

# Real-time, Autonomous Biosurveillance for Vector-borne Viral Pathogens (SMART Traps)

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Sandia National Laboratories



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**



**BSVE**  
BIOSURVEILLANCE  
ECOSYSTEM

# Project Overview

- Overall goal is to develop and field-test an *autonomous sensor* to detect presence of mosquito-borne viruses with daily reporting capabilities.
- Data from sensors will be integrated into BSVE along with mapping & visualization software and predictive models.
- Partnership between Sandia National Laboratories
  - Systems engineering, assays, statistical modeling
- ...and UC Davis Center for Vectorborne Diseases (CVEC)
  - Virology, entomology, and ecology of vectorborne disease
  - Integrated with public health and vector control districts in CA

# Current approaches to arbovirus surveillance

- Low-tech sample collection
  - Manual skilled labor (mosquito sorting, etc)
  - Sophisticated molecular assays
- 1-2 week turnaround  
>\$20/sample

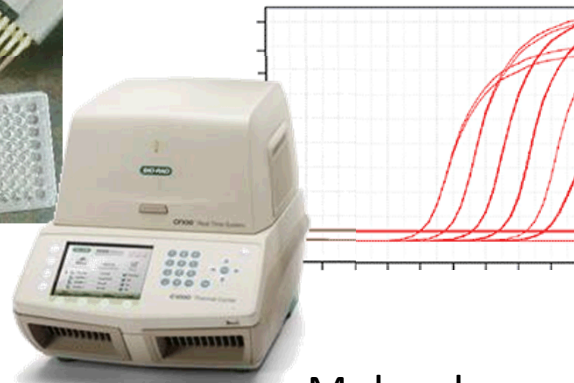
Mosquito collection



Mosquito sorting



Sentinel animals



Laboratory processing

Molecular assays

# Sugar-feeding as an alternative for viral detection: Hall-Mendelin et al (2010)

- Developed a novel system that:
  - Captured mosquitoes with updraft technology
  - Presented honey-soaked nucleic acid preservation cards for sugar feeding
- Result
  - WNV was detected on 83% (25/30) of the sugar substrates fed on by WNV+ mosquitoes.
  - The viral RNA remained stable on the substrate for up to 1 week.
  - Still requires extensive laboratory processing & qRT-PCR to detect virus

Figure 1



## Slide 4

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2

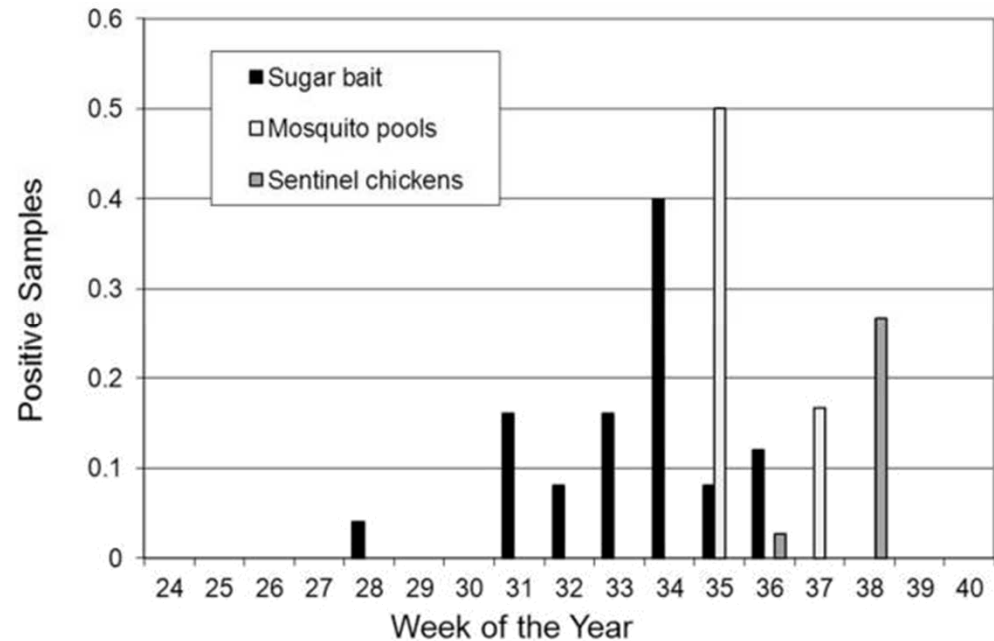
This data, while nice, is unnecessary. Summarize their results in 1 bullet

Lark Coffey, 11/2/2015

# Sugar baiting tested for WNV detection in California (Coachella valley; arid)



- A passive sugar bait, made from a cryovial and dental wick with blue-colored syrup and a floral attractant
- tested by UC Davis for WNV surveillance in southern California
- Requires laboratory processing to recover viral RNA for qRT-PCR testing



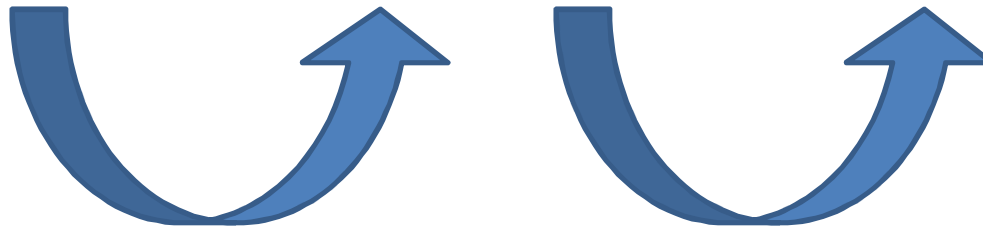
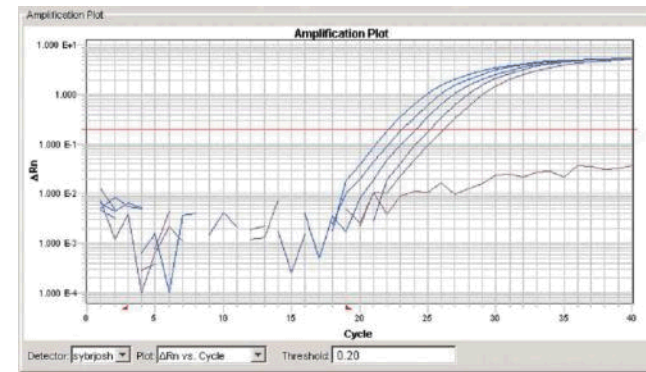
- Sugar baits were positive for WNV *before* mosquito pools or sentinel chickens
- Research is ongoing by UC Davis to compare passive sugar baits to CO<sub>2</sub> baited traps for WNV surveillance in California.



# Ongoing Sugar bait testing at UC Davis (Sacramento/Yolo County, suburban/rural)

5

- Baits comprising sugar-soaked cotton wick scented with Plumeria spray
- Placed in field in locations near (but not too near) to CO<sub>2</sub> baited EVS traps
- Returned to lab for processing (RNA extraction/ qRT-PCR) to evaluate coincidence of WNV detection between sugar baits and traps



## Slide 6

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**4** As before, write only "Aim 1" and then a methodology heading.

Lark Coffey, 11/2/2015

**5** You need to state the lower limit of detection not a range.

Here you need to add Sarah's data from Lothrop showing that mosquitoes expectorate low doses.

Lark Coffey, 11/2/2015



Aim 1: Comparing  
sugar baits and EVS  
traps

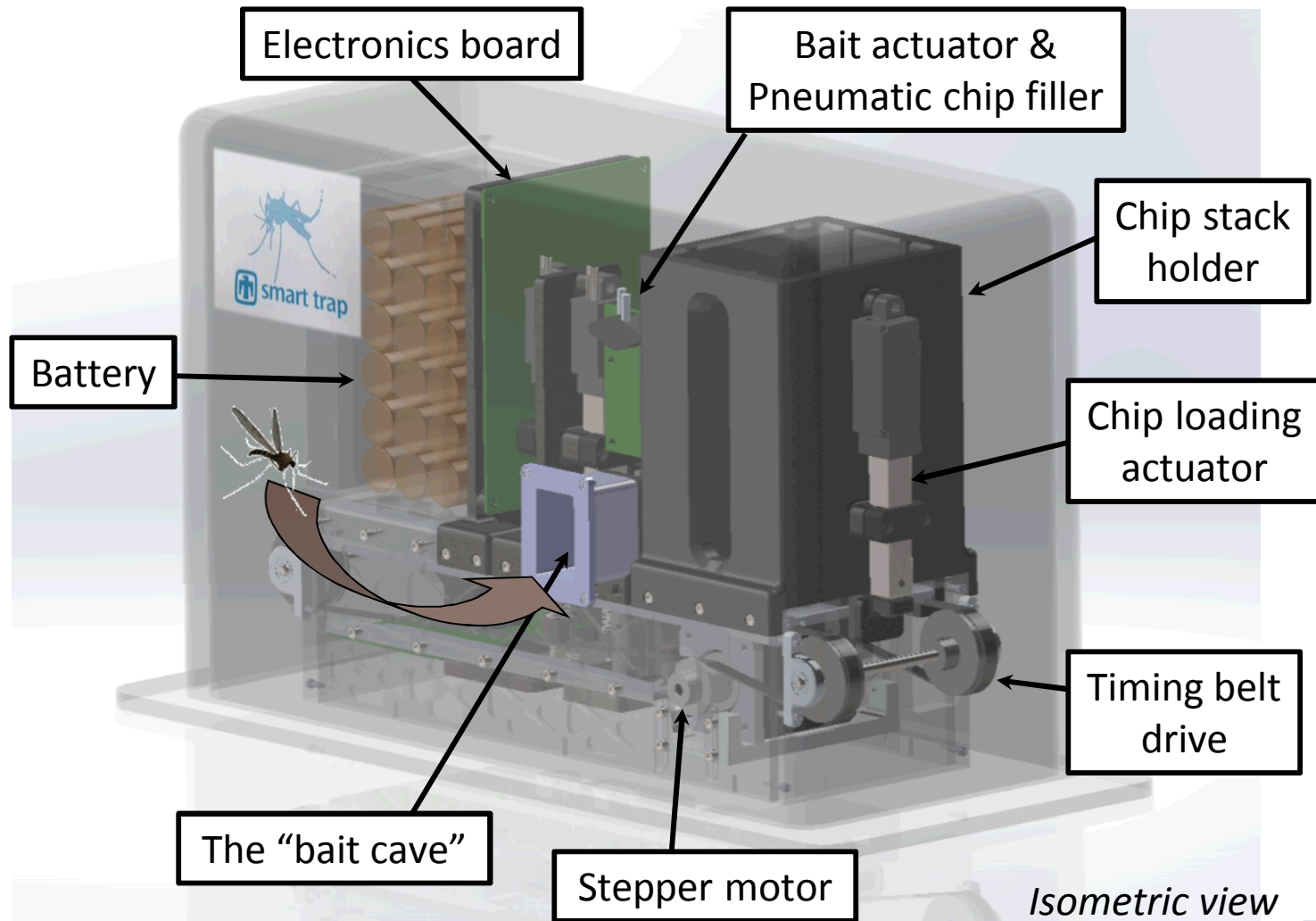
	Sugar Bait	EVS Traps
<b>Requires CO<sub>2</sub> and/or “smelly” water</b>	No ✓	Yes
<b>Requires Fans / Batteries</b>	No ✓	Yes
<b>Positives / \$1000 cost</b>	4.18 ✓	0.8
<b>Field personnel training requirements</b>	Minimal (< 5 min.) ✓	Extensive
<b>Site visits per week</b>	1 ✓	2
<b>Duration of active detection</b>	1 week ✓	1 day
<b>Estimates transmission</b>	Yes ✓	No
<b>Estimates abundance</b>	No	Yes ✓
<b>Quantification of test results</b>	No	Yes (with MIA) ✓
<b>Species identification</b>	No	Yes ✓

## Aim 2: Do sugar baits and EVS traps simultaneously detect WNV activity?

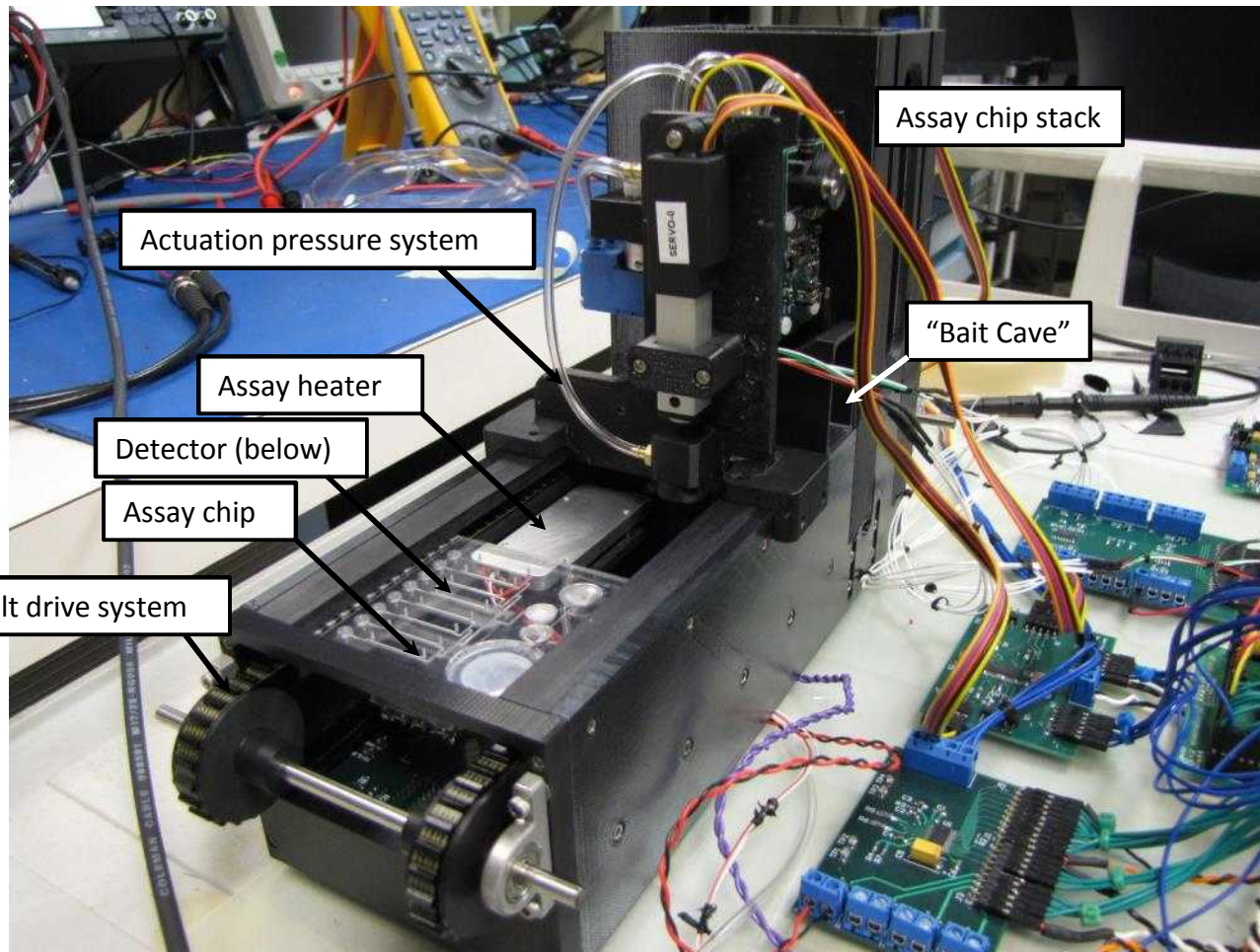
	EVS Trap WNV+	EVS Trap WNV-	Total
Sugar Bait WNV+	12	21	33
Sugar Bait WNV-	43	67	110
Total	55	88	143

- Cohen's Kappa statistic
  - Range: -1 (complete disagreement) to 1 (complete agreement))
  - $k = -0.022$
  - Instances of simultaneous detection occurred by chance.
  - Early season and arid site detection disagree most.

# The smart trap automates sugar baiting and molecular assay for viral RNA



# Smart Trap hardware

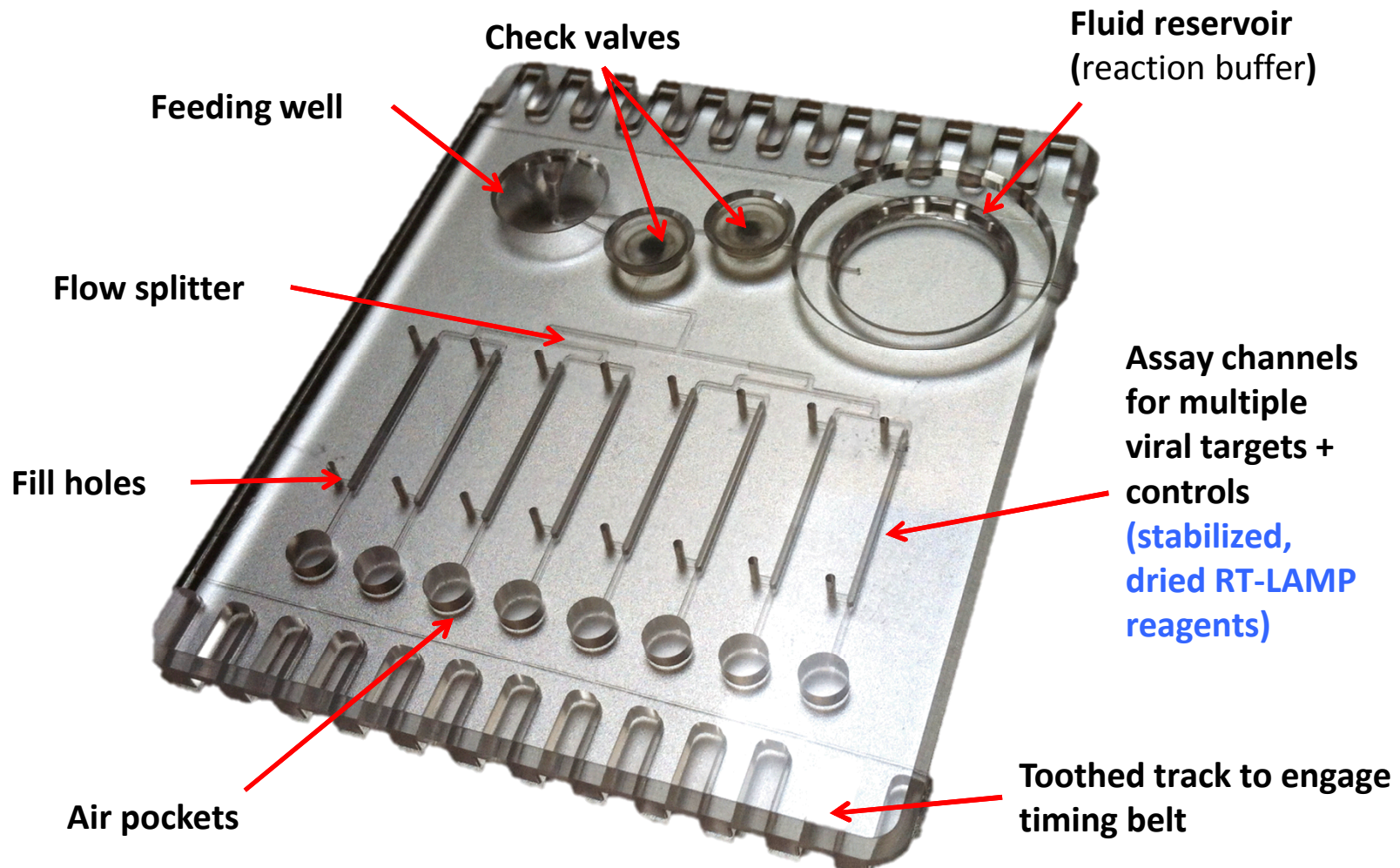


Electronics – now on a single board, but not shown here to allow better view of components

Not shown: system case and battery pack, normally positioned above where assay chip is situated



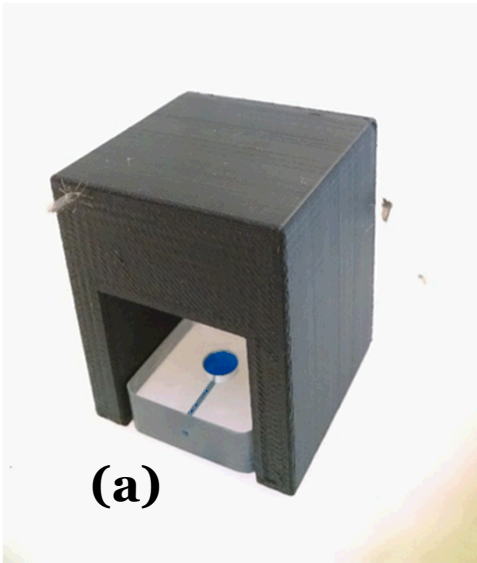
# Smart Trap Assay Chip



# Mosquito feeding from baits

Previous sugar baiting: sugar-soaked cotton balls/wicks (with poor recovery of virus)

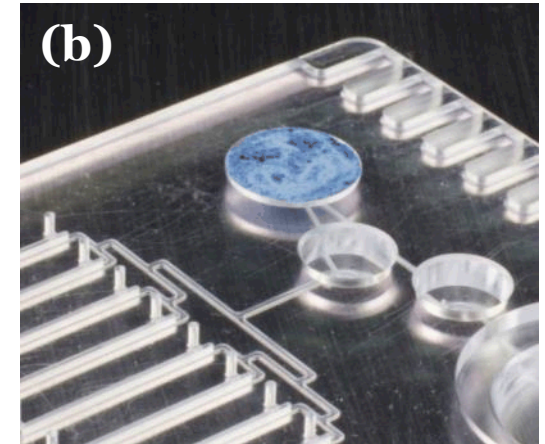
Smart Trap achieves total recovery from either (a) liquid-phase baits, or  
(b) dried sugar films/spun sugar



“Bait cave” with blue-colored sugar bait



Blue food coloring allows identification of mosquitoes that fed on bait

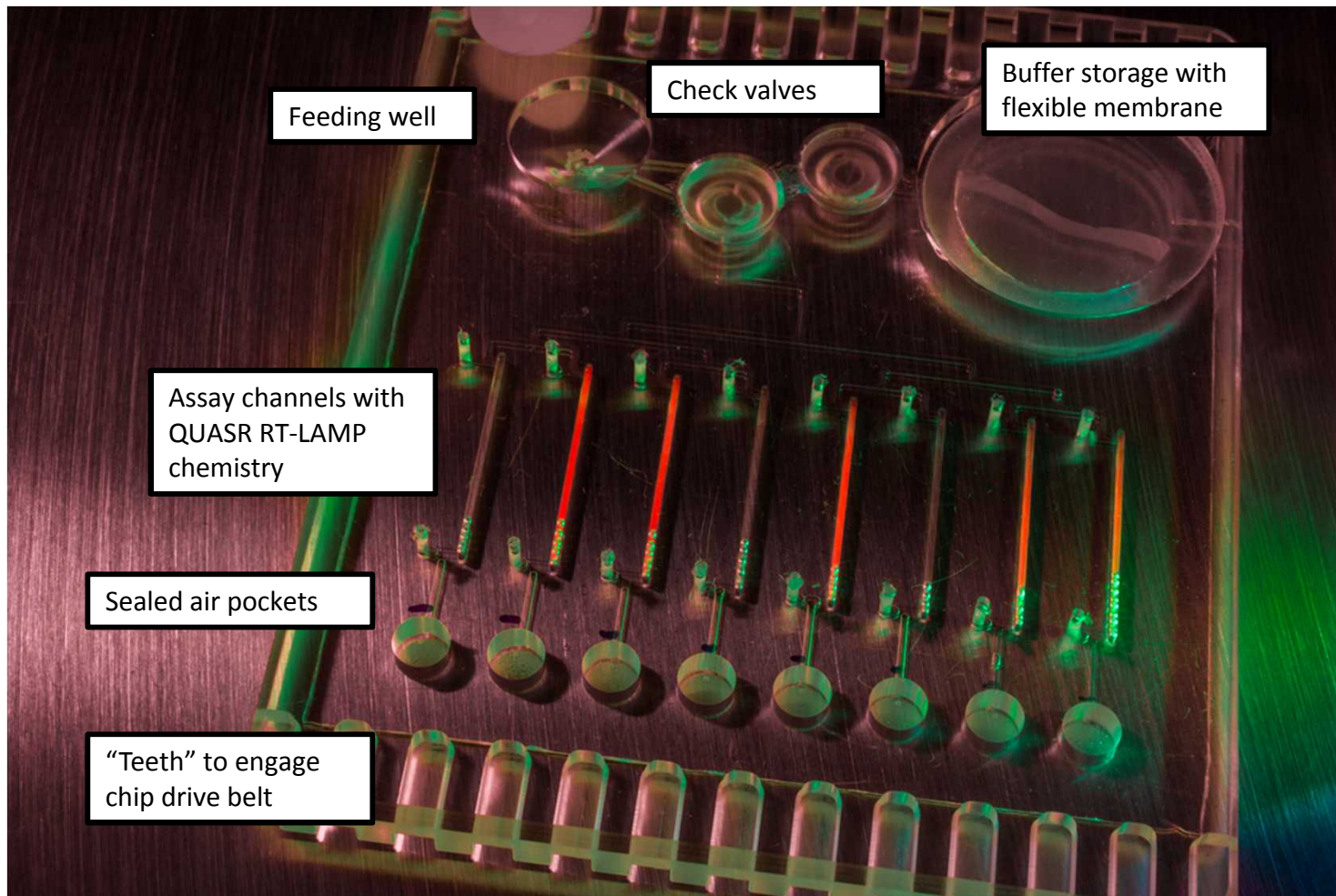


Scented, polymer-modified spun sugar as a stable attractive bait for mosquitoes

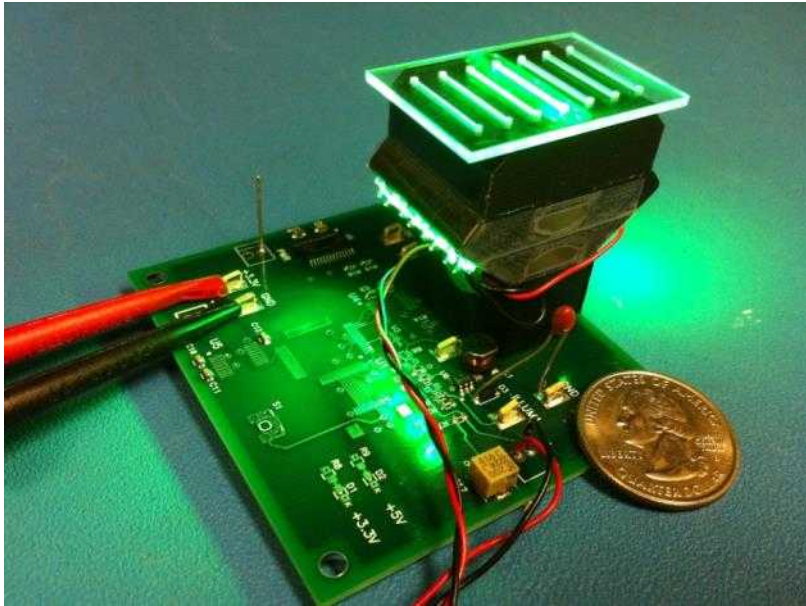


# Mosquito sugar feeding assay chip

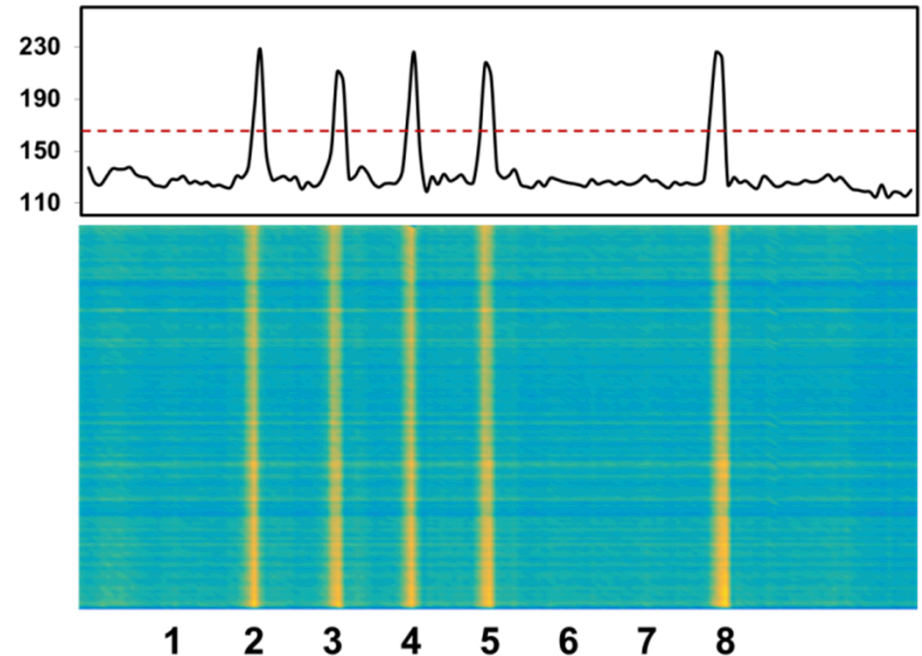
RT-LAMP amplification is performed dried-down reagents, stabilized with reagent from Biomatrix



# Reading the assay chip

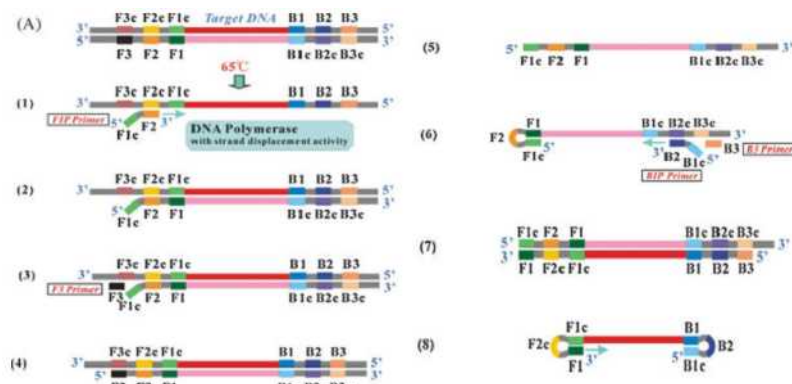
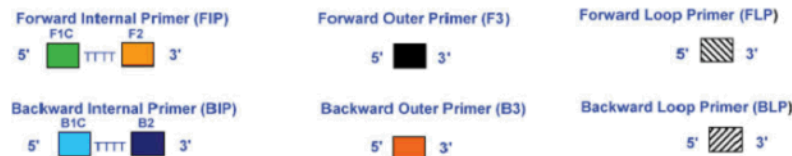


Photodiode detector module, equipped with green LEDs and colored plastic gel filters. Inexpensive optics integrated into 3D printed part.



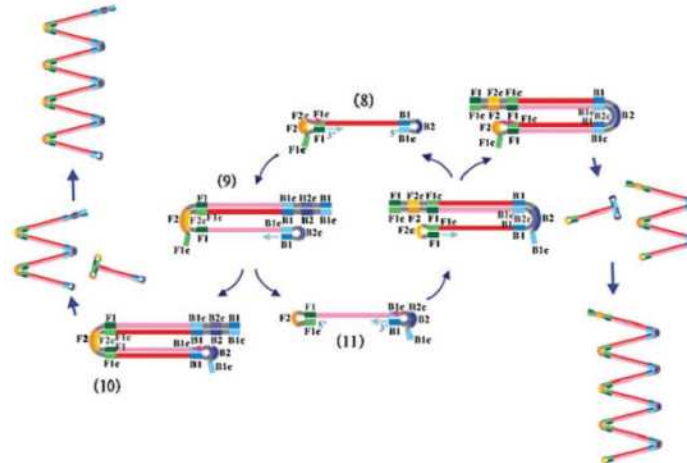
Detector scan of an 8-channel assay chip, illustrating discrimination between positive and negative channels and comparison to a threshold (red dashed line).

# RT-LAMP viral assays



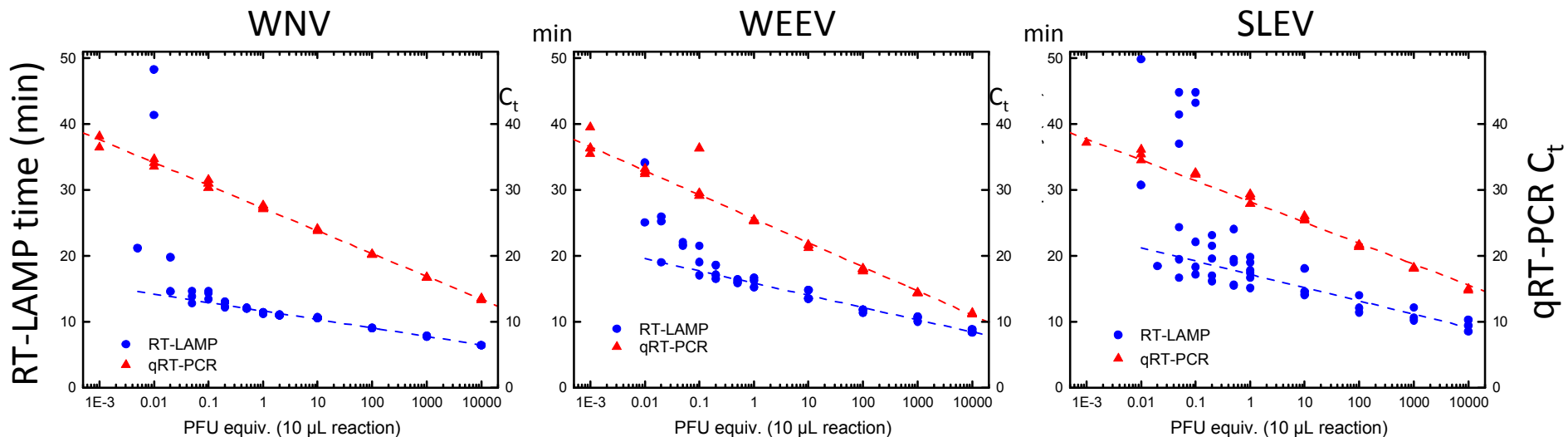
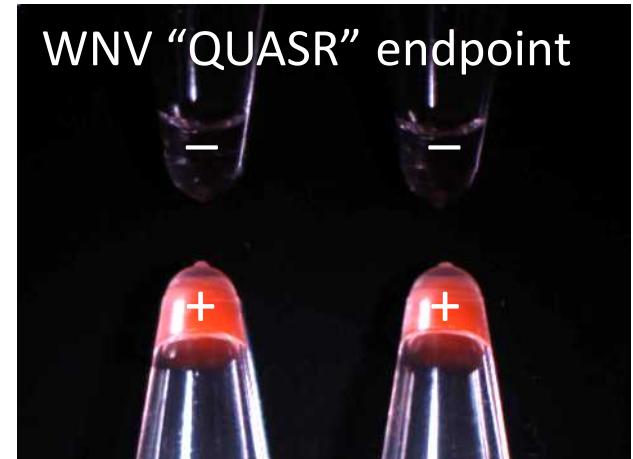
LAMP reaction scheme proposed by Notomi *et al* (2000).

- Isothermal (65 °C) “alternative” to RT-PCR for point-of-care or low-resource settings
- Complex reaction scheme, but high sensitivity (<0.1 PFU virus in 20-30 minutes) and high specificity
- Many RNA viruses including WNV can be detected “directly” by RT-LAMP, without purification, lysis, or RNA extraction.



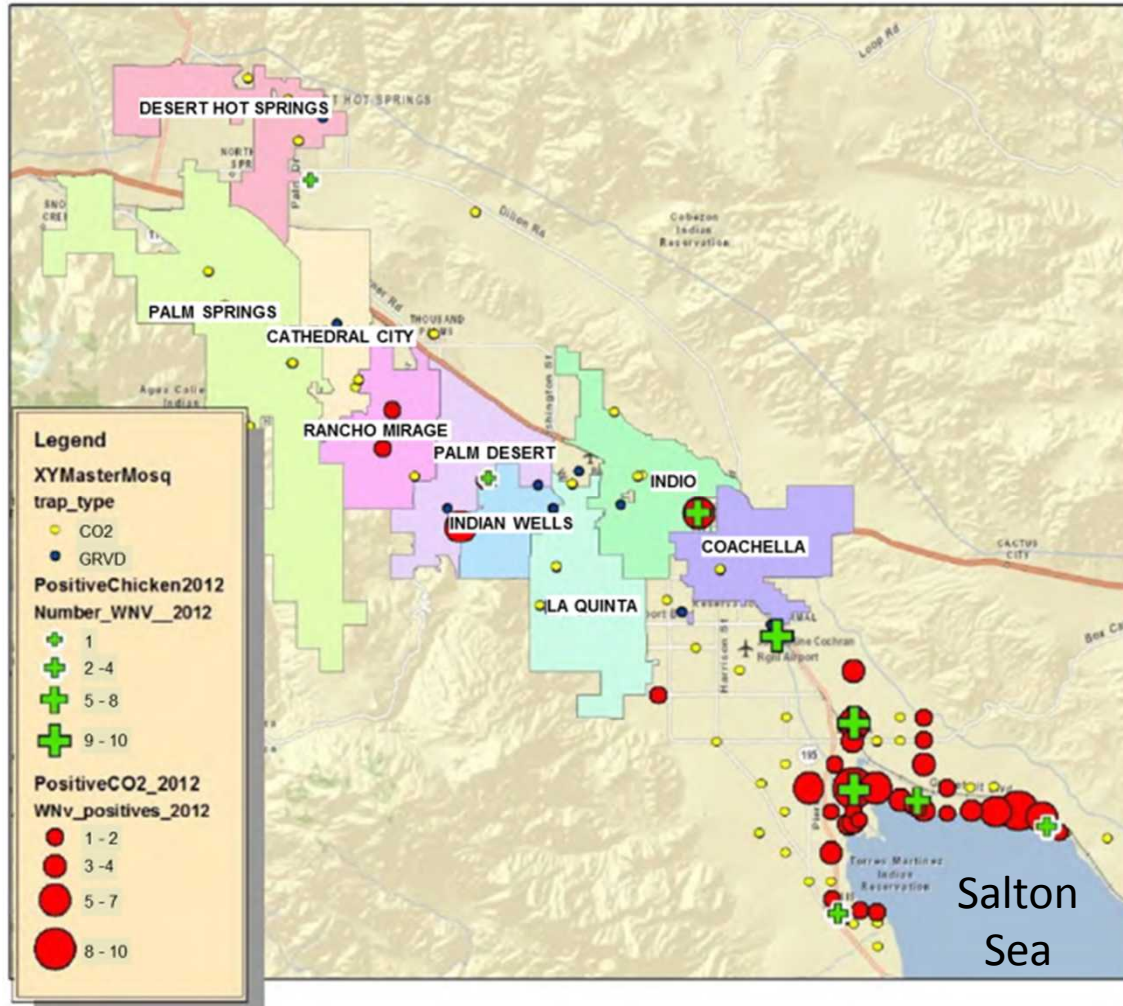
# Viral assays by RT-LAMP

- Novel detection chemistry “QUASR” gives bright and distinctive fluorescence endpoint signal, with multiplexing capability and reduced false positives compared to “traditional” LAMP
- RT-LAMP quantitative precision and sensitivity is usually less than qRT-PCR





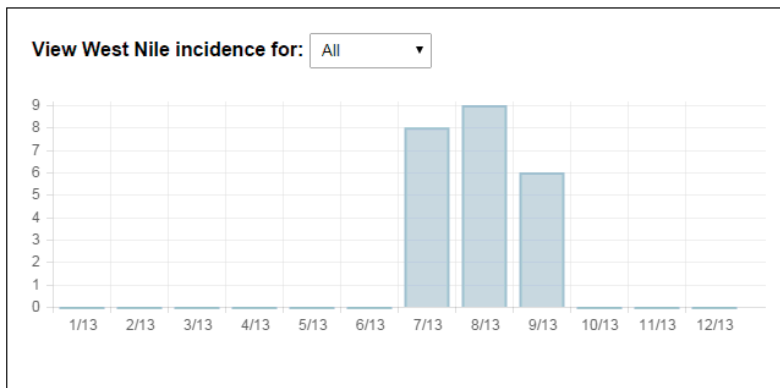
# Field test for Smart Trap planned 2016



- We will deploy a network of Smart Trap prototypes near the Salton Sea in southern California.
- Irrigation, warm summers, and abundant birds lead to ideal conditions for West Nile virus
- We will perform a field test of the Smart Trap concurrently with conventional vector surveillance for WNV (traps & sentinel chickens)

# Cloud-based mapping and modeling

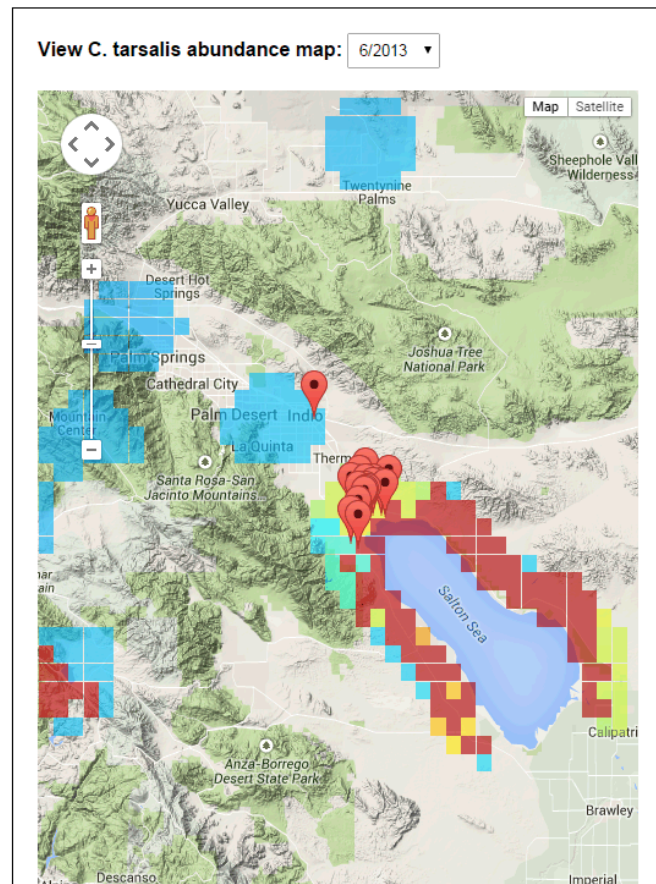
- 3<sup>rd</sup> party app: data stored on Amazon cloud, “private” data (from CA vector control) used to generate model visualizations for BSVE
- Daily viral incidence data, combined with physical data and models of vector abundance lead to prediction of disease transmission risk.



Trap Data

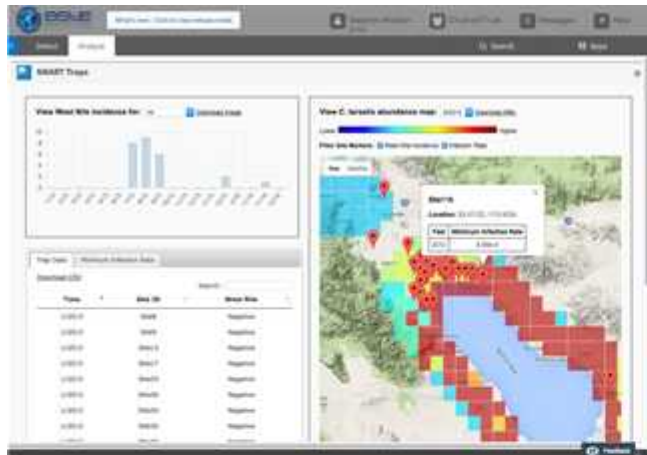
Search:

Time	Site ID	West Nile
1/2013	Site121	Negative
1/2013	Site13	Negative
1/2013	Site17	Negative
1/2013	Site204	Negative
1/2013	Site30	Negative
1/2013	Site33	Negative
1/2013	Site34	Negative
1/2013	Site35	Negative

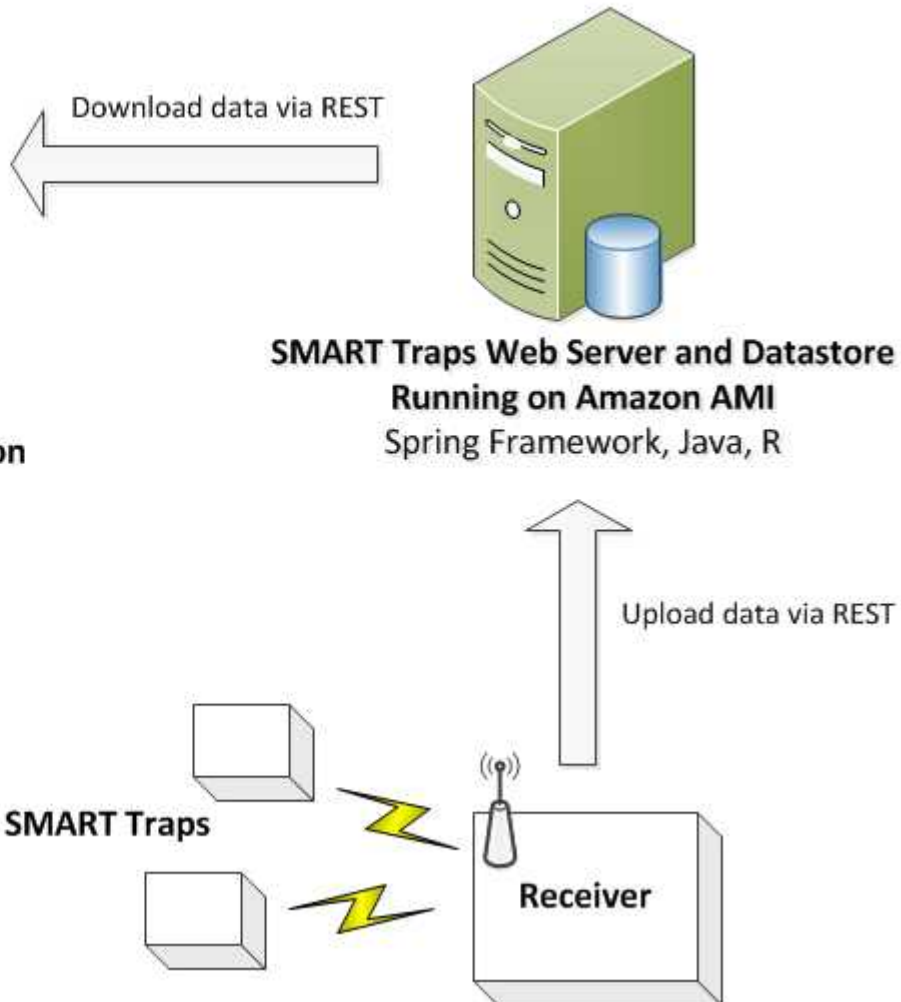




# SMART Trap communication with BSVE



**SMART Traps App**  
Running within BSVE as 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Application  
HTML5, Javascript, Google Maps API



# Extending Smart Trap to *Aedes*

- What (if anything) needs to be changed to get *Aedes aegypti* to sugar-feed on Smart trap sugar baits
  - Different scents?
  - Add CO<sub>2</sub>?
  - Locate smart trap apparatus within a larger enclosure designed to collect *A. aegypti*?

# RT-LAMP for DENV, CHIKV, ZIKV

- We have tested serotype-specific and pan--DENV primers from literature
  - Mixed success, don't have a large collection
  - Probably need geographic-specific primers
- CHIKV – primers from literature have worked well, but only 1-2 isolates
- ZIKV – testing underway

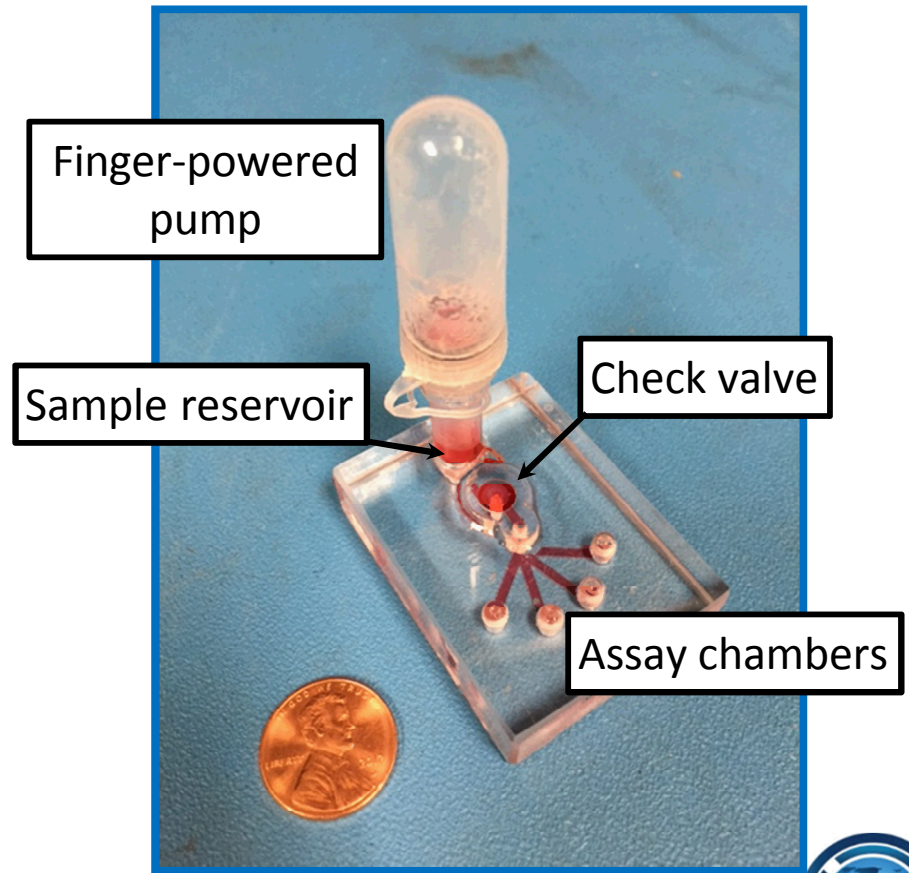
# ZIKV RT-LAMP

- Seven candidate primer sets screened so far, targeting Envelope, NS1, NS3, NS5, 3'-UTR
  - Designed to match most/all Asian/American lineage strains; coverage of African strains not certain
- Detailed characterization for sensitivity, specificity, *etc.* using 2015-2016 isolates from Puerto Rico, Honduras, Brazil (courtesy CDC and UCSF)



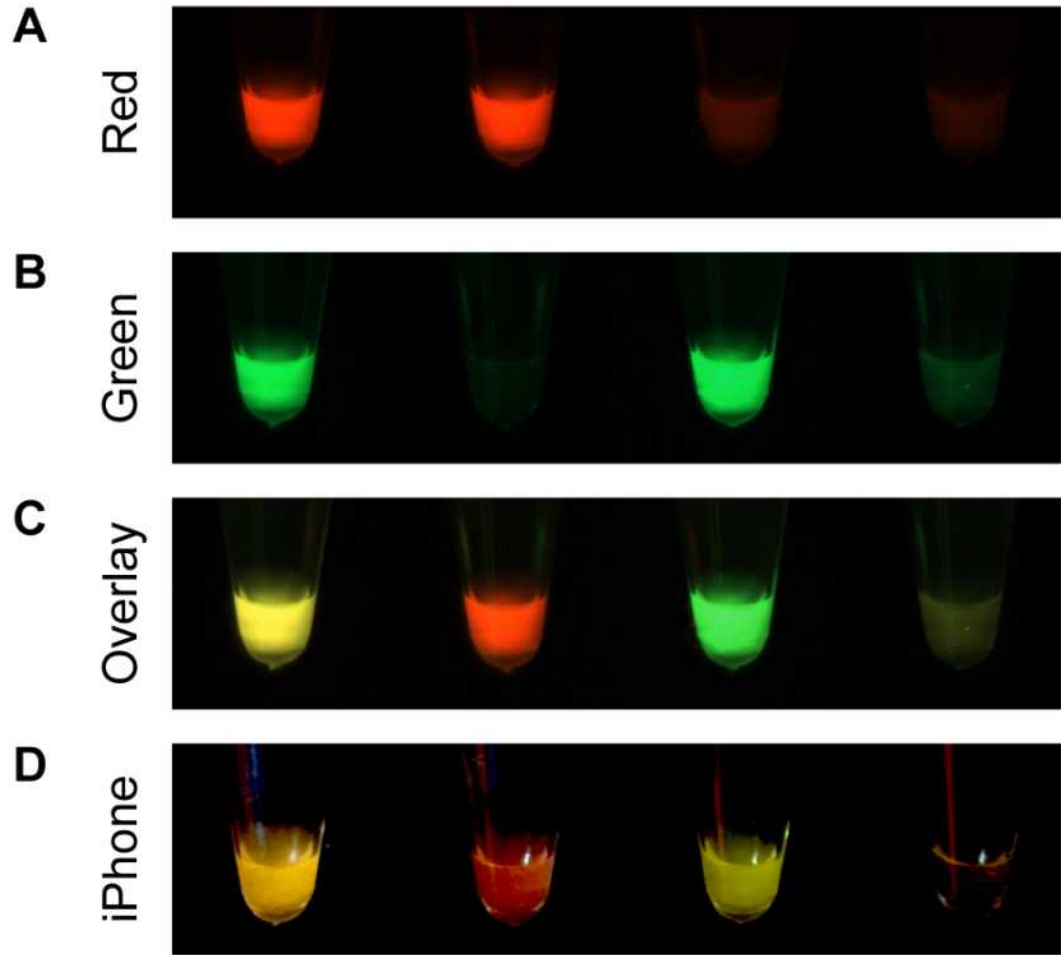
# Portable devices for viral screening

- Development underway;  
Intended to be cheap,  
disposable, easy
- Dehydrated RT-LAMP master mix  
and primers: just add sample,  
squeeze, incubate, and read with  
smart phone app.
- Adaptable for different sample  
types and targets
  - Swabs
  - Sugar baits
  - Mosquito slurry
  - Blood/urine/saliva
  - Dried blood spots



# Multi-color RT-LAMP with “visual” detection

WNV	+	+	-	-
CHIKV	+	-	+	-



High-quality fluorescence  
photography setup  
(~\$1000 equipment)

Cheap fluorescence  
photography  
(iPhone, LED flashlight  
and colored plastic films)





# Acknowledgments

- Funding
  - DTRA BSVE / Kathleen Quinn & Chris Kiley (Smart Trap)
  - Sandia LDRD (Zika, QUASR RT-LAMP, smart phone assays)
  - ISDS (for this trip)
- UC Davis Center for Vectorborne Diseases (CVEC) / Davis Arbovirus Research & Training (DART)
  - Lark Coffey, Cody Steiner, Chris Barker, Sarah Wheeler, Bill Reisen
- Sandia staff & postdocs
  - Cameron Ball, Aashish Priye, Ron Renzi, Jaideep Ray, Stephen Mueller, Yooli Light, Jonathan Helm, Mark Claudinc