

High throughput Organs-on-a-Plate assay for research and drug screening

Introduction

The pharmaceutical industry spends **nearly \$300 billion annually** on drug R&D, yet **>90% of drug candidates fail** in clinical trials—and failures frequently trace back to the **first step**: traditional **static culture in multi-well plates** cannot replicate the **dynamic physiological microenvironment**. **Organ-on-a-chip** platforms better emulate *in vivo* conditions, but most remain **complex and costly—impractical to scale** for robotic **High Throughput Screening (HTS)** or **High Content Screening (HCS)** drug development platforms.

Solution

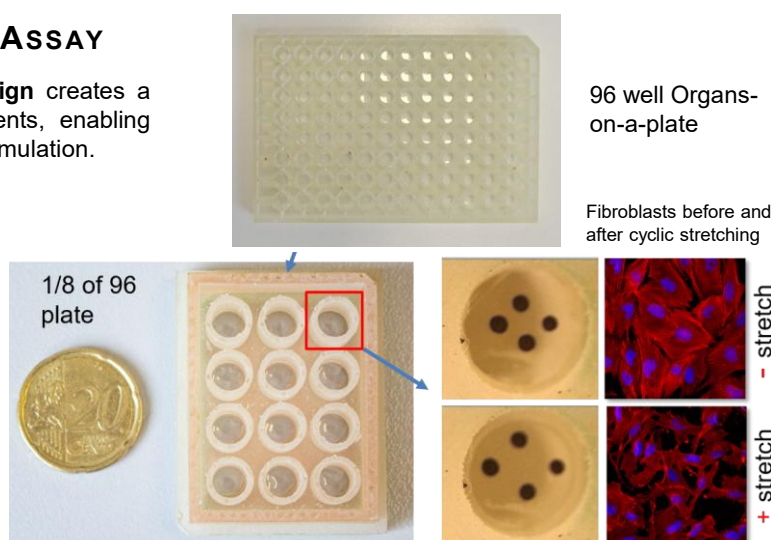
We have developed a **minimalistic “Organs-on-a-plate” platform** that embeds **programmable mechanical stimulation** in standard **96- and 384-well plates**, compatible with **automated liquid handling, robotic workflows, and HTS** across **cardiac, pulmonary, musculoskeletal, skin, and tumor microenvironments**.

ORGANS-ON-A-PLATE HTS AND HCS ASSAY

Our **innovative membrane- and vacuum-driven design** creates a **flat stretching substrate** without additional components, enabling **high-resolution imaging** during dynamic mechanical stimulation.

Assay Highlights:

- ✓ Dynamic control of mechanical stimulus to **mimic physiological microenvironment**
- ✓ Applicable to both **2D cell culture and 3D models** such as organoids and spheroids
- ✓ **Uniaxial and bi-axial stretch modes** with flexible, **high-precision amplitude control**
- ✓ Integration of additional components such as **air-liquid interface for lung-chip**
- ✓ Low cost and effortless integration into **standard 24-, 96-, or 384-well plates**



Application

This high-throughput, high-content assay embeds **mechanobiology** directly into standard screening formats, offering a practical strategy for incorporating dynamic mechanical cues into early-stage drug discovery. It is particularly relevant for **oncology and fibrosis**, while broadly applicable to **cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, and neurodegenerative disease models**. By improving physiological relevance without sacrificing throughput, it opens the door to more predictive screening across a wide range of disease areas.

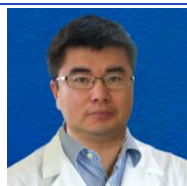
Opportunity

To fully realize this technology's potential in research and drug screening, we are seeking **commercial partners** to bring it to the **emerging market**, and we remain **open to scientific collaborations** that expand its applications across disease models. We believe this platform can help drive a new era of predictive, mechanobiology-informed drug discovery.

References and Acknowledgement

Bastianello et al. Cell Reports, 2023
 Frittoli, E. et al. Nature Mater, 2023
 Stadiotti et al. Cardiovasc Med. 2022
 Nishimura, Y. et al. Cells Dev, 2021
 Kidiyoor et al. Nature Comm, 2020
 Ghisleni et al. Nature Comm, 2020

This work was supported in part by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)



The Scientist

Qingsen Li, PhD

Head of Cancer-Engineering R&D Unit, IFOM, Italy

qingsen.li@ifom.eu

Contact us:

Technology Transfer Office
 IFOM ETS - the AIRC Institute of Molecular Oncology
 Via Adamello, 16 - 20139 Milan (Italy)
www.ifom.eu

Alessia Romussi
 IP Manager
alessia.romussi@ifom.eu
 +39 02 574303290

Domenico Finamore
 Legal & Compliance Manager
domenico.finamore@ifom.eu
 +39 02 57430 3378