

Real-time human health and performance monitoring



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Sandia's Mission Work Reflects National Security Challenges

1950s

NW production
engineering &
manufacturing
engineering

1960s

Development
engineering

Vietnam conflict

1970s

Multiprogram
laboratory

Energy crisis

1980s

Missile defense
work

Cold War

1990s

Post-Cold War
transition

Stockpile
stewardship

2000s

Expanded national
security role
post 9/11

2010s

LEPs
New START
Evolving national
security challenges

% NON-NW FUNDING

100%

90%

80%

70%

60%

50%

40%

30%

20%

10%

0%



Need for Cross-Domain Situational Awareness

Problem: Warfighter's environment changes quickly, and ability to respond rapidly and effectively can mean life or death for themselves and/or their team.

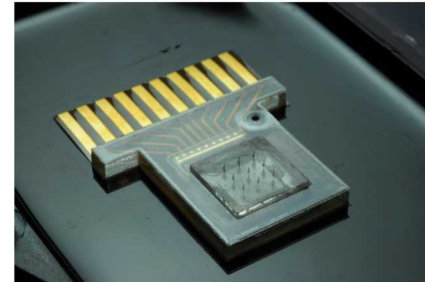
Solution : Passive, wearable and continuous monitoring strategies to assess and understand warfighter status from multiparameter data (context, vitals, and chemistry)

Requires:

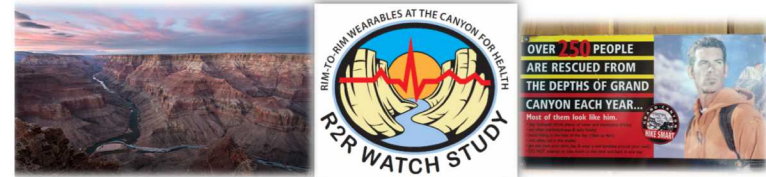
- Multiparameter data streams
- Rapid data relay, analysis and integration
- Rapid actionable response

Two DTRA projects:

Transdermal Microneedle Sensors to Measure Biomarker Signatures and Report on Human Performance



Ronen Polsky
rpolsky@sandia.gov



Wearables At The Canyon for Health (WATCH):
A human-subjects study on wearable devices

Principal Investigator: Glory Aviña, PhD MBA

Microneedles Enable Health Monitoring

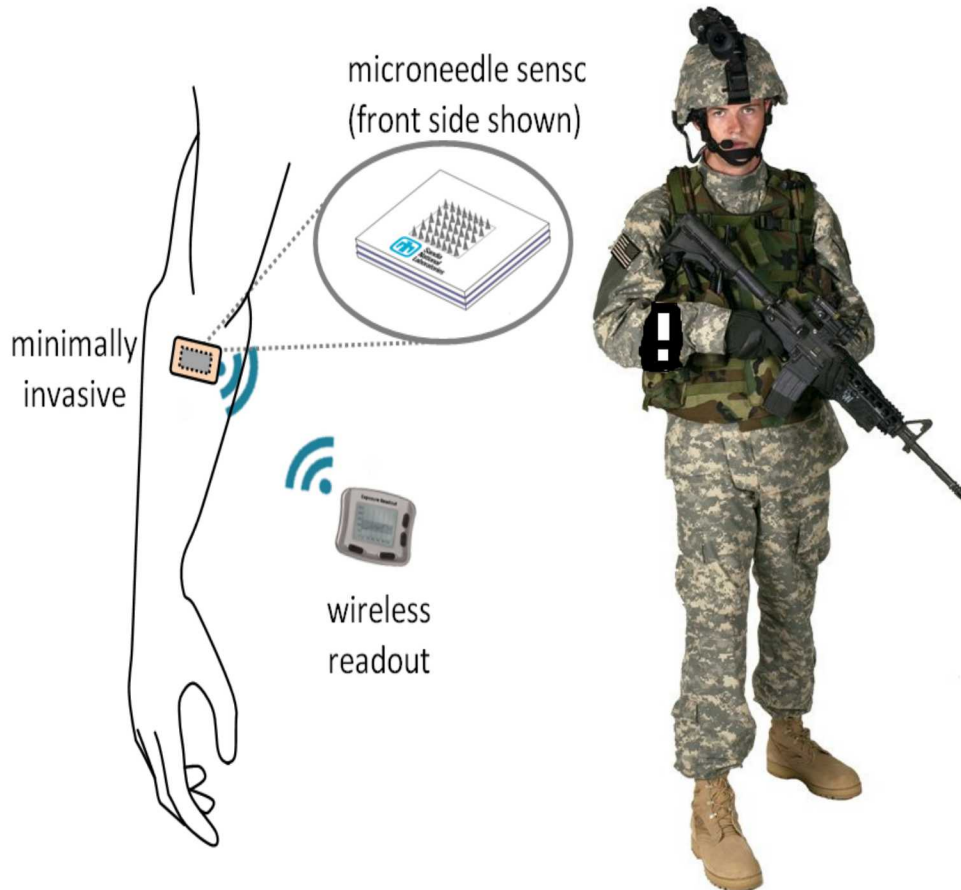
- Microneedle platform integrated Raman detection to monitor physiology.

- Multiplexed sensing platforms allows for site specific and systemic monitoring of biological markers indicative of radiation exposure

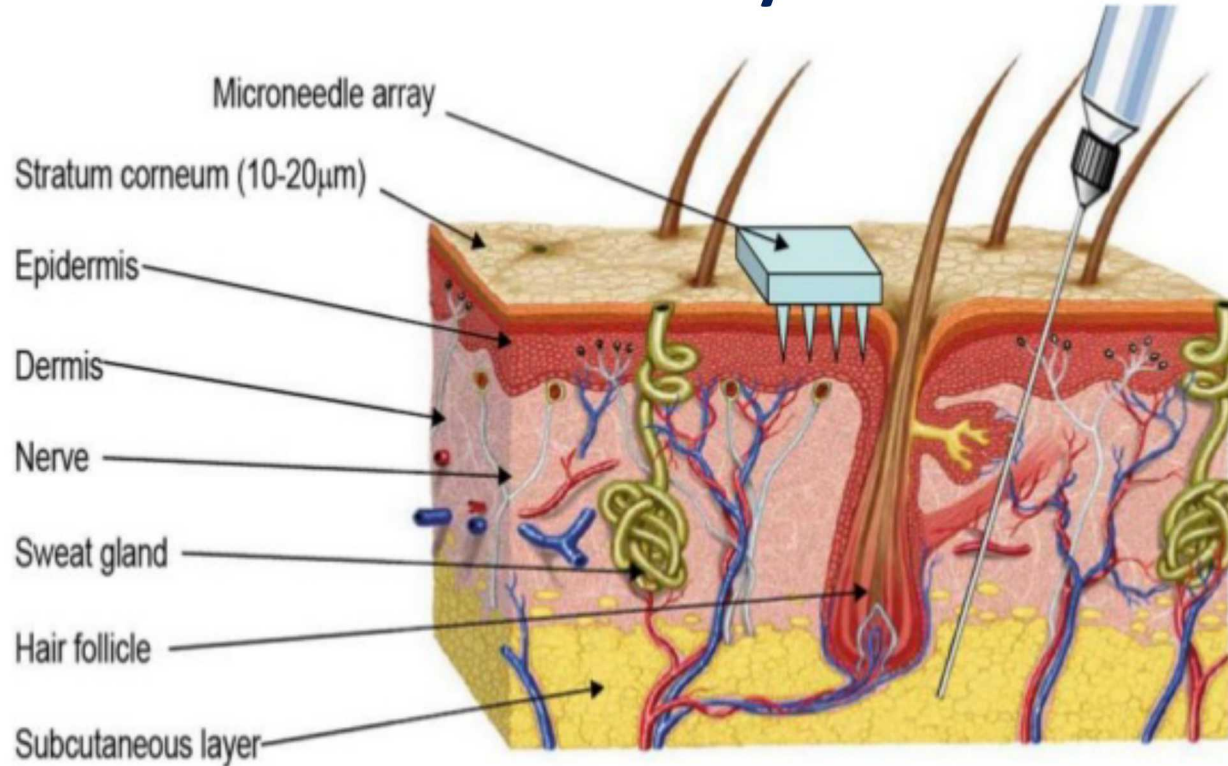
- Device to be worn directly on skin for transdermal sensing.

- Electronic readout can be used to send results back to a central command station for remote monitoring.

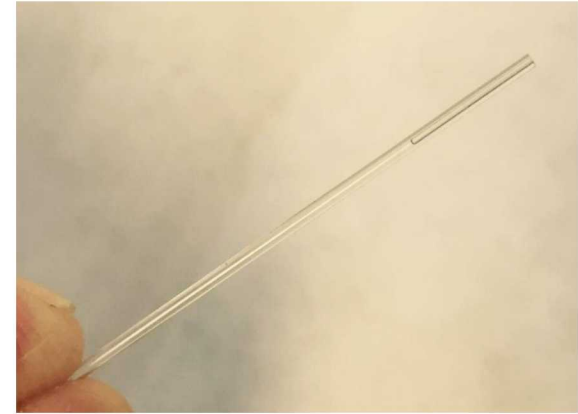
- The real time analysis of these biomarkers will allow immediate determinations of necessary counter measures and be used for triage situations.



Why Microneedles



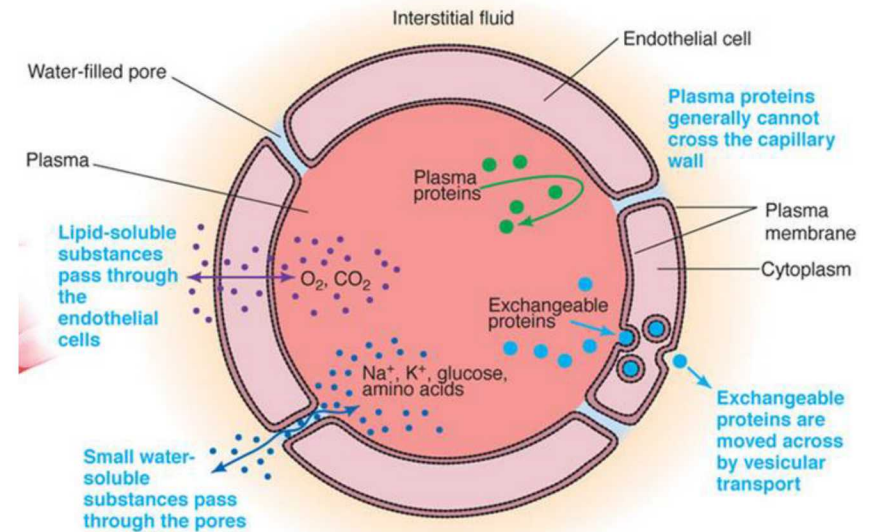
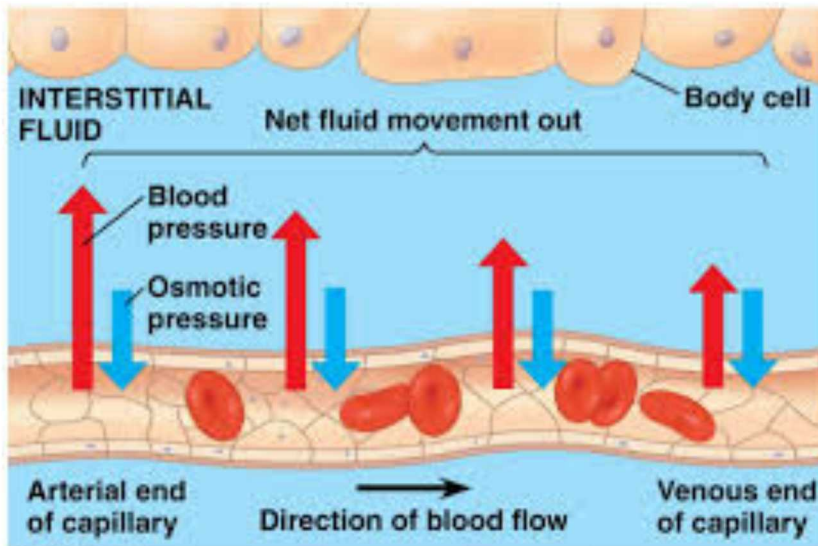
Extracted IF



- Microneedles do not reach nerve endings so are painless
- Interstitial fluid (the extracellular fluid between cells) and not blood is extracted which has a rich concentration of available biomarkers for physiological interrogation

Microneedles can provide minimally invasive, pain free access to biomarkers for wearable health monitoring applications.

Interstitial fluid is a form of plasma filtrate

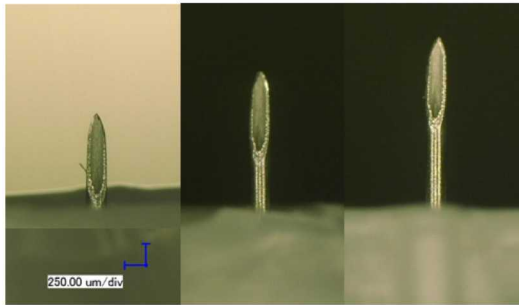


Transport across capillary wall

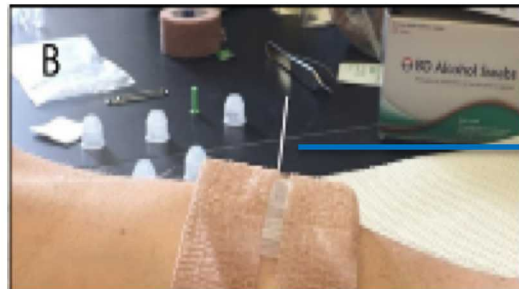
Extraction Protocol

- Three different needle lengths were examined for extraction efficiency (volume ISF extracted) and pain sensation.
- After maximum 2 hours insertion no visible immune response was observed
- **Needles are modified from insulin injectors FDA approved and biocompatible**

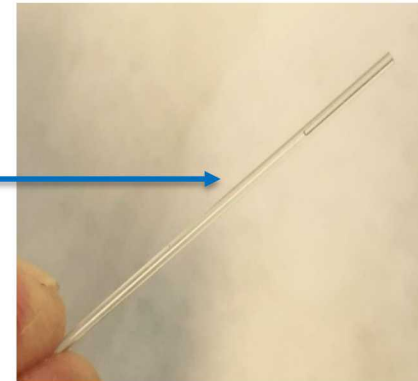
1000um 1500um 2000um



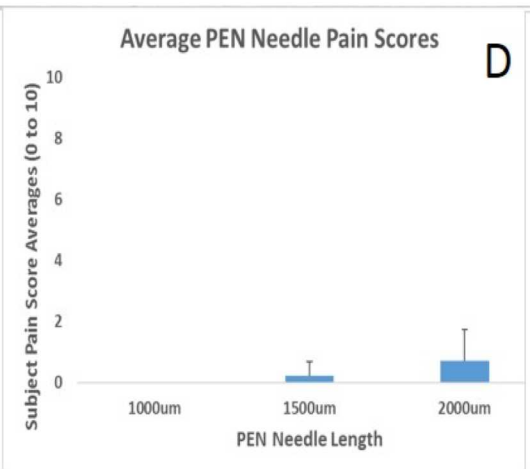
Varying PEN needle lengths cut at different lengths



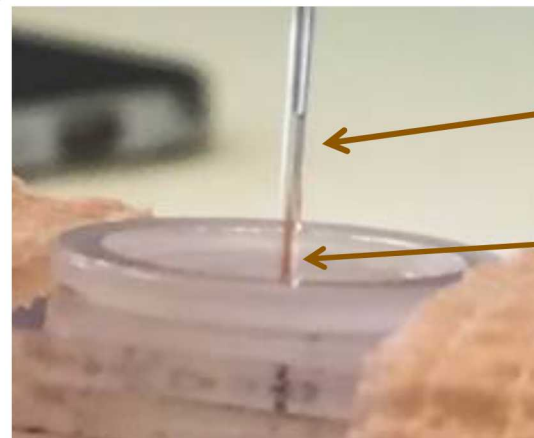
Clinical Format



Extracted Fluid



Pain Scores vs Length



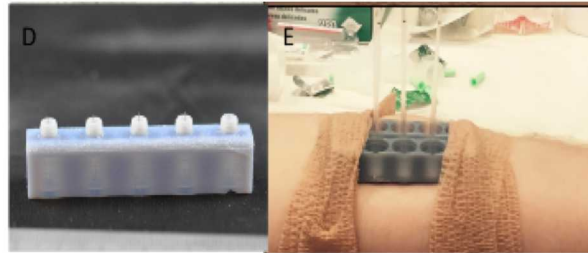
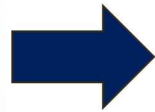
2000 μ m Needle (pain sensation 4/10)

- Biocompatible needles
- Novel method for ISF extraction
- Pain free
- Optimum length: 1500 μ m

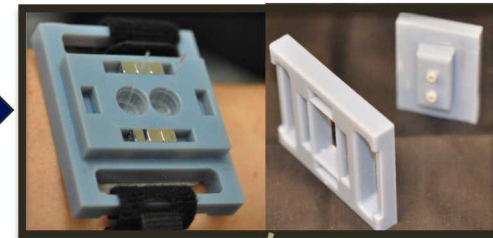
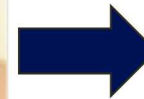
Holder Development



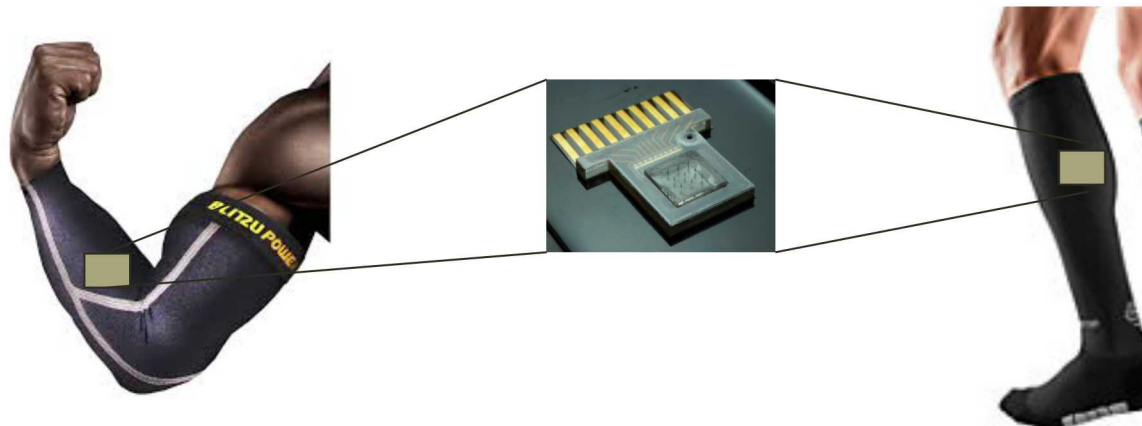
Generation 1:
single needle
1-2 μ l ISF



Generation 1: Arrays
5-20 μ l ISF Humans
40-50 μ l ISF Rats



Generation 3: Wearable
Removable Cartridge
Hands free

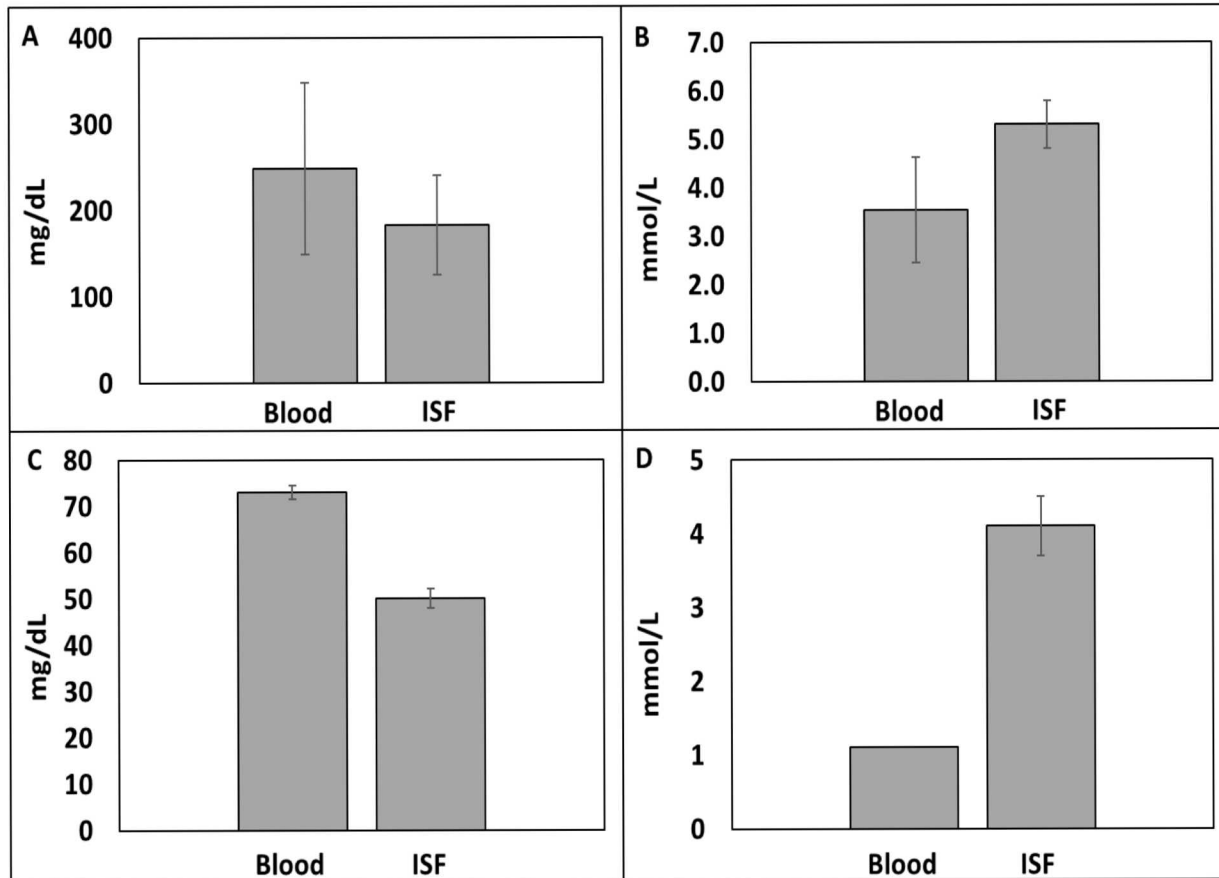


Metabolite Data

Glucose

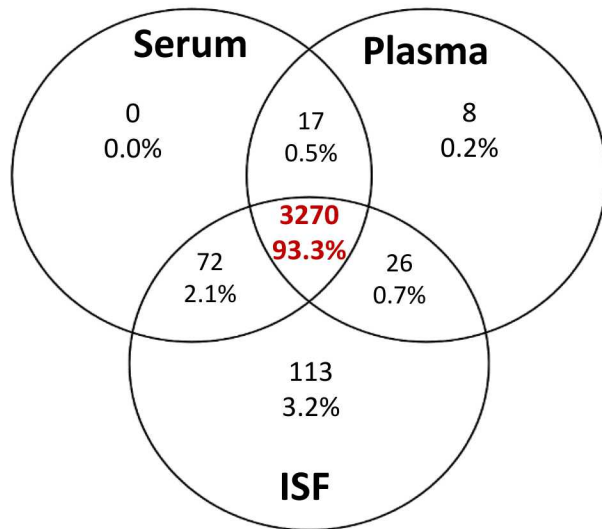
Lactate

Rat



Human

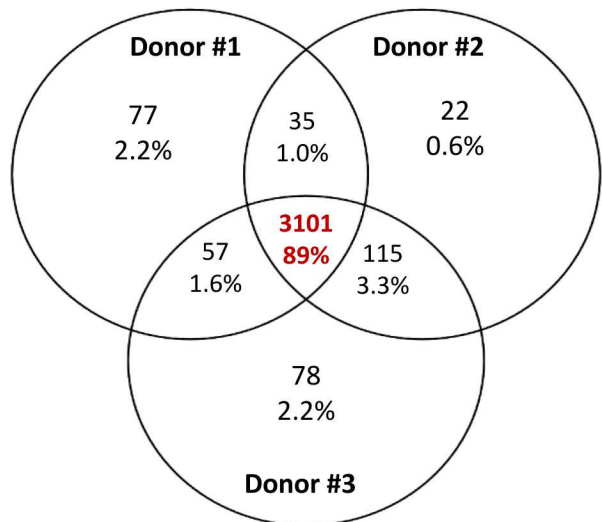
Proteomics Analysis: ISF is Proxy for Serum



- Of 3506 proteins identified in human subject, 3270 proteins were common between plasma, serum and ISF

- 93% match in protein content

- Indicates ISF can be used as a blood proxy



- 89% of these proteins were consistently detected in three examined human individuals.

[J. Proteome Res. 2018, 17, 479–485](#)

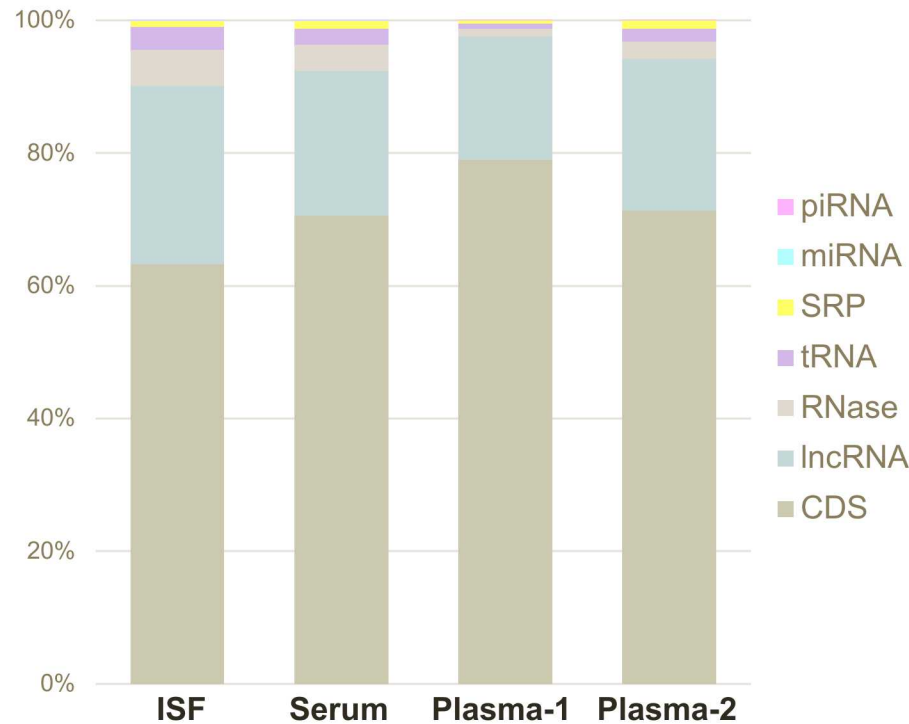
In collaboration with Trevor Glaros and Nicole Rosenzweig, ECBC

Transcriptomics

A.

	ISF		Serum		Plasma-1		Plasma-2	
Mapped Reads (M)	1.9	(1.7 - 4.8)	2.2	(1.3 - 5.6)	4.9	(2.3 - 6.8)	3.7	(2.5 - 4.8)
CDS (%)	63.2	(22.3 - 84.2)	70.6	(41.1 - 87.9)	78.9	(71.5 - 88.8)	71.4	(62.1 - 76.9)
lncRNA (%)	26.9	(7.4 - 74.4)	21.8	(7.1 - 52.3)	18.6	(7.2 - 26.6)	22.9	(18.8 - 28.0)
RNase (%)	5.4	(1.4 - 11.3)	3.9	(0.4 - 5.3)	1.2	(0.4 - 2.6)	2.6	(0.5 - 5.1)
tRNA (%)	3.5	(1.3 - 5.7)	2.4	(1.4 - 4.2)	0.7	(0.4 - 1.4)	1.9	(0.7 - 3.0)
SRP (%)	0.9	(0.2 - 2.6)	1.2	(0.2 - 3.2)	0.5	(0.3 - 0.7)	1.2	(0.6 - 1.7)
miRNA (%)	0.05	(0.01 - 0.09)	0.08	(0.04 - 0.13)	0.03	(0.01 - 0.05)	0.05	(0.01 - 0.10)
piRNA (%)	0.04	(0.00 - 0.07)	0.03	(0.01 - 0.06)	0.01	(0.00 - 0.01)	0.01	(0.00 - 0.02)

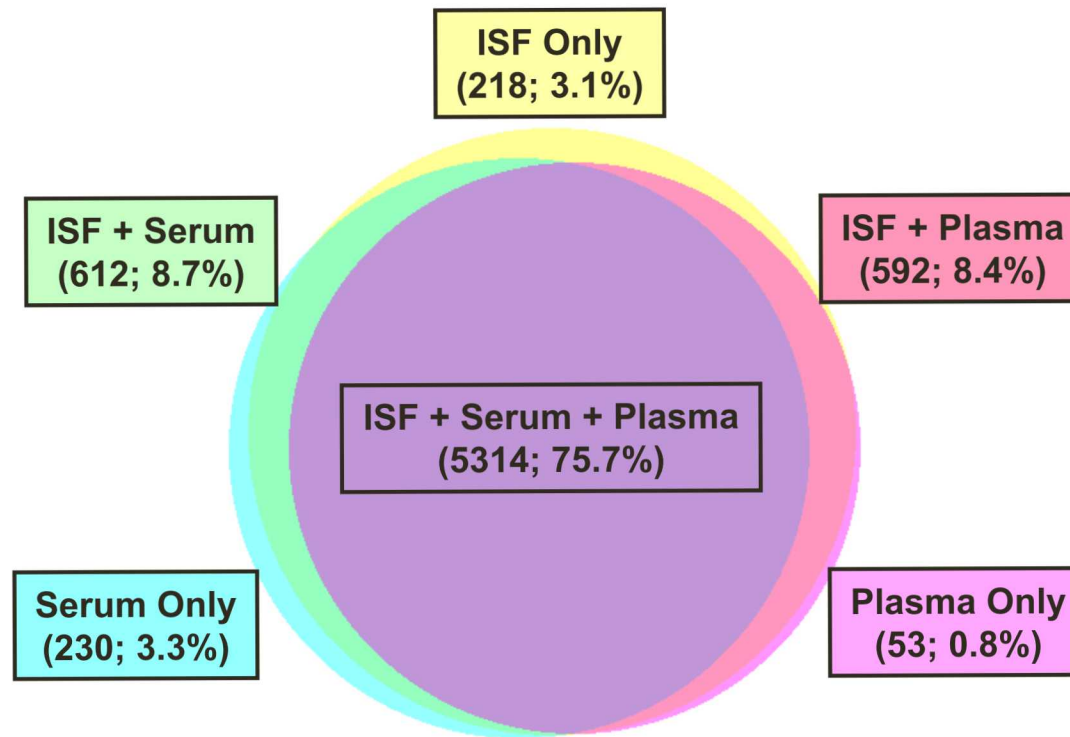
B.



**RNA species detected in
ISF, serum, and plasma samples**

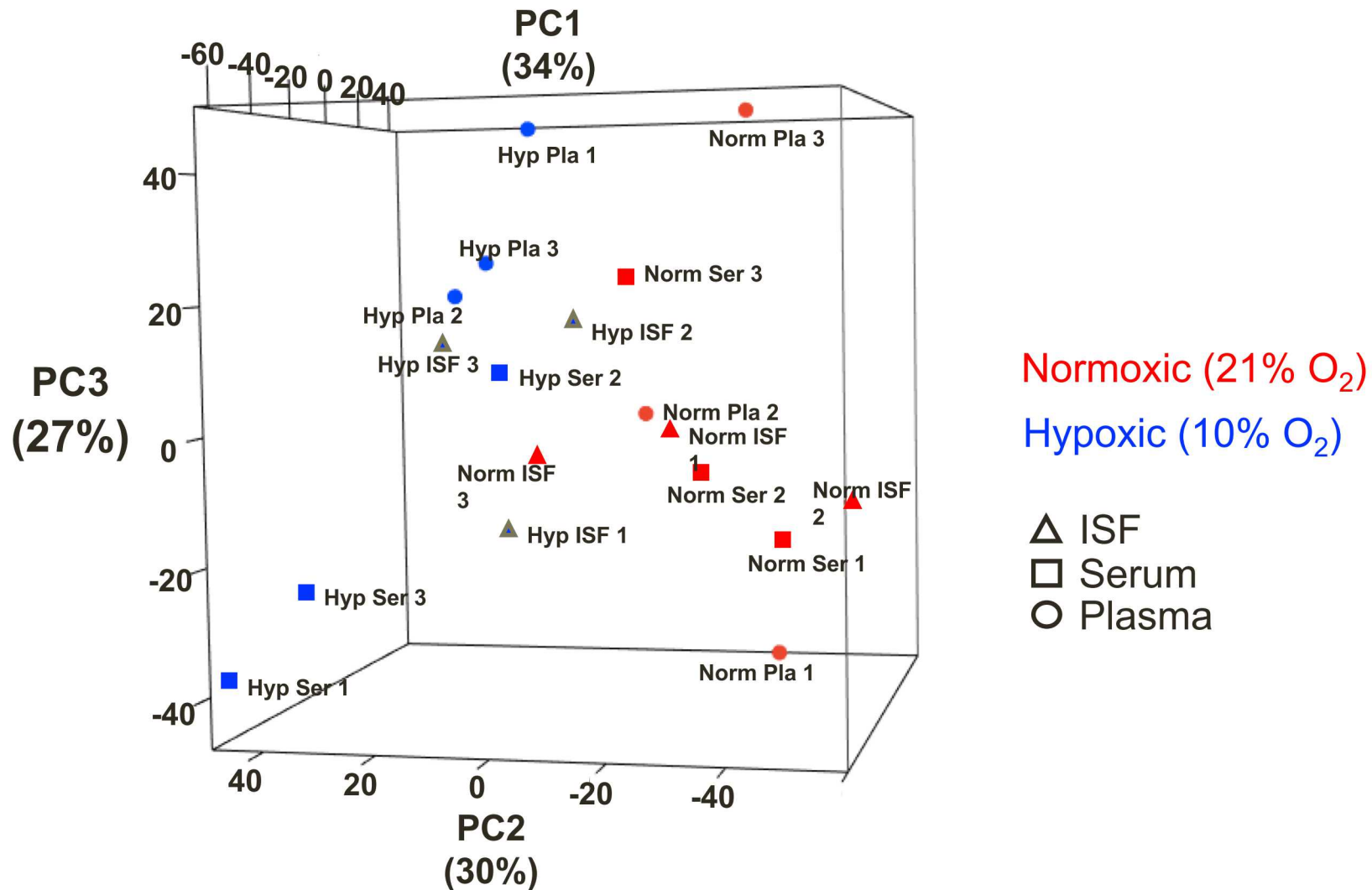
Transcriptomics Analysis: ISF is Proxy for Serum

CDS that were hit in each sample type in 4 rats



75% of coding sequence RNAs were commonly identified

Dynamic Response of ISF Contents to Physiological Stress



Physiological changes are seen in all 3 fluids after induced hypoxia

Clinical Significance

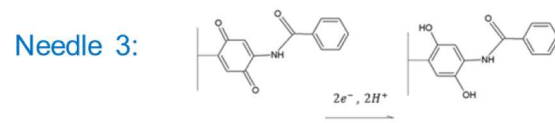
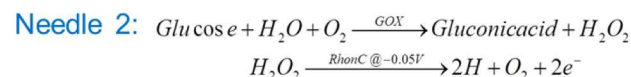
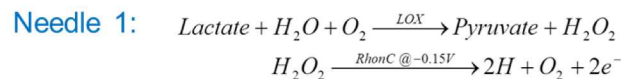
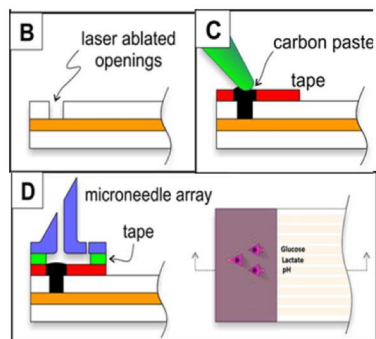
Similar to previous studies of plasma content, annotated functions of genes encoding transcripts are differentially expressed in ISF and can be monitored to diagnose hypoxia

Function	Genes
Matrix Metalloproteinases (MMPs)	Mmp8, Mt1
Chemokines	Cxcl13, Ccr1
Leukocyte Migration	Stk10
Innate Immunity	Hmgb1-ps3, Lacc1, Bnip1
Transcription Regulator	Creg1, Brwd3 Mecp2, Sertad2, Tada2b, Tle1
Mitochondrial Processes	Pcca, Tomm40, Mtx1
Heat Shock Protein Regulation	Dnajb9
Cytoskeleton and Cell Adhesion	Mpzl2, Actn3
DNA Repair	Tdg

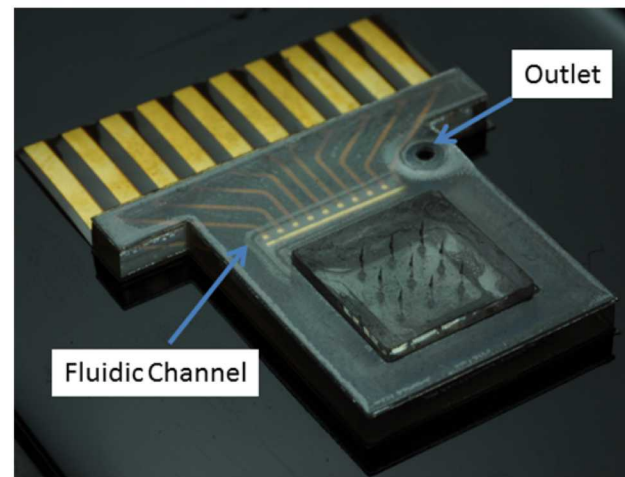
Transcripts that are **enriched (red)** or **depleted (blue)** in ISF in rats experiencing hypoxia (10% oxygen), as compared to rats experiencing normoxia (21% oxygen).

Nature Communications Biology – in revisions

Sensor Development

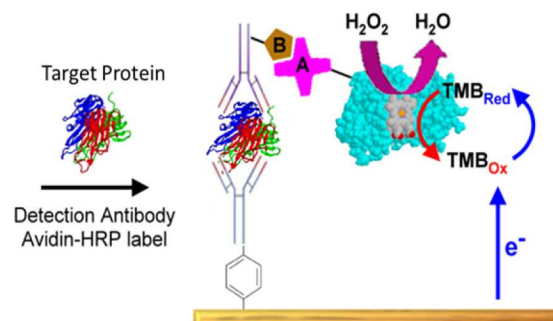
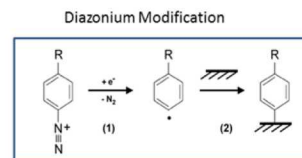
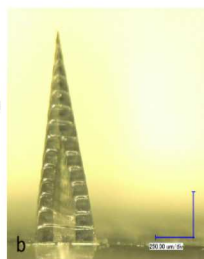
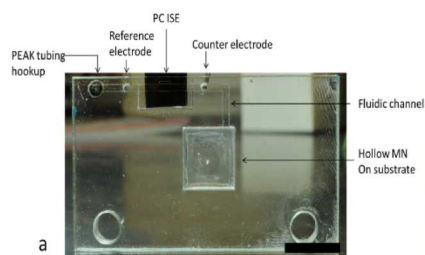
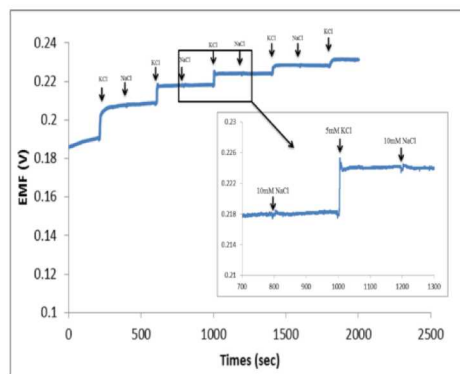


Multiplexed Microneedle Array



Protein Chip

Microneedle K⁺ Sensor



SNL Project 164370
SNL Proposal 017120403
DTRAJ9-CXT Innovative Research Program
PM: Bruce Hinds

Microneedle Electrode

Coaxial Referenced PEN Needle Biosensor

- **Goal:** Adapt the PEN needle assembly for an enzymatic lactate biosensor with a built-in reference electrode

- **Tasks:**

- Insulate PEN needle
- Apply carbon paste enzymatic biosensor at needle tip
- Electrical connection to biosensor

- **Electrical connection to biosensor:**

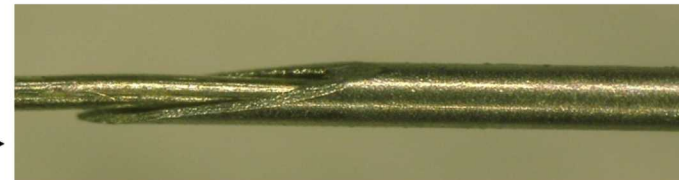
-Pastes are too viscous to force down needle bore, and diluted graphite powder to mineral oil ratios electrodes with poor electrochemical properties.
 -Cu allow wires both fill needle bore and provide suitable electrical connection. Electrical resistance $\sim 0.10\Omega$ (1" length).

Top-Down View of Sensor



- Biosensor
- Dielectric
- PEN Needle
- Reference Electrode

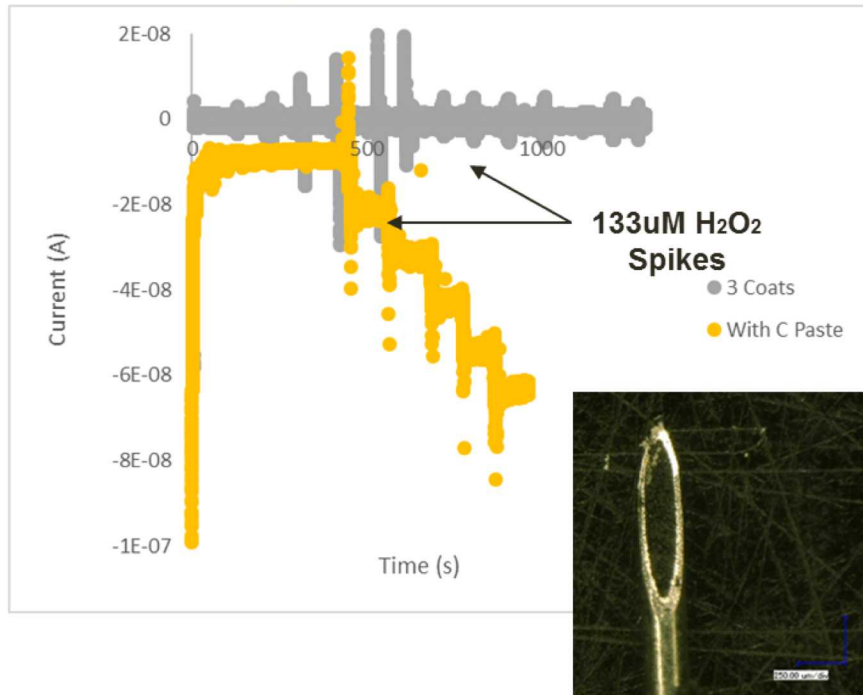
PEN Needle w/Sensor



Wire inserted within PEN needle. Positioned well beyond needle tip to show size comparison.

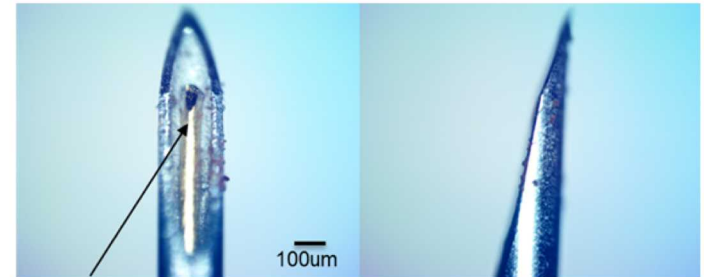
Modified PEN Needle

Converting commercial needle into electrode transducer simplifies sensor construction.
Requires no advanced fabrication and uses readily available materials.



Front View

Profile View

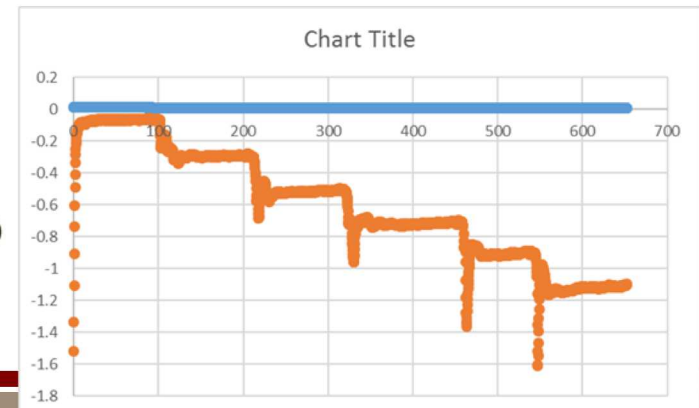


Electrically insulated
50um Au wire

- Created method for protecting electrode within needle
- Can be used for reference and/or working electrode
- Wire electrically isolated from needle
- Each needle is a sensor and large arrays of individually addressable sensor possible

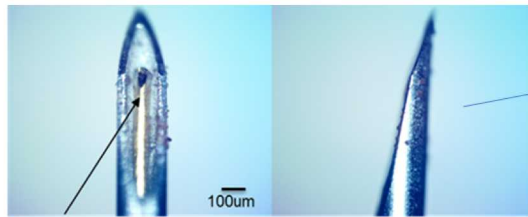
Carbon Paste Packed Needle

- Tested the response to peroxide on a insulated needle (grey, 3 coats) and an insulated needle with carbon paste packed at the tip (yellow)
- Insulated needle isn't reactive to the test solution.
- Adding LOx to the paste will create the enzymatic lactate biosensor



Multiplexed Microneedle Sensor

Individual Microneedle Sensor

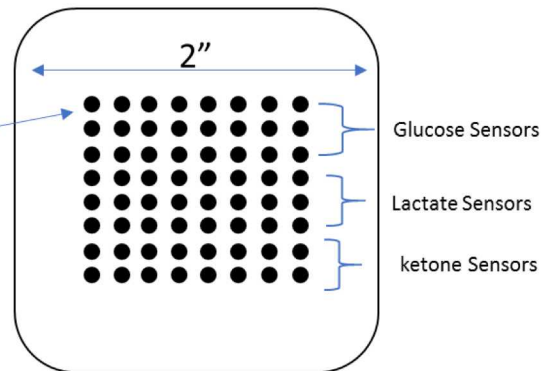


Front View

Profile View

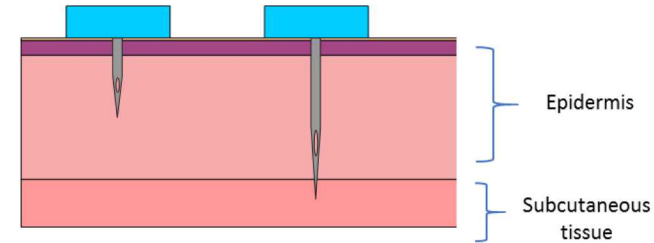
- Each coaxial sensor can self-reference
- Potential for multiple sensors per needle

Array of Sensor on Wearable Patch



- Each row of sensors can be customizable to the analyte of interest
- Suitable sample sizes can help determine System flux
- Compatible with suite of sensors and ISF fluid extraction microneedles

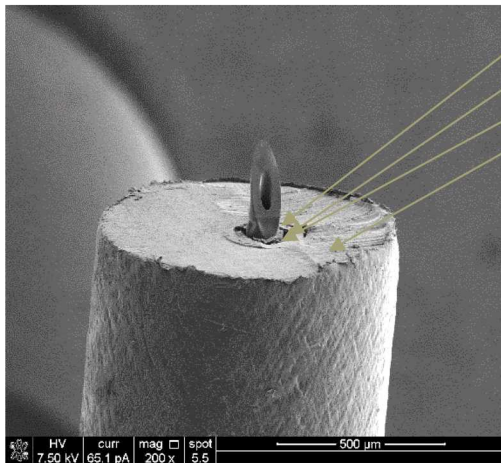
Sensor Placement Depth Control



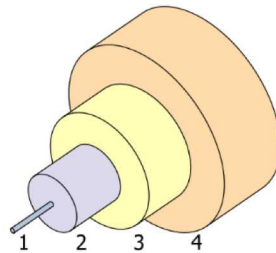
- Microneedle sensor depth control allows monitoring different skin layers
- May help distinguish physiological responses that are driven by external factor or via internal ones

Microneedle Optical Sensor

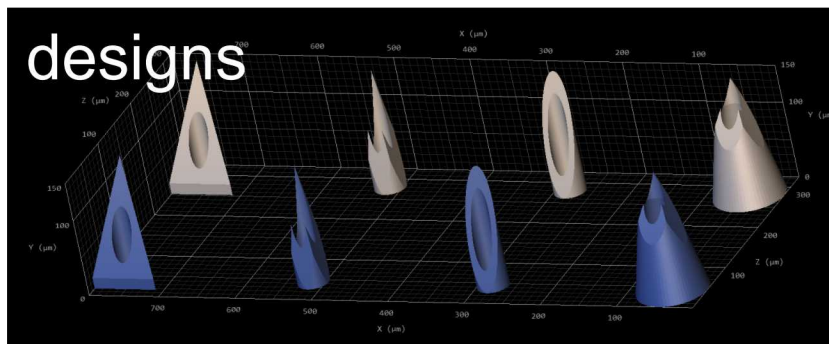
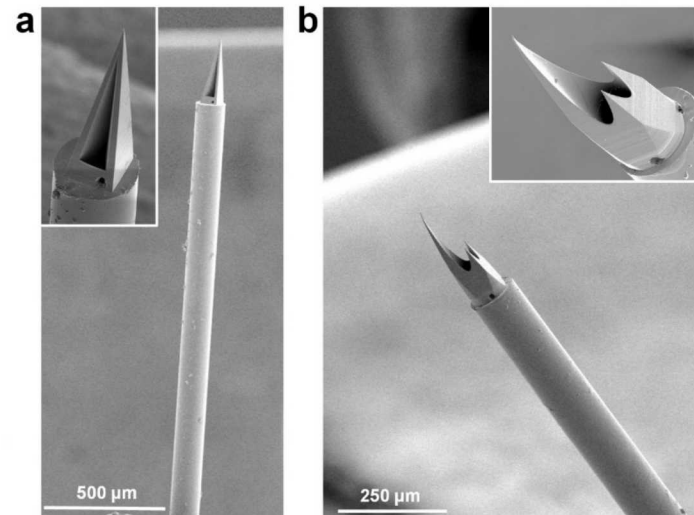
Spectroscopic interrogation provides increased utility of MN sensors for continuous real time monitoring of proteins and other biomolecules that are not easily detected electrochemically



1. Core: 125 μm diameter
2. Cladding:
3. Buffer:
4. Jacket: ~700 μm dia.



- 1) Fix onto fiber
 - a) 1.25 mm ceramic end
 - b) SMA 950 standard connector
- 2) Fiber diameter compatible with NIR for label free Raman sensing.



Human and Animal Studies in Progress



Human studies in progress:

- Rigorous exercise in extreme environments
 - Grand Canyon R2R
- Pre- and post-vaccination

Animal studies in progress:

- Hypoxia
- Chem agent exposure

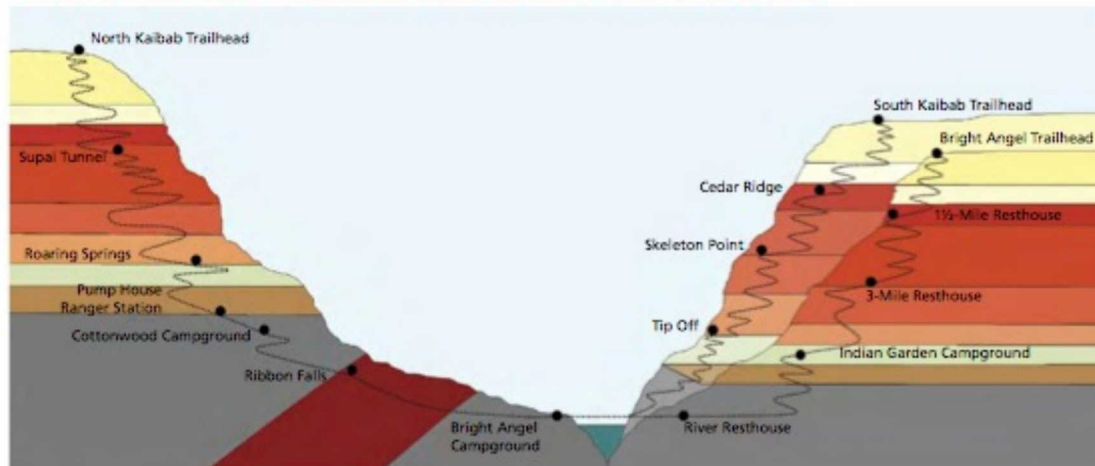
Grand Canyon Rim-2-Rim Hike

- Altitude and Temperature Change
- Extreme Environment
- Physical Strain
- 14.3 miles, 6,000 feet to the bottom
- 9.6 miles, 4,500 feet back to the South Rim



Figure 1. Signage at Bright Angel Trailhead, October 2015.

Be Prepared: 1½-Mile and 3-Mile resthouses are seasonal water sources. Check availability.



Source: <https://www.nps.gov/grca/index.htm>

Purpose of this Study

1) Markers for Health

identify physiological, cognitive markers most related to health and task performance

2) Wearable Devices

identify which COTS wearable devices are best for measurement and in rugged environments

3) Health Events

use statistical analyses on collected data to identify which markers are most predictive of benign vs. traumatic health events

Grand Canyon R2R Study Design

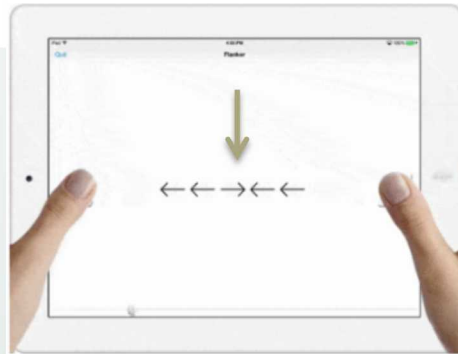
- Subjects hike Grand Canyon wearing various wearable fitness devices that monitor physical activity
 - Heart rate
 - Heart rate variability
 - Breathing rate
 - GPS position
 - Cadence
 - Elevation
 - Temperature (ambient + skin)
 - Relative humidity
- Subjects take cognitive tests intermittently during hike
- Metabolic panel + demographic data collected before and after hike
- Two cohorts
 - Civilian volunteers
 - Military personnel

Collecting Physiological and Cognitive Data

Package	Cognitive Tests	GPS	Elevation	Heart rate (ECG)	Heart rate (Wrist)	Heart rate (Forehead)	Cadence (Wrist)	Cadence (Torso)	Temperature (Ambient)	Temperature (Direct Sun)	Temperature (Skin)	Humidity	Total	Qty
Advanced 1	iPod Touch 6	Fenix 3 HR	Fenix 3 HR	Wahoo TickrX	Fenix 3 HR	LifeBeam SmartHat	Fenix 3 HR	Wahoo TickrX	SensorPush	SensorPush	Tempe	SensorPush	\$1,115	10
Advanced 2	iPod Touch 6	Spartan Ultra	Spartan Ultra	Smart Sensor	(None)	LifeBeam SmartHat	Spartan Ultra	(None)	SensorPush	SensorPush	(None)	SensorPush	\$1,165	10
Basic 1	iPod Touch 6	Vivoactive HR	Vivoactive HR	(None)	Vivoactive HR	(None)	Vivoactive HR	(None)	SensorPush	(None)	(None)	SensorPush	\$515	35
Basic 2	iPod Touch 6	eTrex 10 + 2AA	(None - 'floors')	(None)	Fitbit Charge HR	(None)	Fitbit Charge HR	(None)	SensorPush	(None)	(None)	SensorPush	\$485	15



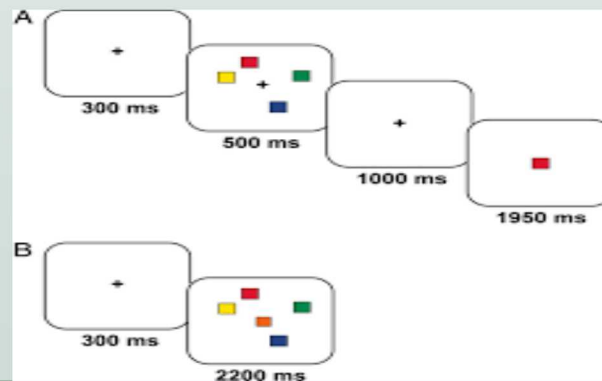
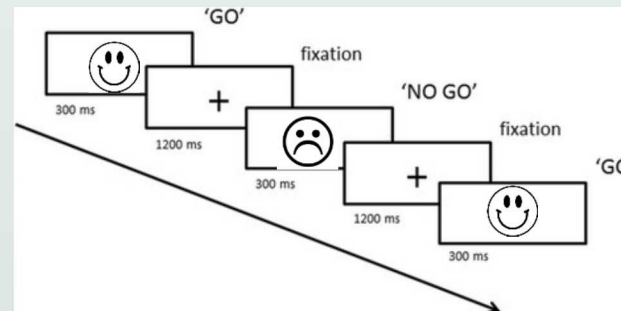
Collecting Physiological and Cognitive Data



Flanker



Go/No-go



VSTM

Brain Baseline

ACEBDF	Attentional Blink
938245	Digit Span
9 8 2 @ % #	Digit Symbol Substitution
→ →	Flanker
atbbym	N-Back
☹	Go/No-Go
☐ +	Posner Cueing
●	Speed
● ● ●	Spatial Working Memory
GREEN	Stroop
7 HIGH	Task Switching
● ● ●	Trails A & B
☐ ☐ ☐	Visual Search
☐ ☐ ☐	Visual Short-Term Memory

Cognitive data sample

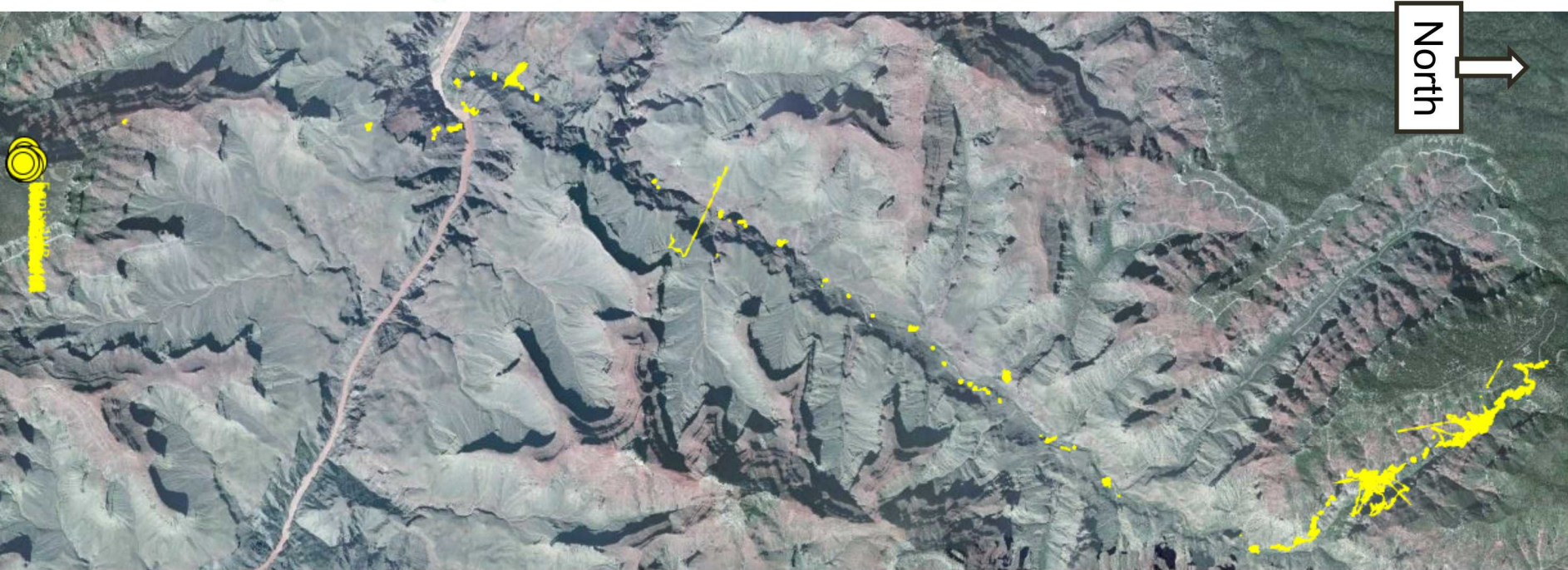
First Test	Military	Civilian
Go/No-go: Time	527 ms (sd = 66)	554 ms (sd = 87)
Accuracy	0.964 (sd = 0.061)	0.957 (sd = 0.070)
Flanker: Time	594 ms (sd = 109)	592 ms (sd = 98)
Accuracy	0.935 (sd = 0.140)	0.943 (sd = 0.107)
VSTM: Time	1012 ms (sd = 206)	1139 ms (sd = 309)
Accuracy	0.779 (sd = 0.082)	0.732 (sd = 0.093)
Last Test	Military	Civilian
Go/No-go: Time	488 ms (sd = 92)	530 ms (sd = 71)
Accuracy	0.940 (sd = 0.060)	0.949 (0.070)
Flanker: Time	496 ms (sd = 64)	559 ms (sd = 71)
Accuracy	0.975 (sd = 0.026)	0.956 (sd = 0.098)
VSTM: Time	978 ms (sd = 411)	1088 (sd = 343)
Accuracy	0.779 (sd = 0.082)	0.702 (sd = 0.106)

Military
performed
better in
10 / 12
measures

Military's
advantage
increased
in later trials,
especially with
response time:
Could be less
fatigue or
better learning

Hypothesis: heart rate responds more quickly to changes in workload as fatigue sets in

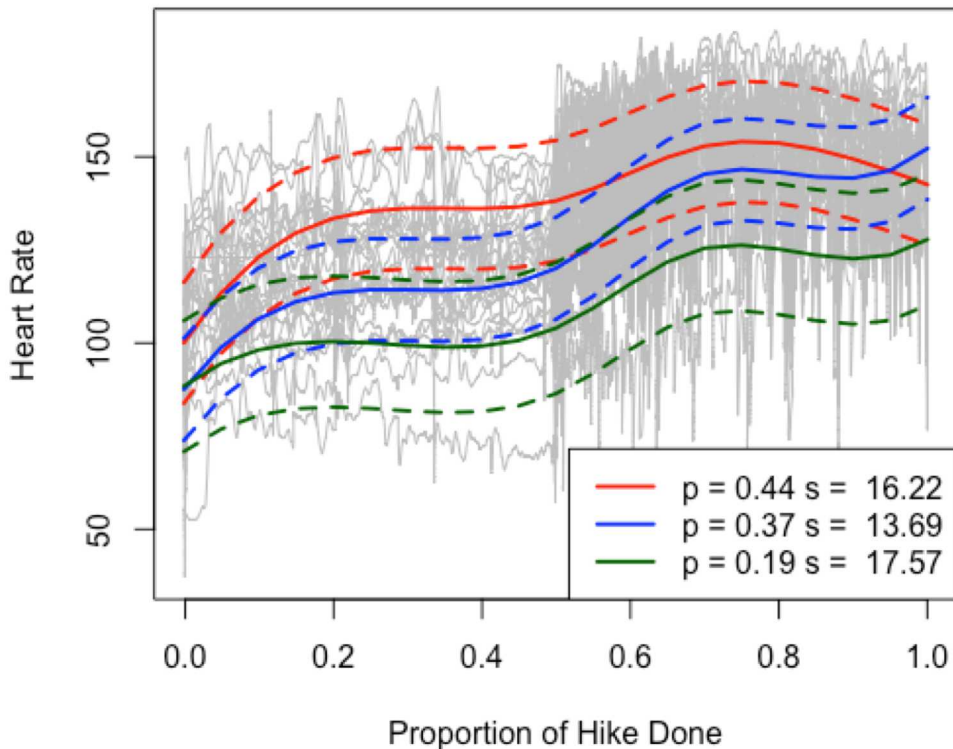
Detecting changes in workload - Breaks



- This is everywhere that a subject's pedometer (wrist-based accelerometer) read 0 for at least 80% of samples in any 5-minute period
- GPS was not used to detect breaks, only indicate where they were at the time

Hypothesis: heart rate responds more quickly to changes in workload as fatigue sets in

Clustering Heart Rate Functions

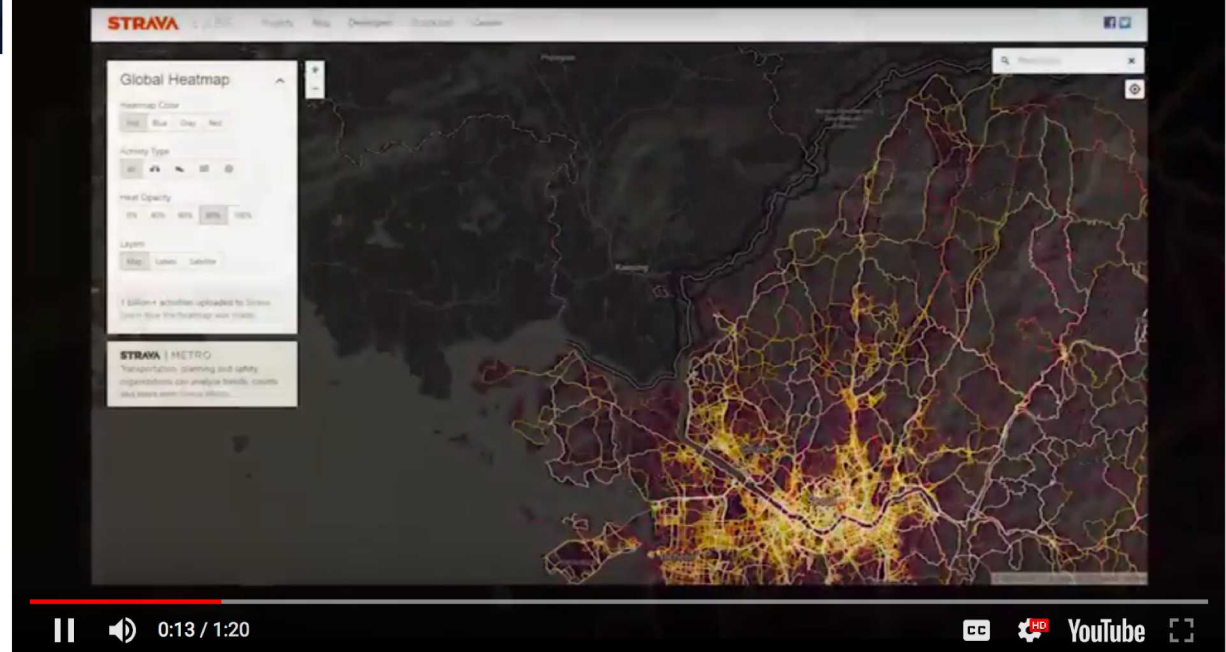


Architecture of Satellite Communication



Wearable tech could be a challenge for US military, experts say

Fitness-tracker maps show troops' whereabouts



Military cross-domain situational awareness is a “why-Sandia” arena; we provide sensors, data analysis and integration, actionable information, data security, and **secure communications**

Team

Sandia National Labs

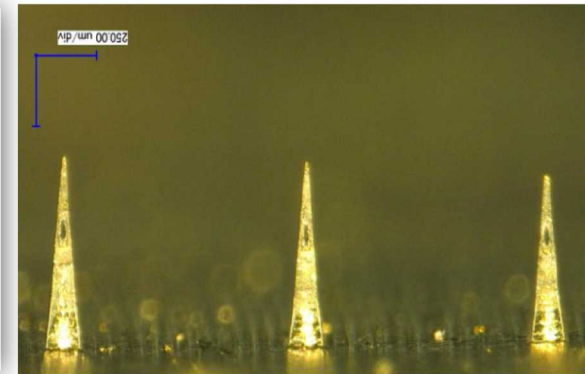
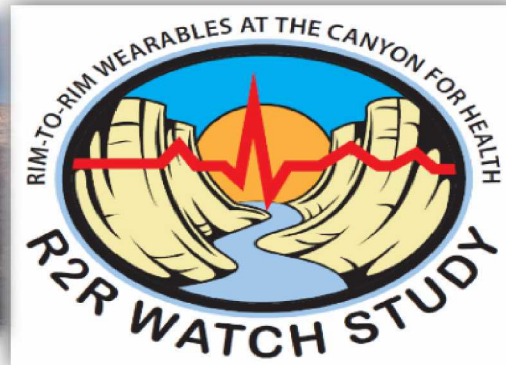
Ronen Polsky
Glory Avina

UNM Health Science Center

Justin Baca

ECBC

Trevor Glaros
Nicole Rosenzweig



Partnerships essential to our success

- Partners have complementary expertise, capabilities, and sponsor relationships
- National labs and federal lab resources: LLNL, LANL, LBL, PNNL, USAMRIID, ECBC, CDC
- Universities: UCB, UC Davis, UCLA, UNM
- Industry: CRADAs and IP license agreements develop commercial sources for Sandia technology

