

Next-generation wearables for remote monitoring of vital signs & beyond

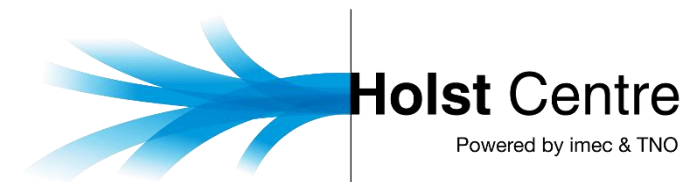


MEDISCHE ELEKTRONICA
Ontwikkelingen, normen en toepassingen

7 februari 2023 | FHI Leusden

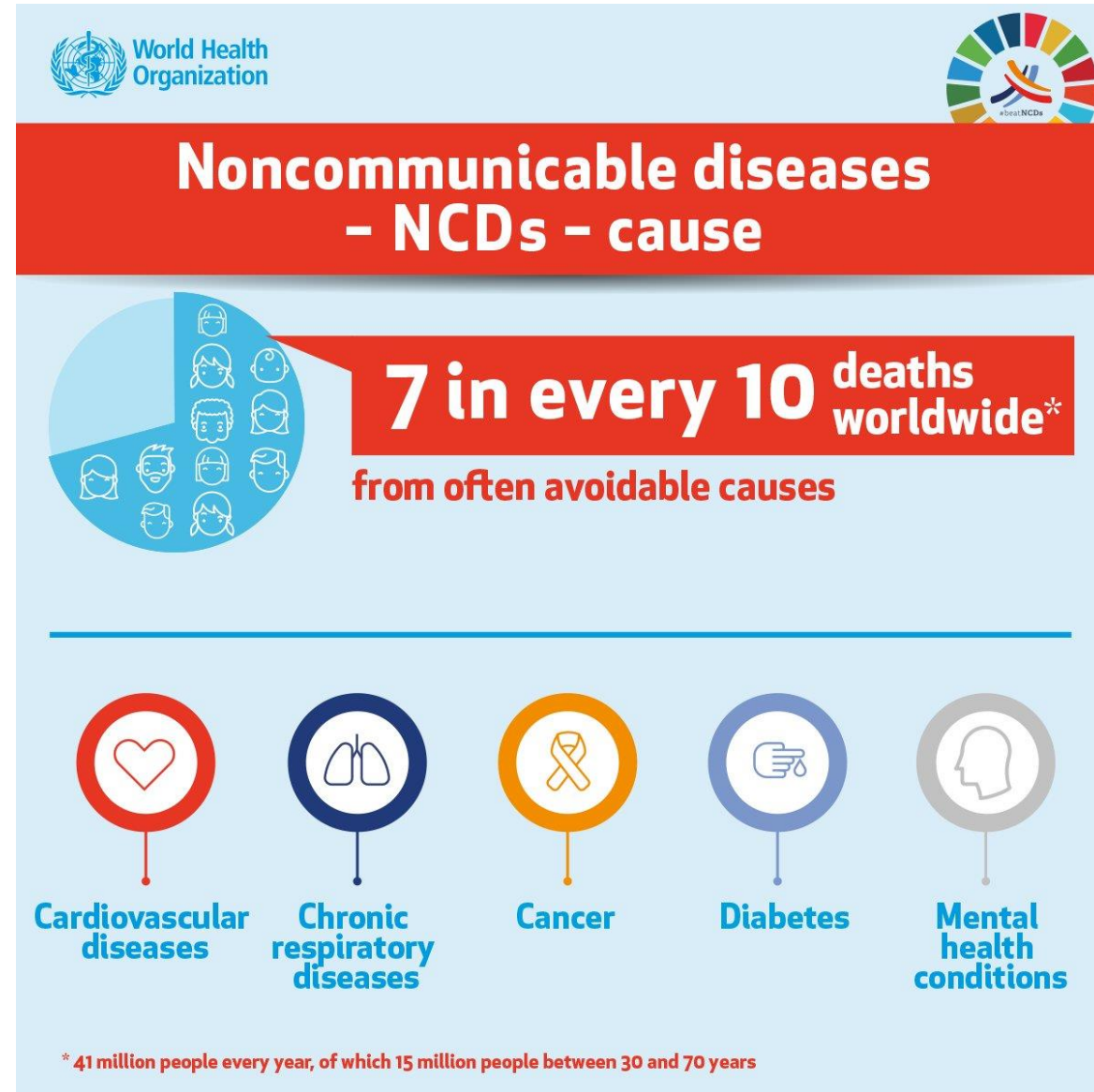


- Research & innovation partner
- Founded in 2005 by leading research institutes TNO & IMEC
- Specialised in **health technologies**, **flexible** and **wireless** electronics
- Located on the High Tech Campus, Brainport area



Chronic diseases: ‘invisible epidemic’

- Chronic diseases or “invisible epidemic” are responsible for **71% of annual deaths** globally (41 million)
- **Healthcare** system is under **pressure**, increasing **costs** & depleting **resources**



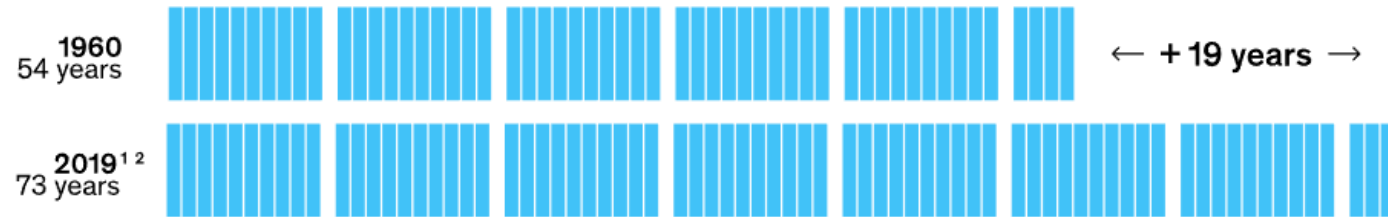
People spend 50 % of lives in less-than-good health

- Global life expectancy more than doubled (1800-2017)

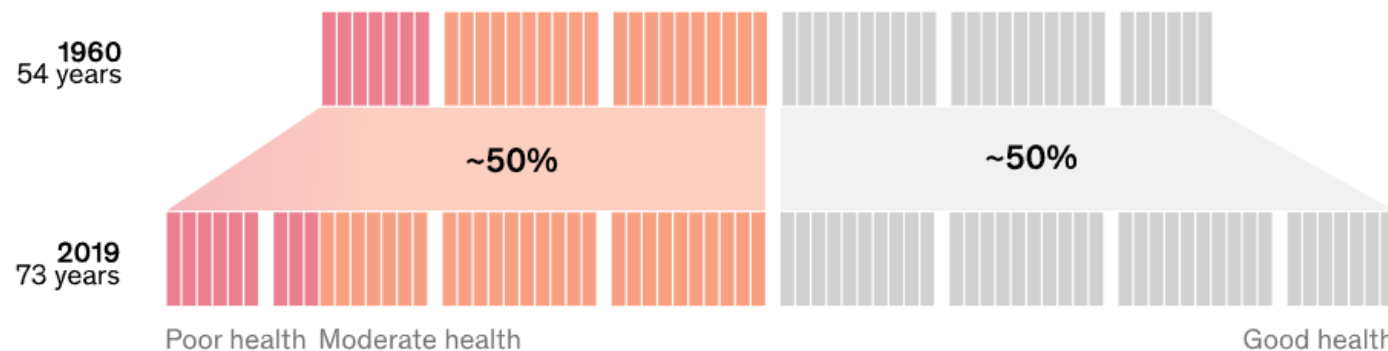
- People spend ~ 50% of their lives in less-than-good health, including 12% in poor health

The past 60 years have seen massive improvements in global life expectancy...

Average global life expectancy and healthy years



...but the proportion of life spent in poor or moderate health has not changed.

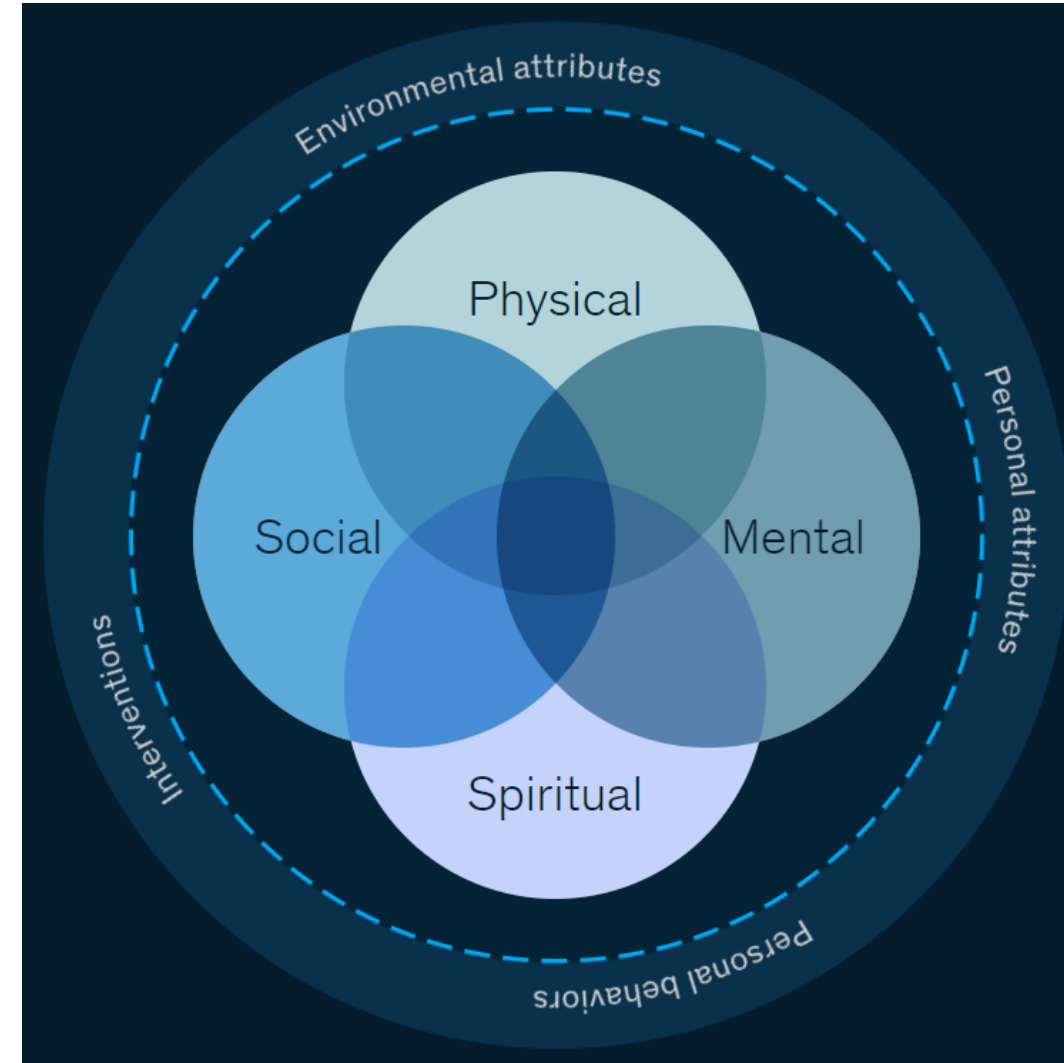


Mission: adding 45 B years of higher-quality life

Embrace **holistic** definition of **health**:

Health is a state of complete **physical, mental, social & spiritual well-being**

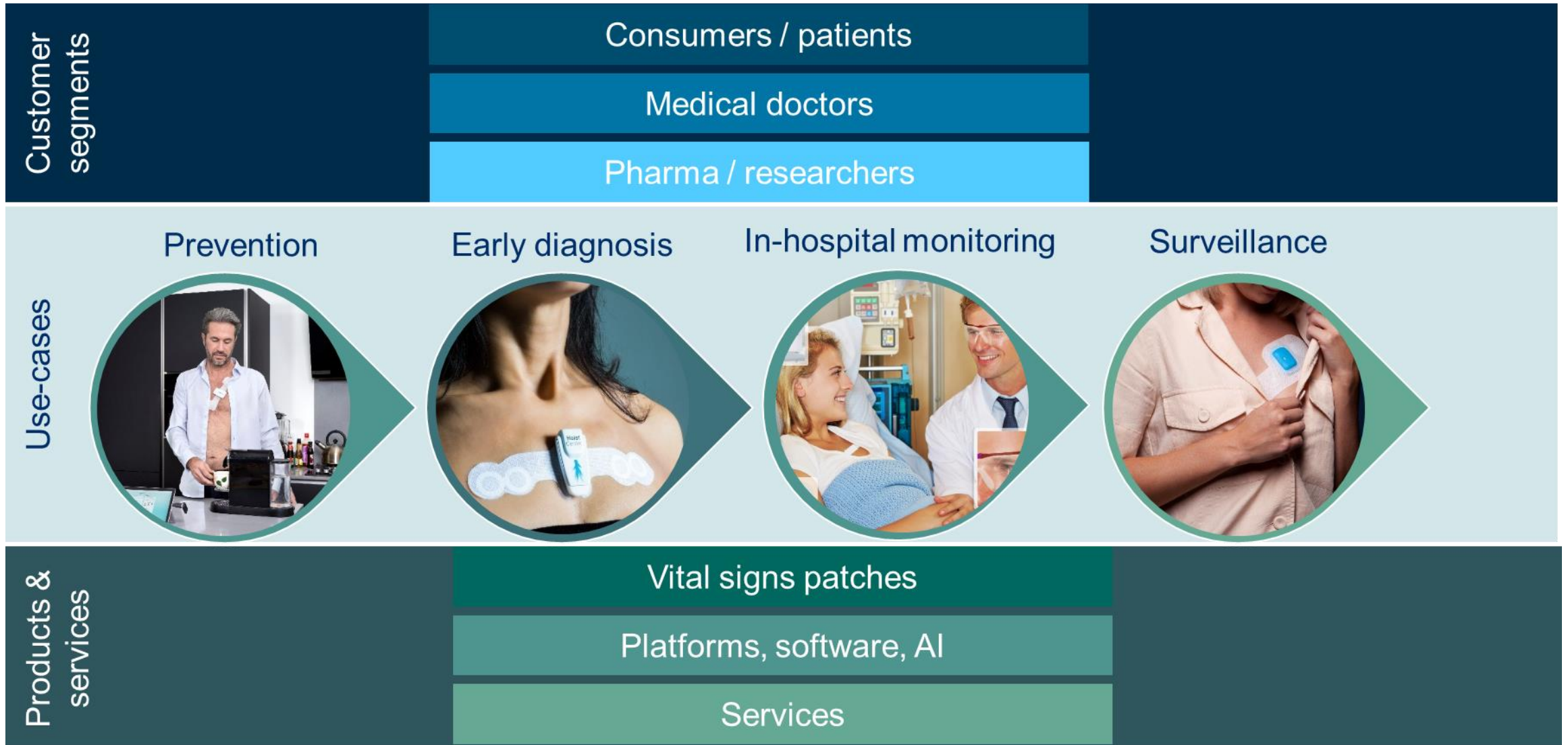
Act on it: Improve **measurement of health** with **better data**



Source: WHO, 1948;

Source: McKinsey Health Institute 2022

Measurement of health with better data



Wearables: opportunity for quantify self

consumer-, clinical- & medical grade wearables

Consumer-grade

- General wellness, fitness, nutrition tracking
- Data not suitable for disease diagnosis
- Garmin, Huawei, Samsung, Withings, Apple, Fitbit, ...



Garmin

Fitbit

Apple

Clinical-grade consumer

- E.g. AF detection
- Have regulatory-approved features
- Samsung, Withings, Apple, Fitbit, ...



Fitbit

Apple

Medical grade

- For medical monitoring, diagnostics, therapeutics
- Under regulatory approval
- Clinically-actionable data
- Medtronic, Abbot, Philips, Boston Scientific, Masimo, ...



Medtronic

Biobeat

Philips

Boston Scientific

Medical grade wearable patches

key user requirements



- High **quality** medical-grade data
- **Long-term** monitoring, >> 2 wks
- Patient **comfort** & compliance
- **Modularity** / acquisition of **multiple parameters**

Flexible electronics

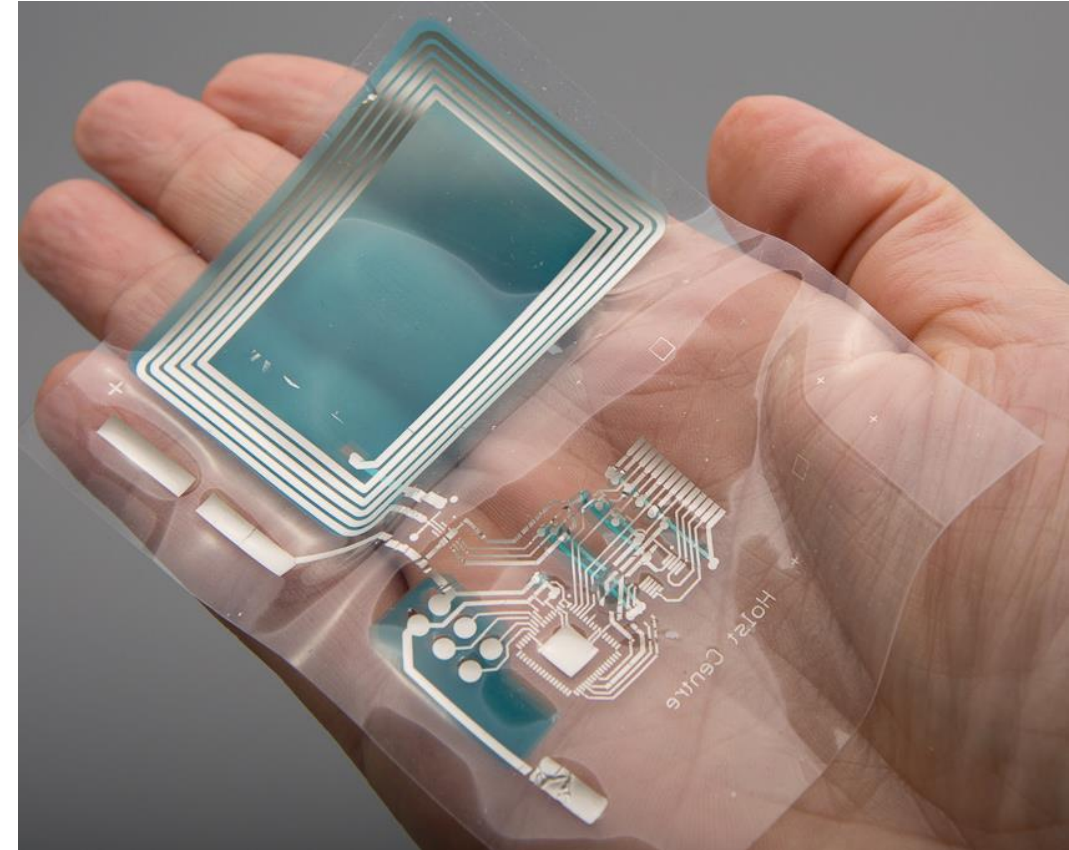
enabling technology for medical grade patches

User benefits:

- Conform to the skin → High quality signal
- Thin, flexible, stretchable → Comfortable to wear on long term

Manufacturing benefits & design freedom:

- Low cost & easily multipliable
- Highly scalable in size (from cm² to m²)
- High design freedom
- Ease of integration, e.g., with photonics



Flexible electronics & hybrid integration *enabling unique functionalities*

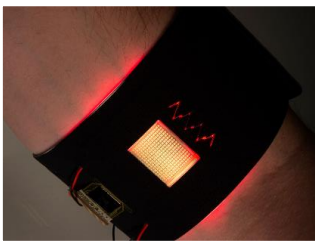
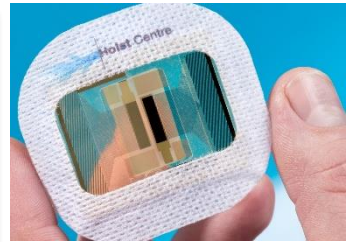
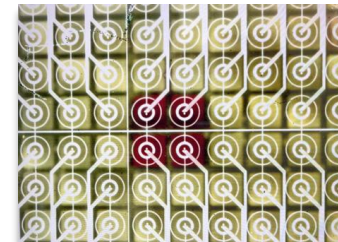
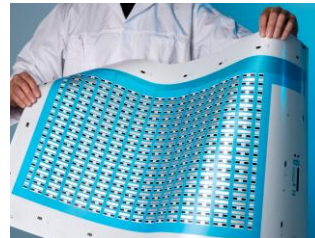
Sensors:

- (Bio)-impedance
- Temperature
- Pressure
- pH
- Ultrasound
- Vis / NIR spectroscopy & imaging

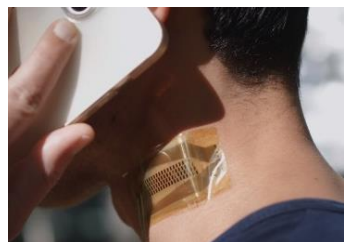
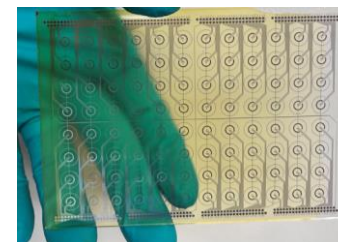
Actuators / manipulators:

- Micro-fluidics
- Ultrasound
- Light sources for phototherapy
- Electric stimulation

Sensors

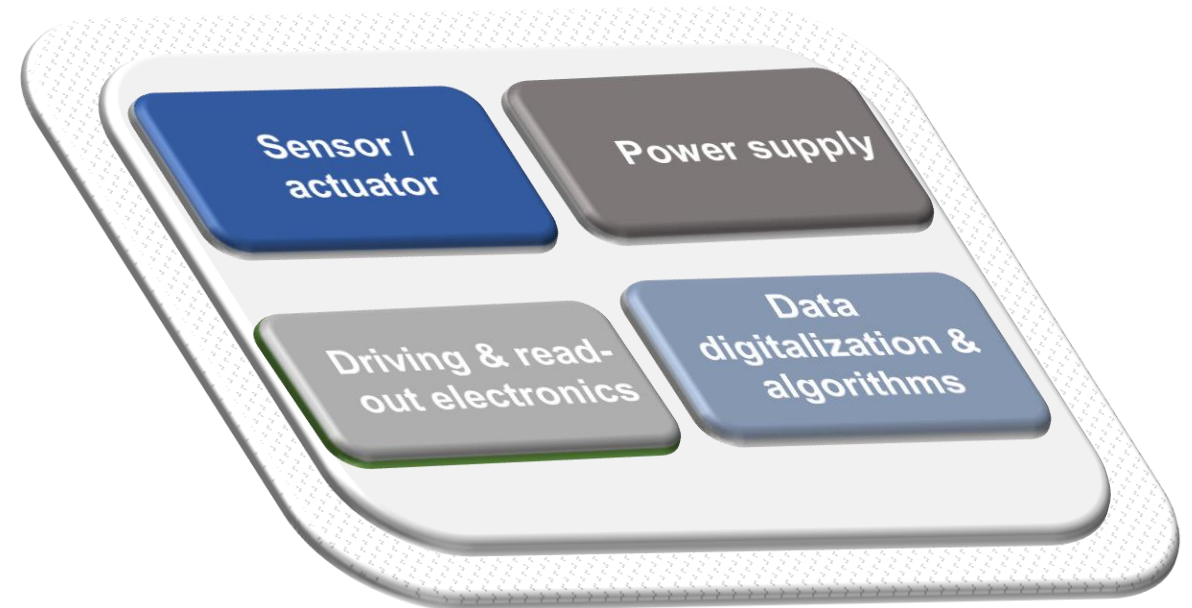
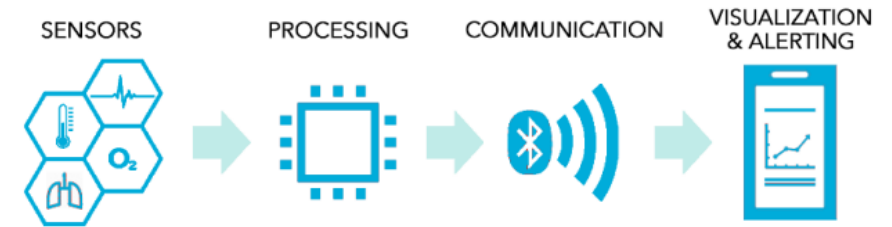


Actuators



Medical grade wearable patches *complex electronic device*

- Sensors / actuators
- Electronics circuitry
- Data digitization & processing
- Algorithms
- Integration in a wearable patch
- Power supply
- ...

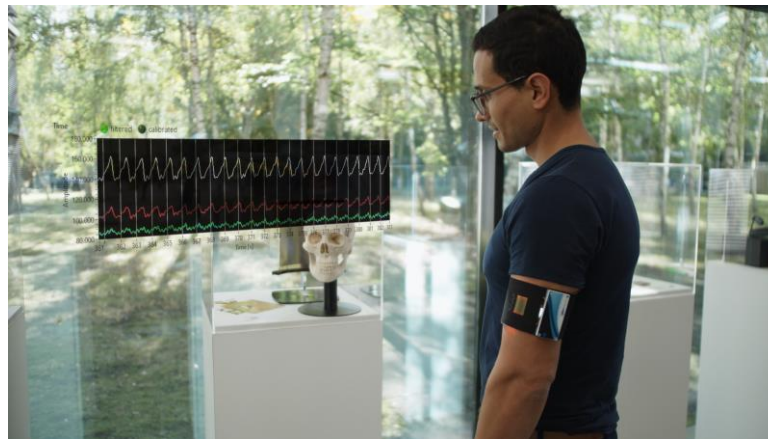


Flexible electronics: *enabling medical grade patch technology platforms*

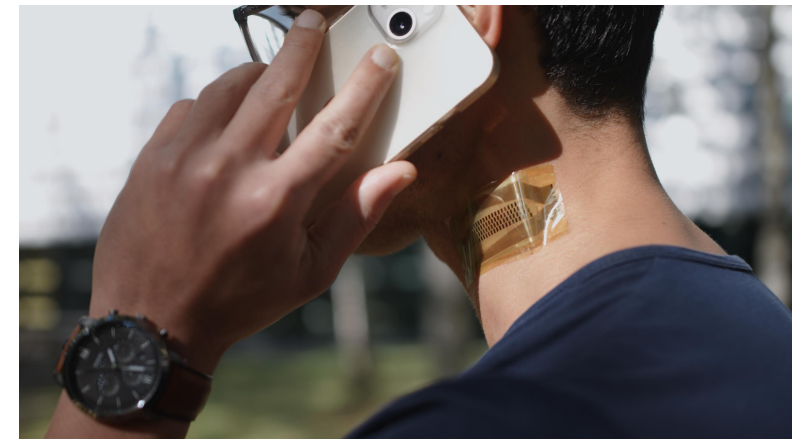
Vital Signs patch platforms



Flexible 2D optical array



Flexible large area ultrasound



Vital Signs patch platform

high quality data over long term, comfort, sensor modularity

Clinical grade ECG

Accelerometry

Respiration rate

Skin temperature



Blood pressure

Calibration free SpO2

Core body temperature

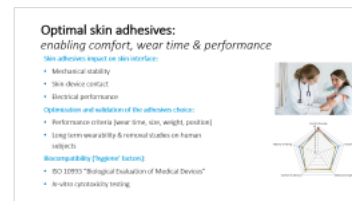
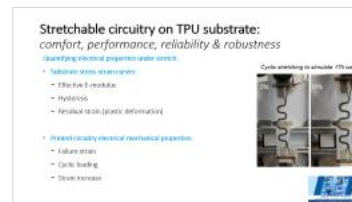
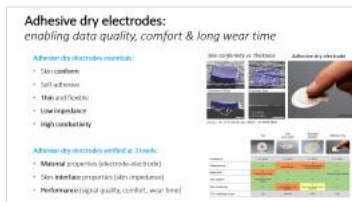
Fall detection

Vital Signs patch platform

key enabling technologies

Skin interface (1)

- Skin conform, self-adhesive dry electrodes
- Stretchable circuitry & TPU substrate
- Optimal skin adhesives



Integration (3)

- Modularity of sensor platforms
- Hybrid-printed electronics
- Ultra-low power electronics

Rigid-to-flexible interface (2)

- No sharp radii for stress dissipation
- Redundancy in conductive lines for robustness
- Vibration / motion damping for lifetime

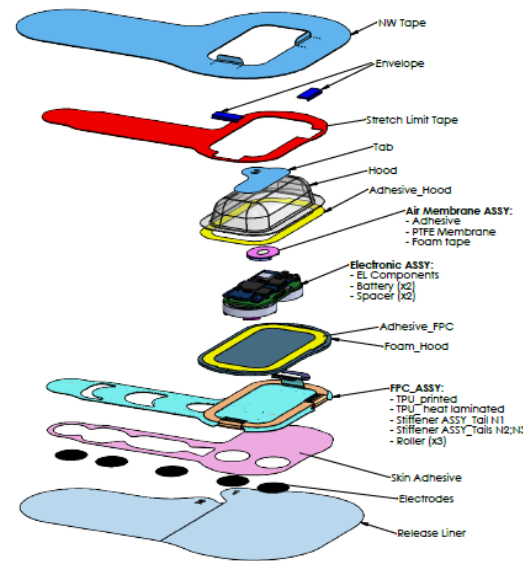
Vital Signs patch platform

validation on different use-cases on human subjects

Patients with arrhythmia



COPD











Military pilots



Large area flexible ultrasound
for sensing, imaging, therapy in ambulatory settings

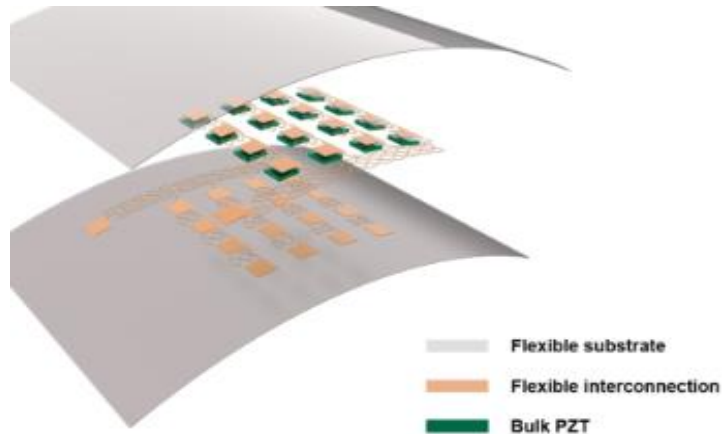
Medical ultrasound: *from hand held probe to in-body devices*

Low frequency		Medium frequency				High frequency			
									
Eco-cardiography	Abdominal	Therapeutic	Gynaecology	Trans-esophageal TEE	Vascular	Intra-cardiac ICE	IVUS	Dermatology imaging	
1 – 5 MHz	2 – 5 MHz	4 – 8 MHz	5 – 10 MHz	5 – 10 MHz	5 – 15 MHz	5 – 20 MHz	20 – 50 MHz	10 - 40 MHz	

- Usage by a trained healthcare professional
- Occasional inspection or therapy / intervention

Flexible large area ultrasound: *for sensing, imaging, therapy in ambulatory settings*

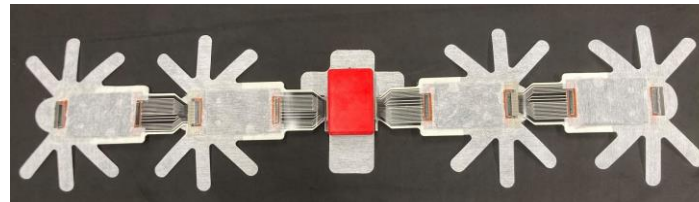
Rigid elements on flexible substrate



**Liu et al, MDPI Sensors, 2020, doi:10.3390/s20010086*

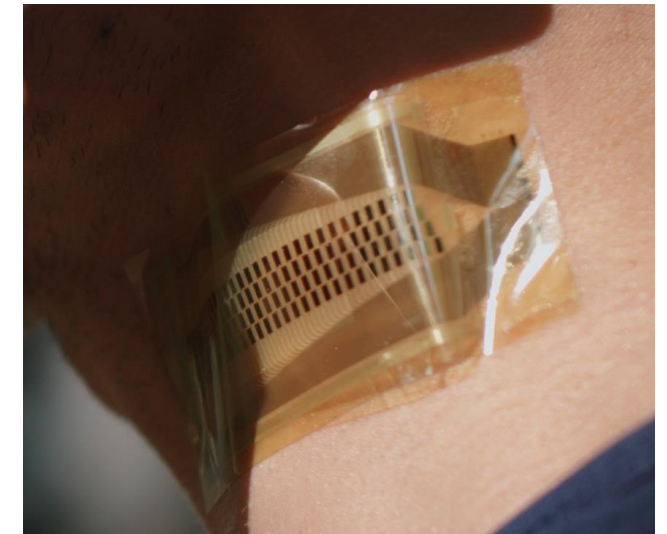
- + Very suitable for limited / large elements
- Bandwidth limitations
- Tough to scale to many elements

Rigid arrays on flexible back plane



- + Can use 'standard' arrays
- Not fully flexible
- Costly for large area

Truly fully flexible & large-area



- + Cost effective scaling to large area's
- + Fully flexible
- + Much higher sensitivity vs. PZT

Flexible large area ultrasound *enabling a wide range of applications*

Benefits

- Best-in-class sensitivity: 7x better vs. top-end PZT
- Excellent pulse-echo efficiency, greater than CMUT
- Tunable between 3 MHz and 30 MHz for real-time imaging
- Pressures of 100 kPa/V feasible in MHz range for therapy

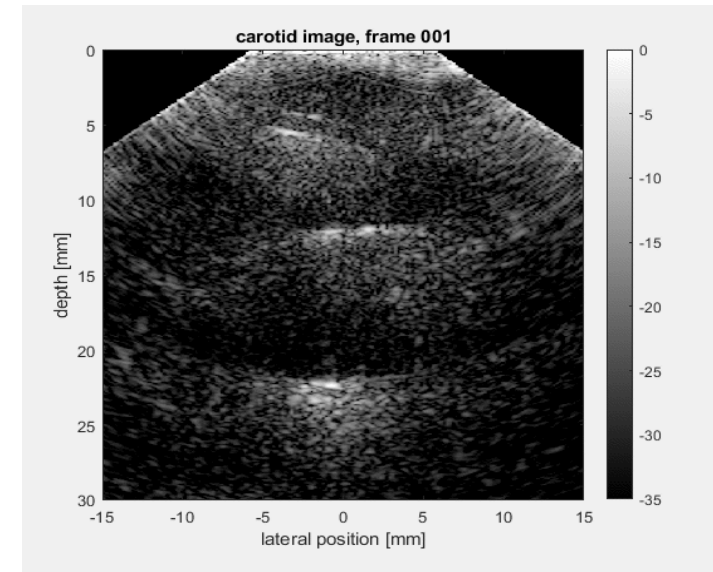
Applications:

- Cardiac & vascular: first *in vivo* imaging of carotid artery
- Obstetrics and gynecology: pregnancy monitoring
- Urology: bladder monitoring
- Therapy: wound healing; drug delivery, bone stimulation
- ... and more

Truly fully flexible & large-area

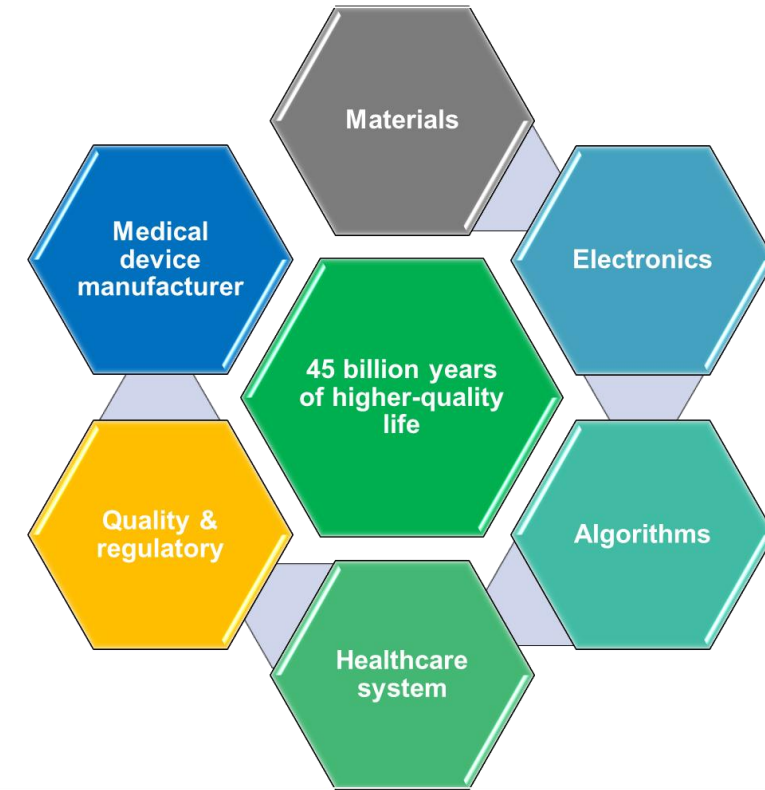


In vivo imaging of carotid artery



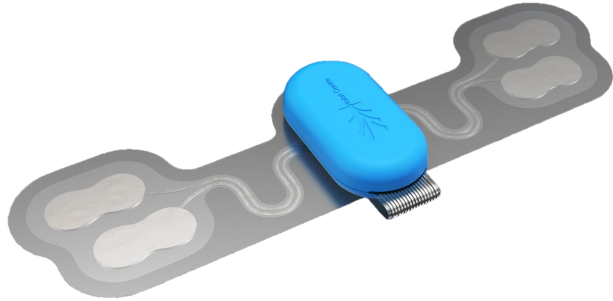
Next-generation wearable patches for remote monitoring

- Healthcare transformation requires **data** about health
- Medical grade **wearables** allow for **real-time remote monitoring**
- **Flexible electronics** and **hybrid integration** creates unique **functions** & enables next generation **technology platforms**
- Success requires **team-work** of **industry** with complementary expertise, **research centers** & **healthcare professionals**



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