

# Innovation from a Neurosurgeon's Perspective

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UCI Health



# Innovation from a Neurosurgeon's Perspective

First in Human Trial

Date with a Scientist

From Innovation to Entrepreneurship

**A Big Problem**

Swinging for a Home Run

# DBS for Obesity: Conducting a First- in-Human Study



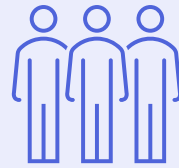
# How to Conduct a First-in- Human Study

- 1 Isolate a problem
- 2 Propose a solution
- 3 Understand the system
- 4 Develop a protocol
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- 6 Secure funding
- 7 Identify patients
- 8 Conduct the study
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**42%** of the U.S. adult population is obese, including **9.2%** with severe obesity



There is an alarming rise of obesity in children, with **18.5%** suffering from obesity

# Obesity: An Epidemic



Medications are largely ineffective, and only result in sustained weight loss in **~10%** of patients



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# Surgical Treatment for Obesity

## Surgical treatment reserved for morbidly obese

Bypass, banding, intragastric balloon placement.

Morbidity as high as ~30%.

Rife with complications: micronutrient deficiency, dumping syndrome, ulcers, hernias.

## Success after surgery?

Despite “successful” bariatric surgery, many patients regain a significant amount of weight

# Neurosurgery for Obesity

**Ventromedial hypothalamus (VMH, “satiety” center) and lateral hypothalamus (LH, “feeding” center)**

Lesioning studies in animals were first to suggest these functions of the hypothalamus

Clinical evidence from patients with tumors in these regions also corroborated findings in animal studies

Experiments have shown selective damage to LH neurons impairs food ingestion w/o affecting motor/swallowing functions



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# Biochemistry and Physiology

## Leptin, ghrelin, and insulin

Three chemicals important in energy homeostasis.

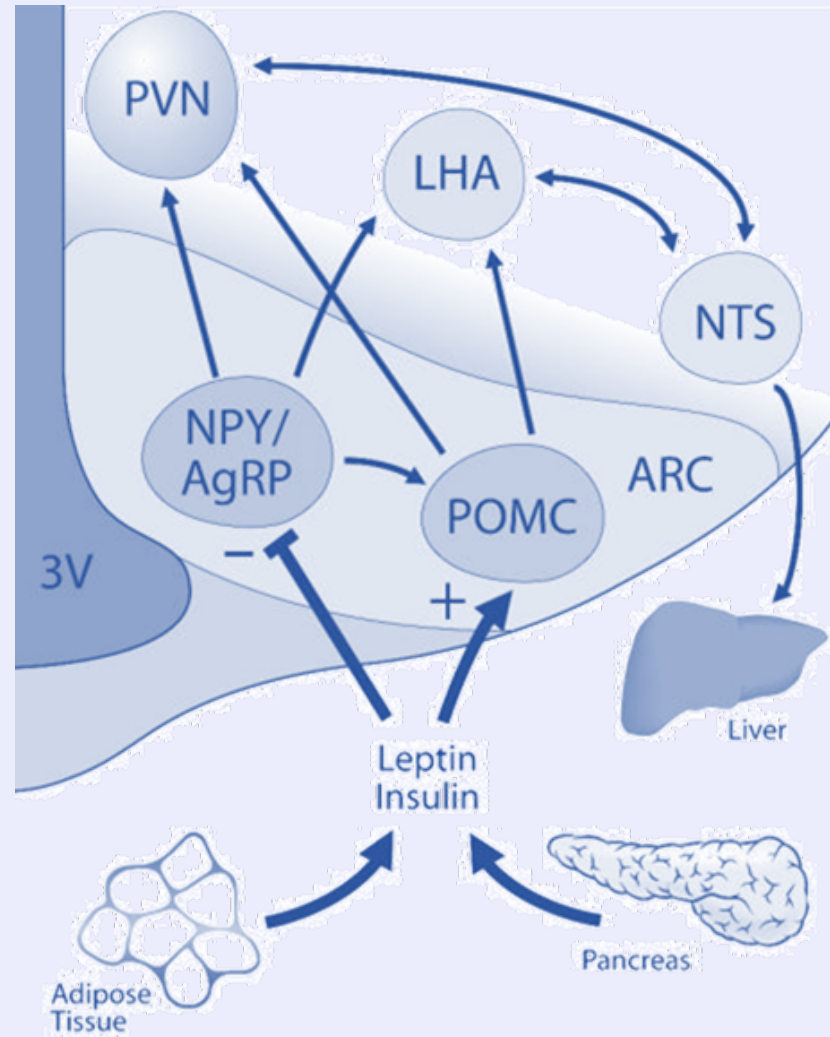
Experiments in animals have shown decrease in food intake with administration of exogenous leptin/insulin into the brain.

## Leptin resistance

May be associated with obesity; analogous to insulin resistance.

DBS could be used to substitute the action of leptin on its receptors within the hypothalamus.

# Hypothalamic Neurocircuits Involved in Glucose Metabolism



Morton GJ 2007



# An Energy Balance Problem



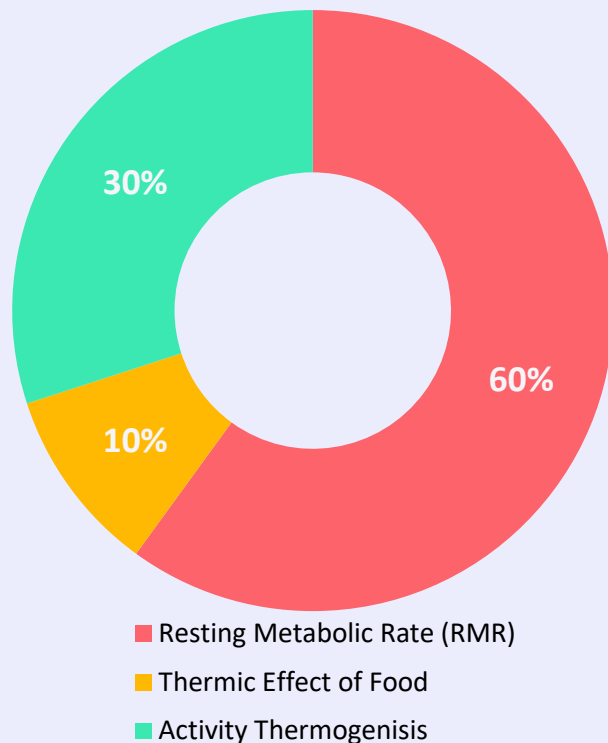
**Energy in** = food intake

**Energy out** = resting metabolic rate (RMR) + exercise + thermic effect of food

When energy in is greater than energy out, this causes obesity

**DBS** may be able to influence both sides of the energy equation

# Resting Metabolic Rate



The lionshare of “energy out” is **resting metabolic rate** (RMR)

RMR contributes to obesity by acting as a buffer against weight loss – RMR decreases in response to caloric restriction

Previous efforts to increase RMR (*thyroid hormone, amphetamines*) for weight loss have had **significant side effects**



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# Deep Brain Stimulation?

## Established Treatment

Well-established treatment for movement disorders and recently for psychiatric disease (OCD, Depression, Tourette's)

## Proven Safety

Proven safety profile, both adjustable and reversible with the ability to modify parameters as needed

*Unlike in movement disorders and psychiatric disease, effects on weight may not be readily apparent initially*

# Animal Studies of DBS for Obesity

Authors	Animal	Substance	Target	Laterality	Acute vs Chronic	Mode	Intensity (μA)	Frequency (Hz)	Pulse Width (μs)
Anand et al.	Cat	Standard Chow	VMH	Unilateral	Acute	Bipolar	NA*	5	200
Wyrwicka et al.	Goat	Standard Chow	VMH	Unilateral	Acute	Unipolar	NA*	50	NA
Morgane	Rat	Standard Chow	VMH	Unilateral	Acute	Bipolar	NA*	60	200
Brown et al.	Dog	Standard Chow	VMH	Unilateral	Acute	Bipolar	100	50	1,000
Ruffin et al.	Rat	Standard Chow	VMH	Unilateral	Acute	Bipolar	20 or 25**	NA	NA
Sani et al.	Rat	High-fat Diet	LH	Bilateral	Chronic	Bipolar	NA*	180-200	1,000

*LH* lateral hypothalamus, *VMH* ventromedial hypothalamus, *NA* not available

\*Only voltage was reported in these studies: Morgane, 1.0-3.0 V; Anand et al., 2.0 V; Wyrwicka et al., 0.5-1.0 V; Sani et al., 2.0 V

\*\* Constant current administered

Halpern 2011

# Stimulation Targets for DBS in Obesity

## Lateral Hypothalamus (LH)

- *Projects to:* cortex, basal ganglia, hypothalamic regions, PAG, reticular formation, and ventral horn of the spinal cord
- *Receives input from:* nucleus accumbens, amygdala, hippocampus, and nucleus of the solitary tract, and arcuate nucleus
  - Arcuate nucleus is outside BBB and hence could serve as a mediator of circulating hormones
  - It could influence the LH through direct projections
- Weight loss following LH stimulation is not related to decreased food intake or increased activity
  - Hypothesized to be due to increased metabolism (Sani et al. 2007)

# Stimulation Targets for DBS in Obesity

## Ventromedial Hypothalamus (VMH)

- High frequency stimulation leads to increased food intake
- Low frequency stimulation leads to decreased feeding

## Nucleus Accumbens

- Obesity may result from a patient's desire for food that overrides normal satiety mechanisms
- Neuromodulation of the reward system may allow normal satiety mechanisms to achieve homeostasis

## Leptin, Ghrelin, Neuropeptide Y, and GLP-1

- Shown to modulate reward system in addition to effects on energy and metabolism



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# Go to Canada! But Protect Your IP

## Memory Enhancement Induced by Hypothalamic/Fornix Deep Brain Stimulation

Clement Hamani, MD, PhD,<sup>1</sup>  
Mary Pat McAndrews, PhD,<sup>2</sup> Melanie Cohn, PhD,<sup>2</sup>  
Michael Oh, MD,<sup>1</sup> Dominik Zumsteg, MD,<sup>3</sup>  
Colin M. Shapiro, MD, PhD, FRCPC,<sup>4</sup>  
Richard A. Wennberg, MD, FRCPC,<sup>3</sup>  
and Andres M. Lozano, MD, PhD, FRCSC<sup>1</sup>

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Bilateral hypothalamic deep brain stimulation was performed to treat a patient with morbid obesity. We observed, quite unexpectedly, that stimulation evoked detailed autobiographical memories. Associative memory tasks conducted in a double-blinded "on" versus "off" manner demonstrated that stimulation increased recollection but not familiarity-based recognition, indicating a functional engagement of the hippocampus. Electroencephalographic source localization showed that hypothalamic deep brain stimulation drove activity in mesial temporal lobe structures. This shows that hypothalamic stimulation in this patient modulates limbic activity and improves certain memory functions.

Ann Neurol 2008;63:119–123

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Quaade F, Vaernet K, Larsson S: Stereotaxic stimulation and electrocoagulation of the lateral hypothalamus in obese humans. *Acta Neurochir (Wien)* 30:111–117, 1974

Hamani C, McAndrews MP, Cohn M, Oh M, Zumsteg D, Shapiro CM, et al: Memory enhancement induced by hypothalamic/fornix deep brain stimulation. *Ann Neurol* 63:119–123, 2008



# Approvals

## IRB Approval

- Safety and Stature
- Join the Committee

## FDA Approval

- Early Feasibility Study
- First in Human Study
- Traditional Feasibility Study
- Pivotal Study

## Right of Reference Letter

- Ask and You Shall Receive (*as long as you are a high volume clinician*)

## Investigational Device Exemptions (IDEs) for Early Feasibility Medical Device Clinical Studies, Including Certain First in Human (FIH) Studies

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## Guidance for Industry and Food and Drug Administration Staff

Document issued on: October 1, 2013

The draft of this document was issued on November 10, 2011.

For questions regarding this document, contact CDRH's Andrew Farb, 301-796-6343, [Andrew.Farb@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Andrew.Farb@fda.hhs.gov) or Dorothy Abel, 301-796-6366, [Dorothy.Abel@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Dorothy.Abel@fda.hhs.gov), or CBER's Office of Communication, Outreach and Development at 1-800-835-4709 or 301-827-1800.



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# Secure Funding

- Intramural
  - Department
  - Medical School
  - University
  - Philanthropy
- Extramural
  - State
  - Societies
  - Foundations
  - NIH
  - \$250,000-\$500,000
- Industry



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# Inclusion Criteria

1. Male and female patients age  $\geq 18$  years.
2. BMI  $\geq 40$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> or  $\geq 35$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> with a comorbid condition.
3. Failure of bariatric surgery (gastric banding or bypass).
4. Chronic obesity diagnosed by an eating disorder specialist with expertise in the treatment of obesity.
5. Stable at present body weight for a 6-month period.
6. Psychiatric evaluation.
7. Karnofsky Performance Score  $> 60$ .

# Patient Demographics and Treatment History

Case No.	Age (yrs)	Sex	Pre-DBS Body Weight (lbs)	Pre-DBS Body Weight (BMI)	Prior Surgical Weight Loss Treatment	Co-morbidities
1	60	F	278.7	49.4	Gastric Bypass 2001	HTN
2	50	F	326	48.1	Gastric Bypass 2001	Sleep Apnea, DM2, HTN, Migraine
3	45	M	314	45.0	Gastric Bypass 2003	Lower Extremity Edema

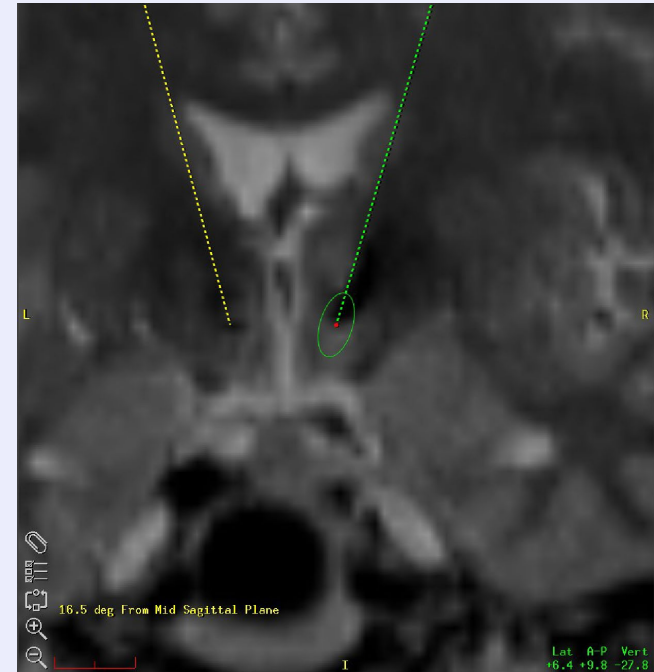
*HTN* Hypertension, *DM2* Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus



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# LH Targeting



- CRW frame
- Indirect targeting (*6.5mm lateral to AC-PC line, 4.5mm post to AC, 3mm below AC-PC line*)
- CT / MRI fusion
- MER, microstimulation, macrostimulation
- Postoperative MRI

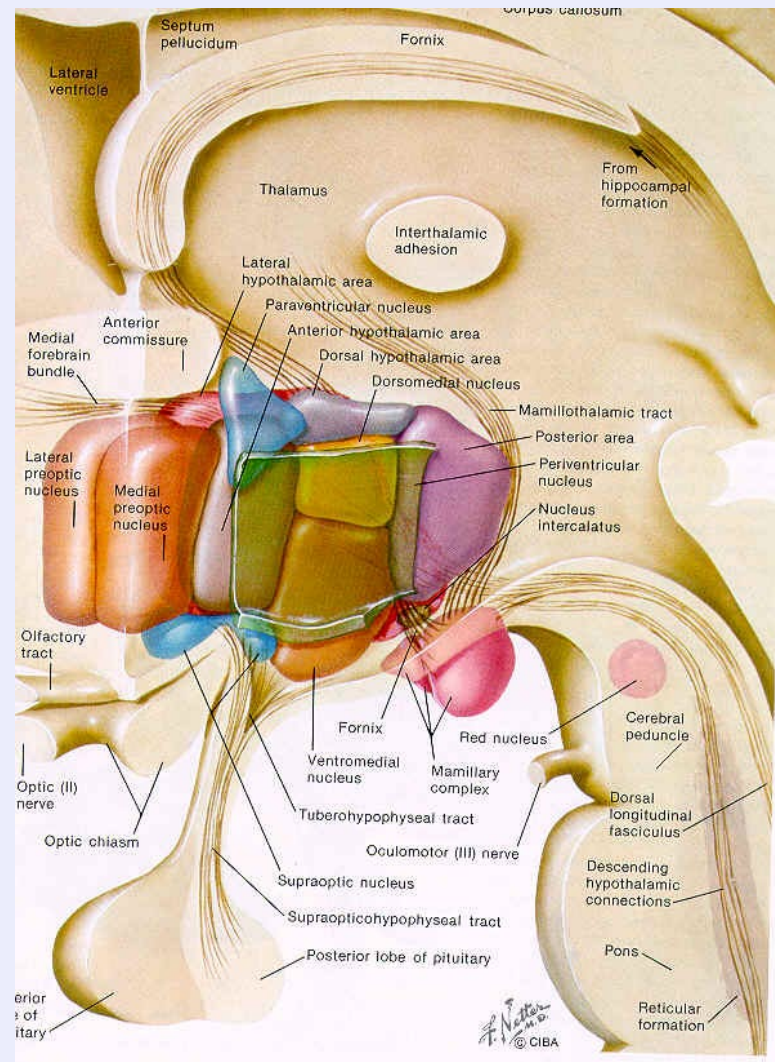
# Microstimulation Evoked Responses

Evoked responses more useful than MER for guiding electrode placement

*Within LH:* nausea and thermal sensations

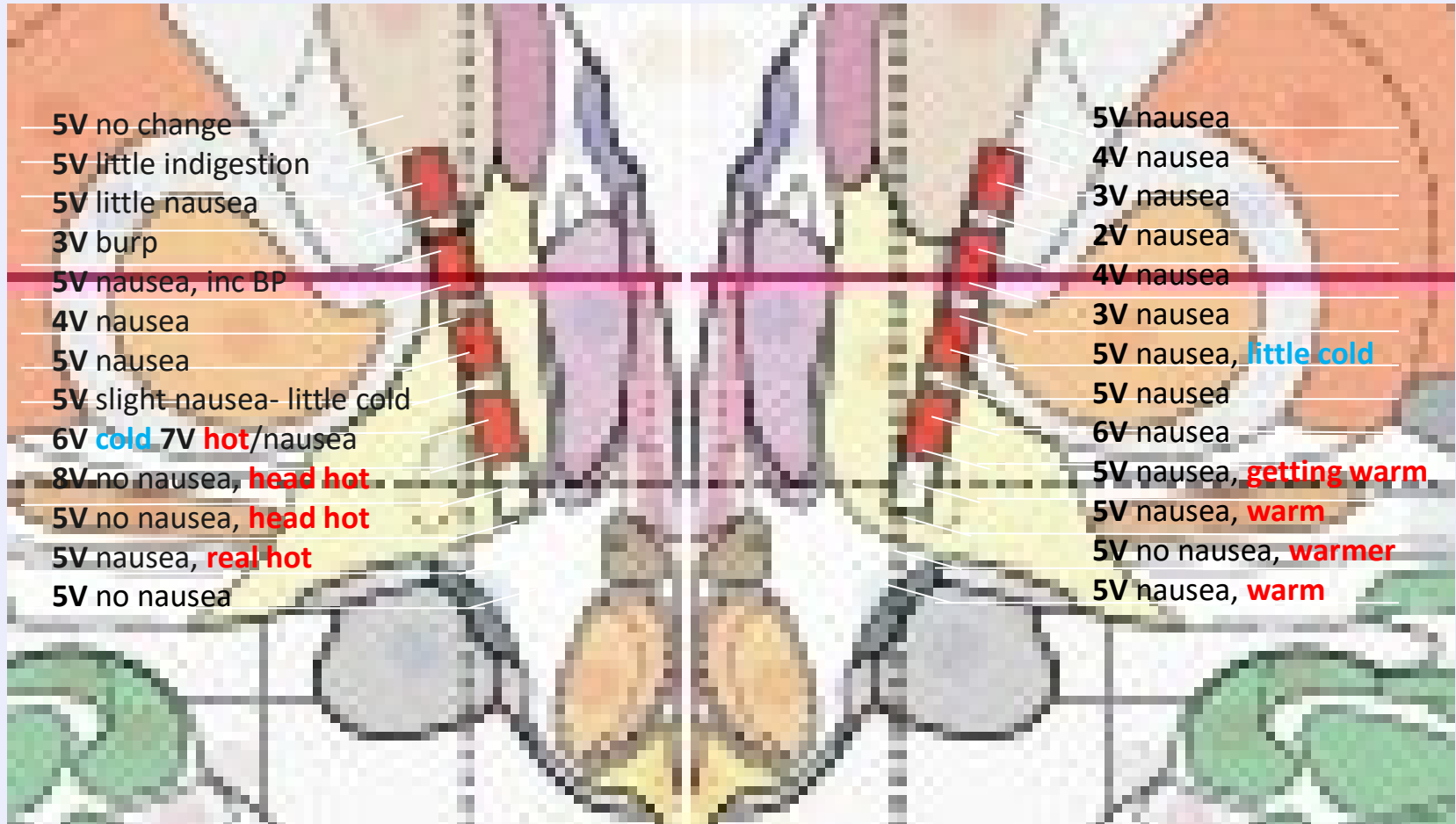
*Lateral to LH:* paresthesias

*Ventromedial to LH:* anxiety



Wilent et al. 2011

# Intra-Operative Macrostimulation





# Metabolic Chamber



Airtight room



Records oxygen consumption and carbon dioxide production minute-to-minute



Records spontaneous physical activity by a microwave detector



Once a month, the accuracy and precision of the chamber is assessed by propane combustion tests



Calculates resting metabolic rate (RMR) in kcal/min

# Metabolic Chamber



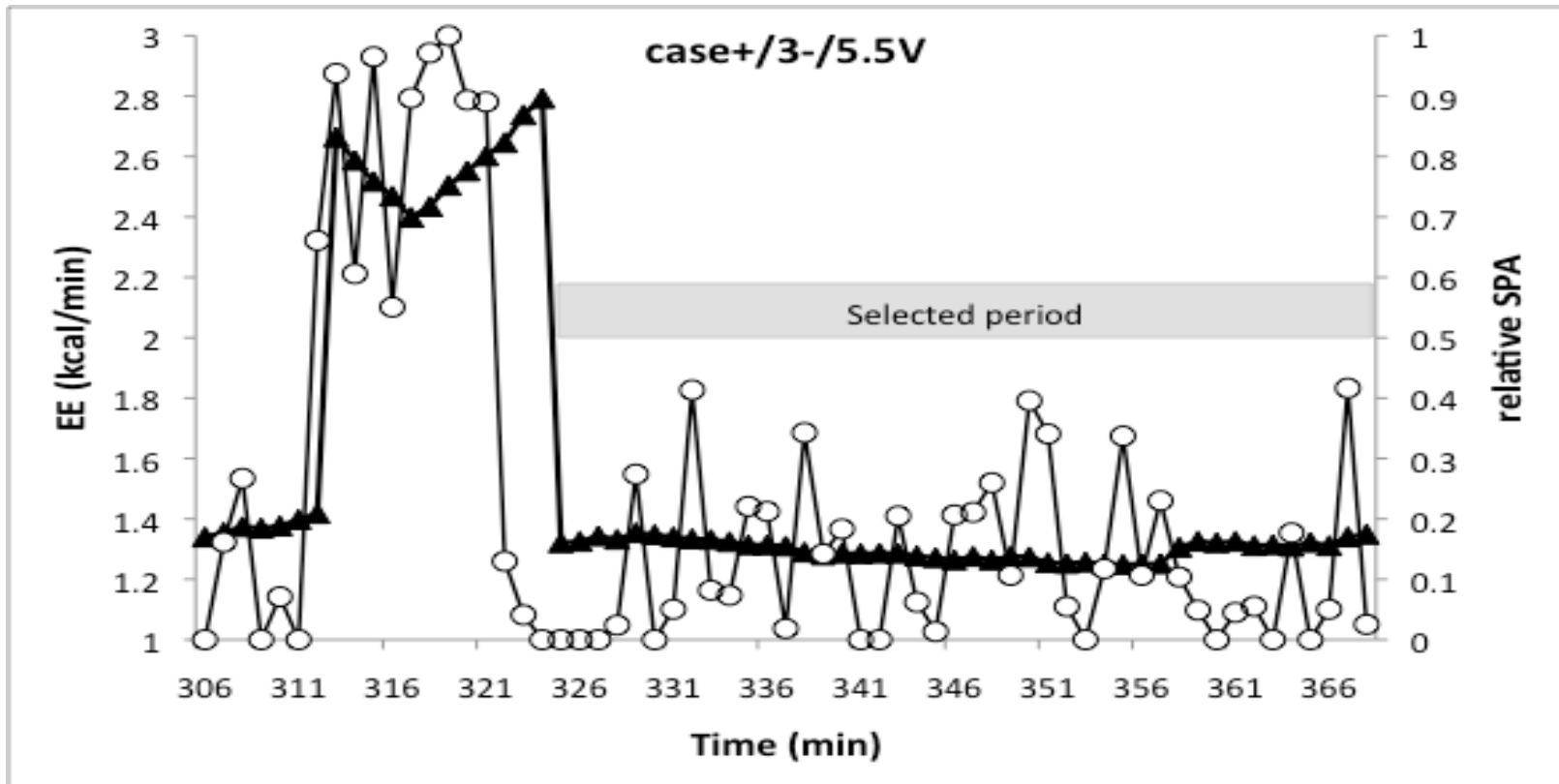
**Louisiana State University**

Pennington Biomedical Research Center

Baton Rouge, LA



# RMR Calculated Over Periods with Minimal Spontaneous Activity



# Psychological Metrics

## Gormally Binge Scale

Patient #1 had improved such that her Binge Scale score was within the normal range while the other 2 participants continued to score in the moderate binge eating range.

## Cognitive Restraint Subscale

Patient #1 improved into the high range while the other 2 patients remained in the low range.

## Hunger Subscale

Patient #1 had a Hunger score of 0 at post-operative follow-up and commented that “this was the first time in her life that she didn’t have to fight constant hunger.”

## Body Shape Questionnaire

Patient #2 and #3 had increase to normal.

## Impact of Weight on QOL

Pre- and post-op testing revealed that DBS did not worsen a participants QOL.

# Biochemical Analysis

- Serial blood testing of the following nutritional studies, pituitary hormones, and neuroendocrine/neuropeptide studies did not reveal significant changes with LH DBS stimulation:
- fasting glucose, hemoglobin A1C, serum calcium, serum magnesium, total cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol, triglycerides, serum iron, TSH, free T4, total T4, T3, FSH, LH, serum cortisol, folate, vitamin B12, ACTH, fasting insulin, insulin-like growth factor, growth hormone, leptin, ghrelin, AGRP, NPY, PYY, and adiponectin.

## Summary of average resting metabolic rate (RMR) changes with bilateral monopolar stimulation of individual DBS contacts during metabolic chamber experiments in three patients undergoing LH DBS

Case No.	Contact 0	Contact 1	Contact 2	Contact 3
1	No Change	<b>28% increase at 5.5 volts</b>	Indeterminate	No change at 0-5 volts; Indeterminate at >5 volts
2	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	<b>15% increase at &gt;5 volts</b>
3	Indeterminate	<b>9% increase at &gt;4 volts</b>	Indeterminate	<b>21% increase at &gt;4 volts</b>

- Stimulation was performed in monopolar mode with the case or pulse generator always acting as the anode (positive contact)
- Pulse width (90 microseconds) and frequency (185 Hz) were kept constant during all stimulation settings
- Calculations were deemed indeterminate when patient motion made it difficult to ascertain whether RMR changes were due to stimulation or motion

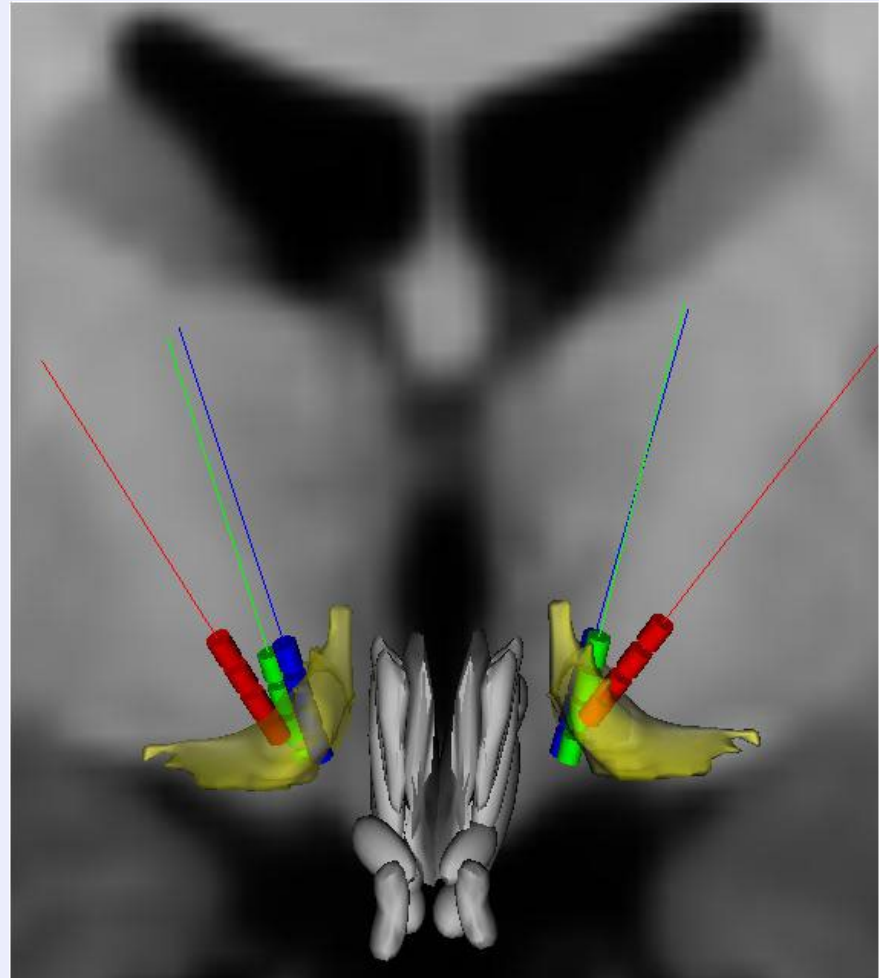
## 3D LH stereotactic anatomy

LH reconstructed from Mai stereotactic atlas with superimposed electrode contact locations from all 3 patients

Patient 1 (**red**)

Patient 2 (**green**)

Patient 3 (**blue**)



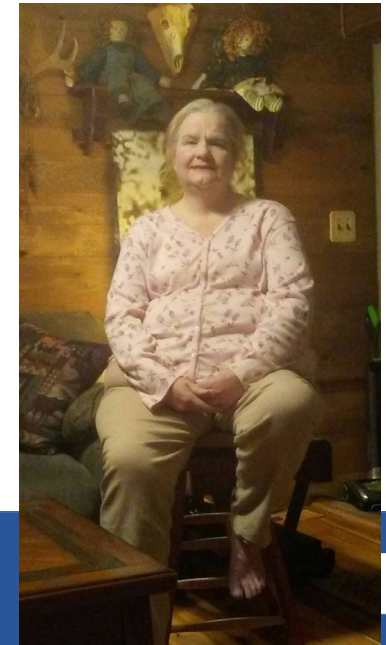
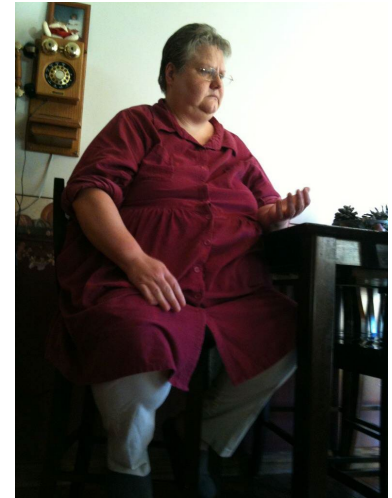
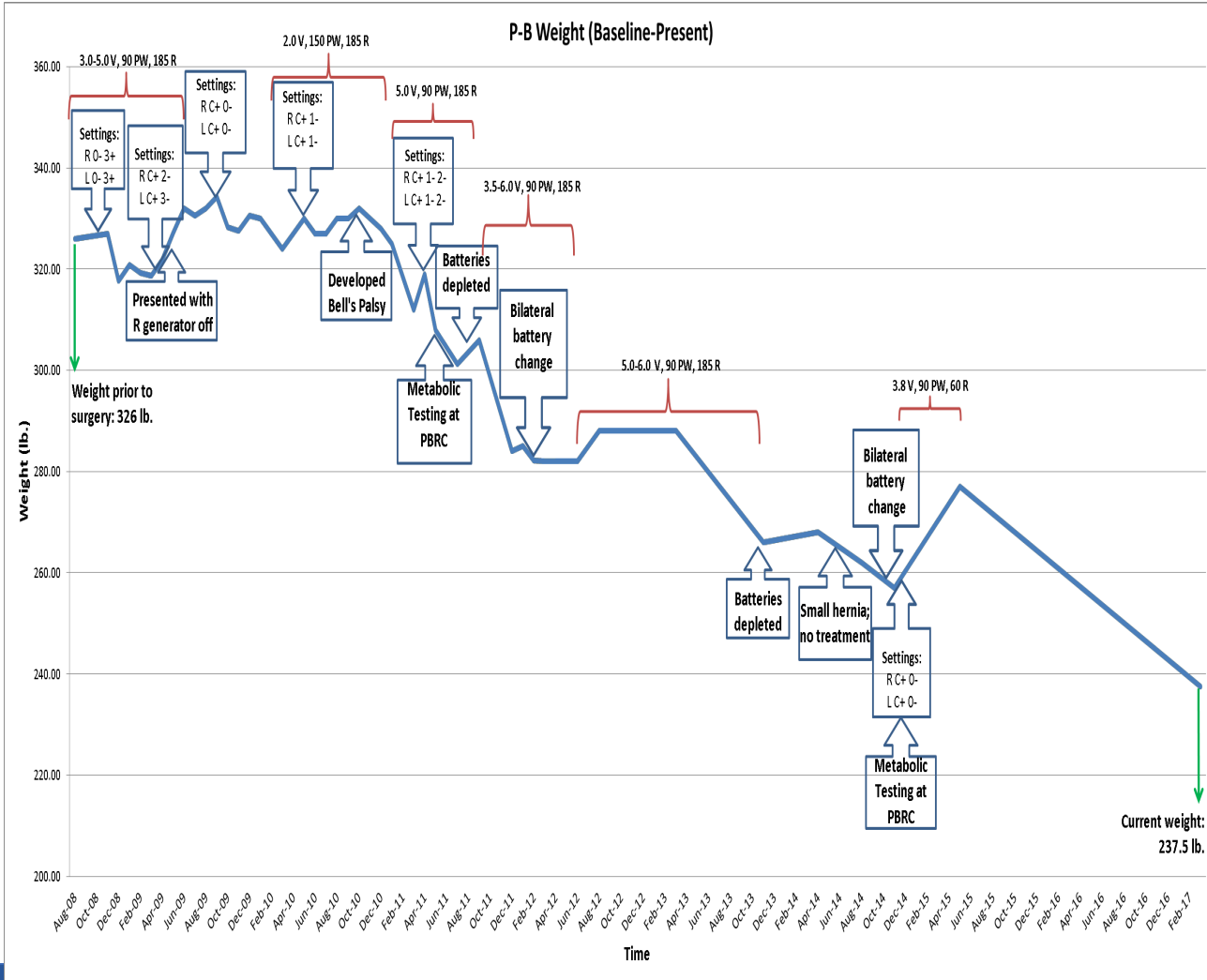
Images courtesy of Kirk W. Finnis Phd, Medtronic Neuromodulation

# Body Weight Before and After Metabolically Optimized LH DBS Settings

Case No.	Body Weight (lbs) Prior to Optimized Settings	Body Weight (lbs) at Last Follow- up	Months at Optimized Settings	Percentage Change in Body Weight (%)
1	305	302	16	0.9% Decrease
2	325	285	11	12.3% Decrease
3	359	300	9	16.4% Decrease



# Promising Results





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# A Multidisciplinary Endeavor

## Title

Lateral hypothalamic area deep brain stimulation for refractory obesity: A pilot study with preliminary data on safety, body weight, and energy metabolism

## Authors

Donald M. Whiting M.D., Nestor D. Tomycz M.D., Julian Bailes M.D., Lilian de Jonge Ph.D. , Virgile Lecoultre Ph.D., Bryan Wilent Ph.D., Dunbar Alcindor M.D., E. Richard Prostko M.D., Boyle Cheng Ph.D., Cynthia Angle R.N., Diane Cantella R.N., Benjamin B. Whiting, J. Scott Mizes Ph.D., Kirk W. Finnis Ph.D., Eric Ravussin Ph.D. and Michael Y. Oh M.D.

## Published

Journal of Neurosurgery: April 5, 2013

# Date Night with a Scientist

Carnegie Mellon University  
The Robotics Institute

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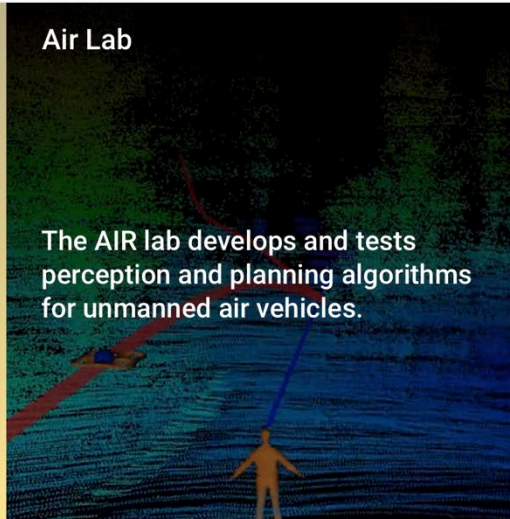


Advanced Agent - Robotics  
Technology Lab



Air Lab

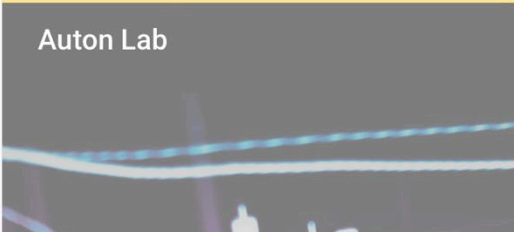
The AIR lab develops and tests  
perception and planning algorithms  
for unmanned air vehicles.



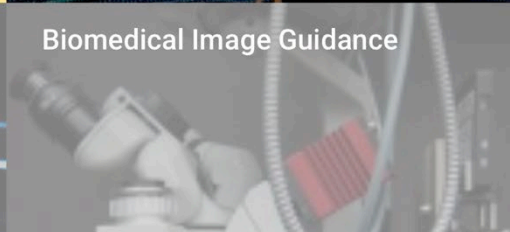
Argo AI Center for Autonomous  
Vehicle Research



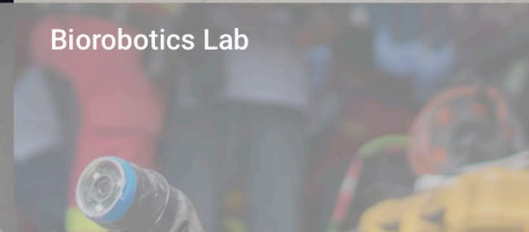
Auton Lab



Biomedical Image Guidance



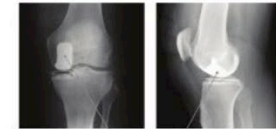
Biorobotics Lab



# Smith and Nephew Buys BBT

## Navio™

The Navio surgical system is smaller, smart instrumentation that offers surgeons and patients a big advantage in precision bone cutting.



### Smart instrumentation

Intelligence that you can hold in your hand. Navio smart instrumentation combines intraoperative navigation, powerful CT-free implant planning features and instrumentation that helps reproduce accurate results time and time again.

### Robotics-assisted precision

Precision instrumentation that doesn't push back, handheld tools provide ease of access to the incision site and take advantage of the surgeon's skilled hands.

### Smaller footprint

Operating Room space is at a premium and the small footprint of the Navio system allows for easy integration into existing OR workflows. By staying small and nimble, Navio provides flexibility to the nursing staff and leverages minimal setup and maintenance.

### Patient-specific, CT-free procedure

A CT-free approach does not require pre-operative imaging beyond normal x-ray film. Based on a patient-reconstructed kinematic reference frame and acquired key anatomic landmark points and surface maps, Navio provides the opportunity to plan the placement of the implant and balance of the joint to each patient's specific needs.

### Precision Freehand Sculpting

The computer-controlled cutting tool always knows where it is in space and adjusts exposure beyond the protective guard to achieve precise bone preparation.



Navio delivers the precision of robotics in a handheld, smart instrument. Precision Freehand Sculpting, the core technology, allows the system to deliver accurate and reproducible results in an efficient and ergonomic package that avoids the traditional pitfalls of large industrial-style robotic equipment.

with minimal soft-tissue impact, Navio enabled procedures are becoming very attractive to potential patients suffering on the sidelines with knee pain.

Surgeons can approach their partial knee replacements with the confidence that robotics-assisted surgical systems provide a consistent platform to optimally orient an

# External Ventricular Drainage



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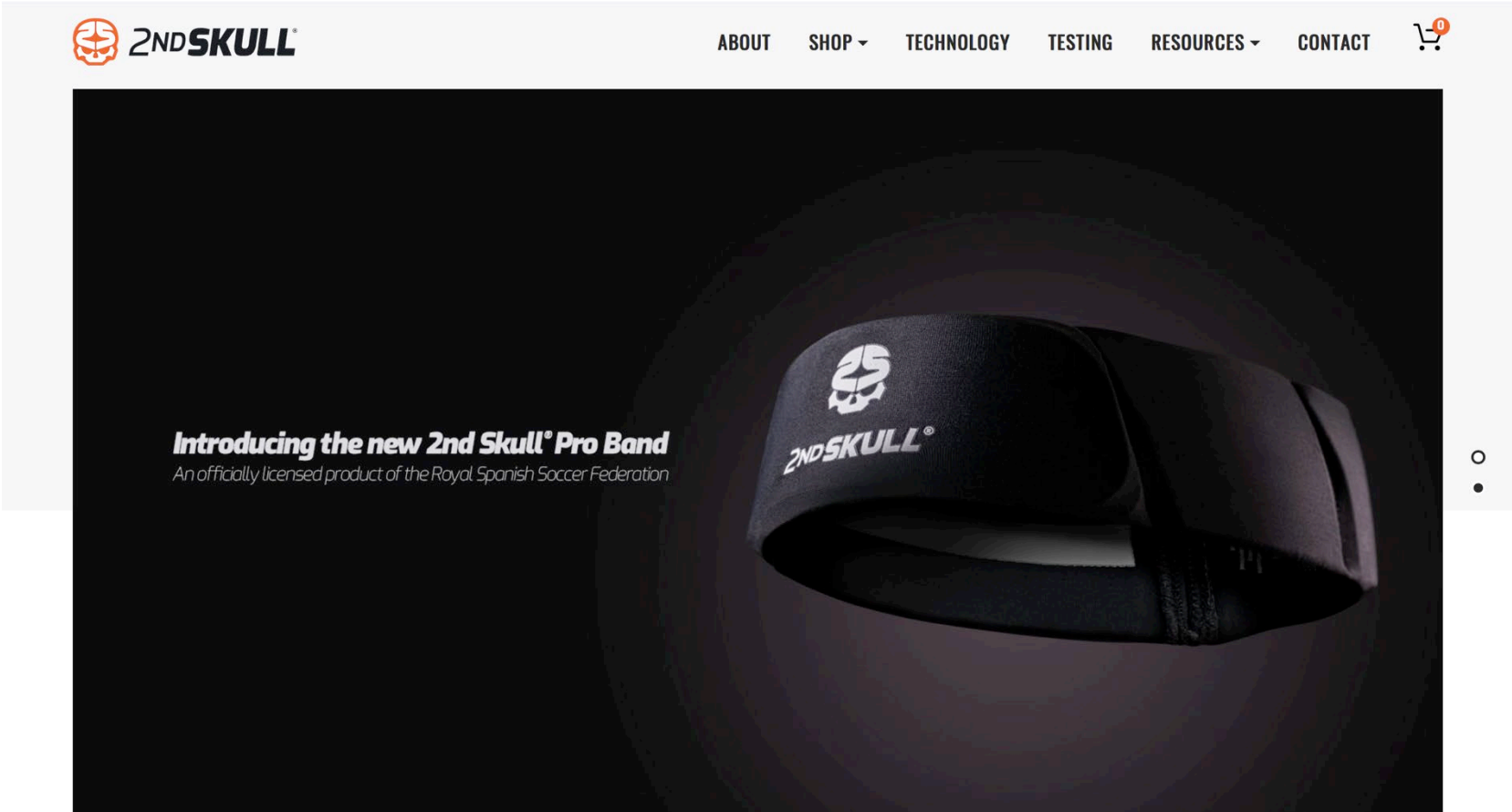
## inTRAvent Medical Partners' Bedside Neuro-Navigation Device Obtains FDA 510(k) Clearance

SOLOPASS® is designed to provide imaging and guidance to improve the placement of external ventricular drains, one of the most common procedures in neurointensive care.

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# Steelers Fan



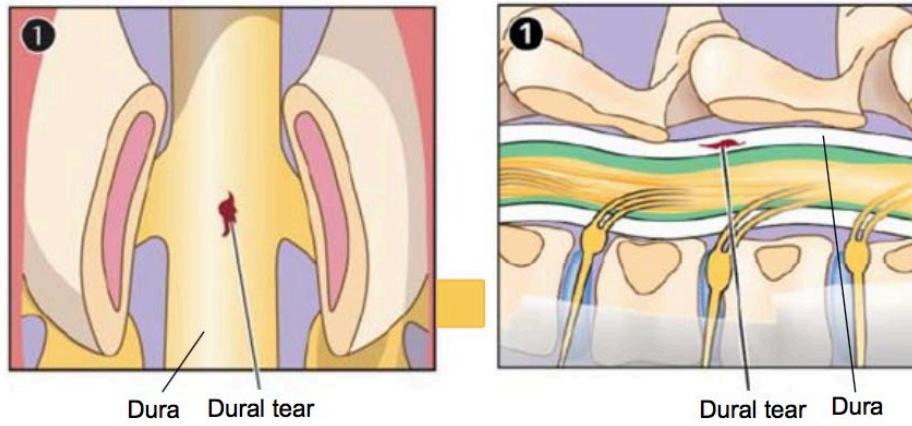
# I-Corps and Dural Repair

**UCI** Beall  
Applied Innovation

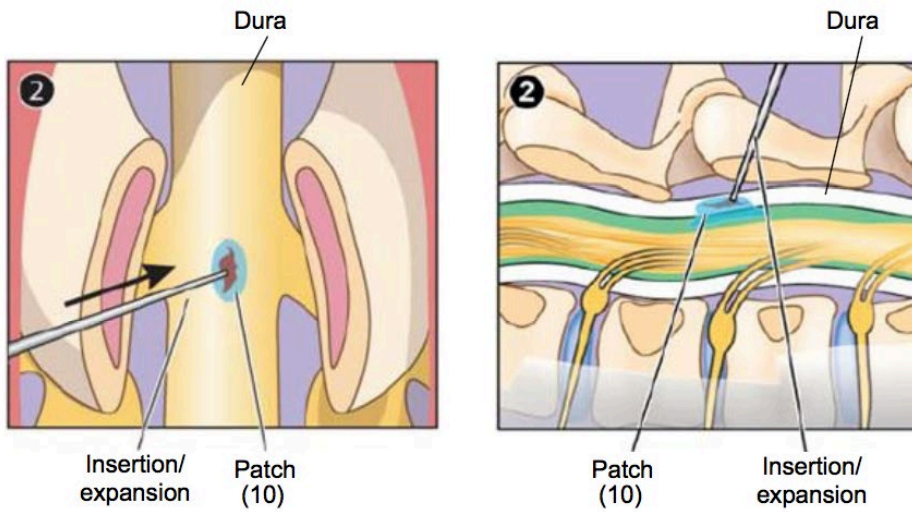


Discover your product's place  
in the market through an  
immersive learning process  
for campus innovators.

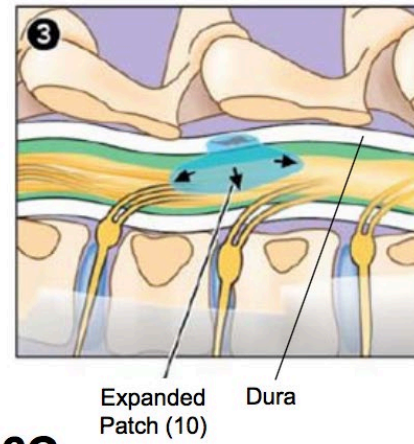
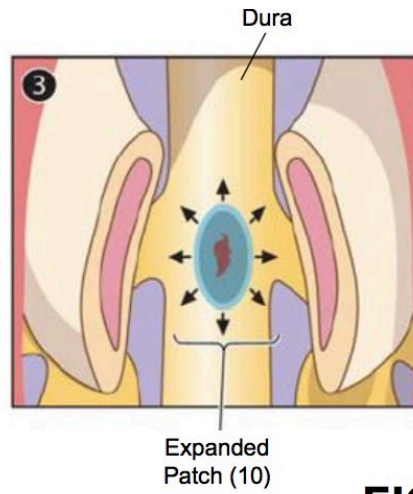




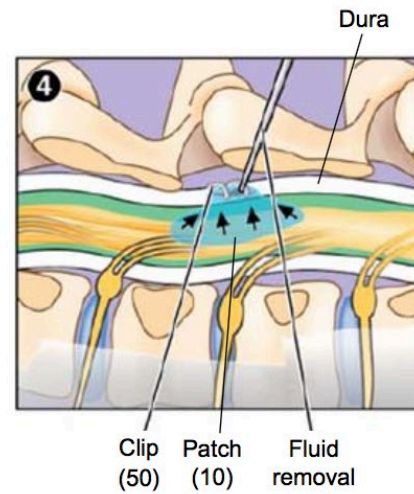
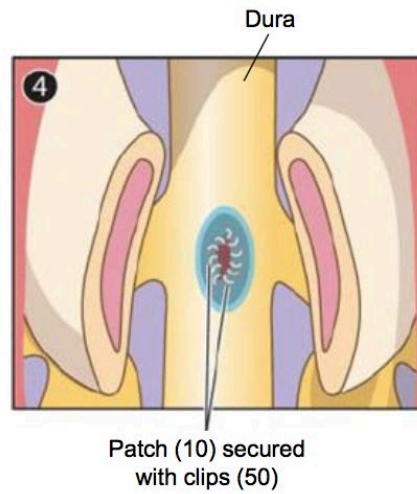
**FIG. 6A**



**FIG. 6B**

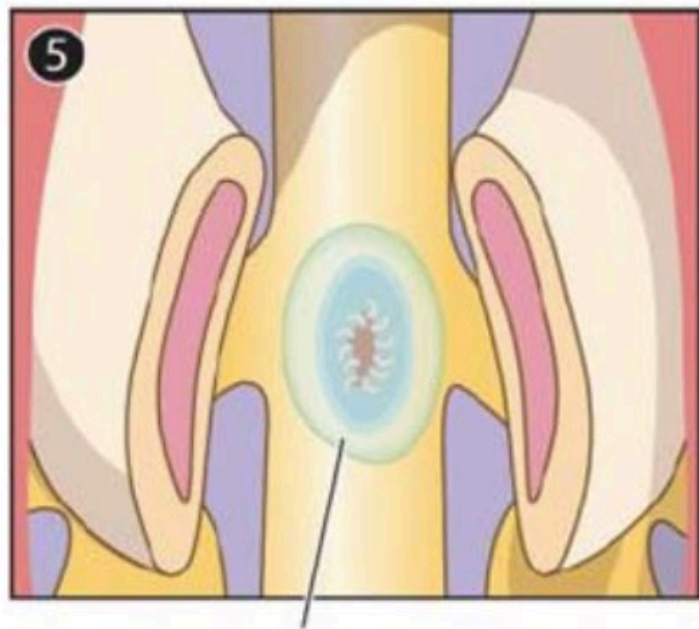


**FIG. 6C**

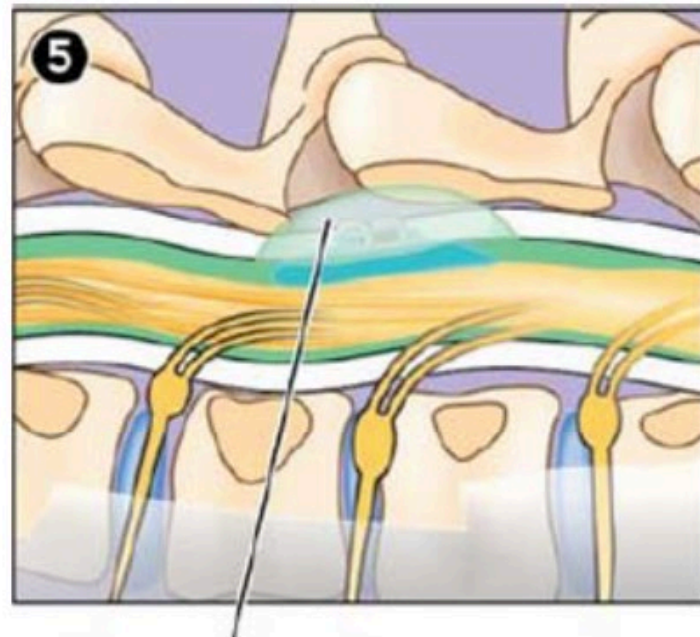


**FIG. 6D**

# UCI Tech Transfer Office



Patch (10)/dura/clips (50)  
covered in sealant



Patch (10)/dura/clips (50)  
covered in sealant

**FIG. 6E**



# Innovation from a Neurosurgeon's Perspective

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From Innovation to Entrepreneurship

# Closing Thoughts on Innovation

**You can't do this alone**

Build your team

**Be patient!**

This is a long process

**Plan for disappointment**

Home runs are only in baseball