to nearby myofibrils as desmin act as scaffold around the Z disk. We develop an elastic model of the sarcomella and its links through costameres to the contractile apparatus based on our results.

2009-Pos
Spatial Correlation of Speckle Fluctuations Reveals Thickness and Features of the Ocular Surface Tear Film
Kaveth Azarash, Enrico Gratton
University of California Irvine, Irvine, CA, USA.
Here we present Fluctuation Analysis of Spatial Image Correlation (FASIC), a non-invasive method for evaluating the complex dynamics of the tear film surface by spatial correlation analysis. Tear film stability and its interaction with the corneal surface play an important role in maintaining ocular surface integrity and quality of vision. Dry Eye Syndrome (DES) refers to abnormalities of tear film secretion and/or stability diagnosed by conventional methods such as the Schirmer test and tear break-up time (TBUT). Several different physical methods have been developed to measure non-invasively the structure and function of the tear film including high-speed videokeratography and dynamic wavefront aberrometry. Interferometry and optical coherence tomography are amongst new proposed methods to measure tear film thickness that have remained in research phase.

With FASIC, a series of images are obtained using a laser illumination and a CMOS camera. The spatial correlation is calculated for each frame. A sinusoidal background due to interference of the tear film appears in this spatial correlation together with other features. We have developed a mathematical model to obtain the thickness of the tear film from this sinusoidal background. The model includes the macroscopic dynamics of small lipid droplets in the tear film. Consistent data with live animal model and human clinical study has been obtained. The authors gratefully thank the support from NIH grant numbers: P30-EY015895 and P50-EY075616.

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A Bluetooth Device for Wireless Communication of in vivo Data from Freely Moving Research Animals
Alycia S. Gailey, Khajak Berberian, Brian N. Kim, Manfred Lindau
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA.
Collecting neurophysiological data through electrodes can impact behavior when the animal is connected to wires and less able to move. In Parkinson’s disease there is a clear link between reduction in dopamine availability and Parkinson’s symptoms, which include tremor, slowness of movement and postural alterations. To better study the link between dopamine release in the basal ganglia and motor behavior, we are developing the implementation of a Bluetooth wireless technology for the measurement of neurotransmitter release. Data of dopamine release can be collected by means of fast scan cyclic voltammetry in which voltages ramp between -450 mV and +1000 mV are applied at a rate of ~300 V/s to a carbon fiber electrode (CFE) implanted in the striatum. The oxidation and reduction currents can be converted to cyclic voltammograms to identify the dopamine signal. The voltammetry signals are wirelessly delivered to a remote unit connected to the implanted CFE and the resulting currents are amplified and sampled at 44.1 kHz at the remote unit. Using stereo headset protocol to transmit the data back to the computer, a recording bandwidth of ~1.3 kHz has been achieved. As usual, the voltammetric current collected before dopamine release is subtracted from the voltammetric signal collected after dopamine release within the computer to extract the net oxidation and reduction currents due to dopamine release alone and to generate the cyclic voltammogram. We anticipate that this technology will be useful for the study of the mechanisms of Parkinson’s disease and possibly other electrophysiological recordings from freely moving research animals.

2103-Pos
Development of Non-Viral Gene Delivery Carriers for Ischemic Heart Disease (IHD)
Malavosklish Bikram1, Mohamed Ismail Nounou1, Dongling Li2, Guilherme V. Silva2, Bradley K. McConnell1
1University of Houston, Houston, TX, USA, 2Texas Heart Institute, Houston, TX, USA.
Ischemic heart disease (IHD) or coronary artery disease (CAD) is a leading cause of death in the United States resulting in a major financial burden to the health care system and is projected to be one of the main contributors to disability by 2020. The poor prognosis of IHD is directly related to a buildup of atherosclerotic plaque that produces narrowing of the coronary artery lumen. The rupture of the artery and/or narrowing of the artery lumen results in myocardial ischemia, which can lead to myocardial infarction or death of the heart muscle tissue. Current treatments include bypass surgery, angioplasty, stent implantation, and pharmacotherapy but unfortunately many patients with IHD remain refractory to pharmacological treatments and are unsuitable candidates for surgical interventions. Also, restenosis of the vessel lumen due to neointimal hyperplasia is a recurrent problem. Gene therapy is a promising alternative to traditional treatment strategies since the delivery of angiogenic cytokines can stimulate neovascularisation in a process known as therapeutic angiogenesis. To this end, we have designed, synthesized, and characterized novel biodegradable polymeric carrier systems for the delivery of therapeutic angiogenic plasmids. The polymers were found to have a MW of ~3.2 kDa. A gel retardation assay showed condensation of DNA at N/P ratios higher than 20/1. The particle sizes of the polymer/DNA complexes were 100-231 nm with surface charges of -8.8-20 mV. Preliminary data with the reporter gene luciferase showed that the complexes produced significantly higher transfection efficiencies and lower cytotoxicities in several cell lines as compared to...