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**Pioneering Perspectives:** Sensing and Imaging as Key Enabling **Technologies** Natallia E. Uzunbajakava, TNO Holst Centre



## Revolutionizing Health and MedTech: *The Impact of Wearable Devices with Hybrid Printed Electronics*

Natallia E. Uzunbajakava, PhD TNO Holst Centre, Eindhoven





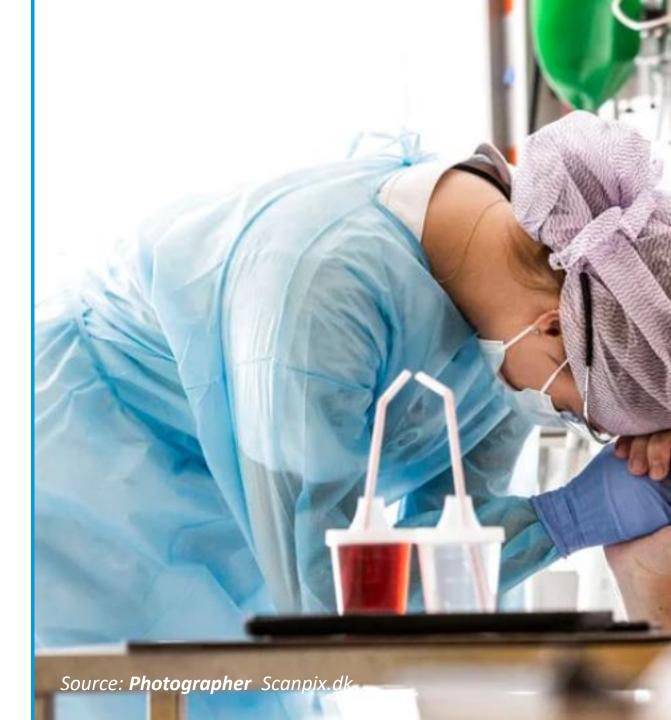
## **DISCLOSURE SLIDE**

Employee of TNO Holst Centre

### **Unaffordable health**

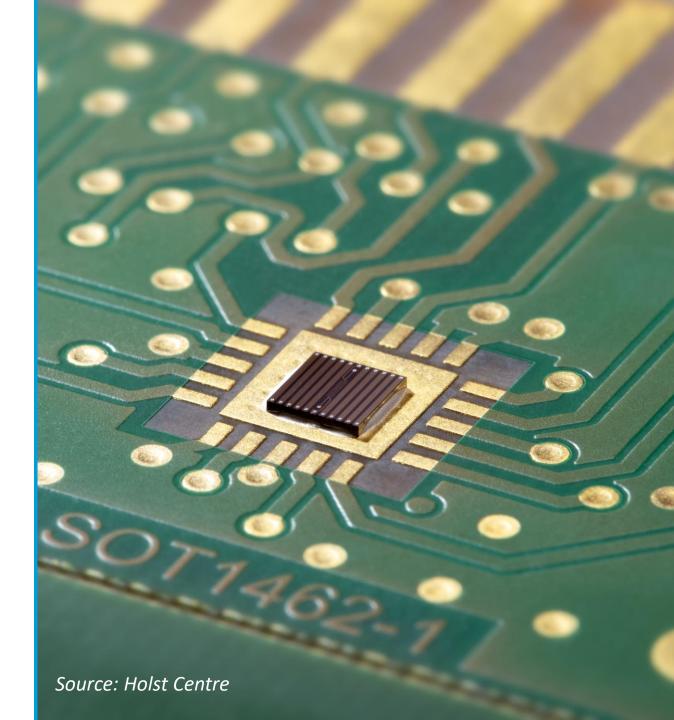
- Rise of **chronic** diseases
- Risks of **pandemics**
- Strained healthcare system
- Soaring **costs** of medicines

Source: Rationale Tech4Health coalition



### **Technology perspective**

- Chiptech
- Microelectronics & sensors
- New manufacturing technologies
- 3D printing & additive manufacturing
- Material Science & Nanotechnology
- Robotics & Automation
- IT | Data Science | AI

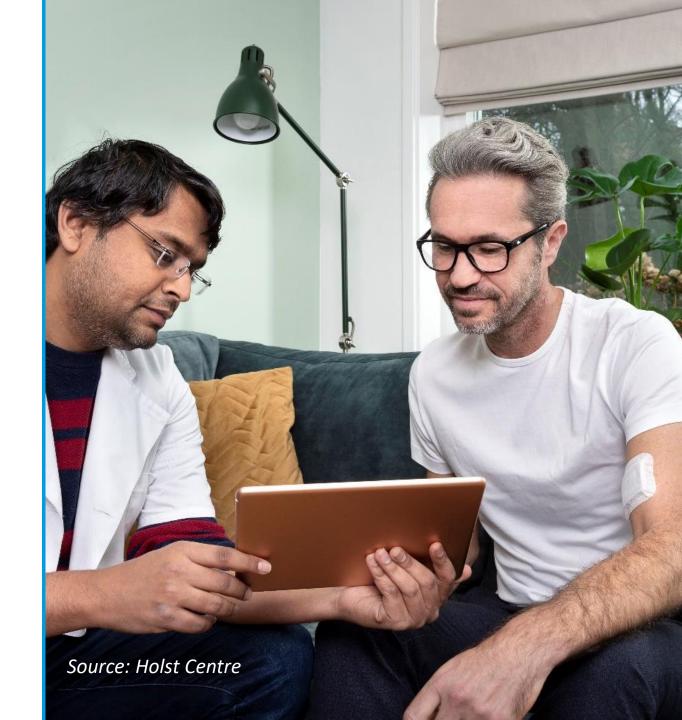


## Revolutionize health by boosting productivity

#### Wearable devices are enabler

- Optimizing the **workflow**
- Shifting care outside of the hospital
- Leveraging the power of **prevention**

Sources: Rational Tech4Health Coalition



### **MedTech perspective**

- € 160 B market, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest after US
- Added value: € 184,000 per employee
- Export value: the Netherlands is second in Europe. Medtech is a revenue model for the Netherlands
- **IP position**: the **second** largest applicant of patents worldwide with 8.1% of the total

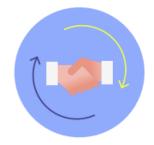


**35,000** Medical technology companies in Europe **92% are SMEs** 



#### 850,000+

People employed directly by the medical technology industry



Positive medical devices trade balance of €5.2 billion EUR



#### One patent every 30 minutes

Is filed with the European Patent Office in the field of medical technology

Source: MedTechEurope Manifesto

## Printed electronics & hybrid integration enable wearable devices

 Flexible substrate
 Printed conductive circuitry
 Integration of sensors & actuators

entre Apat

HolstCentre Anatching

#### Integration on stretchable substrates for extra comfort

Stretchable substrate Maximum comfort

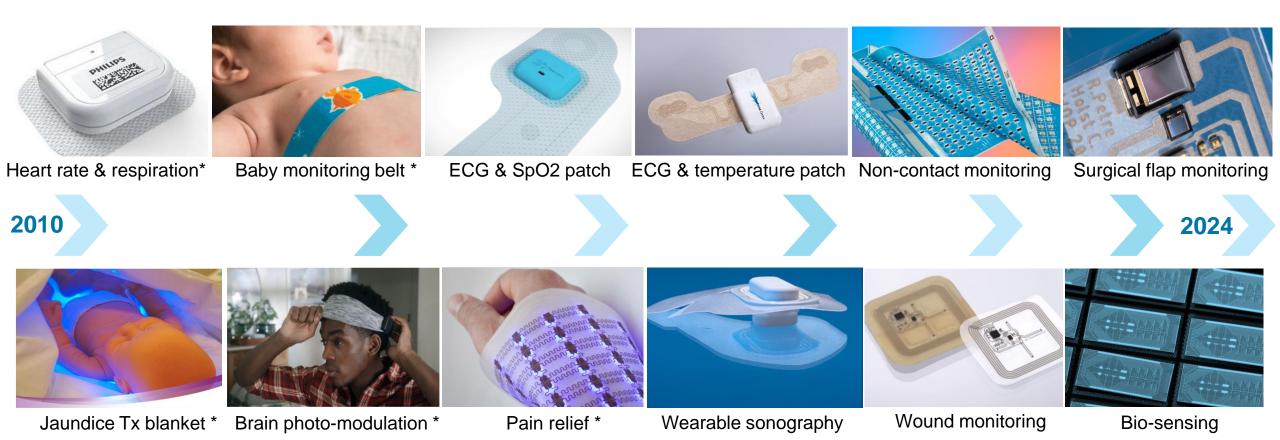
Longer wearability

Holst Centre - Accelerating Innovation

Sunbird

#### **Medical devices at Holst Centre**





\* Products on the market



### **ECG** patches

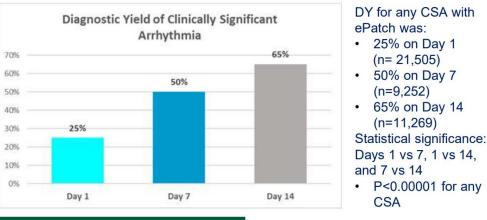


Source: J. Gelissen, PHILIPS AMD, IEEE MeMeA 2024

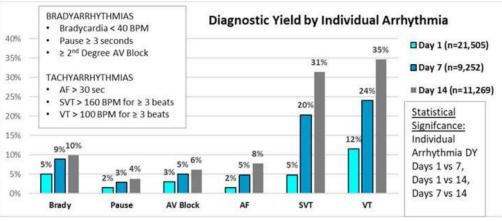


### The need for ECG patch and longer monitoring

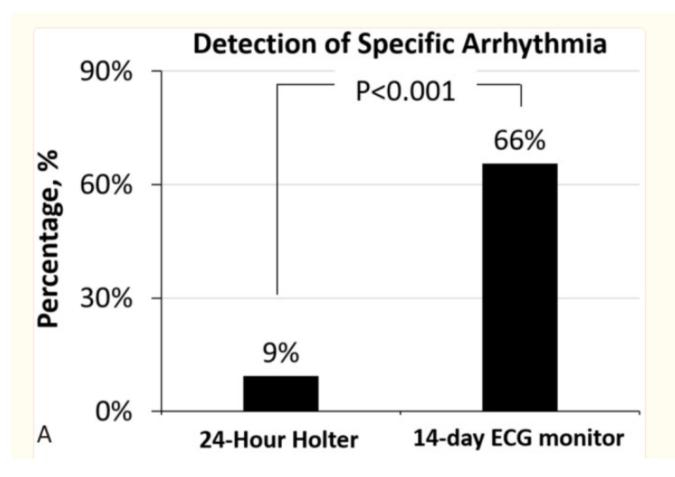
#### FIGURE 1



#### FIGURE 2



Source: P. Parikh et al. Diagnostic yield of 24 hour Holter vs 7 and 14 day ePatch



*Source: Chua SK et al. Comparison of Arrhythmia Detection by 24-Hour Holter and 14-Day Continuous Electrocardiography Patch Monitoring. Acta Cardiol Sin.* 

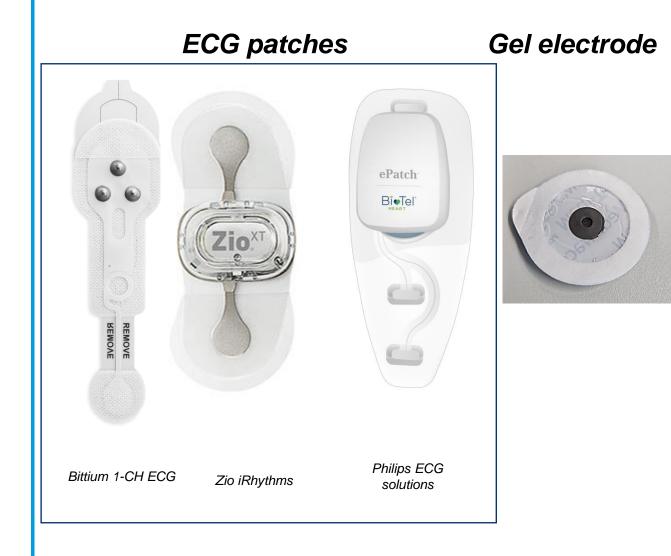
### **ECG patches today**

#### **State of the art - hydrogel electrodes:**

 Data loss, short wear time & shelf lifetime, risk of skin irritation

#### **Key requirements:**

- High-quality signal
- Long-term monitoring
- Patient comfort & compliance



## New generation of ECG patches: dry electrodes

- Self-adhesive dry electrodes advantages: longer wear & shelf lifetime at no irritation
- Multi-year collaboration of Holst
  Centre and material developer
- Feedback of OEM of medical device enabled progress

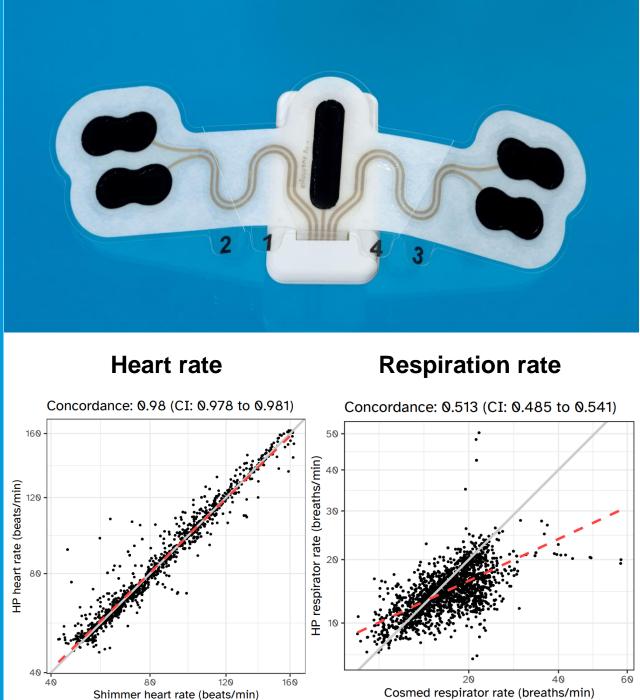


Performance	Start	Now
ANSI test	Good	Continuous improvement, with OEM input
Shelf time	Good	Extended
Electrical impedance	1000 Ohm	<1 Ohm
Settling time w/o external aid	1h	Negligible, immediate ECG acquisition
Residue on skin	Noticeable	No residue
Skin preparation	Must	Not needed

# ECG patch: performance vs. gold standard

- Gold standard: 3 lead ECG & Cosmed for respiration
- Healthy subjects, n=20
- Single day wear
- At rest and during exercise
- High correlation for heart rate & respiration rate vs. reference
- Skin comfort: no irritation



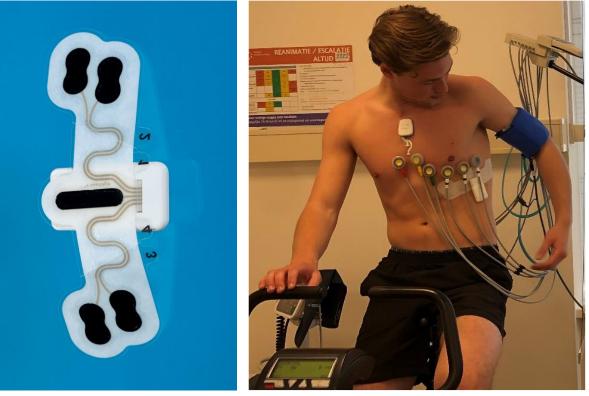


#### ECG patch: good performance over time

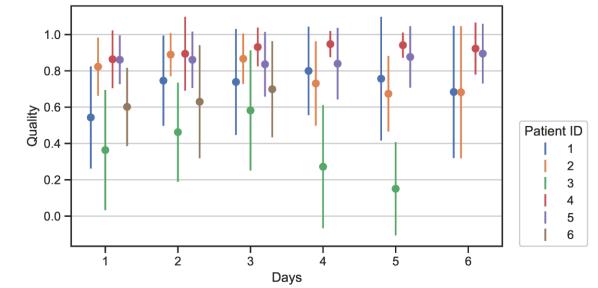
- Gold standard: 12 lead ECG
- Exercise-induced arrhythmia, n=6
- Six days wear, showering
- At rest and during **exercise**
- Good signal quality
- **Cardiologist statement**: "Single-lead can be used for "arrythmia detection"

uropean Association

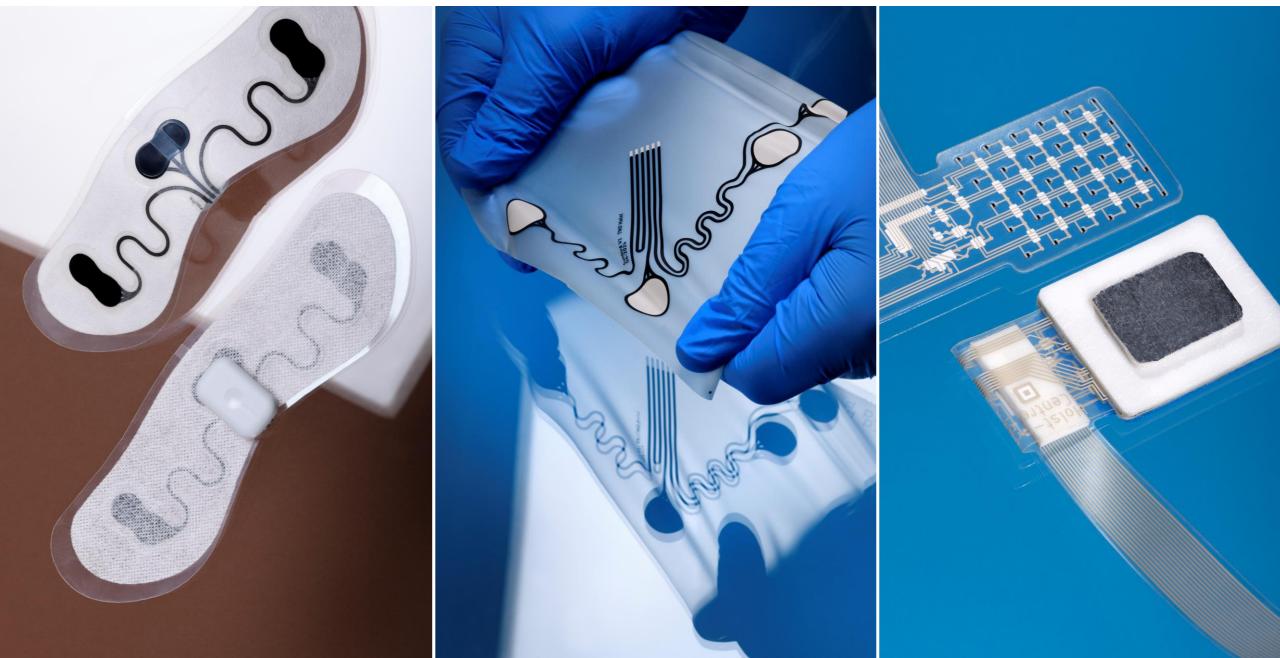
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#### Good signal quality over prolonged wear



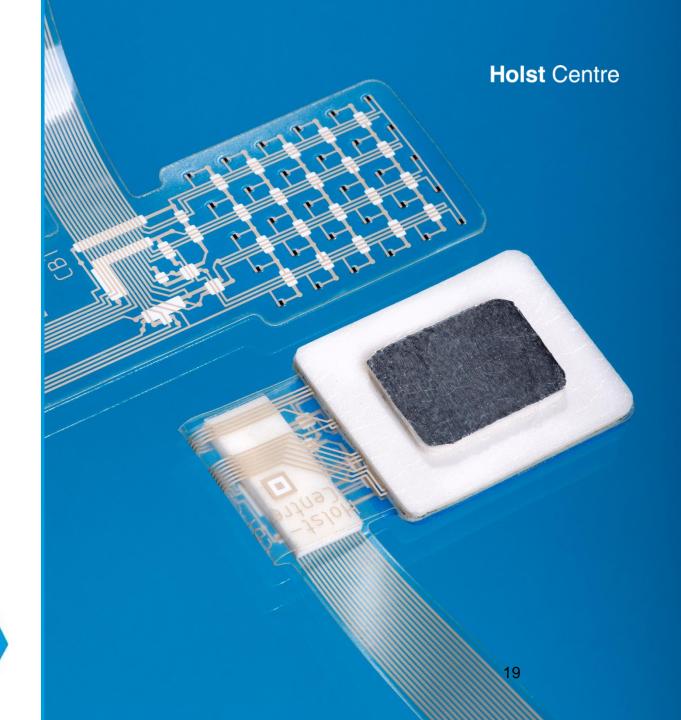
#### Pipeline: materials, signal quality, new sensors



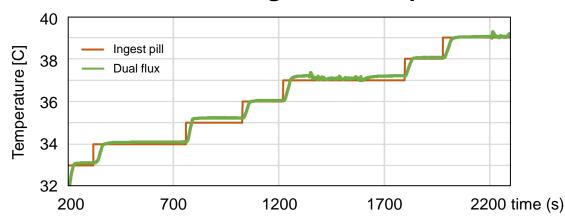
## New sensors: Core body temperature

#### Challenge

- Solutions not accurate, impacted by thermal fluctuations
- Our solution
  - Passive, compact sensor array based on dual flux measurement
  - Proprietary design
- Benefits
  - High accuracy, variable body location, calibration-free

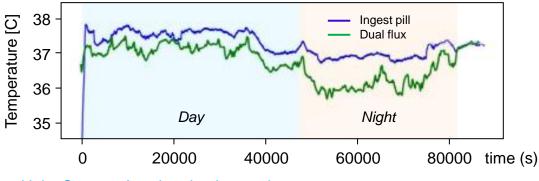


## Core body temperature performance



Tests on a heating-controlled phantom

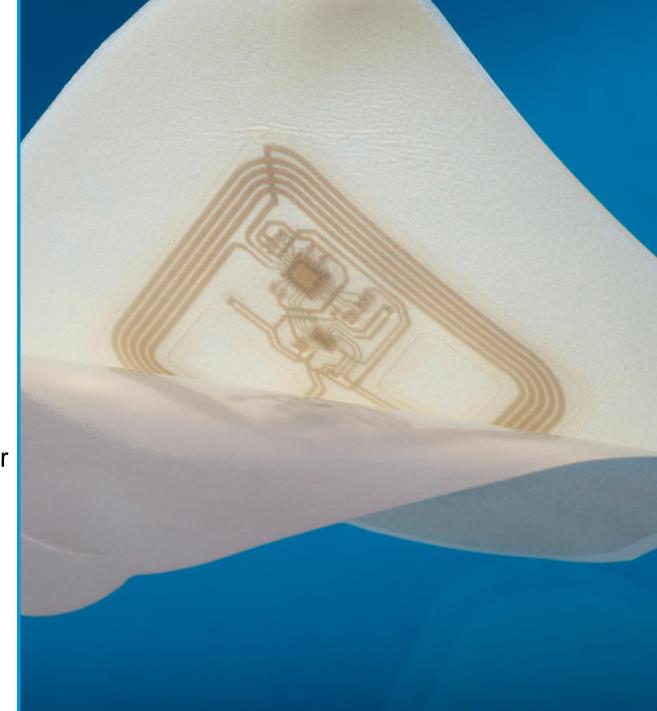
### 24-hour comparison on human subjects vs. ingestible temperature pill





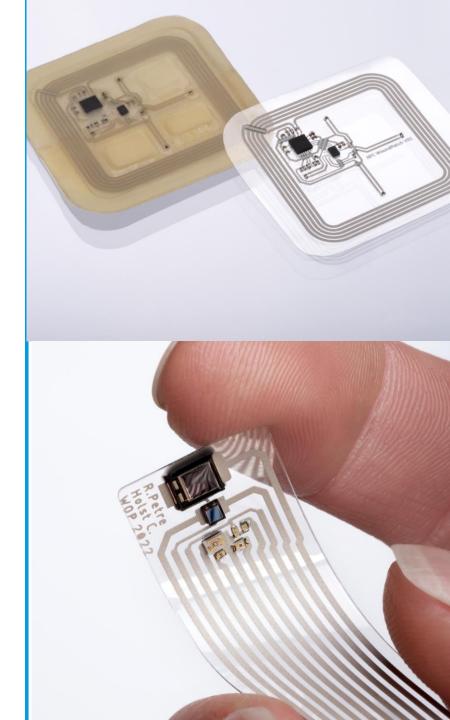
### New application: wound monitoring

- USD 32B costs for Medicare due to infections, amputations, mortality
- Economic, clinical, and social impact of wounds continues to rise
- Rudimental inspection: ruler, smell, color



# Wound care tomorrow: smart wound monitoring

- Integration of sensors: temperature, optical, biochemical
- Quasi-continuous monitoring, at home
- Improved patient outcome, increased productivity





### Wearable sonography



### **Ultrasound tomorrow**

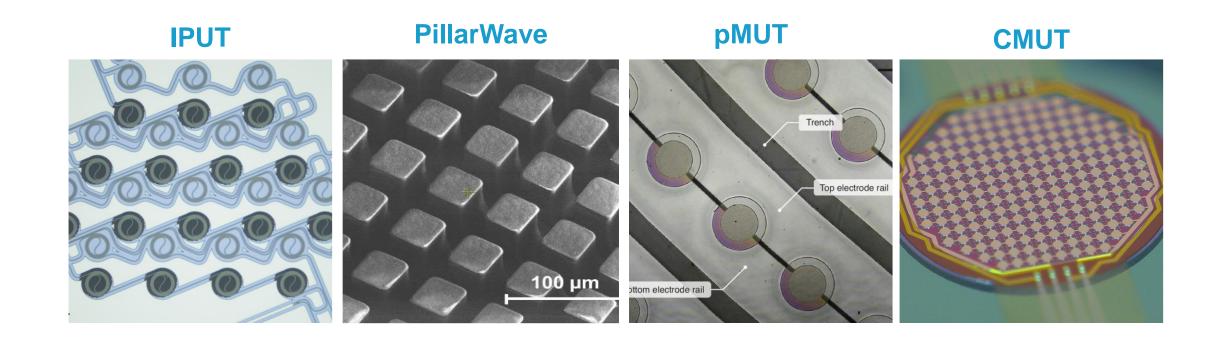
• Autonomous / wearable, hands-free

- Beyond hospital settings, at home
- Used by a **patients** / **citizens**



### Wearable ultrasound Partners fueling innovation pipeline





For sensing, imaging, photo-acoustics Variation of materials, specifications, integration capabilities,....

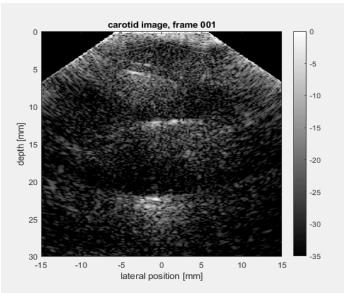
### **Example: PillarWave<sup>TM</sup> ultrasound**



#### PillarWave technology



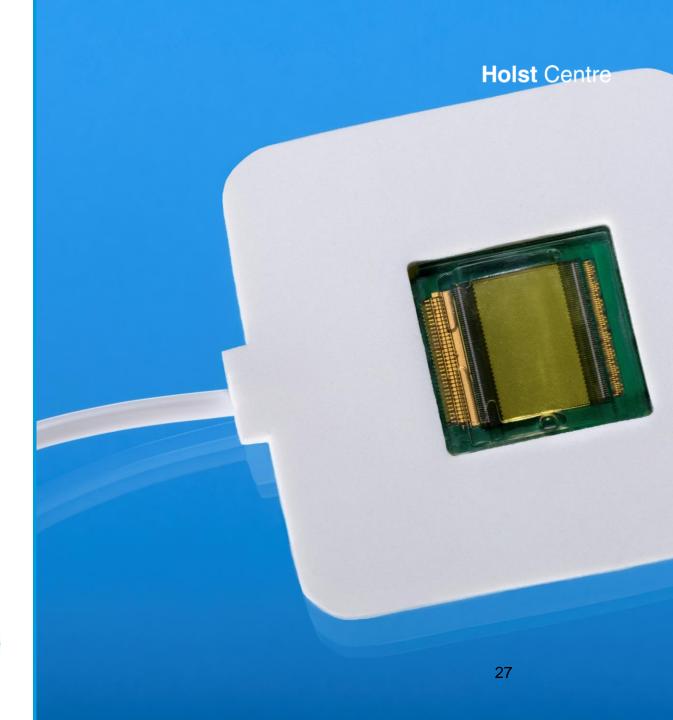
In vivo imaging of carotid artery



- Low TRL
- Flexible thin-film based ultrasound array
- First real-time imaging using 128 channel array of carotid artery
- 7 MHz central frequency
- Potential for applications for different healthcare domains

# Example: CMUT ultrasound

- High TRL
- State of the art CMUT transducer
- Integration / transducer / electronics
- Patch build up / materials
- ASIC / Connectivity / AI / Autonomous



### **Bio-sensing**

#### Holst Centre

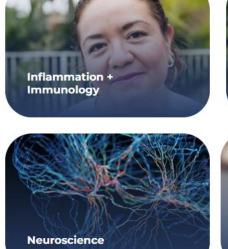
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## We need faster, cheaper and more accessible molecular diagnostics

Holst Centre powered by imec & TNO

- Infectious diseases & pandemics
- Biological threats
- Chronic diseases
- Rising costs of drug development
- Multiplexing is a must in bio-sensing
- \$42.26B total MDx market
- **\$5.5B point of care** market and rising
- Source: Biomarkers Consortium | FNIH
- \_ **≶**FNI





Cancer



Metabolic Disorders

Cardiovascular

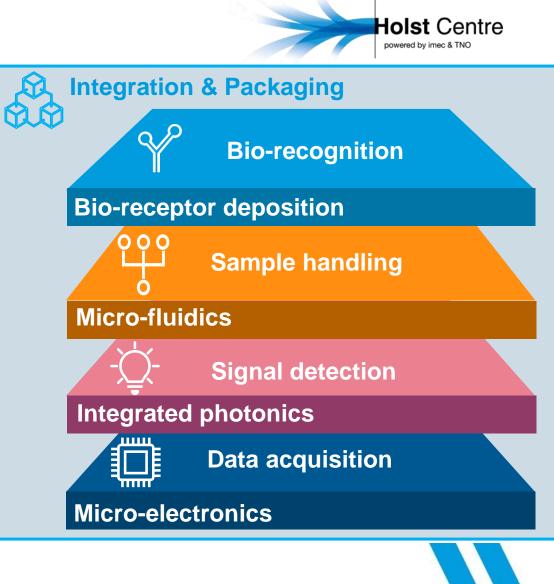




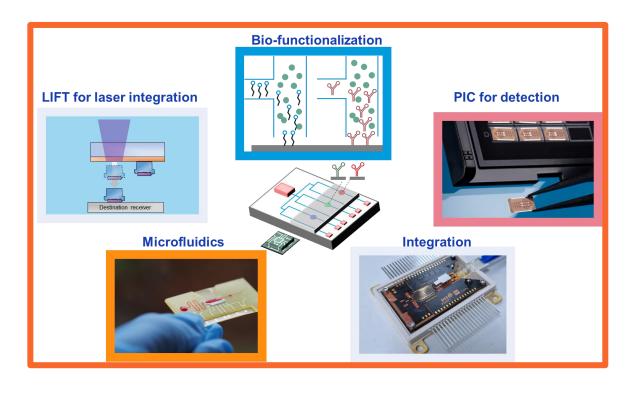


#### Bio-sensor functional blocks & technology enablers

- Bio-receptor deposition
- Microfluidics
- Integrated photonics
- (Micro)-electronics
- Integration



## Netherlands is well positioned to play in integrated photonics for bio-sensing



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- High potential of wearables to impact healthcare system & grow MedTech
  Innovation pipeline from high TRL ECG patches to new sensors thermal, optical, ultrasound
- Smart wound care: an entry area with high potential
- Integrated photonics for bio-sensing: Netherlands is well positioned to play in integrated photonics for bio-sensing
- Collaborations drive progress



## THE TECHMED EVENT

**BRIDGING PAST AND FUTURE:** FIVE YEARS OF MEDTECH ADVANCEMENTS AND BEYOND