

Placental haemodynamics: Transport effects at the organ scale

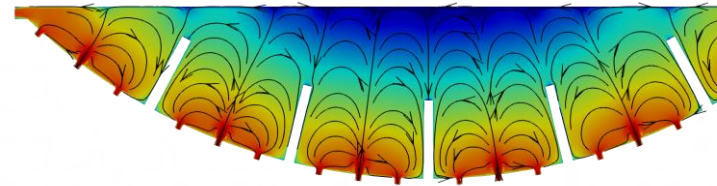
Adam Blakey (he/him)

Penny Gowland, Paul Houston,
Matthew Hubbard, George Hutchinson,
Lopa Leach, and Reuben O'Dea



**University of
Nottingham**

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA



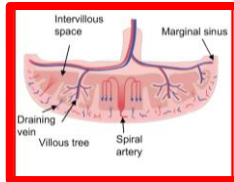
PGR Retreat 2023

26th May 2023

Today's talk

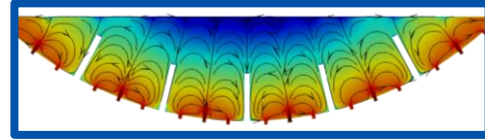
01

Introduction



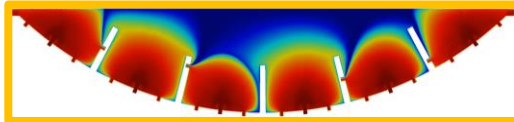
02

Blood flow



03

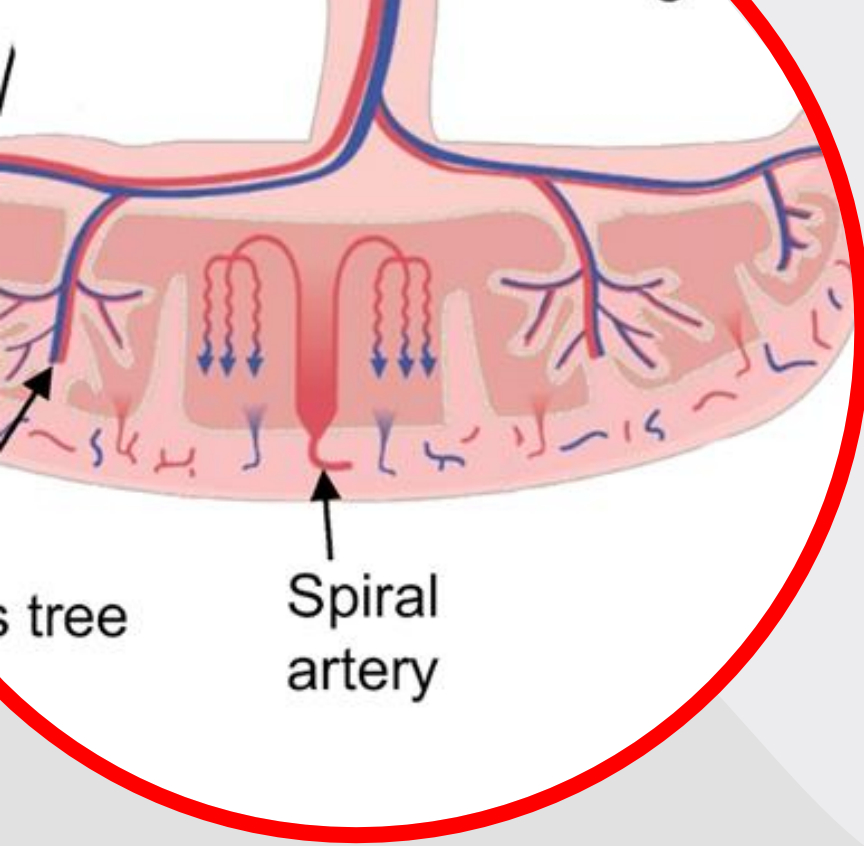
Nutrient transport



04

In progress





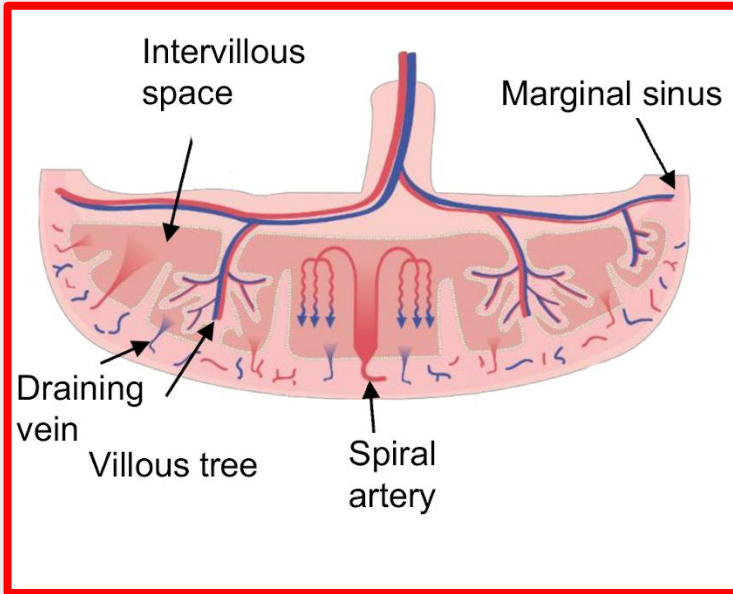
01

Introduction



What is a placenta?

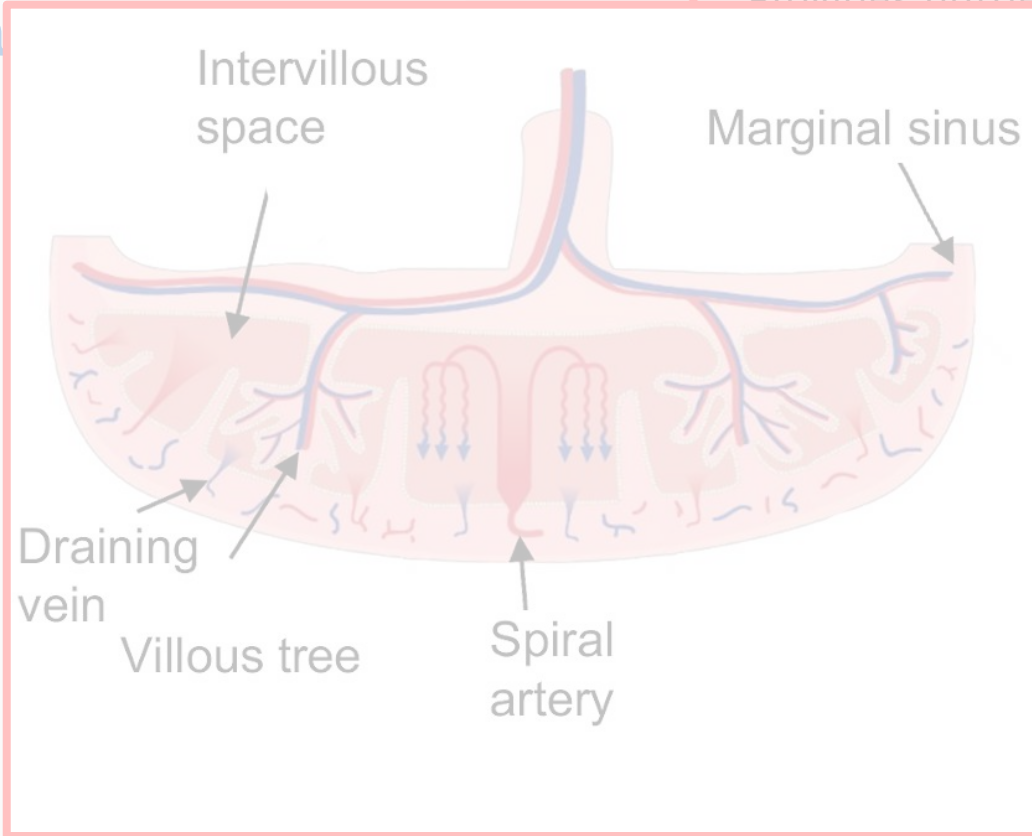
- Provides nutrients and oxygen to foetus
- Removes waste products
- Vital to fetal development



Modified from
[Dellschaft et al., 2020]



What is a placenta



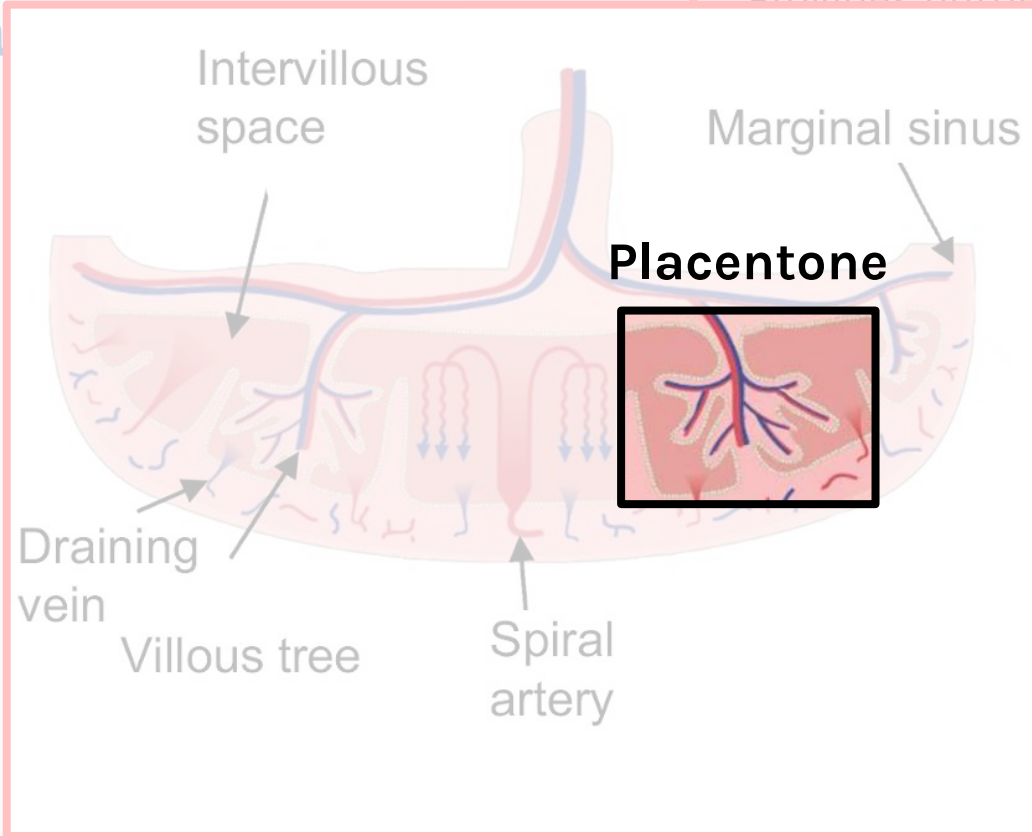
Provides nutrients and oxygen to

products
development

Modified from
[Dellschaft et al., 2020]



What is a pla



Provides nutrients and oxygen to

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development

Modified from
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What is a placenta?



**Viewer discretion
is advised**



What is a placenta?



[Lopa Leach]



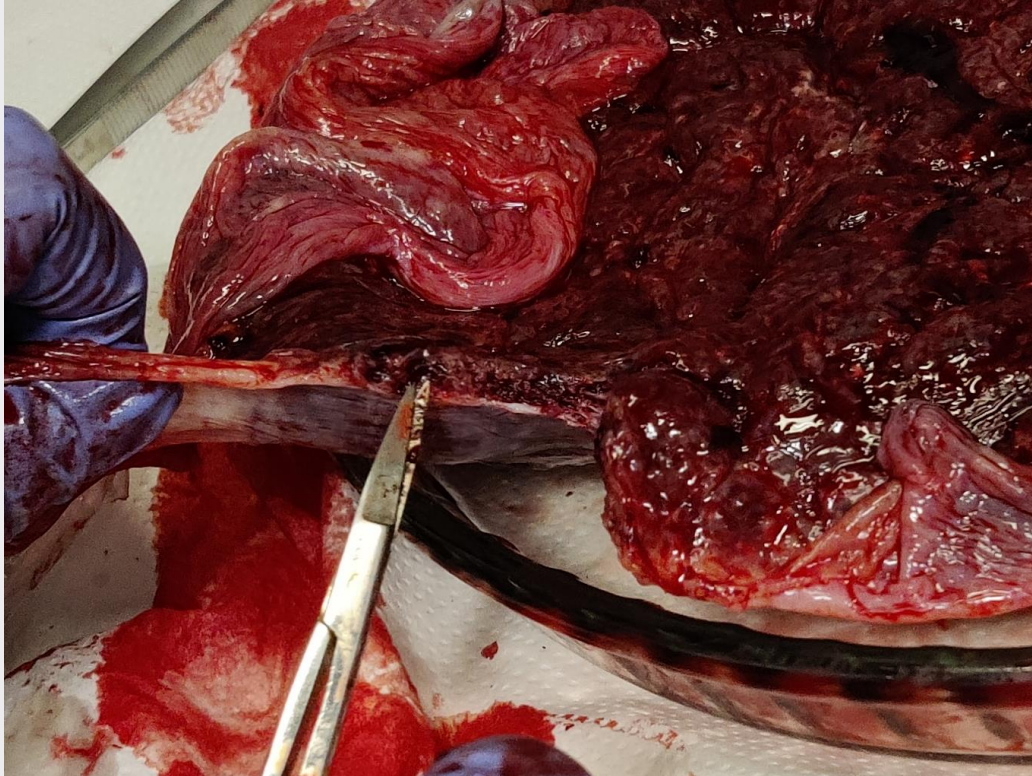
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[Lopa Leach]



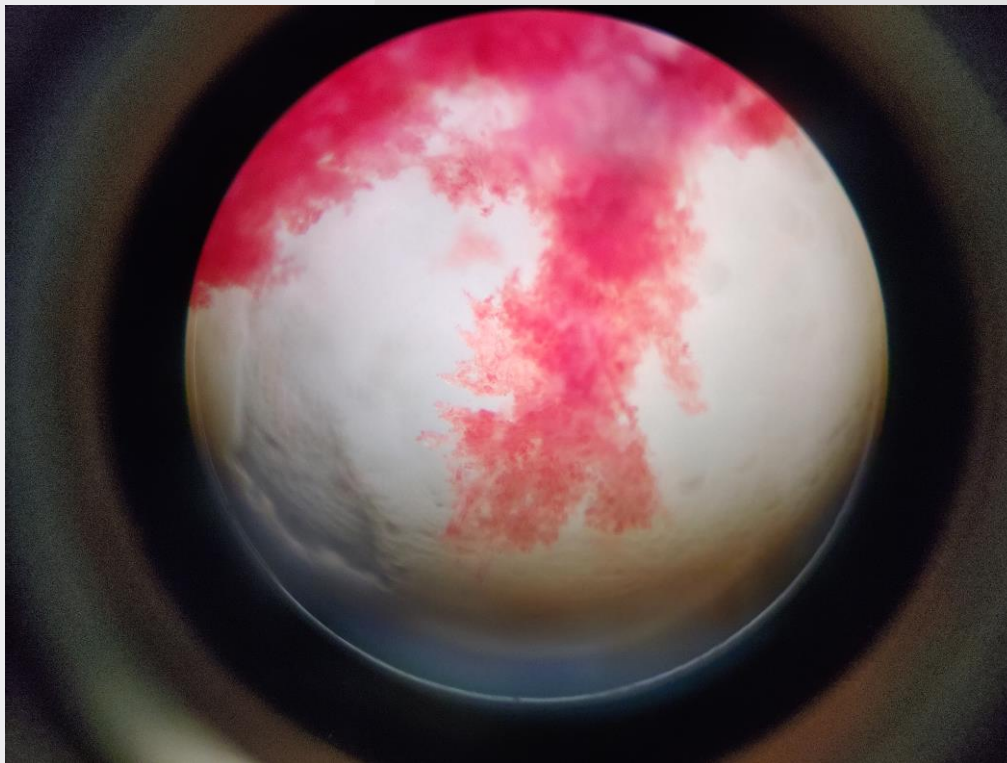
What is a placenta?



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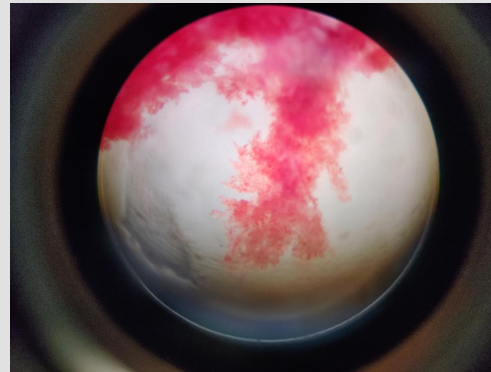
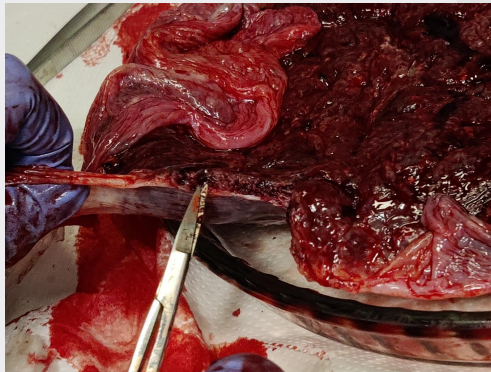
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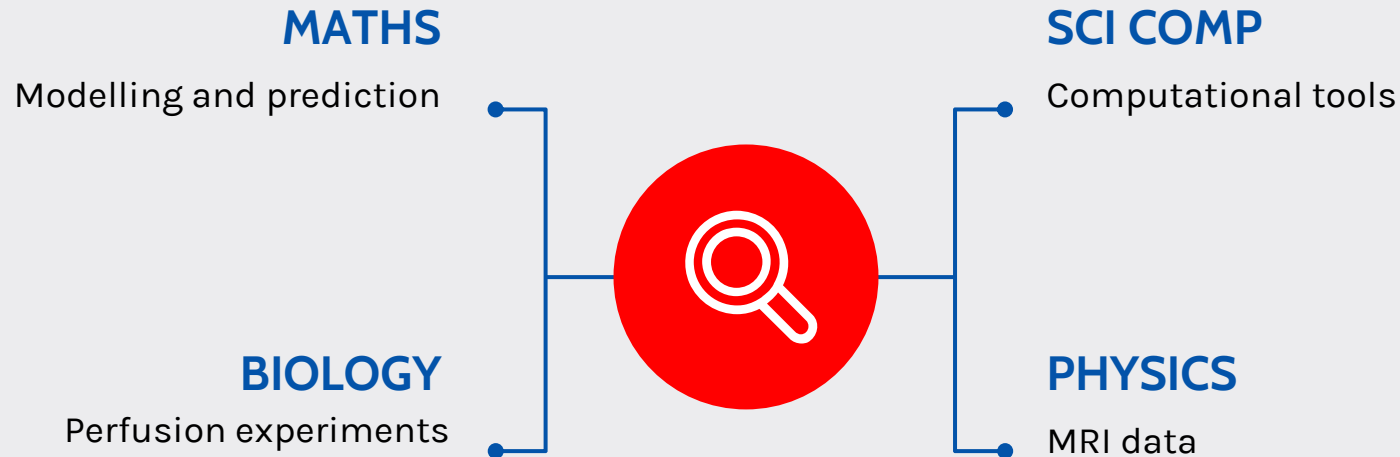
[Lopa Leach]



What is a placenta?

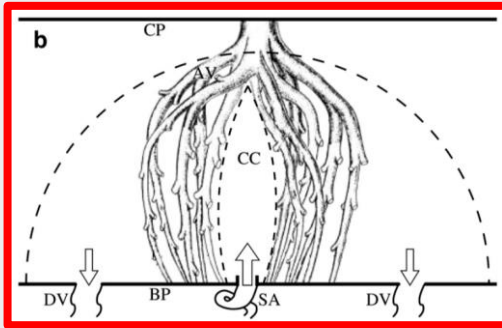
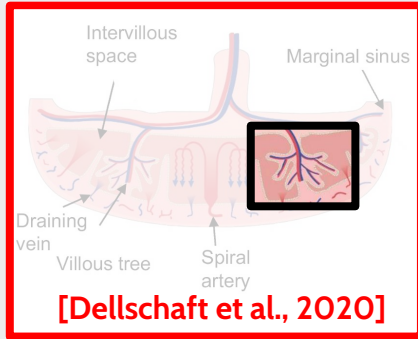


Inter-disciplinary Work





Maternal flow equations



[Chernyavsky et al., 2010]

- Homogenise tree structure
→ porous medium
- Incompressible flow
- Navier-Stokes & Brinkman

Brinkman:

$$-\nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \frac{1}{Dr} \mathbf{u} + \nabla p = f_B$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{u}_{\text{wall}} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{u}_{\text{neumann}} \equiv (\nabla \mathbf{u} - p \underline{\underline{I}}) \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$$

Navier-Stokes:

$$-\nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \text{Re} \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u}) + \nabla p = f_{NS}$$

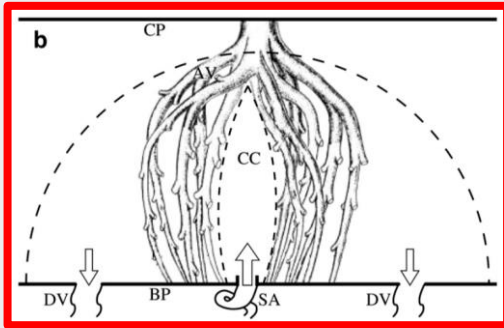
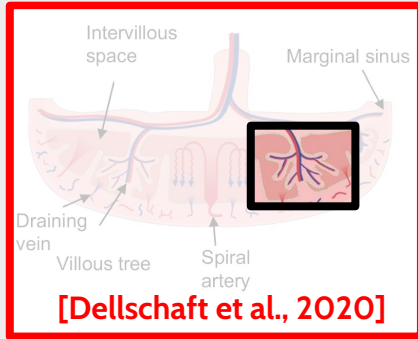
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{u}_{\text{inlet}} = \frac{(R^2 - r^2)}{R^2} \hat{\mathbf{y}}$$

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Maternal flow equations



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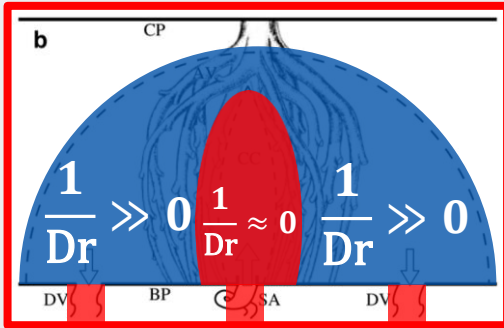
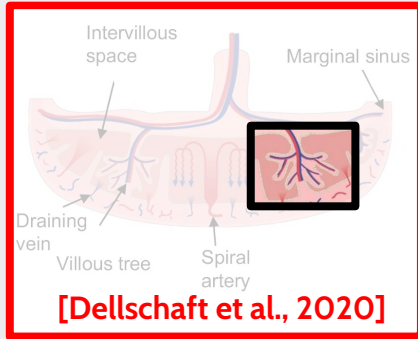
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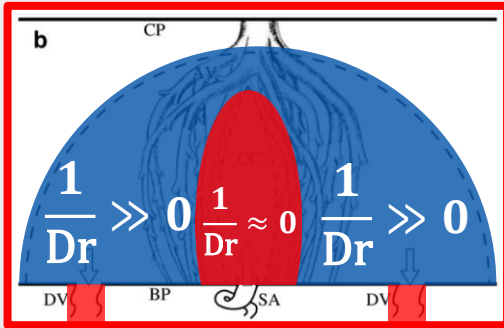
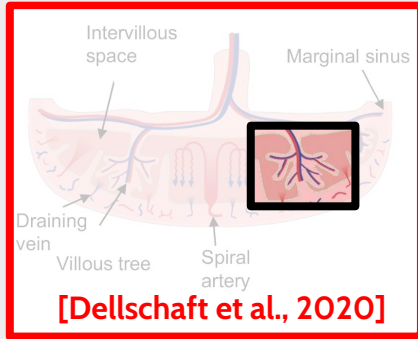
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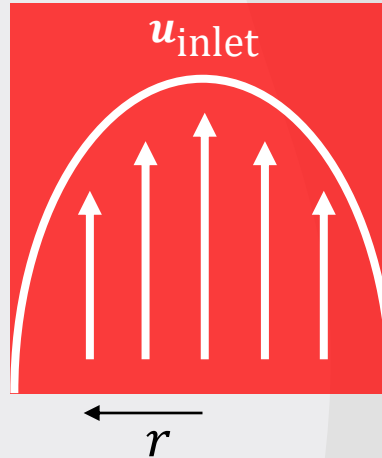
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Maternal flow equations



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Navier-Stokes-Brinkman:

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DGFEM discretisation

Find $\forall \mathbf{u}_h, p_h \in \mathbf{V}_h \times Q_h$ s.t.

$$A(\mathbf{u}_h, \mathbf{v}_h) + B(\mathbf{v}_h, p_h) - B(\mathbf{u}_h, q_h) + C(\mathbf{u}_h, \mathbf{v}_h) = F(\mathbf{v}_h) - G(q_h),$$

$\forall \mathbf{v}_h, q_h \in \mathbf{V}_h \times Q_h$.

[Cliffe et al., 2010]

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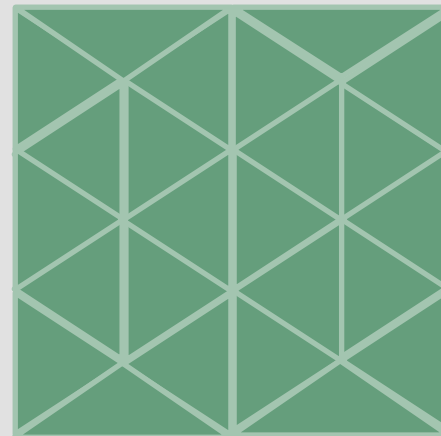
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$$\begin{aligned} A(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) &= \int_{\Omega} \nabla_h \mathbf{u} : \nabla_h \mathbf{v} - \int_{F \cup \Gamma_D} \{ \{ \nabla_h \mathbf{v} \} \} : \llbracket \mathbf{u} \rrbracket + \{ \{ \nabla_h \mathbf{u} \} \} : \llbracket \mathbf{v} \rrbracket \\ &\quad + \int_{F \cup \Gamma_D} \sigma \llbracket \mathbf{u} \rrbracket : \llbracket \mathbf{v} \rrbracket + \frac{1}{\text{Dr}} \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} \\ B(\mathbf{u}, q) &= - \int_{\Omega} q \nabla_h \cdot \mathbf{v} + \int_{F \cup \Gamma_D} \{ \{ q \} \} \llbracket \mathbf{v} \rrbracket \\ C(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) &= - \int_{\Omega} (\mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u}) : \nabla_h \mathbf{v} + \int_{F \cup \Gamma_D} \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{u}^+, \mathbf{u}^-, \mathbf{n}) \llbracket \mathbf{v} \rrbracket \\ F(\mathbf{v}) &= \int_{\Gamma_D} \sigma \mathbf{g}_D \cdot \mathbf{v} - \int_{\Gamma_D} (\mathbf{g}_D \otimes \mathbf{n}) : (\nabla_h \mathbf{v}) \\ G(q) &= \int_{\Gamma_D} q \mathbf{g}_D \cdot \mathbf{n} \end{aligned}$$

Ω





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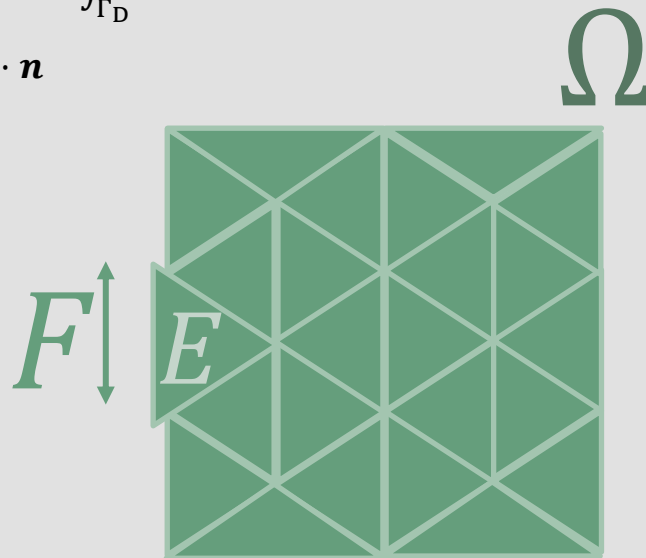
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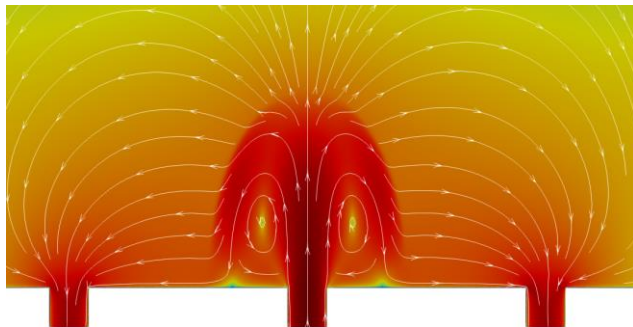
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DGFEM motivation

- Stable for large variation in parameters



$$A(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \int_{\Omega} \nabla_h \mathbf{u} : \nabla_h \mathbf{v} - \int_{F \cup \Gamma_D} \{ \{ \nabla_h \mathbf{v} \} \} : [\mathbf{u}] + \{ \{ \nabla_h \mathbf{u} \} \} : [\mathbf{v}]$$

$$+ \int_{F \cup \Gamma_D} \sigma [\mathbf{u}] : [\mathbf{v}] + \frac{1}{\text{Dr}} \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}$$

$[\mathbf{v}]$

$\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{u}^+, \mathbf{u}^-, \mathbf{n}) [\mathbf{v}]$

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Ω



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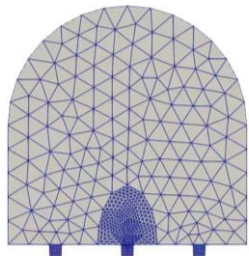
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DGFEM motivation

- Stable for large variation in parameters
- Moving meshes and hyperbolic term



$$A(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \int_{\Omega} \nabla_h \mathbf{u} : \nabla_h \mathbf{v} - \int_{F \cup \Gamma_D} \{ \{ \nabla_h \mathbf{v} \} \} : [\mathbf{u}] + \{ \{ \nabla_h \mathbf{u} \} \} : [\mathbf{v}]$$

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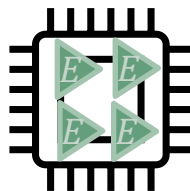
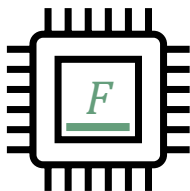
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DGFEM motivation

- Stable for large variation in parameters
- Moving meshes and hyperbolic term
- More parallelisable



$$A(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \int_{\Omega} \nabla_h \mathbf{u} : \nabla_h \mathbf{v} - \int_{F \cup \Gamma_D} \{ \{ \nabla_h \mathbf{v} \} \} : [\mathbf{u}] + \{ \{ \nabla_h \mathbf{u} \} \} : [\mathbf{v}]$$

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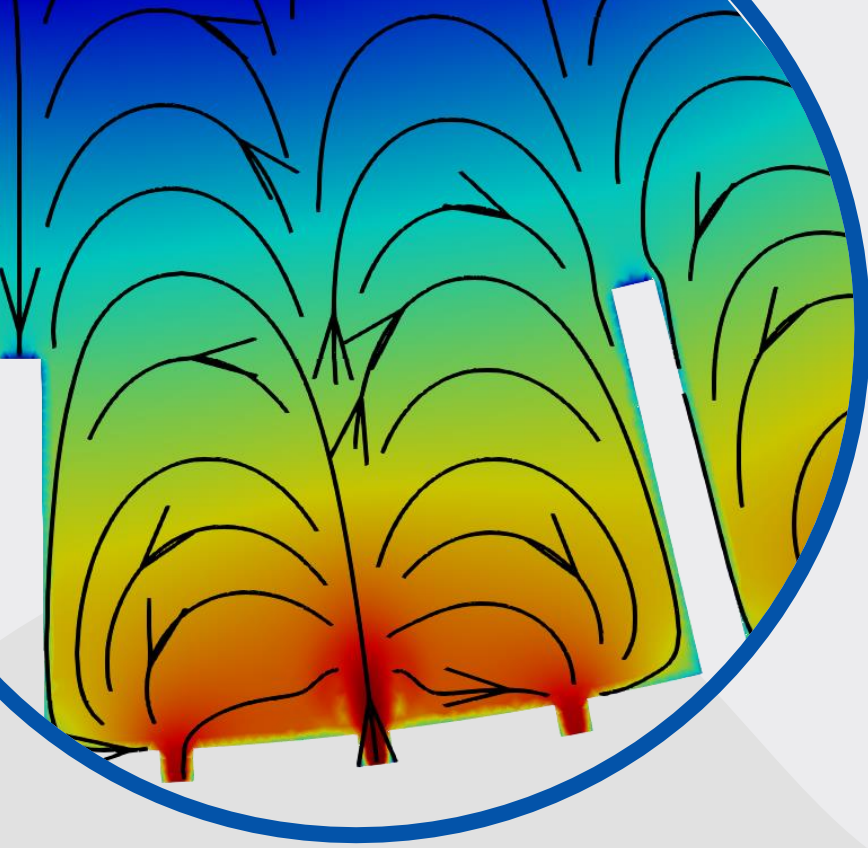
$\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{u}^+, \mathbf{u}^-, \mathbf{n}) [\mathbf{v}]$

$\nabla_h \mathbf{v}$

Ω

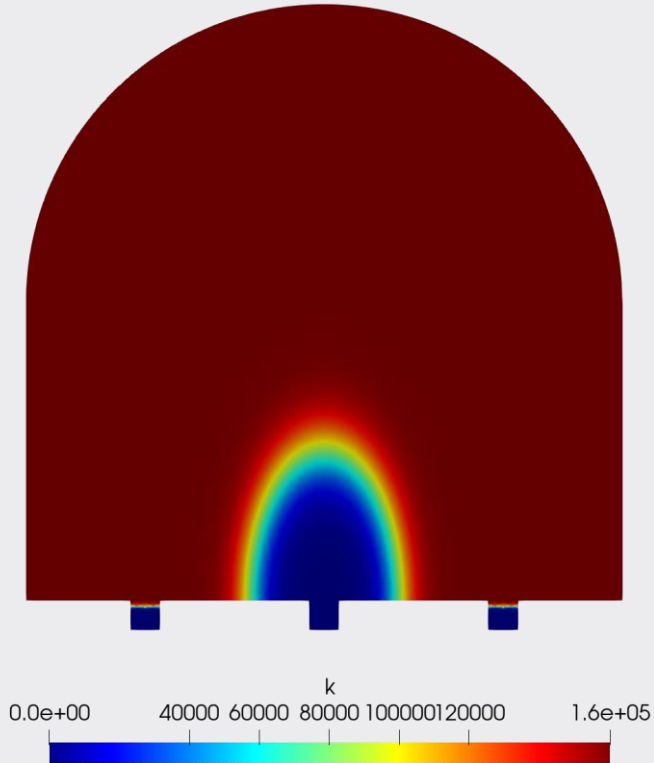
02

Blood flow





Single placentone



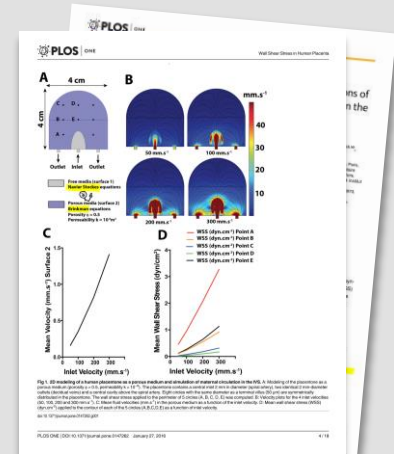
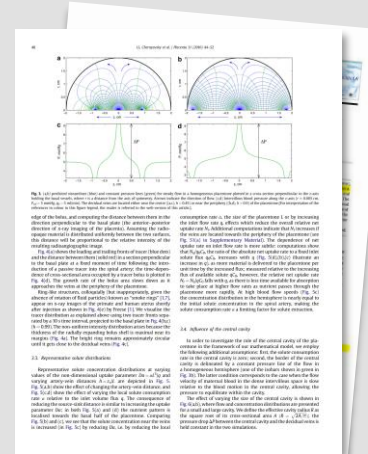
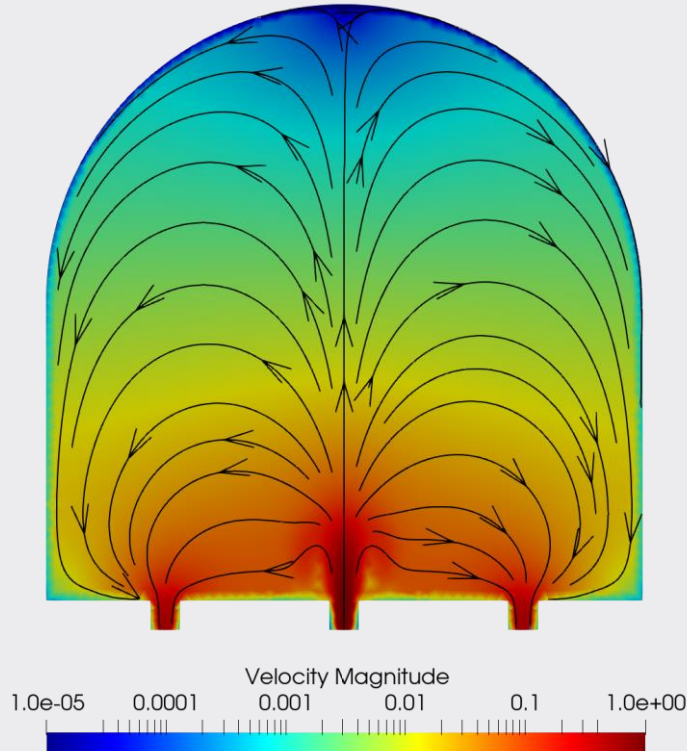
$$\frac{1}{Dr_{\max}} = 1.6 \times 10^5$$

$$Re = 1 \times 10^3$$



Single placentone

- Qualitatively matches other models
- Assumes no 'spilling'
- Exponential fluid slow down



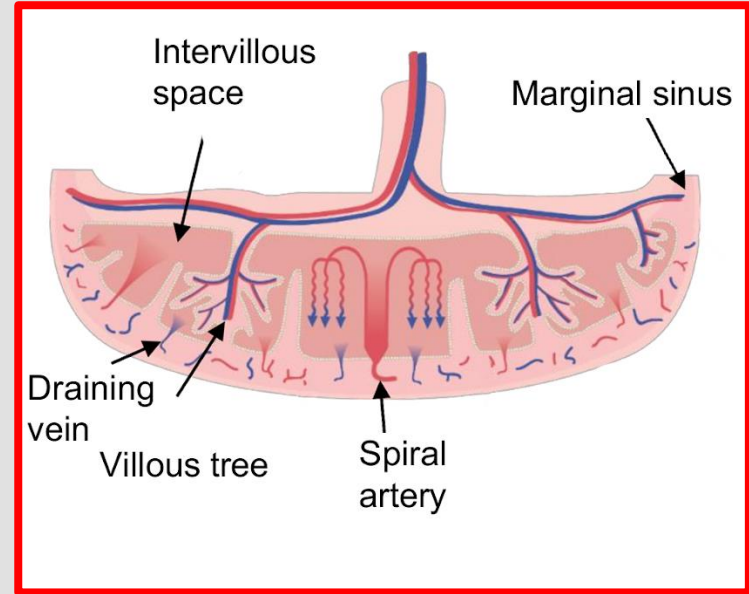
[Chernyavsky et al., 2010]

[Lecarpentier et al., 2016]

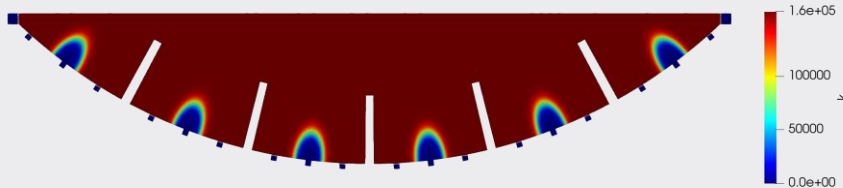


2D slice of whole placenta

- Agree with placentone simulations
- Show 'spilling'
- Include marginal sinuses



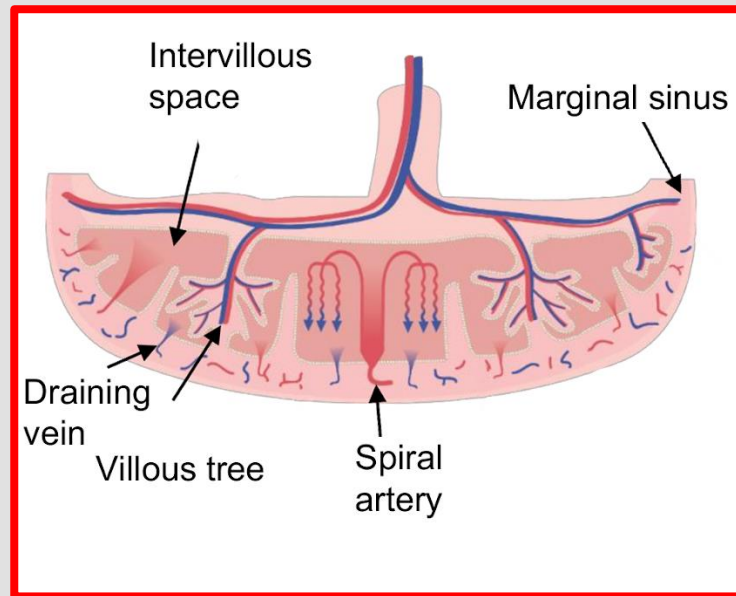
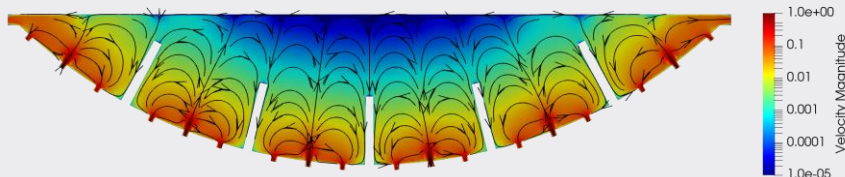
[Dellschaft et al., 2020]





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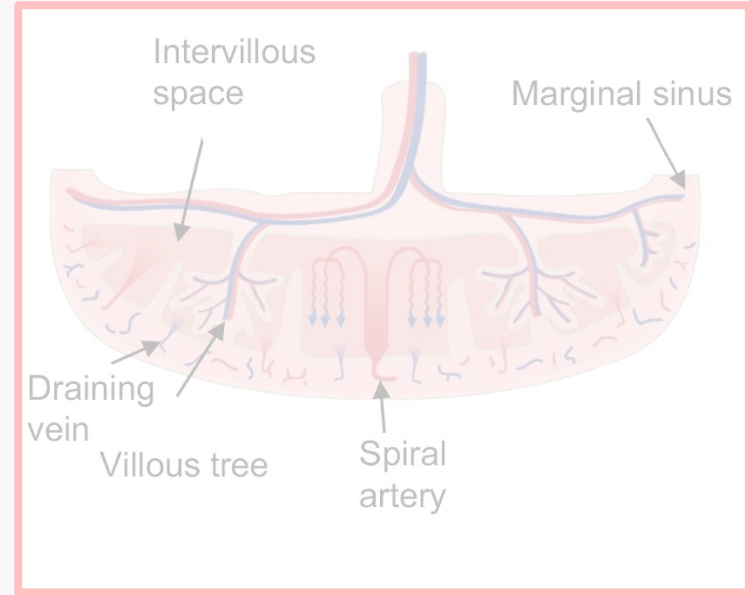


[Dellschaft et al., 2020]

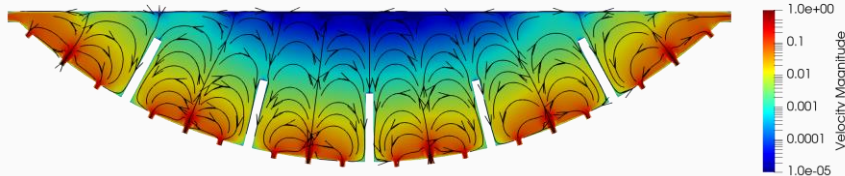


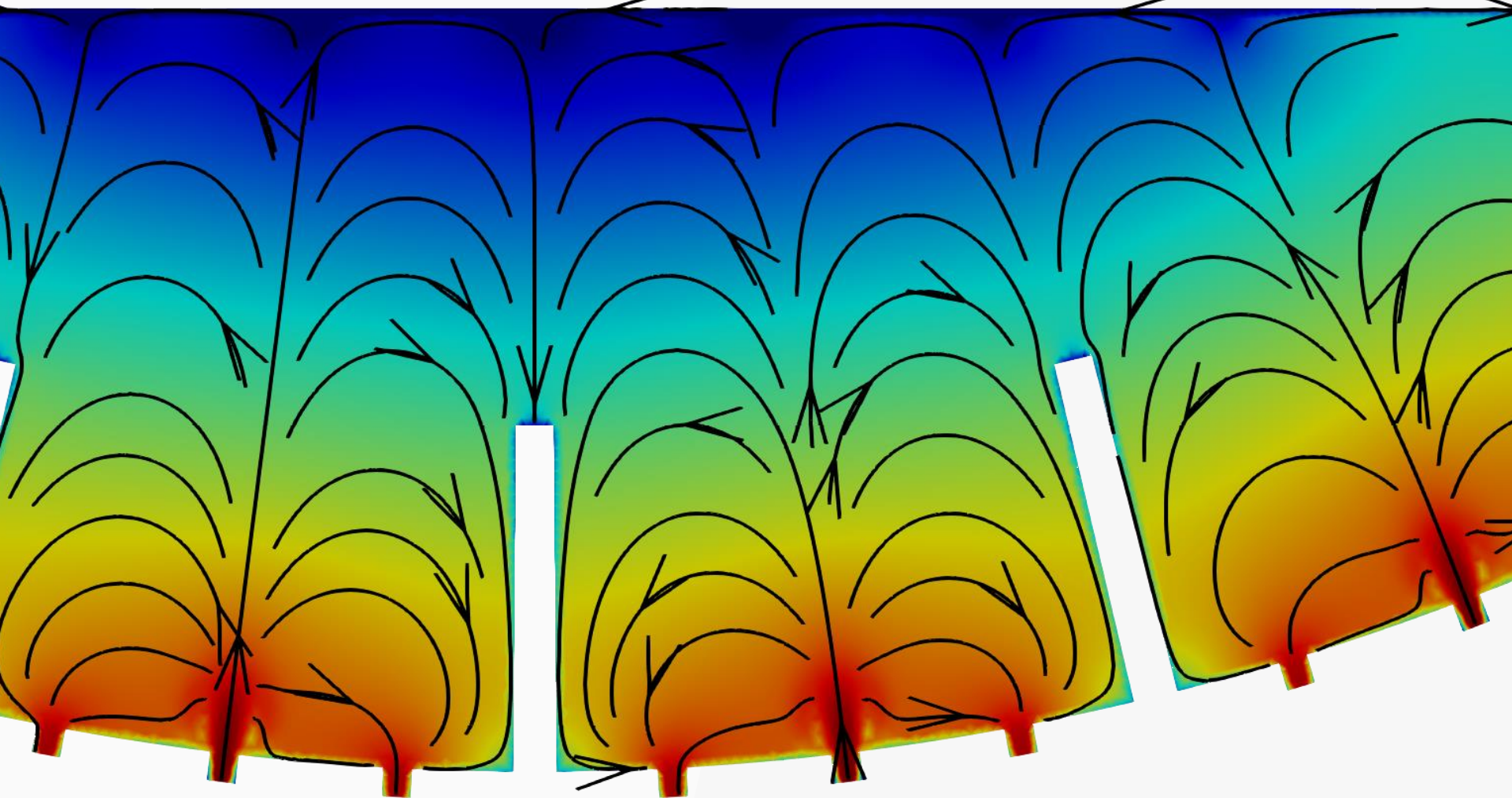
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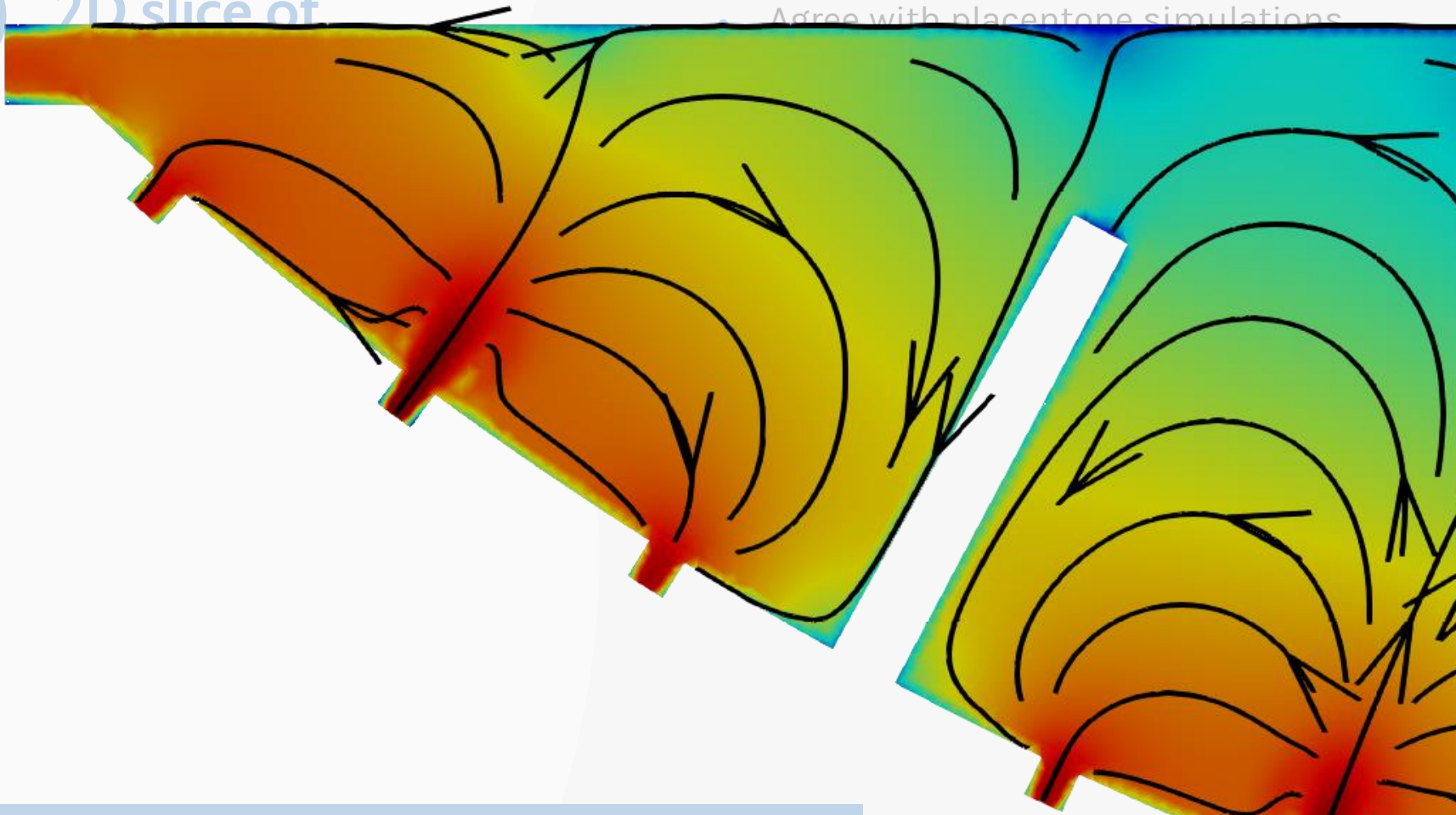






2D slice of

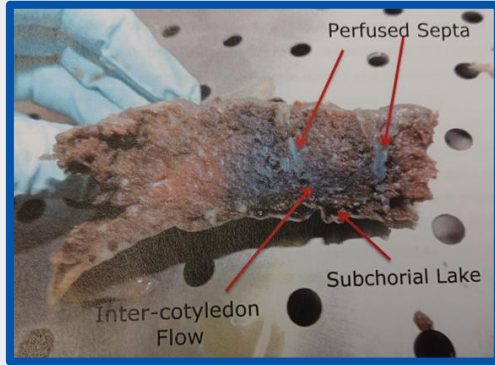
Agree with placentone simulations





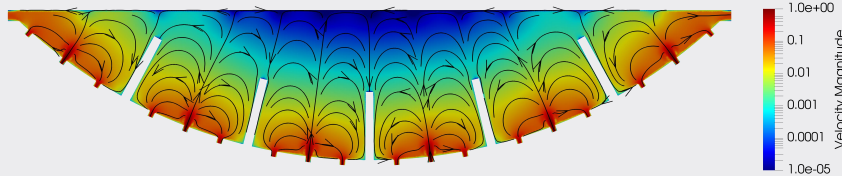
Septal veins

[Lopa Leach]

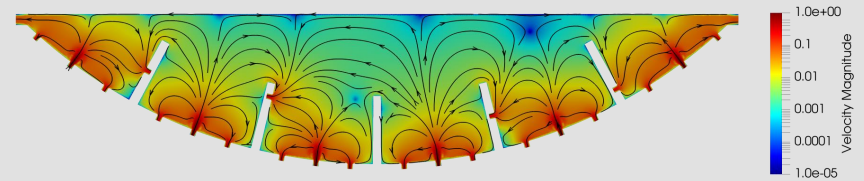


- Reduces slow-moving blood
- Geometrically more accurate
- Uniformity of exchange

No septal veins



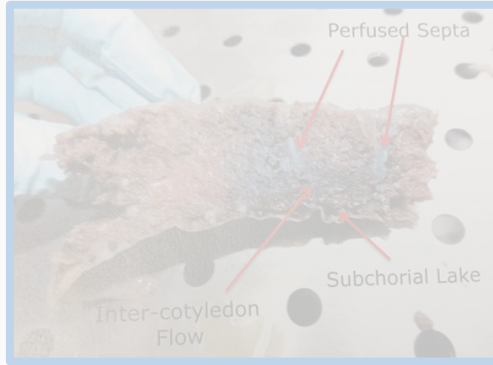
With septal veins





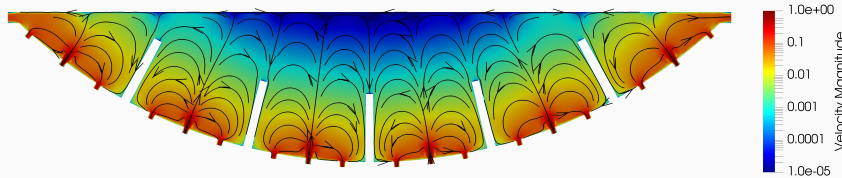
Septal veins

[Lopa Leach]

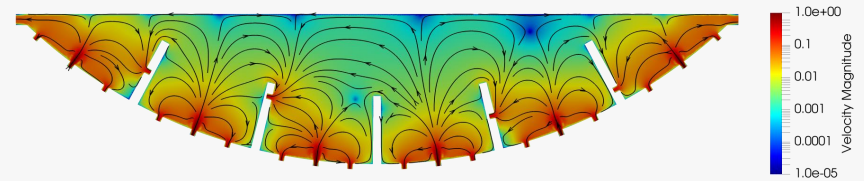


- Reduces slow-moving blood
- Geometrically more accurate
- Uniformity of exchange

No septal veins



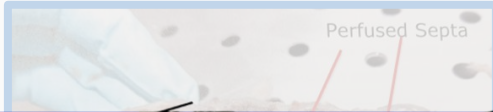
With septal veins



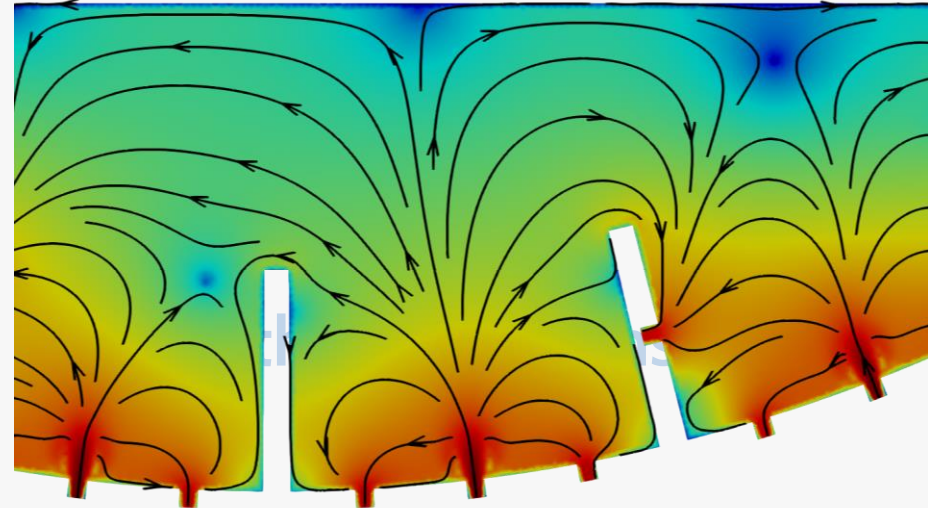
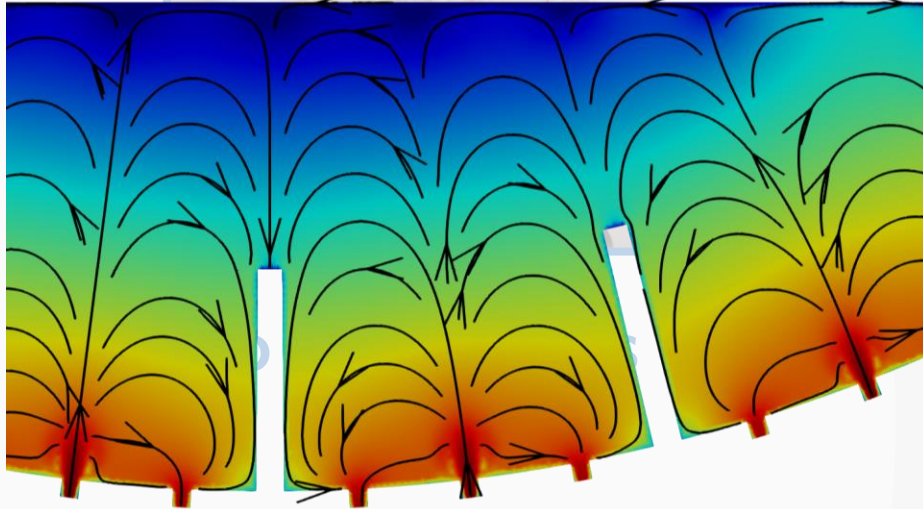


Septal veins

[Lopa Leach]



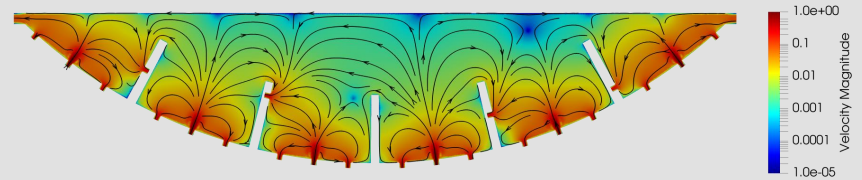
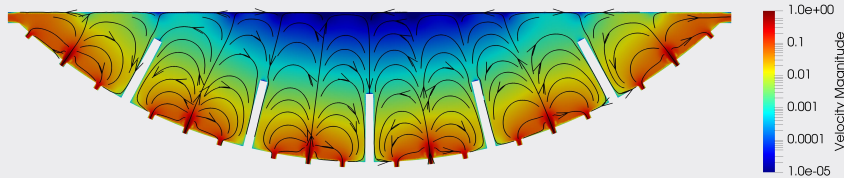
- Reduces slow-moving blood
- Geometrically more accurate
- Uniformity of exchange





Flux transport

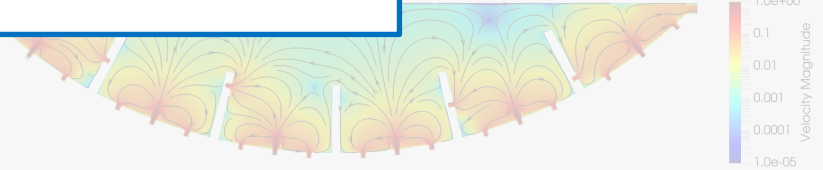
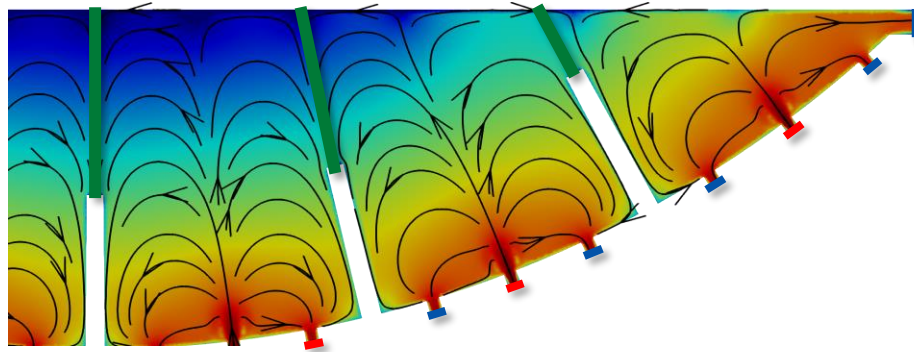
$$\int \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dx$$





Flux transport

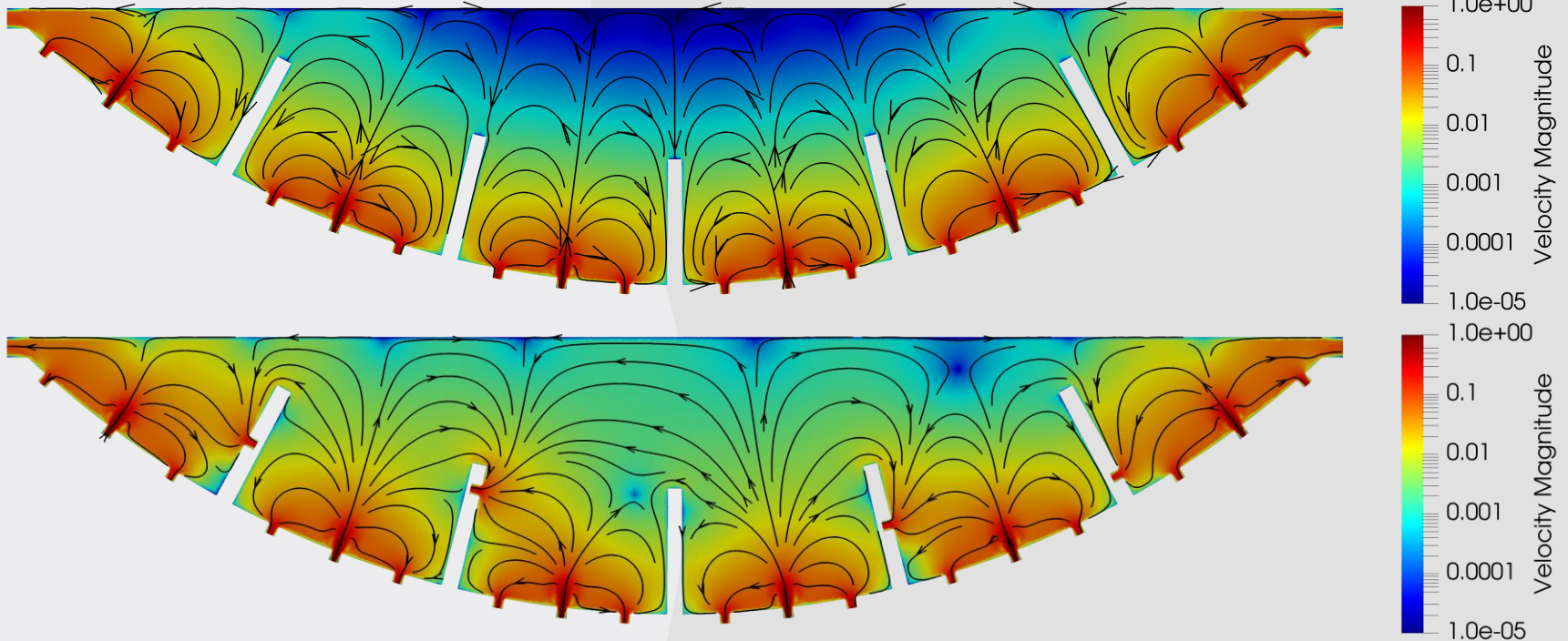
$$\int \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dx$$





Flux transport

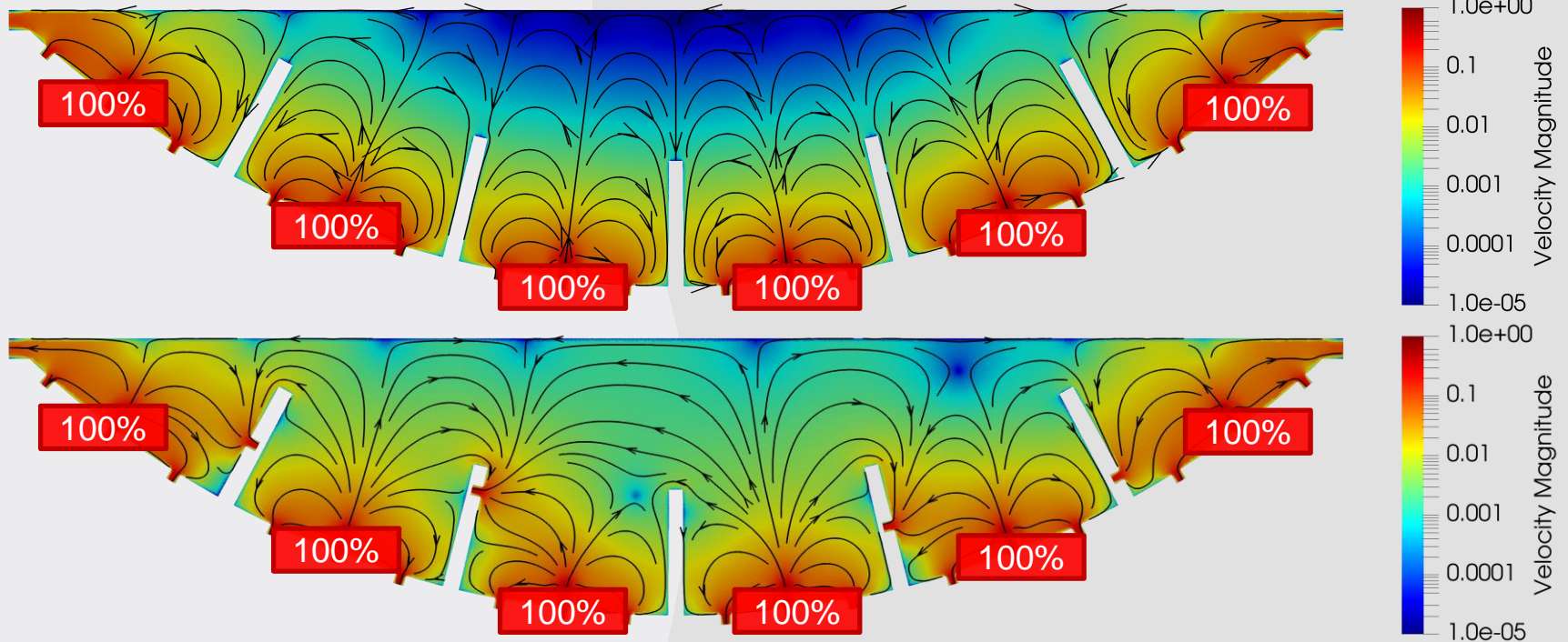
$$\int \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dx$$





Flux transport

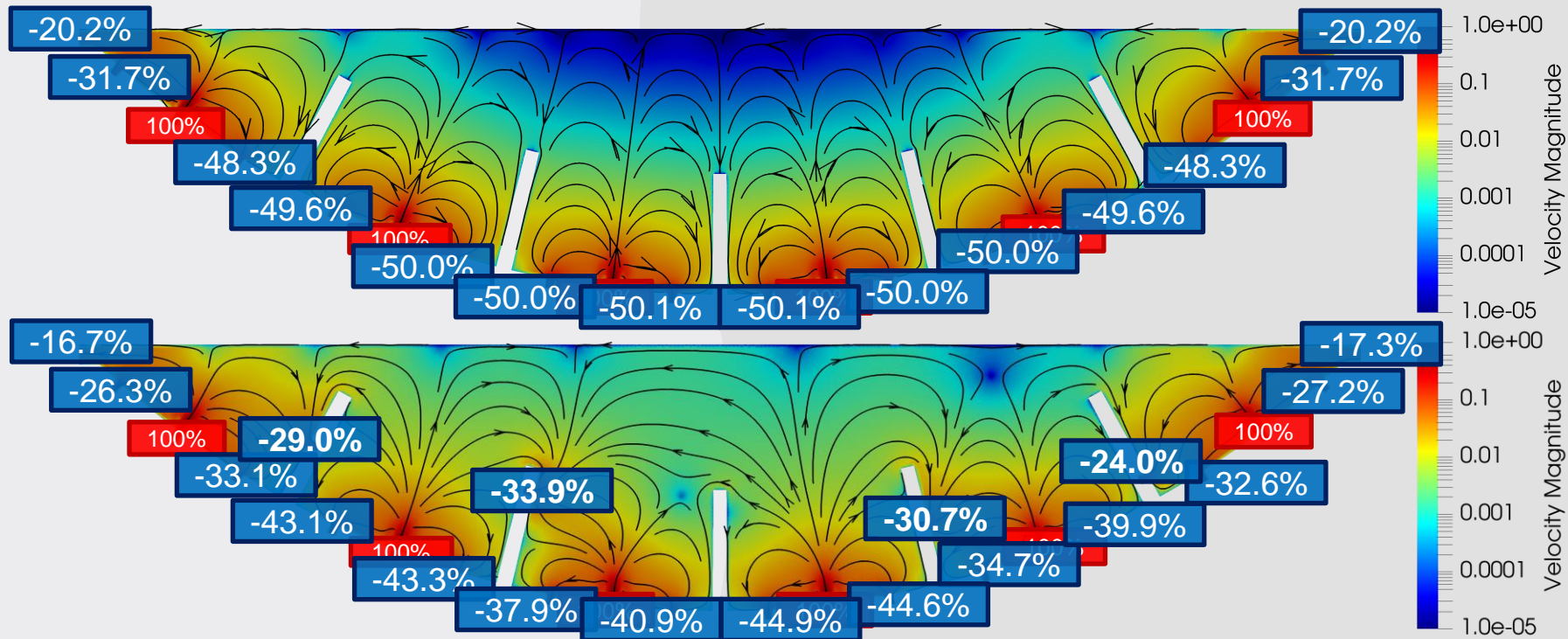
$$\int \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dx$$





Flux transport

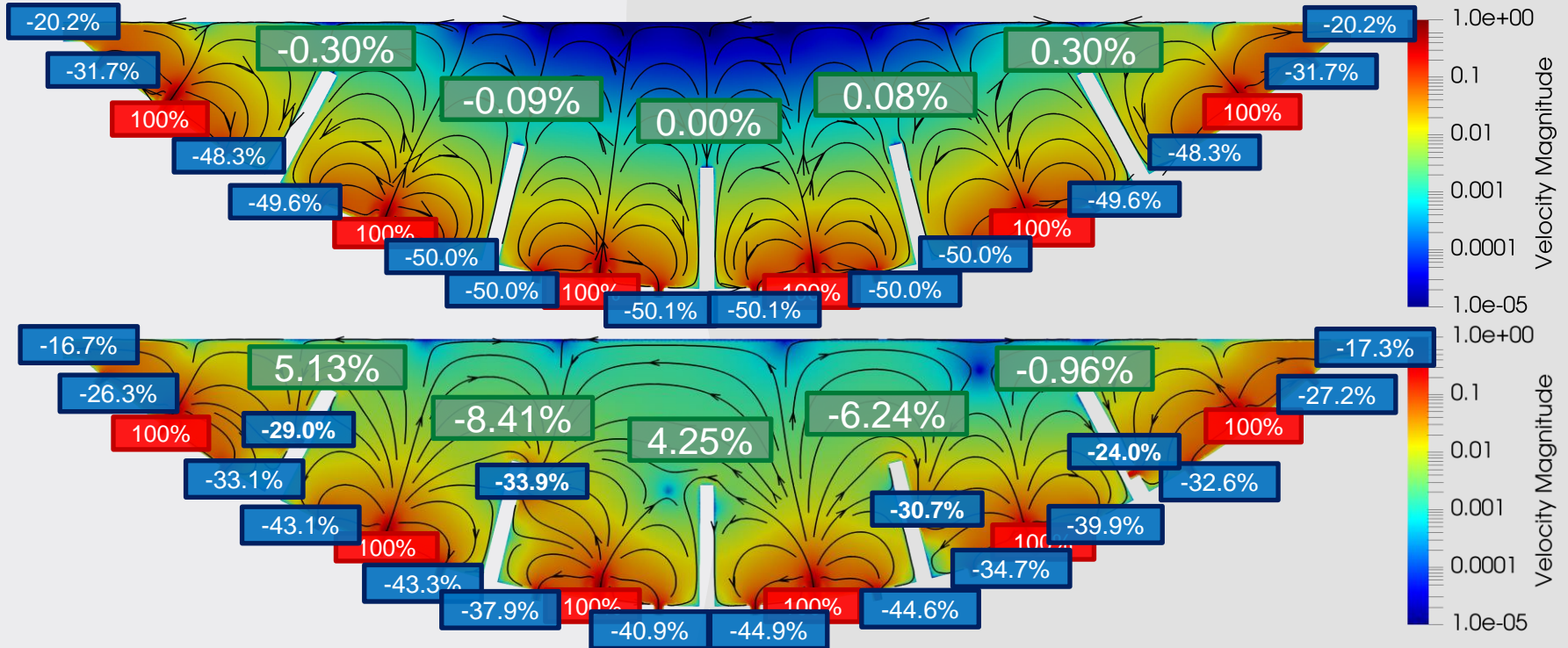
$$\int \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dx$$





Flux transport

$$\int \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dx$$





03

Nutrient transport



Nutrient transport

Reaction-advection-diffusion:

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{Pe} \nabla^2 c + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u}c) + Dm c = f$$

$$c_{\text{inlet}} = 1$$

$$c_{\text{neumann}} \equiv \mathbf{n} \cdot (\mathbf{u} \nabla c) = 0$$

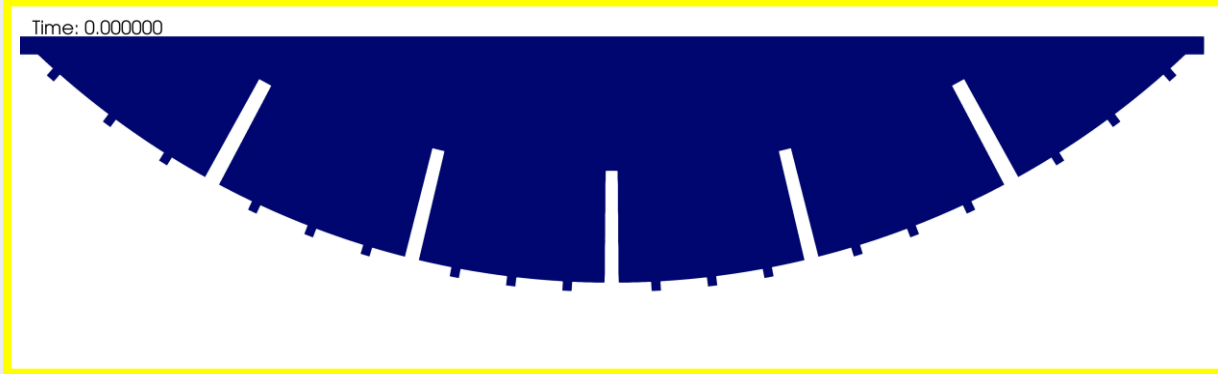
Oxygen parameters:

$$\frac{1}{Pe} \approx 4.17 \times 10^{-7}$$

$$Dm_{\text{max}} \approx 6.67 \times 10^{-3}$$



Nutrient transport



Reaction-advection-diffusion:

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{Pe} \nabla^2 c + \nabla \cdot (uc) + Dm c = f$$

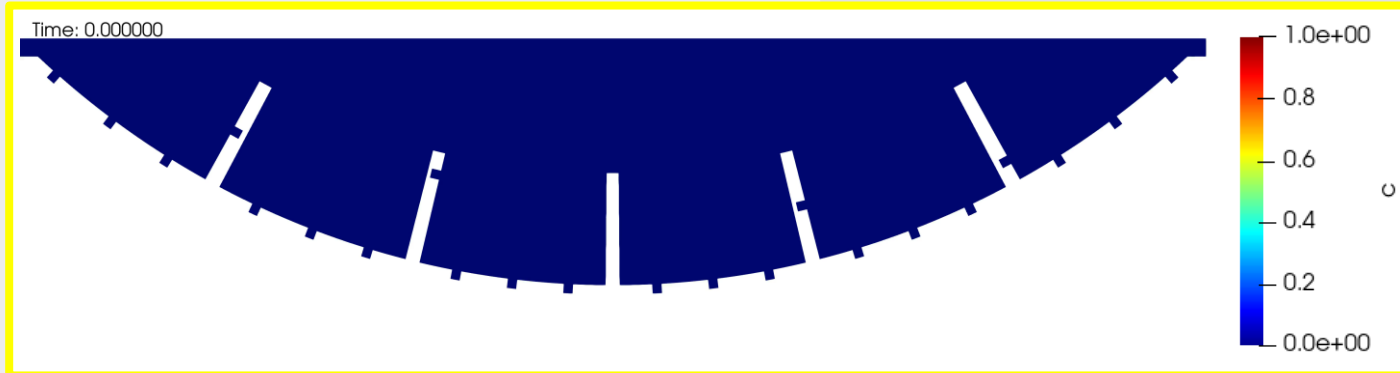
$$c_{\text{inlet}} = 1$$

$$c_{\text{neumann}} \equiv \mathbf{n} \cdot (\mathbf{u} \nabla c) = 0$$

Oxygen parameters:

$$\frac{1}{Pe} \approx 4.17 \times 10^{-7}$$

$$Dm_{\text{max}} \approx 6.67 \times 10^{-3}$$





04

In progress



Next steps



VALIDATION

Compare to MRI data:
particle simulations



3D

Limited 3D simulations:
comparison to 2D



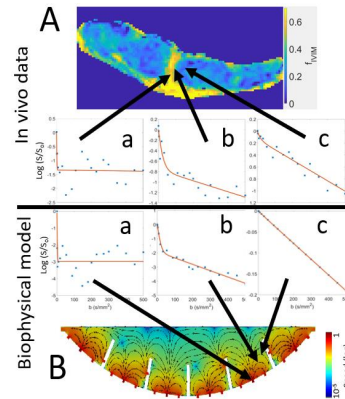
MESH MOVEMENT

Moving boundaries:
utero-placental pump

Next steps



VALIDATION



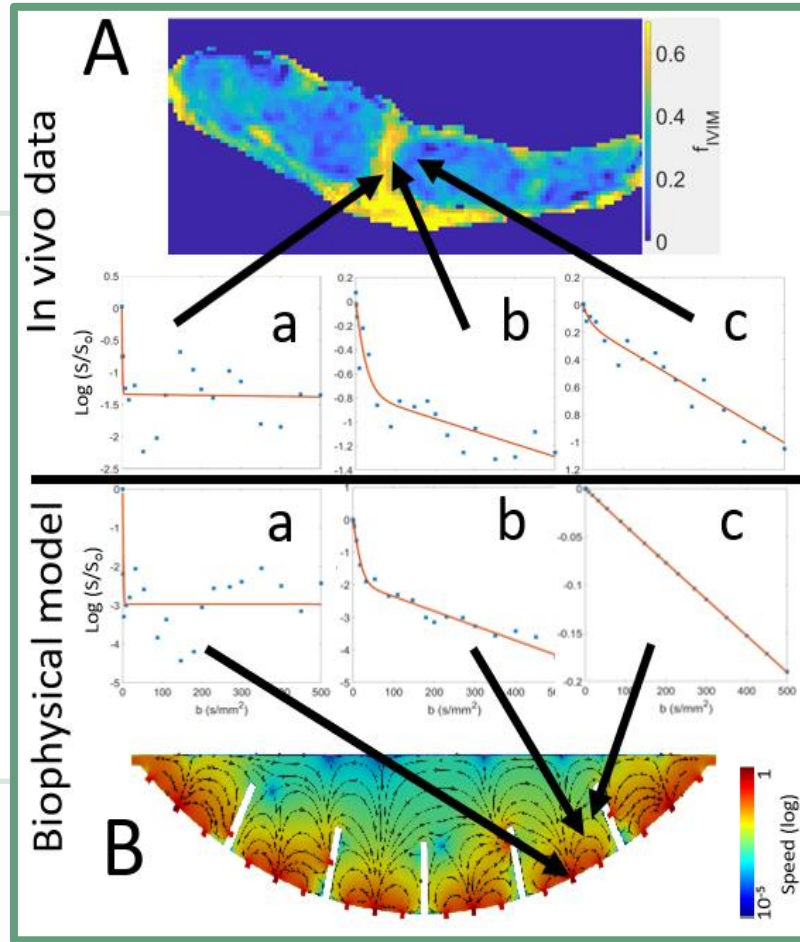
[George Hutchinson,
and Penny Gowland]



SH MOVEMENT

...ing boundaries:
...o-placental pump

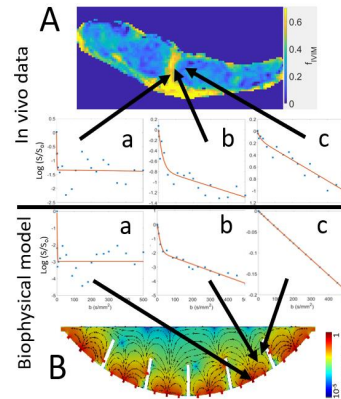
Compare to MRI of
particle simulation



Next steps



VALIDATION



[George Hutchinson,
and Penny Gowland]



SH MOVEMENT

oving boundaries:
o-placental pump

Compare to MRI of
particle simulation



Next steps



VALIDATION

Compare to MRI data:
particle simulations



3D

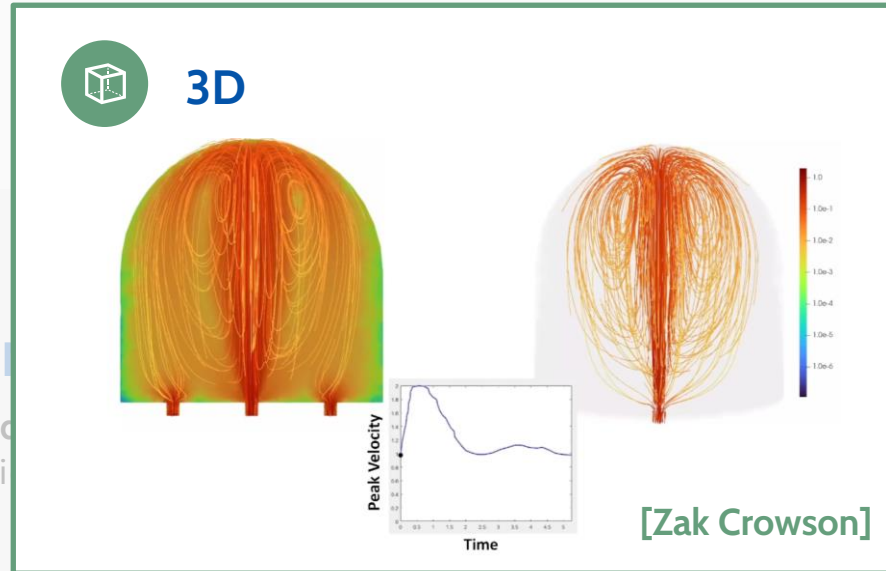
Limited 3D simulations:
comparison to 2D



MESH MOVEMENT

Moving boundaries:
utero-placental pump

Next steps



VALIDATION

Compare to MRI of
particle simulation

SH MOVEMENT

moving boundaries:
o-placental pump



Next steps



VALIDATION

Compare to MRI data:
particle simulations



3D

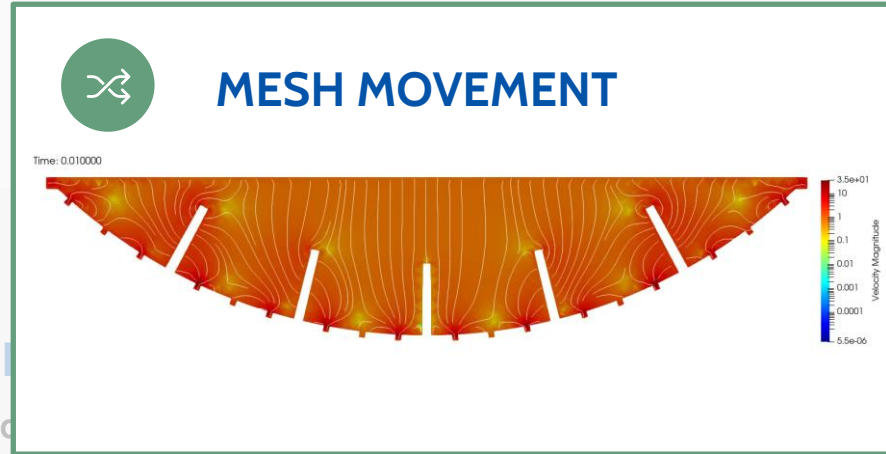
Limited 3D simulations:
comparison to 2D



MESH MOVEMENT

Moving boundaries:
utero-placental pump

Next steps



VALIDATION

Compare to MRI of
particle simulations

comparison to 2D

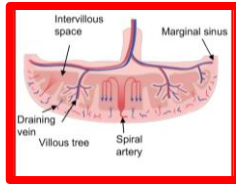
MESH MOVEMENT

moving boundaries:
utero-placental pump

Summary

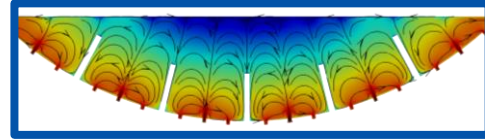
01

Introduction



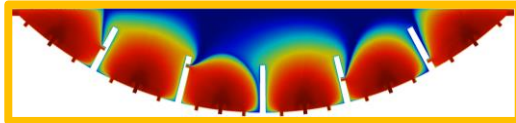
02

Blood flow



03

Nutrient transport




04


In progress



Questions?

Thanks for your attention!

 <https://adam.blakey.family>

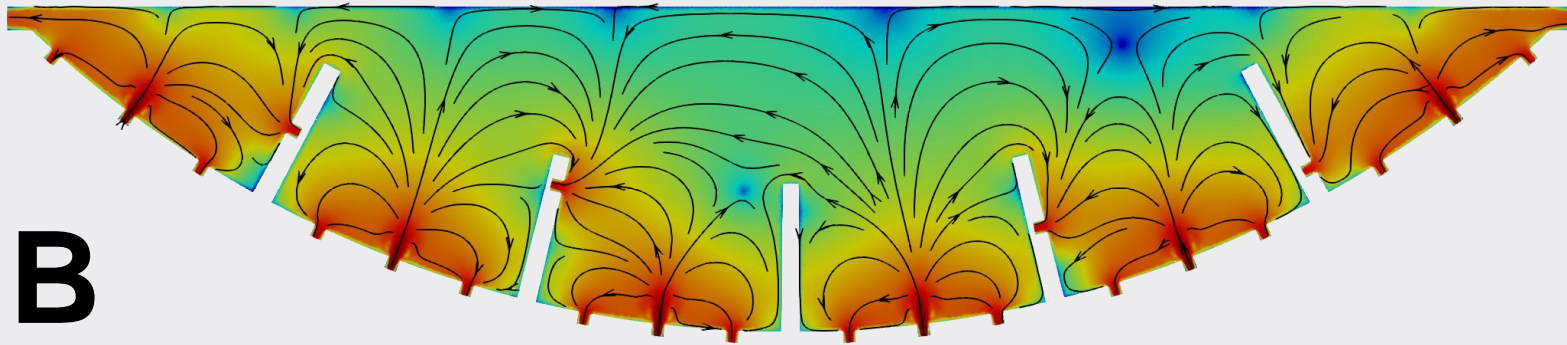
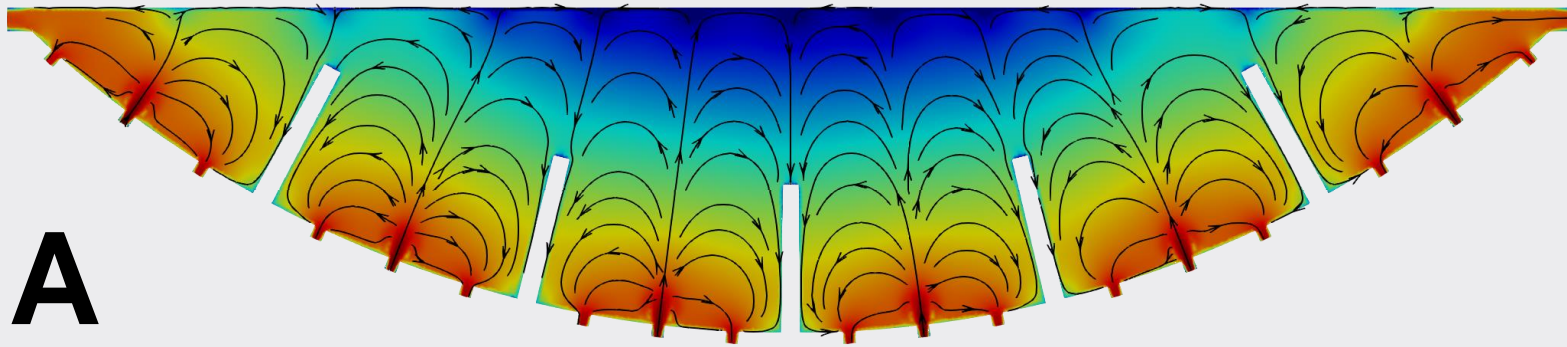
 [@amblakey](https://twitter.com/amblakey)

 adam.blakey@nott.ac.uk

05

Additional material

Side-by-side flow with and without septal veins



Nondimensionalised equations with parameters

Navier-Stokes + Darcy:

$$-\nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \text{Re} \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u}) + \frac{1}{\text{Dr}} \mathbf{u} + \nabla p = \mathbf{f}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{u}_{\text{inlet}} = \frac{(R^2 - r^2)}{R^2} \hat{\mathbf{y}}$$

$$\mathbf{u}_{\text{wall}} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\mathbf{u}_{\text{neumann}} \equiv (\nabla \mathbf{u} - p \underline{\underline{I}}) \cdot \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\text{Re} = 1 \times 10^3$$

$$\frac{1}{\text{Dr}_{\text{max}}} = 1.6 \times 10^5$$

$$\frac{1}{\text{Pe}} \approx 4.17 \times 10^{-7}$$

$$\text{Dm}_{\text{max}} \approx 6.67 \times 10^{-3}$$

Reaction-advection-diffusion:

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{\text{Pe}} \nabla^2 c + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u} c) + \text{Dm} c = f$$

$$c_{\text{inlet}} = 1$$

$$c_{\text{neumann}} \equiv \mathbf{n} \cdot (\mathbf{u} \nabla c) = 0$$

$$\text{Re} := \rho L U / \mu$$

$$\text{Dr} := k / L^2$$

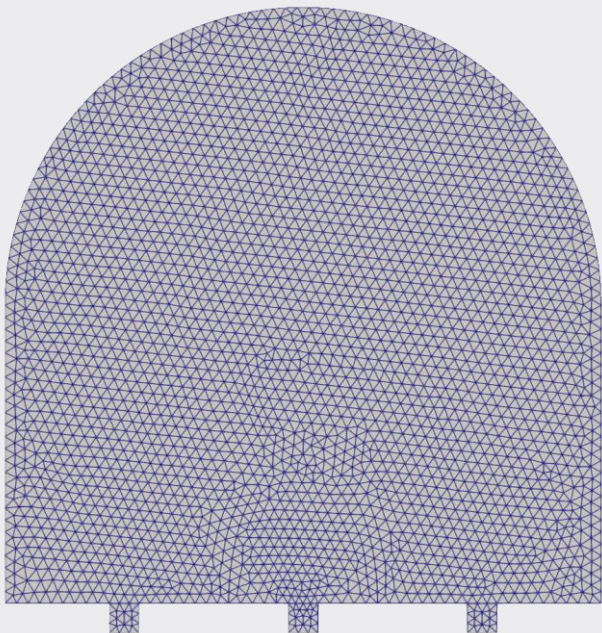
$$\text{Pe} := U L / D$$

$$\text{Dm} := R L / U$$

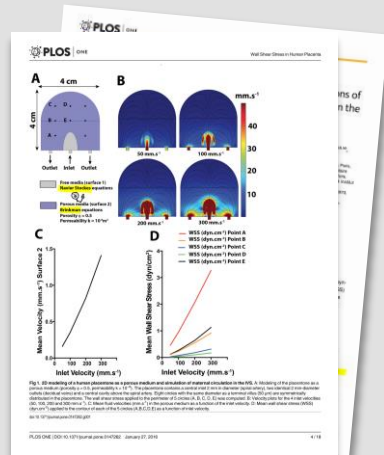
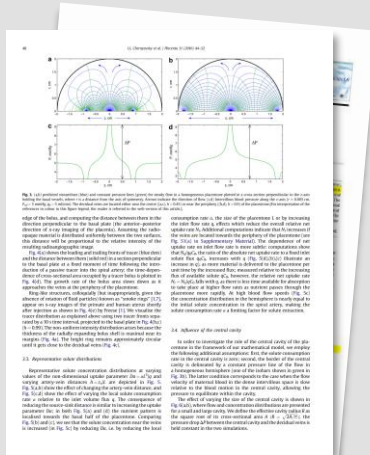


Single placentone

- Qualitatively matches other models
- Assumes no 'spilling'
- Exponential fluid slow down



#elements = 5 736



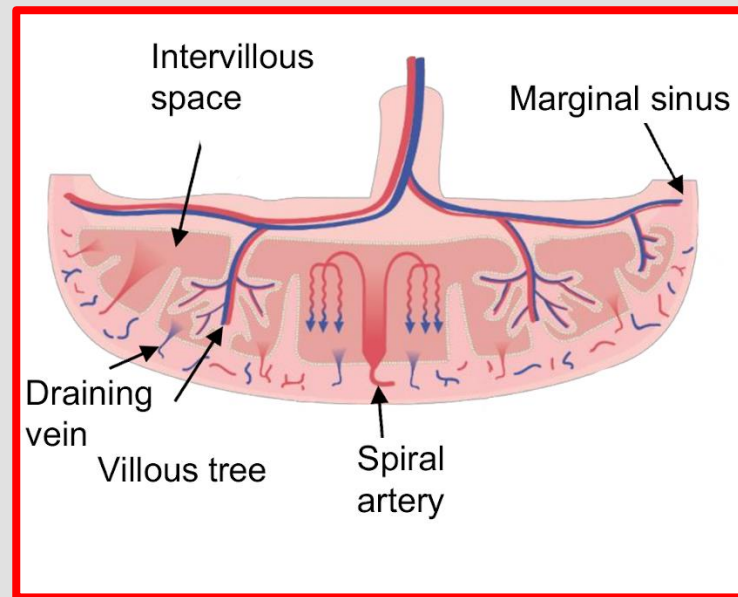
[Chernyavsky et al., 2010]

[Lecarpentier et al., 2016]



2D slice of whole placenta

- Agree with placentone simulations
- Show 'spilling'
- Include marginal sinuses



[Dellschaft et al., 2020]

#elements = 36 802