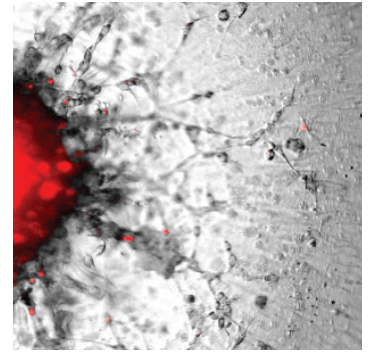
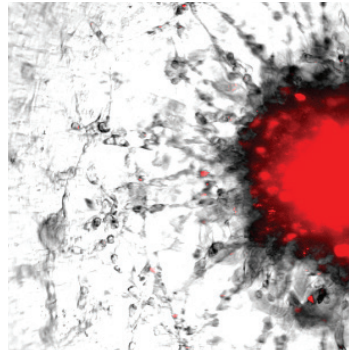


CORNING



# Corning® Spheroid Microplates take the guesswork out of 3D cultures

5 questions with Brad Larson,  
Principal Scientist Applications Group,  
BioTek Instruments, Inc.

**Q: Are you new to 3D cell cultures? What has your experience been so far?**

**A:** I've been working with 3D cultured cells for a few years. I started with the hanging drop method, but, it's really easy to accidentally make them fall and wreck your experiment. I've done that more than once.

**Q: Why are you excited about Corning Spheroid Microplates?**

**A:** The new microplates just make things easier. Knowing when the spheroids are ready for assaying, for example. Different cell types take differing amounts of time to aggregate – sometimes days. With certain culturing methods, the large distance between the height of the spheroids in relation to the bottom of the plate can make it difficult to accurately focus on the cells, so you don't always know when they're ready to be used in an assay. Others don't maintain the spheroid in a consistent position in the well, also making analysis of your experiment more difficult. Because Corning Spheroid Microplates have a normal U-bottom shaped well, spheroids are always in the center of the well and at a height that is easy to focus on, so it's easy to place them on the imager and see what's going on.

**Q: That sounds promising. Any other reasons?**

**A:** The fact that the microplates are compatible with popular imagers, like BioTek's Cytation™ 3 and 5, means you don't have to transfer your cells to assay them. There are fewer steps, less chance of harming the culture and less cost per run. For people who are new to 3D, this makes it easy for them to feel comfortable. It lowers the bar.

**Q: Are there other differences about these microplates that will matter to researchers?**

**A:** Absolutely. The shape of the well means all the cells aggregate into a single spheroid of consistent size at the bottom of the well. With flat well plates, you can get multiple spheroids of varying sizes per well. That variability makes it difficult to get consistent results.

**Q: How do you see Spheroid Microplates advancing science?**

**A:** We're very excited about advances in oncology. Not only is it easy to grow the spheroids, but they can be used to look at tumor metastasis in a more *in vivo*-like way. By simply adding an appropriate Corning® Matrigel® Matrix, researchers can then introduce metastatic drugs to start an invasion assay. That greatly simplifies the process for testing new molecules that may lead to a cure.



Learn more about Corning Spheroid Microplates at [corning.com/spheroid](https://www.corning.com/spheroid)