



Transdermal Microneedle Sensors to Monitor Human Health and Performance

Ronen Polsky, Sandia National Laboratories, Chemical and Biological Sensors Dept., rpolsky@sandia.gov

March 2, 2022, Sensors Summit 2022, Sand Diego, CA



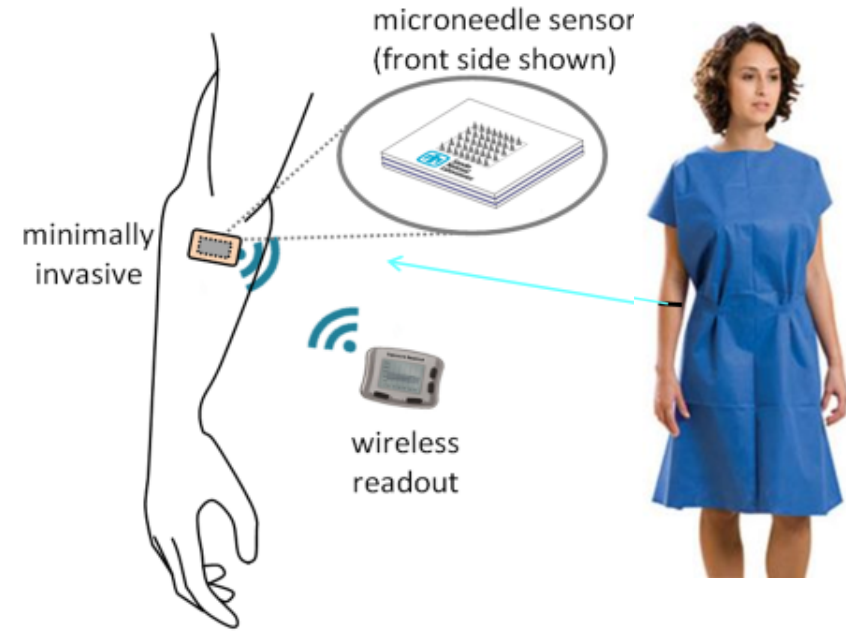
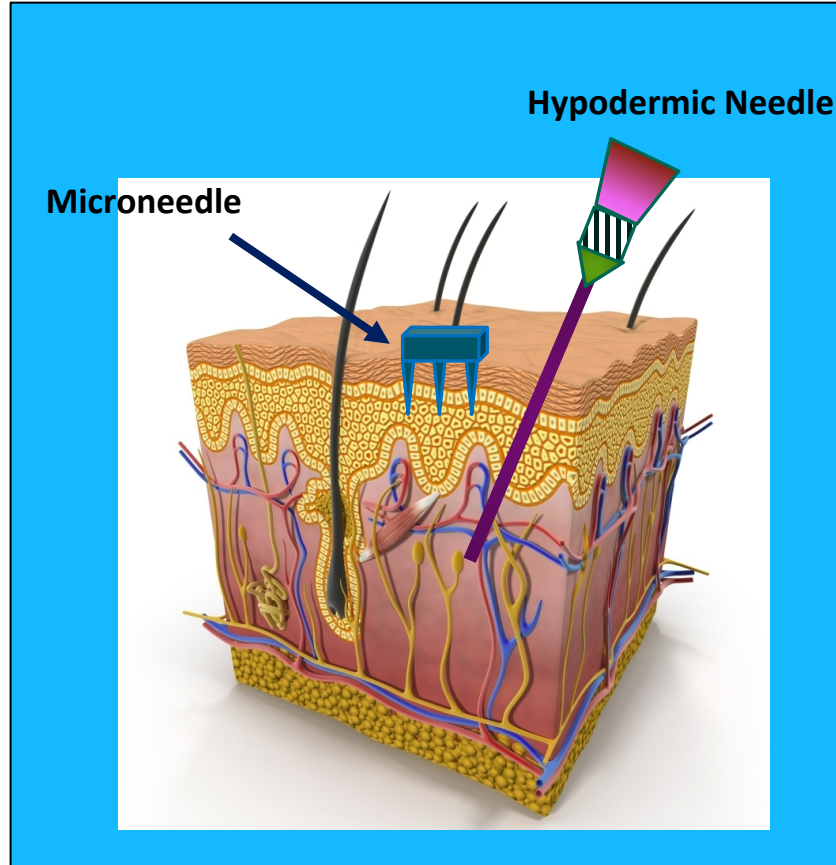


The single biggest threat to man's
continued dominance on the planet
is the virus.

— *Joshua Lederberg* —

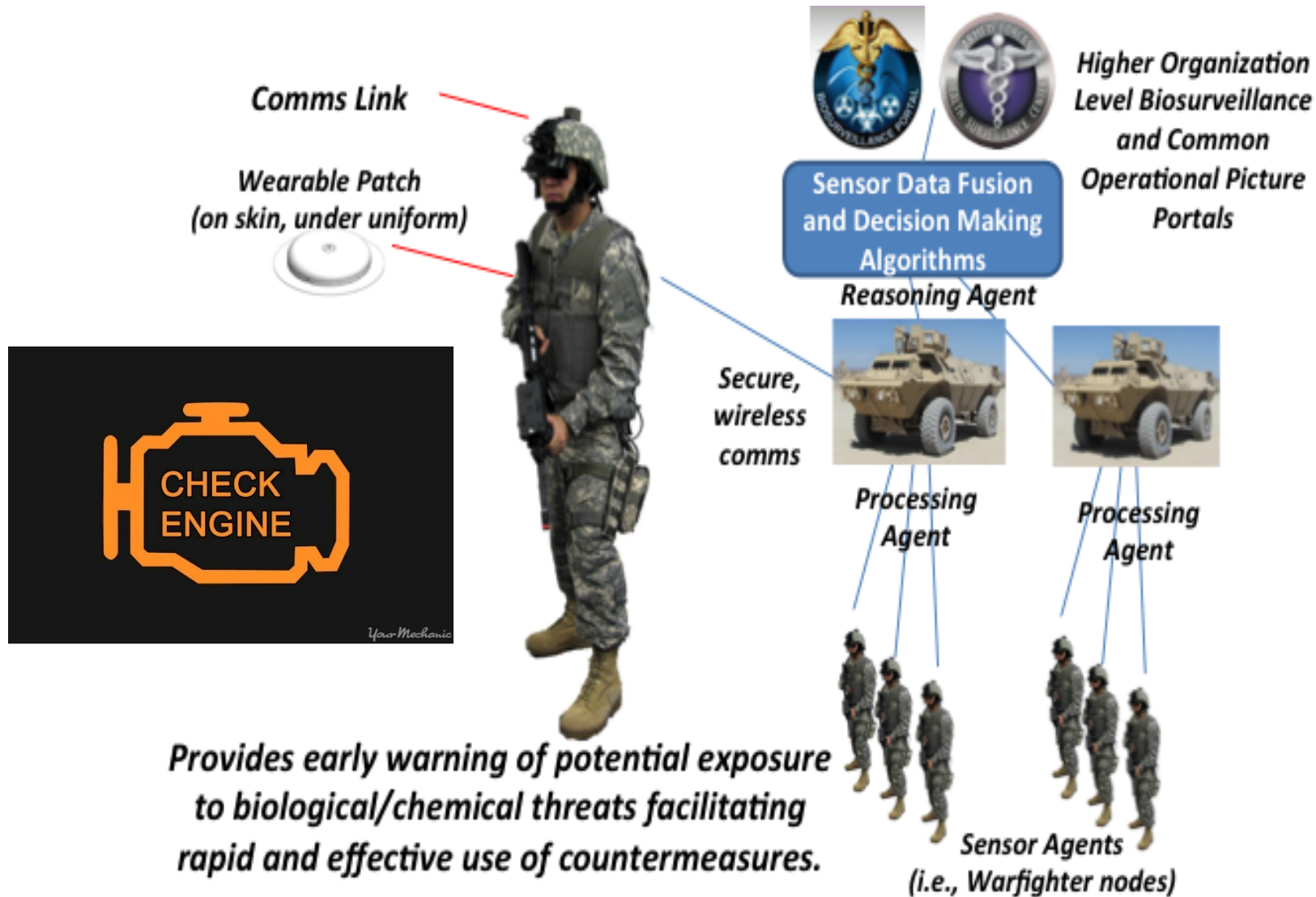
AZ QUOTES

Microneedles and Health Monitoring



DTRA1002717470, Project 189920- PM Nate Adams

Bringing the diagnostic lab to the field!



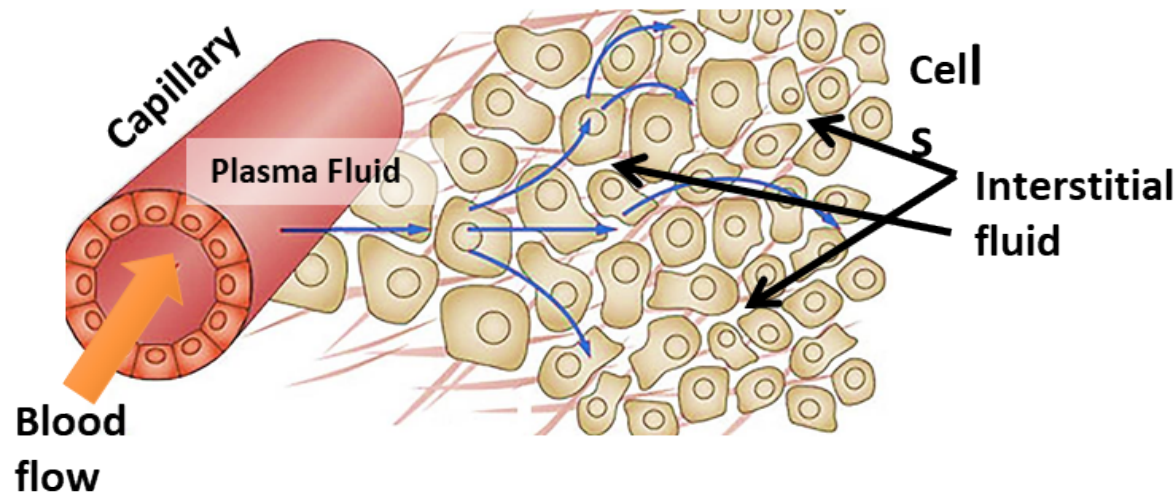
Models of Capillary Exchange of Plasma

- Drinker and Field's Model 1931

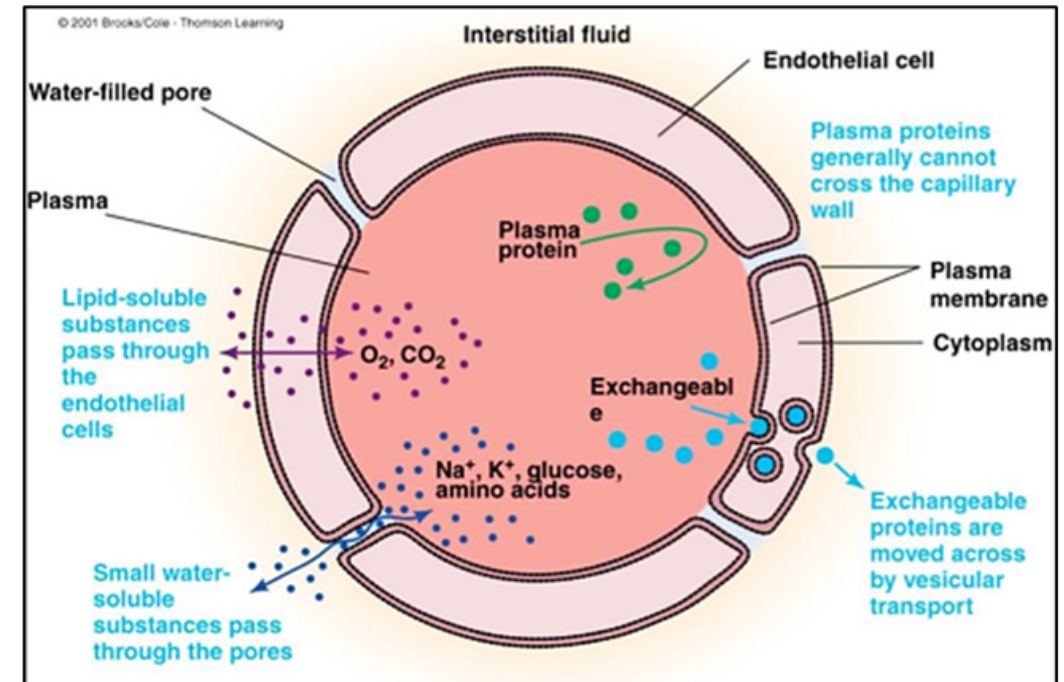
Osmotic gradient and resistance changes in capillaries allow exchange of peptides and small proteins from the plasma to the interstitial fluid

- The fluid from plasma that fills the interstitial space between cells and surrounds them.

- Continual exchange of nutrients for cells



Blood Volume = 5 L
Interstitial Volume = 12 L

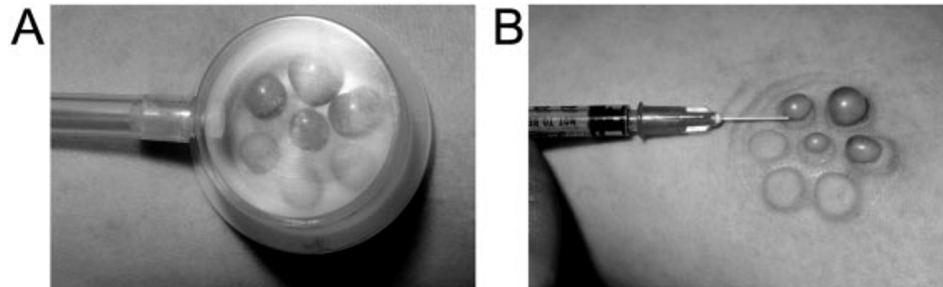


Drinker, C. K., and Field, M. E.,
American Journal of Physiology,
1931, xcvii, 32.

Interstitial Fluid Sampling Methods

Blister

Cortese TA, Sams WM, Sluzberger MB. Studies on blisters produced by friction. II. The blister fluid. *J Investig Dermatol* **1968**; 50:47-53.
 Vermeer BJ, Reman FC, van Gent CM. The determination of lipids and proteins in suction blister fluid. *J Investig Dermatol* **1979**;73:303-5.



Microdialysis

Lonnroth P, Jansson PA, Smith U. A microdialysis method allowing characterization of intercellular water space in humans. *Am J Physiol* **1987**;253:E228-31.
 Jansson PA, Fowelin J, Smith U, Lonnroth P. Characterization by microdialysis of intercellular glucose level in subcutaneous tissue in humans. *Am J Physiol* **1988**;255:E218-20.
 Bolinder J, Hagstrom E, Ungerstedt U, Arner P. Microdialysis of subcutaneous adipose tissue in vivo for continuous glucose monitoring in man. *Scand J Clin Lab Investig* **1989**;49:465-71.

Effusion

Kayashima S, Tsunenori A, Kikuchi M, Nagata N, Ito N, Kuriyama T, et al. Suction effusion fluid from skin and constituent analysis: new candidate for interstitial fluid. *Am J Physiol* **1992**;263:H1623-7.
 Janle-Swain E, van Vleet JF, Ash SR. Use of a capillary filtrate collector for monitoring glucose in diabetics. *Trans Am Soc Artif Organs* **1987**;33:336-40.

Wick

Aukland K, Fadnes HO. Protein concentration of interstitial fluid collected from rat skin by a wick method. *Acta Physiol Scand* **1973**;88:350-8.
 Kramer GC, Sibley L, Aukland K, Renkin EM. Wick sampling of interstitial fluid in rat skin: further analysis and modifications of the method. *Microvasc Res* **1986**;32:39-49.

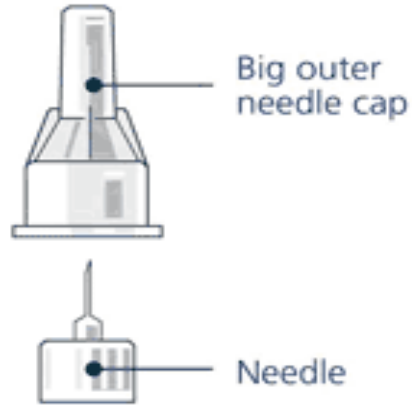
Electric Fields

S. K. Li, A. Ghanem, K. D. Peck, and W. I. Higuchi, "Characterization of the transport pathways induced during low to moderate voltage iontophoresis in human epidermal membrane," *J. Pharm. Sci.*, vol. 87, no. 1, pp. 40-48, Jan. 1998.

Ultrasound

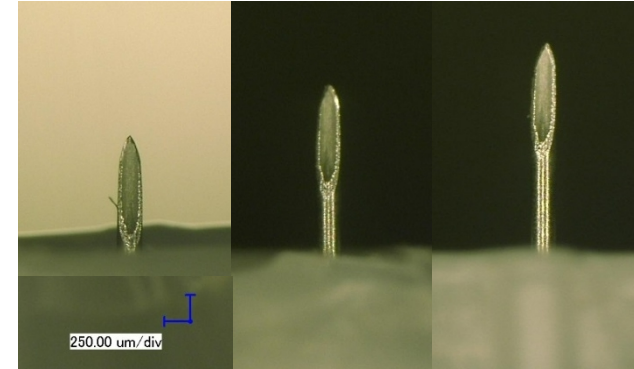
S. Mitragotri, D. Blankschtein, and R. Langer, "Transdermal drug delivery using low-frequency sonophoresis," *Pharm. Res.*, vol. 13, no. 3, pp. 411- 420, Mar. 1996.
 J. Gupta and M. R. Prausnitz, "Recovery of skin barrier properties after sonication in human subjects," *Ultrasound Med. Biol.*, vol. 35, no. 8, pp. 1405-1408, Aug. 2009.

Extraction of ISF using novel microneedle device

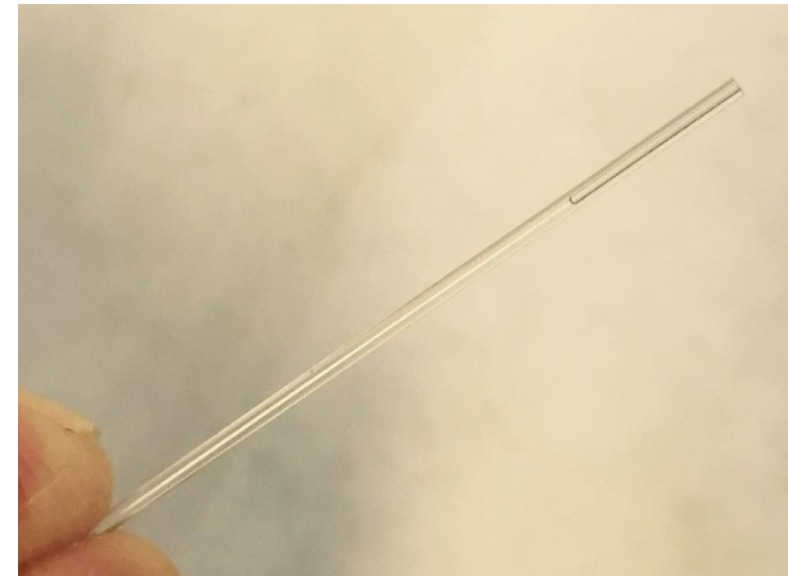


Assembled device with capillary for fluid storage

1000um 1500um 2000um



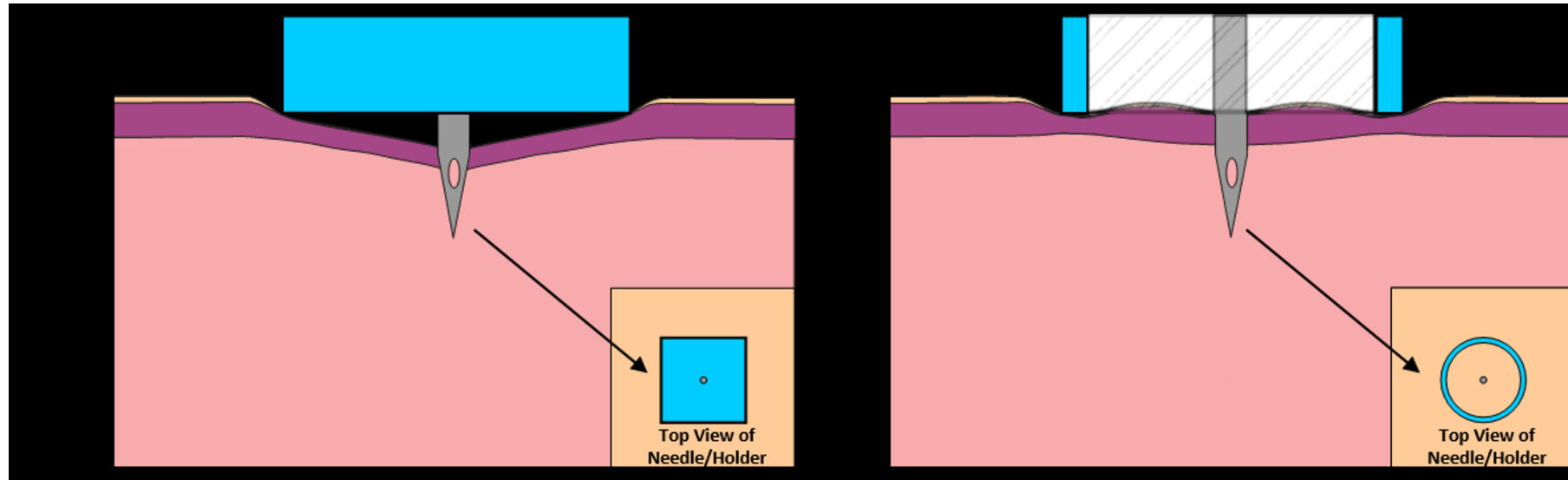
Varying PEN needle lengths cut at different lengths



Extracted Fluid

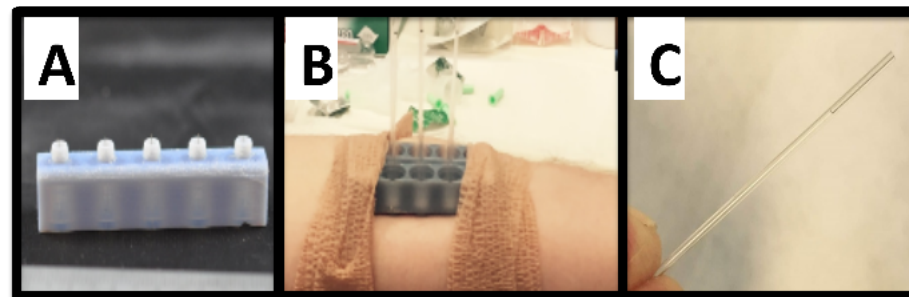
Extraction of ISF using novel microneedle device

Comm. Bio. (2018) 1:173 | DOI: 10.1038/s42003-018-0170-z



In plane Needles

Spaced Needles

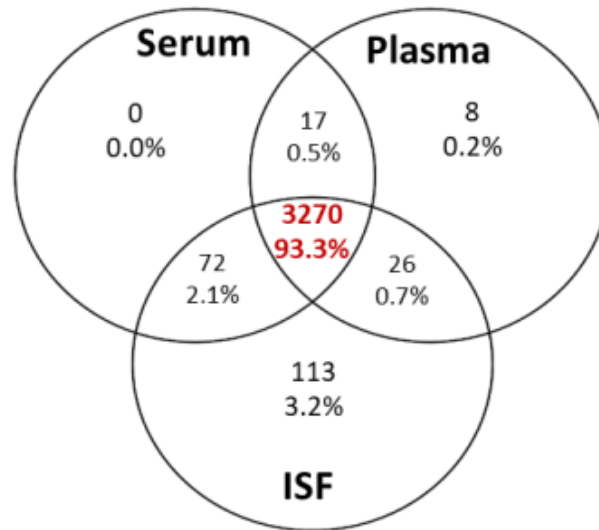


A) 3D printed microneedle holder with five needles of 1500 μm lengths. B) Two 3D microneedle holders adhered to a human subject for ISF extraction and collection in glass capillary tubes. C) Glass capillary collection tube with ISF collected from a human subject.

Proteomic Analysis of ISF



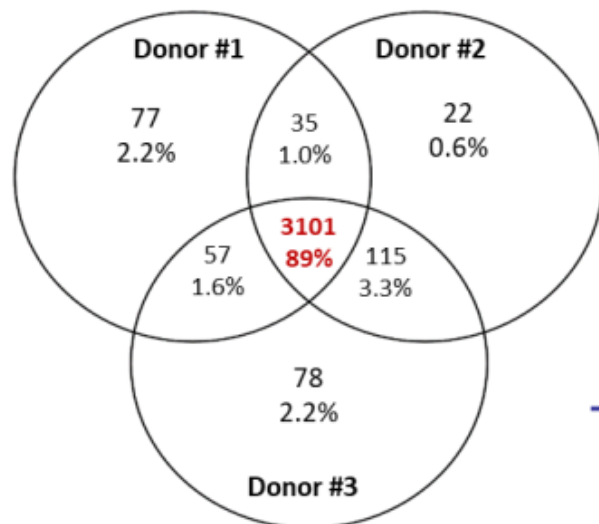
J. Proteome Res. 2018, 17, 479–485



- 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!



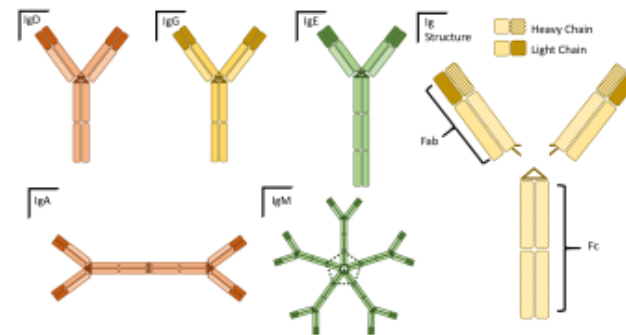
89% of these proteins were consistently detected in three examined human individuals.

Trevor Glaros, Bao Tran, Nicole Rosenzweig
ECBC

Immunoglobulins



The five classes of immunoglobulins and generalized structure



We found similar profiles in IgG, IgA and IgMs in ISF to serum and plasma using our extraction method

*J. Prot. Res. 2019 (just accepted)
Collaboration with ECBC*

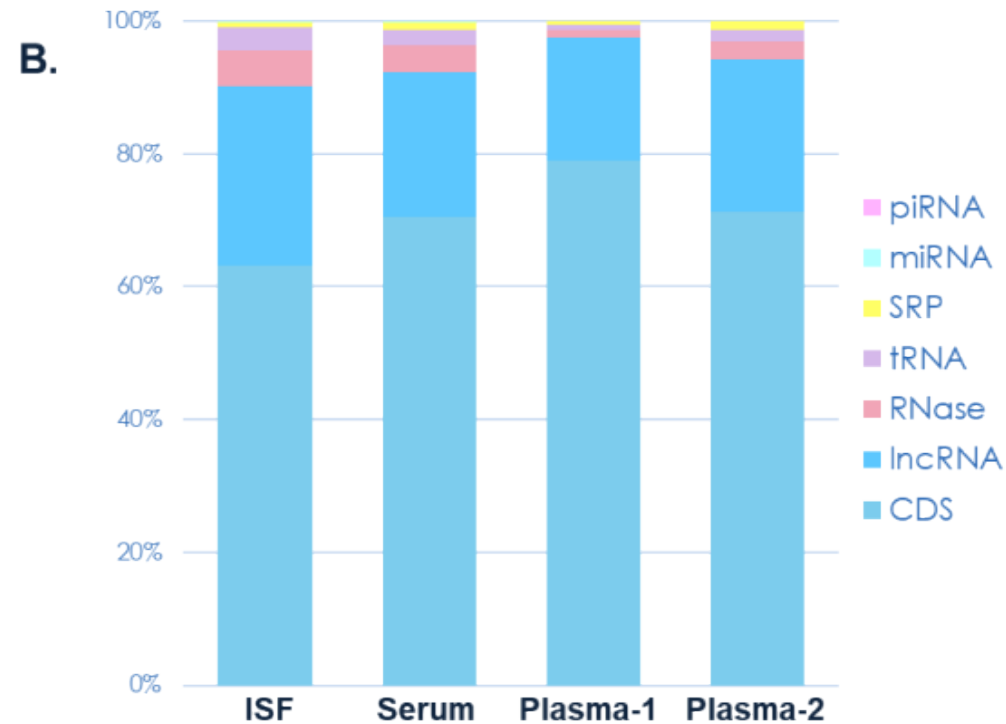
Identified Immunoglobulins from Extracted ISF vs Paired Plasma and Serum

Immunoglobulin	Description	Accession	% Coverage	# PSMs	# Unique Peptides	Serum/ISF	Plasma/ISF
IgA1	heavy constant alpha 1	P01876	63	369	8	1.3	1.3
IgA2	alpha-2 heavy chain	P0DOX2	57	230	8	1.0	1.0
IgA2	heavy constant alpha 2 (Fragment)	A0A0G2JMB2	70	256	1	1.1	1.2
IgD	delta heavy chain	P0DOX3	40	32	3	1.0	0.9
IgE	epsilon heavy chain	P0DOX4	4	2	2	1.0	1.3
IgG1	gamma-1 heavy chain	P0DOX5	63	1026	15	0.8	0.9
IgG2	heavy constant gamma 2	P01859	60	828	7	0.8	0.8
IgG3	heavy constant gamma 3	P01860	66	696	10	0.9	0.9
IgG4	heavy constant gamma 4 (Fragment)	A0A286YFJ8	43	593	5	1.0	1.0
IgM	heavy constant mu	P01871	72	357	9	1.5	1.5
IgM	mu heavy chain	P0DOX6	44	251	2	1.6	1.5

Overview of RNA species detected in ISF, serum, and plasma samples

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)



**In agreement with proteomic study,
RNA content was similar between
Plasma, Serum, and ISF**

Acute hypoxia can cause physiological alterations affecting pulmonary, cardiovascular, renal, neurological, and hematologic systems, as well as declines in overall performance and health conditions such as heart disease and tumor microenvironment.

- Three CD Hairless rats were exposed to normoxia (21% O₂) and three exposed to acute hypoxia (10% O₂) conditions
- Serum, Plasma, and ISF was collected and RNA-Seq was used
- Changes in miRNA abundance versus normoxia and hypoxia were compared

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).

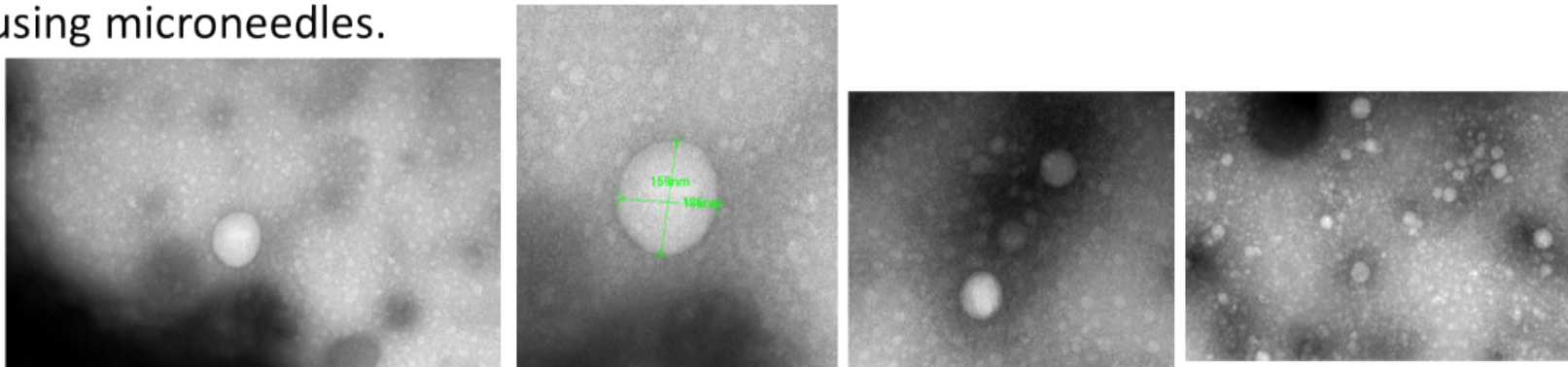
Presence Of Exosomes in Interstitial Fluid

First Demonstration!

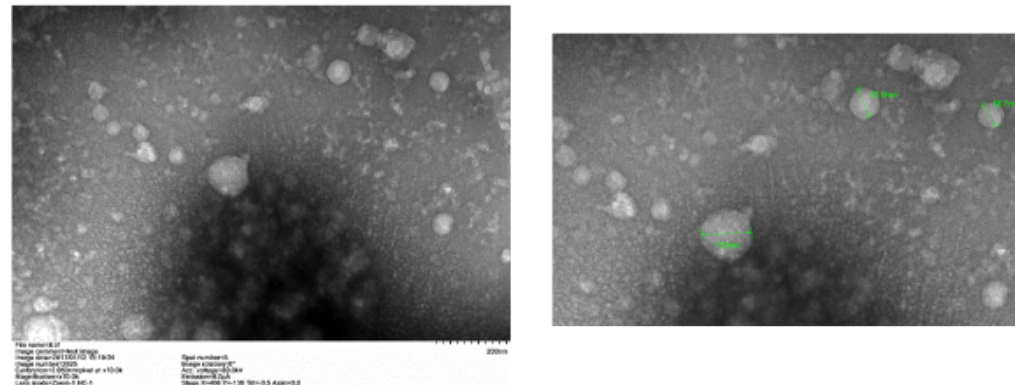
Microneedle Extraction of Interstitial Fluid (ISF)

- Have successfully purified exosomes from ISF extracted using microneedles.

ISF



Serum



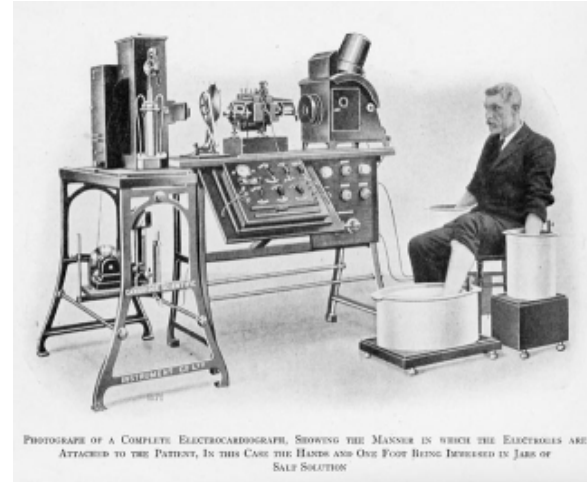
Part 2. Microneedle Sensors



Evolution of the “Wearable”



GPS 1980 → 2015



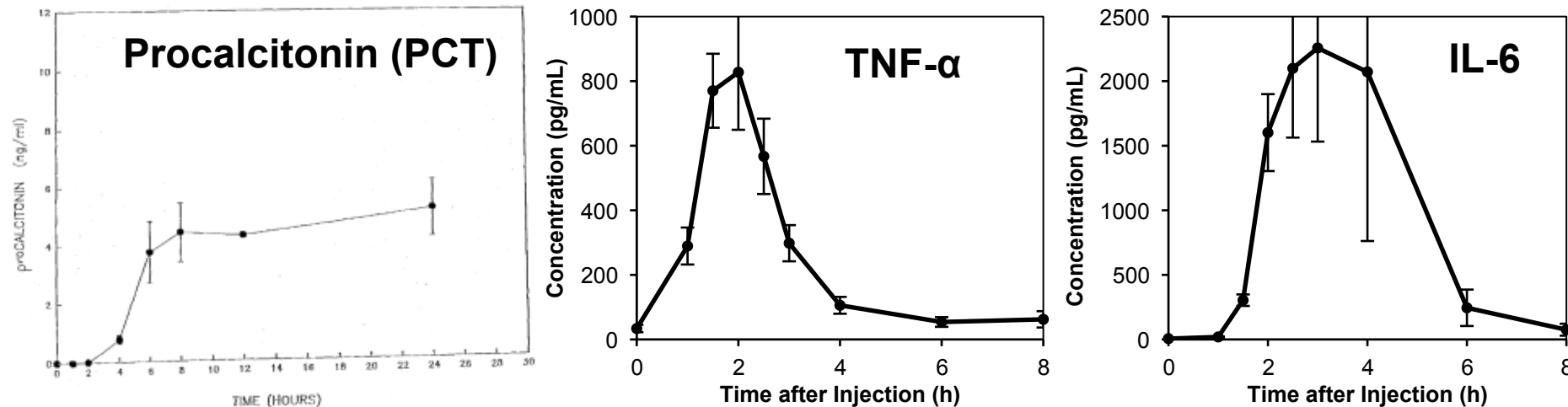
ECG 1911 → 2015



Glucose 1945 → 2015

Peptide Markers of Exposure to Biothreats

7 healthy patients, IV injected with *E. Coli* endotoxin. Serum levels of PCT, IL-6, and TNF- α measured over time.

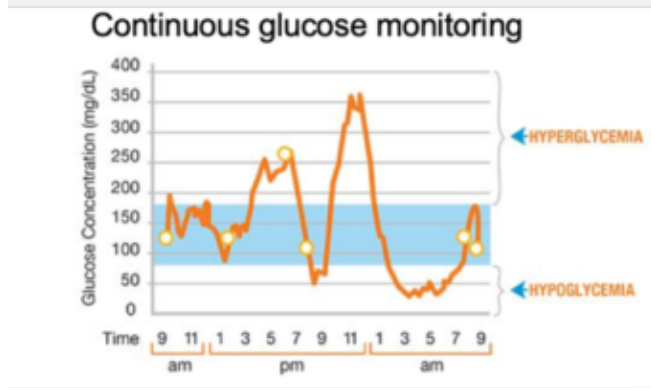


Demonstrates the importance of “kinetic” data. Unfortunately, most studies only have one data point, taken after subject is already infected and has symptoms.

*TNF- α and IL-6 plots made from tabulated data in paper.

(40) *Procalcitonin increase after endotoxin injection in normal subjects. The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism. 1994.*

Continuous Monitoring



Long Term

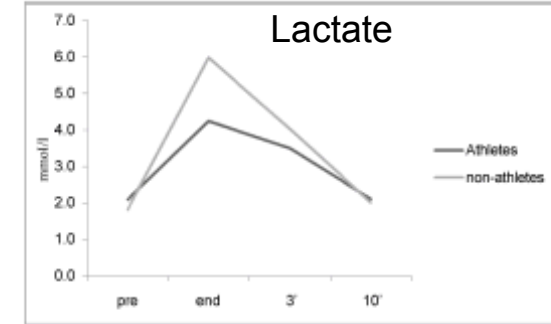
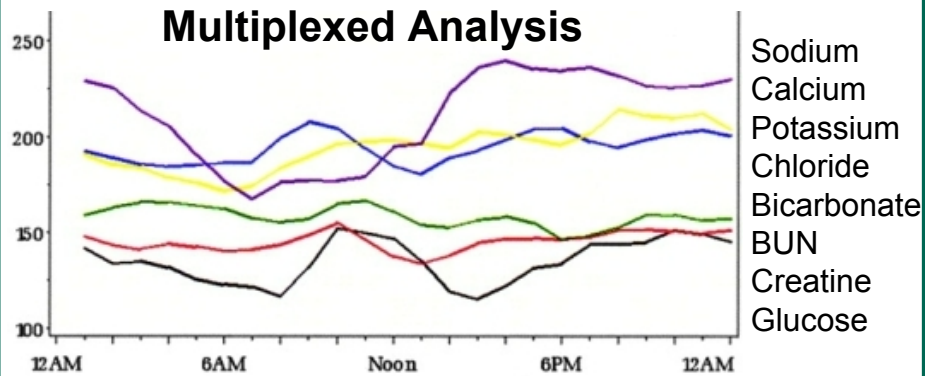


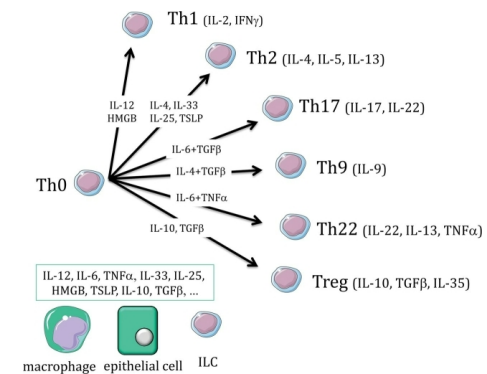
Figure 2: Changes in blood lactate level at rest (pre), at the end (0 min) as well as 3 and 10 min of the recovery, between two groups.

Short Term

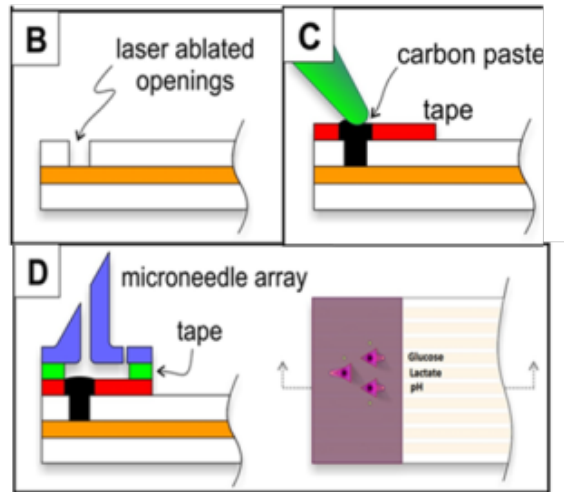


Chem 7 Panel

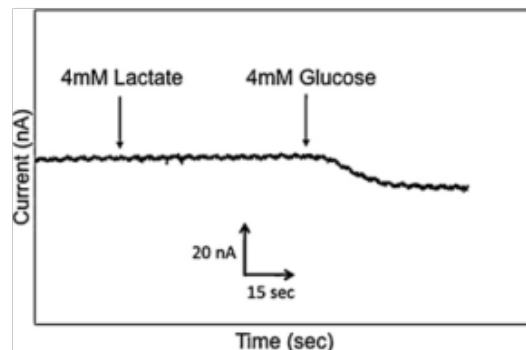
Additional Biomarkers



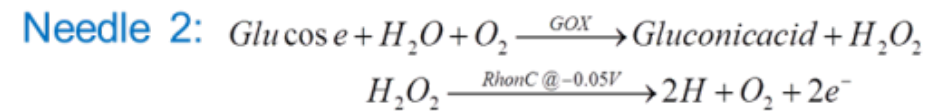
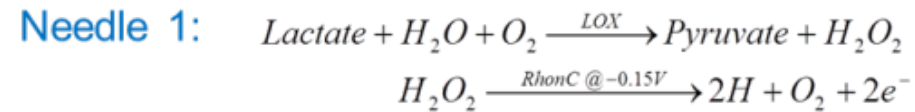
Multiplexed Microneedle Array



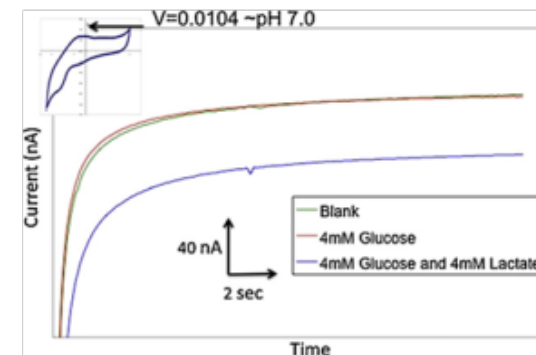
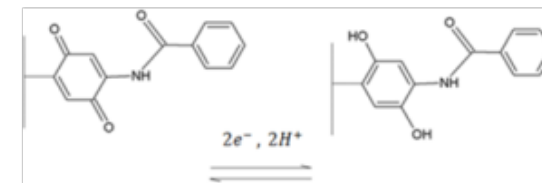
- Single MN on an array and schematic of multiplexed layout



Spike of 4mM lactate followed by 4mM Glucose spike with detection at glucose modified carbon paste in 0.1M phosphate buffer.



Needle 3:



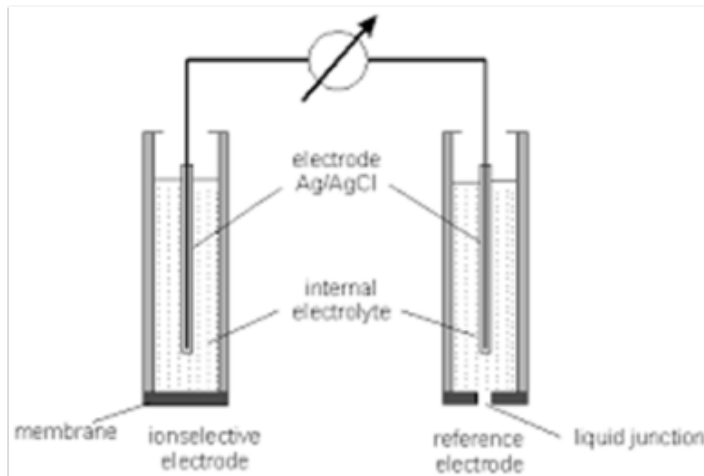
Spike of 4mM glucose followed by 4mM lactate spike with detection at lactate modified carbon paste in 0.1M phosphate buffer. CV at diazonium modified carbon paste electrode (inset).

Microneedle Electrolyte Sensor



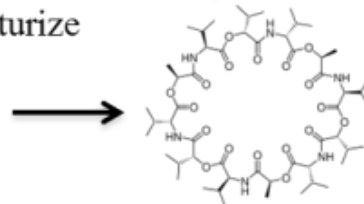
Detection Mechanism: Potential difference across an ISE membrane due to selective binding between ion and ionophore within polymer ISE membrane, measured against a reference electrode of constant potential

Traditional Liquid ISE



- Uses selective membrane to bind to ion and create potential difference
- Valinomycin used for selective potassium binding
- Difficult to miniaturize

Ionophore used:
Valinomycin

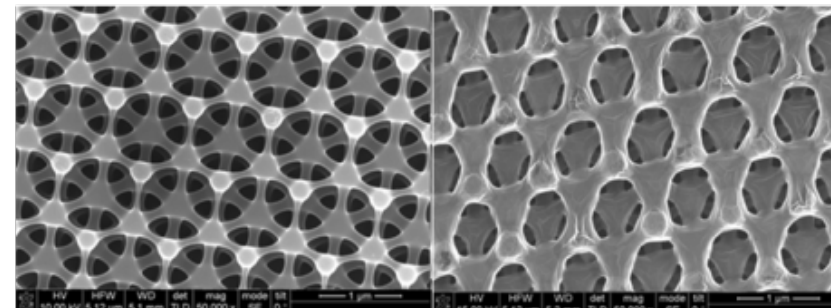


Solid State Polymer Membrane ISE

- Removes internal solution by coating electrode directly with polymer ISE membrane
- Facile to make and test
- Capable of being miniaturized

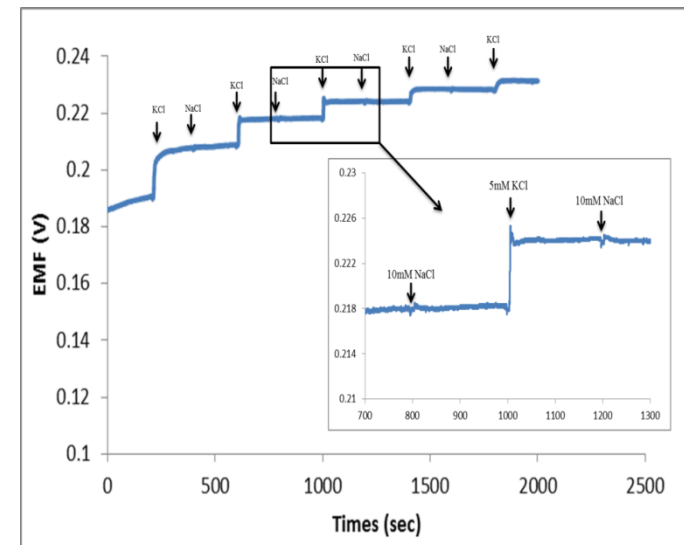
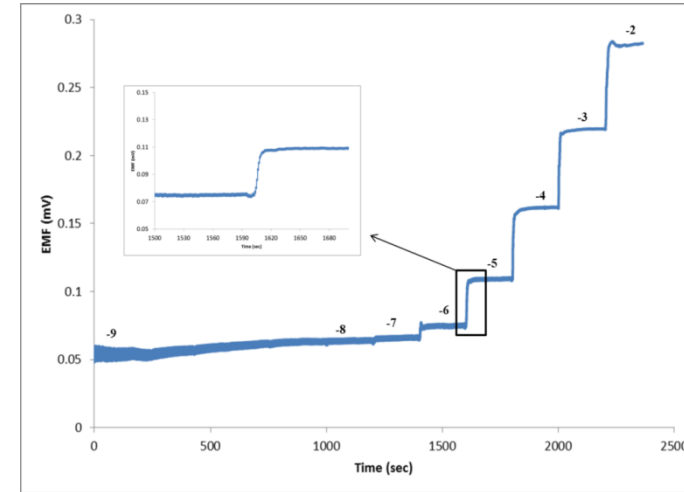
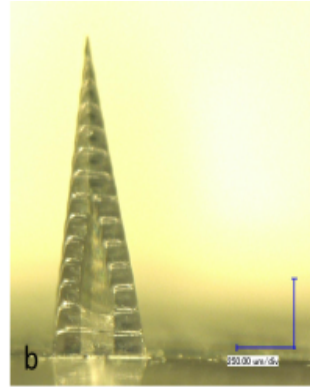
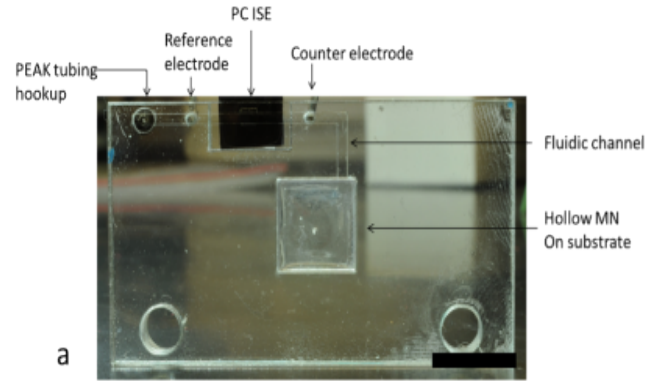


Porous Electrodes used as Transducers



-Porous carbon (left) and porous graphene (right) electrodes used in this study

Microneedle Electrolyte Sensor



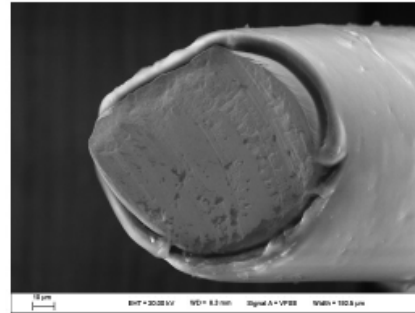
Caaxial Microneedle Electrode



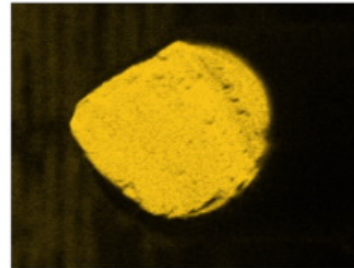
Top-Down View of Sensor



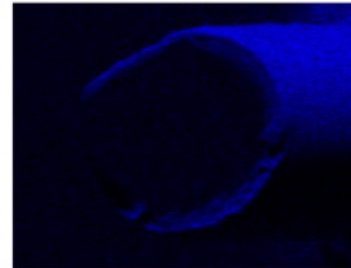
- Biosensor
- Dielectric
- PEN Needle
- Reference Electrode



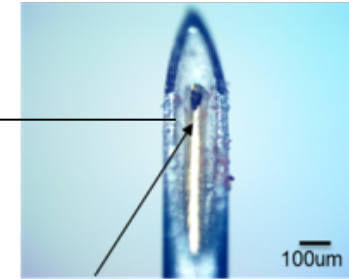
Au Ma1



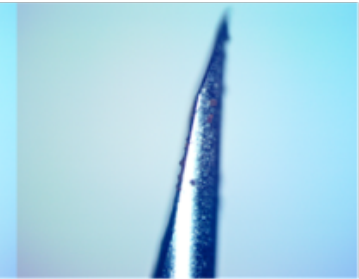
O Ka1



Front View



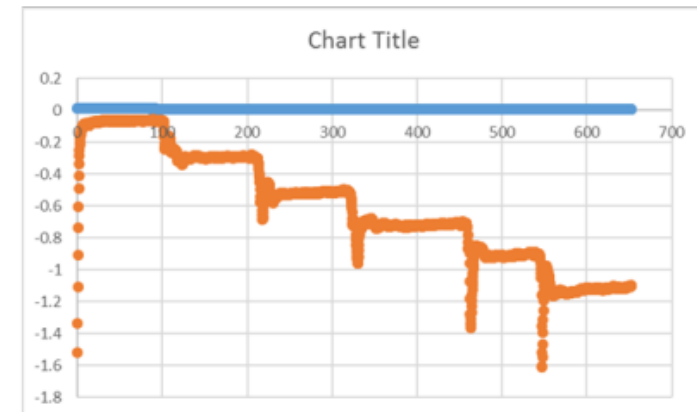
Profile View



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

50 μm Au insulated enzymatic electrode with only tip exposed can be inserted into microneedle without causing electrical short. Thus, microneedle serves as only housing, protecting against biofouling along shaft while sensor provides very precise probing of tissue metabolites.



Coaxial Microneedles

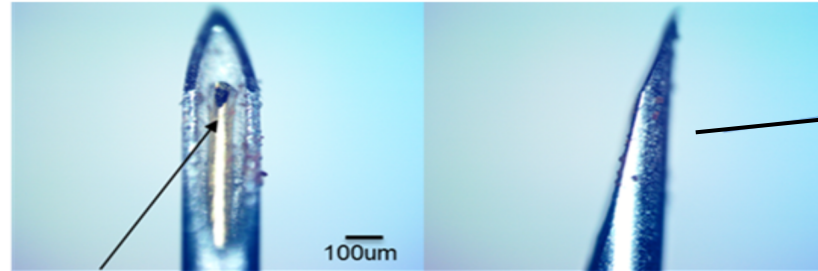


Top-Down View of Sensor



- Biosensor
- Dielectric
- PEN Needle
- Reference Electrode

Individual Microneedle Sensor

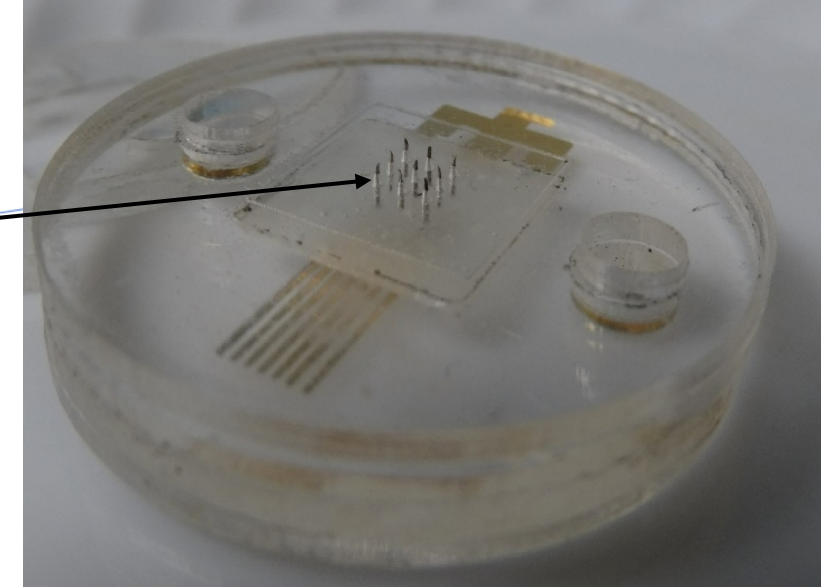


Electrically insulated
50um Au wire

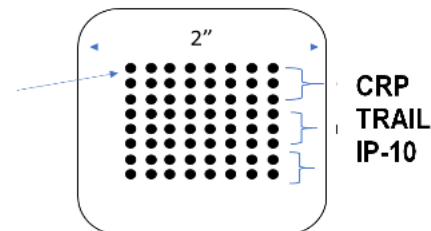
Front View

Profile View

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

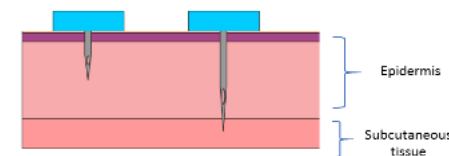


Array of Sensor on Wearable Patch



- 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

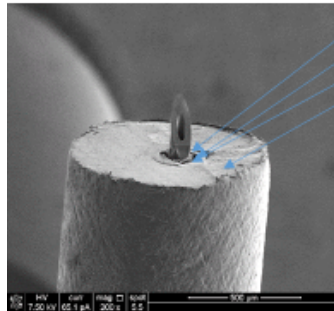


- Microneedle sensor depth control allows monitoring different skin layers
- May help distinguish physiological responses that are driven by external factor or via internal ones

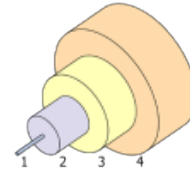
Fiber Optic Microneedle

Rapid prototyping of microneedles via direct laser writing onto fiberoptic using Nanoscribe.

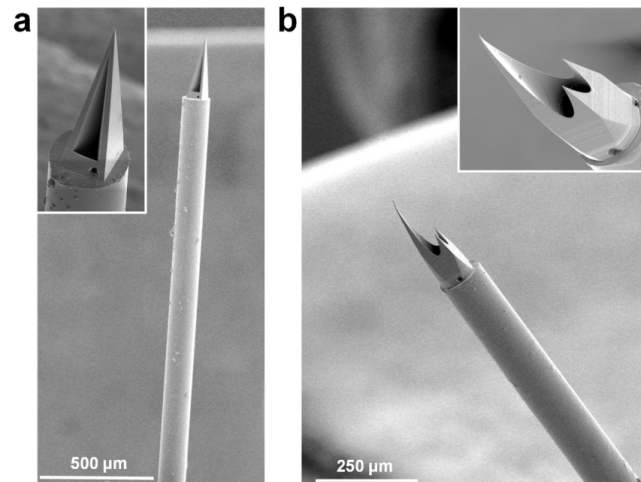
Method 1: Direct fabrication on clad fiber...



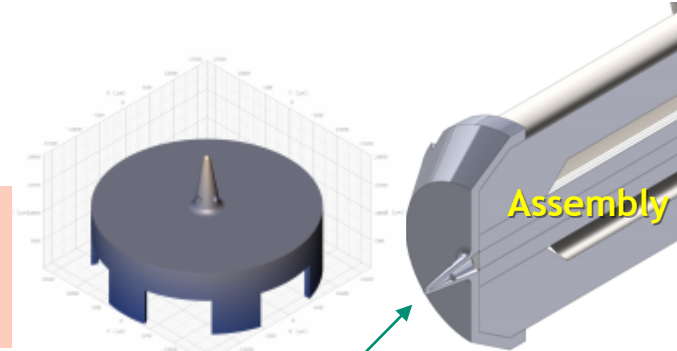
1. Core: 125 μm diameter
2. Cladding:
3. Buffer:
4. Jacket: $\sim 700 \mu\text{m}$ dia.



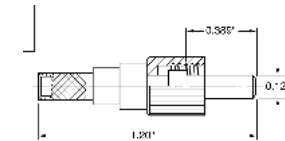
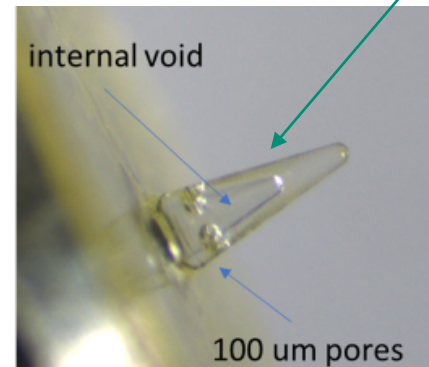
Diverse MN geometries are possible.
However MNs do not adhere well onto cladding



Method 2: Needle-cap printed separately to fit/align onto standard SMA905 fiber terminal.

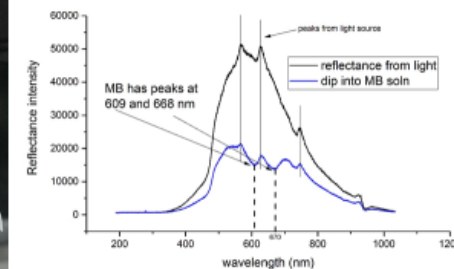
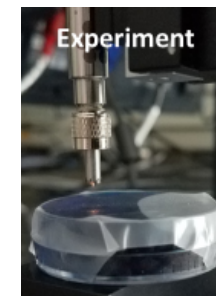


Hollow core needle

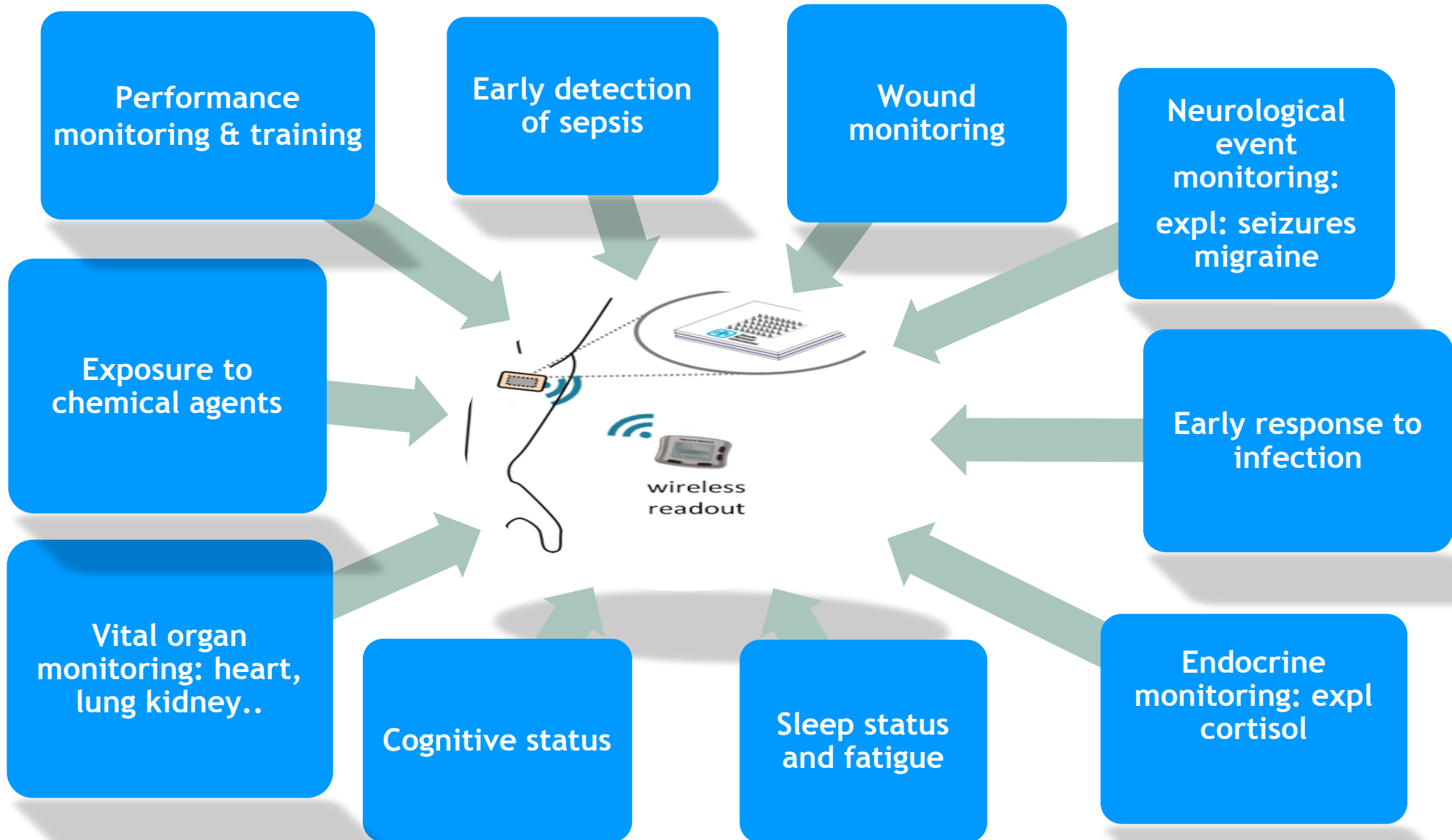


For **IR-biosensing**, Au will be plated in the interior of the needle ($\sim 20\text{nm}$ = 100% reflectance at λ 2.0-2.5 μm) to avoid interference from the photocured polymer.

UV-Vis: No signal detected unless the 'reflection' tip is attached Methylene blue spectra detected indicating sampling from needle core.



Application Areas for Microneedle Array Wearable Biosensors



Team

Sandia National Labs

Phillip Miller
Alex Downs
Nathaniel Pfieffer
Kelley Williams
Steve Branda
Raga Krishnakumar
Bryan Kaehr
Jonathon Olesberg
PM: Matt Moorman/Cathy Branda

UNM Health Science Center

Justin Baca
Robert Taylor
Virginia Severns
Debi Lovato

ECBC

Trevor Glaros
Bao Tran
Jennifer Sekowski
Michele Maughan
Nicole Rosenzweig
Phil Mach

Thank you