



APPLIED SCIENTIFIC  
INSTRUMENTATION



# Simplifying DIY Light Sheet Microscopes

ASI's SPIM Team

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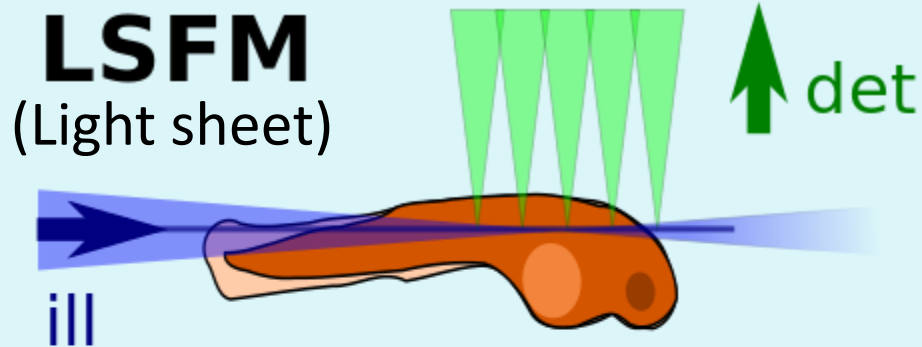
SPIM Lead Engineer

*EMBO | EMBL symposium "Seeing is Believing"  
04 October 2017, Heidelberg Germany*

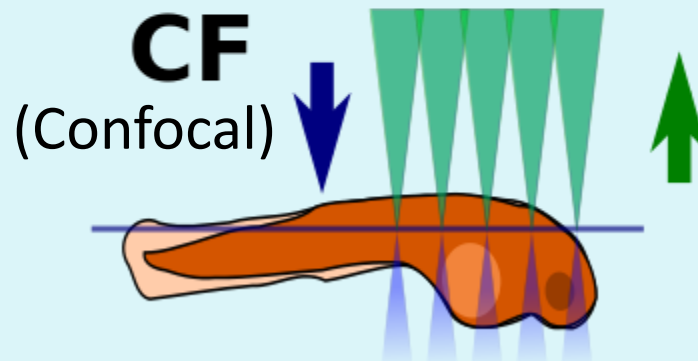
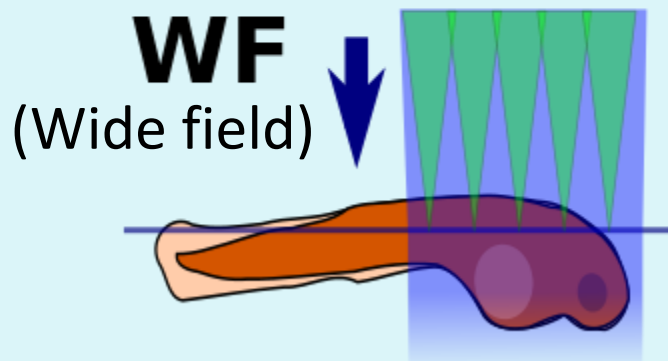
# Outline

- Why light sheet microscopy?
- How can ASI help?
- Examples:
  - iSPIM/diSPIM
  - oSPIM or  $\pi$ SPIM
  - dSPIM for cleared tissue
  - SPIM for functional imaging in zebrafish
- Synchronization and software

# What is light sheet microscopy?

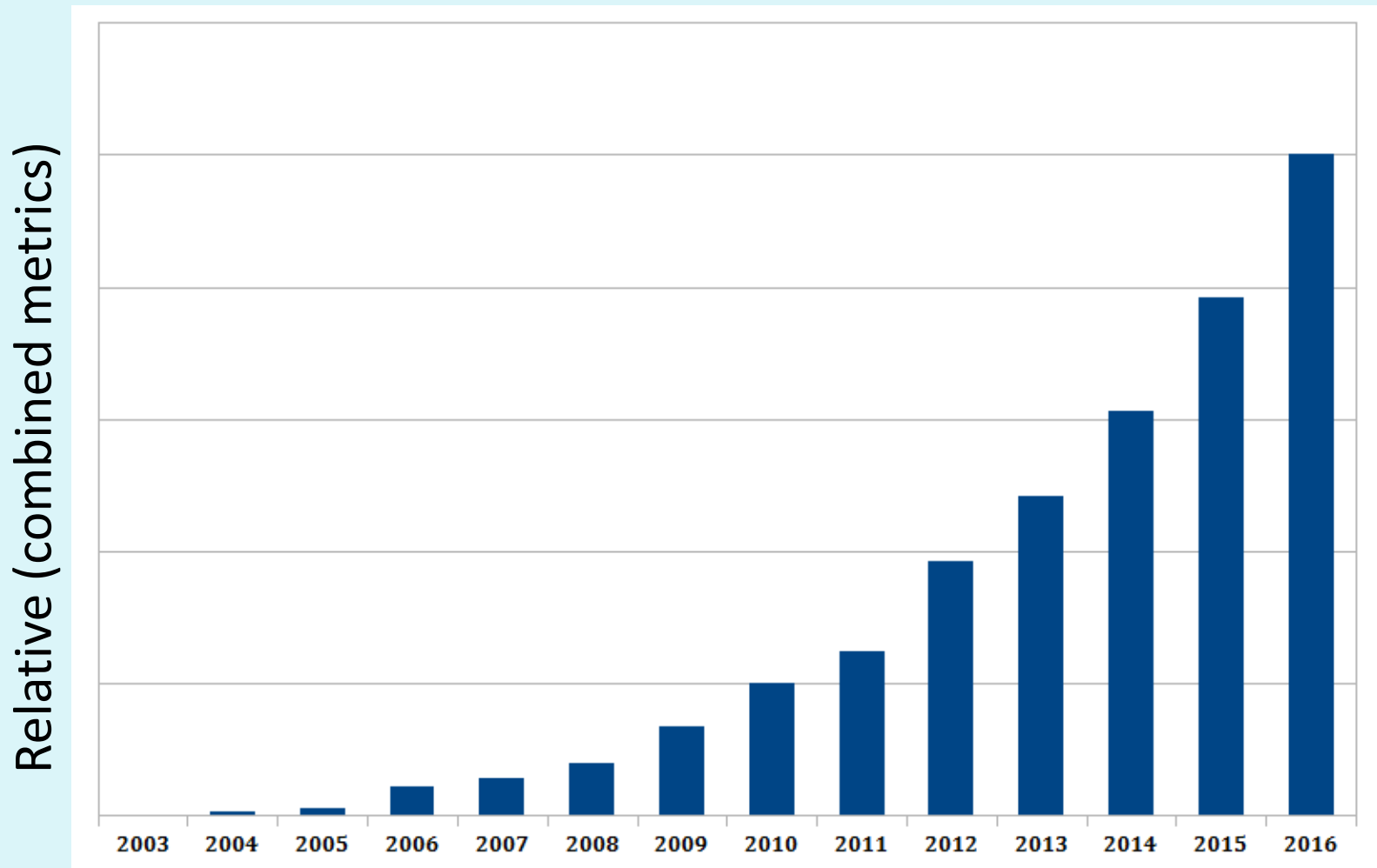


LSFM  $\sim$  SPIM =  
Selective Plane  
Illumination  
Microscopy



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3ALsfm\\_lightsheetinsample.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3ALsfm_lightsheetinsample.svg) (CC BY-SA 3.0)

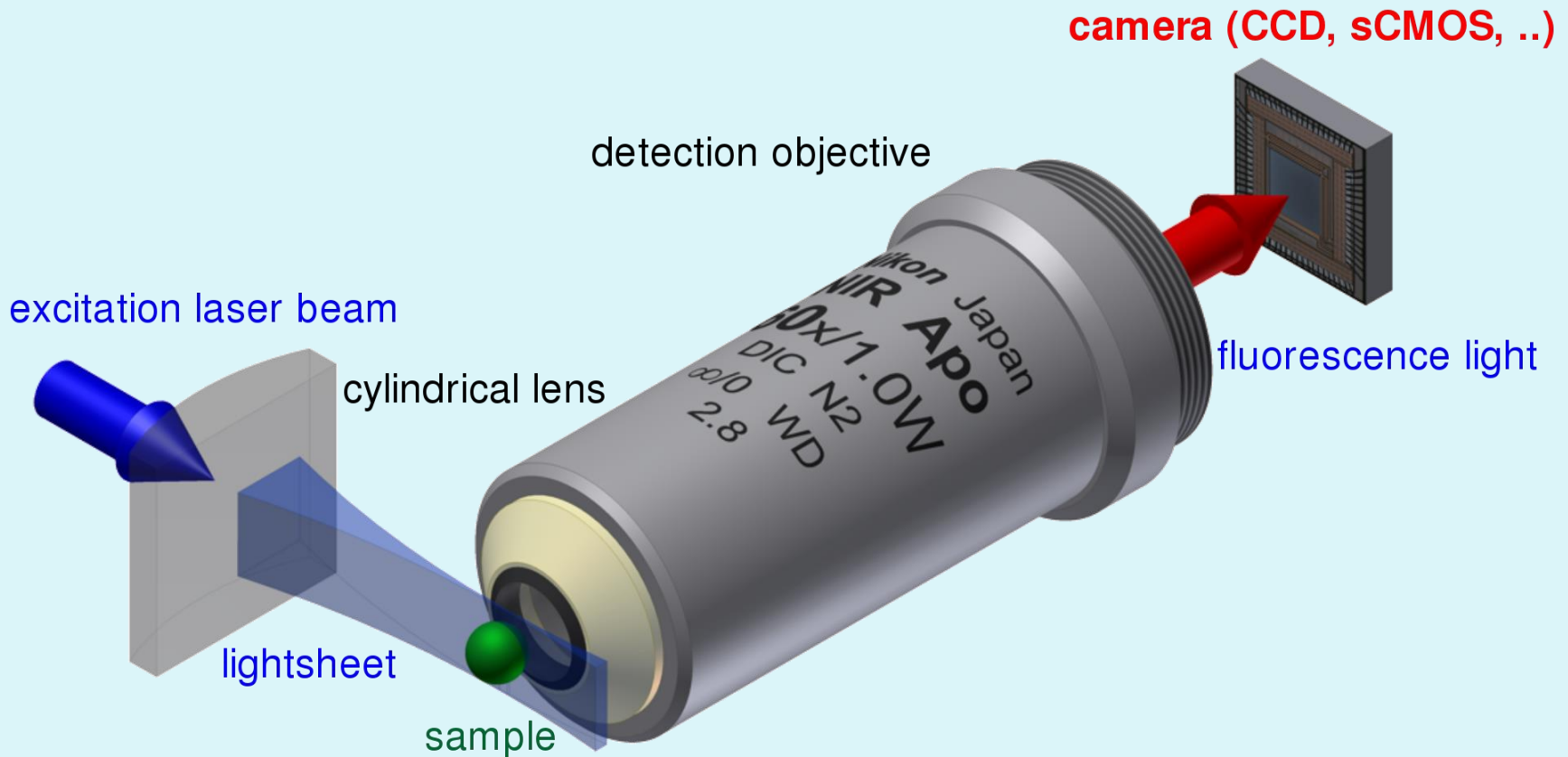
# Publications using light sheet



# Why light sheet microscopy?

- Minimize photodamage/bleaching
  - Better utilize “photon budget”
  - Keep living things living
- Rapid acquisition
  - 2D parallel imaging
- Main cost is optics for generating light sheet

# Simple light sheet microscope

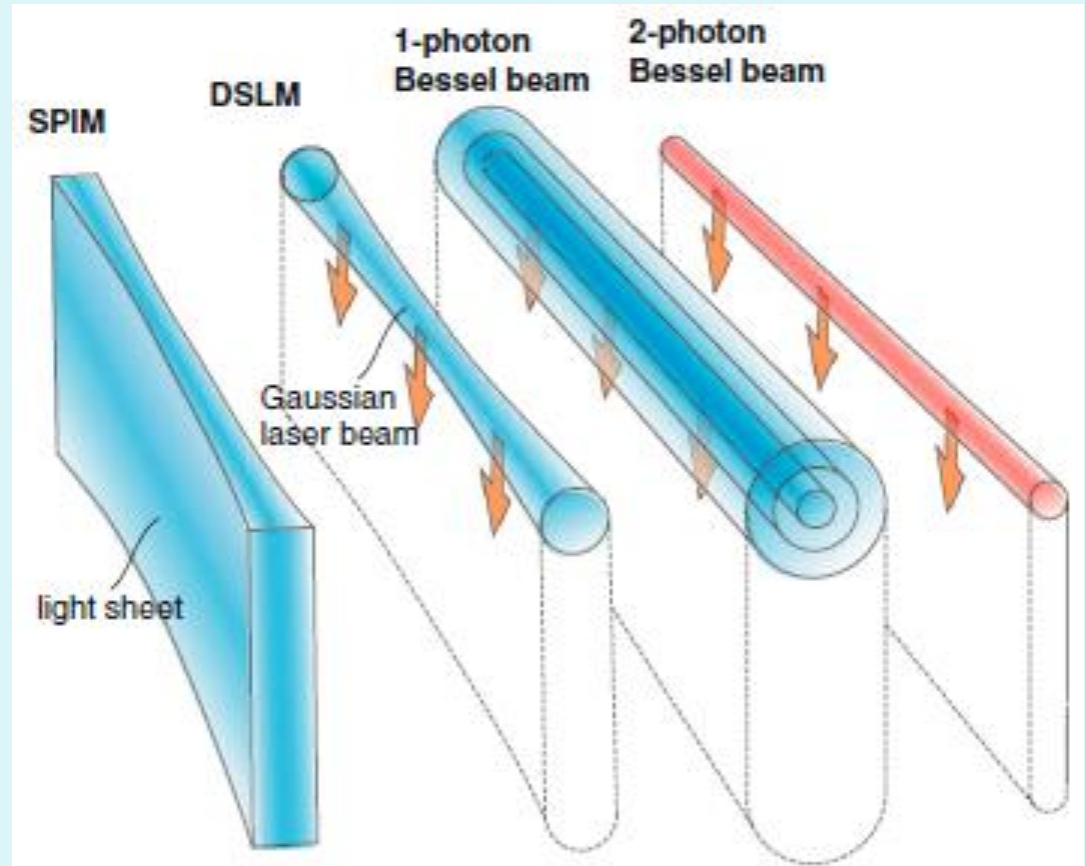


By Jan Krieger, CC BY-SA 3.0,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=22333698>

# Generating the sheet

- Sheet thickness trades off with width of thin region (FOV)
- Increasingly complex optics can give increasingly better thinness and/or FOV



Weber et al., *Cur. Opinion in Genetics and Development* 21, 566-572 (2011)

# An aside: terminology

LSFM = light sheet fluorescence microscopy

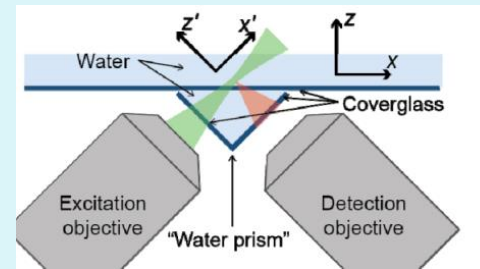
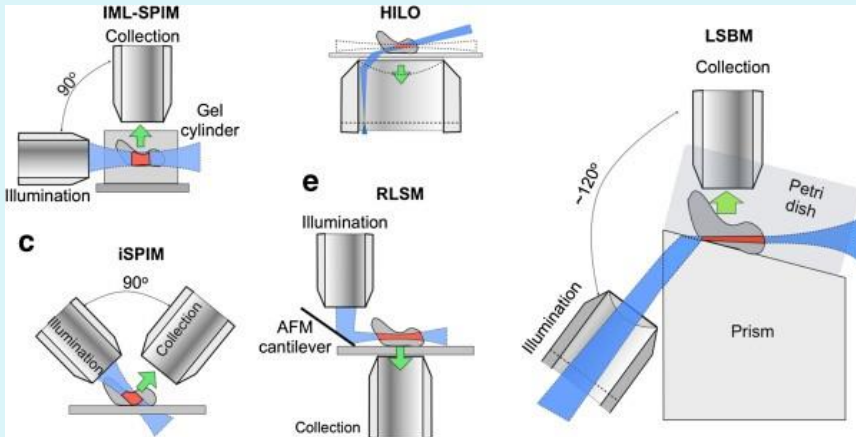
SPIM = selective plane illumination microscopy

DLSM = digital light sheet microscopy

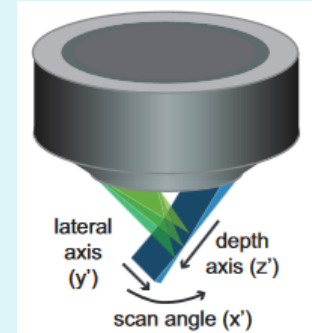
- Some reserve “SPIM” for static light sheet; we use “SPIM” = LSFM for scanned or static sheet
  - Important thing is planar illumination
  - ASI systems have option of light sheet generator for static sheet or scanned sheet so we name by the geometry instead of the light sheet type



# Sub-sampling of configurations



Optics Express 2015;  
23: 16142-16153



Nature Phot. 2015 9:113.

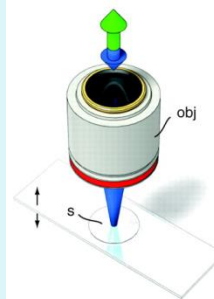
Optical Nanoscopy 2013 2:7.

Development 2009 136:1963.

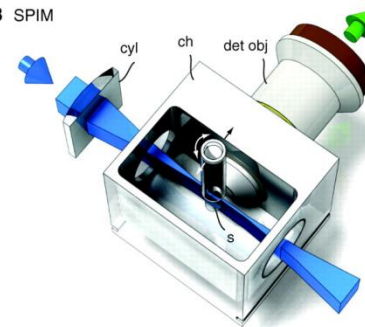


Nature Meth 2015 12:30.

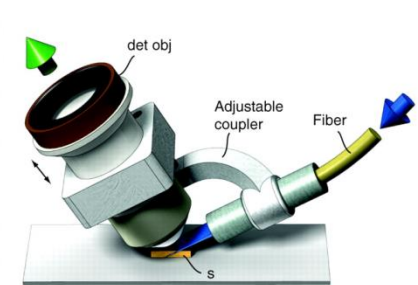
**A** Epifluorescence



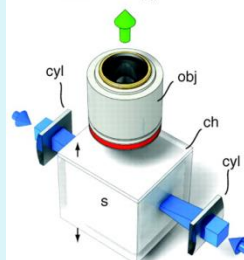
**B** SPIM



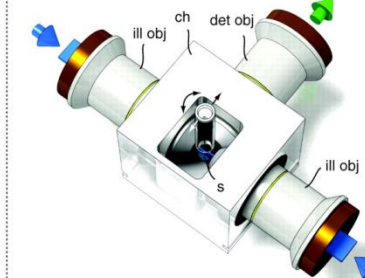
**C** OCPI



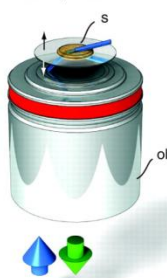
**D** Ultramicroscopy



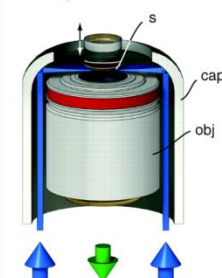
**E** mSPIM



**F** HILO,POM



**G** Single lens SPIM



# Why so many configurations?

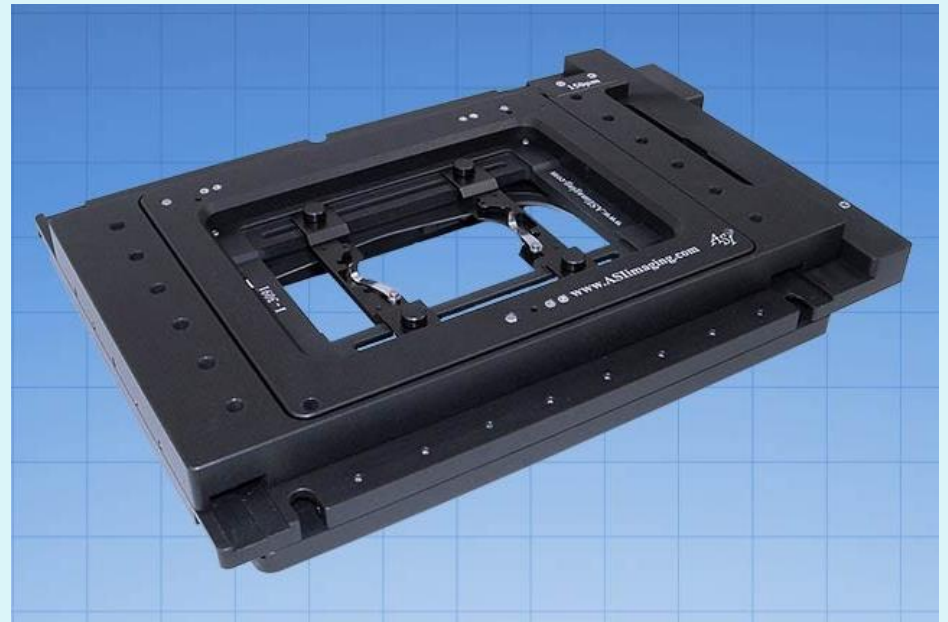
- Different samples  $\Leftrightarrow$  different microscopes
  - (Everybody wants their own paper)
  - Steric constraints
  - Mounting requirements
  - Imaging requirements  $\rightarrow$  different motion control
- Paradigm shift: single costly microscope for all samples  $\rightarrow$  multiple inexpensive microscopes each customized for sample/application

# How can ASI help?

- ASI's core competencies
  - Motion control
  - Modular microscopes
- How we work
  - Customer-driven
  - Collaborate with leading researchers
  - Everything happens under one roof

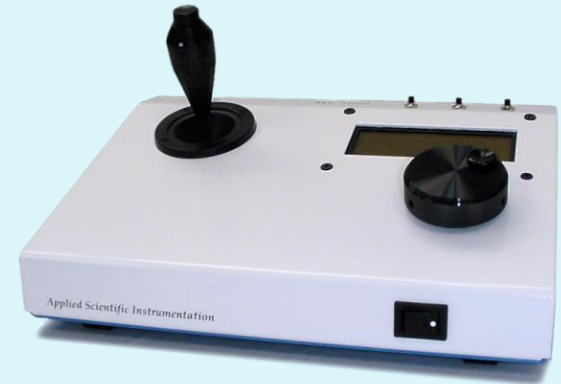
# Motion control: ASI's heritage

- 1D and 2D motorized stages
- Piezo stages
  - Stage top-plates
  - Objective movers



# Control electronics

**MS2000** 4-axis controller  
best for simple microscopes  
up to one piezo axis.



**TG-1000** Modular  
controller for motorized  
and piezo stages, filter  
wheels, laser scanners,  
PMTs, LEDs, tunable  
lenses, laser triggering,  
etc.

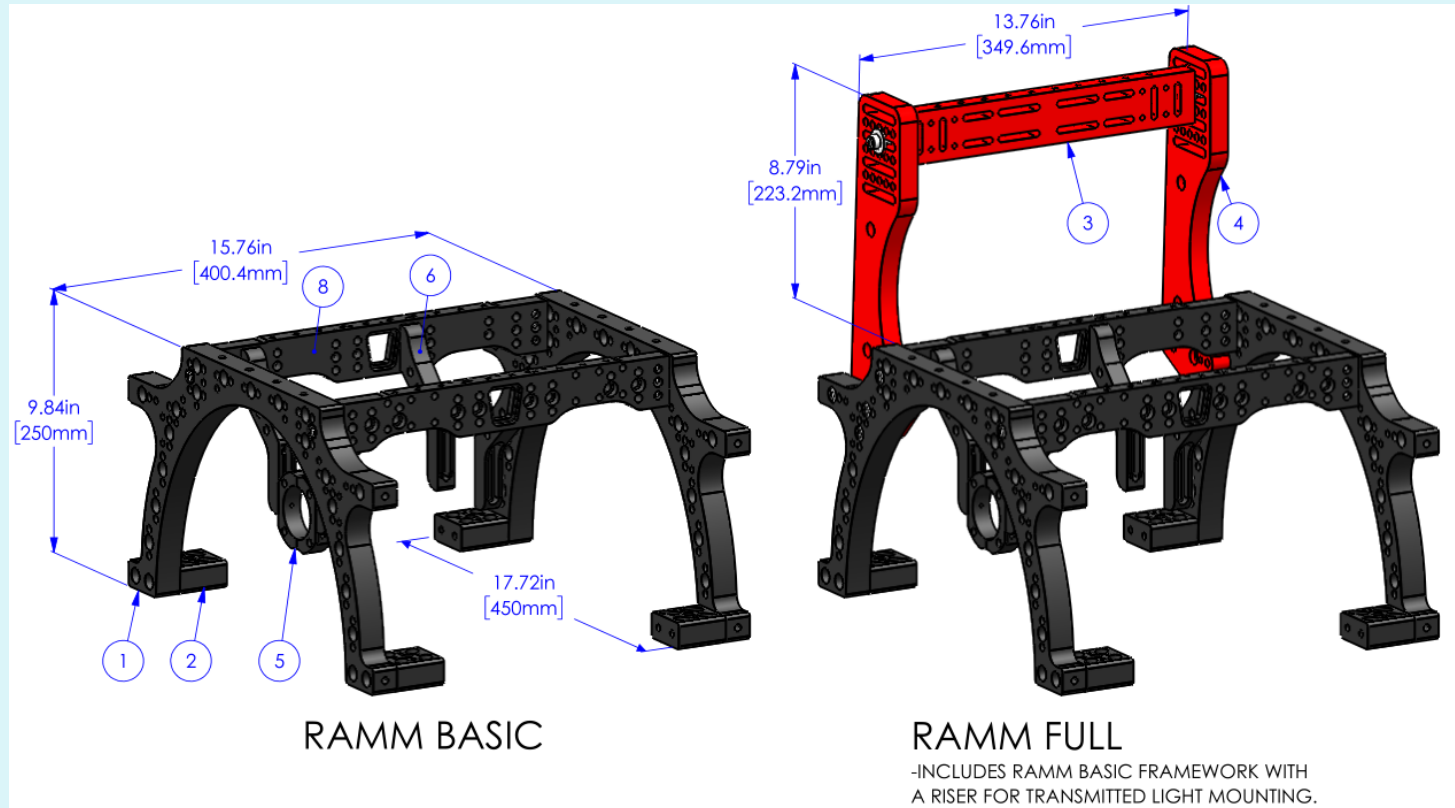


# Modular microscopes



- Microscope as simple or complex as required
- User-accessible light path in compact form-factor without free-space optics
- Easily upgraded and modified in field
- Many modules available; more are designed every year

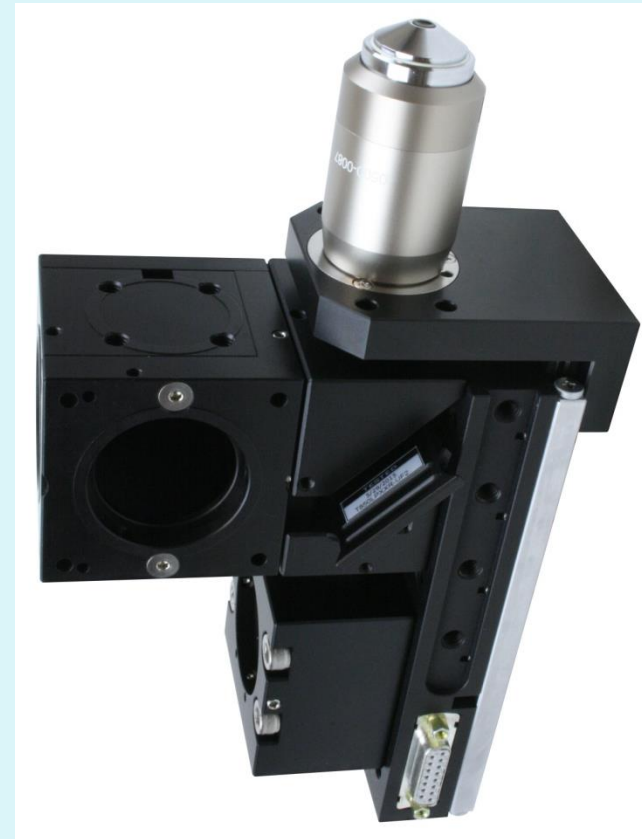
# RAMM frame



- Supports the microscope assembly and the stage in a manner that minimizes drift and vibration
- Many mounting holes and support points for easy adaptation

# Modular infinity microscopes

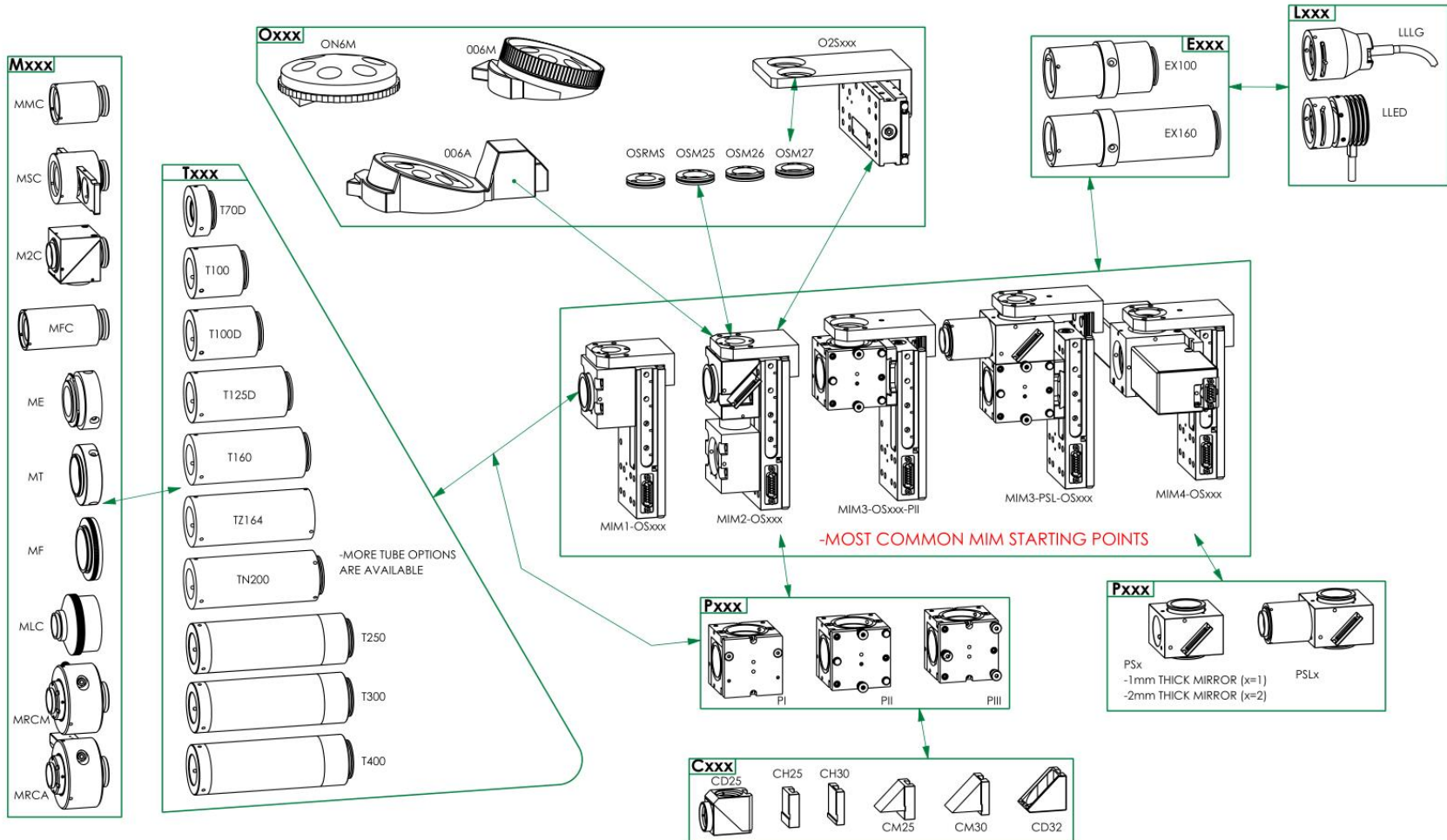
- Include LS-50 Focus Drive “backbone”
- Beam-splitter and Mirror attached to LS-50
- Wide selection of imaging and illumination optical paths can be attached to CUBEs
- A single objective or manual & automated nosepieces are supported



MIM2-OSM25-PII

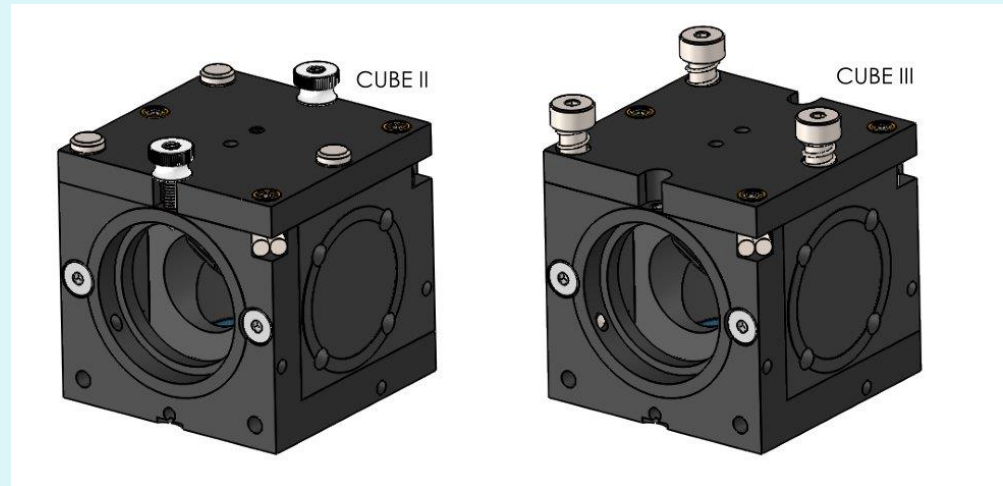
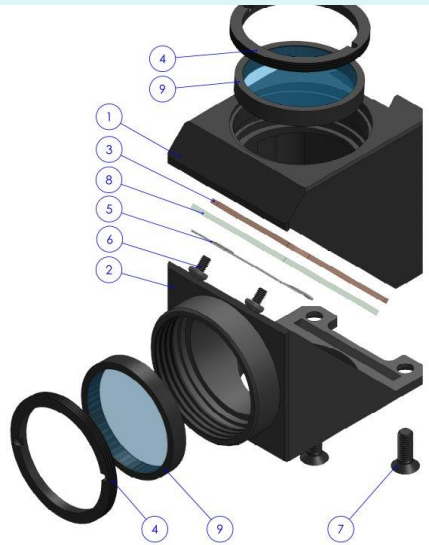
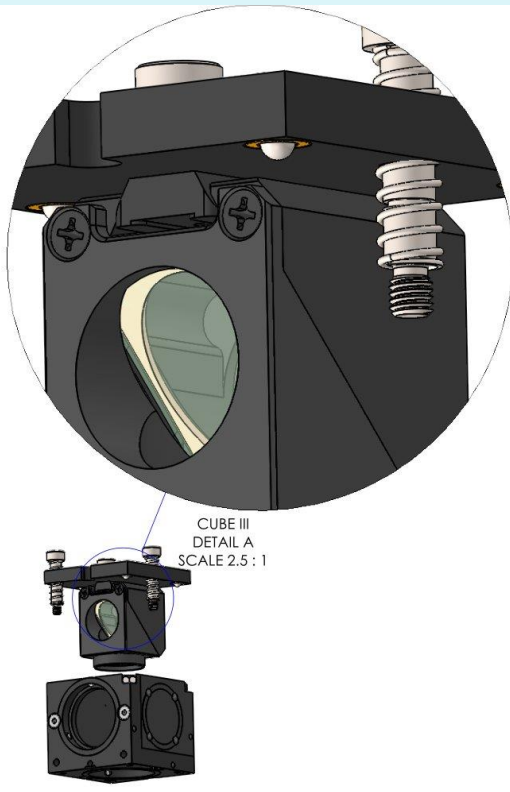


# MIM system map



# Cubes

- 60mm CUBES function to define optical combinations and paths
- Internal filter cube (C60-D\_CUBE) holds standard 25mm filters and 25mm x 36mm dichroics or mirrors
- CUBE-II and CUBE-III have adjustable mirror tilt
- CUBE-II has quick-change latches



# Port switches

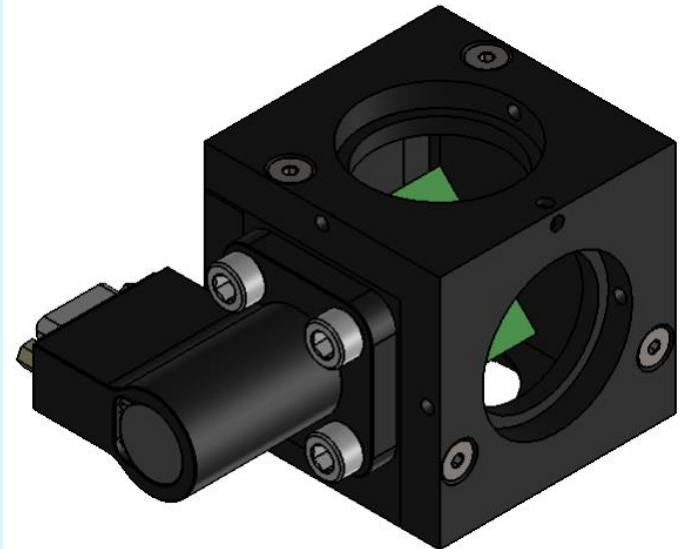
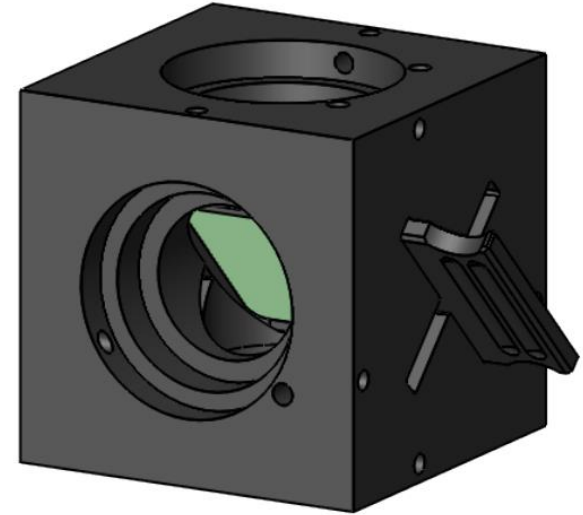
Port switches to select illumination path or camera.

## **C60-3WMS Three-way Manual**

Selects between two side ports or straight-through port depending upon position (or presence) of the mirror slide.

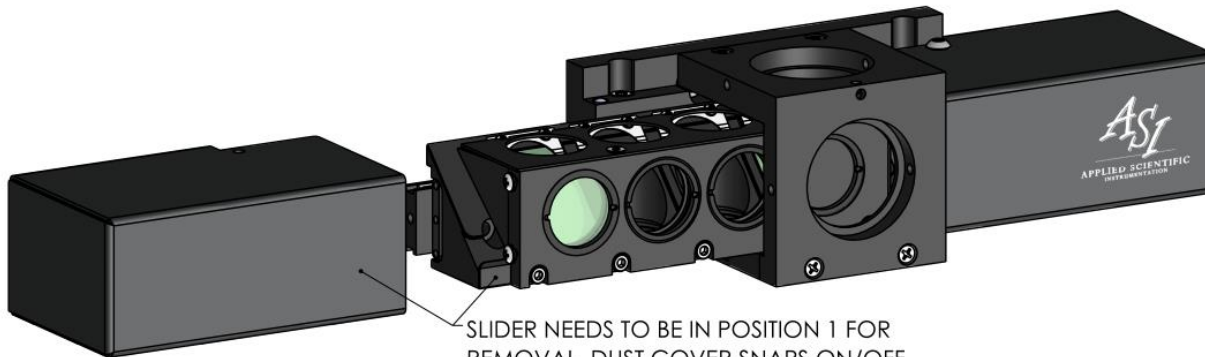
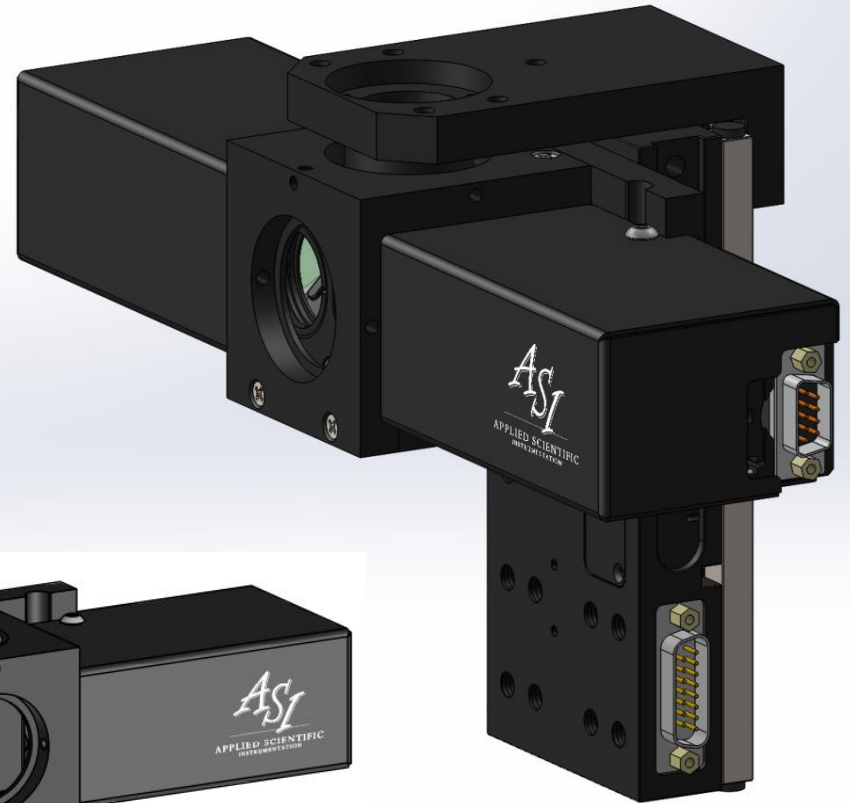
## **C60-PORT\_SWITCH Motorized**

Automated for switching the common port between the two side ports.



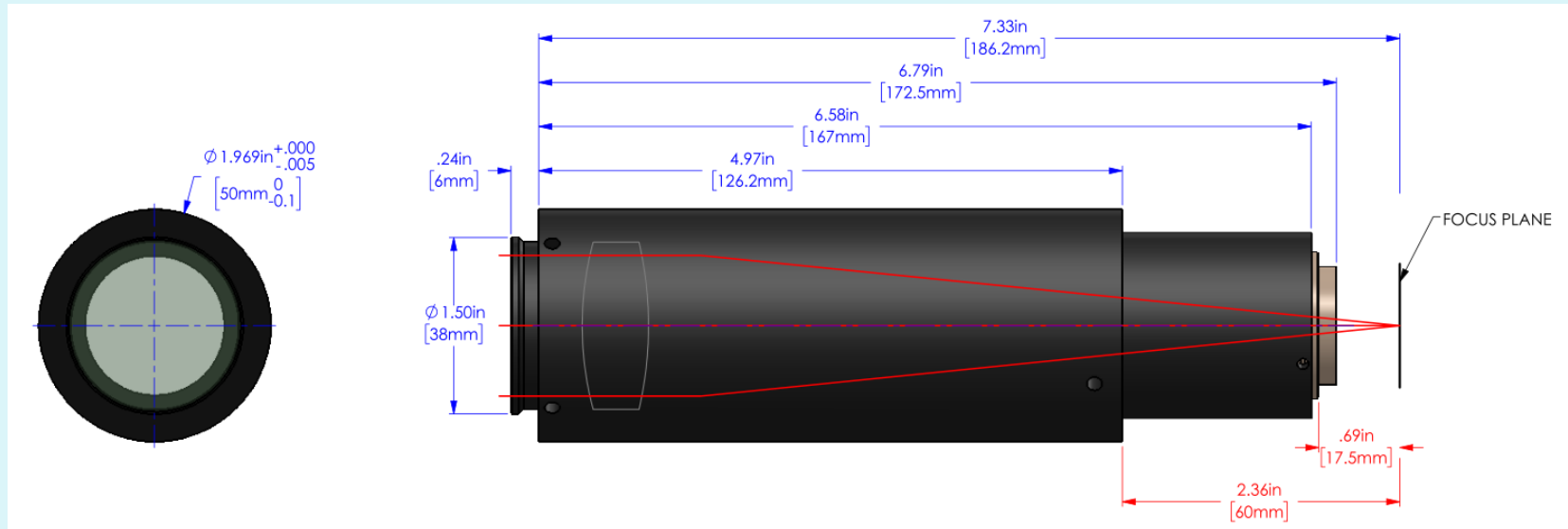
# Filter slider

- Automated or Manual
- Same form-factor as standard C60-CUBE
- Removable filter cartridge for filter loading



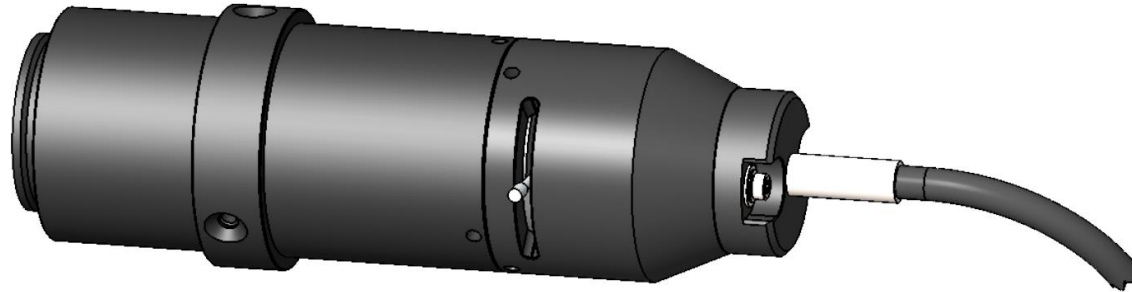
SLIDER NEEDS TO BE IN POSITION 1 FOR  
REMOVAL, DUST COVER SNAPS ON/OFF

# Tube lenses

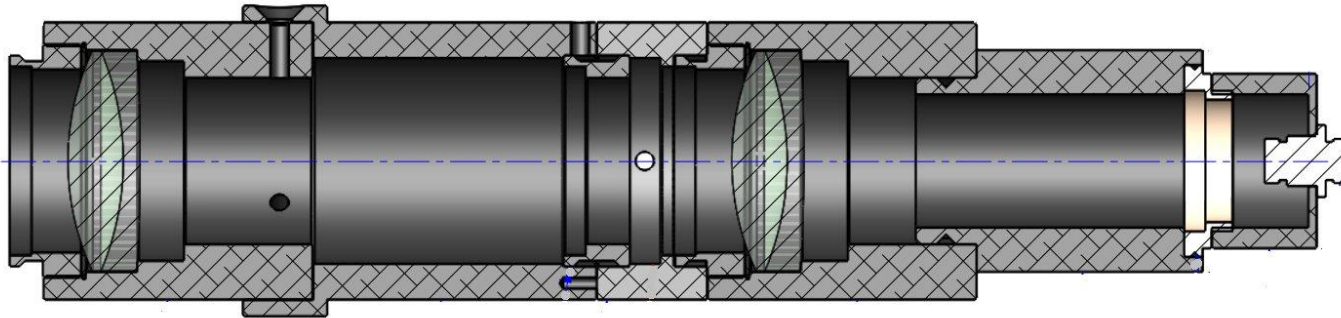


- All Tube Lenses use same format – lengths vary
- “Collimated space” fitting is our 38mm C60-RING
- Focal plane is 60mm from end of lens tube
- “Focus space” fitting is “Zeiss-like” 30mm dovetail
- Many choices from 70mm to 500mm focal length

# Epi-illumination



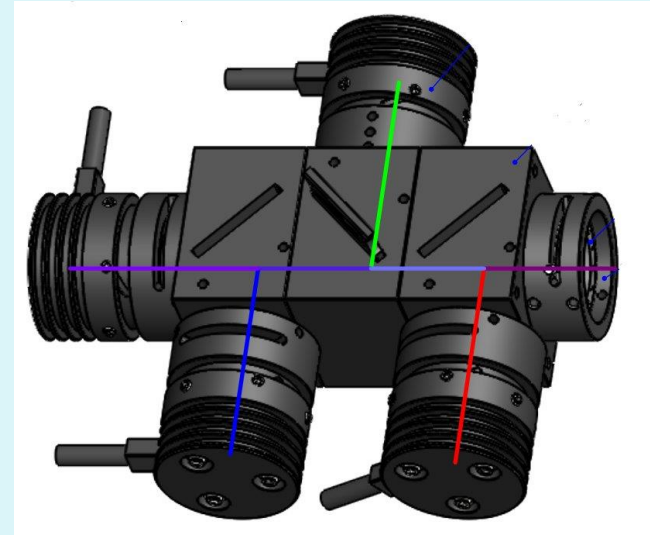
**LLG-E100** Condenser and Liquid Light Guide Adapter



**LFP-E100** Fiber-Coupled Laser Illuminator Assembly

Illumination assemblies made with modular lens components, easy to tailor for particular application

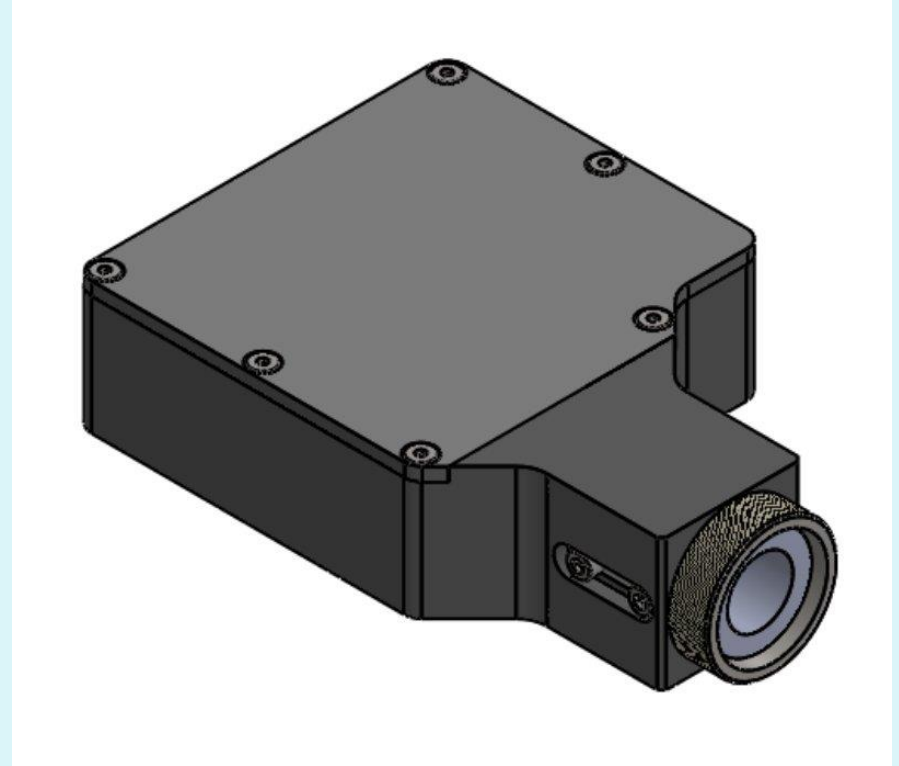
# Multi-LED illuminators



Individual LEDs easily combined into an illuminator assembly controlled by single TGLED electronics card

# CRISP focus stabilization

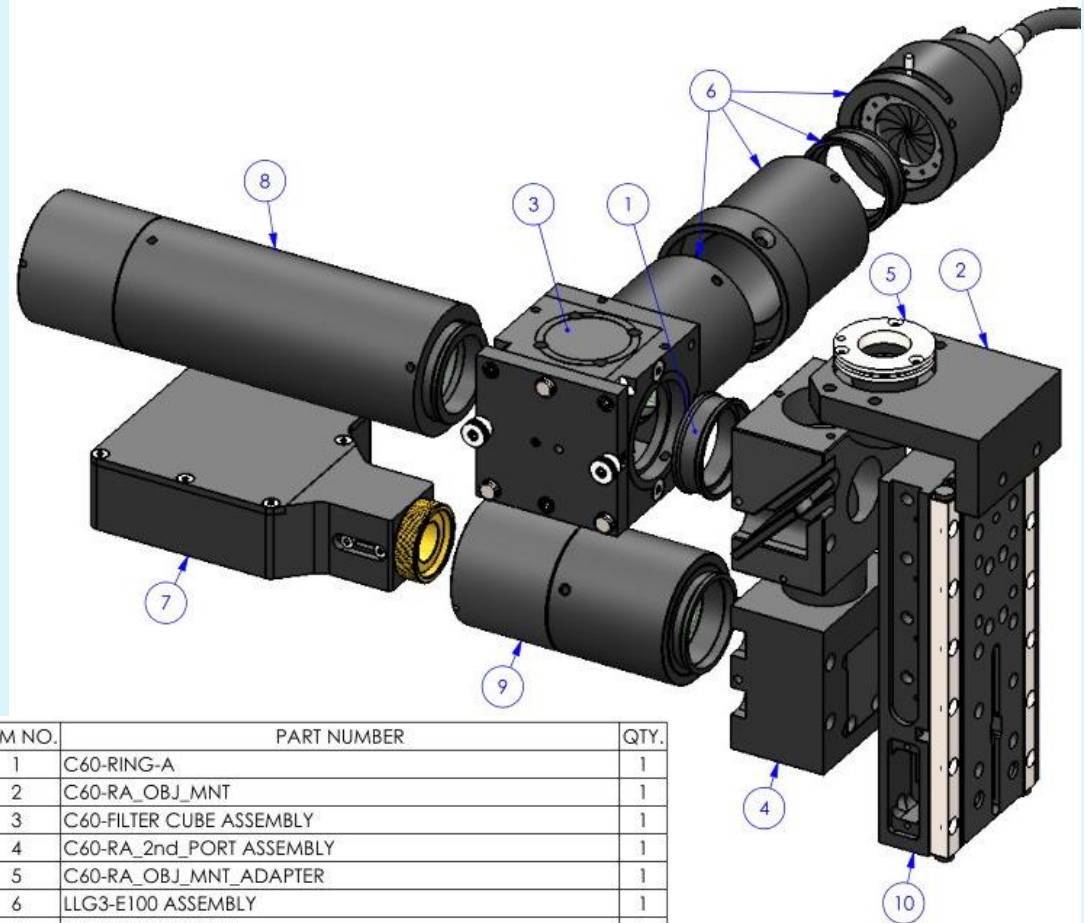
- CRISP system holds focus using a reference surface with a refractive index mismatch such as glass/air or glass/water slide interface.
- Uses IR LED projected onto sample
- Continuous hardware focus correction by integrating with with Z drive (motorized or piezo)





# Example: putting it together

Exploded diagram of a MIM2 microscope system for a single objective with camera port, liquid light guide epi-illumination source, and CRISP autofocus.



ITEM NO.	PART NUMBER	QTY.
1	C60-RING-A	1
2	C60-RA_OBJ_MNT	1
3	C60-FILTER CUBE ASSEMBLY	1
4	C60-RA_2nd_PORT ASSEMBLY	1
5	C60-RA_OBJ_MNT_ADAPTER	1
6	LLG3-E100 ASSEMBLY	1
7	CRISP-5 ASSEMBLY	1
8	TN200 ASSEMBLY with C60-5060 C-MOUNT	1
9	C60-TUBE-100 ASSEMBLY with C60-5060 C-MOUNT	1
10	LS-50 LE	1

# Transmitted light options

- Olympus IX2-LWUCD condenser
- ASI White LED Lamp
- ASI adjustable condenser carrier
- Olympus nose piece for DIC or Phase contrast brightfield imaging modes



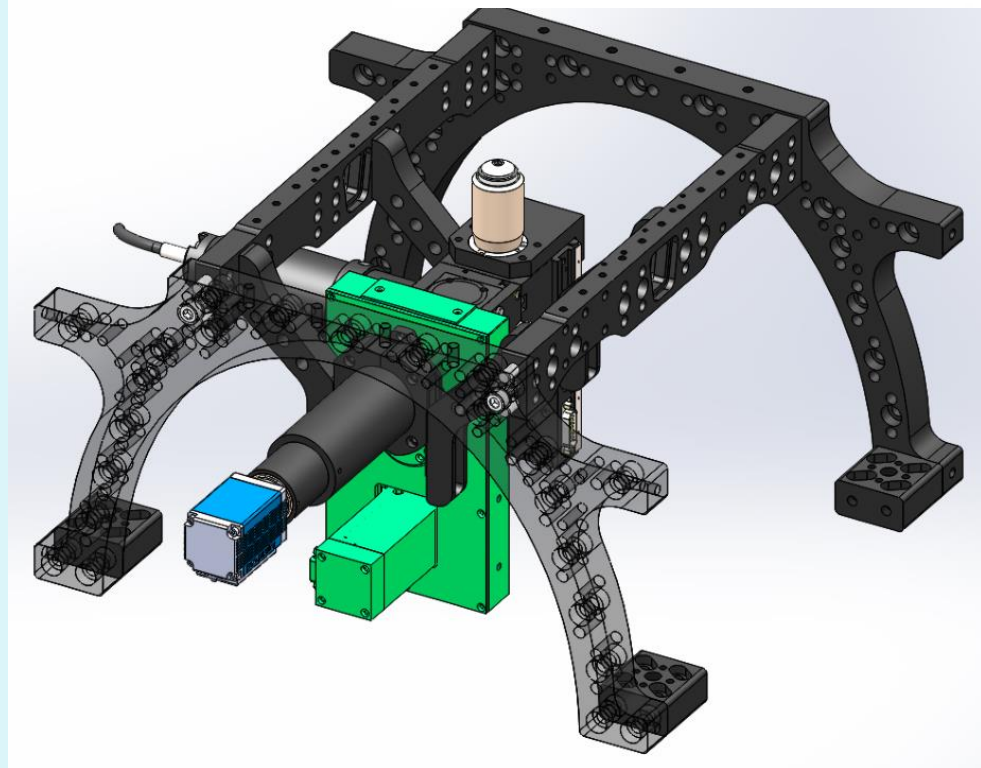
# TIRF on the RAMM

- TIRF fiber-coupled illuminator includes either manual or motorized micrometer for setting the injection point and TRIF angle.
- Simple cage section for focusing laser spot exactly at the objective back focal plane.



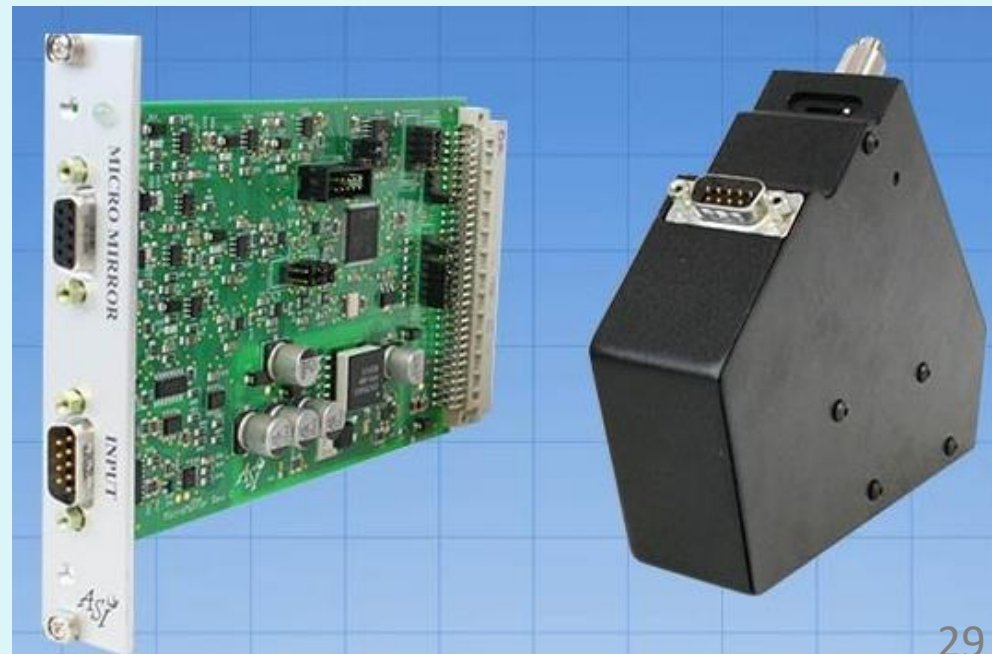
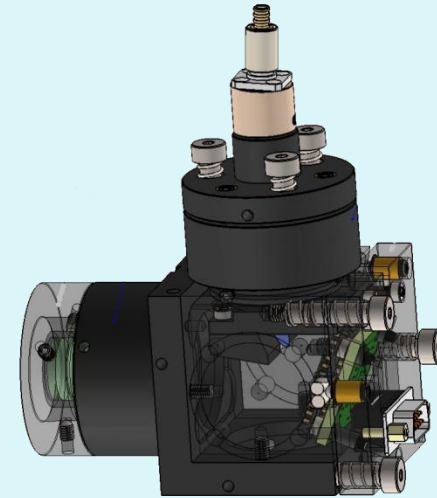
# Filter wheels

- Engineered for very low vibration
- Can be installed in the C-mount fitting or in collimated space.
- Wheels for eight 25mm filters or six 32mm filters available.
- TGFW control card handles two wheels.

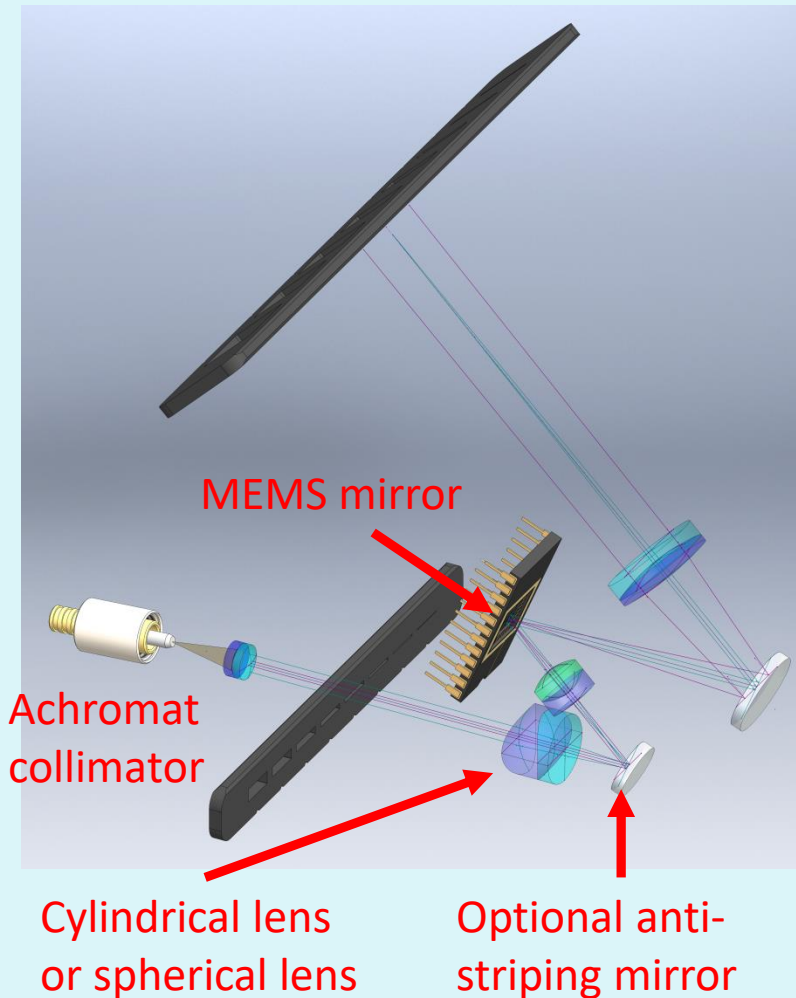


# Fiber-coupled scanners

- 2-axis scanners with MEMS mirrors are compact, light weight, and zero vibration
- Fiber in, focused scanned beam at output C-mount image plane
- Applications include:
  - Light sheet
  - FRAP
  - Photo-stimulation

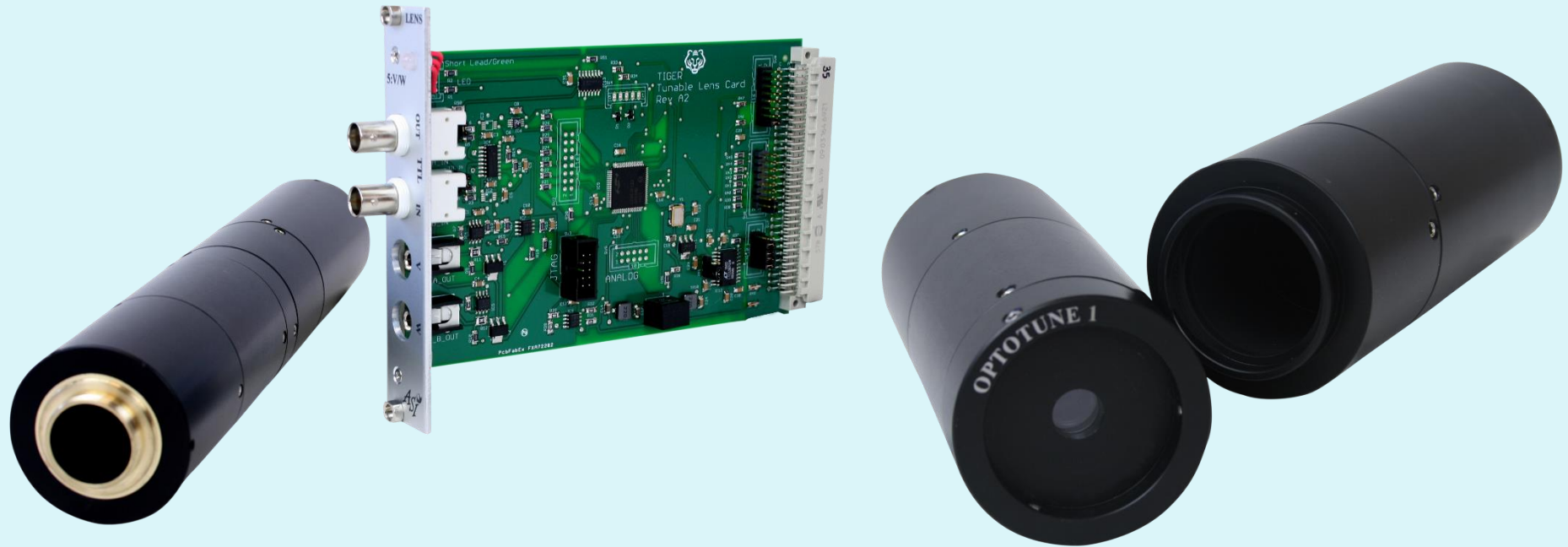


# Cylindrical lens scanner



- Static sheet vs. scanned
  - Faster frame rates b/c no scanning and no need to blank laser during camera readout
  - Less expensive
  - Intensity varies across sheet
  - Can't use virtual slit mode
  - No “stop motion” effect
- Cylindrical lens and Gaussian beam only differ by single lens
  - use either one with any system

# Tunable lens



- Optotune electronically tunable lens integrated into ASI system including synchronizable electronics
- For imaging path applications, have relay lens system with C-mount interfaces on both ends

# Software support

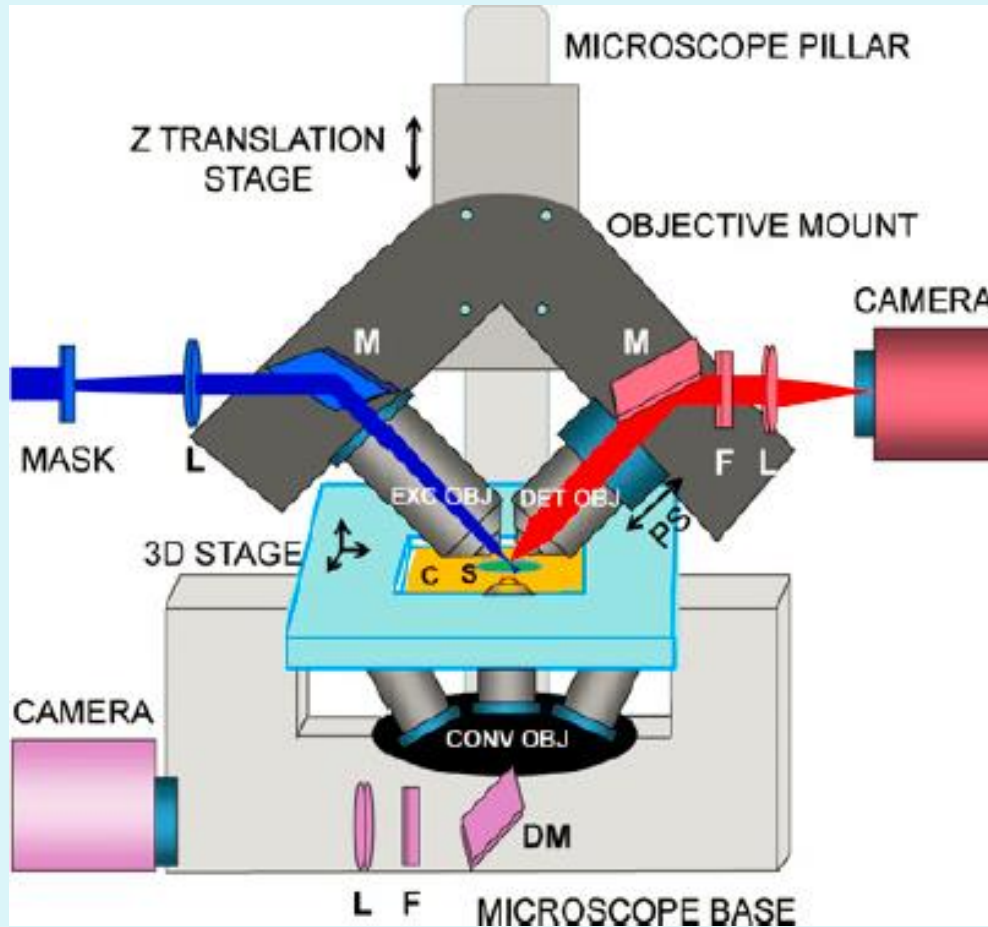
- MS2000 controller (up to 4 axes) supported in almost all microscopy softwares
- TG1000 controller (modular) supported in Micro-manager and some others
  - ASI actively maintains Micro-Manager device adapters for all our hardware devices
- LabView drivers available from ASI
- Everything happens via serial commands



# Outline

- Why light sheet microscopy?
- How can ASI help?
- Examples:
  - iSPIM/diSPIM
  - oSPIM or  $\pi$ SPIM
  - dSPIM for cleared tissue
  - SPIM for functional imaging in zebrafish
- Synchronization and software

# Original iSPIM Concept



- SPIM on inverted microscope → “iSPIM”
- Sample mounted on standard glass coverslip
- 30x faster than spinning disk for same SNR

Wu et. al, PNAS 108, 17708-17713 (2011)

# Resolution is anisotropic

Lateral resolution  $\sim 0.61 \cdot \lambda / \text{NA}$

Axial resolution  $\sim 1.22 \cdot \lambda / \text{NA}^2$

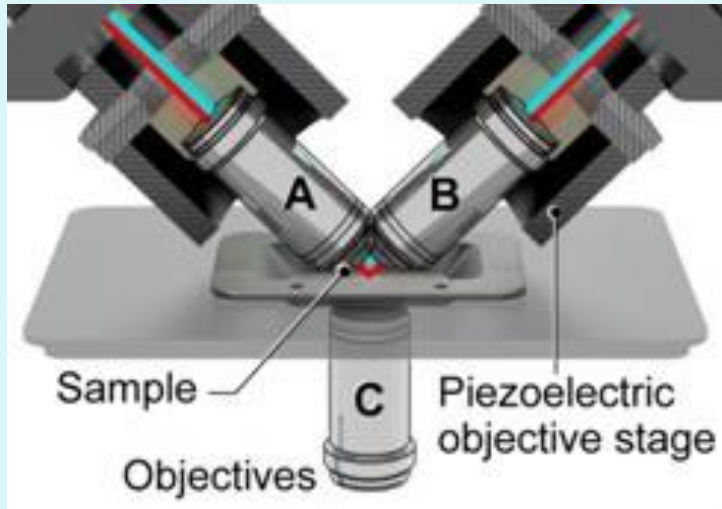
(Other equations exist depending on how you define thresholds)

NA	Lateral Res @ GFP [nm]	Axial Res @ GFP [nm]	Ratio (all $\lambda$ )
0.4	778	3889	5.0
0.6	519	1728	3.3
0.8	389	972	2.5
1	311	622	2.0
1.2	259	432	1.7

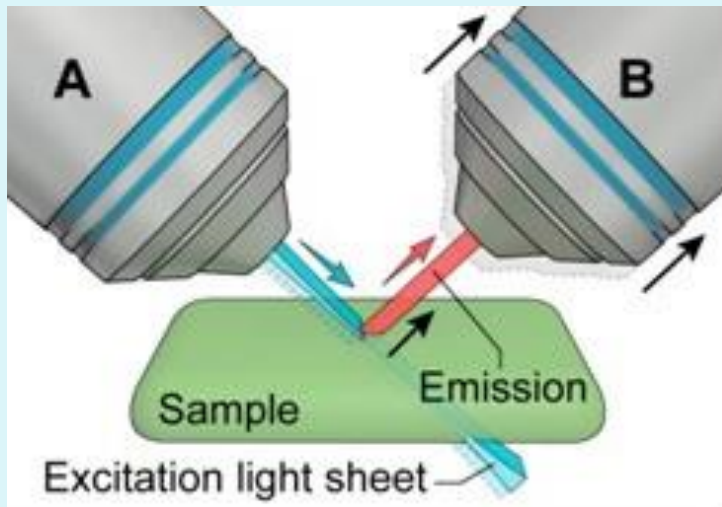
# Improving (axial) resolution

- Improve axial resolution of imaging objective
  - i.e. higher NA (any single-view SPIM e.g. oSPIM)
- Create light sheet thinner than objective's axial resolution (lattice light sheet)
- Combine datasets from different angles
  - Axial direction becomes lateral (diSPIM, OpenSPIM)
- Physically section sample
  - Not practical for most samples

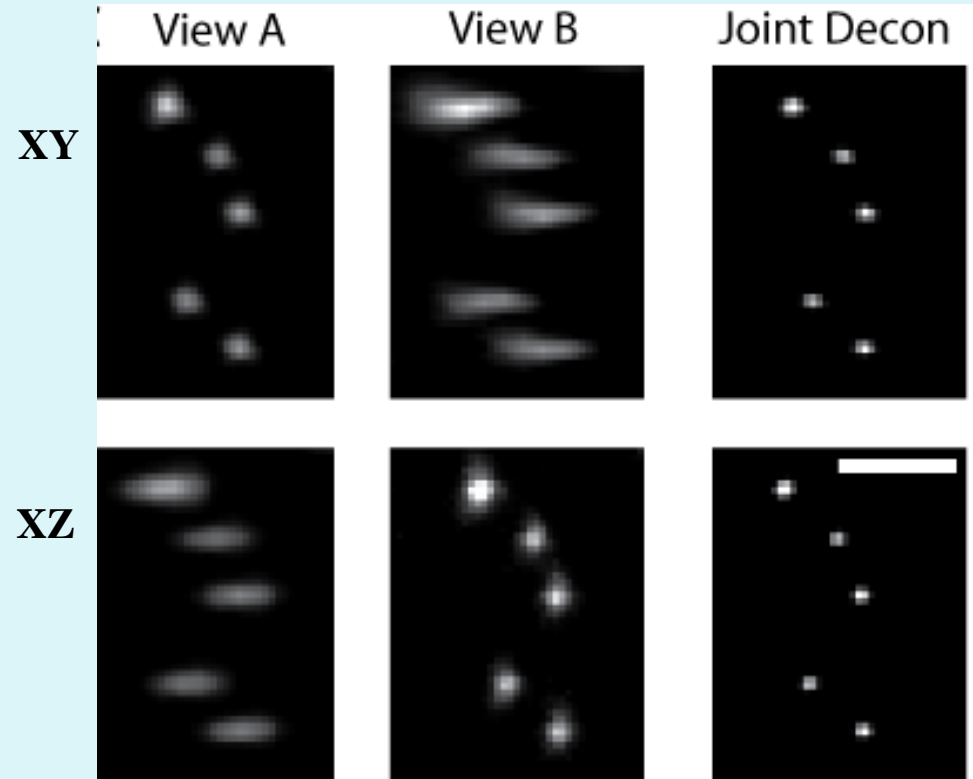
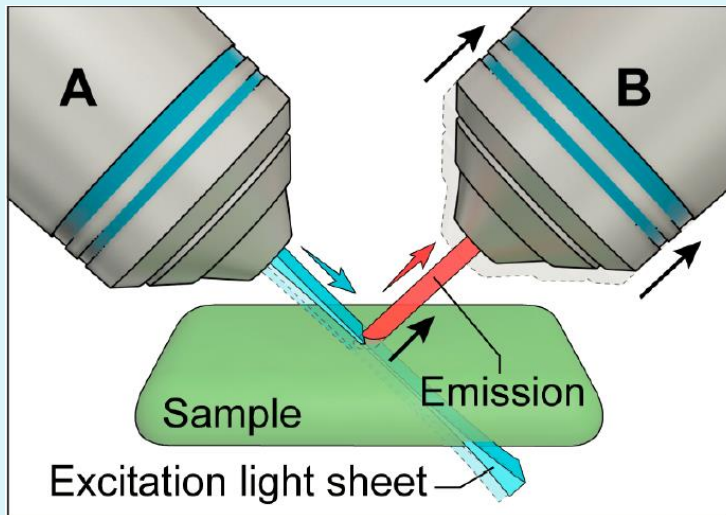
# diSPIM = dual-view SPIM on inverted microscope



- Two (fixed) views → isotropic resolution
- Open-dish sample mounting
- Stacks by moving objective/light sheet or by moving stage



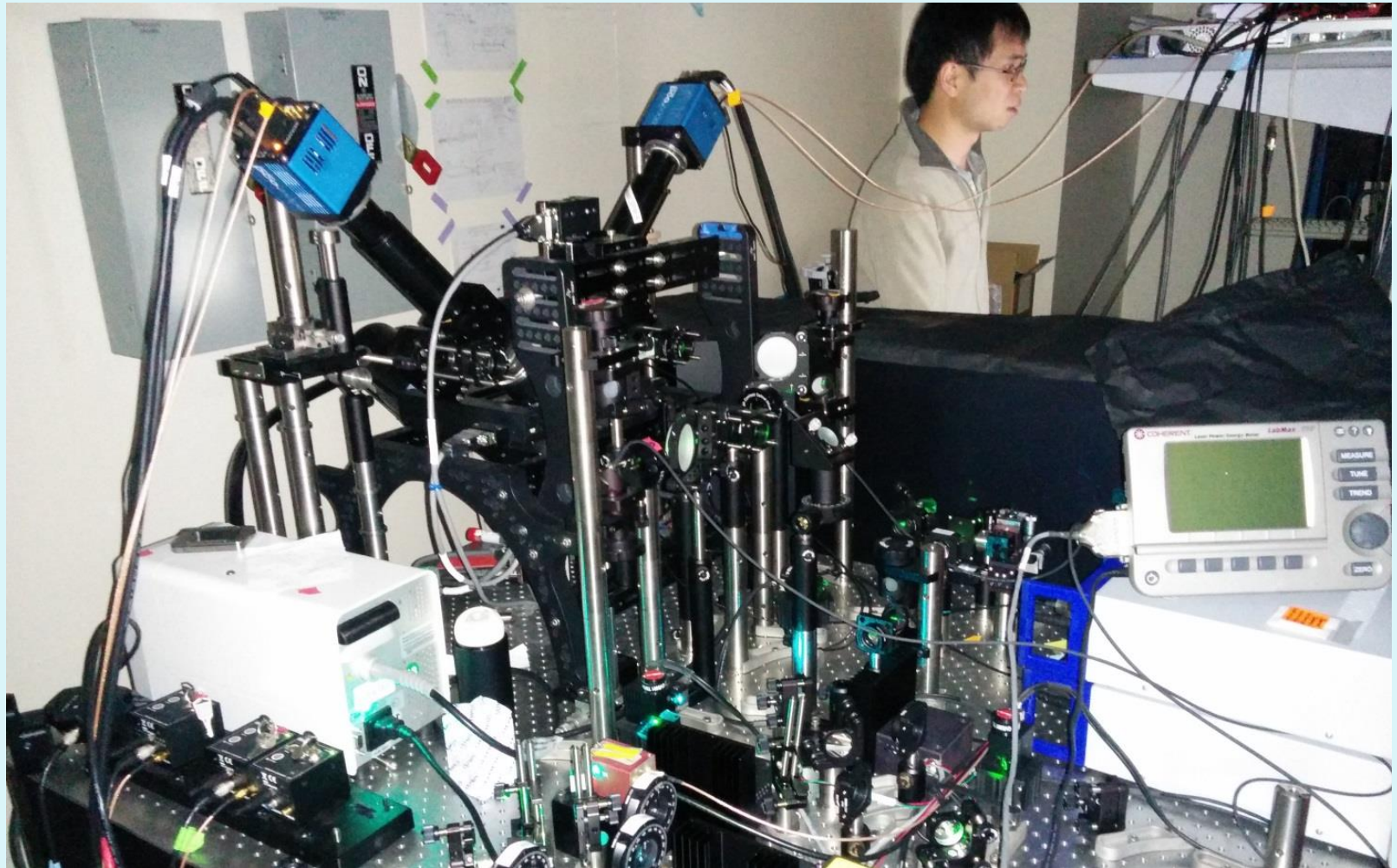
# Isotropic resolution by fusion



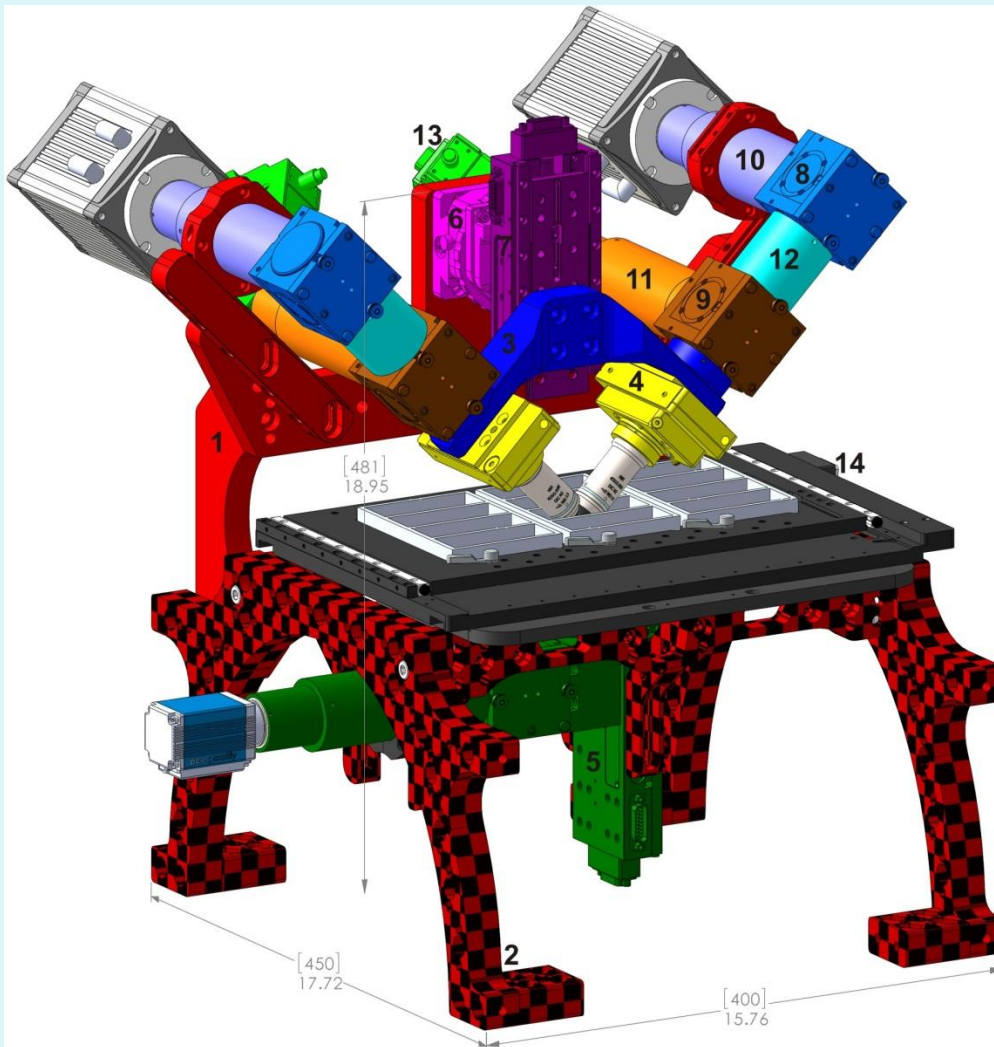
Joint Decon: A. York and Y. Wu

Wu et al. *Nat. Biotechnol.* 31, 1032-138 (2013),  
Kumar et al. *Nature Protocols* 9, 2555-2573 (2014)

# Early diSPIM (2011?)



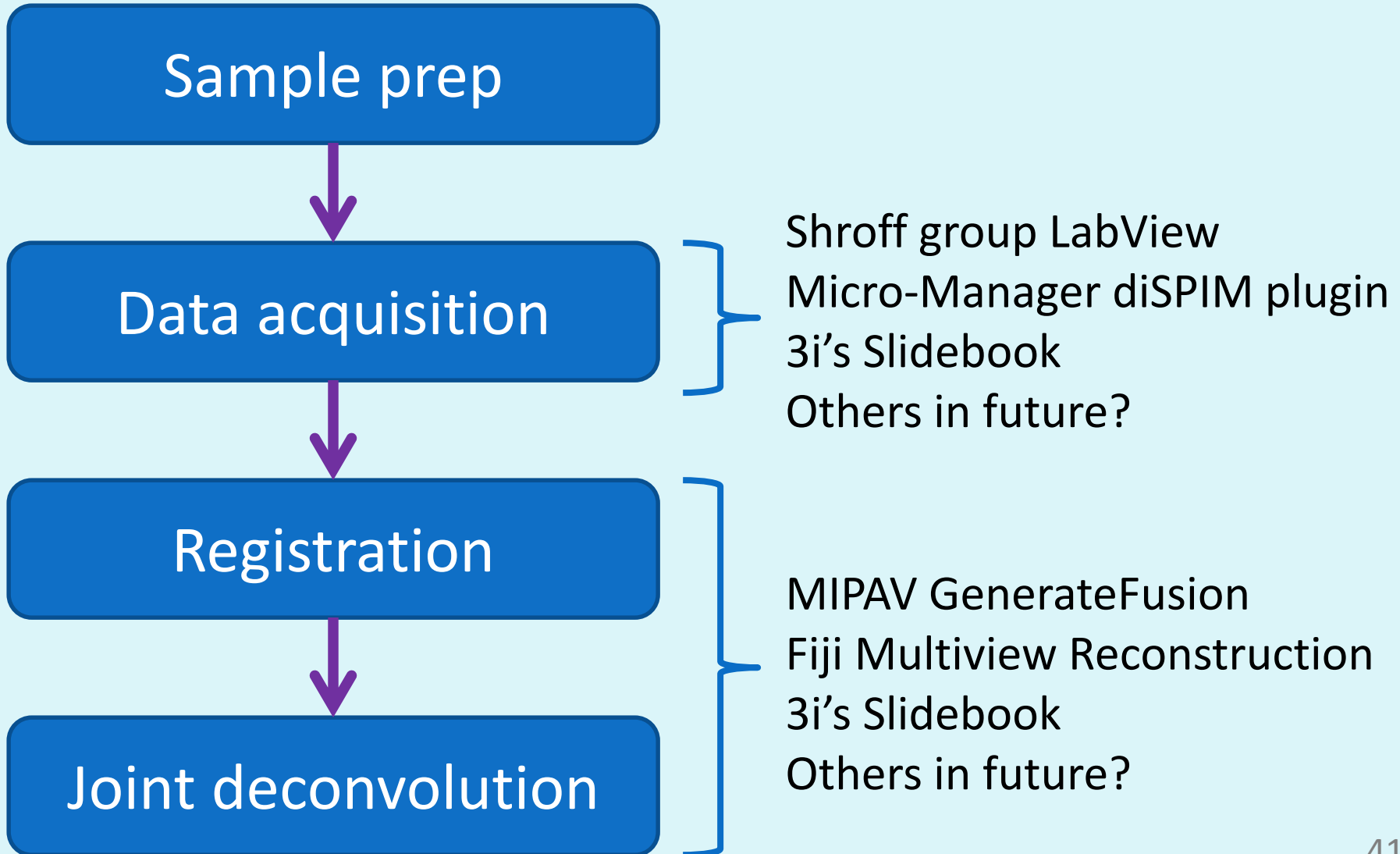
# Modern diSPIM



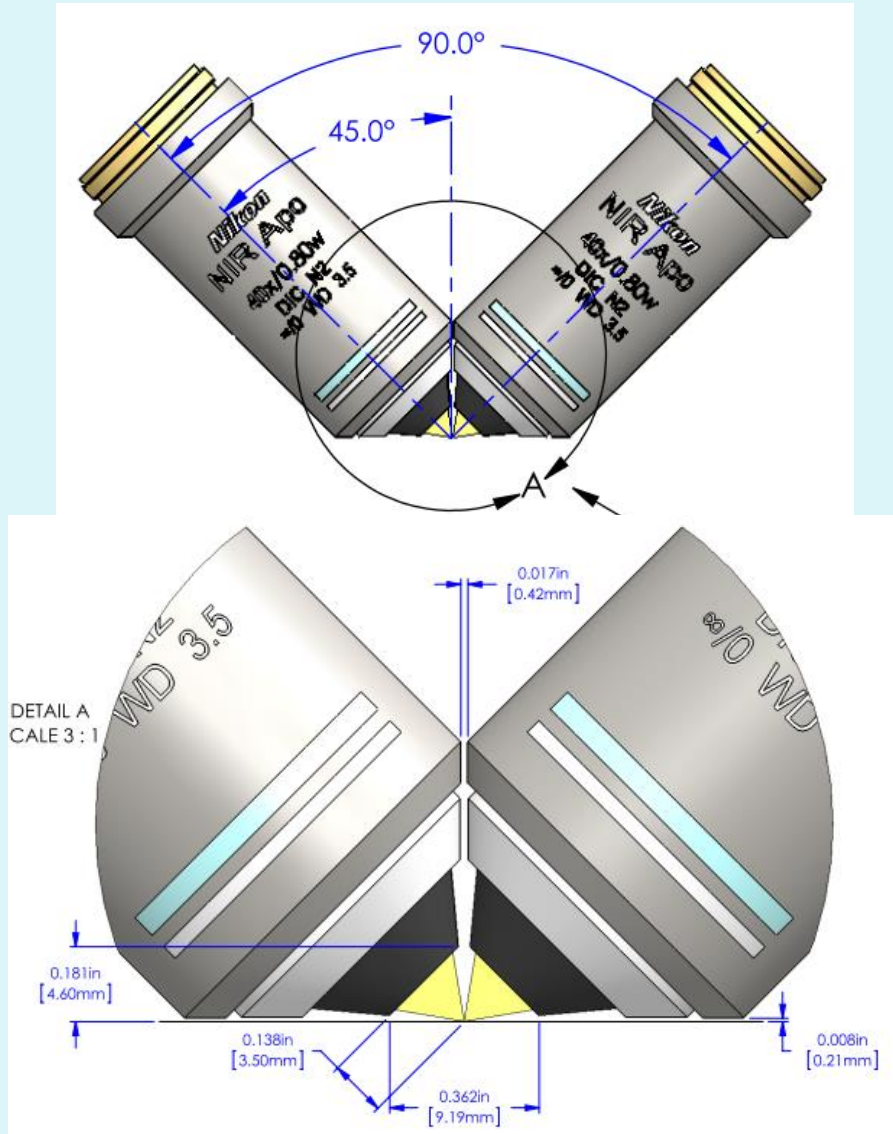
1. SPIM mount
2. RAMM frame
3. Objective mount
4. Objective piezo
5. Bottom-side microscope
6. CDZ centering stage
7. SPIM LS-50 Z-drive
8. Camera mirror cubes
9. Excitation filter cubes
10. Camera tube lens
11. Scanner tube lens
12. Spacer
13. Light sheet scanners
14. XY stage (large MS2500)



# diSPIM workflow



# diSPIM objective geometry



- Have to co-focus without physically bumping → limited NA
- NA 0.8 (Nikon 40x) is close to maximum possible NA for symmetric water objectives at 90°

# Oblique SPIM resolution

NA	Lateral @ GFP [nm]	Axial @ GFP [nm]
0.4	778	3889
0.6	519	1728
0.8	389	972
1	311	622
1.2	259	432

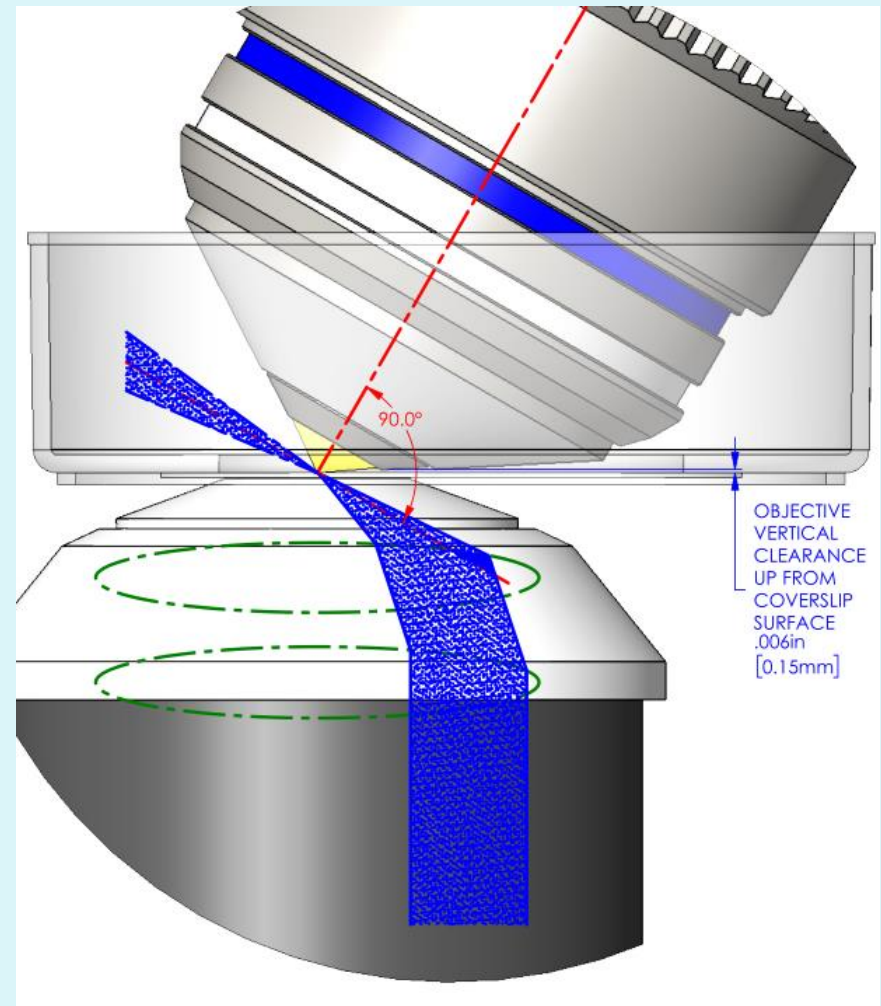
iSPIM/diSPIM, isotropic “lateral” resolution with post-processing

oSPIM @ NA 1.0 vs. (d)iSPIM:  
lateral resolution 20% better  
axial resolution 36% better vs. iSPIM, 60% worse vs. diSPIM

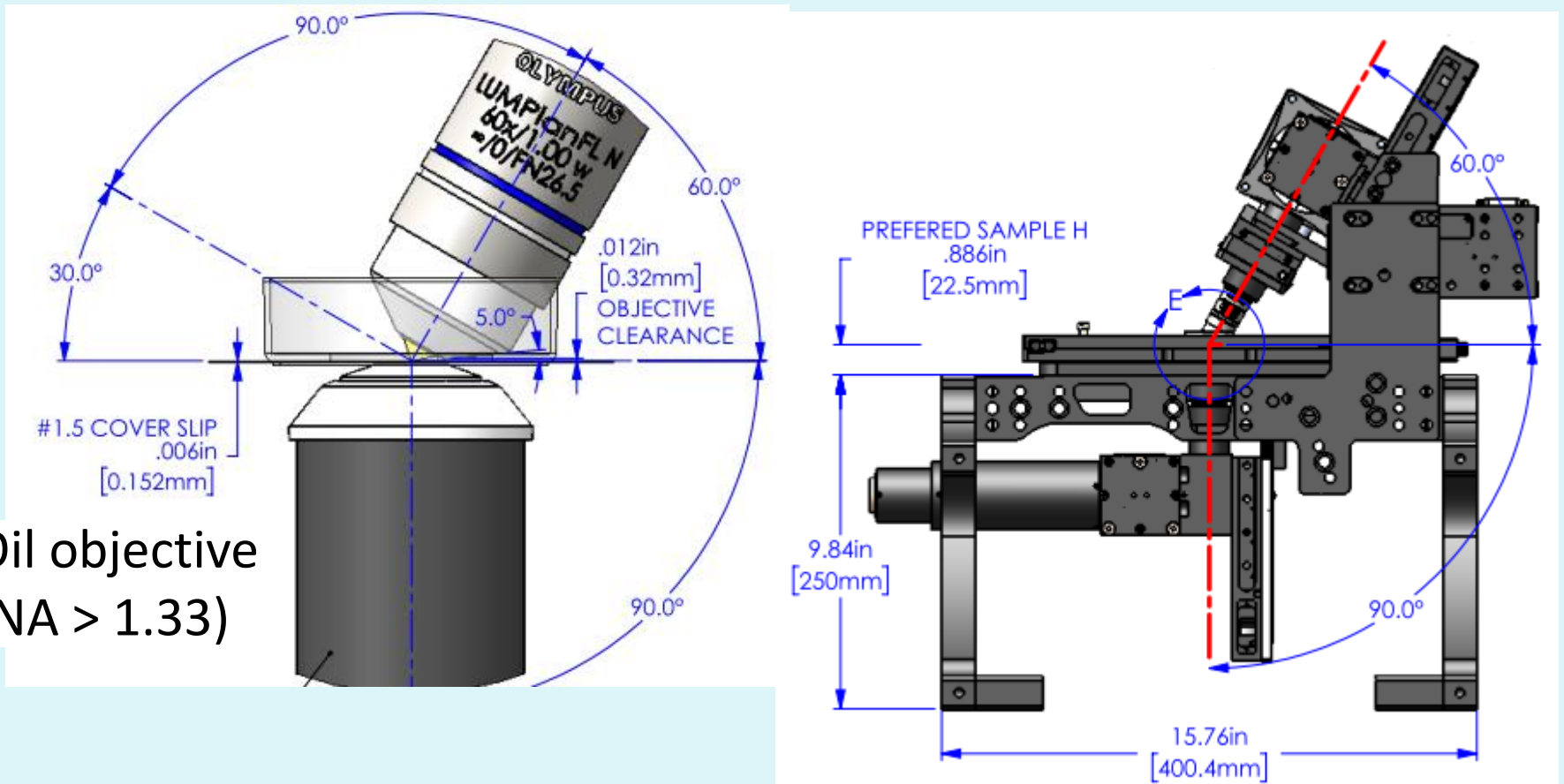
**NB: oSPIM/doSPIM design works up to NA 1.1**

# oSPIM objective geometry

- Create light sheet sideways from objective by illuminating off-center in BFP (partway to TIRF)
  - $>90^\circ$  objective angle
  - higher NA objectives
  - improved resolution
- Independently invented as “ $\pi$ SPIM” Sci. Rep. 6:32880 (2016)



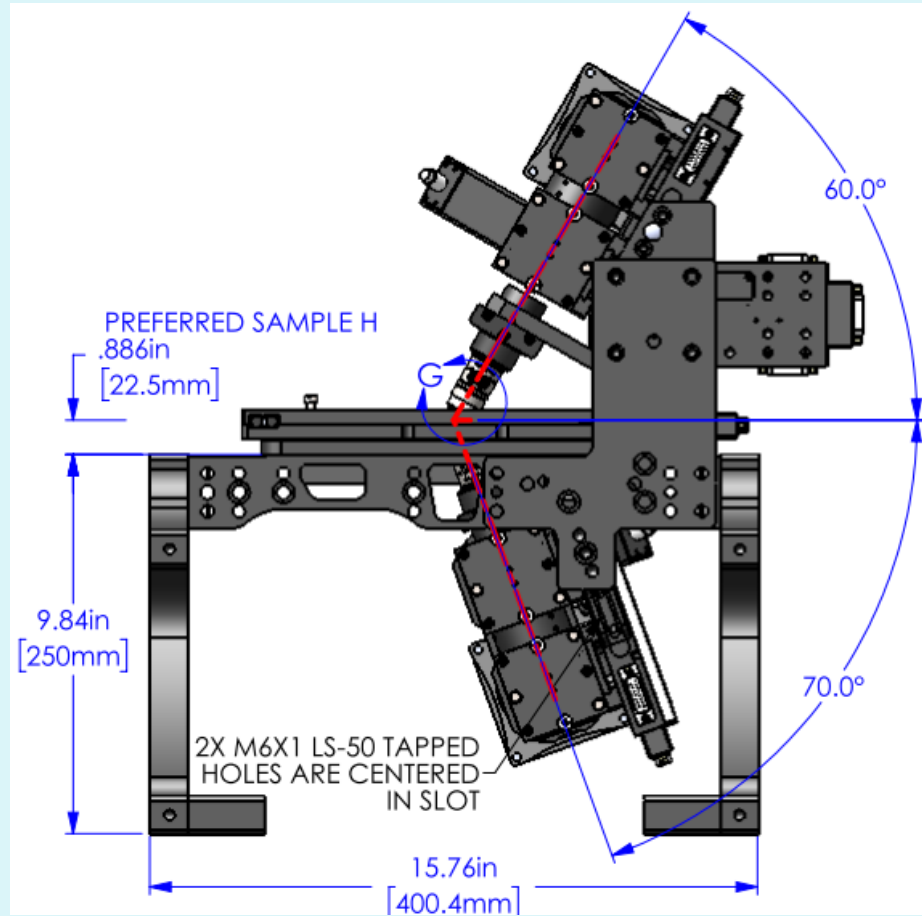
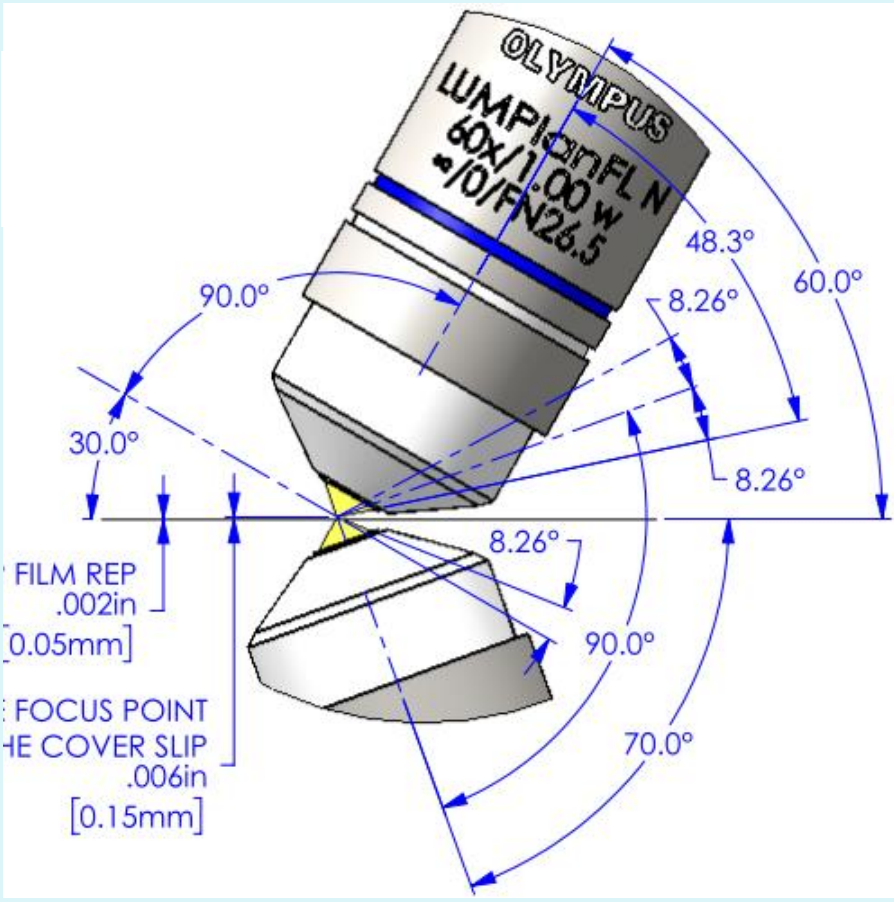
# oSPIM implementation (single)



Oil objective  
(NA > 1.33)

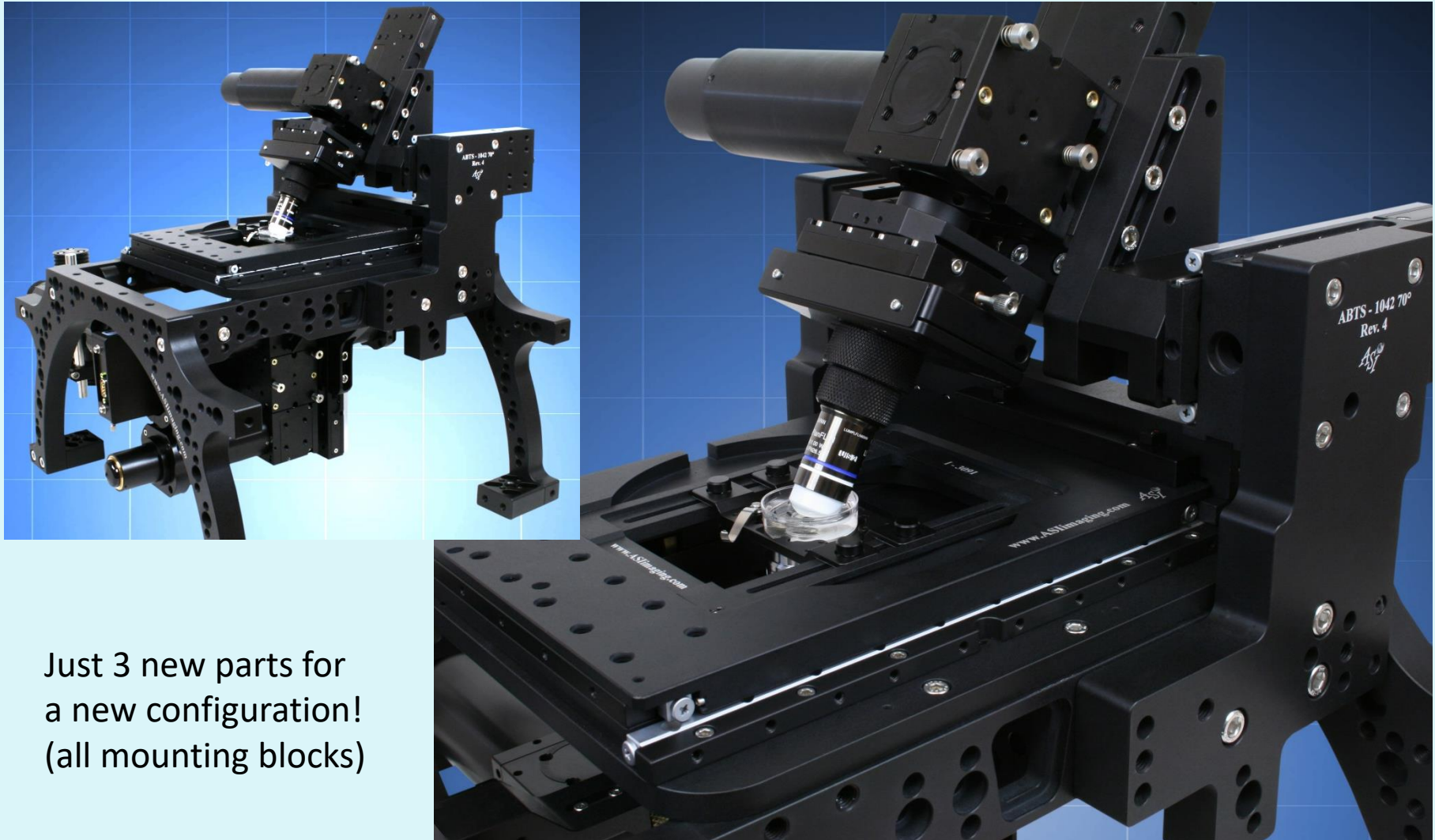
Bottom objective creates tilted light sheet for imaging with top objective

# doSPIM implementation (dual)



Dual-view system, objectives sequentially generate light sheet and image like diSPIM

# oSPIM in real life



Just 3 new parts for  
a new configuration!  
(all mounting blocks)

# Cleared tissue objective

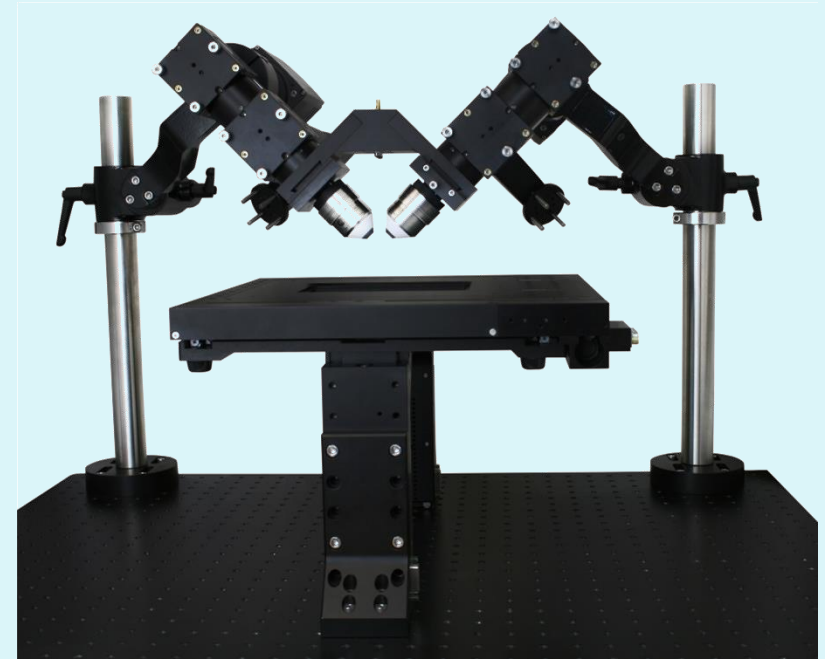
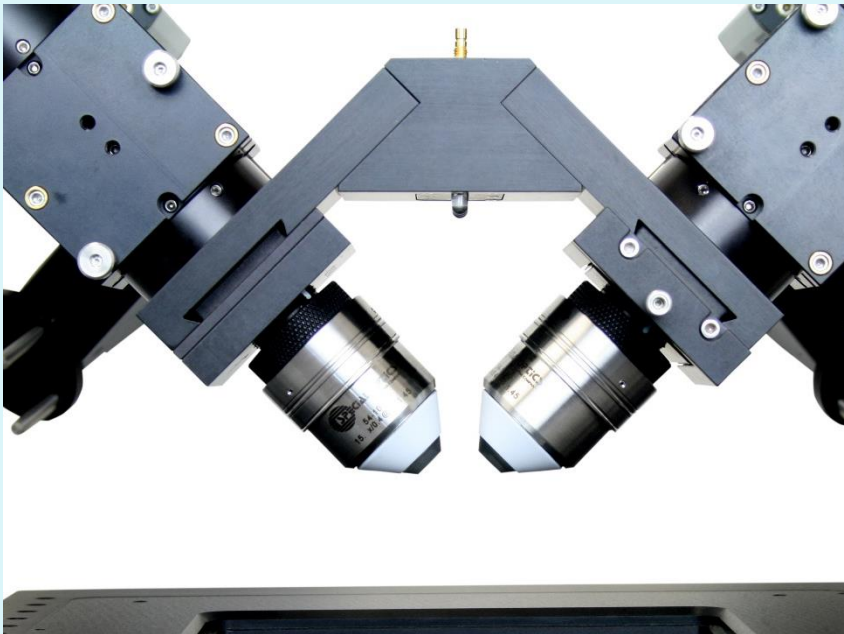
Spec	Value	Comments
Numerical Aperture	0.4 @ RI 1.45	0.37 – 0.43 over RI range
Dipping Media RI	1.33 – 1.56	Includes all major clearing solutions
Effective Focal Length	12 mm @ RI 1.45	15.3x – 17.9x over RI range w/ 200 mm TL
Working Distance	12 mm (for all RI)	5.1 mm imaging depth for flat sample @ 45°
Field of View	1.2 mm $\varnothing$	
Correction Collar	None	For immersion w/o coverslip
Price	\$15k	Available Oct 2017





# dSPIM

- Sample on XYZ stage and SPIM head is fixed
  - Better for large samples like cleared tissue

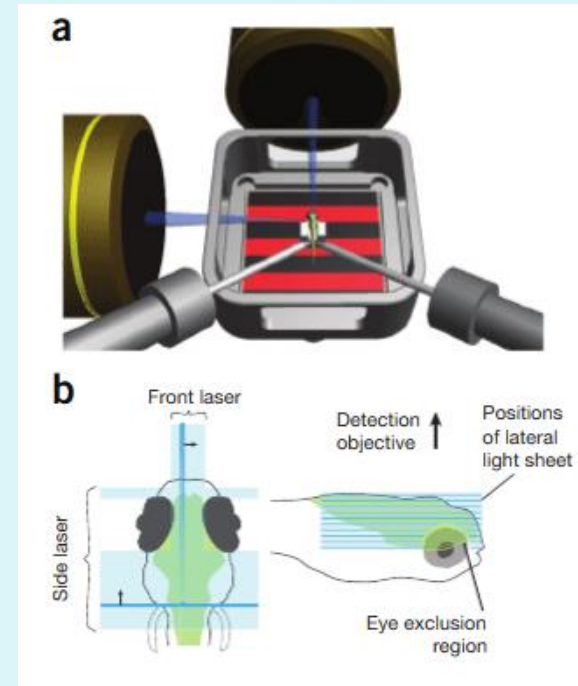
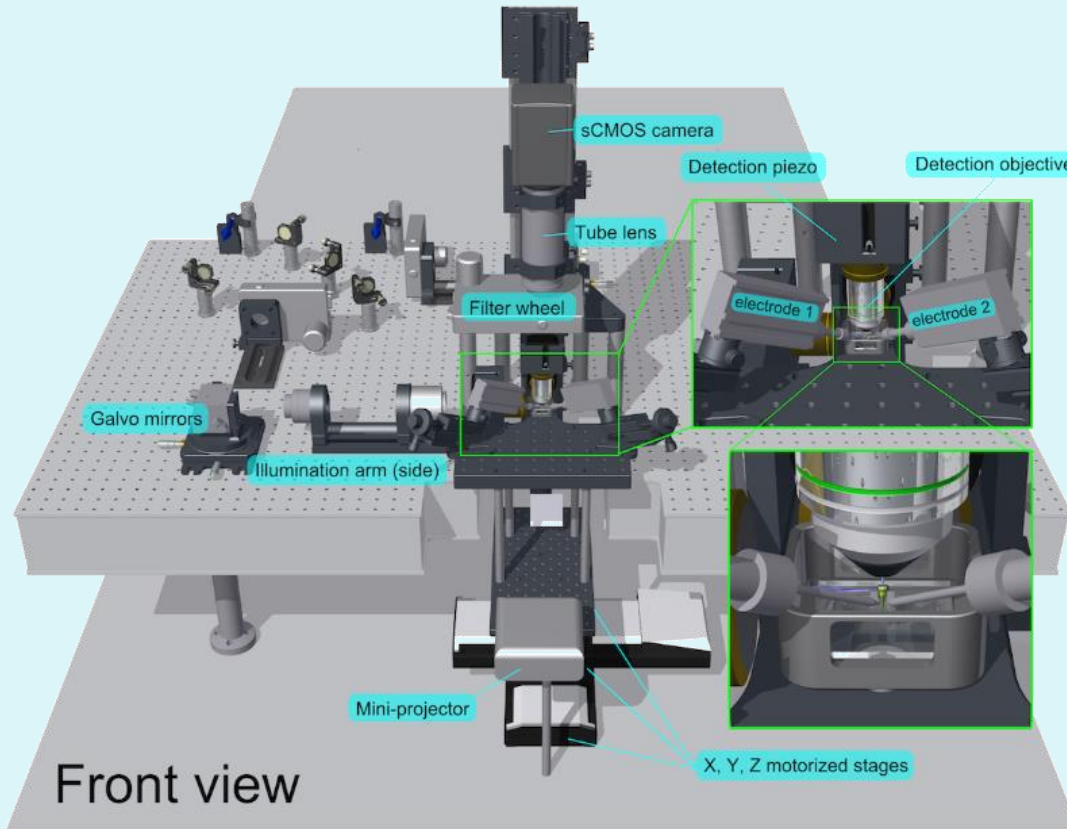


- No inverted microscope
- No objective piezos (stage scanning)

# dSPIM features

- Image >5 mm deep into cleared samples with XY extent limited only by stage (200x200 mm)
- Sub-micron stage repeatability → easy stitching
- Redesigned SPIM head
  - reduce collimated space
  - wider apertures
  - more modular

# Functional zebrafish imaging



Vladimirov et al. *Nature Methods* 11, 883-884 (2014)

- ASI offers all the required parts already, just have to connect them in this configuration

# Synchronization

- Light sheet, piezos and/or XY stage, cameras, and lasers must be tightly synchronized → need hardware synchronization
- 2 approaches:
  - Generate synchronized control voltages yourself
  - **Use synchronization within Tiger controller**
    - High-level software specifies timing parameters
    - Saves lots of implementation effort to let ASI controller coordinate sub-millisecond timing of components

# Don't forget about software

- Developing control software is major task...
  - User interface
  - Hardware control
  - Save images with metadata
  - Live view for alignment
- ... but it's already been done for you!
- **Spend time working on science, not developing microscope control software!**

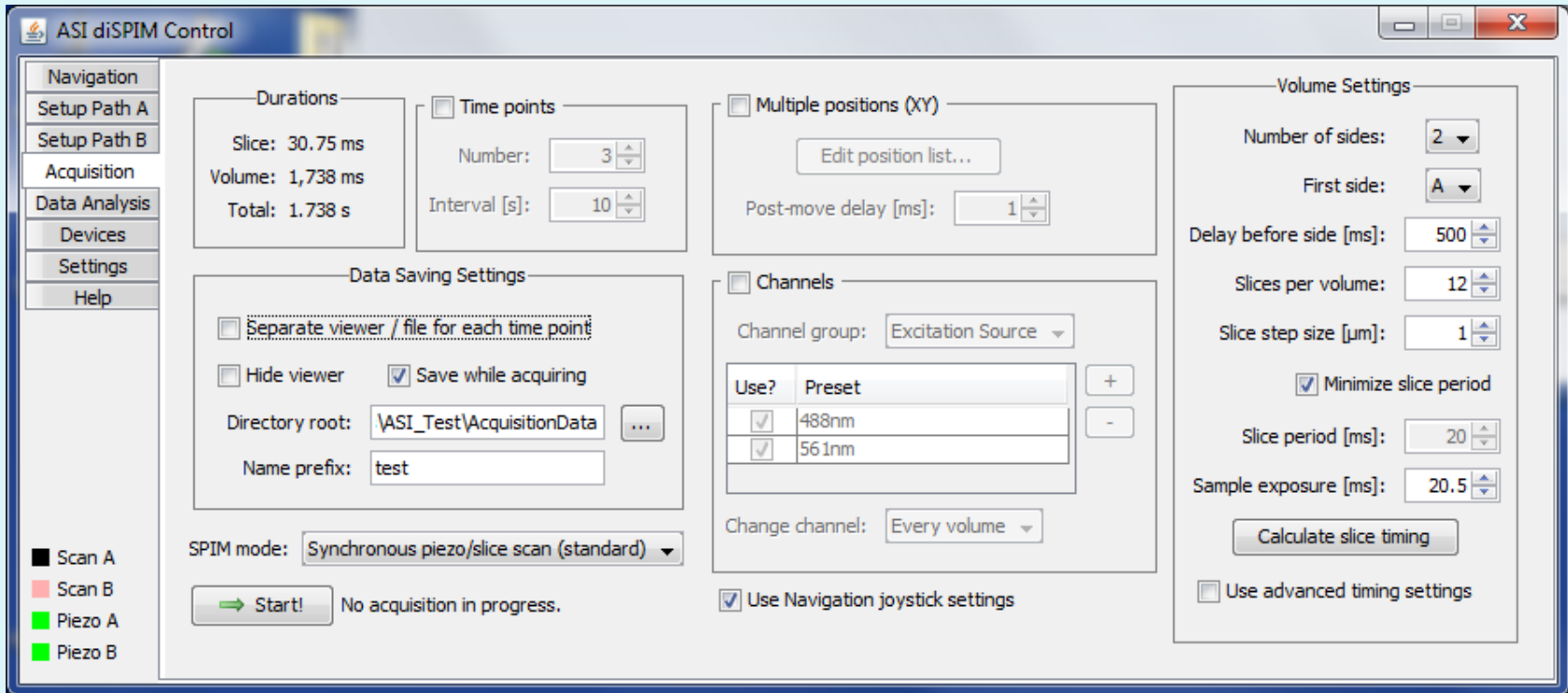
# Micro-manager plugin features

- Acquisition Modes:
  - Synch. slice/piezo
  - Fixed sheet
  - Stage scan
  - Virtual slit confocal
- Multi-Dimensional Acq.
  - Time points
  - Multi-position
  - Multi-channel
- Supported cameras:
  - Andor Zyla
  - PCO Edge
  - Hamamatsu Flash 4
  - Photometrics 95B
- Supported lasers:
  - Lasers with dual port switch or passively split
  - 4 channels on/off via TTL

Works for iSPIM, diSPIM, oSPIM, dSPIM, and more

# Micro-manager plugin

- Built in to MM: Plugins->Devices->ASI diSPIM
- Fully open source including ASI contributions



The screenshot shows the ASI diSPIM Control window with the following settings:

- Navigation:** Setup Path A, Setup Path B, Acquisition, Data Analysis, Devices, Settings, Help.
- Durations:** Slice: 30.75 ms, Volume: 1,738 ms, Total: 1.738 s.
- Time points:**  Time points, Number: 3, Interval [s]: 10.
- Multiple positions (XY):**  Multiple positions (XY), Edit position list..., Post-move delay [ms]: 1.
- Data Saving Settings:**
  - Separate viewer / file for each time point
  - Hide viewer,  Save while acquiring
  - Directory root: \ASI\_Test\AcquisitionData
  - Name prefix: test
- Channels:**  Channels, Channel group: Excitation Source.
 

Use?	Preset
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	488nm
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	561nm
- Volume Settings:**
  - Number of sides: 2
  - First side: A
  - Delay before side [ms]: 500
  - Slices per volume: 12
  - Slice step size [μm]: 1
  - Minimize slice period
  - Slice period [ms]: 20
  - Sample exposure [ms]: 20.5
  - Calculate slice timing
  - Use advanced timing settings
- SPIM mode:** Synchronous piezo/slice scan (standard)
- Start:** Start! No acquisition in progress.
- Use Navigation joystick settings:**
- Legend:**
  - Scan A
  - Scan B
  - Piezo A
  - Piezo B

# Advantages of Micro-Manager

- Free and open-source
  - Zero cost, download anywhere anytime
  - Fully modifiable and liberally licensed
  - Documentation and community support make it easy to augment code if you want/need
- Facilitates reproducibility
  - Easy to change hardware e.g. different camera
  - Easy to distribute your to other labs



# ASI SPIM ongoing developments

- Structured illumination for better-than-Gaussian light sheet profile
- Tunable lens for remote focusing
- Tunable lens for adjusting beam waist
- 2-photon light sheet
- Combining XYZ tracking of moving samples with light sheet

# Conclusion

- ASI makes it easy to build custom light sheet microscopes
  - Modular hardware components
  - Synchronization done in controller
  - Functional yet user-extensible software
- ASI loves working with leading scientists to create the next thing; **how can we help you?**