

# Microscopie della Cornea

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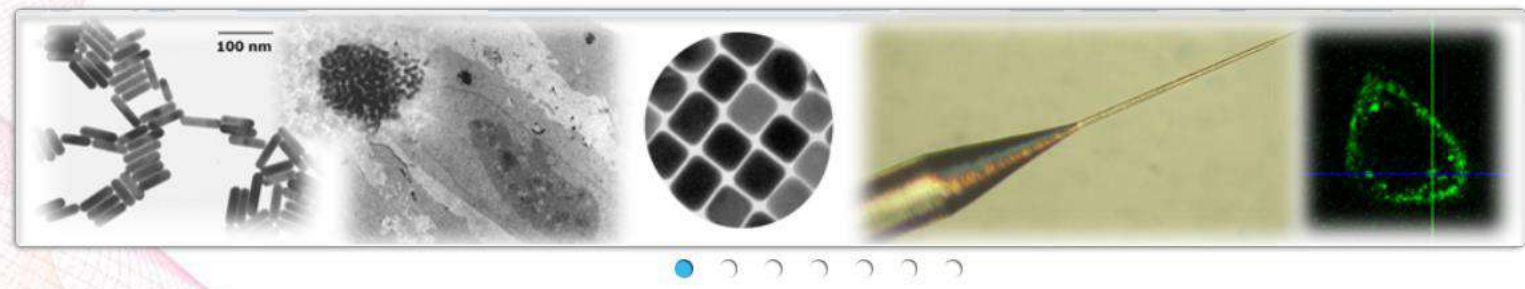
Francesca Rossi [f.rossi@ifac.cnr.it](mailto:f.rossi@ifac.cnr.it)

Istituto di Fisica Applicata *Nello Carrara*

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

Firenze

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Giovanni Agati, Bruno Aiazzi, Francesco Baldini, Simonetta Paloscia, Sara Tombelli, Giancarlo Righini e Mauro Bacci, inclusi nella lista dei World's Top 2% Scientists redatta dalla Stanford University

[Archivio](#)

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### Progetti attivi

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- [Progetti Regionali: 15](#)
- [Contratti e Convenzioni: 17](#)

## Attività editoriali

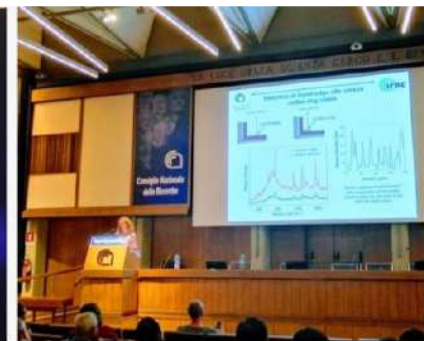
- Book Series**
- .....
-  [TSRR Volumi precedenti](#)
-  [TSRR Vol.7 \(2015\)](#)
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-  [TSRR Vol.9 \(2017\)](#)



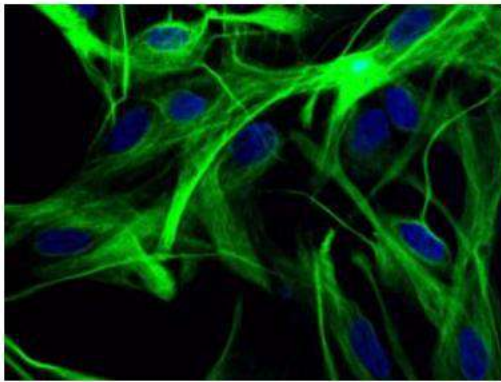




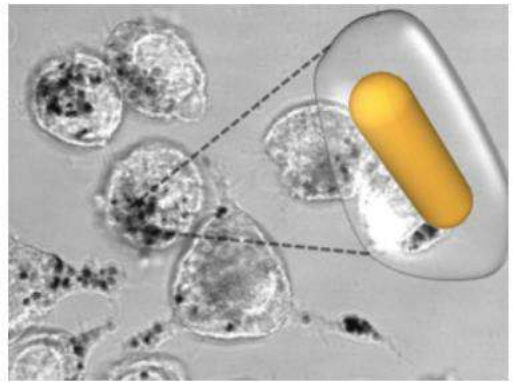




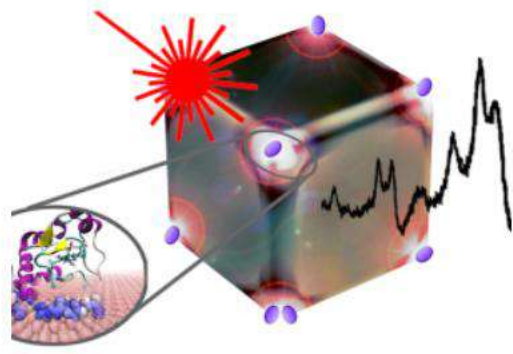




Photonics for Medical Technologies



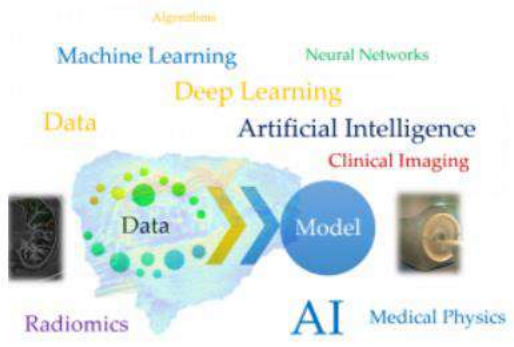
Nanoplasmonics for Medicine and Robotics



Plasmon-Enhanced Spectroscopy and Sensing



Photonics for Agri-Food

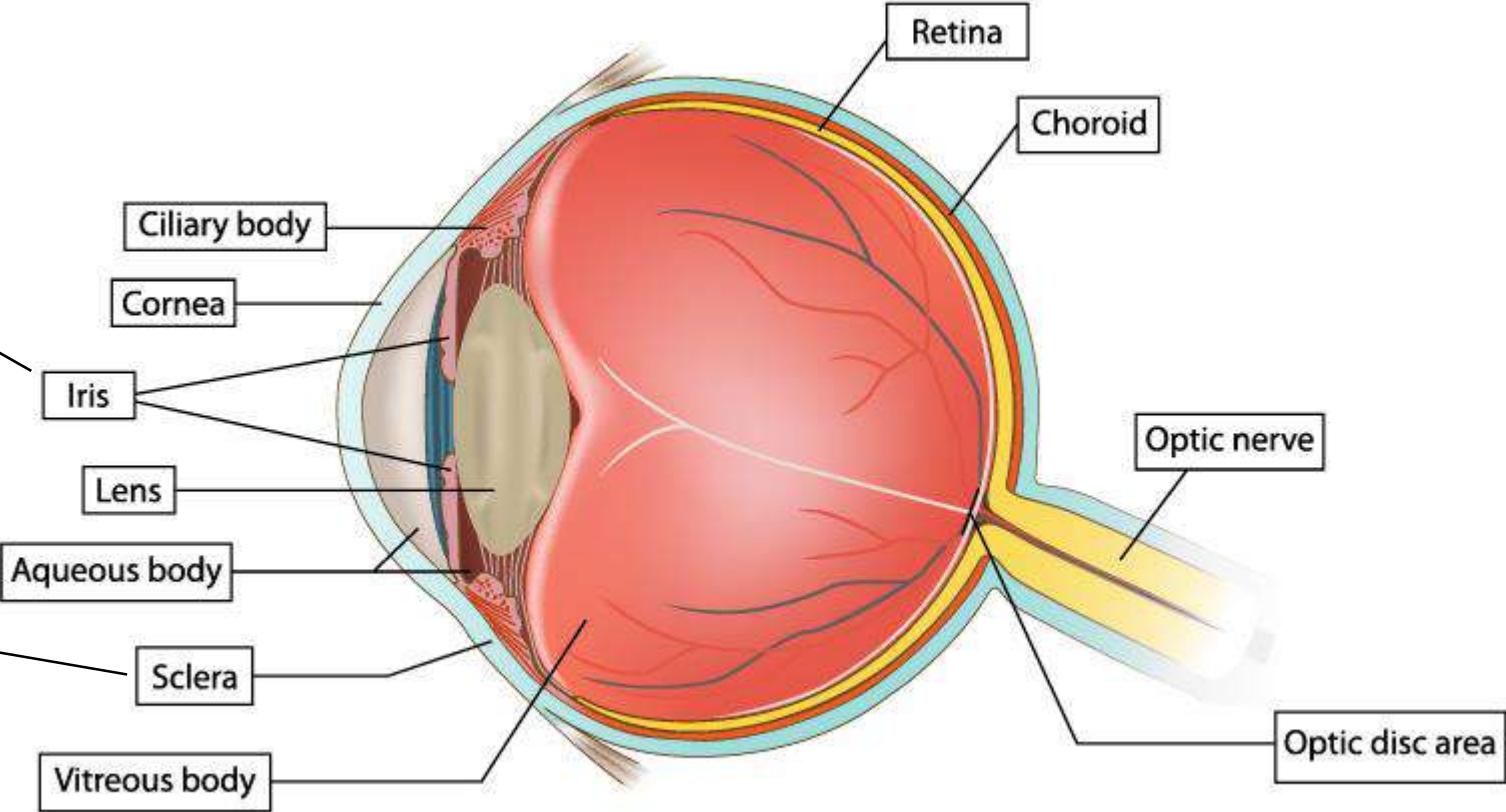
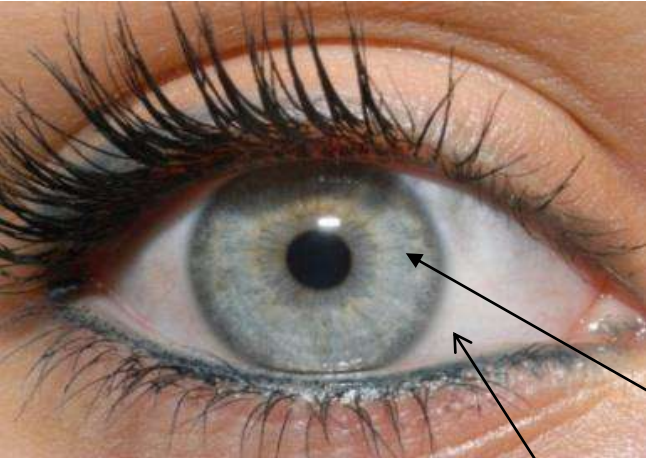


Artificial Intelligence for Health



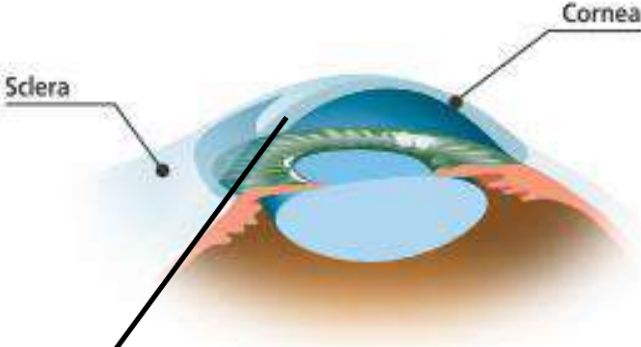
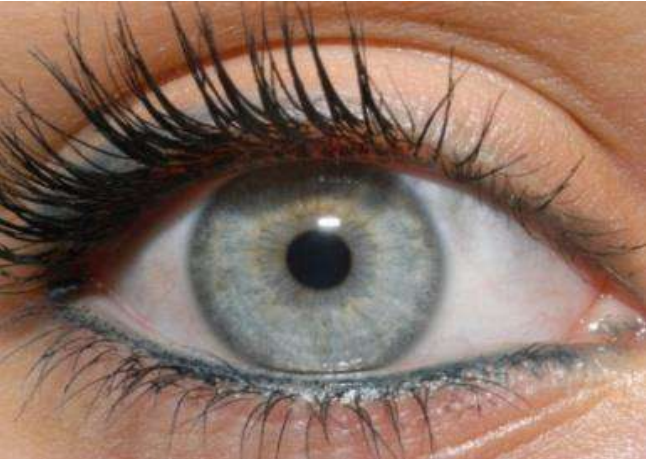
Innovation Transfer and Training

# Background: the cornea morphology

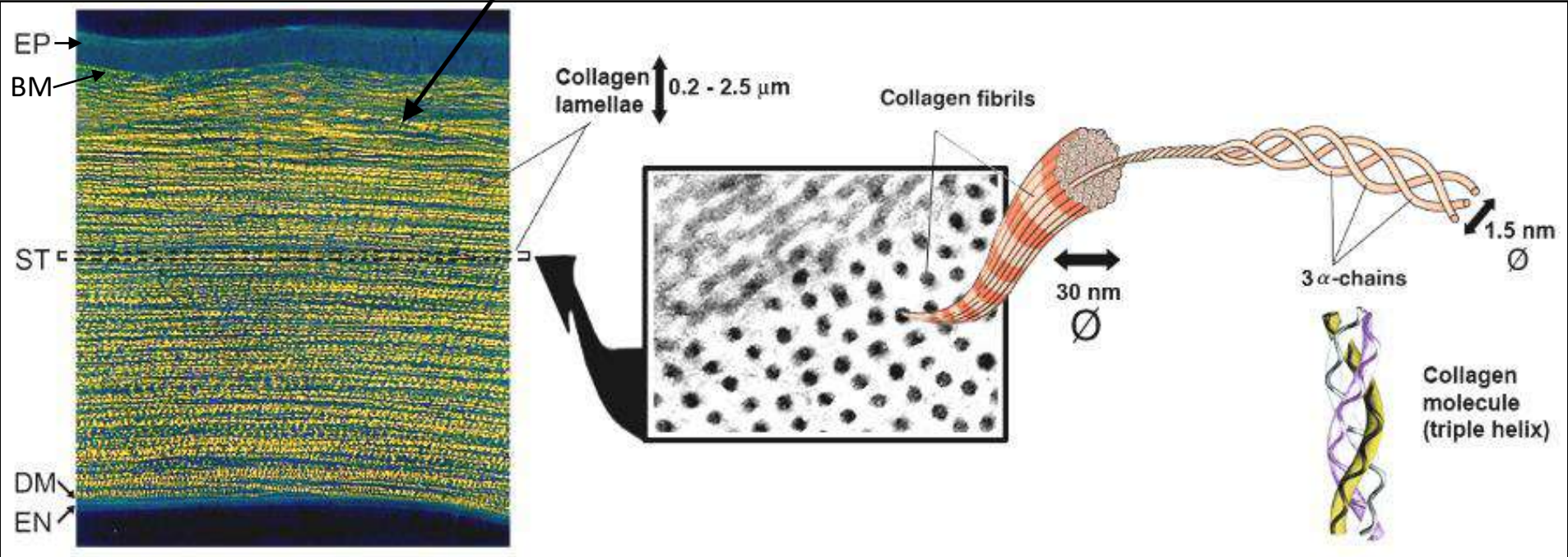




# Background: the cornea morphology



Cornea:  
transparent, avascularized tissue



# Microscopia *classica* – Light Microscopy

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- Il campione biologico è:
  - Soggetto a deterioramento
  - Senza resistenza meccanica una volta prelevato
  - Trasparente

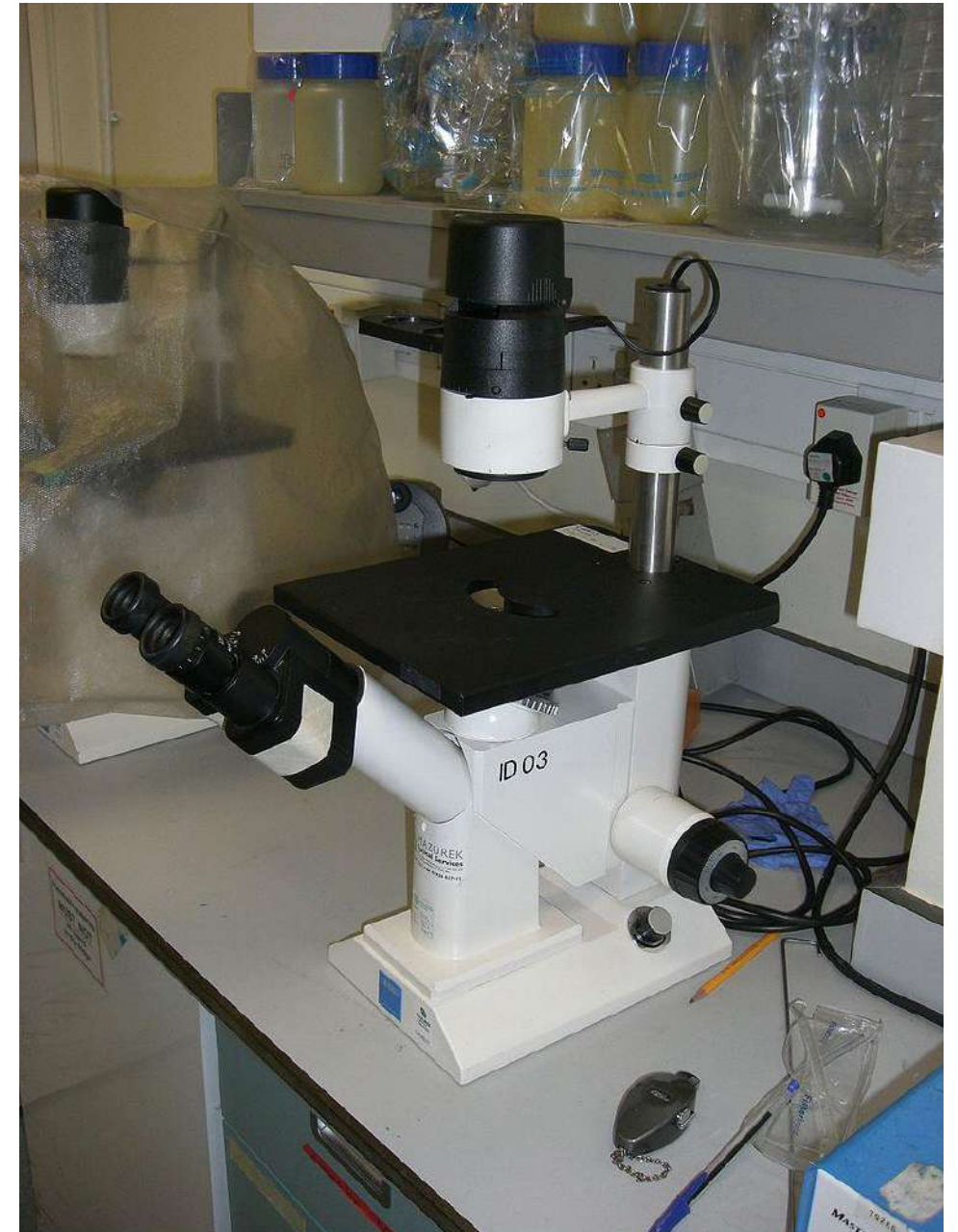




# Microscopia *classica* – Light Microscopy

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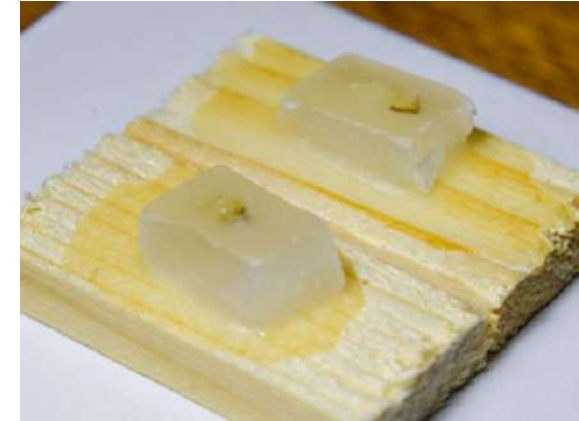
- Il campione biologico è:
  - Soggetto a deterioramento
  - Senza resistenza meccanica una volta prelevato
  - Trasparente





# Microscopia *classica* - Istologia

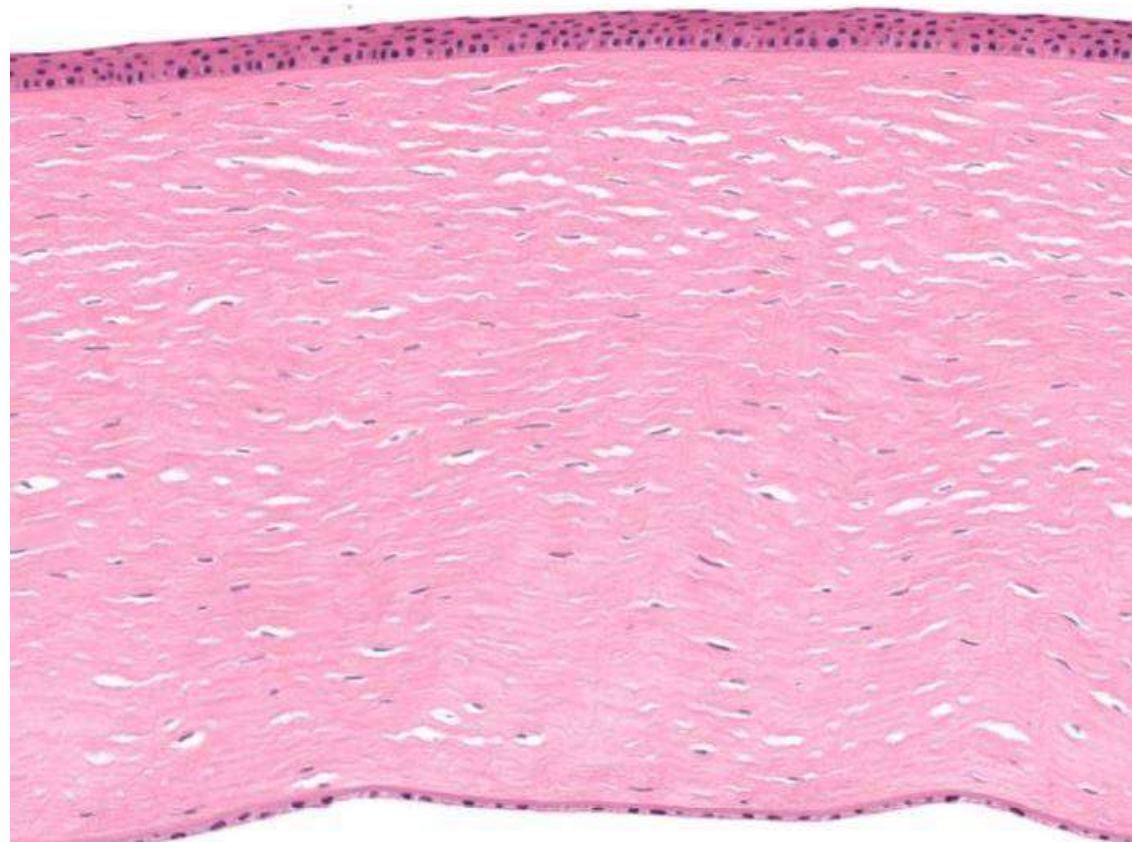
- Fasi di preparazione del campione:
  - Prelievo
  - Fissazione (paraformaldeide)
  - Inclusione (paraffina)
  - Sezionamento
  - Montaggio
  - Colorazione





# Microscopia *classica* - Istologia

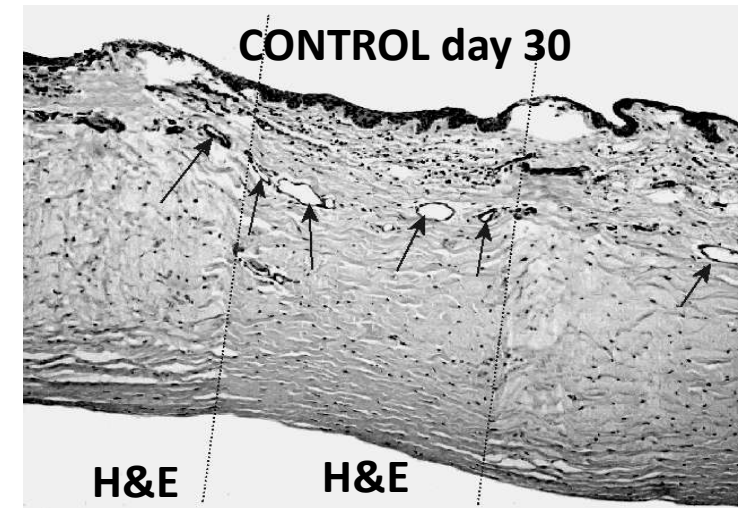
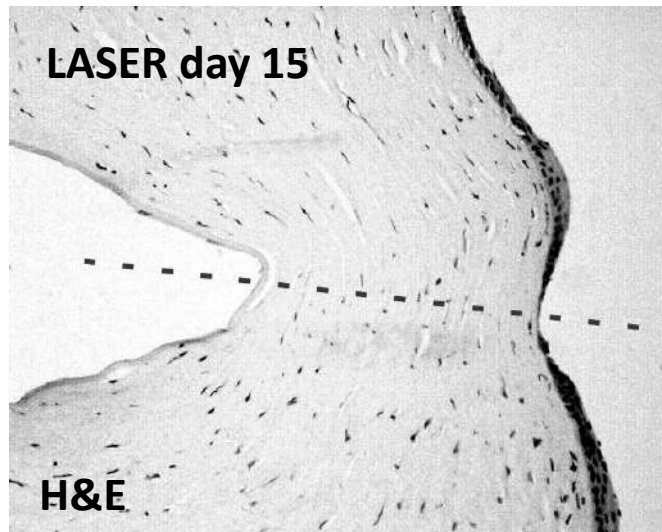
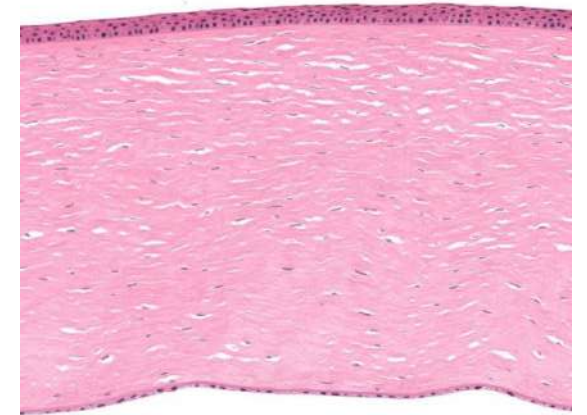
- Colorazione
  - Ematossilina e Eosina (H&E)





# Microscopia *classica* - Istologia

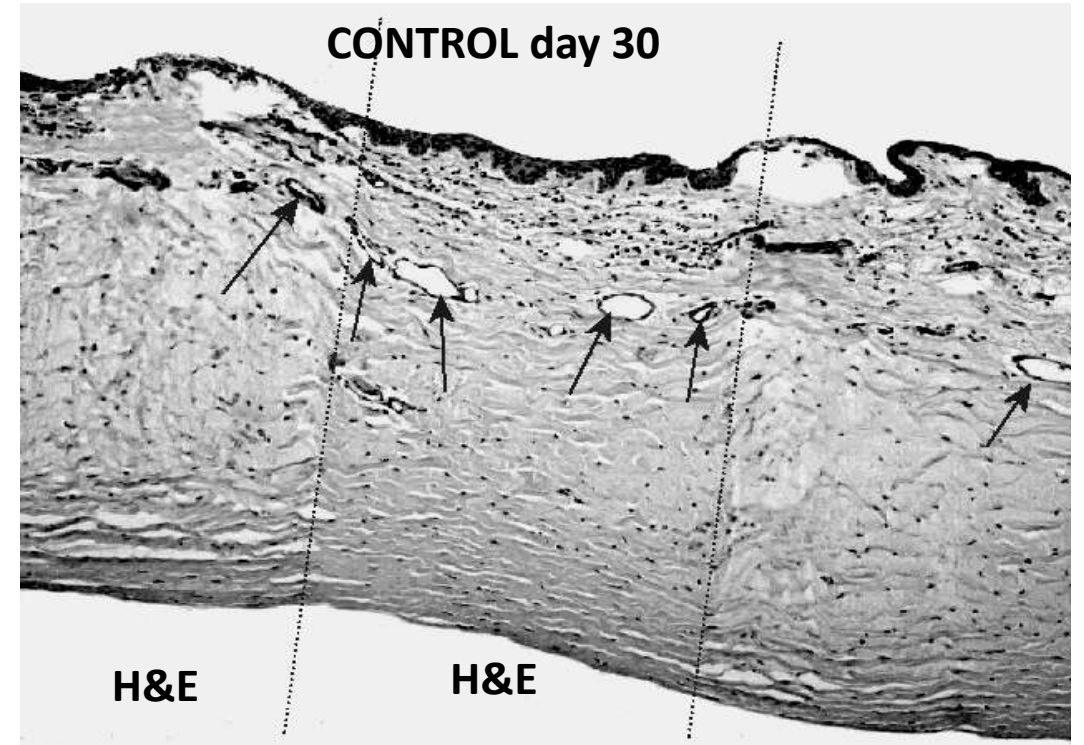
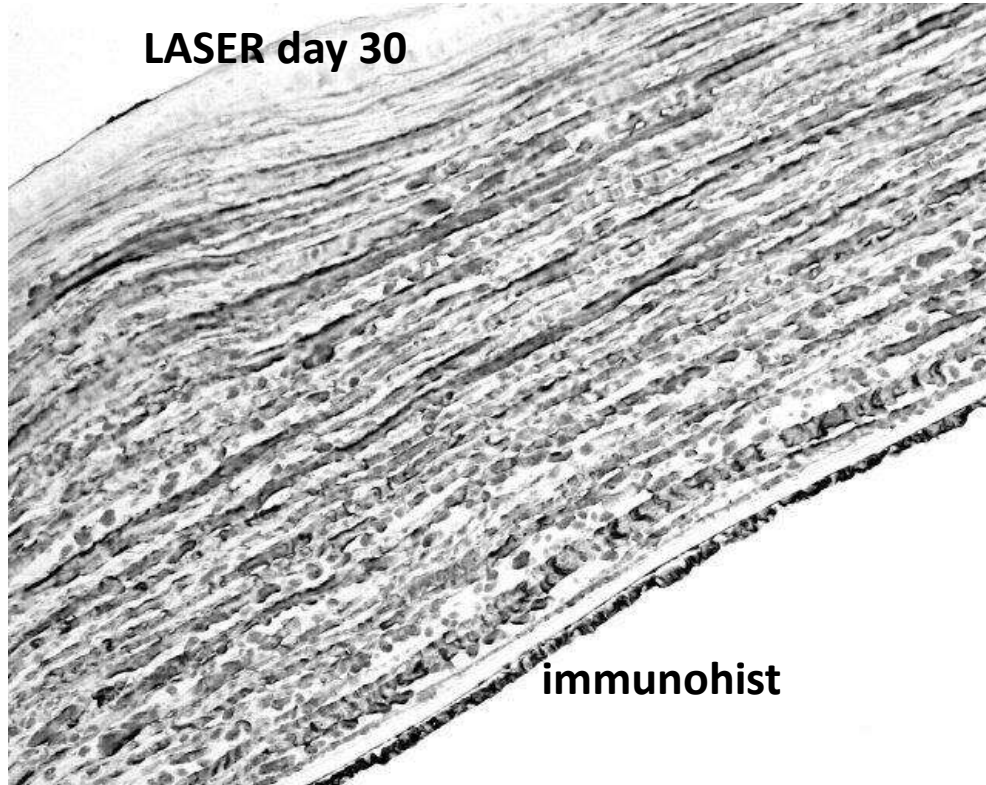
- Colorazione
  - Ematossilina e Eosina (H&E)





# Microscopia *classica* – altri coloranti

- Istochimica, Immunoistochimica ed in Immunofluorescenza



# Microscopia in polarizzazione

- Analizza strutture anisotrope e restituisce informazioni sulla loro struttura

Figure 1 - Polarized Light Microscope Configuration

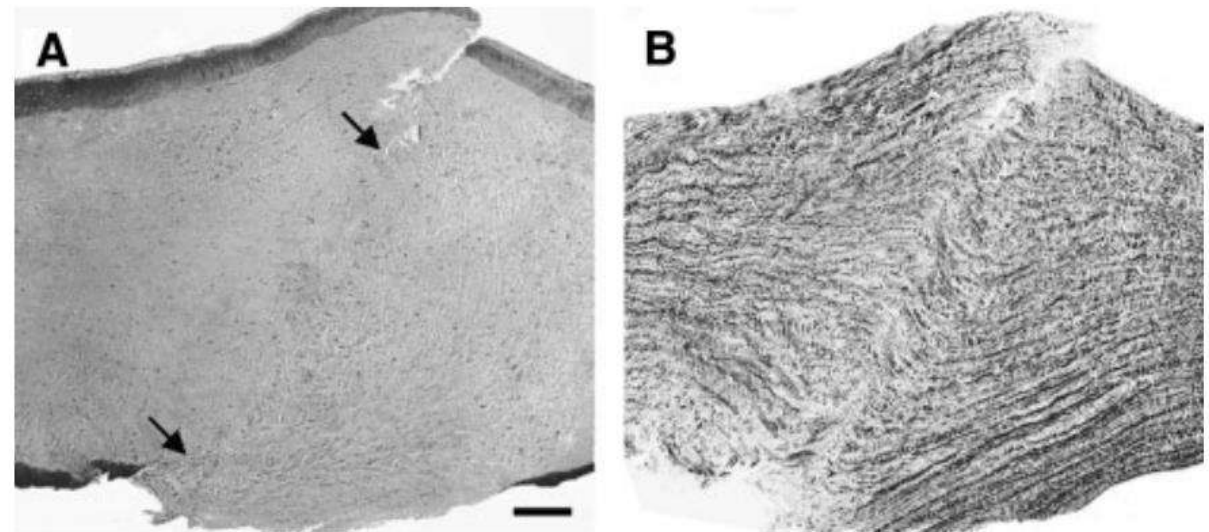
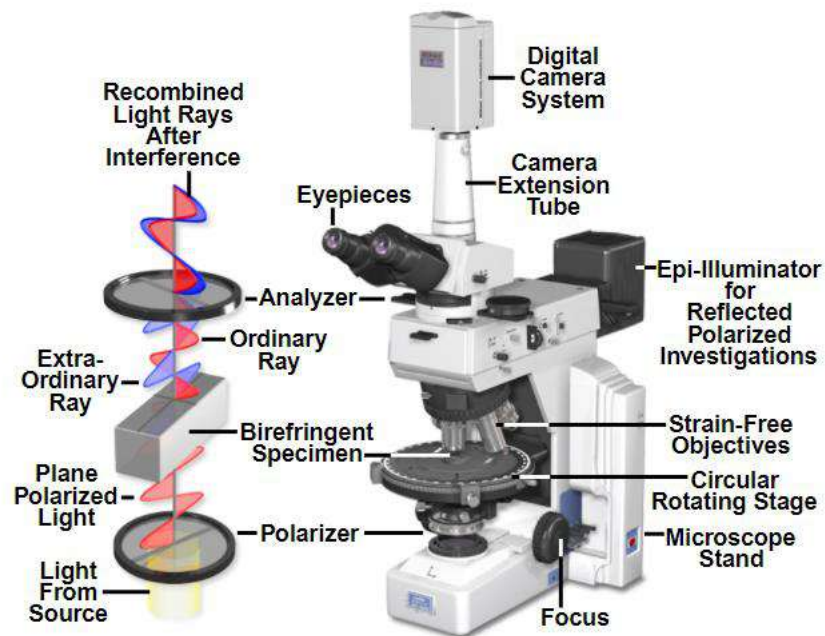


Fig. 1. Microscopic examination of diode laser-welded corneal stroma (bar = 100  $\mu$ m). **A:** Hematoxylin-eosin stain revealed absence of tissue coagulation or charring at the welded site (between the arrows). **B:** Negative image of the same sample stained with picosirius red dye shows bridging structures across the wound. The birefringence signal appears more diffused at the weld site but with an intensity comparable to the one of laser-untreated regions.



# Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) analysis

TEM CM 12 PHILIPS



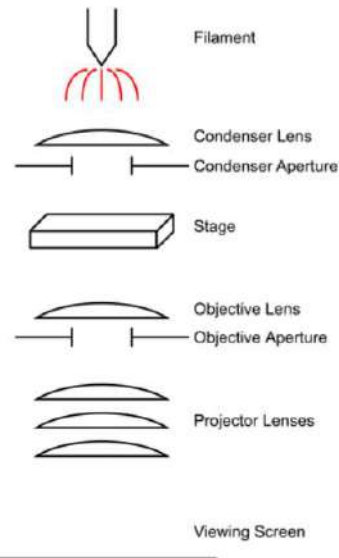
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delle Ricerche

con tecnologia CRYO-GATAN UHRST 350

## Electron Microscopes

Put simply, electron microscopes use electrons rather than visible light to create an image. To use electrons for microscopy, you need to focus the electron beam and you need a vacuum. The beam is sent onto the sample, bounces off and creates a three-dimensional image of the surface. The wavelength of the electrons is much smaller than the wavelength of light from a bulb or laser, resulting in higher resolution. When you want to use an electron microscope, your sample must be electrically conductive, so the electrons bounce off. That's why samples are often coated in a thin layer of gold or other metal. As you can imagine, this process doesn't fit very well with living biological samples.

Occorre trattare il campione per poterlo osservare

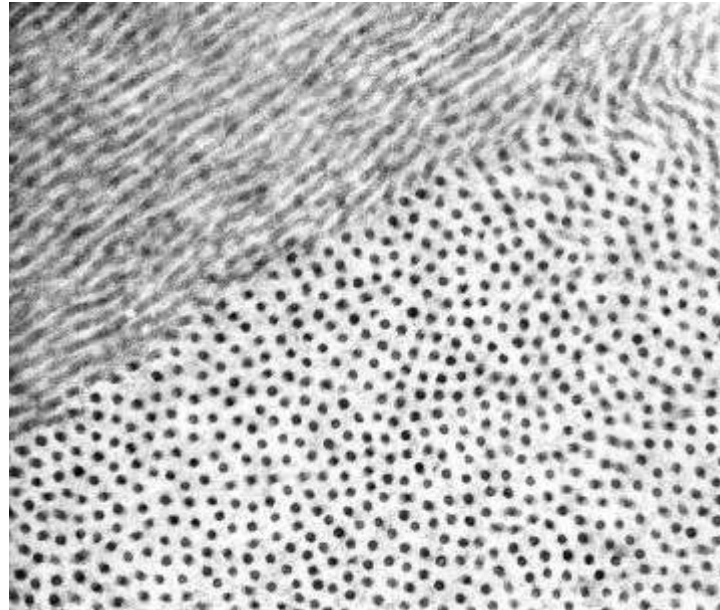


# Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) analysis

- Quantitative evaluation of two morphological parameters to assess fibrillar integrity:

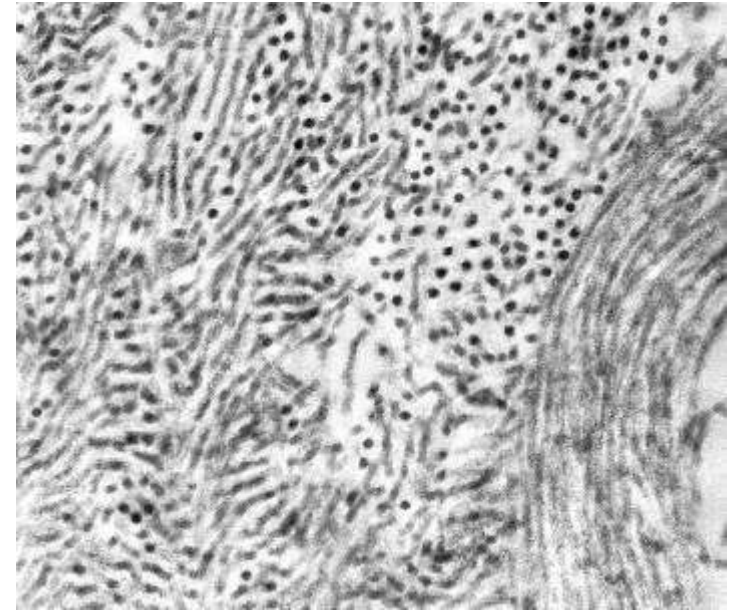
- Fibril diameter
- Fibril periodicity

*Control ex vivo porcine eye*



X 13500

*Diode laser-welded porcine cornea*

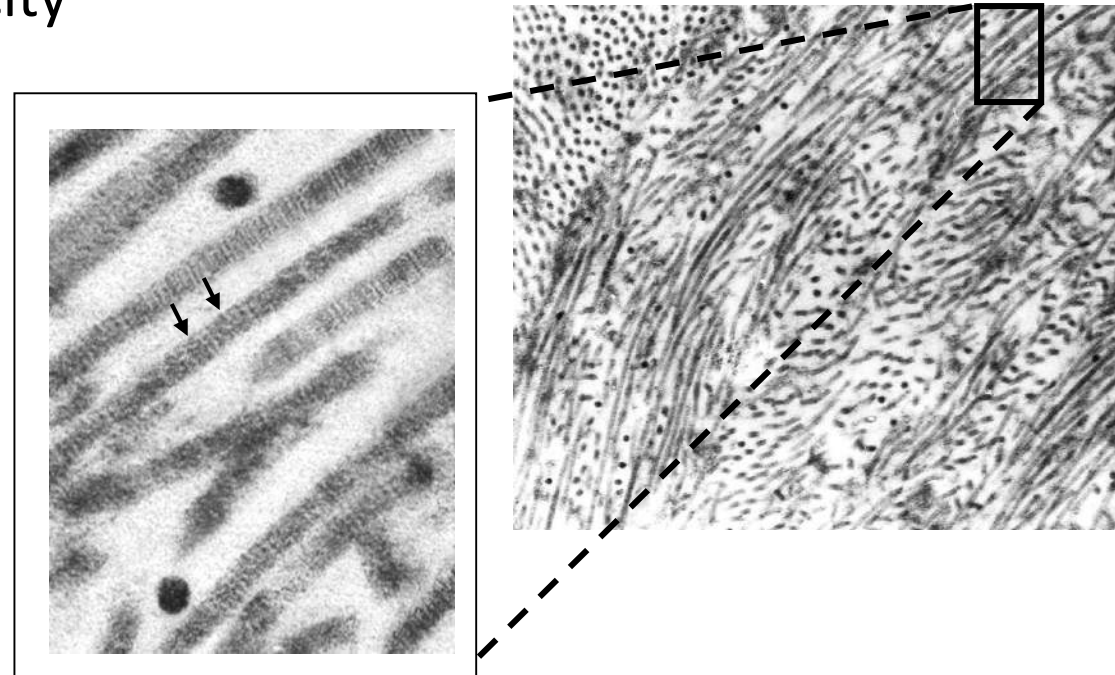
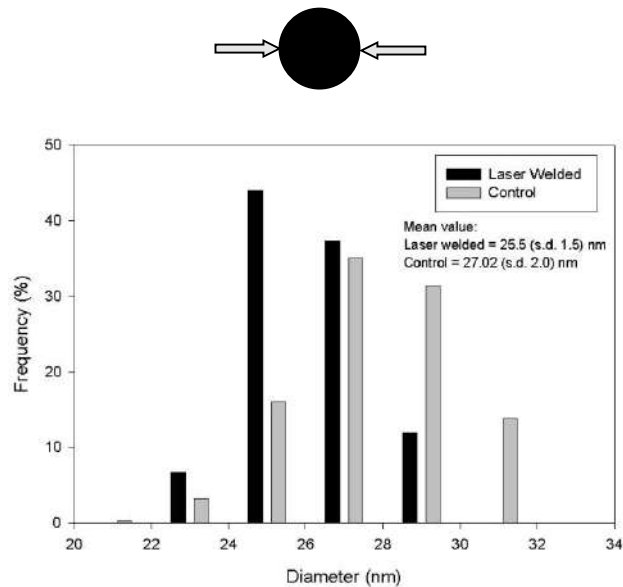




# Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) analysis

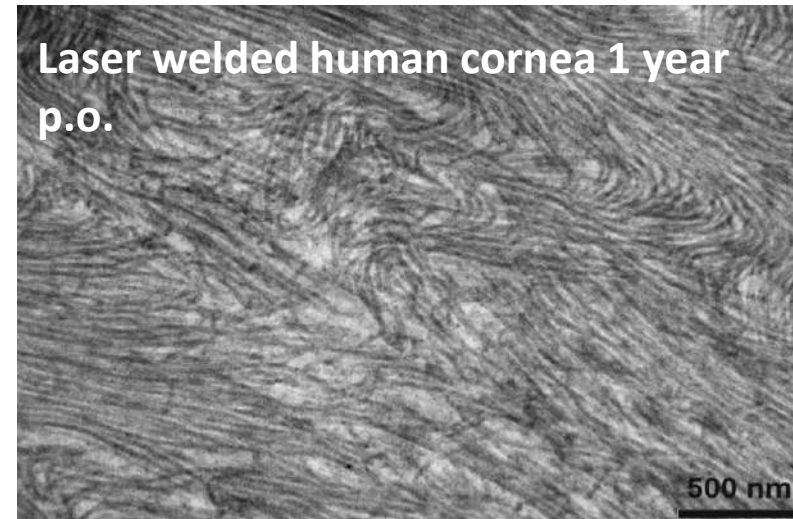
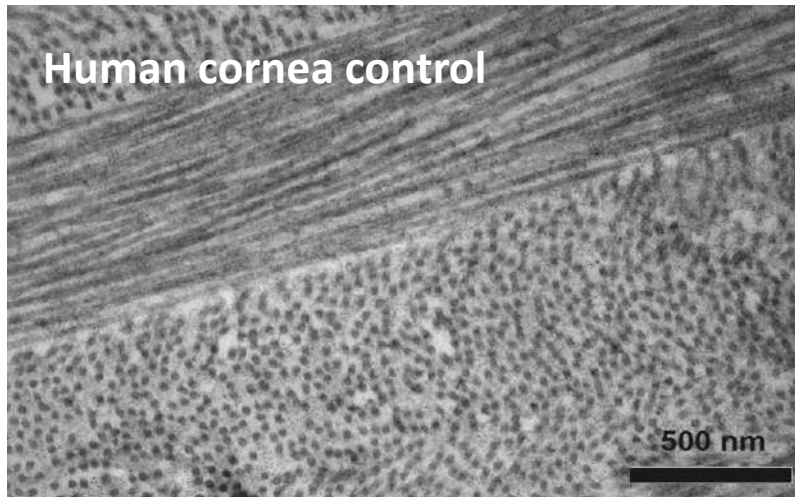
- Quantitative evaluation of two morphological parameters to assess fibrillar integrity:

Fibril diameter - Fibril periodicity



# Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) analysis

- Quantitative evaluation of two morphological parameters to assess fibrillar integrity:  
Fibril diameter - Fibril periodicity





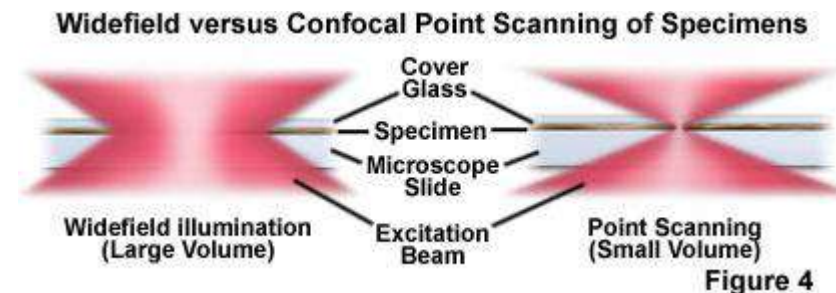
# Microscopia Confocale



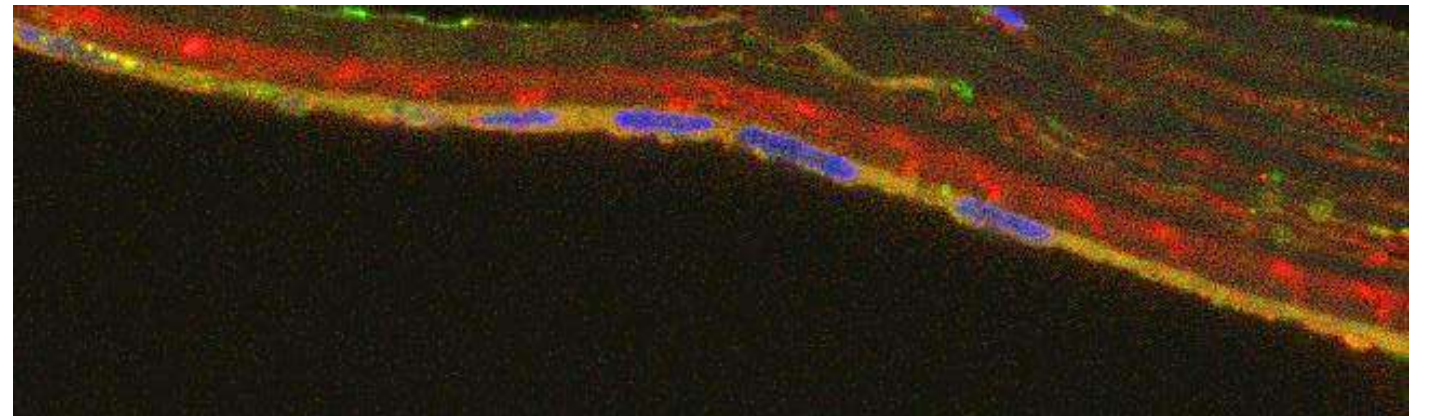
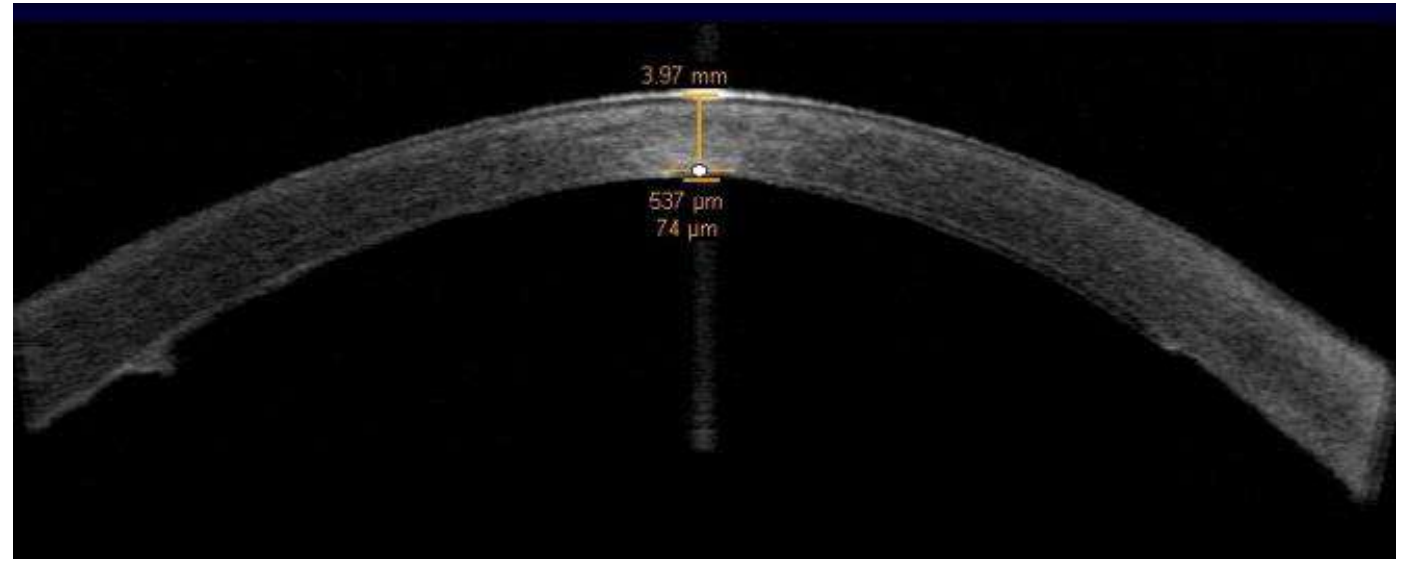
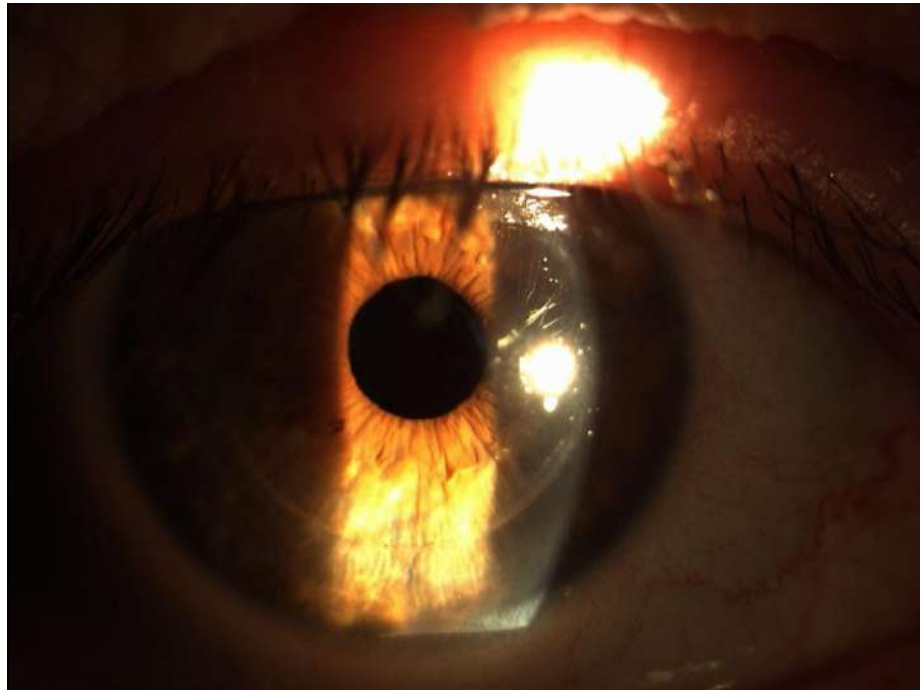
## Confocal Microscopes Deliver Optical Sections

Unlike stereo, zoom and compound microscopes, confocal microscopes use **laser light** as a light source. The laser scans the sample using different patterns, and the image is assembled with a computer. The laser can penetrate the sample deeper than light from a bulb. The result is a three-dimensional image of controlled depth of field. You can examine interior structures of cells, model organisms and tissue by stacking several images from different optical planes.

The point light source and the camera are in the same plane, hence the name "confocal."

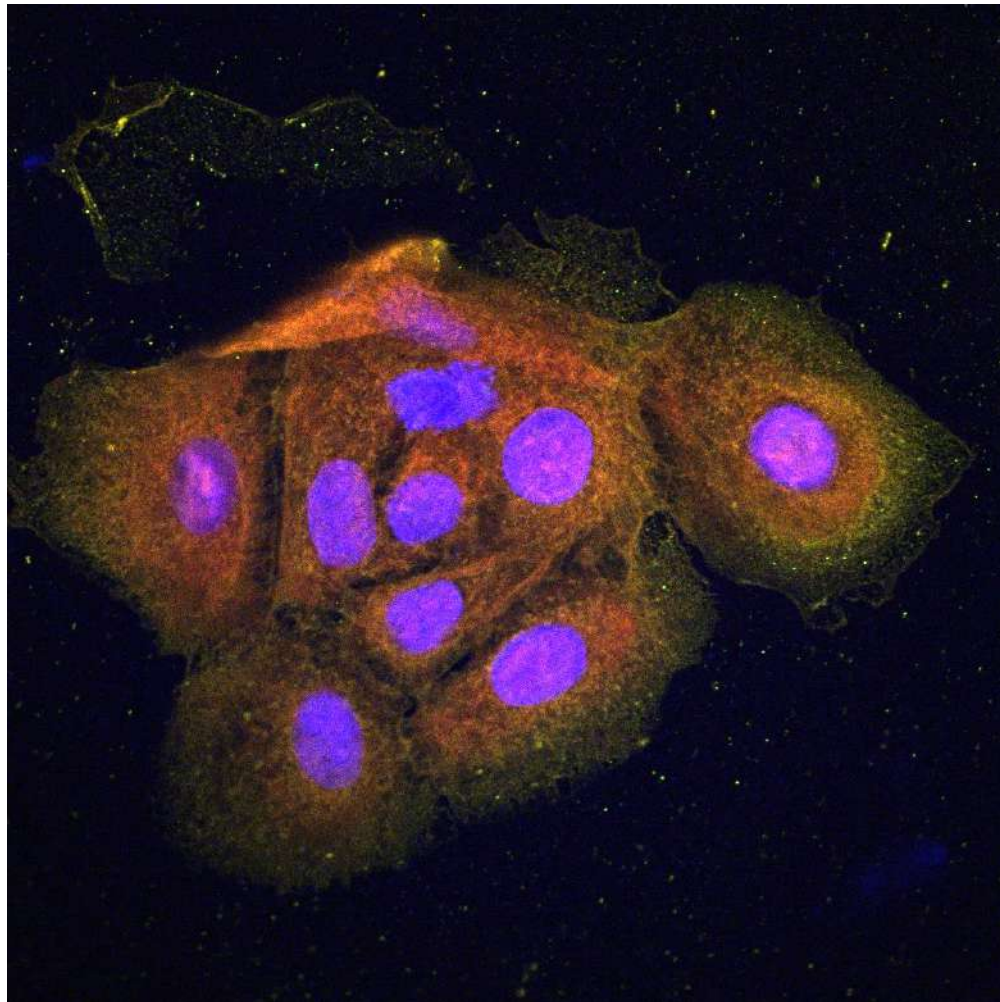


# Background: the human corneal endothelium





# Cellule endoteliali da donatore – 8 giorni



Confocal Microscopy (Leica TCS SP8 )  
60x oil immersion objective

Immunostaining:

**Green** tight junction – ZO-1

**Red** Na/K ATPasi

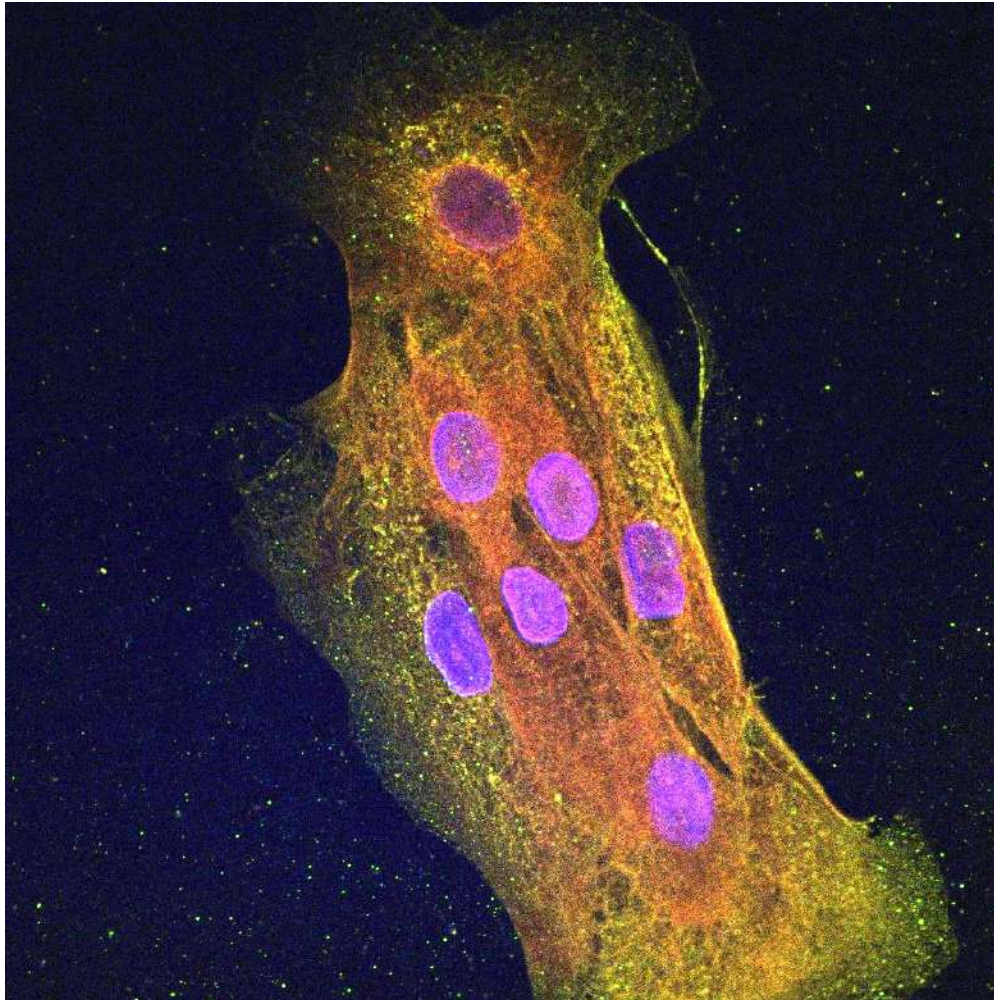
**Yellow** Glypican 4

**Blue** nuclei

## PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ANTIBODIES

Name	Company	Type	Dilution Used
Anti- tight junction-ZO1	AbCam	pAb	1:200
Anti-Na/K ATP-asi	AbCam	pAb	1:200
Anti-Glypican 4	AbCam	mAb	1:200
AlexaFluor647 Goat anti-mouse	AbCam	pAb	1:400
AlexaFluor555 Donkey anti-rabbit	AbCam	pAb	1:400
AlexaFluor488 Donkey anti-goat	AbCam	pAb	1:400

# Cellule endoteliali da donatore - 10 giorni



Confocal Microscopy (Leica TCS SP8 )  
60x oil immersion objective

Immunostaining:

**Green** tight junction – ZO-1

**Red** Na/K ATPasi

**Yellow** Glypican 4

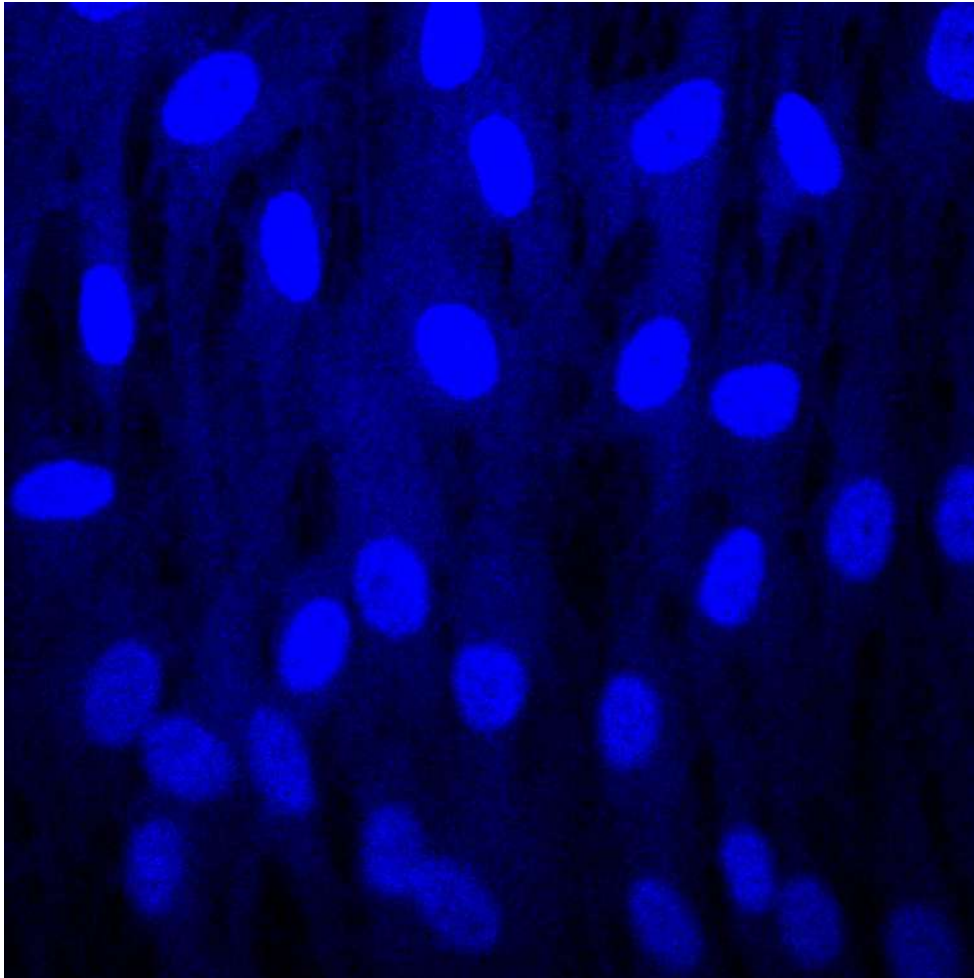
**Blue** nuclei

## PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ANTIBODIES

Name	Company	Type	Dilution Used
Anti- tight junction-ZO1	AbCam	pAb	1:200
Anti-Na/K ATP-asi	AbCam	pAb	1:200
Anti-Glypican 4	AbCam	mAb	1:200
AlexaFluor647 Goat anti-mouse	AbCam	pAb	1:400
AlexaFluor555 Donkey anti-rabbit	AbCam	pAb	1:400
AlexaFluor488 Donkey anti-goat	AbCam	pAb	1:400



# Cellule endoteliali da donatore - 15 giorni



Confocal Microscopy (Leica TCS SP8 )  
60x oil immersion objective

Immunostaining:

**Green** tight junction – ZO-1

**Red** Na/K ATPasi

**Yellow** Glypican 4

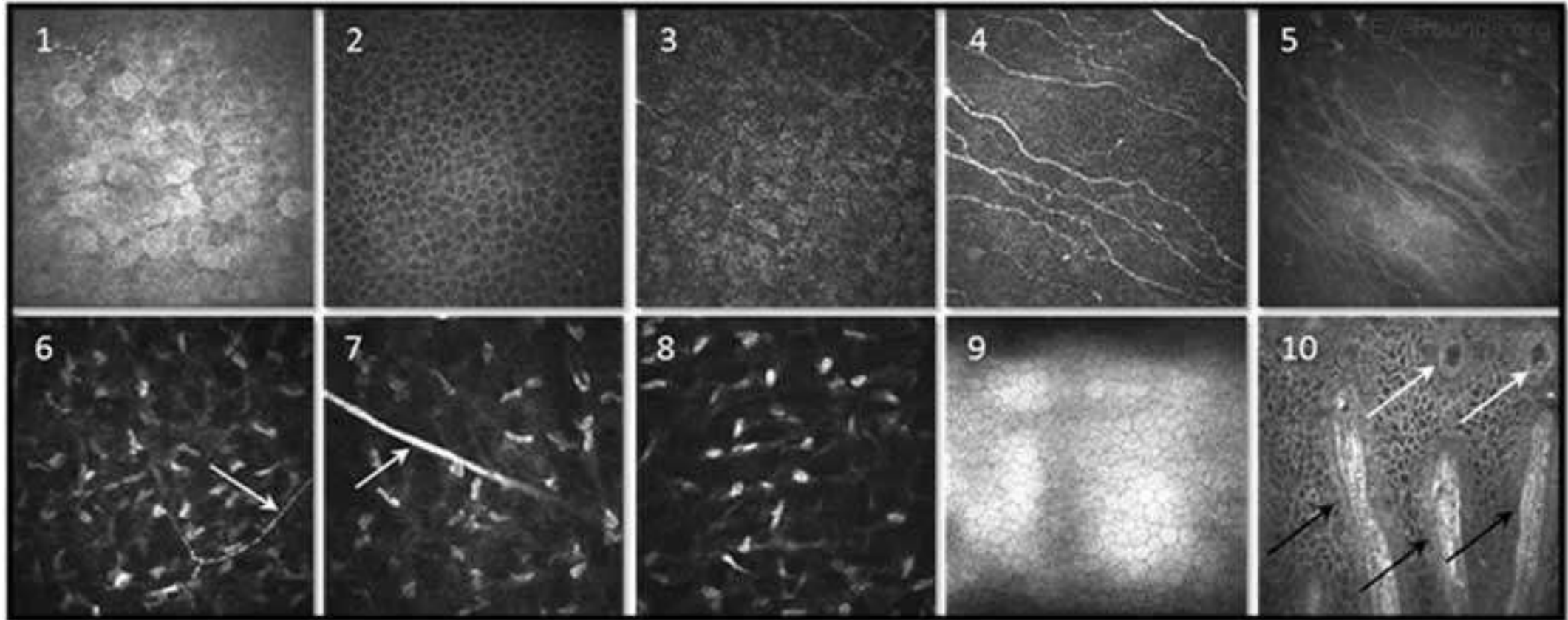
**Blue** nuclei

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AlexaFluor488 Donkey anti-goat	AbCam	pAb	1:400

# Microscopia confocale *in vivo*

[Corneal Imaging: An Introduction \(uiowa.edu\)](http://uiowa.edu)



**Figure 14.** Confocal microscopy imaging of the various corneal layers using laser-scanning *in vivo* confocal technology. 1-3. Superficial epithelium, epithelial wing cell layer, and basal epithelium; 4. Subbasal nerve plexus; 5. Bowman's layer; 6-8. anterior stroma with nerve (arrow), mid stroma with nerve trunk (arrow), and posterior stroma; 9. Endothelium; and 10. Inferior limbal palisade ridges (black arrows) with focal stromal projections (white arrows). Image courtesy of Dr. Neil Lagali (Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden) (11).



# Microscopia di Seconda Armonica - SHG

E' un fenomeno non lineare: si illumina il campione con un laser a una frequenza  $\omega$  e si osserva un segnale con frequenza doppia  $2\omega$

- Non è necessario processare il campione biologico

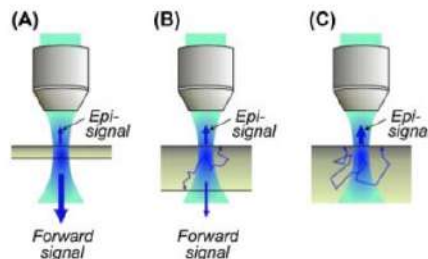


Figure 5.16. Forward- and epi-detection second harmonic generation signal from different tissue thicknesses.

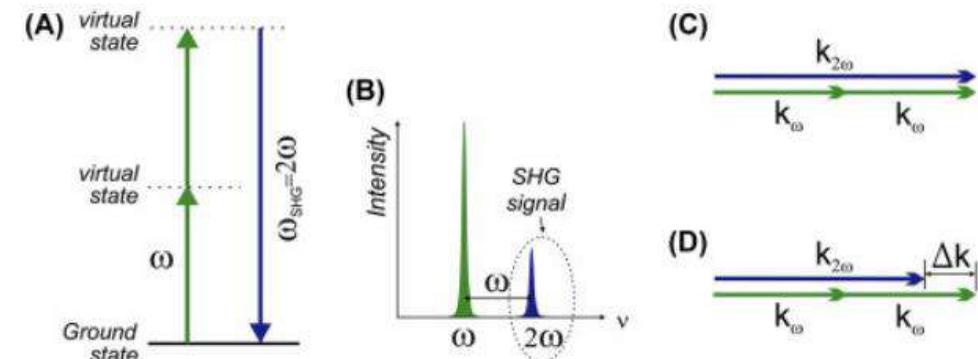


Figure 5.15. Second harmonic generation (SHG) process: (A) energy level diagram, (B) spectral positions of input and output fields, (C) perfect phase matching, and (D) usual wave-vector mismatch in tissue environment, which is compensated by randomness and dispersion.

[Second-Harmonic Generation - an overview \(pdf\) | ScienceDirect Topics](#)

Intense laser field induces a nonlinear polarization  $P^{2\omega}$  in a noncentrosymmetric molecule resulting in the production of a coherent wave at exactly twice the incident frequency

# Microscopia di Seconda Armonica - SHG

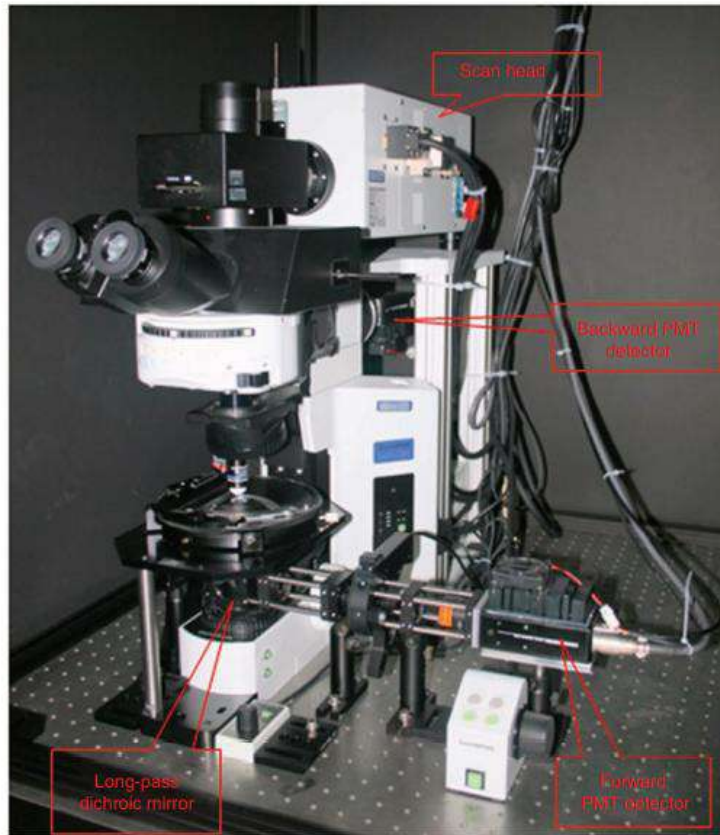


Figure 4 | Annotated photograph of the upright microscope, detectors and light-tight box.

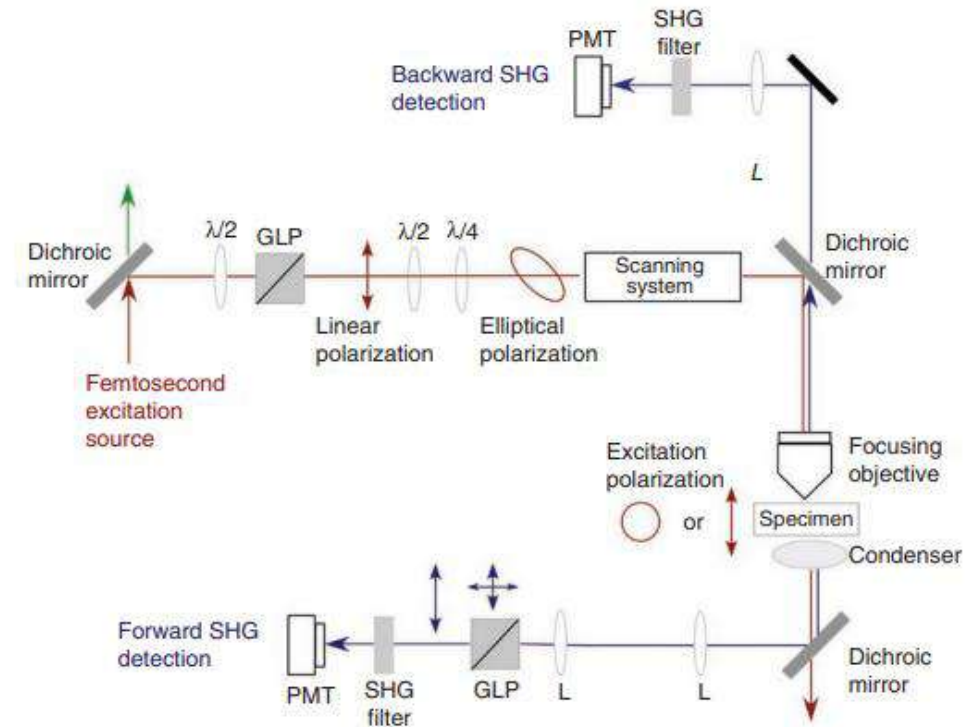
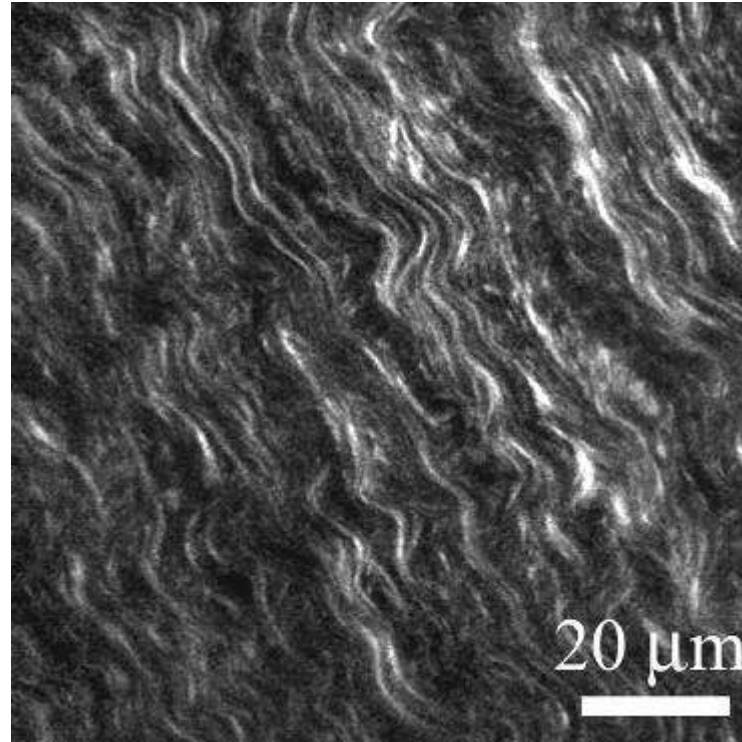


Figure 2 | Schematic of the optical layout of the SHG microscope, showing the optical components before the scan head and the detection pathways. L, lens;  $\lambda/2$  and  $\lambda/4$  are half- and quarter-wave plates, respectively.



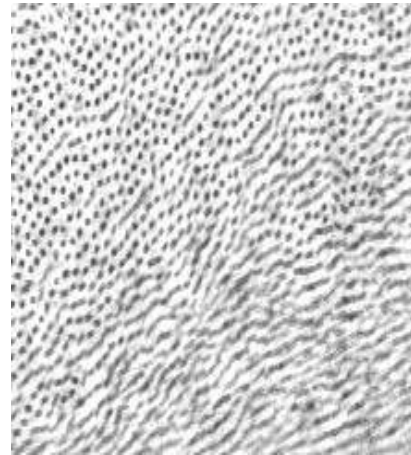
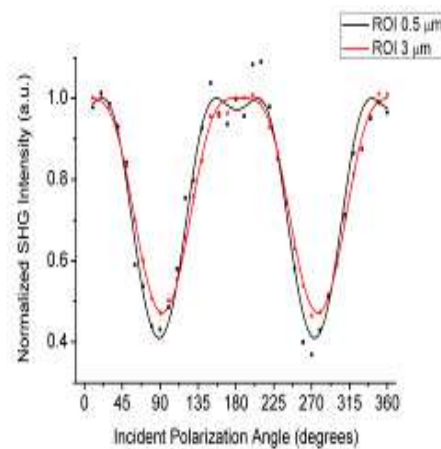
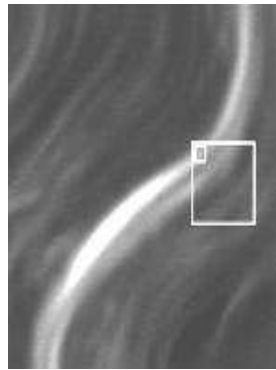
# Microscopia di Seconda Armonica - SHG

**Collagen is a strong generator of SH signal (high specificity and contrast!)**

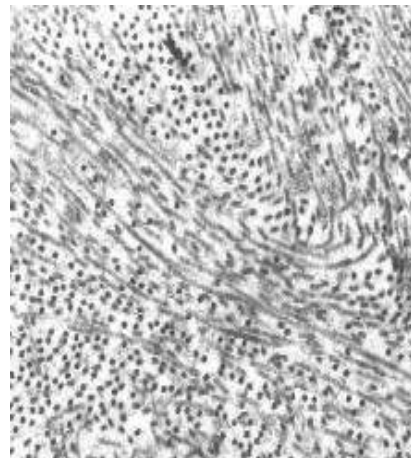
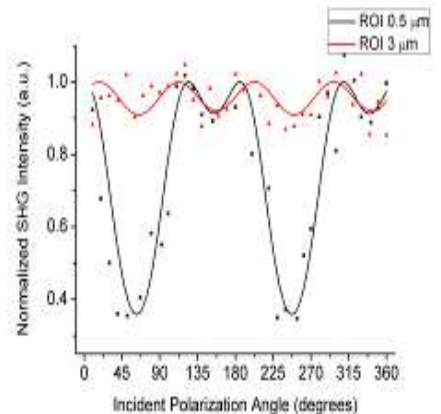
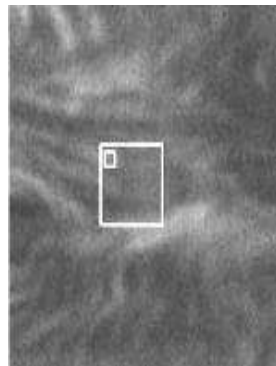


Circularly-polarized SHG images of corneal stroma revealed  $\sim 0.5 \mu\text{m}$  thick fiber-like structures, which actually consisted of many collagen fibrils (only 30 nm thick), organized in lamellar domains.

# Microscopia di Seconda Armonica - SHG



**Control site**  $\Rightarrow$  a similar anisotropy was seen between small and large ROIs indicating high alignment among fibrils (intact lamellar domains as detected by TEM)



**Welded site**  $\Rightarrow$  while small ROI indicated a certain preservation of fibrillar order, in larger areas normal anisotropy profile was lost (randomization of lamellar domains as detected by TEM)

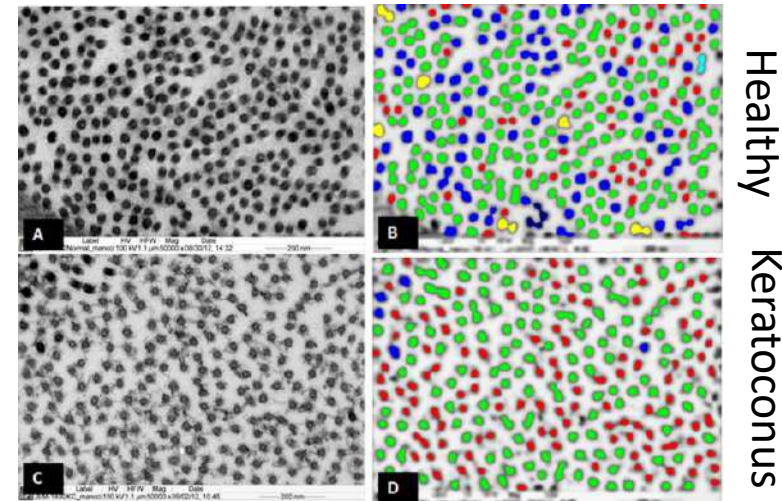


**SHG** may be applied to study several genetic, pathologic, accidental or surgical-induced **disorder states of corneal tissues**



# Pathologies: Keratoconus

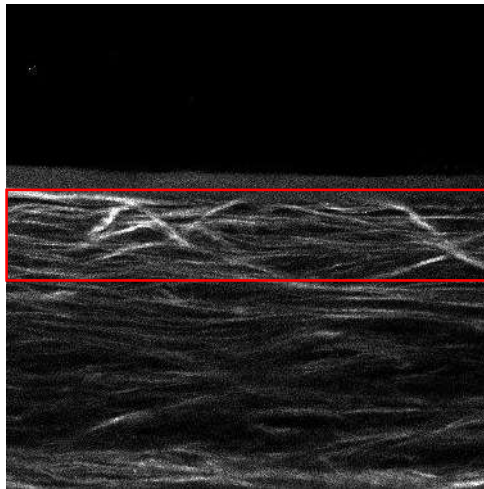
- A non-inflammatory, bilateral rare disease
- Structural changes of lamellar planes: cornea thinning and conical shape (distortion in vision and excessive thinning)



S. Akhtar et al. Mol Vis. 2013; 19: 1526–1537

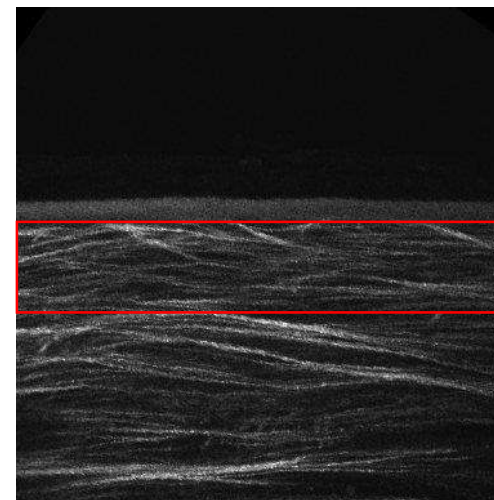
# SHG & Keratoconus

- SHG investigation Sagittal Optical Sectioning
  - Different morphology of the sutural lamellae, immediately below Bowman's membrane
  - In keratoconus, sutural lamellae are more oriented parallel to corneal surface than in healthy cornea
  - ROI of about 30 mm depth below Bowman's membrane within stroma

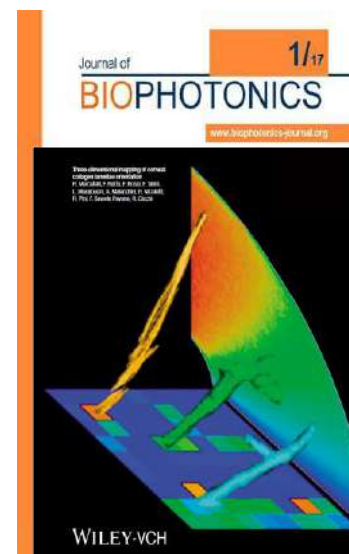


Healthy Cornea

Excitation wav.: 840 nm  
Detection wav: 420 nm  
Detection type: F-SHG  
Pixel dwell time: 20 ms  
FOV: 300 mm  
Sectioning: Sagittal



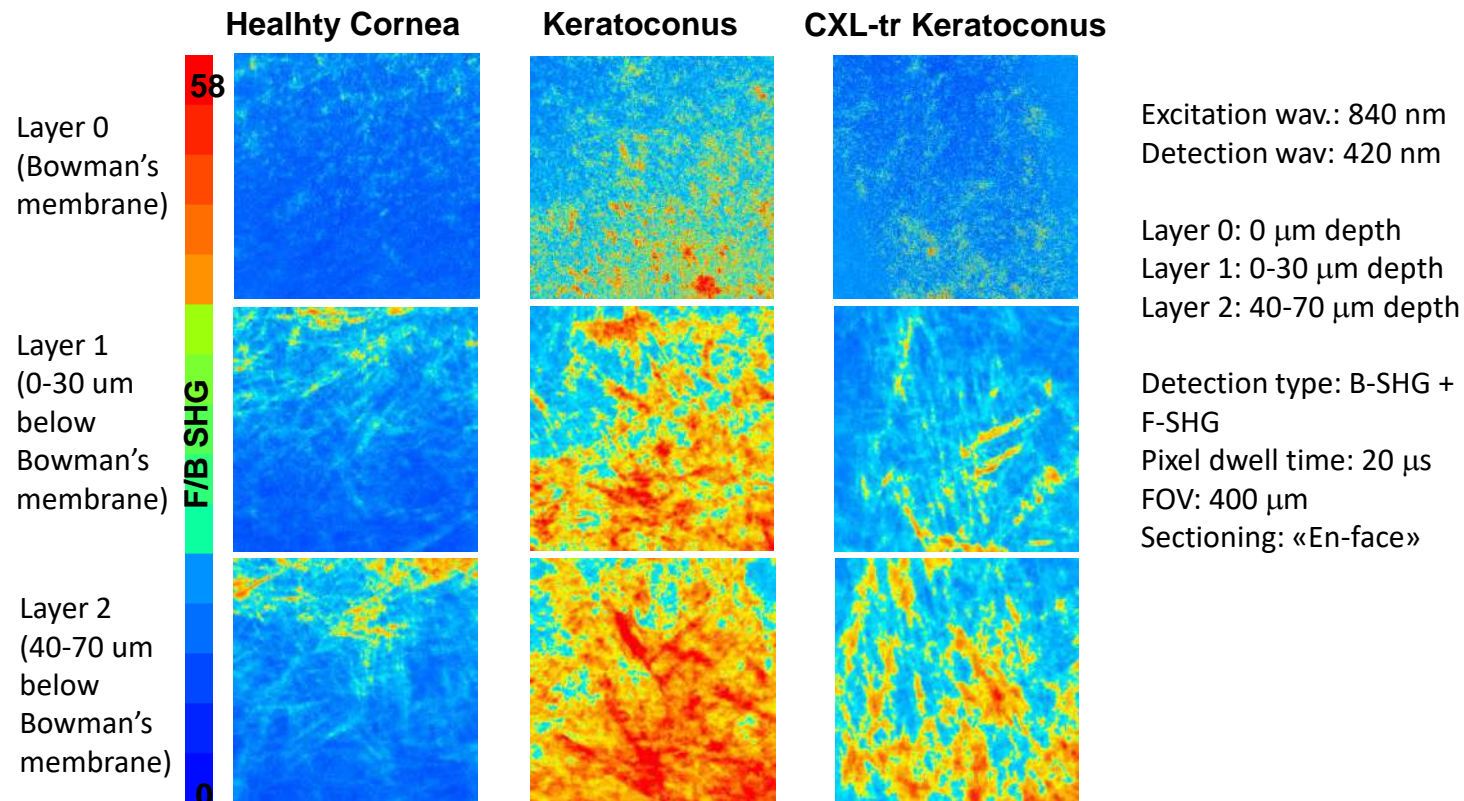
Keratoconus





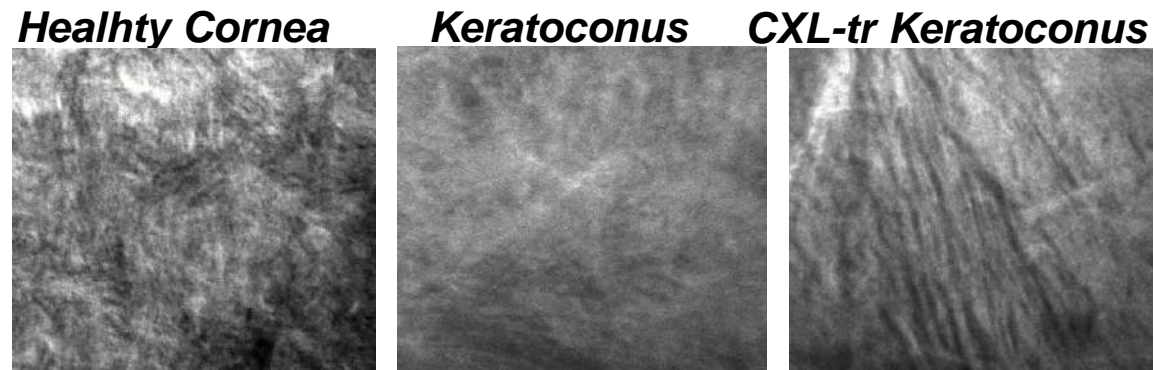
# SHG & Keratoconus

- FW/BW SHG Ratio:
  - Different orientation of corneal lamellae monitored by simultaneous detection of F-SHG and B-SHG
  - F/B SHG ratio in three different layers: Bowman's membrane, 0-30  $\mu\text{m}$  depth, 40-70  $\mu\text{m}$  depth



# SHG & Keratoconus

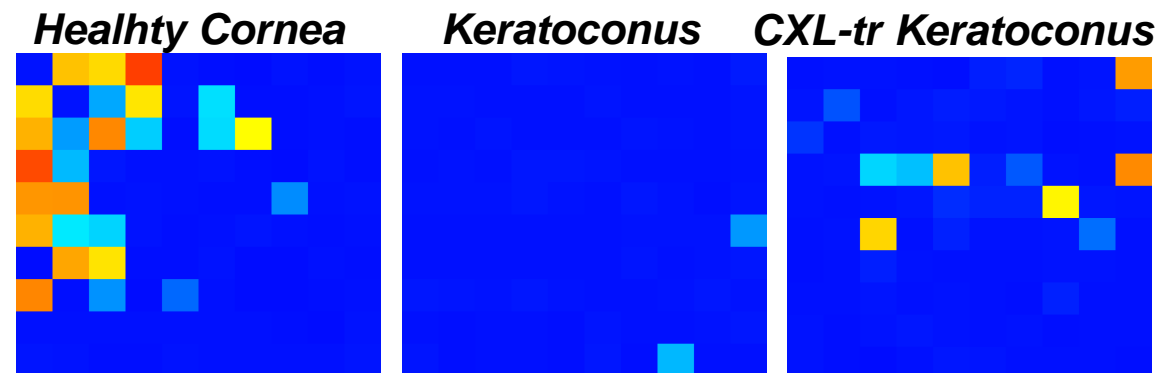
- Mapping the lamellar orientation:
  - Use of both F-SHG and B-SHG image stack
  - Evaluation of the correlation lengths – Average values within each domain - Ratio between axial and radial correlation length – Mean orientation angle wrt the Bowman's membrane



• *Sutural lamellae in Keratoconus are oriented at smaller angles wrt the Bowman's membrane than healthy cornea*

• *Orientation partially recovered after CXL-treatment*

## Angular distribution of sutural lamellae

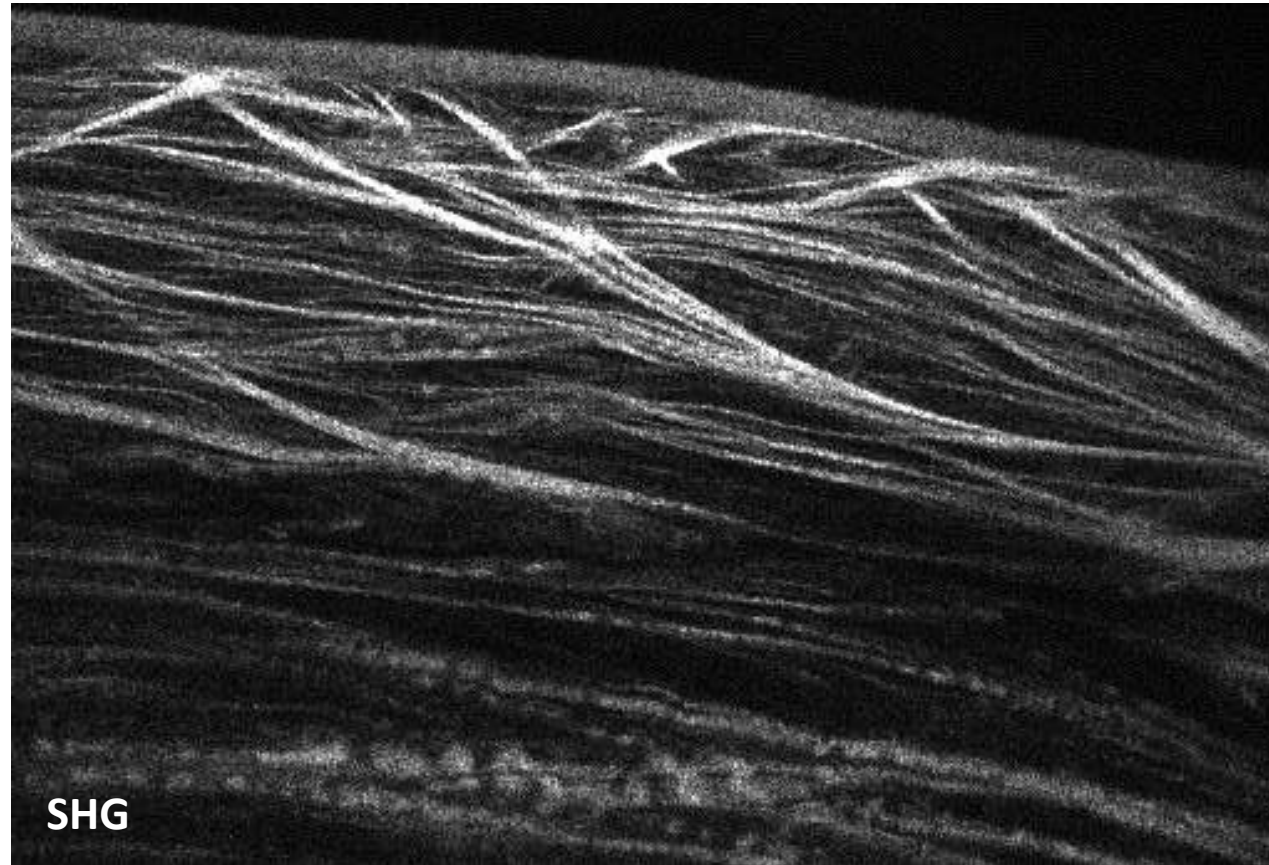


*Excitation wav.: 840 nm  
Detection wav: 420 nm  
MIP: 30  $\mu\text{m}$   
Detection type: B-SHG  
Pixel dwell time: 20  $\mu\text{s}$   
FOV: 150  $\mu\text{m}$   
Sectioning: «En-face»*



# Morpho-Mechanics investigation

➤ Focus on *Sutural lamellae*

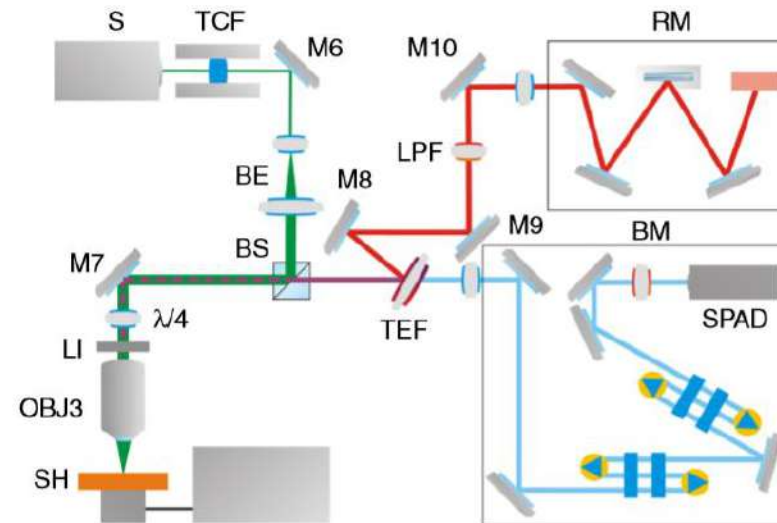
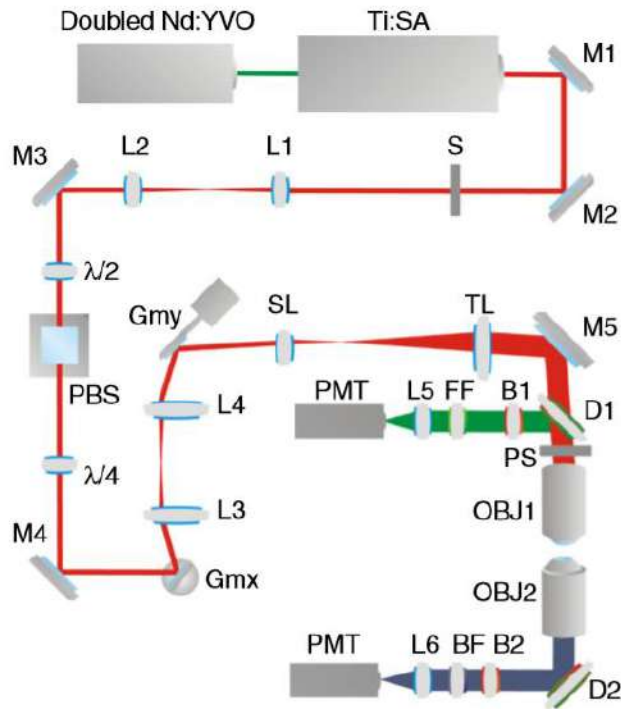


# Materials & Methods: Combined Microscopy

- SHG sketch and Brillouin/Raman setup

Excitation wav.: 840 nm  
Detection wav.: 420 nm  
Pixel dwell time: 20  $\mu$ s  
Laser Power: 8 mW

Detection type: F-SHG  
FOV: 200x200  $\mu$ m<sup>2</sup>  
Sectioning: *En-face*  
Spatial resolution: 300 nm radial  
1000 nm axial



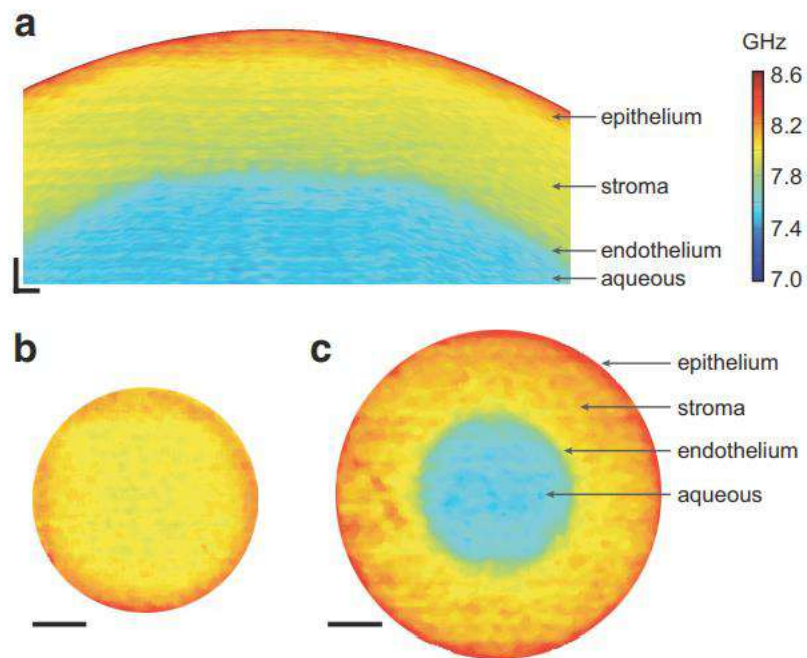
Excitation wav.: single mode 532 nm  
Spatial Resolution 2X2X10  $\mu$ m<sup>3</sup>  
Image Acquisition time: 65s  
Laser power @sample: 10 mW



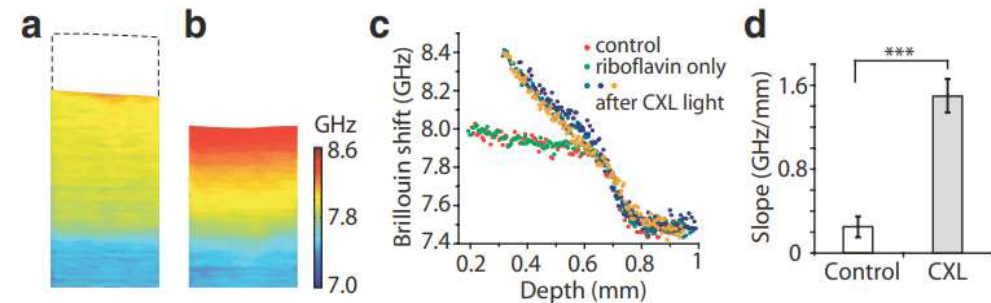
# Microscopia Brillouin: proprietà meccaniche

Scarcelli et al. IOVS, January 2012, Vol. 53, No. 1

IOVS, January 2012, Vol. 53, No. 1



**FIGURE 2.** Brillouin imaging of the cornea. (a) A cross-sectional Brillouin image of bovine cornea, revealing the decreasing modulus with depth. The horizontal ( $x$ ) and vertical ( $z$ ) span is  $5 \times 0.5$  mm. (b) En face Brillouin image of the cornea optically sectioned at a shallow depth. (c) A Brillouin image of a deeper section. Scale bars: (a)  $200 \mu\text{m}$ ; (b, c) 1 mm.



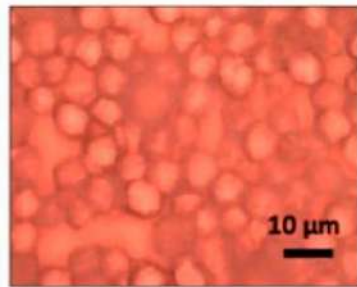
**FIGURE 5.** Brillouin measurement of the CXL procedure. (a) A cross-sectional ( $x$ - $z$ ) Brillouin image of untreated cornea without the epithelium. (b) A Brillouin image of the cornea after CXL treatment. (c) Brillouin depth profiles of the de-epithelialized cornea before treatment, after Riboflavin soaking, and after illumination of the treatment light (orange, cyan, and blue circles). (d) The slope of the Brillouin frequency in the stroma before and after the CXL treatment. Error bars, SD ( $n = 4$ ). \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ .

## Brillouin Light Scattering

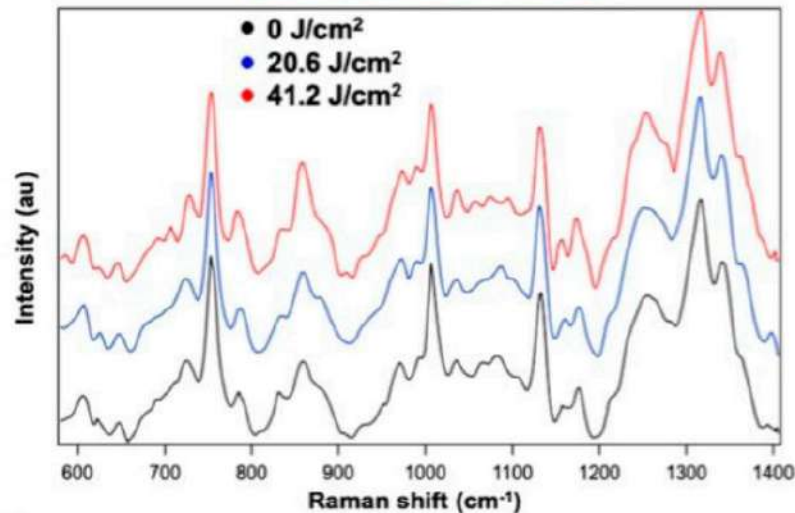
Named after the French physicist Léon Brillouin, Brillouin light scattering (BLS) is a physical phenomenon that was first reported (in 1922) to occur when light interacts with material and undergoes scattering. All solid materials are made up of atoms and structures that are constantly vibrating but remain in fixed positions in relation to each other. Waves of vibration constantly run through solids, especially crystalline solids. These elastic vibrational waves can cause light to scatter in different ways when it

# Microscopia Raman: proprietà chimiche

A



C

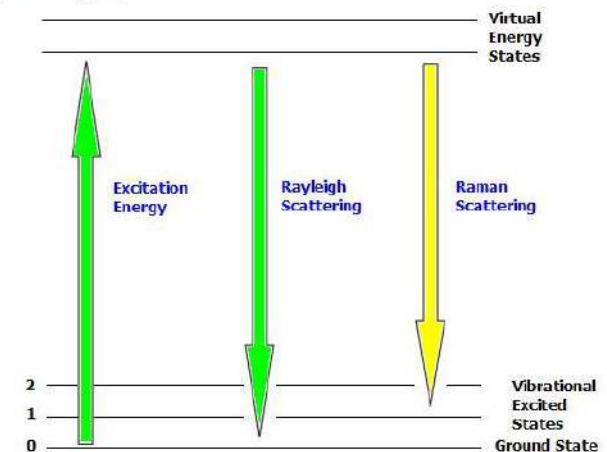


B

Peak position (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Assignment
750	Cytochrome c
830, 850	Tyrosine (proteins)
1003, 1030	Phenylalanine (proteins)
1090	C-N stretching (proteins) C-C (lipids) O=P=O stretching (DNA)
1125	Cytochrome c
1230	Amide III (proteins) Cytosine (DNA)
1265	Amide III (proteins)
1305	Amide III (proteins) Adenine (DNA)
1335	Cytochrome c
1375	Adenine, Guanine, Thymine (DNA)

- La luce (laser) interagisce con le molecole del campione
- Restituisce l'impronta digitale del composto analizzato

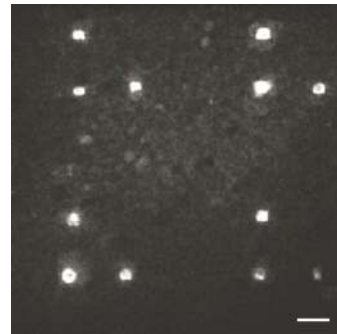
© CRAIC Technologies, Inc., 2008



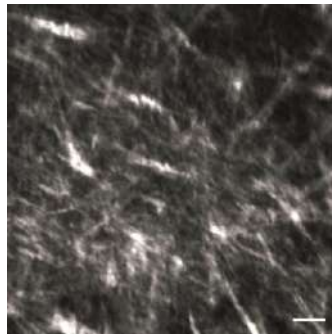


# Materials & Methods

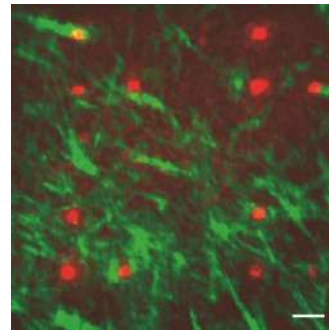
- 5 human healthy corneas (Veneto Eye Bank)
- Laser ablation spots (30 mW, 10x10  $\mu\text{m}^2$ ) as a fiducial marker



Corneal epithelium



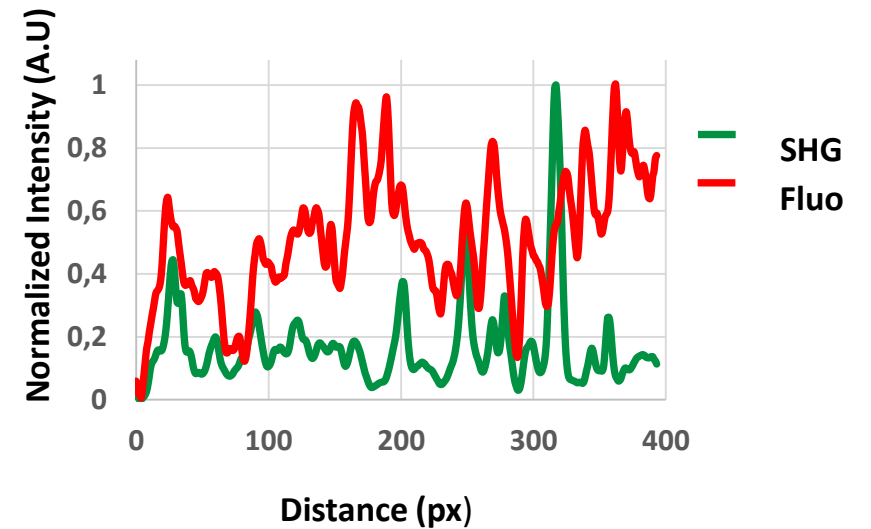
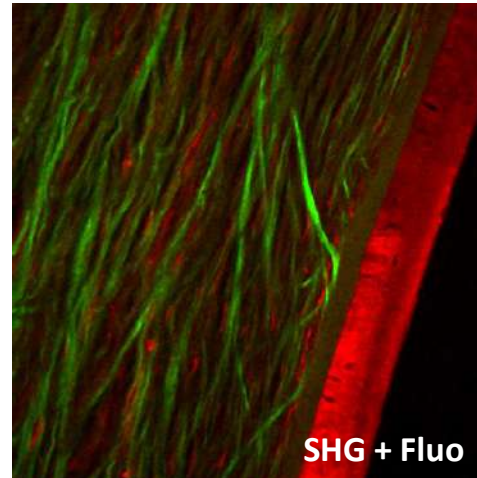
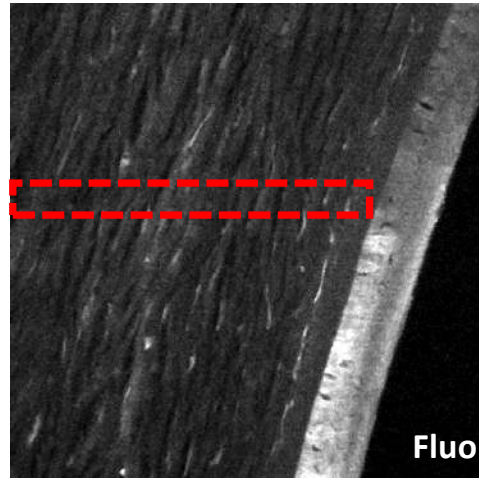
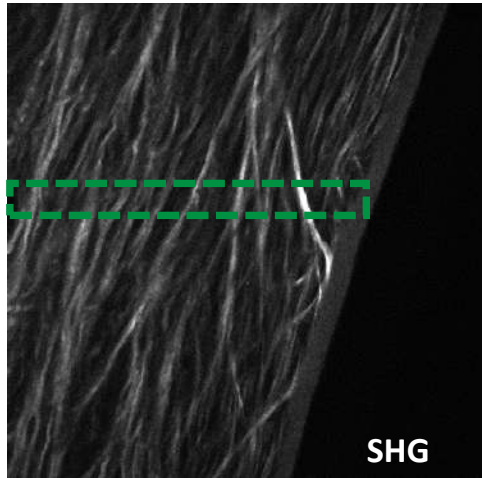
Below epithelium



Combined

# Morpho-Mechanics investigation

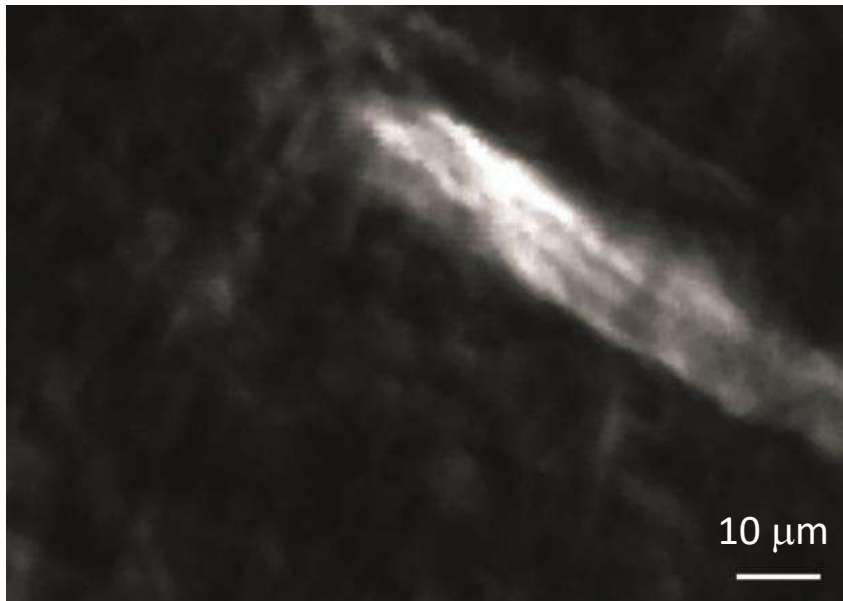
- Sutural lamellae: first evidences in healthy human corneas



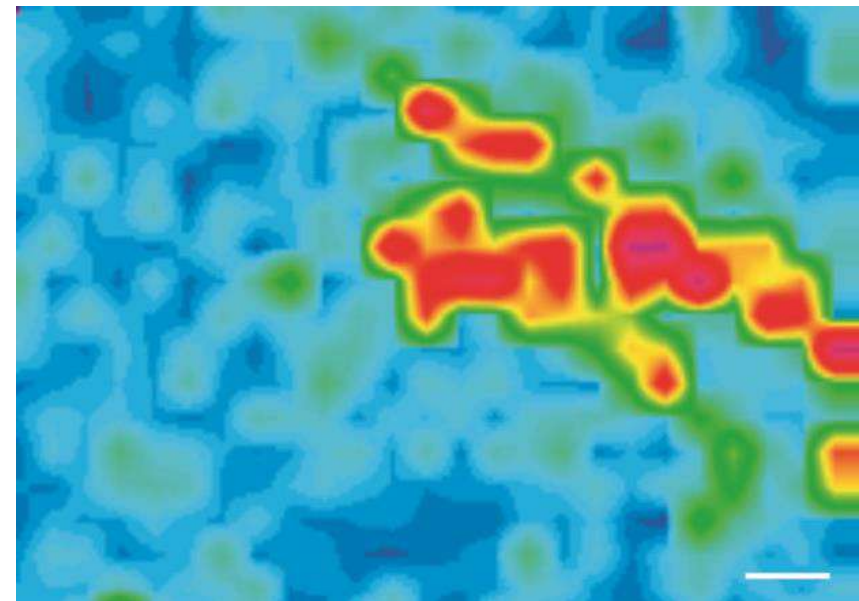
# Results- SHG

- En face optical sectioning
- Starting 10  $\mu\text{m}$  below Bowman membrane

SHG image



Inclination map

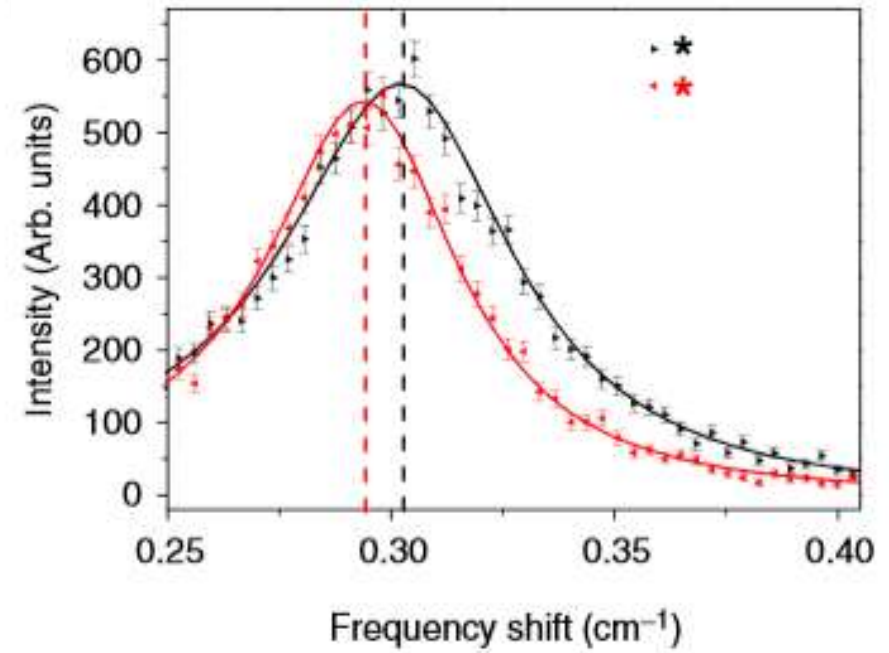
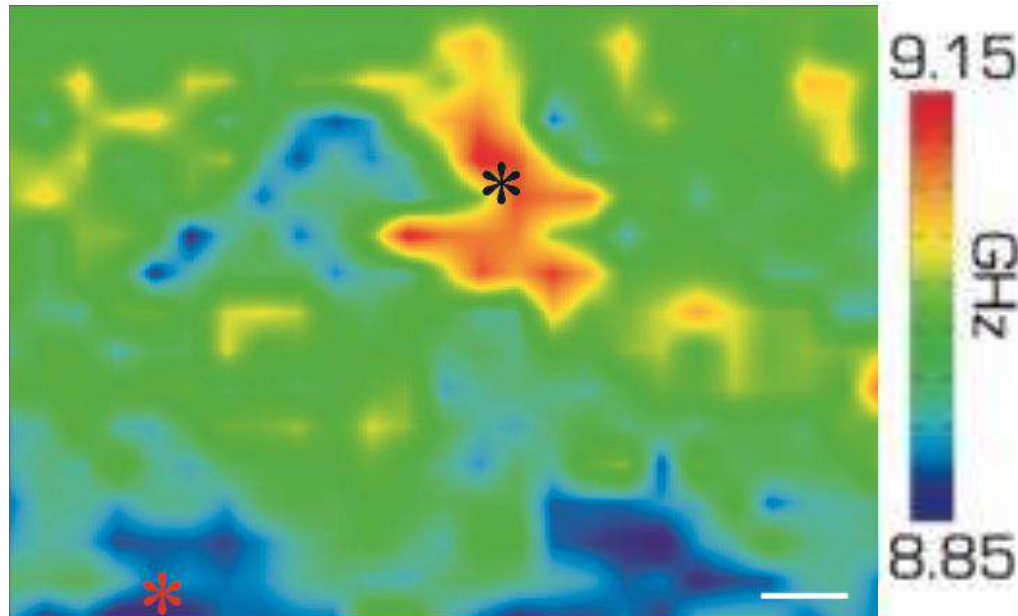




# Results- Brillouin

- Frequency and linewidth shift in Brillouin analysis

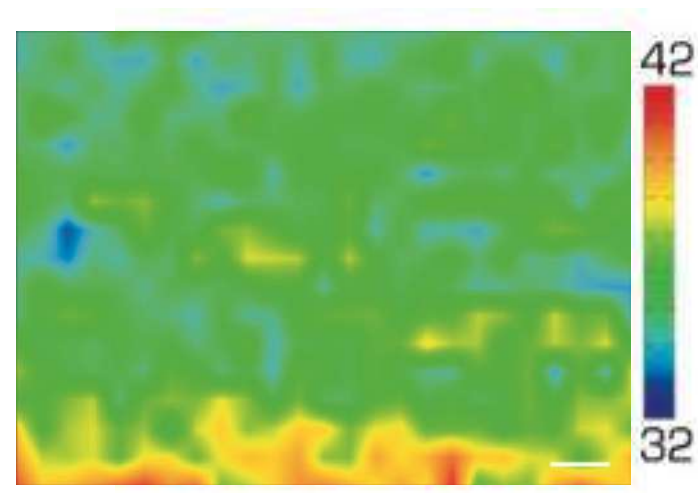
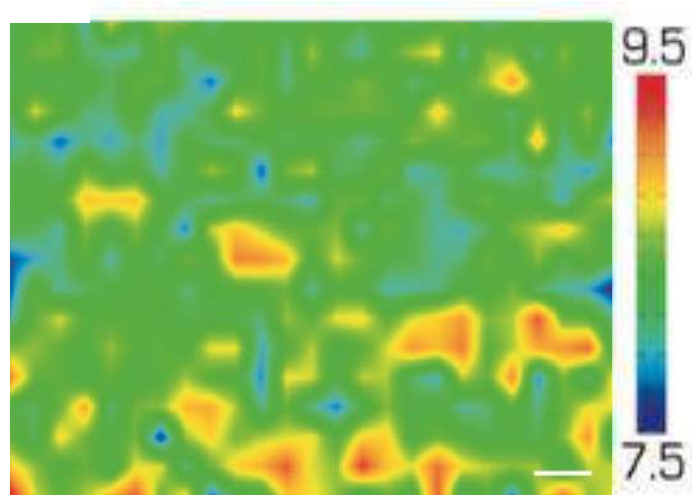
Brillouin frequency shift



# Results- Raman

- Slight inhomogeneity
- No correlation with mechanical modulation

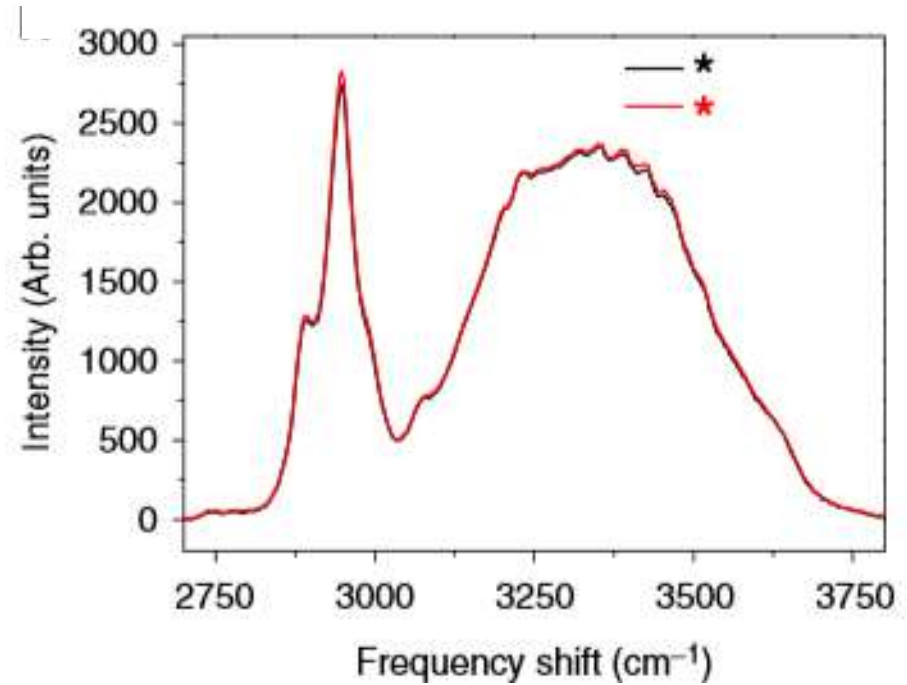
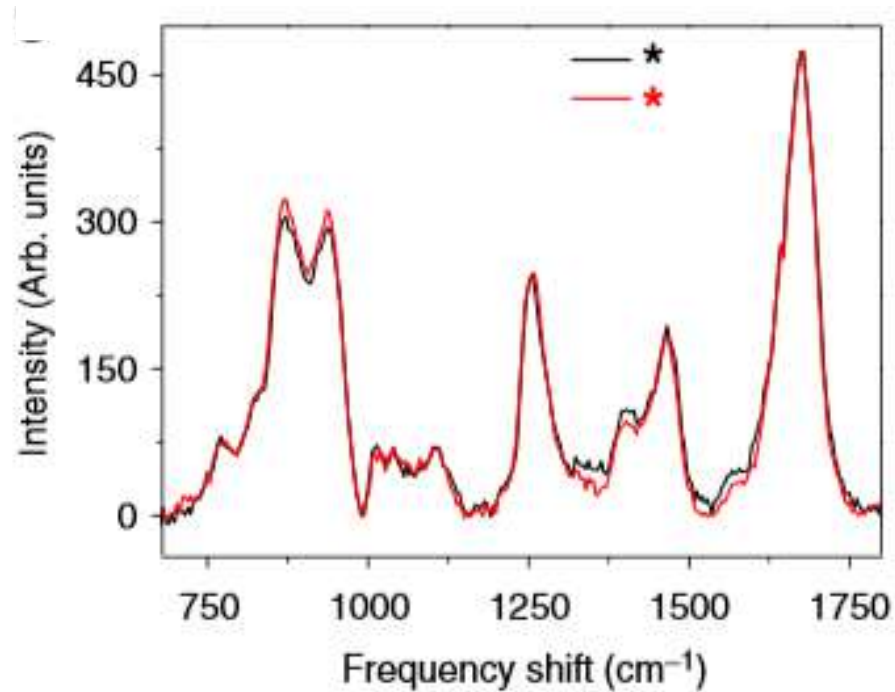
Intensity ratio between the CH stretching region (2800–3100 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and the amide I region (1600–1750  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). Mean error 6%



Intensity ratio between the OH stretching region (3100–3800 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and the amide I region (1600–1750  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). Mean error 6%

# Results- Raman

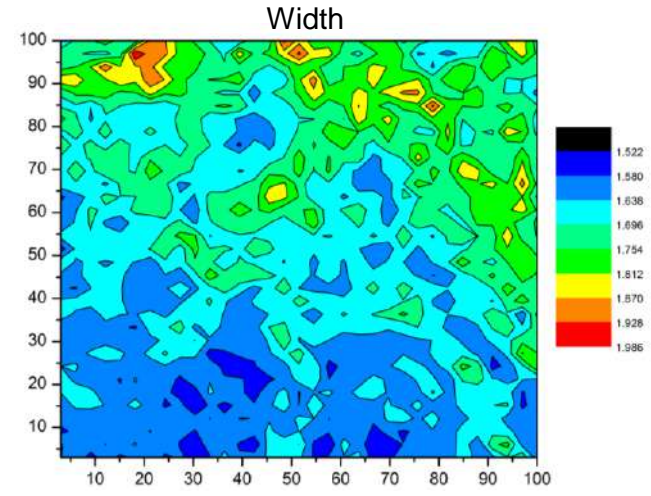
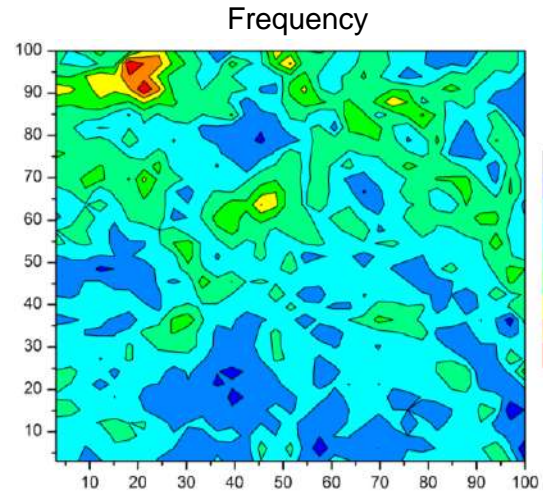
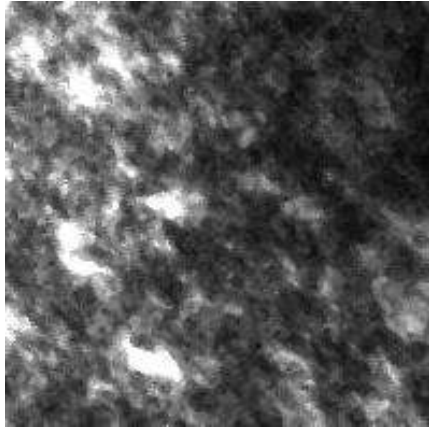
- No significant frequency shift





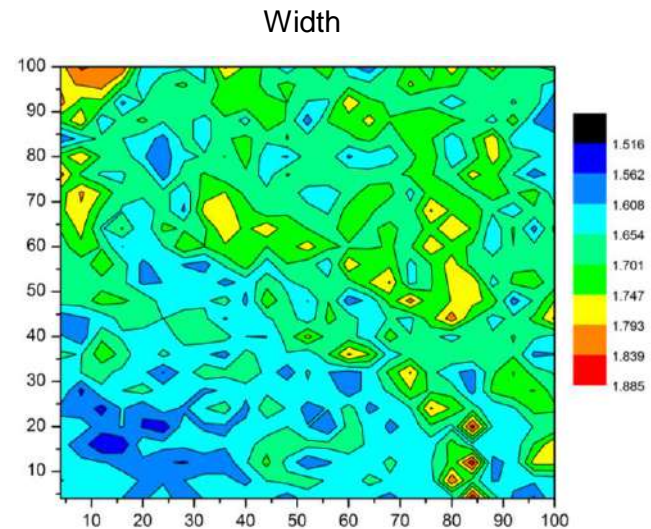
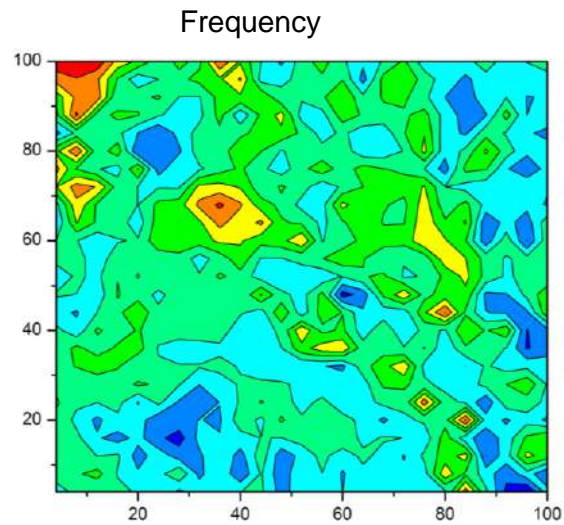
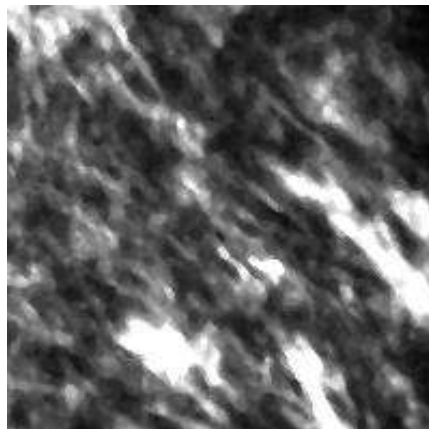
# Results- Brillouin

z 48  $\mu\text{m}$



mapping: 33 x 33 (step 3  $\mu\text{m}$ )

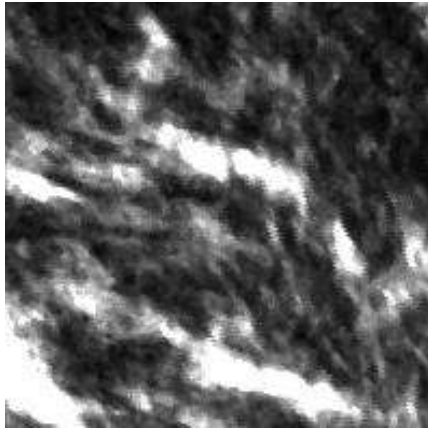
z 58  $\mu\text{m}$



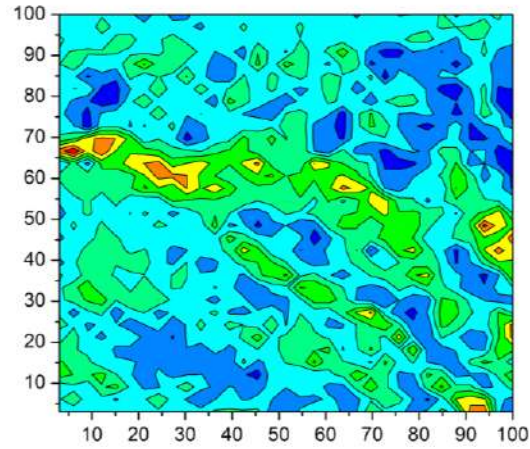
mapping: 25 x 25 (step 4  $\mu\text{m}$ )

# Results- Brillouin

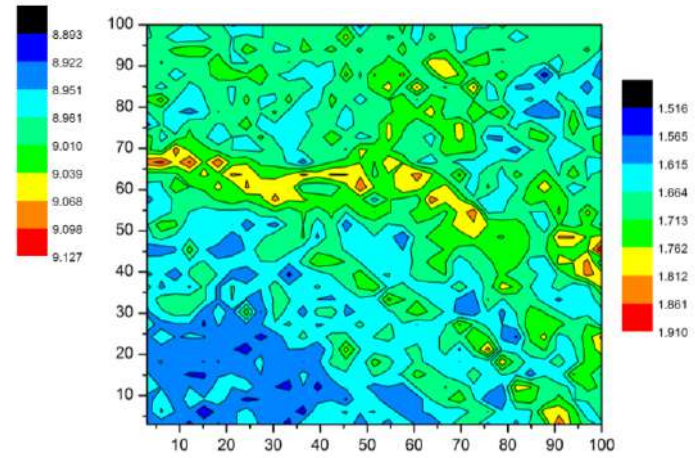
z 68  $\mu\text{m}$



Frequency

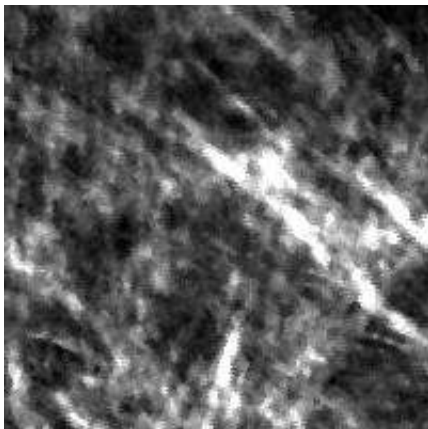


Width

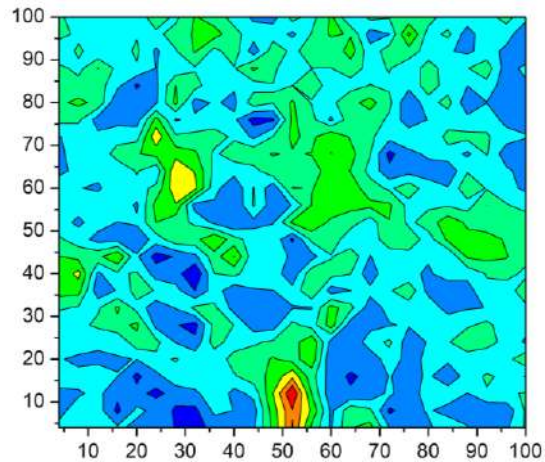


mapping: 33 x 33 (step 3  $\mu\text{m}$ )

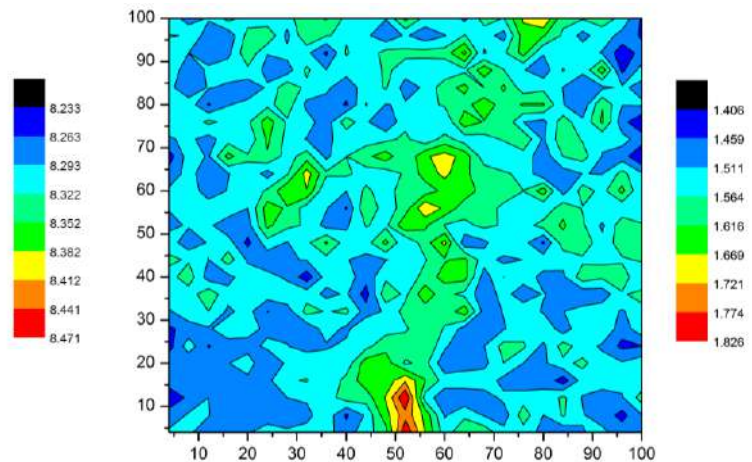
z 88  $\mu\text{m}$



Frequency



Width



mapping: 25 x 25 (step 4  $\mu\text{m}$ )



# Results- Brillouin

- Frequency and linewidth shift in Brillouin analysis:

- The real part of the longitudinal modulus is

$$M' = \left( \frac{\lambda_i}{4\pi} \right)^2 \frac{\rho}{n^2} \omega_b^2$$

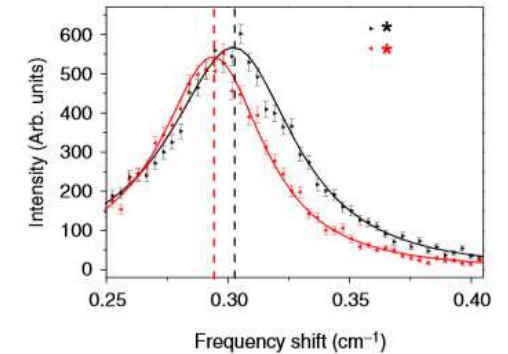
- The imaginary part of the longitudinal modulus is

$$M'' = \omega_b \Gamma_b \frac{\rho}{q^2}$$

$\lambda_i$  = incident light wav.

$\Gamma_b$  = HWHM Brillouin curve

$q = 2nk_i$  = exchanged momentum



Modulation <0.3%  
In human cornea

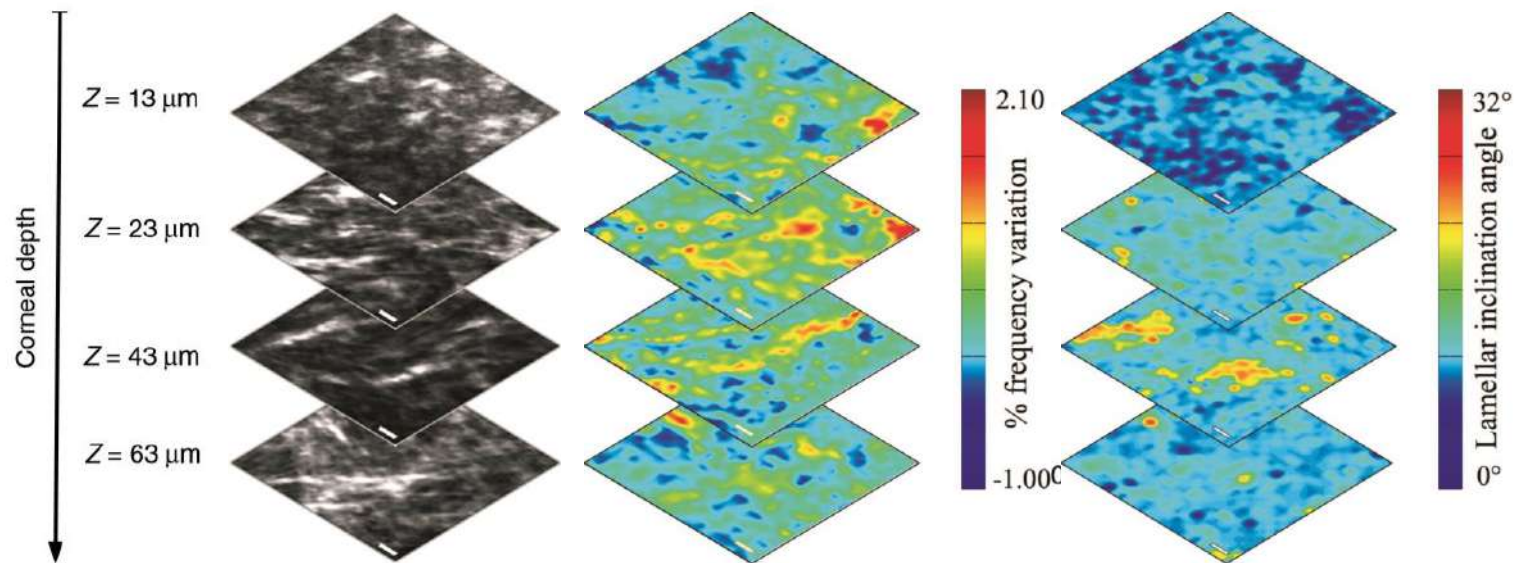
➤ Freq shift: increase in the longitudinal elastic modulus

➤ Linewidth shift: increase in viscosity



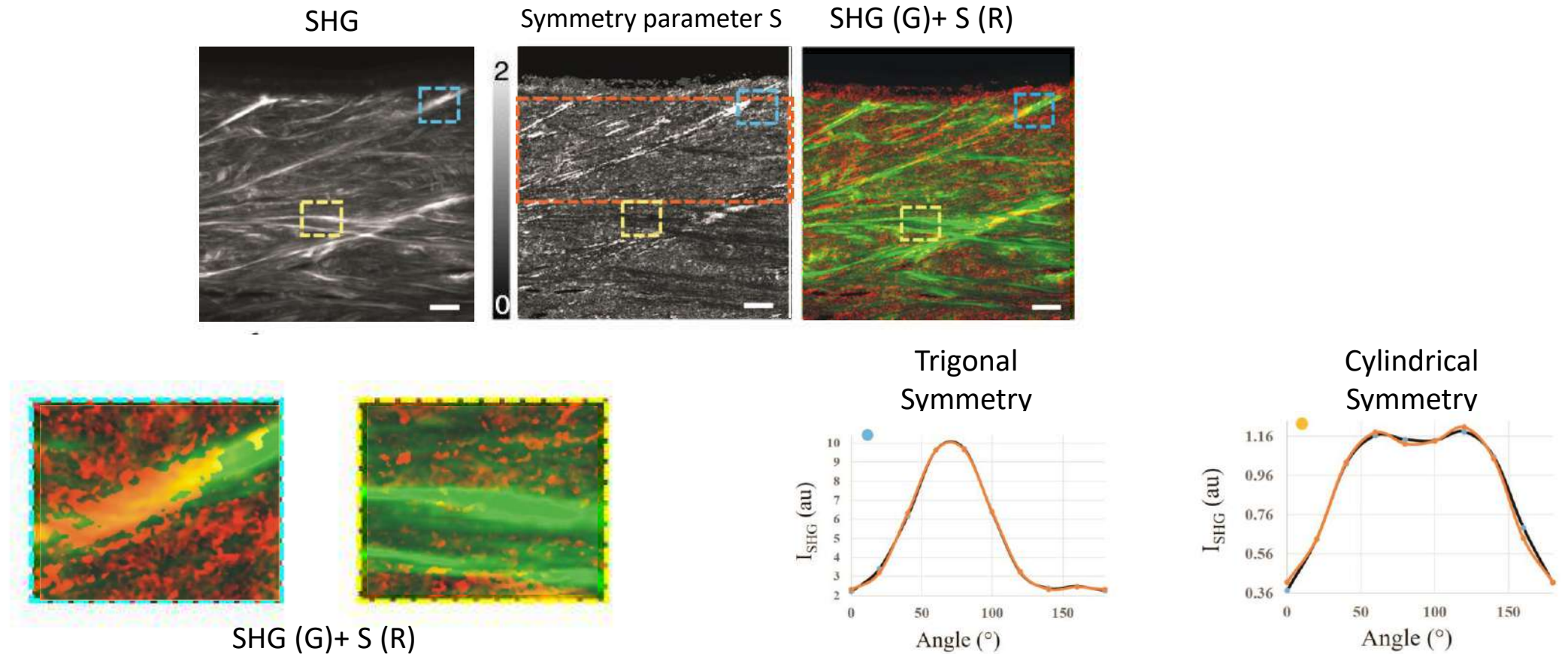
# In-depth analysis of lamellar collagen

- Poor correlation between elastic heterogeneity and lamellar inclination



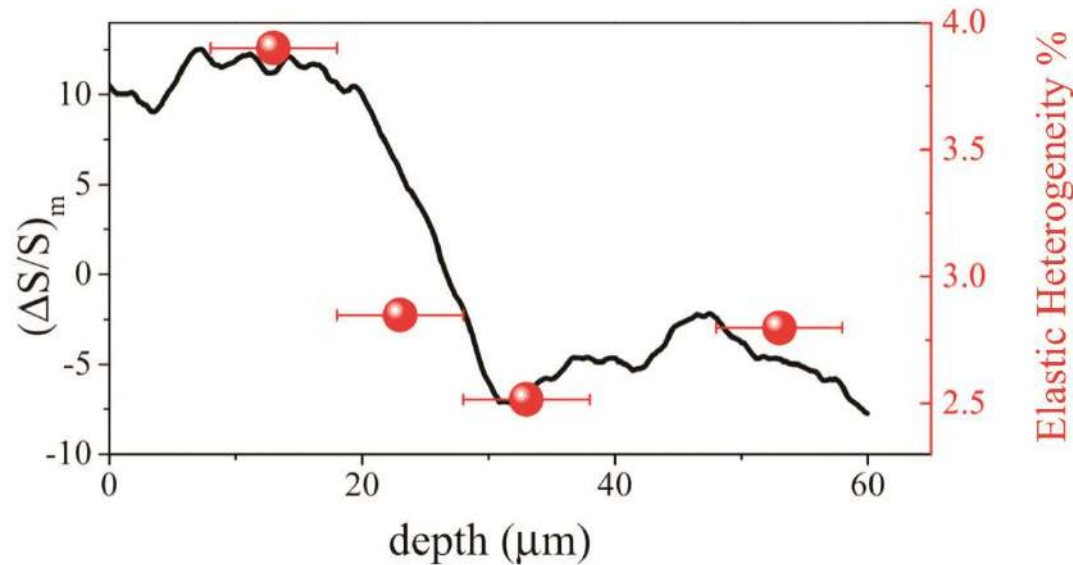
# In-depth analysis of lamellar collagen

- P-SHG Symmetry analysis (trigonal symmetry)

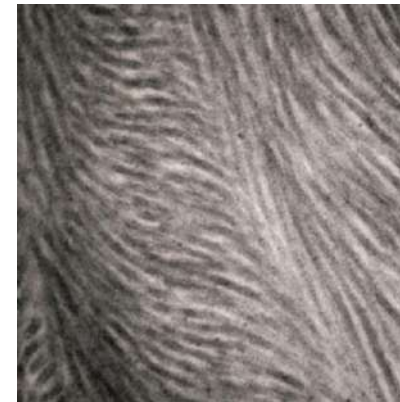


# In-depth analysis of lamellar collagen

- P-SHG Symmetry analysis (trigonal symmetry):
  - Good match with elastic heterogeneity and TEM analysis

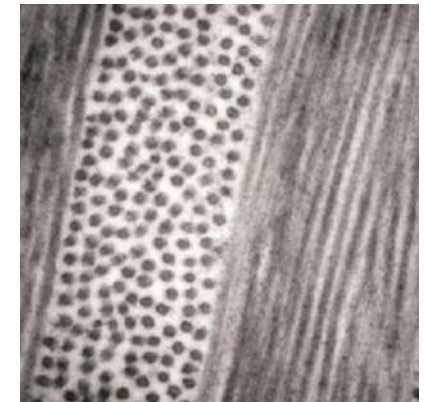


Sutural lamellae



Helicoidal distribution of collagen fibrils  
Trigonal symmetry

Deep stroma



Adjacent collagen fibrils oriented in the same direction and staggered side-by-side  
Cylindrical symmetry



# Le conclusioni di questo studio:

- The combined use of SHG-Brillouin-Raman microscopy is feasible in corneal tissue
- It provides info on tissue morphology, mechanics and chemistry with an all-optical non-contact approach
- Sutural lamellae are characterized by:
  - Different supramolecular symmetry (SHG)
  - Different stiffness (Brillouin)
  - Same biochemistry (Raman)
- The collagen in sutural lamellae has a different supramolecular organization

# Conclusioni

- Le «nuove» microscopie consentono analisi della cornea in vivo su paziente
- La microscopia non-lineare e la combinazione di più approcci di nuove microscopie permetteranno diagnostica «puntuale» in vivo
- Possibile applicazione: diagnosi precoce di alcune patologie (e.g. keratocono)

# Approfondimenti

- Istologie: <https://histologyguide.com/slideview/MHS-227a-eye/20-slide-1.html?x=10499&y=35551&z=3.1&page=1>
- I Microscopi: [Microscopy for Dummies \(wiley-vch.de\)](http://www.wiley-vch.de)
- Microscopia Non-lineare: <https://youtu.be/4mESMygp5EU>
- Microscopia Brillouin: [Brillouin Microscopy \(photometrics.com\)](http://www.photometrics.com)
- Microscopia Raman: [Confocal Raman Microscopy \(The Basics\) | JASCO \(jascoinc.com\)](http://www.jascoinc.com)
- [Corneal Imaging: An Introduction \(uiowa.edu\)](http://www.uiowa.edu)

In generale i siti dei produttori (Olympus, Nikon, Leica ecc. hanno la sezione «education»)



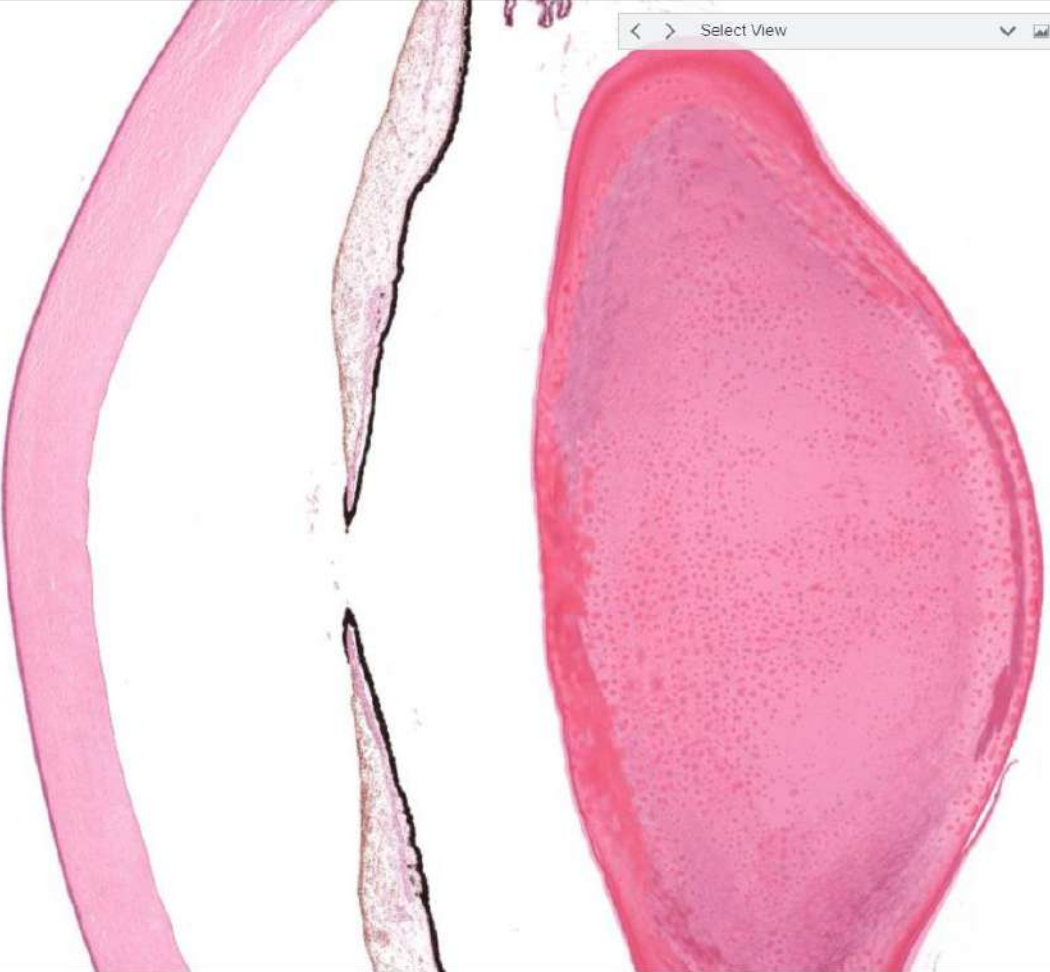
# Microscopia *classica* - Istologia

CHAPTER 20 - ORGANS OF SPECIAL SENSE

Histology Guide

MHS 227a Eye

### Major Structures of the Eye



Eyes are the sensory organs responsible for vision. Light is focused by the lens on the retina.

Each eye forms a **bulb** that is divided into two parts:

- Aqueous Chamber - region anterior to the lens.
  - Anterior Chamber - in front of the iris.
  - Posterior Chamber - behind the iris.
  - Aqueous Humor - clear fluid that flow from the posterior chamber to the anterior chamber and leaves the eye through the **Schlemm's canal**.
- Vitreous Chamber - region posterior to the lens.
  - Vitreous Body - transparent gelatinous substance that fills the cavity

The **wall of the eye** is composed of three concentric layers (or tunics). In this specimen, they are easily identified because they separated during preparation.

- Fibrous Tunic - outer layer
- Uveal Tunic - pigmented middle layer
- Retinal Tunic - innermost layer

The next pages explain these in more detail.

1000  $\mu\text{m}$

prev 1 2 3 4 5 next