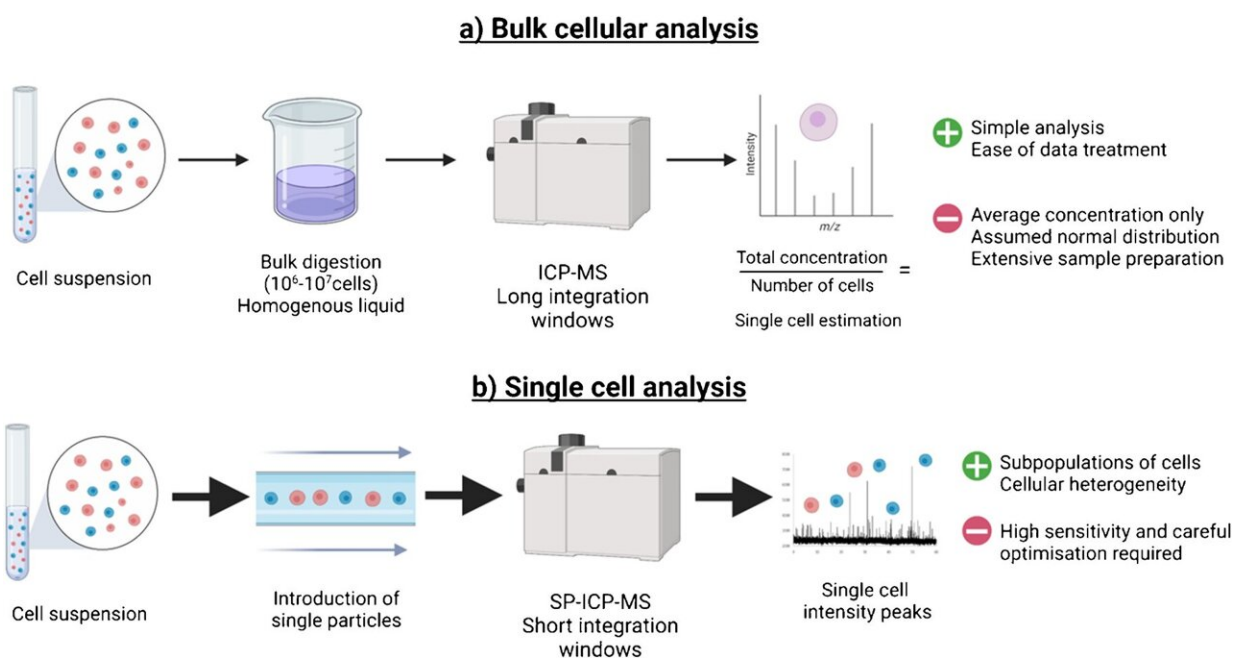


Advanced microscope at new research facility enables single-cell measurement to help fight cancer and diseases

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Comparison of main features of bulk solution ICP-MS and SP-ICP-MS for cellular analysis. Credit: *Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry* (2023). DOI: 10.1007/s00216-023-04721-8

A new national research facility could significantly improve our understanding of infectious diseases, aging and cancers, leading to novel treatments and vaccines.

The University of Surrey's SEISMIC facility will offer scientists access to technology that enables them to pick up [single cells](#) or even parts of cells and measure the spatial position of biomarkers like proteins, metabolites and lipids.

Funded by £2.8 million from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and industry, SEISMIC uses an advanced type of microscope manufactured by Yokogawa Corporation. The device is discussed in the journal *Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry*.

Professor Melanie Bailey, Director of the SEISMIC facility at the University of Surrey, said, "Thanks to SEISMIC, we've made a breakthrough in measuring lipids in individual mammalian cells. This new technology is a game changer because it allows scientists to measure important biomarkers while keeping track of where they are in the cell. This is important for understanding how [healthy cells](#) work and how infections or cancer can affect them.

"We're really excited about this because it will help us better understand how cells communicate with each other, and this knowledge could lead to new ways to fight diseases."

SEISMIC enables single-cell and sub-cellular analysis, which will help scientists understand what happens under defined conditions and how cells signal to each other.

Dr. Dany Beste, Senior Lecturer in Microbial Metabolism at the University of Surrey, said, "The new facility is free for academics working in BBSRC-funded areas and also available to scientists in industry. We are confident SEISMIC will enhance scientific training in single-cell work and overcome some of the challenges in this area."

SEISMIC is the University of Surrey's third national research facility

with the Ion Beam Center and the Environmental Flow Laboratory.

Prof. Bailey said, "The combination of SEISMIC, the proton beam facility and the Ion Beam Center are a boon to Surrey's scientific and business communities and could allow us to understand the interaction between [cancer cells](#) and radiation in more detail. This has [enormous potential](#) and we are excited to welcome researchers to use our new facility."

More information: Claire Davison et al, Expanding the boundaries of atomic spectroscopy at the single-cell level: critical review of SP-ICP-MS, LIBS and LA-ICP-MS advances for the elemental analysis of tissues and single cells, *Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry* (2023). [DOI: 10.1007/s00216-023-04721-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00216-023-04721-8)

Provided by University of Surrey

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