



**S5 Fig. Effect of circumference size on pattern formation.** (A) The growth rate has positive values for wavenumbers within the interval  $(0, q_m)$ , implying that these modes are unstable. Since the wavenumber is a function of  $L$ , represented as  $q = 2n\pi/L$ , the value  $q_m$  defines the minimum length,  $L_n^{min} = 2n\pi/q_m$ , at which the  $n^{\text{th}}$  Fourier mode becomes unstable. Using the parameter values in S2 Appendix Table 1, we have determined  $L_1^{min} \sim 20 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $L_2^{min} \sim 40 \mu\text{m}$ , and so on. As  $L$  increases (which means  $q$  decreases), the type of instability changes from oscillatory to stationary, as indicated by the kink in the growth curve. For all  $L > L_1^{min}$ , however, the result of the simulations is an oscillating pattern. (B) A comparison of the measured perimeters of cells showing first-order oscillatory patterns (Osc m1), second-order oscillatory patterns (Osc m2), and first-order stationary patterns (Pol m1). The red lines denote the respective median values:  $L(\text{Osc\_m1}) = 38$  (36 to 41)  $\mu\text{m}$ ,  $n = 31$ ;  $L(\text{Osc\_m2}) = 48$  (42 to 51)  $\mu\text{m}$ ,  $n = 15$ ;  $L(\text{Pol\_m1}) = 43$  (40 to 45)  $\mu\text{m}$ ,  $n = 9$ , (median, interquartile range); \* means  $P < 0.01$ , while n.s. means not significant.