MISSION
The Confocal Core’s mission is to provide researchers with a wide array of state-of-the-art confocal imaging equipment to enable acquisition of high resolution images (both in vivo and in vitro). The Confocal Core offers training and assistance in the use of multiple confocal microscopes housed in our facility. Optimization of data acquisition and image processing are both part of the training, thus enabling researchers to efficiently design studies, acquire image data and extract relevant data features. The confocal facility is available to all UMB researchers and extramural users on a fee-for-service basis.

CORE SERVICES
The facility provides individual instruction on an array of confocal microscopes. The needs of the researcher are considered in choosing which microscope will best suit the experimental design. In general, imaging of fixed samples, cultured cells, organ slices and small animals can be accommodated. Imaging techniques including FRET, FRAP, photoactivation and uncaging are readily implemented. The microscopes have excitation sources that cover most fluorophores with excitation ranging from 355-633 nm. Multiphoton excitation of fluorophores is also available on select instruments. An image analysis workstation is available to users.

The Core also has a culture room with an incubator, culture hood and a widefield fluorescence microscope for use in preparation of cultured and live samples. Preparation of live animals for imaging experiments can also be performed in this newly renovated space.

CORE INSTRUMENTATION

Nikon W1 Spinning Disk
- Spinning disk confocal
- 7 laser lines for most dyes and fluorescent proteins
- Incubation chamber for live samples
- High speed acquisition, tiling, stitching, reconstructions
- TIRF Imaging
- DMD for photoactivation
- Live SR for super-resolution imaging
- FRET Imaging

Nikon A1 Laser Scanning Confocal
- Point scanning laser confocal
- 4 laser lines for blue, green, red, far red fluorophores
- 2 PMT, 2 GaAsP PMT high sensitivity detectors
- Advanced tiling and stitching capabilities
- Automatic z focus tracking

Zeiss 710 NLO & Zeiss 7MP
- Upright confocal microscope with single photon and multiphoton excitation capabilities for imaging live cells, slices and whole animals
- Excitation wavelengths 730 to 1300 nm; 2 PMT and 2 sensitive GaAsP detectors
- Provide ability to combine with other measurements (electrophysiology, etc.)

Zeiss 5Live
- Point-scanning and slit-scanning confocal microscope
- Fast acquisition frame rates for studying dynamic cellular processes at physiological temperatures
- Dual scan heads (5Live) allow simultaneous imaging and optical manipulation
- Excitation (488, 543, 560, 633)

Olympus LCV Incubated Microscope
- Widefield inverted microscope allowing continuous imaging of cells for hours or days
- Fluorescence and DIC imaging on multiple positions
- Cell migration, cell division, wounding and repair processes, phagocytosis

Olympus FV300/Atomic Force Microscope
- Inverted confocal microscope capable of multicolored imaging
- Equipped with an Atomic Force Microscope accessory (AFM, Bruker)
- The microscope combines the capabilities of confocal imaging with atomic force microscopy for your experiments.

Imaris Bitplane
Bitplane is an advanced image analysis software for processing images. 3D renditions, display and quantification are readily executed. Some imaging suites are specialized for certain applications, e.g. neurofilament tracing. Other common processing routines are available. The confocal core operates a floating license server which allows easy operation of the software from the investigator’s own computers.