GERMAN CANCER RESEARCH CENTER IN THE HELMHOLTZ ASSOCIATION

Research for a Life without Cancer

TECHNOLOGY OFFERS

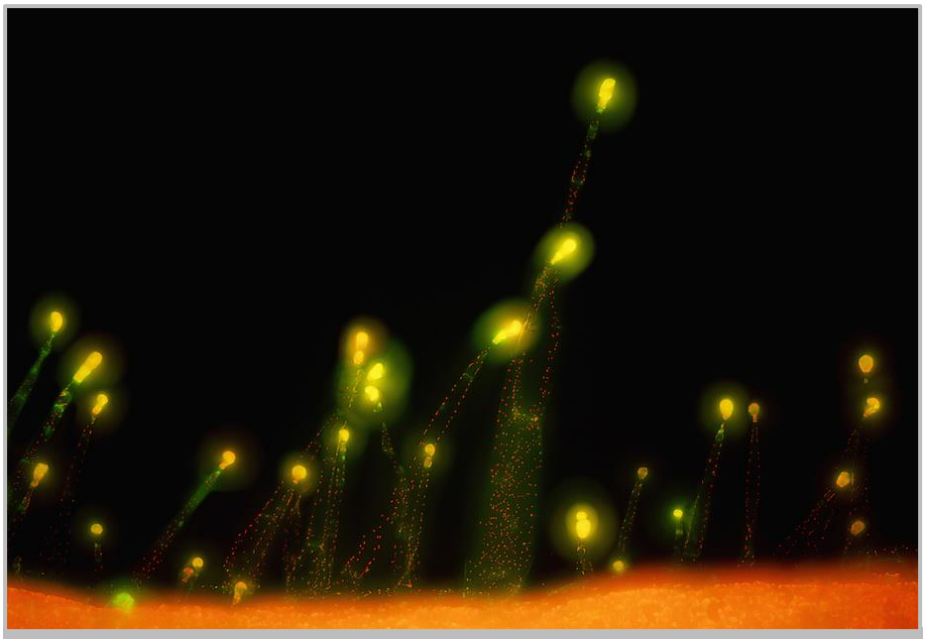
4Pi STED Fluorescence Light Microscope with High Three-Dimensional Spatial Resolution (P-1010)

Apparatus for 4Pi STED which allows a very steep light intensity gradient between the areas of minimum and maximum light intensity

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 4Pi STED scanning fluorescence light microscopy, it is known to use devices for forming three-dimensional light intensity distribution comprising a spatially limited area of minimum light intensity that is enclosed by areas of higher light intensity of the fluorescence inhibiting light (Figure 1a).

This technology provides an apparatus for 4Pi STED which allows the generation of a three-dimensional light intensity distribution comprising a very steep light intensity gradient between the areas of minimum and maximum light intensity.



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Category	Indication	Development stage	Seeking
Devices	----	Prototype	Licensing

BENEFITS

- Technology can be used for 4Pi STED, RESOLFT, and 4Pi GSD
- Precise three-dimensional light intensity distribution
- Steep light intensity gradient

TECHNOLOGY BACKGROUND

The apparatus comprises two objectives which are facing each other on a common optical axis, which focus light coming out of opposite directions into a common focal area, and which each have a pupil, and at least one light source. In case of three or more pairs of coherent light beams, the area of minimum light intensity is reduced to a small volume within the focal area (Fig. 1c).

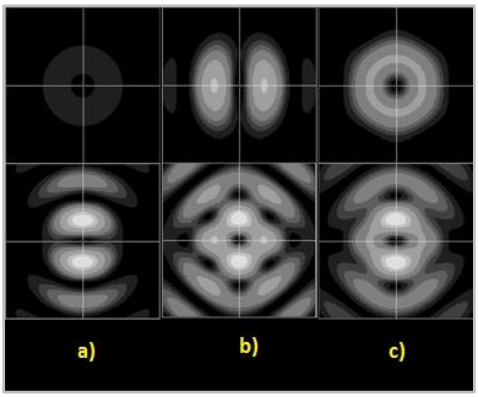

Fig. 1 shows sections through the spatially limited area of minimum light intensity of the overall light intensity distribution. Resulting from a) one pair of coherent light beams (like 4Pi fluorescence light microscopy), b) two pairs of coherent light beams, and c) three pairs of coherent light beams (like the presented technology). Top: common focal plane of the objectives; bottom: orthogonal to the common focal plane of the objectives.

DEVELOPMENT STAGE

According to numerical calculations in a realistic scenario even DVD diodes as STED lasers will result in highest resolutions in the 20nm range and below in all three dimensions.

APPLICATIONS

The presented technology allows for the generation of an even steeper light intensity gradient between the area of minimum light intensity to the enclosing areas of higher light intensity than in isoSTED and can be used for 4Pi STED, RESOLFT or another variant of 4Pi GSD scanning fluorescence light microscopy.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Patented.

- Patent family has been published as WO2013160336A1 “4Pi STED Fluorescence Light Microscope with high three-Dimensional Spatial Resolution”
- Granted in Europe August 29, 2018 as EP2841975B1.
- Granted in USA October 31, 2017 as US9804375B2.

PUBLICATIONS & REFERENCES

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DKFZ Contact:

Dr. Frieder Kern
Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum
Innovation Management, T010
Email: F.Kern@dkfz.de
Tel.: +49-(0)6221-42-2952
Fax: +49-(0)6221-42-2956