

# Advanced Wearable Sensor Systems: Smart textiles, Energy Harvesting and Integration



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[assistcenter.org](http://assistcenter.org)

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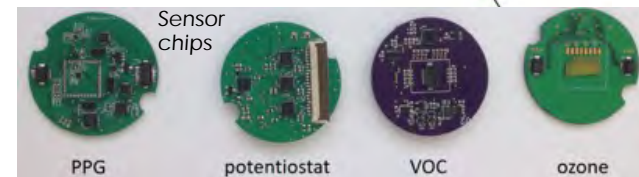
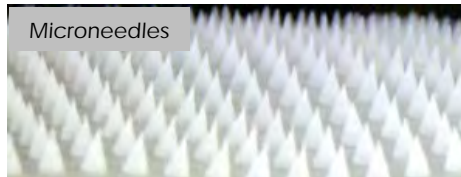
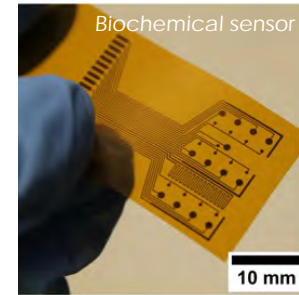
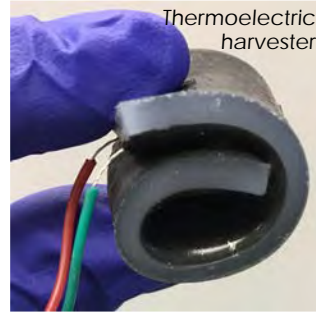


**NC STATE UNIVERSITY**



# ASSIST Research Areas

1. Energy Harvesting & Storage
2. Low Power Sensing
3. Low Power Electronics
4. E-textiles
5. System Integration



# Energy Harvesting Technology

## Body Heat

- Flexible thermoelectrics

## Body Motion

- Piezoelectrics
- Flexoelectrics
- Liquid metal

## Ambient RF

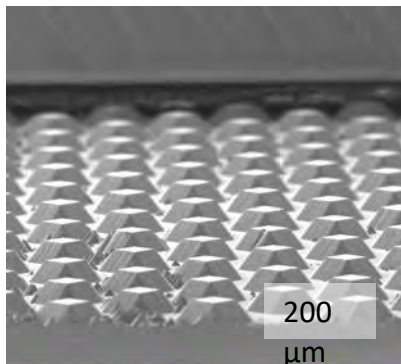
- Ambient Wi-Fi
- Novel antennas on textiles

## Biofuels

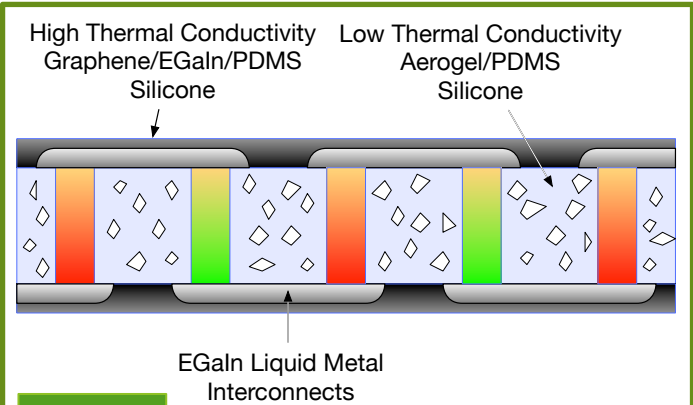
- Passive sweat collection
- Novel enzymes for lactate and glucose conversion

## Energy Storage

- Li ion capacitors
- High Energy Density
- Low leakage



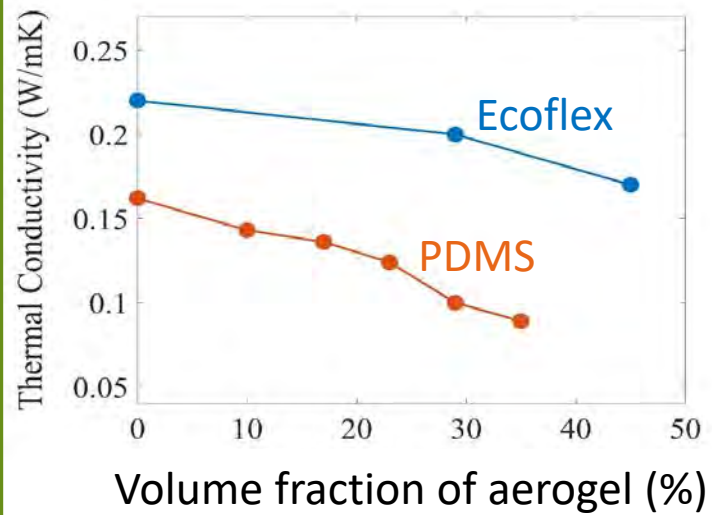
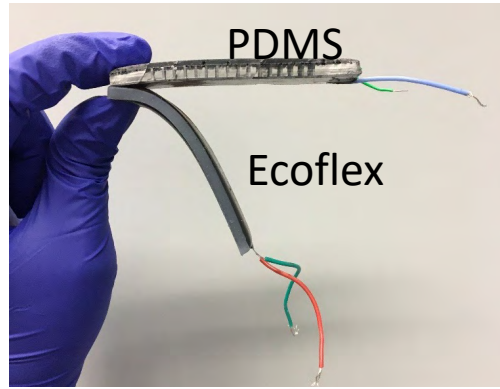
# Wearable TEGs with Enhanced Flexibility



2019



NPJ Flexible Electronics 2021



Challenge:

- Ecoflex Thermal Conductivity higher
- Aerogel Inclusion proved ineffective
- Reduced Device Performance

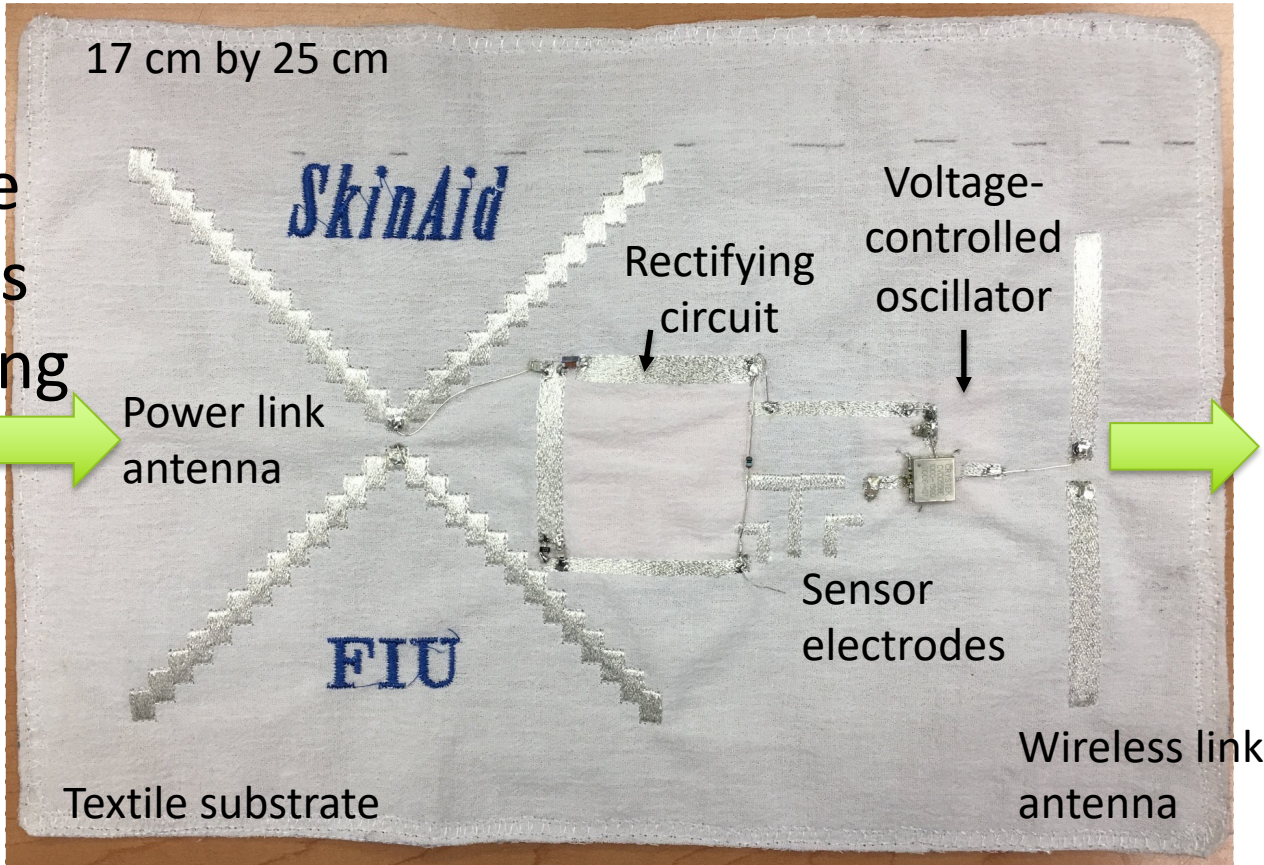
Ozturk/Dickey

# Battery Free Wireless Sensing Patch

Remote  
wireless  
powering



Power link  
antenna



17 cm by 25 cm

*SkinAid*

Rectifying  
circuit

Voltage-  
controlled  
oscillator

Sensor  
electrodes

Wireless link  
antenna

Textile substrate

Modulated  
signal with  
pH/Uric Acid  
sensor data  
(to external  
Kiosk)

# Soft Materials for Energy Harvesting

## ► Problem

Energy sources that can convert mechanical energy to electrical energy can enable self-powered, tetherless, and sustainable wearable electronics, implantables, e-skins, sensors.

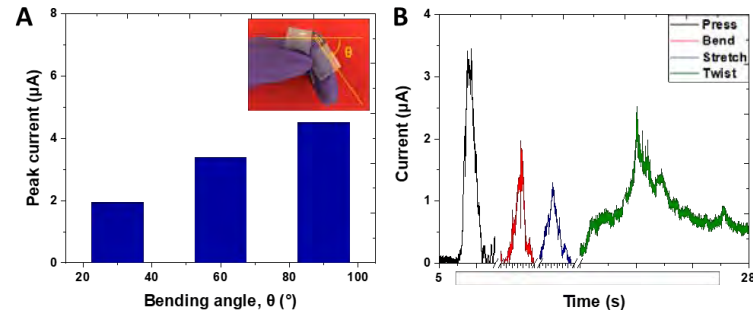
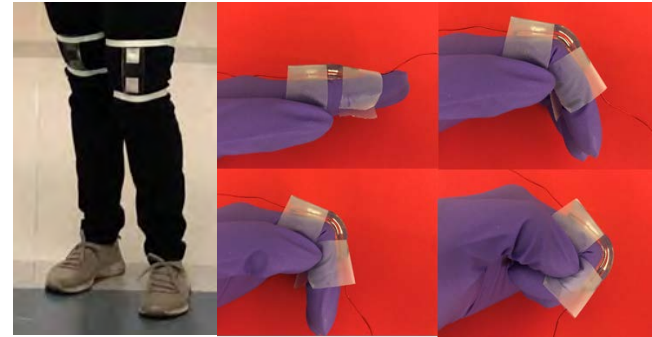
► Inadequacy of existing solutions - e.g., compliance with human skin, deformability, need for additional power source, moisture intolerant etc.

## ► Proposed solution

- Fabricate variable area liquid metal capacitors
- Develop high surface area electrodes to enhance power output

## ► Relevant applications

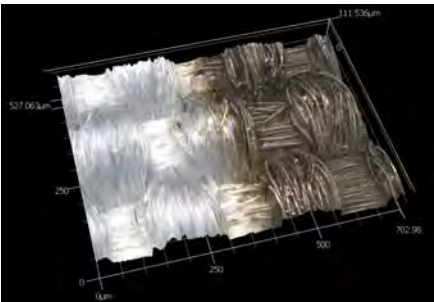
Energy harvester and self-powered sensors



# E-Textiles

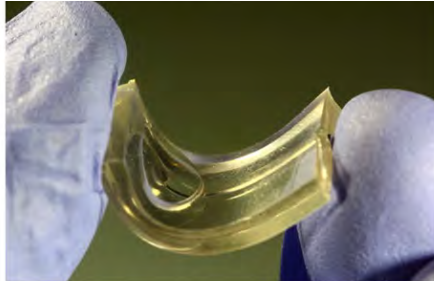
## Smart textiles

- Printed electrodes
- Smart textile designs



## Liquid metals

- Stretchable conductors
- TEGs, antenna, and energy harvesting



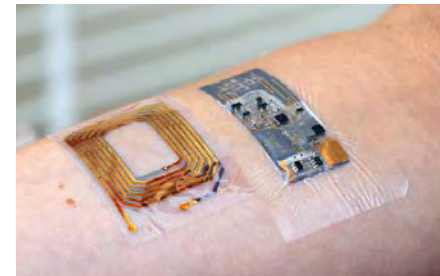
## Fabric antennas

- Wearable and high efficiency



## Flexible PCBs

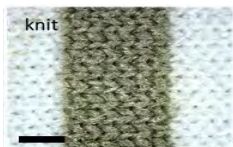
- Thin profile providing comfort and flexibility



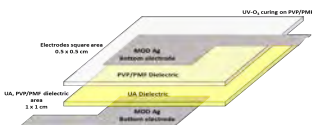
2-layer circuit board (< 25μm)

# Ink-Jet Printing on Textiles

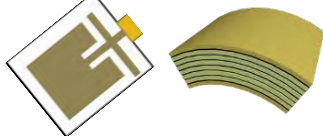
Metal Organic Decomposition (MOD) Ag Ink



## Polymer Dielectric Ink



## Ceramic Dielectric Ink



Inkjet printed flexible antenna design

## Screen Printed Magnetic Ink



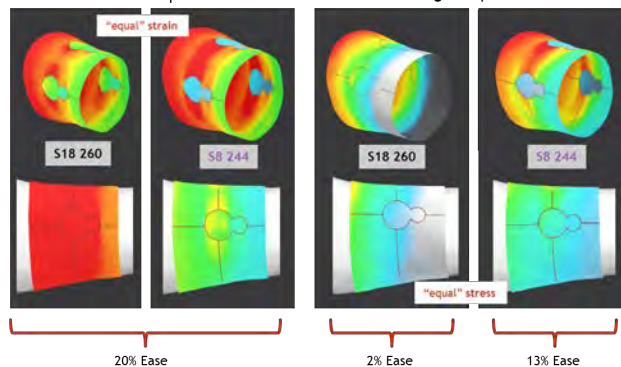
# Fabric Simulation

Assessing dissimilar material effects



Standard - equal strain

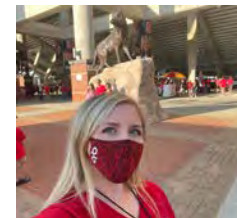
Strategic - equal stress



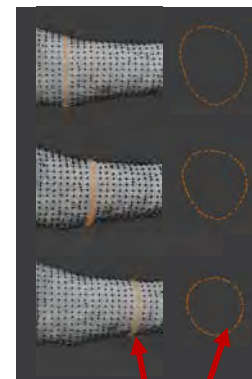
**Strategic:** determine pattern size based on CLO stress from prediction curves



PI - Dr. Jess Jur



Dr. Amanda Mills



Non-uniform cross sections



## Electrically Conductive Seamless Knitting

### Benefits of Seamless Knitting

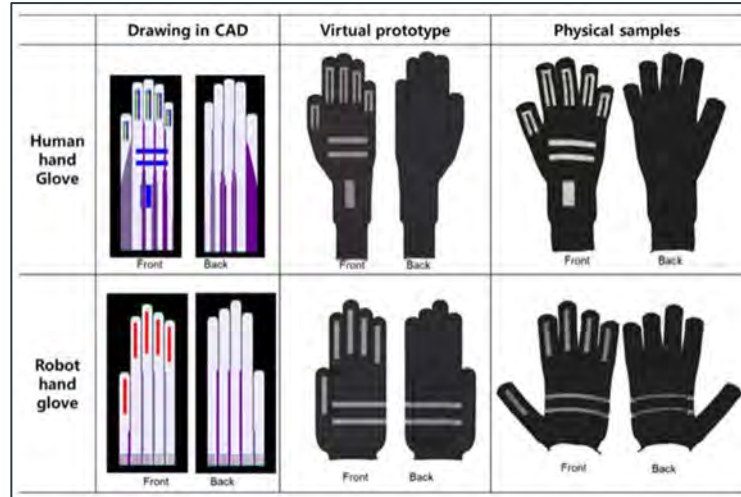
- Reduced waste compared to traditional cut-and-sew
- Improved comfort from lack of bulky seams
- Shorter production times from minimal post-processing
- Virtual and rapid prototyping with integrated CAD software system that directly connects with the knitting machines

### Potential Applications

- Incontinence monitoring with improved comfort undergarments
- Strain sensor for breath monitoring
- Capacitive touch sensors with efficient space utilization and uninterrupted yarn traces



Pressure sensing sock (Luo et al, 2021)



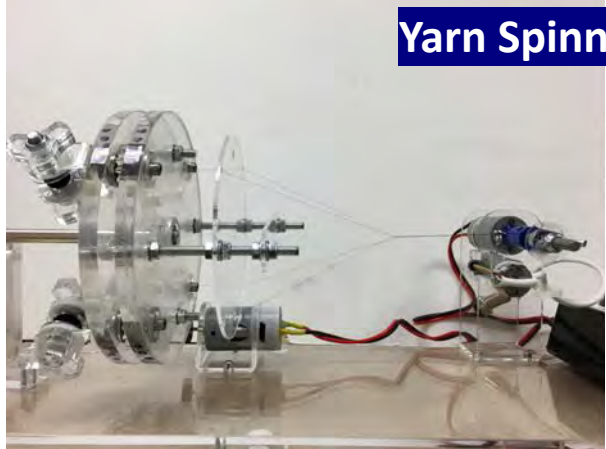
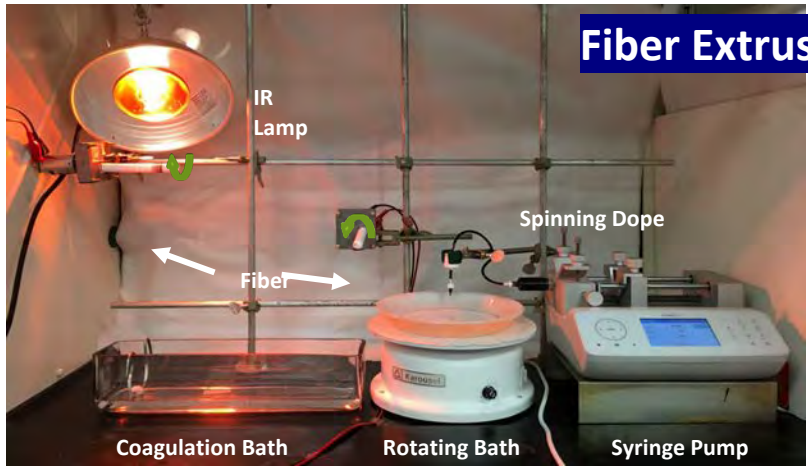
Design process for conductive glove to control a robotic hand (Song et al, 2021)  
from knit programming to virtual prototype simulation and final knit product

Seamless glove knit at ZTE Knitting Lab in Wilson College of Textiles with conductive thumb and pointer finger

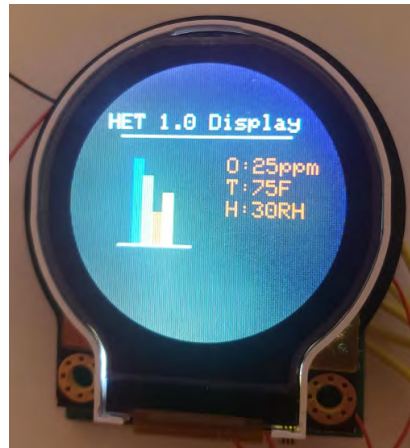


SSIST

# Gao Group Capabilities – Extrusion, Spinning, Sizing, Weaving, and Knitting of Electronic Yarns



# System Integration and Validation



Optical Patch

Electrochemical Patch



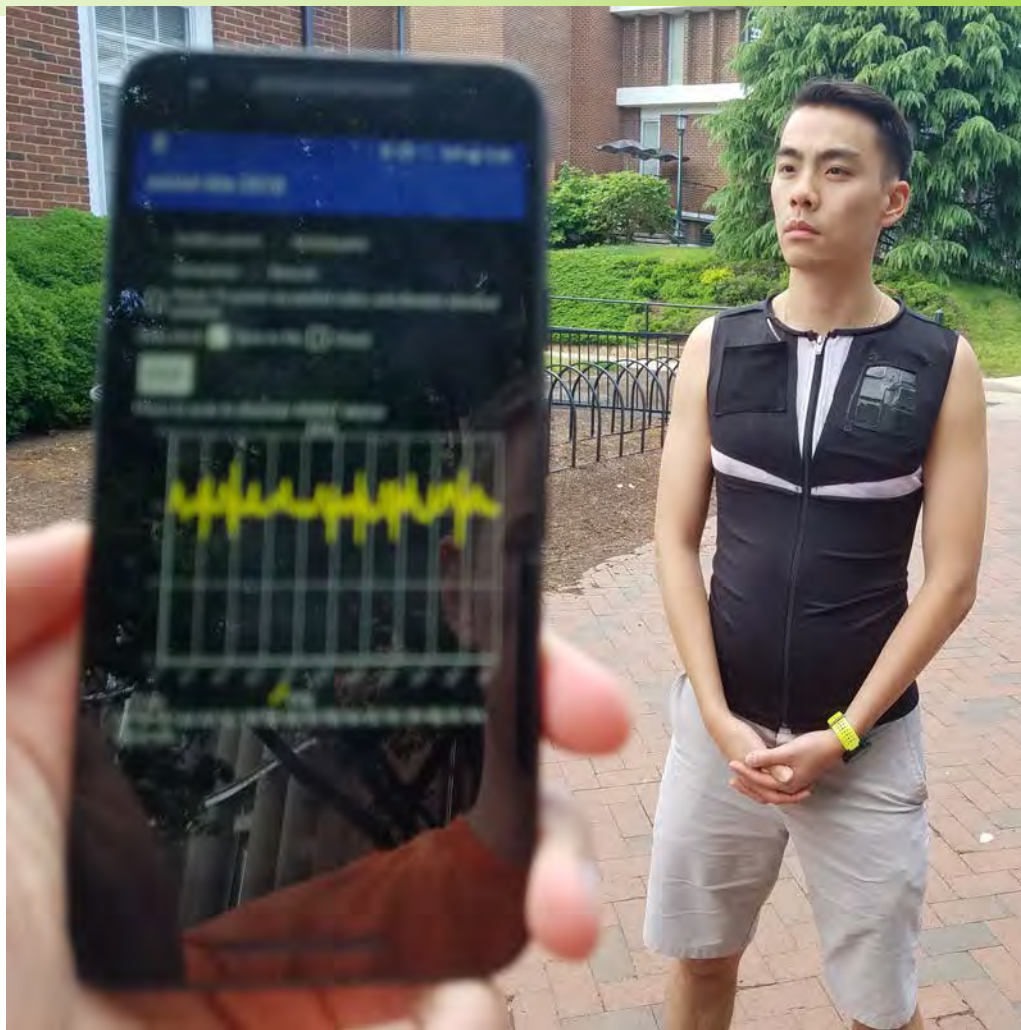
# Vigilant ECG Shirt



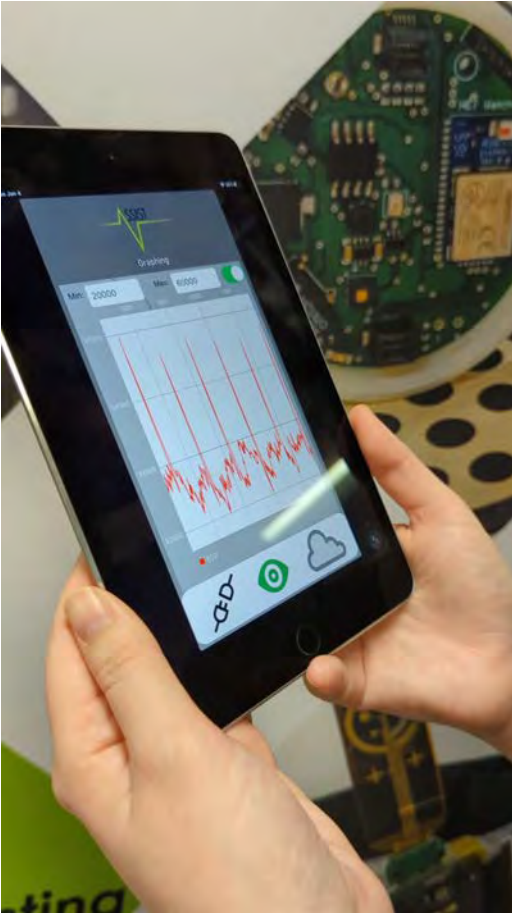
End-to-end functional

Wearable

Self-powered



# ECG Monitoring Armband



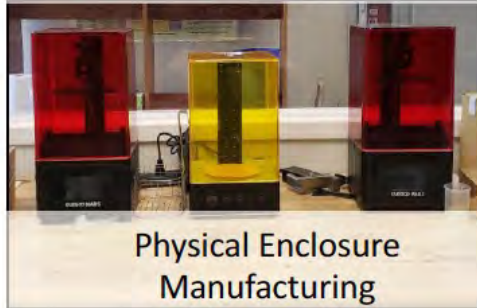
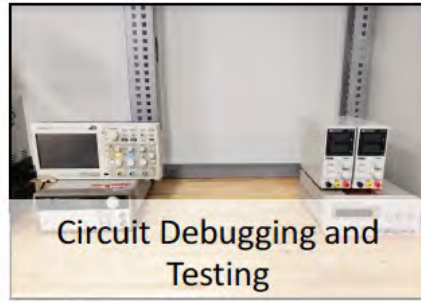
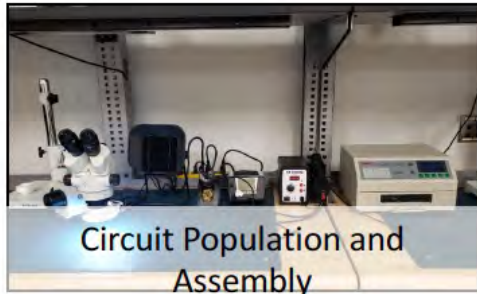
- Textile-integrated dry electrodes
- Comfortable, arm-based system



Misra/Mills/Lee

# Rapid Prototyping Group

Increasing the TRL level of our technologies and systems to drive engagement with industry and clinical partners



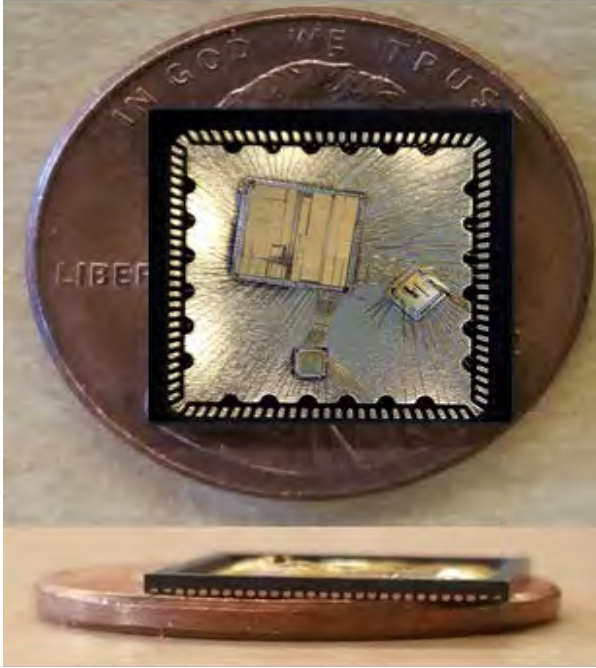
RPG aims to deliver the lowest power biometric hardware platforms for research & commercial benchmarking

- ▶ Open-source development
- ▶ RPG Capabilities
  - ▶ PCB Layout
  - ▶ Arduino firmware
  - ▶ Sensor dashboarding

**Dr. Dieffenderfer**



# Low-Power Electronics: Multi-Chip Solution



Ben Calhoun (UVA)

## System on Chip

- 566 nW total power
- RISC-V

## Analog Front End Chip

- ECG, PPG, RR, Ozone
- Respiration and ECG always on
- RR triggers PPG/Ozone

## Energy Management Chip

- Multi-modal: TEG/PV/Piezo
- Four custom voltages outputs

## Custom Radio Chip

- BLE 4.0 Compliant
- 300 uW total power
- -69dBm sensitivity and 500Kb/s

# Low Power Multi-Modal Sensors



## Bioelectric

- **Low power ECG**
- **Low power EDA**
- **Dry electrodes**

## Biophotonic

- Low power PPG
- Multi-wavelength LEDs
- Heart rate, respiratory rate, blood oxygen, sleep, blood pressure

## Inertial

- **Activity**
- Coughing
- **Speech**

## Biochemical

- New enzymes for lactate, glucose, and uric acid
- Passive sweat/interstitial fluid collection

## Environmental

- **Gases for air quality and breath**
- VOCs for air quality and breath
- Particulate matter

Multimodal sensors and their correlation



HEART DISEASE



CANCER



CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE



STROKE



ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE



DIABETES



CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE





# Industry Membership Program

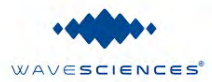
Full



Associate



Affiliate





- ▶ Mehmet Ozturk
- ▶ Michael Dickey
- ▶ Ben Calhoun
- ▶ Jess Jur
- ▶ John Lach
- ▶ Doug Werner
- ▶ Dave Wentzloff
- ▶ Susan Trolier-McKinstry
- ▶ Shad Roundy
- ▶ Mehdi Kiani
- ▶ Alper Bozkurt
- ▶ Omer Oralkan
- ▶ Bongmook Lee
- ▶ Veena Misra
- ▶ James Dieffenderfer
- ▶ Edgar Lobaton
- ▶ Michelle Hernandez, MD
- ▶ Michael Lim
- ▶ Michael Daniele
- ▶ Orlin Velev
- ▶ Michael Dickey
- ▶ Shekhar Bhansali
- ▶ Shubhendu Bhardwaj



THANK YOU