Subcellular surgery and nanoneurosurgery



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and also....

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Introduction

why use femtosecond pulses?

Introduction

tissue is nearly transparent at 800 nm





• subcellular surgery

nanoneurosurgery

focus laser beam inside material



Opt. Lett. 21, 2023 (1996)

high intensity at focus...



... causes nonlinear ionization...



and 'microexplosion' causes microscopic damage...













SEM & AFM:

- 100-nm cavities
- little colateral damage

Dark-field scattering



block probe beam...



... bring in pump beam...



... damage scatters probe beam













vary numerical aperture



fit gives threshold intensity: $I_{th} = 2.5 \times 10^{17} \text{ W/m}^2$



vary material...



...threshold varies with band gap (but not much!)







• subcellular surgery

nanoneurosurgery

Q: can we ablate material on the subcellular scale?

Requirements:

- submicrometer precision (in bulk)
- no damage to neighboring structures
- independent of structure/organelle type

Cytoskeleton

- gives a cell its shape
- provides a scaffold for organelles
- responsible cell motion and attachment
- facilitates intracellular transport and signaling
- required for cell division

two components

actin fibers



microtubules







epi-fluorescence microscope


fluorescently label sample



UV illumination...



...causes fluorescence



irradiate with fs laser beam



examine resulting ablation









nucleus of fixed endothelial cell



white light microscopy

nucleus of fixed endothelial cell



fluorescence microscopy

irradiate with fs laser



fluorescence microscopy

irradiate with fs laser



fluorescence microscopy

bleaching or ablation?



TEM image













Definitive proof of ablation

- ablation width as small as 100 nm
- ablation threshold varies slightly
- ablation threshold 20% above bleaching threshold

Definitive proof of ablation

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Q: subcellular surgery on live cells?











Q: can we probe the dynamics of the cytoskeleton?

YFP-labeled actin fiber network of a live cell



cut a single fiber bundle



cut a single fiber bundle



gap widens with time



retraction or depolymerization?



retraction or depolymerization?



retraction!



dynamics provides information on in vivo mechanics




overdamped spring:
$$\Delta L = L_{\infty}(1 - e^{-t/\tau}) + L_{o}$$



overdamped spring:
$$\Delta L = L_{\infty}(1 - e^{-t/\tau}) + L_{o}$$



L_{o} and τ independent of fiber width!



tension in actin filaments is generated by myosin motors



Y27: inhibits some myosin activity



ML7: direct inhibitor of myosin activity





femtosecond materials interactions

• subcellular surgery

nanoneurosurgery

Q: can we probe the neurological origins of behavior?

















Caenorhabditis elegans



Juergen Berger & Ralph Sommer Max-Planck Institute for Developmental Biology

- simple model organism
- similarities to higher organisms
- genome fully sequenced
- easy to handle

- 80 µm x 1 mm
- about 1000 cells
- 302 neurons
- invariant wiring diagram
- neuronal system completely encodes behavior























Mapping behavior to neurons



Mapping behavior to neurons



ASH neurons

- responsible for chemical sensing
- ciliary projections extend through skin
- one on each side

ASH neurons



ASH neurons


ASH neurons



ASH neurons



make ASH neurons express GFP



make ASH neurons express GFP



GFP: absorbs UV, emits green











ASH neurons



ASK neurons



AUA neurons



ASI neurons



need exquisite precision!

DiO-stained bundle of dendrites



cut single dendrite in bundle (3 nJ)



no damange to neighboring dendrites



revive worm, reimage 1 day later



osmolarity assay



escape rate after 'mock' surgery



escape rate of ASH-lacking mutant



escape rate after ASH-ablation surgery



AFD neurons (temperature sensors)







Q: where does the ASH sense temperature?

microdroplet assay



microdroplet assay



microdroplet assay



surgery results in quantifiable behavior changes





before

after

temperature sensing occurs at tip of dendrite

brief communications

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evaluation of the integration and expression Previous techniques that have been developed for transfection of cells with DNA of the introduced gene. open for transferrior of tens with Disk fer by plasma-membrane permeabilization, y plasma memorane permanneauon, al as direct transfer, but the efficiency of dolivery by these methods ower none allows

unic-tapse two-photon involcescence intagents at a mean laser power of <1 mW over a und at a mean raser power or ~1 min over a period of 72 h, as well as by two-photon fluperiou or 72 in, as well as up two-photon nu-orescence-lifetime imaging (TPFLIM)9. Figurescence-meaning maging (11,1,2,0,1), 1,5 ure 1 shows that diffraction-limited focusing of intense femtosecond near-infrared laser or memore remnosecome near-minaren naser pulses selectively facilitates transfection of the target cells, but not of the adjacent cells. une target cents, out not of une aujacent cents. Expression of EGFP in the transfected cell is also demonstrated by TPFLIM, and the and actionsulated by trruin, and the about measured fluorescence, it 2 A no is consistent with that reported for

which was exposed to an enhanced mean

which was exposed to an emianced mean laser power of 50–100 mW for 16 ms so that

transfection could occur. More than 200

prepare for the transfection of each cell. We assessed the integration and expres-

ransieuron winn occur. minne man 200 cells of each type were targeted in each of 18

replicate experiments; it took 10-15 s to

we assessed the micklation and capacity sion efficiency of the EGFP gene in situ by

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the transfection invariably

Figure 1 Analysis of the targeted transfection of Chinese hamste **riguie i** ruianjais or me narscen nariaecinari or contred green filio ovarian (CHO) cells with a plasmid encoding enhanced green filio uvarian icru) cens win a presnine encouring enrances grown me escent protein (EGFP) by in situ visualization, and measurement its expression by near-infrared, two-pholon-excitation-evol 13 Opension of the and the second effection and fluorescence-lifetime is

3.0

4.0

rief communications

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Targeted transfection by

he challenge for successful delivery of foreign DNA into cells in vitro, a key technique in cell and molecular biol-

femtosecond laser

*Hershey Foods Technical Center, PO Box 805, Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033, USA

nique give high transfection efficiency and survival, but it also allows simultaneous Tirlapur, et al., Nature **418**, 290 (2002) on of the integration and expression of the integration and expre

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cell transfection by femtosecond a laser infrared femto-cells were suspended in the laser of the second to the se bases) encoding enhanced green fluoresce 0.5 ml culture mediur plasmid DNA vector pEGFP-

Figure 1 Analysis of the largeled trans



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Figure 1 Analysis of the larg

	Toxicity	Efficiency	Throughput	Specificity
Goal	VL	н	н	L

	Toxicity	Efficiency	Throughput	Specificity
Goal	VL	Н	Н	L
Naked DNA	VL	L	Н	L
Polymer/lipid	Μ	Μ	Н	Н
Viral transfection	М	Н	н	н
Electroporation	Н	н	Н	L

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Electroporation	н	н	н	L

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Polymer/lipid	М	Μ	н	н
Viral transfection	М	н	н н н	
Electroporation	н	н	н	L
Laser poration	VL	Н	VL	L

	Toxicity	Efficiency	Throughput	Specificity
Goal	VL	н	н	L
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Viral transfection	Μ	Н	Н	н
Electroporation	Н	Н	Н	L
Laser poration	VL	Н	VL	L

use structured plasmonic substrate



field enhancement at tip







two-photon polymerization enhancement



attachment of TE cells on pyramid arrays



only exposed cells on pyramids take up dye



study dynamics of microtubules in mytotic spindle

spindle forms during cell division



spindle forms during cell division

metaphase



anaphase

telophase

interphase

prophase

can we determine polarity and length of microtubules?

observe depolymerization dynamics after planar cut(s)



spindles from frog egg extract



direct observation of depolymerization wave



direct observation of depolymerization wave



direct observation of depolymerization wave



double cuts provide information on mean length



spindle organization



polarity & length distributions varies across cell

spindle organization



Conclusion

great tool for manipulating the machinery of life



Funding:

National Science Foundation

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