Biology is complex. Discovery doesn’t have to be.
The system that makes the everyday extraordinary

Today’s drug discovery labs gain information and insights from a whole spectrum of assay types – fixed- and live-cell assays, 3D and complex cell models, cell painting, phenotypic fingerprinting, and protein-protein interaction assays, as well as everyday routine applications. So for these labs, flexibility is everything.

The **Operetta® CLS™ high-content analysis system** is built for flexibility, giving you the tools and technologies to glean more physiologically relevant information from the whole spectrum of assay types – quickly and simply, whether performed by novices or experts.

What’s more, the Operetta CLS system is part of our comprehensive HCS workflow solution – everything from systems, reagents, and microplates to automation and informatics – all from one trusted source. Together with our **Harmony® high-content imaging and analysis software** – the easy-to-learn, easy-to-use software that empowers biologists to do their own analysis – you have everything you need to run your everyday (and complex) analyses.

**A.** HepG2 microtissue stained with Nile red to study hepatosteatosis, 20x W objective. Cells provided by InSphero AG.

**B.** Human cardiomyocytes labeled with the hypertrophy marker proBNP-488, Rhodamine-Phalloidin, Hoechst and CellMaskBlue, 20x W objective. Cor.4U cardiomyocytes provided by Axiogenesis AG.

**C.** Embryonic rat dorsal root ganglion (DRG) neurons stained with Alexa Fluor® 488 anti-TUJ1 (axons) and DRAQ5 (DNA). Courtesy of Dr. York Rudhard, Evotec AG.

**D.** HeLa cells tracked using the digital phase contrast mode.
When great technologies combine, the results are illuminating

At the core of the Operetta CLS system is a light path that ensures highly efficient excitation of your samples and careful collection of emitted signals. Direct coupling of the excitation source into the optical path limits the light loss that’s typical of light guides or fibers. The built-in 8x LEDs let you choose the optimal wavelength for excitation of your fluorophore and deliver the power directly to your cellular samples, while user-accessible emission filters let you further optimize detection.

With optional temperature and CO₂ control, you can run your live-cell assays knowing that the changes you’re seeing are due to the biology, not the technology. Once your assay parameters are optimized, you know you can trust your results, time after time.
More light on the subject

Proprietary automated water-immersion objectives with very high numerical aperture deliver and capture more photons and provide a higher resolution in XYZ than conventional objectives - in fact, they capture up to four times more light than high numerical aperture air objectives can. You can benefit in two ways: delicate live-cell samples can be excited with less light to protect them from photodamage or you can significantly increase the throughput of applications such as 3D stack acquisition.

The perfect way to image

The Operetta CLS system’s proven spinning disk technology minimizes photobleaching and phototoxicity and provides several advantages over conventional confocal microscopy techniques: since multiple points are collected simultaneously rather than by scanning a single point at a time, the imaging process is much faster and gentler, enabling efficient background rejection, live-cell experiments, and 3D imaging. What’s more, the large-format sCMOS camera delivers low noise, wide dynamic range, and high resolution – perfect for sensitive and quantitative measurements at short exposure times.

Up to eight LEDs excite a wide range of fluorophores, from UV to NIR, including DNA stains, live-cell stains, fluorescent proteins, and typical covalent labels. Some popular dyes are shown here.
A configuration for every need

Whatever your application, there’s an Operetta CLS system to fit your requirements – and it’s modular, so it can change with your research demands.

Operetta CLS Quattro
With four LEDs and widefield fluorescence, the basic configuration is ideal for common applications that need sensitivity and resolution, with the capacity to grow if the need arises.

Operetta CLS FLEX
With eight LEDs and confocal and widefield fluorescence, this configuration offers flexibility in excitation and imaging modes for many challenging applications – and it can be upgraded to even higher performance.

Operetta CLS LIVE
With all the features of the FLEX configuration, plus gas and temperature control and water-immersion objectives, this system is ideal for gentle yet highly sensitive live-cell imaging.
Your instrument, your choices

- High-efficiency solid-state excitation source
  Choice of up to eight excitation lines built into your system

- Environmentally controlled sample chamber
  Compatible with robotic automation

- User-accessible emission filters
  Your choice from more than 10 different filters

- Widefield and confocal imaging modes
  Switchable imaging mode depending on your needs

- Water immersion objectives
  Built-in supply and waste bottles

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Your science in every cell

From everyday assays to more demanding applications, the Operetta CLS high-content analysis system delivers just the right combination of flexible excitation, sensitive optics, and advanced software features to enable you to gain deeper biological insight from all your critical applications.

Fixed-cell assays
You can choose from fluorescent widefield and confocal spinning-disk imaging with up to eight high-power excitation sources and user-accessible emission filters for maximum flexibility - so you can optimize your assays quickly.

Live-cell assays
Meaningful live-cell assays depend on stable excitation and minimal photodamage, spinning disk confocal optics, and synchronized LED illumination. For live-cell analysis without fluorescent labels, you can also choose brightfield or digital-phase contrast imaging modes.

3D cell models
Spinning disk confocality and water-immersion objectives combine to collect up to four times more light from samples and increase X, Y, and Z resolutions, for high-quality images from 3D samples. And Harmony software lets you acquire, visualize, and analyze 3D samples on one platform, for more physiologically relevant results.
Complex cell models
The Operetta CLS combines a large-format sCMOS camera with water-immersion objectives for sensitivity and high resolution, while machine-learning-based PhenoLOGIC™ software helps you distinguish and characterize cell types based on morphology, fluorescence intensity/distribution, texture, and more.

Cell painting
Cell painting is a powerful application of high-content screening technology. In cell painting, specific cellular compartments are stained with six different fluorescent bioprobes simultaneously, followed by imaging and analysis to phenotypically profile the cells and elucidate their behavior.

Phenotypic fingerprinting
At the core of successful phenotypic assays is the ability to create robust fingerprints of subtle differences. The Operetta CLS system combines high-resolution imaging with advanced software tools such as STAR morphology and machine learning for true multiparametric hit selection.

Protein-protein interaction assays
FRET is a powerful tool for investigating conformational changes and protein-protein interactions. With a good FRET sensor, it’s possible to track activity of kinases such as ERK in live cells and much more. And with imaging and dedicated analysis tools for ratiometric imaging, robust results are easy to obtain.
Exceptional imaging and analysis for your disease models

Our high-content screening workflow provides disease researchers the tools that enable insights and interactions between cell types and organ systems that lead to breakthroughs in prevention, early detection, and treatment of diseases.

Cancer research
Cellular imaging is a proven, powerful tool for improving understanding of cancer biology, allowing you to visualize tumor cell mobility, invasion, metastasis, angiogenesis, and more. Whether you’re exploring complex biological pathways or investigating how drugs affect those processes, we have cellular imaging tools to advance your research and discovery.

Infectious diseases
Fully automated imaging and unbiased quantitative image analysis take advantage of the full potential of microscopy, allowing the characterization of pathogens and host-cell phenotypes. Infection rates can be determined with high sensitivity, since individual infected cells can be identified. Infection can be described with up to hundreds of readouts per cell, allowing the linkage of infection rates to other readouts, such as host-cell morphology or signaling.

Neuroscience
High-content analysis provides rich data for neuroscience research, including assays that can quantify various aspects of dendritic trees, protein aggregation, transcription factor translocation, neurotransmitter receptor internalization, neuron and synapse number, cell migration, proliferation, and apoptosis.
Everything comes together in Harmony

Simple, powerful Harmony high-content imaging and analysis software provides a complete solution, enabling you to set up assays and automate high-content imaging experiments, acquire images and analyze data, and store, retrieve, and present those results in meaningful ways. Its workflow-based interface makes the whole process simple and straightforward, even for new users with little microscopy or programming knowledge.

- Easily set up acquisition channels and parameters
- Utilize more than 30 ready-made solutions for common assays
- Use image analysis building blocks to create, configure, and customize your own protocols
- Get detailed cellular phenotype descriptions for more robust, reproducible classification with advanced analysis features
- Automatically store metadata such as assay layout, instrument settings, analysis results, and user-defined keywords and annotations
- Visualize and analyze your samples in 3D for more physiologically relevant information and insights

Harmony software also powers the Opera Phenix® Plus high-content screening system so you can transfer your Operetta CLS assays to higher throughput with ease. And with regular updates, it’s a flexible solution for gathering unbiased data from your cell samples, keeping you ahead of your growing research needs.
Easily quantify cellular phenotypes in complex 3D models

With Harmony software, you can speed up 3D image acquisition through targeted imaging independent of culture method, such as plates or hydrogels, and better understand your cell models by exploring them in 3D and XYZ viewers. You can measure morphology, volume, and texture in 3D; count nuclei within spheroids; and calculate XYZ positional properties. And you can quickly analyze your z-stack as maximum intensity projection, with 3D information preserved, using PlaneMap technology.

Accurately target objects of interest for greater efficiency

High-content screening can capture fine subcellular detail with very high resolution images, but this can slow down acquisition times and create large amounts of data. The PreciScan plug-in enables intelligent image acquisition to let you accurately target your objects of interest in X, Y, and Z dimensions, such as spheroids, stem cell colonies, or rare cell phenotypes. The software delivers a fully automated, integrated workflow of low-magnification prescans, image analysis, and higher magnification rescans to reduce acquisition times and data volume and speed up analysis significantly.

Become an image analysis expert with machine learning

With the PhenoLOGIC™ plug-in, you can recognize different cell populations and regions by example, making it easy to create optimized algorithms. Just click on a few cells of each type to show the software what you’re looking for. PhenoLOGIC software then selects the most meaningful combination of parameters to robustly discriminate phenotypes or segment images based on texture features.
Solutions to optimize your workflow

Phenomenal fluorescence

Our PhenoVue™ cellular imaging reagents complement our proven high-content screening instruments, image analysis software, microplates, and automation, providing an integrated solution across the entire cellular imaging workflow.

Building on our extensive expertise in imaging instrumentation, fluorescent dye chemistry, and assay development, our optimized and validated PhenoVue platform includes bright-organelle and cell-compartment stains, fluorescent-labeled secondary antibodies, cell painting kits comprising six fluorescent probes and an optimized protocol to streamline your workflow, and much more.

The perfect plate for the work you do

For best results, choose the microplates designed specifically for high-end imaging systems. We’ve developed and validated a range of microplates for HCS applications, including PhenoPlate™ (formerly CellCarrier™ Ultra) microplates with a unique patented design for high-content imaging readers.
Cell counting to increase accuracy and accelerate assay prep

Counting cells is an essential step in determining cell concentration prior to cell passage and seeding. Automated cell counting reduces variations due to human error and improves robustness of HCS assays.

Our Cellometer® and Cellaca™ automated cell counters are designed to simplify the cell counting process, combining the basic principles of a hemocytometer with modern technologies like fluorescent microscopy, image cytometry, and automation to avoid the pitfalls of manual cell counting.

Cellometer image cytometers

Automatically obtain cell images, counts, measurements, and viability calculations in less than 30 seconds per sample – and with disposable counting chambers, there are no time-consuming wash steps.

Cellaca MX high-throughput automated cell counter

Run 24 samples in less than three minutes with no reloading individual slides or waiting for small-batch counters to finish.

- Small sample volume – only 25 μL of sample required
- Cell viability with trypan blue or fluorescence
- Robotic integration with optional API
- 21 CFR Part 11 ready - optional add-on for audit trail, user access control, and digital signature
Speed discovery by integrating HCS workflows

Higher throughput, improved efficiency, and greater productivity: these are the benefits of integrating your HCS workflows with automation and advanced data analysis capabilities. Whatever your screening needs, we have a solution that’s right for your lab.

It pays to automate

Whether you’re integrating your Operetta CLS system with our plate::handler™ FLEX system for automated plate loading or integrating your entire HCS workflow with our explorer™ G3 automated workstations, you’ll see increased productivity, less risk of human error, safer working conditions, and the ability to maximize your data for better results.

What’s more, our experts have extensive experience developing integrated workstations for automating a wide variety of cell-based and high-content screening assays.
Access and analyze all your HCS data in one place

For universal high-volume image data storage and analysis, Signals Image Artist software provides a central location to quickly process, analyze, share, and store the vast volumes of data generated by high-content screening and cellular imaging, including 3D imaging, phenotypic screening, and cell painting. Compatible with all major high-content screening and cell imaging systems, Signals Image Artist is a multiuser platform that can support your entire lab and is scalable to expand with your lab’s data storage needs over time. It integrates seamlessly with the Operetta CLS and Opera Phenix Plus high-content screening systems, as well as the Signals VitroVivo software platform.

Analysis of all your assay and screening data

With Signals VitroVivo software platform, you can perform screening data analysis and validation, QC analyses, calculate reliable normalization, multivariate hit stratification, dose response curves, drug response profiling, and more. It unites assay development, low-throughput to ultrahigh-throughput production assays, high-content screening, and in vivo studies so users can explore all assay and screening data in a single platform.
Instrument support and servicing

Instrument support services
Maintaining labs is never easy, especially when an instrument is down. We know you’re responsible for the performance of your laboratory, and we make sure nothing holds you back. Our field service engineers, manufacturing site technical services, and research and development teams are here at your disposal to ensure maximum uptime.

You need your instruments to be reliable and running with minimal downtime, and you want flexible service agreements that are easy to comprehend. We understand, and we’re here to help.

Education services
Whether you are looking for a basic instrument refresher course, simple troubleshooting techniques, general application support, or method optimization, our field application scientists or service engineers will come directly to your lab. Through education, you will gain knowledge and insights into the latest techniques, not only increasing your confidence, but also unlocking the full potential of your instrument.