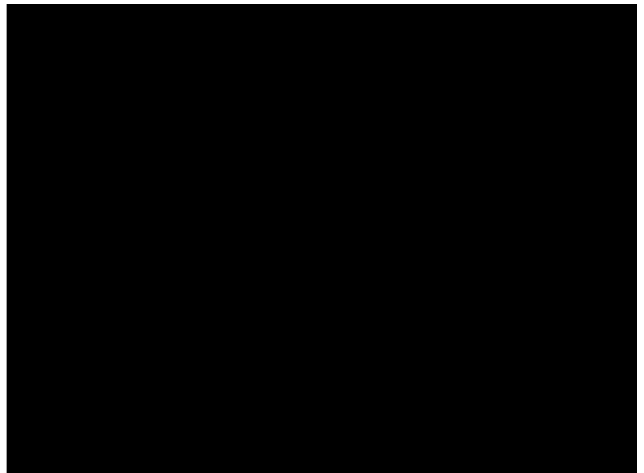
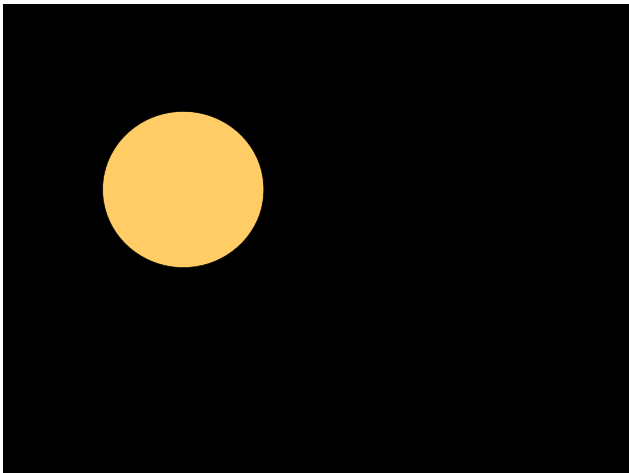


# Future of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Biomedical Imaging

**Jim Ji**

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Texas A&M University  
[Jimji@tamu.edu](mailto:Jimji@tamu.edu)

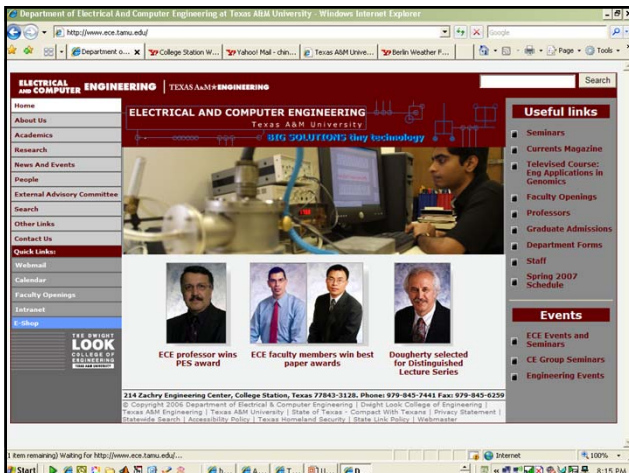
<http://www.ece.tamu.edu/~jimji>





## 20<sup>th</sup> Century

- Arguably, transistor (1947 at Bell Lab by John Bardeen, Walter Brattain, and William Shockley ) is the most significant engineering invention in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.
- Physics, electronics, computers, information



## Electric Power & Electronics

- power systems: system modeling, reliability, control, prediction
- power electronics
- Hybrid automobiles



[Butler](#) [Ehsani](#) [Enjeti](#) [Huang](#) [Kezunovic](#) [Russell](#) [Singh](#) [Toliyat](#)



## Analog & Mixed Signal (“Chip”)



RF Communication Circuits



Broadband Communication Circuits



Sánchez-Sinencio Entesari Silva-Martínez Karsilayan Hoyos Ngyen



Data Converters



Low Voltage & Sensor Applications

## Communications and Signal Processing

- Cellular communications systems,
- Speech coding and processing
- Data compression for speech and images
- Data security
- Digital signal processing

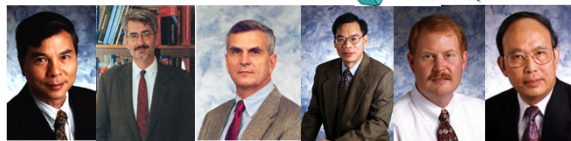


Miller Kunda Seperdin Georghadis Xiong Narayanan (Not shown: Ji, Chan, Dougherty)



## Electromagnetics and Microwaves

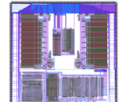
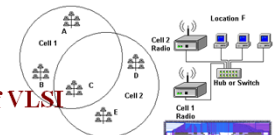
- “High frequency”, MHz, GHz
- Wave propagation and scattering
- Antennas and coils
- Microwaves circuits



Chang Michalski Nevels Nguyen Wright Chan

## Computer Engineering

- “Computer hardware”
- CAD: Design and testing of VLSI
- Computer networks
- Computer architecture



Cantrell Choi Hu Lu Mercer Reddy Shi Watson Zhang



## Solid State Electronics, Photonics & Nano-Engineering

- “Semiconductors”
- “Fiber optics”
- Lithography
- Nanotechnology
- Quantum computing and storage

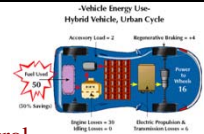


Madsen Cheng Eknoyan Hemmer Maldonado Strieter Su Wang Weichold



## Control

- “Driving”
- Robust and Adaptive control
- Neural Networks and Learning control
- Control System Design for Hybrid Vehicles
- Distributed control algorithms

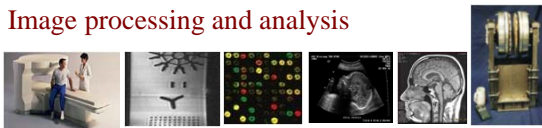


Bhattacharyya Howze Datta Huang Zourtos



## Biomedical Imaging

- Magnetic Resonance Imaging: system design, reconstruction algorithms
- Genomics signal processing and bioinformatics
- Image processing and analysis



Wright Chan Datta Dougherty Han Ji Braga Neto Zourtos



## 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The 21st century would be the biomedical century just as the 20th century had been the century of physics, electronics, and computers.

-- Elias Zerhouni, NIH Director

• Genomics will be the key to medicine, molecular biology, and biomedical technology

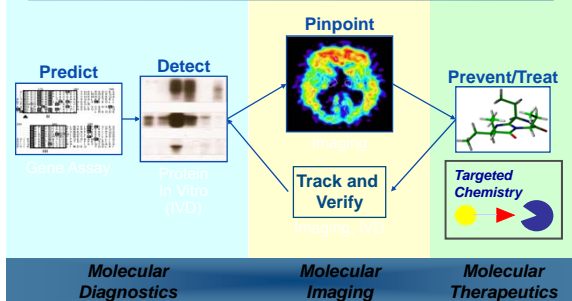
## Inner life of the cell

### ECE Frontier

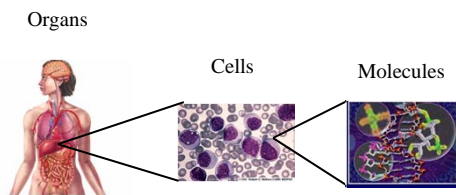
- Biomedical imaging => linking molecular biology to system biology (instrumentation)
- genomics signal processing: identify and manipulate the genes that affect system functions (signal processing)

## Evolving medical practice – 21st Century Personalized Healthcare

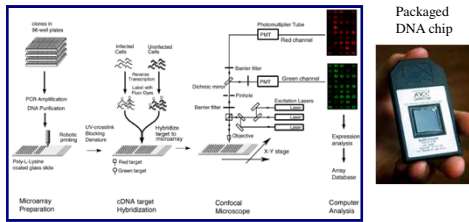
### The Future ... Personalized Medicine



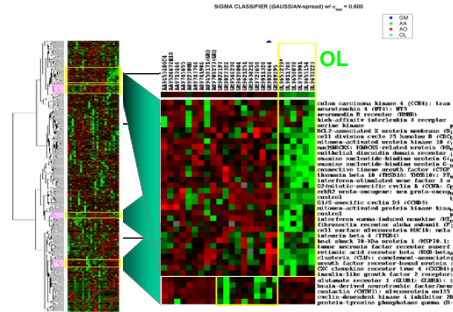
## From electrons to genetics



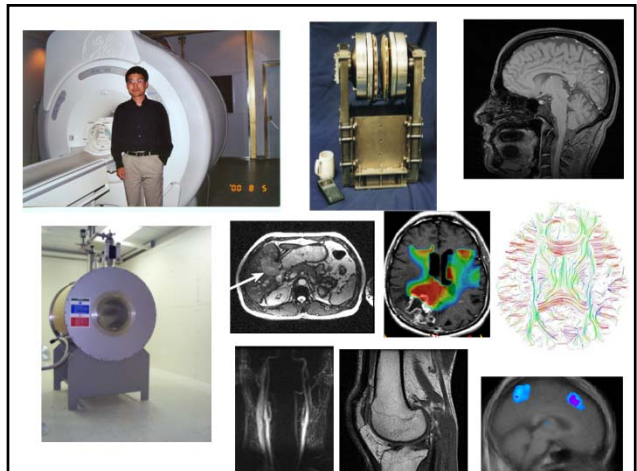
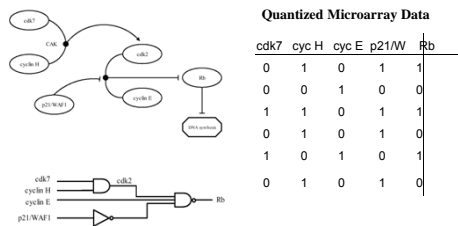
## Gene Microarray (DNA Chip)



## Cancer Classification




## Inference of Genomics Regulatory Networks





Nobel Prizes Directly Related to MR

Name	Year	Category	Description
Paul C. Lauterbur	2003	Medicine	"For their discoveries concerning magnetic resonance imaging"
Sir Peter Mansfield	2003	Medicine	Glasgow 2001
Kurt Wüthrich	2002	Chemistry	"For his development of nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy for determining the three-dimensional structure of biological macromolecules in solution"
Richard R. Ernst	1991	Chemistry	"For his contributions to the development of the methodology of high resolution nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy"
Felix Bloch	1952	Physics	"For their development of new methods for nuclear magnetic precision measurements and discoveries in connection therewith"
Edward Mills Purcell	1952	Physics	"For their development of new methods for nuclear magnetic precision measurements and discoveries in connection therewith"
Isidor Isaac Rabi	1944	Physics	"For his resonance method for recording the magnetic properties of atomic nuclei"

**Illinois professor wins Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine**  
 Paul C. Lauterbur, a pioneer in the development of magnetic resonance imaging and a UI faculty member, has been awarded the 2003 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. He shares the prize with Sir Peter Mansfield of the University of Nottingham in England. Mansfield was a research associate in the department of physics at Illinois from 1962-1964. (10/6/03)

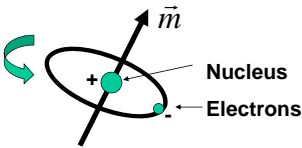
## Magnetic Resonance Imaging

---

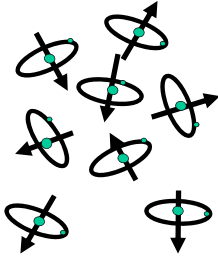
- How it works
- MRI in the Aggieldand
- Future

### Nuclear Spins

---



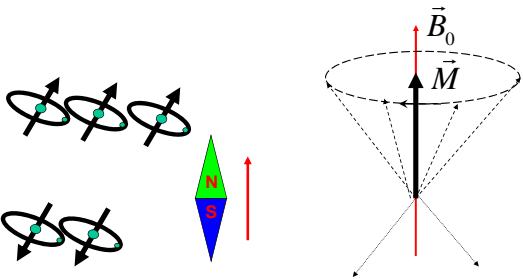
• Spin creates tiny magnetization



$$\vec{M} = \sum \vec{m} = 0$$

### Magnetization

---

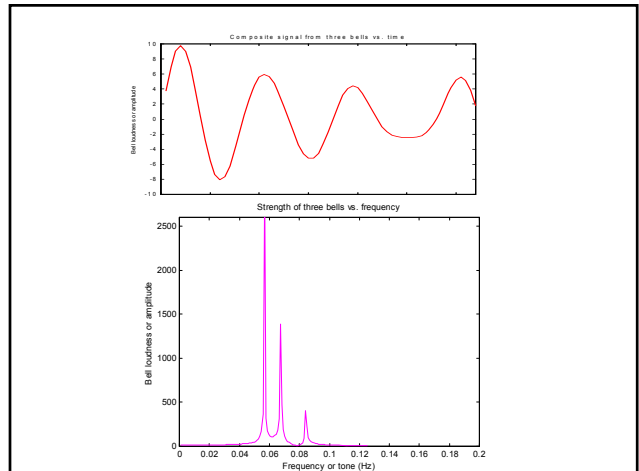
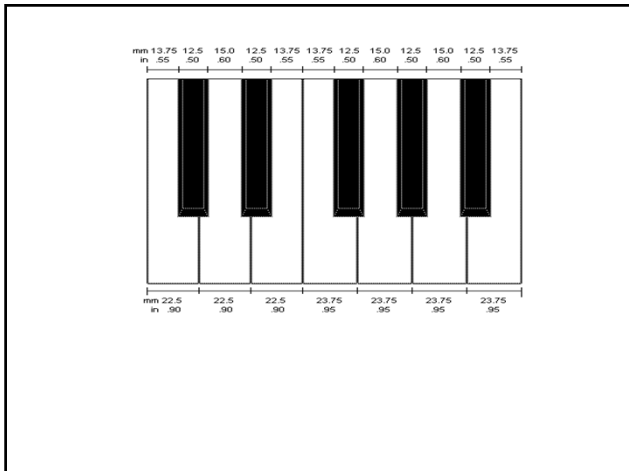


*Frquency*  $\propto$  *B* magnetic field strength  
 MRI imager has a field 30,000 times of earth field

### Resonance

Tapping the system using radio-frequency signals  
 $\vec{B}_1$  frequency:  $\omega = \omega_0$   
 Energy release afterward is picked up by a coil sensor

**Frequency difference introduced by making nonuniform magnetic field**







### Superconducting Magnets

- Vacuum
- Liquid Helium
- Liquid Nitrogen
- Container & Support
- Superconducting Coil

### Principle of Gradient Coil

**X Gradient Coil**

$\frac{\partial B_z}{\partial X}$

**Z Gradient Coil**

$\frac{\partial B_z}{\partial Z}$

### Radio-Frequency Coils

$\omega_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$

### Birdcage Coils

Coupling with a B1 Field

### Applications

- Anatomical, angiographic, cardiac, functional, tumor, spectroscopy/spectroscopic imaging...

(a)

**Proton-weighted**

(b)

**T2-weighted**

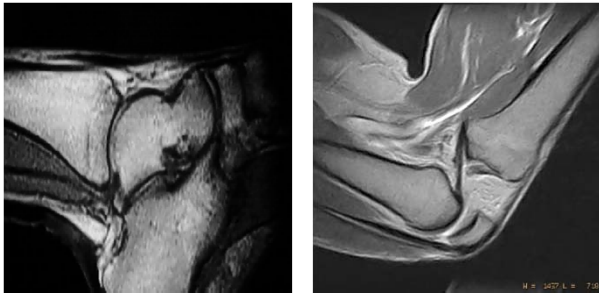
(c)

**T1-weighted**

© 2003 Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research. All rights reserved.

At left, this MRI image shows a side view of a herniated lumbar disk (white arrow). At right, this MRI image shows a cross section of a herniated lumbar disk, looking up the vertebral column in the direction of the person's head. The white arrow points to a herniated disk. By comparison, the black arrow shows a noncompressed nerve root on the opposite side.

### Sport Imaging & Kinematic MR

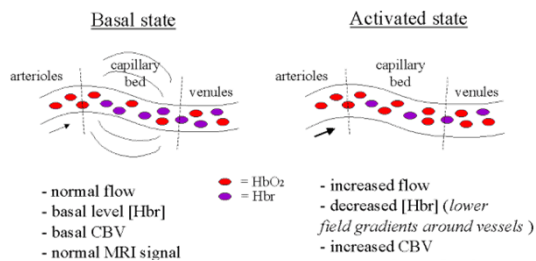


### Functional MRI (fMRI)



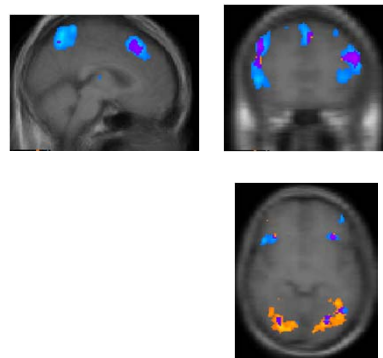
- Using normal MRI
- Sets of images can then be rendered: baseline and activated
- Images highlighted where activity is

### BOLD (Blood Oxygenation Level Detection)

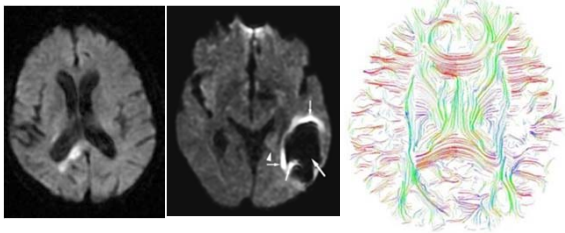


**Increased oxygenation level causes more T2 relaxation, which is can be detected by comparing two states**

### BOLD fMRI

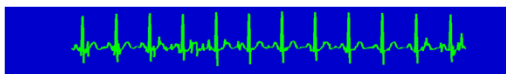


**Diffusion-weighted and diffusion-tensor imaging**  
 MR images sensitive to the Brownian motion of the water molecules.



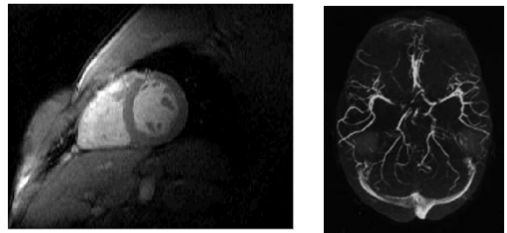
**Stroke diagnosis**                      **Brain fibers**

**Cardiac Imaging**  
 Gated Acquisition + Breath Holding

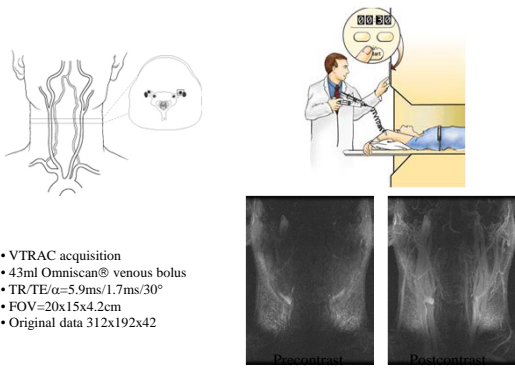
ECG 

Phase                      ..... 0 1 2 3 .....

Encodings

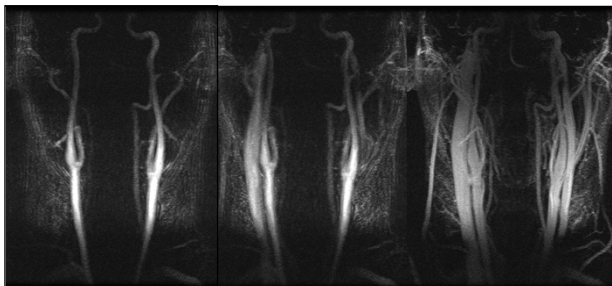


**Time-resolved MR Angiography**



- VTRAC acquisition
- 43ml Omniscan® venous bolus
- TR/TE/α=5.9ms/1.7ms/30°
- FOV=20x15x4.2cm
- Original data 312x192x42

**MRA: Maximal Intensity Projection**



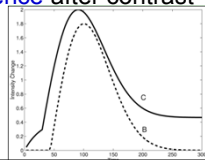
### Contrast-Enhanced MRI of Tumors

- Cancer -> increased tissue/vasculature growth



Angiogenesis

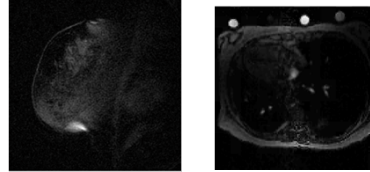
- Tumors  $\leq 1 \text{ mm}^3$  is detectable by MRI but poor differentiation of specificity (30 - 40%)
- Acquiring an image sequence after contrast agent (tracer) injection



### Contrast-enhanced tumor imaging

Angiogenesis due to cancer

Benign/malignant tumor specification: Bolus injection followed by time-series imaging

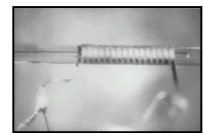


### Future?

- Smaller: cellular, nanoimaging
- Clearer: high field, sensor design
- Faster: fast strong gradient, parallel imaging
- Smarter: from image to information
- More contrast mechanism and applications: molecular imaging, spectroscopic imaging, ...

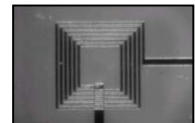
### Mirco-imaging

350  $\mu\text{m}$  o.d. 250  $\mu\text{m}$  i.d. capillary,  
50  $\mu\text{m}$  Cu wire. Sample volume 50 nL



Microcontact printing

147  $\mu\text{m}$  o.d. 50  $\mu\text{m}$  i.d. capillary,  
25  $\mu\text{m}$  Cu wire. Sample volume 800 pL



Photolithography

**Mirco-imaging**

**Embryo**

**Single Neuron**

Bruker BRUKER spect  
 Date: 21.Jun.98  
 Time: 10:52  
 W 2596  
 L 2798  
 Scan: 237  
 Slice: 1/1  
 SE\_DIFFUSION  
 TR: 500 ms  
 TE: 23 ms  
 SI 0.1/0.1 mm  
 FOV 0.5 cm NEX 2  
 Pos -0.6 mm F  
 SE\_DIFFUSION, 237 : 1

**Parallel MR Imaging**

- *The world's first MRI system with 64 receiver channels (Prof. Wright)*
- Improving imaging speed (factor of 64), resolution, or SNR.
- Future work:
  - Improve penetration
  - Applications: spectroscopy, 3D imaging, dynamic imaging,...

Receivers      Coils      Acquired Image

**Parallel MRI with Massive Arrays and Receivers**

A 64-channel system is developed at Texas A&M University

4.7T Array (13cm FOV)      1.5 T Array (30cm FOV)      Receivers

125 frames/second, 256 x 64 images

*S. M. Wright, M.P. McDougall, and D. G. Brown, Proc. Second Joint EMBS/BMES Conference, pp. 23-26, 2002  
M. P. McDougall and S. M. Wright, IEEE-EMBS 2004*

**MRI enhanced with polarized noble gases (Lungs)**

Fast dynamic He3 MR imaging (130 ms/ image) of an inspiration (300 mL He3) in a patient with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) on the right and a well-functioning lung graft on the left [11]. Note delayed He3 entry into the native fibrotic lung (1st image) and premature emptying from this lung (last image).

Photo and Caption: Balhasar Eberle, Klaus Markstaller, Wolfgang G. Schreiber, Hans-Ulrich Kauczor. "Hyperpolarised gases in magnetic resonance: a new tool for functional imaging of the lung." *Swiss Medical Weekly*, 131 (2001): 503-509.

**Molecular Imaging:** 1) in-vivo study; 2) molecular level functional information; 3) Usually through contrast agent specific to certain genes or structures. 3) Primarily PET, also US, MRI, Optical imag., or x-ray CT.

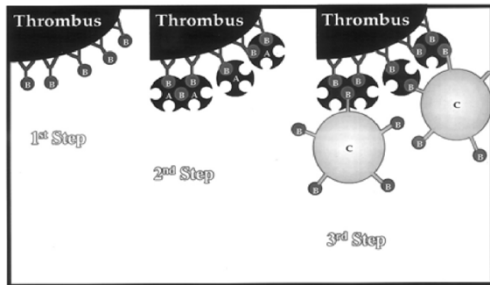


Figure 11. Illustration depicting the use of avidin-biotin interaction to target specific molecular epitopes through a three-step approach. Step 1: Biotinylated ligands (B) specific for molecular epitopes of interest, such as fibrin, are administered and bind to the target. Step 2: Avidin (A) is given, which conjugates and cross-links to the biotinylated ligand. Step 3: Biotinylated perfluorocarbon emulsion nanoparticles are administered, which attach to the bound antibody-avidin complexes through mesopical receptor sites. Reprinted with permission from Lanza GM, et al. *IEEE Trans Ultrason Ferroelectr Freq Contr* 2002; 49:3234-3240.

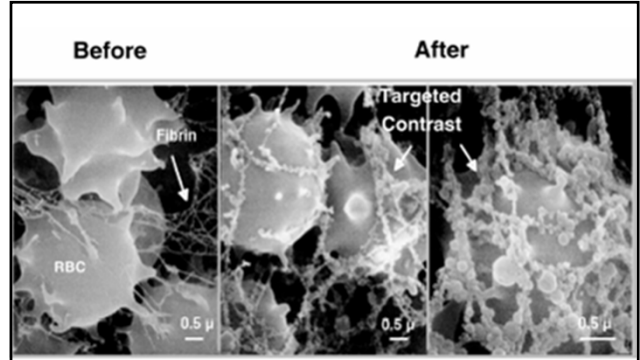


Figure 12. Electron micrographs of thrombus before and after treatment with conjugated nanoparticles with an antibody receptor bound antibody. (J. IEEE, Reprinted with permission from Lanza GM, et al. *IEEE Trans Ultrason Ferroelectr Freq Contr* 2002; 49:3234-3240)

An US example

MR Spectroscopic Imaging

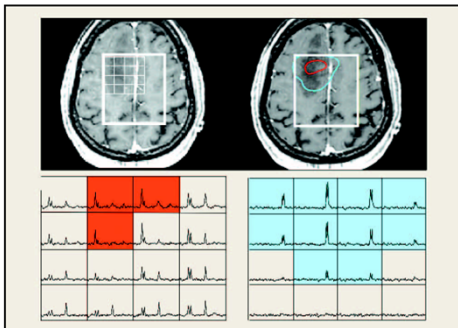


Fig. 3. Lactate-edited MRSI data from a patient with a nonenhancing grade-III glioma. The spectra on the left show Cho, Cr, NAA, and Lip, while the spectra on the right are from the same voxels but show only Lac peaks.

S. Nelson, *IEEE Engineering MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY MAGAZINE*, P 30, sept/oct 2004



Steven Wright



Jim Ji



Mary McDougall

[Interactive Lab Video](#)  
**Magnetic Resonance Systems Lab**  
**Electrical and Computer Engineering**  
**Texas A&M University**



A career in radiologic technology offers a promising future, job stability and good salaries. As technology advances and the population ages, .... **The country needs a growing number of qualified professionals to provide medical imaging and radiation therapy.**

-- Excerpt from monster.com



Mary P McDougall



Haiyan Wang

"Everything that can be invented has been invented"  
--Charles H. Duell, Commissioner, U.S. Office of patents, 1899,

"640K ought to be enough for anybody"  
--Bill Gates, 1981

- Are we going to find a cure for cancers, AIDS, and alike?
- Are we going to live happily and healthy ever after?

**Acknowledgment**

**Zhi-Pei Liang Paul C Lauterber**

**Steve Wright Mary McDougall Ulisses Braga Neto  
Takis Zourntos**

**My students**

