



**SUPPLEMENTARY FIG. S4.** DIC micrographs of cell alignment at day 7. **(a)** Representative DIC images taken in three local windows from three different experiments at day 7 showing the orientation of cells on the LDDCS. **(b)** Representative DIC images taken in three local windows from three different experiments at day 7 on the UDDCS. **(c)** Representative DIC images taken in three local windows from three different experiments at day 7 on the glass coverslip. DIC, differential interference contrast; LDDCS, loaded, dense, disorganized collagen substrate; UDDCS, unloaded, dense, disorganized collagen substrate.