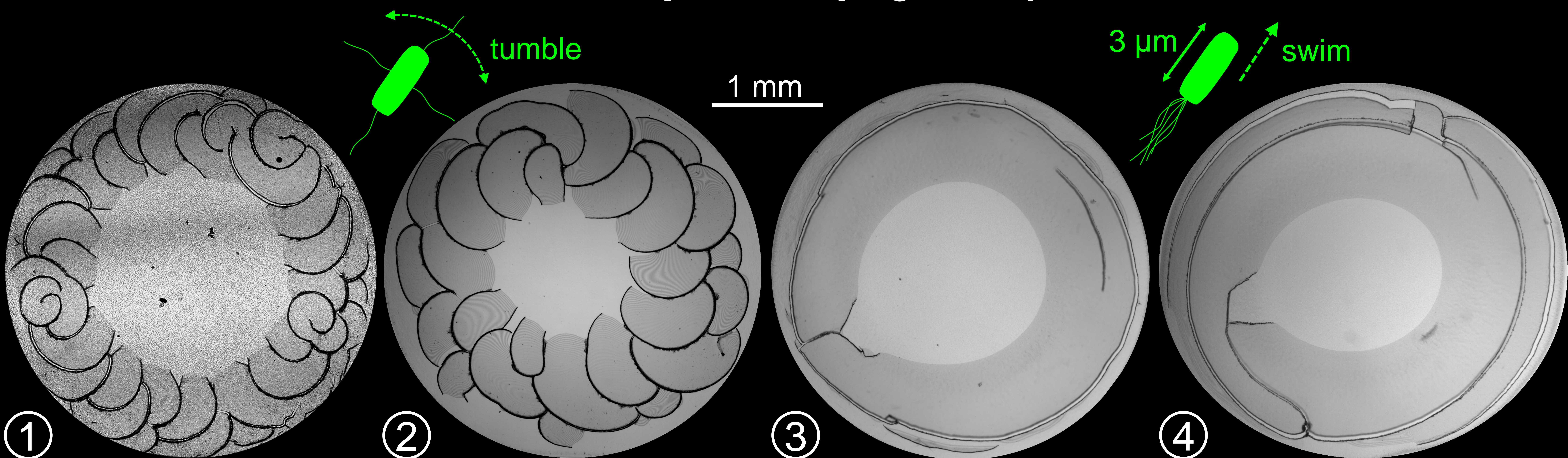


Curved crack patterns by drying *bacteria* suspensions

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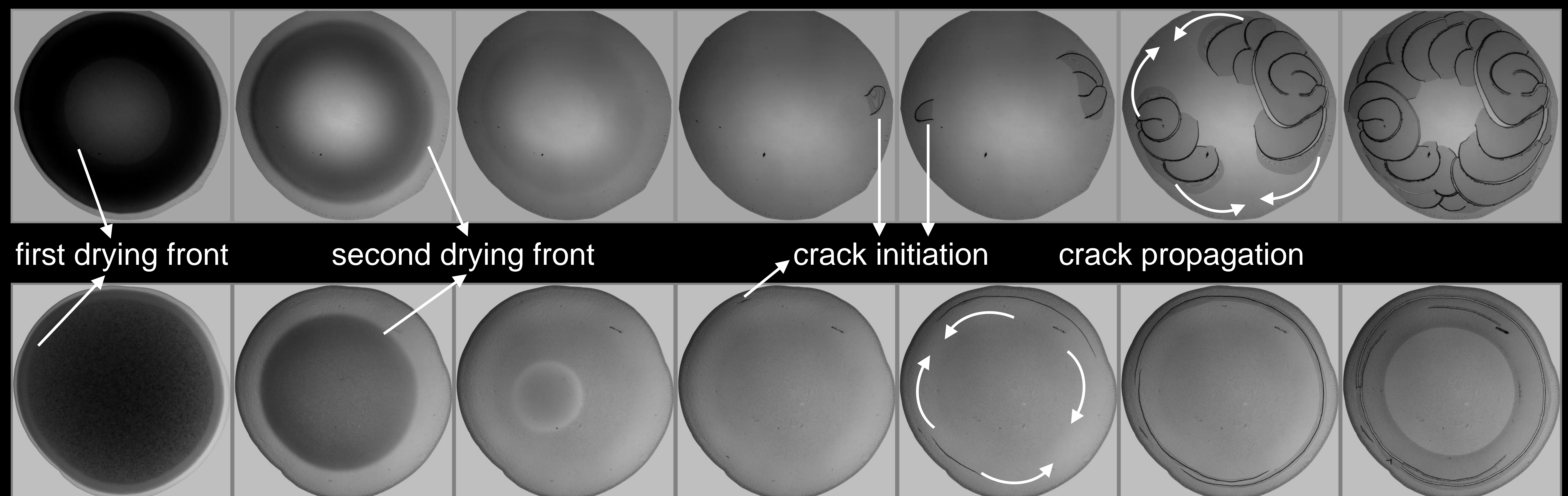
Bacteria mobility alters drying crack patterns!



spiral-like cracks in dried *E. coli tumbler* drops

circular cracks in dried *E. coli swimmer* drops

Particulate suspensions are prone to crack as the tensile stress in the film builds up when undergoing drying. In contrast to straight cracks in dried colloidal films, two new types curved crack patterns are found by drying drops of bacteria *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) in water on glass slides. (1, 3: dilute; 2, 4: concentrated)



Spiral-like cracks are observed in dried *E. coli tumbler* drops, whereas dried *E. coli swimmer* drops display **circular** cracks. These results suggest bacteria mobility could alter the direction of tensile stress development, leading cracks to propagate in different directions.