



Near-Infrared Photobiomodulation of Living Cells, Tubulin, and Microtubules *In Vitro*

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Near-Infrared Photobiomodulation Therapy (PBMT)

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A non-invasive method utilizing non-ionizing sources of low-intensity visible or near-infrared light to stimulate photochemical changes that can induce positive health benefits and treat symptoms associated with various conditions.



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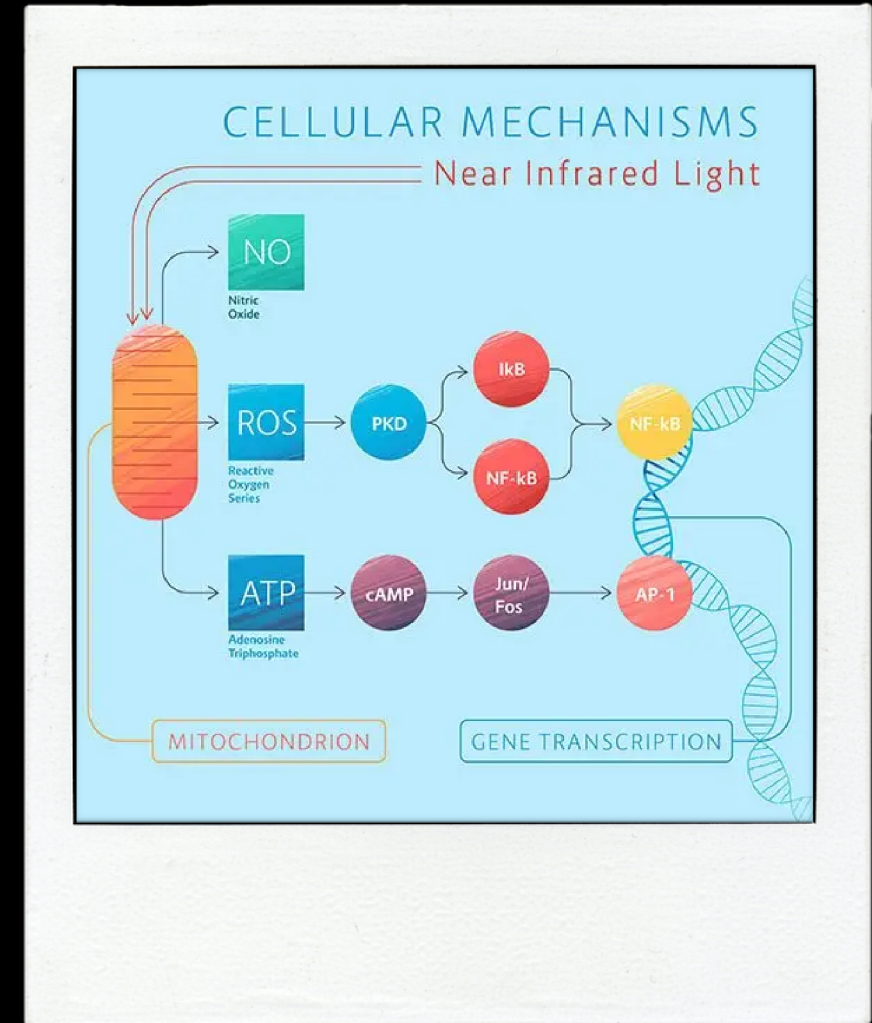
- *Accidentally discovered in 1967 by Endre Mester with a low-power ruby laser applied near tumour sites in mice, which resulted in hair growth & wound healing. *Radiobiologia, Radiotherapia* **9**, 621–626 (1968); *The American Journal of Surgery* **122**, 532--535 (1971)*
- *Originally referred to as low-level light/laser therapy (LLLT)*
- *Effects appear to depend greatly on the parameters & dosimetry used (e.g., spectral irradiance/power density, dose/fluence, wavelength, pulse rate)*

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Near-Infrared (NIR) PBM — Clinical Results

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- *A single concussion case study found positive changes in behavioural and neuroimaging measures (e.g., increased cerebral perfusion) after 8 weeks of home PBM treatments. Frontiers in Neurology* **11**, 952 (2020)

Experimental Device Information

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Vielight Neuro Alpha Brain PBM Device

Transcranial-Intranasal NIR PBM

Experimental Device Information



Vielight Neuro Alpha Brain PBM Device
Transcranial-Intranasal NIR PBM

Parameter	Value (Intranasal)	Value (Transcranial)
Light source	810 nm LED × 1	810 nm LED × 4 (3 posterior, 1 anterior)
LED output power	25 mW	100 mW (posterior) and 75 mW (anterior)
LED pulse frequency	10 Hz	10 Hz
Pulse duty cycle	50%	50%
Beam spot-size	~ 1 cm ²	~ 1 cm ²
LED power density	25 mW/cm ²	100 mW/cm ² (posterior) and 75 mW/cm ² (anterior)
Application time (default)	20 min	20 min
E_{Net} delivered (per LED)	15 J	60 J (posterior) and 45 J (anterior)
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Table of Device Parameters

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Vielight Neuro Alpha Brain PBM Device

Transcranial-Intranasal NIR PBM

- *Proprietary LEDs used produce non-thermal, non-ionizing, and incoherent radiation*

LEDs target the DMN (disrupted in Alzheimer's cases)

Low-level NIR photons have been shown to be able to penetrate the skull (both ex vivo & in silico)

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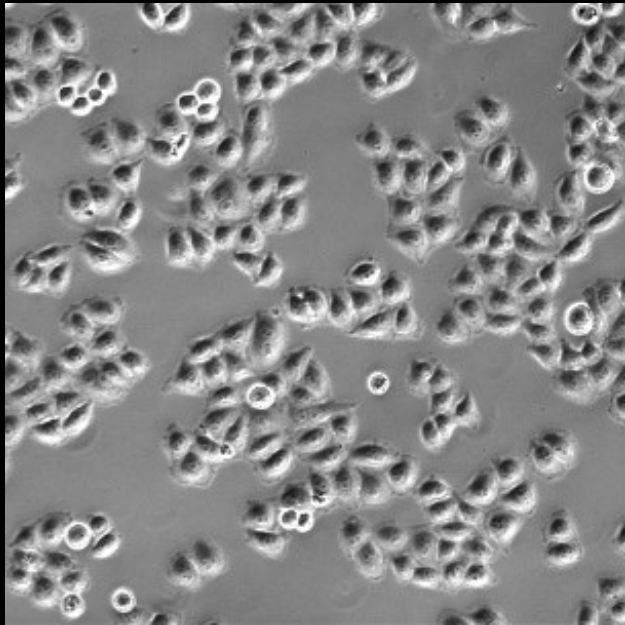
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In Vitro Experiments with NIR PBM

Probing the Effects on Cells & Cellular Components

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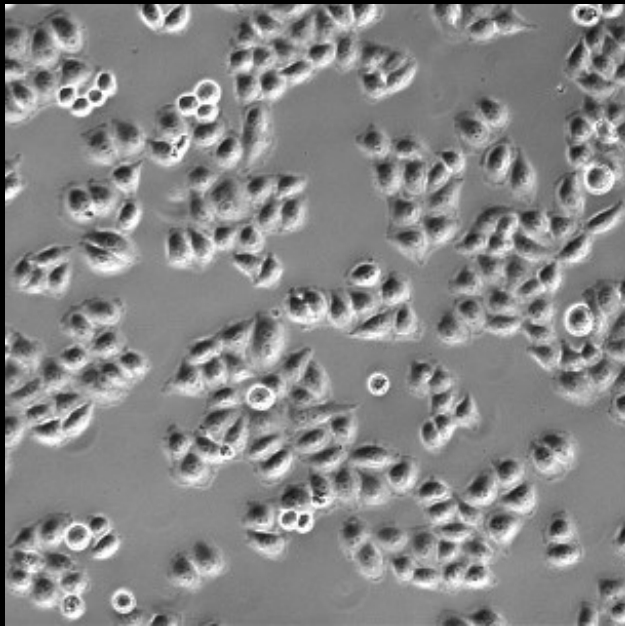
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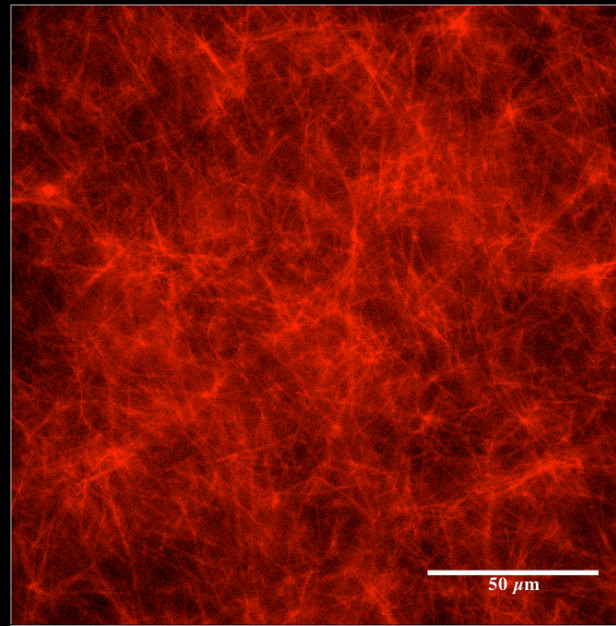
Living Cells (HeLa & U251)

Ionic Conductivity Measurements

Probing the Effects on Cells & Cellular Components

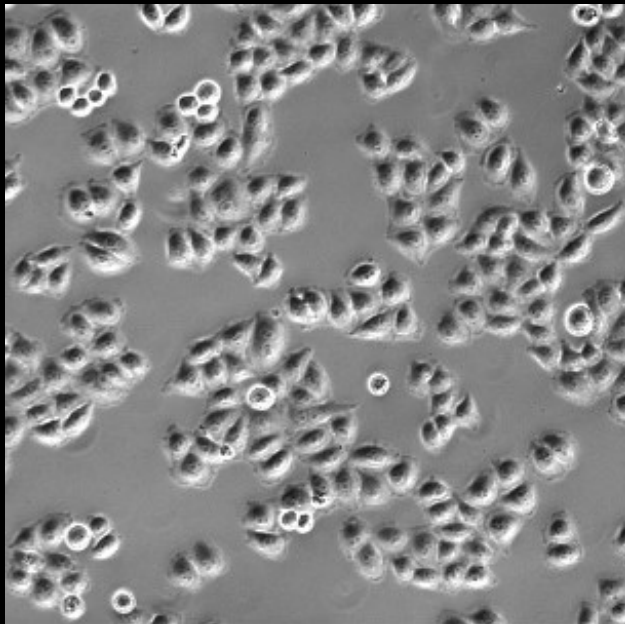


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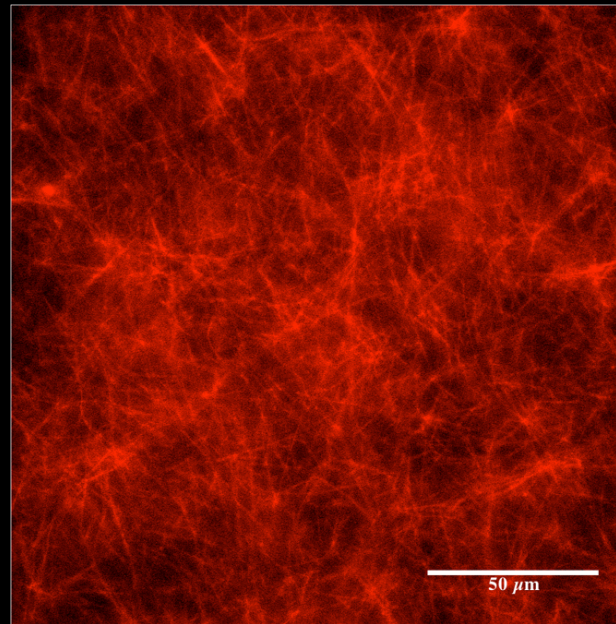


Microtubules in Buffer Solutions
Fluorescence Microscopy Analysis

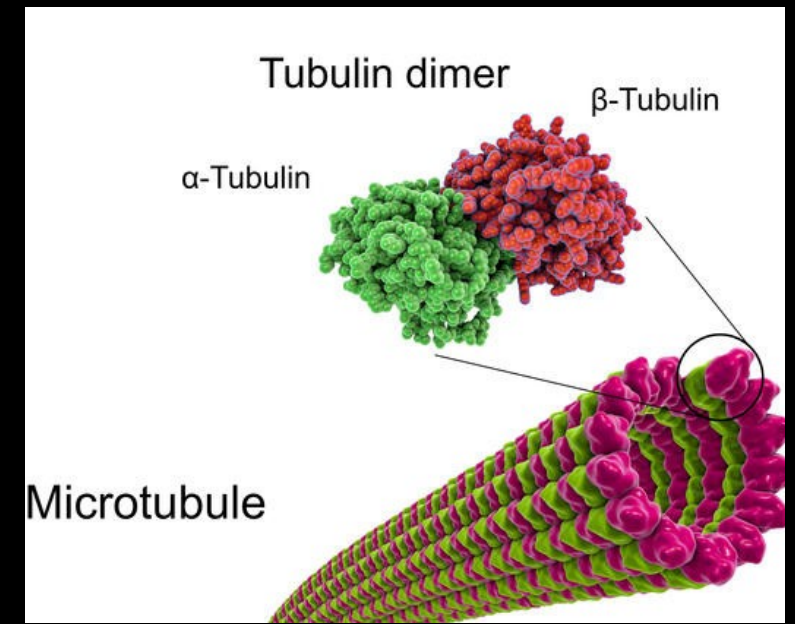
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Tubulin in Buffer Solutions
Turbidity Measurements

2

NIR PBM—Experiment 1:

Living Cells

Experimental Procedures

Experimental Procedures

Cell Cultures:



Experimental Procedures

Cell Cultures:

- *HeLa (human cervical cancer cell line) & U251 cells (human glioblastoma cell line)*



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- *Cells were cultured in high glucose DMEM, 5% FBS, and antibiotics (penicillin & streptomycin)*



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- *We investigated the effect of the Vielight LED applicator alongside two different frequencies of TTFs, 50 and 100 kHz*
- *Measurements of T , R , and I are recorded every 3 s by the system*

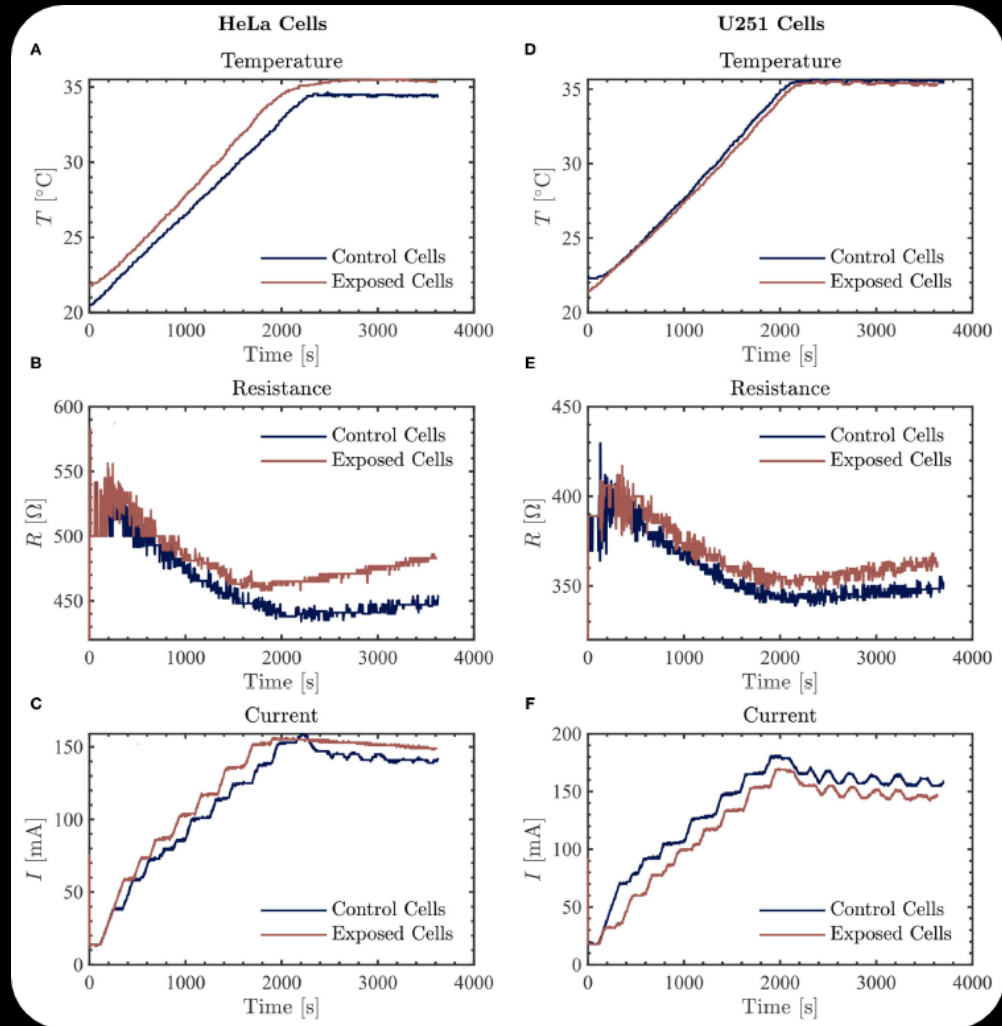


Conductivity Measurement Results

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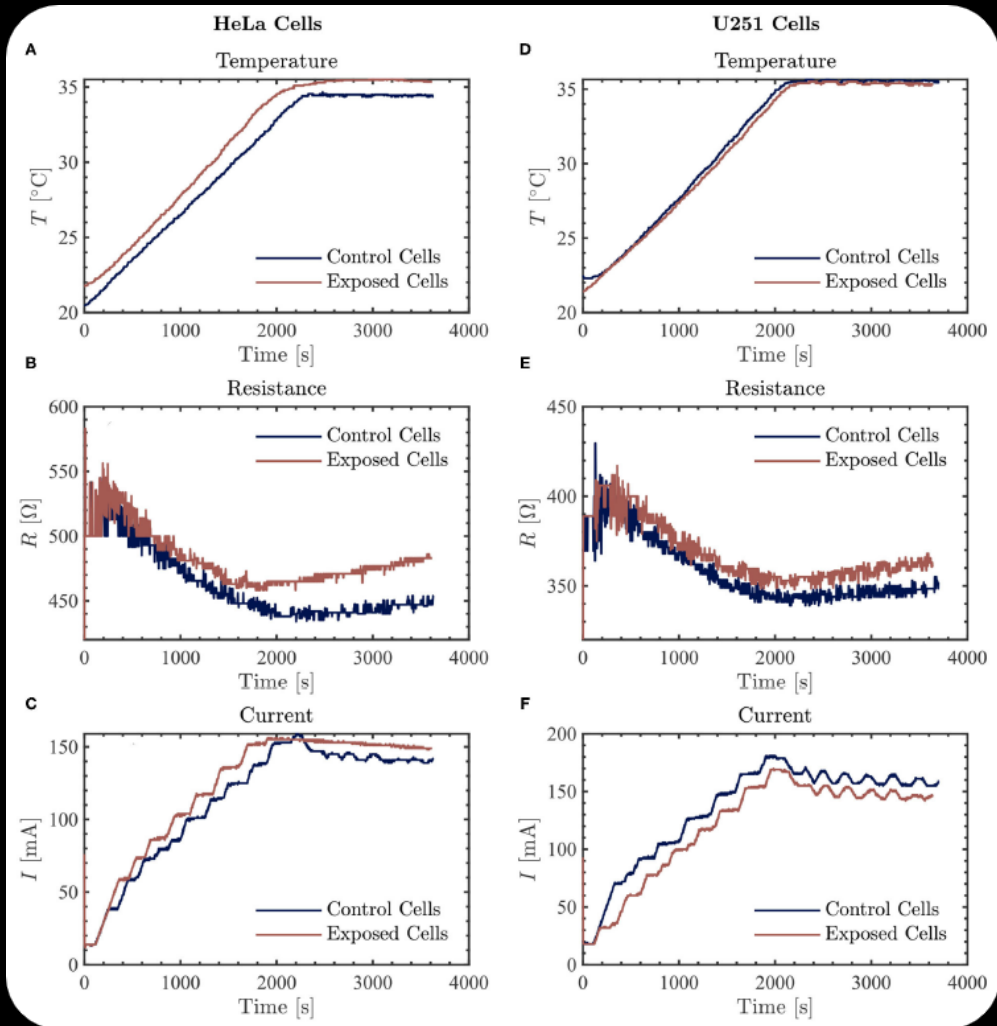
50 kHz TFields & NIR PBM

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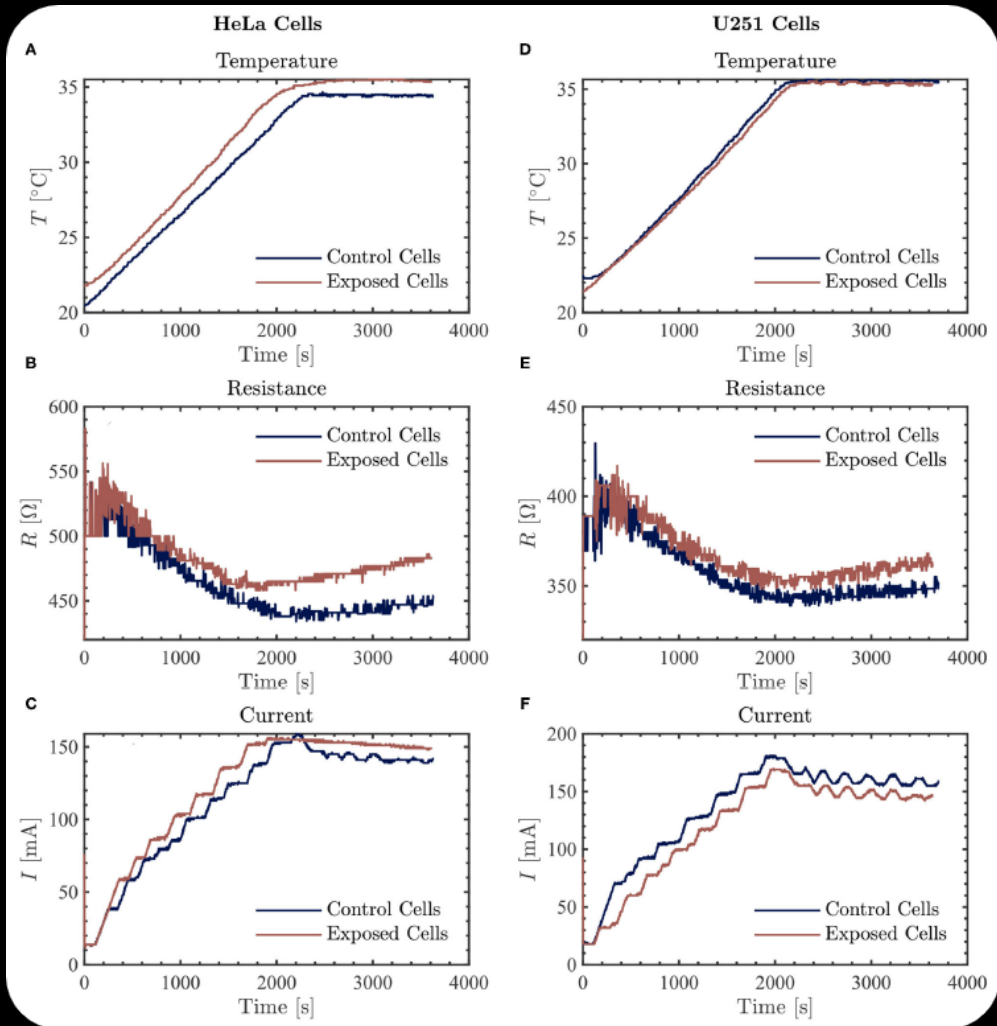
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Total exposure time was ~1 h

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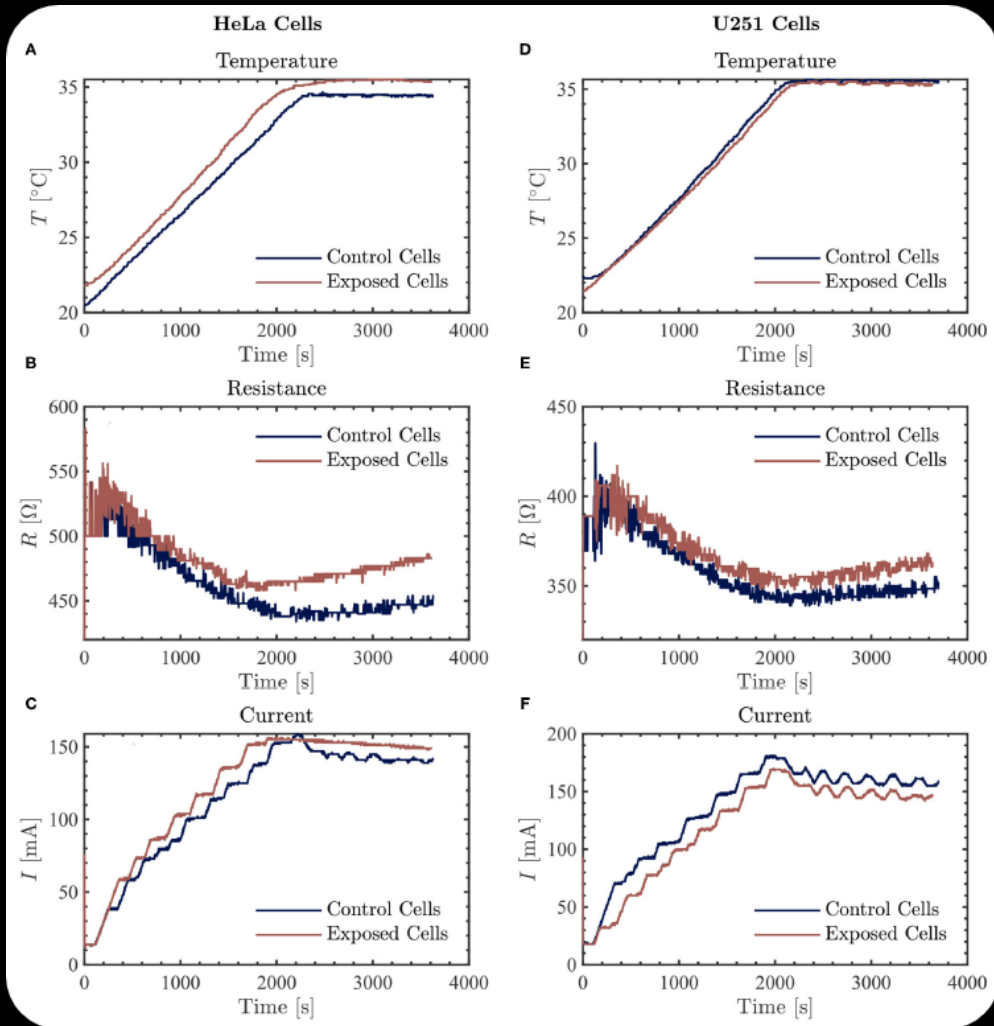


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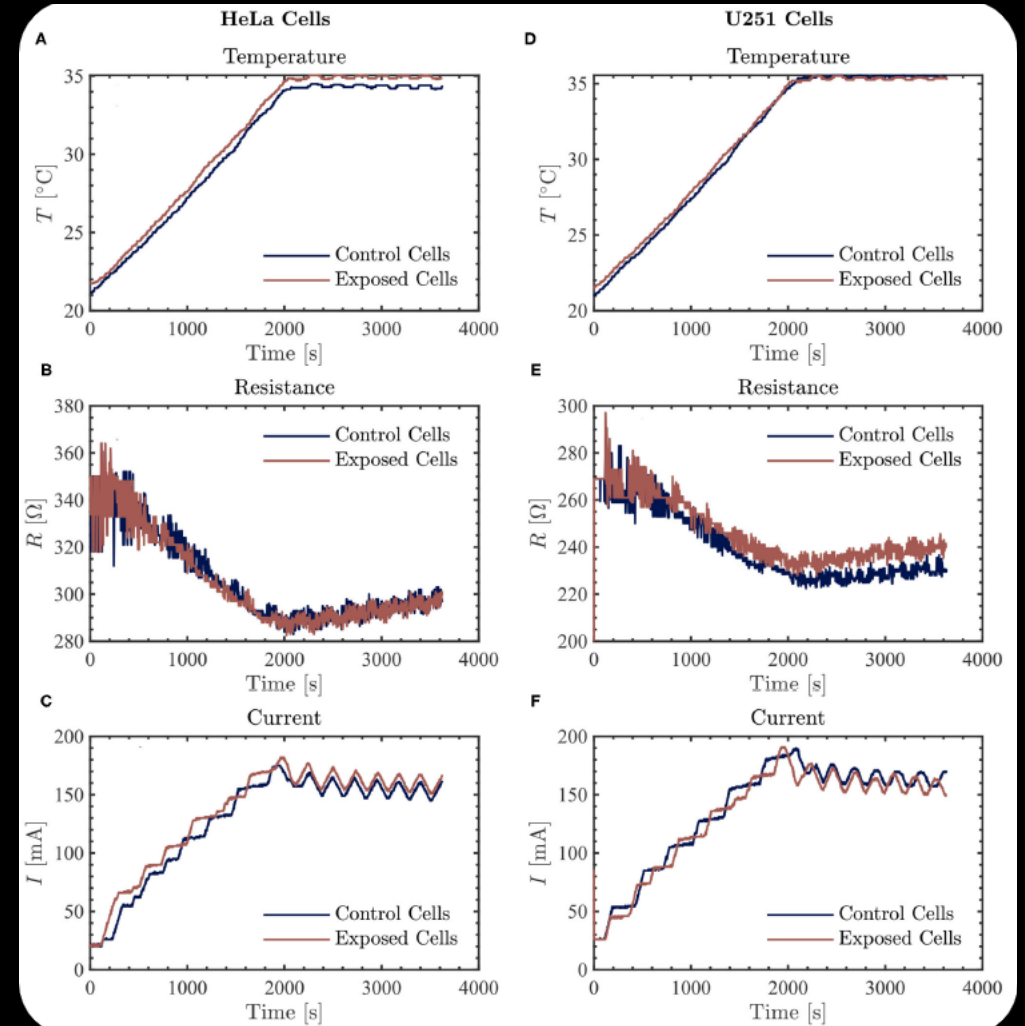
100 kHz TTFields & NIR PBM

Conductivity Measurement Results



50 kHz TTFields & NIR PBM

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100 kHz TTFields & NIR PBM

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3

NIR PBM—Experiment 2:

Microtubules

Experimental Procedures

Experimental Procedures

Reconstitution of rhodamine-labeled MTs:

Experimental Procedures

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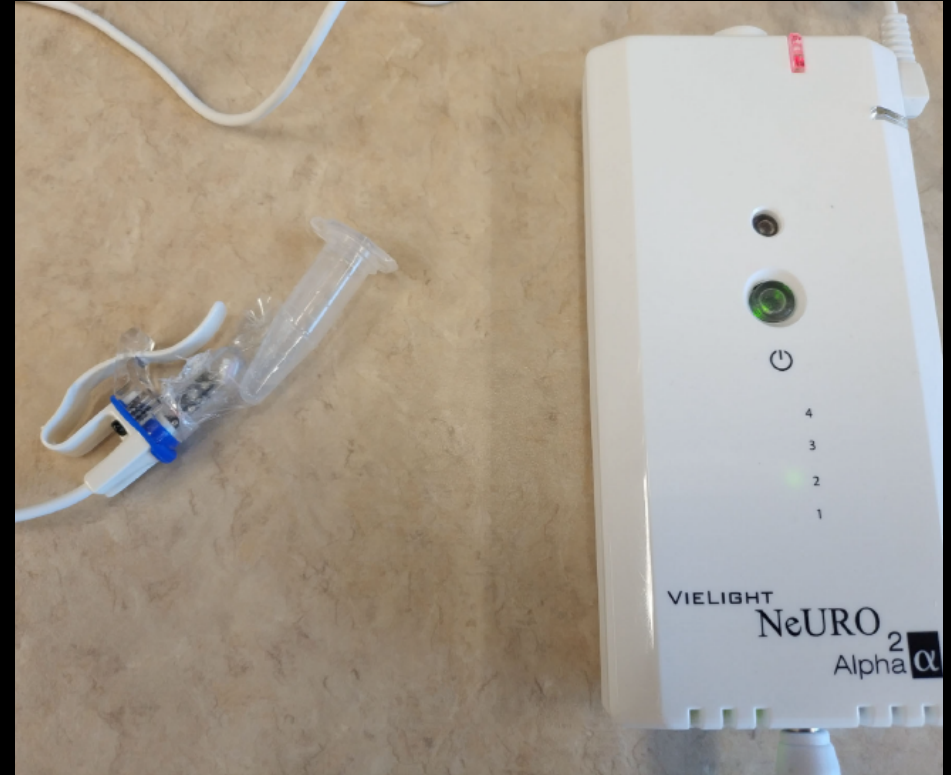
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*An example of one of the exposures
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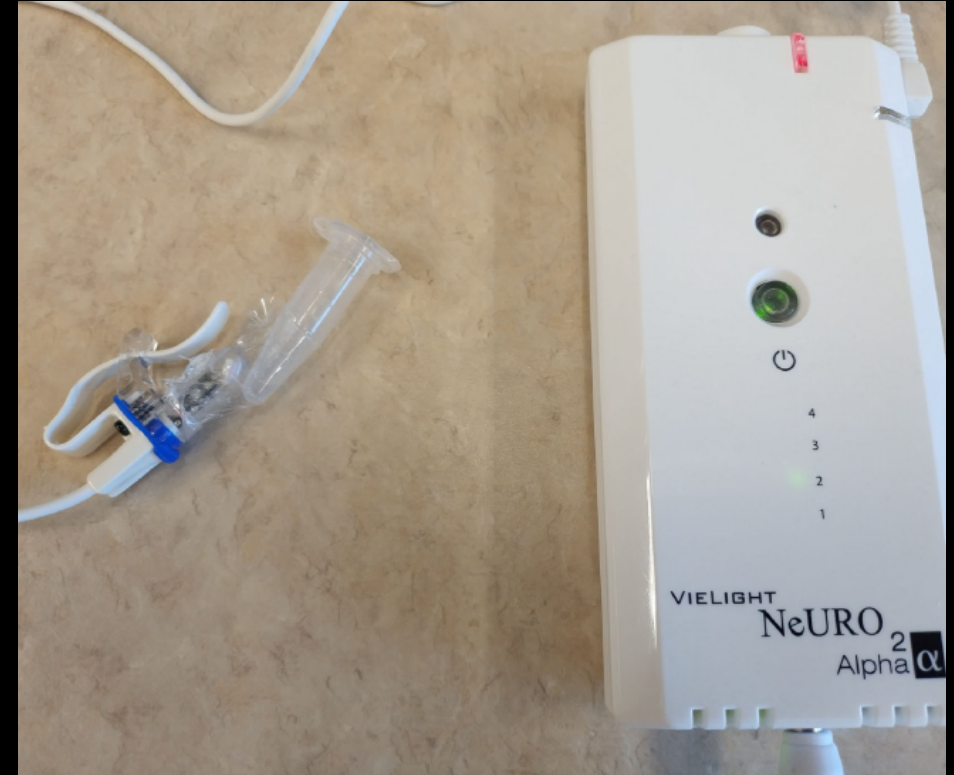
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Fluorescence microscopy was performed on the samples after exposure.

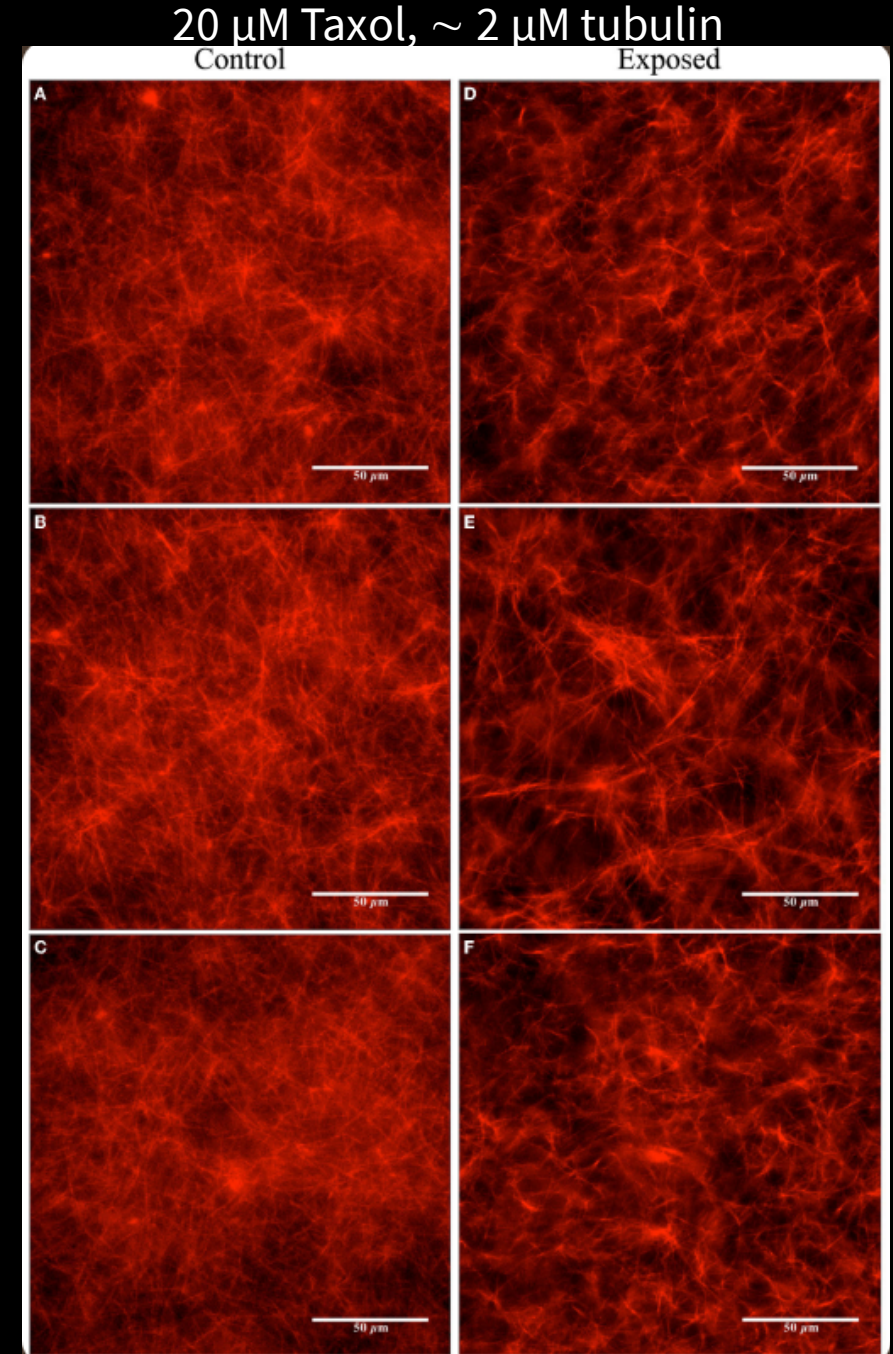
Imaging Results 1

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20 μ M Taxol:

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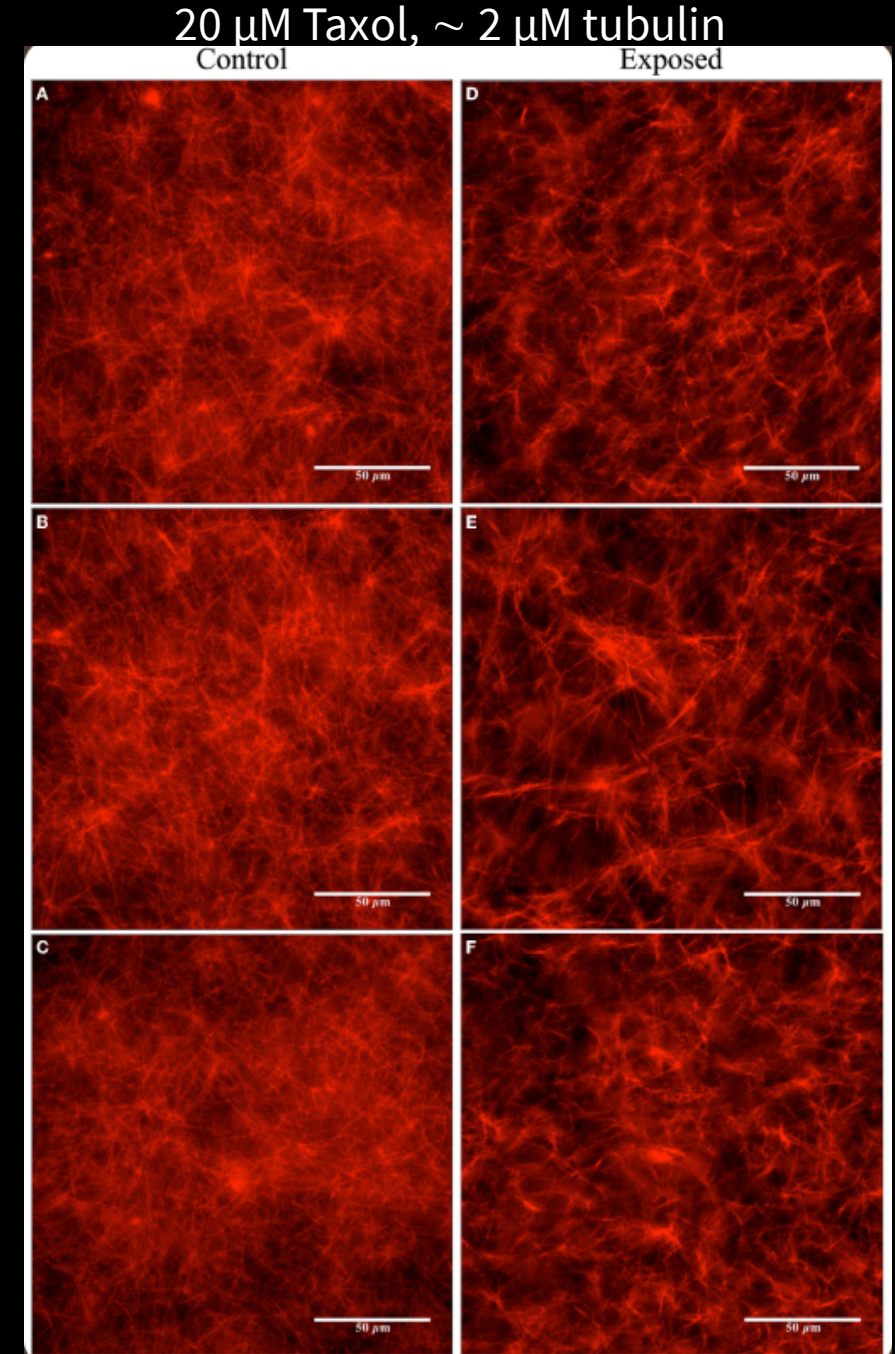
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Imaging Results 1

20 μM Taxol:

- *A small effect on MT polymerization seems to be present*
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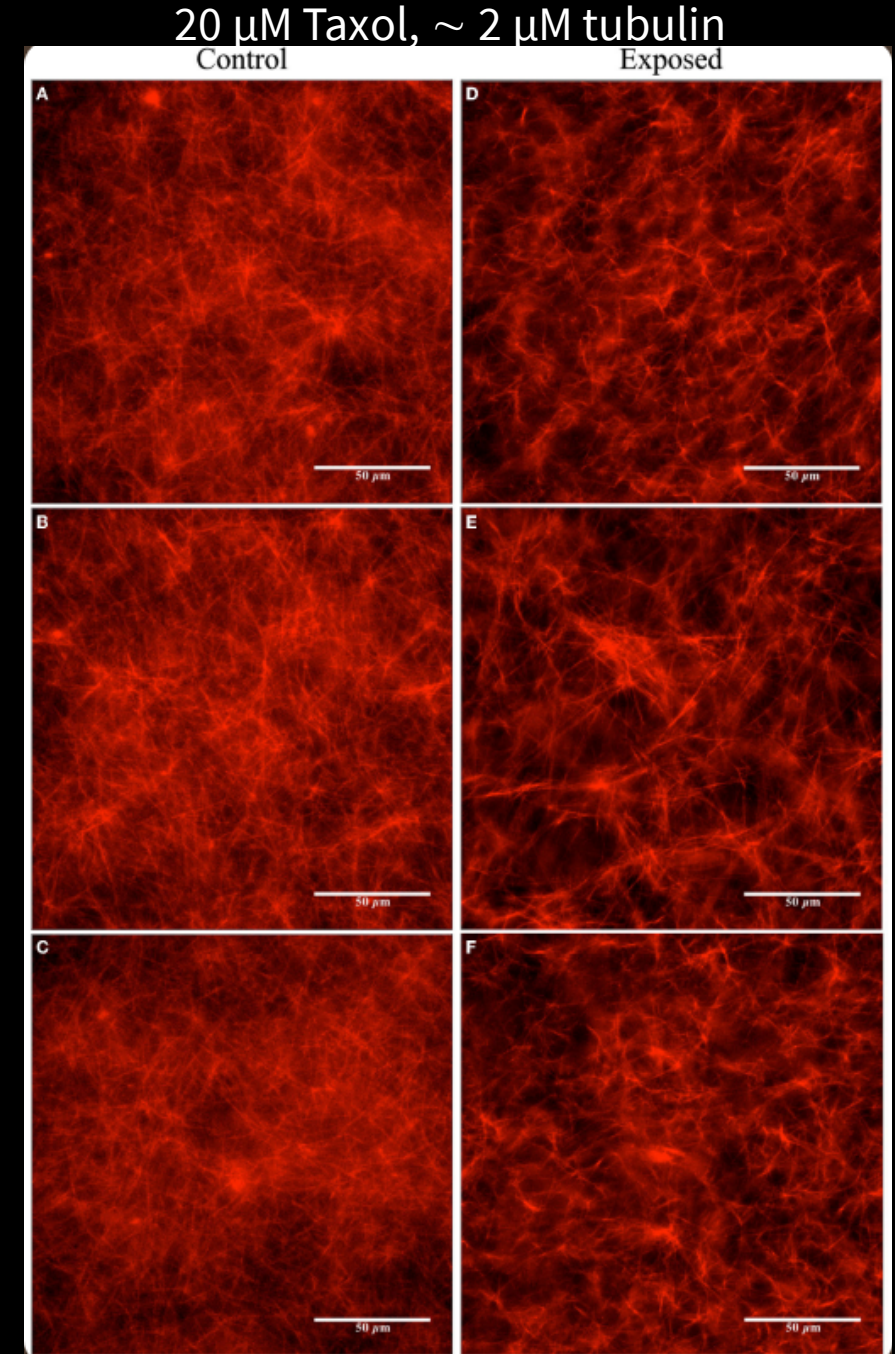
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2 μM Taxol:

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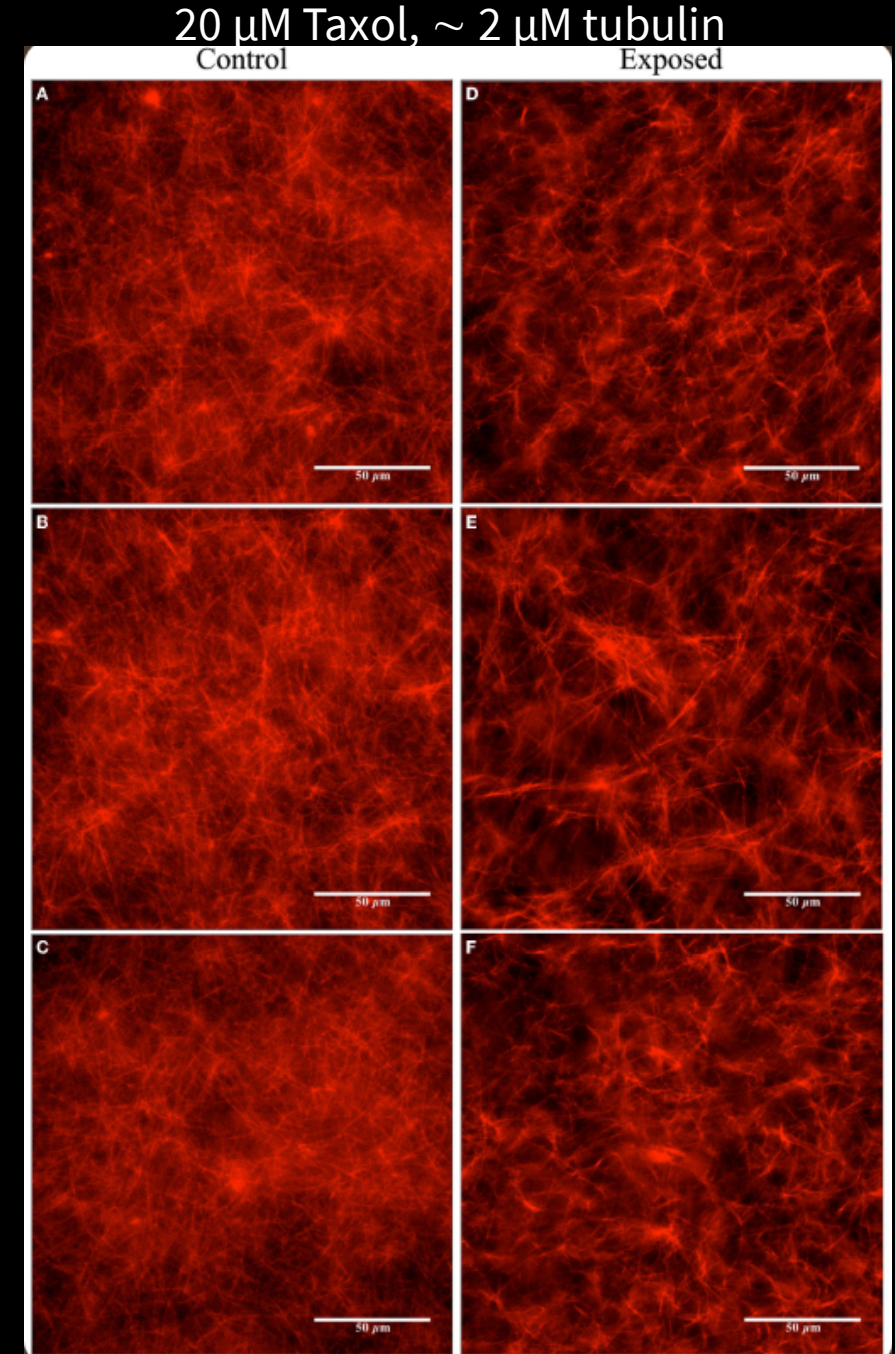
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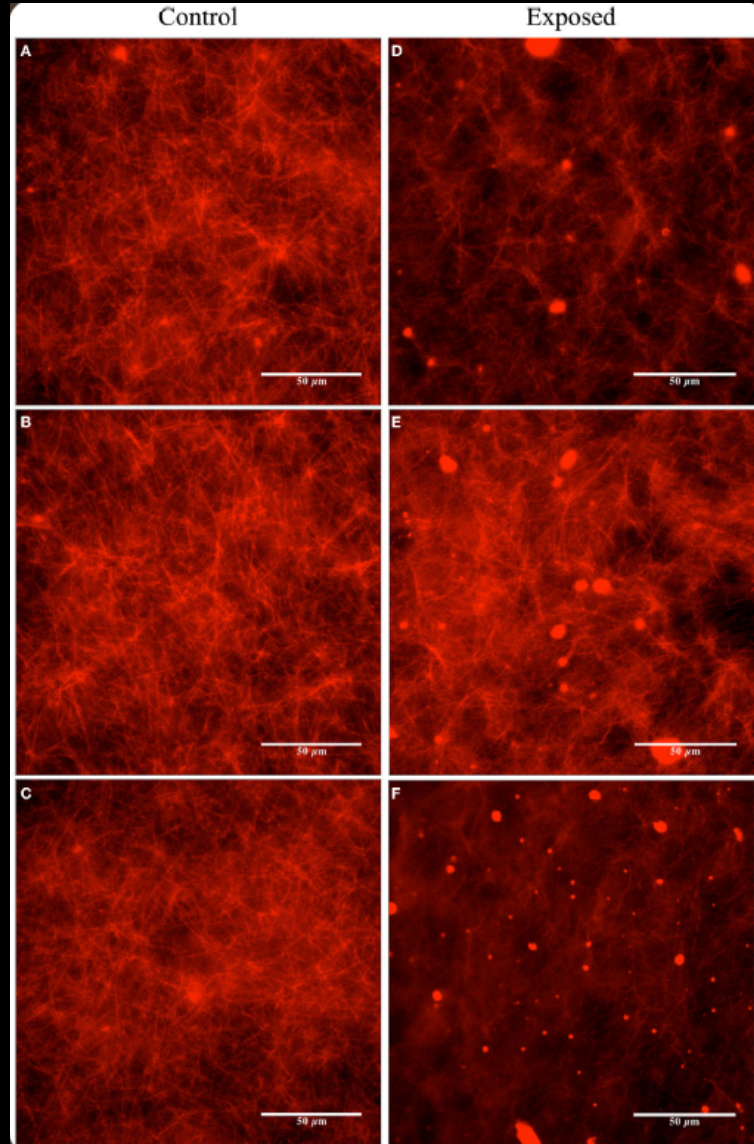
We used a Zeiss Axio Examiner.Z1 fluorescence microscope with a red fluorescent protein (RFP) filter set. Results were imaged with a Hamamatsu C9100 EMCCD camera.



Imaging Results 2 (4 μM Taxol, $\mathcal{N} = 3$)

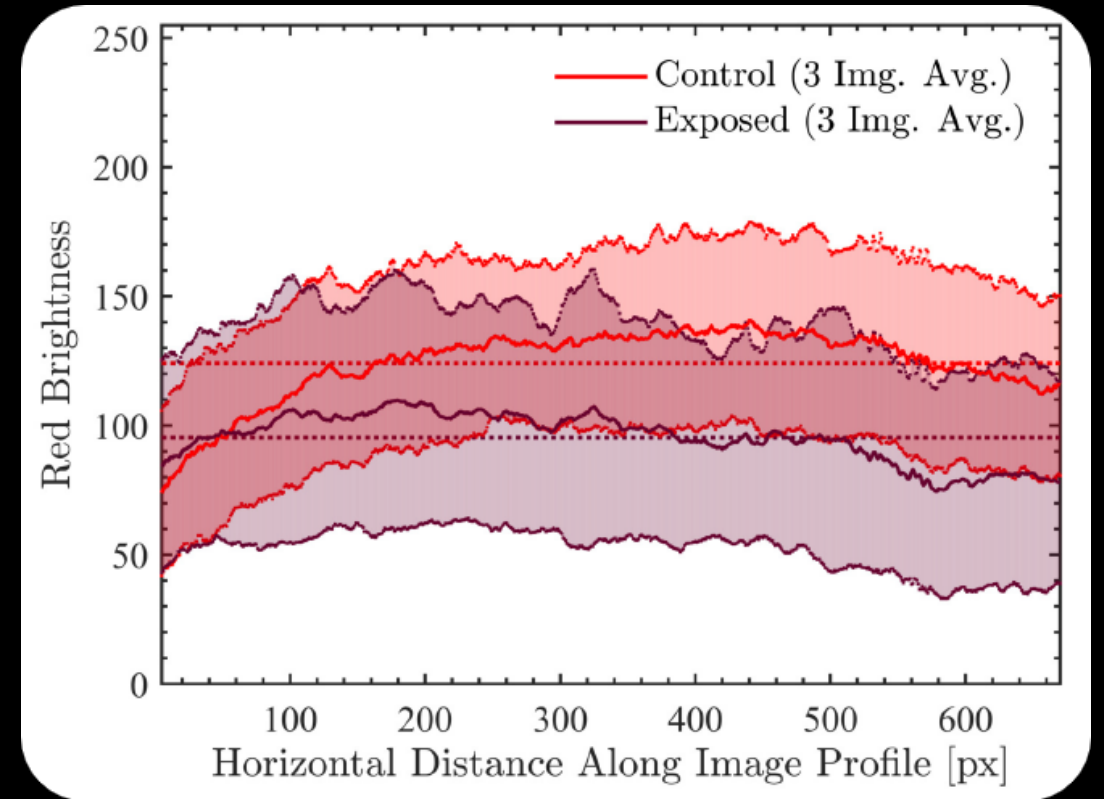
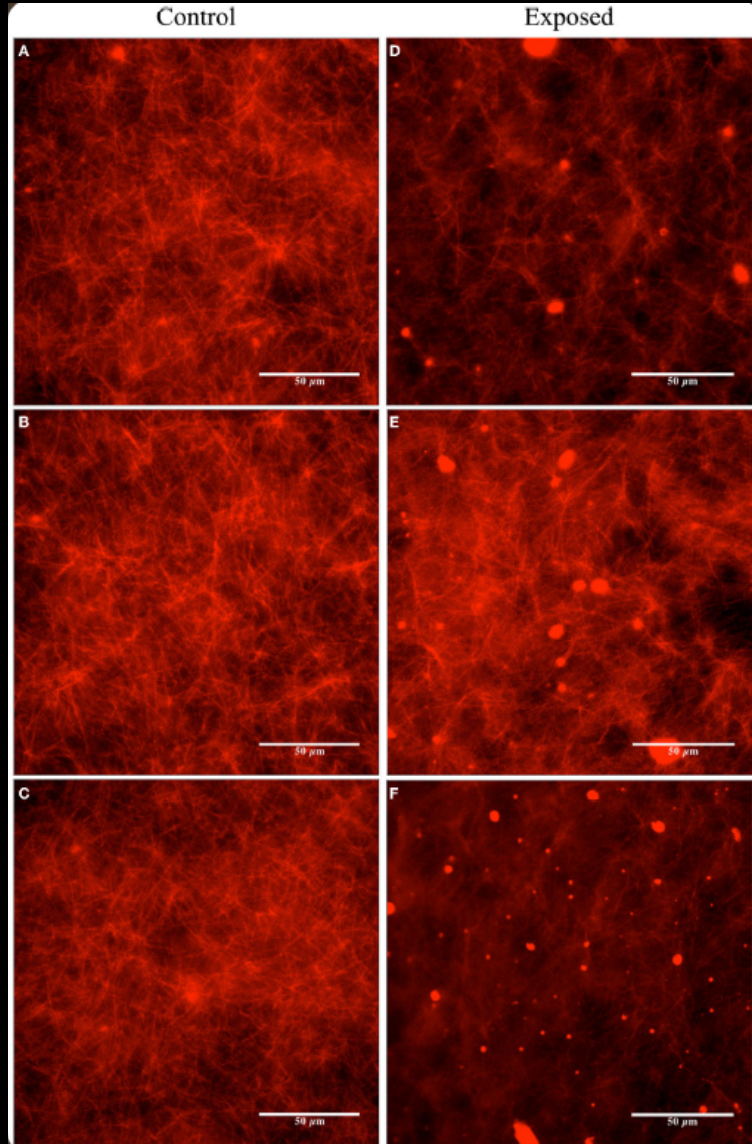
Imaging Results 2 (4 μM Taxol, $\mathcal{N} = 3$)

4 μM Taxol, $\sim 2 \mu\text{M}$ tubulin



Imaging Results 2 (4 μM Taxol, $\mathcal{N} = 3$)

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Results of a quick image analysis performed over the red band

4

NIR PBM—Experiment 3:

Tubulin

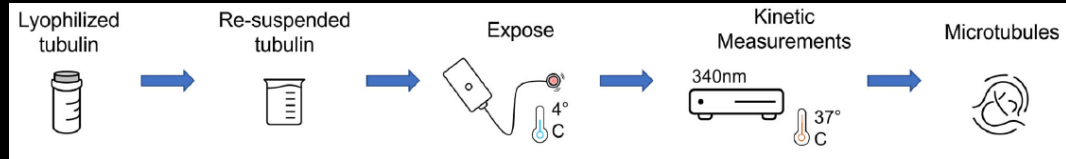
Experimental Procedures

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Tubulin Turbidity w/ PBM Exposures (30 min each):

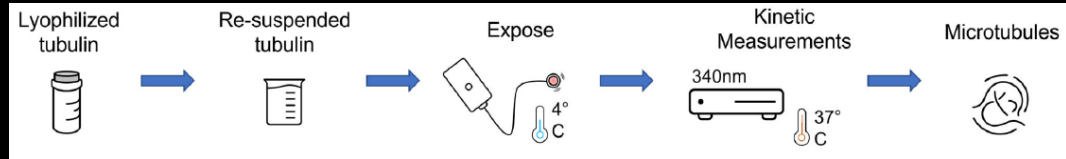
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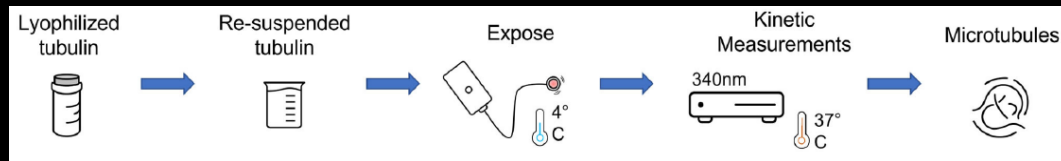
Tubulin Turbidity w/ PBM Exposures (30 min each):



Two different tubulin concentrations were studied: 2.5 & 5 mg/ml

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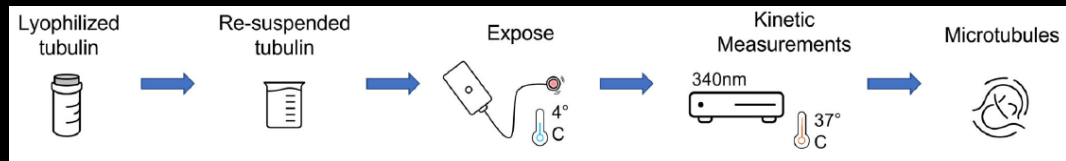
Two different tubulin concentrations were studied: 2.5 & 5 mg/ml

Turbidity Measurements (Absorbance at 340 nm):

Parameter	Value
t_{total}	2400 s
t_{int}	30 s
N_{reads}	81
Plate type	96 well standard (clear bottom)
Well height/depth	14.6 mm
λ_{abs}	340 nm
Shake before	Yes, 5 s orbital, medium
Shake between	Yes, 5 s orbital, medium

Experimental Procedures

Tubulin Turbidity w/ PBM Exposures (30 min each):



Two different tubulin concentrations were studied: 2.5 & 5 mg/ml

Turbidity Measurements (Absorbance at 340 nm):

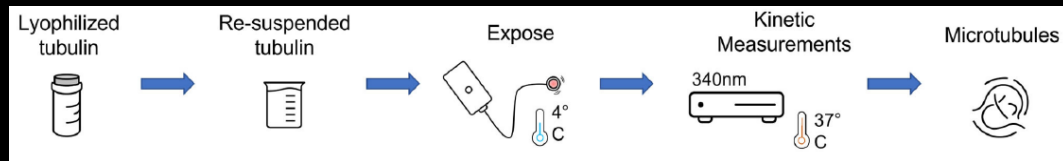
Parameter	Value
t_{total}	2400 s
t_{int}	30 s
N_{reads}	81
Plate type	96 well standard (clear bottom)
Well height/depth	14.6 mm
λ_{abs}	340 nm
Shake before	Yes, 5 s orbital, medium
Shake between	Yes, 5 s orbital, medium



SpectraMax iD5 Multi-Mode Microplate Reader

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Measurements were performed with $\sim 100 \mu\text{l}$ of each sample per well.

Validation of Turbidity Protocol and Methodology

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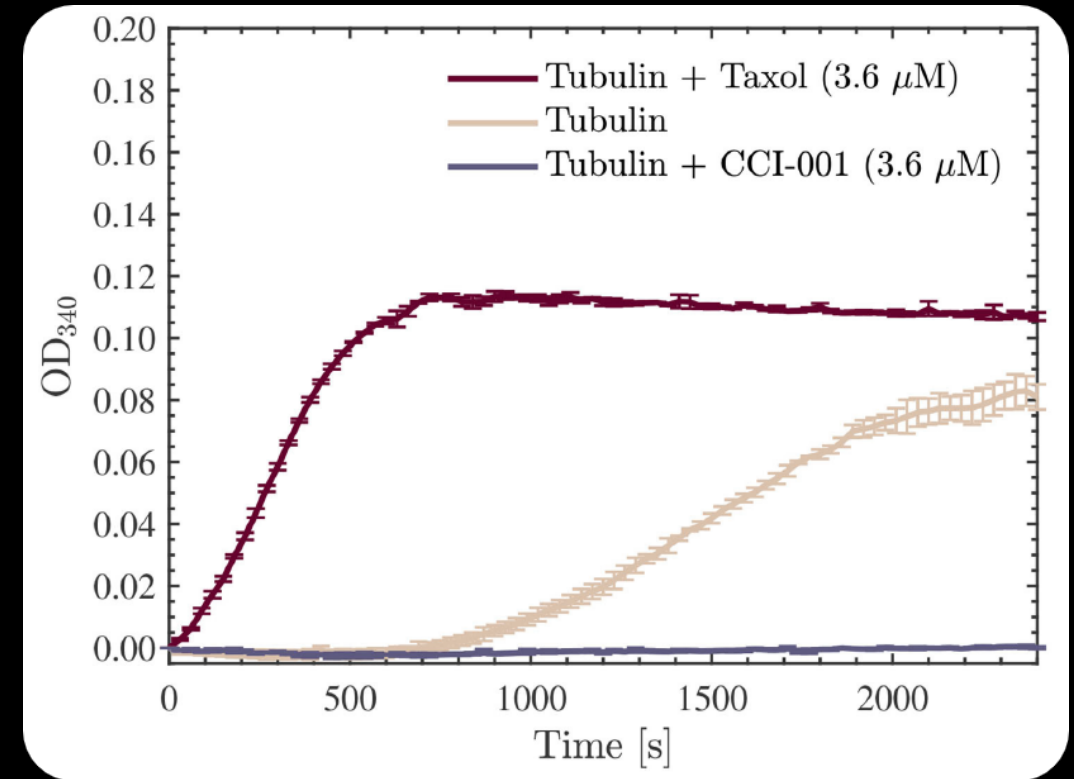
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- *Tubulin + Taxol (encourages & supports MT polymerization)*
- *Tubulin + CCI-001 (cytotoxic, inhibits β -tubulin polymerization)*

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Results of turbidity measurements performed on 22.7 μM tubulin ($N = 1$)

Curves shown are the average of 3 wells measured separately

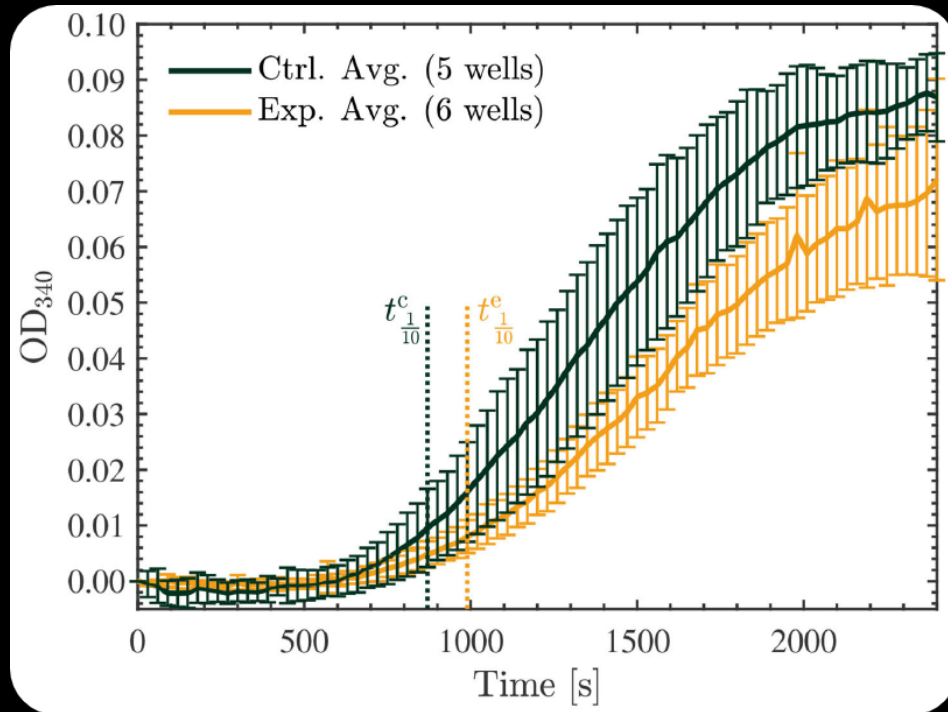
Turbidity Results for PBM-Exposed Tubulin

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22.7 μM tubulin

PBM-Exposed vs. Unexposed

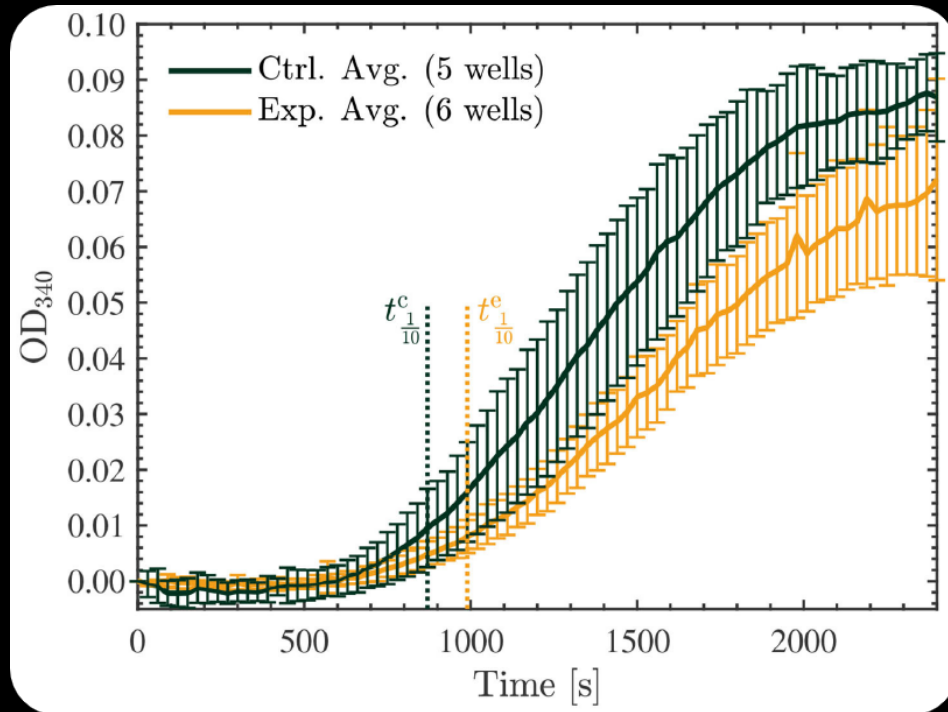
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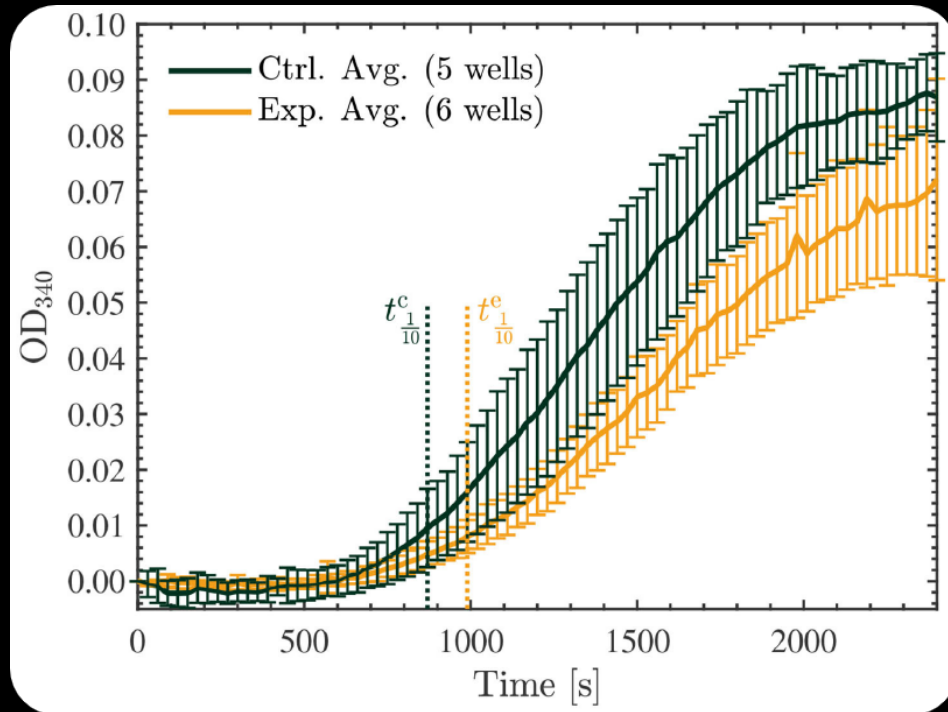


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PBM-Exposed vs. Unexposed

Tenth times calculated for the control and exposed curves were 870 s and 990 s, respectively. Maximal slopes were 5.0 ± 0.1 & 3.8 ± 0.1 mOD/min.

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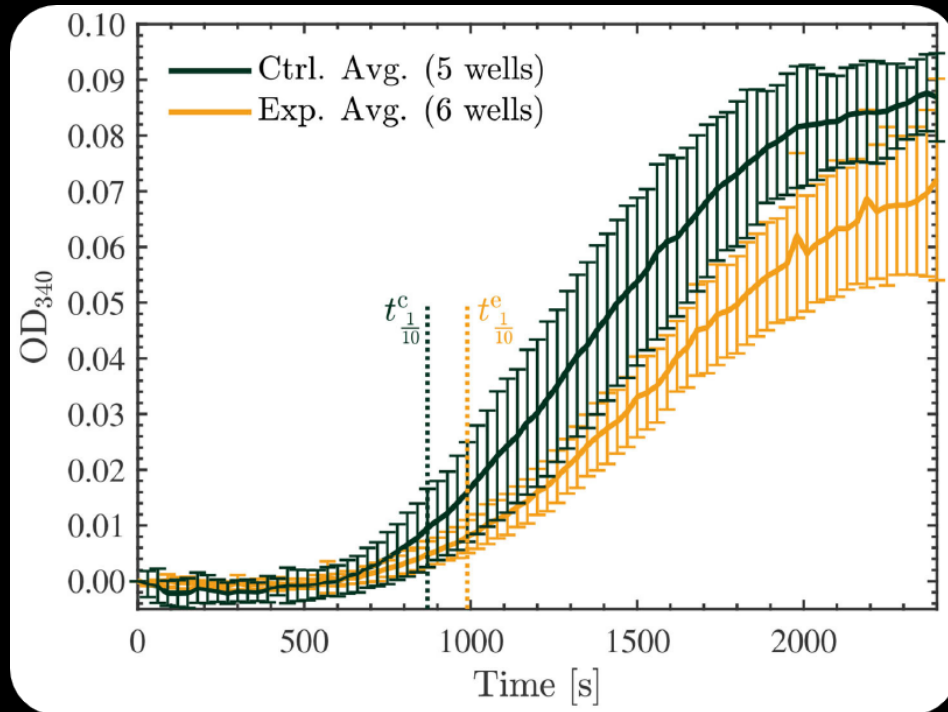
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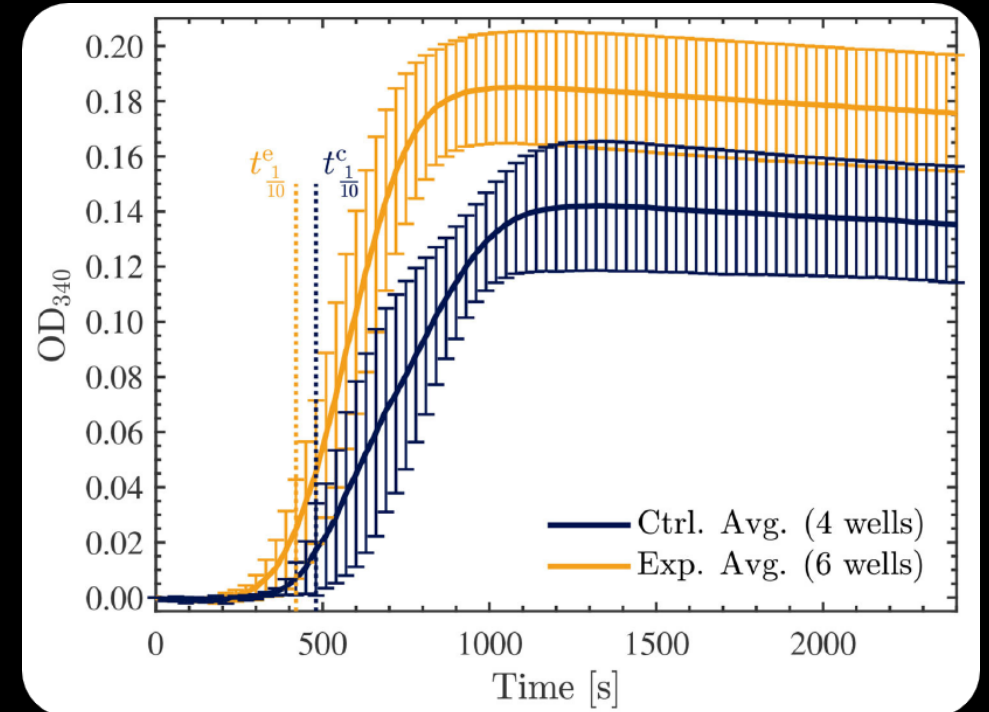
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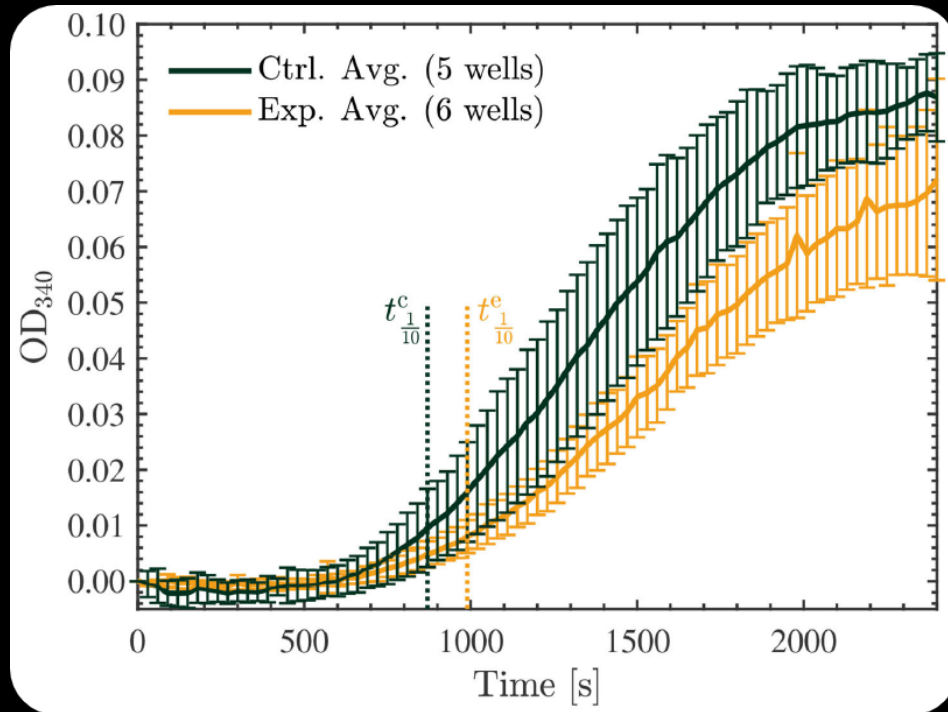
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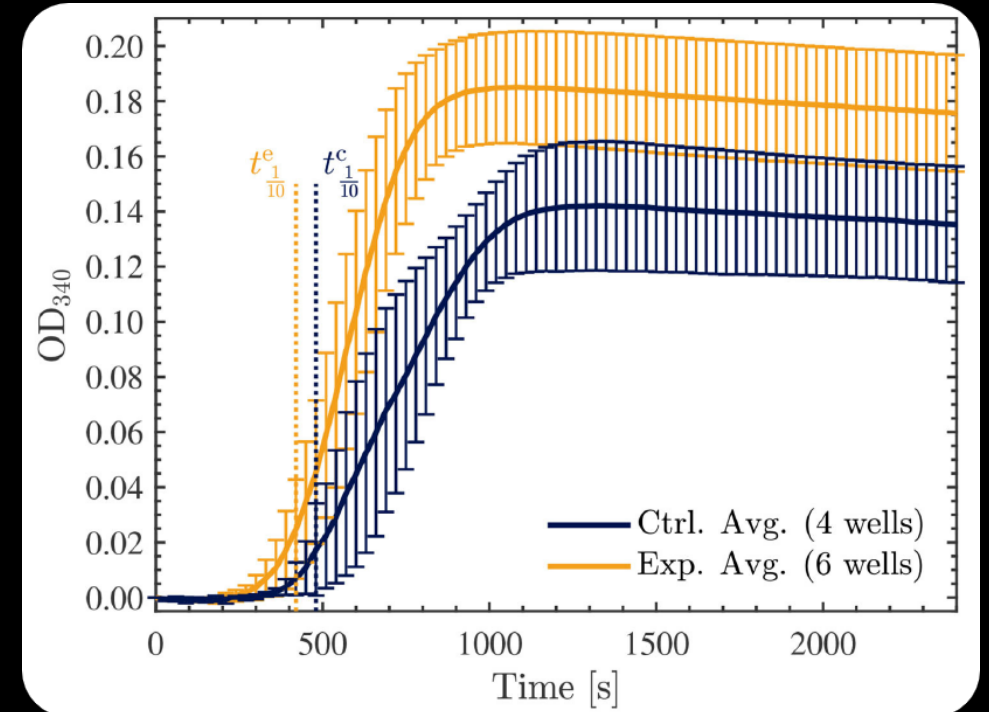
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PBM-Exposed vs. Unexposed

Tenth times calculated for the control and exposed curves were 480 s and 420 s, respectively. Maximal slopes were 17.6 ± 0.5 & 33.2 ± 0.8 mOD/min.

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Smoluchowski Equation:

Describes the simultaneous coagulation of particles involved in processes such as polymerization. *Phys. Z.* **17**, 557–571 & 585–599 (1916)

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Preliminary results w/ Raman Spectroscopy demonstrate an effect on secondary structures (α -helices & β -sheets)

Conclusions & Future Directions

Living Cells

An **increased R** in both cell lines at 50 kHz and in U251 cells only at 100 kHz: suggests an **inhibitory effect**, that in the case of HeLa cells, was balanced with an increased current.

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Tubulin

Tubulin concentrations representative of the cellular concentration that were exposed to NIR PBM showed a **measurable decrease polymerization rates and total polymer mass**.

Future Directions: (1) *in vitro* experiments that study **the effects of different PBM pulse frequencies**,
(2) *in vitro* experiments that study **the effects in an environment that more accurately resembles the cellular environment**

Thank you!



Questions?

Backup Slides

GTP Exposure

