

# Multiscale mechanics of Aneurysms: what can biologists and clinicians learn from engineers?

Stéphane AVRIL

- Autonomic Nervous System Epidemiology, Physiology, Engineering, Health EA 4607

- Thrombosis Research Group, EA3065
- Interdisciplinary Aerosolized Nanoparticles Laboratory, EA 4624
- Laboratory of Integrative Biology of Bone Tissue  
INSERM U1059

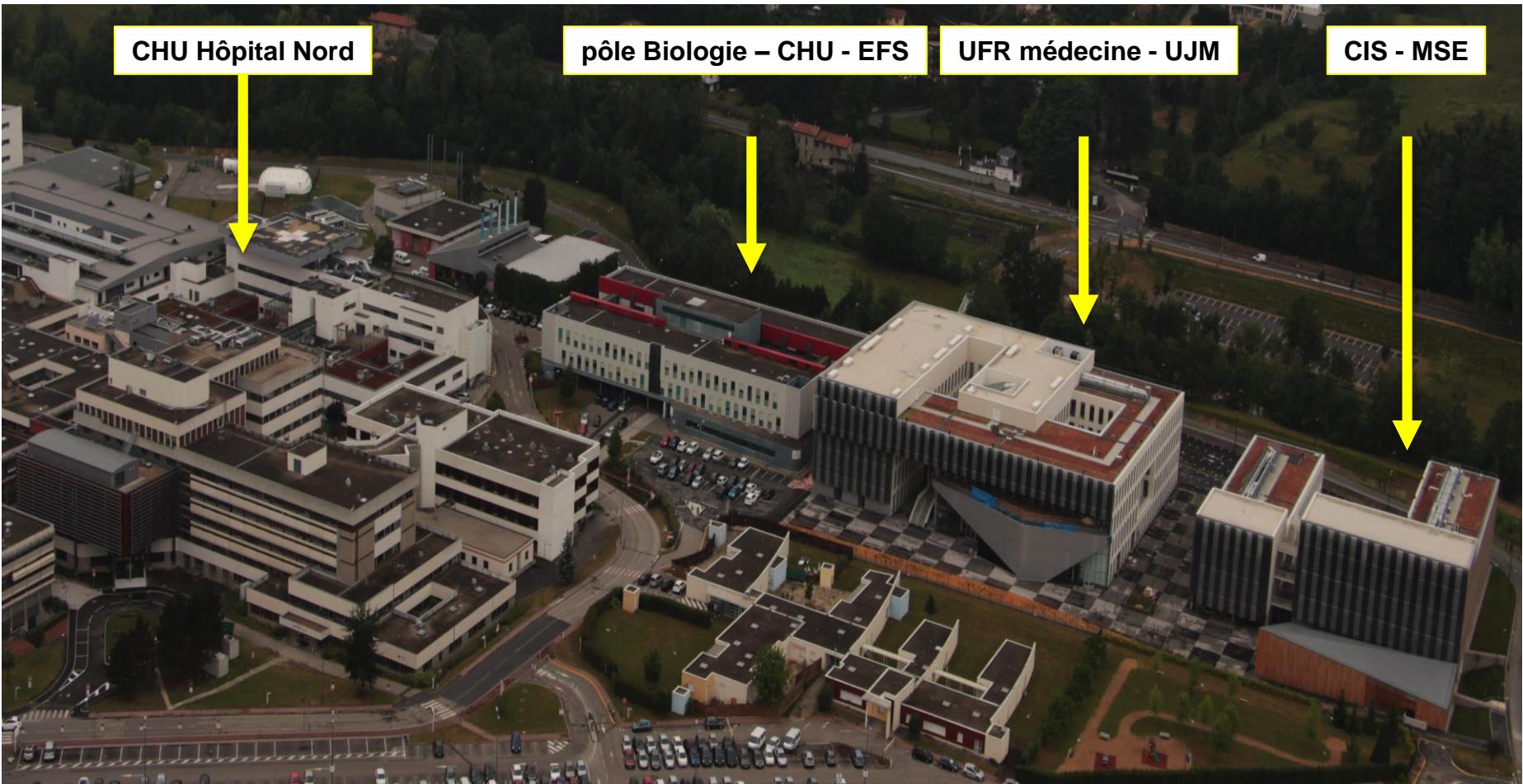
- Platelet Inflammatory response to stress



= 200 people

- Centre d'Investigation Clinique (CIC, INSERM)
- Clinical departments
- Biology
- Medical Imaging

« Where engineers, biologists and physicians meet together to improve health »



Since 2016 - 60 m€ from CPER and other public private sources

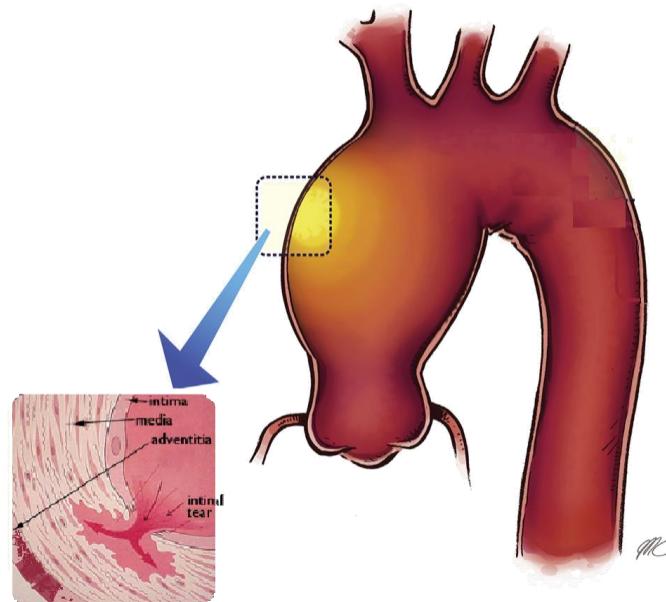
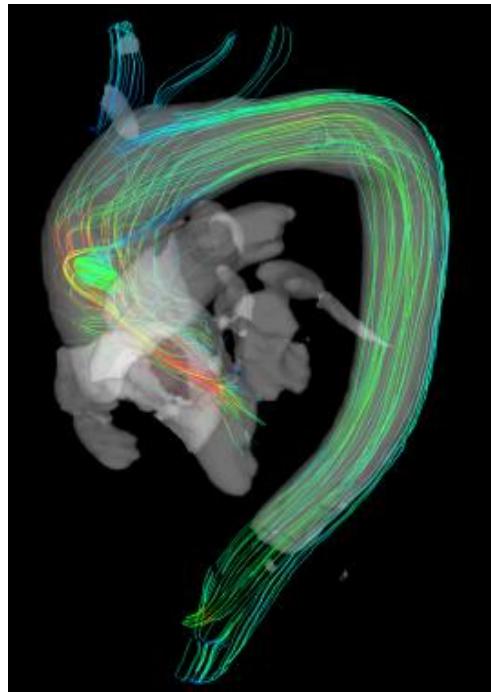
# BOOSTED BY THE DYNAMISM IN BIOTECH AND HEALTH OF THE LYON AREA



POLE des  
TECHNOLOGIES  
MEDICALES  
connecting expertise



# Aneurysms and Dissections of the aorta



**== Devastating complications!**

# OUTLINE

- PART I: Industrial applications of continuum mechanics models in cardiovascular medicine
- PART II: Coupling continuum mechanics models and biology to predict aortic aneurysm progression
- PART III: Towards continuum mechanics of tensional homeostasis down to the subcellular level

# OUTLINE

- ❑ PART I: Industrial applications of continuum mechanics models in cardiovascular medicine
- ❑ PART II: Coupling continuum mechanics models and biology to predict aortic aneurysm progression
- ❑ PART III: Towards continuum mechanics of tensional homeostasis down to the subcellular level

# Continuum mechanics can predict health!! It even enables decisions everyday in healthcare combined with ROM and AI



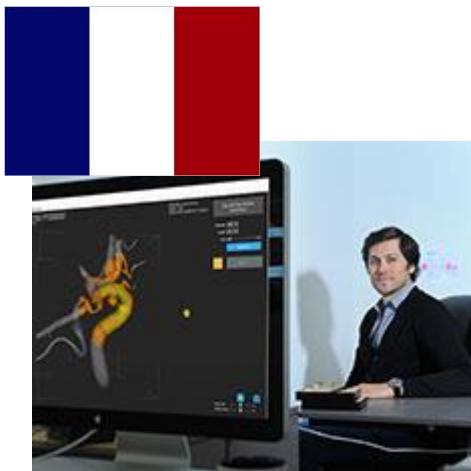
**2014:** FDA allows marketing of HeartFlow vFFR-CT tool for optimal treatment of coronary stenosis

Gaus S, et al, JCCT 2013, 7(5):279-88.



**2019:** FEops HEARTguide in silico tool for planning transcatheter aortic valve implantation is CE-marked

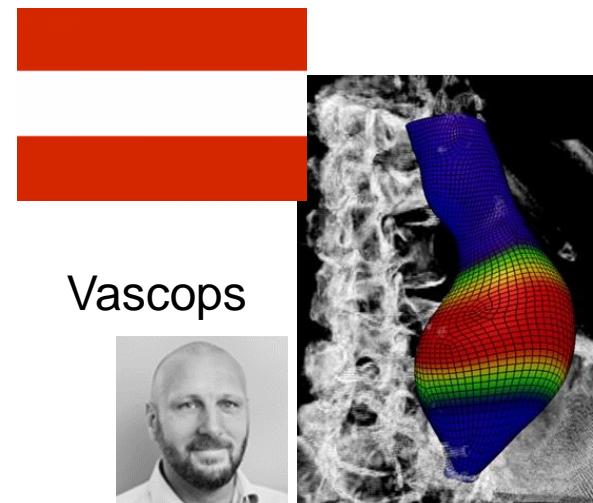
El Faquir N, et al Int J Cardiov Img 2019



**2014:** Sim&Cure



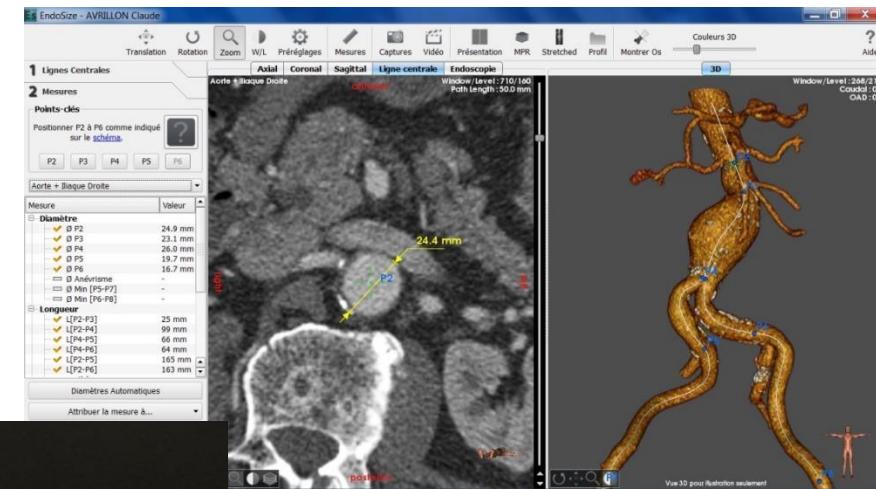
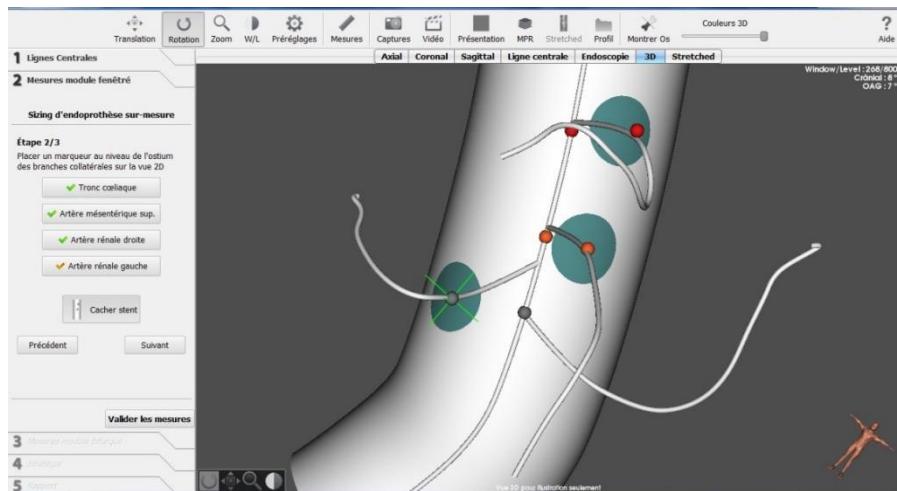
**2017: Predisurge**  
Derycke, et al Circulation Img 2021



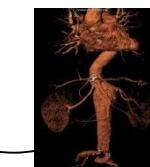
Vascops



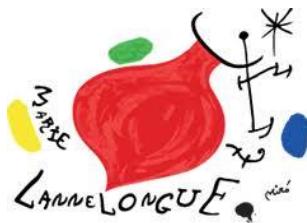
# Planification / sizing of fenestrated stent grafts in EVAR procedures



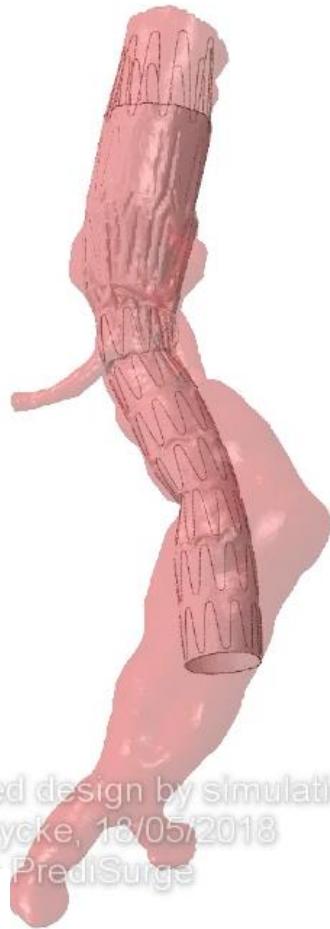
 **PrediSurge**



# Clinically validated for FEVAR Zenith® Cook Medical

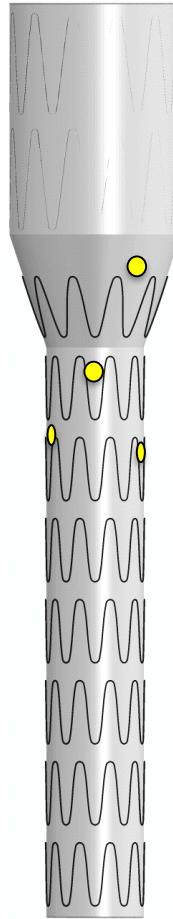
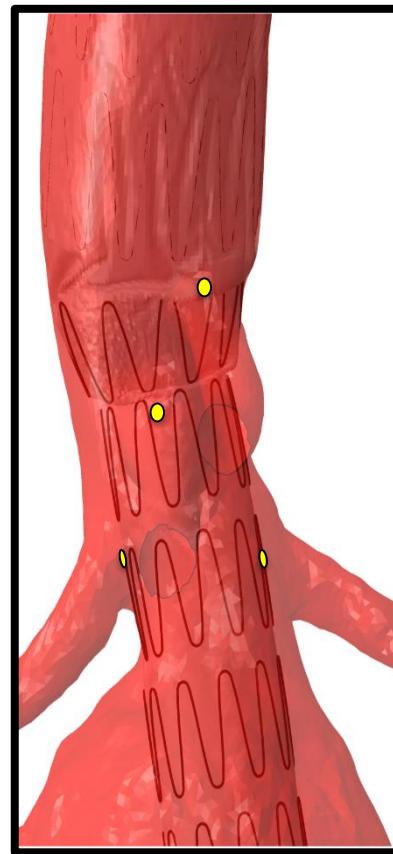


ALBERT CHENEVIER - JOFFRE-DUPUTREY  
ÉMILE ROUX - GEORGES CLEMENCEAU



© Cook fenestrated design by simulation  
Lucie Derycke, 18/05/2018  
www.PrediSurge.com

 **PrediSurge**



# OPEN QUESTIONS I AM INTERESTED IN

- Understand and explain the role of mechanics in the progression of cardiovascular diseases
- Simulate the progression of cardiovascular diseases using patient-specific computational models
- Develop predictive models of mechano-regulation by vascular cells in arteries

# OUTLINE

- ❑ PART I: Industrial applications of continuum mechanics models in cardiovascular medicine
- ❑ PART II: **Coupling continuum mechanics models and biology to predict aortic aneurysm progression**
- ❑ PART III: Towards continuum mechanics of tensional homeostasis down to the subcellular level

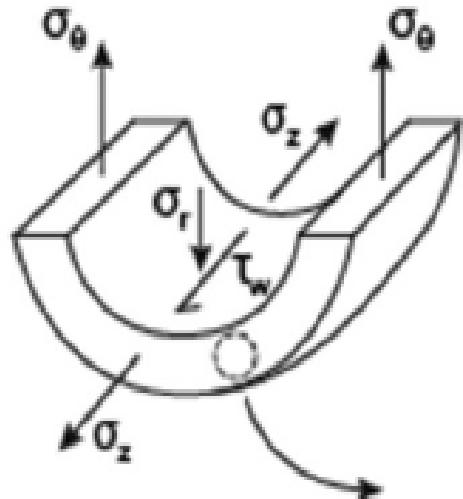
# From Complexity Comes Simplicity

- Nonlinear Material Properties and Large Strain
- Anisotropy (circumferential muscle, axial collagen)
- Residual Stresses
- Smooth Muscle Activation
- Heterogeneity (functionally graded)

→ MECHANOREGULATION

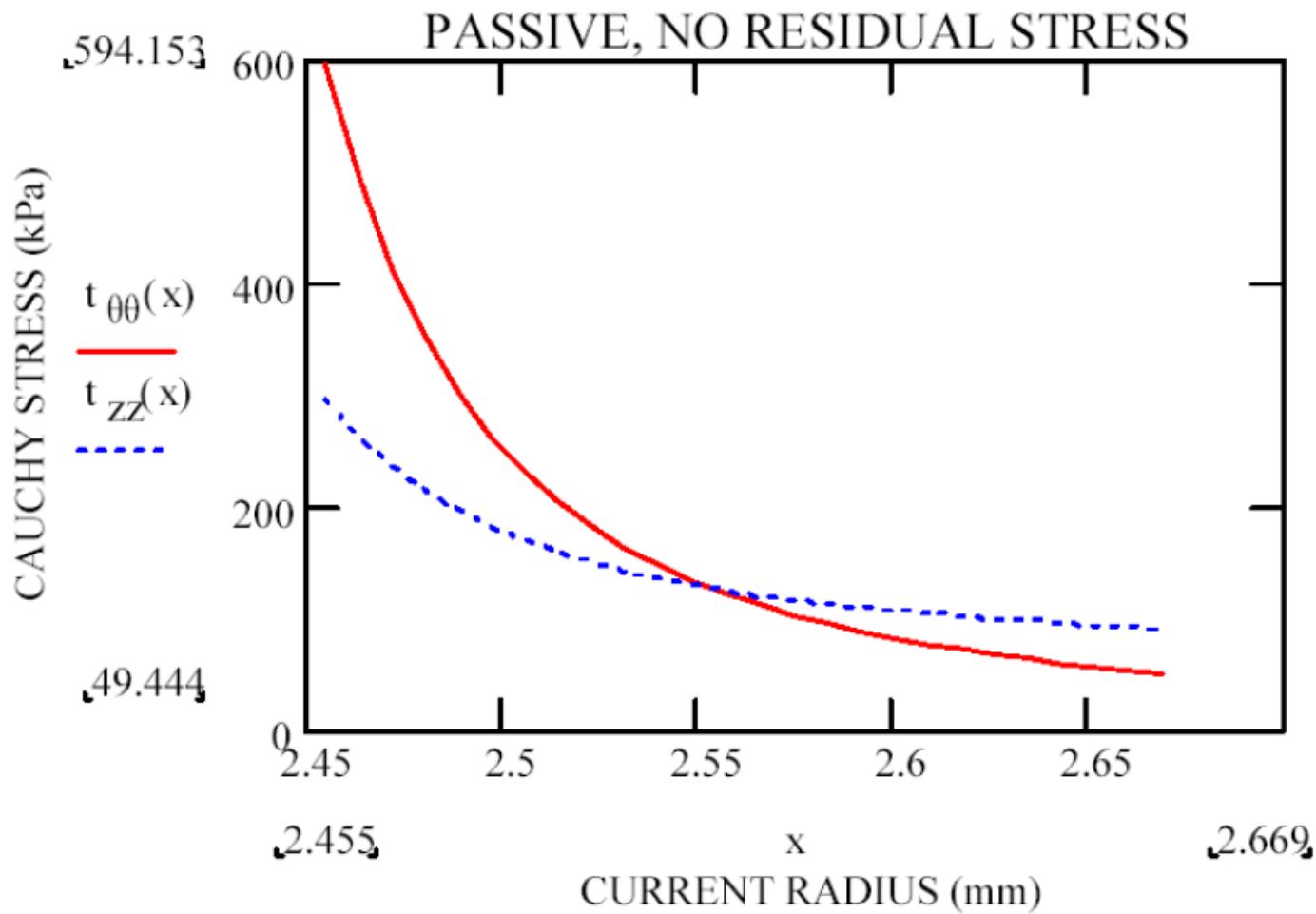
# Early Stress Analyses (~1979)

$$\mathbf{t} = -p\mathbf{I} + \frac{1}{2}ce^Q \mathbf{F} \cdot \frac{\partial Q}{\partial \mathbf{E}} \cdot \mathbf{F}^T \quad \text{div } \mathbf{t} = 0$$



$$\mathbf{F} = \text{diag} \left[ \frac{\partial r}{\partial R}, \frac{r}{R}, \dots, \lambda \Lambda \right]$$

# Early Stress Analyses ( $\sim 1979$ )

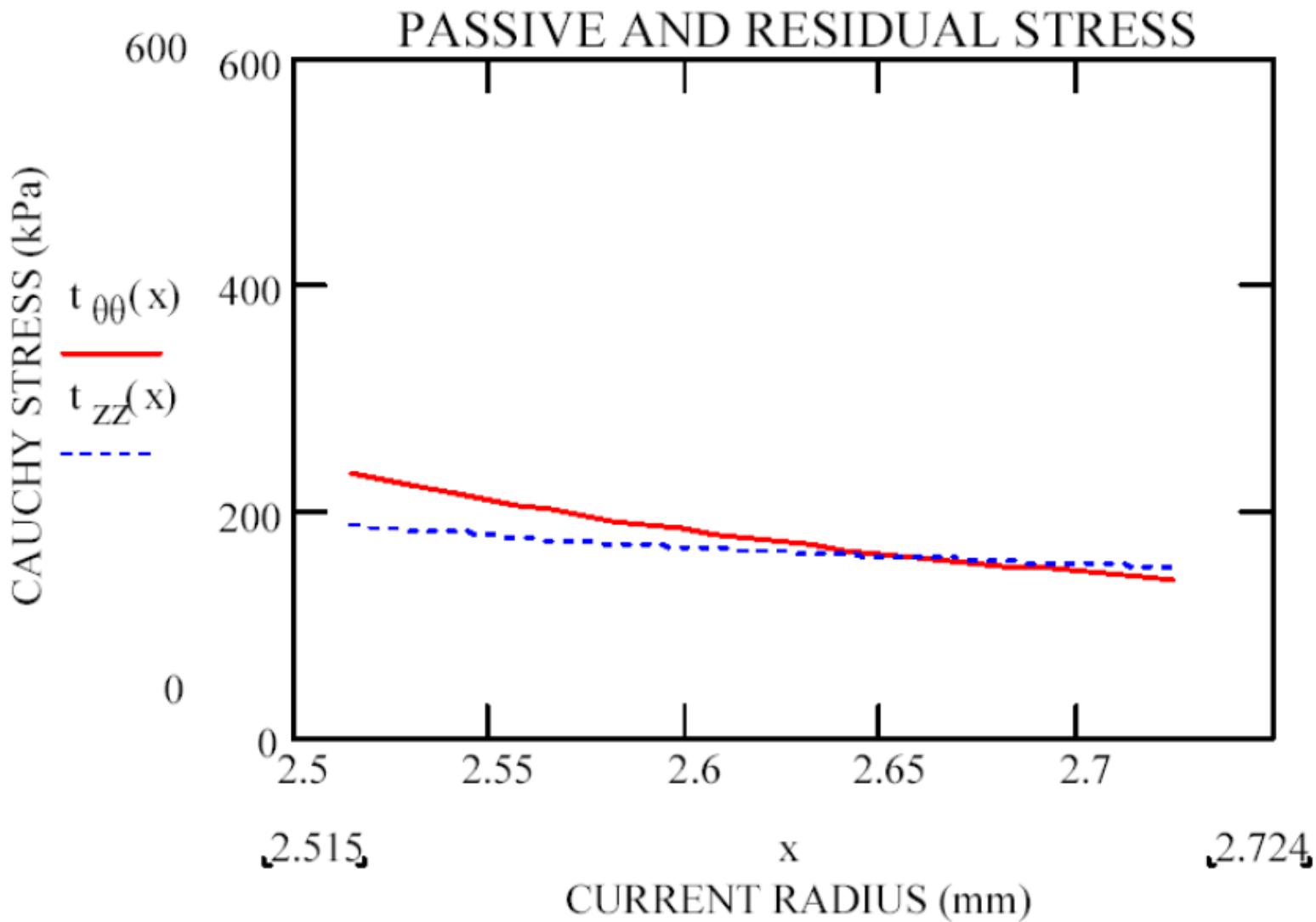


# Importance of Residual Stress (~1986)

$$\mathbf{t} = -p\mathbf{I} + \frac{1}{2}ce^Q \mathbf{F} \cdot \frac{\partial Q}{\partial \mathbf{E}} \cdot \mathbf{F}^T \quad \text{div } \mathbf{t} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{F} = \text{diag} \left[ \frac{\partial r}{\partial R}, \frac{r}{R}, \dots, \lambda \Lambda \right]$$

# Importance of Residual Stress (~1986)

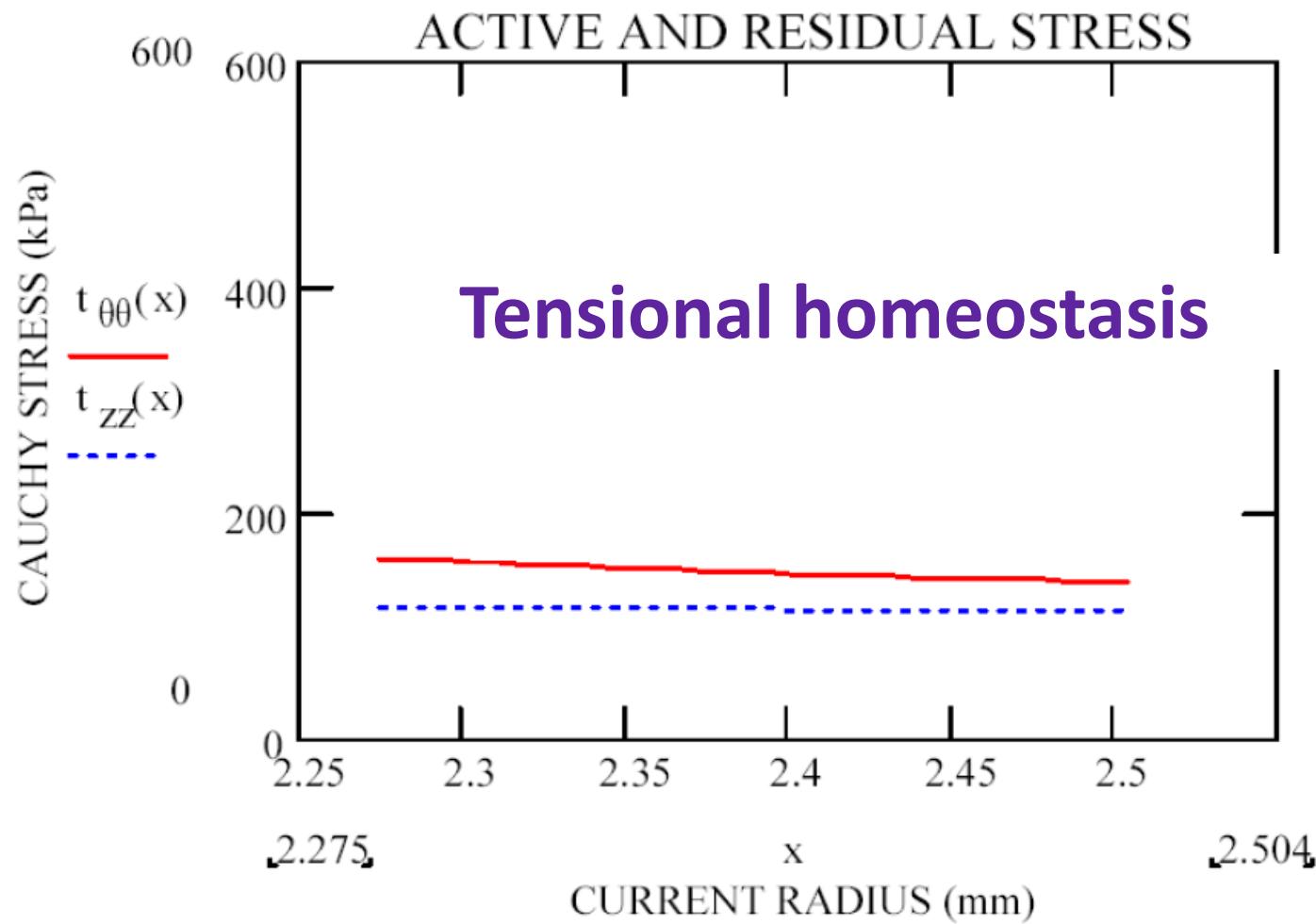


# Importance of Smooth Muscle (~1999)

$$\mathbf{t} = -p\mathbf{I} + \frac{1}{2}ce^Q \mathbf{F} \cdot \frac{\partial Q}{\partial \mathbf{E}} \cdot \mathbf{F}^T \quad \text{div } \mathbf{t} = 0$$

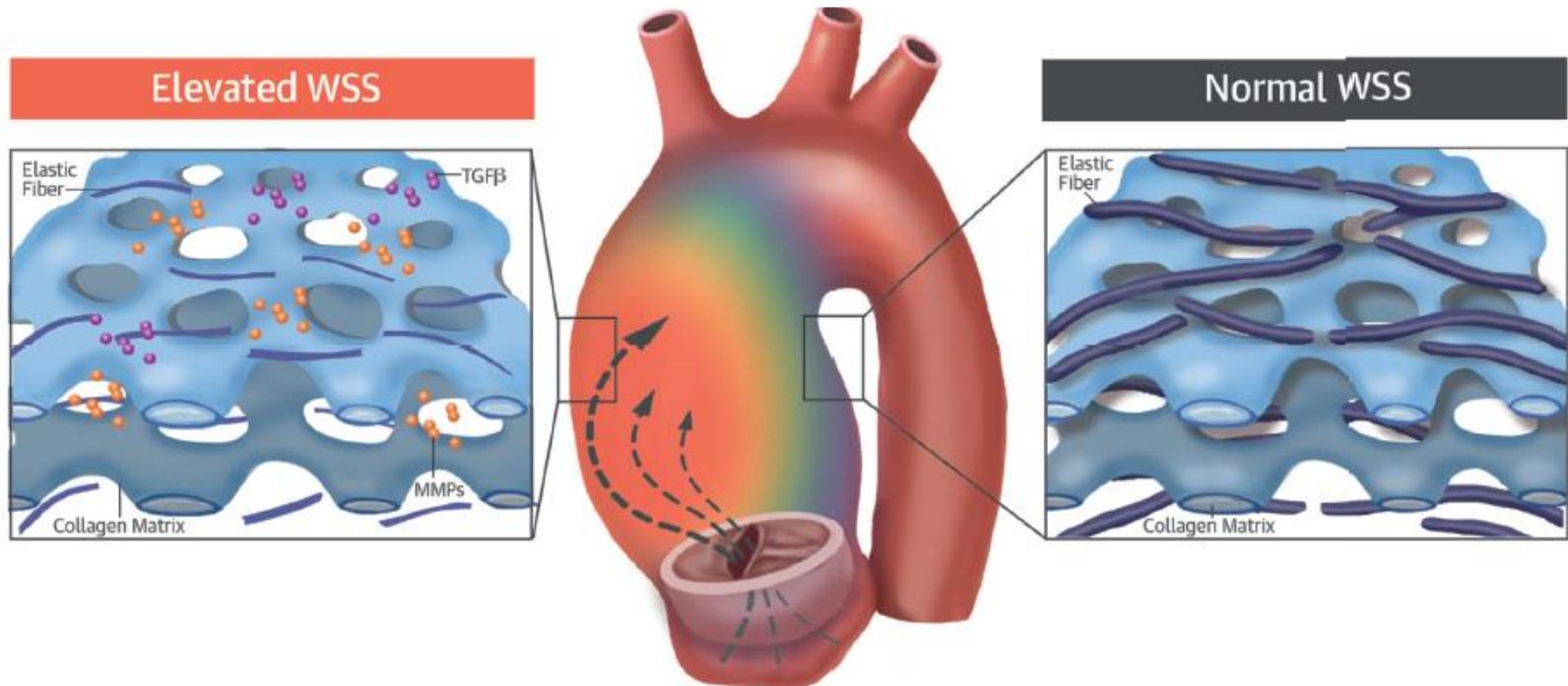
$$\mathbf{F} = \text{diag} \left[ \frac{\partial r}{\partial R}, \frac{r\pi}{R\Theta_o}, \lambda\Lambda \right]$$

# Importance of Smooth Muscle (~1999)



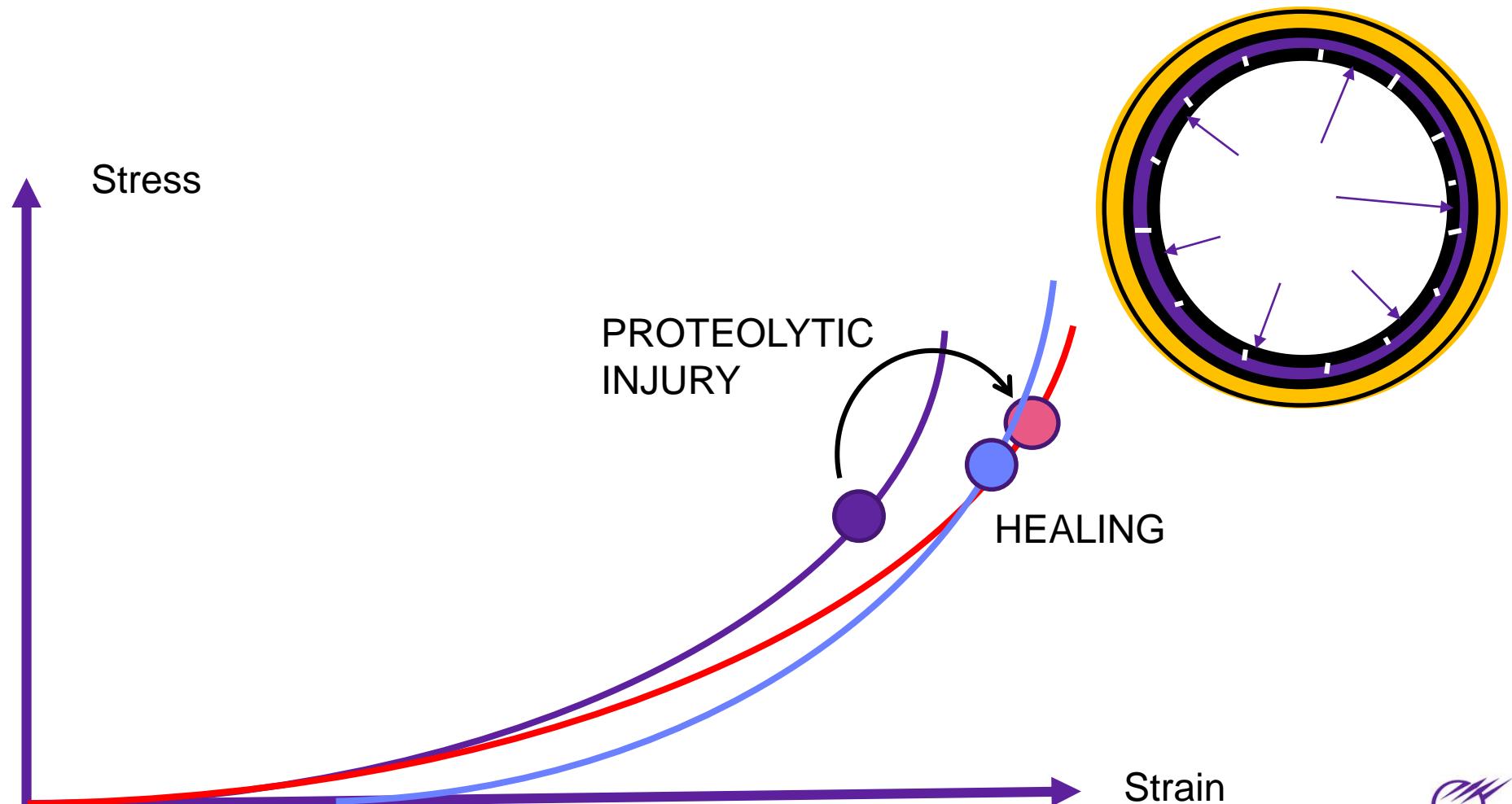
# Tensional homeostasis in ATAA?

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

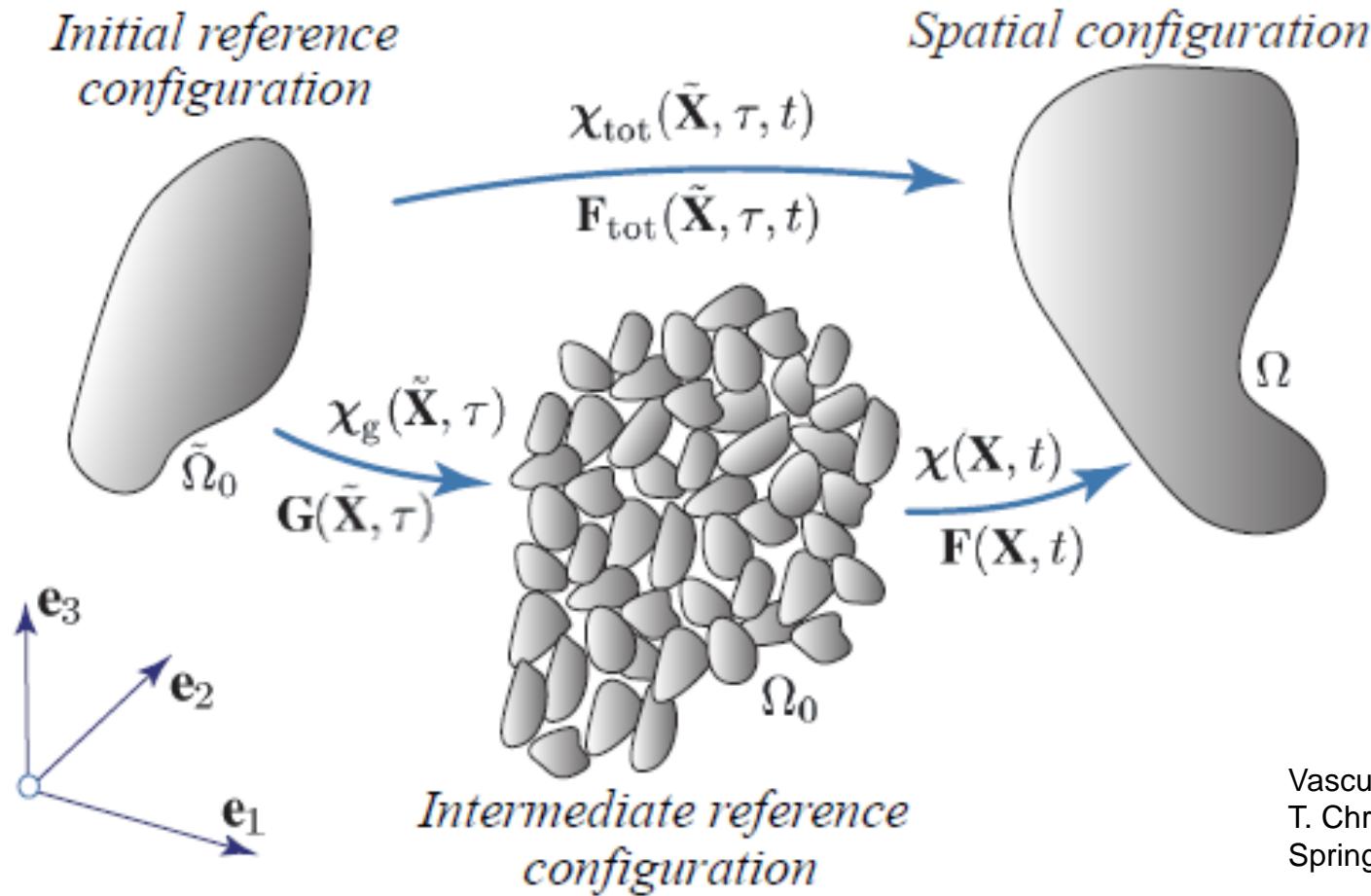


Guzzardi et al, JACC (2014), Condemi et al, IEEE TBME (2019)

# Proteolytic injury and tissue adaptation

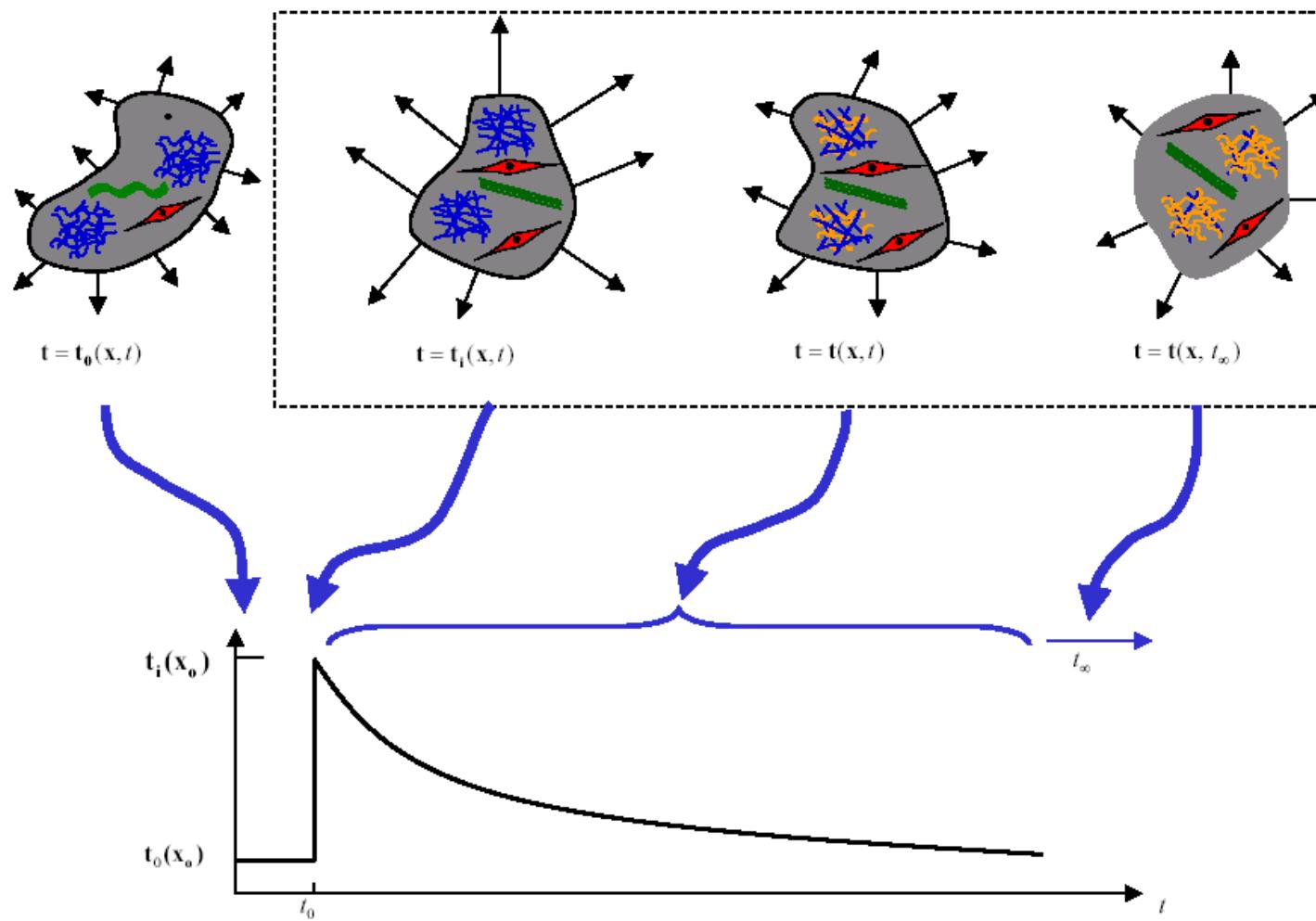


# Kinematics-based growth description



Vascular Biomechanics  
T. Christian Gasser  
Springer

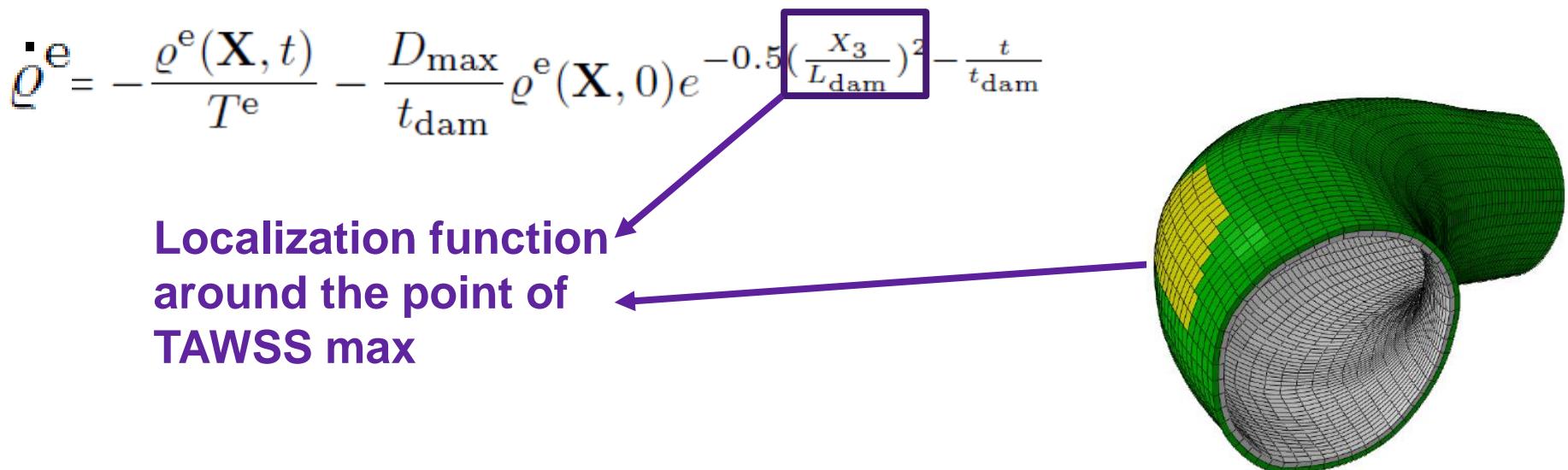
# Constrained mixture models



# Finite-element simulations

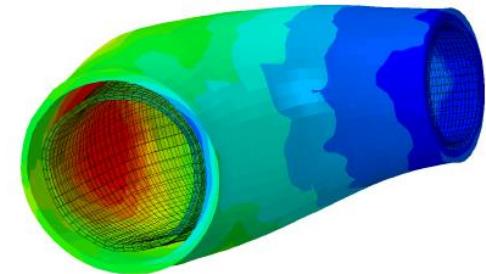
Growth and remodeling of a two-layer patient-specific human ATAA due to elastin loss

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



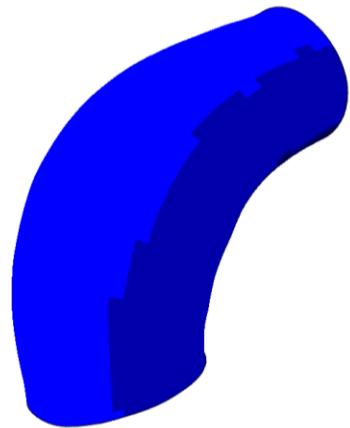
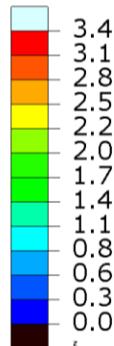
# Patient-specific predictions

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

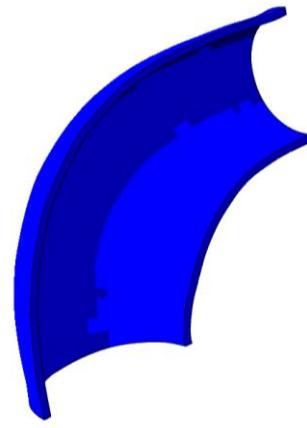
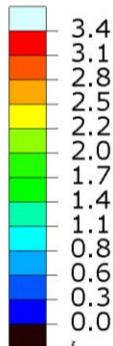


Small growth parameter

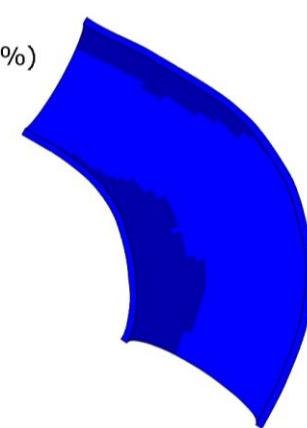
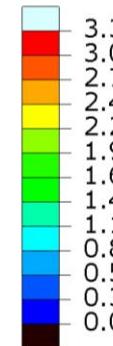
SDV69  
(Avg: 75%)



SDV69  
(Avg: 75%)



SDV69  
(Avg: 75%)



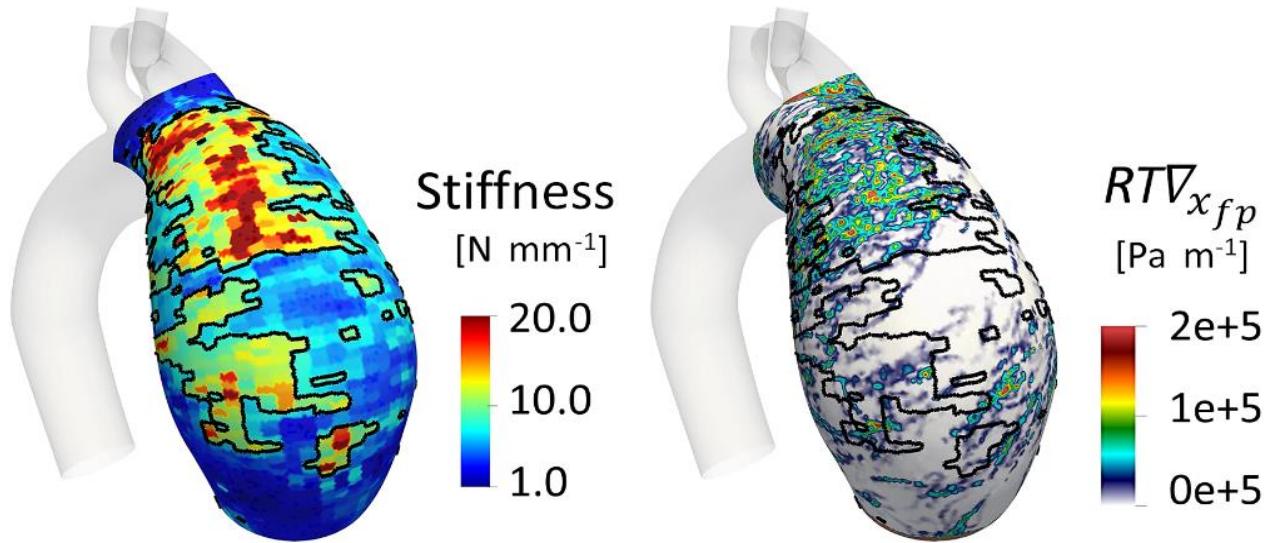
Normalized Thickness

Mousavi et al, BMMB (2019)

avril@emse.fr

Stéphane Avril - 2021 Sept 1 - TU Graz

# Some patients show local stiffness increase correlated with local hemodynamics



De Nisco, G., ... & Morbiducci, U. (2020). Medical Engineering & Physics, 82, 119-129.



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

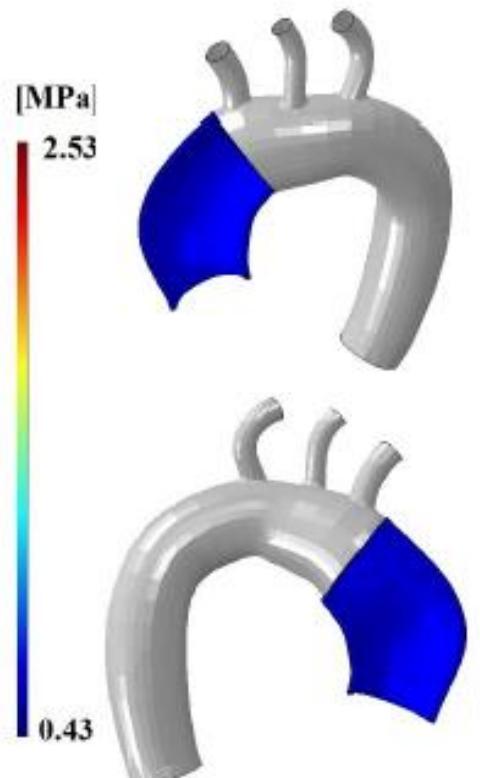


# Patient-specific vascular adaptation

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

$$\chi = 1$$

Tangent  
stiffness  
after  
10 years

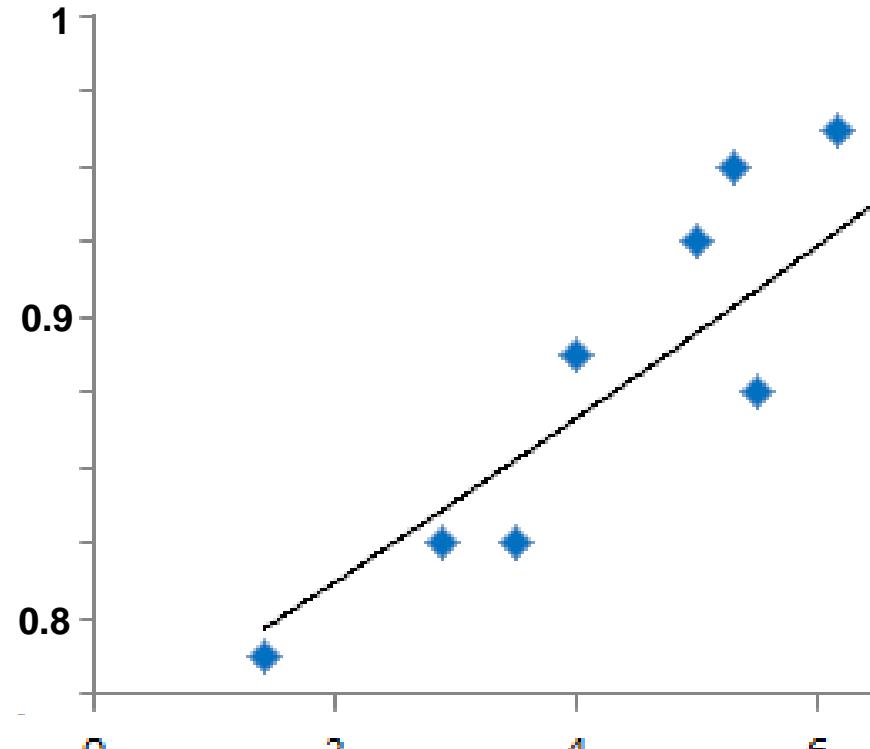


$$\dot{\varrho}^j(t) = \varrho^j(t) k_\sigma^j \frac{\sigma^j(t) - \chi * \sigma_h^j}{\chi * \sigma_h^j}$$

# TOWARDS IMPROVED PROGNOSIS: AUGMENTED MEDICAL IMAGING

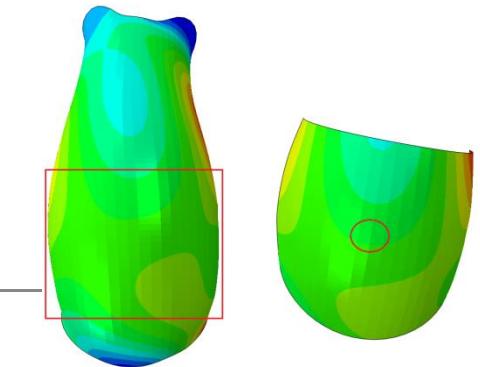
The maintenance of tensional homeostasis in the tissue is critical

Stretch ratio



Stiffness [MPa.mm]

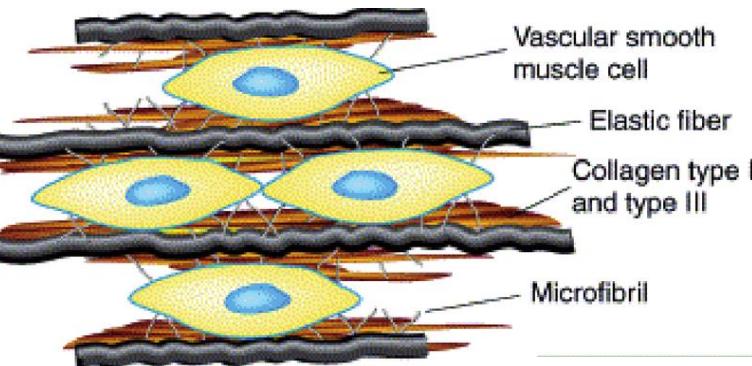
Farzaneh et al, ABME 2019



# OUTLINE

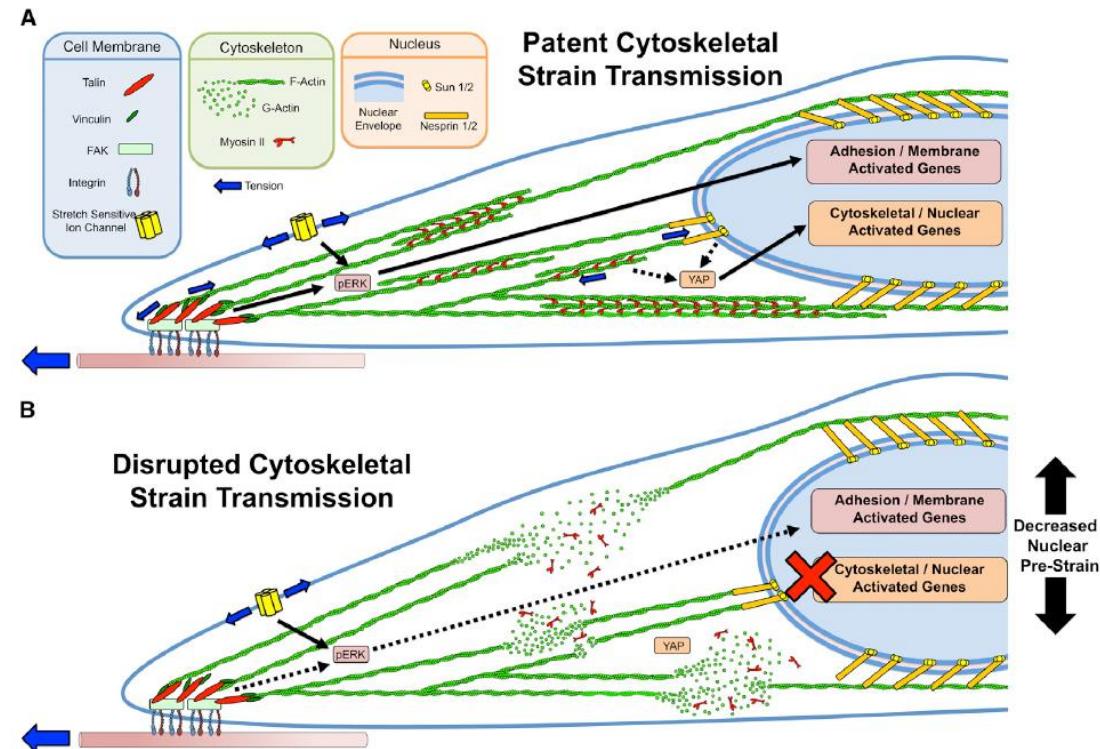
- PART I: Industrial applications of continuum mechanics models in cardiovascular medicine
- PART II: The need of combining data driven and continuum mechanics models in cardiovascular mechanobiology
- **PART III: Towards continuum mechanics of tensional homeostasis down to the subcellular level**

# Introduction to arterial and cell mechanobiology



**Major role of smooth muscle cells in mechanoregulation**

Driscoll et al, Biophysical Journal, 2015



# Primary SMC cultures

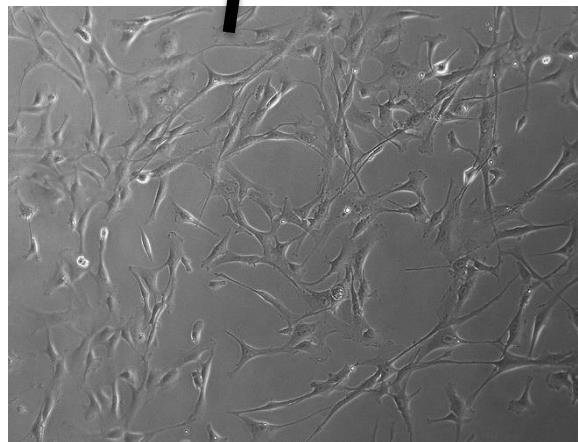
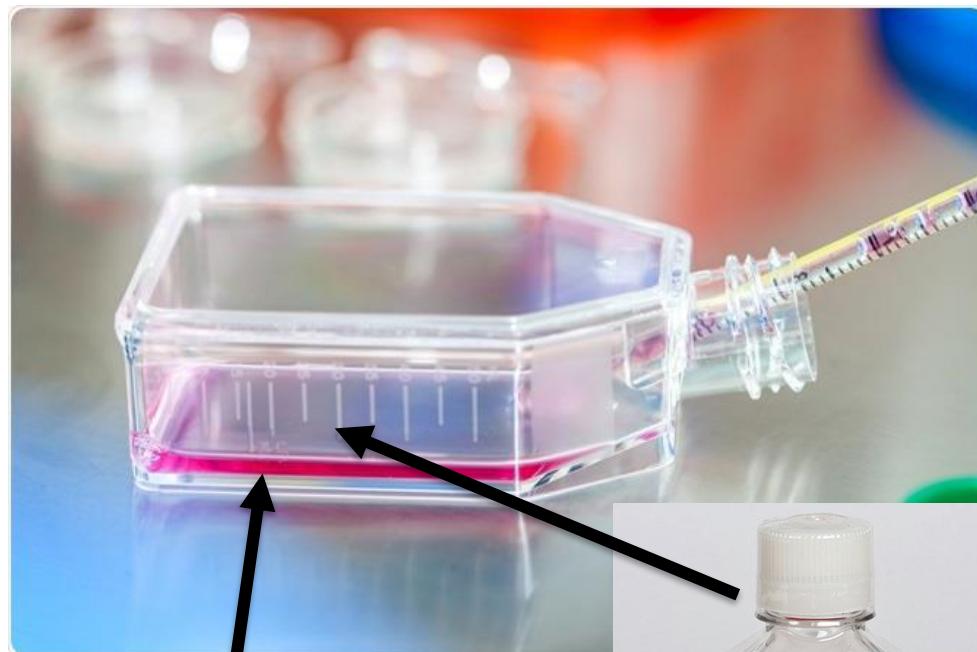
AoSMC lineage

Thawing

Growing  
(SmGM-2)

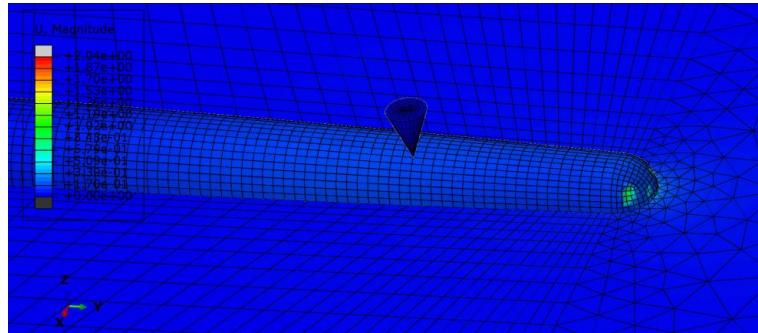
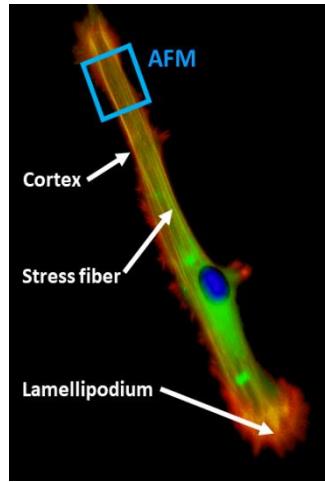
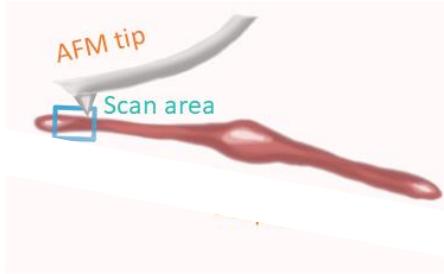
Differentiation  
(SmBM)

Sample  
preparation

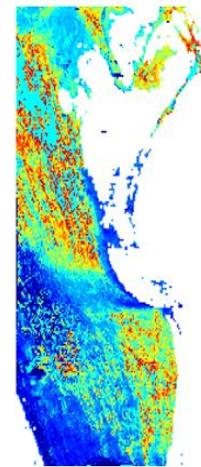


# AFM nanoindentation of the cytoskeleton

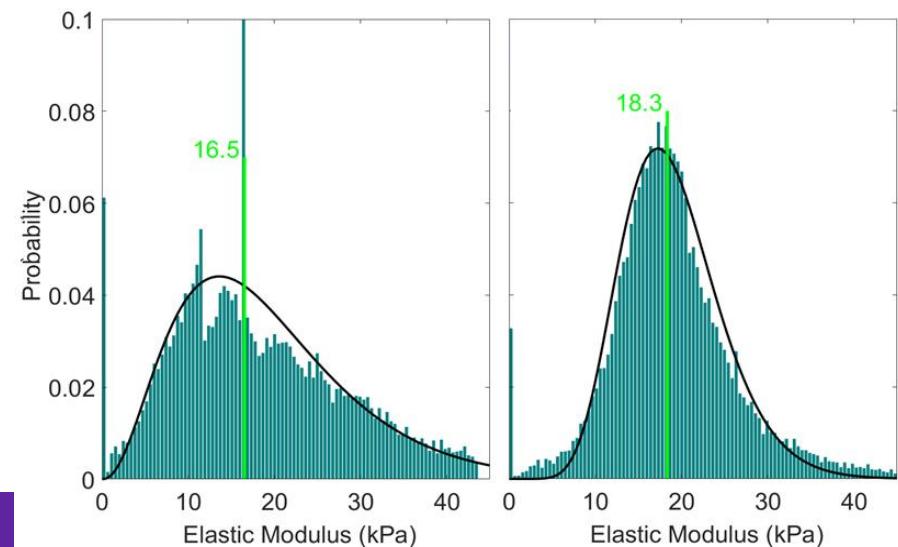
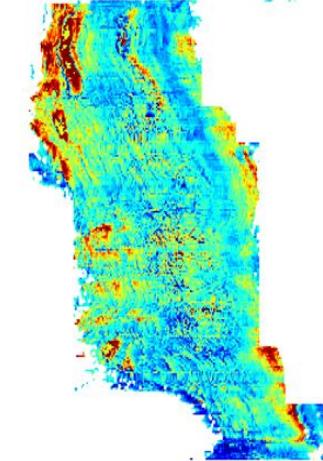
Petit et al, JBME, 2022



HEALTHY

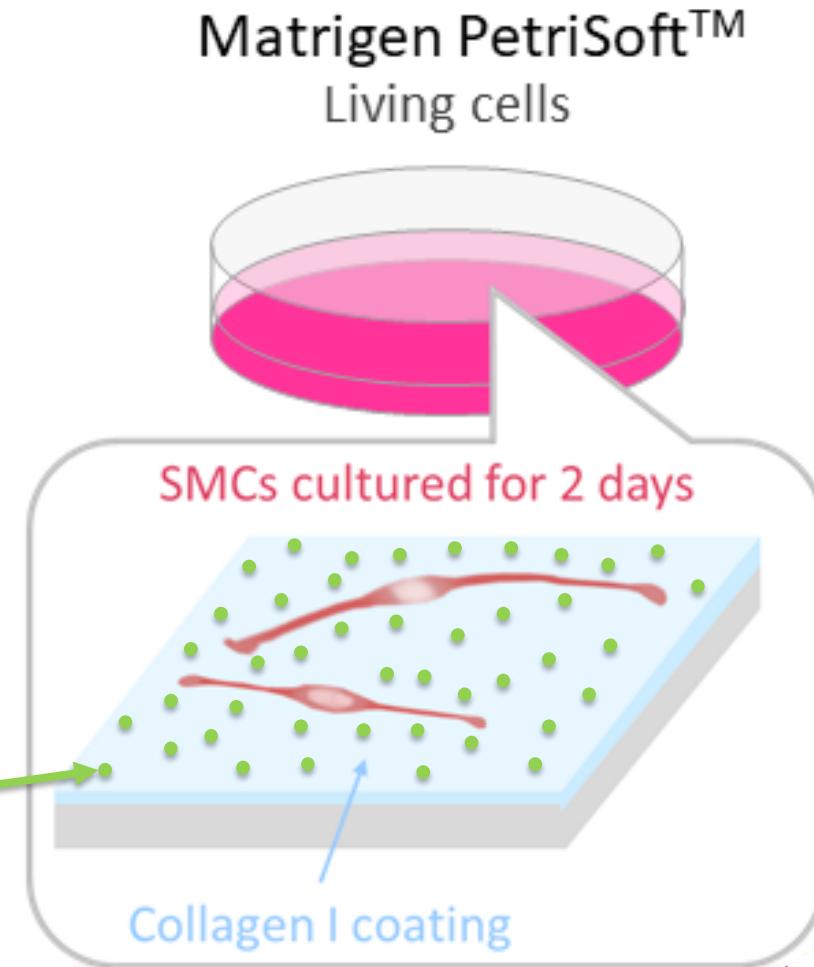
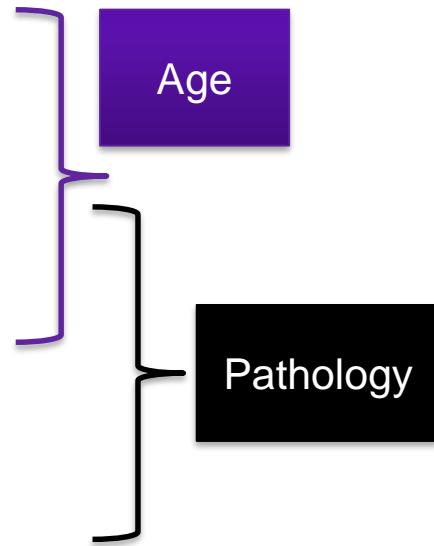


ANEURYSM

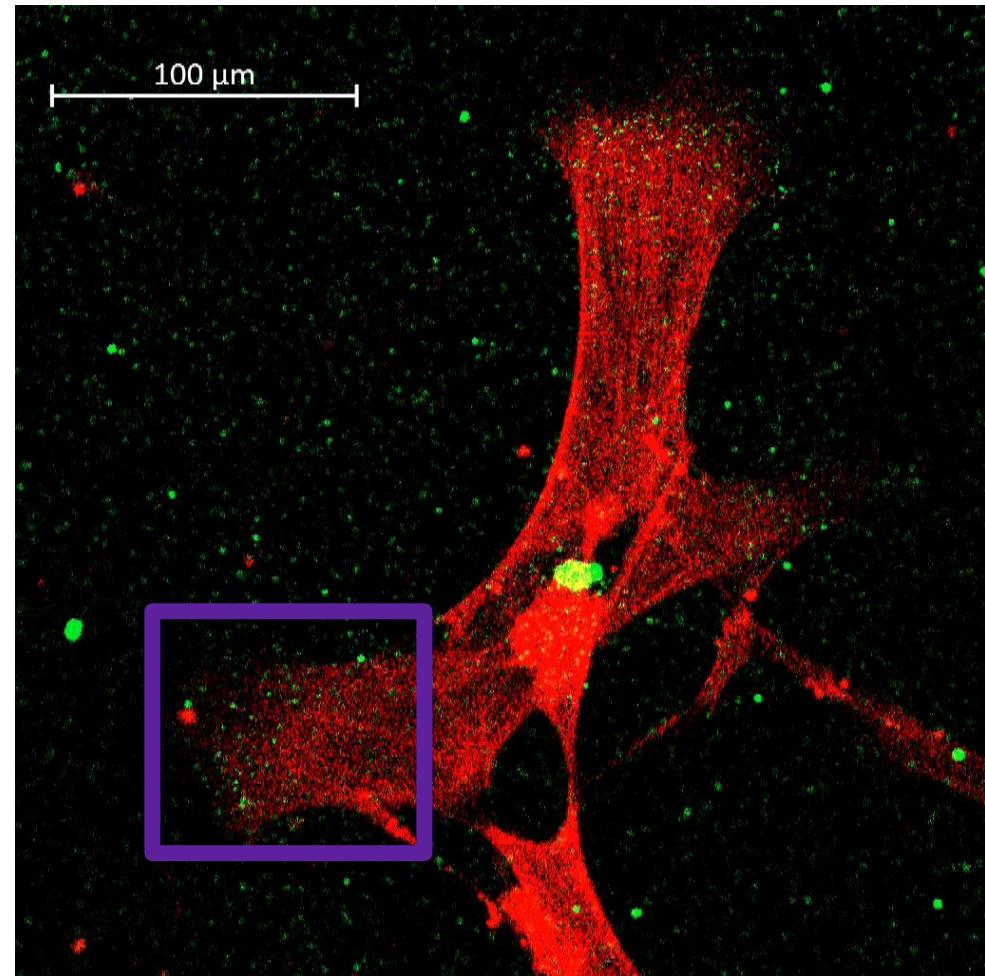
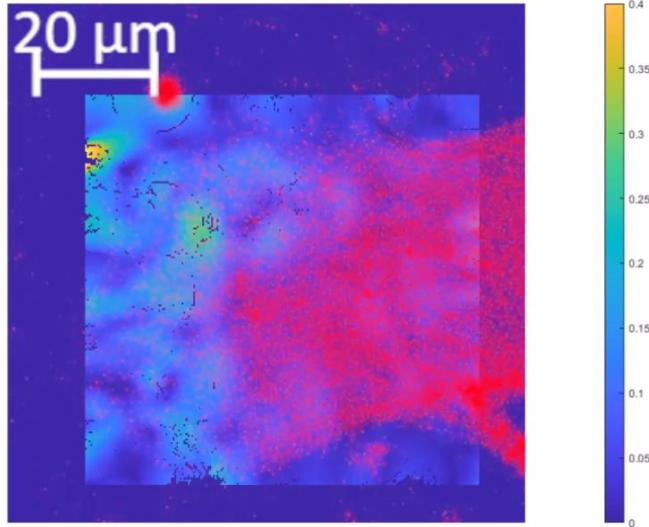


# Traction force microscopy

3 groups
Lonza, F, 24 y.o.
Healthy, AoPrim4, F, 60 y.o.
Pathological AnevPrim4, F, 60 y.o.

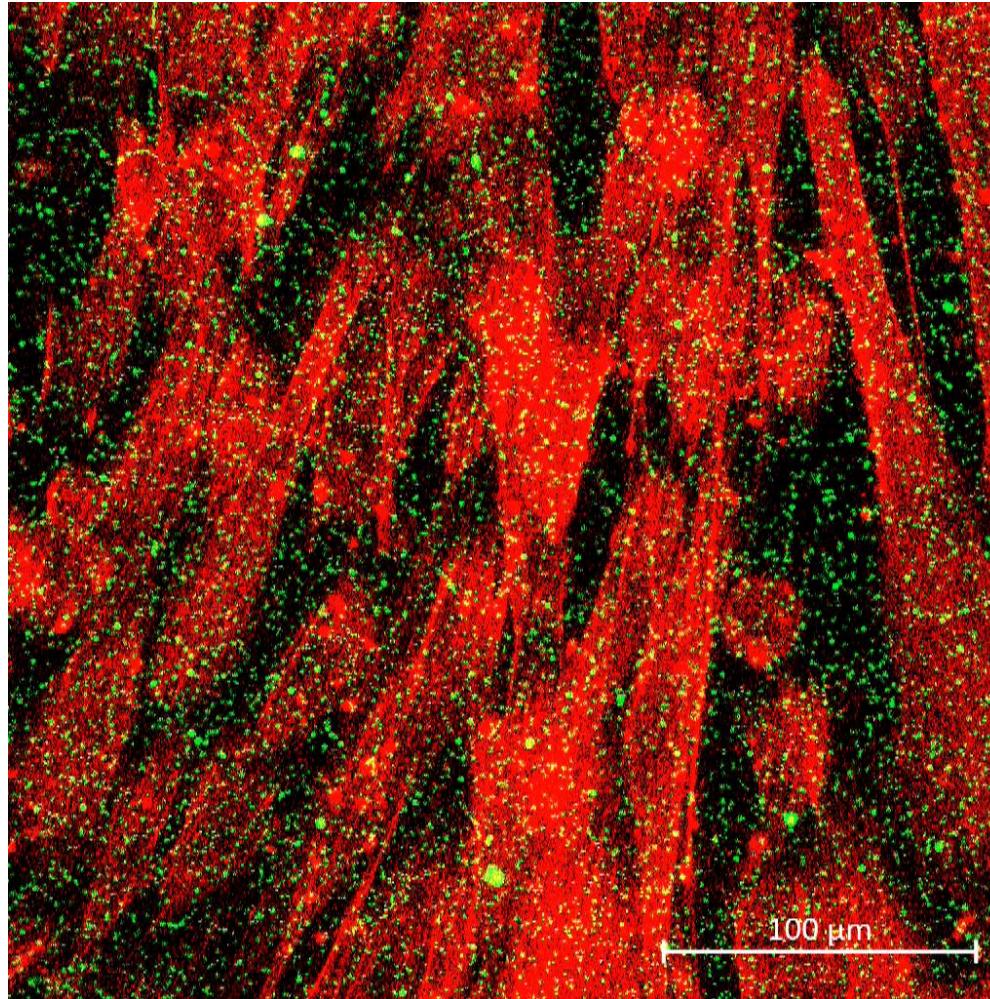


# Monitoring mechanobiology of live SMCs



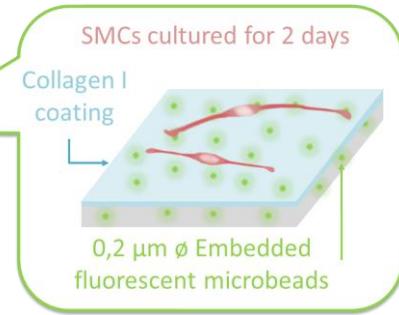
Confocal microscopy +  
DIC combined with  
Siractin staining on living  
cells

# Isolated SMCs versus confluent SMCs

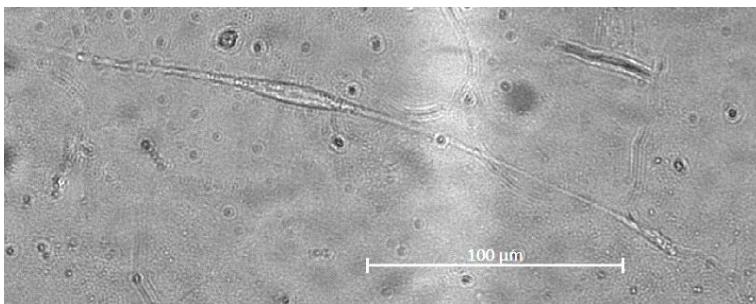


# Monitoring mechanobiology *in vivo*

Several stiffness values

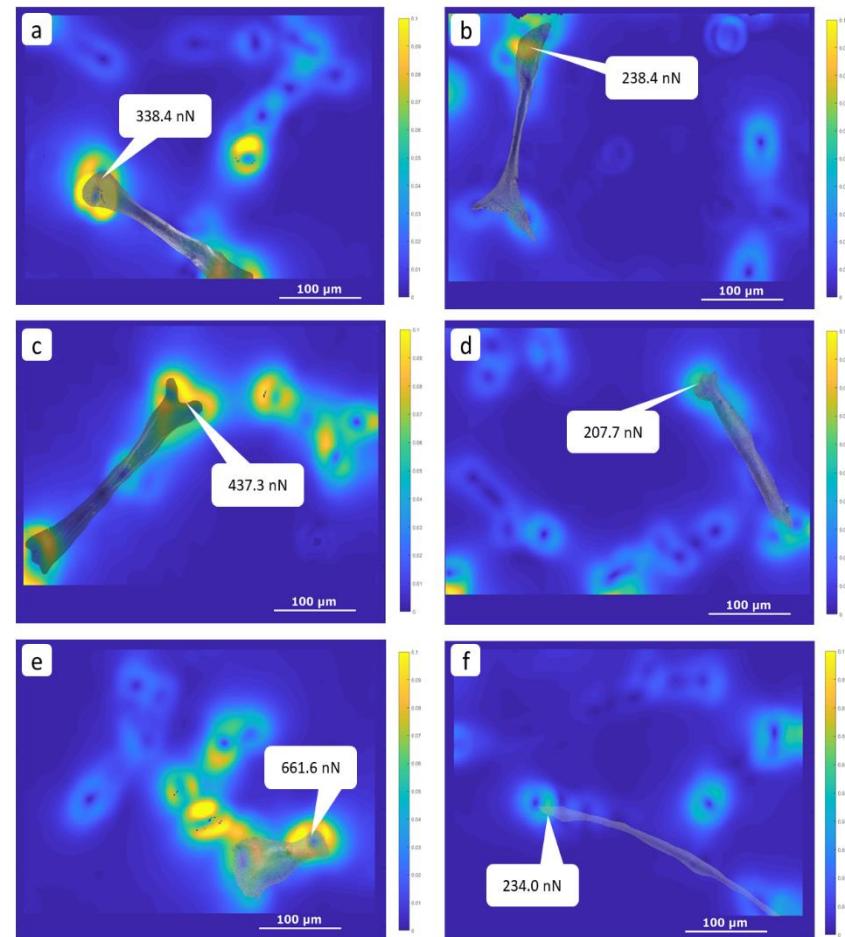


Aortic SMCs from human primary culture (AoSMC, Lonza), passages 5-7, cultured in a differentiating medium (SmBM, Lonza)



Fluorescent microscopy + DIC : track the displacement of fluorescent microbeads

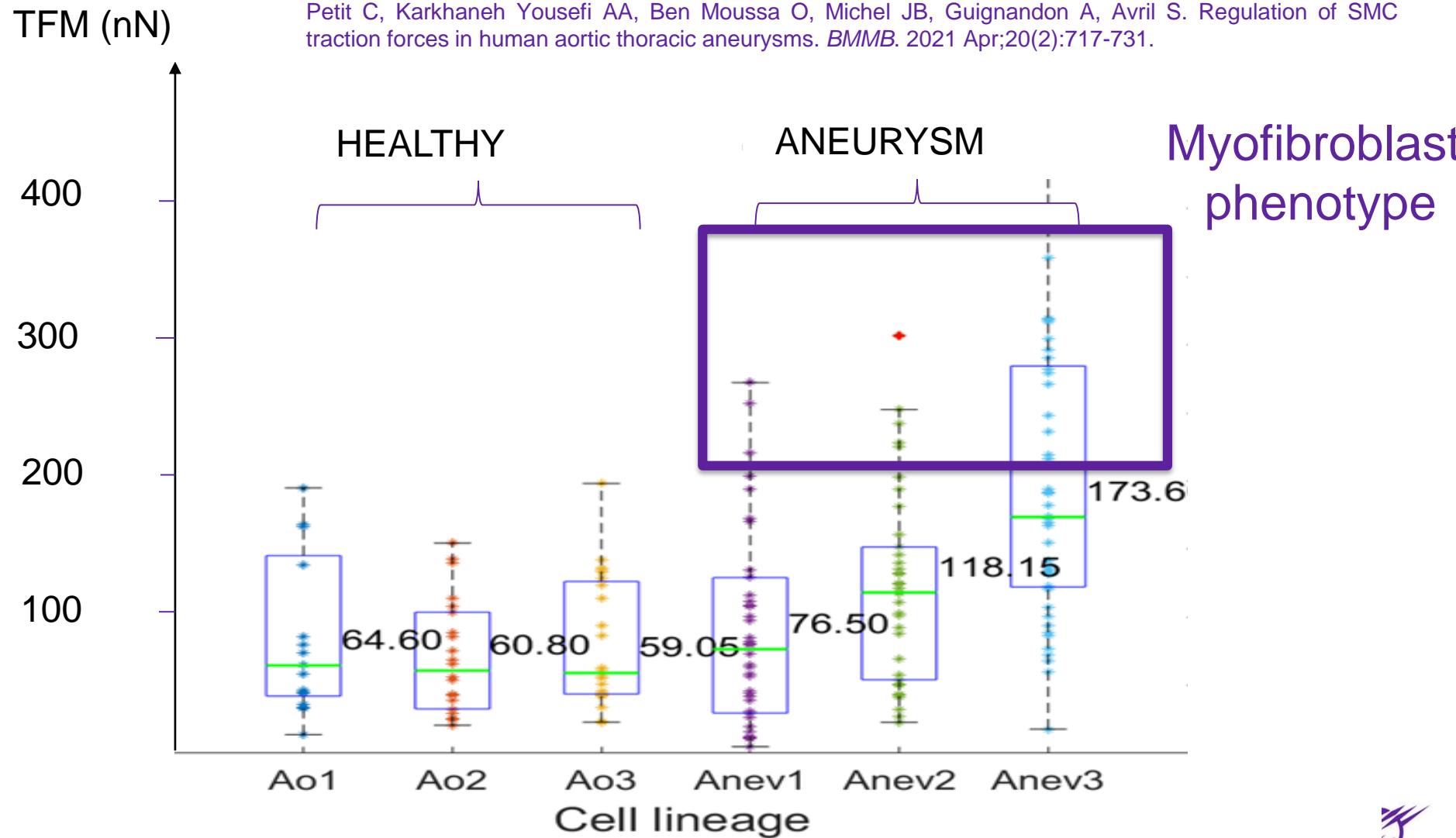
Cell unbinding method (with trypsin) : assess the homeostatic state of single SMCs



Petit et al, BMMB, 2021

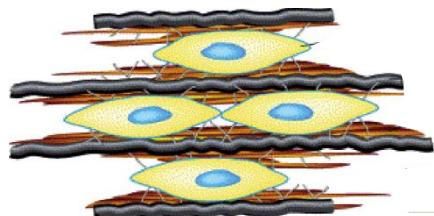
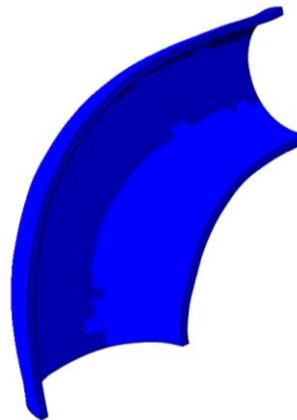
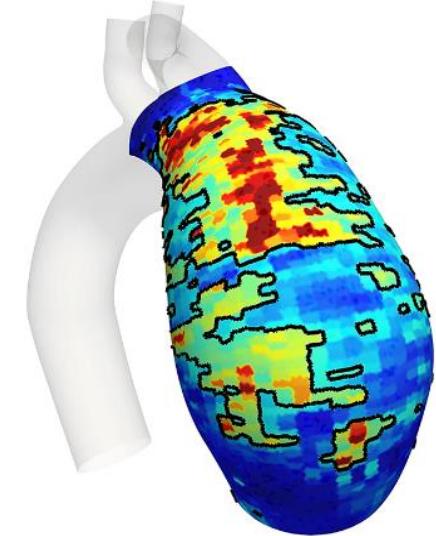
# Aneurysmal SMCs express stronger phenotypes

Petit C, Karkhaneh Yousefi AA, Ben Moussa O, Michel JB, Guignandon A, Avril S. Regulation of SMC traction forces in human aortic thoracic aneurysms. *BMMB*. 2021 Apr;20(2):717-731.



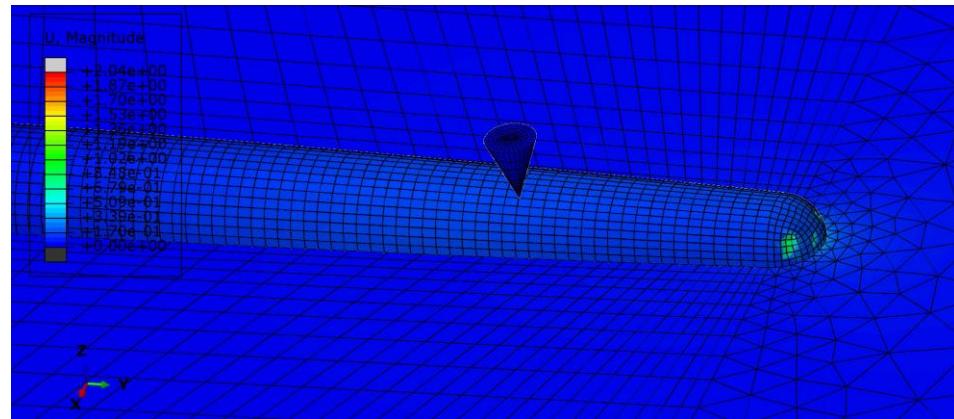
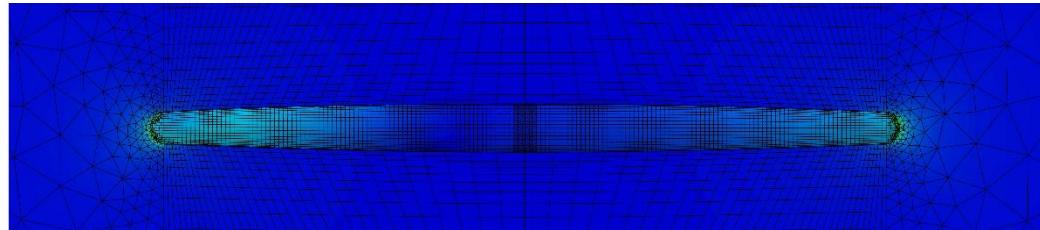
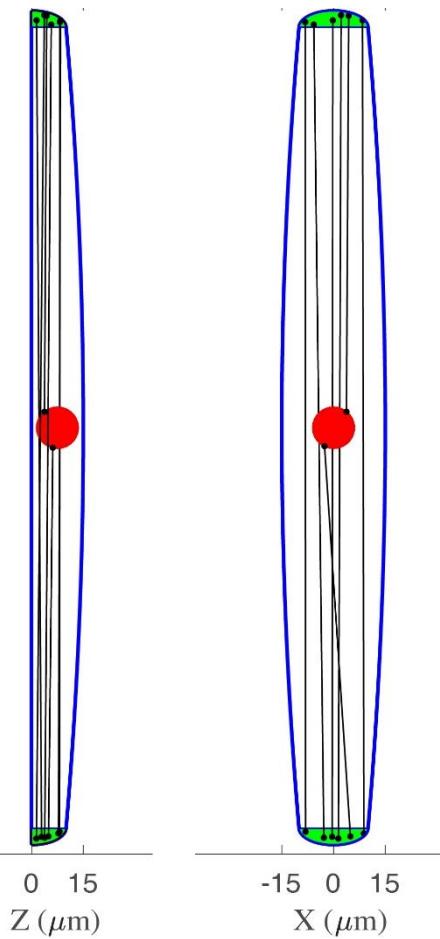
# HOW TO HELP BIOLOGISTS: TOWARDS DIGITAL TWINS

Monitoring gene expressions, tissue stiffness  
and hemodynamics

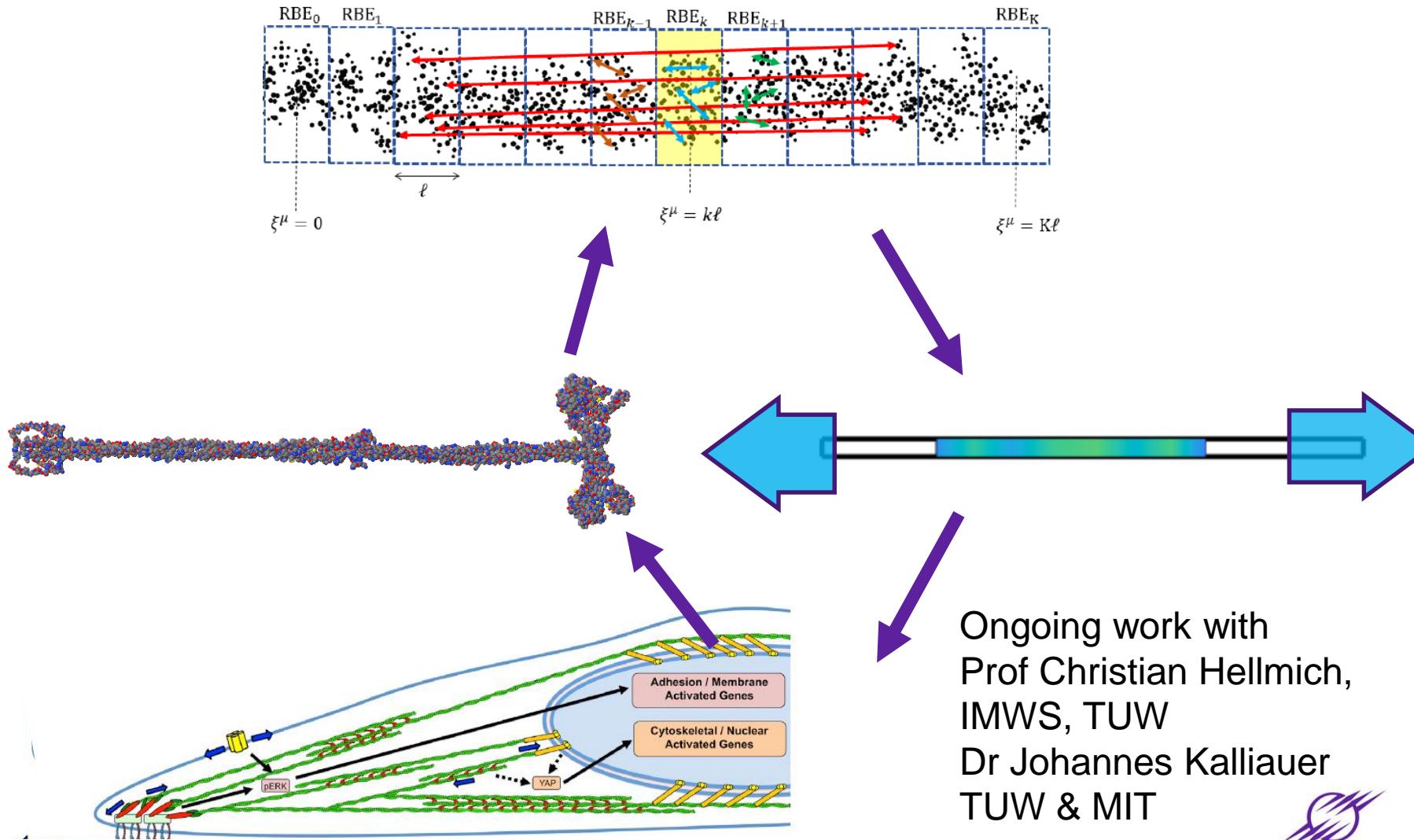


Predicting mechanical regulation,  
tissue deformations, stresses and stiffness

# Finite Element model of SMCs



# HOMOGENIZATION OF PROTEINS INTO BEAMS



# Acknowledgements



SAINBIOSE  
SAnté INgénierie  
BIOlogie Saint-Etienne  
U1059 • INSERM • SAINT-ETIENNE



TU  
WIEN  
TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
WIEN  
Vienna | Austria  
  
Inserm  
Institut national  
de la santé et de la recherche médicale

- **Claudie Petit**
- Amira Ben Hassine
- Chloé Techens
- Ali Karkhaneh
- Felipe Sempertegui
- Alvaro Navarette
- Joan Laubrie
- Jamal Mousavi
- Shaojie Zhang
- Victor Acosta
- Marta Bracco
- Solmaz Farzeneh
- Francesca Condemi
- Cristina Cavinato
- Jérôme Molimard
- Claire Morin
- Baptiste Brun Cottan
- Baptiste Pierrat
- Marzio Di Giuseppe
- Jay Humphrey
- Christian Cyron
- Fabian Braeu
- Federica Galbiati
- Francesco Bardi
- Maria Nicole Antonuccio
- Ambroise Duprey
- Jean-Pierre Favre
- Jean-Noël Albertini
- Salvatore Campisi
- Magalie Viallon
- Pierre Croisille
- Lauranne Maes
- Yiqian He
- Nele Famaey
- Mireille Thomas
- Alain Guignandon



European Research Council



MINES  
Saint-Étienne  
Une école de l'IMT