



Inverse problems in cardiovascular continuum mechanics and medical applications



OUTLINE

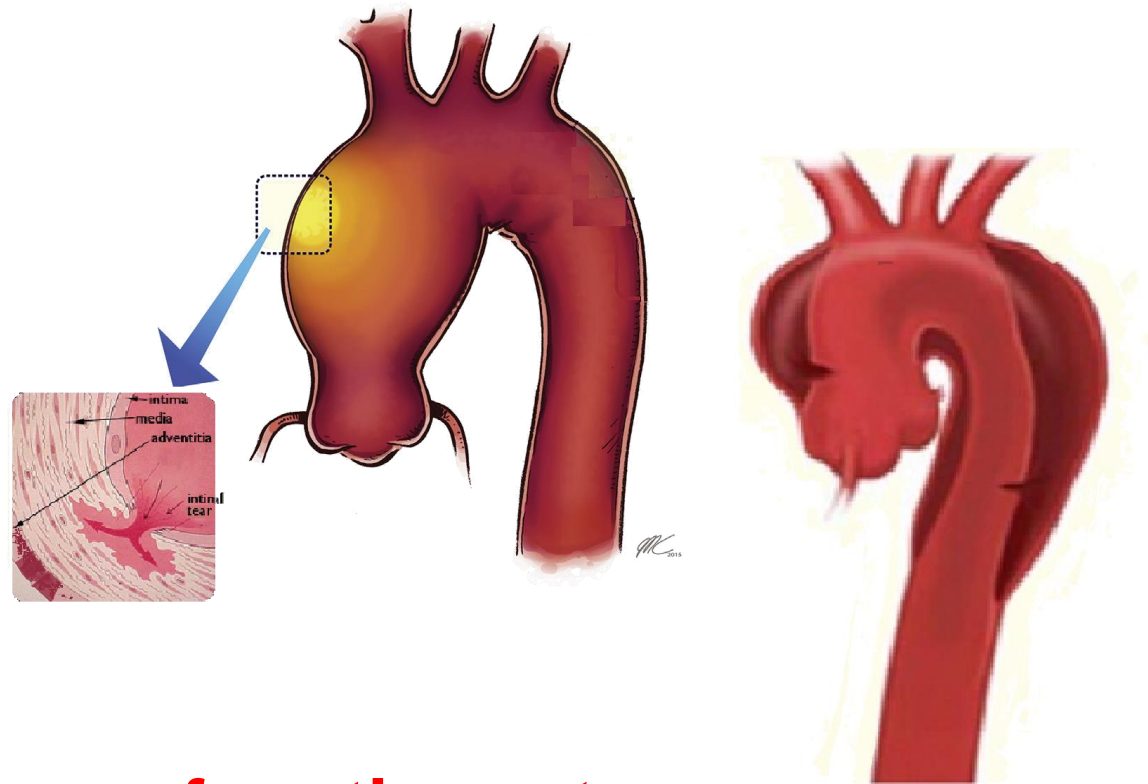
- ❑ PART I: Risk factors for aortic rupture
- ❑ PART II: Computational prediction of aortic weakening
- ❑ PART III: Role of SMCs in aortic weakening



OUTLINE

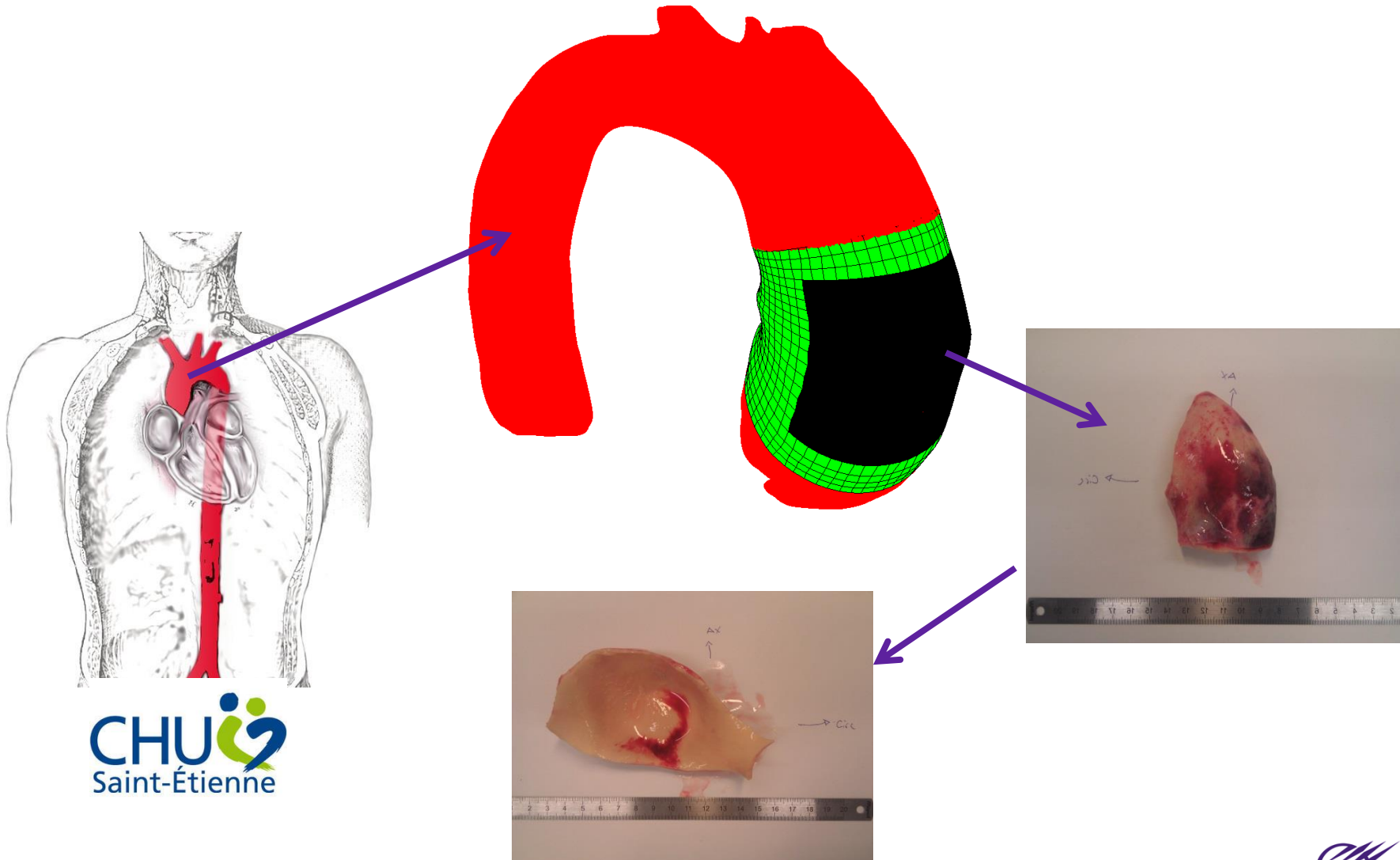
- ❑ **PART I: Risk factors for aortic rupture**
- ❑ PART II: Computational prediction of aortic weakening
- ❑ PART III: Role of SMCs in aortic weakening

Aneurysms and Dissections of the ascending thoracic aorta



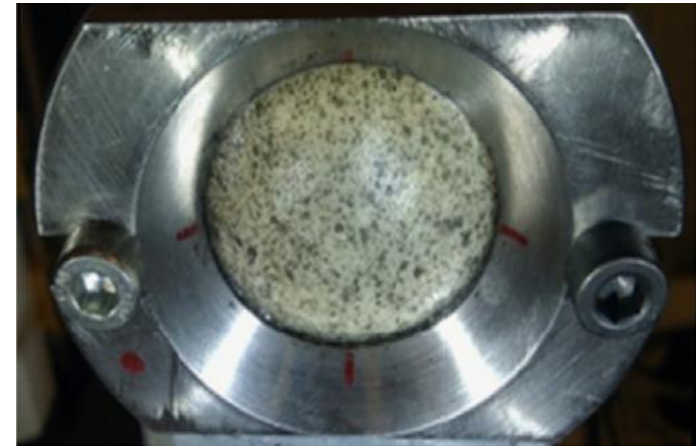
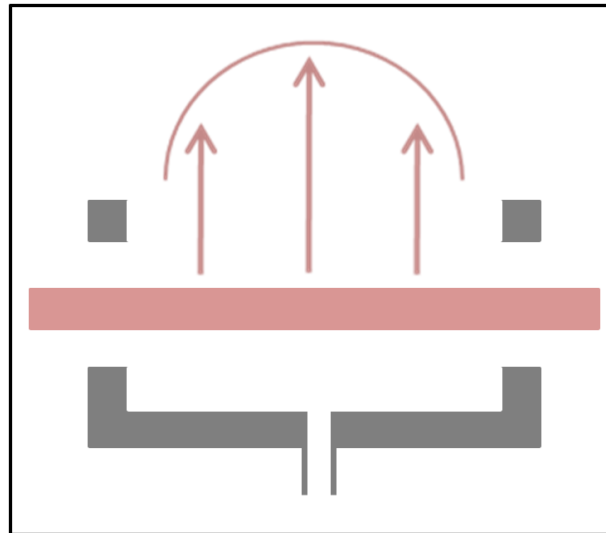
Goal: find factors of aortic rupture

Collection of human samples

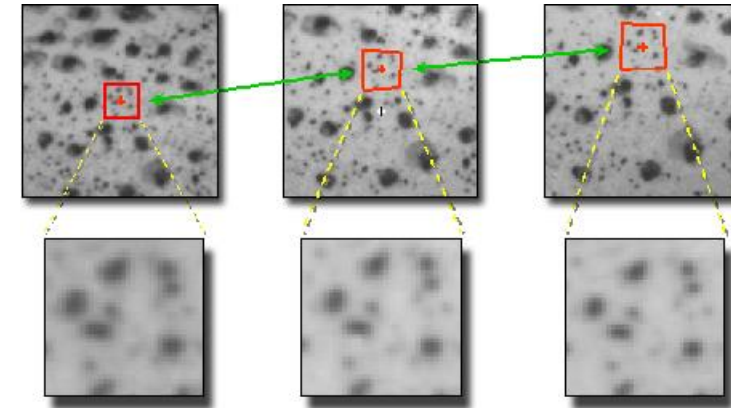


Bulge inflation test

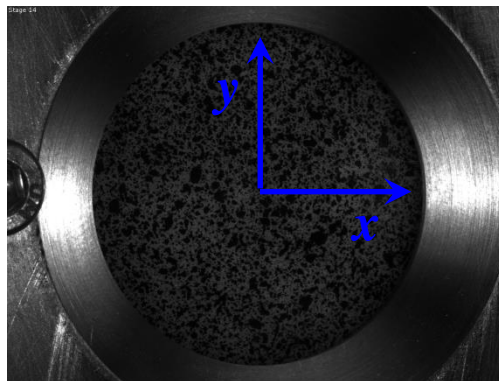
Romo et al. Journal of Biomechanics -2014.



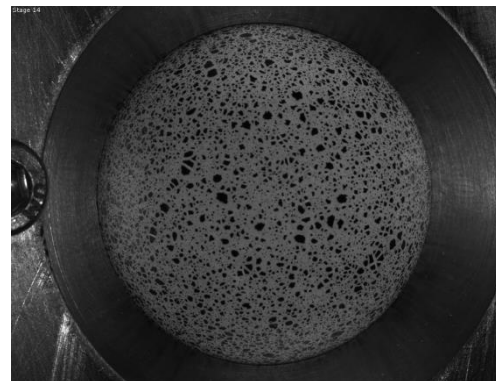
Full-field measurements using sDIC



Undeformed



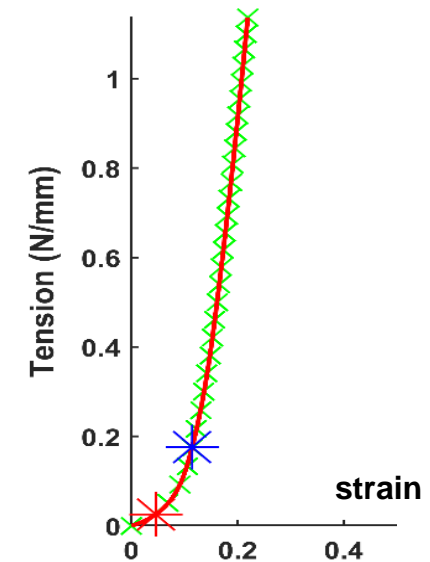
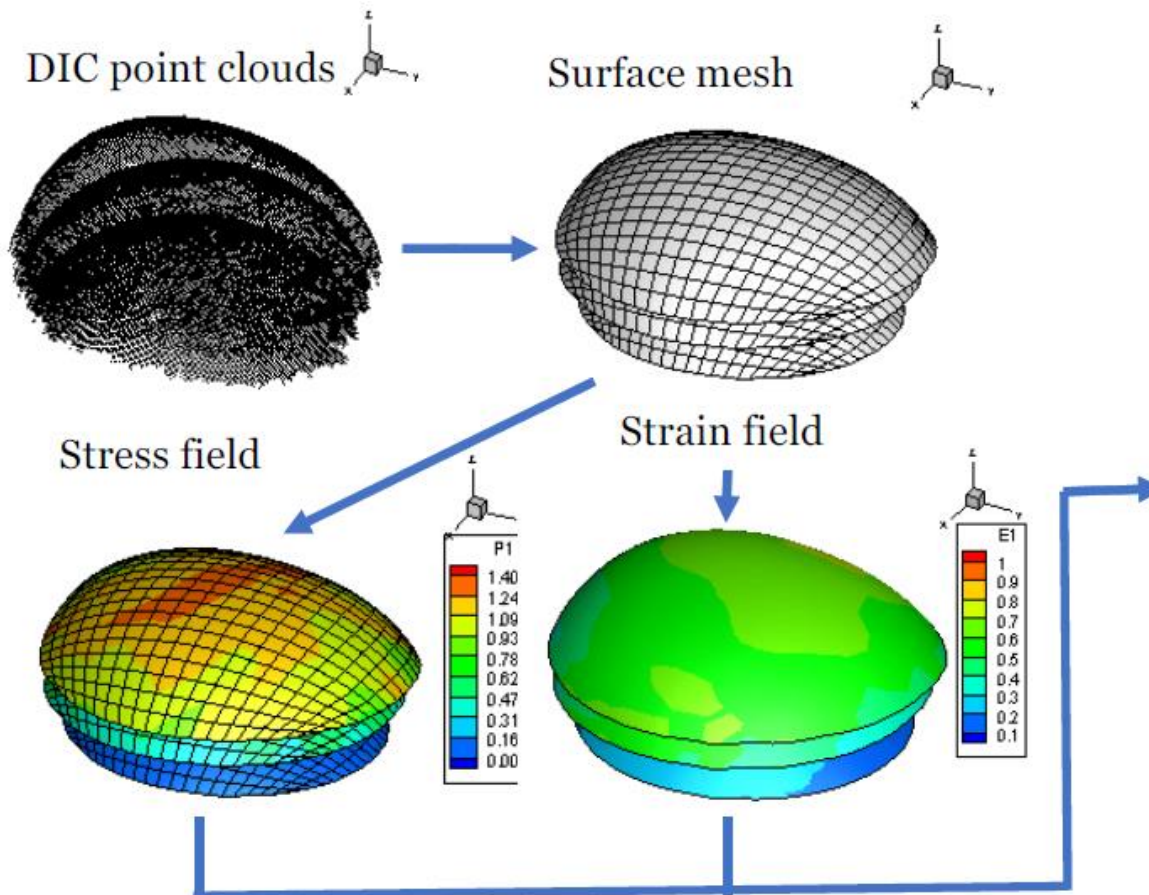
Deformed



Identification of local material properties



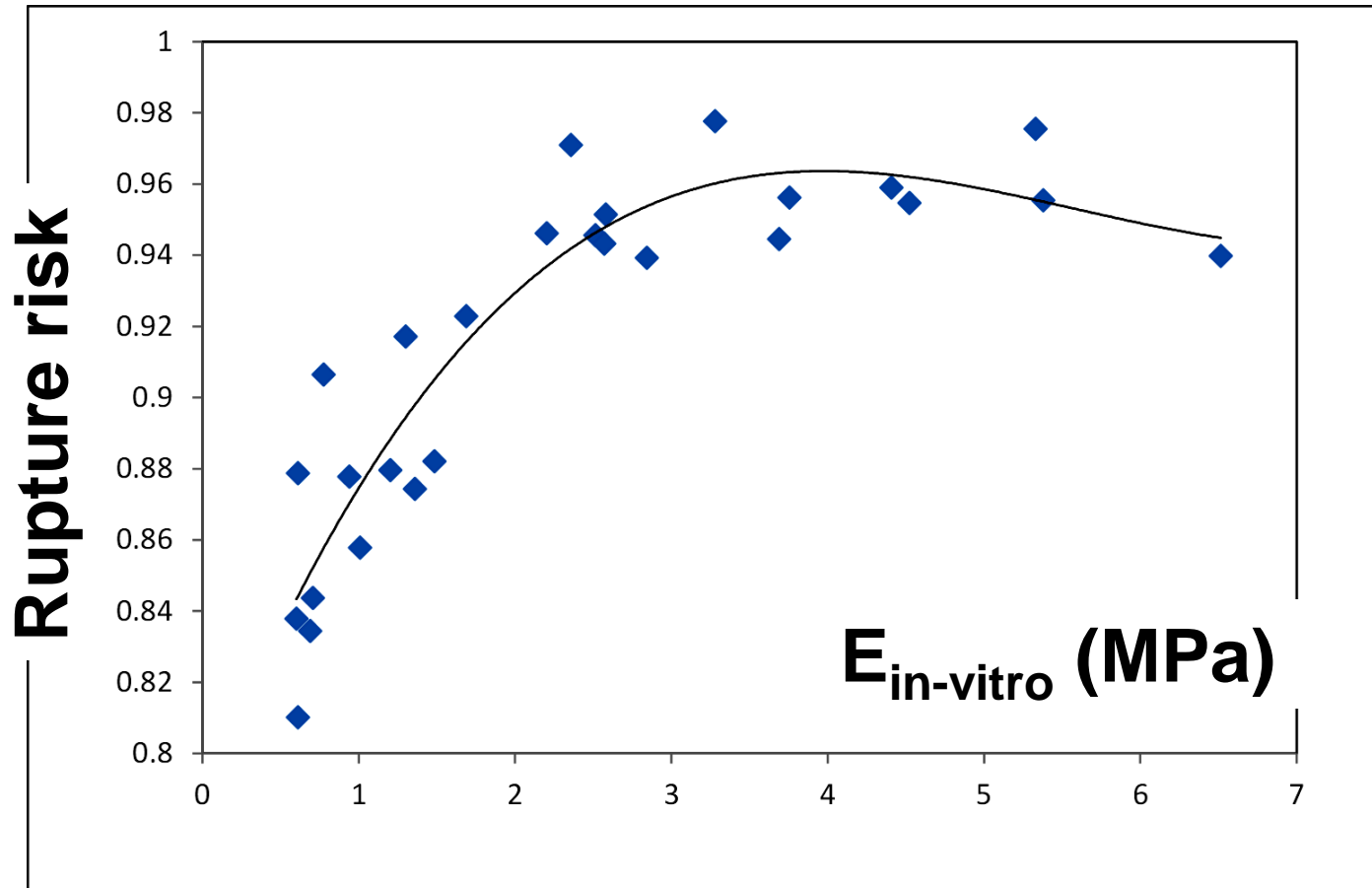
The
WHITAKER
Foundation



Davis et al. BMMB – 2015.
Davis et al. JMBS – 2016
Zhao et al. Acta Biomaterialia - 2016

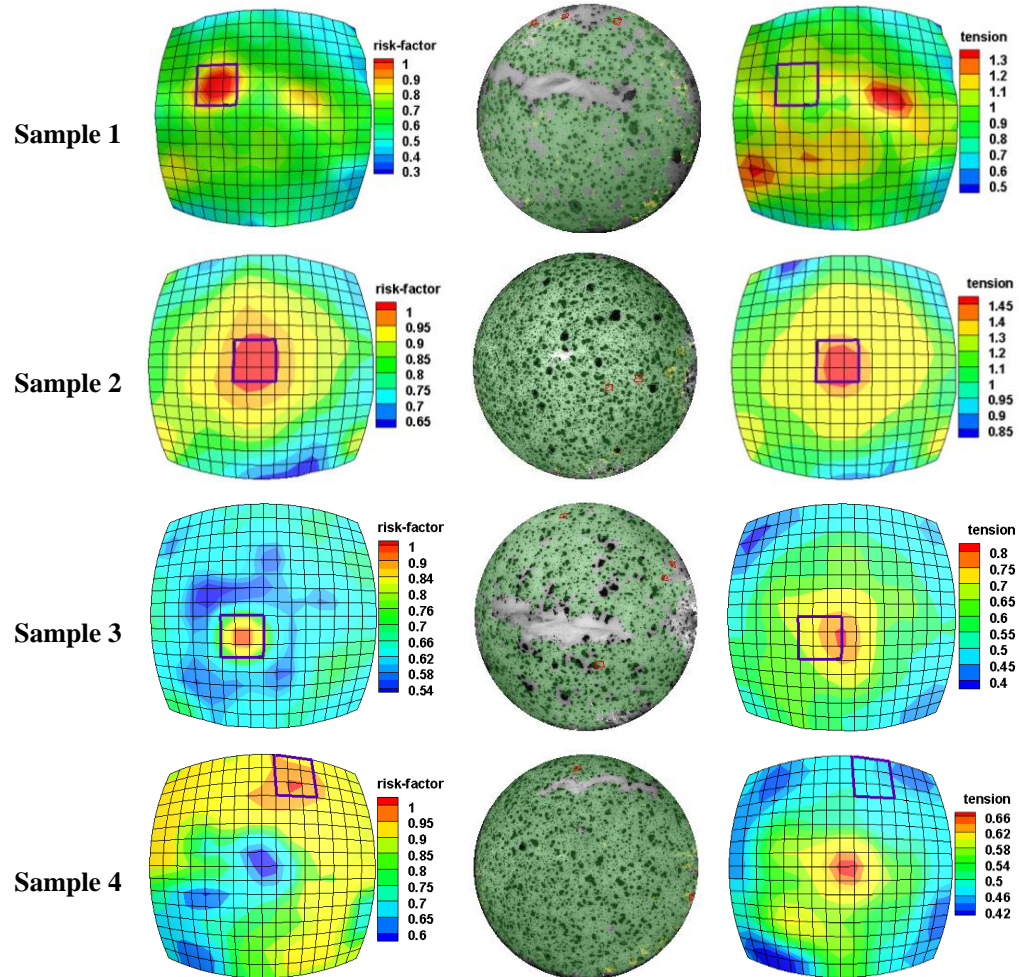
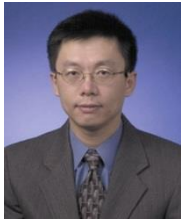


Correlation between the stretch-based rupture risk and the tangent elastic modulus



Duprey A, et al. Biaxial rupture properties of ascending thoracic aortic aneurysms. *Acta Biomaterialia* 2016.

Prediction of tissue rupture with the local tangent stiffness



SUMMARY

- Local tangent stiffness is heterogeneous and a risk factor for aortic rupture

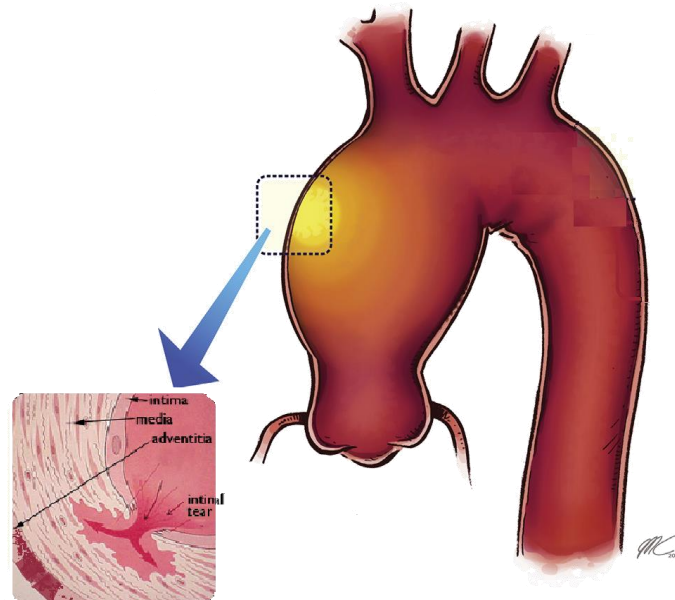
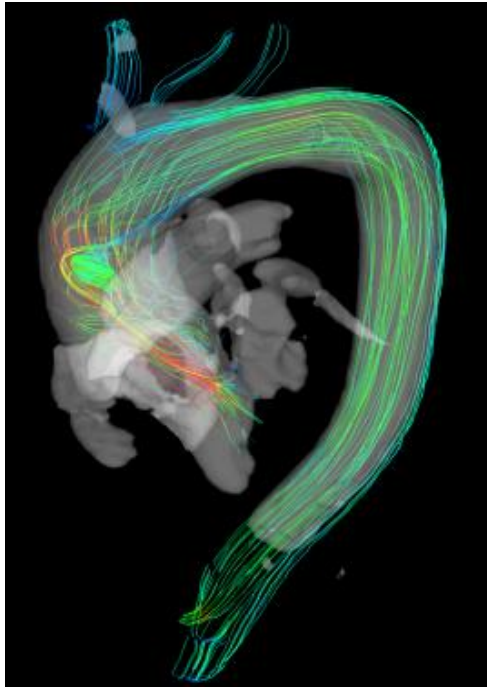




OUTLINE

- PART I: Risk factors for aortic rupture
- **PART II: Computational prediction of aortic weakening**
- PART III: Role of SMCs in aortic weakening

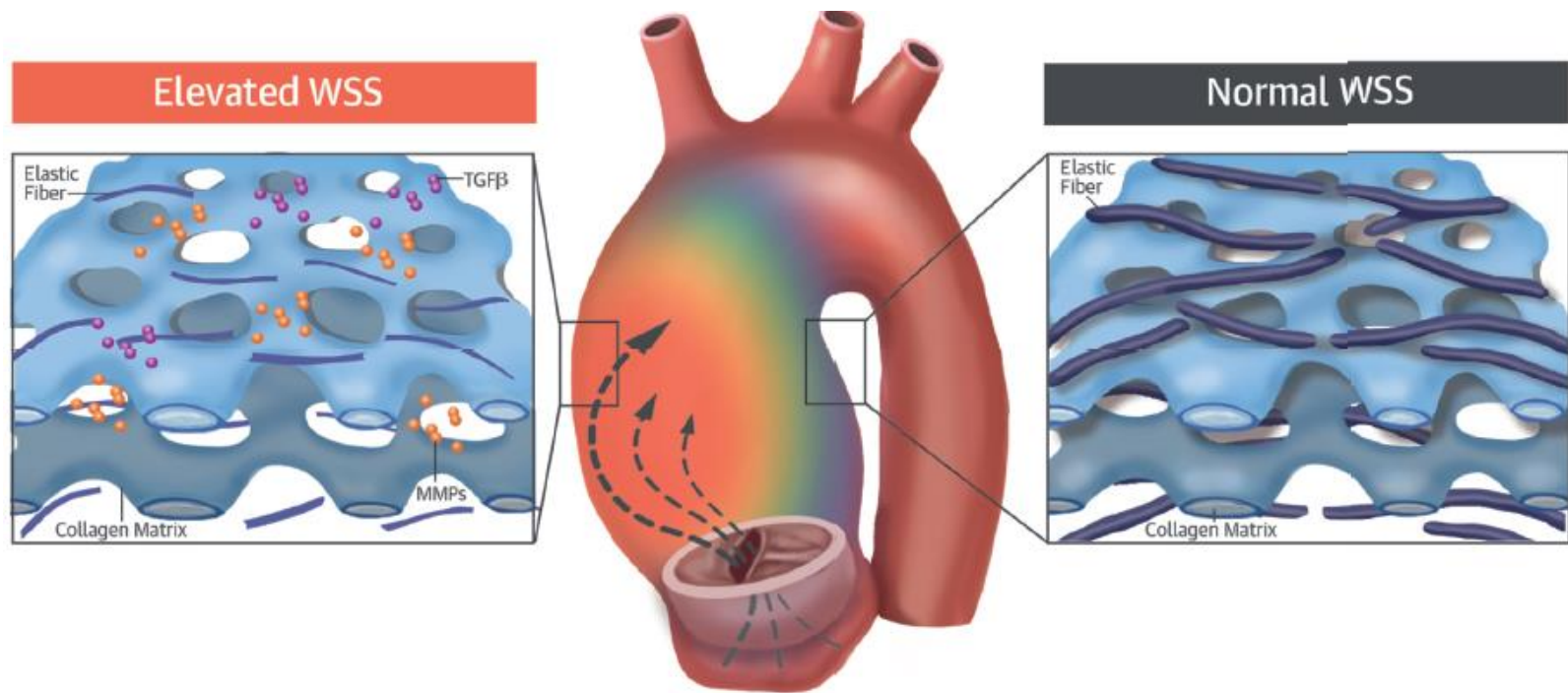
Aneurysms and Dissections of the ascending thoracic aorta



Goal: Predict weakening in the aortic wall

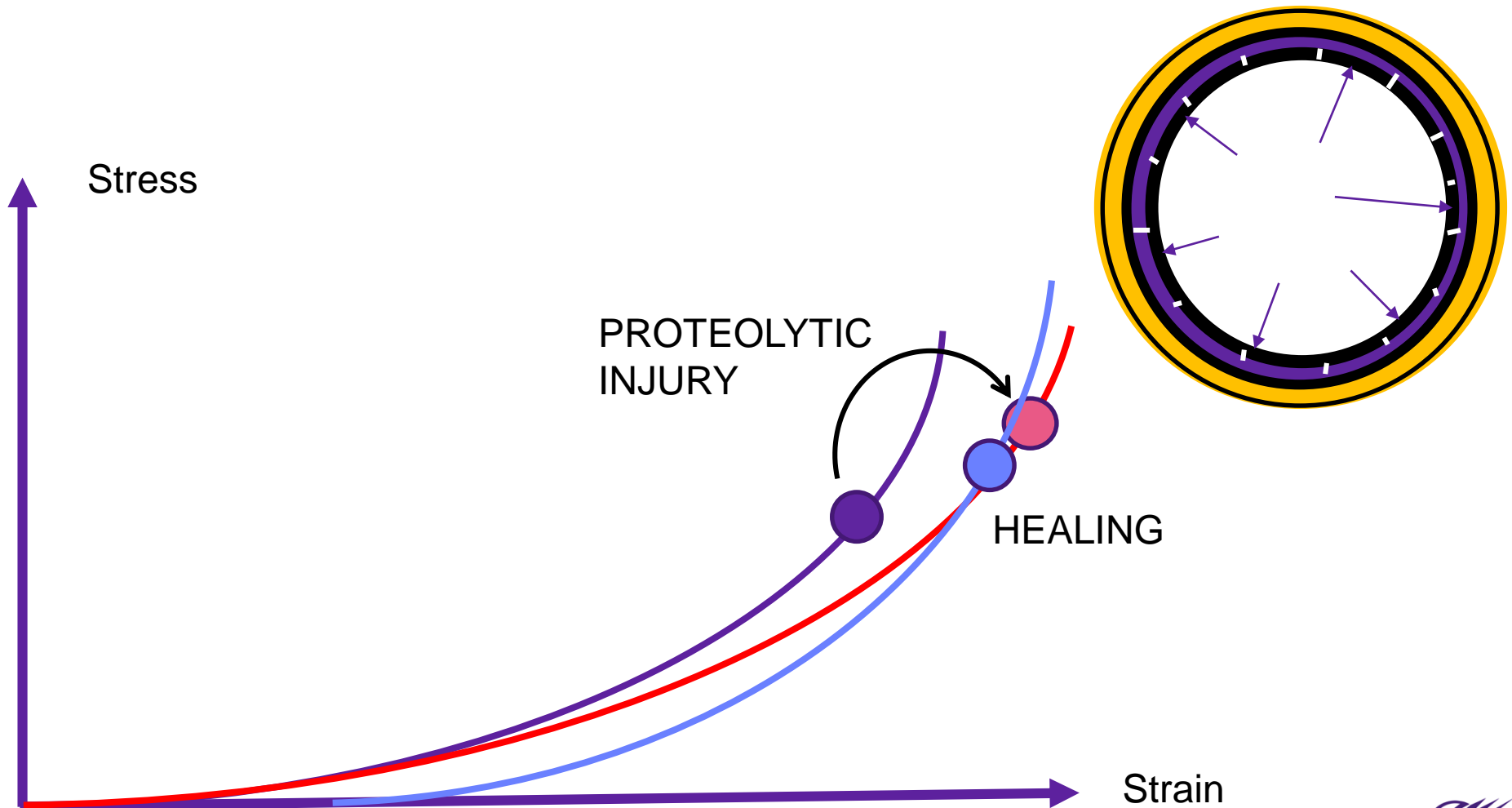
Introduction - Assumption

ATAAs are triggered by local proteolytic injury, which induce adaptation in the ascending thoracic aorta



Guzzardi et al, JACC (2014), Condemi et al, IEEE TBME (2019)

Proteolytic injury and tissue adaptation

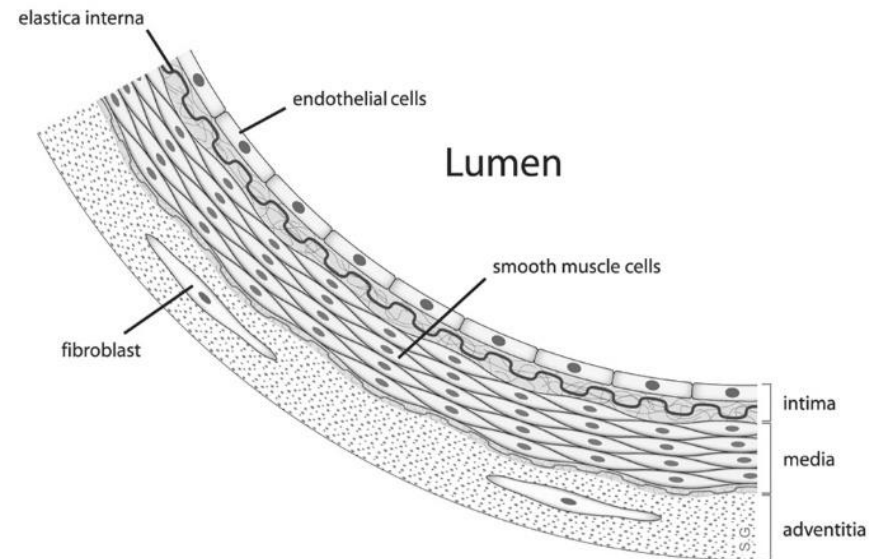
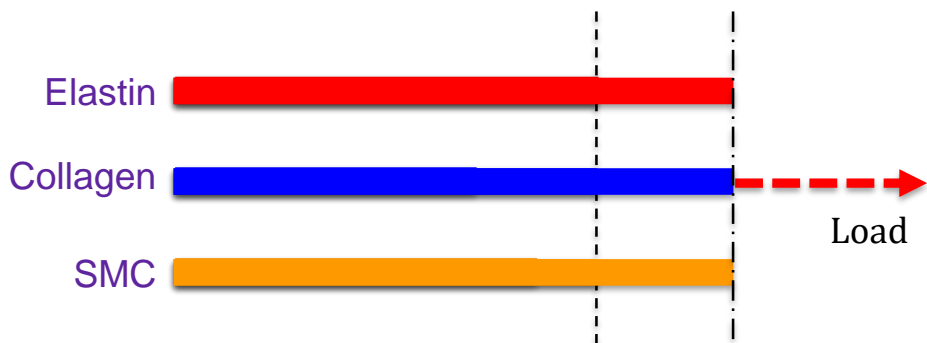


Layer-specific constitutive model

Strain-energy function based on the constrained mixture theory

$$W = \varrho_t^e (\overline{W}^e(\overline{I}_1^e) + U(J_{el}^e)) + \sum_{j=1}^n \varrho_t^{c_j} W^{c_j}(I_4^{c_j}) + \varrho_t^m W^m(I_4^m)$$

Deposition stretch of each constituent:



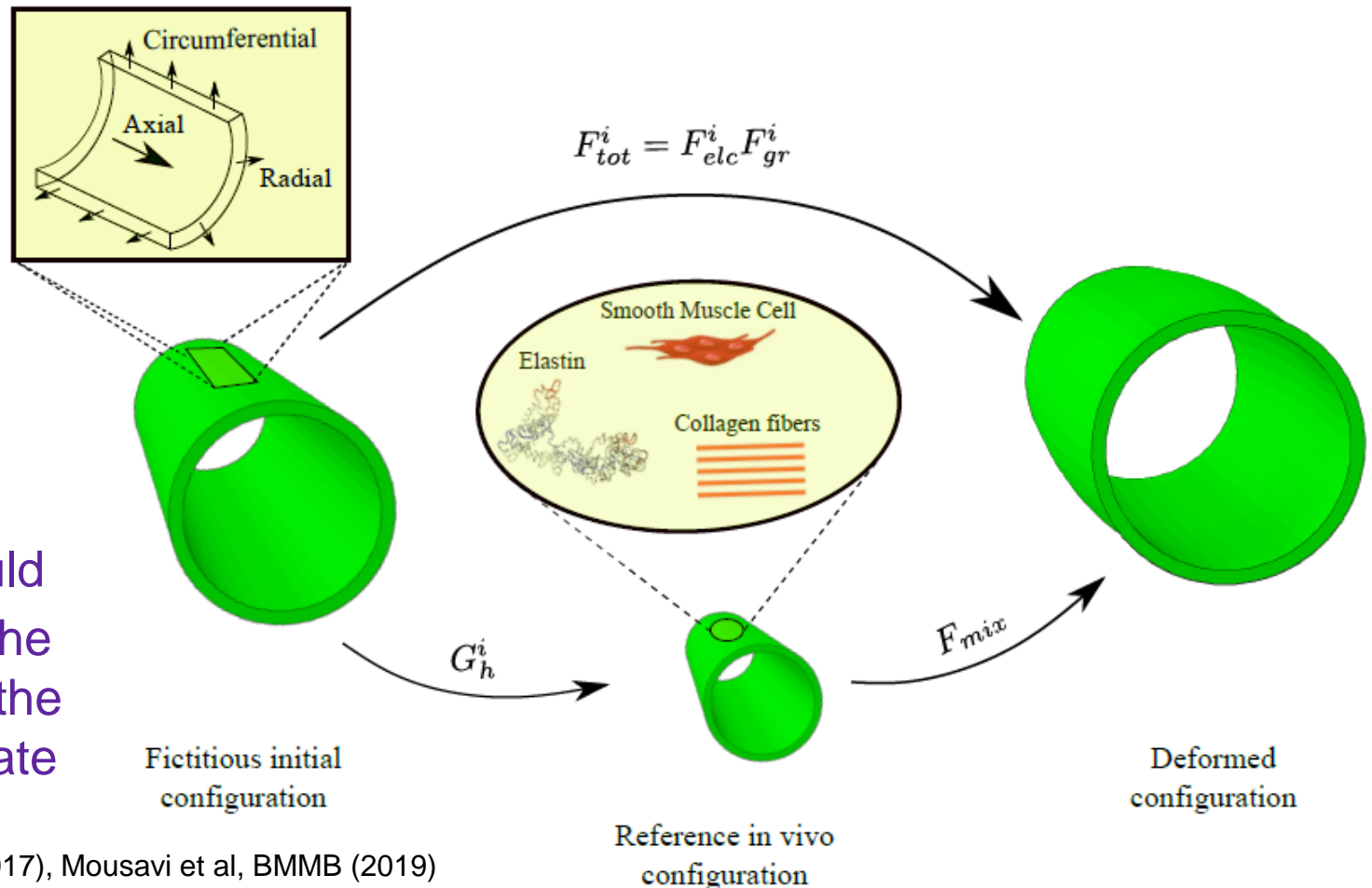
Layer-specific constitutive model

Elastic and inelastic decomposition of deformation gradient

$$\mathbf{F}_{tot}^j = \mathbf{F}_{elc}^j \mathbf{F}_{gr}^j$$

$$\mathbf{F}_{gr}^j = \mathbf{F}_r^j \mathbf{F}_g^j$$

\mathbf{F}_r^j and \mathbf{F}_g^j should be updated if the artery is not in the homeostatic state

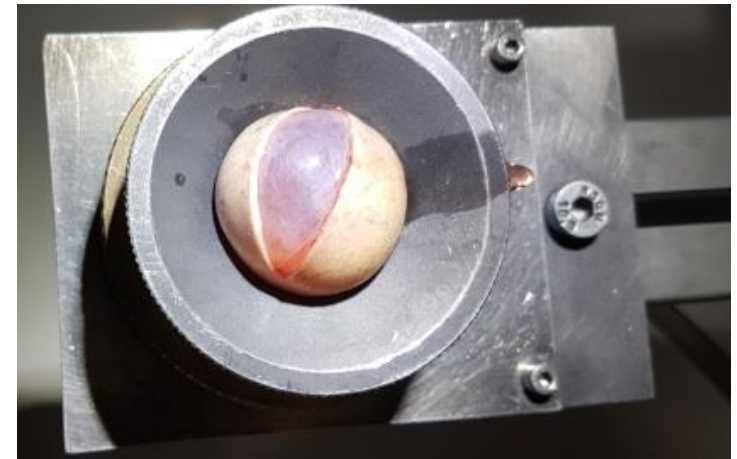
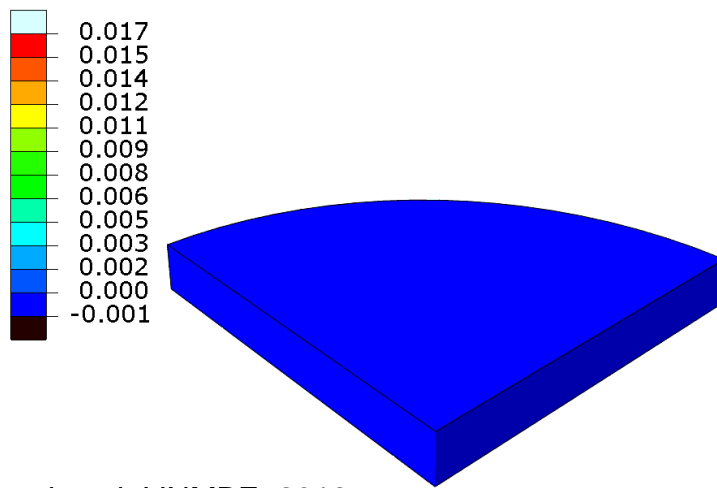


Mousavi & Avril, BMMB (2017), Mousavi et al, BMMB (2019)
Ghavamian et al, Front Bioeng Biotech (2020)

Abaqus finite-element implementation and verification

- ✓ FE software ABAQUS coupled with UMAT
- ✓ Hexahedral and tetrahedral elements
- ✓ Structural mesh (r, θ, z)
- ✓ Two different layers (media and adventitia)

(Avg: 75%)



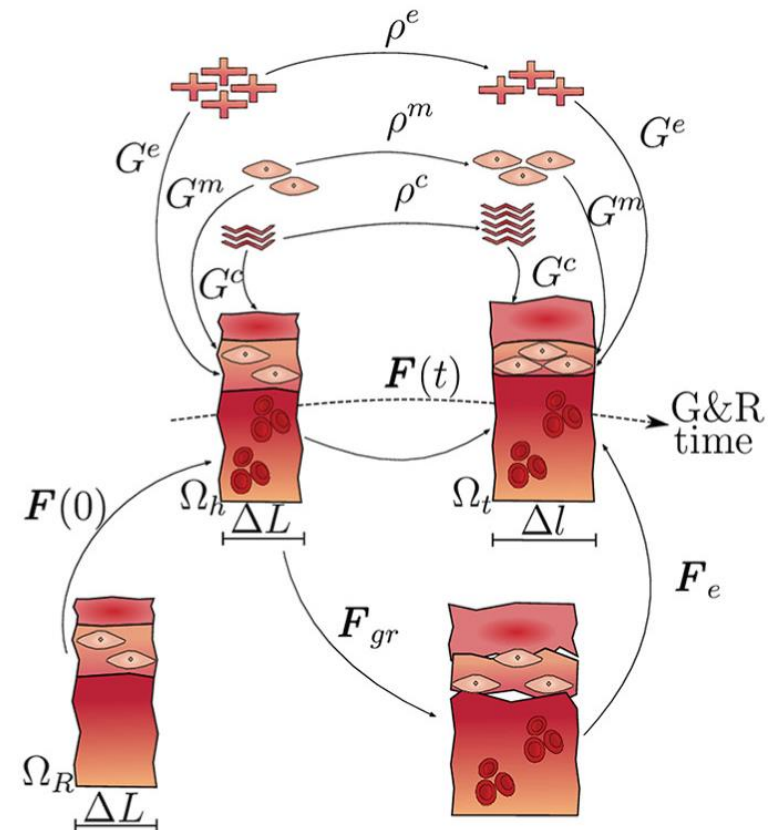
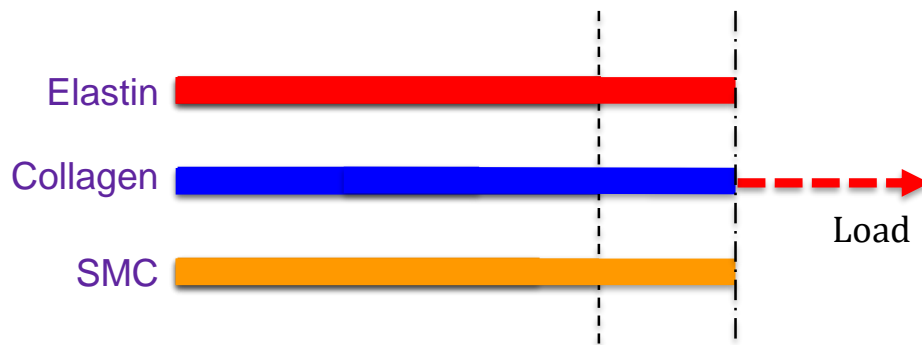
Mousavi et al, IJNMBE, 2018

Growth and Remodeling in homogenized constrained mixture

Collagen mass production

$$\dot{\rho}^j(t) = \rho^j(t) k_{\sigma}^j \frac{\sigma^j(t) - \sigma_h^j}{\sigma_h^j} + \xi^j(t)$$

Inelastic deformation due to remodeling



Cyron et al, BMBB (2016), Braeu et al, BMBB (2017), Laubrie et al, IJNMBE (2019)

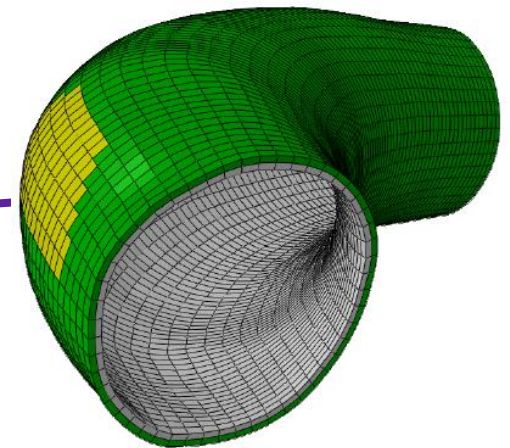
Patient-specific predictions

Growth and remodeling of a two-layer patient-specific human ATAAs due to elastin loss

$$W = \varrho_t^e (\bar{W}^e(\bar{I}_1^e) + U(J_{el}^e)) + \sum_{j=1}^n \varrho_t^{c_j} W^{c_j}(I_4^{c_j}) + \varrho_t^m W^m(I_4^m)$$

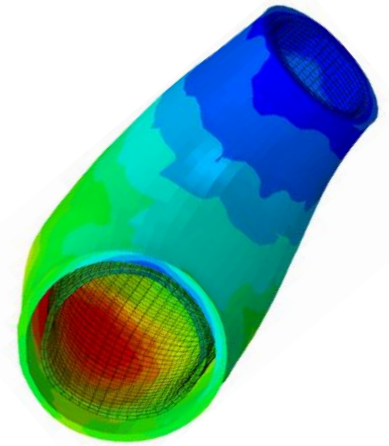
$$\dot{\varrho}^e = -\frac{\varrho^e(\mathbf{X}, t)}{T^e} - \frac{D_{\max}}{t_{\text{dam}}} \varrho^e(\mathbf{X}, 0) e^{-0.5 \left(\frac{X_3}{L_{\text{dam}}} \right)^2 - \frac{t}{t_{\text{dam}}}}$$

Localization function
around the point of
TAWSS max



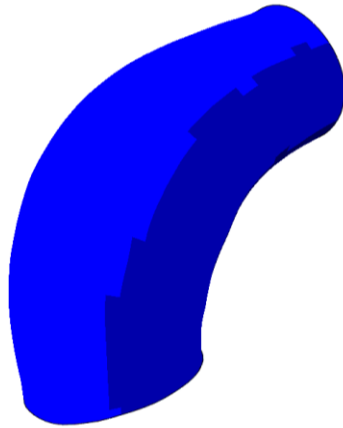
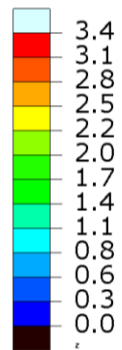
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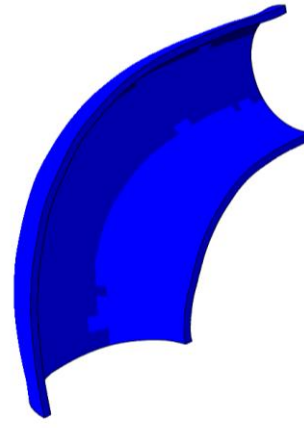
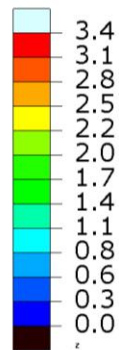


Small growth parameter

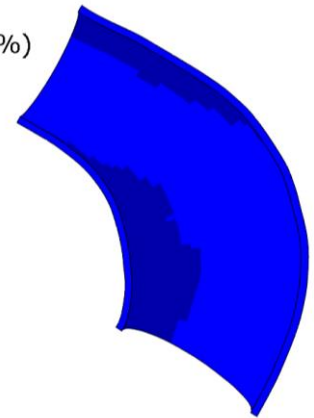
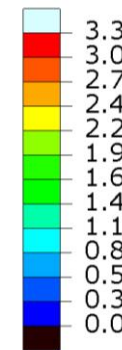
SDV69
(Avg: 75%)



SDV69
(Avg: 75%)



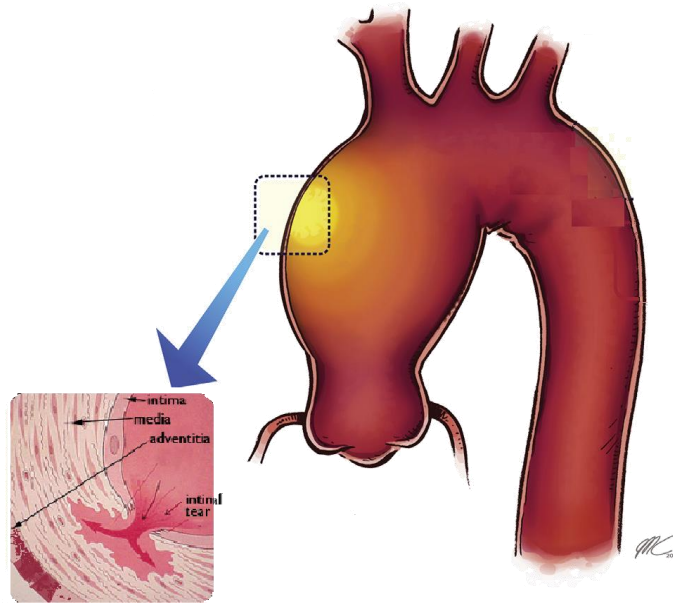
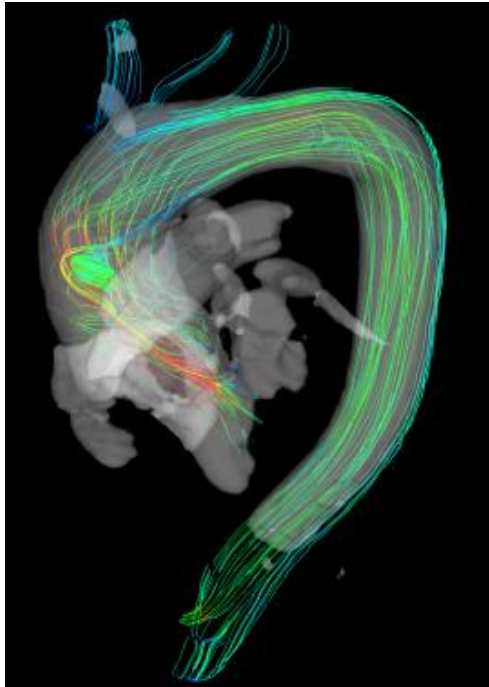
SDV69
(Avg: 75%)



Normalized Thickness

Mousavi et al, BMMB (2019)

Background: Aneurysms and Dissections of the ascending thoracic aorta



dissection



vSMC

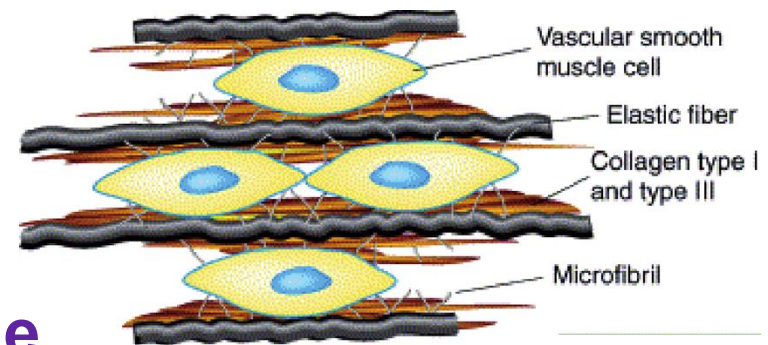
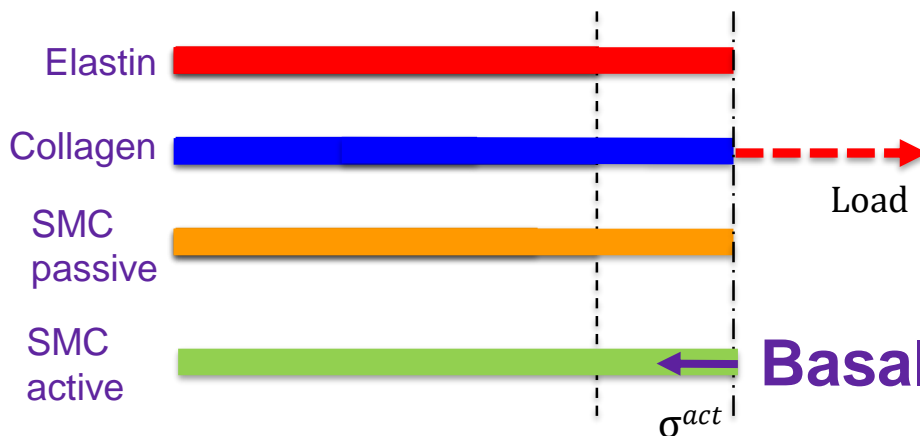


Humphrey et al, Science, 2014

Effects of active SMC contraction

$$W = \rho_t^e (\bar{W}^e(\bar{I}_1^e) + U(J_{el}^e)) + \sum_{j=1}^n \rho_t^{c_j} W^{c_j}(I_4^{c_j}) + \rho_t^m W^m(I_4^m)$$

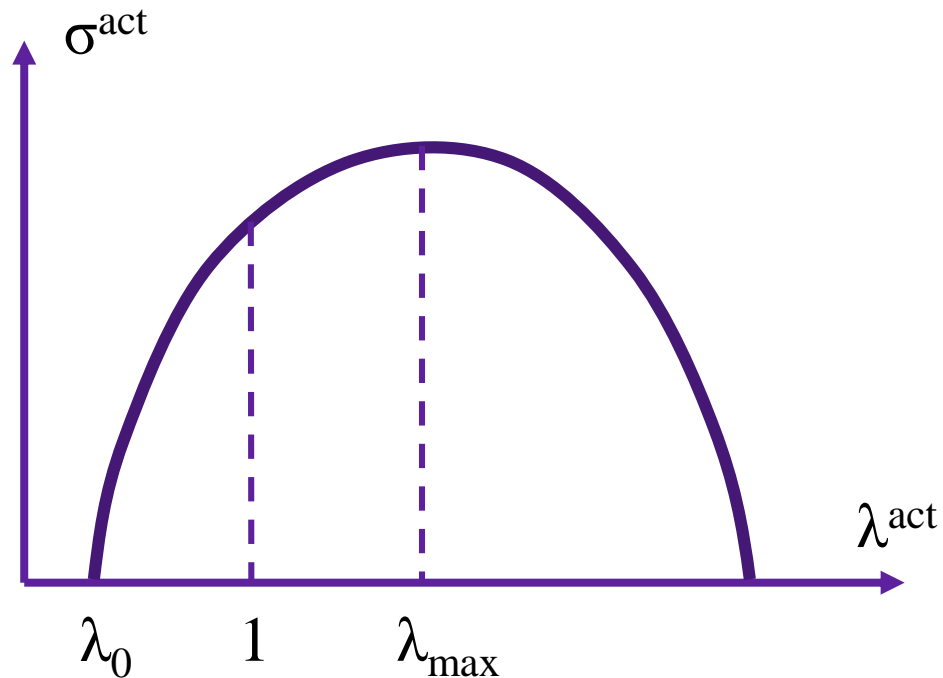
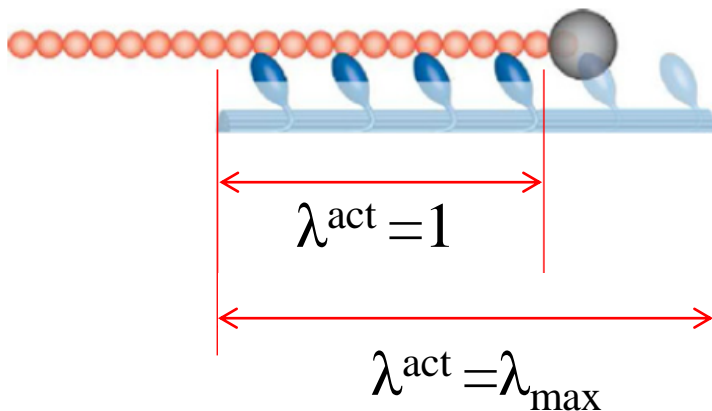
$$W^m(I_4^m, \lambda_{act}^m) = \underbrace{\frac{k_1^m}{2k_2^m} \left[\exp^{k_2^m (I_4^m - 1)^2} - 1 \right]}_{W_{pass}^m} + \underbrace{\frac{\sigma_{actmax}}{\rho_0} \left(\lambda_{act}^m + \frac{1}{3} \frac{(\lambda_{max}^m - \lambda_{act}^m)^3}{(\lambda_{max}^m - \lambda_0^m)^2} \right)}_{W_{act}^m}$$



Length-tension relationship of SMCS

$$\sigma^{\text{act}} = \frac{\sigma_{\text{actmax}}}{\rho_0(0) [C^{\text{m}} : (\mathbf{a}_0^{\text{m}} \otimes \mathbf{a}_0^{\text{m}})]} \left(1 - \frac{(\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{m}} - \lambda_{\text{act}})^2}{(\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{m}} - \lambda_0^{\text{m}})^2} \right)$$

Basal tone ~50kPa

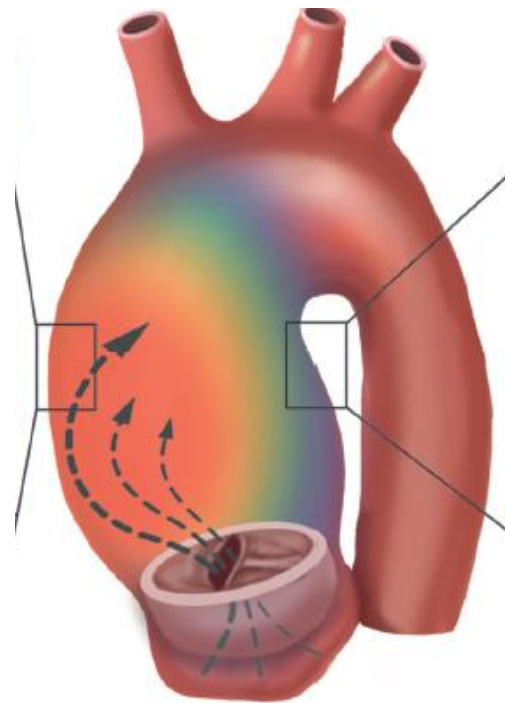


Murtada et al, J Theor Biol 2012, Ghavamian et al, Front Bioeng Biotech (2020)

Future work: test other assumptions

Combination of local decrease of SMC active stress and proteolytic injury

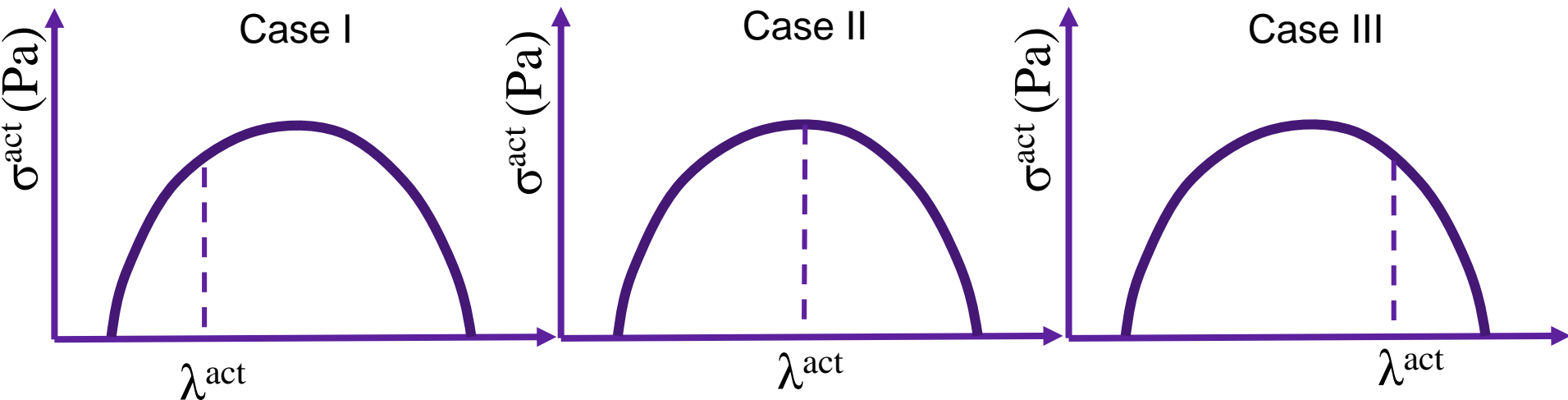
Large WSS
resulting in reduced
SMC contractility



Large RRT
resulting in possibly
increased
proteolytic effects

Sensitivity analysis

- The time of which the artery is maximally damaged (t_{dam}),
- The rate of collagen deposition ($k_{\sigma}^{c_j} / T^{c_j}$),
- The maximum contractility of SMCs (λ_{max}^m).



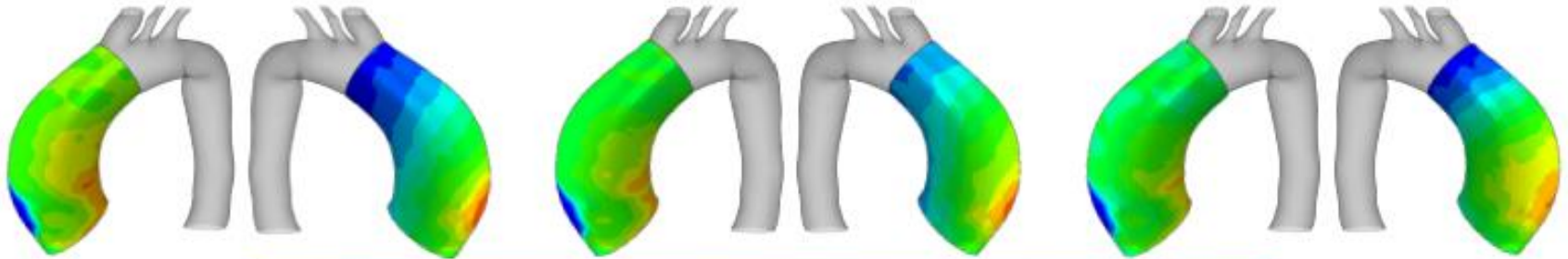
Ghavamian et al, Front Bioeng Biotech (2020)

Evolution of the active stress of SMCs

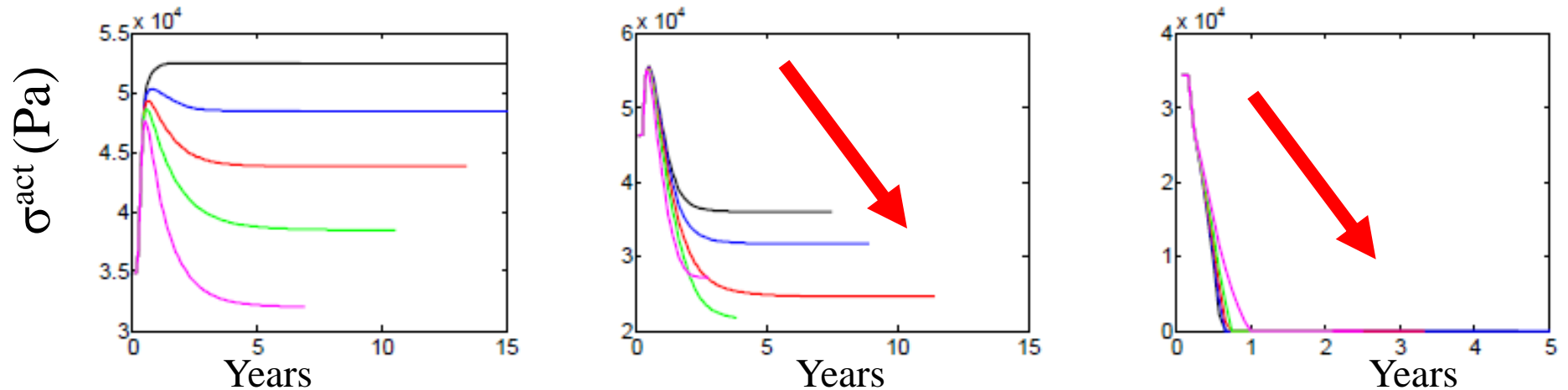
Case I

Case II

Case III



Relative displacement and thickness



— $k_{\sigma}^{Cj} = 0.05$
— $k_{\sigma}^{Cj} = 0.10$
— $k_{\sigma}^{Cj} = 0.15$
— $k_{\sigma}^{Cj} = 0.20$
— $k_{\sigma}^{Cj} = 0.30$

SUMMARY

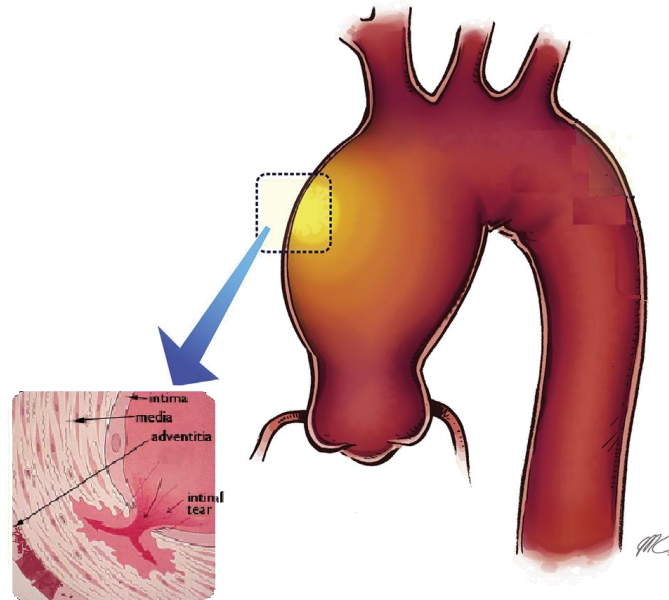
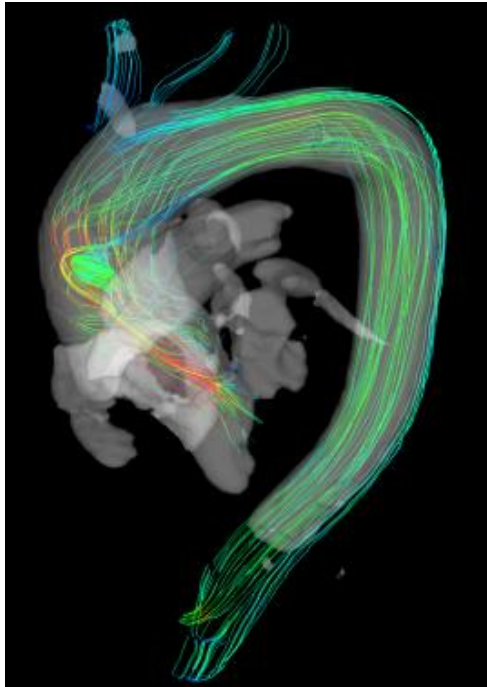
- ❑ Patient-specific numerical model based on the constrained mixture theory including damage and G&R – coupling with CFD analyses, + active role of SMCs
- ❑ Marginal contribution of the active stress of SMCs but a critical state can be reached when the active stress reaches zero due to large stretching
- ❑ One of the major role of SMCs is mechanoregulation.



OUTLINE

- ❑ PART I: Risk factors for aortic rupture
- ❑ PART II: Computational prediction of aortic weakening
- ❑ **PART III: Role of SMCs in aortic weakening**

The major role of SMCs in Aneurysms and Dissections of the ascending thoracic aorta



vSMC



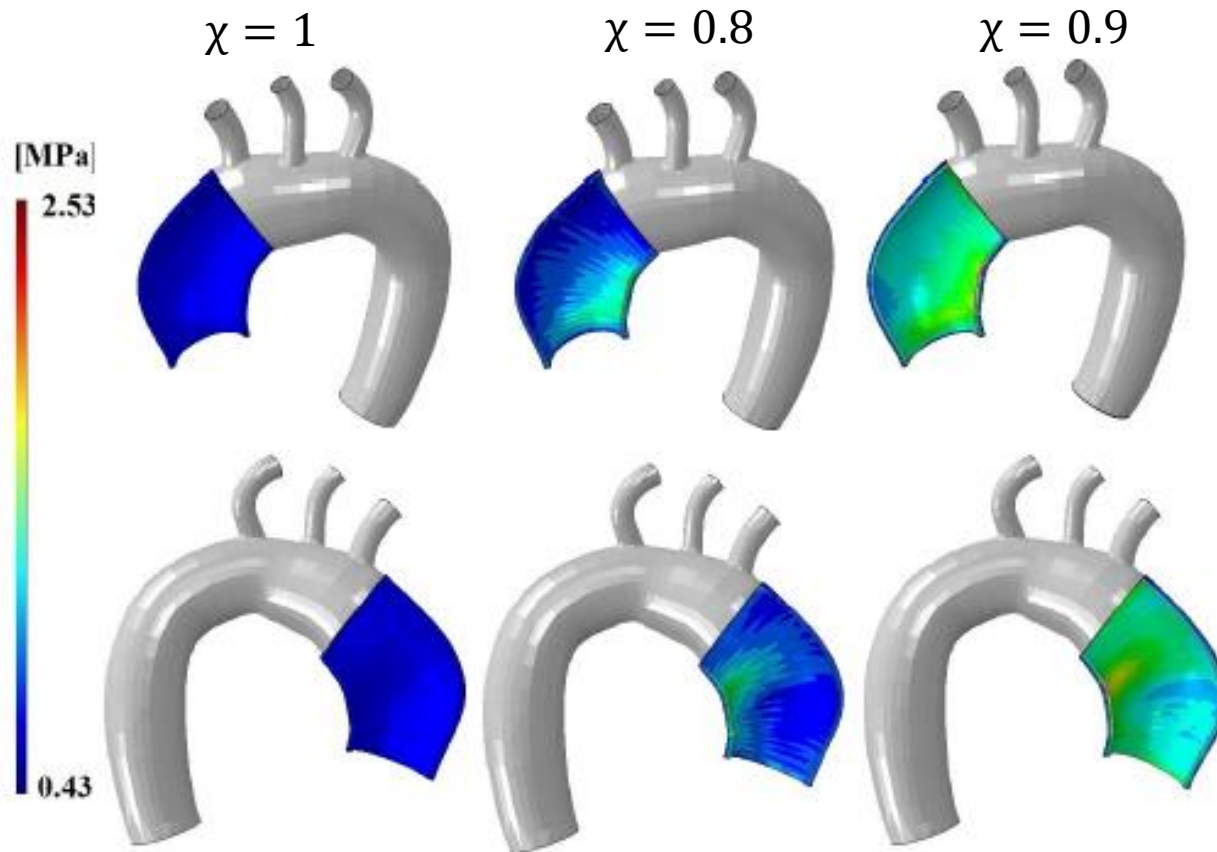
Humphrey et al, Science, 2014

Future work: mechanosensitivity impairment

$$\dot{\sigma}^j(t) = \rho^j(t) k_{\sigma}^j \chi * \frac{\sigma^j(t) - \sigma_h^j}{\sigma_h^j} + \dot{\xi}^j(t)$$

$0 \leq \chi \leq 1$: impairment coefficient

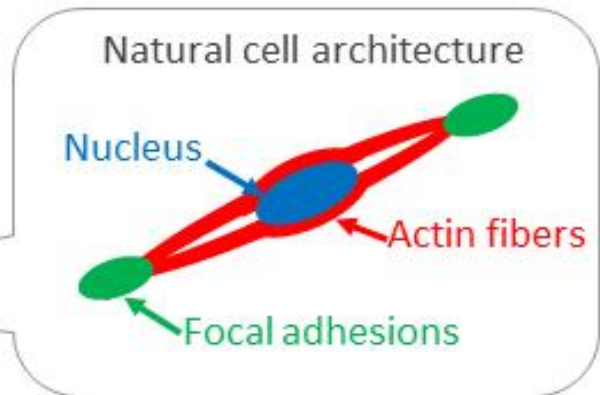
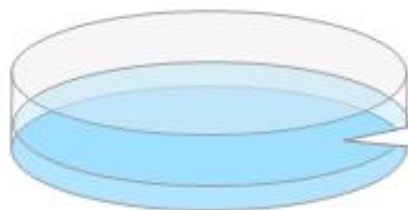
Tangent stiffness after 10 years



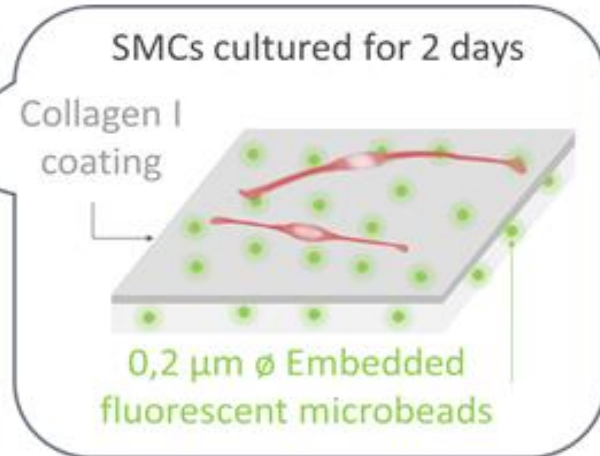
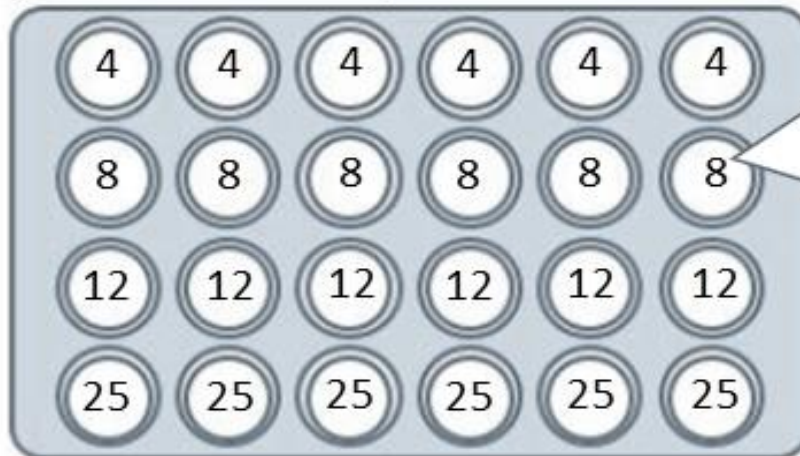
Mousavi et al, ABME (2020, submitted)

Traction force microscopy on aortic smooth muscle cells

a Matrigen Petrisoft™
Collagen-coated hydrogel, 12 kPa
Fixed and stained cells

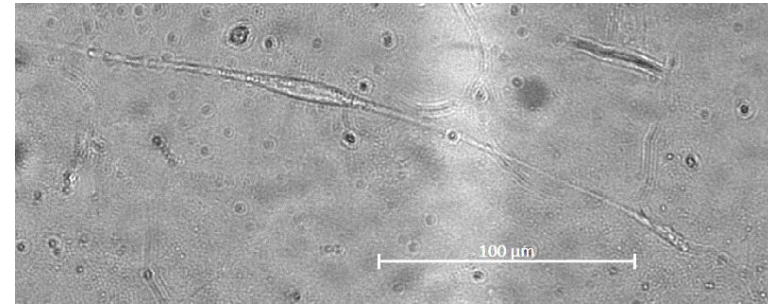
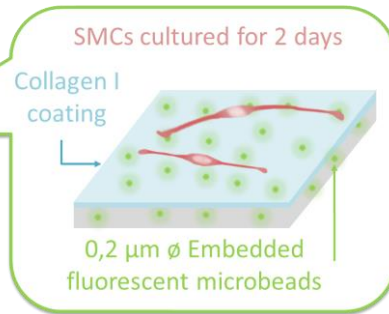


b Matrigen Softwell™
Living cells

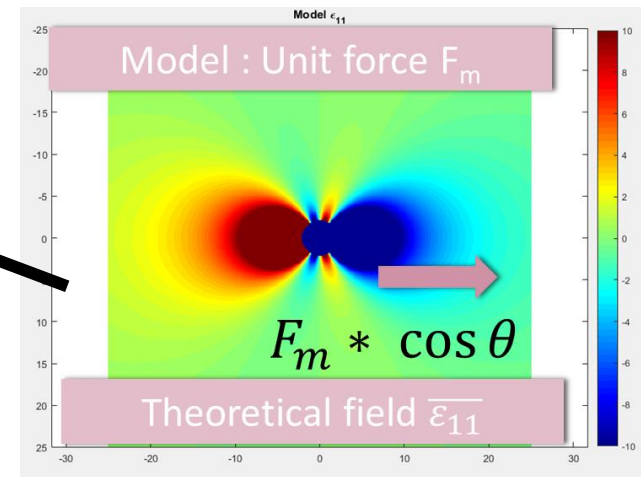
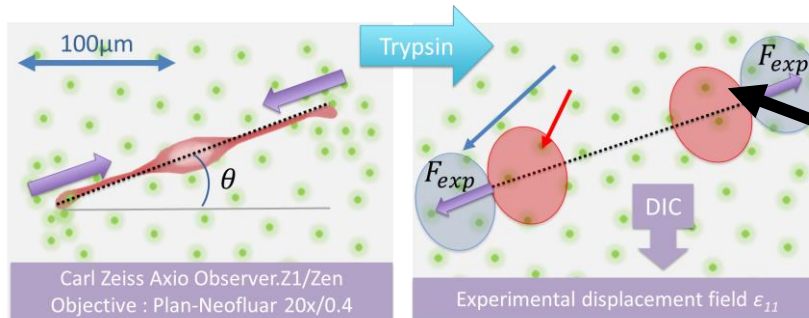


Traction force microscopy on aortic smooth muscle cells

Several stiffness values



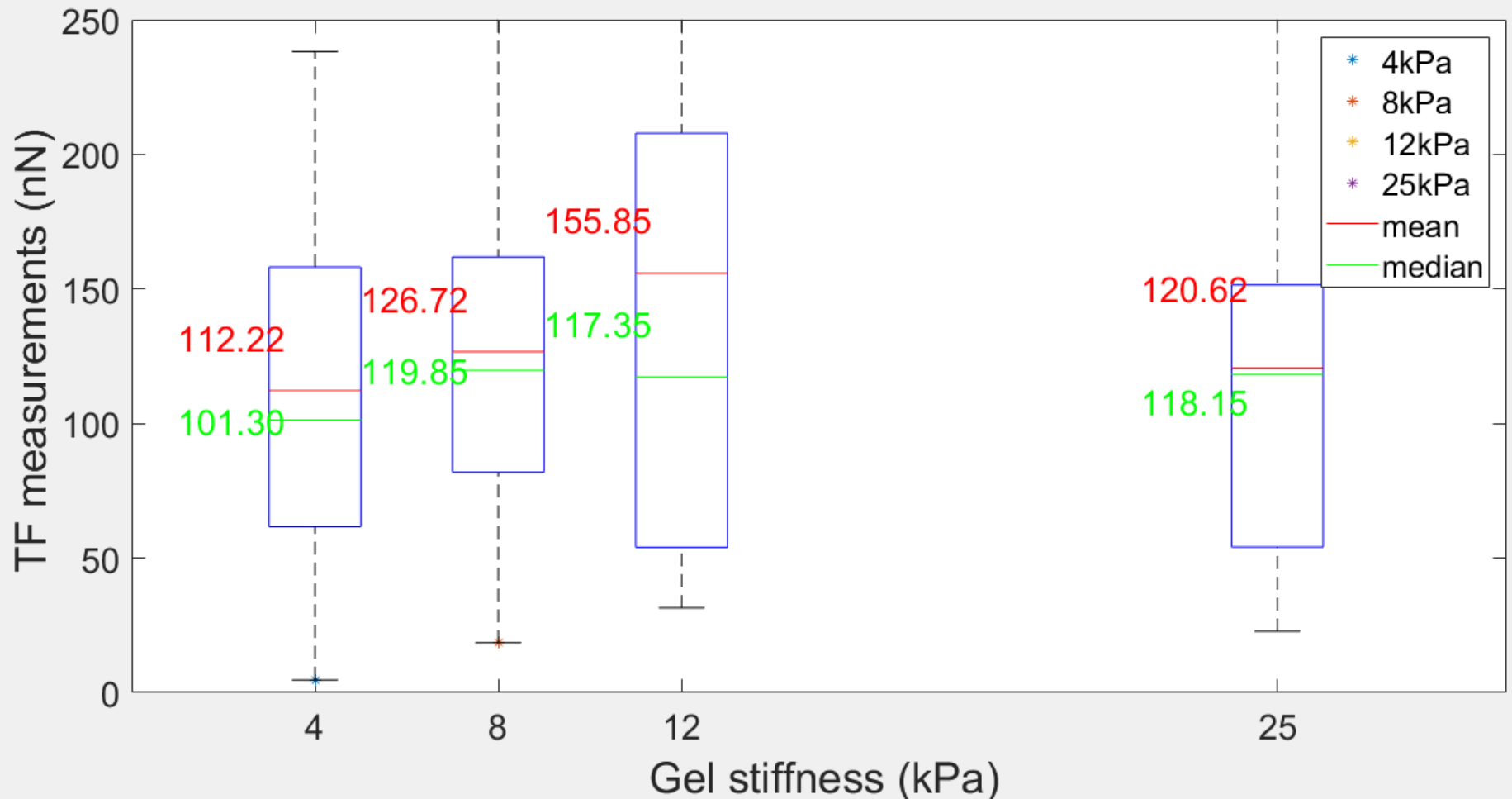
Aortic SMCs from human primary culture (AoSMC, Lonza), passages 5-7, cultured in a differentiating medium (SmBM, Lonza)



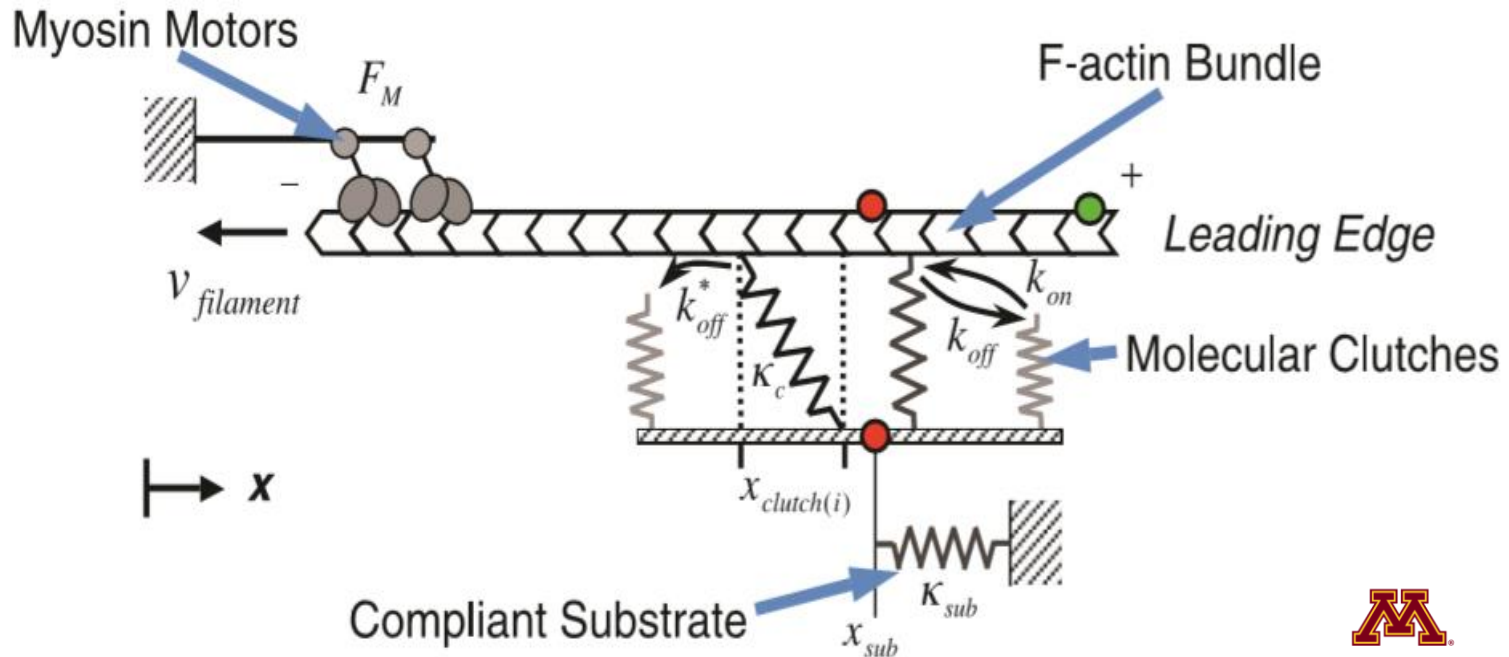
- **Fluorescent microscopy + DIC** : track the displacement of fluorescent microbeads
- **Cell unbinding method (with trypsin)** : assess the homeostatic state of single SMCs

$$K = 2$$

Traction force of aortic smooth muscle cells depend on the surrounding stiffness



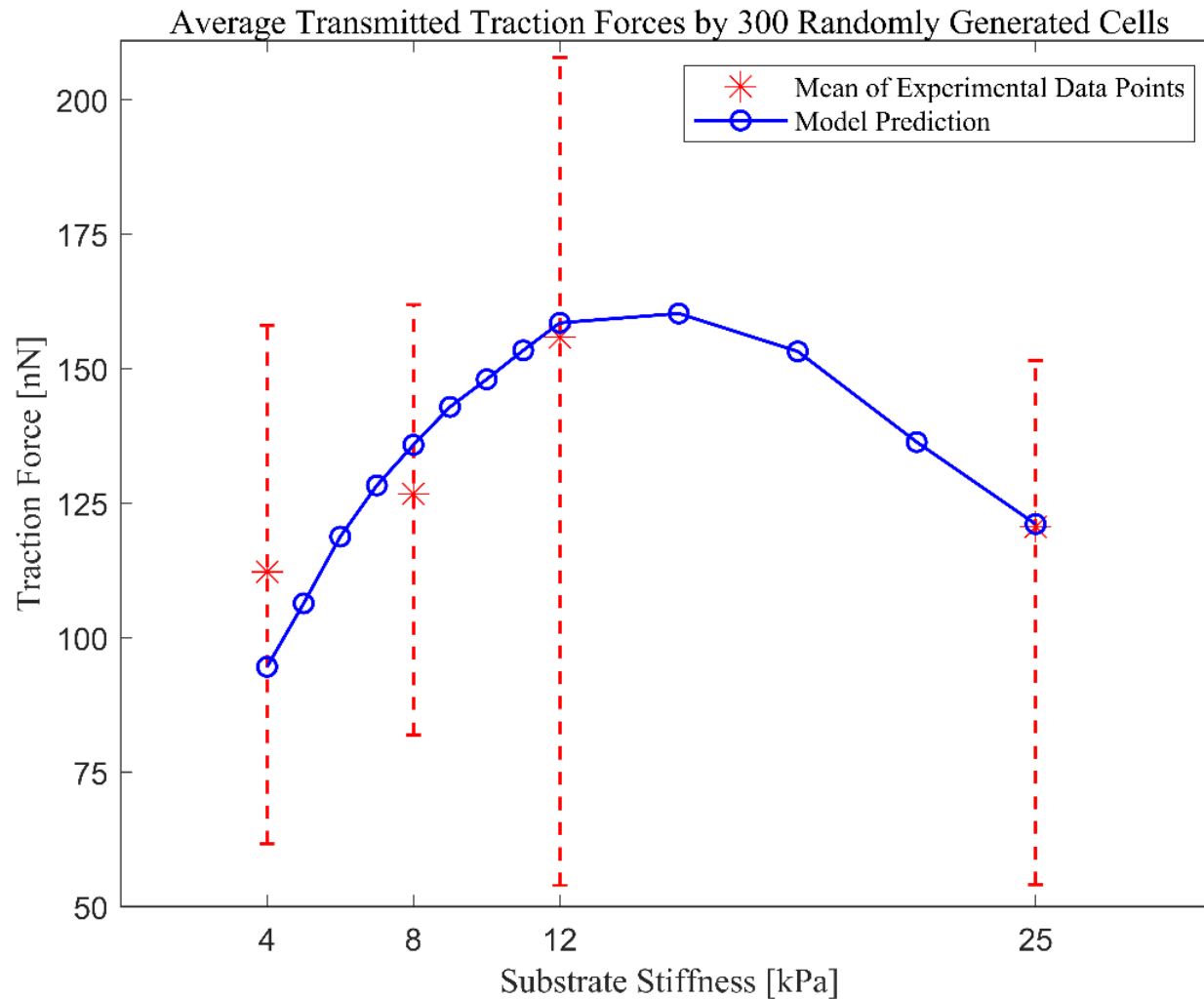
Modelling of SMCs cytoskeletal mechanics



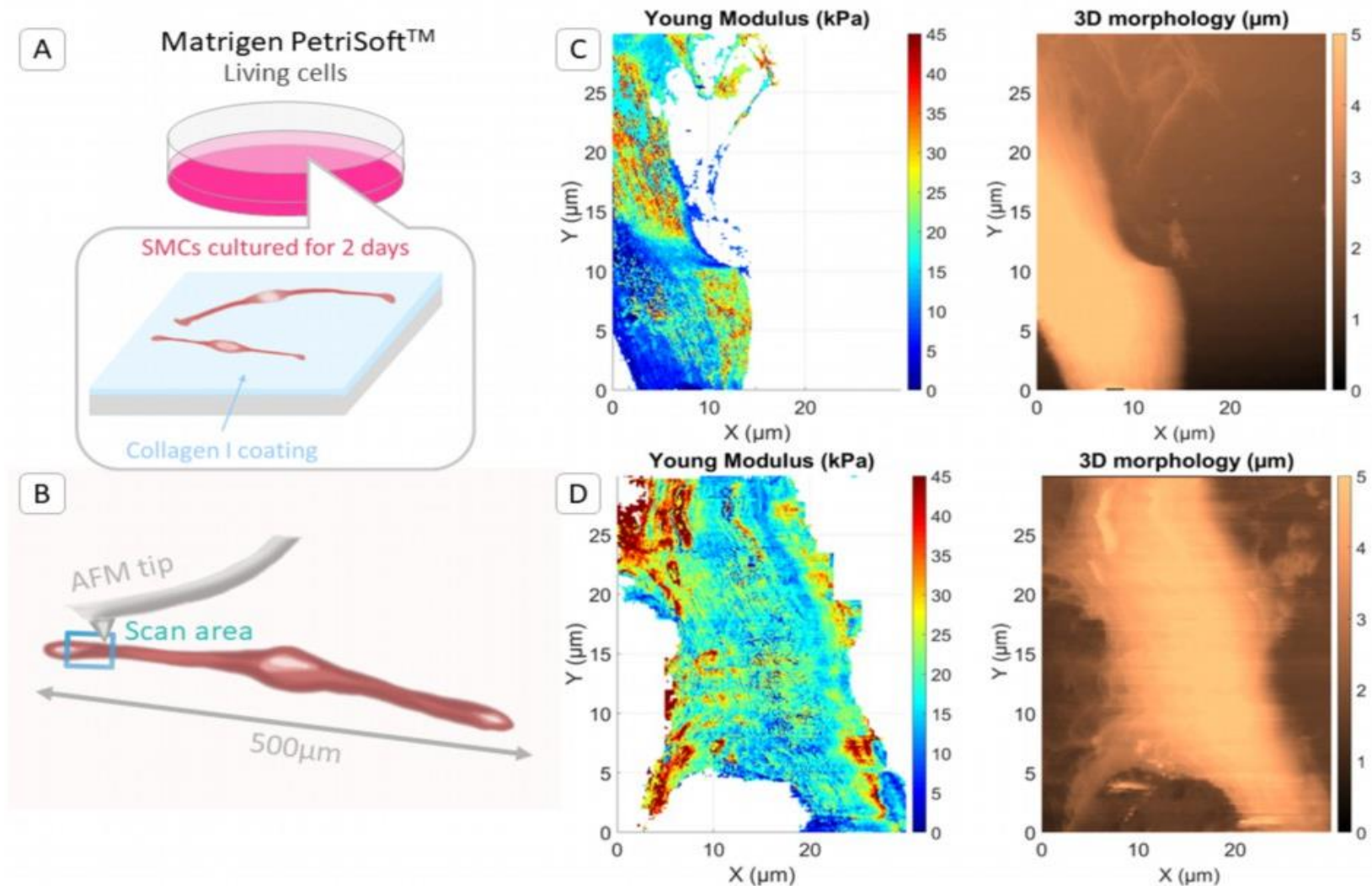
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

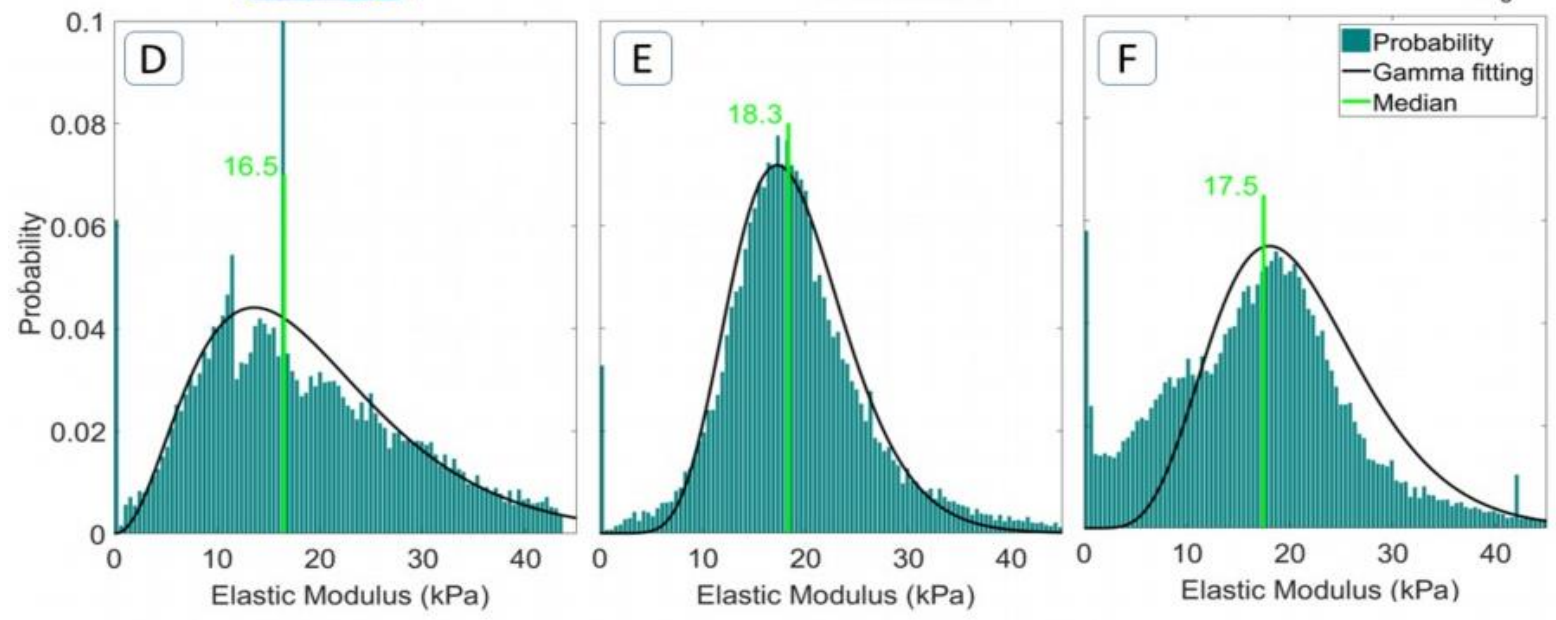
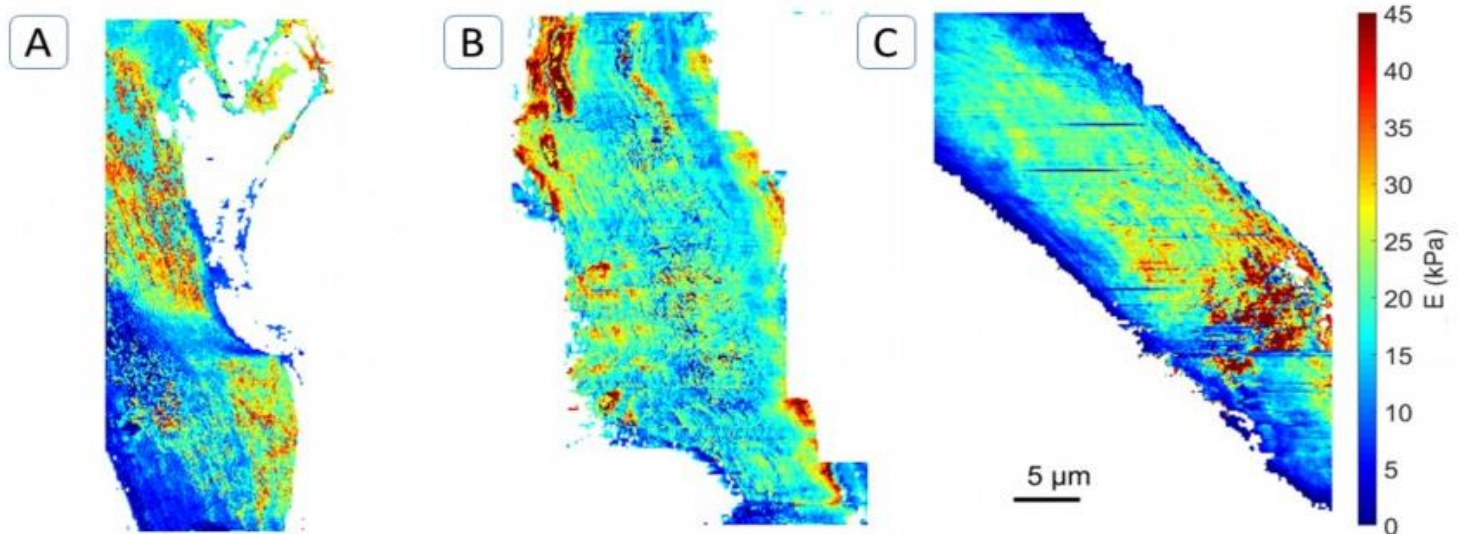
Chan, C. E., & Odde, D. J. (2008). Traction dynamics of filopodia on compliant substrates. *Science*, 322(5908), 1687-1691.

Modelling of SMCs cytoskeletal mechanics



Stiffness characterization of aortic smooth muscle cells





SUMMARY AND FUTURE WORK

- Decipher the link between cytoskeletal SMC mechanics and mechanosensitivity in aortic aneurysms
- Include SMC models into the G&R models of aortic aneurysms
- Clinical translation

Computational mechanics in the OR for vascular surgery?

www.predisurge.com



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