



# Automation, Artificial Intelligence Applied to Medical Technologies for Use in Austere Environments

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THOR RDCR Symposium 2022

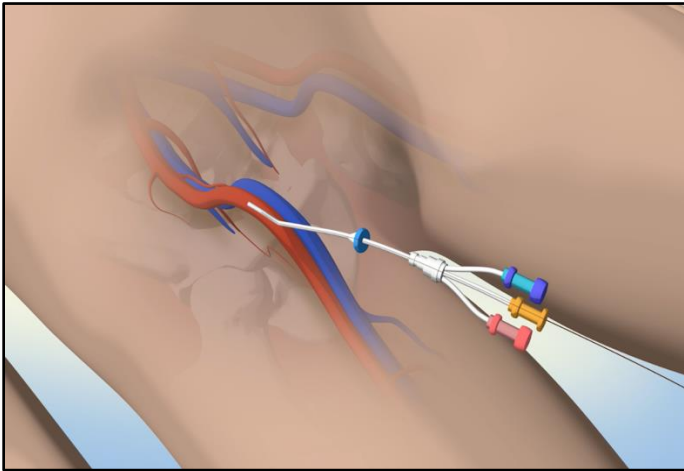
26 June 2022



# Capability for Combat Casualty Care

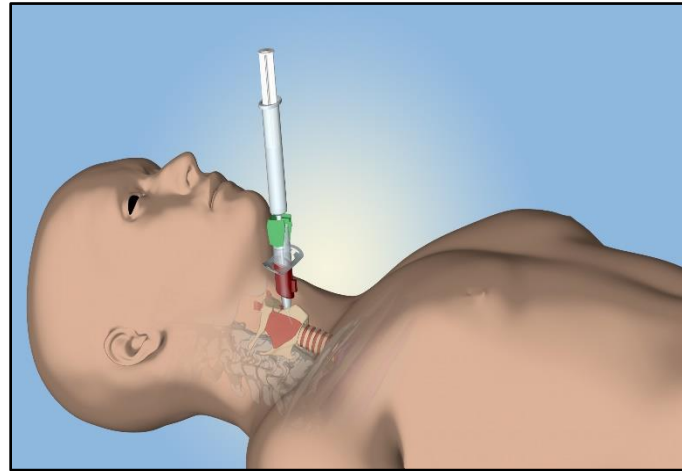
## Top Three Causes of Preventable Battlefield Death

### Non-compressible torso hemorrhage



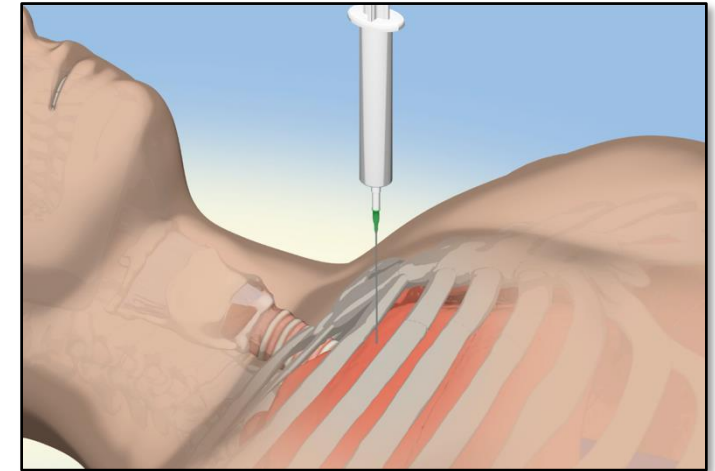
Vascular access

### Loss of airway



Cricothyrotomy

### Collapsed lung



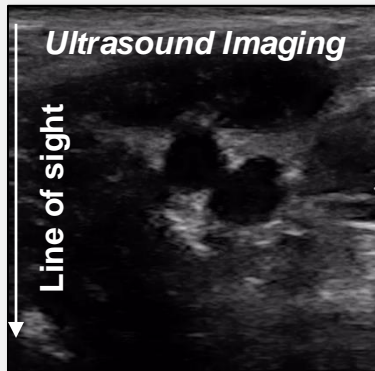
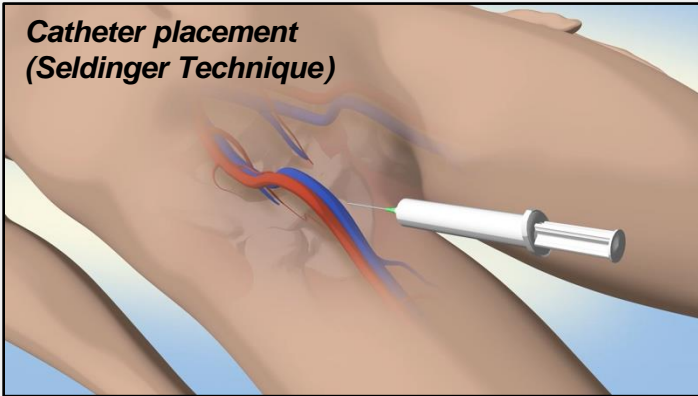
Needle decompression

**Develop AI technology to assist emergency interventions on the battlefield**



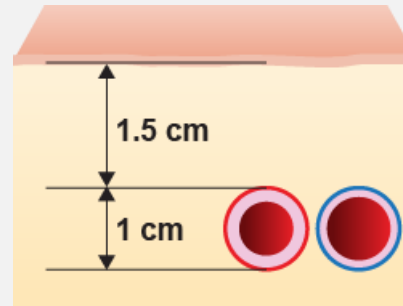
**Prototype an intelligent medical platform that enables multiple life-saving interventions in the field**

## Procedure Performed by Surgeons and ER Physicians

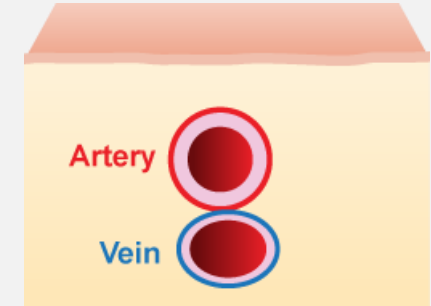


## Anatomical Challenges for Accessing Femoral Vessels

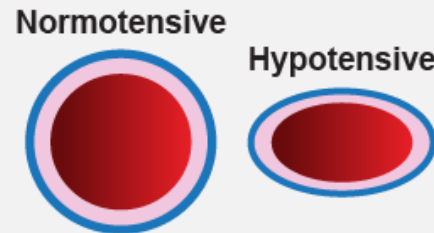
*Artery and Vein Lie Deep Below Skin*



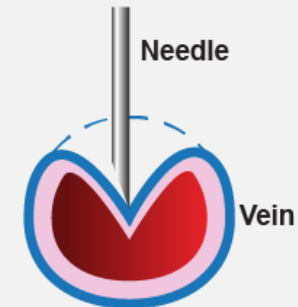
*Artery May Occlude Vein*



*Blood Loss Reduces Vessel Diameter*



*Needle May Deform Vein (Tenting)*



**Significant medical expertise currently needed for successful central vascular access**

# Requirements for Prehospital Vascular Access

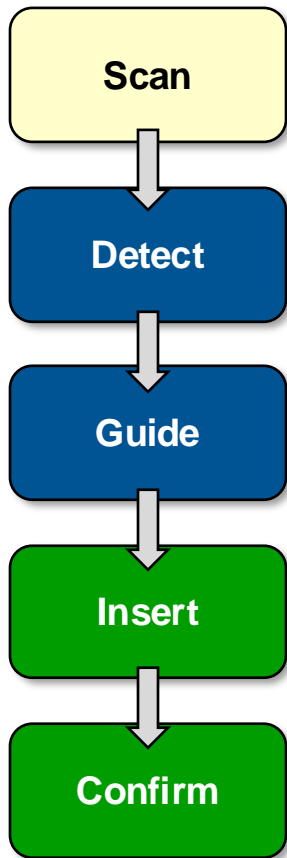
## *Military Use Case*

- Treat casualties in austere combat environments
- Enable users of varying medical experience
- Deliver intervention rapidly to ease mass casualty demands
- Function without reachback for communications denied environments
- Fit within combat medic bag and battalion aid station materiel

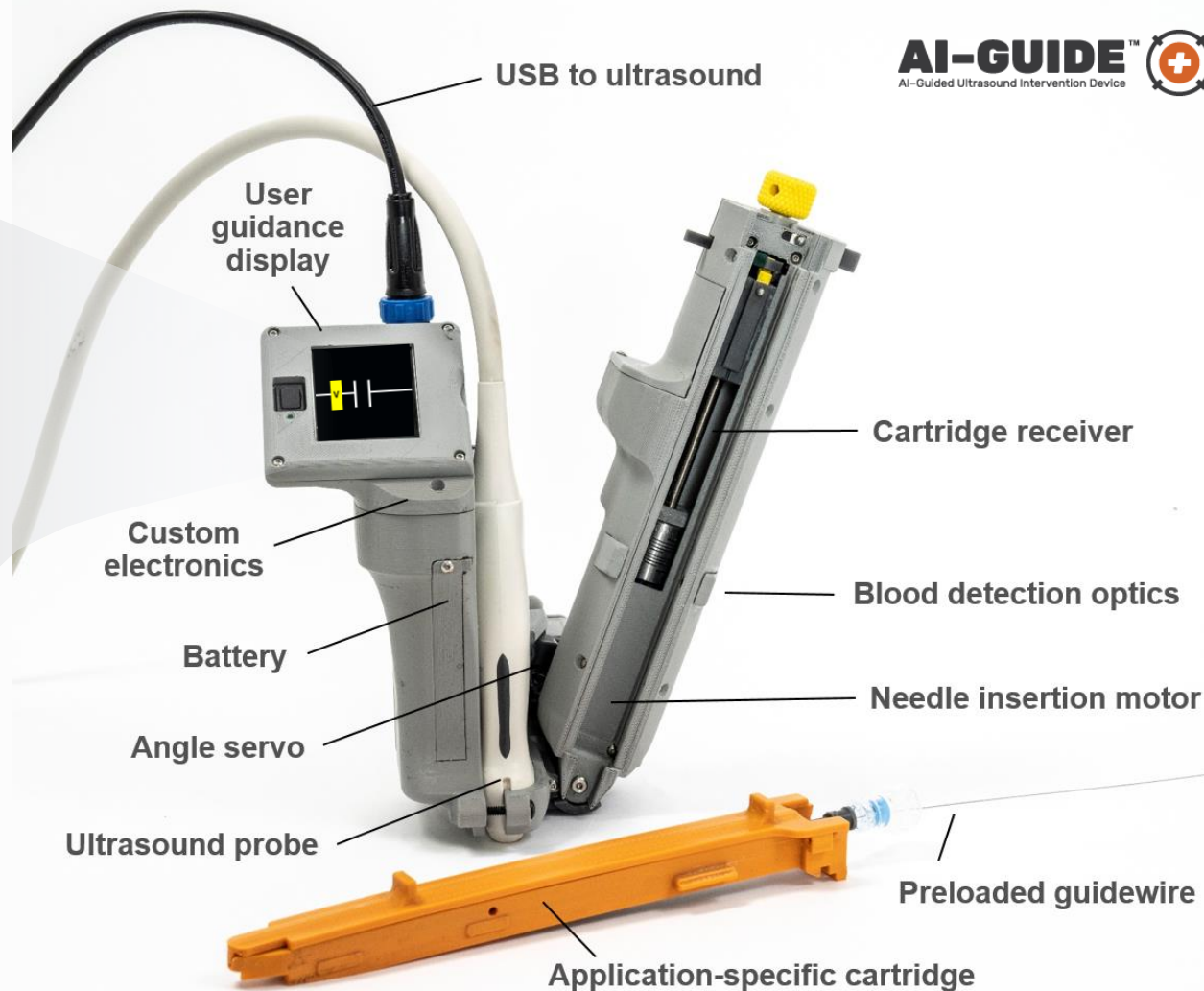
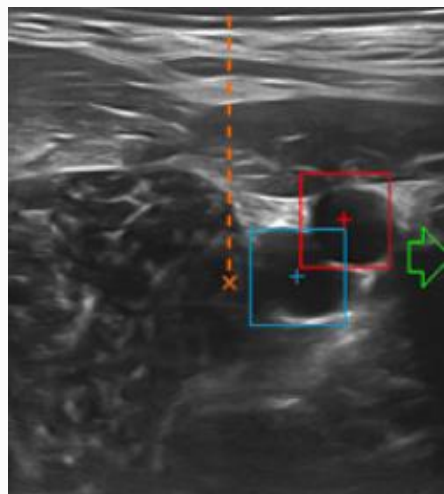


- Motivation
- ➔ • **System Prototyping**
- On-device AI
- Integrated System Testing
- Next Steps and Summary

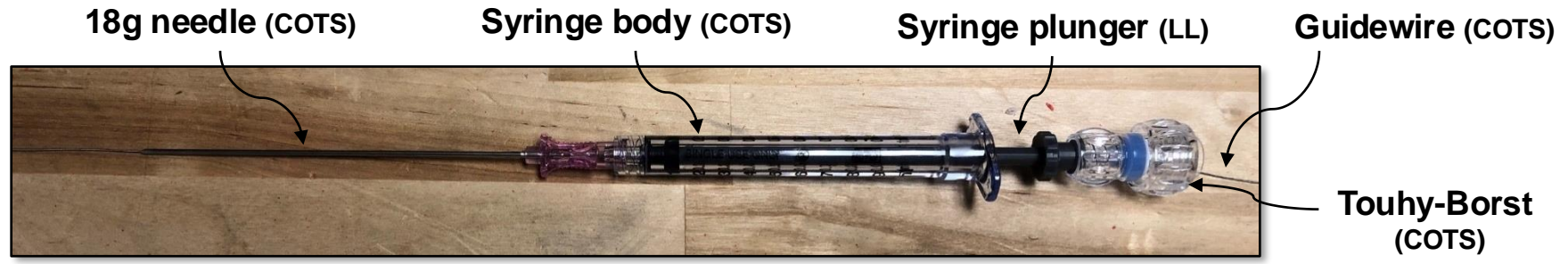
## Needle and guidewire insertion workflow



## Tunable user guidance



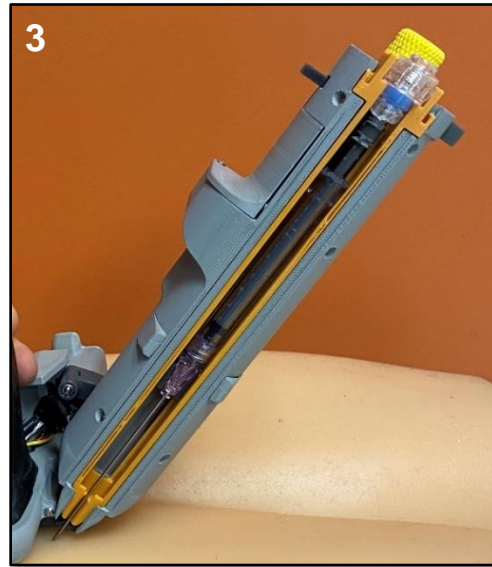
# Needle Placement Verification: Automatic Blood Flashback



**1**  
Needle advances toward vessel and creates suction



**2**  
Blood-sensing circuit activated



**3**  
Injection length dithers



**4**  
Blood drawn into syringe, blocking light and tripping blood-sensing circuit



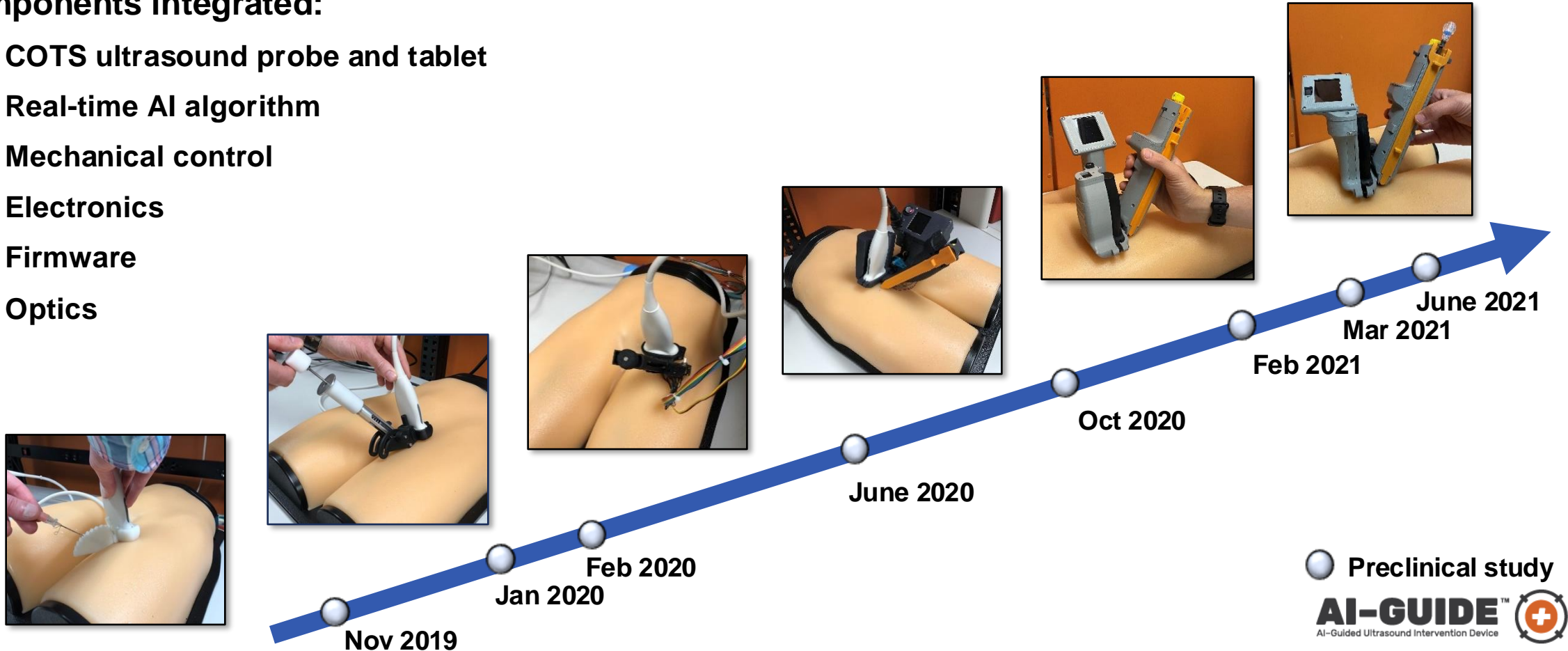
**5**  
Blood flashback confirmed

- Drive motor stops
- Operator notified



## Components integrated:

- COTS ultrasound probe and tablet
- Real-time AI algorithm
- Mechanical control
- Electronics
- Firmware
- Optics



**Multiple build-test iterations with increasing accuracy, automation, and integration**

# AI-GUIDE System Demonstration

## *Preclinical Testing Result*





# Outline



- **Motivation**
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- • **On-device AI**
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- **Next Steps and Summary**

***Terason***



***Clarius***



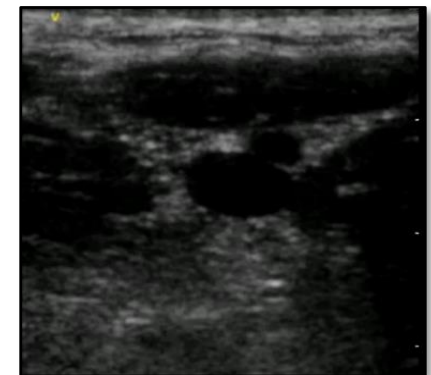
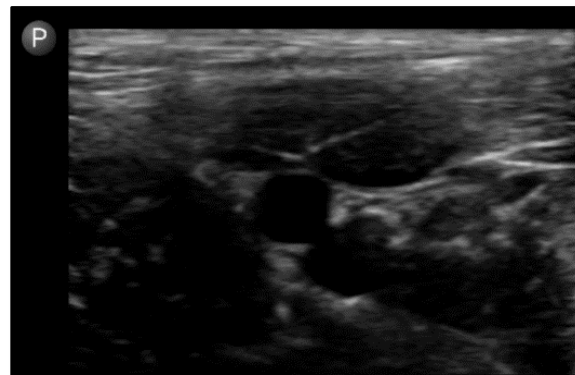
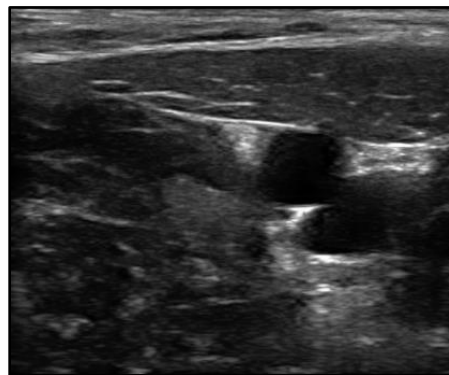
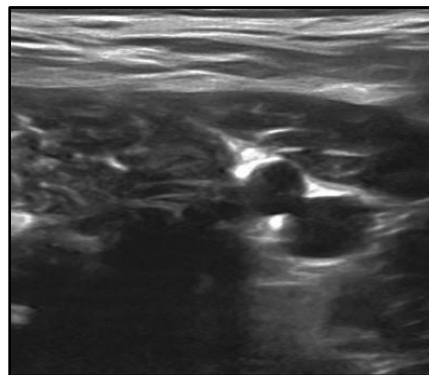
***Philips Lumify***

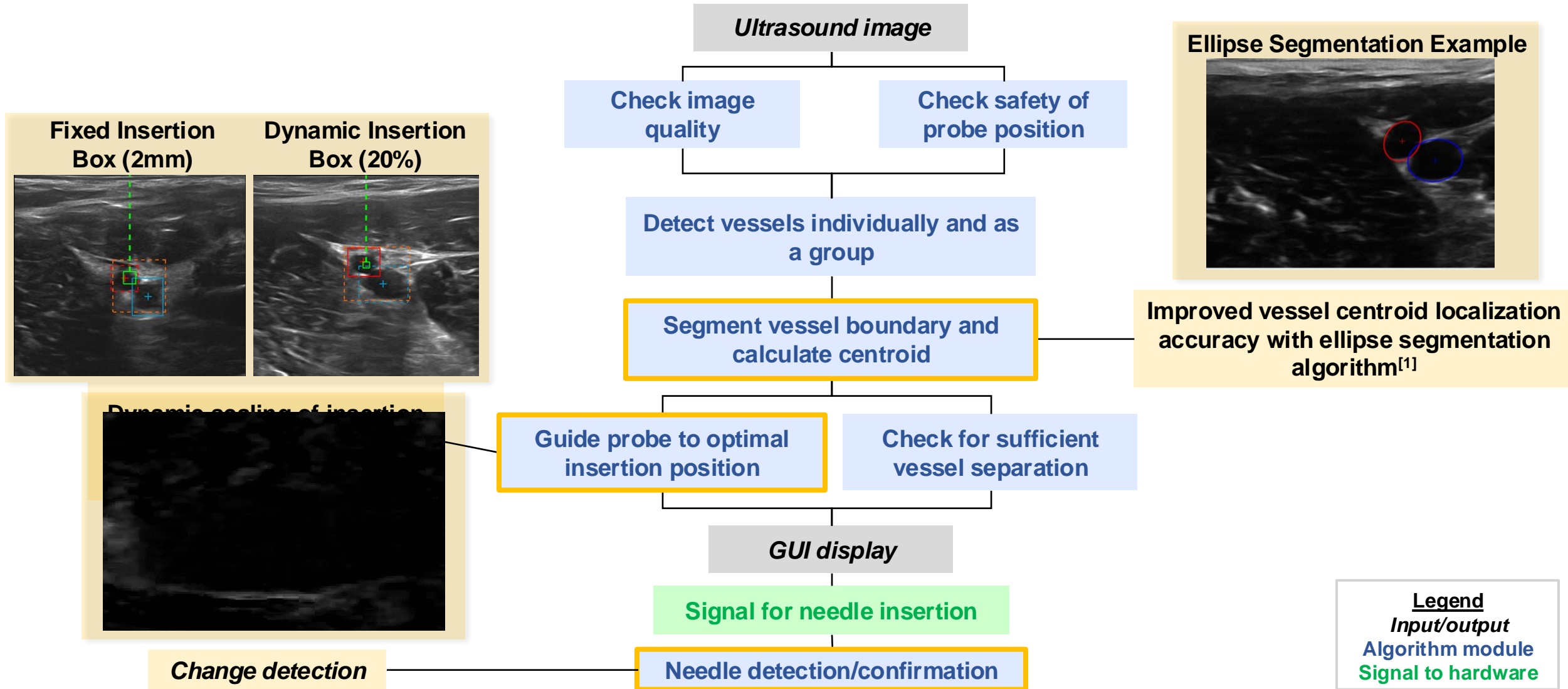


***Butterfly Network***



***GE Vscan Extend***







# Outline

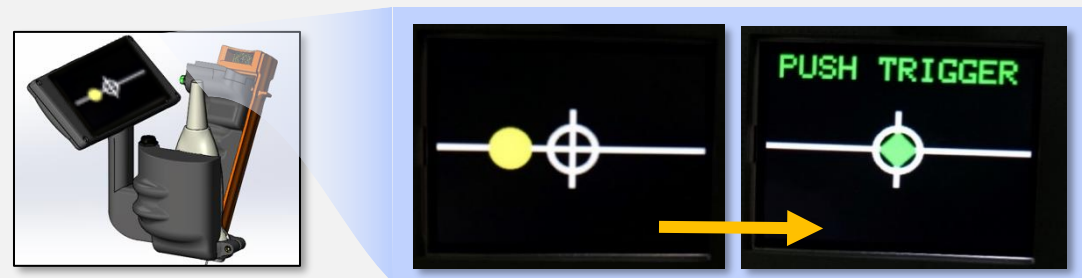


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- **Summary**

Set-up



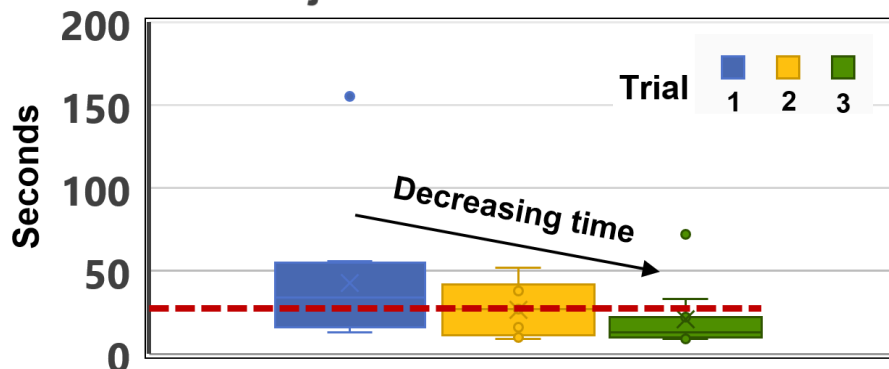
Each user given 2-minute verbal tutorial on device operation (no demonstration)



User guided by simplified interface

Results

Injection Time vs. Trial

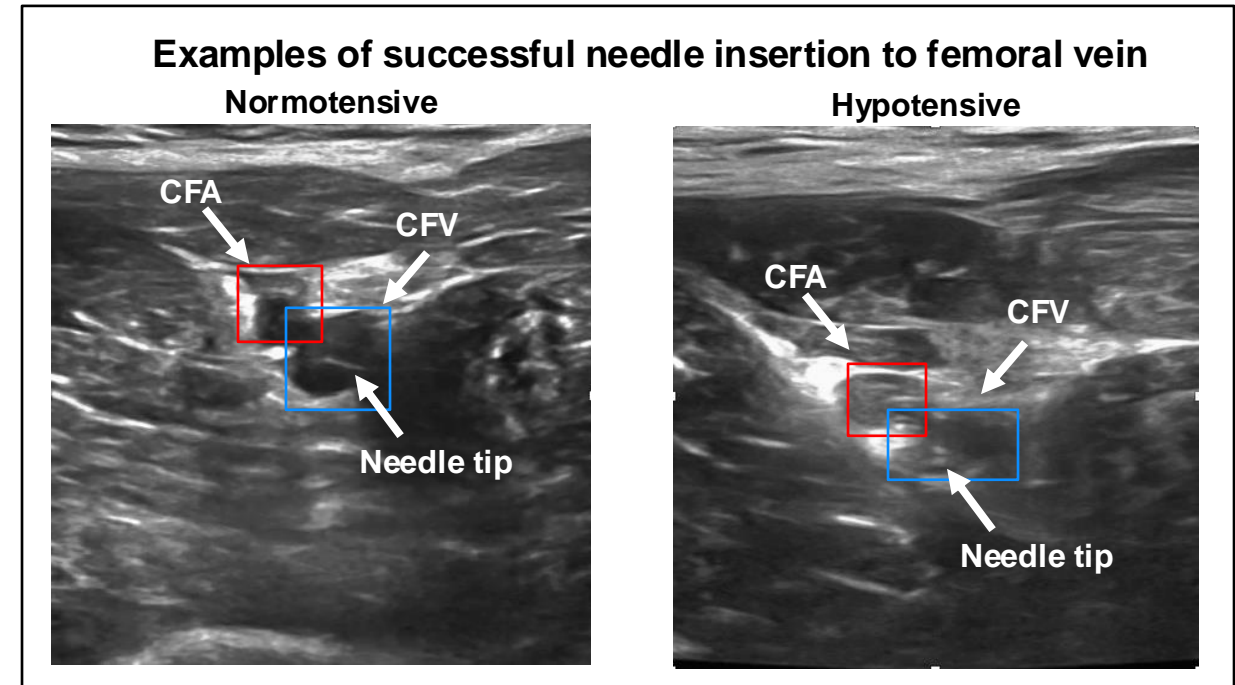


- 11 users with 0 – 15+ years experience
- 3 needle insertion trials per person
- 32 / 34 trials in less than 1 minute
- 100% insertion accuracy

Efficient system guidance for lightly trained users to achieve target insertion point

### Needle Insertion to Femoral Vein

- **Up to 3 attempts**
- **Normotensive: 31/32 success rate**
  - 1 trial needed 2 attempts
  - 1 trial needed 3 attempts
  - 1 trial failed after 3 attempts
- **Hypotensive: 31/32 success rate**
  - 6 trials needed 2 attempts
  - 1 trial failed after 3 attempts



**Initial data indicates needle placement accuracy requirement is met on high-fidelity preclinical model**

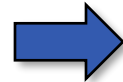




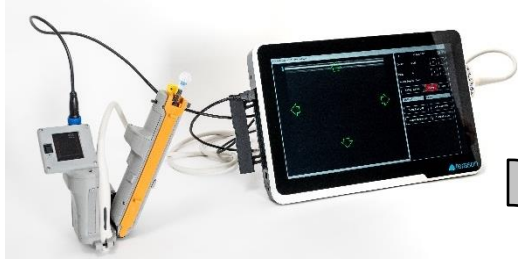
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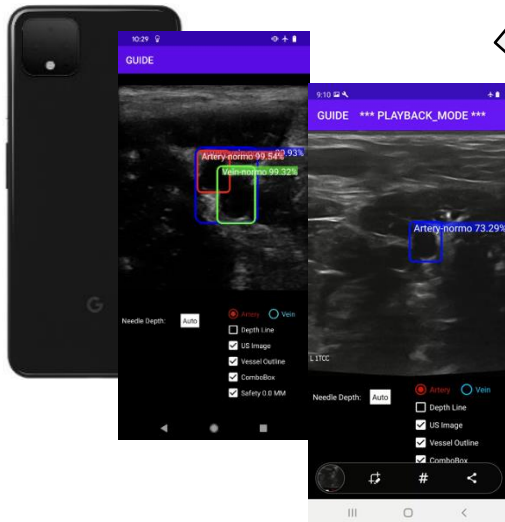
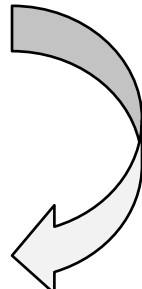
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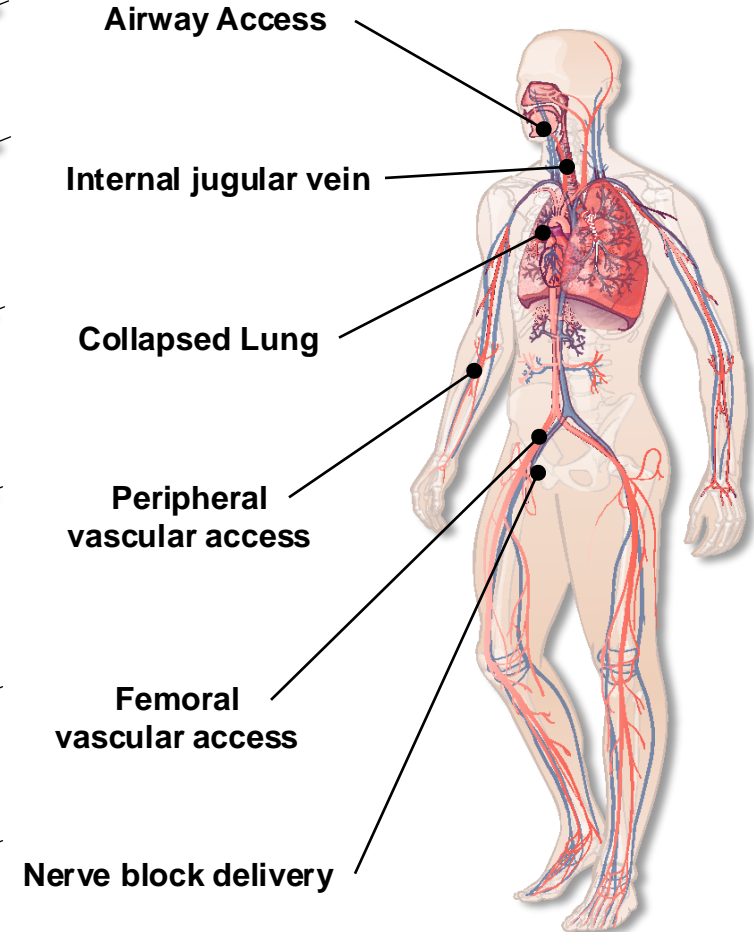
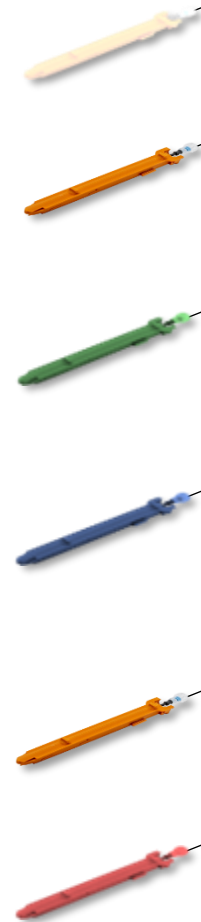
## Improved Portability



*On-phone processing*



## Additional Applications



- Iterative prototyping and testing
- Quantify ability to meet goals:
  - Accurate, fast, usable by non-experts
  - Low-SWaP



- Increasing automation
- Generalizing to additional blood vessels
- Extending to interventions for loss of airway and collapsed lung

## Continued Research and Technology Prototyping

### R&D Funding:

- *Lincoln Internal*
- *CCCRP*



Licensing of platform technology patent, AI models, and one-of-a-kind ultrasound database\*

## Translation / Tech Transition

### Identifying Acquisition Funding:

- *U.S. Government*
- *Commercial investment*

- **Productization**
- **Human trials**
- **Regulatory approval**
- **Commercialization**
- **Civilian spin-off**



# Summary



- **Vascular access is a key step for life-saving interventions**
- **MIT LL has demonstrated a handheld, AI-enabled ultrasound prototype to assist an operator to cannulate a deep vessel**
  - **Phantom and porcine studies indicate quick and accurate operation**
- **Continue to mature prototype to decrease SWaP and ruggedize for fielding**
- **Working toward translating technology to first-in-human testing**
  - **Identifying an application for routine civilian use**
- **Expanding to additional applications such as nerve block**



# Thank you

