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[9] Synthetic holography with spatial light modulators for biophotonics applications

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Optical wavefront shaping with spatial light modulators (SLMs), such as deformable mirrors, digital micro-mirror devices or liquid crystal (LC) panels, has become a powerful tool in Biophotonics. “Holographic optical tweezers” are well-known and widespread, but an SLM can also be integrated into optical imaging systems, making the microscope programmable and adaptable with respect to the needs of specific samples. A particular strength of the approach with programmable phase masks is the possibility to multiplex, which means that one can ‘pack’ several tasks into one computer-generated hologram. Wavefront shaping with SLMs also enables targeting structures for optogenetical stimulation of neurons in 3D, or imaging into deeper depth in scattering media.

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