

# Making Interdisciplinary Research a Reality at the Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health

September 28, 2020

**Jeremy Hirota PhD**

Canada Research Chair in Respiratory Mucosal Immunology

Assistant Professor of Medicine and Biomedical Engineering – McMaster University

Affiliate Professor of Medicine – University of British Columbia

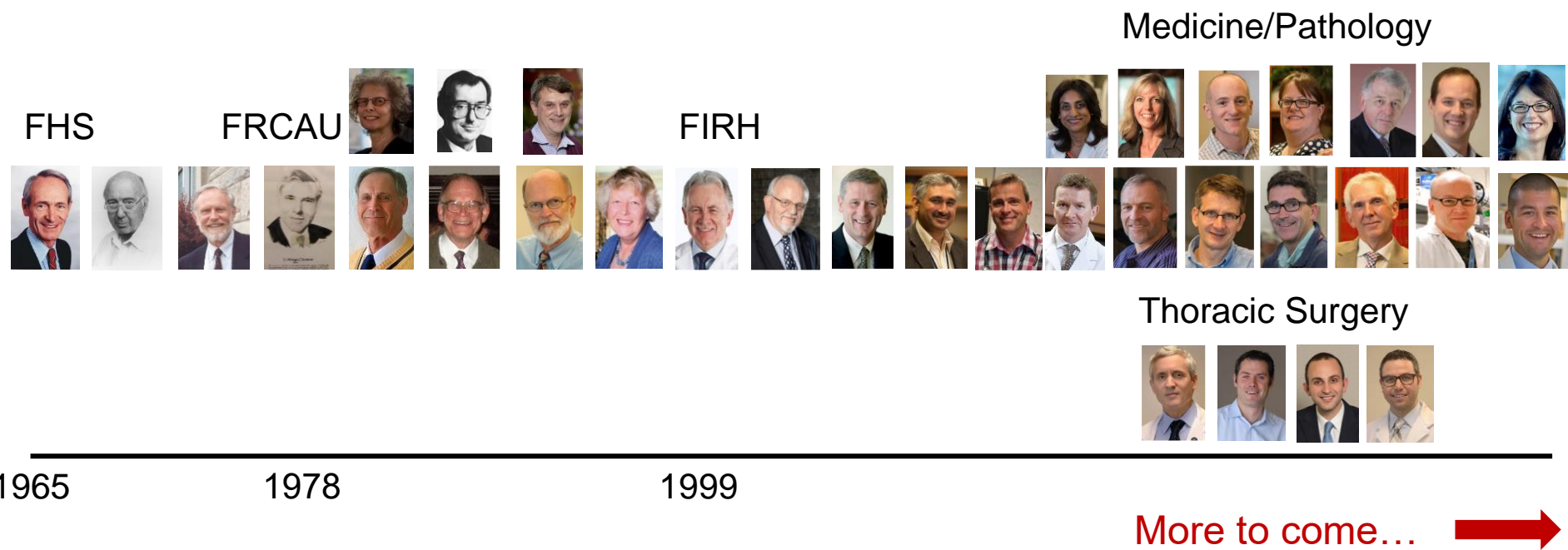
Adjunct Professor of Biology – University of Waterloo

CEO and Co-Founder - Infinotype

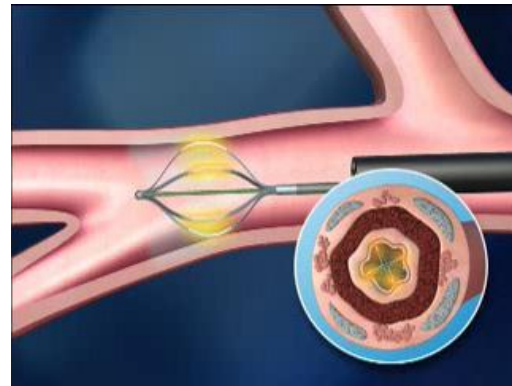
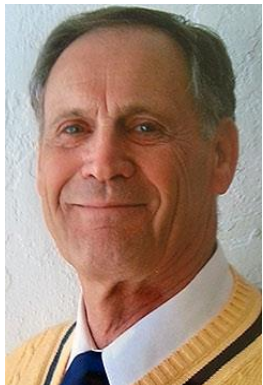
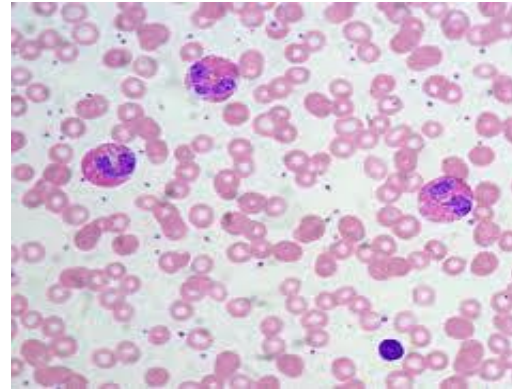
 @jeremyhirotaj

hirotaja@mcmaster.ca

# History of the Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health

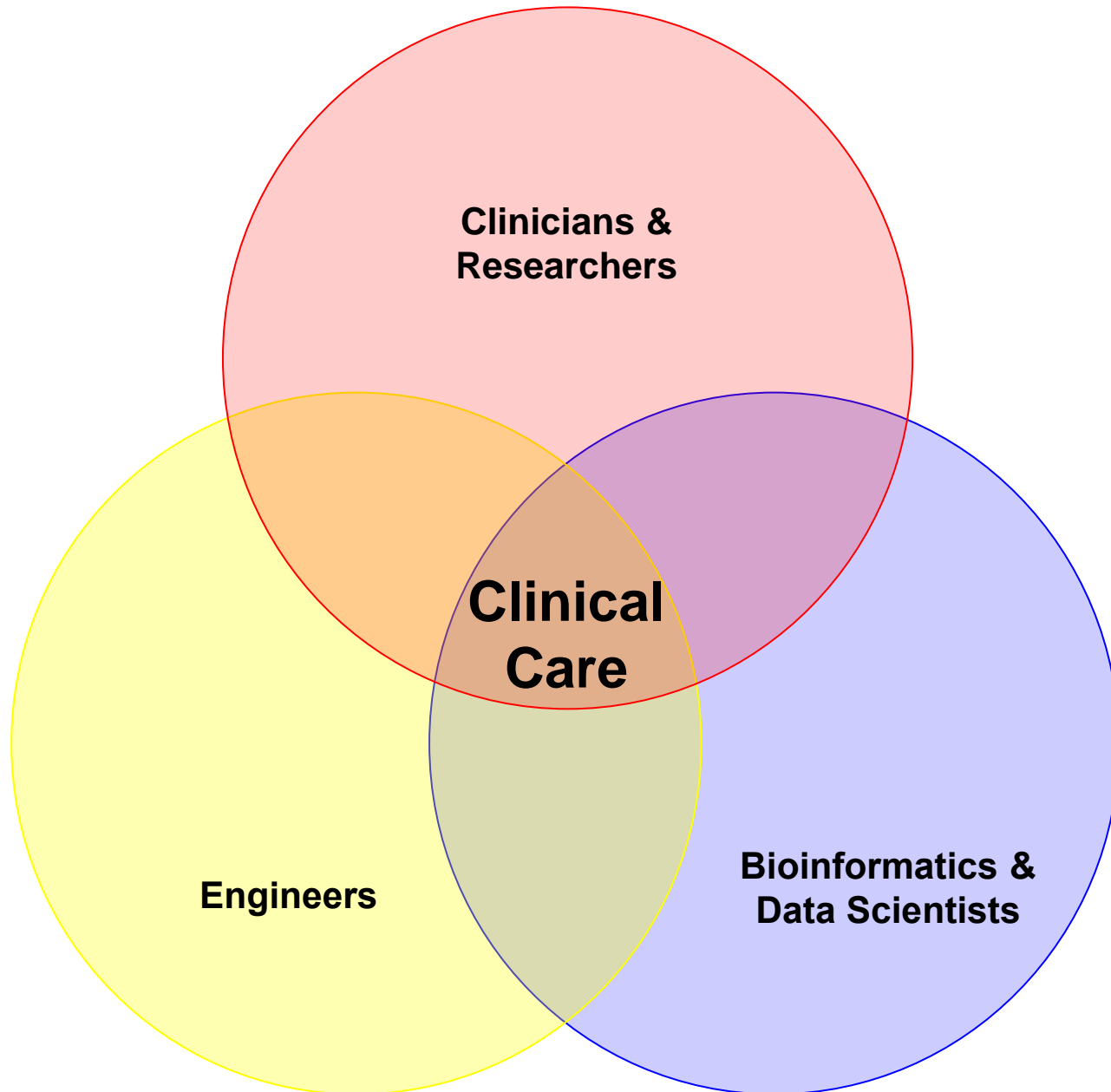


# **Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health Interdisciplinary Market Innovations**



**What will fuel the next generation of innovations?**

# What will fuel the next generation of innovations?



**Engineers**

# **Integration with a new generation of engineers: Creating solutions for clinical and research problems**

**3D printing**

**Remote Sensors**

**Drug Delivery**

**Microfluidics**

**Materials  
Engineering**

**Biosensors**

**Imaging**

**Regenerative Medicine**

**Point of Care  
Diagnostics**

**Tissue Engineering**

**Smart Materials**



**Engineers**

# **Integration with a new generation of engineers: Creating solutions for clinical and research problems**

**Ravi Selvaganapathy**  
**Mechanical Engineering**



**Microfluidics**  
**Biosensors**

**Leyla Soleymani**  
**Engineering Physics**



**Point of Care**  
**Diagnostics**

**Boyang Zhang**  
**Chemical Engineering**



**Organ-on-Chip**  
**Tissue Engineering**  
**Regenerative Medicine**

**Todd Hoare**  
**Chemical Engineering**

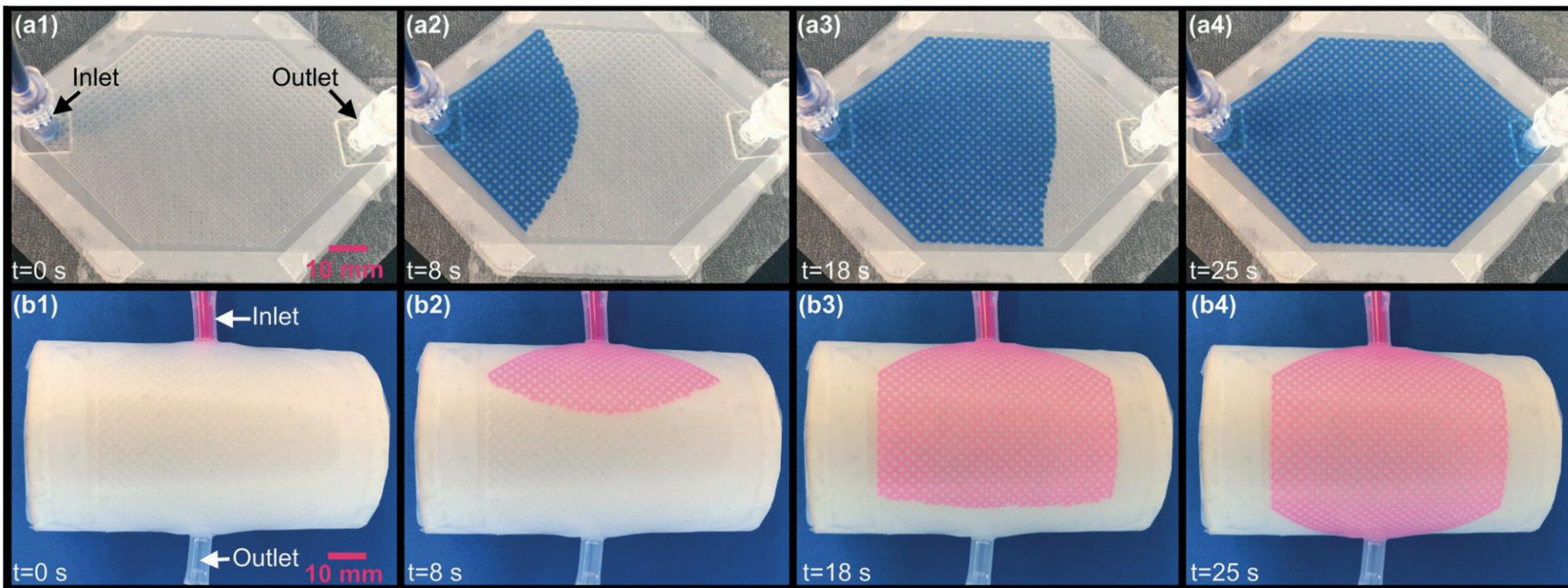


**Hydrogels**  
**Smart Materials**



**Problem:** Preterm neonates with immature lungs require a lung assist device to maintain oxygen saturation at normal levels, while also having low blood volumes.

**Solution:** An ultra-thin, flexible, two-sided, low volume, blood oxygenator that increases oxygen saturation by greater than 30% relative to existing commercial products



**Engineers**

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**Hydrogels**  
**Smart Materials**

Engineers

# Dr. Leyla Solyemani – McMaster Engineering Physics



## Goal

Point of care analyte detection using disposable diagnostic chips

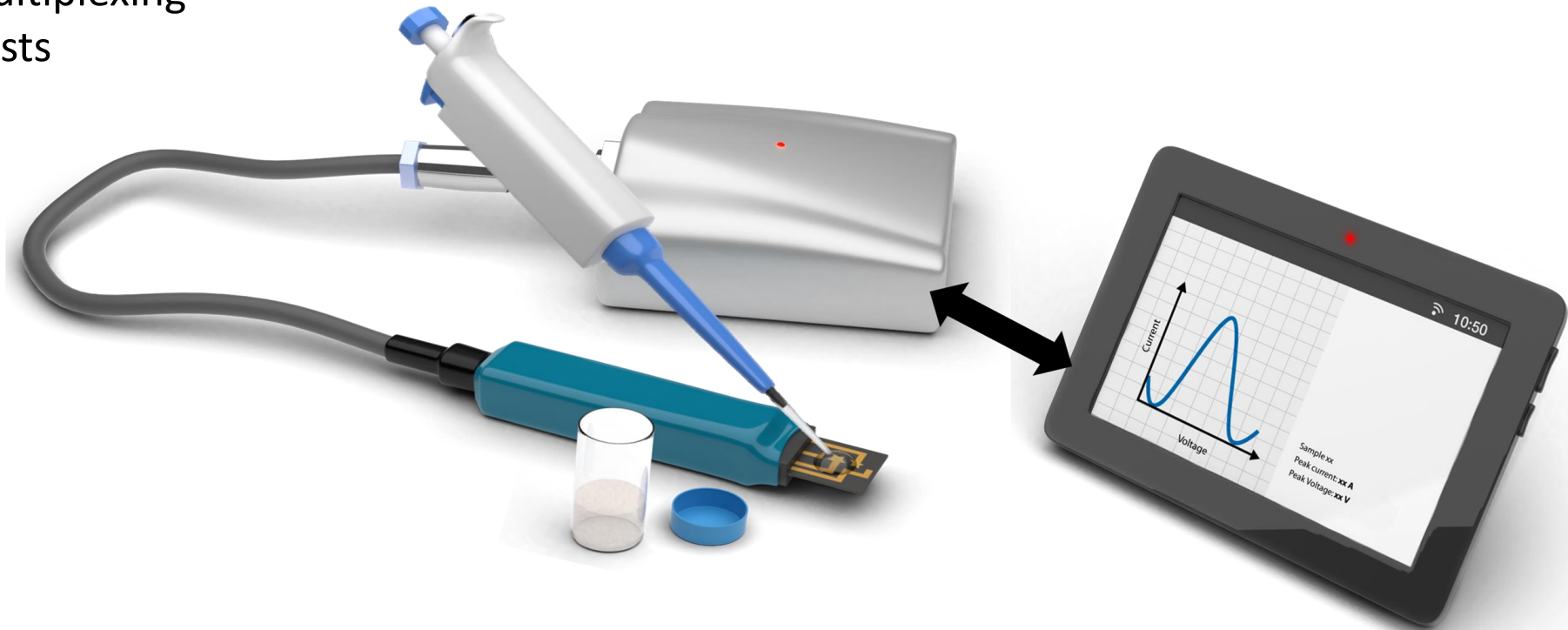
## Problems being solved

Integrated sample preparation

Enhanced sensitivity

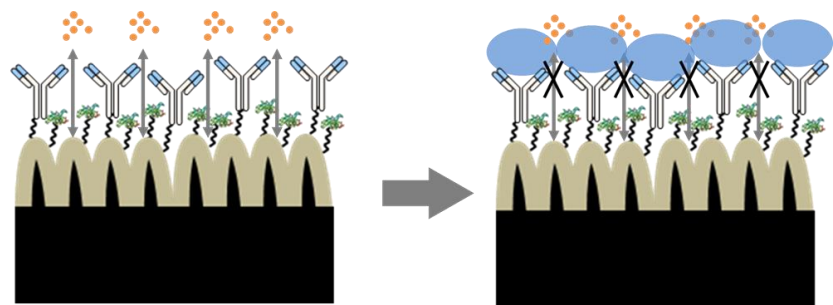
Multiplexing

Costs

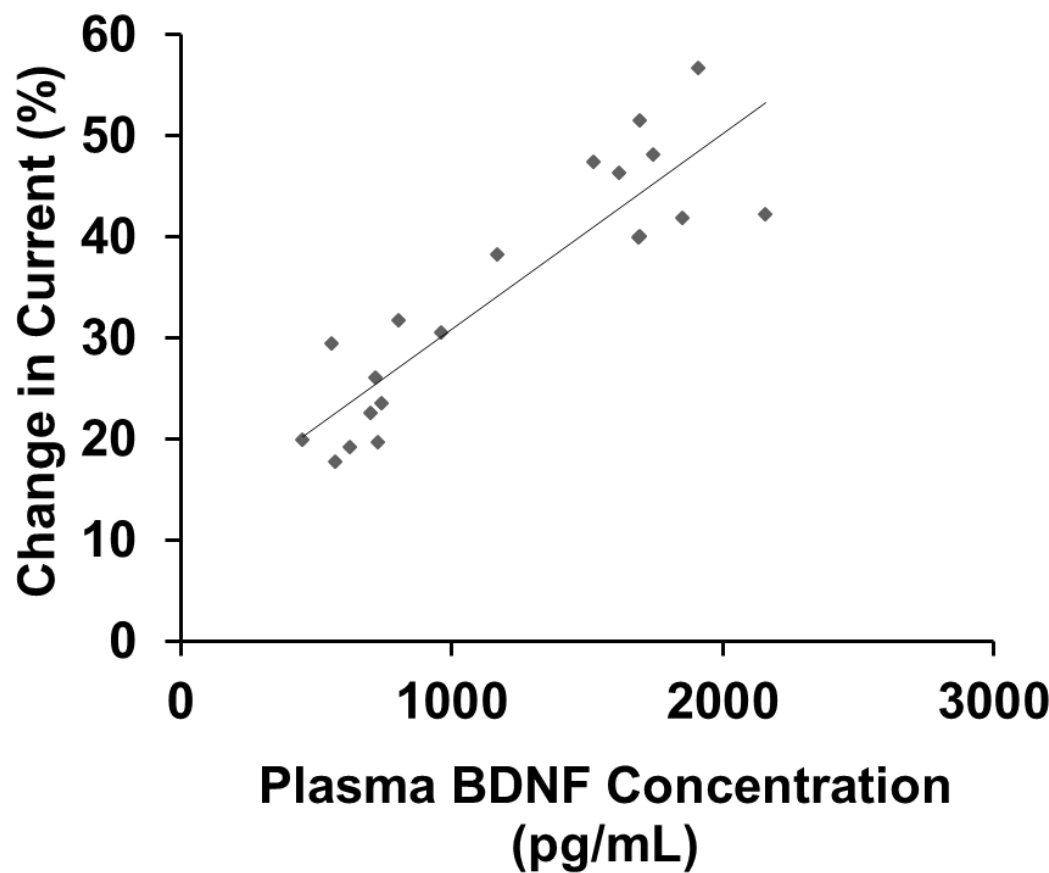
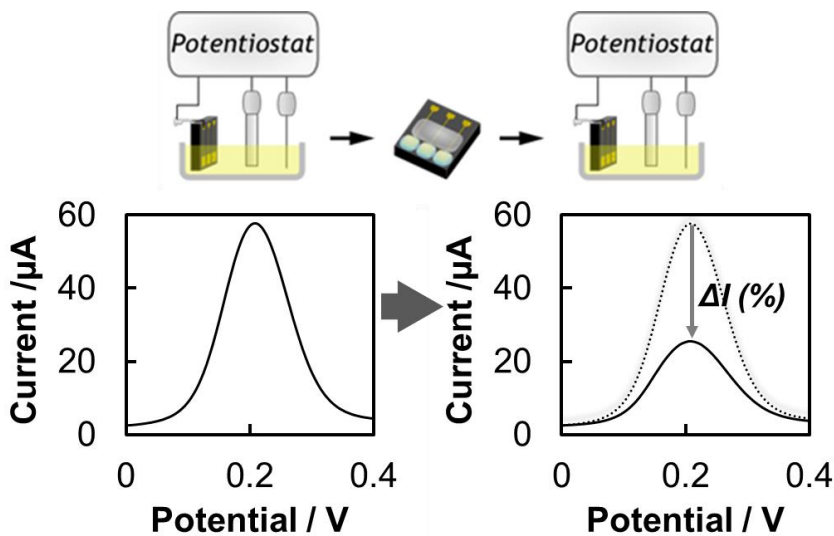


Engineers

# Dr. Leyla Solyemani – McMaster Engineering Physics



Anti-BDNF    BDNF    BSA     $[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]^{4-}$     Cystamine



**Engineers**

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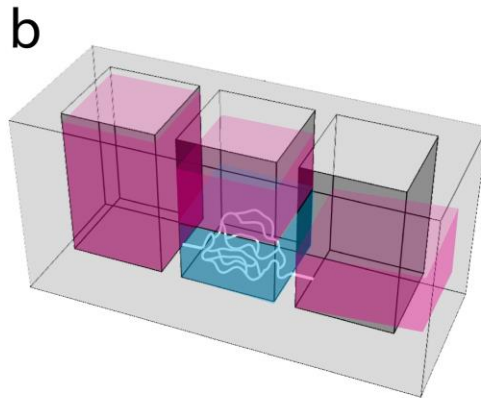
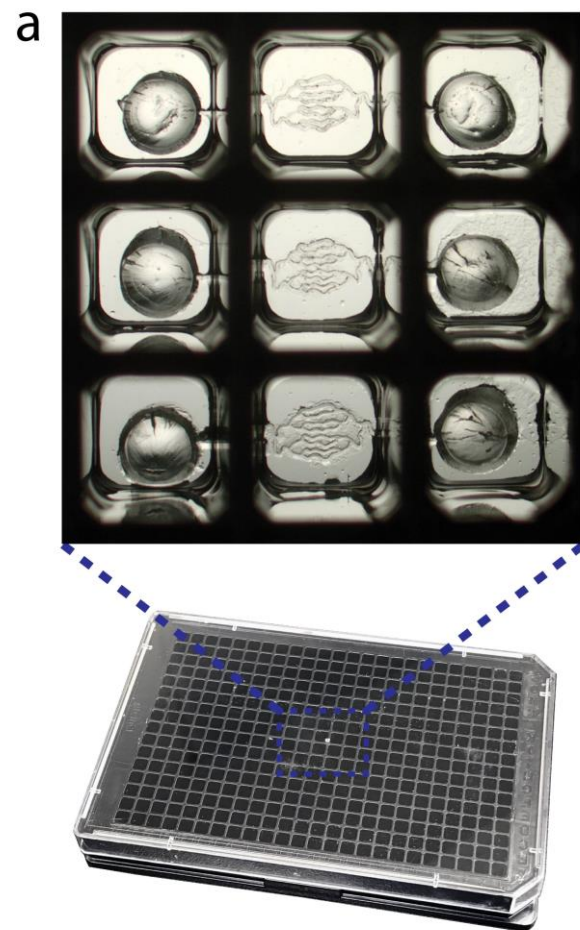
**Hydrogels**  
**Smart Materials**

Engineers

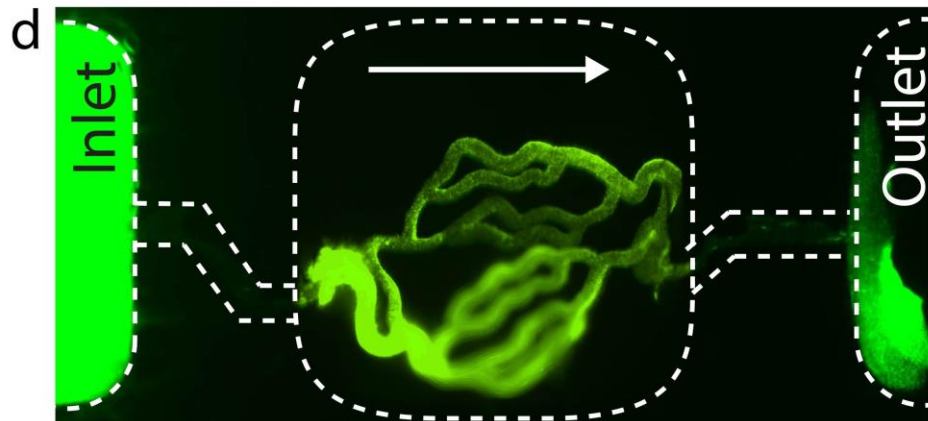
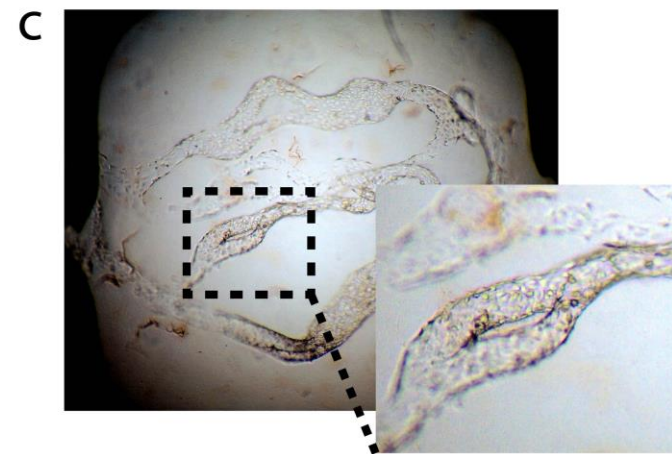
# Dr. Boyang Zhang – McMaster Tissue Engineering of Blood Vessels and Lung



**Problem:** Recapitulating vascular interfaces of different organs in three dimensions is critical in both organ-on-a-chip and tissue engineering applications



Formation of perfusable vascular network

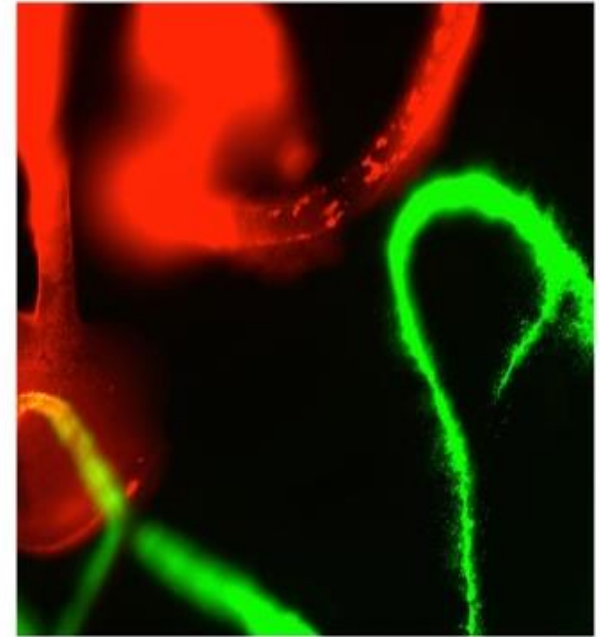
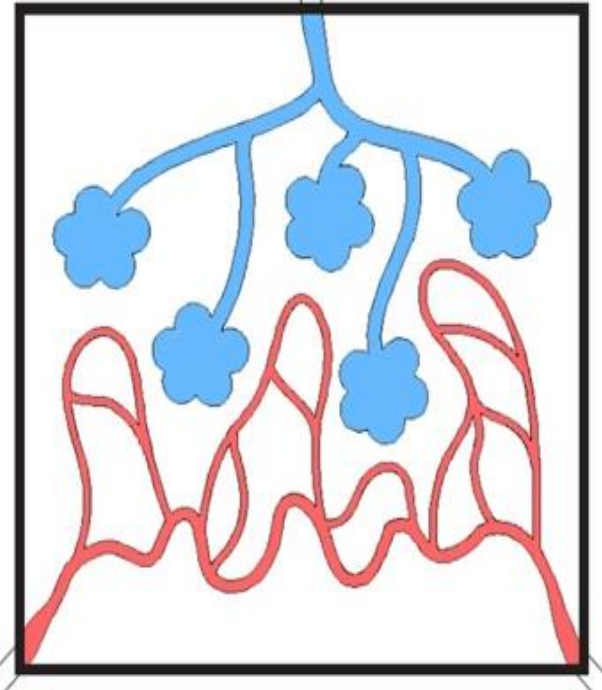


Engineers

# Dr. Boyang Zhang – McMaster Tissue Engineering of Blood Vessels and Lung



## Lung Model



**Engineers**

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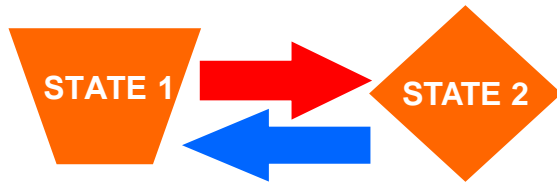
Engineers

Dr. Todd Hoare – McMaster

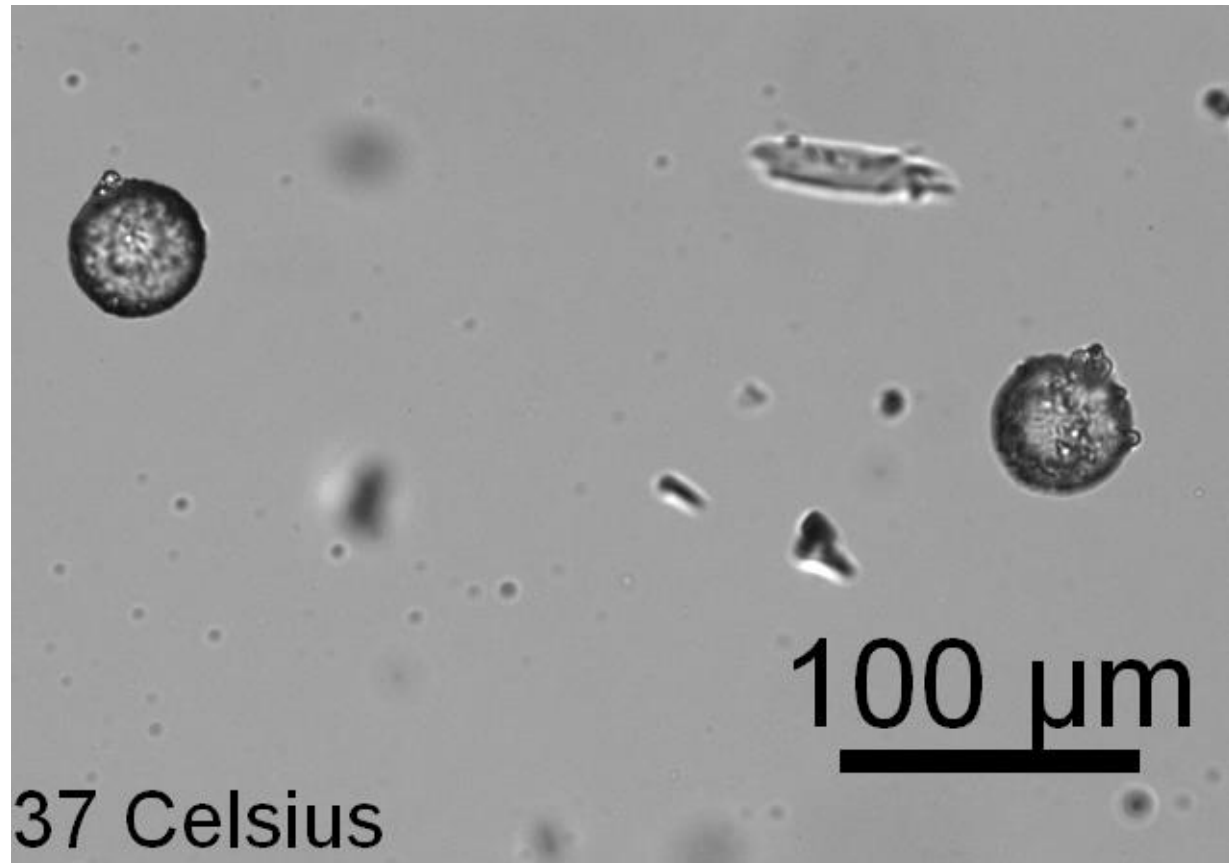
# Hydrogels: Tissue Engineering, Diagnostics & Drug Delivery



## Stimuli-Responsive Smart Materials



Temperature  
pH  
Chemical concentration  
Light  
Shear  
Magnetic field



# **Data Driven Strategies: From Discovery to Personalized Care**

**Andrew Doxey**  
Computer Science  
Biology



**Brendan McConkey**  
Biology



**Brian Ingalls**  
Applied Math



**Anna Dvorkin**  
Pathology &  
Molecular Medicine



**Milica Vukmirovic**  
Medicine



**Computational  
Models  
Protein Prediction  
Transcriptomics**

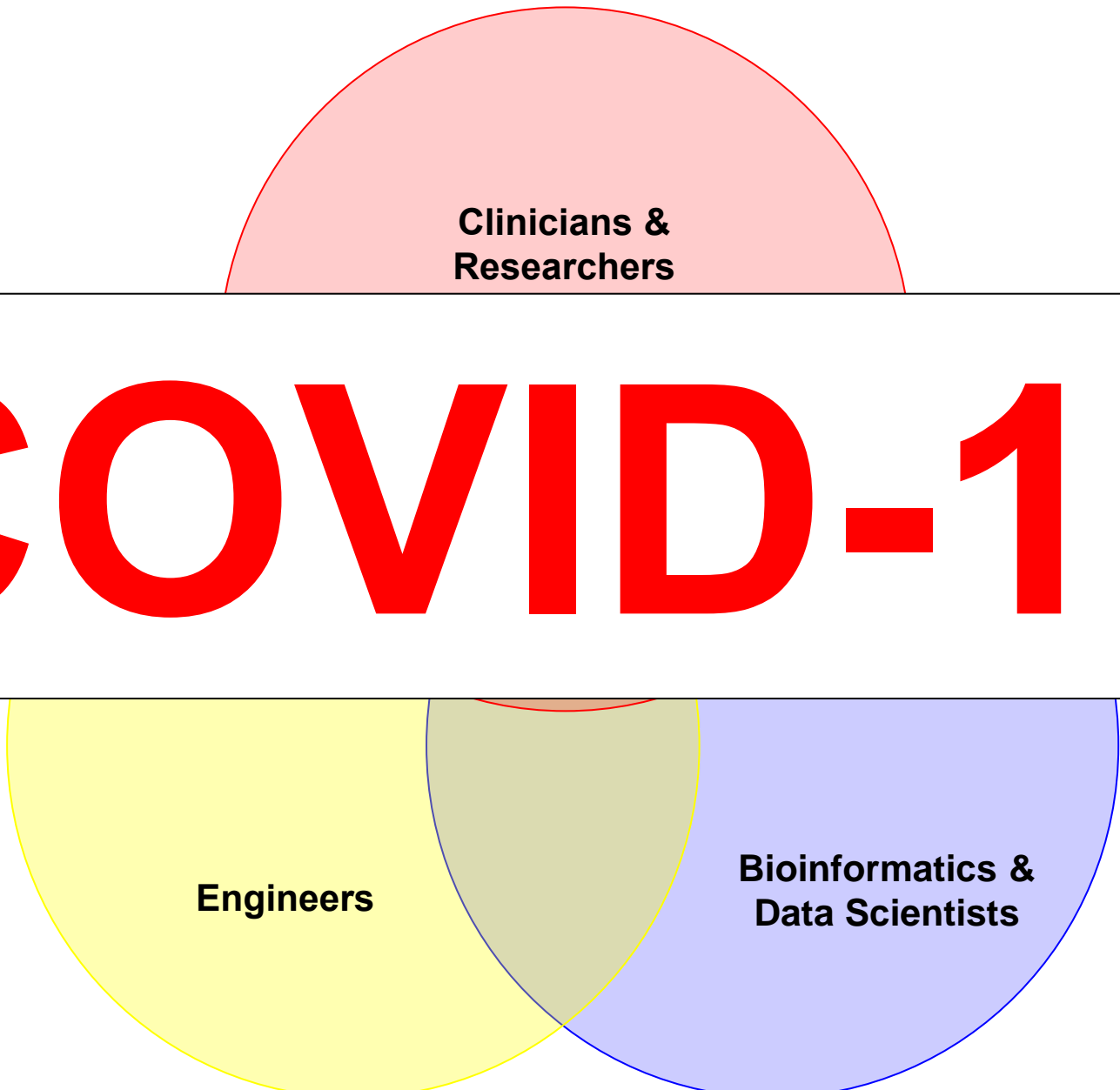
**Protein Prediction  
Data Mining  
Microbial Genetics**

**Systems Biology  
Mathematical  
Models  
Synthetic Biology**

**Transcriptomics  
Data Mining**

**Bioinformatics of  
Lung Disease  
Entrepreneurial  
Training**

**What will fuel the next generation of innovations?**



**Clinicians &  
Researchers**

**COVID-19**

**Engineers**

**Bioinformatics &  
Data Scientists**



Making PPE out of sustainable materials

Ravi Selvaganapathy:

# Time for the next generation of PPE?

Canada Research Chair  
in Biomicrofluidics  
McMaster University



Watch later Share



## McMaster opens Centre of Excellence to advance personal protective equipment in Canada

June 29, 2020

Jessie Park

The Centre of Excellence in Protective Equipment and Materials is a network of engineers, clinicians, manufacturers and companies dedicated to improving personal protective equipment products and supply chains in Canada.

McMaster University is now home to an established network of engineers, clinicians, local manufacturers and companies dedicated to advancing personal protective equipment products in Canada.

### Related Faculty:



P. Ravi  
Selvaganapathy

Professor and Canada  
Research Chair in  
Biomicrofluidics  
Department of Mechanical  
Engineering



John Preston

Associate Dean, Research  
and External Relations



E3: Making surfaces repellent to bacteria and viruses with Repel Wrap

ENGINEERING  
Watch later



# BIG IDEAS

## FOR A CHANGING WORLD



Hosted by Dr. John Preston



Dr. Leyla Soleymani



Dr. Tohid Didar

Related Faculty:



Tohid Didar

Assistant Professor  
Department of Mechanical  
Engineering



Leyla Soleymani

Associate Professor and  
Canada Research Chair in  
Miniaturized Biomedical  
Devices  
Department of Engineering  
Physics

# Making surfaces repellent to bacteria and viruses with Repel Wrap

August 12, 2020

Jessie Park

In Episode 3 of the Big Ideas for a Changing World podcast, Leyla Soleymani and Tohid Didar share the latest on their bacteria and virus repellent plastic wrap and its potential use during the pandemic.

*What if frequently touched surfaces like food packaging, door handles and bus railings could be coated with a plastic that repels bacteria and viruses?*



E2: Creating an accurate COVID-19 antibody test, and 3D-printing cells for d



# BIG IDEAS

## FOR A CHANGING WORLD



Hosted by Dr. John Preston



Dr. Ishwar Puri



Dr. Rakesh Sahu

## McMaster engineers bringing to market at-home test to detect COVID-19 antibodies and 3D cell printing technology

July 21, 2020

Jessie Park

Since March, a team of researchers have developed and advanced two novel technologies which have applications during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Ishwar Puri and Rakesh Sahu speak about these products in the latest Big Ideas for a Changing World podcast episode.

Related Faculty:



Ishwar K. Puri

Dean of Engineering



Rakesh Sahu

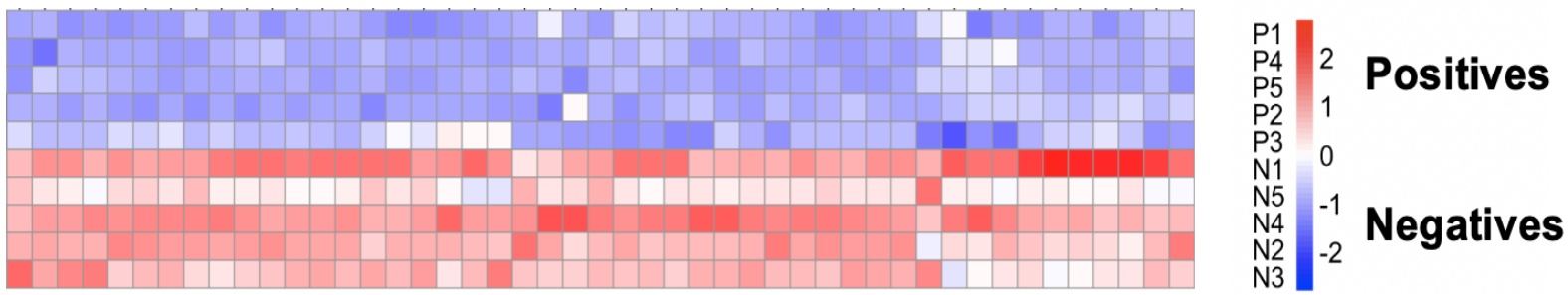
Research Associate  
Department of Materials  
Science and Engineering

# An optimized clinical lab COVID-19 diagnostic test incorporating host responses for predicting disease course and healthcare system utilization



## Funding:

- FastGrants.org - \$70K
- Roche Canada - \$100K
- Ontario Government - \$329K
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) - \$50K





**Biotechnology company focused on bringing personalized point of care diagnostics into your home – COVID and beyond**

→ ↺ infinotype.com



The logo for infinotype, featuring a red infinity symbol followed by the word "infinotype" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. A thin red horizontal line is positioned beneath the text.

Home

Our Vision

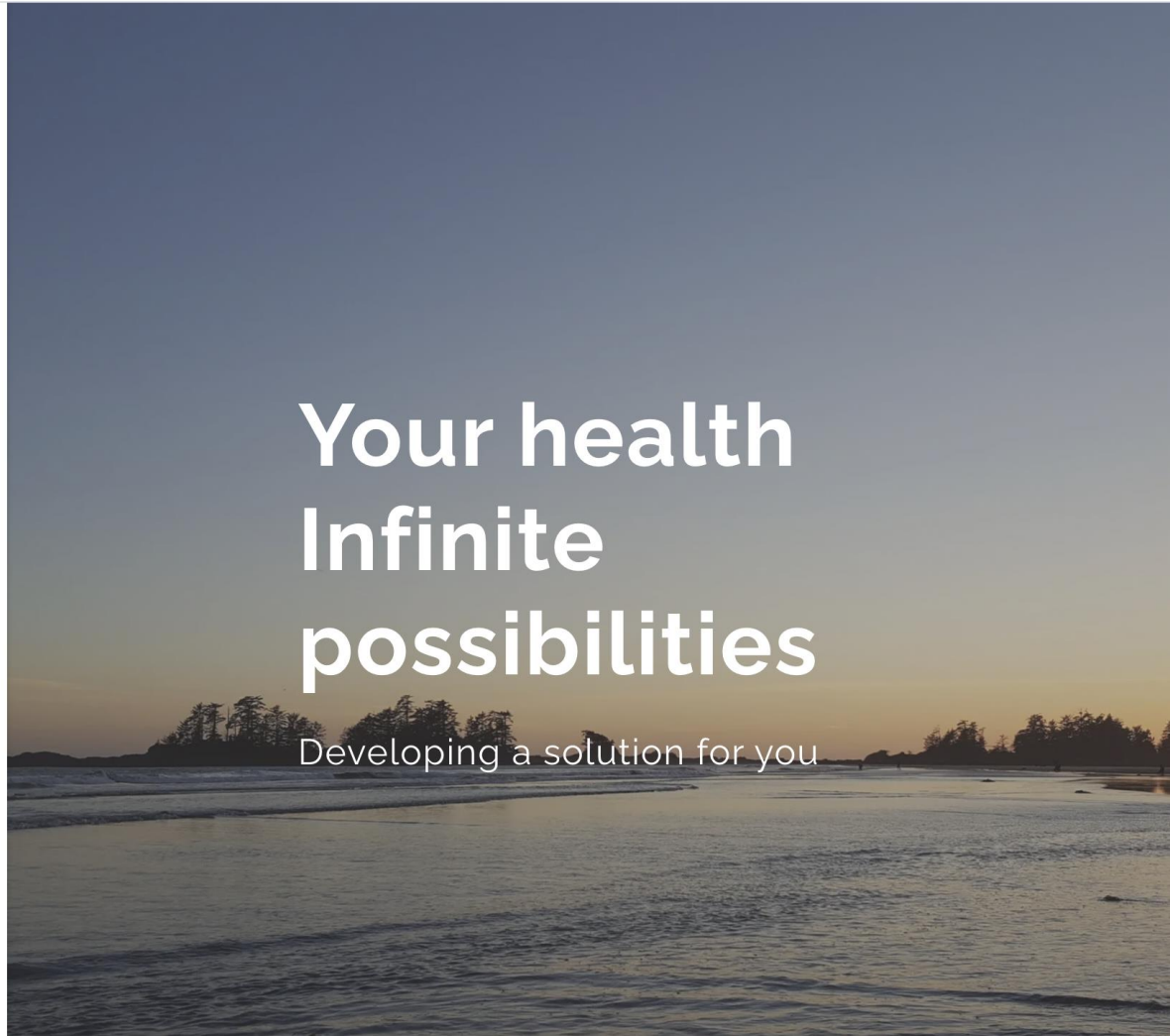
Our Team

Our Technology

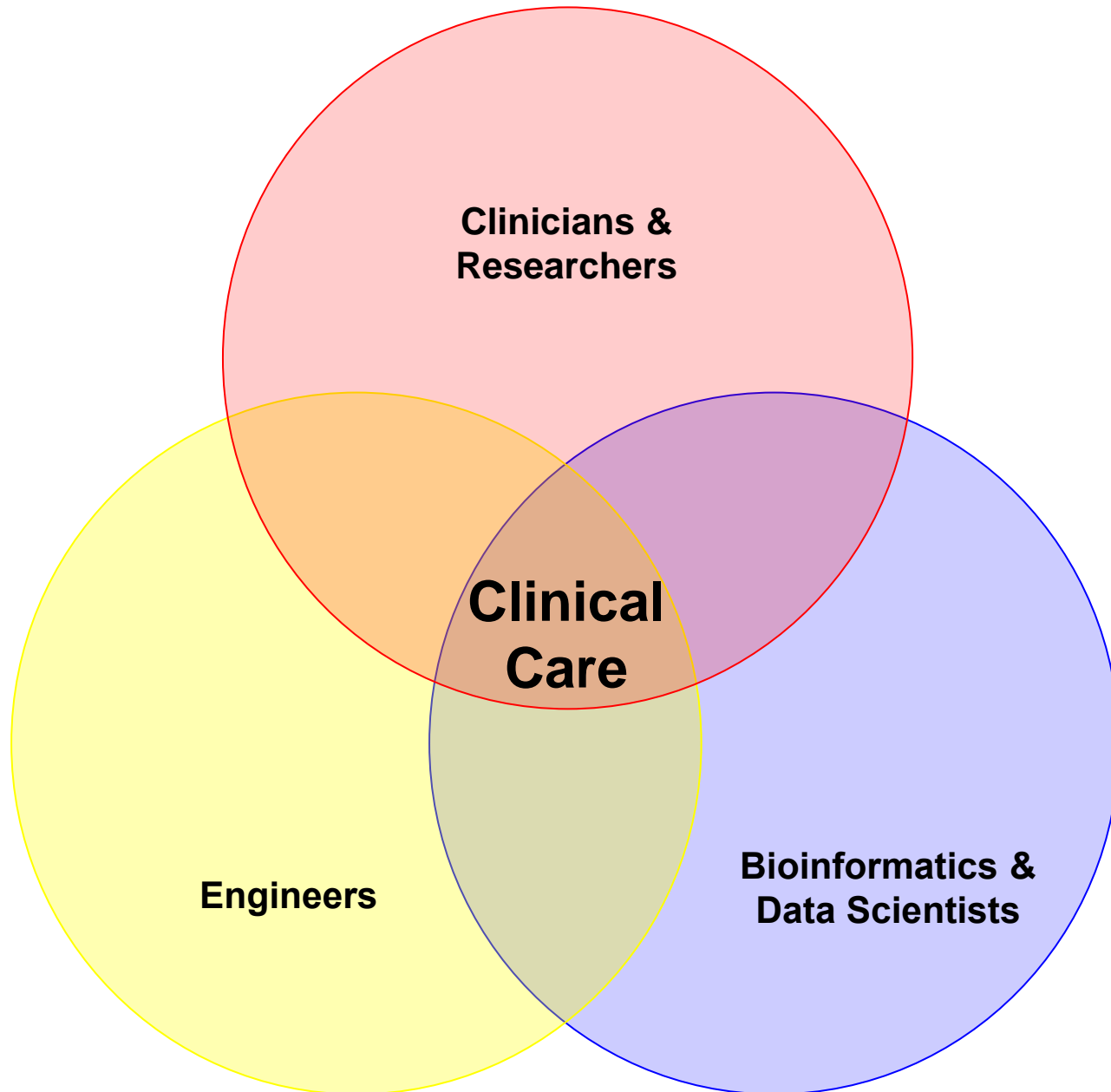
Information

Your health  
Infinite  
possibilities

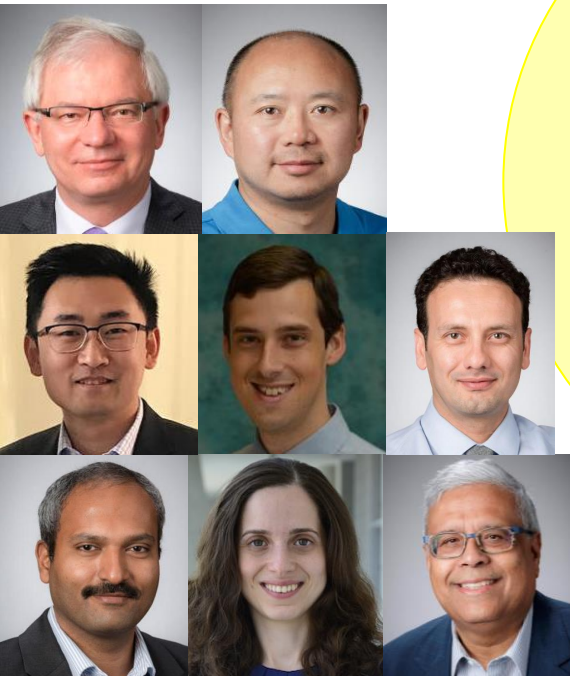
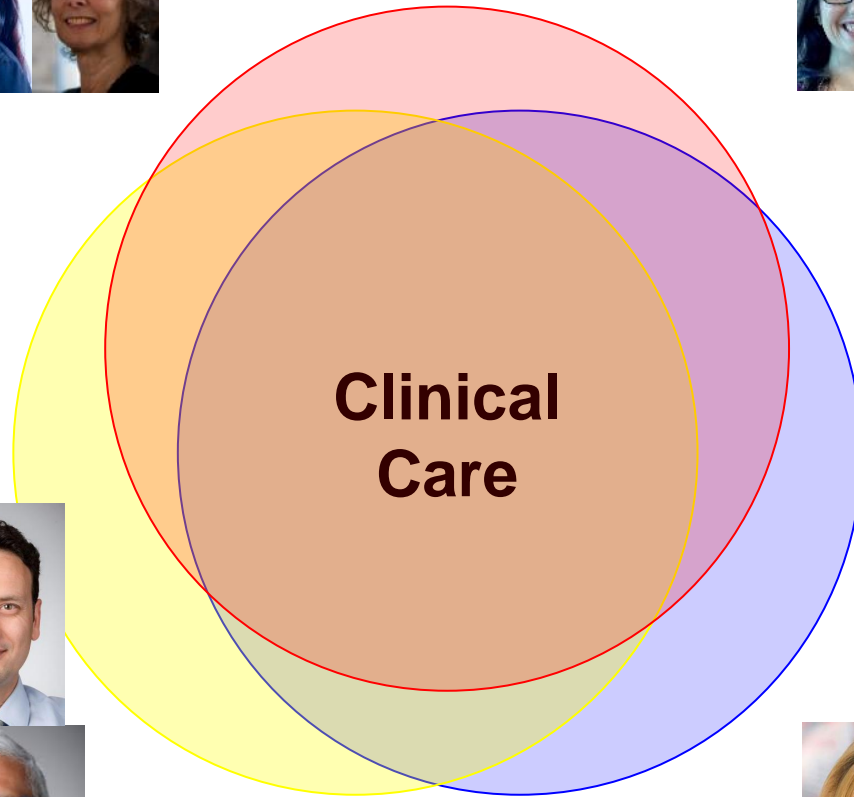
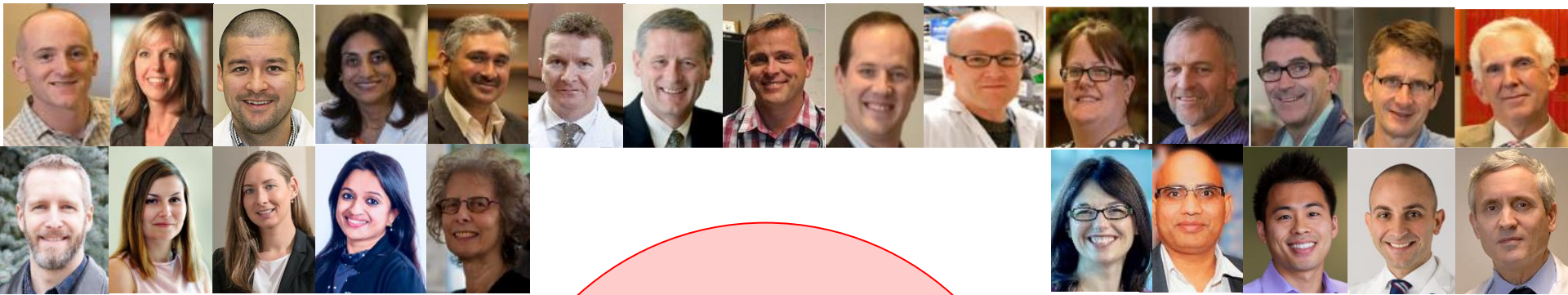
Developing a solution for you



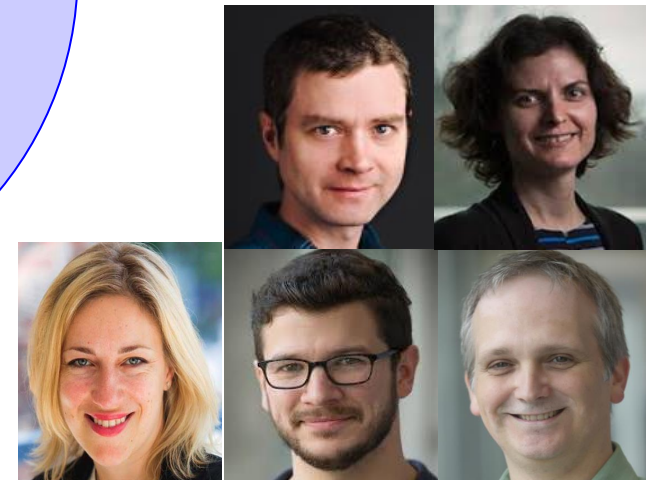
# What will fuel the next generation of innovations?



# Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health



**Faculty of Engineering**

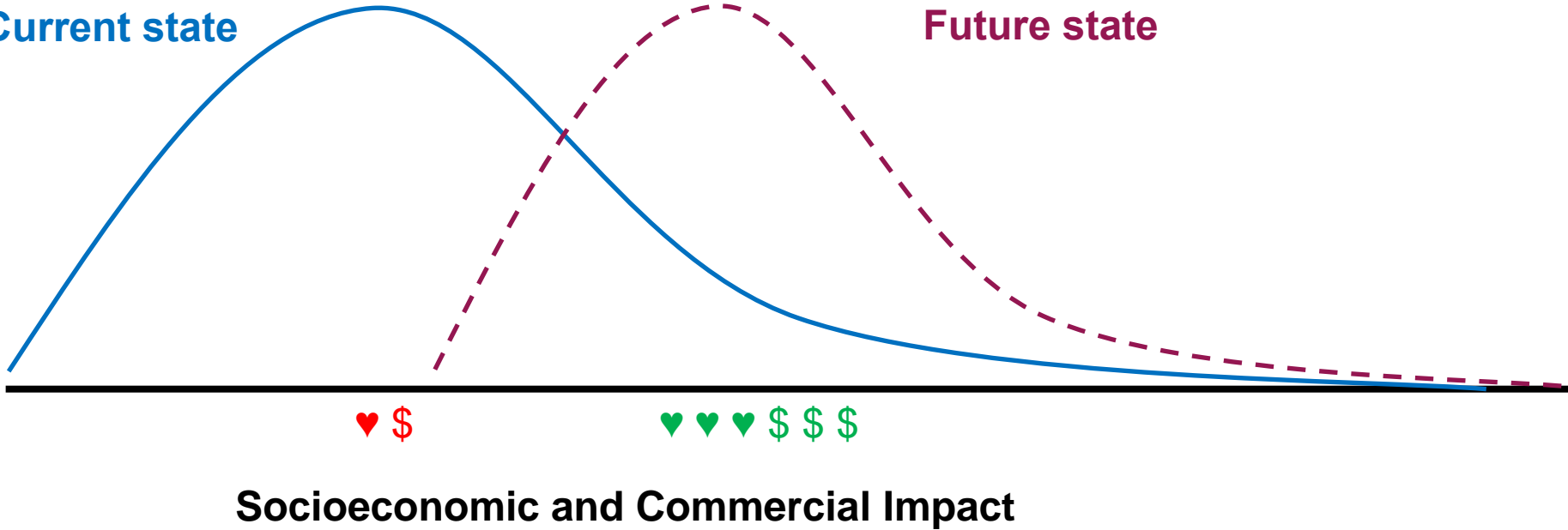


**Bioinformatics & Data Scientists**

# What if we enhance how we build human capacity at the Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health?

Current state

Future state



## Overarching Hypothesis:

Enhancing interdisciplinary interactions will fuel the next generation of innovations from the Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health

# Thanks to All that have come before

FHS

FRCAU

# FIRH

## Medicine/Pathology

# Thoracic Surgery

More to come...



# Inman

# Looking Outward - PARTNERSHIPS

MEDTEQ<sup>+</sup>: Centre of Excellence for Commercialization of Research (CECR)

Mission: Through collaborative, industry led projects, accelerate innovation and position, on a global scale, products and services developed by the Canadian medical technologies industry

[ABOUT](#)[MEMBERS](#)[PROGRAMS](#)[ACHIEVEMENTS](#)[NEWS & EVENTS](#)[CONTACT](#)[FR](#)

## Dates

**Launch of the Call:** September 18, 2020 at noon.

**Closing of the Call:** October 2, 2020 at noon.

## Contact

Sylvie Lau,

*Advisor, Integration of Innovation*

[CONTACT](#)

## Partner



## Call for solution description

### Objectives

Boehringer Ingelheim Canada and MEDTEQ+ wish to issue a call for technological solutions to Canadian industrial, clinical and academic networks to propose solutions to the identified needs in the management of progressive fibrosing interstitial lung diseases (PF-ILD). The most promising proposals will be selected for funding and co-development with our expert partners – the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC) and the Firestone Clinic (St-Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton).

### Eligibility

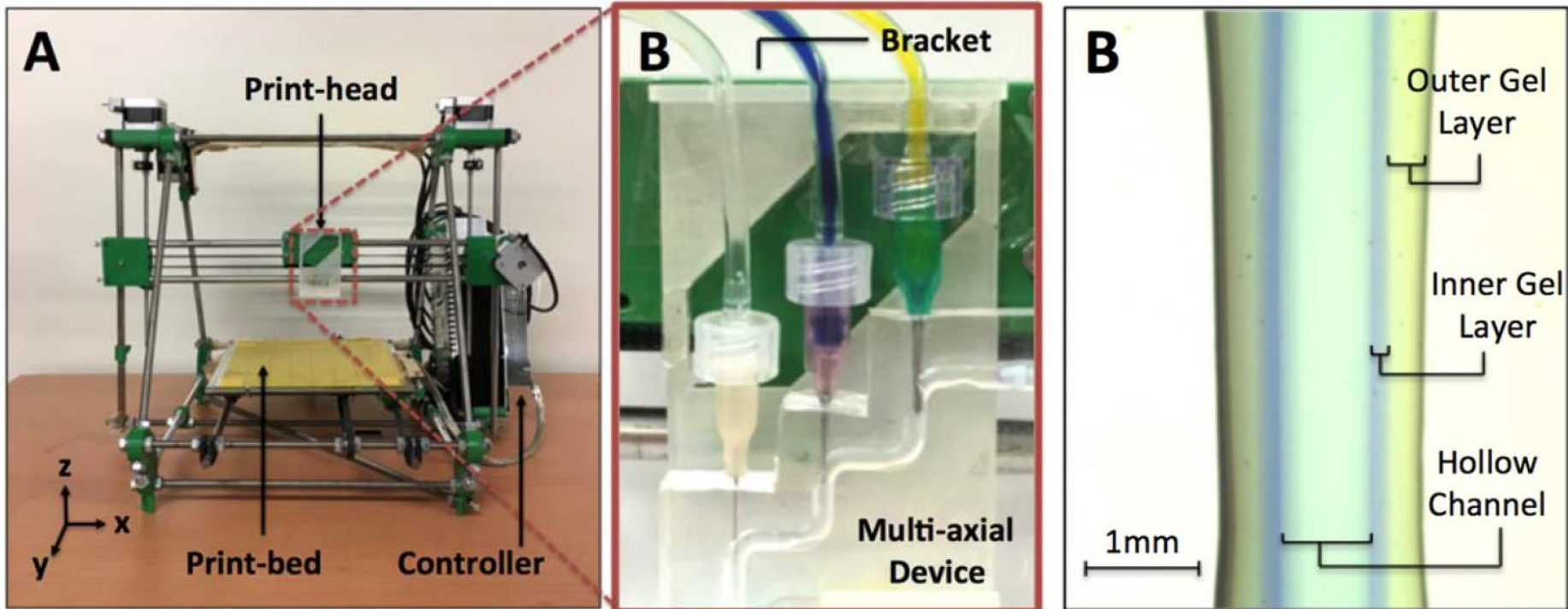
- The proposed solutions must be **digital technologies or technologies with digital integration capacity** (advanced diagnostics, health IT, decision support, patient follow-up, patient-practitioner communications, care trajectories, etc.)
- The project leader must be a company incorporated in Canada and carrying out local R&D and/or manufacturing activities in Canada
- The project will be a collaboration between the industrial community and the RI-MUHC and/or the Firestone Clinic; therefore, the applicant will be required to submit a collaborative project or describe its ability to collaborate with the institutions
- Solutions with a technological readiness level 6 (TRL 6) will be preferred, i.e. solutions at a stage of validation of the impact in real care environment (patient trajectory, cost of care, clinical-economic impacts...). Lower TRL solutions may be considered if TRL 6 can be achieved by the beginning of the project or quickly during the course of the project
- The duration of the projects will be between 12 and 18 months





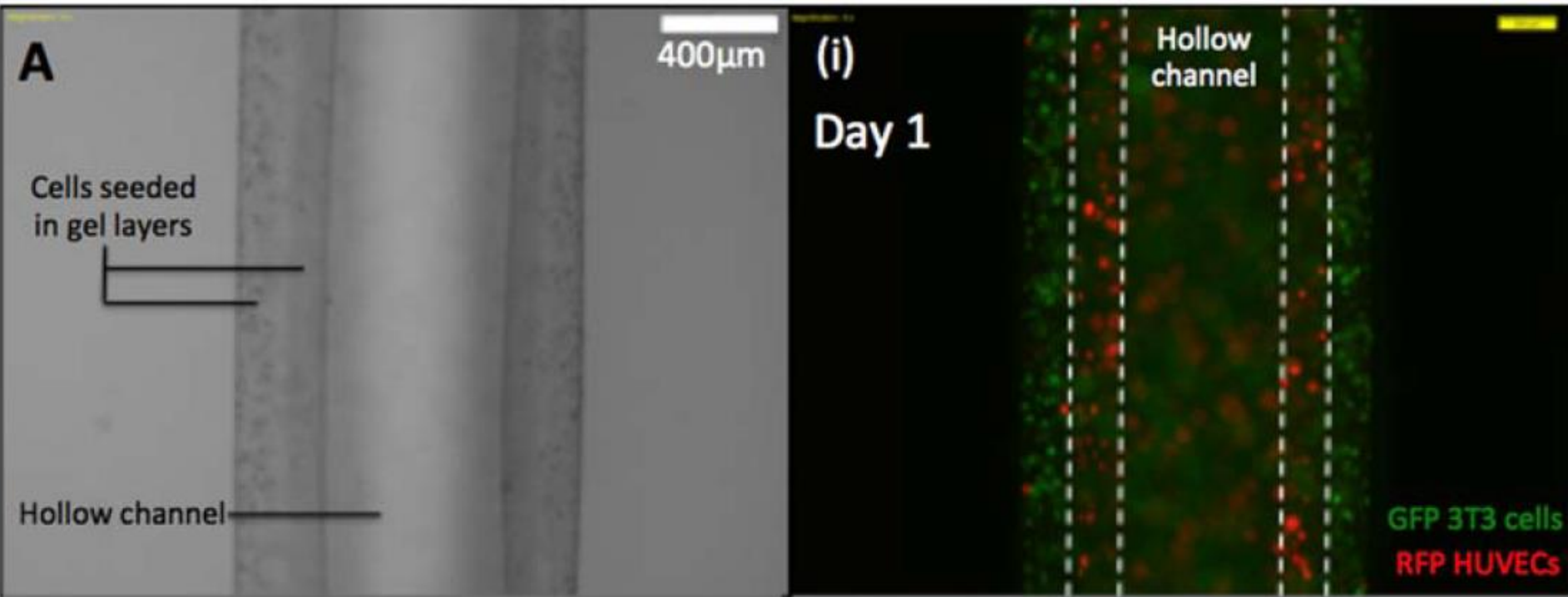
**Problem:** The size and scale of tissues created with bioprinters has been limited by challenges with integrating vasculature structures for perfusion.

**Solution:** Design, develop, and validate a multi-axial print head design suitable for generating concentric ring structures amenable to perfusion and maintaining cell viability



Engineers

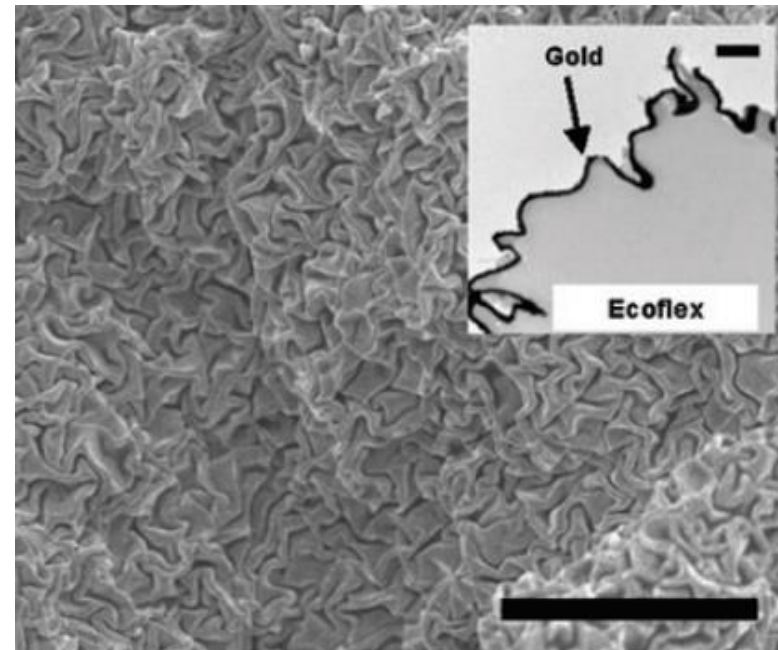
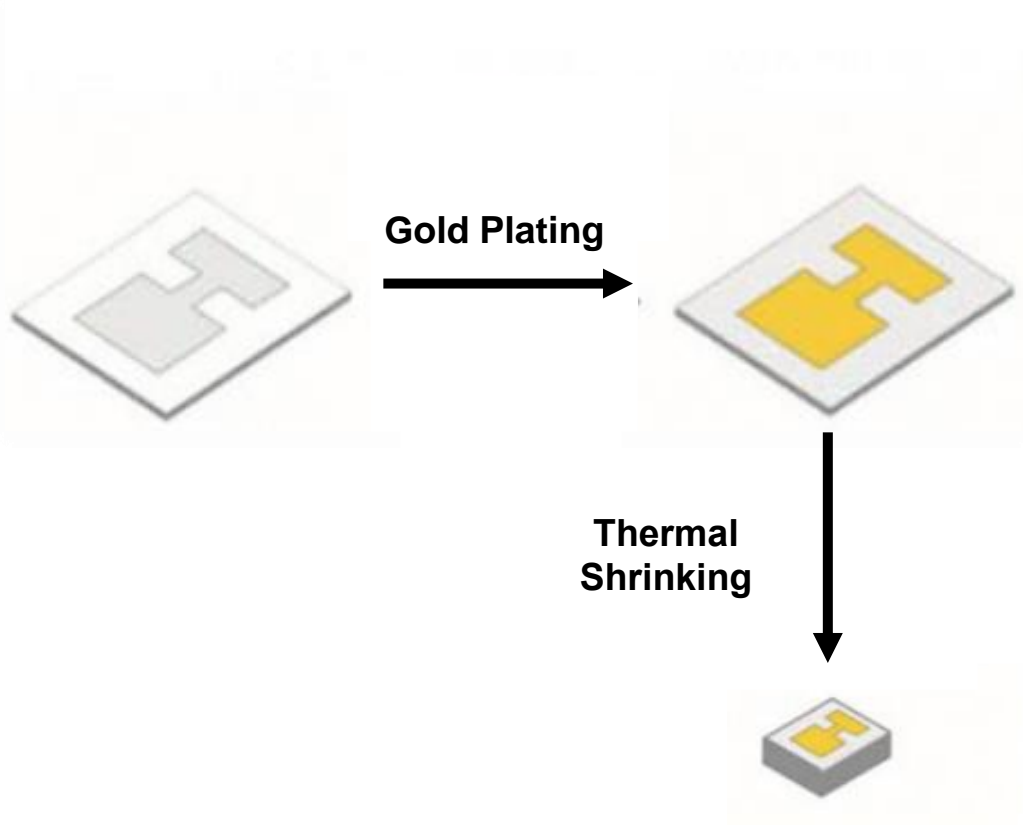
# Dr. Ravi Selvaganapathy – McMaster Tissue Engineering





**Problem:** Biosensors rely on conductors of electrical current. Conductors that retain their conductivity under strain are an essential building block of wearable biosensor systems.

**Solution:** Design, develop, and validate stretchable electrochemical biosensors using solution processed wrinkled gold electrodes that increase simultaneously increase surface area and tolerance to strain



# **Designing Highly Porous Drug-Impregnated Polymer Scaffolds Using Pressurized Gas Expanded Liquids for the Treatment of Lung Fibrosis**

(Collaborative Health Research Project – Funded 2019-2022)

**Clinicians &  
Researchers**

**Bioinformatics  
&  
Data Scientists**

**Engineers**

**Kjetil Ask  
Medicine**

**Nathan Hambly  
Medicine**

**Martin Kolb  
Medicine**

**Anna Dvorkin  
Pathology**

**Todd Hoare  
Chemical  
Engineering**



# SynoPlate™ – Human Physiology on Demand

(CIHR Project – Funded 2019-2023)

**Clinicians &  
Researchers**

**Engineers**

**Bioinformatics  
&  
Data Scientists**

**Yaron Shargall**  
**Surgery**

**Jay Hirota**  
**Medicine**

**Boyang Zhang**  
**Engineering**

**Andrew Doxey**  
**Biology**



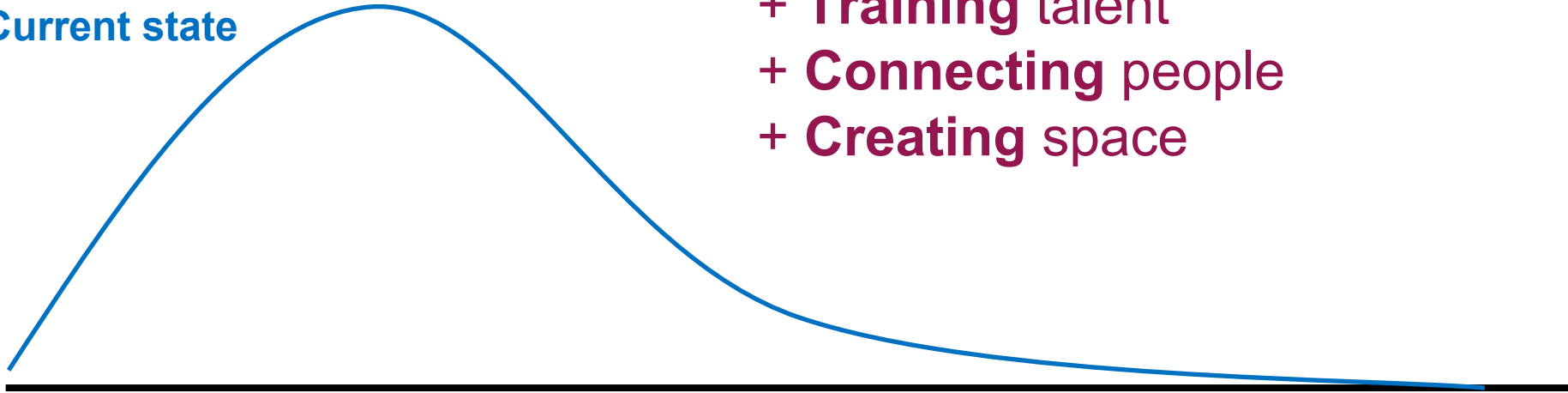
# What if we **enhance** how we build human capacity at the Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health?

Current state

- + **Training** talent
- + **Connecting** people
- + **Creating** space

♥ \$

Socioeconomic and Commercial Impact



**What will fuel the next generation of innovations?**



Engineers

# Dr. Boyang Zhang – McMaster

## Tissue Engineering of Blood Vessels and Lung

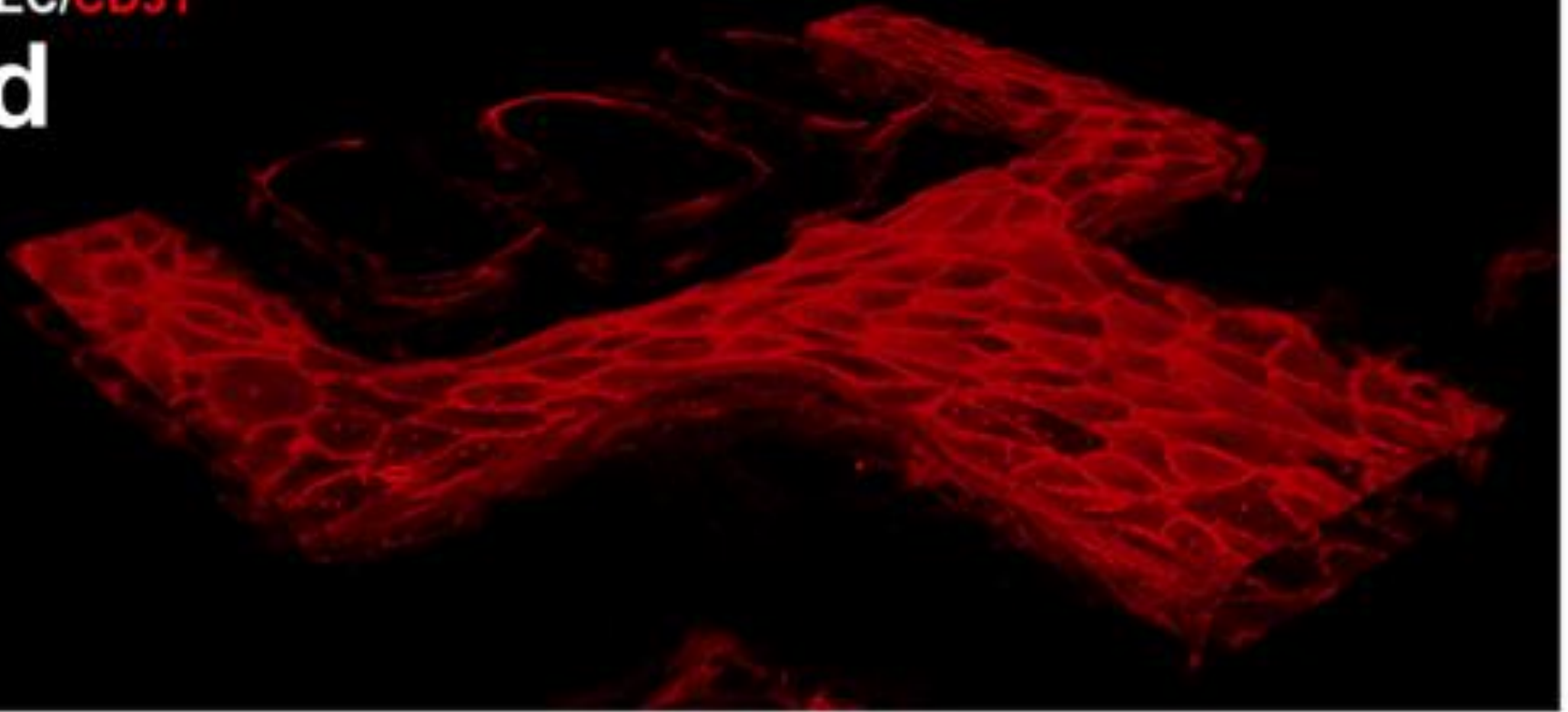


**Problem:** Recapitulating vascular interfaces of different organs in three dimensions is critical in both organ-on-a-chip and tissue engineering applications

**Solution:** AngioChip™, a stable biodegradable scaffold with a built-in branching microchannel network that is flexible and porous enabling integration of *in vivo*

hEC/CD31

d



## Engineers



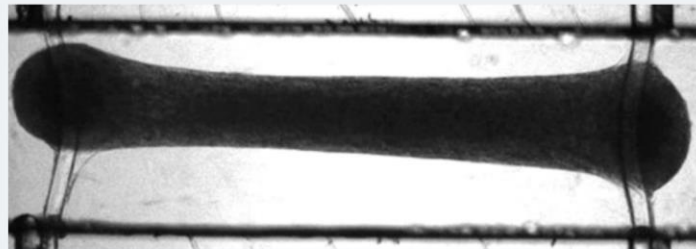
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# Cardiotype.Fo

TARA's *in vitro* contractility analysis

Cardiotype is TARA's 3D model of mature cardiac tissue. It embodies the physiological hallmarks of the human heart and provides a picture of key cardiac functions. Cardiotype.Fo provides a complete and direct analysis of cardiac contractility, including the amplitude, duration and rate of force generation.



[Download Datasheet](#)

[Request Quote](#)

## NEWS

September 27, 2018

**TARA Launches Cardiotype.Fo, Best-In-Class Assay for Assessment of Cardiac Contractility**

September 25, 2018

**Frost & Sullivan Recognizes TARA With 2018 North American Technology Innovation Award**

May 30, 2018

**TARA CEO Misti Ushio Named to Fast Company's 100 Most Creative People in Business**

# Dr. Todd Hoare – McMaster

## Hydrogels: Tissue Engineering, Diagnostics & Drug Delivery

