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BIOlogie Saint-Etienne  
U1059 • INSERM • SAINT-ETIENNE

**Inserm**  
Institut national  
de la santé et de la recherche médicale



## *Rupture risk estimation in thoracic aortic aneurysms*

Prof Stéphane AVRIL ([avril@emse.fr](mailto:avril@emse.fr))



**Universidad**  
Zaragoza

# Where do I come from?

Demanget et al., Perrin et al.



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

PARIS

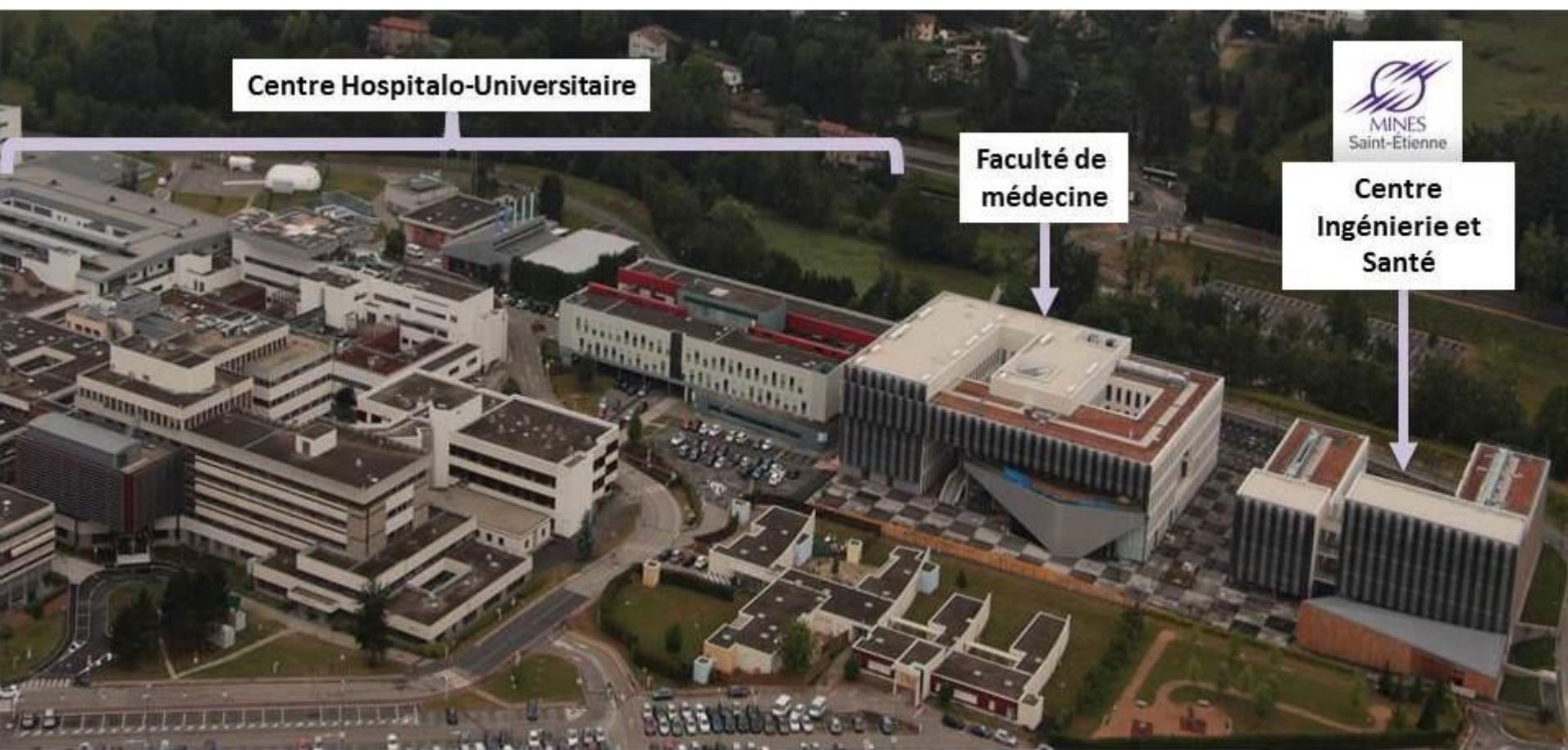
AUVERGNE  
RHÔNE-ALPES



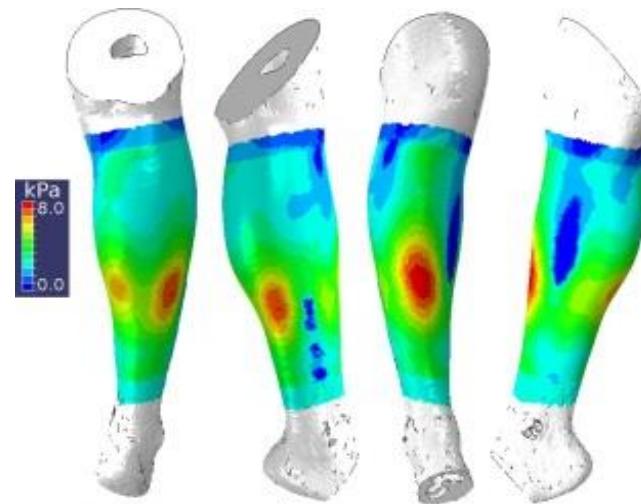
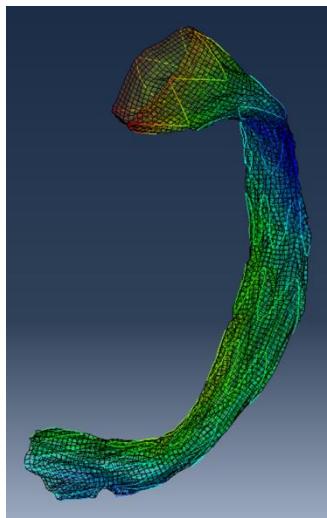
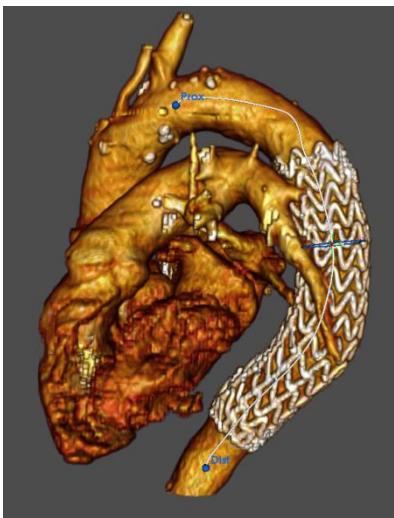
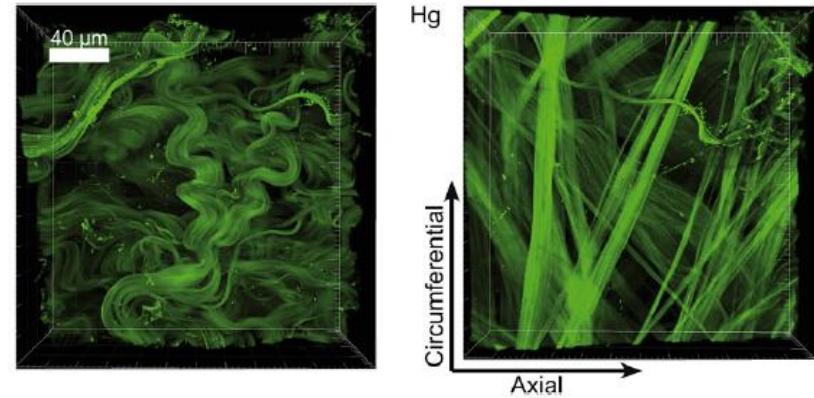
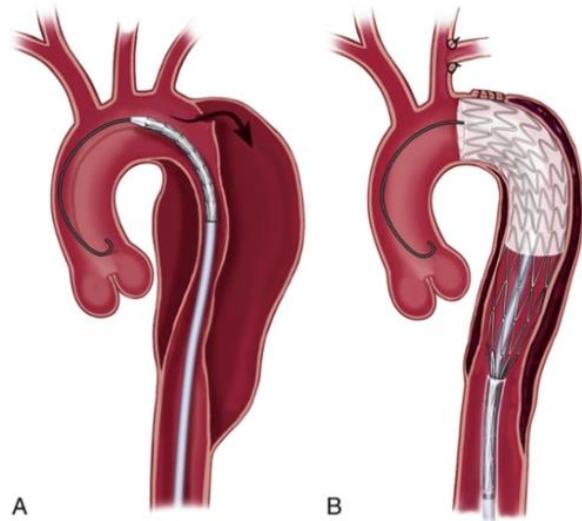
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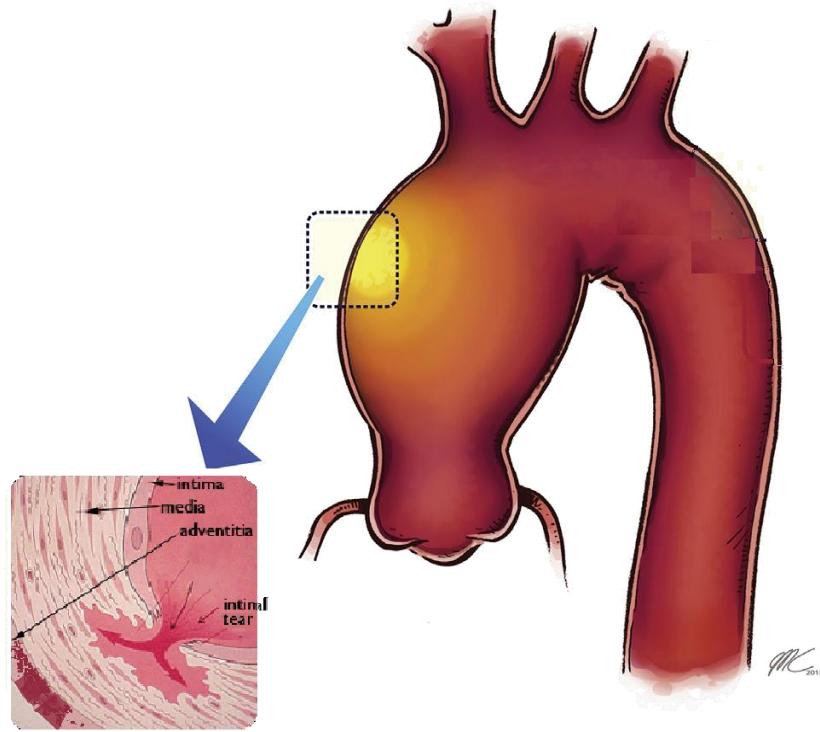
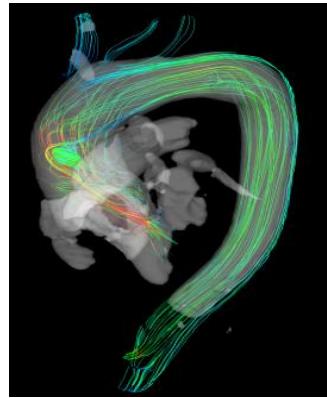
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# Biomechanics of soft tissues at different scales



# What is an ATAA and why is serious?



dissection

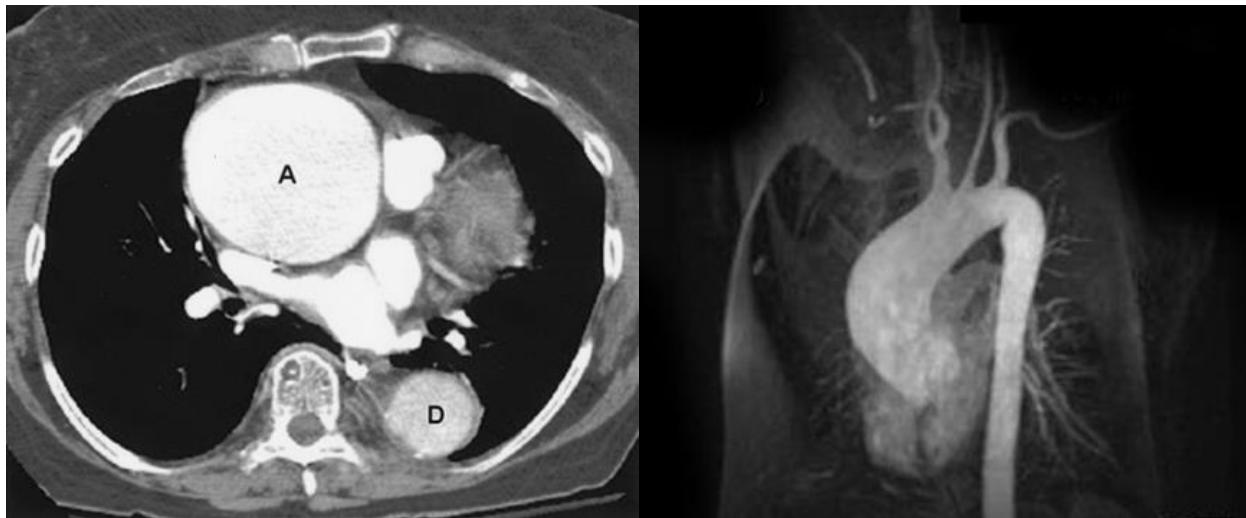


# Epidemiology statistics

Incidence : 10.4 per 100 000 persons

Elevated mortality without treatment for acute aortic dissection:  
50% in 48 hours / 90% in 3 months

BAV patients:  $\frac{1}{2}$  develops an ATAA



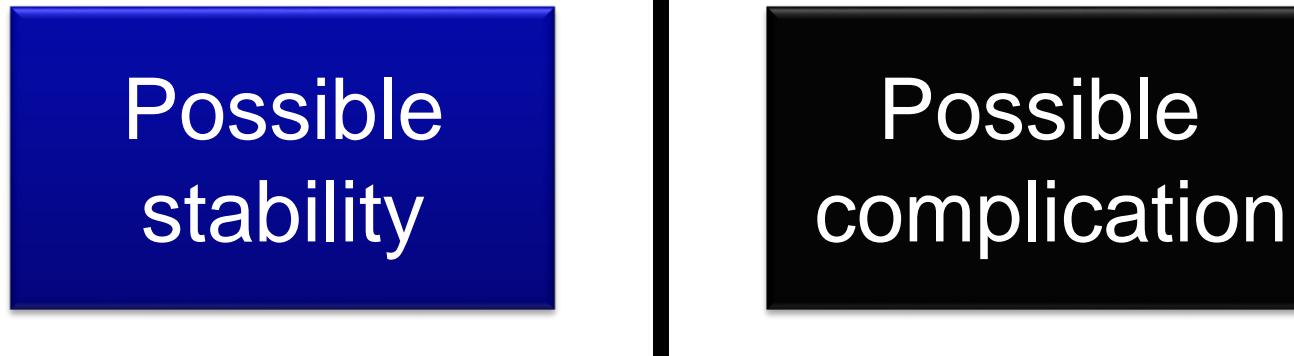


# Risk management

## Decision of surgical repair based on a measure if the Maximal Diameter

- The International Registry of Acute Aortic Dissection (IRAD): among 591 type A aortic dissection, 59% had a diameter <5.5 cm (Pape, 2007)

5.5 cm

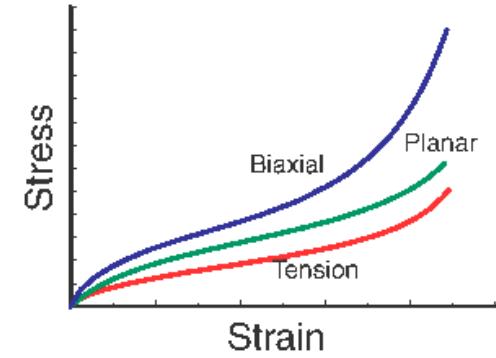
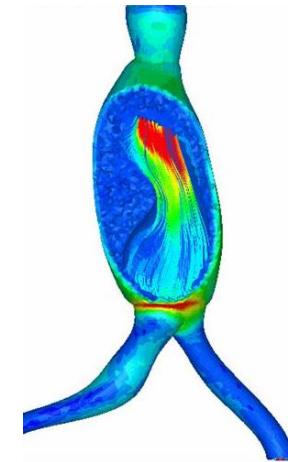


Pape et al, *Aortic Diameter  $\geq 5.5$  cm Is Not a Good Predictor of Type A Aortic Dissection Observations From the International Registry of Acute Aortic Dissection (IRAD)*, Circulation, 2007

# Added value of biomechanics

## ■ New insights on aneurysm rupture mechanisms

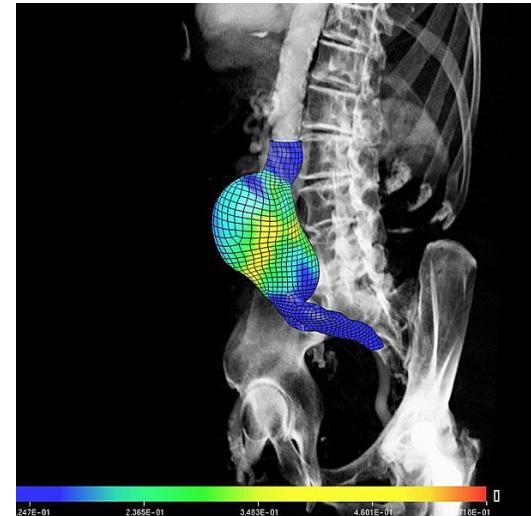
- Arterial wall mechanics
- How does it rupture ?
- When ?



Scotti, 2007

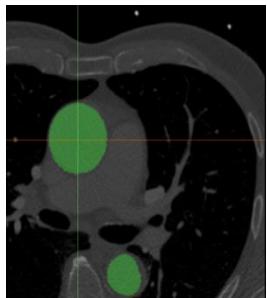
## ■ New patient-specific decision making tool

- Patient-specific
- From medical images



Vascops

# Recent developments in computational modeling and challenges

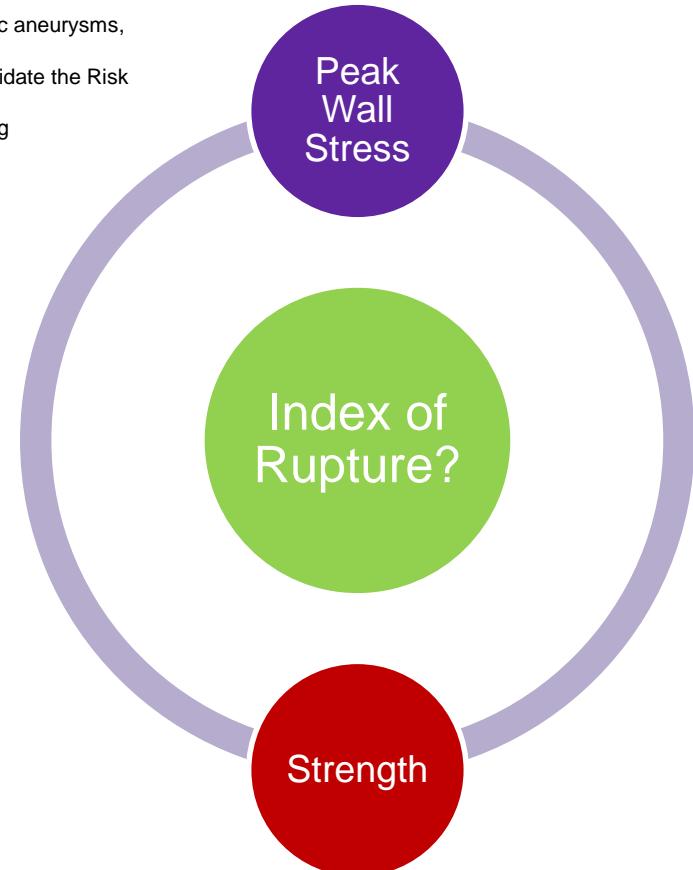
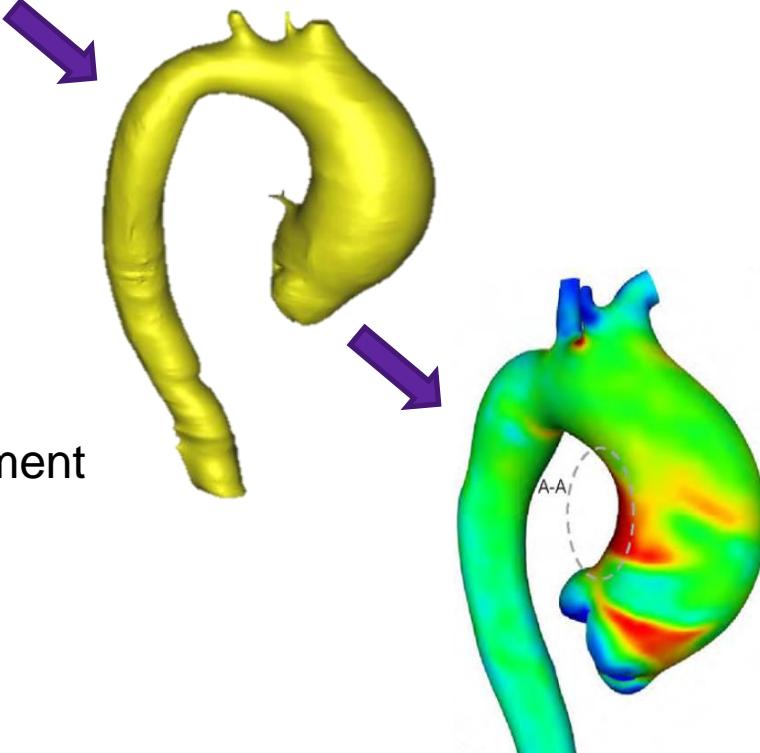


O. Trabelsi, et al, Patient specific stress and rupture analysis of ascending thoracic aneurysms, J. Biomech. (2015).

G. Martufi, et al, Is There a Role for Biomechanical Engineering in Helping to Elucidate the Risk Profile of the Thoracic Aorta?, Ann. Thorac. Surg. 101 (2016) 390–398.

S. Pasta et al., Constitutive modeling of ascending thoracic aortic aneurysms using microstructural parameters, Med. Eng. Phys. 38 (2016) 121–130.

Finite-element modeling



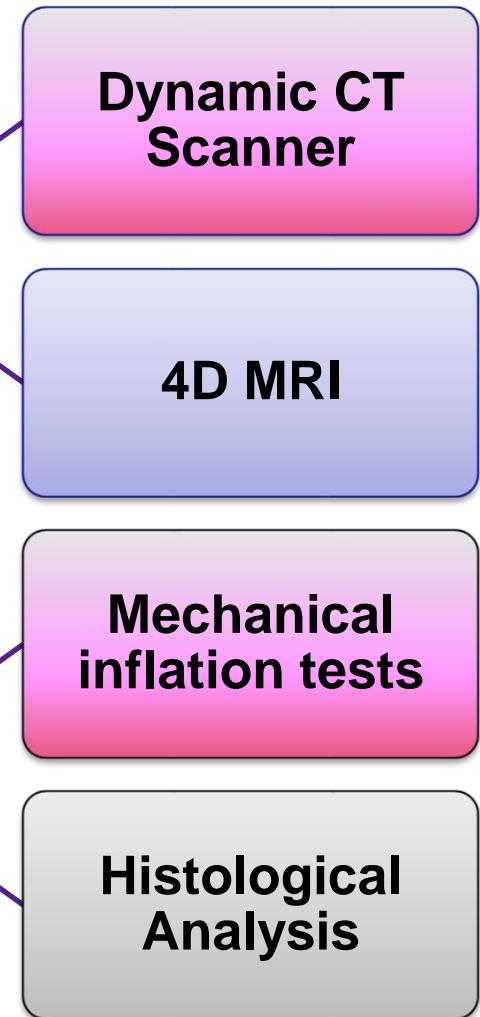
# SAINT-ETIENNE PROTOCOL

2014  
↑  
|  
|  
|  
|  
↓  
2016

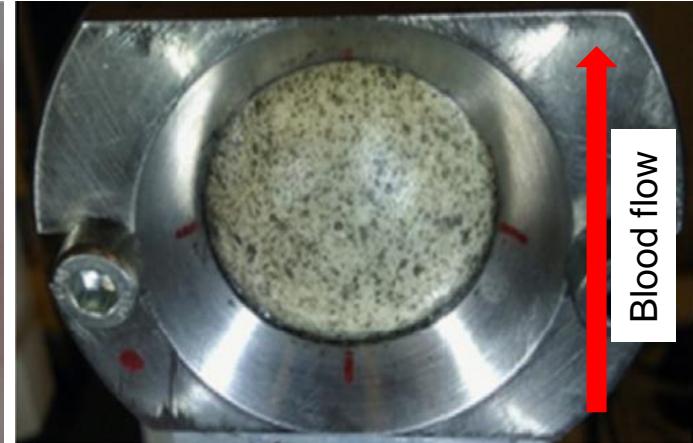
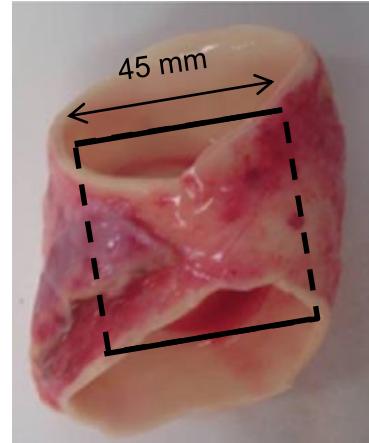
31 Patients with ATAA

Preoperative dynamic imaging

Collection of intraoperative aortic segment



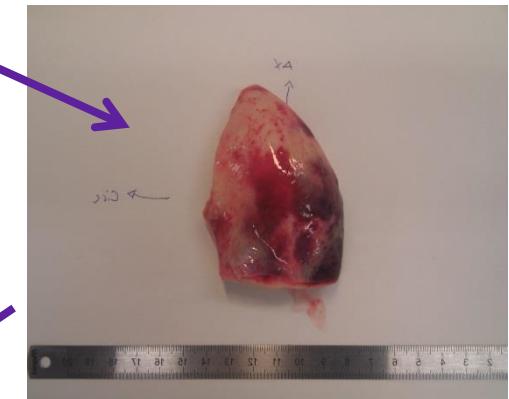
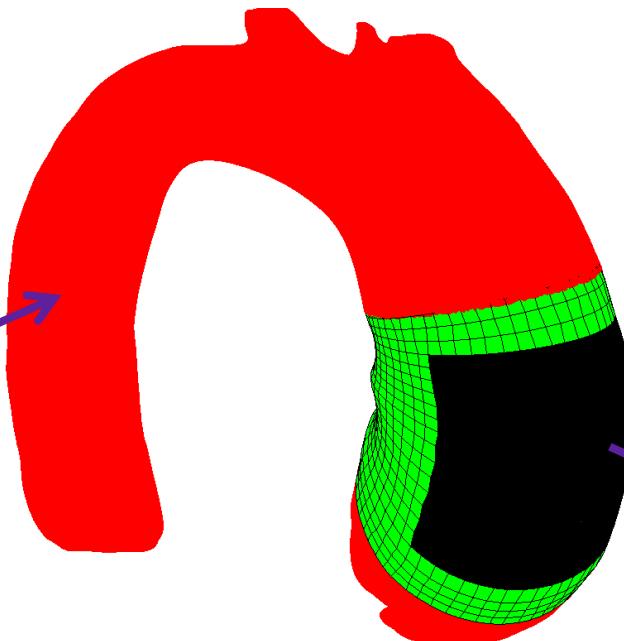
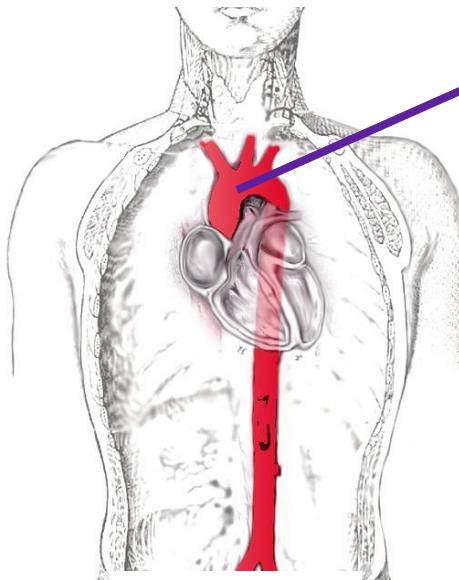
# Bulge inflation tests



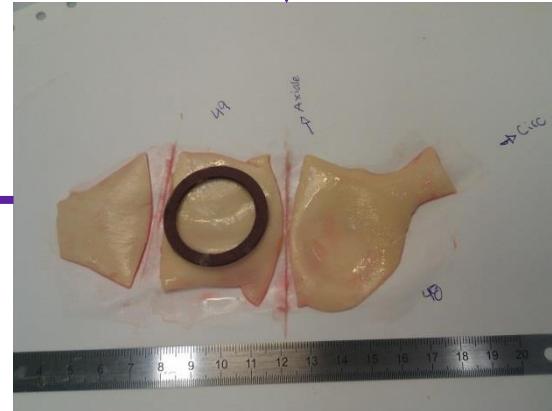
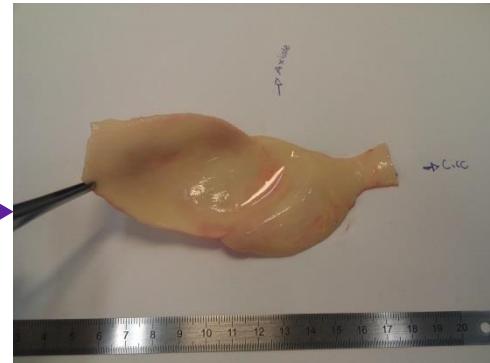
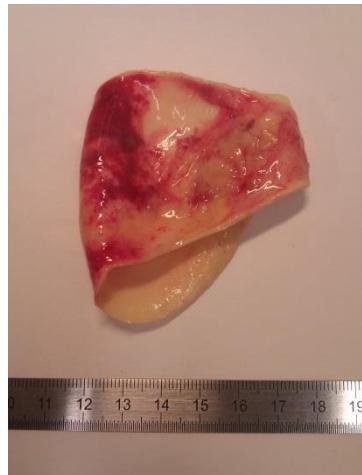
Inverse membrane analysis + digital image correlation  $\Rightarrow$  stress & strain reconstruction.  
 $\Rightarrow$ biaxial failure properties

*Trabelsi, O., Davis, F.M., Rodriguez-Matas, J.F., Duprey, A., Avril, S. Patient specific stress and rupture analysis of ascending thoracic aneurysms. Journal of Biomechanics, 2015.*

# Collection of the samples

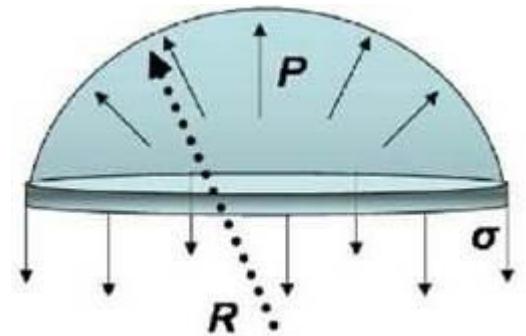
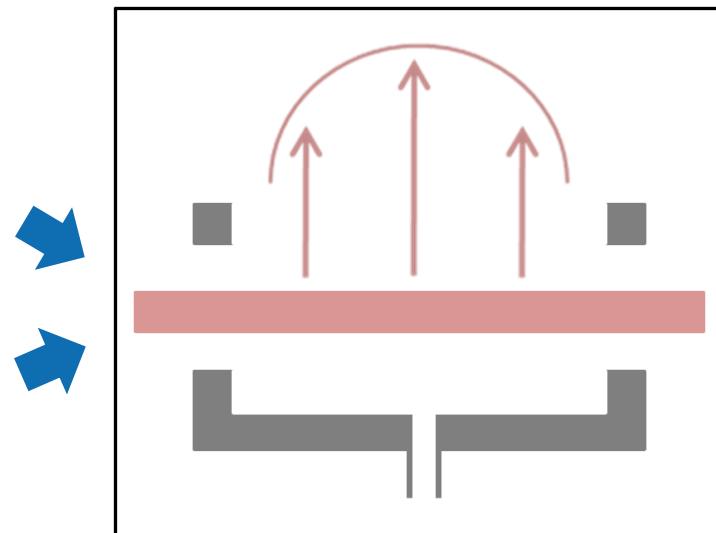


# PREPARATION

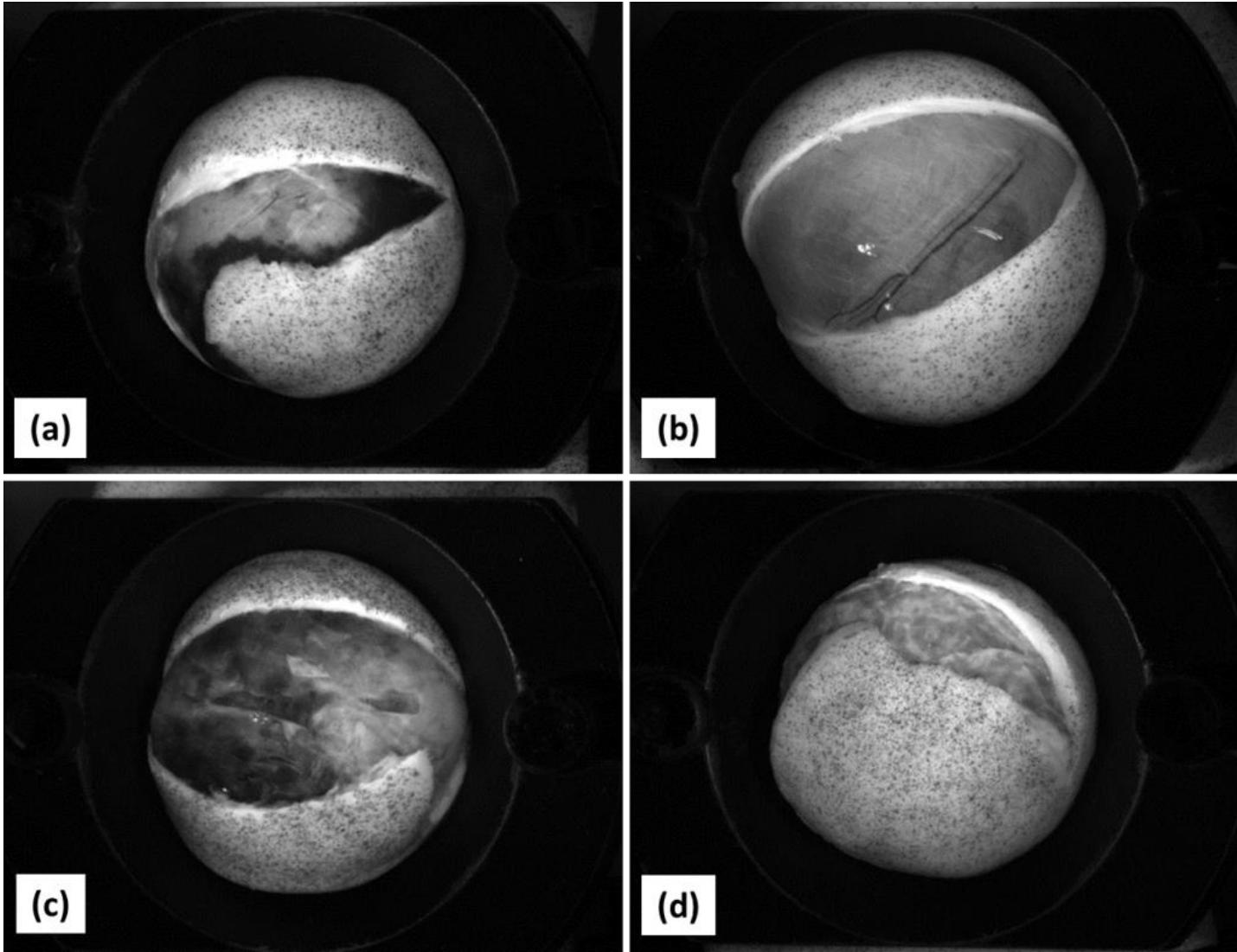


# Bulge inflation test

Romo et al. Journal of Biomechanics -2014.



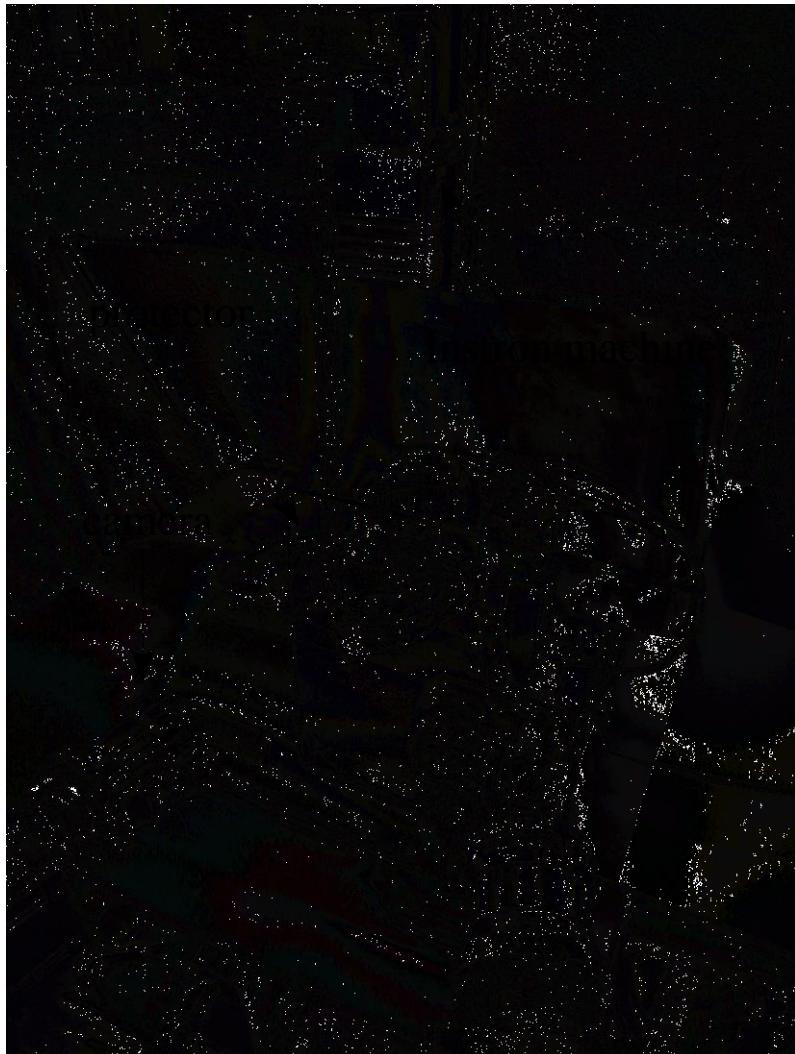
# Rupture profiles



Blood flow

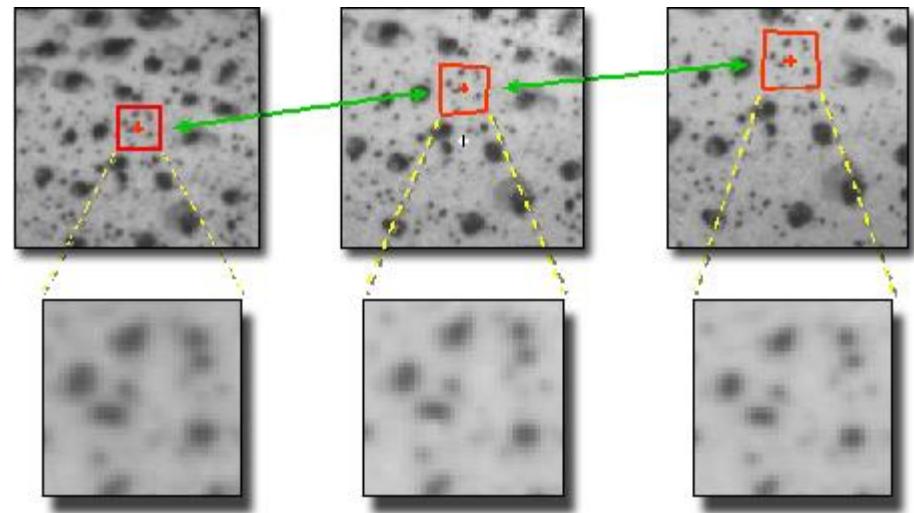
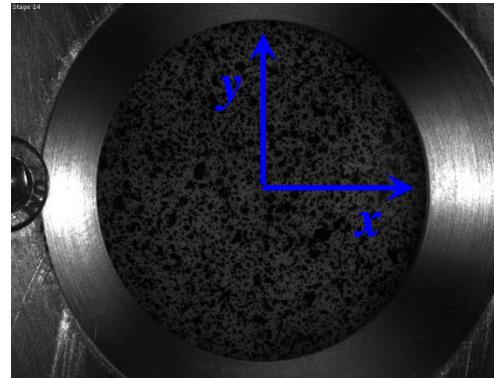
50% of aortas ruptured with an  
angle  $\theta$  equal to 90 °

# Full-field measurements using sDIC

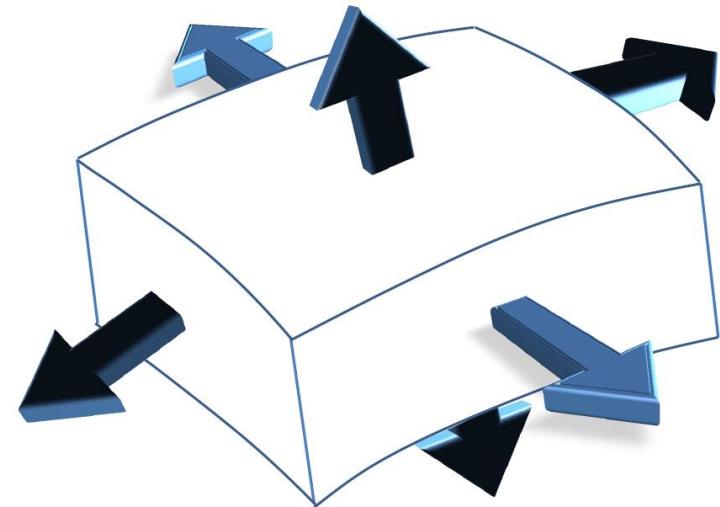
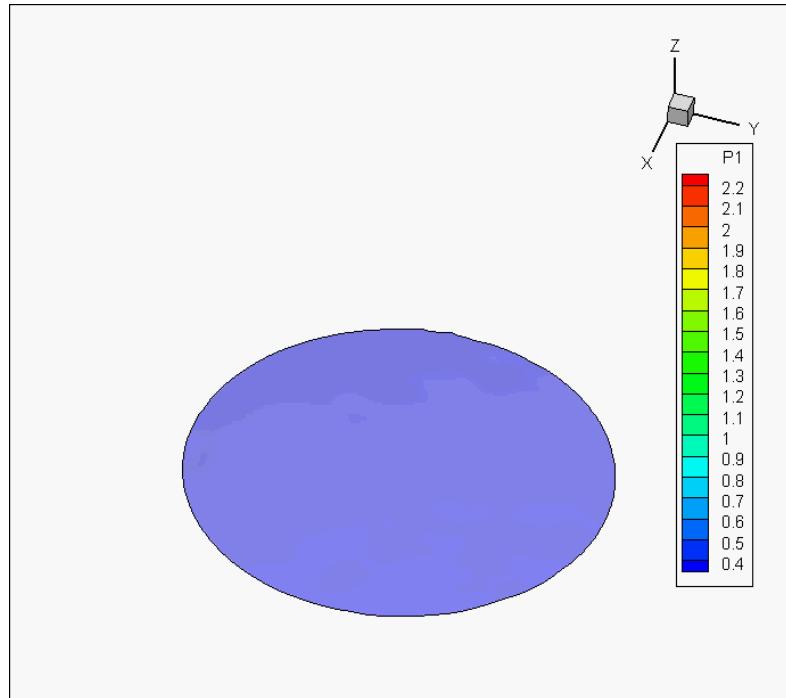


Undeformed

Deformed



# Local stress reconstruction

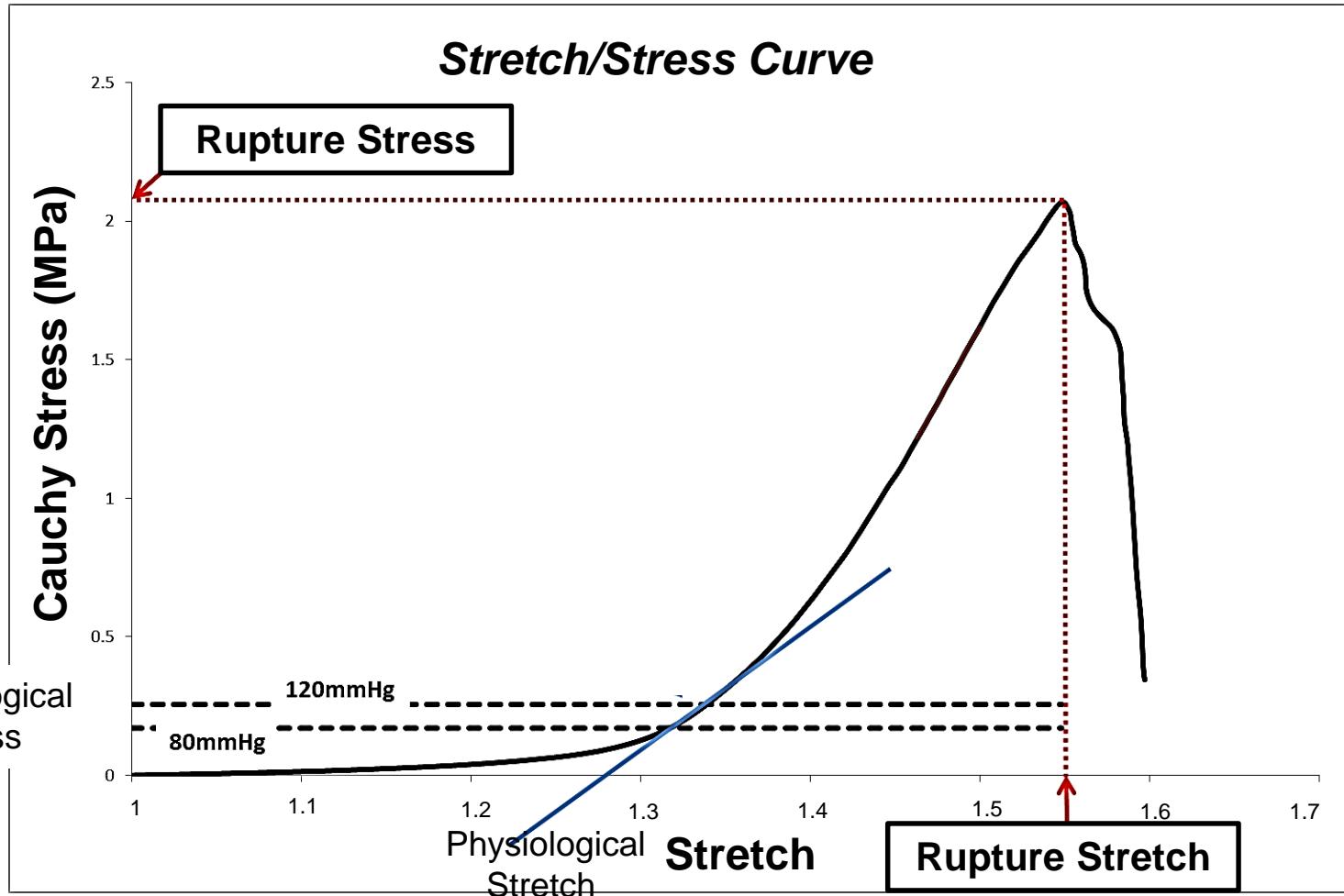


$$\operatorname{div}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) + f = 0$$

$$[A] \cdot [\boldsymbol{\sigma}] = [B]$$

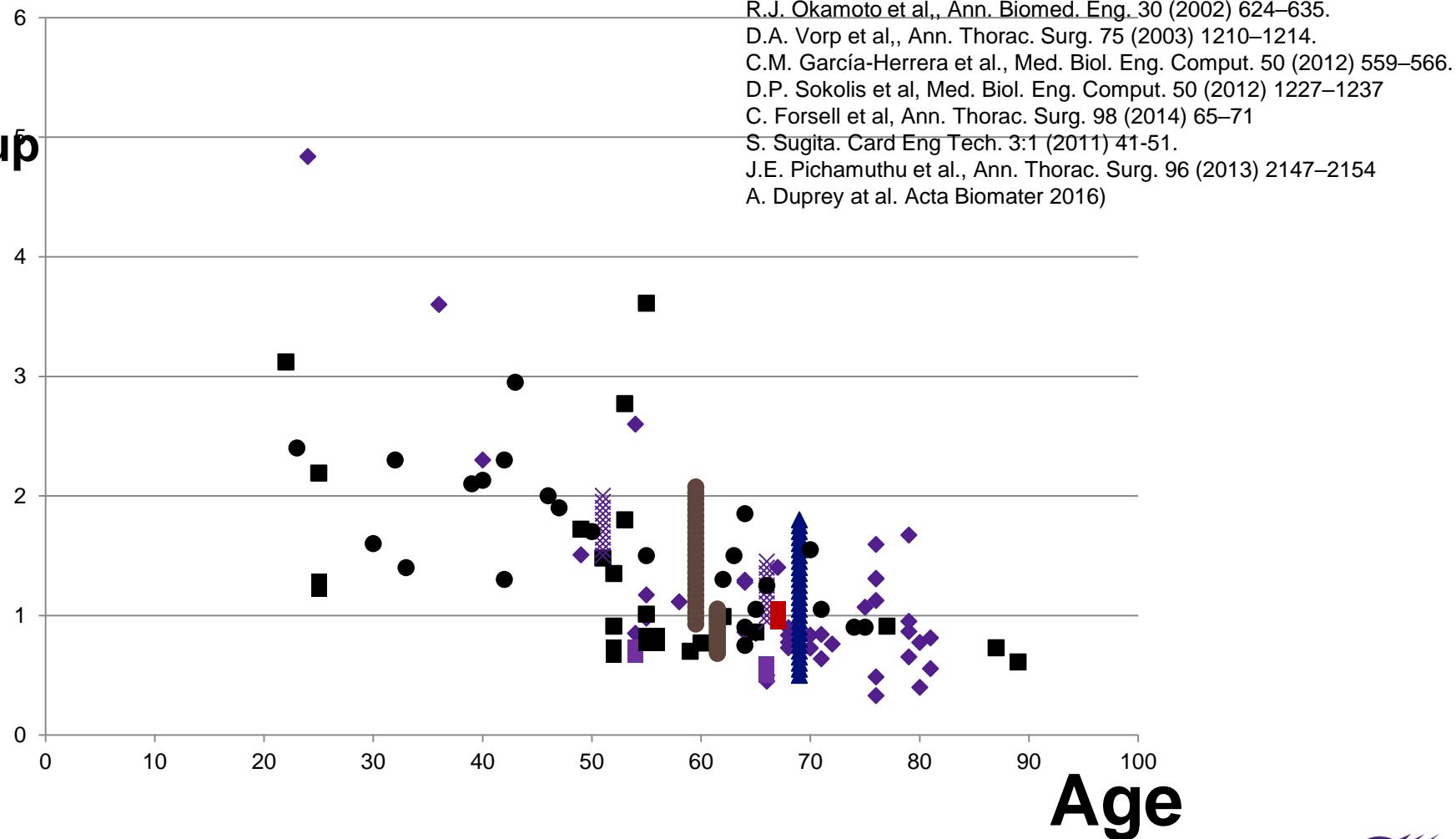
# Stress strain analysis in the bulge test

$\sigma_{\text{rup}}$  : Rupture stress,  $\lambda_{\text{rup}}$  : Rupture stretch,

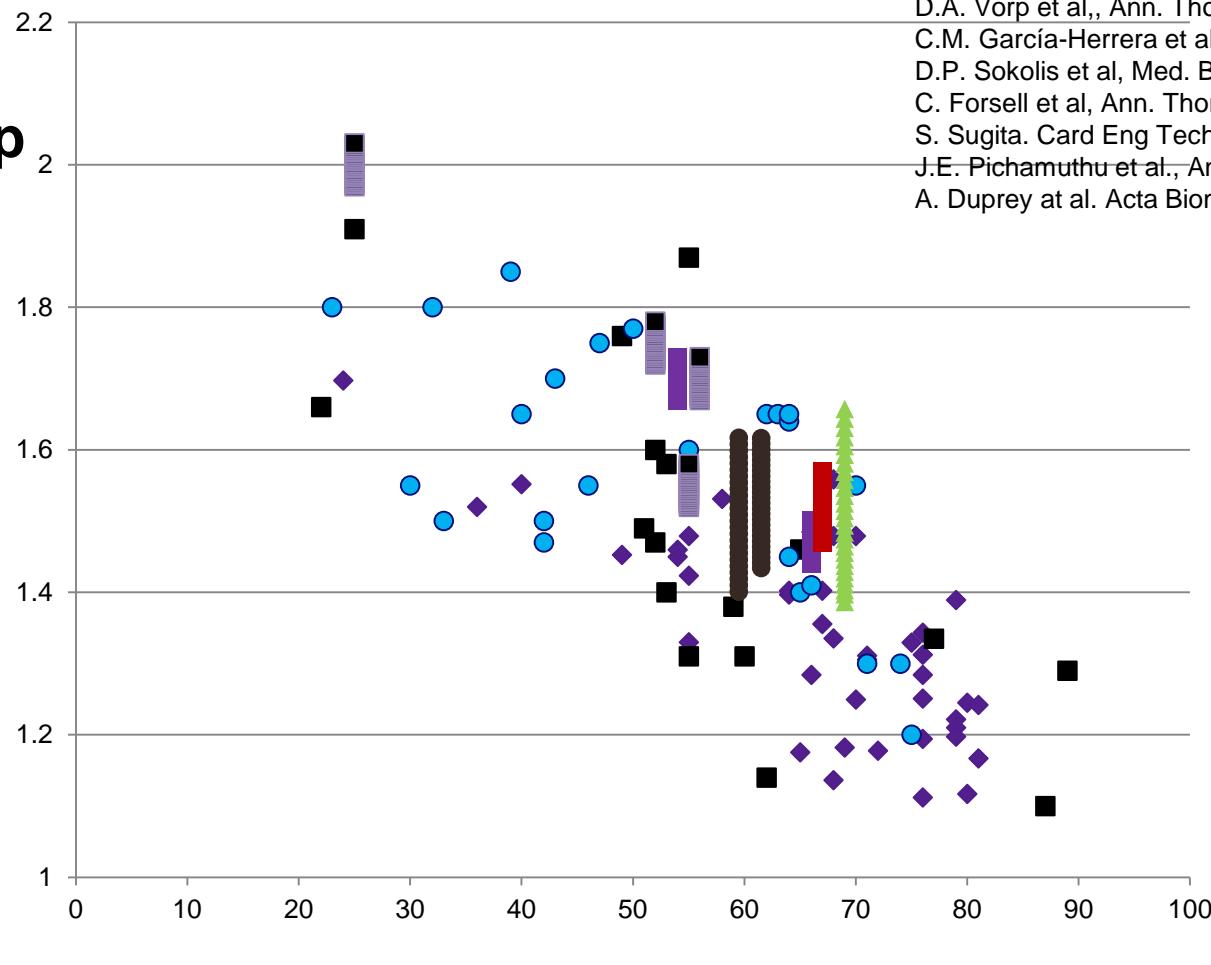


# Comparison with other studies

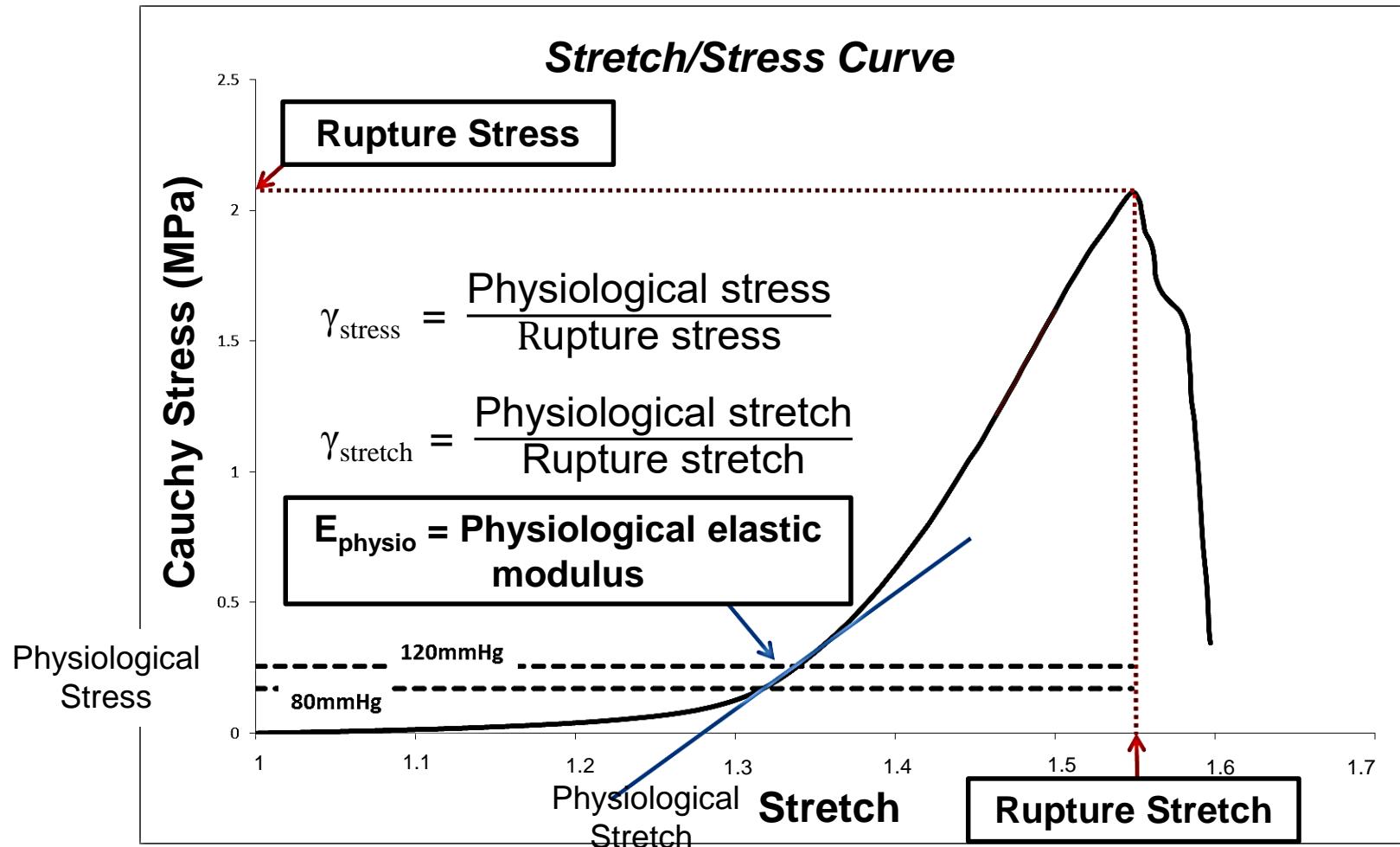
$\sigma_{rup}$



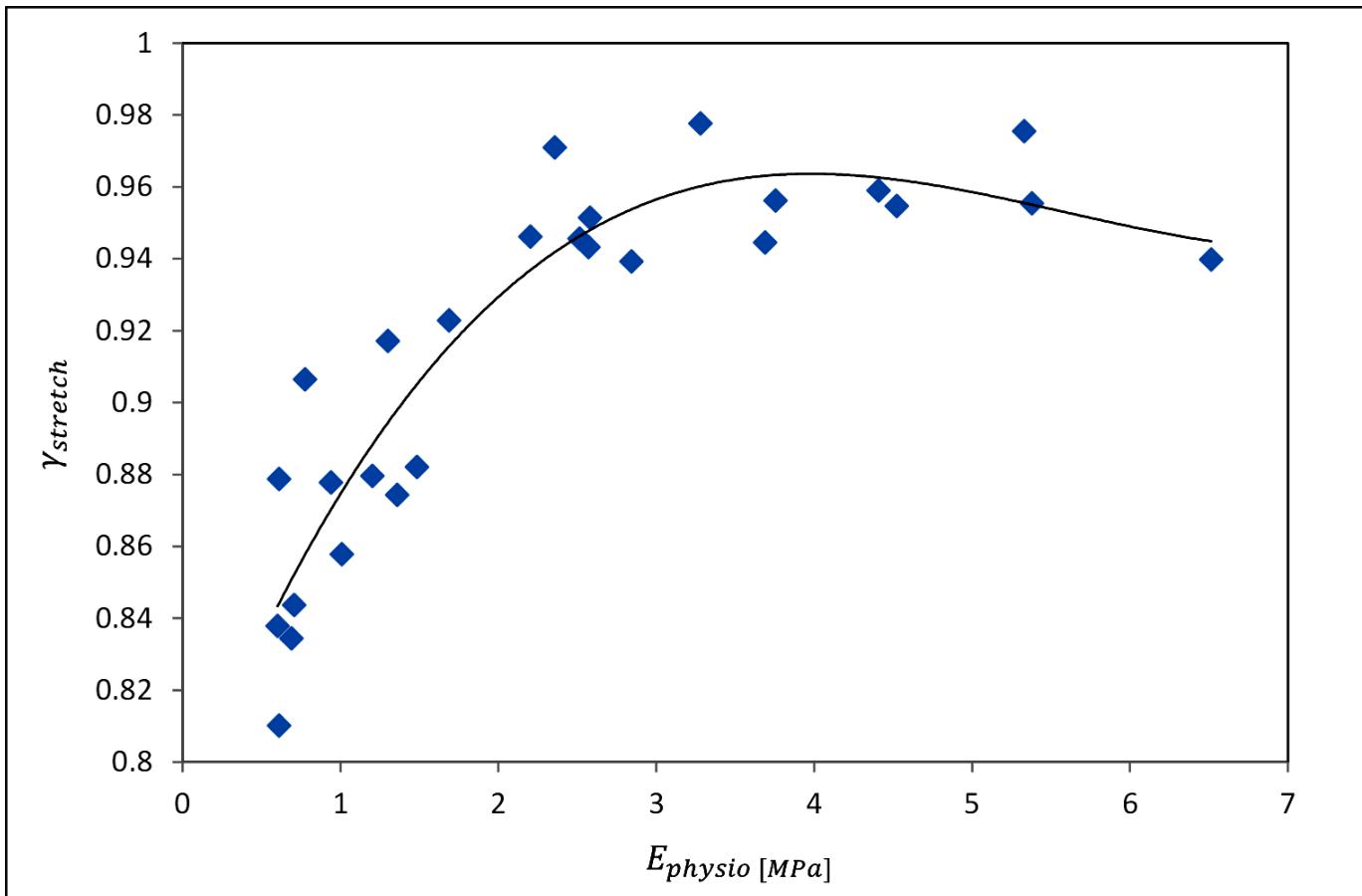
# Comparison with other studies



# Rupture risk estimation



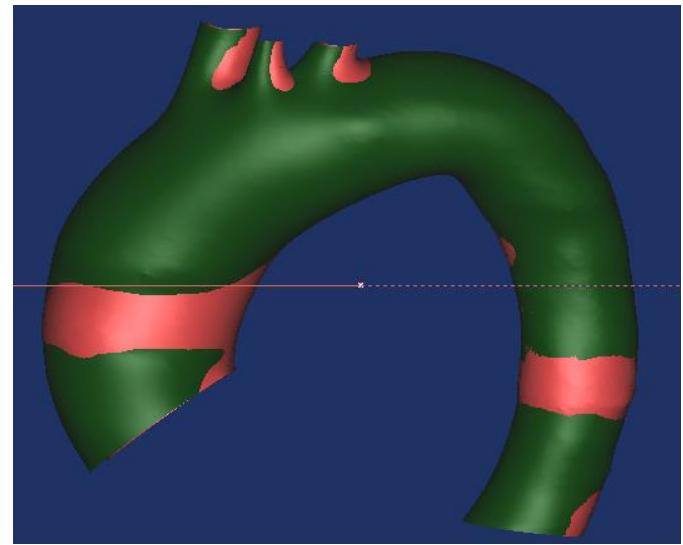
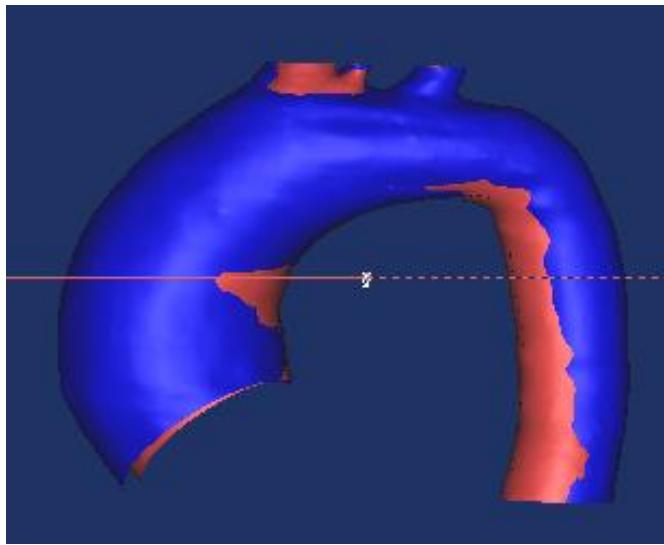
# Correlation between $\gamma_{\text{stretch}}$ and $E_{\text{physio}}$



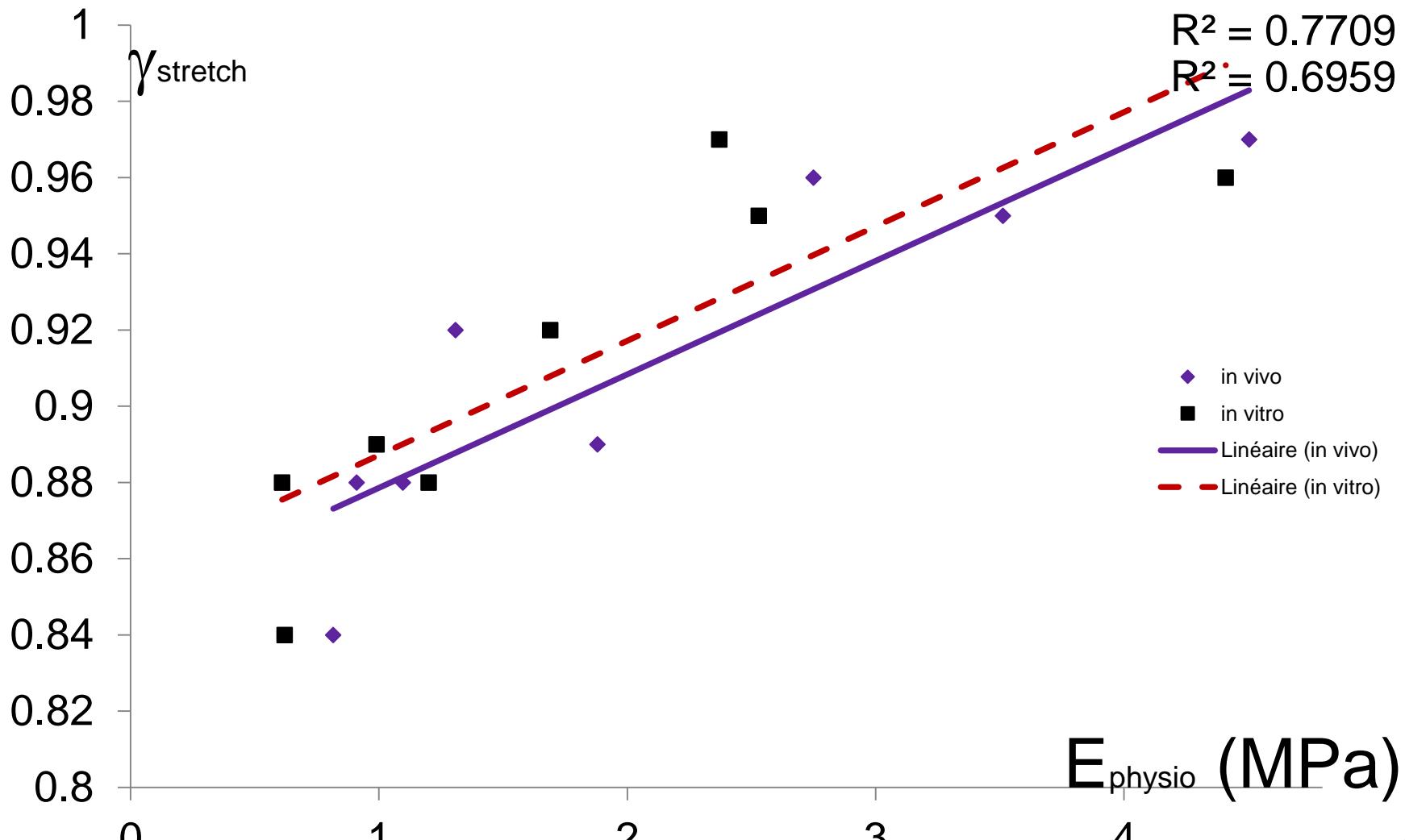
Duprey A, et al. Biaxial rupture properties of ascending thoracic aortic aneurysms. *Acta Biomaterialia* 2016.

# Distensibility measurements using the dynamic CT scan

- $D = (A_{\max} - A_{\min}) / A_{\min} / (P_{\max} - P_{\min})$
- $E_{\text{physio}} = 2R/Dh$



# Correlation between $\gamma_{\text{stretch}}$ and $E_{\text{physio}}$



## Summary

- 2 ways of defining rupture:
- PWS – but unknown patient-specific strength
- $\gamma_{\text{stretch}}$  correlated with in vivo distensibility

Higher distensibility  $\Rightarrow$  less risk because the aneurysm can more easily withstand volume variation





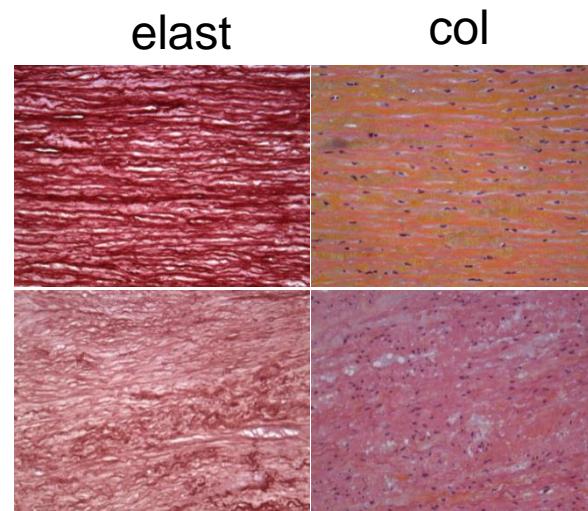
## Future work

- Extend the analysis to other patients
- Define a threshold for the new risk of rupture
- Predict the long-term evolution of this criterion for small aneurysms using mechanobiological models

# Histological interpretation

- ATAA enlargement is a consequence of elastin damage
- More and more collagen tends to be recruited in the physiological range

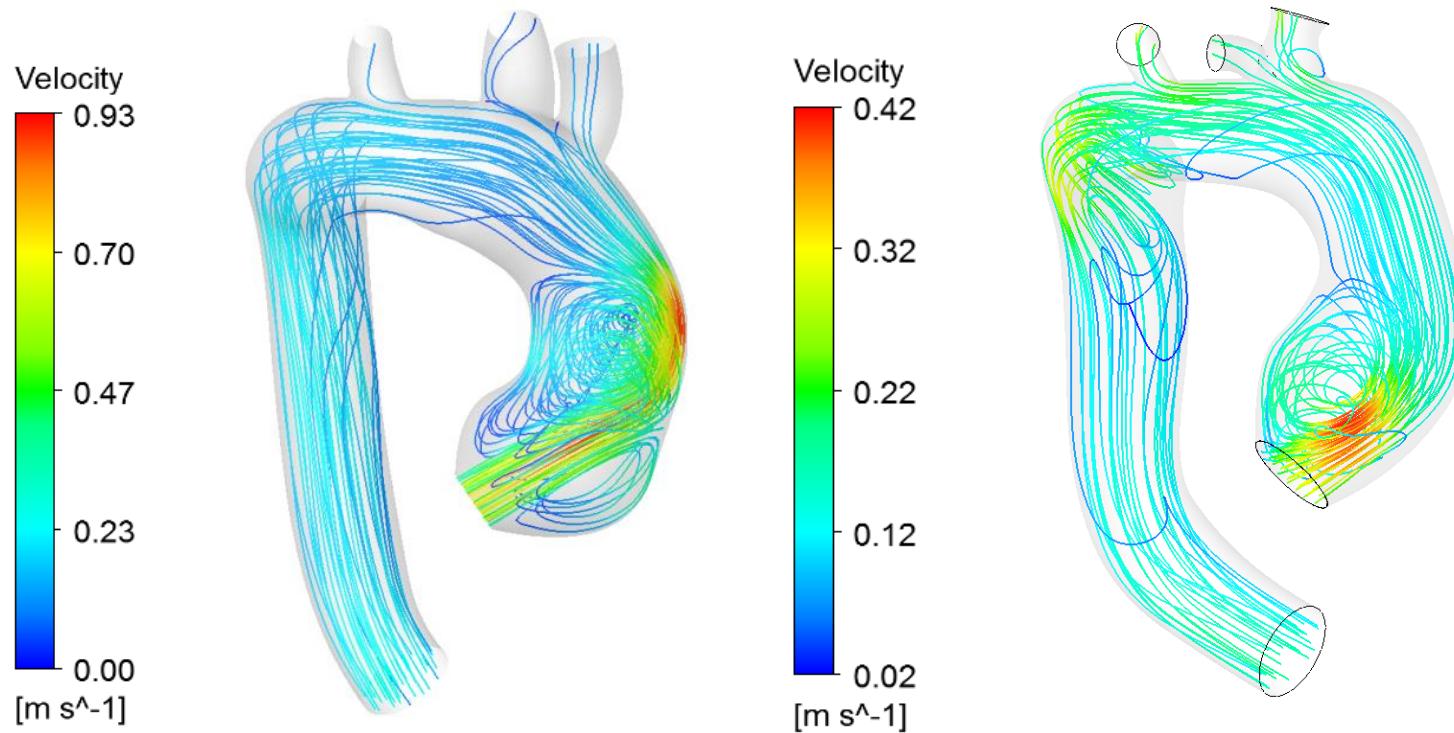
Patient with  
largest  $\gamma_{\text{stretch}}$



Patient with  
smallest  $\gamma_{\text{stretch}}$

M.R. Hill et al., J. Biomech. 45 (2012) 762–771

# Computer fluid dynamics



# Acknowledgements

- Olfa Trabelsi
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- Jean-Pierre Favre
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- Jamal Mousavi
- Solmaz Farzeneh
- Francesca Condemi
- Miguel Angel Gutierrez
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European Research Council





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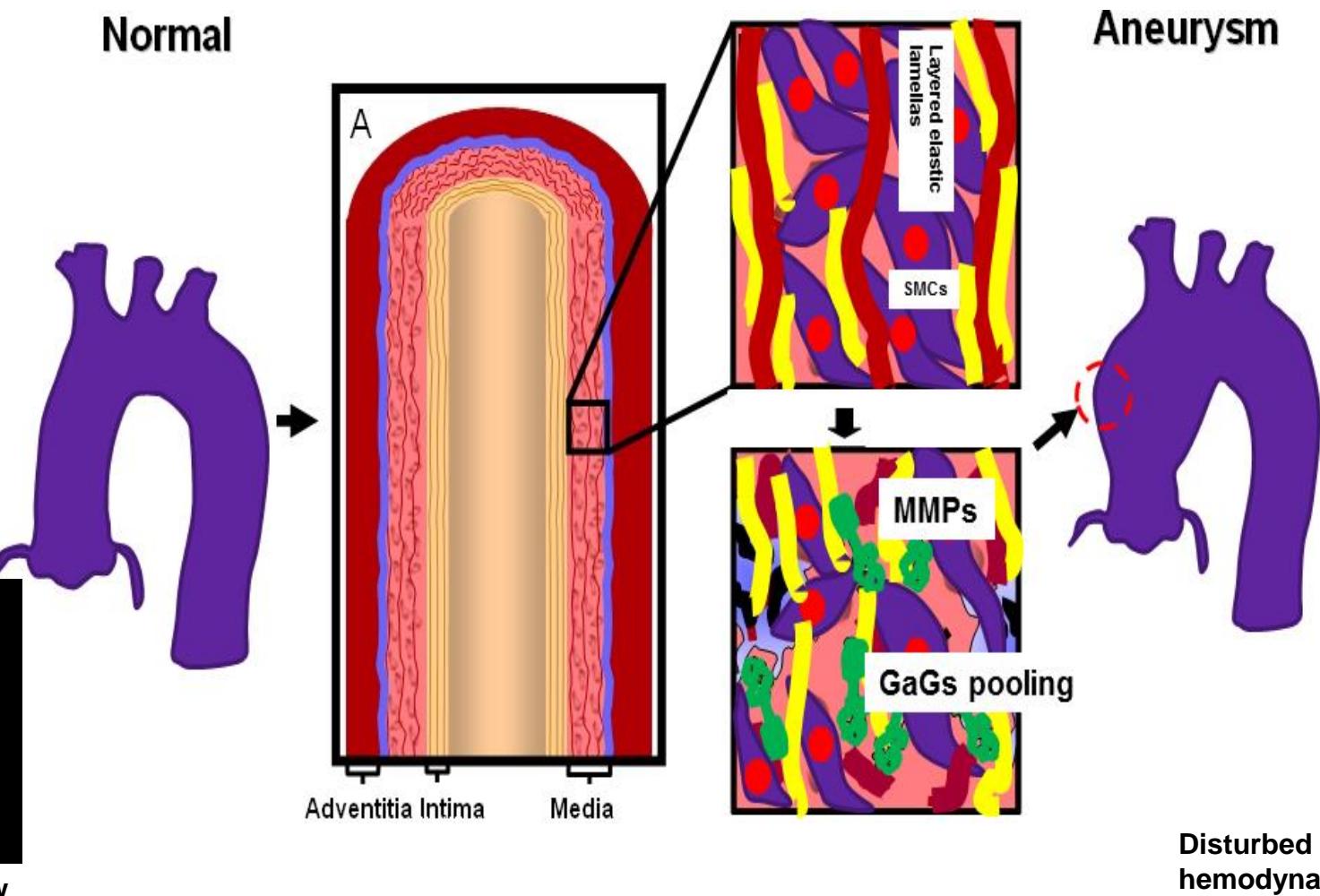


# Inverse characterization of regional, nonlinear and anisotropic properties of arteries

Matthew R MERSI, Chiara BELLINI, Paolo DI ACHILLE, Jay D HUMPHREY,  
Prof Stéphane AVRIL ([avril@emse.fr](mailto:avril@emse.fr))



# INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE: EXAMPLE OF ATAA PHYSIOPATHOLOGY



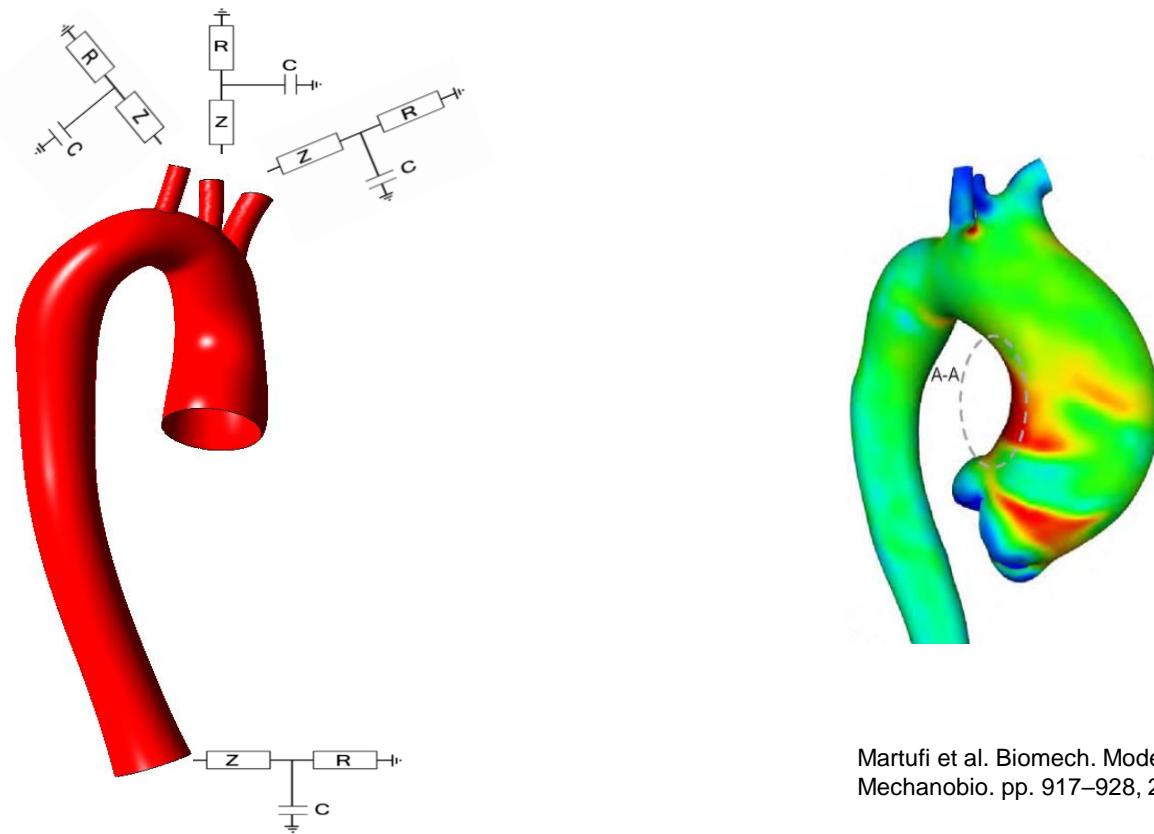
# POINT OF VIEW OF MECHANOBILOGY

Altered mechanics induce biological responses, including gene expression, protein activation and cell phenotype



# POINT OF VIEW OF BIOMECHANICS

Macroscopic manifestations ultimately dictate the mechanical functionality and structural integrity of the aortic wall



Martufi et al. Biomech. Model.  
Mechanobiol. pp. 917–928, 2014.

# CHALLENGES AND OBJECTIVES

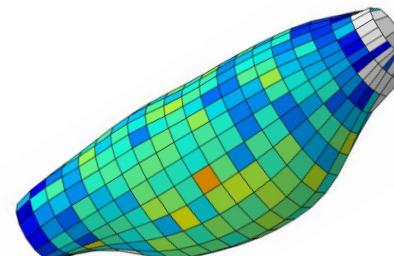
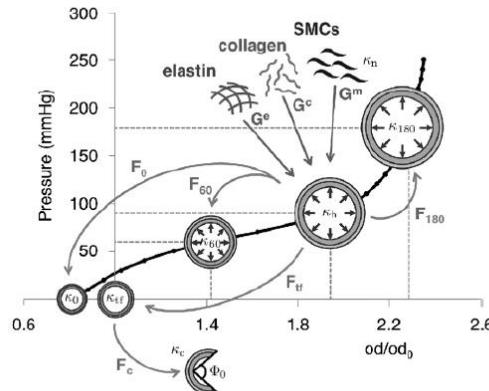
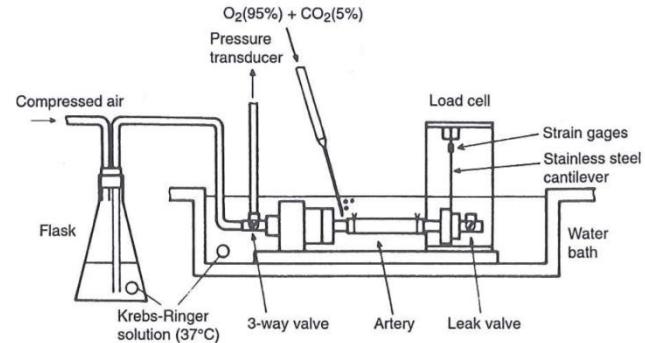
**Fundamentally understand local structure–function relationships in aortic aneurysms.**

This requires an approach permitting:

- 1. To reconstruct the regional distribution of mechanical properties of the aorta during aneurysm growth.**
- 2. To investigate their correlation with the underlying microstructure and its evolutions.**

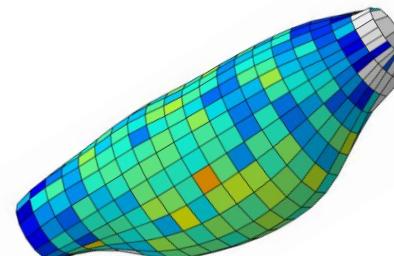
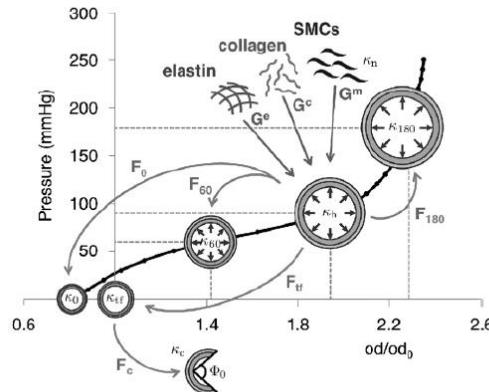
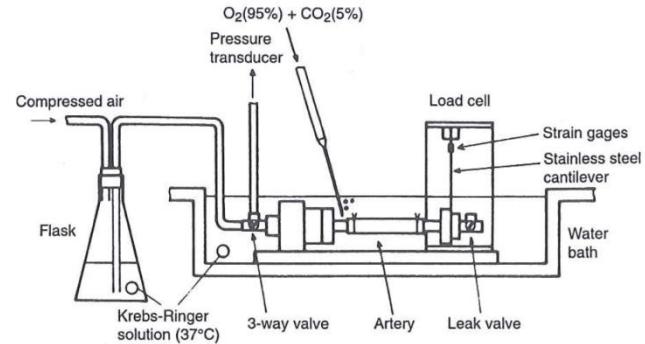
# APPROACH

1. Experiments
2. Material model
3. Inverse method

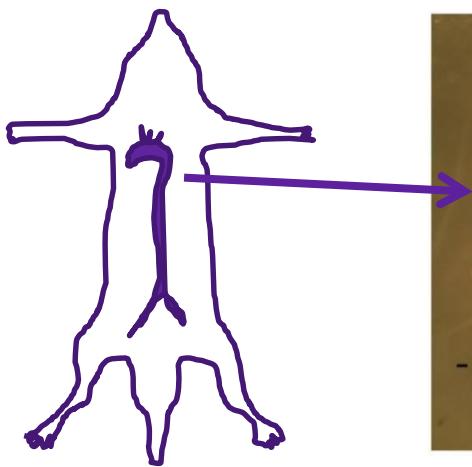


# APPROACH

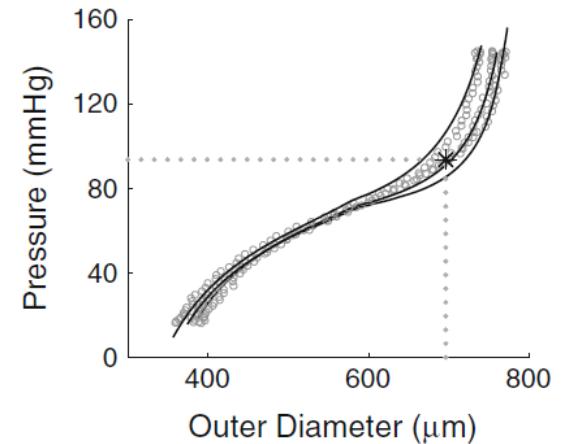
1. Experiments
2. Material model
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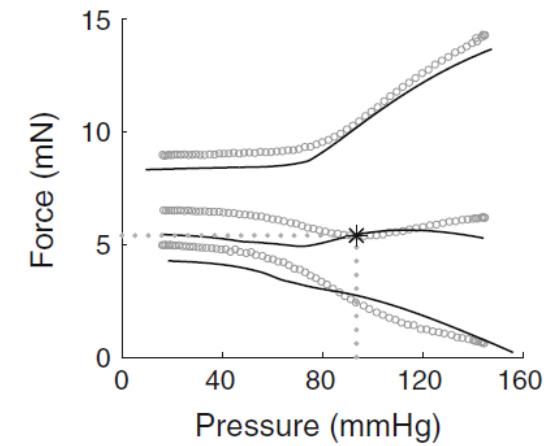
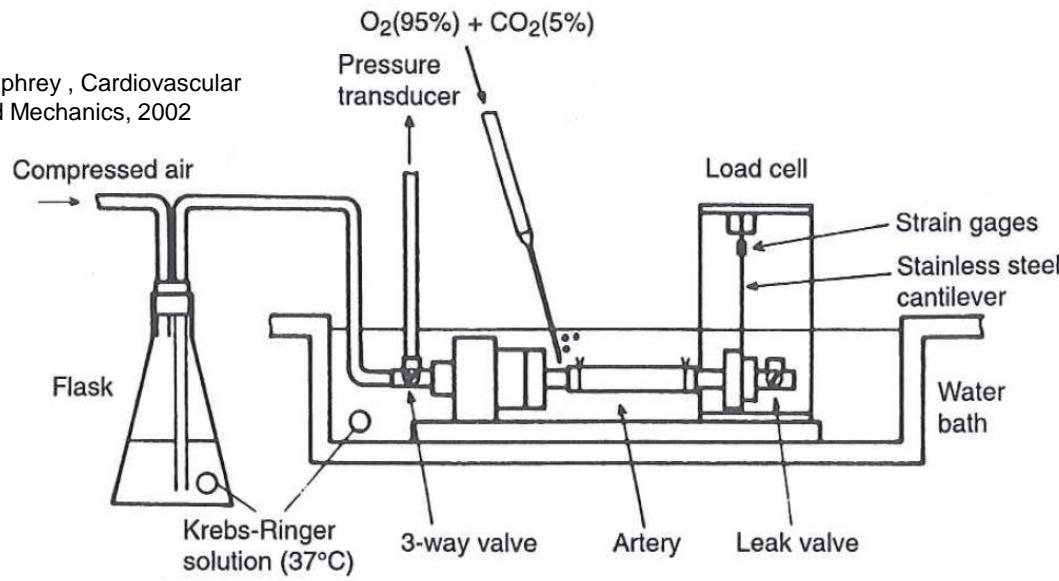
# TENSION – INFLATION OF MICE AORTAS



Gleason, et al. J. Biomech. Eng.  
126(6), p. 787, 2004.

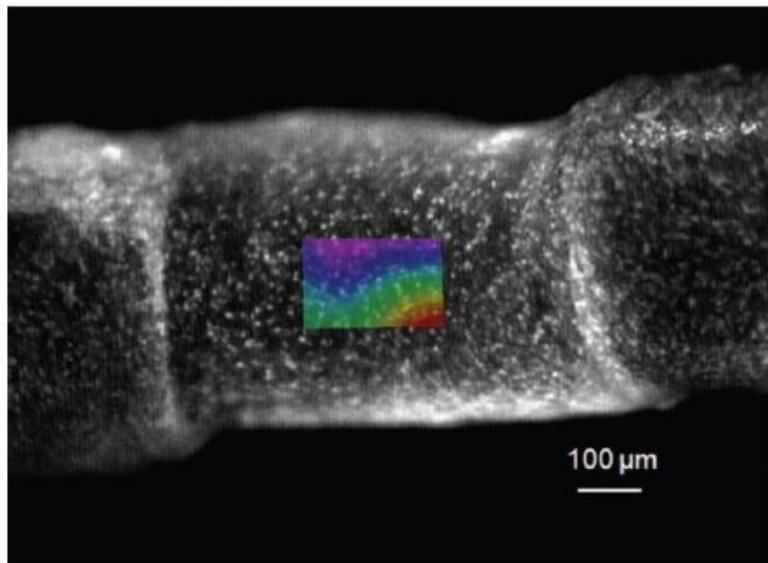


Humphrey , Cardiovascular  
Solid Mechanics, 2002



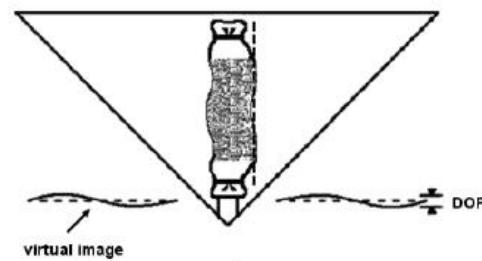
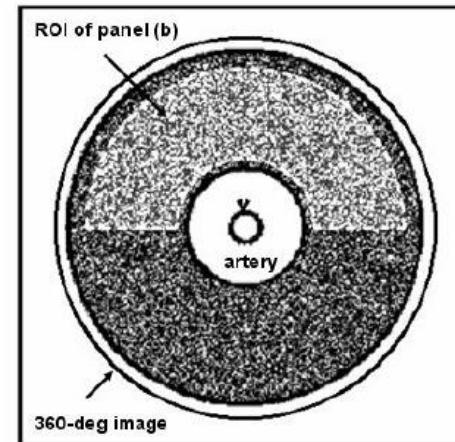
# MEASUREMENT OF THE RESPONSE USING DIGITAL IMAGE CORRELATION

classical



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

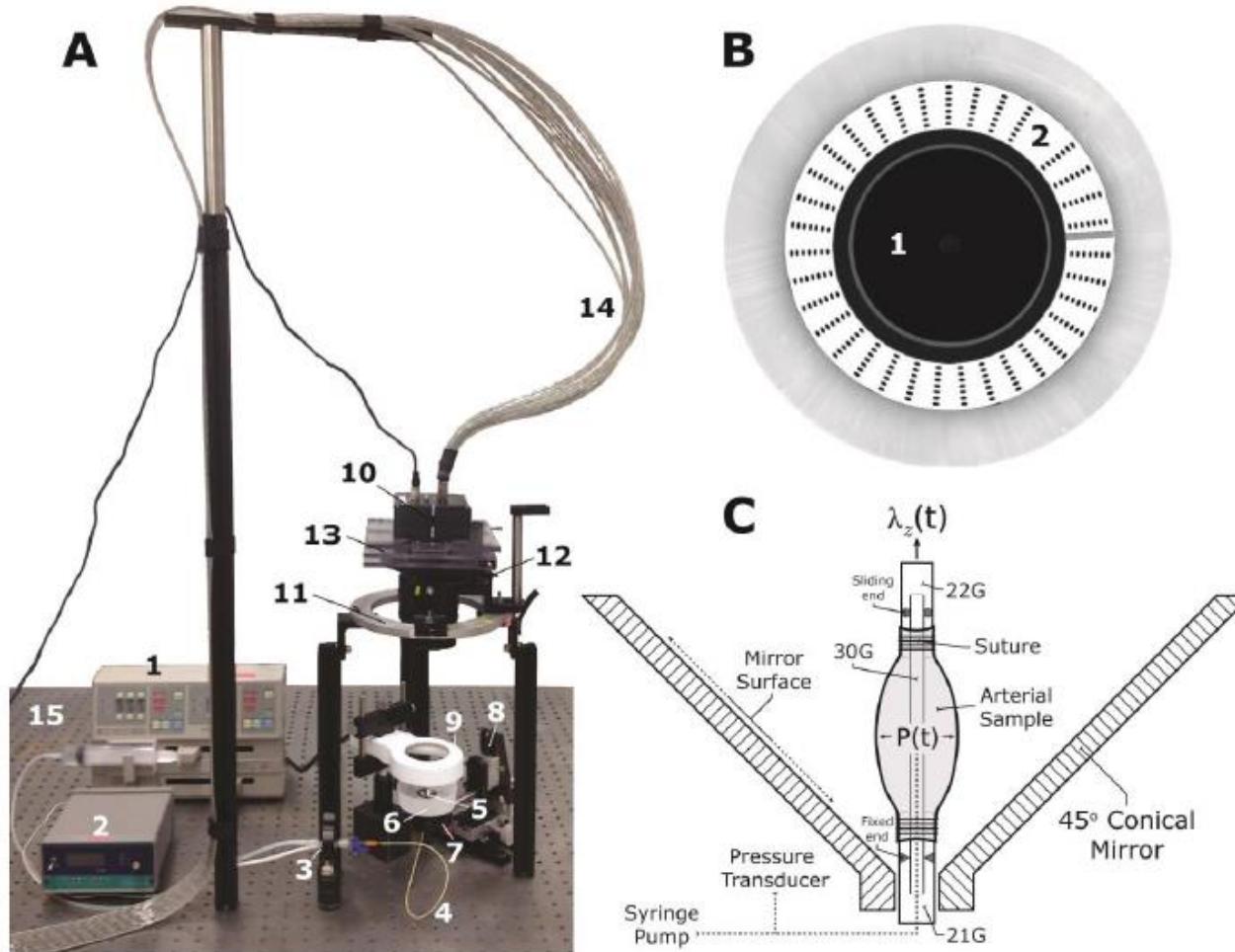
panoramic



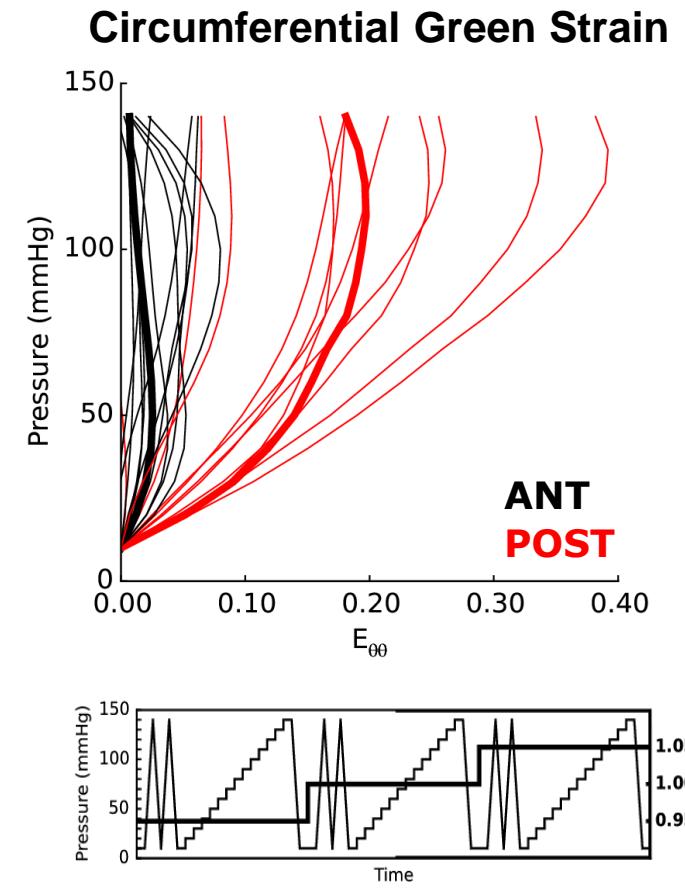
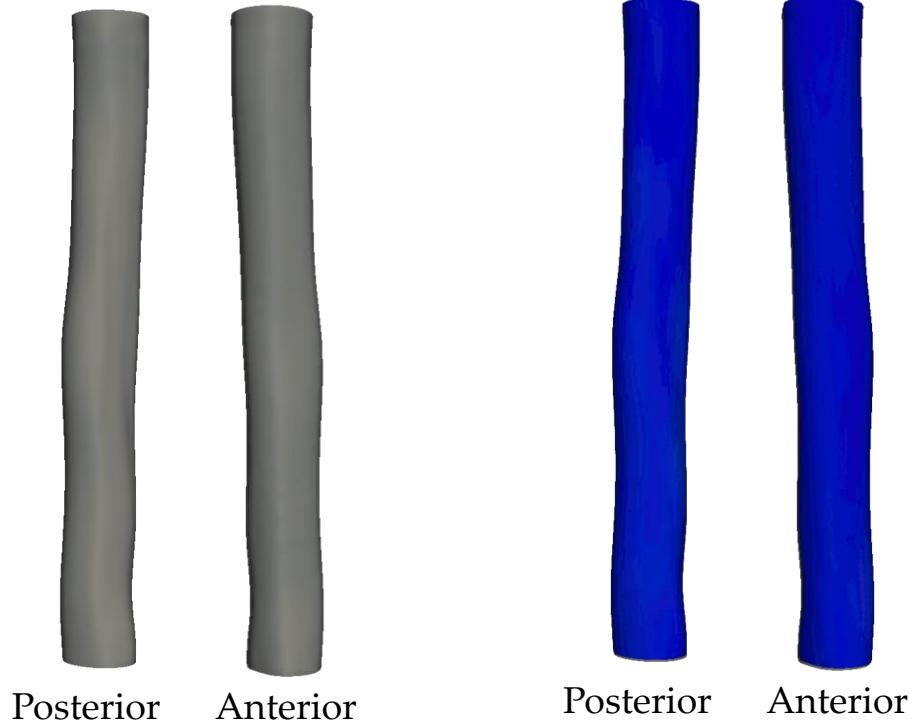
Genovese. Optics Lasers Eng, 47, p 995-1008, 2009.

# PANORAMIC DIGITAL IMAGE CORRELATION - pDIC

Genovese et al, CMBBE, **14**, p. 213-237, 2011.

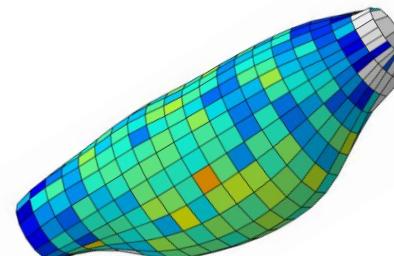
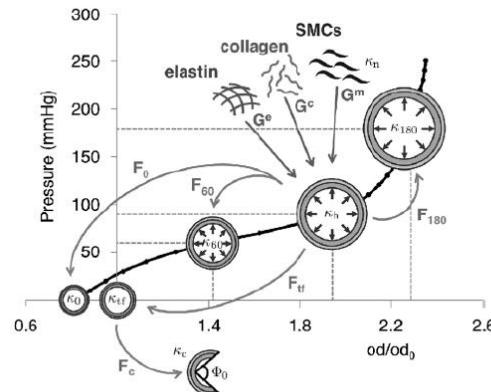
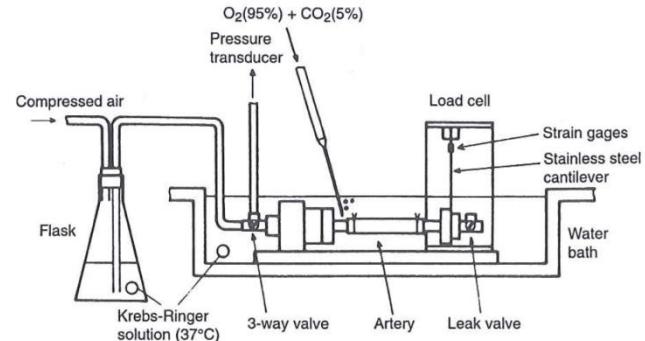


# Full-field strain measurement across the outer surface of the artery



# APPROACH

1. Experiments
2. Material model
3. Inverse method



# CONSTITUTIVE MODEL

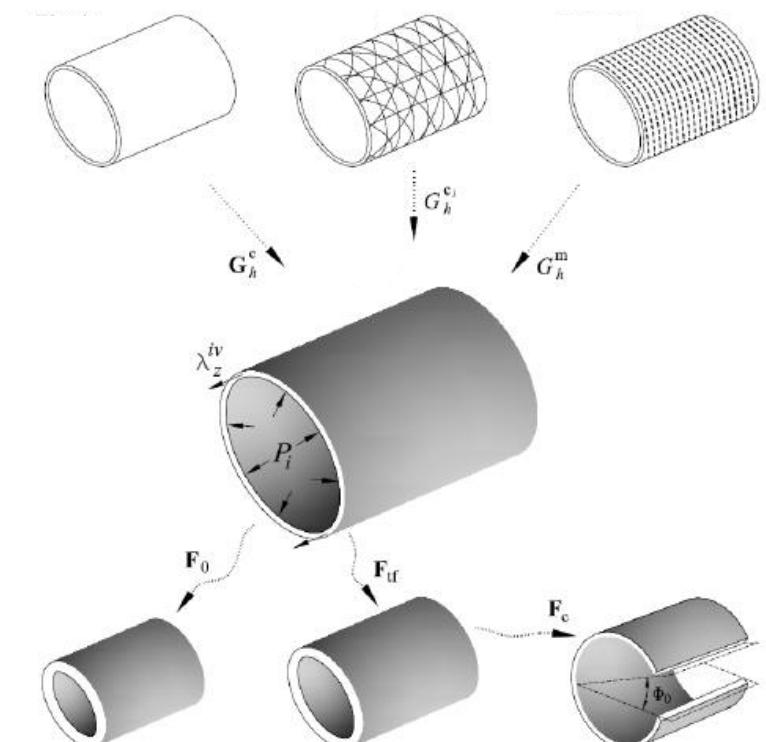
Strain energy functions:

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

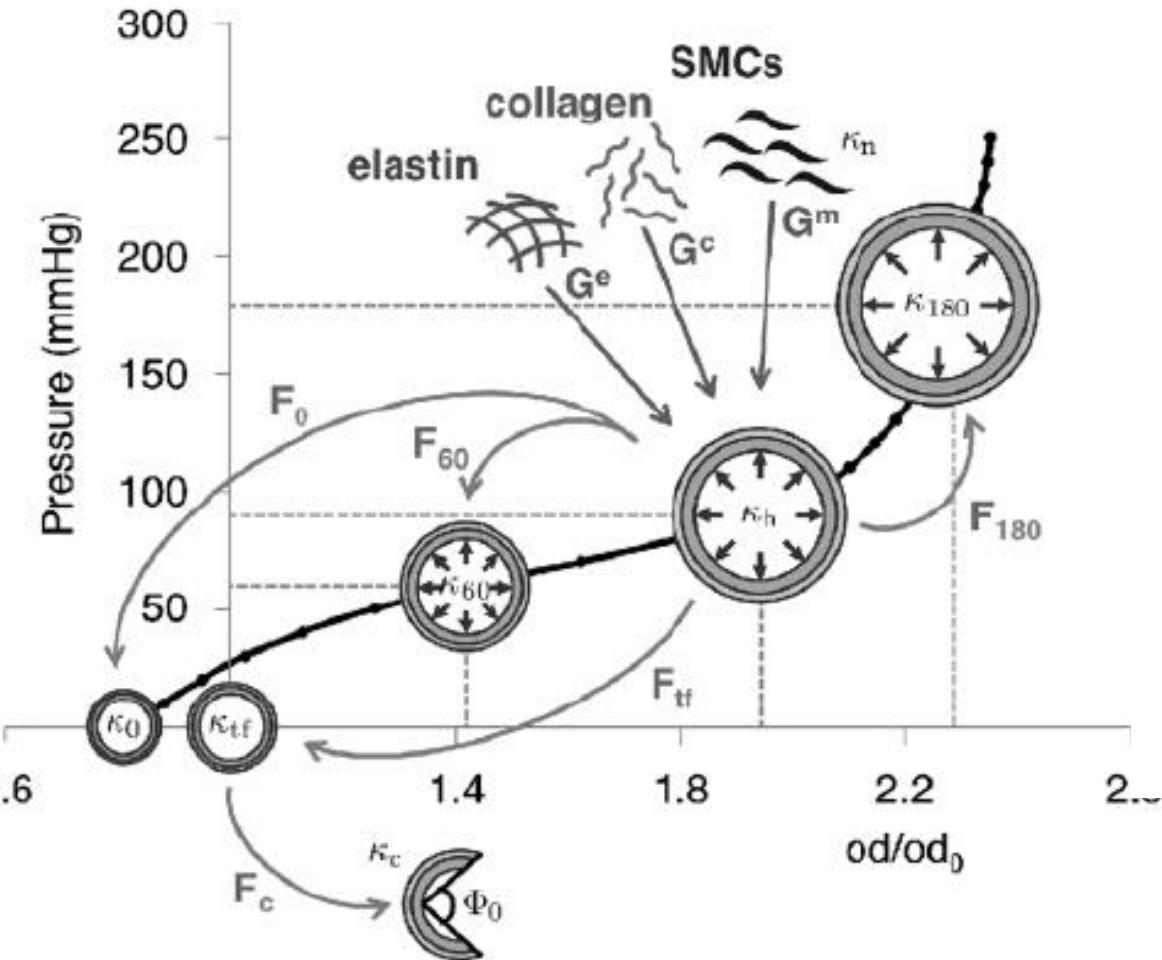
$$W^e(\mathbf{F}^e) = \frac{c^e}{2} \left[ \text{tr}((\mathbf{F}^e)^T \mathbf{F}^e) - 3 \right]$$

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

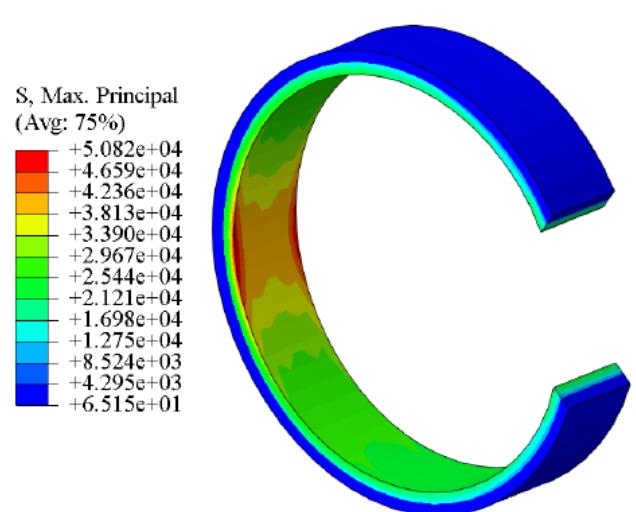
$$W^{c_j}(\lambda^{c_j}) = \frac{c_2^c}{4c_3^c} \left[ e^{c_3^c ((\lambda^{c_j})^2 - 1)} - 1 \right]$$



# CONSTITUTIVE MODEL



FE implementation



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

UNIZAR - 21st Dec 2016

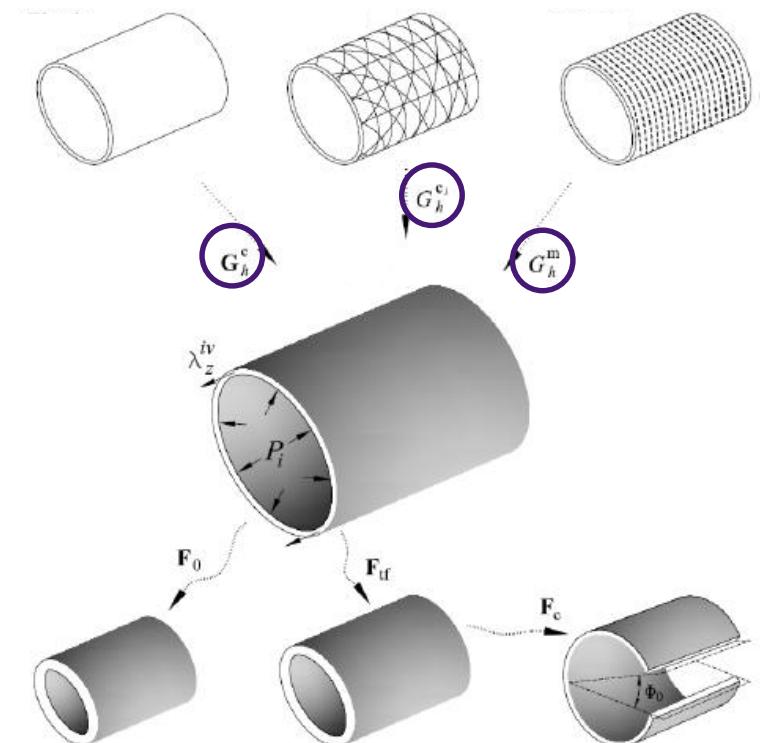
# PARAMETERS TO BE IDENTIFIED

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

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

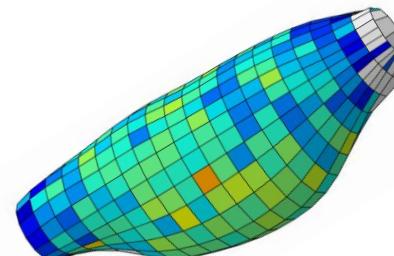
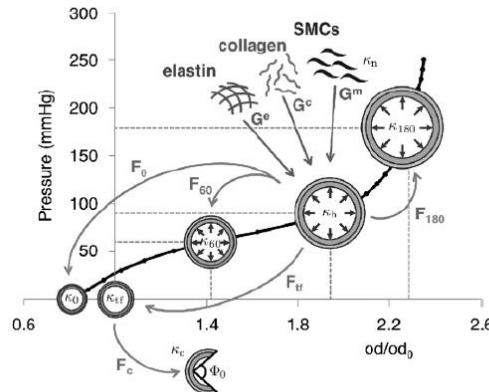
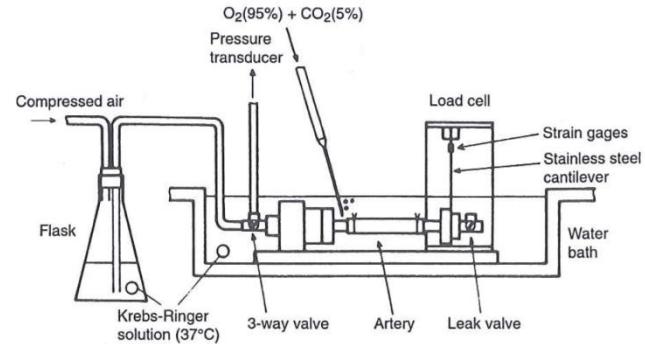
$$W^m(\lambda^m) = \frac{c^m_2}{4c^m_3} \left[ e^{\frac{c^m_2}{c^m_3}} (\lambda^m)^2 - 1 \right]^2 - 1$$

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

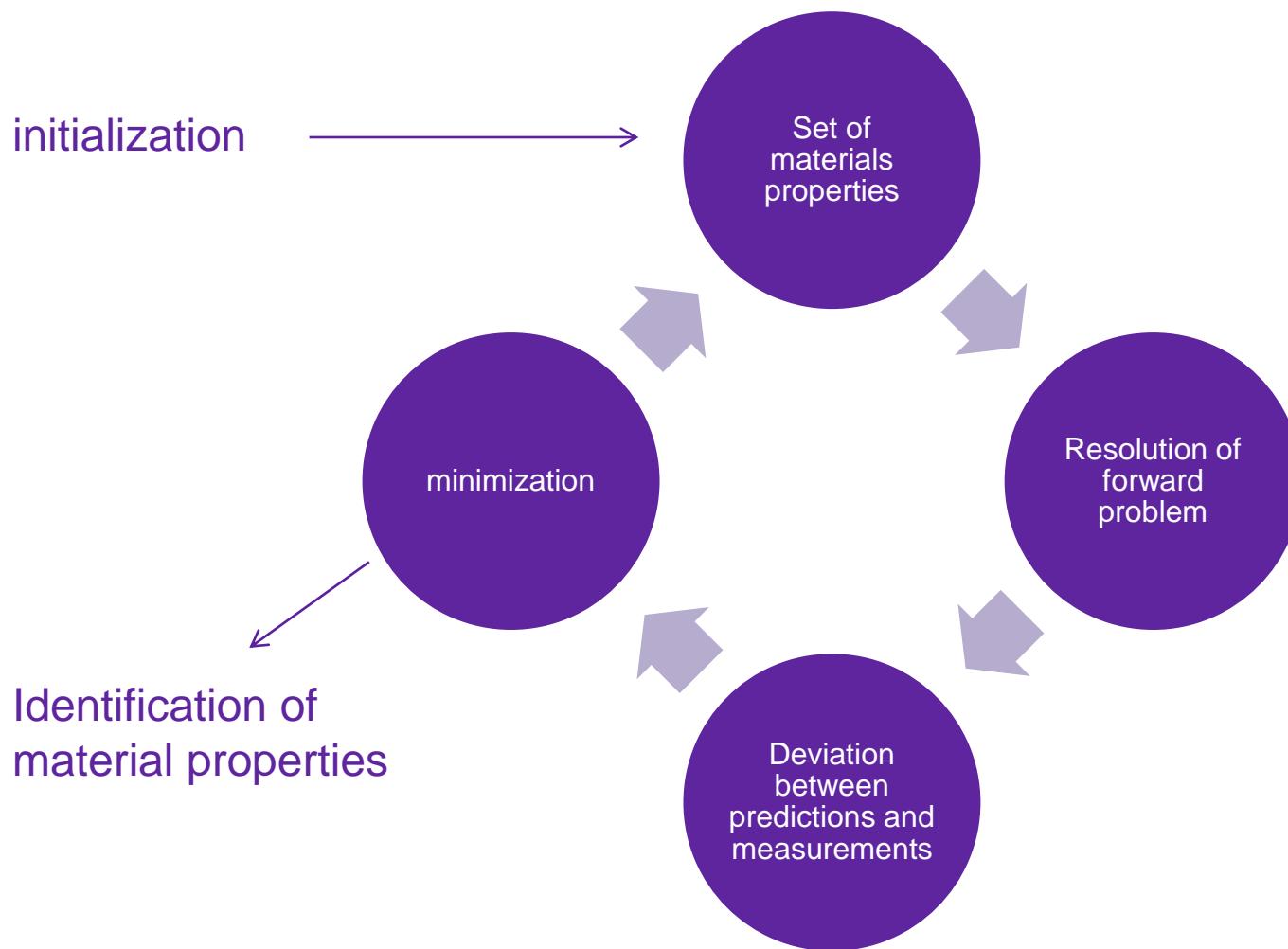


# APPROACH

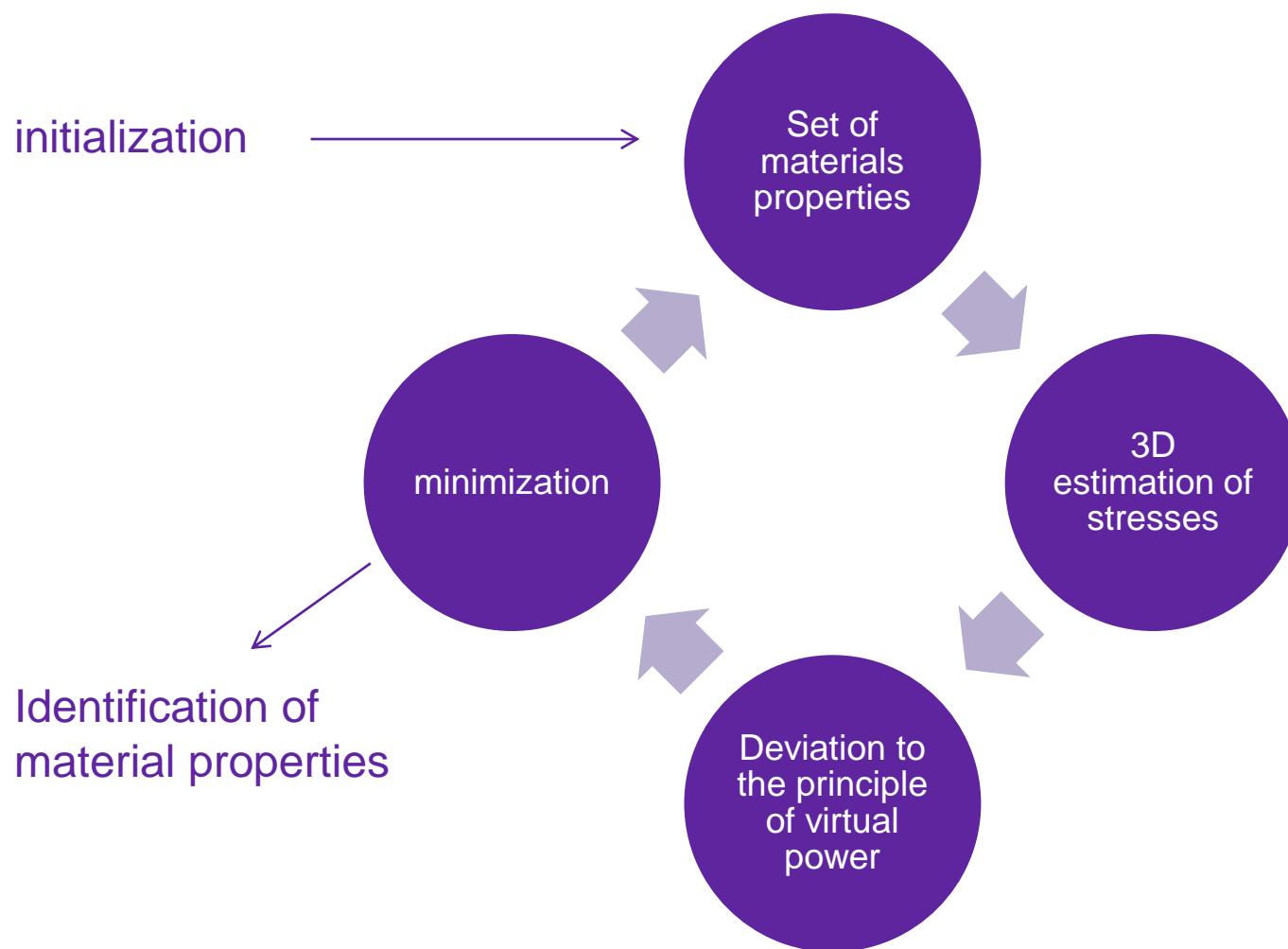
1. Experiments
2. Material model
3. Inverse method



# Inverse approach – traditional approach

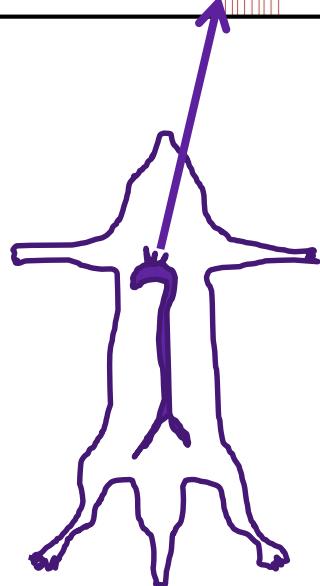
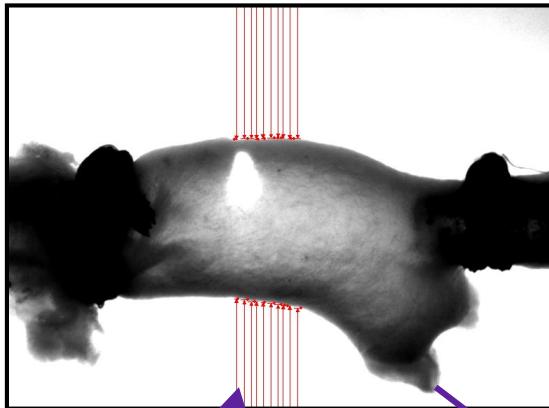


# The virtual fields method

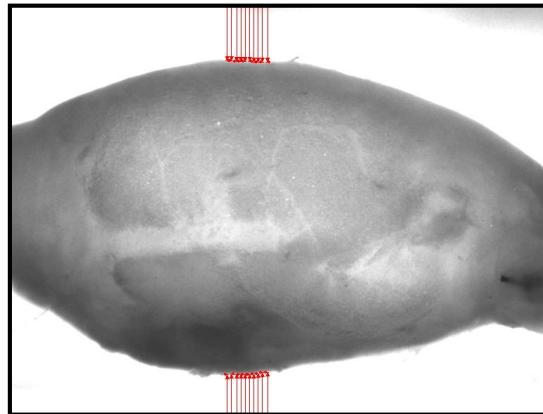


# Results

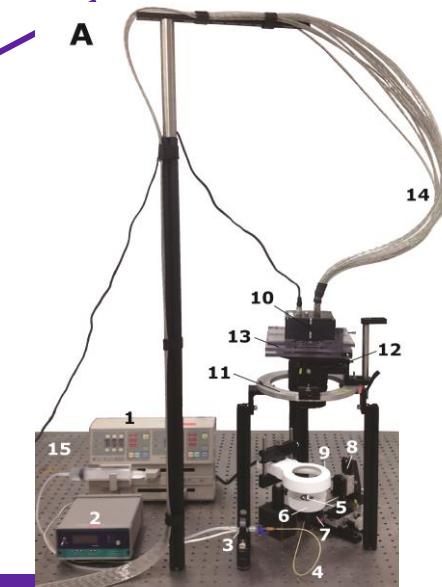
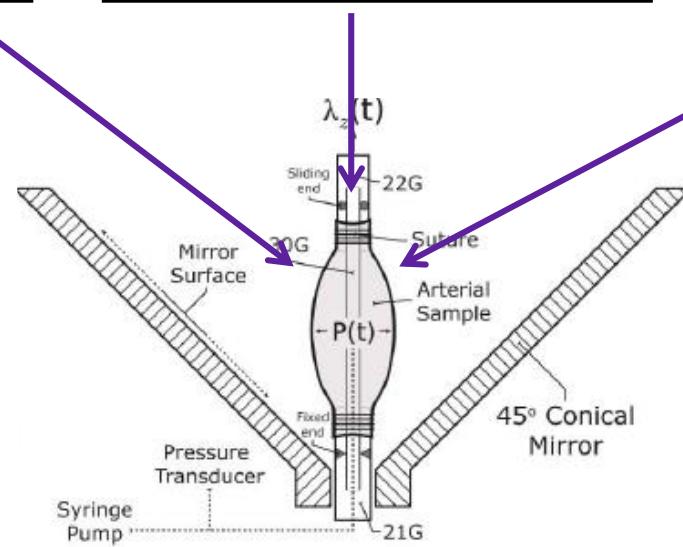
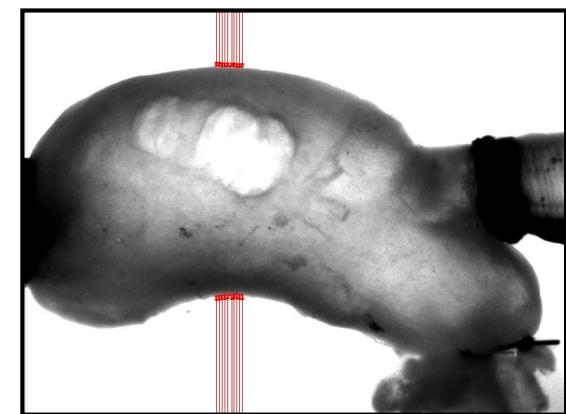
Control



Fibulin 4 SMC KO



Fibrillin 1  $mgR/mgR$



# pDIC measurements



## Fibulin 4 SMC KO

*ventral*      *dorsal*      *inflation*



*inflation*

$$\lambda_z^{iv} = 1.31$$
$$OD_{max} = 3.62 \text{ mm}$$

6852

CS38

## Fibrillin 1 $mgR/mgR$

*ventral*      *dorsal*      *inflation*



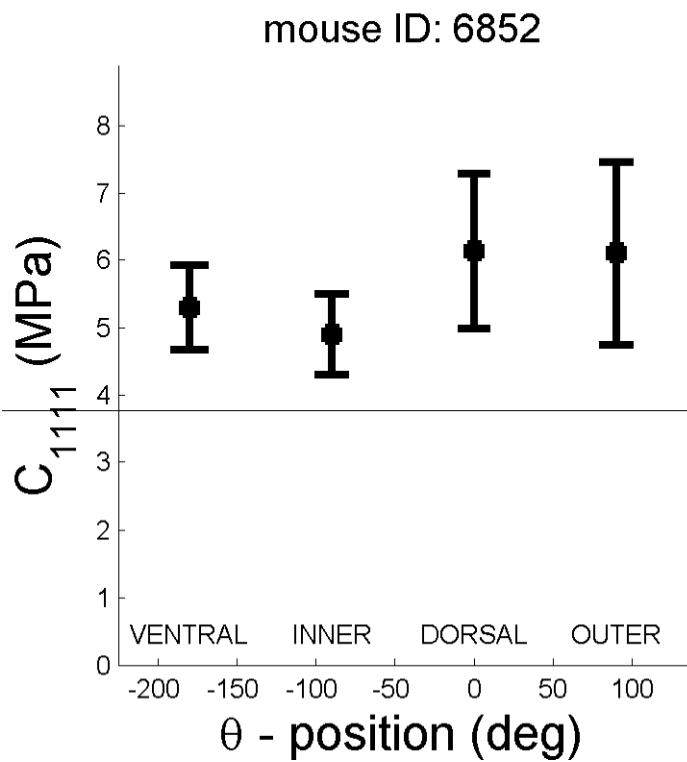
$$\lambda_z^{iv} = 1.43$$

$$OD_{max} = 2.93 \text{ mm}$$

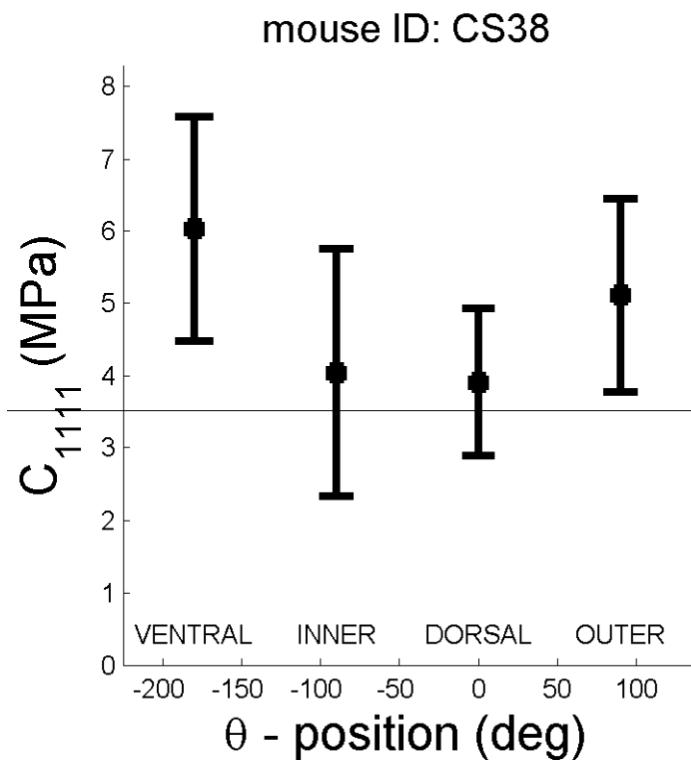
# Full-Field Material Parameter Estimation

- Circumferential linearized stiffness (@  $\lambda_z^{iv}$  and 100 mmHg)

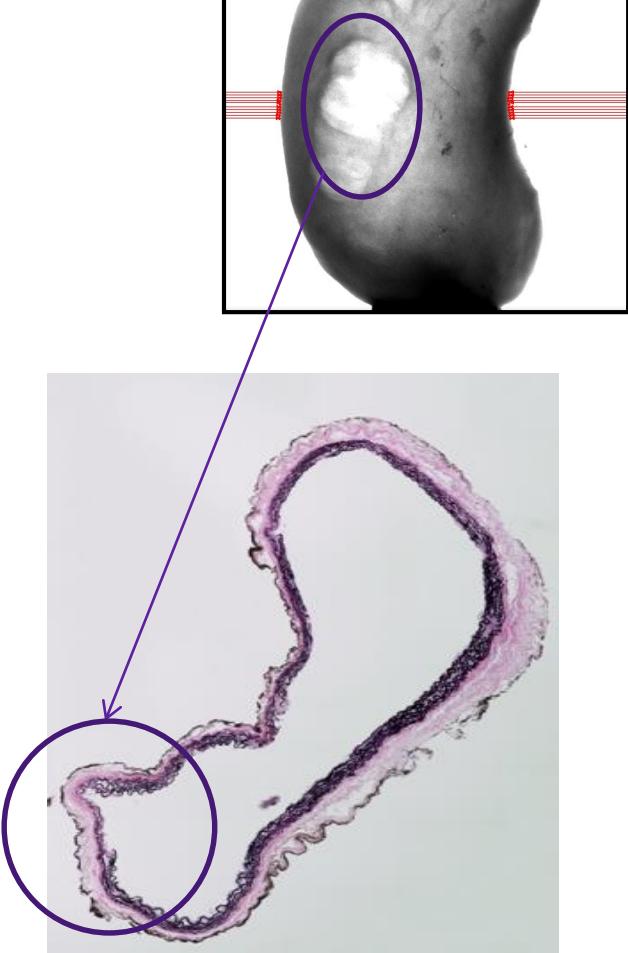
Fibulin 4 SMC KO



Fibrillin 1 mgR/mgR

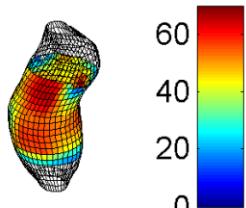


# Heterogeneity of the strain energy

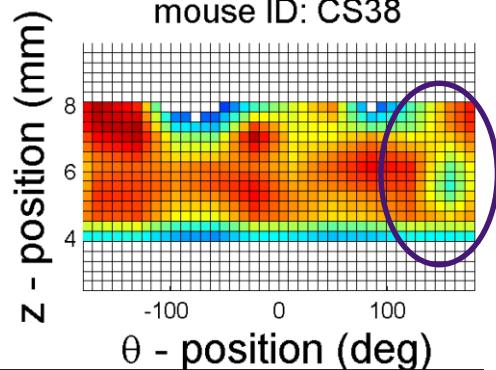


Fibrillin 1  $mgR/mgR$

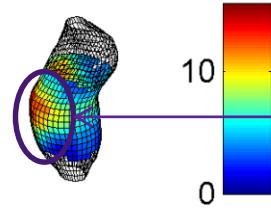
W80 (kPa)



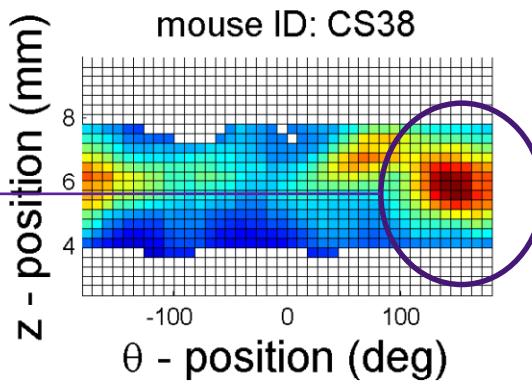
mouse ID: CS38



$C_{1111}$  (MPa)



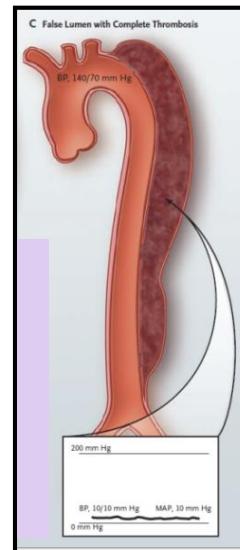
mouse ID: CS38



# FUTURE WORK



Dissecting Aortic Aneurysm



## Aortic Dissection

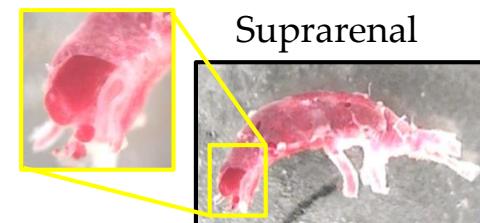
Descending Thoracic



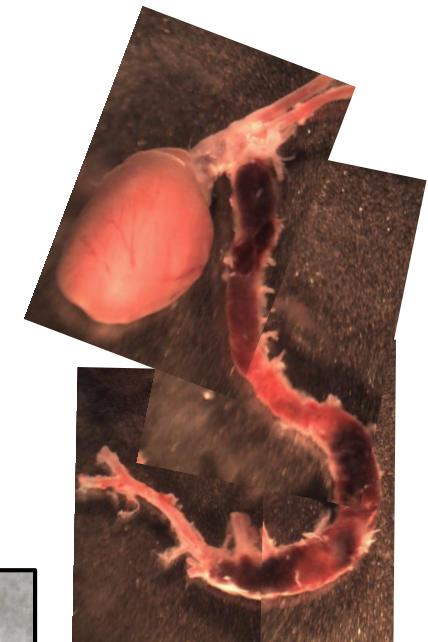
Anterior



Posterior

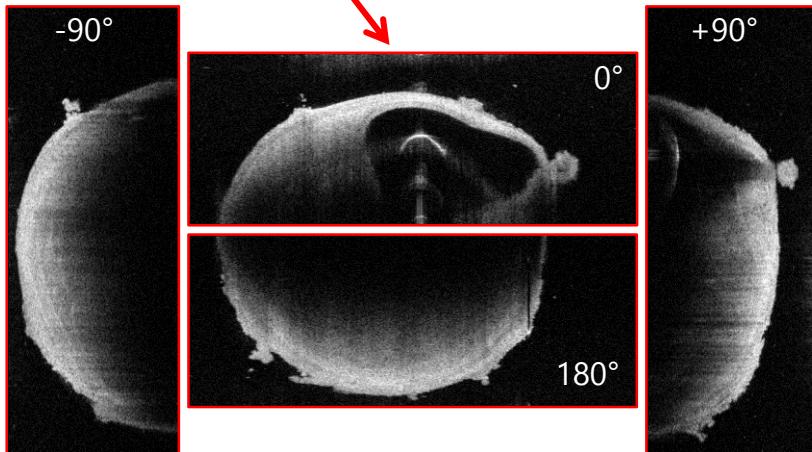
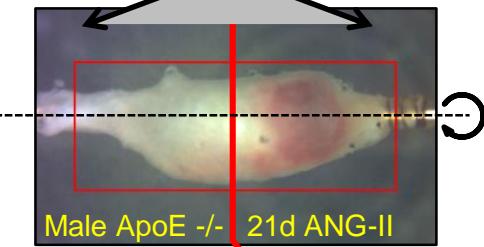
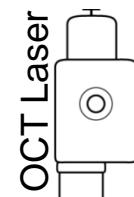


Suprarenal



Intact Aorta

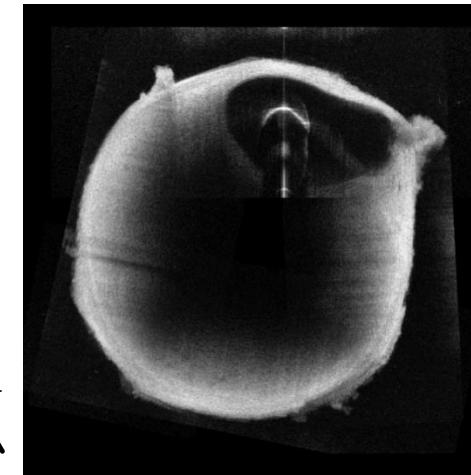
# FUTURE WORK



Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) data are available from the experiments

**Requires further developments of the inverse approach to be employed**

Merged Cross-Section



# Acknowledgements

- **Matthew R Bersi**
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