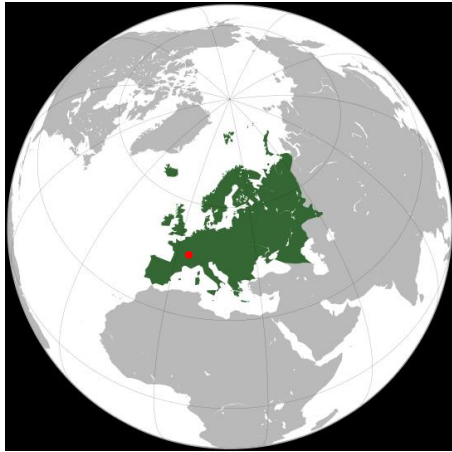




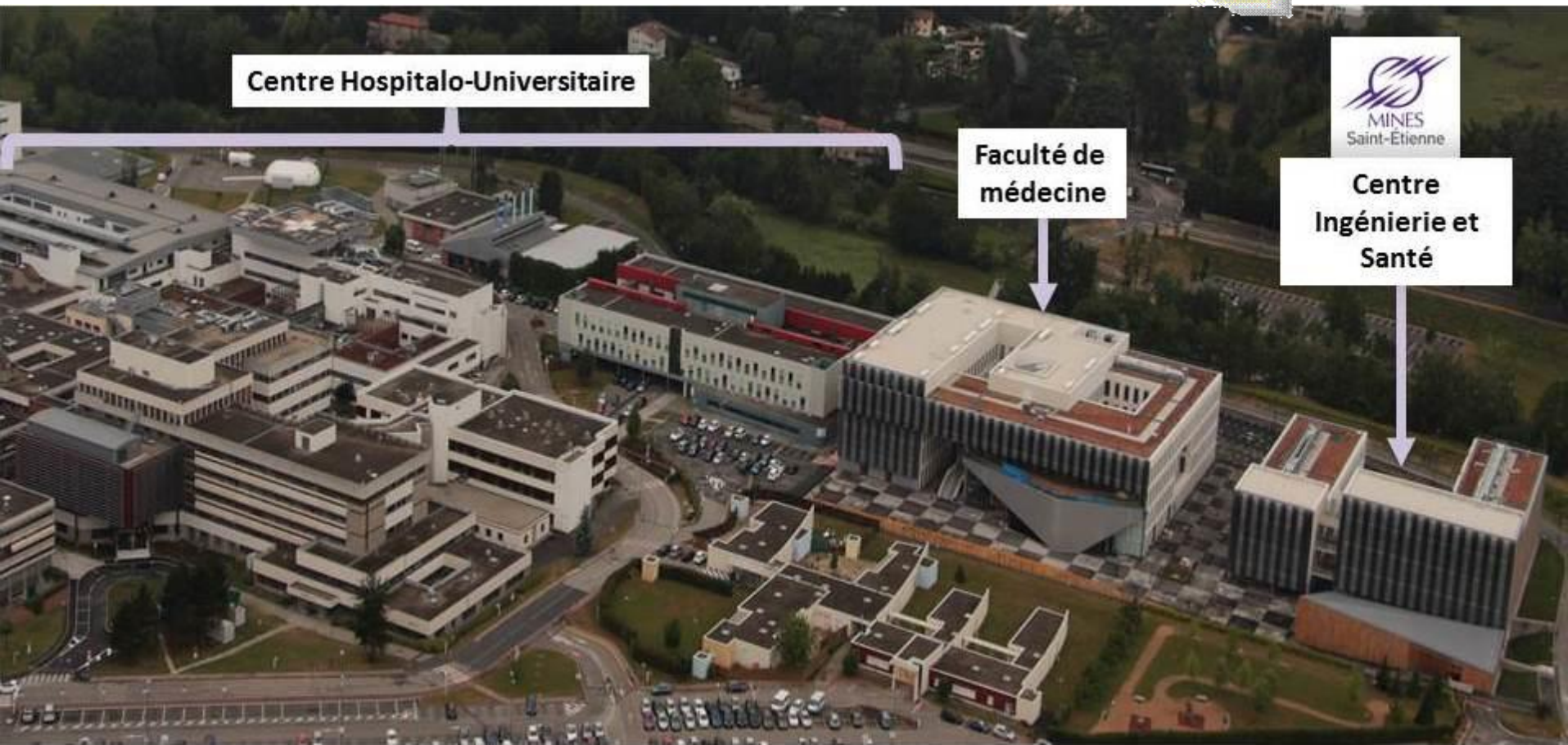
# Inverse problems in cardiovascular continuum mechanics and medical applications



Prof. Stéphane AVRIL



**MINES SAINT-ETIENNE**  
First Grande Ecole  
outside Paris  
Founded in 1816



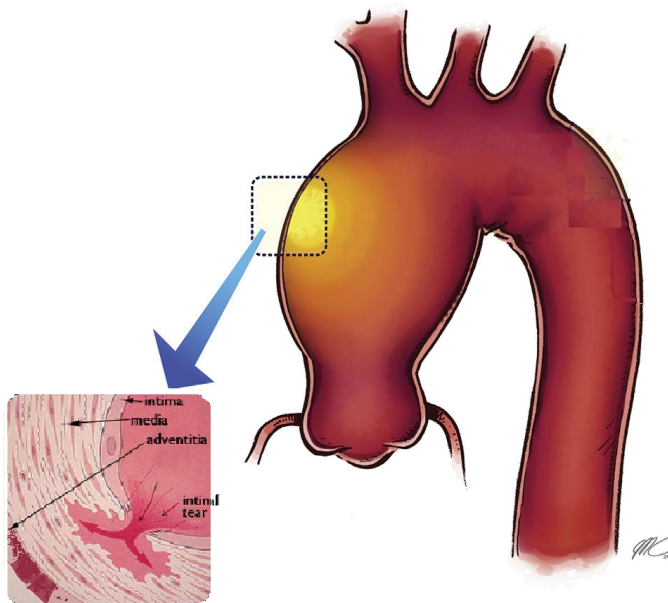
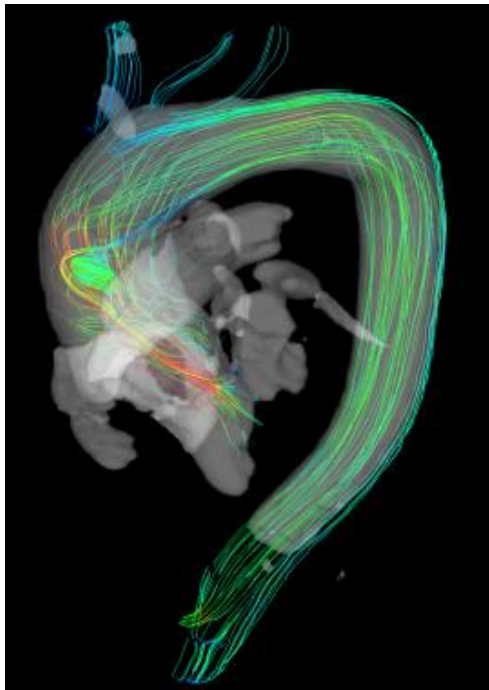
**Centre Hospitalo-Universitaire**

**Faculté de  
médecine**

**Centre  
Ingénierie et  
Santé**



# Prediction of risk of rupture and dissection

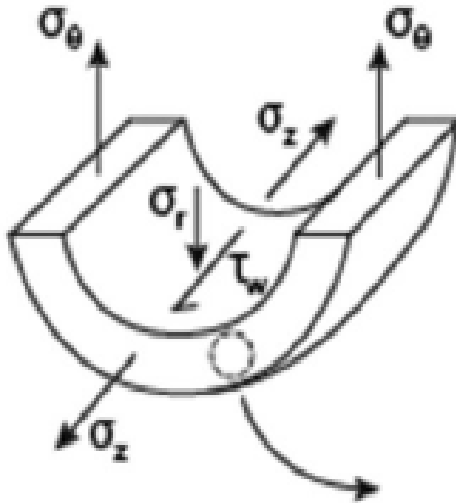


dissection





# Basics of arterial mechanics



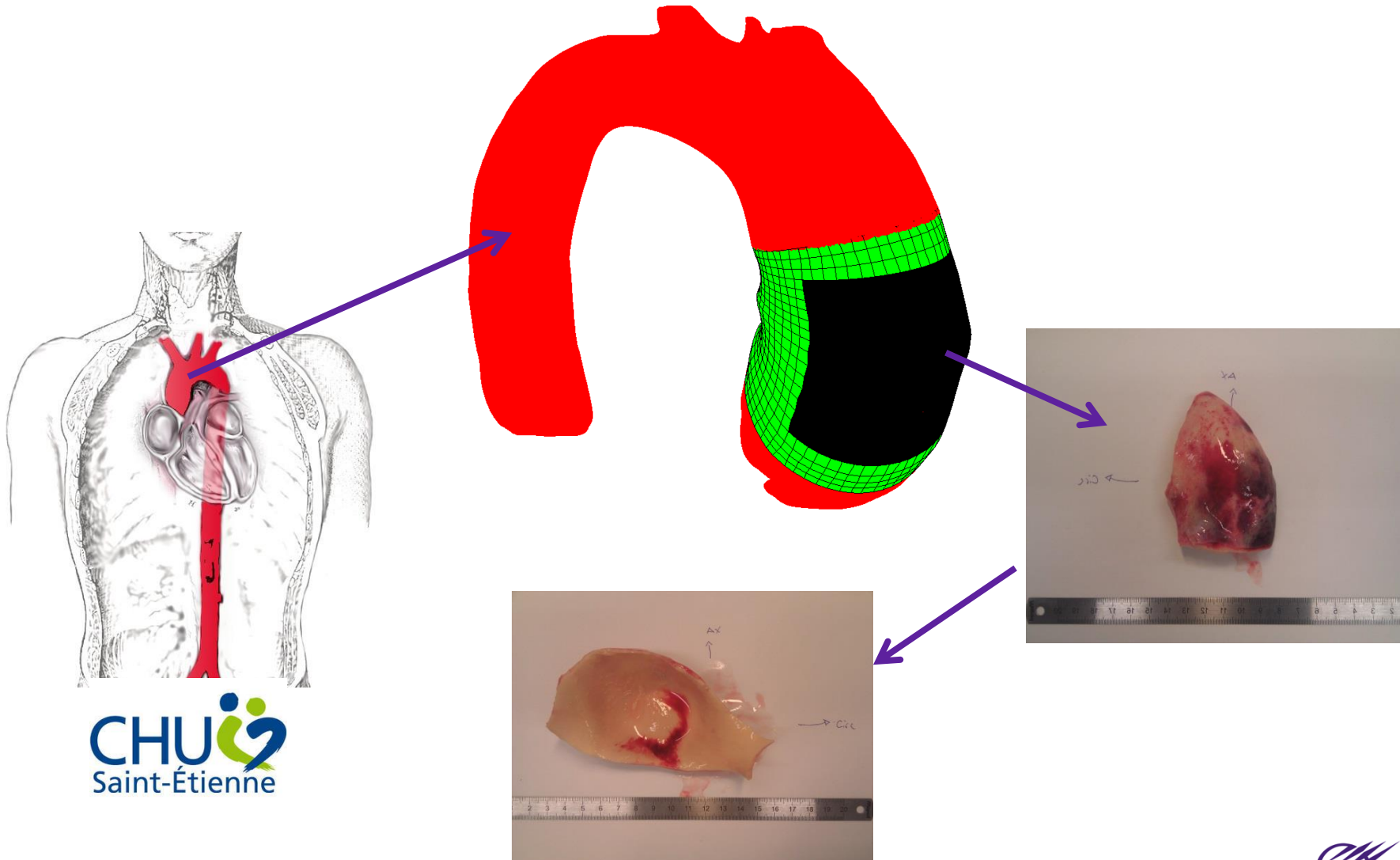
$$\tau_w = \frac{4\mu Q}{\pi a^3}, \quad \sigma_\theta = \frac{P a}{h}$$

Humphrey JD (2002) *Cardiovascular Solid Mechanics: Cells, Tissues, and Organs*, Springer-Verlag, NY

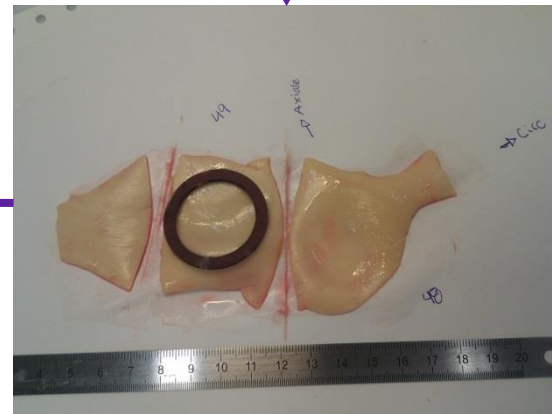
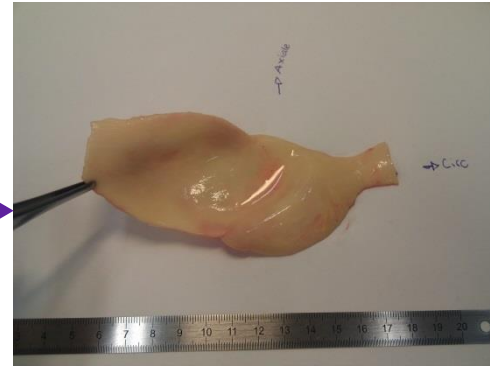
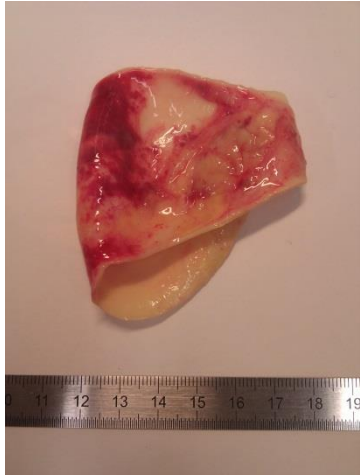
“we see that the greatest need lies in the direction of collecting data in multiaxial loading conditions and formulating a theory for the general rheological behavior of living tissues when stresses and strains vary with time in an arbitrary manner.”

Y.C. Fung (1973)

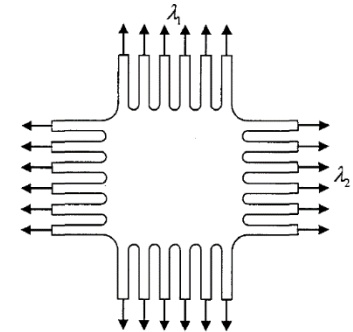
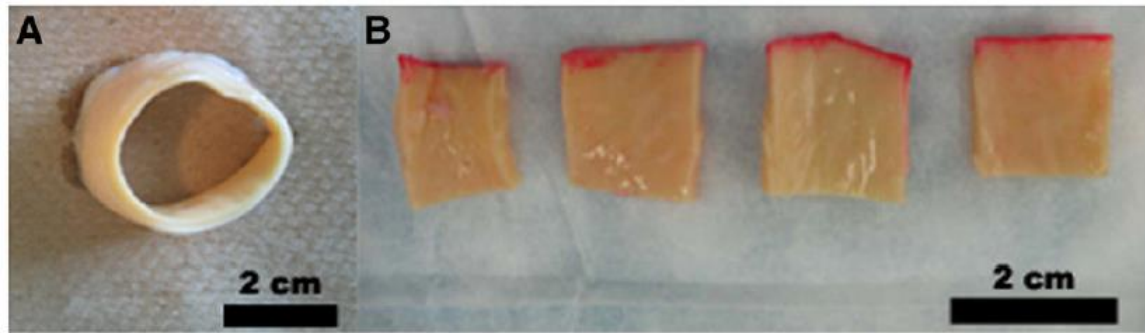
# Collection of the samples



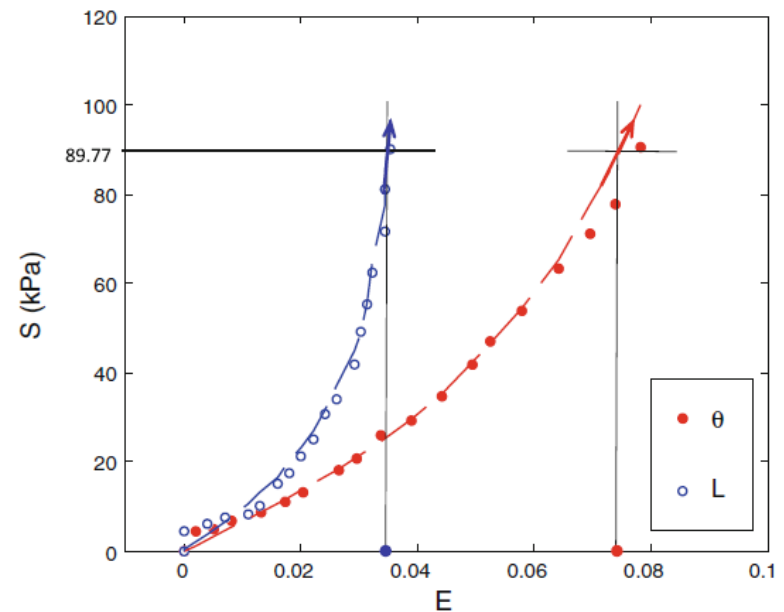
# Preparation



# Material characterization and constitutive modeling

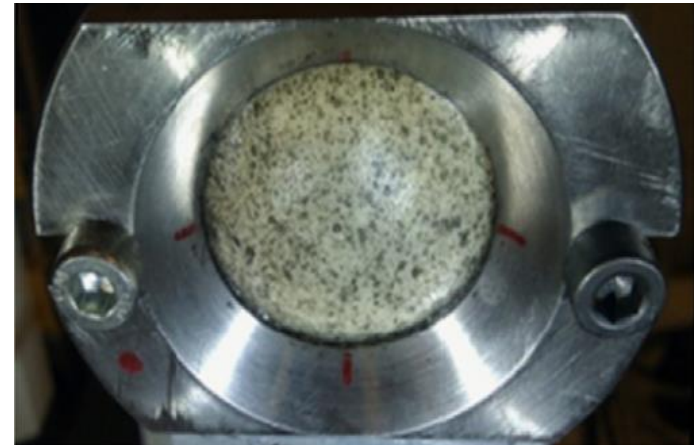
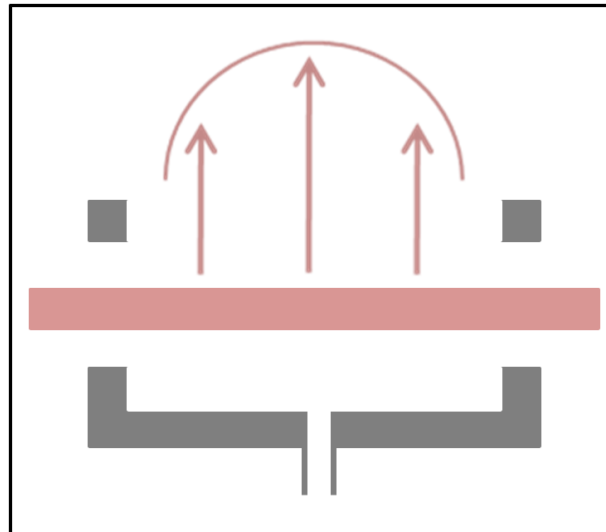


$$W = C_{10} (\bar{I}_1 - 3) + \frac{1}{D} \left( \frac{J^2 - 1}{2} - \ln J \right) + \frac{k_1}{2k_2} \sum_{\alpha=1}^N \left\{ \exp \left[ k_2 \langle \bar{E}_\alpha \rangle^2 \right] - 1 \right\}$$



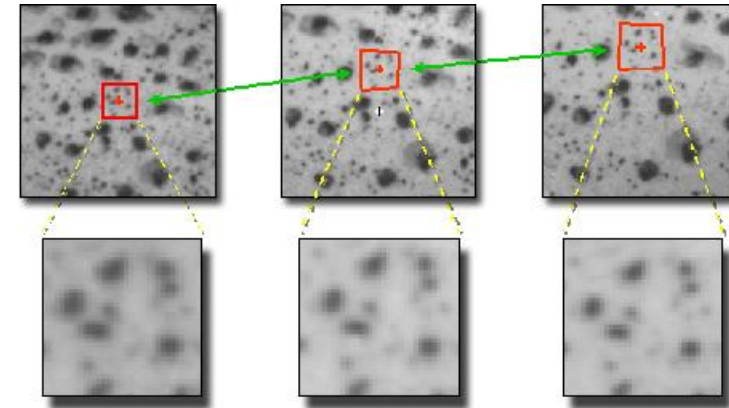
# Bulge inflation test

Romo et al. Journal of Biomechanics -2014.

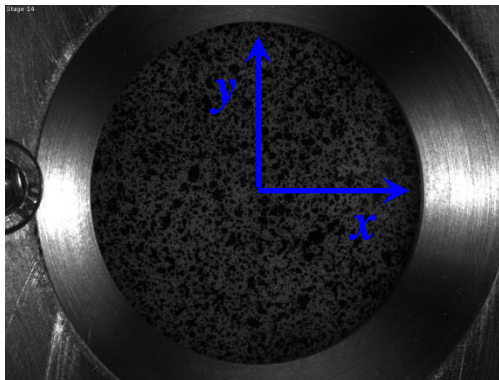




# Full-field measurements using sDIC



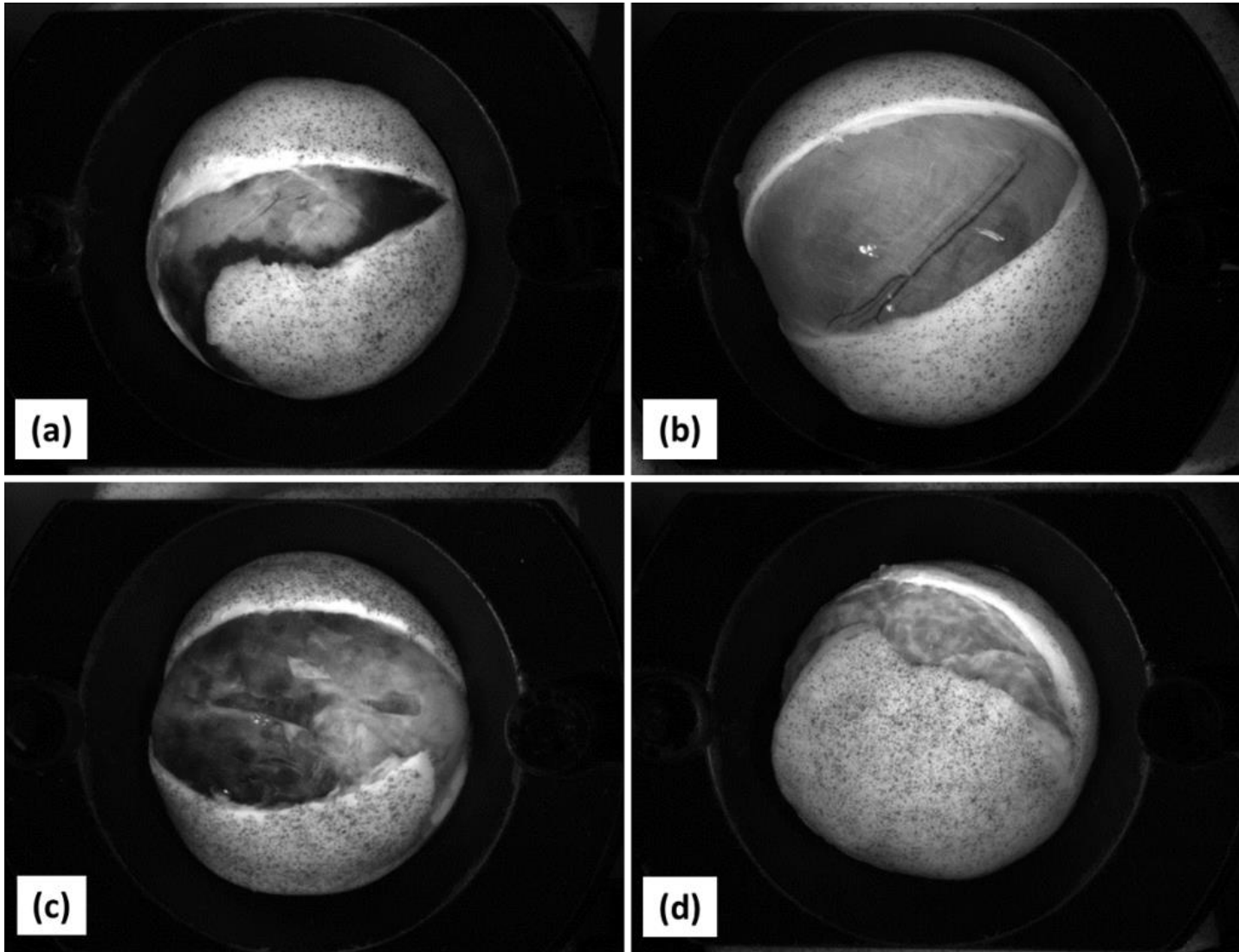
Undeformed



Deformed



# Rupture profiles

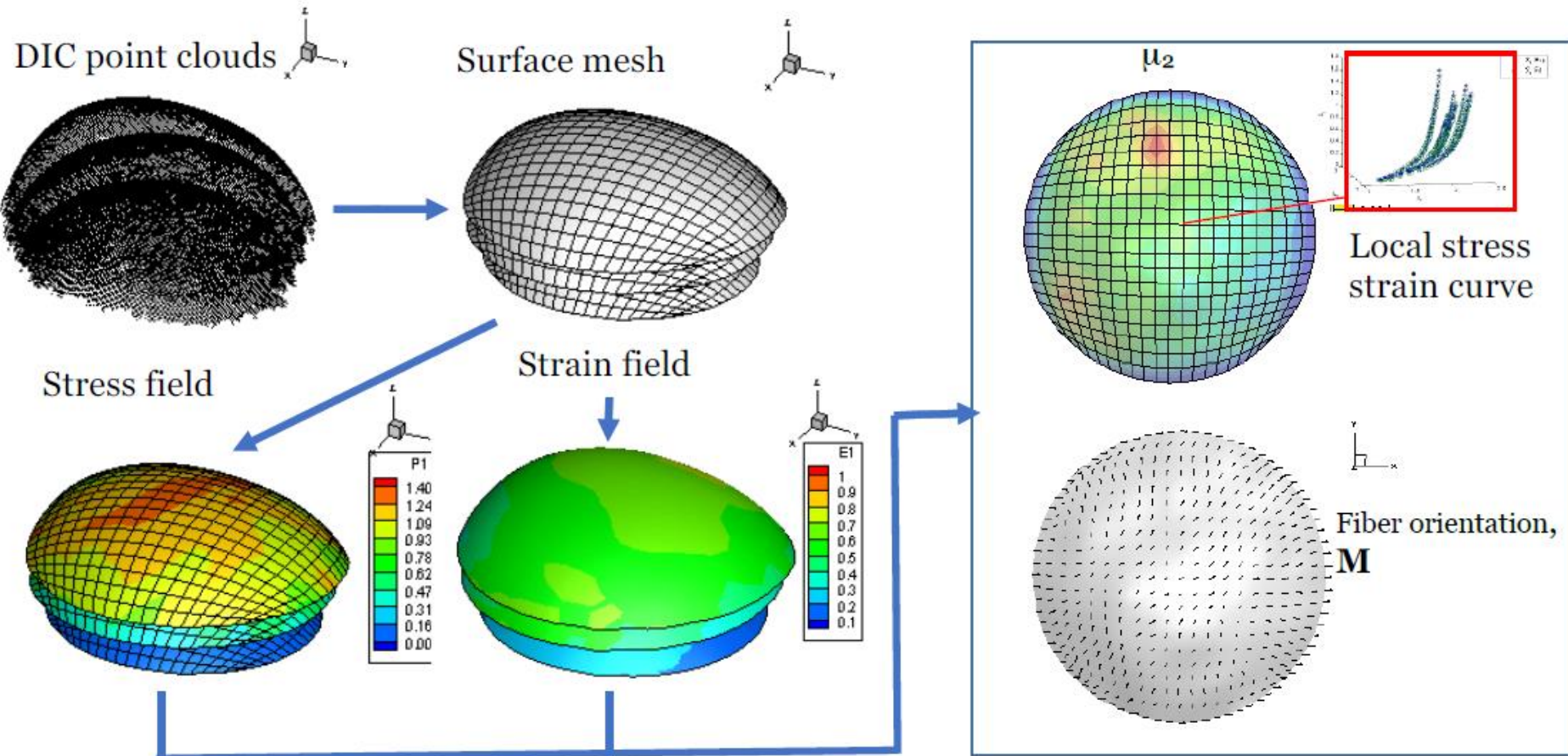


50% of aortas ruptured with an angle  $\theta$  equal to  $90^\circ$

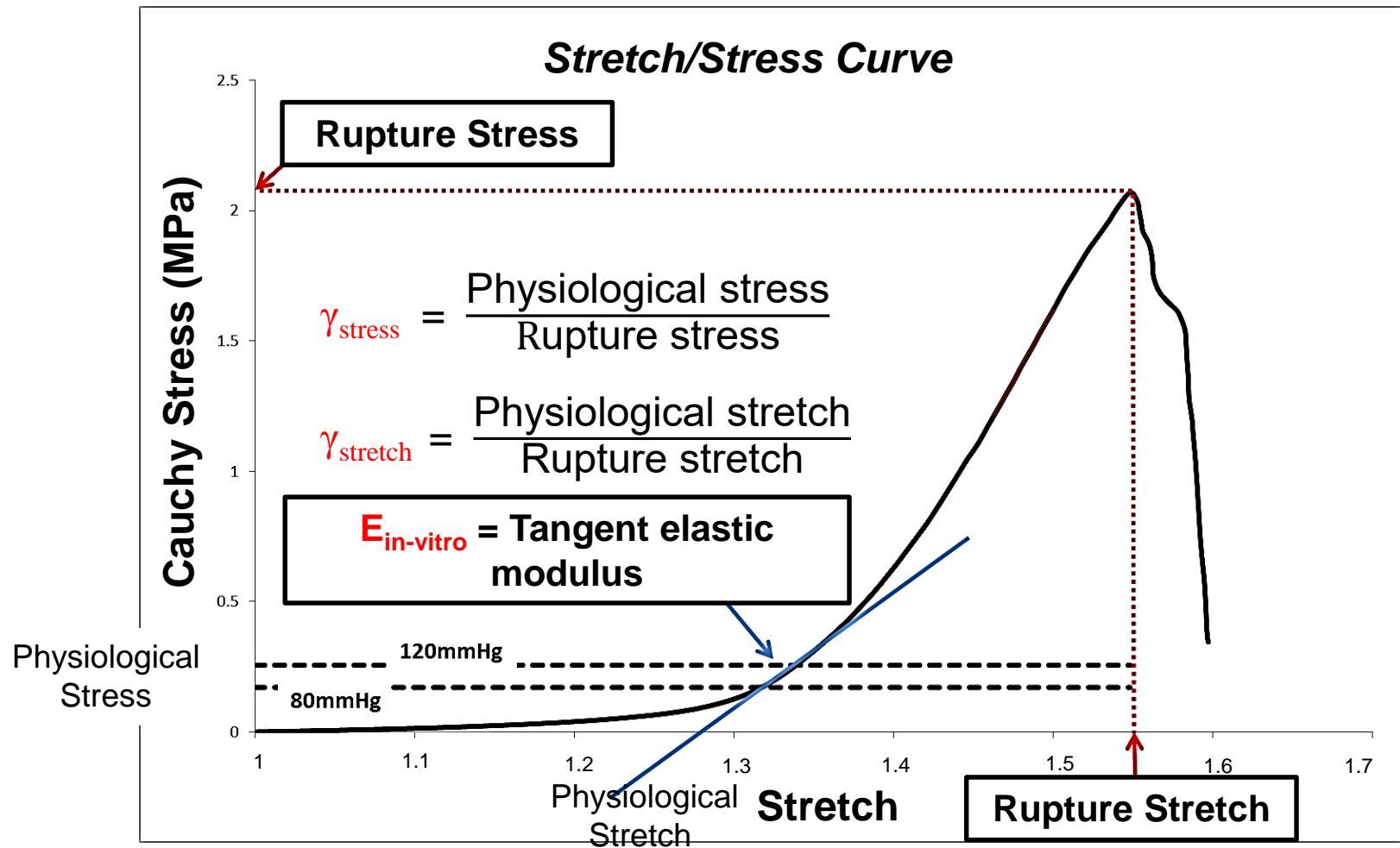


# Identification of local material properties

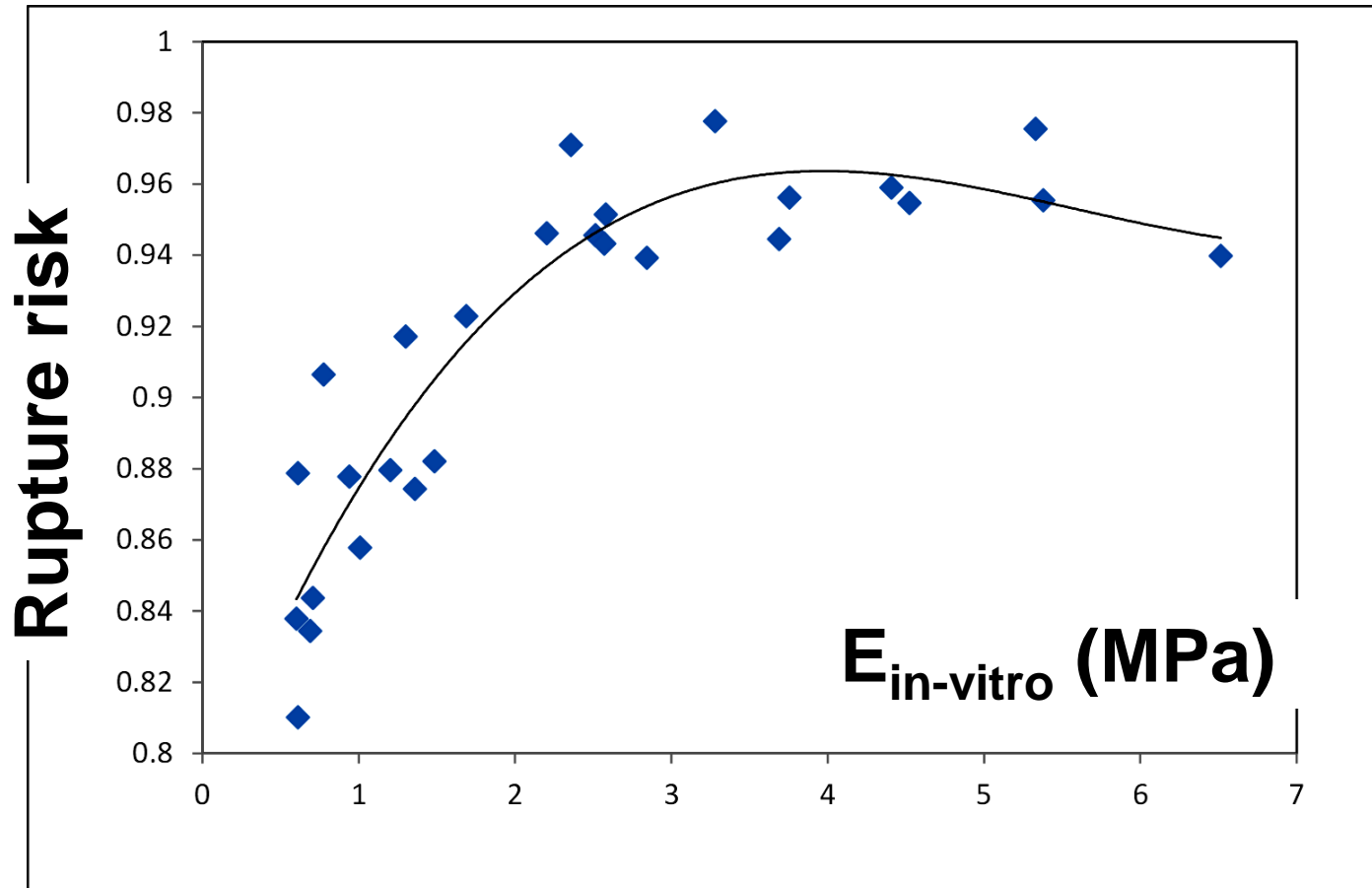
Davis et al. BMMB – 2015.  
Davis et al. JMBS – 2016  
Zhao et al. Acta Biomaterialia - 2016



# Rupture risk estimation



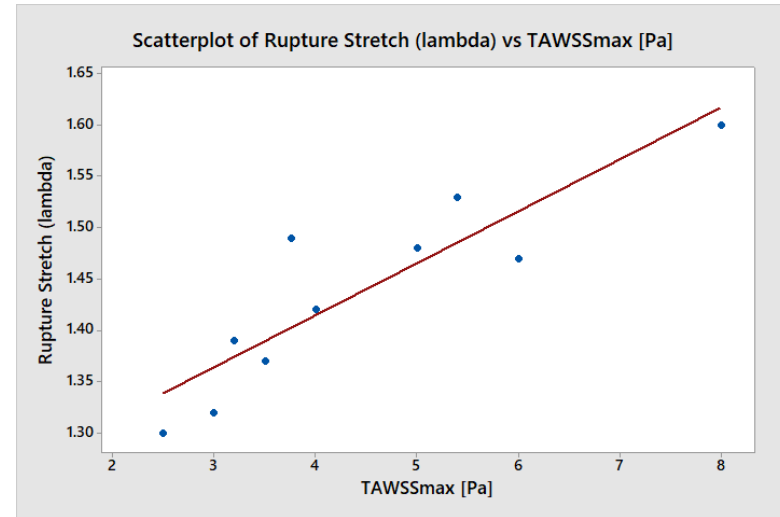
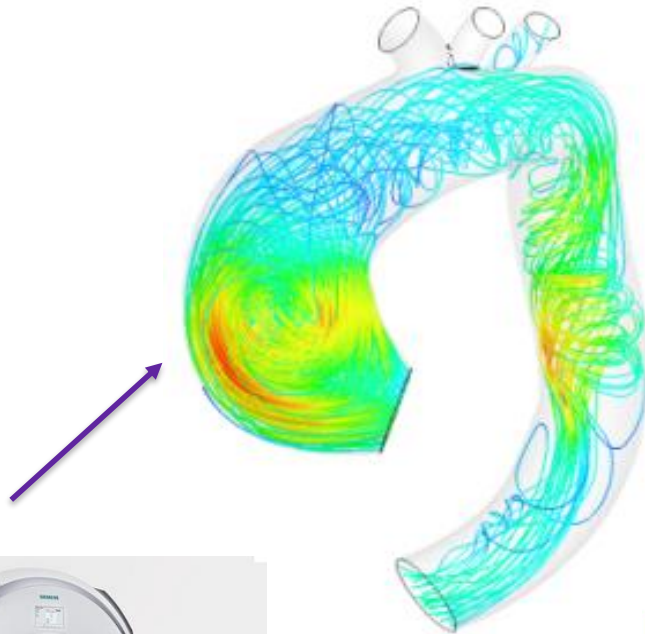
# Correlation between the stretch-based rupture risk and the tangent elastic modulus



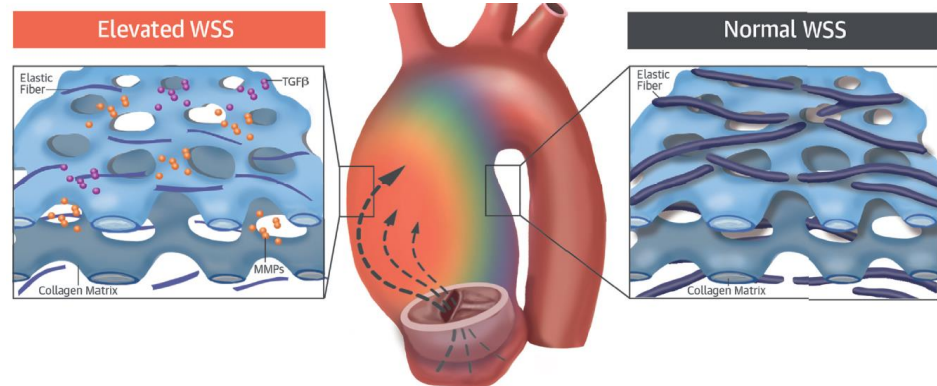
Duprey A, et al. Biaxial rupture properties of ascending thoracic aortic aneurysms. *Acta Biomaterialia* 2016.



# Relationship with hemodynamics



Siemens 3T Prisma



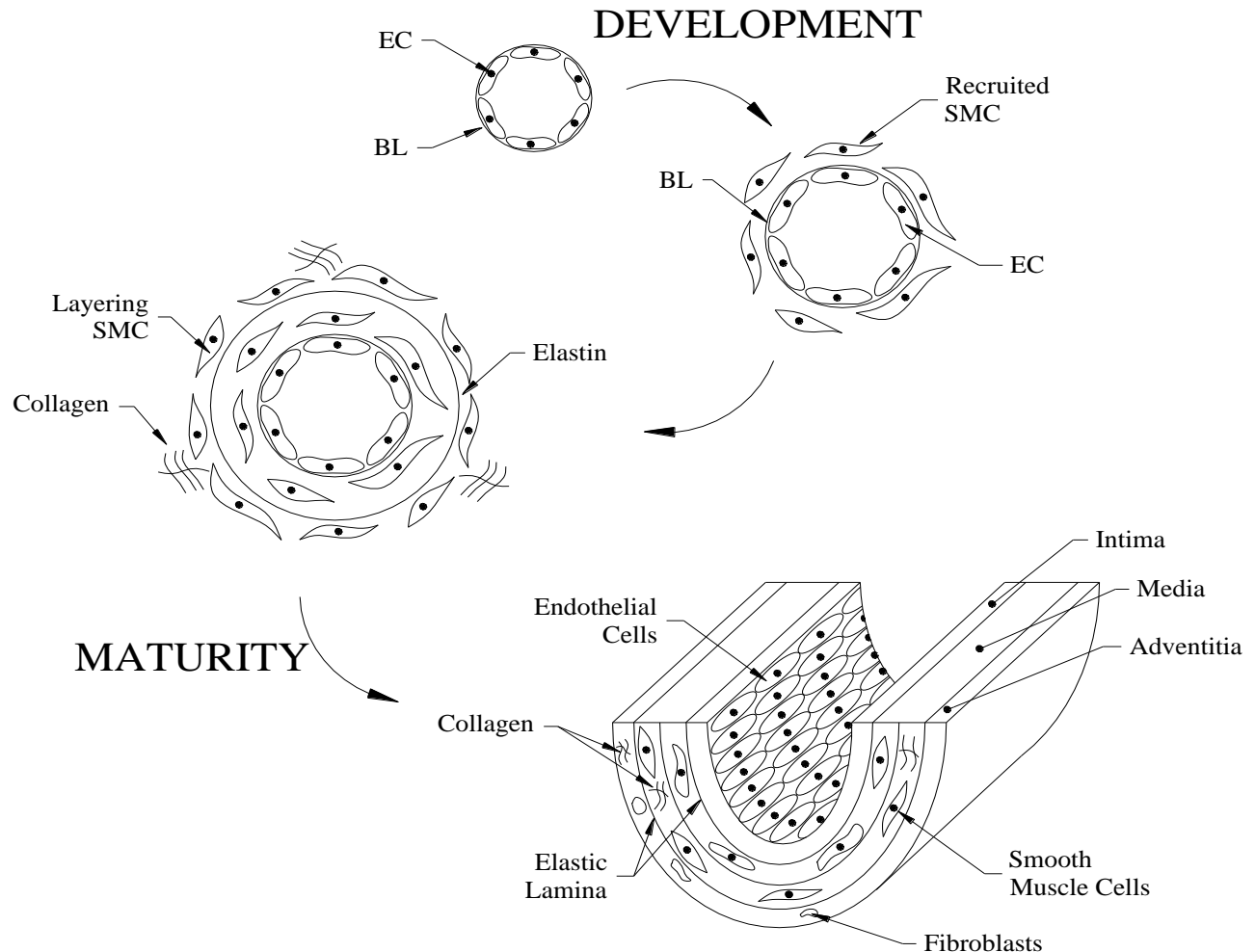
Guzzardi, D.G. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2015; 66(8):892-900.



# Understanding aneurysm growth using experimental mechanobiology

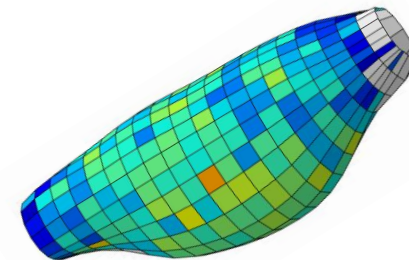
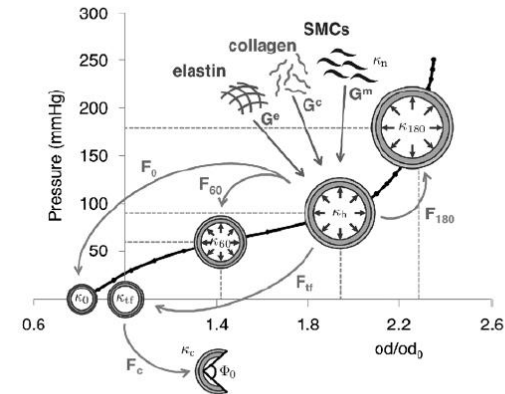
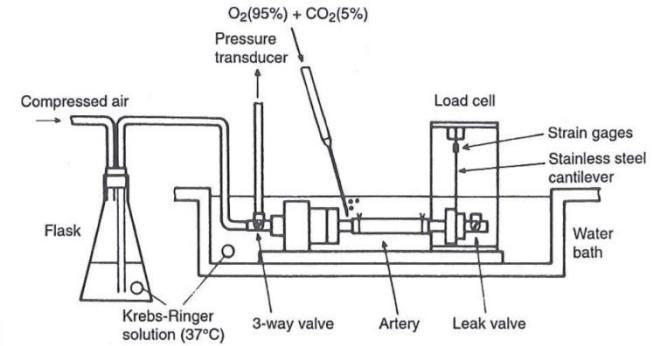
# What developmental biology tells us?

“Here and elsewhere we shall not obtain the best insights into things until we actually see them growing from the beginning”  
Aristotle (384-322 B.C.)

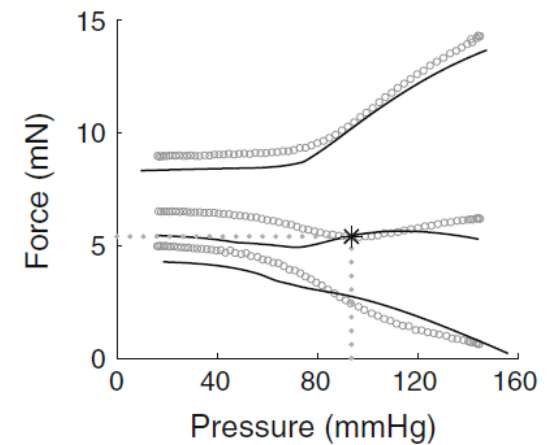
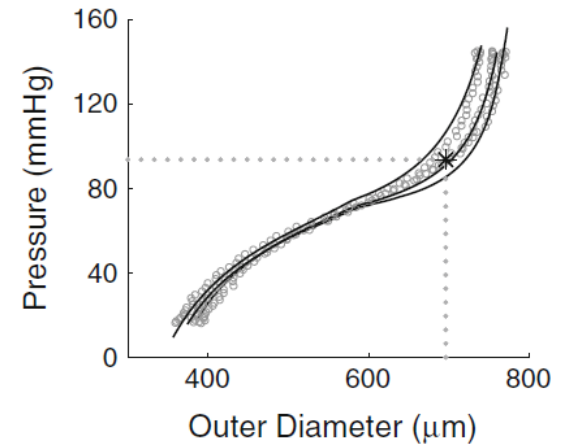
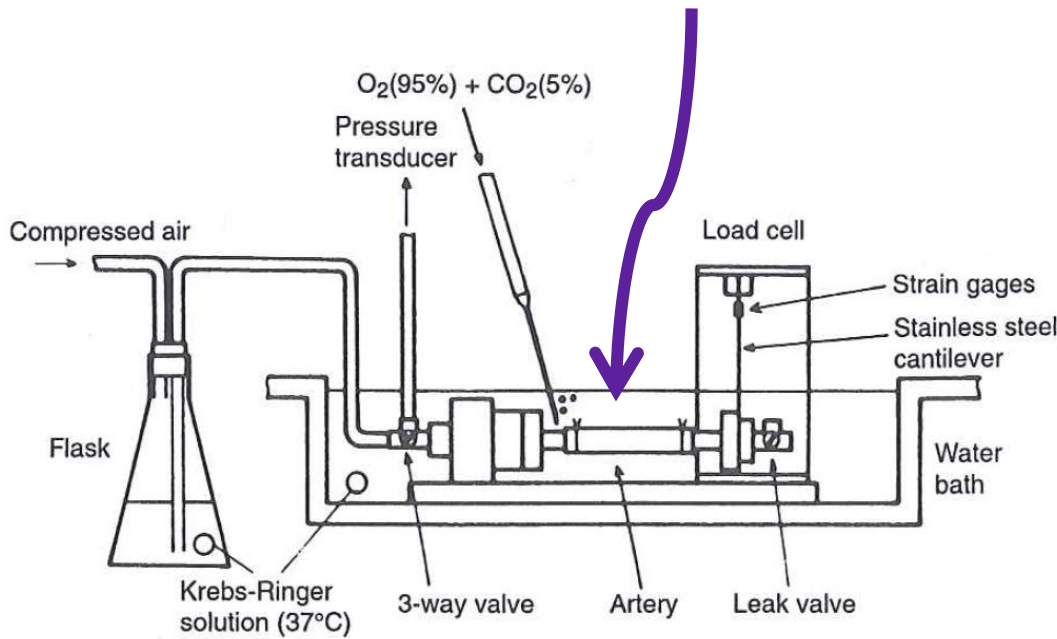


# APPROACH

1. Experiments
2. Material model
3. Inverse method



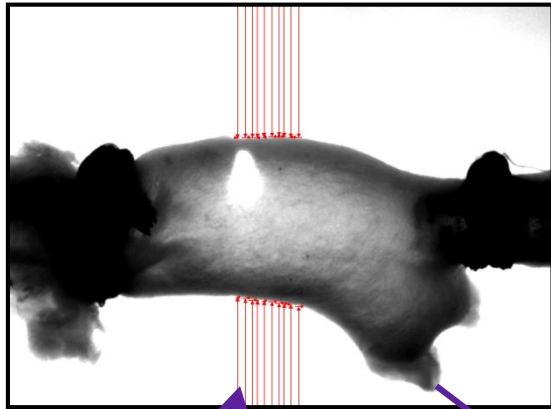
# Functional biomechanical behavior



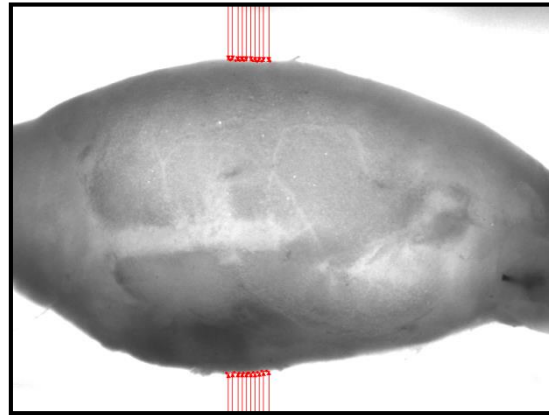


# Study Design

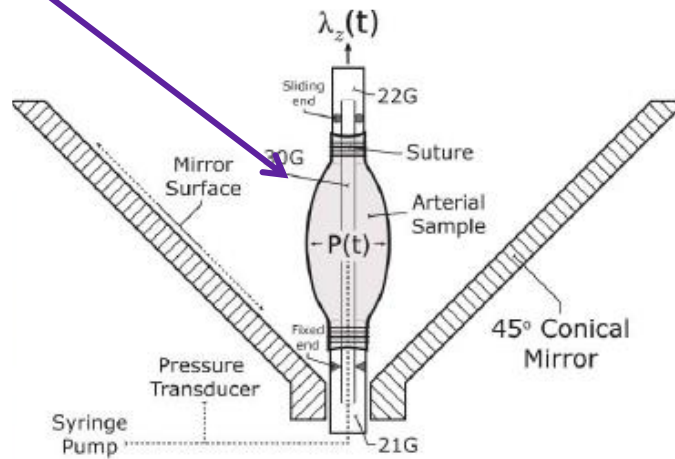
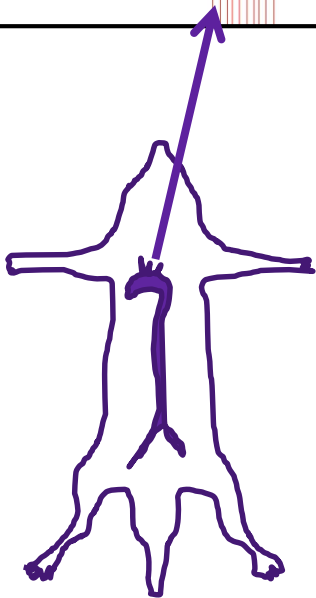
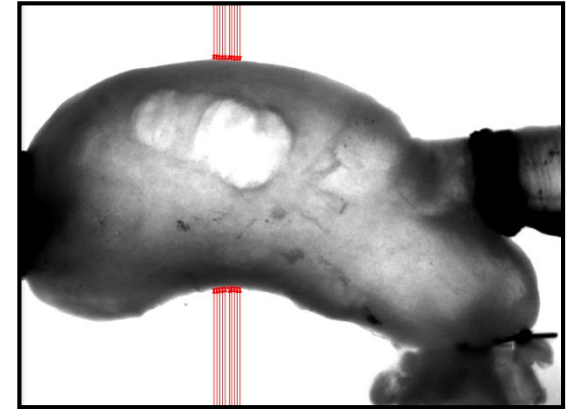
Control



Fibulin 4 SMC KO



Fibrillin 1 *mgR/mgR*



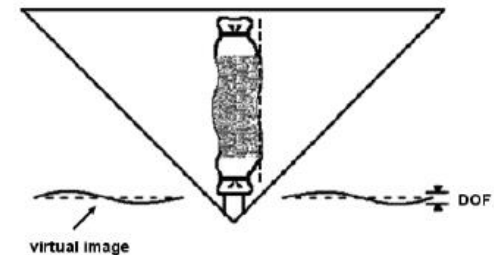
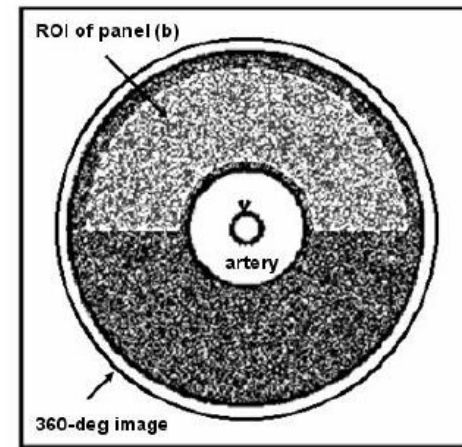
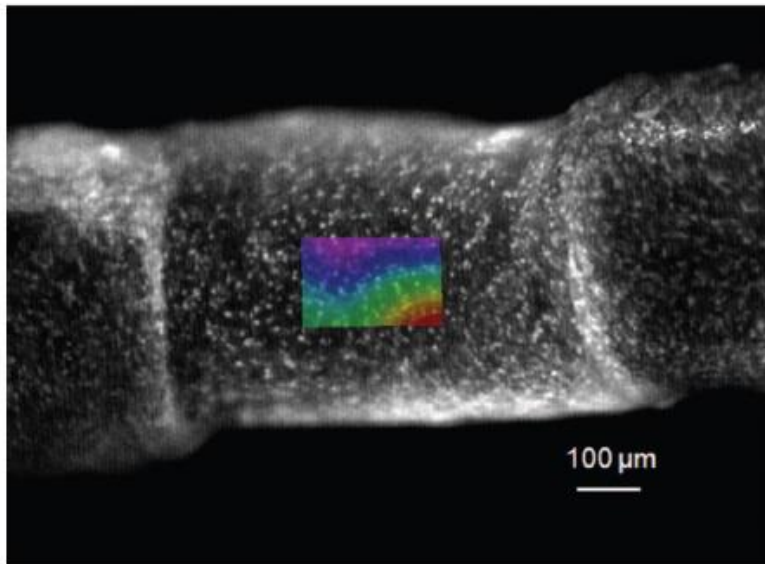
# MEASUREMENT OF THE RESPONSE USING DIGITAL IMAGE CORRELATION



classical



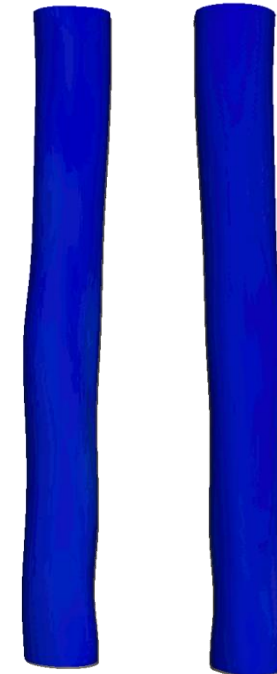
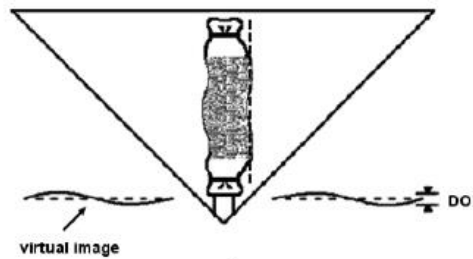
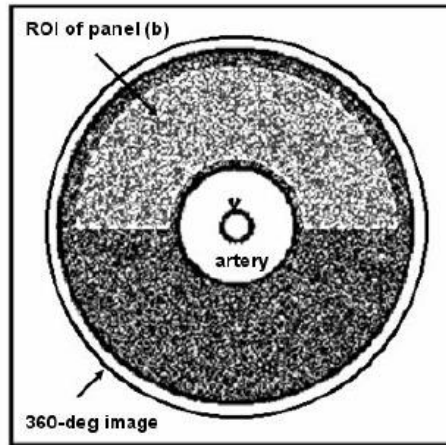
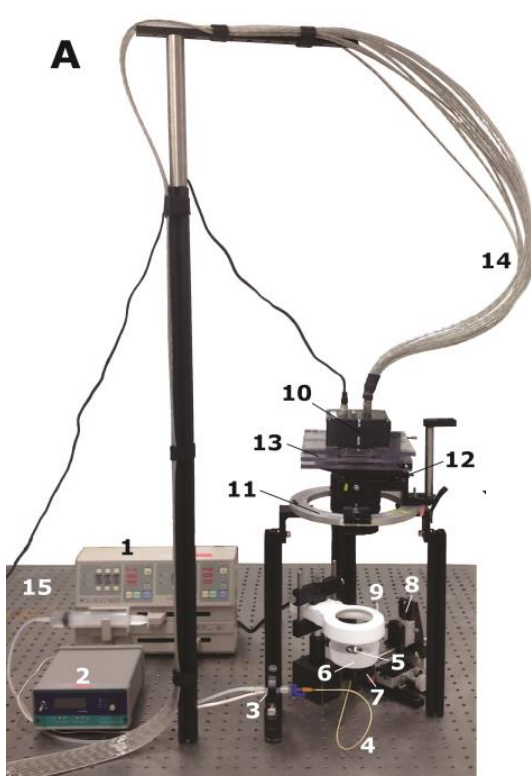
panoramic



Badel et al. CMBBE, 15, p 37-48, 2012.

Genovese. Optics Lasers Eng, 47, p 995-1008, 2009.

# The pDIC technique



Posterior

Anterior

# pDIC measurements

Fibulin 4 SMC KO

Fibrillin 1 *mgR/mgR*

*ventral*

*dorsal*

*inflation*

*ventral*

*dorsal*

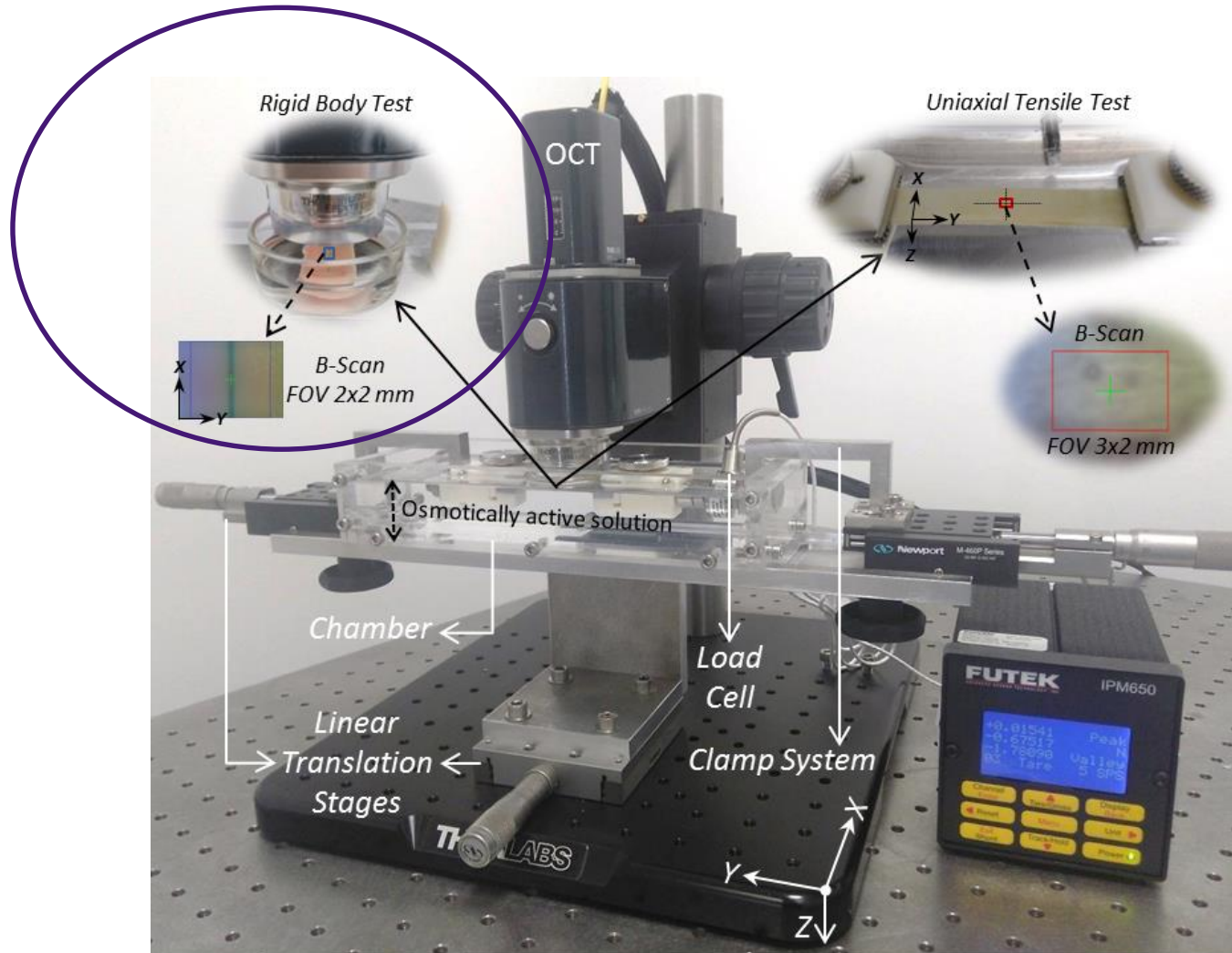
*inflation*

6852

CS38

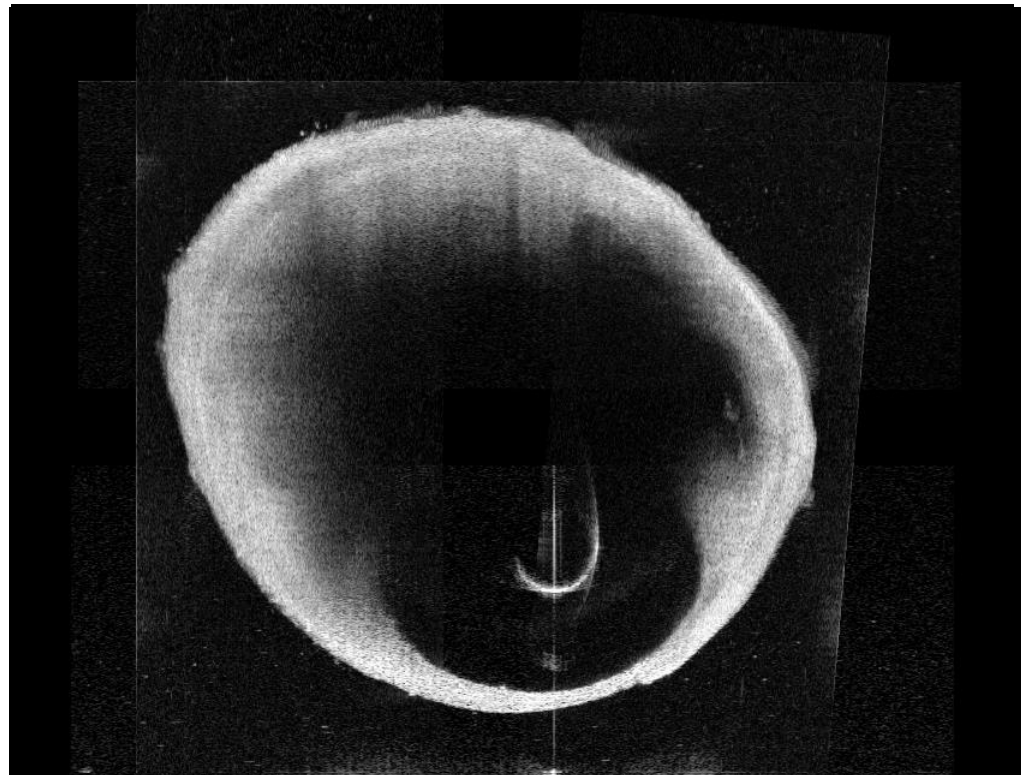
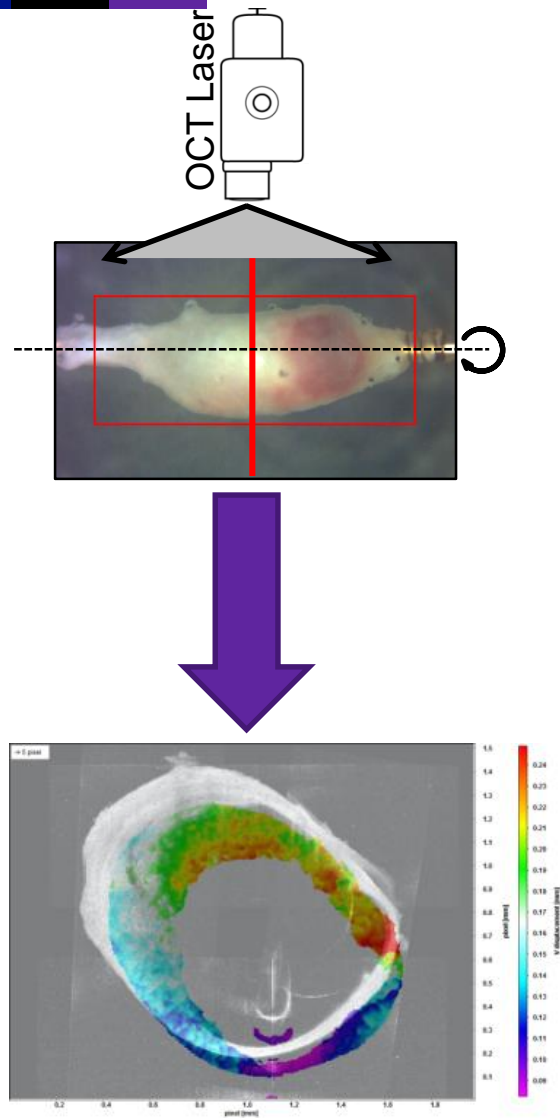


# OCT-DVC applied to arterial mechanics

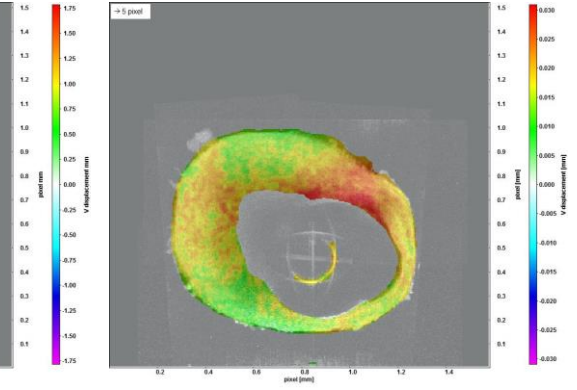
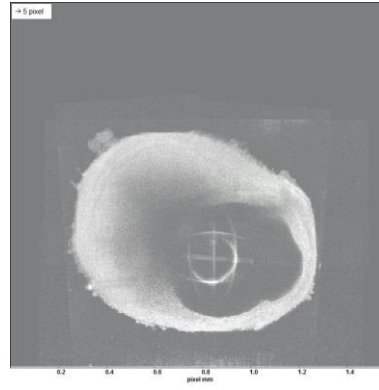
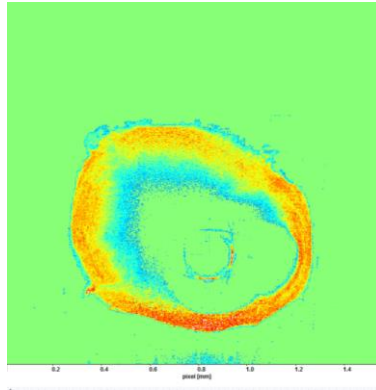
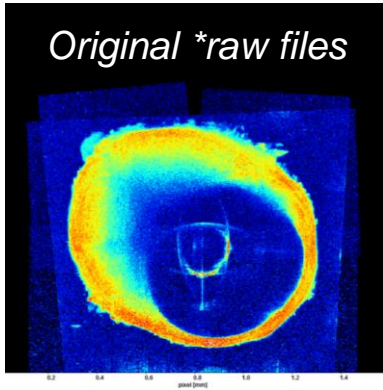




# Measurement of bulk deformation fields by Digital Volume Correlation on OCT images



# Image Processing Methodology – Inflation Test



Title: REF

Width: 667 pixels

Height: 640 pixels

Depth: 100 pixels

Voxel size: 1x1x1 pixel<sup>3</sup> (2.38um)

Original  
Image Parameters

Pressures: 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, 140

Lambda (λ) 1 – 2 – 3

- **Algorithmic Mask – Threshold: 48**
- **Correlation window size [voxel]: 24 (8x8x8)**
- **Overlap : 75%**
- **Passes : 10**
- **Required valid voxel per window: 44%**

Correlation window sizes (setup up to six steps):

	Size [voxel]	Shape	Overlap [%]	Peak search radius [voxel]	Volume Binning	Passes
Step 1	24	1:1	0	8	8x8x8	2
Step 2	20	1:1	0	4	4x4x4	2
Step 3	16	1:1	0	2	2x2x2	2
Step 4	12	1:1	0	1	no	2
Step 5	10	1:1	75	1	no	2
Step 6	8	1:1	75	1	no	10

Intensity threshold for compression: 0 counts  
(only GPU: 0 counts <=> lossless)

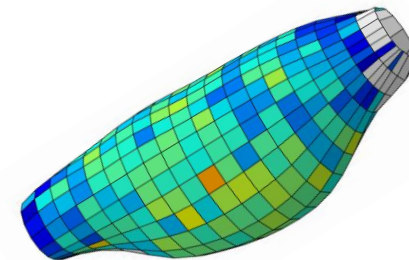
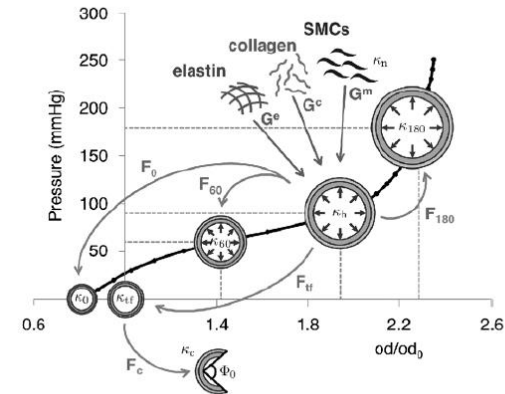
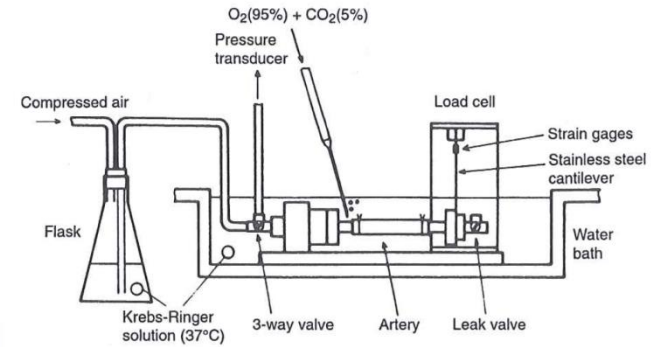
Required valid voxel per window: 45 %

Algorithmic mask with operation pipeline:

<input type="checkbox"/> local Stdev	over N pixel, N=	3
<input type="checkbox"/> sliding maximum	filter length N pixel, N=	4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> below threshold	set to 0, enter lower limit	48
<input type="checkbox"/> erosion	erode mask N times, N=	95
<input type="checkbox"/> above threshold	set to 0, enter upper limit	3
<input type="checkbox"/> erosion	erode mask N times, N=	105
<input type="checkbox"/> above threshold	set to 0, enter upper limit	1
<input type="checkbox"/> eliminate 0 pixel	set to !=1 (recommended !)	

# APPROACH

1. Experiments
2. Material model
3. Inverse method



# CONSTITUTIVE MODEL

Strain energy functions:

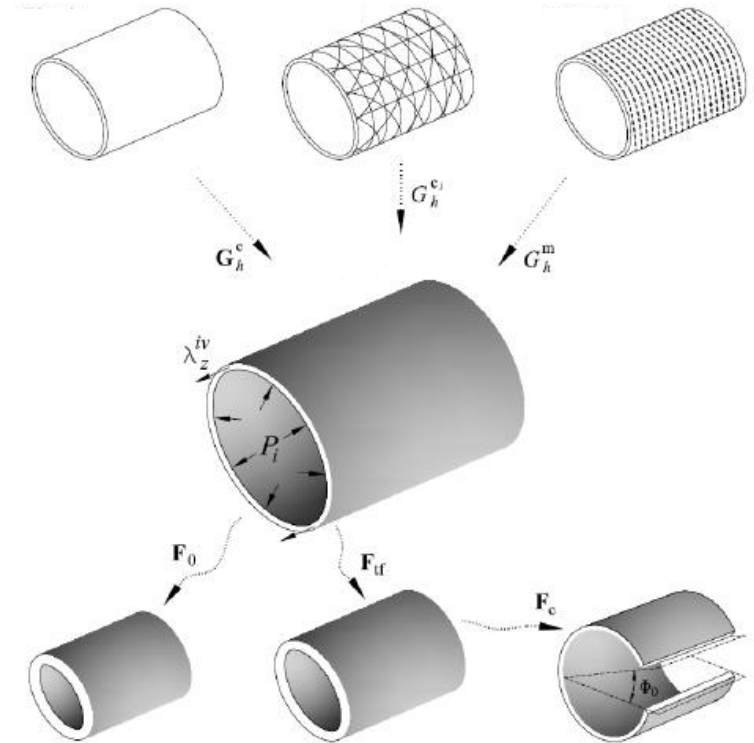
$$W = \phi^e W^e(\mathbf{F}^e) + \phi^m W^m(\lambda^m) + \sum_{j=1}^4 \phi^{c_j} W^{c_j}(\lambda^{c_j})$$

$$W^e(\mathbf{F}^e) = \frac{c^e}{2} \left[ \text{tr} \left( (\mathbf{F}^e)^T \mathbf{F}^e \right) - 3 \right]$$

$$W^m(\lambda^m) = \frac{c_2^m}{4c_3^m} \left[ e^{c_3^m ((\lambda^m)^2 - 1)^2} - 1 \right]$$

$$W^c(\lambda^{c_j}) = \frac{c_2^c}{4c_3^c} \left[ e^{c_3^c ((\lambda^{c_j})^2 - 1)^2} - 1 \right]$$

Bellini, et al., Ann. Biomed. Eng.,  
42(3), pp. 488–502, 2014



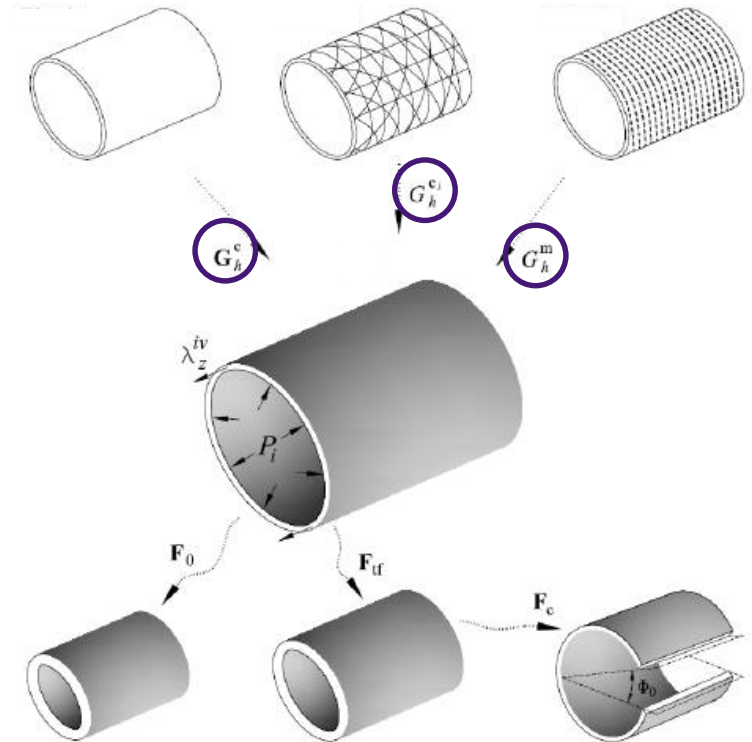
# PARAMETERS TO BE IDENTIFIED

$$W = \phi^e W^e(\mathbf{F}^e) + \phi^m W^m(\lambda^m) + \sum_{j=1}^4 \phi^{c_j} W^{c_j}(\lambda^{c_j})$$

$$W^e(\mathbf{F}^e) = \frac{c^e}{2} \left[ \text{tr} \left( (\mathbf{F}^e)^T \mathbf{F}^e \right) - 3 \right]$$

$$W^m(\lambda^m) = \frac{c_2^m}{4c_3^m} \left[ c_3^m (\lambda^m)^2 - 1 \right]$$

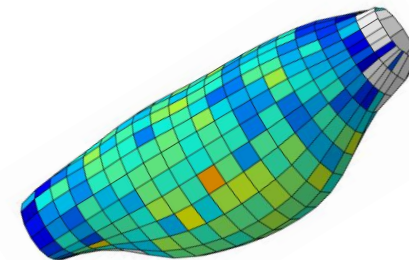
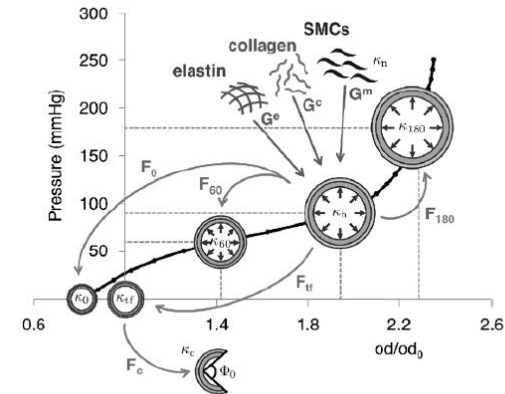
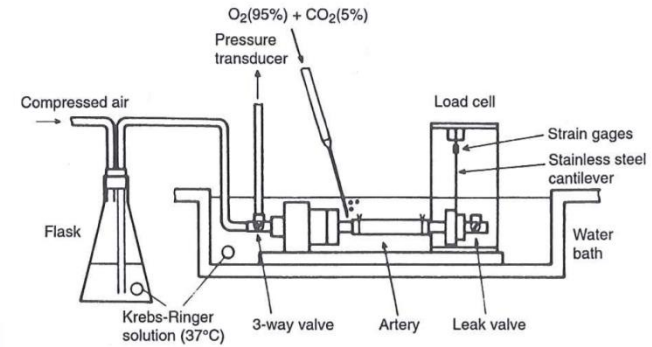
$$W^c(\lambda^{c_j}) = \frac{c_2^c}{4c_3^c} \left[ c_3^c (\lambda^{c_j})^2 - 1 \right]$$



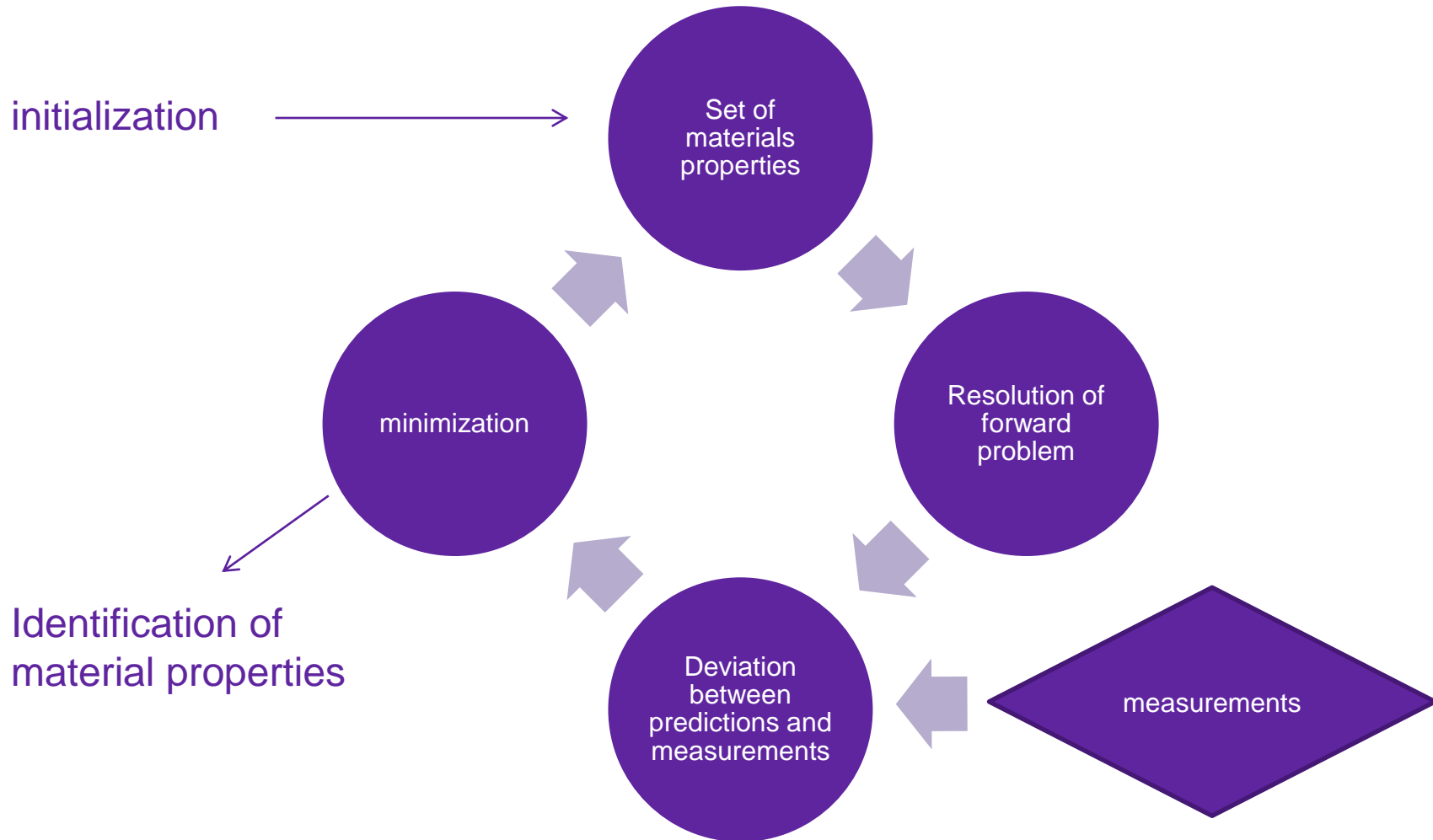


# APPROACH

1. Experiments
2. Material model
3. Inverse method



# Inverse approach – traditional approach

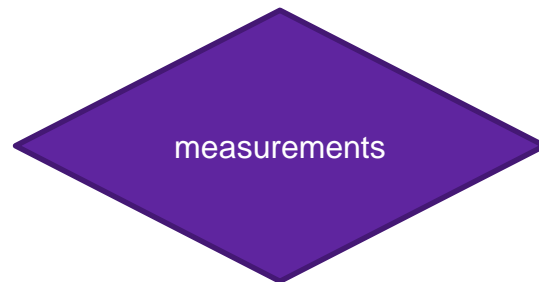
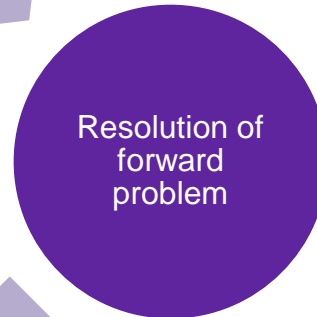
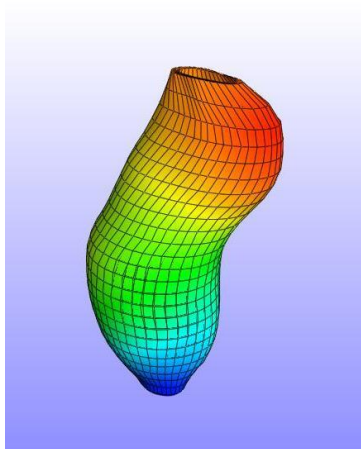


# Inverse approach – FEMU approach

initialization

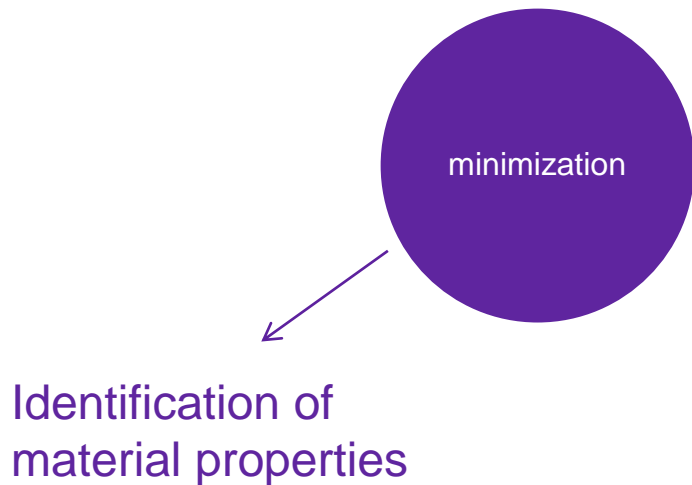


Oberai et al., Inverse problems, **19**, pp. 297-313, 2003



$$J(\mu) = \|T(u) - T(u^{exp})\|^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} B(\mu)$$

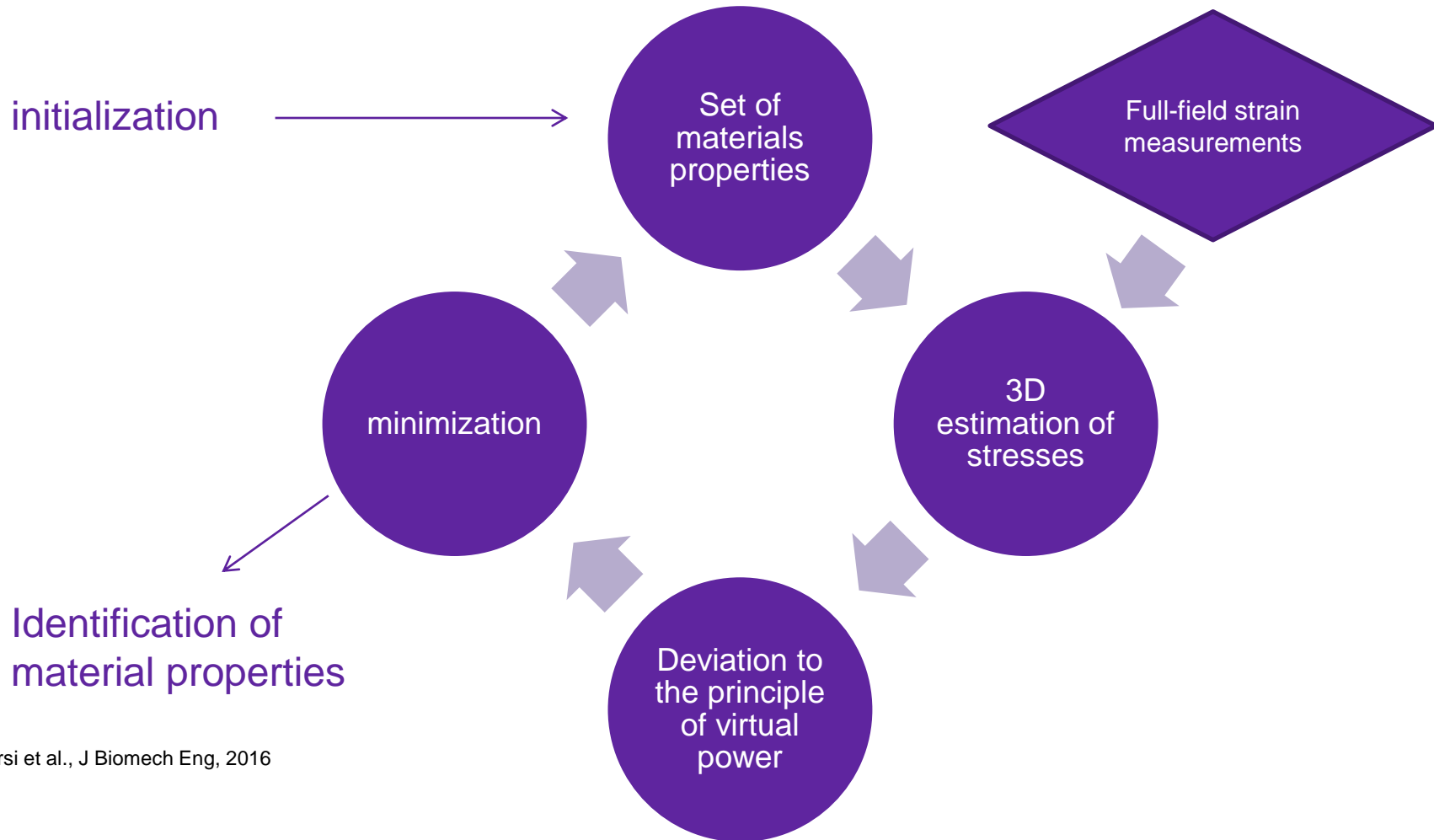
# Inverse approach – FEMU approach



1. Use a gradient based method (steepest descent or BFGS)
2. Need to derive the gradient of  $J$  with respect to  $\mu$  at each iteration. With the adjoint method, this requires the resolution of 2 forward problems
3. Very unstable with hyperelastic models: **many risks that the forward problems have a poor convergence**



# Alternative inverse approach: the virtual fields method

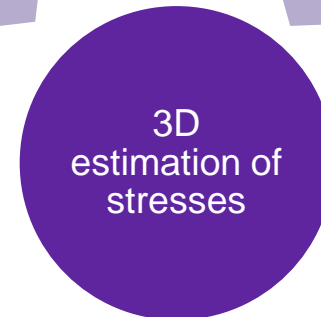
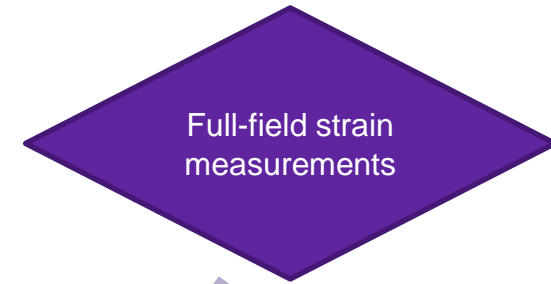


Bersi et al., J Biomech Eng, 2016



# Full-field stress reconstruction

initialization



$$W = \phi^e W^e(\mathbf{F}^e) + \phi^m W^m(\lambda^m) + \sum_{j=1}^4 \phi^{c_j} W^{c_j}(\lambda^{c_j})$$

$$W^e(\mathbf{F}^e) = \frac{c^e}{2} \left[ \text{tr} \left( (\mathbf{F}^e)^T \mathbf{F}^e \right) - 3 \right]$$

$$W^m(\lambda^m) = \frac{c_2^m}{4c_3^m} \left[ e^{c_3^m ((\lambda^m)^2 - 1)^2} - 1 \right]$$

$$W^c(\lambda^{c_j}) = \frac{c_2^c}{4c_3^c} \left[ e^{c_3^c ((\lambda^{c_j})^2 - 1)^2} - 1 \right]$$

Simple application of the constitutive model for each element

# Minimization of the equilibrium gap using the principle of virtual power



$$J = \sum_p \sum_\lambda \left( \underbrace{- \int_{\omega(t)} \underline{\sigma} : (\underline{\nabla} \otimes \underline{\xi}^*)}_{P_{int}^*} d\omega + \underbrace{\oint_{\partial\omega(t)} \underline{T} : \underline{\xi}^*}_{P_{ext}^*} ds \right)^2$$

Bersi et al., J Biomech Eng, 2016

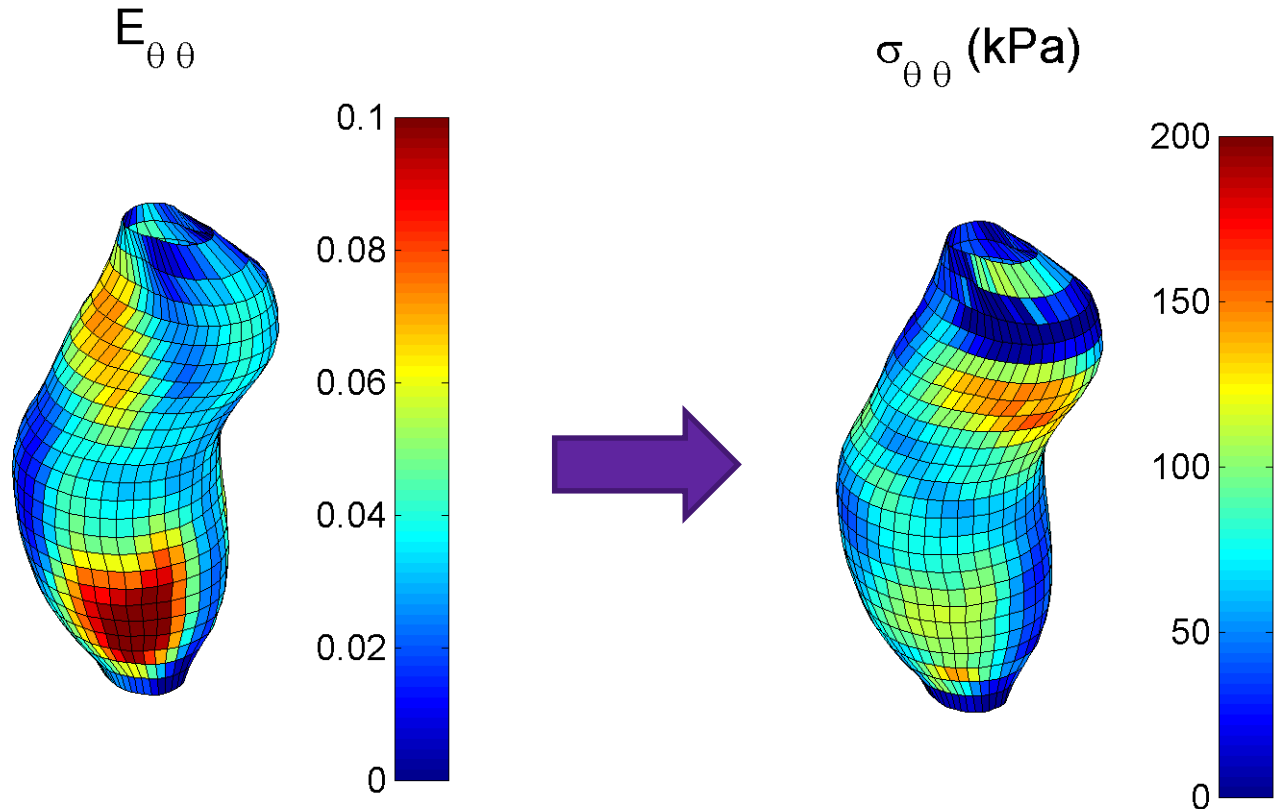
Resolution:

$$\min_{c_3^1, c_3^{2,3}, c_3^4, \alpha, \beta} \left[ \underbrace{\min_{c^e, c_2^1, c_2^{2,3}, c_2^4} \left[ \frac{J(u)}{A} + \frac{J(v)}{B} \right]}_{\text{Linear least-squares}} \right]_{\text{Genetic algorithm}}$$

# Derivation of stress tensor using layer specific constitutive behavior

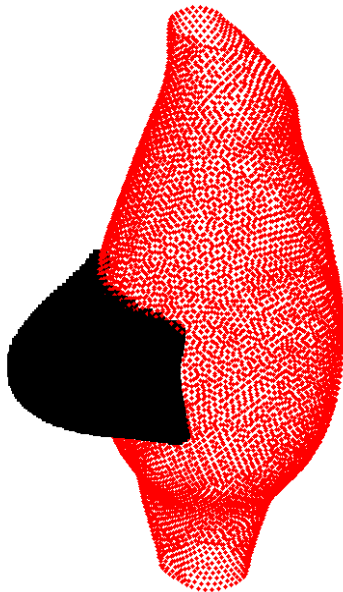
3D estimation of strains

3D estimation of stress



# Virtual power 1

1. A local virtual radial “bulge”:  $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) = [f(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}_0) / r^2 ] \mathbf{e}_r$



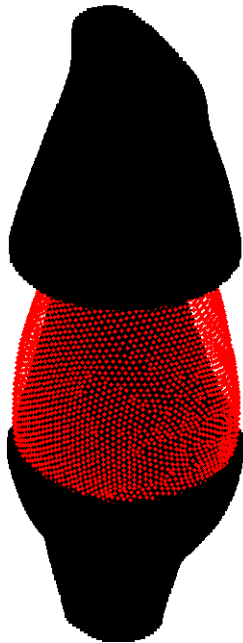
$$\underbrace{- \int_{\omega(t)} \underline{\underline{\sigma}} : \left( \underline{\underline{\nabla}} \otimes \underline{\underline{\xi}}^* \right) d\omega}_{P_{int}^*} + \underbrace{\oint_{\partial\omega(t)} \underline{\underline{T}} : \underline{\underline{\xi}}^* ds}_{P_{ext}^*} = 0$$

After deriving virtual strains (infinitesimal) local internal virtual work is derived at every Gauss point and integrated across the volume

The virtual field is normalized such as the external virtual work equals P.

## Virtual power 2

2. Local virtual axial extension:  $\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}_0) (z \mathbf{e}_z - x/2 \mathbf{e}_x - y/2 \mathbf{e}_y)$



$$\underbrace{- \int_{\omega(t)} \underline{\underline{\sigma}} : \left( \underline{\underline{\nabla}} \otimes \underline{\underline{\xi}}^* \right) d\omega}_{P_{int}^*} + \underbrace{\oint_{\partial\omega(t)} \underline{\underline{T}} : \underline{\underline{\xi}}^* ds}_{P_{ext}^*} = 0$$

After deriving virtual strains (infinitesimal) local internal virtual work is derived at every Gauss point and integrated across the volume

The virtual field is normalized such as the external virtual work equals F.



# Minimizing the equilibrium gap

minimization

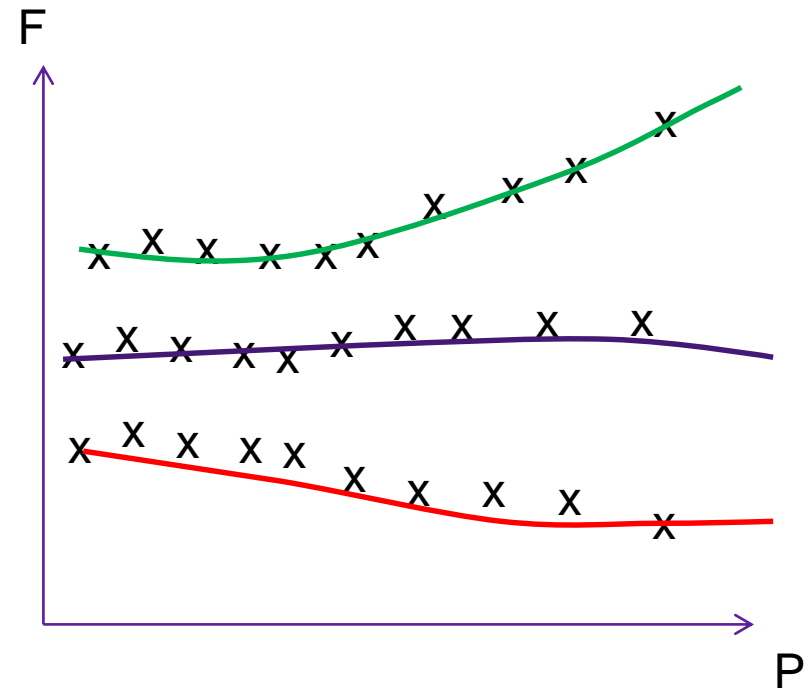
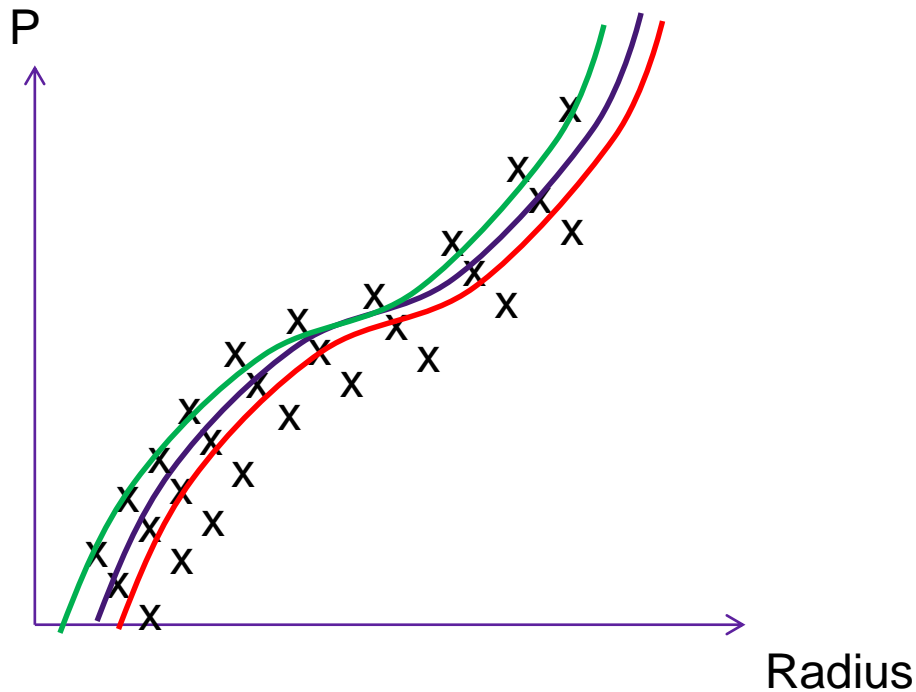
$$J = \sum_p \sum_\lambda \left( \underbrace{- \int_{\omega(t)} \underline{\sigma} : (\underline{\nabla} \otimes \underline{\xi}^*)}_{P_{int}^*} d\omega + \underbrace{\oint_{\partial\omega(t)} \underline{T} : \underline{\xi}^*}_{P_{ext}^*} ds \right)^2$$

Bersi et al., J Biomech Eng, 2016

Resolution:

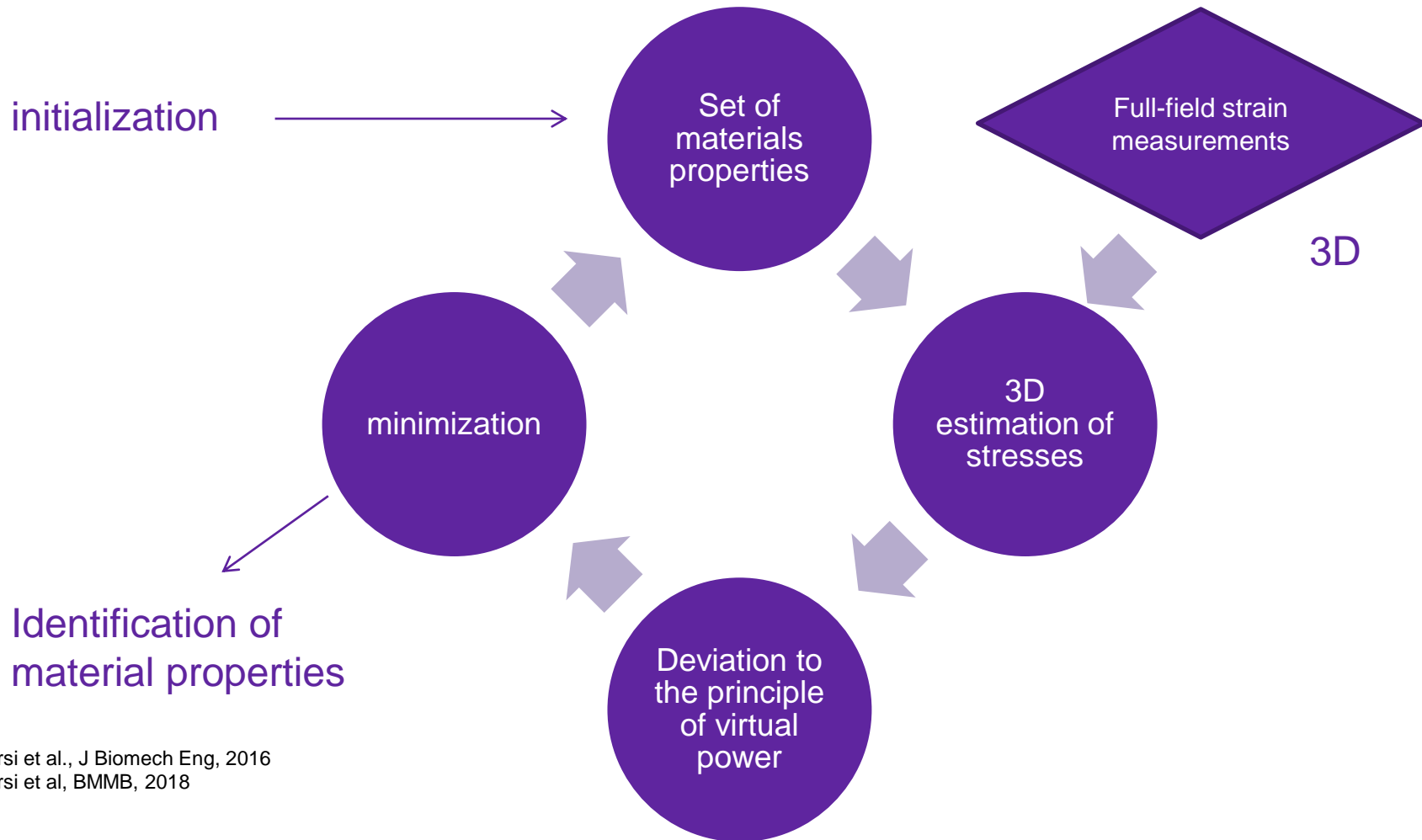
$$\min_{c_3^1, c_3^{2,3}, c_3^4, \alpha, \beta} \left[ \underbrace{\min_{c^e, c_2^1, c_2^{2,3}, c_2^4} \left[ \frac{J(u)}{A} + \frac{J(v)}{B} \right]}_{\text{Linear least-squares}} \right]_{\text{Genetic algorithm}}$$

# Similar to material fitting at every position



Crosses represent external virtual work for every pressure and axial stretch  
Solid lines represent internal virtual work  
The goodness of fit is evaluated with the  $R^2$  value

# Summary of the inverse approach

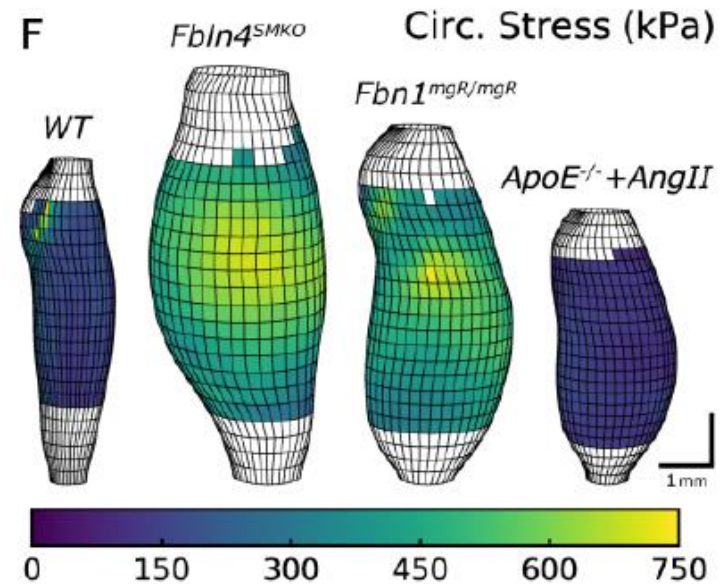
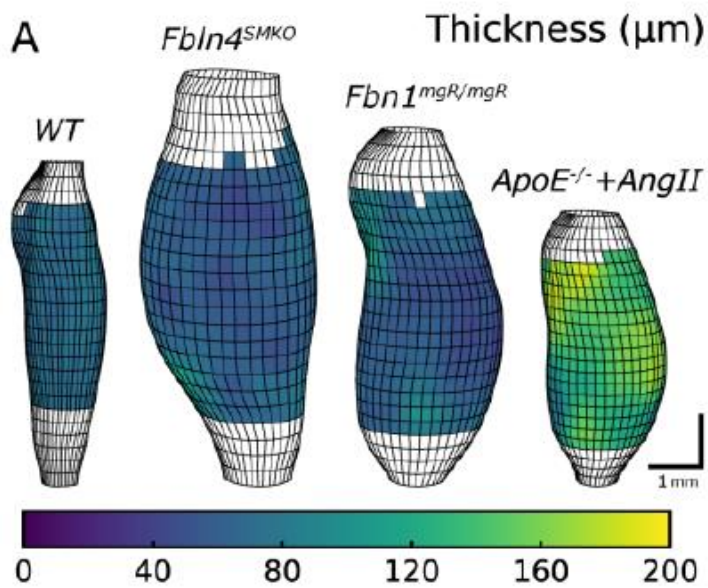


Bersi et al., J Biomech Eng, 2016  
Bersi et al, BMMB, 2018



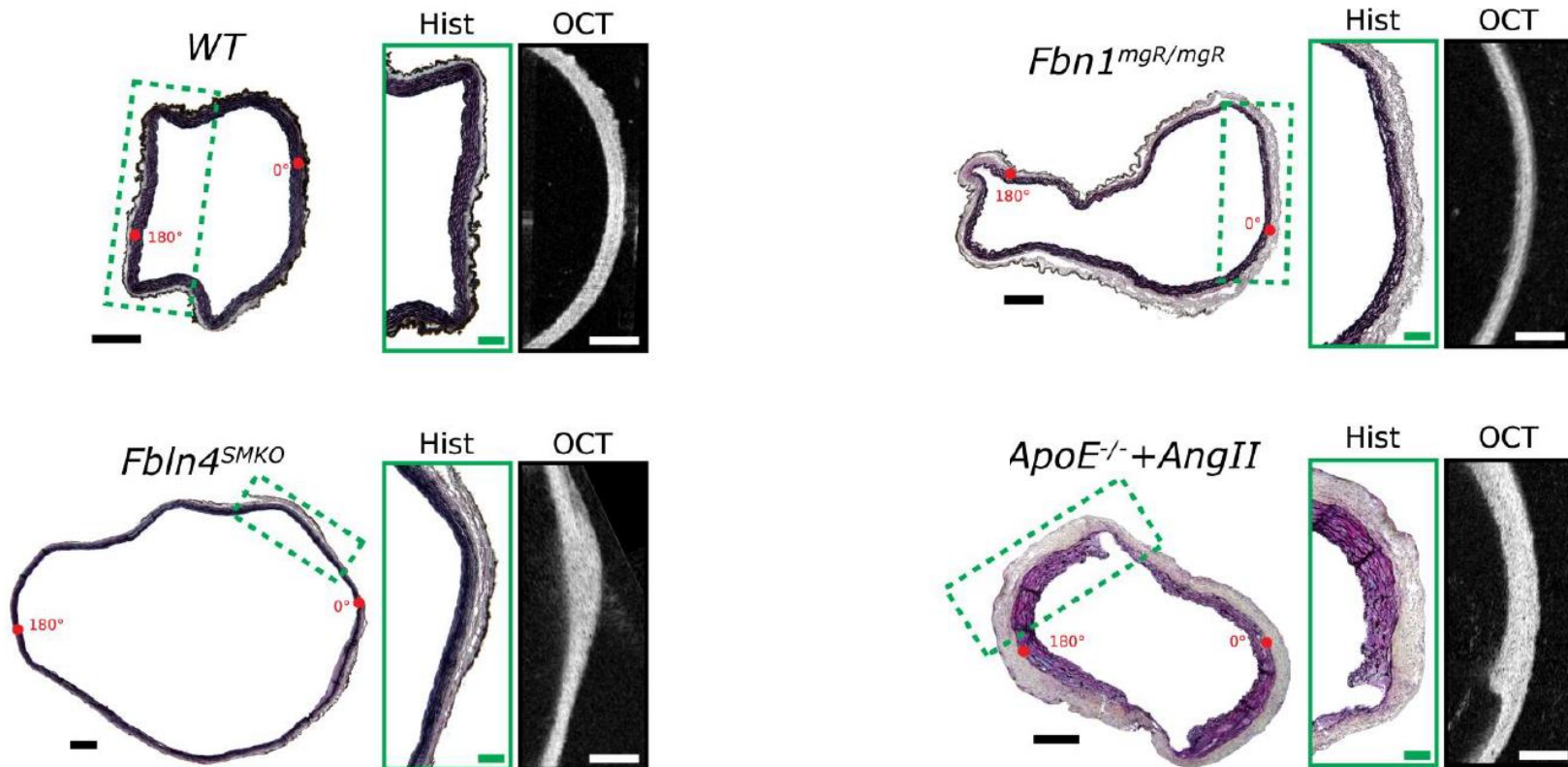
# Results - Highlights

# Full-Field Material Parameter Estimation vs thickness distribution

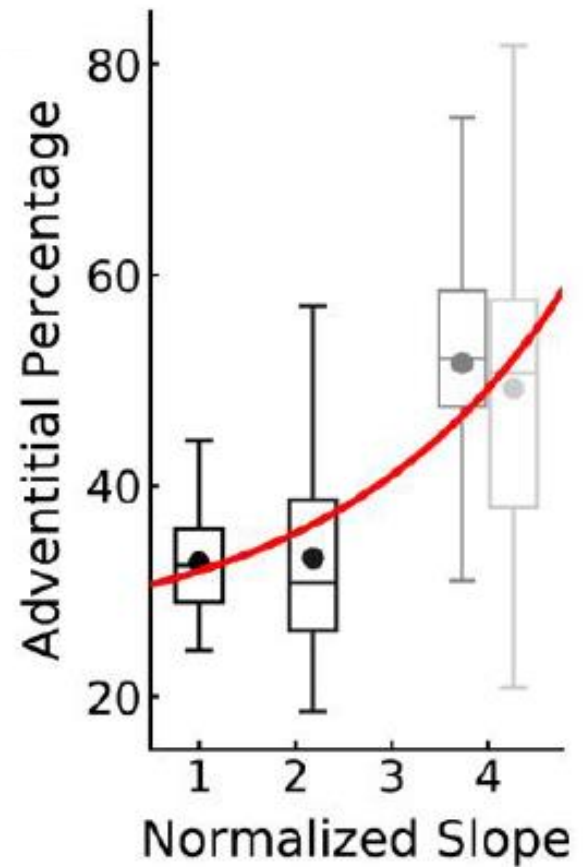
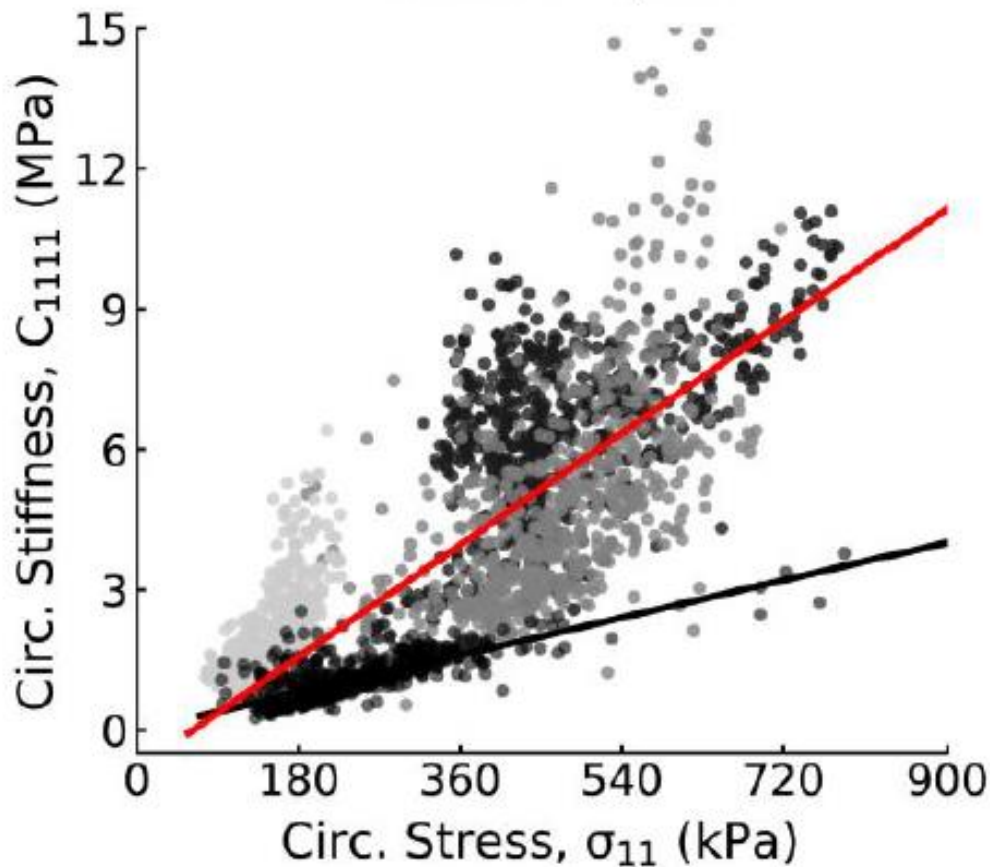




# Correlation with tissue $\mu$ structure



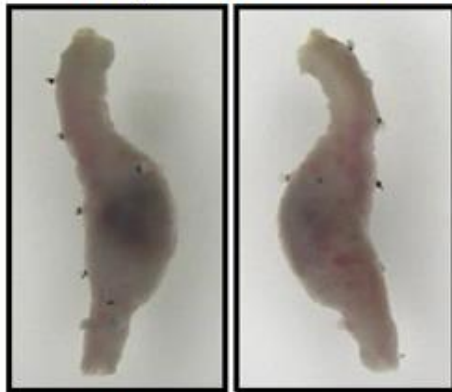
# Full-Field Material Parameter Estimation vs local stress



# DISSECTED ANEURYSMS

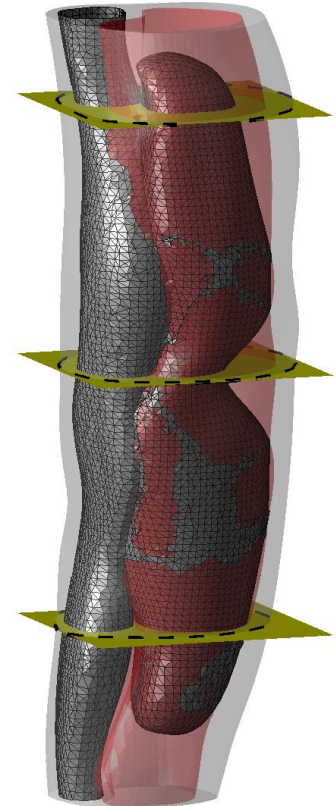
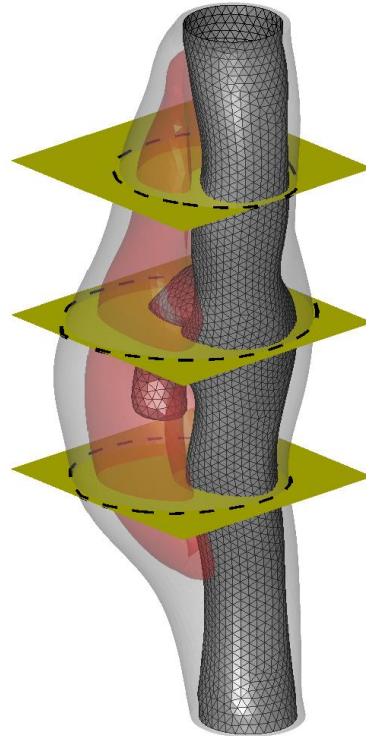


Dissecting Aortic Aneurysm

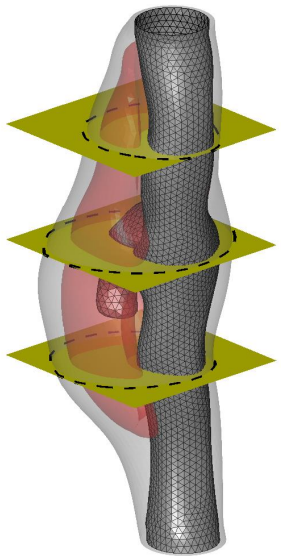


Anterior

Posterior



# Cross sectional results



Histology



$\lambda_\theta$



$\sigma_\theta$  (kPa)



$C_{\theta\theta\theta\theta}$  (kPa)



## SUMMARY

- ❑ ATAA at higher “biomechanical” risk have an increased stiffness and a disturbed flow with reduced maximum TAWSS
- ❑ Our future work will focus on idiopathic ATAA and try to understand better what are the main mechanobiological triggers for the overstiffening.
- ❑ Need further insight into the relationships between local mechanical properties and protein expression.



# Computational Mechanobiology: the holy grail?

“The success of reductionist and molecular approaches in modern medical science has led to an explosion of information, but progress in integrating information has lagged... Mathematical models provide a rational approach for integrating this ocean of data, as well as providing deep insight into biological processes.”

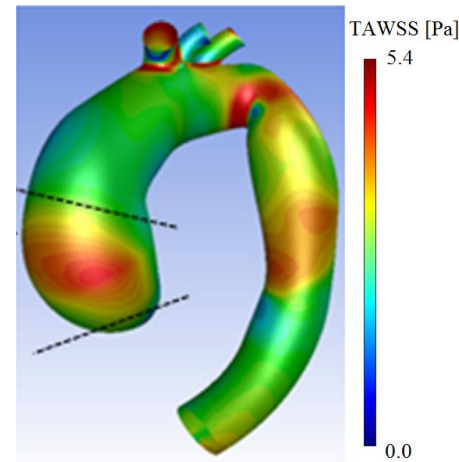
1998 BECON Report





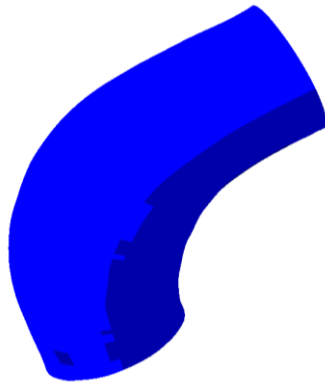
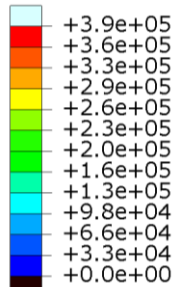
# Towards computational mechanobiology

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

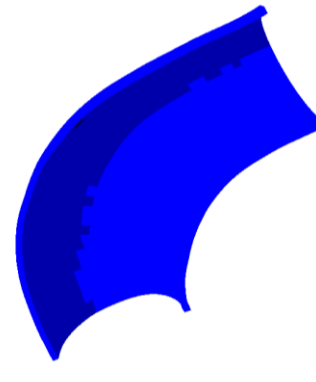
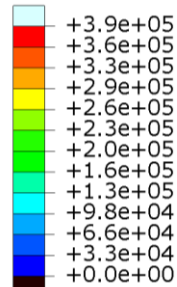


Small growth parameter

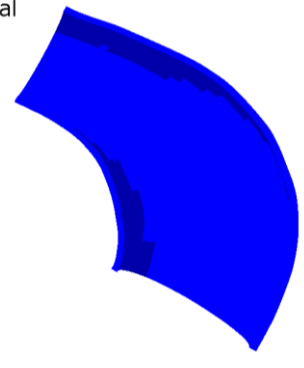
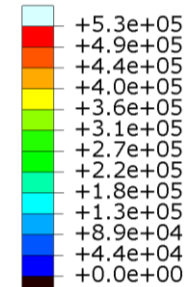
S<sub>y</sub> Max. Principal  
(Avg: 75%)



S<sub>y</sub> Max. Principal  
(Avg: 75%)



S<sub>y</sub> Max. Principal  
(Avg: 75%)



Maximum Principal stress

# Future directions

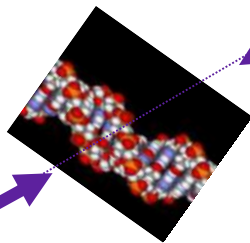
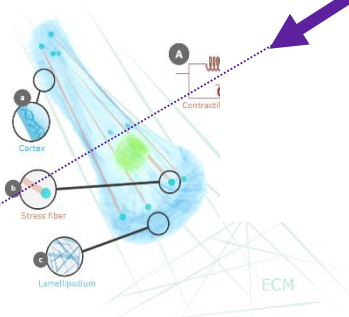
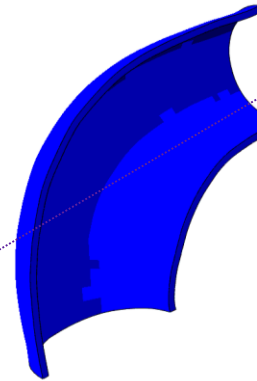
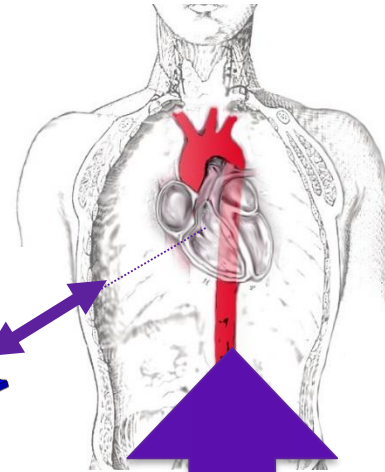
Monitoring cell vitality

**NEW PARADIGM:  
PREVENTIVE  
MEDICINE**

Digital TWIN

Prevention

Assessing cardiovascular health and its evolution



# Computational mechanics in the OR for vascular surgery?

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



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