

**Cagliari - 3 MAGGIO 2022**

Università degli Studi di Cagliari - Dipartimento di Fisica



# **Come vetro fuso, come uno stormo. Uno sguardo fisico sull'invasione tumorale**

**Fabio Giavazzi**, Università degli Studi di Milano



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO

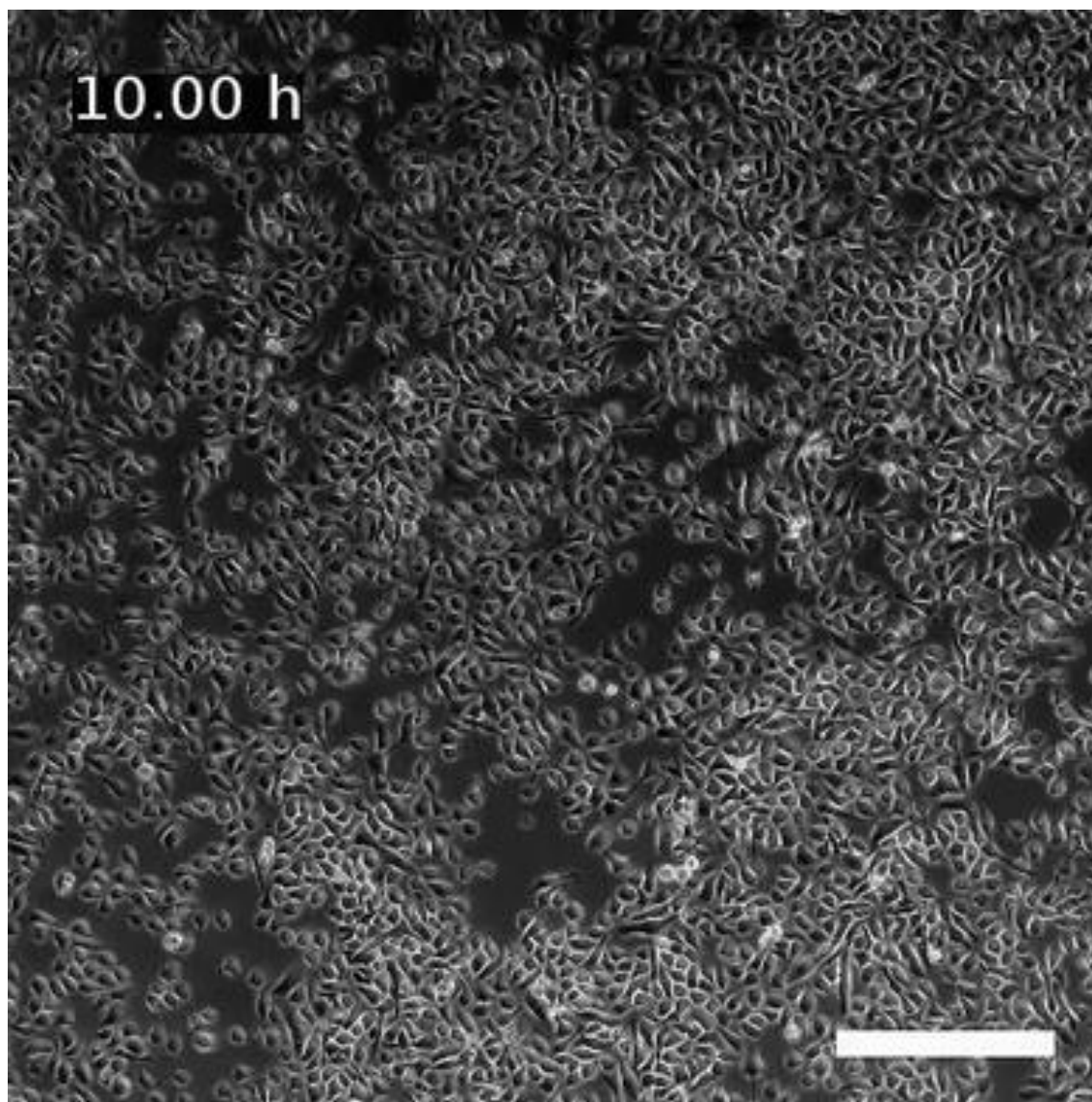
1. L'epitelio è una barriera solida e impenetrabile
2. Le cellule epiteliali isolate sono molto «attive»...
3. ...fino a che non raggiungono uno stato stazionario e quiescente.



*Il était une fois... la Vie (Siamo fatti così)  
Albert Barillé, circa 1988*

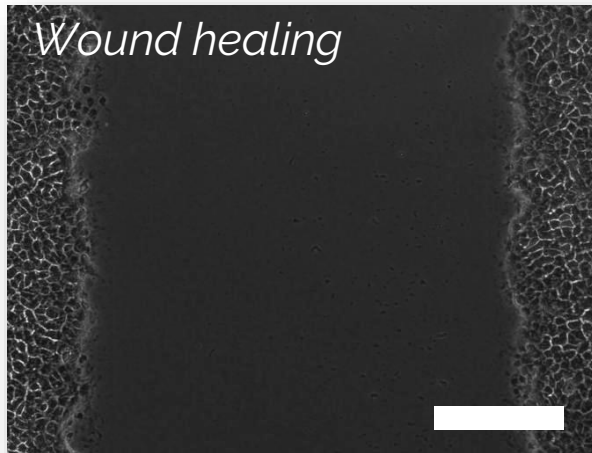
# Qualche anno dopo...



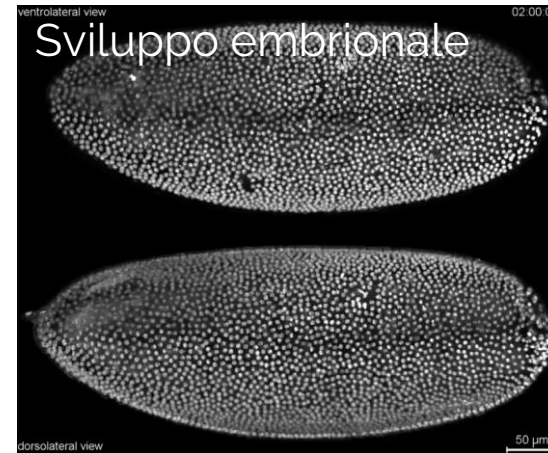


HBEC cells (Scale bar: 300  $\mu$ m.)  
S Garcia *et al.*, PNAS **112**, 15314-15319 (2015)

# Jamming e unjamming transitions

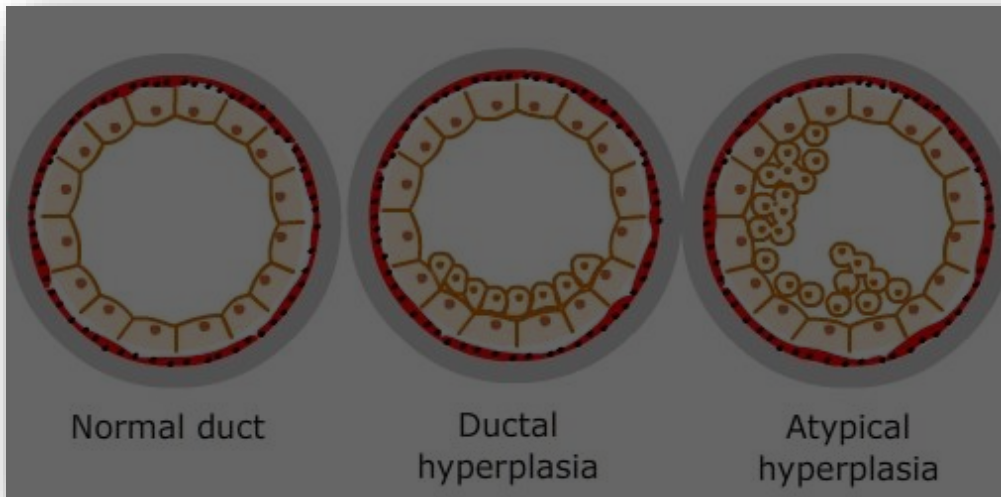


MCF10A epithelial  
mammary cells  
Phase contrast  
microscopy  
Duration: 24 hours -  
Scale bar: 300  $\mu$ m

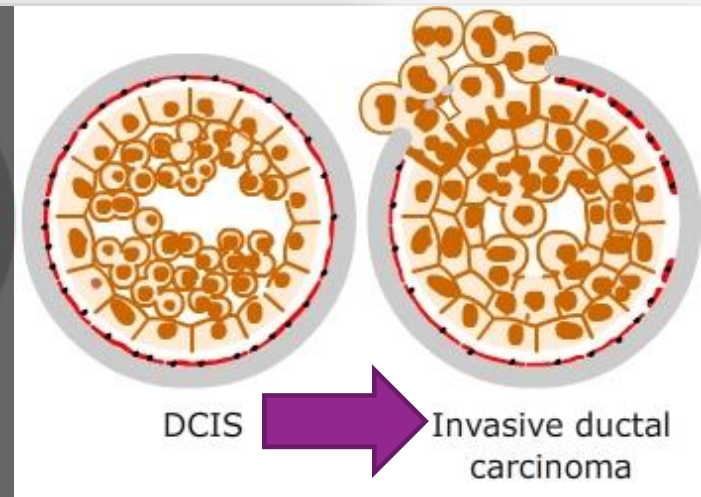


Sviluppo embrionale  
Drosophila  
melanogaster embryo  
Light sheet microscopy  
R. Tomer et al. Nat.  
Methods **9**, 755 (2012)

## Carcinoma duttale *in situ*



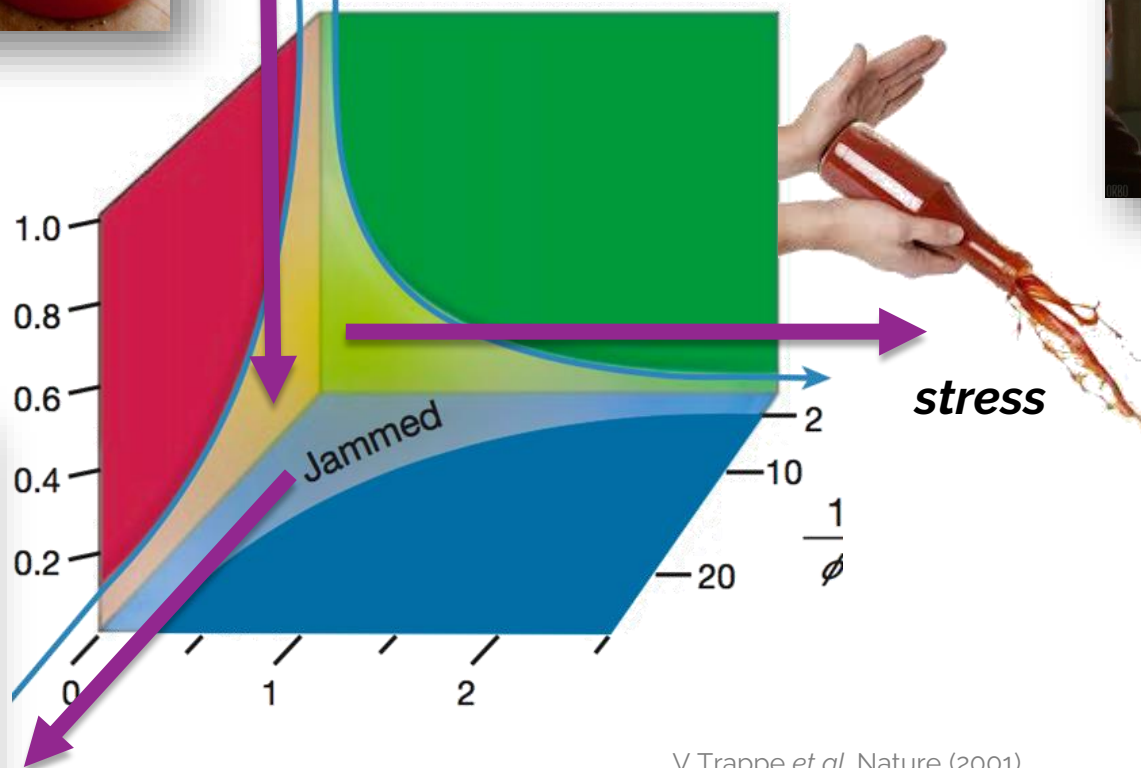
## Carcinoma duttale invasivo



# Jamming e unjamming transitions



temperatura/  
energia di interazione attrattiva



V Trappe *et al.* Nature (2001)

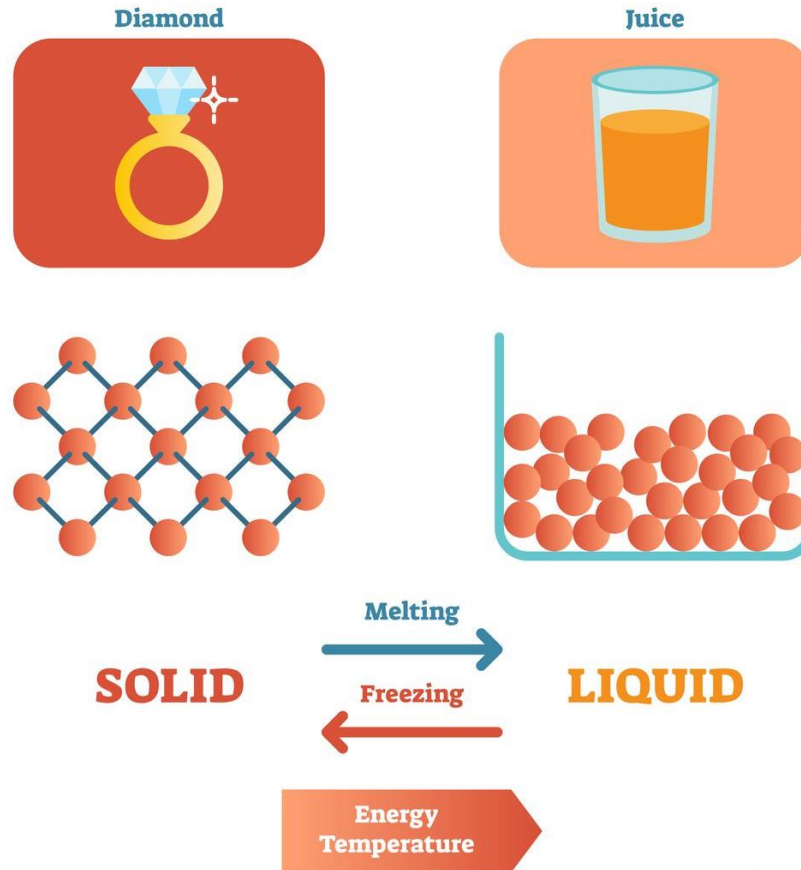


1/densità



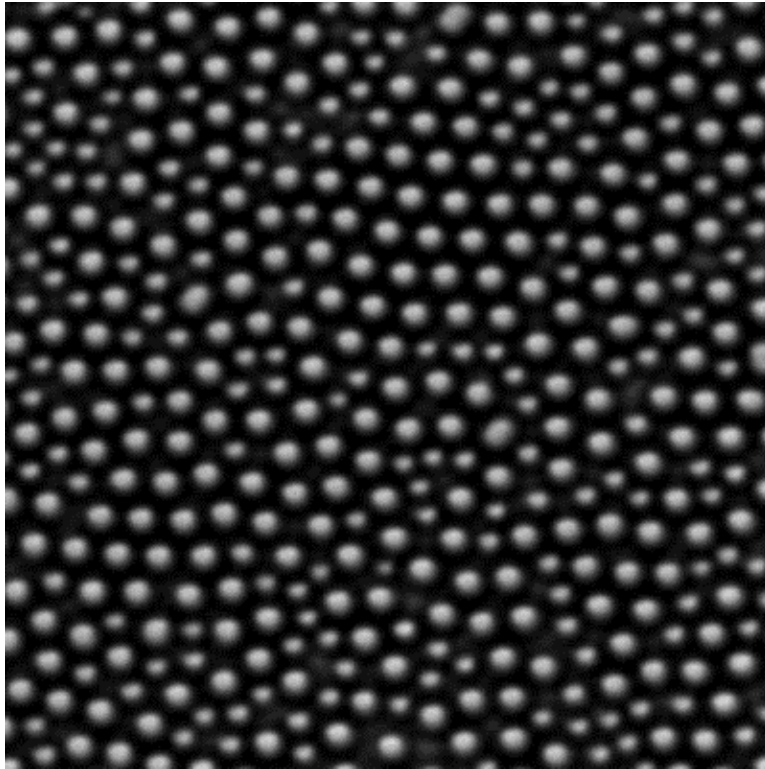
...un altro ricordo di infanzia...

# States of Matter



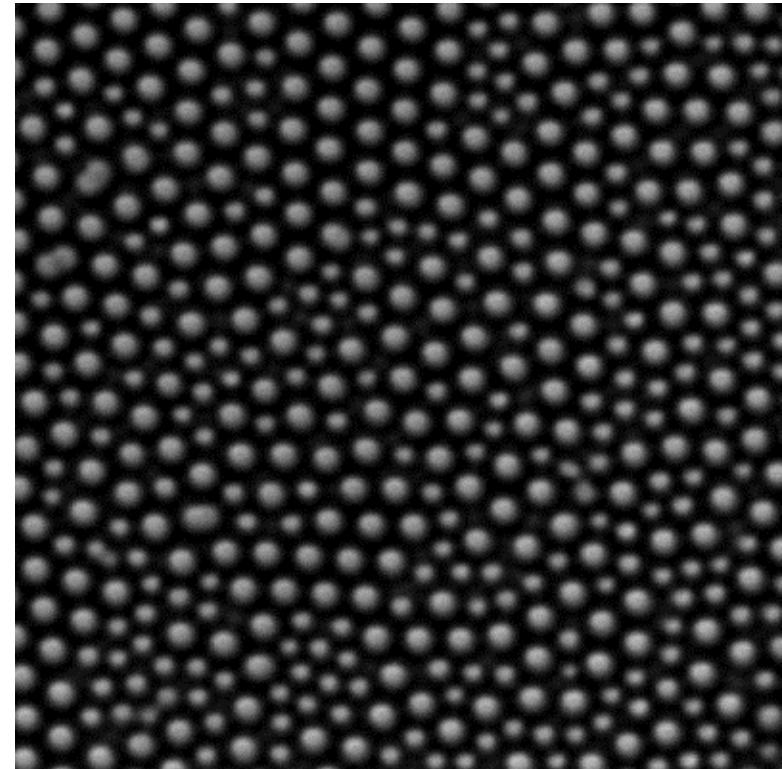


# Transizioni solido-liquido in sistemi amorfi



$\phi = 71\%$

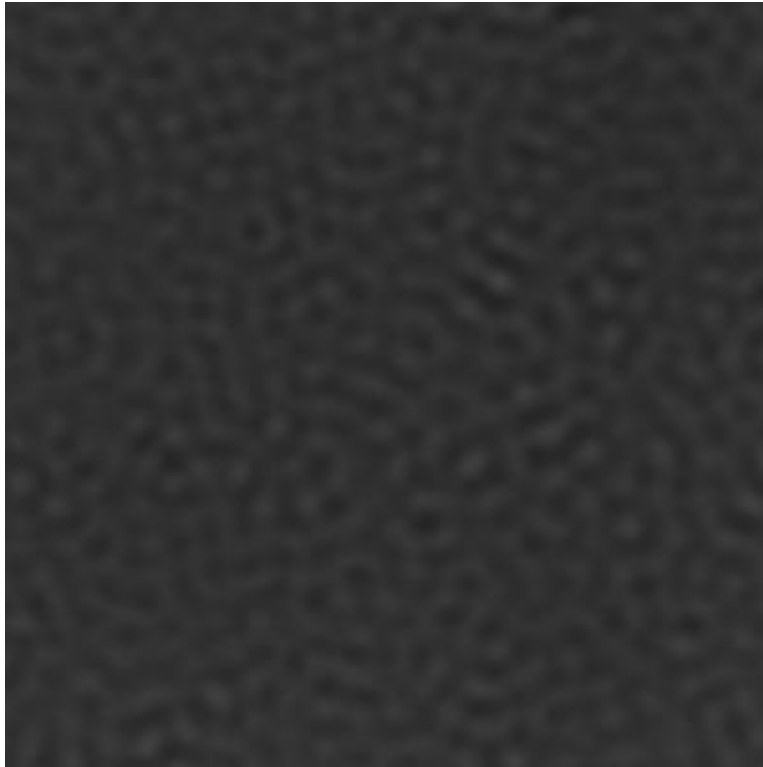
BF microscopy  
Duration: 30 min  
Image size: 60  $\mu\text{m}$



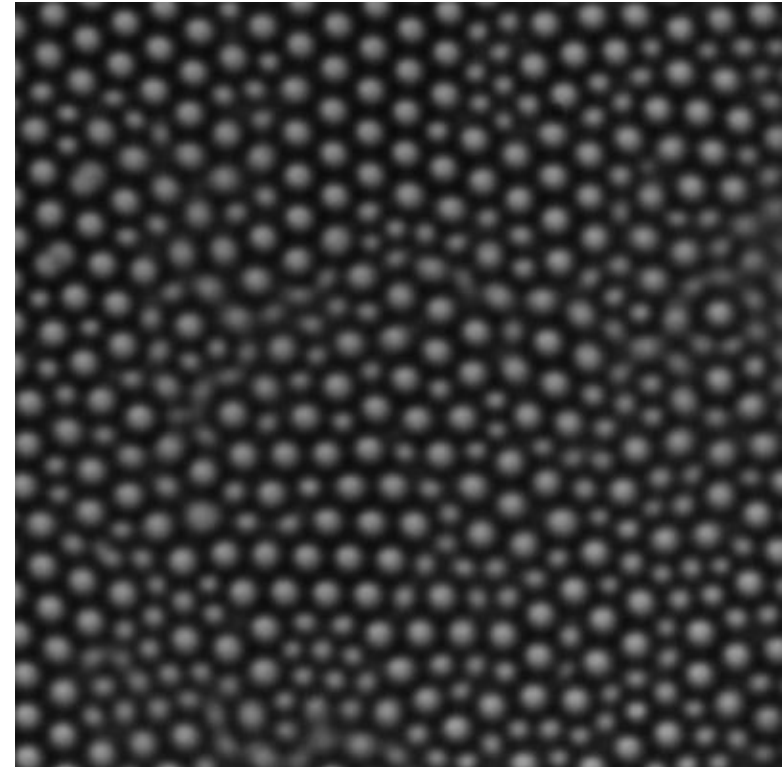
$\phi = 79\%$

R Pastore *et al.*, J. Chem. Phys. **156**, 164906 (2022)

# Transizioni solido-liquido in sistemi amorfi



$\phi = 71\%$

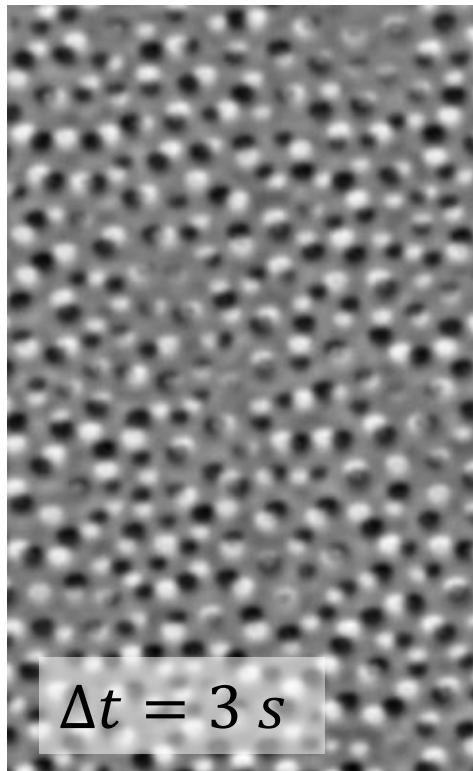


$\phi = 79\%$

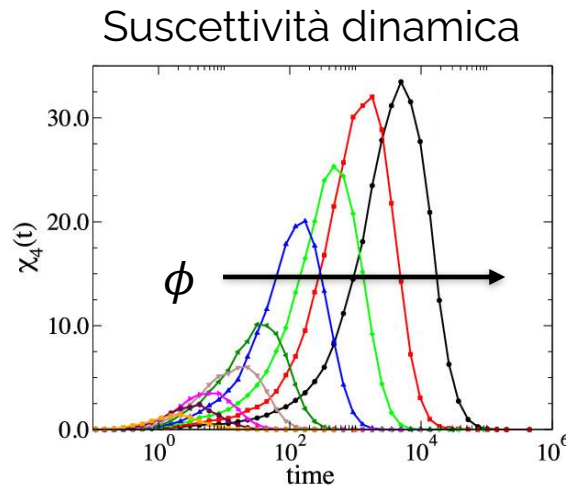
Intensità media

R Pastore *et al.*, J. Chem. Phys. **156**, 164906 (2022)

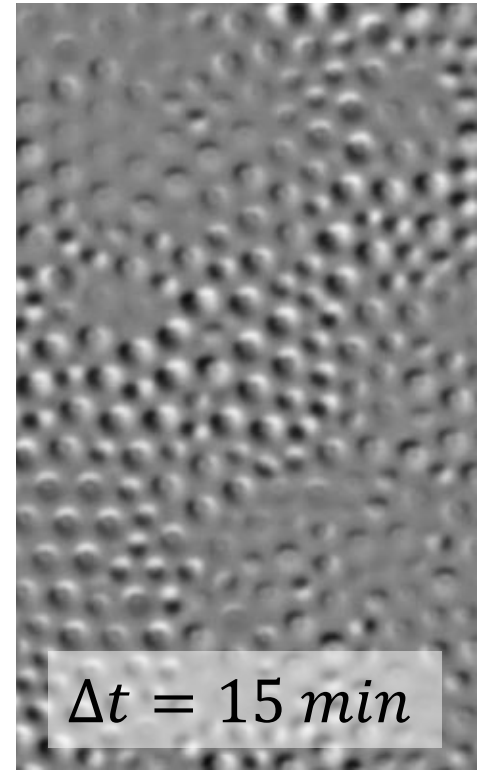
# Transizioni solido-liquido in sistemi amorfi: eterogeneità dinamica



$\phi = 71\%$



La posizione del picco di  $\chi_4$  corrisponde al tempo di rilassamento, la sua 'altezza' al numero medio di particelle coinvolte in un riarrangiamento collettivo.

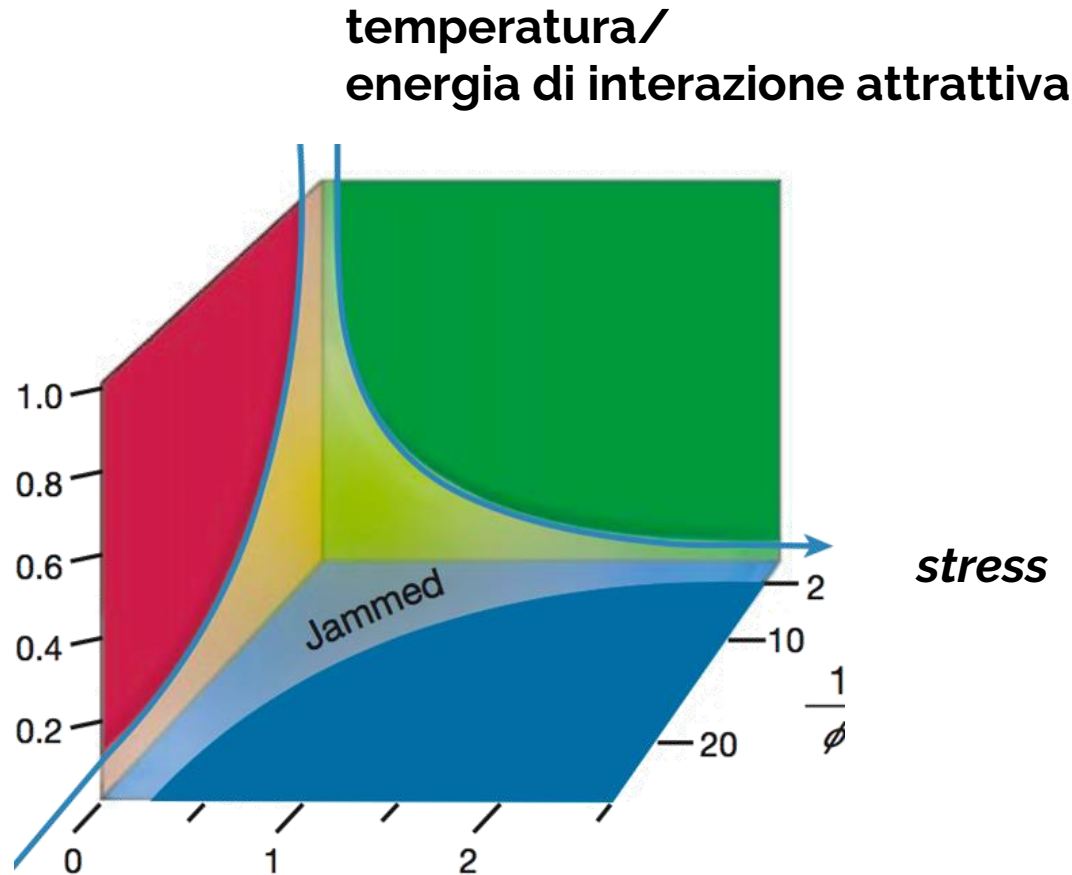


$\phi = 79\%$

Mappe di attività  
(differenze di immagini)

R Pastore *et al.*, J. Chem. Phys. **156**, 164906 (2022)

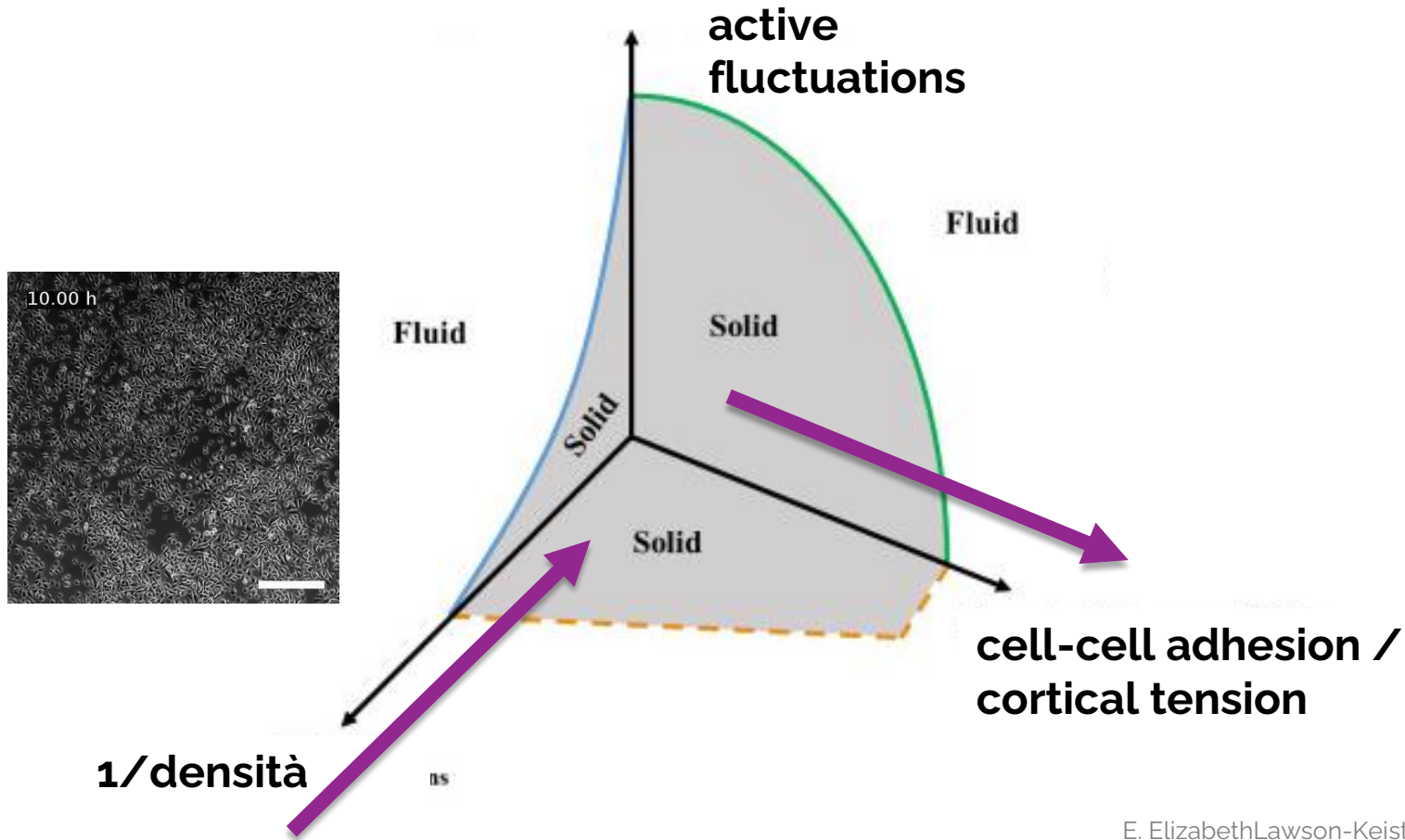
# Jamming e unjamming transitions



V Trappe *et al.* Nature (2001)



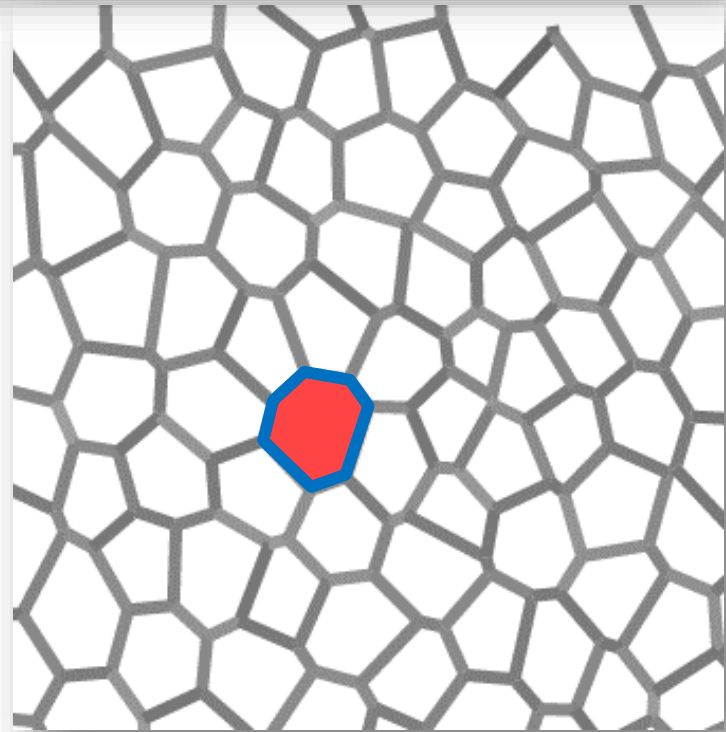
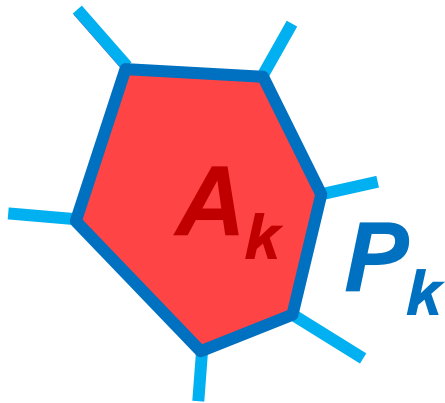
# Jamming e unjamming transitions nei tessuti biologici



E. Elizabeth Lawson-Keister *et al.*  
Current Opinion in Cell biology (2021)

# *Jamming transition a densità costante: vertex model*

$$E = \sum_k [K_A (A_k - A_0)^2 + K_P (P_k - P_0)^2]$$



ML Manning et al., *PNAS* **107**, 12517-12522 (2010)  
D Bi et al, *Nature Physics* **11**, 1074–1079 (2015)

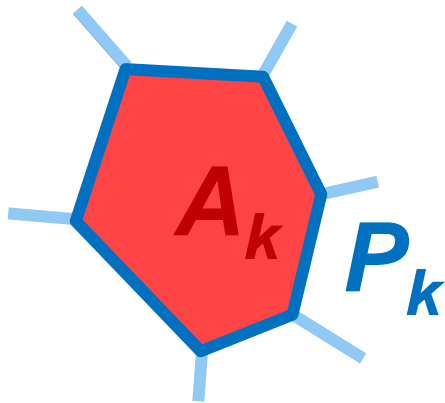
# Jamming transition a densità costante: vertex model

$$E = \sum_k \left[ \underbrace{K_A (A_k - A_0)^2}_{\text{Termine di bulk}} + \underbrace{K_P (P_k - P_0)^2}_{\text{Termine interfacciale}} \right]$$

Termine di *bulk*

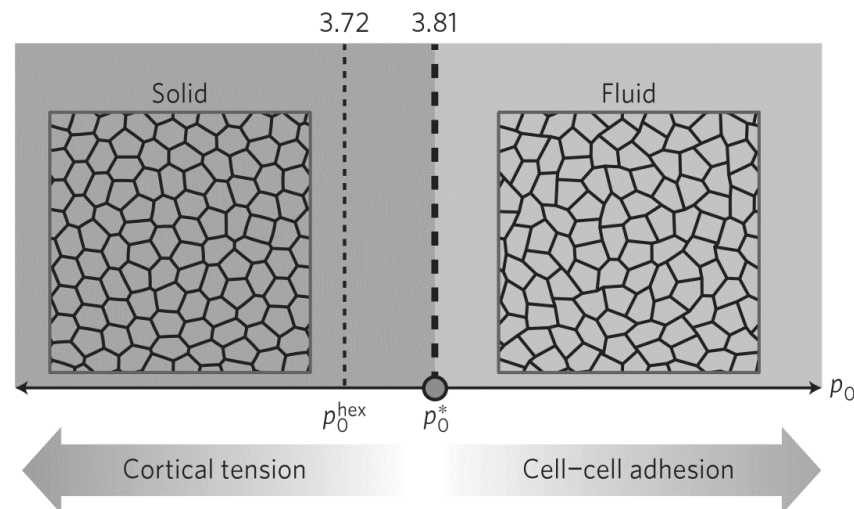
Termine interfacciale

(tensione corticale vs adesione cellulare)



$$p_0 = \frac{P_0}{\sqrt{A_0}}$$

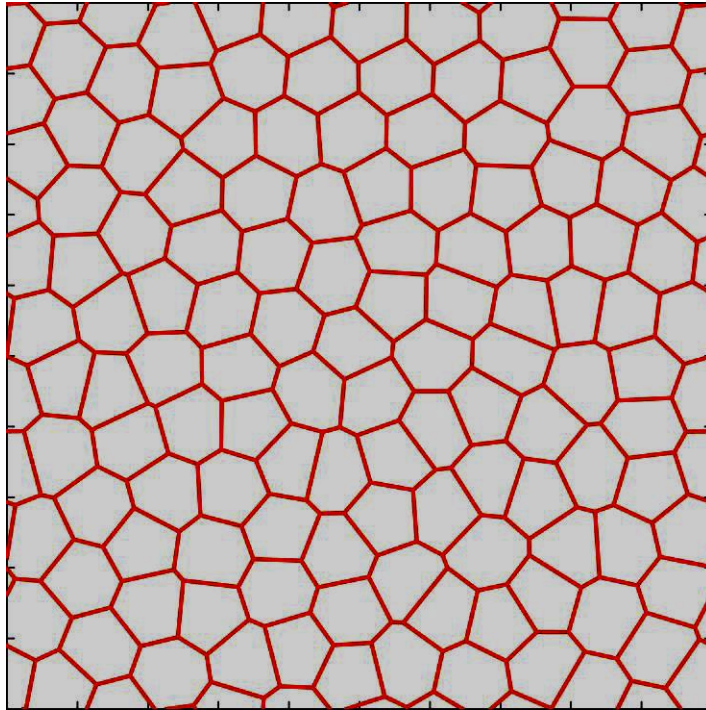
**Shape factor**



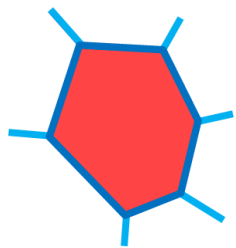
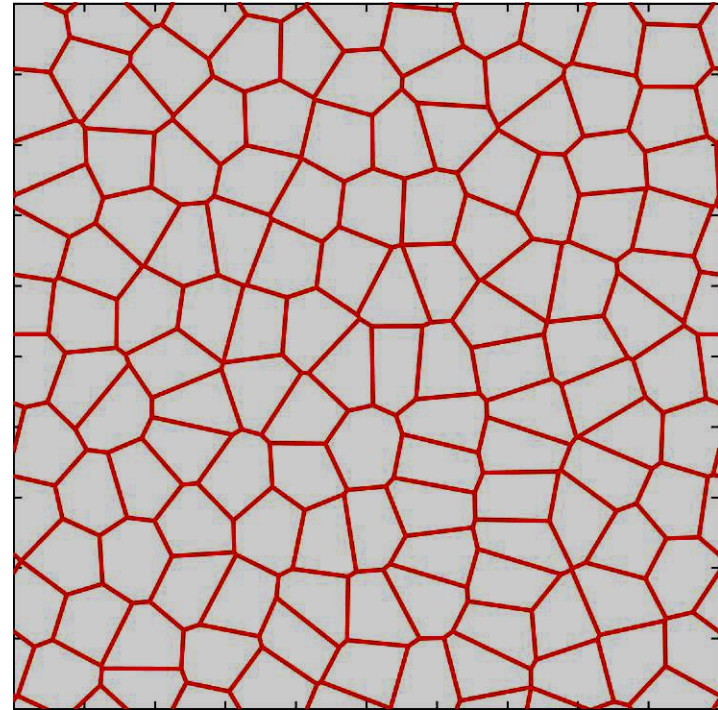
D Bi et al, *Nature Physics* 11, 1074–1079 (2015)

# Una transizione «scritta nella forma»

**Solid**



**Fluid**



Cortical tension

$$p_0 = \frac{P_0}{\sqrt{A_0}}$$

Cell-cell adhesion



D Bi et al., Phys. Rev. X **6**, 021011 (2016)



# i nostri esperimenti

# Unjamming «endocitico»

## RAB5A

- È un importante regolatore della attività endocitica della cellula (**internalizzazione di fludi / *recycling* della membrana**)
- E' spesso sfruttato da alcuni **tumori epiteliali** particolarmente aggressivi per promuovere la loro disseminazione

MCF10A cells

CTRL

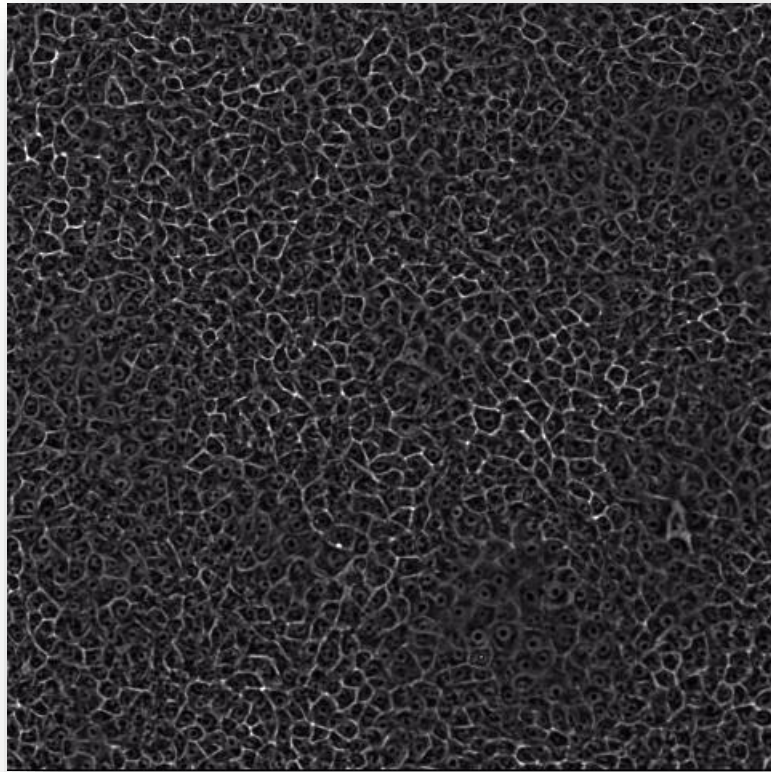
RAB5A

PC microscopy

Duration: 24 h

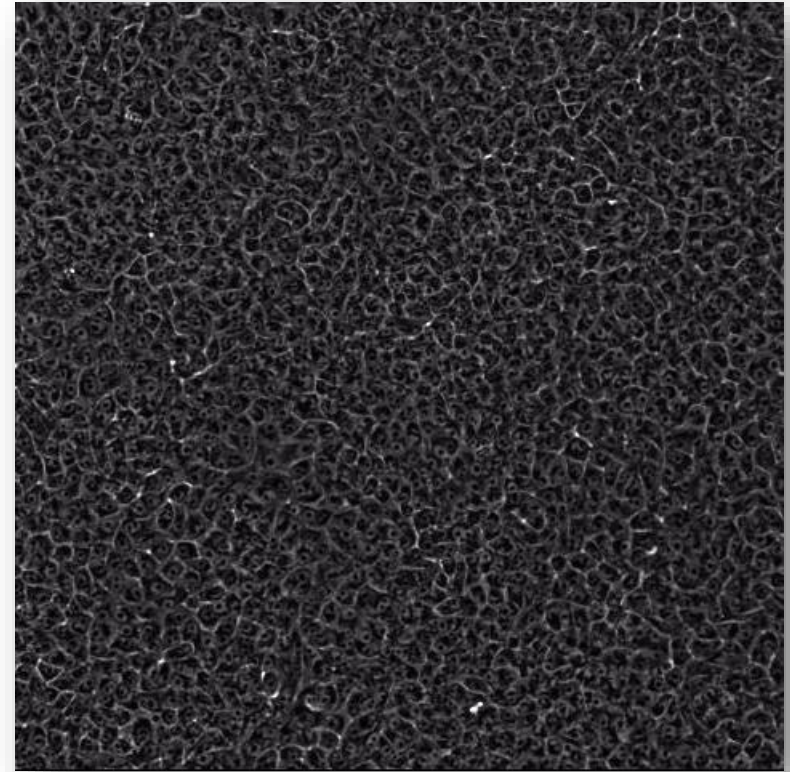
Image size: 1.3 mm

# *Unjamming* «endocitico»



MCF10A cells

**CTRL**



**RAB5A**

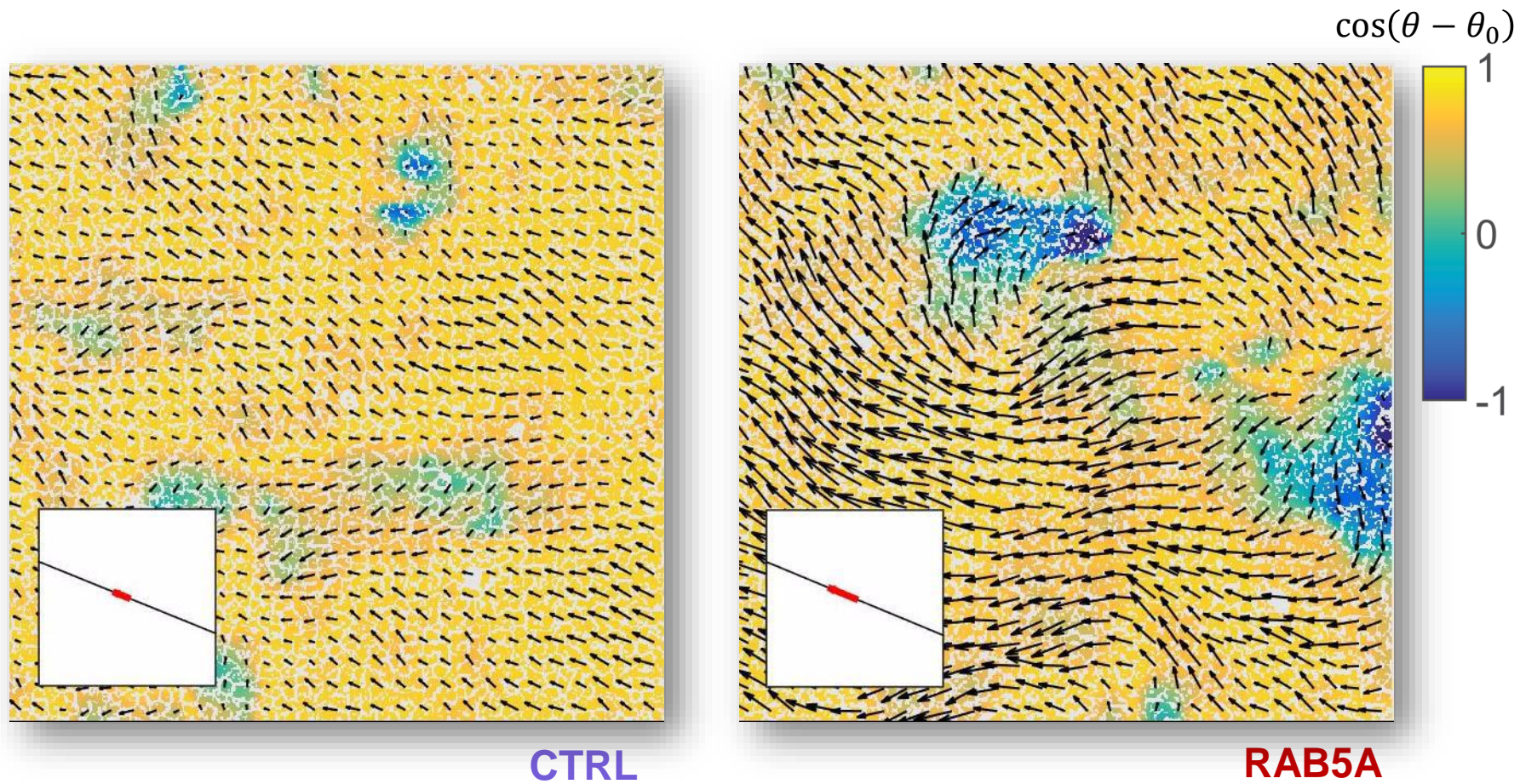
PC microscopy

Duration: 24 h

Image size: 1.3 mm



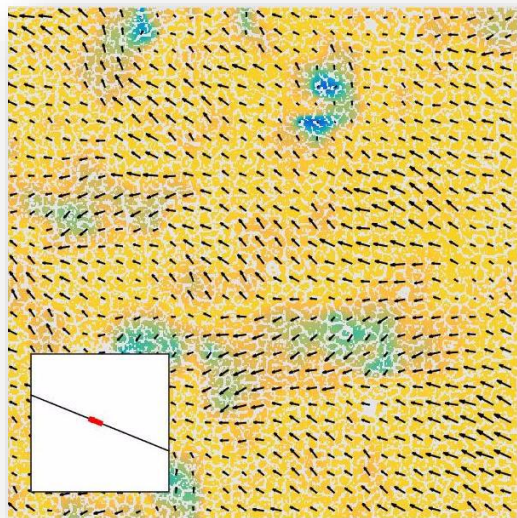
# Unjamming «endocitico»



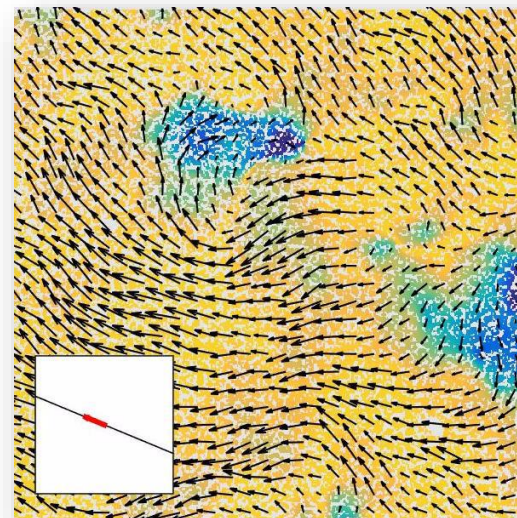
PIV Maps  
Duration: 24 h  
Image size: 1.3 mm



# Unjamming «endocitico»

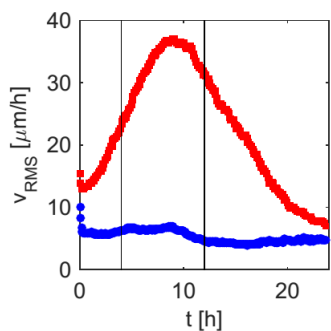


CTRL

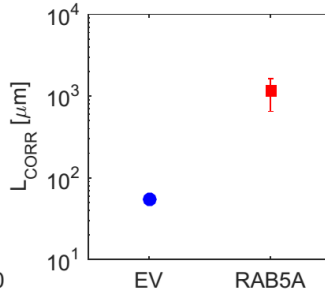
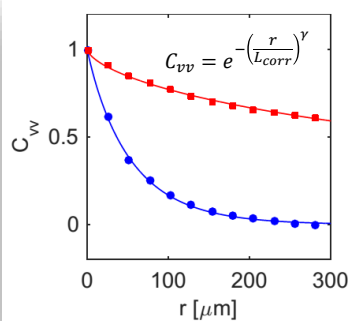


RAB5A

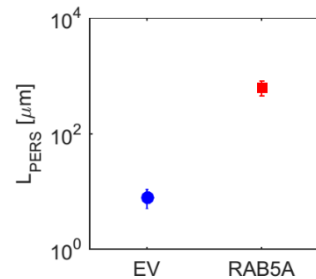
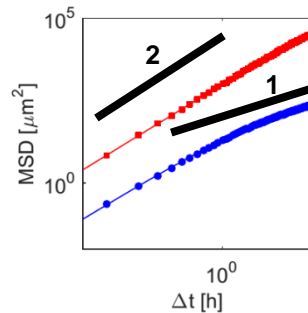
Velocità di migrazione



Correlazione spaziale di velocità



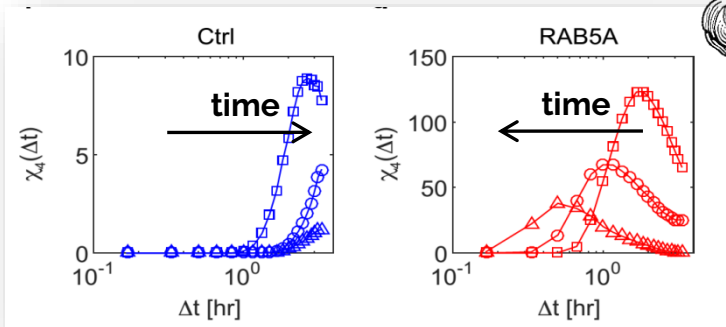
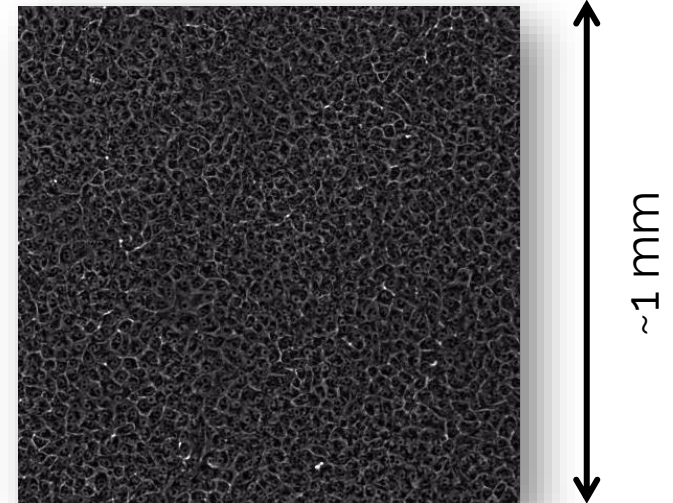
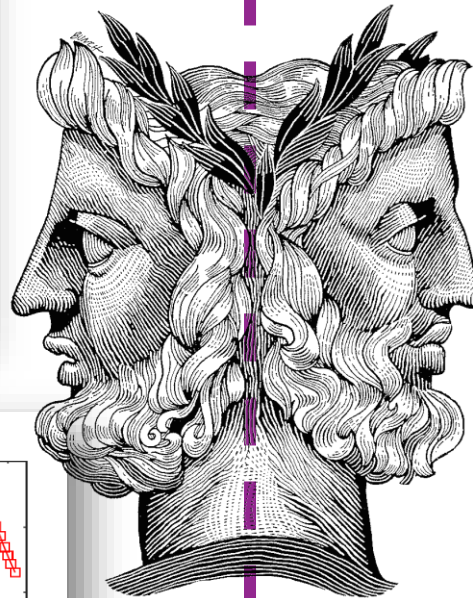
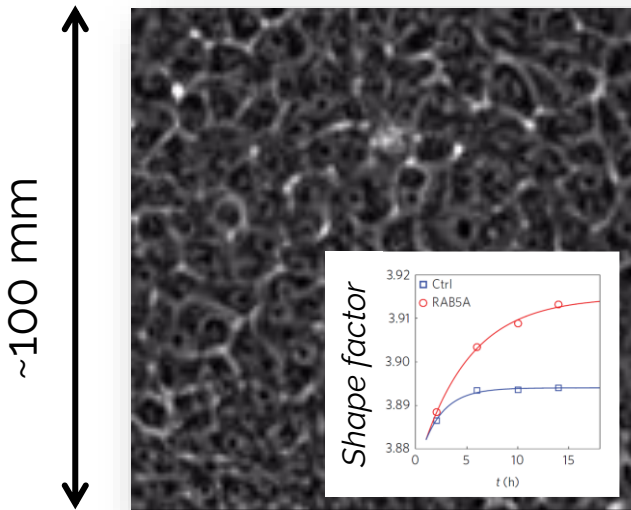
Persistenza del moto di singola cellula



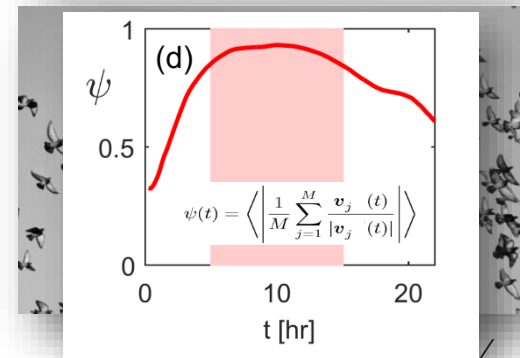
# Unjamming «endocitico»

Localmente? È un fluido!

Globalmente? È uno stormo!



$\chi_4$ : suscettività dinamica



Parametro d'ordine polare

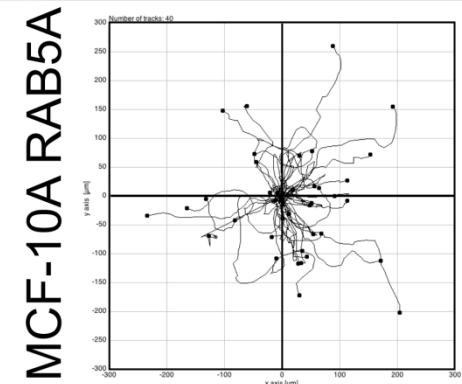
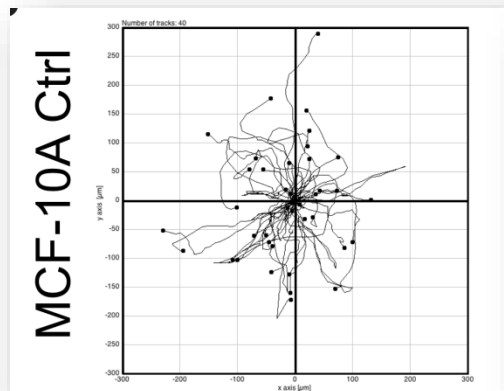
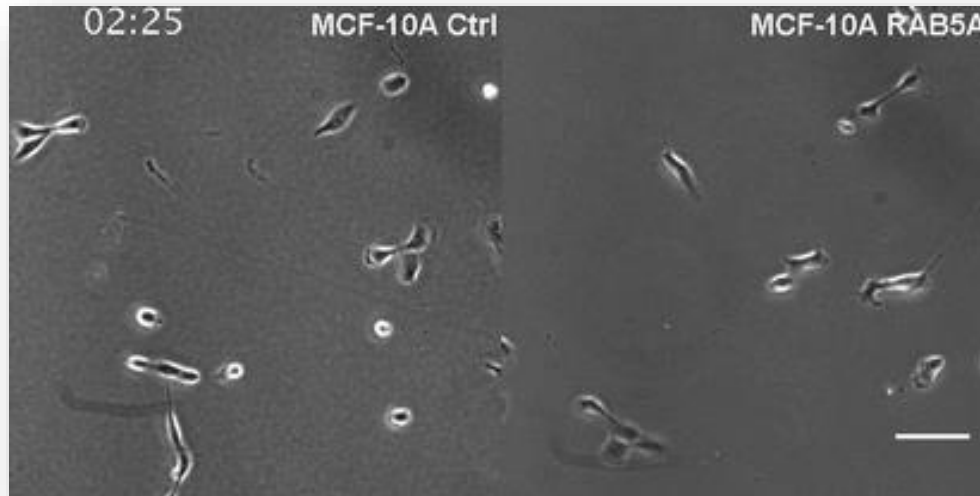




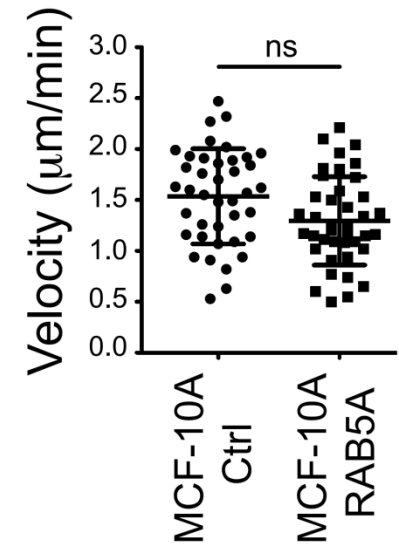
# ...non una proprietà di singola cellula!

CTRL

RAB5A



Traiettorie di singola cellula



Velocità media di migrazione



# Un modello minimale...

## Interazione cellula-cellula

$$E = \sum_k [K_A(A_k - A_0)^2 + K_P(P_k - P_0)^2]$$

+

## Motilità cellulare e *self-propulsion*

$$\frac{d\mathbf{r}_k}{dt} = \mu \mathbf{F}_k + v_0 \hat{\mathbf{n}}_k$$

$$\mathbf{F}_k = -\nabla_{\mathbf{r}_k} E$$

+

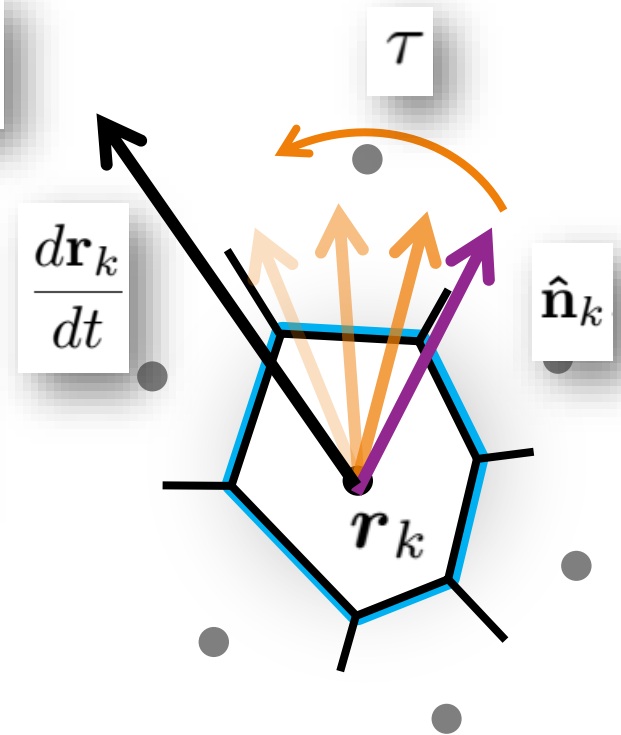
## Dinamica di allineamento

$$\partial_t \theta_k = \frac{1}{\tau} \sin(\theta_k - \phi_k) + \eta_k$$

Direzione della velocità di *self-propulsion*

Direzione della risultante delle forze

Rumore

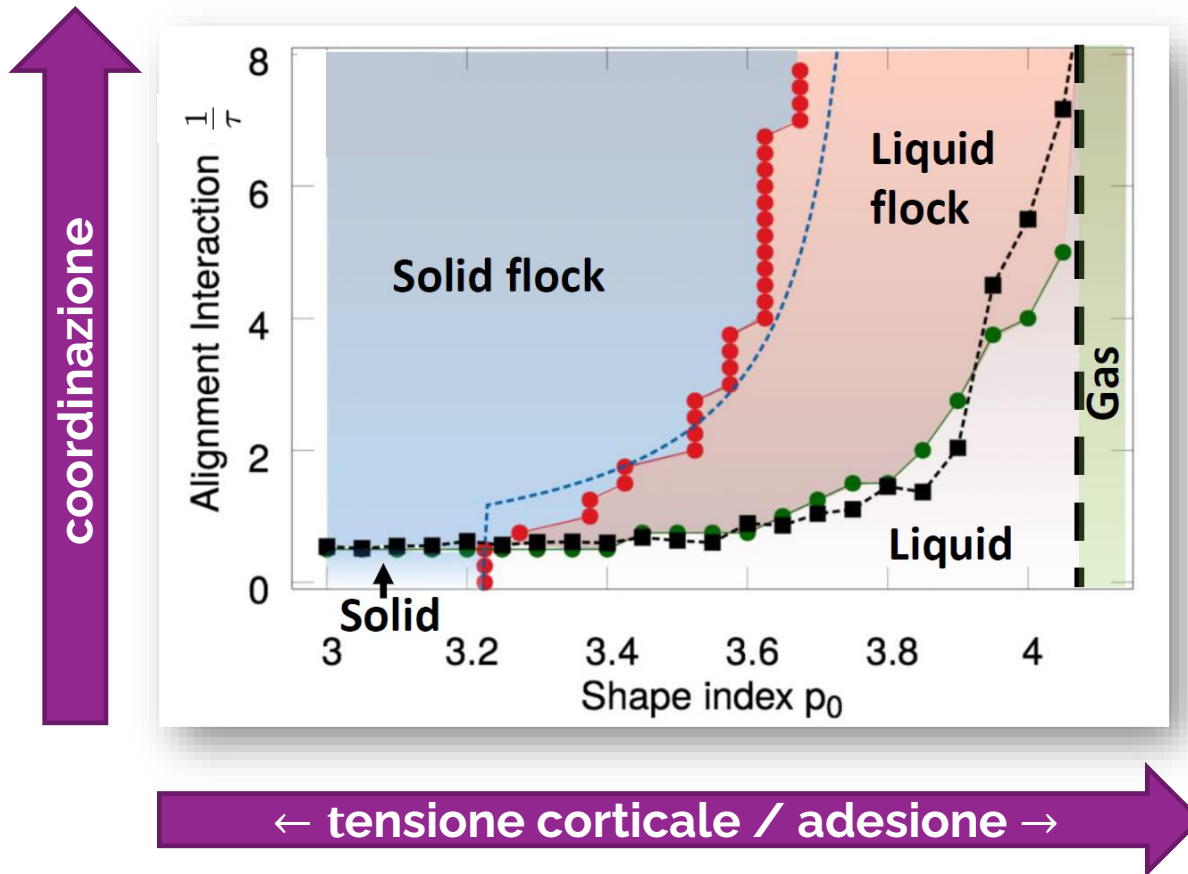


D Bi et al., *Phys. Rev. X* **6**, 021011 (2016)

B Szabo. et al. *Phys Rev E* **74**, 061908 (2006)

F Giavazzi, M Paoluzzi et al. *Soft Matter* **14**, 3471 (2018)

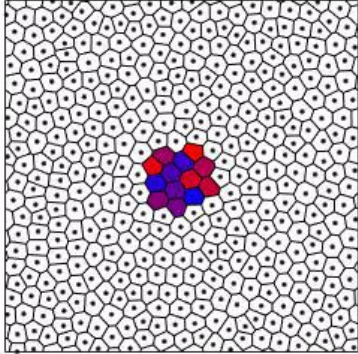
# Un modello minimale...



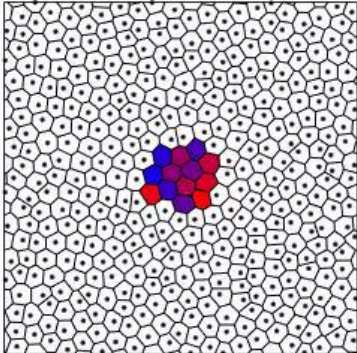
F Giavazzi, M Paoluzzi *et al.* *Soft Matter* **14**, 3471 (2018)

# Un modello minimale...

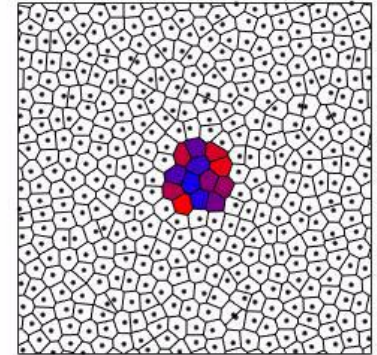
SOLID FLOCK



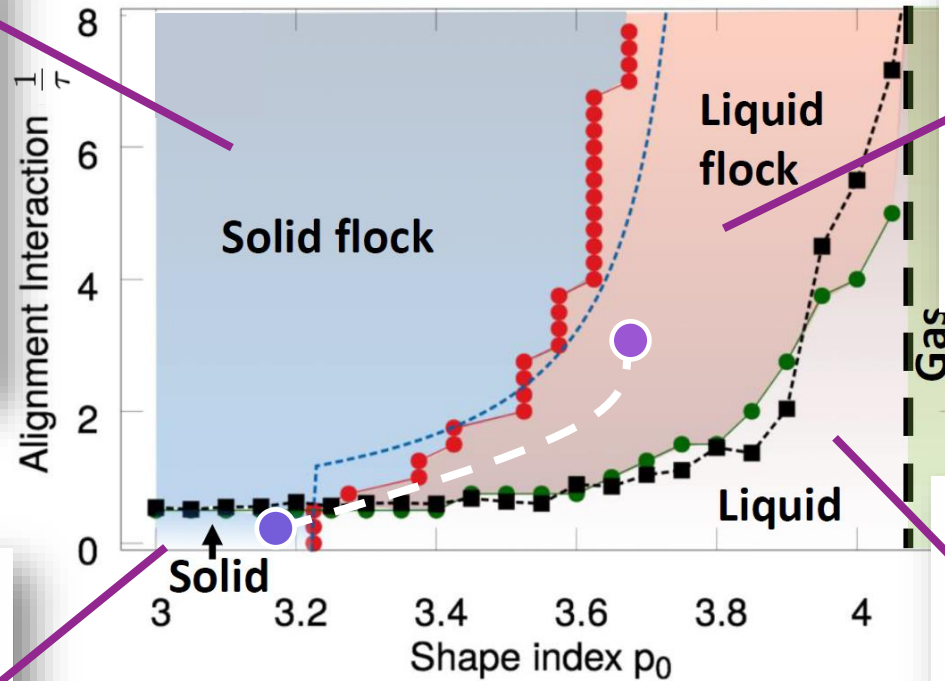
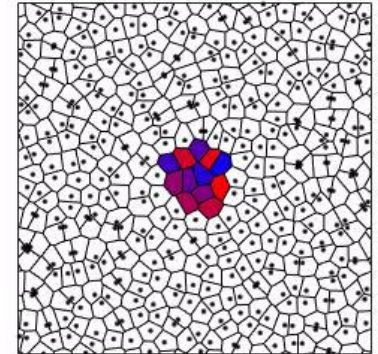
SOLID



LIQUID FLOCK



LIQUID



← tensione corticale / adesione →

F Giavazzi, M Paoluzzi *et al.* *Soft Matter* **14**, 3471 (2018)

# Endocytic reawakening of motility in jammed epithelia

Chiara Malinverno<sup>1†</sup>, Salvatore Corallino<sup>1†</sup>, Fabio Giavazzi<sup>2\*</sup>, Martin Bergert<sup>3</sup>, Qingsen Li<sup>1</sup>, Marco Leoni<sup>4</sup>, Andrea Disanza<sup>1</sup>, Emanuela Frittoli<sup>1</sup>, Amanda Oldani<sup>1</sup>, Emanuele Martini<sup>1</sup>, Tobias Lendenmann<sup>3</sup>, Gianluca Deflorian<sup>1</sup>, Galina V. Beznoussenko<sup>1</sup>, Dimos Poulikakos<sup>3</sup>, Kok Haur Ong<sup>5</sup>, Marina Uroz<sup>6,7,8,9</sup>, Xavier Trepas<sup>6,7,8,9</sup>, Dario Parazzoli<sup>1</sup>, Paolo Maiuri<sup>1</sup>, Weimiao Yu<sup>5</sup>, Aldo Ferrari<sup>3\*</sup>, Roberto Cerbino<sup>2\*</sup> and Giorgio Scita<sup>1,10\*</sup>








## Soft Matter

### PAPER

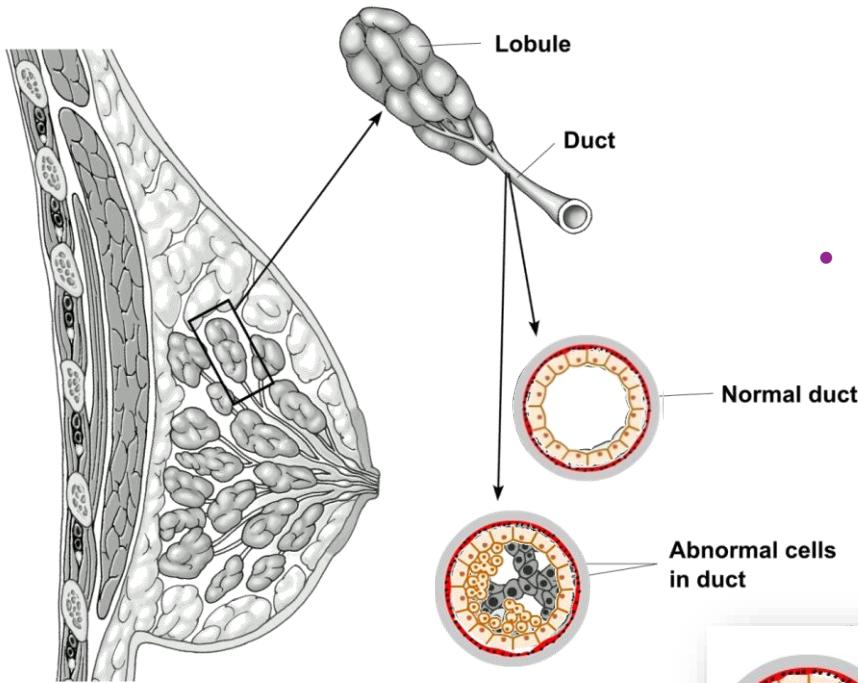
[View Article Online](#)[View Journal](#) | [View Issue](#)

Cite this: *Soft Matter*, 2018,  
14, 3471

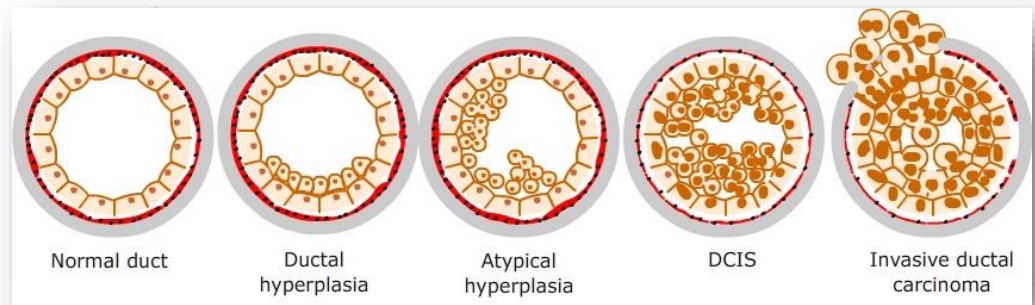
## Flocking transitions in confluent tissues<sup>†</sup>

Fabio Giavazzi, <sup>‡a</sup> Matteo Paoluzzi, <sup>‡b</sup> Marta Macchi,<sup>a</sup> Dapeng Bi,<sup>c</sup> Giorgio Scita,<sup>de</sup>  
M. Lisa Manning, <sup>b</sup> Roberto Cerbino <sup>\*a</sup> and M. Cristina Marchetti <sup>\*b</sup>





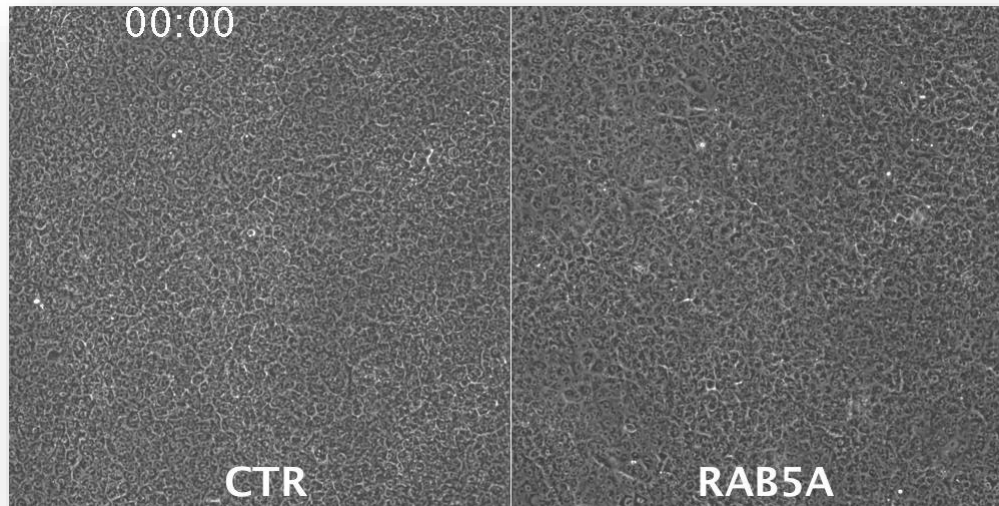
- Isogeniche alle MCF10A, **riproducono in vitro la progressione da** Carcinoma duttale in situ (**DCIS**) **a** carcinoma duttale invasivo (**IDC**)
- Durante la fase DCIS, **l'estremo confinamento e l'elevata densità cellulare** portano ad un notevole stress compressivo, **sopprimono la motilità cellulare** e tendono a ritardare o bloccare la progressione del tumore.



**Ductal Carcinoma  
In Situ**

[www.rnceus.com](http://www.rnceus.com)

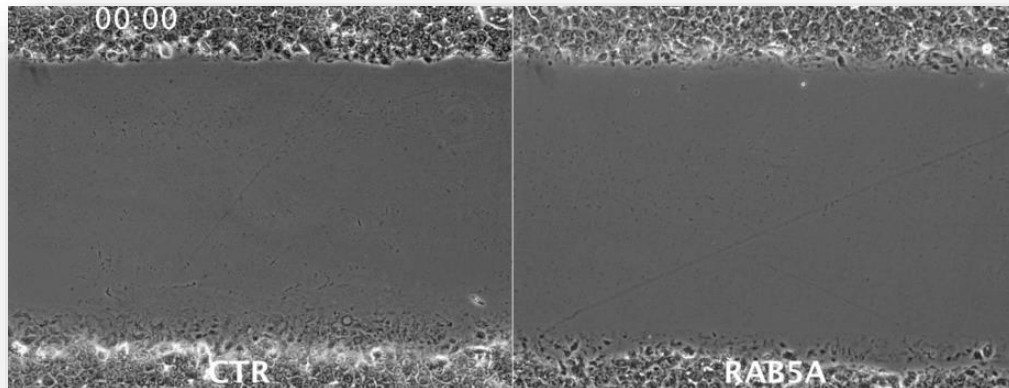
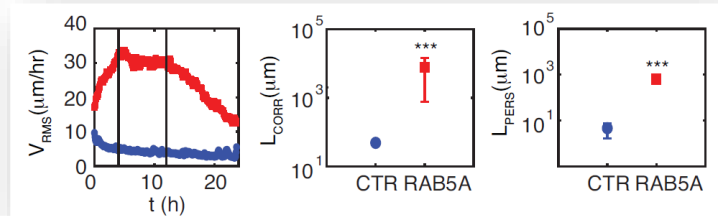
# MCF10.DCIS.com in 2D



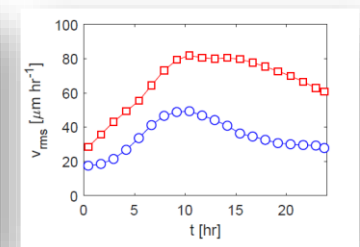
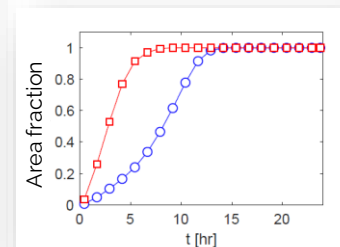
CTRL

RAB5A

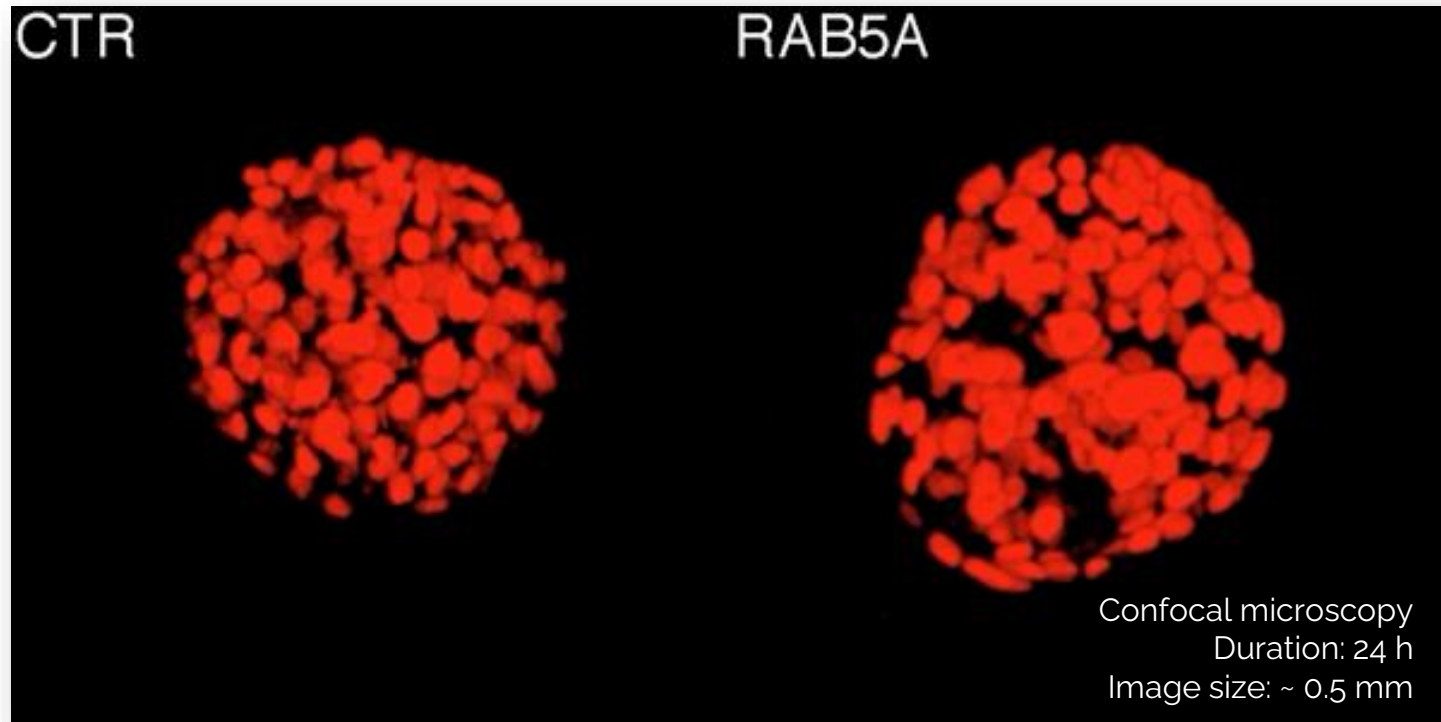
L'over-espressione di RAB5A causa *unjamming* e *flocking*



"a wound that never heals"



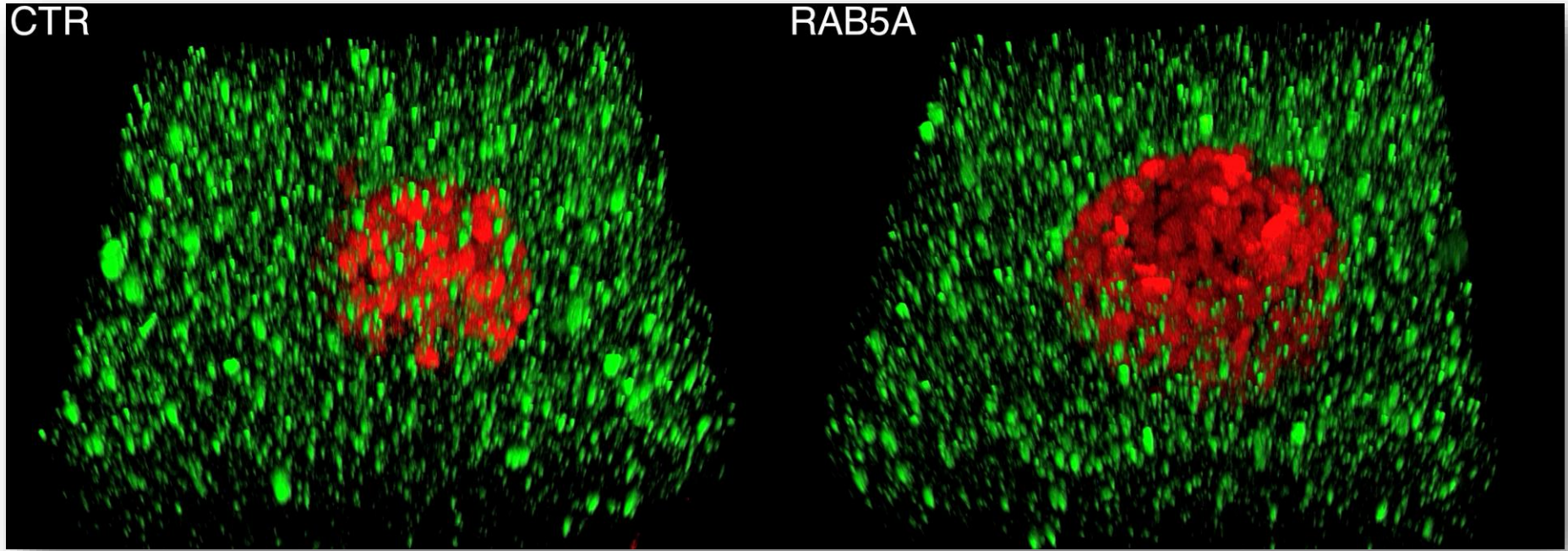
# MCF10.DCIS.com in 3D



Abbiamo cresciuto aggregati tridimensionali (sferoidi) di cellule CTR and RAB5A, che sono stati poi impiantati in una matrice di collagene piuttosto rigida ( $c = 6 \frac{mg}{ml}$ ,  $E \approx 140 Pa$ ) per simulare una condizione di DCIS.



# Fluctuation stress microscopy



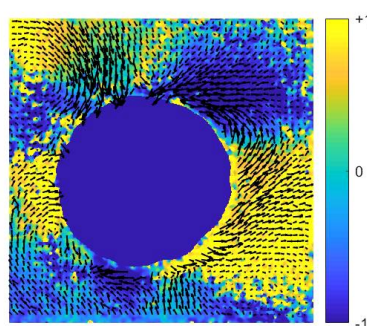
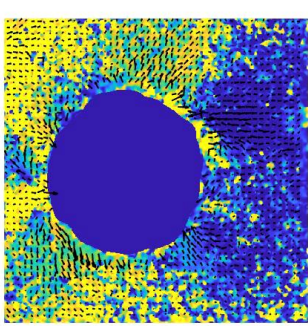
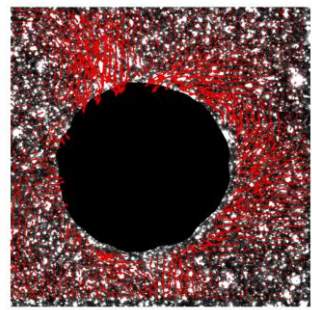
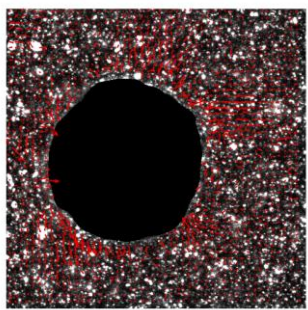
Per misurare le forze (*stress*) esercitate dagli sferoidi sulla matrice extracellulare abbiamo disperso dei traccianti fluorescenti all'interno della matrice stessa, in modo da poterne visualizzare la deformazione.



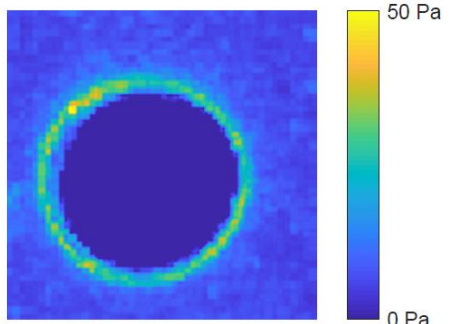
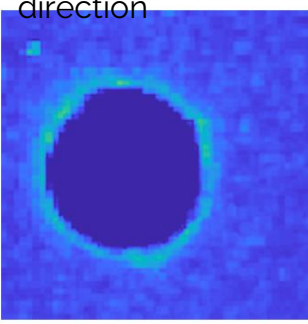
# Fluctuation stress microscopy

CTR

RAB5A



Cosine of the angle with the horizontal direction



Optical flow velocimetry  $\rightarrow v(\mathbf{x}, t)$

Funzione di correlazione della derivata spaziale della velocità

$$C_{ij}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \langle \partial_i v_j(\mathbf{x}, t + t_0) \partial_i v_j(\mathbf{x}, t_0) \rangle$$

Deformazione quadratica media

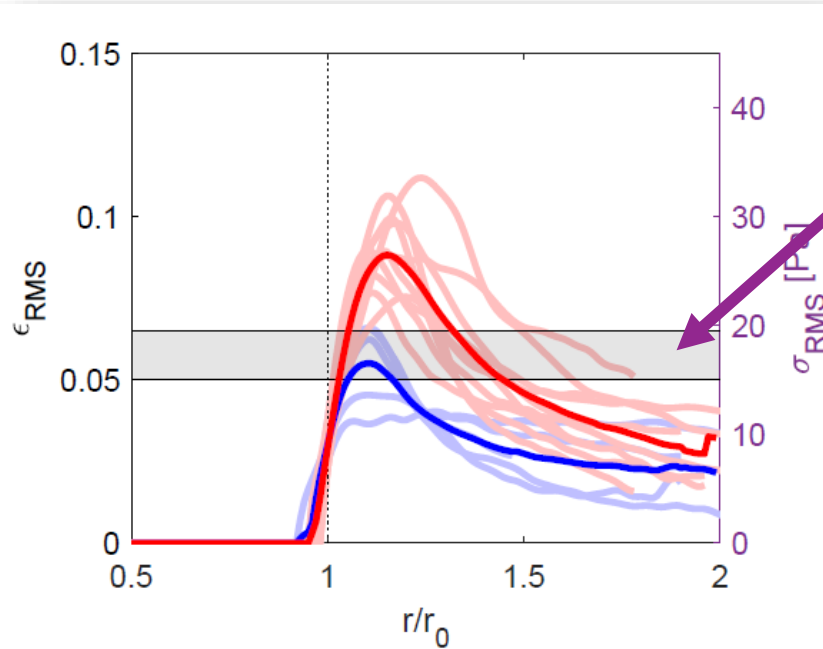
$$\langle \Delta \epsilon_{ii}^2(\mathbf{x}, \tau) \rangle = \lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} 2 \int_0^\tau (\tau - |t|) C_{ii}(\mathbf{x}, t) dt$$

Kubo, R. The fluctuation-dissipation theorem. RPP **29**, 255 (1966)

# Fluctuation stress microscopy

CTR

RAB5A



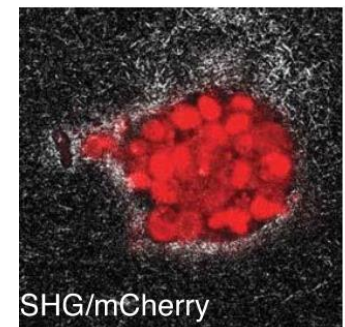
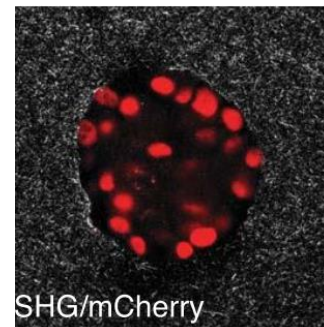
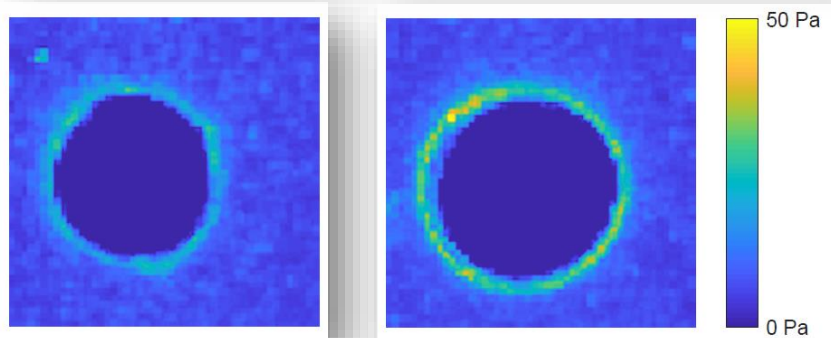
Soglia per la deformazione irreversibile del collagene

(da Vader, Kabla, Weitz, Mahadevan. PLoS One **4**, e5902, 2009)

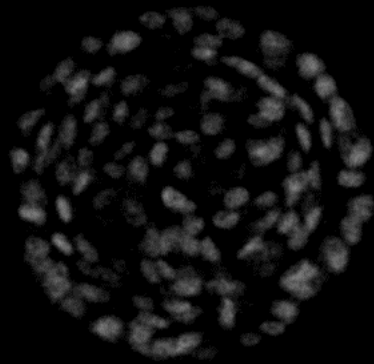
Gli *stress* esercitati dagli sferoidi RAB5A sulla matrice extracellulare **sono sistematicamente al di sopra della soglia**, mentre questo non succede mai per CTR.

CTR

RAB5A



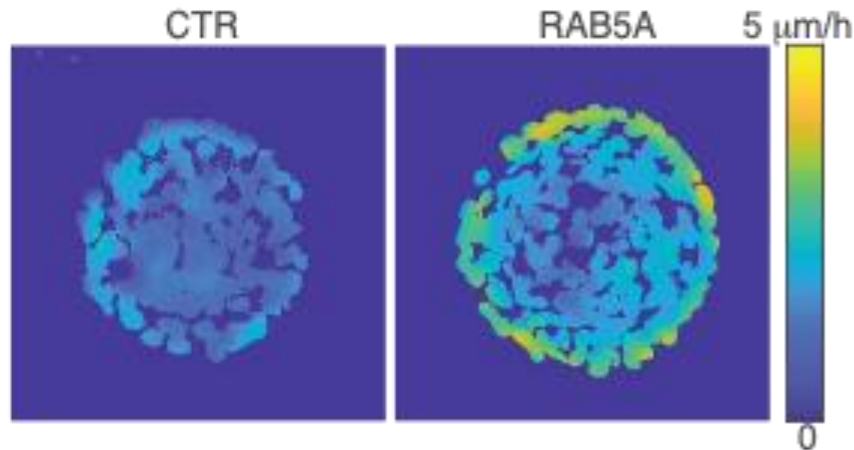
# MCF10.DCIS.com in 3D



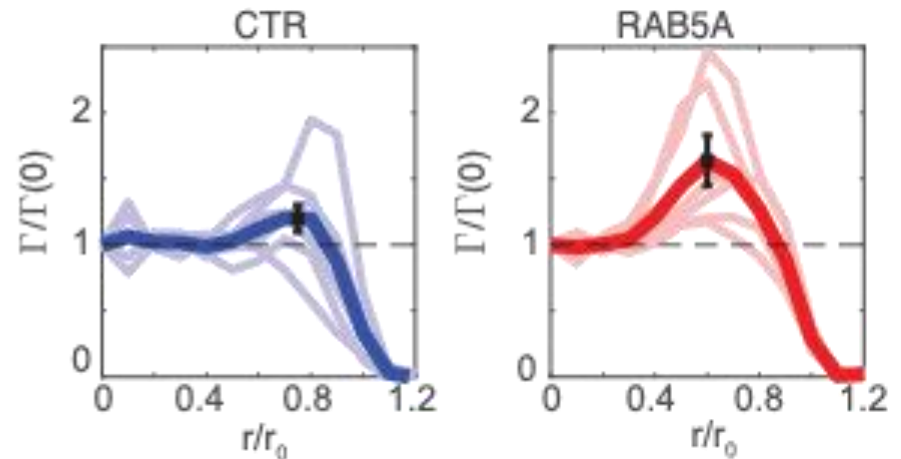
NO REGISTRATION  
RAB5A

Gli sferoidi RAB5A presentano un marcato **gradiente radiale** di attività, **con una “crosta”** estremamente **fluida**.

Confocal section  
Duration: 24 h  
Image size: ~ 0.5 mm



RMS velocity map in the co-rotating reference frame



Activity profile (rate of cell-cell rearrangement)

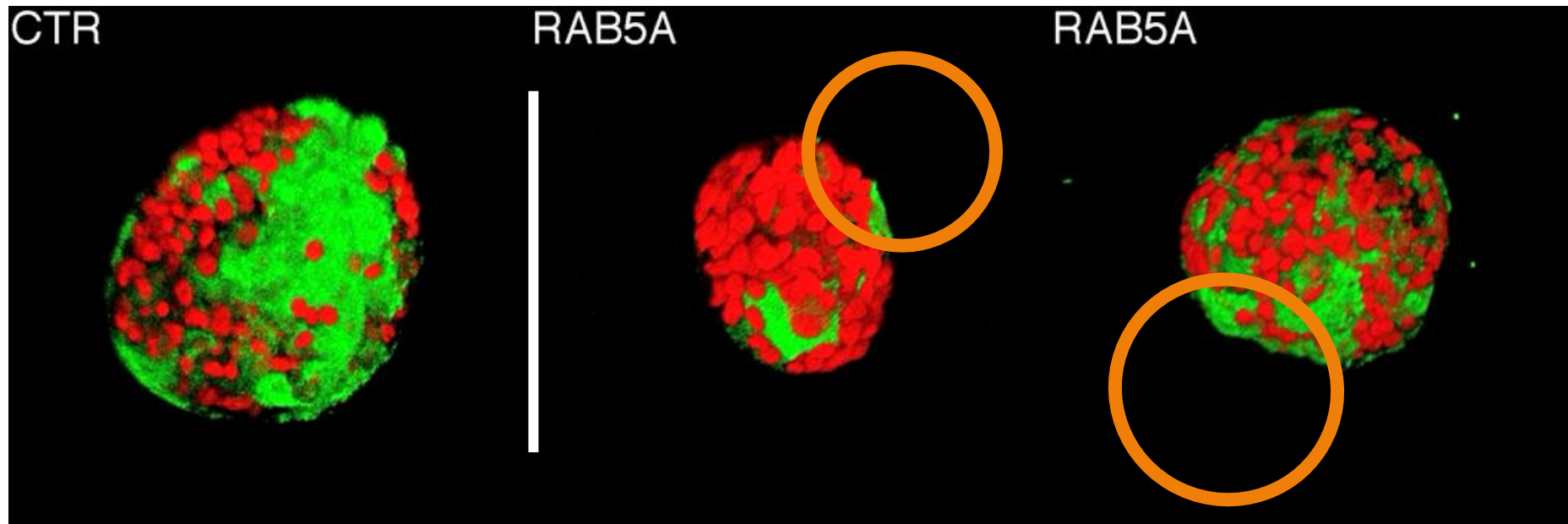


# Unjamming e invasione collettiva

confinamento

*invasive bud*

*Invasive strand*



Sulla superficie degli sferoidi, la combinazione di **ampi stress meccanici** generati dal moto collettivo e **fluidificazione locale** innesca il processo di invasione all'interno della matrice extracellulare.

A Palamidessi *et al.*, Nature Materials **18**, 1252 (2019)

# Unjamming overcomes kinetic and proliferation arrest in terminally differentiated cells and promotes collective motility of carcinoma

## Soft Matter



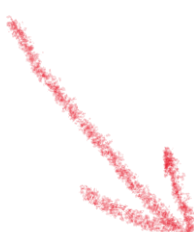
### PAPER

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**Disentangling collective motion and local rearrangements in 2D and 3D cell assemblies†**

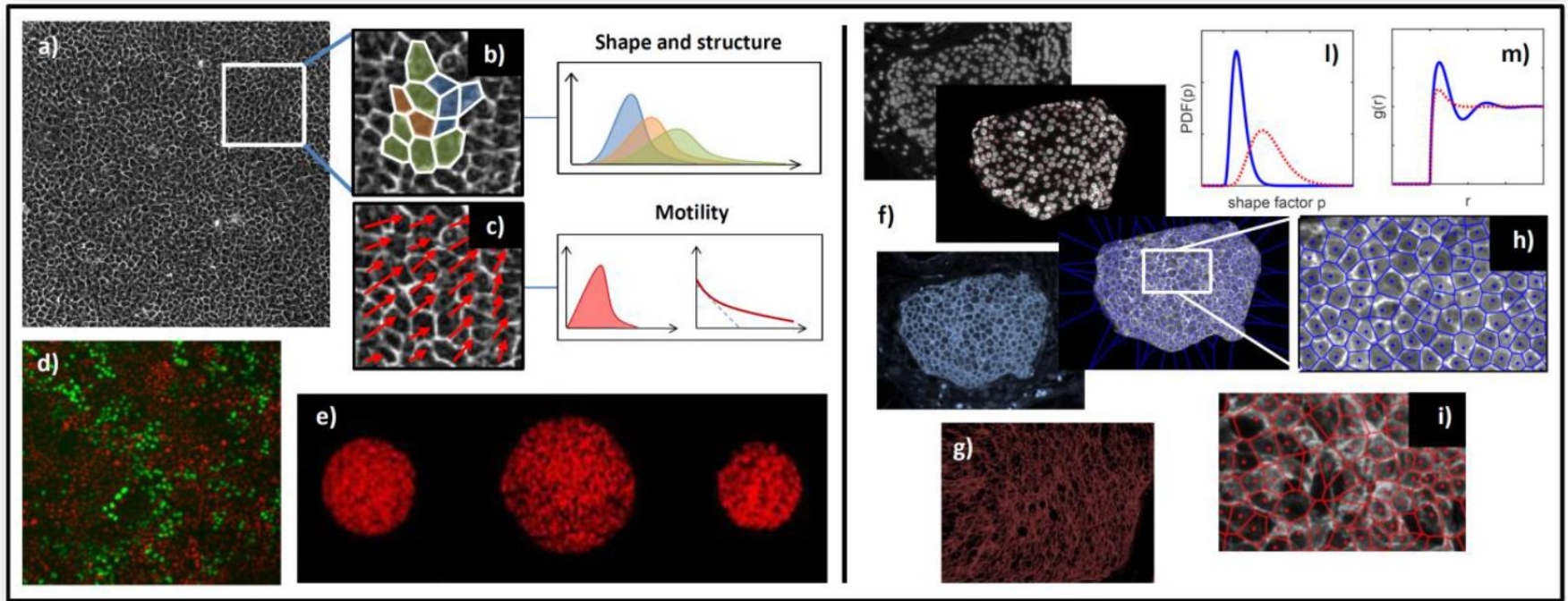


Preprints are preliminary reports that have not undergone peer review.  
They should not be considered conclusive, used to inform clinical practice,  
or referenced by the media as validated information.



## Tissue fluidification promotes a cGAS/STING-mediated cytosolic DNA response in invasive breast cancer

# Predire l'invasione?

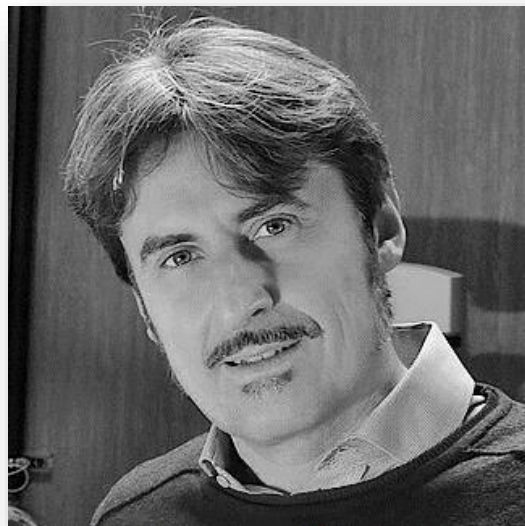


Una delle maggiori sfide aperte consiste nella individuazione di marker **statici** di *unjamming* che permettano di prevedere l'evoluzione di un tessuto tumorale sulla base della sua **struttura** e della **morfologia** delle cellule.





**Giorgio Scita**  
Biologo cellulare



**Roberto Cerbino**  
Fisico



**Claudio Tripodo**  
Anatomo patologo





# All-optical Fingerprinting of Metastatic Potential

Biophysics-based structural markers of unjamming in epithelial tissues

