organoids that – in many aspects – recapitulate anatomical
54 and functional features of the developing brain permit the study of developmental and
55 morphological aspects of human disease. An ideal microscope for 3-D tissue imaging at these
56 different scales would combine features from both confocal laser-scanning and light-sheet
57 microscopes: a micrometric optical sectioning capacity and sub-micrometric spatial re-
58 solution, a large field of view and high frame rate, and a low degree of invasiveness, i.e.,
59 ideally, a better photon efficiency than that of a confocal microscope. In the present work, we
60 describe such an instrument that belongs to the class of two-photon (2P) light-sheet
61 microscopes. Its particularity is that – unlike existing two- or three-lens designs – it is using a
62 single, low-magnification, high-numerical aperture objective for the generation and scanning
63 of a virtual light sheet. The microscope builds on a modified Nipkow-Petráň spinning-disk
64 scheme for achieving wide-field excitation. However, unlike the common Yokogawa design
65 that uses a tandem disk, our concept combines micro lenses, dichroic mirrors and detection
66 pinholes on a single disk. This design, advantageous for 2P excitation circumvents problems
67 arising with the tandem disk from the large wavelength-difference between the infrared
68 excitation light and visible fluorescence. 2P fluorescence excited in by the light sheet is
69 collected by the same objective and imaged onto a fast sCMOS camera. We demonstrate
70 three-dimensional imaging of TO-PRO3-stained embryonic bodies and of brain organoids,
71 under control conditions and after rapid (partial) transparisation with triethanolamine and
72 formamide (RTF) and compare the performance of our instrument to that of a confocal
73 microscope having a similar numerical aperture. 2P-virtual light-sheet microscopy permits
74 one order of magnitude faster imaging, affords less photobleaching and permits better depth
75 penetration than a confocal microscope with similar spatial resolution.

76 (333 words, 350 possible)

77 INTRODUCTION

78

79 The development of pharmacological treatments for neuropsychiatric and neurodegenerative
80 diseases has been hampered by the poor availability of preclinical models that adequately
81 capture the complexity of human disorders [2].

82 Human inducible pluripotent stem cells (hiPSCs) offer a promising platform for disease
83 modeling and drug screening. A comparably new technique is the directed differentiation and
84 reprogramming of patient fibroblasts into neurons, astrocytes, microglia and oligodendro-
85 cytes. Their combinational culture permits the growth of embryonic bodies (EBs) and brain
86 organoids, 3-D cultures that – in many aspects – recapitulate the development of the human
87 brain [3; 4]. Together, hiPSCs, EBs, and brain organoids enable observations and experiments
88 that were previously inconceivable, neither on human subjects, nor in animal models [5; 6].
89 Recent reports of functional, fully vascularized brain organoids have spurred hopes of
90 growing even larger 3-D cell assemblies [7], bringing the hitherto theoretical ‘*brain in a vat*’¹
91 within reach of the imaginable.

92 Elucidation of neural circuit (dys-)function would benefit from the detailed, 3-D
93 visualization of the fine structure of neurons, astrocytes and blood vessels over large fields of
94 view and deep in tissue. Large-scale neuroanatomical imaging has become possible in cleared
95 tissue sections [8], brain organoids [9] or even entire brains [10], but in many cases the
96 resolution is rather at level of cell bodies than at the synaptic scale. In addition to the diffi-
97 culties associated with transparrisation and tissue shrinking, imaging of large tissue volumes at
98 spatial high-resolution presents considerable challenges: confocal and two-photon (2P) laser
99 scanning microscopies set the ‘gold-standard’ for diffraction-limited fluorescence imaging,
100 but – being in most of their implementations point-scanning, i.e., sequential techniques – the

¹ The ‘*brain in a vat*’ or ‘*brain in a jar*’ is a scenario used in a variety of *Gedankenexperiments* intended to draw out certain features of human conceptions of knowledge, reality, truth, mind, consciousness and meaning. It is an updated version of René Descartes’ evil demon thought experiment. It has been extensively used by Hilary Putnam (*Reason, Truth and History*, 1981), in an argument inspired from Roald Dahl’s short story, « *William and Mary* » (1959).

101 image acquisition is often painstakingly slow. Particularly, the reconstruction of large
102 volumes often requires hours if not days of recording, putting high demands on mechanical
103 stability of the microscope, photostability of the used fluorescent dyes, and incurring considerable
104 cost for beam time. Line- and multi-spot scanning schemes overcome these limitations
105 by parallelizing the *excitation*, but they trade off resolution against speed and they often have
106 relatively small fields of view, requiring image stitching for larger fields.

107 On the other end, selective-plane illumination microscopes (SPIM) [11] or light-sheet
108 microscopes [12] decouple fluorescence excitation and collection by using orthogonal
109 illumination and detection optical paths. Light-sheet microscopes have established themselves
110 as efficient workhorses for volume imaging in cleared tissue. It is the parallelization of *both*
111 *excitation* and fluorescence *detection* that allows for rapid 3-D imaging on these instruments
112 [13; 14]. However, one consequence of the lower-NA illumination and a result of excitation-
113 light scattering in not perfectly transparent samples, is that the axial resolution of light-sheet
114 microscopes remains poor compared to the optical sectioning achieved by spot-scanning
115 microscopes. Improvement has been made with 2P light-sheet excitation [15; 16], by
116 combining 2P-line excitation and confocal slit detection [17], by the use of Airy- [18] or
117 Bessel-beams for excitation [19; 20; 21], or a combination of these techniques [22; 23].
118 However, many of these recent techniques are not yet commercial and they afford
119 considerable cost and complexity compared to standard 1- and 2P-laser scanning micro-
120 scopes.

121 Another limitation of light sheet microscopes results from their orthogonal arrangement of
122 excitation and collection objectives: the need for non-standard procedures for embedding and
123 holding the sample. Variants of light-sheet microscopes in which both illumination and
124 detection objectives are mounted at an oblique angle with respect to the tissue surface and the
125 sample half space is left free exist [24; 25; 26], but they have remained comparably marginal.

126 An ideal microscope for volume imaging in cleared brain tissue [27] would combine
127 speed, a sub- μm lateral and μm -axial resolution, a mm-field of view, an excitation depth of a
128 few mm, a certain robustness to imperfect sample transparrisation and a large free space under
129 the objective.

130 Here, we present a microscope with excitation- and detection-parallelization that gets
131 close to this ideal by combining advantages of 2P laser-scanning and light-sheet techniques.
132 Our On-axis 2-photon light-sheet generation *in-vivo* imaging system (OASIS) uses a vast
133 array of micro lenses arranged in four nested spirals on a single spinning disk to
134 simultaneously scan ~40 independent excitation spots in the focal plane of a single, long-
135 working distance, low-magnification, high-NA objective [28]. Rotation of the disk at 5,000
136 rpm results in rapid multi-spot scanning and creates a virtual light sheet in the focal plane of
137 the objective. The fluorescence generated in each of the excitation spots is imaged through
138 the same objective onto a pinhole in the center of each micro lens. With the remainder of the
139 lens made opaque to (scattered) fluorescence by a dichroic coating sparing only the tiny
140 pinhole, only fluorescence emanating from the focus is detected. Each pinhole is imaged onto
141 a large-format scientific Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor (sCMOS) camera,
142 allowing near-diffraction limited imaging over a large field of view. This patented optical
143 design, combining micro-lenses and perforated dichroic mirrors on a single-spinning disk,
144 allowed us to retain the in-line, single-objective geometry of a classical microscope without
145 the requirement for orthogonal illumination. As a consequence, our OASIS microscope is
146 more versatile than two- or three-objective light-sheet microscopes. With its compact
147 footprint (43 cm by 12 cm, or 17" \times 5"), it can accommodate large samples (cells, slices,
148 explants and entire animals, *in vivo*) without requiring tedious mounting procedures or special
149 sample holders. The OASIS concept combines the optical sectioning, spatial resolution and
150 field-of-view of a 2P-scanning microscope with the speed of a light-sheet microscope. Due to

151 2P excitation, out-of-focus fluorescence excitation, photo-bleaching and photo-damage are
152 much reduced compared to a classical confocal microscope. We here describe this new
153 microscope and compare it to a confocal laser-scanning microscope (CLSM) for imaging
154 clarified brain organoids with nuclear staining.

155
156
157
158
159

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

160 **Wide-field two-photon microscopy at diffraction-limited resolution**

161 With our On-axis 2-photon light-sheet generation *in-vivo* imaging system (OASIS), we retain
162 the in-line geometry of a classical upright microscope with a single objective lens. We
163 introduce a novel spinning-disk concept, rethought and specifically designed for wide-field 2P
164 microscopy, **Fig. 1A**. Briefly, the expanded and shaped beam of a fs-pulsed infrared laser is
165 focused by an array of micro lenses to produce some 40 evenly lit excitation spots. These
166 spots are imaged by the tube lens and objective into the sample plane where they are each
167 spaced, on average, by 28 μm , **Fig. 1A, inset 1**. A total of almost 5,000 micro lenses are
168 arranged in four nested spirals that scan these spots upon rotation of the disk. At 5,000 rpm
169 (i.e., one turn every 12 ms, much shorter than camera integration times used here) the multi-
170 spot scanning generates a virtual light sheet permitting wide-field, direct-view 2P imaging.
171 Unlike earlier 2P-spinning disk microscopes [29; 30; 31] that were based on modified
172 Yokogawa-type spinning-disk confocal microscopes, we use a different disk geometry. Where
173 the Yokogawa dual-disk design requires two disks, one with micro lenses, the other one with
174 confocal pinholes, the OASIS microscope relies on a single disk on which micro lenses and
175 pinholes that are arranged on the different faces of the same optical element. Specifically, we
176 do not use an extra dichroic, but each micro lens comes with its own dichroic mirror; the
177 dielectric coating is omitted over a central circular aperture of 60- μm diameter. The use of a
178 single disk is advantageous in view of the large wavelength difference between the near-

179 infrared excitation and the visible fluorescence, which had previously reduced the efficiency
180 of 2P-spinning disk microscopes. However, this simplification comes at a price as it required a
181 complete re-design of the microscope optical path. On the excitation side, the micro lenses
182 must be uniformly illuminated with a collimated fs-pulsed IR laser beam to generate an array
183 of focused spots. On the collection side, to pass the pinholes, the detected fluorescence must
184 arrive focused at the level of the pinholes. The required optical path-length difference be-
185 tween excitation and emission light is achieved by introducing a corrective distance element
186 in the non-infinity space: while the longer-wavelength excitation light passes straight through
187 the device, the shorter-wavelength fluorescence takes a detour and travels a longer path to
188 produce the desired focal offset, *inset* ②. This patented optical scheme critically relies
189 extremely flat shallow-incidence long-pass dichroic mirrors to preserve the phase front of the
190 beam and maintain the optical resolution.

191 The 2P-excited fluorescence generated in each of the spots is collected through the
192 same objective and imaged onto the tiny pinholes in the dichroic coating of the microlens
193 (**Fig. 1A**, *inset* ②). Relay optics then images these pinholes onto a large-format sCMOS
194 camera. The resulting pixel size in the sample plane is 182 nm, within the Nyquist limit.

195 This detection is partially confocal (the 60- μm pinhole diameter correspond to a con-
196 focal aperture of 2 Airy units), so that only ballistic and snake-like photons but not scattered
197 fluorescence contribute to the signal, as illustrated by the exponential fluorescence drop with
198 increasing sample turbidity. Yet, as a result of the longer wavelength of excitation light, the
199 signal drop observed with the OASIS microscope was only half of that observed with a 1-P
200 CLSM at 633-nm excitation, **Fig. 1B**. We can attribute the improved depth penetration of the
201 OASIS uniquely to excitation effects, because stopping down the confocal pinhole from 2 to 1
202 Airy units did not measurably alter the fluorescence decay on the CLSM.

203 With its small footprint (43 cm by 12 cm) and 22-cm clearance under the objective,
204 the OASIS microscope offers facile access and ample space around the objective, making it
205 an ideal platform for imaging large samples, but also for placing electrodes, application
206 pipettes or external fibers for photostimulation or photochemical uncaging, **Fig. 1C**. Also, as a
207 re-sult of the large chip format of the sCMOS detector, we could implement simultaneous
208 dual-color detection by way of a custom image splitter, **Fig. S1**.

209 With the $\times 4.6$ beam expander and a $\times 25/NA1.1w$ low-mag high numerical aperture
210 (NA) dipping objective [28], the OASIS microscope features a field of view with a 200 μm
211 image diagonal. A 5- to 6-fold larger field, making full use of the nominal field-of-view of the
212 same objective would be possible, but it requires more micro-lenses to be illuminated, which
213 in turn requires a more powerful laser than ours.

214 As a wide-field imaging system, the OASIS microscope simultaneously offers a fast
215 frame rate, a large field of view and it resolves tiny subcellular detail. We illustrate the sub-
216 micrometric resolution by imaging the fine tip of a spine from an autofluorescent pollen grain,
217 a typical test sample for 2P-microscopes, **Fig. 1D**.

218 For estimating the optical sectioning capability of our OASIS microscope, we recor-
219 ded the axial (z -) intensity profile from a green fluorescent Chroma test slide and we quanti-
220 fied the z -resolution (Δz) by the full-width at half maximum (FWHM) of a Gaussian fitted
221 with the derivative of the z -profile [32], **Fig. 1E**. Repeating the same experiment on a ZEISS
222 LSM710 demonstrates that OASIS offered a 1.3-fold better optical sectioning than the
223 confocal laser-scanning microscope (with the pinhole diameter set to 2 Airy diameter and
224 with a dipping objective having a similar NA, 1.1w vs. 1.0w; $\Delta z_{\text{OASIS}} = 2.75 \pm 0.02 \mu\text{m}$ vs.
225 $\Delta z_{\text{CLSM}, 2\text{Airy}} = 3.47 \pm 0.02 \mu\text{m}$). In fact, its optical sectioning is close to that of a CLSM with
226 the pinhole stopped down to 1 Airy diameter ($\Delta z_{\text{CLSM}, 1\text{Airy}} = 2.55 \pm 0.02 \mu\text{m}$), **Fig. S2**.

227 The acquisition speed will be in practice be limited by the available signal, but the
228 theoretical minimal exposure time is bounded by the Nyquist limit, i.e., the time required for
229 two full rotations of the spiral on the disk. With a rotation time of 12 ms at 5,000 rpm and
230 four nested spirals, the minimal theoretical exposure time is 3 ms, i.e., 6 ms when taking into
231 account Nyquist's sampling theorem. Integration times should be multiples of 6 ms for
232 obtaining a homogeneously lit field of view. With the 100-fs pulses and mW average laser
233 power, $\langle P \rangle$, per illumination spot used here, typical exposure times were of the order of
234 hundred ms, full frame, more than one order of magnitude faster than typical time required a
235 similarly resolved image with a 2P-scanning microscope.

236 Taken together, our OASIS virtual 2P light-sheet microscope offers better depth pene-
237 tration, a similar if not better spatial resolution and a considerably higher speed than a
238 conventional CSLM.

239 (figure 1 close to here)

240

241

242

243 **RTF-cleared TO-PRO3-labeled embryos as a test sample for 1- and 2P microscopies**

244

245 Next, we evaluated the performance of the OASIS microscope for 3-D imaging of partially
246 cleared brain tissue. We sought for a stereotypic, sparsely but homogeneously labeled and thick
247 sample. To allow for a direct comparison between 1P-CLSM and our 2P virtual-light sheet
248 microscope, this labeling needed to be suitable for both linear- and non-linear excitation. To
249 minimize scattering and improve the depth penetration, we searched for a red-exciting, deep-
250 red emitting fluorophore. With these constraints in mind we opted for the nuclear stains TO-
251 PRO3 and Methyl Green (MG), having 1P-fluorescence excitation/emission maxima of
252 642/661 nm [33]) and 632/650 nm [34], respectively.

253 During preliminary experiments in 7- μ m thin sections of a fixed (E14.5) mouse
254 embryo, we found TO-PRO3 fluorescence to be 2.1-fold brighter than that of MG upon 633-

255 nm excitation. We observed an even larger intensity ratio ($\times 5.5$) upon 2P-excitation at 760
256 nm, **Fig. 2A**. Although non-linear excitation of TO-PRO3 at 1,100 nm has been reported [35;
257 36] we measured the 2P-action spectra and found peak excitations at 760 and 750 nm for TO-
258 PRO3 and MG, respectively, **Fig. 2B**. Compared to the reported 1,100-nm excitation these
259 shorter wavelengths are within the tuning range of the standard Ti:Saphh laser and they
260 minimize thermal damage from near-infrared absorption and focal heating [37], a particular
261 concern for the multi-spot excitation scheme used here.

262 We next optimized the tissue transparrisation procedure. Among the available methods
263 (see [38] for review), we focused on TDE [39], Clear^{T2} [40] and RTF clearing [41]. The
264 rationale was that these methods require only short clearing episodes and they use solvents
265 compatible with dipping objectives. Mouse embryos were most transparent with TDE (60%),
266 followed by RTF and, by far, Clear^{T2}, for which the tissue was even more opaque than the
267 non-cleared control (probably due to volume shrinkage), **Fig. 2C**.

268 In clearing, transparency is one issue, fluorescence preservation another. Depending
269 on the very method used, the observed signal loss was dramatic, with a 99.9% and 92%
270 attenuation of TO-PRO3 fluorescence following Clear^{T2} and RTF clearing, respectively, **Fig.**
271 **2D**. Increasing the laser power by a factor of 20 allowed us to acquire confocal images of TO-
272 PRO3 stained nuclei in slices of RTF-cleared embryos, **Fig. 2E**, whereas TDE clearing
273 attenuated the fluorescence to undetectable levels, **Fig. S3**. To develop an order-of-magnitude
274 idea of the laser powers required for obtaining similar signal-to-noise levels with the OASIS
275 and CSLM, we finally compared images acquired upon 1- (at 633 nm) and 2-excitation (at
276 760 nm) of TO-PRO3 labeled nuclei in a thin section of RTF cleared mouse embryo. With a
277 confocal aperture of 2 Airy, we found a factor of $\times 4,000$ between linear and non-linear
278 excitation (2 μ W vs. 8 mW/spot, respectively).

279 Based on these results, we decided to combine TO-PRO3 nuclear staining and RTF
280 clearing for directly comparing the performance of confocal and OASIS microscopes.

281
282 (figure 2 close to here)

283
284
285

286 **Faster and less invasive acquisition of 3-D image stacks**

287
288

288 Tracing fluorescent dendrites and axons to study the projections and connectivity in small
289 cellular net-works is a major goal of current neuroanatomy. At 250-nm lateral and
290 micrometric axial sampling and with typical pixel dwell times of 1 (10 μ s), sequential single-
291 spot scanning schemes are necessarily slow, requiring 4 (40) ms, 4 (40) s and more than 1
292 (10) hrs for the acquisition of 3-D image stacks from cubes of 10 μ m, 100 μ m and 1 mm side-
293 length, respectively. Parallelizing both the excitation and emission detection, as with our
294 OASIS microscope is expected to considerably speed up the imaging of such large data sets.

295 Using TO-PRO3 nuclear staining as a proxy, we acquired z -stacks of images in RTF-
296 cleared mouse embryos. Comparing the achievable imaging depths with the OASIS micro-
297 scope in non-cleared (30 μ m, **Fig. 3A and S5A**) vs. RTF-cleared samples (90 μ m, **Fig. 3B and**
298 **S5A**) we noted the 3-fold larger attainable imaging depth and well-preserved structural details.
299 Next, we evaluated the photobleaching with the OASIS and confocal microscope. We first
300 compared 2P-light sheet and confocal acquisition at shallow imaging depths, by continuously
301 recording images of the same region of interest (ROI) at 30- μ m depth in a non-cleared
302 embryo. At the same initial signal-to-noise ratio for both microscopes, We observed a ~3%-
303 intensity loss after the first image with the OASIS microscope ($t_{\text{exp}} = 480$ ms per image, 15.7
304 mW/spot for the OASIS), whereas the signal remained relatively stable after a confocal scan.
305 Fitting a monoexponential with the OASIS bleaching data revealed a 1/e (37%) loss of
306 fluorescence every 21 frames, **Fig. 3C**. Thus, fs-pulsed non-linear excitation results in a
307 significantly higher pleaching in superficial tissue layers. However, for 3-D imaging of

308 thicker sections, confocal microscopy rapidly produced much faster photobleaching than the
309 OASIS because it required higher and higher laser powers to maintain image contrast at
310 greater imaging depths; in fact, acquiring the first complete z -stack with the CSLM attenuated
311 the TO-PRO-3 fluorescence so much that a second acquisition was impossible, **Fig. 3D**.

312 We attribute the much higher volume photobleaching upon 1P confocal imaging in
313 non-cleared embryos to four reasons, (i), tissue scattering at 633 nm was roughly double that
314 of near-infrared light. The exponential scattering losses of excitation photons must be
315 compensated for by exponentially increasing the excitation powers with increasing imaging
316 depth; (ii), as a consequence of linear (1P) excitation, off-focus excitation of fluorophores
317 located above and below the imaged plane causes bleaching, too, i.e., at any plane, bleaching
318 occurs throughout the entire tissue volume while only one plane is imaged; (iii), although not
319 contributing to imaging, the scattered 1P excitation light nevertheless excites (out-of-focus)
320 fluorescence, which – in addition to the ballistic out-of-focus excitation – additionally
321 contributes to photobleaching. Non-linear (2P) excitation, on the other hand, confines both
322 fluorescence excitation and photobleaching to the focal plane, with the result fo better
323 preserving the sample outside the plane which is actually imaged; (iv), image acquisition was
324 4-times faster on the OASIS compared to confocal scans (480 ms/image vs. 1.815 s/image for
325 a similar image contrast), reducing the overall exposure of the sample.

326 We note that he better performance of the OASIS concept comes essentially from the
327 excitation side, because with a confocal pinhole of 2 Airy, on the fluorescence collection side,
328 both instruments should perform similarly. Finally, not only taking into account the loss of
329 signal, but also that of Weber contrast, we found a three-fold larger effective depth pene-
330 tration for the OASIS microscope, **Fig. S5A**.

331 Taken together, the OASIS microscope combines the advantages of 2P-exciation and
332 wide-field imaging. Compared to the 1P-confocal, it achieves higher z -resolution, affords less

333 photobleaching in 3-D samples and considerably speeds up data acquisition, thus allowing a
334 more efficient and less invasive volume imaging.

335 (figure 3 close to here)

336

337

338 **Fast volume acquisition from mouse embryonic bodies and brain organoids**

339 We continued our comparison by imaging day-7 embryonic bodies (EB), **Fig. 4A**, again
340 stained with TO-PRO3. Images acquired at different depths displayed rounded structures with
341 *lumina* inside tissue and revealed strong mitotic activity, **Fig. 4B**. The rounded structures
342 presumably correspond to neuroepithelial-like structures that are readily formed within EBs,
343 indicating the inherent ability of the ectoderm to differentiate into neural lineages [42]. The
344 sub- μm resolution of the OASIS microscope allowed us the detailed characterization of the
345 different mitotic figures throughout the entire 160- μm thickness of the EB, **Fig. 4C**.

346 Acquiring a 3-D image stack at a z -spacing of 0.5 μm (**Fig. S5B**) allowed us
347 reconstructing complete EBs and realizing high-resolution projections along the orthogonal
348 axes, **Fig. 4D**, revealing fine structural detail and including again mitosis across its entire
349 volume, **Fig. 4E**. Volume imaging of entire EBs was almost 4-times faster with the OASIS
350 compared to the CLSM (a 200- μm z -stack with a 0.5 μm z -spacing required 3'12" vs. 12'6"),
351 with no detectable photobleaching. Together, these features make the OASIS microscope an
352 ideal setup for 3-D the detailed characterization of EB development.

353 (figure 4 close to here)

354

355 Similar if not larger z -stacks were acquired a from RTF-cleared day-11 brain organoids, **Fig.**
356 **5A**. At this early developmental stage, the neuroepithelium has been induced and forms buds
357 that undergo 3-D growth within the Matrigel droplets [43]. Our observations highlight strong
358 morphological modifications during this tissue expansion. A recurrent feature was that TO-

359 PRO-3 labeled nuclei were rounded just below the surface of the brain organoids, whereas
360 polymorph and diamond-shapes prevailed at greater imaging depths, **Fig. 5B**. Also, the cell
361 density and nuclear labeling changed markedly with depth. Orthogonal planes revealed
362 compact groups of nuclei with stronger fluorescence, **Fig. 5C**, as well as cavities and rounded
363 structures with a neuroepithelium-like shape. As before in EBs, the resolution of the OASIS
364 microscope allowed us to detect the presence of mitotic figures at the luminal side, **Fig. 5D**. In
365 brain organoids, typical achievable imaging depths were around 200 μm , reflecting the
366 densification and opacification of the tissue during the development of an EB towards a brain
367 organoid.

368 With its large field-of-view, increased depth penetration, low photobleaching and
369 greater speed of acquisition compared to the CSLM, the OASIS optical scheme lends itself
370 ideally to the observation of entire EBs and whole brain organoids. Thin sections can be
371 studied at depth with sub-cellular (μm -) resolution, without mechanical slicing. The reduced
372 complexity compared to a classical light-sheet microscope, its compact mono-block design
373 and comparable ease-of-use make it an ideal companion for functional neuroanatomy. The
374 ongoing integration of a compact, fixed-wavelength high-power fs-pulsed laser into this
375 package will make the OASIS a unique, portable, alignment-free bench-top 2P-microscope.

376
377 (figure 5 close to here)

378
379
380

381 **CONCLUSION**

382

383 Work on brain organoids offers several distinctive advantages over classical disease models:
384 (i), derived from patient fibroblasts, they raise less concerns than animal experimentation and
385 work on human explants (see, however, [44] for an emerging awareness of the ethical issues
386 associated with these 3-D cultures); (ii), they avoid the limitations of animal models that are
387 often only a poor proxy of human pathology; (iii), they allow studies of rare or sporadic cases,

388 for which genetic models are missing; (iv), they allow observing the onset of the disease
389 during the early steps of the brain development, opening opportunities for studies that would
390 be impractical or unacceptable on human embryos or infants.

391 For this field of applications, the OASIS 2P virtual light-sheet microscope is a
392 compact, versatile and cost-efficient 2P wide-field research instrument allowing imaging of
393 hiPSC cultures, embryonic bodies and brain organoids.

394
395
396
397
398
399

400 MATERIALS AND METHODS

401
402
403
404

403 Ethics statement

405 All experimental procedures were performed in accordance with the French legislation and in
406 compliance with the European Community Council Directive of November 24, 1986
407 (86/609/EEC) for the care and use of laboratory animals. The used protocols were approved
408 by the local ethics committee.

409
410

411 Sample preparation

412
413
414
415
416
417
418
419
420
421
422

hiPSC culture and formation of embryonic bodies. Episomal human induced pluripotent stem cells (hiPSCs, Gibco) were cultivated on mitomycin-treated mouse embryonic fibroblasts using DMEM/F12 medium (Invitrogen), supplemented with 10% knockout serum (Gibco). When hiPSCs had reached about 80% confluence, they were detached with versene (ThermoFisher). Cell aggregates were removed and a single-cell suspension obtained with a cell strainer having a 100- μ m mesh size (Corning). For the formation of embryoid bodies (EBs), 10^4 cells were inoculated in 100 μ l in each well of a ultra-low attachment, round-bottomed 96-well plate (Corning) and cultivated during 9 days in EB formation medium (StemCell Technologies).

423 *Mouse embryos.* Embryos were age E10.5 and E14.5. Mice were killed by cervical
424 dislocation, the abdominal cavity was opened and the uterine horns were removed. Embryos
425 were collected under a macroscope (Nikon SMZ800) and immersed in formalin (buffered
426 10% formaldehyde, VWR) overnight. They then were stored at 4°C in PBS / Sodium Azide
427 0,02%. E10.5 embryos were used for whole-embryo transpersion; E14.5 embryos were
428 embedded in Optimal Cutting Temperature (OCT) compound and sliced into 7- μ m-thin
429 sections on a cryotome (Cryocut 1800, Leica).

430
431

432 **Staining, clearing and embedding**

433

434 *Nuclear staining.* Samples were permeabilized by a 0.2% TritonX100 solution in PBS (during
435 15 min for 7- μ m-thin embryo slices and EBs, 20 min for brain organoids, 1h for the whole-
436 mount E10.5 embryo). They were then incubated overnight in a 1:1000 solution of TO-PRO3
437 (Invitrogen) or of chloroform-purified Methyl Green (Merck) in PBS and finally washed in
438 PBS. At this point, non-cleared samples were mounted in a PBS-filled chamber under a glass
439 coverslip for microscopy. We used a home-made recording chamber, that was modified from
440 chambers designed for imaging and available as 3-D printer templates:
441 <https://idisco.info/idisco-protocol/>.

442

443 *Clearing.* After nuclear staining, samples were processed for one of the three following
444 clearing methods: TDE [39], Clear^{T2} [40] or RTF [41].

445

446 *TDE.* Samples were successively immersed in increasing concentrations (20%, 40% and 60%)
447 of TDE (Sigma) solutions in PBS. The duration of each incubation varied as a function of the
448 sample size: 1 h for 7- μ m embryo slices and for EBs, 3 h for a whole E10.5 embryo.

449

450 *Clear^{T2}.* Samples were immersed successively in, (i), a 25% formamide (Sigma) / 10%
451 polyethylene glycol (PEG8000, Merck) solution in PBS (10 min for embryo slices and
452 embryonic bodies, 30 min for a whole E10.5 embryo); (ii), a 50% formamide / 20% PEG8000
453 solution in PBS (5 min for slices and EBs, 15 min for whole embryo); (iii), a 50% formamide
454 / 20% PEG8000 solution in PBS (1h for slices and for EBs, 3h for a whole E10.5 embryo).

455

456 *RTF.* Samples were successively immersed in, (i) a 30% triethanolamine (TEA, Sigma) / 40%
457 formamide (Sigma) solution (15 min for slices and for embryonic bodies, 20 min for brain
458 organoids, 3h20min for a whole E10.5 embryo); (ii) a 60% TEA / 25% formamide solution
459 (25 min for slices and for embryonic bodies, 30 min for brain organoids, 5 h for embryo); (iii)
460 a 70% TEA / 15% formamide solution (25 min for slices and for EBs, 30 min for brain
461 organoids, 5 h for whole embryo). In either case, after clearing, samples were mounted under
462 a glass coverslip in a chamber filled with the respective final solution.

463

464

465 **Microscopy**

466

467 *Confocal microscopy.* We used a Zeiss LSM 710 microscope with a $\times 63/1.4$ NA oil-
468 immersion objective, for the acquisition of the confocal data shown in figs. 2 and S3, and a
469 $\times 40/1.0$ NA water-immersion objective for tissue sections and thick samples (embryo, EB,
470 brain organoid), respectively. For a fair comparison of the performance for imaging thick
471 samples of the confocal and 2P-virtual light sheet OASIS microscope, we set the confocal
472 pinhole to 2 Airy units and the scanned area was restricted to 900×900 pixels with a zoom
473 resulting in an effective pixel size of 0.182 μ m, equivalent to the OASIS. We also acquired
474 confocal images at 1 Airy for comparison. The laser powers delivered to the sample are
475 indicated in each figure. For 1PEF, we excited TO-PRO3 using the 633-nm line of a HeNe
476 gas laser (Lasos). Fluorescence was collected in between 646 nm and 725 nm.

477

478 *2P-virtual light-sheet microscopy.* The optical path of OASIS microscope is schematized in
479 Fig.1. A detailed technical characterization is given in a companion paper, (Ricard, Deeg, *et*
480 *al.*, *submitted*). Briefly, 2P fluorescence is excited in 40 foci. These spots are scanned across
481 the sample and the fluorescence emission from the spots confocally detected, similar to a

482 Nipkow-Petráň spinning-disk microscope [45]. However, for optimal 2P excitation, a disk
483 was manufactured that combines micro-lenses, dielectric long-pass (LP) coating and confocal
484 pinholes. On the front side of this glass disk (borofloat B33, 100-mm diameter, 2-mm thick)
485 >5,000 micro-lenses are arranged in four nested spirals were micro-machined (diameter $D =$
486 $666 \mu\text{m}$, focal length $f = 7.8\text{mm}$, lens-area-fill factor: 73.2%, the average inter-lens spacing is
487 about $666 \mu\text{m}$). The dielectric coating ($T_{\text{ave}} < 0.05\%$ for 400-675 nm, $T_{\text{ave}} > 93\%$ for 730-1100
488 nm) on the rear side has pinholes (i.e. non-coated areas, each having $60\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ diameter) centered
489 on the micro-lenses on the front side of the disk (see Fig.1, *inset*).

490

491 For 2P excitation, the Gaussian beam of a fs-pulsed Ti:Saph laser (Spectra-Physics
492 MaiTai HP with DeepSee™ module) was shuttered (AOM: AA Opoelectronic), expanded and
493 collimated to a beam diameter of about 5 mm ($1/e^2$) and aligned on the rear side of the disk.
494 The disk transmits the IR light and the microlenses on the front side generate a spiral pattern
495 of foci 7.8 mm in front of the disk. This pattern is imaged onto the sample by a telescope
496 formed by the tube lens ($f = 200$ mm) and water-immersion objective (Nikon CFI75
497 Apochromat LWD 25× MP, NA 1.1w).

498

499 2PEF is detected through the same objective and tube lens. However, between the tube
500 lens and the disk, two LP dichroics (custom design and manufacture from Alluxa, 50%-cut-on
501 at 705 nm, $T_{\text{ave}} < 1.5\%$ from 400-695 nm, $T_{\text{ave}} > 96\%$ from 715 - 1100nm, flatness < 0.25
502 wave P-V per inch, $d = 1\text{mm}$) were used at 18° angle of incidence (AOI) to image the
503 emission from the excitation spots onto the pinholes of the disk. As a consequence, the
504 collected fluorescence from the excitation spots arrives focused at the level of the pinholes
505 whereas out-of-focus fluorescence and scattered emission light is blocked. The intermediate
506 image in the pinhole plane is separated from the IR excitation light by an AOI 45° primary
507 dichroic LP filter (Custom design, manufactured by Alluxa, AOI 45° , flatness < 0.25 wave P-
508 V per inch, $d = 1$ mm) and magnified by a $f_1 = 140$ mm and $f_2 = 200$ mm telescope onto an
509 sCMOS camera (PCO.edge 4.2, chip size $13.3 \text{ mm} \times 13.3 \text{ mm}$). Due to this magnification, the
510 image size on the chip is about 7.1 mm and the total magnification of the system is $\times 36$. To
511 block residual IR excitation light, a multi-photon-emitter (ET700SP-2P, Chroma) was used.
512 For dual-color imaging a LP dichroic under AOI 15° (in fact a Semrock 532-nm laser
513 BrightLine Di02-R532, AOI = 45° . For AOI = 15° its edge shifts to 568 nm) was used in
514 combination with a knife-edge right-angle prism to split the image in the non-infinity space
515 between the $f = 200\text{-mm}$ lens and the camera chip. The red emission ($>568\text{nm}$) is imaged on
516 one half of the sCMOS chip, and the green ($<568\text{nm}$) on the other, without further emission
517 filtering. The fluorescence signal at the margin of the field of view is relatively weak, and
518 cropping the image of about 7.1-mm diameter to the half chip size of $6.65 \text{ mm} \times 13.3 \text{ mm}$ is
519 justified. Image cropping, rotation and alignment were automatized in a custom-written macro
520 in FIJI [46].

521

522 The upright microscope body was constructed as a rugged monocoque, machined from
523 a single metal block (see photos), with slots for the optical and opto-mechanical elements at
524 pre-defined places. A highly folded realization of the beam-path optimized by ZEMAX
525 allowed the compact design. We used a voice-coil based z -objective drive, combining accu-
526 racy and precision over a wide focusing range. A flipable mirror was used to toggle between
527 2P-imaging and trans- or reflected-light imaging. This alternative beam path uses a different f
528 = 140-mm tube lens in combination with a small USB camera (Point Grey, BFLY-U3-
529 23S6M-C). Having an effective magnification of $\times 17.5$ this imaging mode was used for
530 getting an overview of the sample and for identifying regions of interest (ROIs) to be imaged
531 in 2P fluorescence. All image acquisition parameters, the laser and the objective focus drive

532 were controlled through an in-house microcontroller imaging software. The used excitation
533 wavelength λ_{ex} , laser power $\langle P \rangle$, and z-spacing Δz for stacks were software controlled and
534 are specified in the figure legends. Images were acquired without software binning at the full
535 sCMOS resolution.

536

537

538

539 **Image analysis and quantification**

540

541 Images were analyzed and displayed using FIJI. For a better visibility of the faint fluorescent
542 signals at greater imaging depths, we used a nonlinear look-up table ($\gamma = 0.6$) for Figs. 4B-E
543 and 5C-D.

544

545 Weber contrast was calculated as $C_w = (F-B)/B$, where F and B are the fluorescence intensities
546 of the image and background, respectively. B was measured as the mean intensity of a cell-
547 free region and F corresponded to the mean intensity in a small ROI ($18 \mu\text{m} \times 18 \mu\text{m}$) in the
548 center of the image for fig. S5A, and to the whole image in fig. S5B. (In fig. S5A the sample
549 was inclined respect to the optical axis so that only a small region could be used to quantify
550 the penetration depth).

551

552

553

554 **Statistics**

555

556 Results are at least triplicates of three experiments and are represented as mean \pm SD.
557 Student's t -test was used to compare among experiments. Data were processed and figures
558 prepared using IGOR Pro (Wavemetrics).

559

560 **List of abbreviations**

561			
562	2P	-	two-photon
563			
564	3-D	-	three-dimensional
565			
566	AOI	-	angle of incidence
567			
568	BSA	-	bovine serum albumin
569			
570	CLSM	-	confocal laser scanning microscope
571			
572	DMEM	-	Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium
573			
574	EB	-	embryonic body
575			
576	FWHM	-	full-width at half maximum
577			
578	hiPSC	-	human inducible pluripotent stem cell
579			
580	LP	-	long-pass (filter)
581	MG	-	Magnesium Green
582			
583	NA	-	numerical aperture
584			
585	OASIS	-	<u>O</u> n- <u>a</u> xis 2-photon light- <u>s</u> heet generation <i>in-vivo</i> <u>i</u> maging system
586			
587	OCT	-	optimal cutting temperature
588			
589	PBS	-	phosphate-buffered solution
590			
591	PEG	-	polyethylene glycol
592			
593	RI	-	refractive index
594			
595	ROI	-	region of interest
596			
597	RTF	-	<u>R</u> apid clearing method based on <u>T</u> riethanolamine and <u>F</u> ormamide
598			
599	sCMOS	-	scientific Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor
600			
601	SD	-	standard deviation
602			
603	SPIM	-	selective-plane illumination
604			
605	TDE	-	2,2'-thiodiethanol
606			
607	TO-PRO-3	-	a carbocyanine monomer nucleic acid stain with red excitation and far-red fluorescence (642 nm/661 nm) similar to Alexa Fluor 647 or Cy5. It is among the highest-sensitivity probes for nucleic acid detection.
608			
609			

610 **Author contributions**

611

612 AD and RU designed and conceptualized the OASIS prototype, BD and PD generated iPSCs,
613 embryonic bodies and brain organoids, AD, BD, IR, CR, MB and MO performed
614 experiments, MO wrote the paper with contributions from all authors.

615

616

617

618 **Acknowledgements**

619

620 The authors thank Dr Elke Schmidt for help in setting up early experiments, Patrice Jegouzo
621 (fine mechanics and 3-D printing) as well as Claire Mader and her team (CNRS FR3636
622 Saints Pères Central Animal Facility) for expert technical support. Confocal imaging was
623 done at the SCM core facility (*Service Commun de Microscopie*, with the support of Jennifer
624 Corridon, Paris Descartes). We thank Dr. Christian Seebacher (TILL.id) for ZEMAXing and
625 optimizing the optical design.

626

627 Financed by the European Union (H2020 Eureka! EUROSTARS project ‘OASIS’, to RU and
628 MO), the CNRS (DEFI *Instrumentation aux Limites*, to MO), the *Agence Nationale de la*
629 *Recherche* (ANR-10-INSB-04-01, *grands investissements France-BioImaging*, FBI, to MO)
630 and the Region Ile-de-France (DIM *cancéropôle*, project EDISON, to MO).

631

632 The Oheim lab is a member of the C’nano IdF and *Ecole de Neurosciences de Paris* (ENP)
633 excellence clusters for nanobiotechnology and neurosciences, respectively.

634

635

636 **REFERENCES**

637

638 [1] Rakotoson, I. *Validation d’une approche de microscopie optique pour l’étude morpho-*
639 *fonctionnelle des corps embryoides et mini-brains issus d’hiPSC*, Faculté des Sciences
640 Fondamentales et Biomédicales, Master of Science, Université Paris Descartes,
641 (2018), 33 pages.

642 [2] Gonzalez, D., Gregory, J., and Brennand, K.J. (2017) The Importance of Non-Neuronal
643 Cell Types in hiPSC-Based Disease Modeling & Drug Screening. *Front. Cell Dev.*
644 *Biol.* 5: 117.

645 [3] Fatehullah, A., Tan, S.H., and Barker, N. (2016) Organoids as an in vitro model of human
646 development and disease. *Nat. Cell Biol.* 18: 246.

647 [4] Giandomenico, S.L., and Lancaster, M.A. (2017) Probing human brain evolution and
648 development in organoids. *Curr. Op. Cell Biol.* 44: 36-43.

649 [5] Lancaster, M.A., Renner, M., Martin, C.-A., Wenzel, D., Bicknell, L.S., Hurles, M.E.,
650 Homfray, T., Penninger, J.M., Jackson, A.P., and Knoblich, J.A. (2013) Cerebral
651 organoids model human brain development and microcephaly. *Nature* 501 373.

- 652 [6] Kelava, I., and Lancaster, M.A. (2016) Dishing out mini-brains: current progress and
653 future prospects in brain organoid research. *Dev. Biol.* 420: 199-209.
- 654 [7] Mansour, A.A., Gonçalves, J.T., Bloyd, C.W., Li, H., Fernandes, S., Quang, D., Johnston,
655 S., Parylak, S.L., Jin, X., and Gage, F.H. (2018) An *in vivo* model of functional and
656 vascularized human brain organoids. *Nat. Biotech.* 36: 432.
- 657 [8] Wan, P., Zhu, J., Xu, J., Li, Y., Yu, T., and Zhu, D. (2018) Evaluation of seven optical
658 clearing methods in mouse brain. *Neurophotonics* 5: 035007.
- 659 [9] Renner, M., Lancaster, M.A., Bian, S., Choi, H., Ku, T., Peer, A., Chung K., and
660 Knoblich, J.A. (2017) Self-organized developmental patterning and differentiation in
661 cerebral organoids. *EMBO J.* e201694700.
- 662 [10] Hama, H., Hioki, H., Namiki, K., Hoshida, T., Kurokawa, H., Ishidate, F., Kaneko, T.,
663 Akagi, T., Saito, T., and Saido, T. (2015) ScaleS: an optical clearing palette for
664 biological imaging. *Nat. Neurosci.* 18: 1518.
- 665 [11] Huiskens, J., Swoger, J., Del Bene, F., Wittbrodt, J., and Stelzer, E.H.K. (2004) Optical
666 sectioning deep inside live embryos by selective plane illumination microscopy.
667 *Science* 305: 1007-1009.
- 668 [12] Keller, P.J., Schmidt, A.D., Wittbrodt, J., and Stelzer, E.H.K. (2008) Reconstruction of
669 zebrafish early embryonic development by scanned light sheet microscopy. *Science*
670 322: 1065-1069.
- 671 [13] Santi, P.A. (2011) Light sheet fluorescence microscopy: a review. *J. Histochem.*
672 *Cytochem.* 59: 129-138.
- 673 [14] Stelzer, E.H.K. (2015) Light-sheet fluorescence microscopy for quantitative biology.
674 *Nat. Methods* 12: 23-26.
- 675 [15] Truong, T.V., Supatto, W., Koos, D.S., Choi, J.M., and Fraser, S.E. (2011) Deep and fast
676 live imaging with two-photon scanned light-sheet microscopy. *Nat. Methods* 8: 757.
- 677 [16] Mahou, P., Vermot, J., Beaurepaire, E., and Supatto, W. (2014) Multicolor two-photon
678 light-sheet microscopy. *Nat. Methods* 11: 600.
- 679 [17] Baumgart, E., and Kubitscheck, U. (2012) Scanned light sheet microscopy with confocal
680 slit detection. *Opt. Express* 20: 21805-21814.
- 681 [18] Vettenburg, T., Dalgarno, H.I., Nylk, J., Coll-Lladó, C., Ferrier, D.E., Čižmár, T., Gunn-
682 Moore, F.J., and Dholakia, K. (2014) Light-sheet microscopy using an Airy beam.
683 *Nat. Methods* 11: 541.

- 684 [19] Fahrbach, F.O., Gurchenkov, V., Alessandri, K., Nassoy, P., and Rohrbach, A. (2013)
685 Light-sheet microscopy in thick media using scanned Bessel beams and two-photon
686 fluorescence excitation. *Opt. Express* 21: 13824-13839.
- 687 [20] Zhao, M. Zhang, H., Li, Y., Ashok, A., Liang, R., Zhou, W., and Peng, L. (2014)
688 Cellular imaging of deep organ using two-photon Bessel light-sheet nonlinear
689 structured illumination microscopy. *Biomed. Opt. Express* 5: 1296-1308.
- 690 [21] Müllenbroich, M.C., Turrini, L., Silvestri, L., Alterini, T., Gheisari, A., Vanzi, F.,
691 Sacconi, L., and Pavone, F.S. (2018) Bessel beam illumination reduces random and
692 systematic errors in quantitative functional studies using light-sheet microscopy.
693 *Front. Cell. Neurosci.* 12: 315.
- 694 [22] Andilla, J., Jorand, R., Olarte, O.E., Dufour, A.C., Cazales, M., Montagner, Y.L.,
695 Ceolato, R., Riviere, N., Olivo-Marin, J.-C., and Loza-Alvarez, P. (2017) Imaging
696 tissue-mimic with light sheet microscopy: A comparative guideline. *Sci. Rep.* 7:
697 44939.
- 698 [23] Elisa, Z., Toon, B., De Smedt, S.C., Katrien, R., Kristiaan, N., and Kevin, B. (2018)
699 Technical implementations of light sheet microscopy. *Microsc. Res. Tech.* [early view](https://doi.org/10.1002/jemt.22981)
700 <https://doi.org/10.1002/jemt.22981>.
- 701 [24] Holekamp, T.F., Turaga, D., and Holy, T.E. (2008) Fast three-dimensional fluorescence
702 imaging of activity in neural populations by objective-coupled planar illumination
703 microscopy. *Neuron* 57: 661-672.
- 704 [25] McGorty, R., Liu, H., Kamiyama, D., Dong, Z., Guo, S., and Huang, B. (2015) Open-top
705 selective plane illumination microscope for conventionally mounted specimens. *Opt.*
706 *Express* 23: 16142-16153.
- 707 [26] Chen, B.-C., Legant, W.R., Wang, K., Shao, L., Milkie, D.E., Davidson, M.W.,
708 Janetopoulos, C., Wu, X.S., Hammer, J.A., and Liu, Z. (2014) Lattice light-sheet
709 microscopy: imaging molecules to embryos at high spatiotemporal resolution. *Science*
710 346: 1257998.
- 711 [27] Reynaud, E.G., Peychl, J., Huisken, J., and Tomancak, P. (2014) Guide to light-sheet
712 microscopy for adventurous biologists. *Nat. Methods* 12: 30.
- 713 [28] Oheim, M., Beaurepaire, E. Chaigneau, E., Mertz, J., and Charpak, S. (2001) Two-
714 photon microscopy in brain tissue: parameters influencing the imaging depth. *J.*
715 *Neurosci. Meth.* 111: 29-37.
- 716 [29] Bewersdorf, J., Pick, R., and Hell, S.W. (1998) Multifocal multiphoton microscopy. *Opt.*
717 *Lett.* 23: 655-657.

- 718 [30] Egner, A., Andresen, V., and Hell, S.W. (2002) Comparison of the axial resolution of
719 practical Nipkow - disk confocal fluorescence microscopy with that of multifocal
720 multiphoton microscopy: Theory and experiment. *J. Microsc.* 206: 24-32.
- 721 [31] Shimozawa, K.Y., Kondo, T., Hayashi, S., Shitamukai, A., Konno, D., Matsuzaki, F.,
722 Takayama, J., Onami, S., Nakayama, H., and Kosugi, Y. (2013) Improving spinning
723 disk confocal microscopy by preventing pinhole cross-talk for intravital imaging.
724 *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 110: 6241.
- 725 [32] König, K., Multiphoton Microscopy and Fluorescence Lifetime Imaging: Applications in
726 Biology and Medicine, Walter de Gruyter GmbH & Co KG, 2018.
- 727 [33] Bink, K., Walch, A., Feuchtinger, A., Eisenmann, H., Hutzler, P., Höfler, H., and
728 Werner, M. (2001) TO-PRO-3 is an optimal fluorescent dye for nuclear
729 counterstaining in dual-colour FISH on paraffin sections. *Histochem. Cell. Biol.* 115:
730 293-299.
- 731 [34] Prieto, D., Aparicio, G., Morande, P.E., and Zolessi, F.R. (2014) A fast, low cost, and
732 highly efficient fluorescent DNA labeling method using methyl green. *Histochem Cell*
733 *Biol.* 142: 335-345.
- 734 [35] Smith, P.G., Baldacchini, T., Carter, J., and Zadoyan, R. (2012) Two-photon micro-
735 scopy/multimodal imaging: Femtosecond laser developments advance two-photon
736 imaging. *BioOptics World* 5. [http://www.bioopticsworld.com/articles/print/volume-](http://www.bioopticsworld.com/articles/print/volume-5/issue-04/features/femtosecond-laser-developments-advance-two-photon-imaging.html)
737 [5/issue-04/features/femtosecond-laser-developments-advance-two-photon-](http://www.bioopticsworld.com/articles/print/volume-5/issue-04/features/femtosecond-laser-developments-advance-two-photon-imaging.html)
738 [imaging.html](http://www.bioopticsworld.com/articles/print/volume-5/issue-04/features/femtosecond-laser-developments-advance-two-photon-imaging.html).
- 739 [36] Ricard, C., Arroyo, E.D., He, C. X., Portera-Cailliau, C., Lepousez, G., Canepari, M.,
740 and Fiole, D. (2018) Two-photon probes for *in vivo* multicolor microscopy of the
741 structure and signals of brain cells. *Brain Structure and Function* 223: 3011–3043.
- 742 [37] Schmidt, E.M., and Oheim, M. (2018) Two-photon imaging induces brain heating and
743 calcium microdomain hyper-activity in cortical astrocytes. *bioRxiv* 321091.
- 744 [38] Richardson, D.S., and Lichtman, J.W. Clarifying tissue clearing. *Cell* 162: 246-257.
- 745 [39] Aoyagi, Y., Kawakami, R., Osanai, H., Hibi, T., and Nemoto, T. (2015) A rapid optical
746 clearing protocol using 2, 2-thiodiethanol for microscopic observation of fixed mouse
747 brain. *PLoS One* 10: e0116280.
- 748 [40] Kuwajima, T., Sitko, A. A., Bhansali, P., Jurgens, C., Guido, W., and Mason, C. (2013)
749 Clear^T: a detergent-and solvent-free clearing method for neuronal and non-neuronal
750 tissue. *Development* 140: 1364-1368.

- 751 [41] Yu, T., Zhu, J., Li, Y., Ma, Y., Wang, J., Cheng, X., Jin, S., Sun, Q., Li, X., and Gong,
752 H. (2018) RTF: a rapid and versatile tissue optical clearing method. *Sci. Rep.* 8: 1964.
- 753 [42] Ying, Q.-L., and Smith, A.G. (2003) Defined conditions for neural commitment and
754 differentiation. *Meth. Enzymol.* 365: 327-341.
- 755 [43] Lancaster, M.A., and Knoblich, J.A. (2014) Generation of cerebral organoids from
756 human pluripotent stem cells. *Nat. Protoc.* 9: 2329.
- 757 [44] Farahany, N., Greely, H., Hyman, S., Koch, C., Grady, C., Pañca, S., Sestan, N., Arlotta,
758 P., Bernat, J., and Ting, J. (2018) The ethics of experimenting with human brain
759 tissue. *Nature* 556: 429.
- 760 [45] Kino, G.S. Intermediate optics in Nipkow disk microscopes. *in*: Pawley, J.B. (Ed.),
761 Handbook of Biological Confocal Microscopy, 1995, pp. 155-165.
- 762 [46] Schindelin, J., Arganda-Carreras, I., Frise, E., Kaynig, V., Longair, M., Pietzsch, T.,
763 Preibisch, S., Rueden, C., Saalfeld, S., and Schmid, B. (2012) Fiji: an open-source
764 platform for biological-image analysis. *Nat. Methods* 9: 676.

765

766

767 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

768

769

770 **Fig.1** *Layout and performance of the OASIS two-photon microscope. A.* Simplified optical
771 path of the custom 2P virtual light-sheet microscope. *Red*: IR excitation, *green*: fluorescence.
772 Ti:Sapph – fs-pulsed IR laser; DS – DeepSee; BE – beam expander; π -shaper – optical ele-
773 ment that converts the Gaussian beam into a top hat profile; M – mirrors; dic – dichroic mir-
774 rors; SD – spinning disk; TL – tube lens; CDE – corrective distance element; OL – objective
775 lens; ISD – image-splitting device; sCMOS – camera. *Inset 1*: generated multi-spot
776 excitation pattern und epi-collection of the generated fluorescence through the same objective.
777 *Inset 2*: detail of microlens/pinhole/dichroic coating arrangement. Note the offset between
778 the excitation (exc.) and fluorescence foci (fluo.) at the level of the disk, produced by the
779 CDE. **B.** Depth penetration in turbid samples. Log-plot of 2P-excited fluorescence from a
780 green-fluorescent Chroma test slide, topped either with water (0%) or increasing
781 concentrations of milk (a model for the multi-scale scatterers present in tissue), for the OASIS
782 (red dots) and a ZEISS LSM710. Confocal pinhole diameters were 1 and 2 Airy, as indicated.
783 **C.** OASIS prototype, note the compact size and space available around the objective, *inset*.
784 VCD – voice coil z drive; BFC – bright-field camera. **D.** OASIS lateral resolution. Equatorial
785 section through an autofluorescent thorny pollen grain. Scale bar, 10 μ m. *Inset*: magnified

786 view of an individual spine and intensity profiles across the lines shown; Scale bar, 2 μm . **E.**
787 OASIS z - resolution. Axial-intensity profile measured from a z -stack of images acquired from
788 a green fluorescent Chroma slide (solid line), and its derivative dF/dz (dashed). The FWHM,
789 equivalent to the 10-90% intensity range, was taken as axial optical sectioning capacity Δz .

790 **Fig. 2** Comparison of the used nuclear stains and clearing methods. **A.** Left, optical section of
791 a slice from an E14.5 embryo, labeled with TO-PRO3 or Methyl Green and observed on a
792 confocal laser scanning microscope (CLSM, top) or on the OASIS microscope (bottom).
793 Scale-bar, 10 μm . Right, relative fluorescence intensity of TO-PRO3 and Methyl Green in
794 nuclei of E14.5 embryo slices measured on a CLSM (top right) or on the OASIS (bottom
795 right). **B.** TO-PRO3 (top) and Methyl Green (bottom) 2P-excitation spectra. Color code as in
796 (A). **C.** Macrophotographies of E10.5 embryos in control (PBS) and following three clearing
797 protocols (Clear^{T2}, RTF and TDE 60%). Note the variable degree of transparenisation and the
798 volume change. **D.** Relative fluorescence of TO-PRO3-positive nuclei in E14.5 embryo slices
799 observed on a CLSM after the same clearing protocols as above. Note the log-scale. * = $P <$
800 0.0001. **E.** Fluorescence loss upon clearing requires high laser powers. Confocal micrographs
801 of slices from an E14.5 embryo labeled with TO-PRO3 under control (left) and after RTF
802 clearing (right) along with the laser powers required to attain the same signal-to-background
803 ratio. Scale-bar, 10 μm .

804

805 **Fig. 3** The OASIS microscope outperforms a CLSM for 3-D embryo imaging. **A.** 3-D data set
806 taken with the OASIS in a non-cleared embryo stained with TO-PRO3 (Control). Panels show
807 xz - projection of a z -stack of images (right) and xy -planes (left) corresponding to the dashed
808 lines at 30 μm (1) and 65 μm imaging depth (2), respectively. Scale-bar, 25 μm . **B.** same, at
809 32 μm (1) and 115 μm depth (2), respectively, for an RTF-cleared embryo. Scale-bar, 25 μm ,
810 as in (A). **C.** Representative bleaching curves during continuous acquisitions, from a single z -
811 section in – respectively – a thin slice of intestine (top) and of TO-PRO3-labeled nuclei
812 (bottom) at 30- μm imaging depth in a embryo. **D.** Representative planes at various imaging
813 depths (15, 50 and 100 μm , respectively) of a 3-D data set (200 planes from the surface to 200
814 μm , $\Delta z = 1\mu\text{m}$;) acquired from a TO-PRO3-labeled embryo. The 2 columns show the sections
815 during the 1st passage (left) and during the 2nd passage, after completion of the 1st image stack
816 (right). Note the almost complete bleaching prohibiting repetitive volume imaging for the
817 CLSM but not the OASIS microscope. Measured laser powers are given for each depth.
818 Scale-bar, 25 μm .

819

820 **Fig. 4** 3-D imaging with the OASIS of the fine structure of embryonic bodies (EBs). **A.**
821 Macrophotography of a day-7 EB; Scale-bar, 300 μm . **B.** Image acquired in the center of the
822 organoid after TO-PRO3 staining, 50 μm below the surface. Scale-bar, 25 μm . Note the
823 presence of internal round structures with a lumen. **C.** Zoom on mitotic figures observed in
824 the EB at various depth (*top left*: prophase; *top right*: metaphase; *bottom left*: early anaphase;
825 *bottom right*: late anaphase); stain: TO-PRO3. Scale-bar for all panels, 10 μm . **D.** *xz*-pro-
826 jections of a *z*-stack acquired across an entire day-7, TO-PRO3-stained EB. Scale-bar, 25 μm .
827 Arrow points to mitosis also visible in panel (E). # indicates ventricle-like structure also
828 perceived in (E). **E.** *xy*-sections across the dotted lines shown in (D) at imaging depths of,
829 respectively, 42 μm (1), 75 μm (2) and 155 μm (3). Scale-bar, 25 μm . With the exception of
830 (A), all images were acquired after RTF clearing.

831

832 **Figure 5.** Brain organoid imaging with OASIS. **A.** Macrophotography of a day 11 brain
833 organoid before clearing and observation on the OASIS microscope; scale-bar: 300 μm . **B.**
834 Image acquired in the center of the organoid at 45 μm below the surface; stain: TO-PRO3;
835 scale-bar: 10 μm . **C.** *z*-reconstruction (left) and *xy*-acquisition (right) at respectively 30 μm (1),
836 80 μm (2) and 125 μm (3) below the surface of the organoid; stain: TO-PRO3; scale-bar:
837 25 μm . Note the change of the morphology of the nuclei in the center of the region of interest
838 when depth increase. **D.** *z*-reconstruction (left) and *xy*-acquisition (right) at respectively 20 μm
839 (1), 35 μm (2) and 75 μm (3) below the surface of the organoid; stain: TO-PRO3; scale-bar:
840 25 μm . Note the globular structure (neuro-epithelium) that can also be observed on the
841 macroscopy and numerous mitosis inside this structure (arrows). Except in A. all images were
842 acquired after the clearing of the organoid with the RTF protocol. Note the image quality
843 across the entire imaged volume.

844

845

846

847

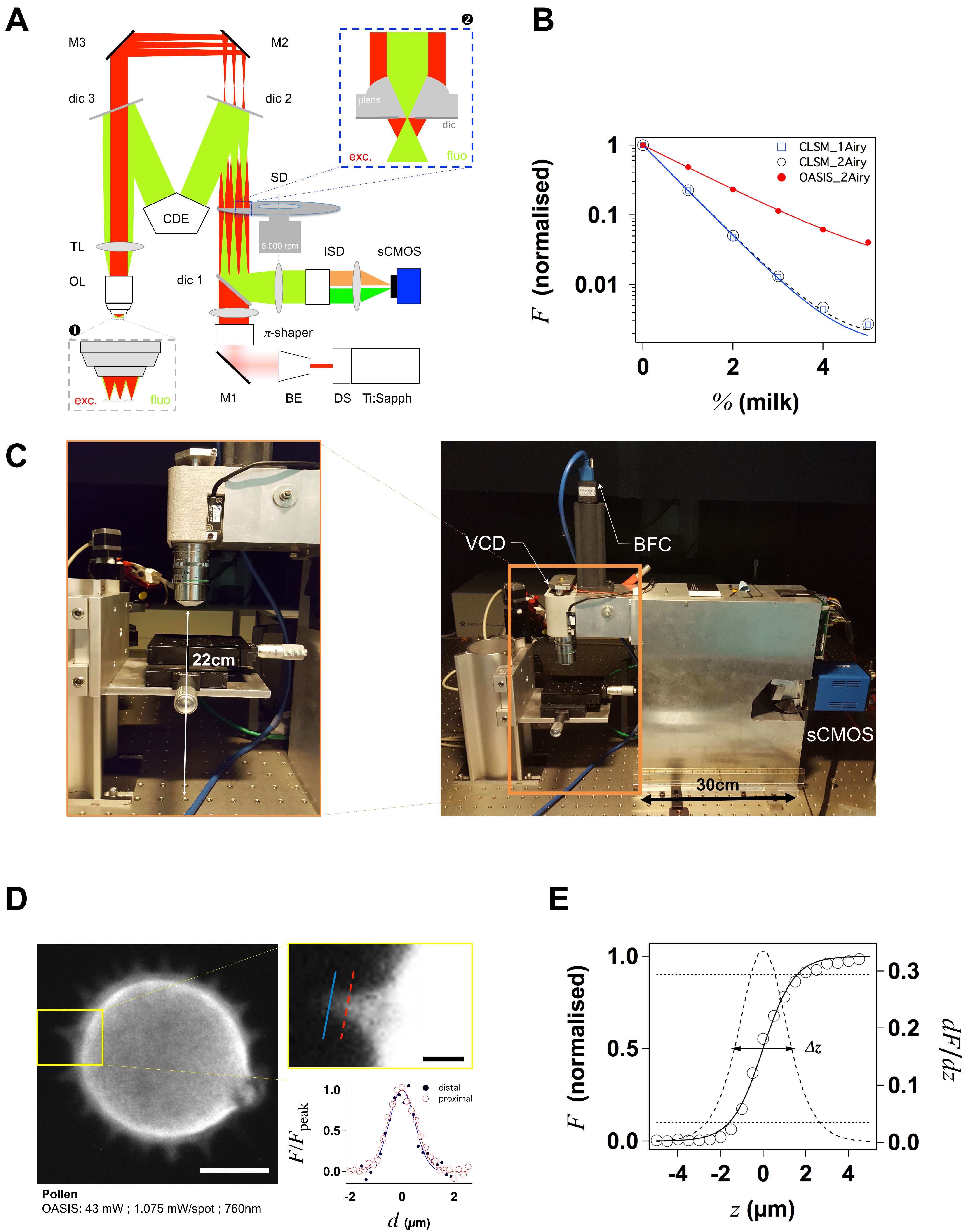
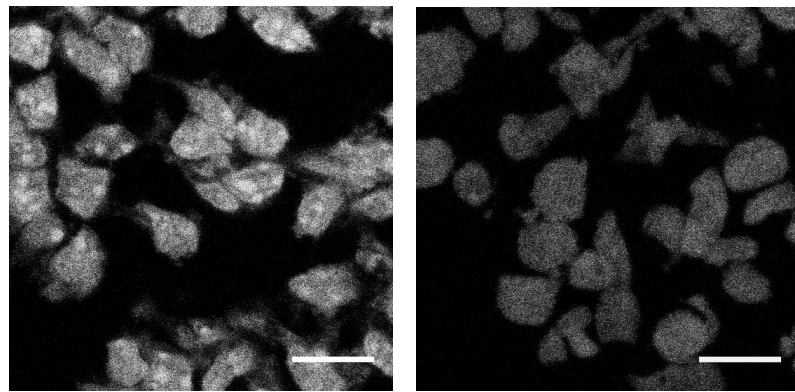


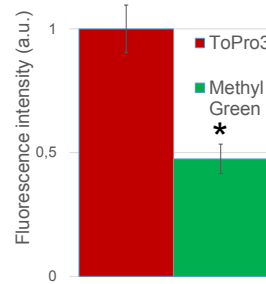
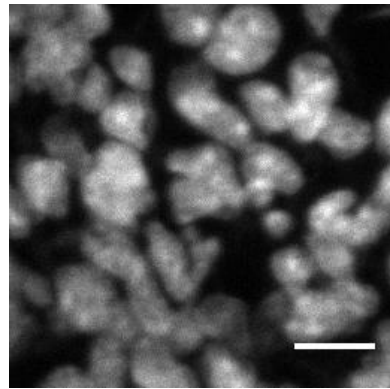
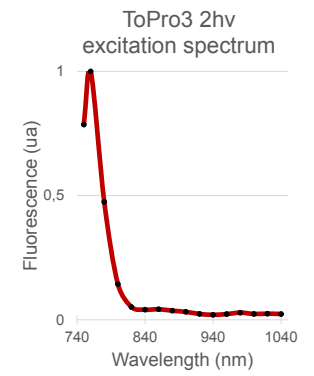
Figure 1

A

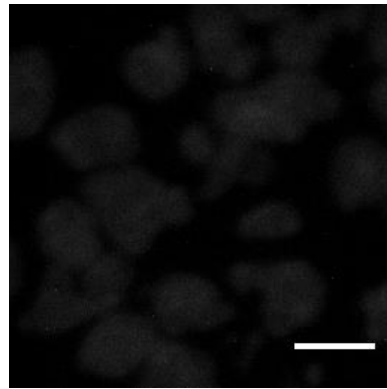
ToPro3
Confocal: 0,55 μ W – 633nm

Methyl Green
Confocal: 0,55 μ W – 633nm

Fluorescence intensity at 633nm

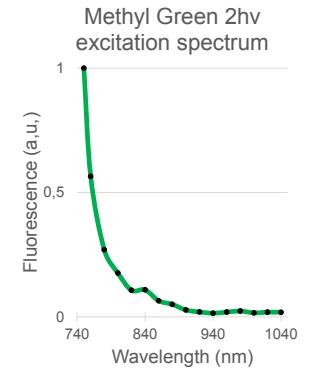
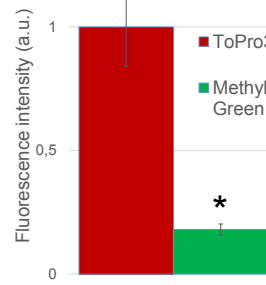
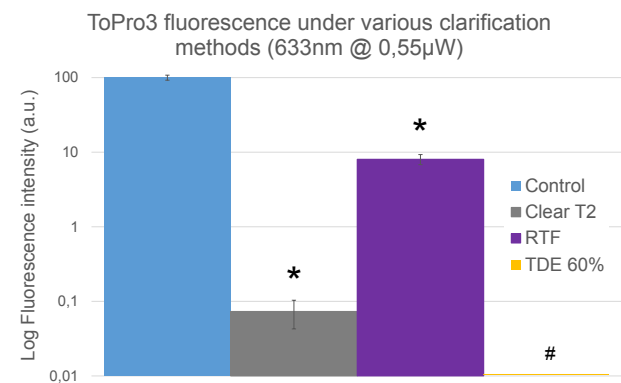
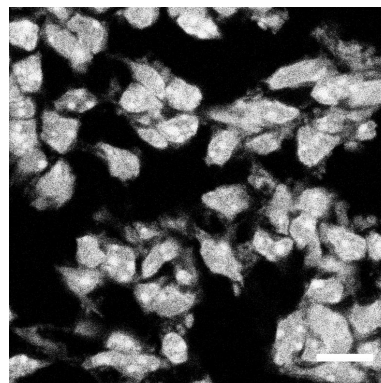
**B**

ToPro3
OASIS: 309 mW ; 7,7 mW/spot ; 760nm

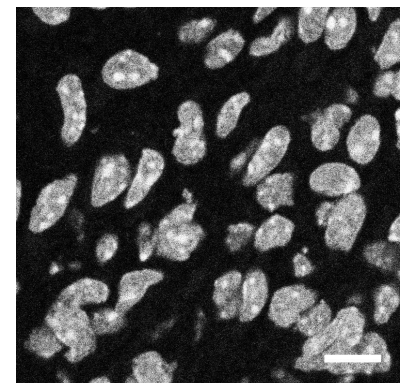


Methyl Green
OASIS: 309 mW ; 7,7 mW/spot ; 750nm

Fluorescence intensity on the OASIS

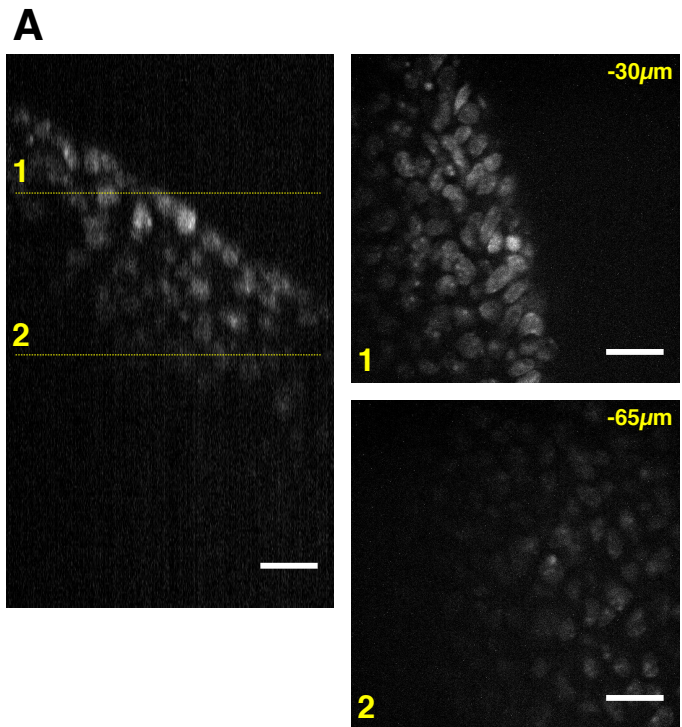
**C****Control****Clear T2****RTF****TDE 60%****D****E**

Control
Confocal: 0,88 μ W ; 633nm

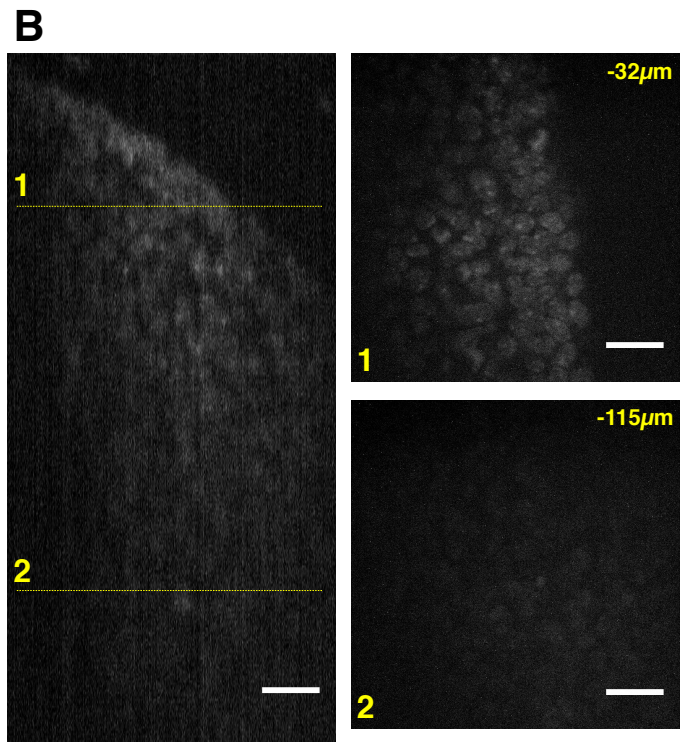


RTF
Confocal: 17,6 μ W ; 633nm

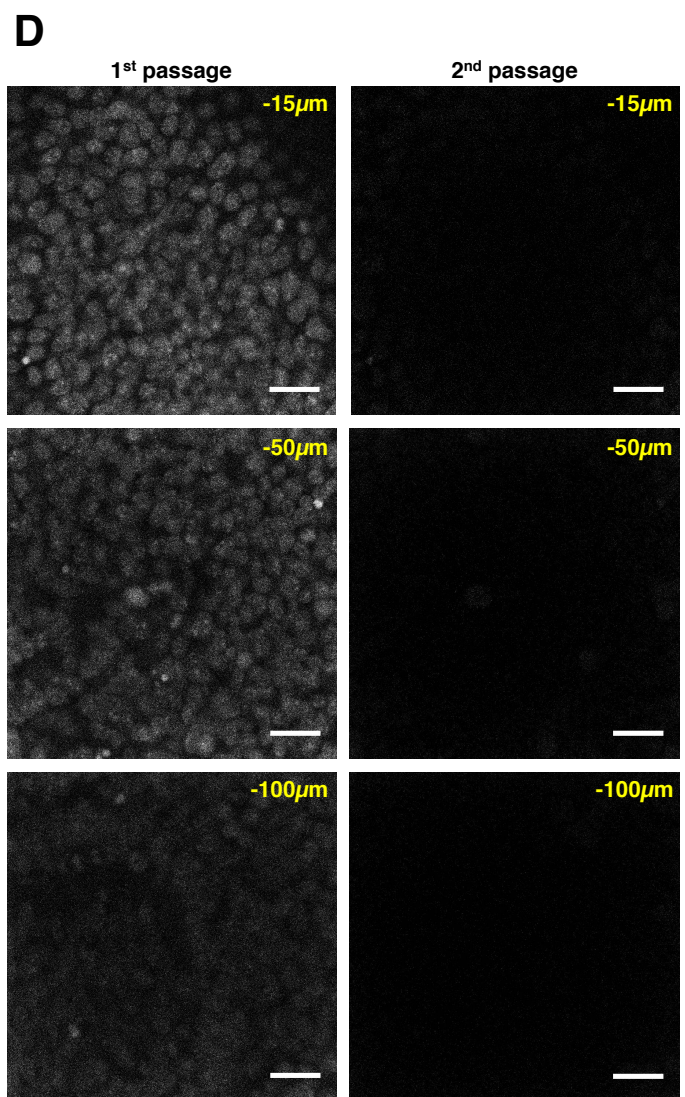
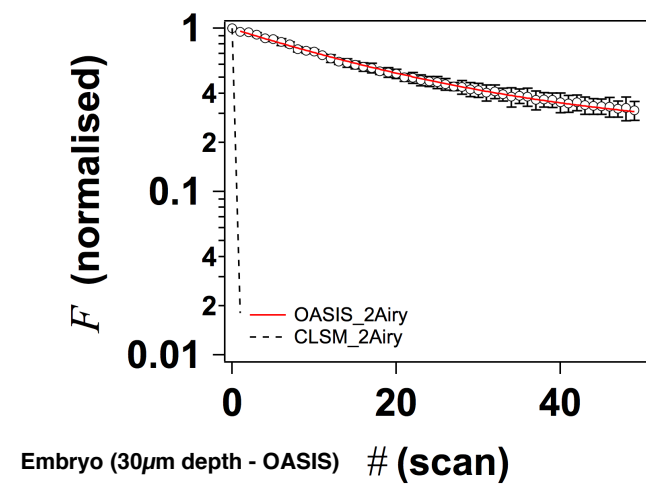
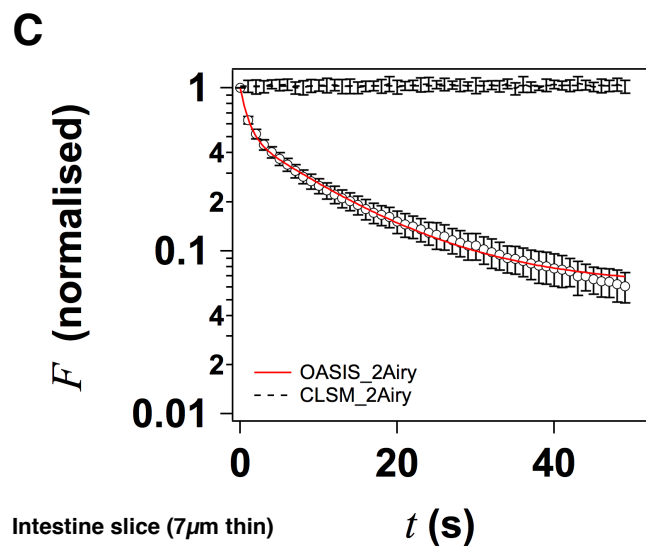
Figure 2



Control (z)
OASIS: 626 mW ; 15,7 mW/spot ; 760nm

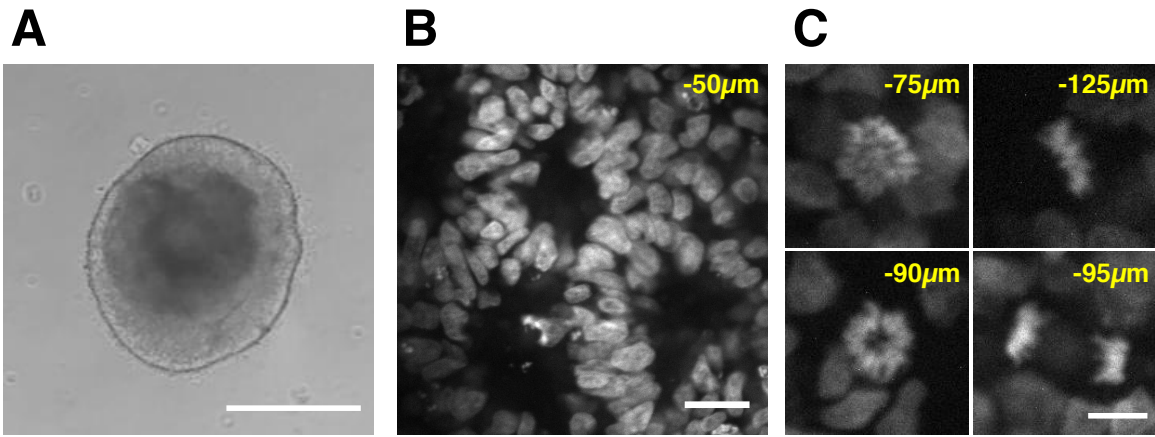


RTF (xy)
OASIS: 626 mW ; 15,7 mW/spot ; 760nm



Control (xy)
Confocal: 9,36 ; 15,6 ; 26 μW ; 633nm

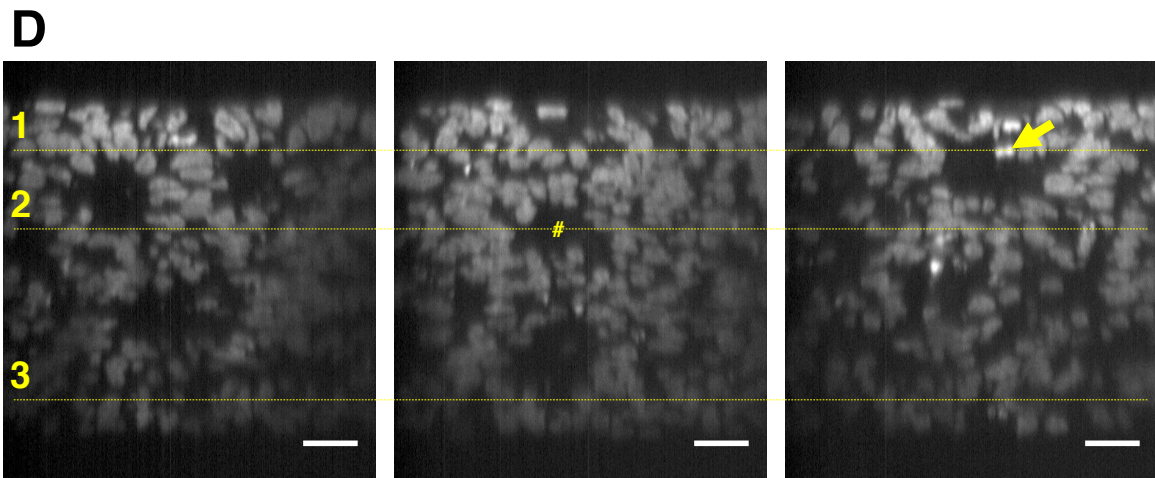
Figure 3



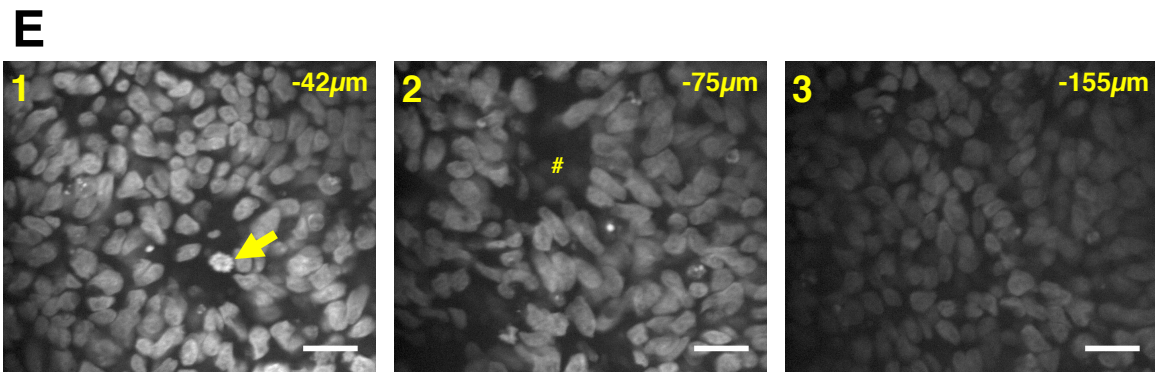
Control (xy)
 Microscope

RTF (xy)
 OASIS: 616 mW ; 15,4 mW/spot ; 760nm

RTF (xy)
 OASIS: 616 mW ; 15,4 mW/spot ; 760nm



RTF (z)
 OASIS: 630 mW ; 15,7 mW/spot ; 760nm



RTF (xy)
 OASIS: 630 mW ; 15,7 mW/spot ; 760nm

Figure 4

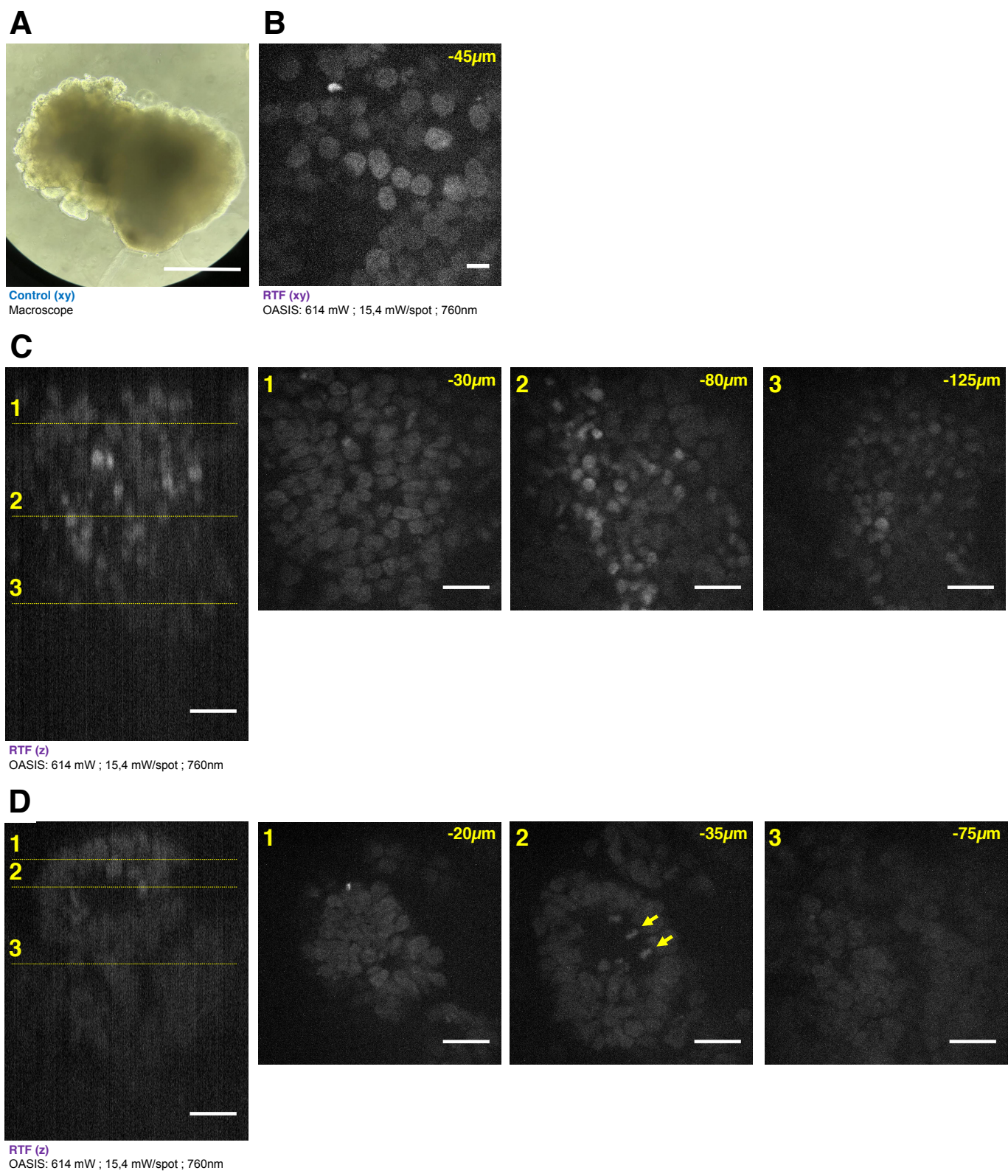


Figure 5