

Fluorescence Microscopy
Acquifer IM

Automated Widefield Microscopy

Acquifer IM

Next-Generation Imaging and High-Content Screening

Bruker's Acquifer Imaging Machine (IM) is a fully automated widefield microscope with brightfield and fluorescence imaging for a variety of samples. Incorporating comprehensive data storage and processing capabilities, it is an ideal platform for high-content screening assays and phenotypic screening for small-model organisms.

The combination of a static sample holder and a mobile optical unit ensures sample stability during imaging, making it ideal for imaging motion-sensitive samples, such as non-adherent cell cultures or embryos. The IM system includes a host of unique features, including built-in temperature regulation, a robotic lid, and an open interface. Seamless integration into automated workflows make it easy for researchers to perform advanced, long time-lapse experiments, screening, and high-throughput imaging assays.

Only Acquifer IM provides:

Intuitive Design and Use

- Adaptive feedback microscopy
- Software and workflow for visualizing large screening datasets and imaging of automatically centered samples
- Effortless configuration of imaging experiments

Sample-Centered Approach

- Optimal imaging conditions for sensitive specimens and long-term observations
- Uniblock optical design moves to your sample while your sample remains stationary
- Built-in temperature control (20 to 40°C) with ± 0.5°C homogeneity over whole plate and over time



Organoid imaging: Fish-derived organoids differentiating into retinal tissue (green). Courtesy of Venera Weinhardt. Zilova et al., 2021. Image reproduced under CC BY 4.0 DEED.



Optimized Control for Fragile Samples

Unparalleled Live-Sample Imaging

For precise live-sample imaging, the sample chamber temperature is tightly controlled. The temperature mechanisms are designed for long-term stability and to minimize gradients across the plate.

Versatile Application

The versatile and easy-to-use machine control and assay configuration cater to a broad spectrum of specimens, including whole organisms, microorganisms, cell monolayers, stem cells, organoids, spheroids, and tissues.

Supervised Feedback Microscopy

Low-magnification pre-screen data of a full microtiter plate can be readily visualized in the Plate-Viewer software. Different tools and matching algorithms enable the selection of regions of interest for each well and robust localization of target structures.

Add-On Photomanipulation

This optional hardware upgrade enables automated photodamaging of cells and tissues, switching of convertible fluorophores, uncaging compounds, and optogenetics experiments.



Automated timelapse microscopy: HeLa cells with H2B-mCherry imaged every 30 minutes for 48 hours. Courtesy of ALMF, EMBL.



Screening workflows for various assay requirements: Cell culture (left) and a zebrafish xenograft assay (right). Courtesy of Arwin Groenewould.





Automated photomanipulation: GFP-positive distal pronephros of a cdh17:egfp transgenic zebrafish with annotated region of interest (left) and after photodamaging (right).

Automated Centering



Three-day-old embryo of the epi:GFP;myI7mR transgenic line. Zebrafish embryos visualized in Plate-Viewer software after automated region of interest selection.



Red bounding box indicates field of view of a 10x objective used for subsequent high-resolution imaging.



Single Z-plane of a high-resolution dataset automatically acquired by the IM. Courtesy of Nadia Mercader, Uni Bern.

The Acquifer IM Advantage

Advanced Control

- Workflow control tools provide automated centering and imaging of regions of interest
- Embedded real-time controller ensures lag free operation and optimized experiments
- Motorized lid enables robot-ready operation

Intuitive Imaging Protocols

- User-friendly software enables precise control of experiments
- Intuitive configuration of imaging protocols offers supervised feedback microscopy experiments
- Open developer interface features built-in scripting support and remote control via TCP/IP

Production-Engineered Hardware Design

- Friction-free linear motor technology provides maximum precision and reliability
- Precise X-Y optics movement delivers repeatability
- Precision Z-focus provides long range 30 mm Z-travel / 80 nm repeatability

Integrated Benchtop System Design

- No manual controls at the device prevent unwanted changes
- Bruker's Acquifer software provides users with full control of system
- Smooth finished design bypasses the need for a microscopy room

Customized Flexibility

- Long-working-distance objectives provide magnification from 2x to 40x
- LED illumination with up to 6 channels covers a range from 385 nm to 625 nm
- Temperature control (20 to 40°C) with ± 0.5°C homogeneity over whole plate and over time

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