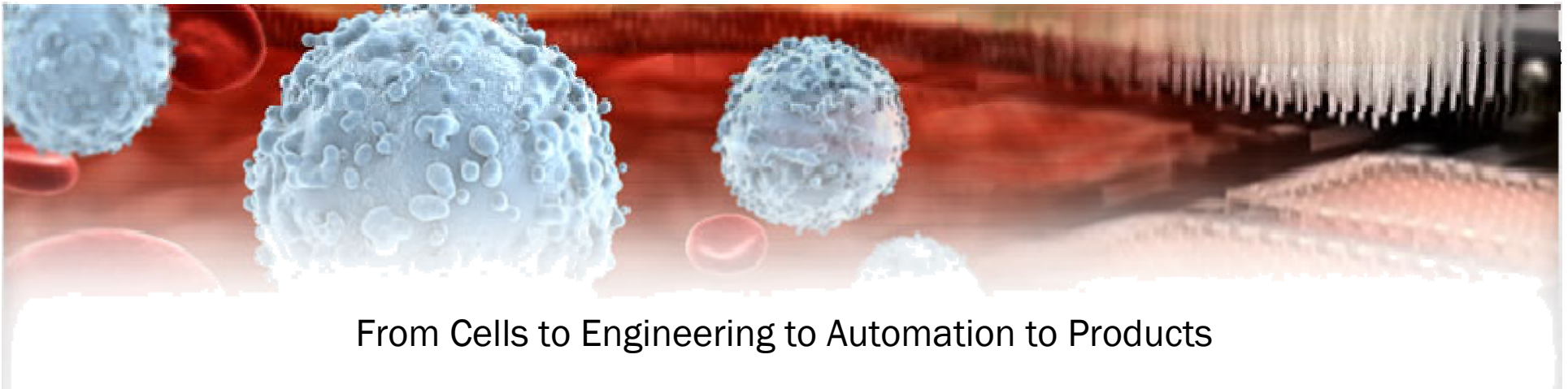


Finding the Sweet Spot in BioTechnology

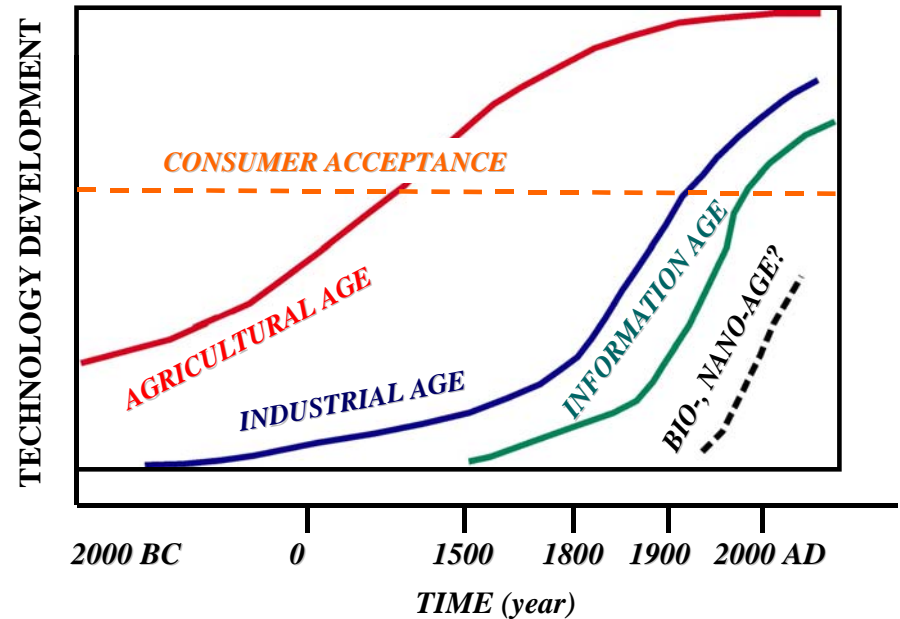
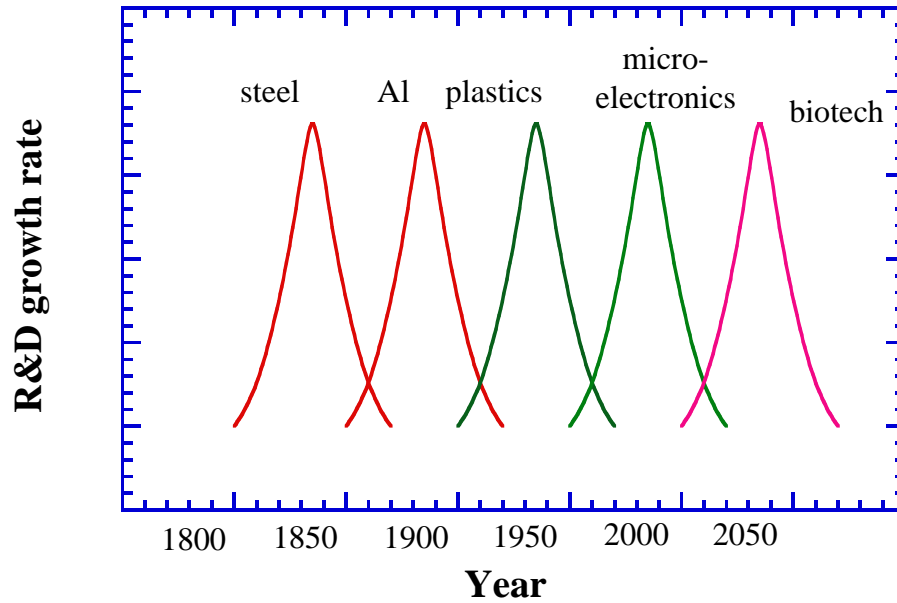
Russell G. Higbee, Ph.D., D.V.M.
VaxDesign Corporation
2721 Discovery Drive
Orlando, FL 32826
www.vaxdesign.com



From Cells to Engineering to Automation to Products



What's gonna be the next technological revolution?

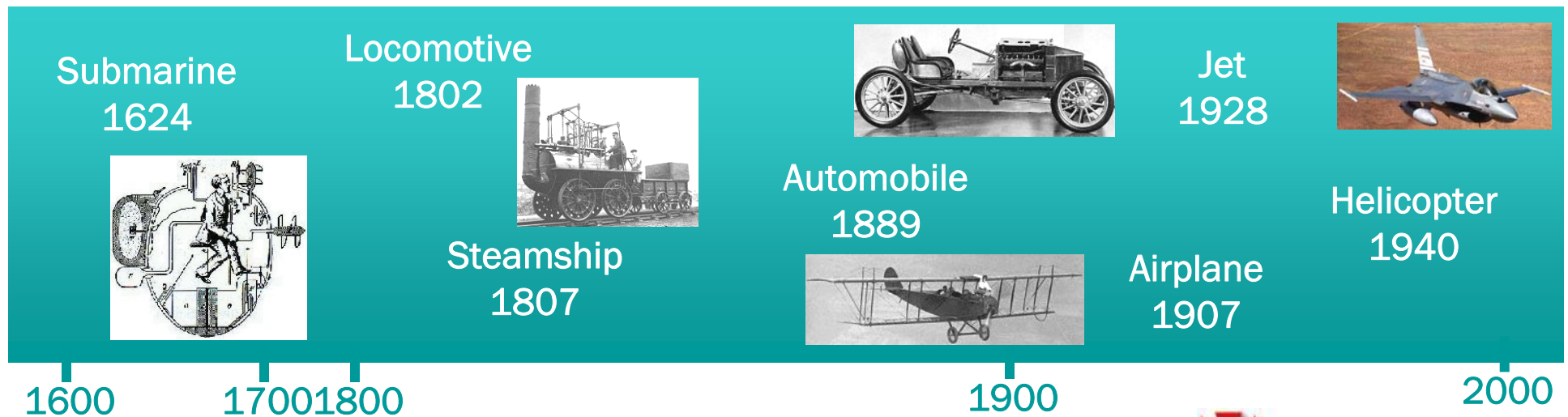


Can Anything be Learned or Predicted from Prior Inventions?

Digital biology?

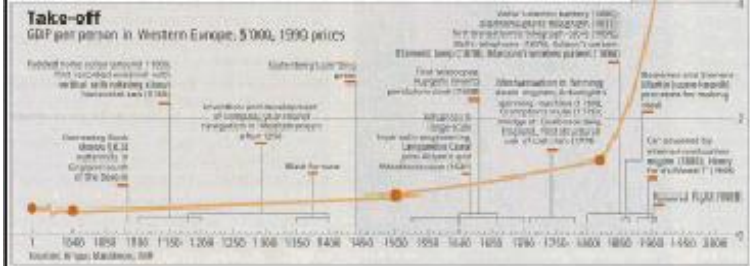


Distributed bio-power, Teleportation?



The Economist
Millennium Special Edition
January 1st 1000 - December 31st 1999

We live in exponential times.



World Economic Performance Was Sparked by “One” Event

GDP Per Capita in Western Europe, 1000 – 1999 A.D.

This curve looks quite smooth on a macroscopic scale.

Notice the “knee of the curve” occurs at the industrial revolution, circa 1850.

Can Anything be Learned or Predicted from Prior Inventions?

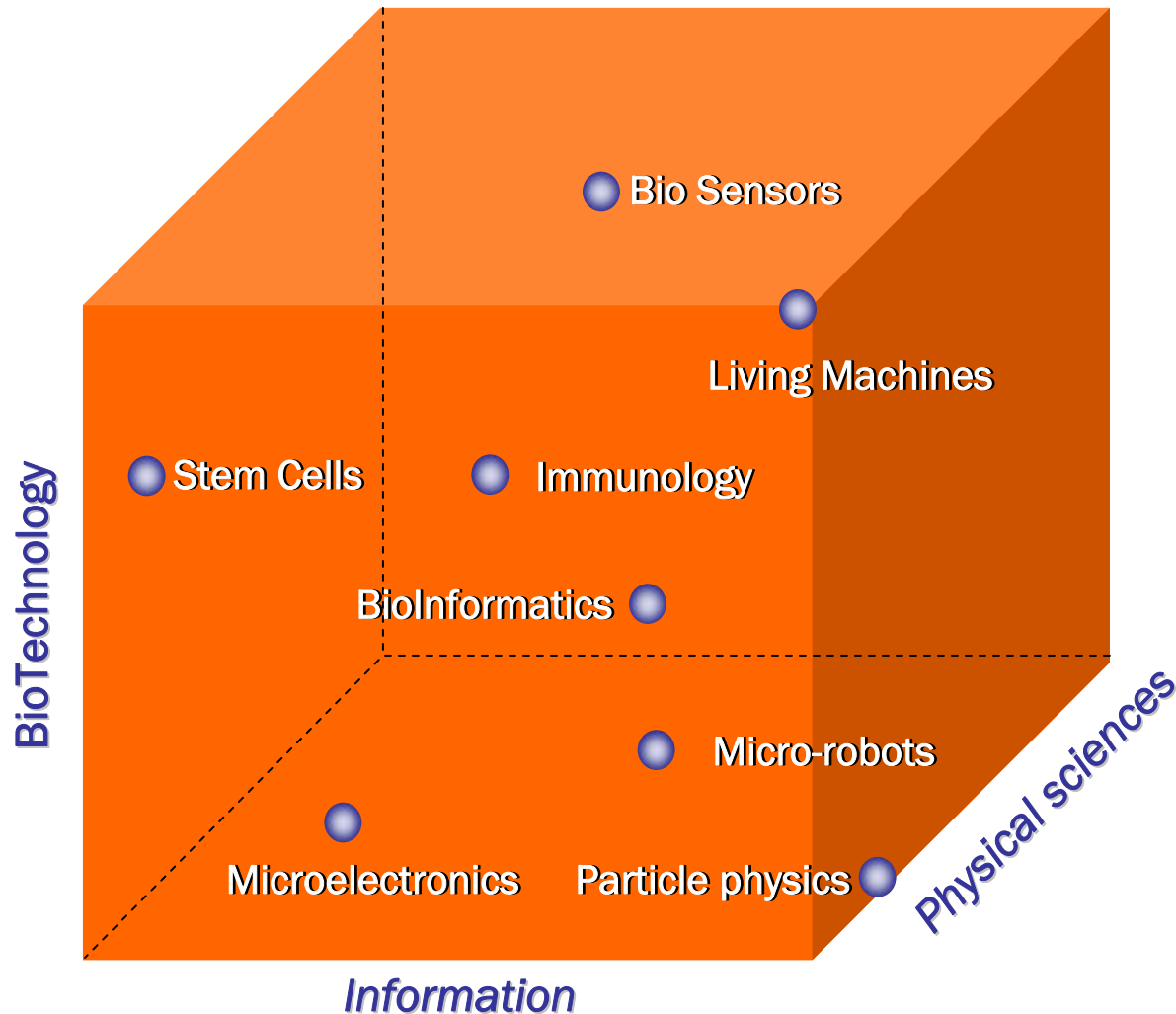
Personalized medicine, cure for common cold, herbal medicine, broad-range immunotherapies, body parts on demand?



One Good Idea Makes the Difference

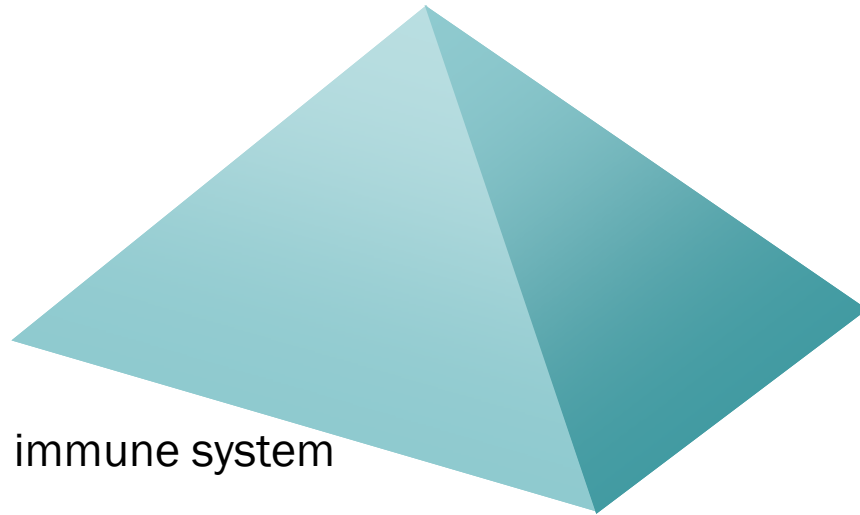
- Industrial revolution was an amalgam of ideas about machines to manufacture or to move quickly on the earth.
- Flood of ideas in the 19th century, but none would have been realized without Watt's steam engine.
- The internal combustion engine made the 20th century industrial revolution continue (Brayton, Otto)
- Has there been that one good concept to make a difference in biotech? (tissue engineering, recombinant DNA technology, self-assembly, stem cells, nanoscience, ...)

The Future: Amalgascience - Coordination With Other Disciplines



Biotech/Tissue Engineering Opportunities

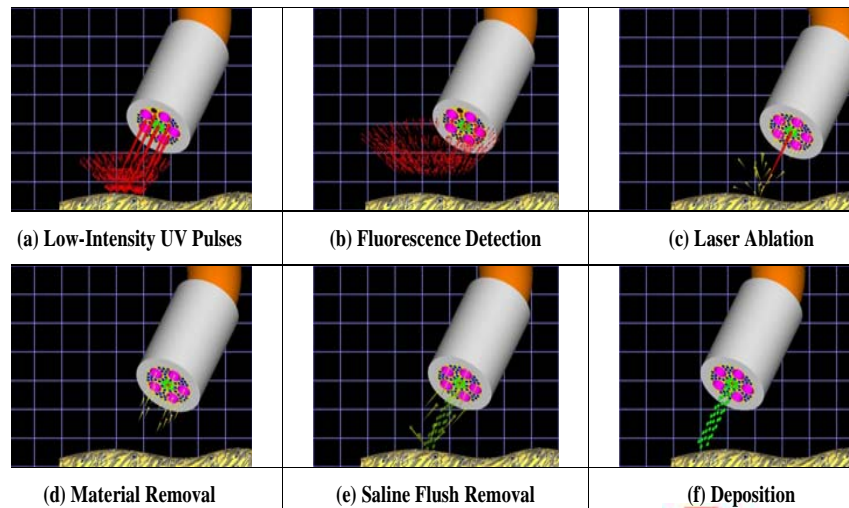
Interaction statistics: digital biology



Detect: rare event imaging

Diagnostics: artificial immune system

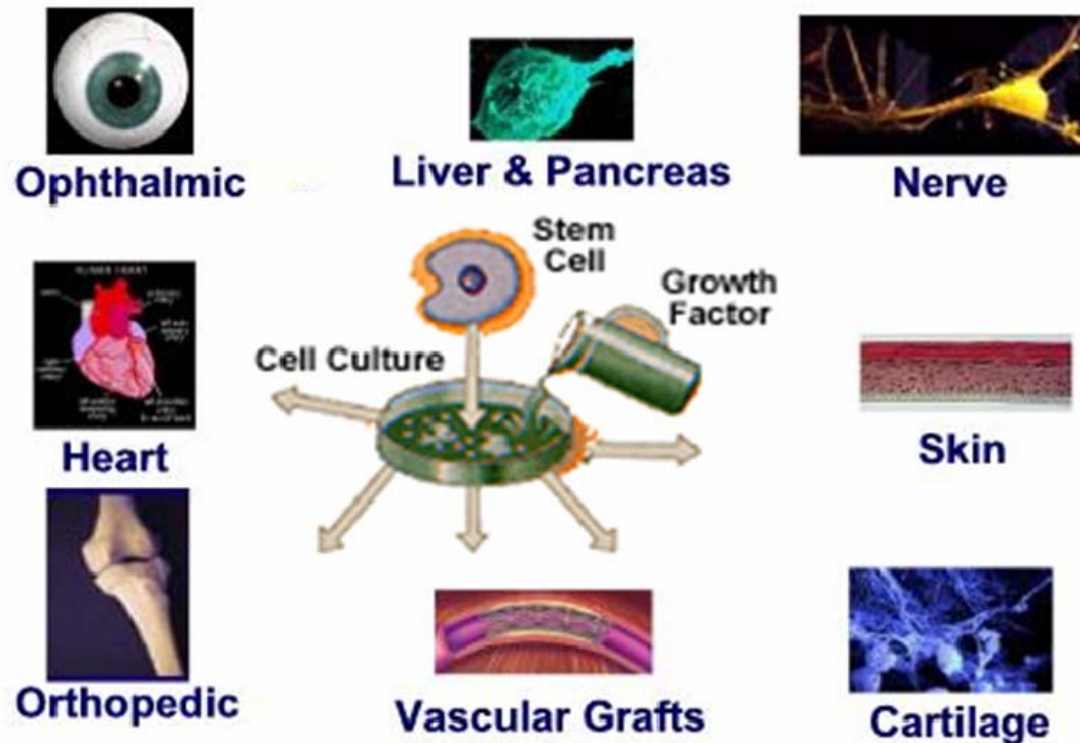
Cure: creation of neo-organs *in vivo*



The Question...

How can one, short of reproduction, reproducibly build a biocompatible structure that replicates the natural living system (microenvironment, 3D structure, vascularization, etc.) to support normal cell development?

Part of the Answer: Tissue Engineering



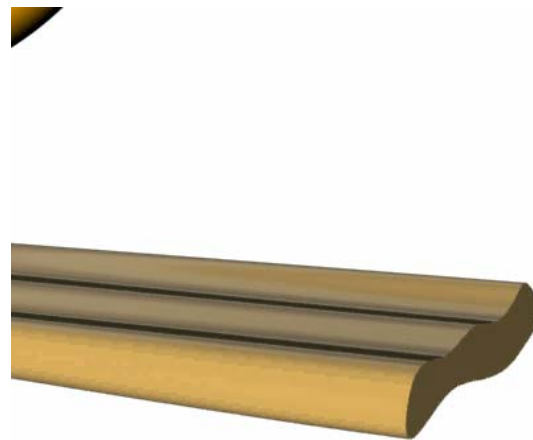
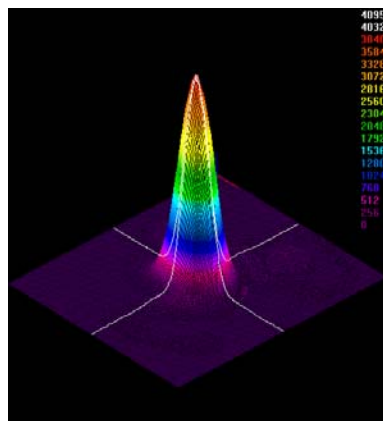
Problems:

- Largely 2D
- No cellular, biomolecule nor biomaterial geospatial control
- No “zone” control in the z direction
- No customization

Therefore – hard to replicate the endogenous tissue

InVivo Biological Architectural Tool

Utilize fundamental advancements in minimally invasive surgery [MIS], tissue engineering, and digital printing CAD/CAM techniques to create customized body parts by allowing the surgeon to build tissues from within



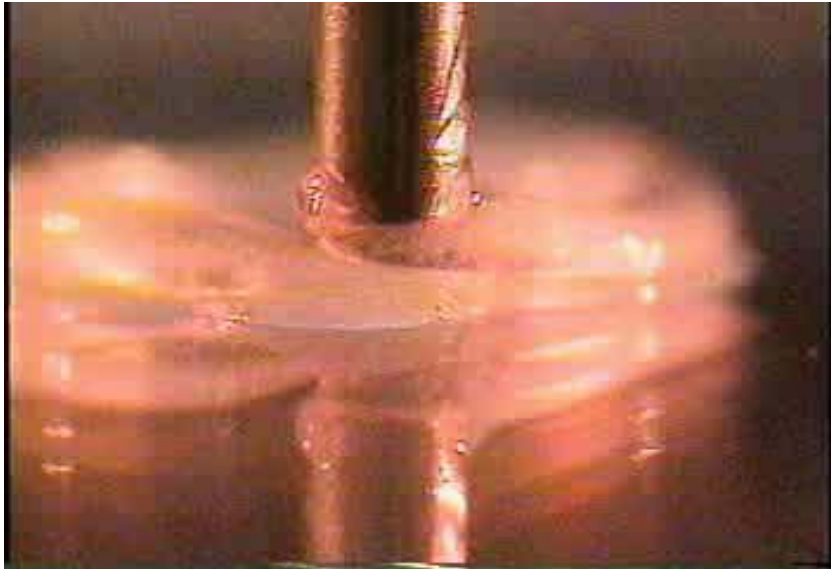
Physics issues:

- Fine deposition
- Nozzle design
- Actuation (macro to micro)
- Motor control
- Fiber coupling fsec laser

Why Body Parts on Demand?



Various Printing Demonstrations:



Physics issues:

- Nozzle shear forces
- Mat'ls issues to build 3D structures
- Vision, imaging, feedback, & motion control

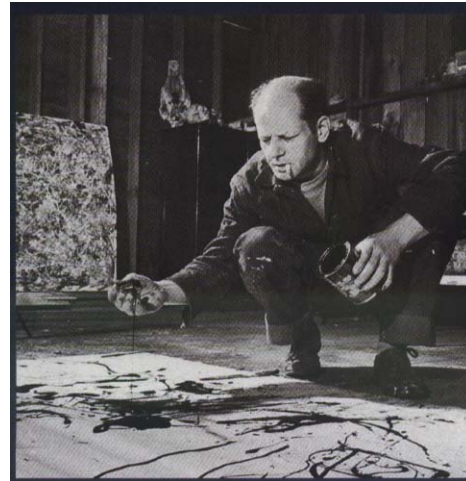


Truly Going from ART to PART

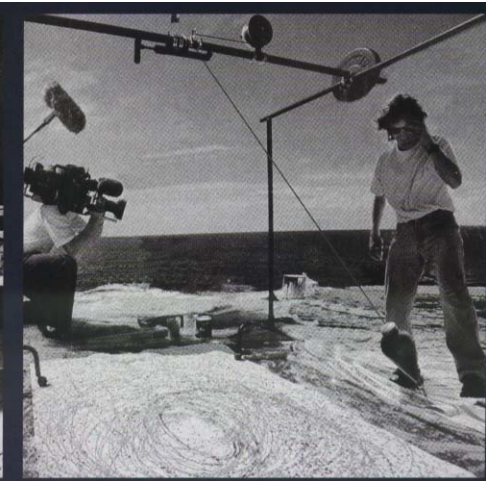
Fractal Painting



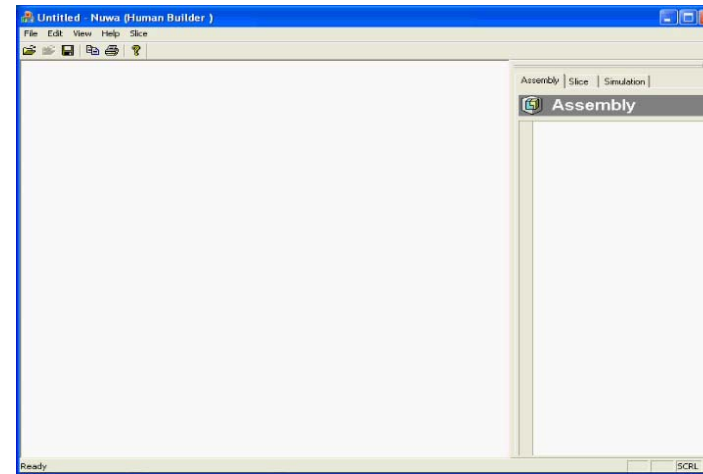
The Man



Direct-Painting

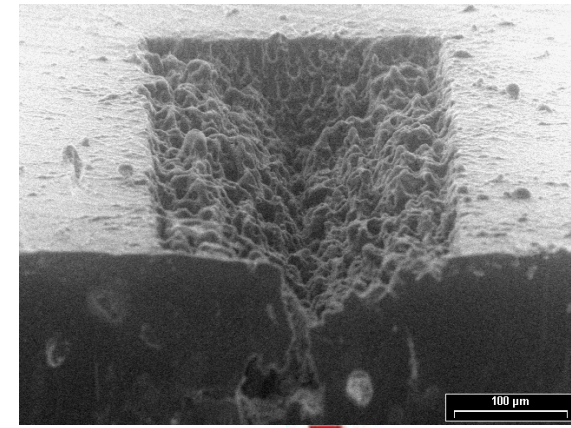
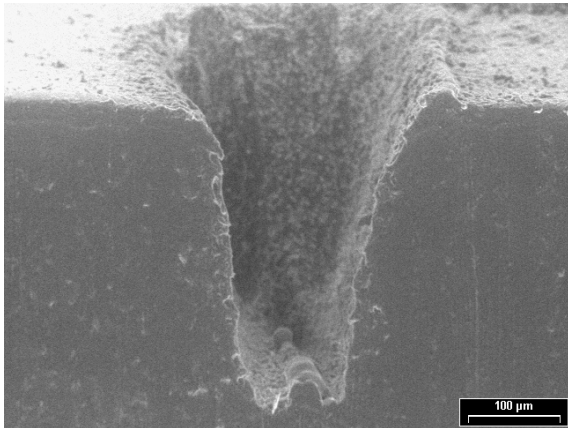
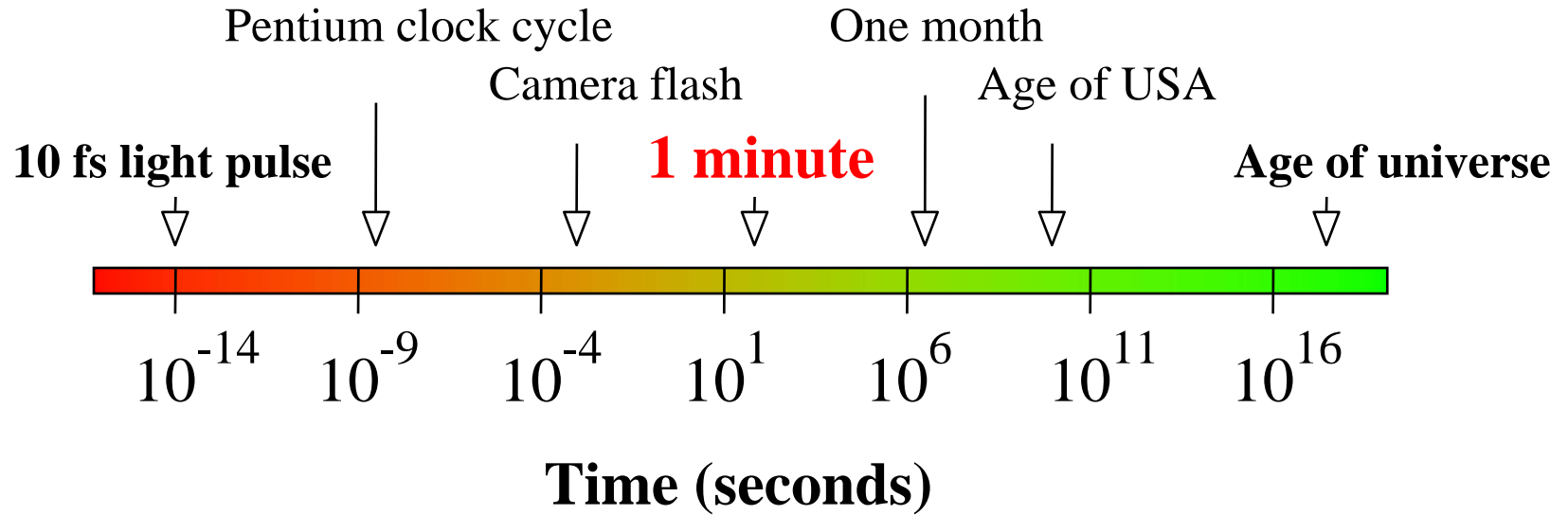


ART to Tissue Engineered PART



Ultra-Short Pulse Lasers

Femtosecond Time-Scales:



Laser Micromachining/Surgery

Micromachining on paper



Femtosecond machining



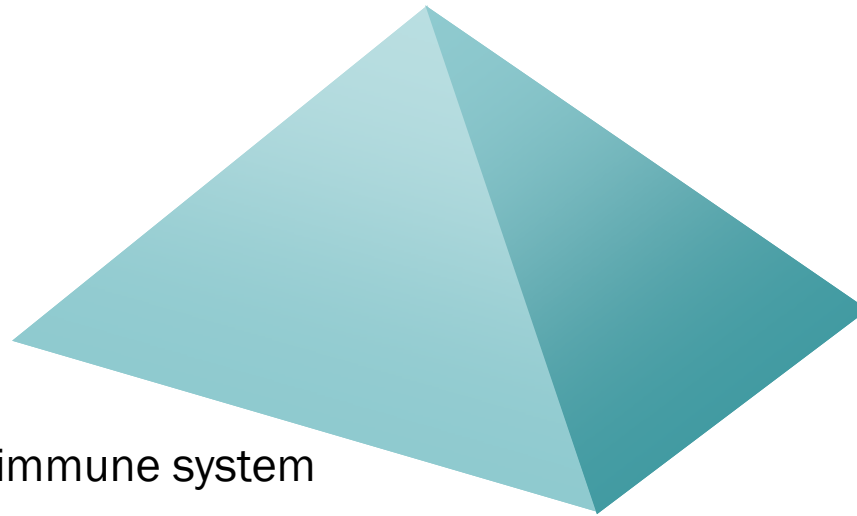
Nanosecond machining

Physics Issues:

- Waveguide designs
- Bending losses
- Diffractive optics

Biotech/Tissue Engineering Opportunities

Interaction statistics: digital biology



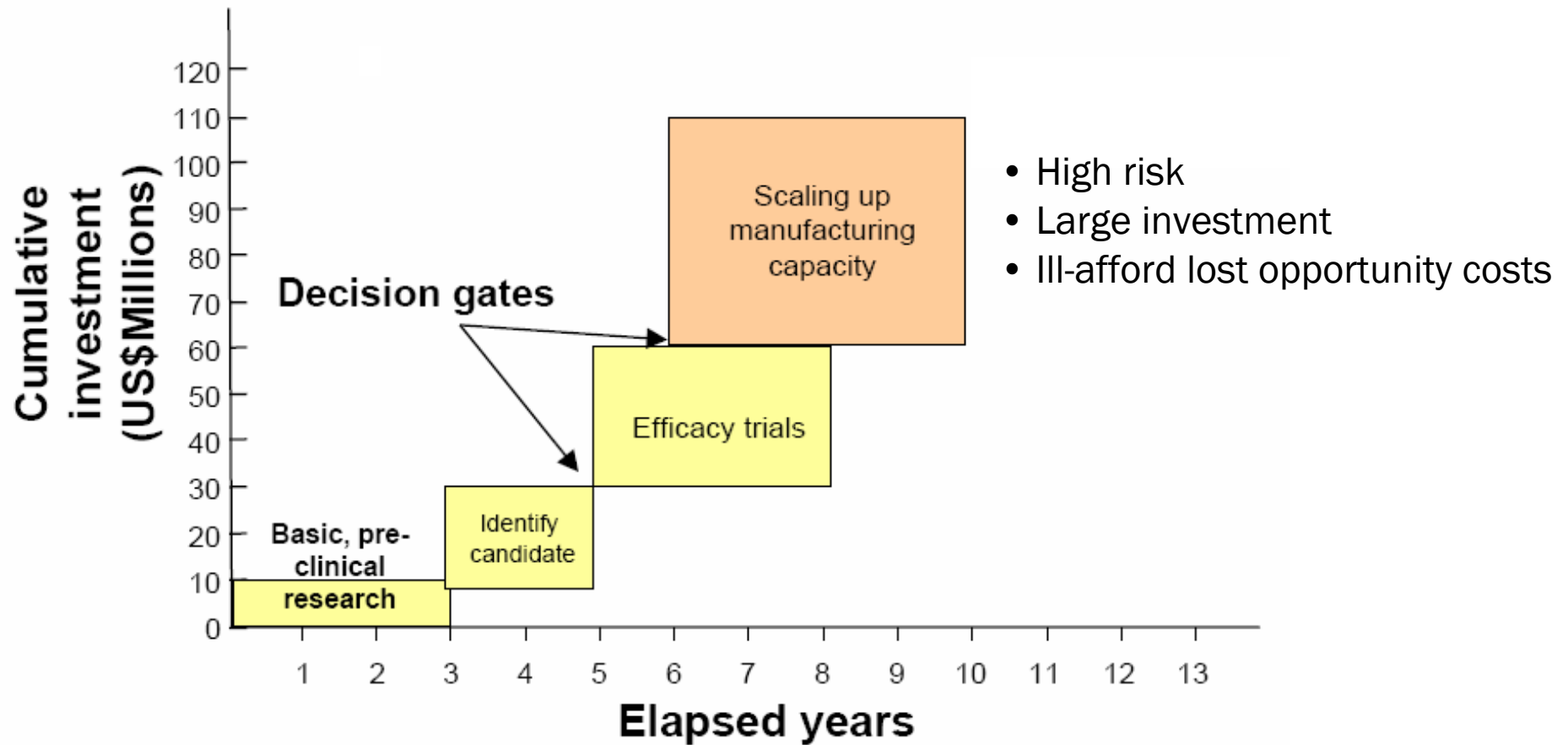
Detect: rare event imaging

Prevent: artificial immune system



Cure: creation of neo-organs *in vivo*

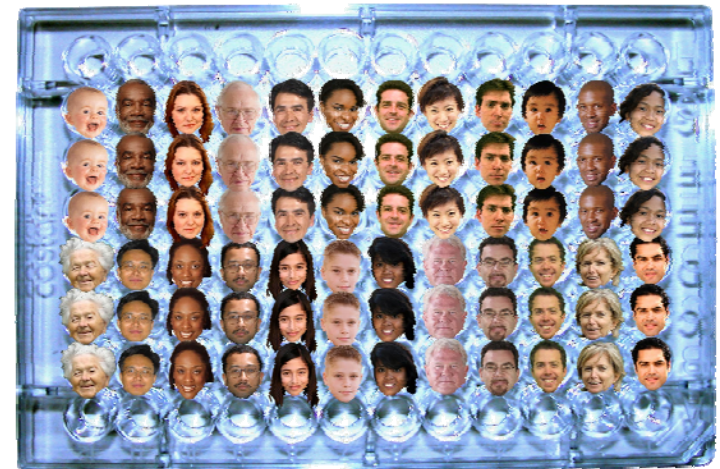
The Costs to Bring Immunotherapies to the Market

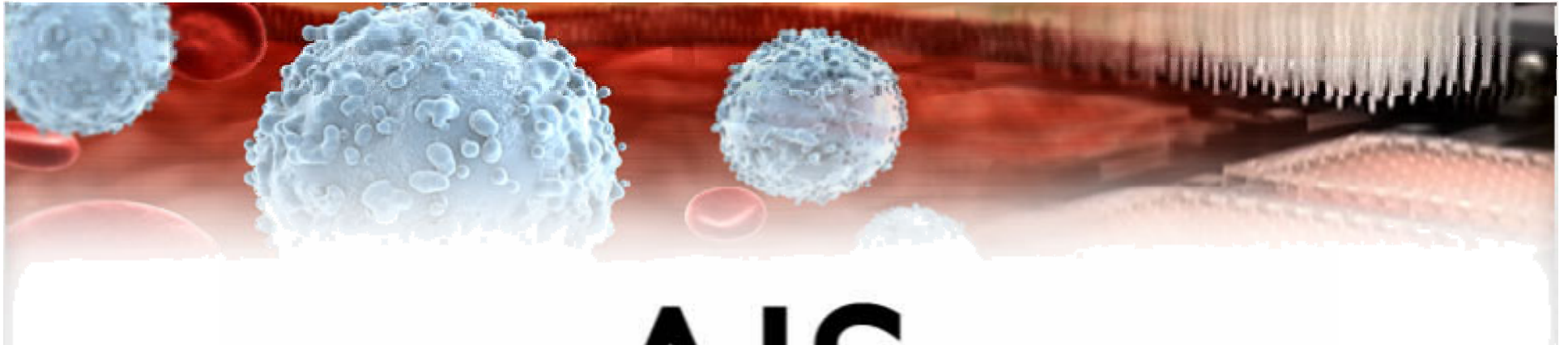


http://www.vaccinealliance.org/site_repository/resources/21VacMarket.pdf

Challenging Disease and the Market Differently

1. Why it costs so much to bring drugs to the market?
 - Animals lie and exaggerate
 - Lost opportunity costs
2. How can you make money by accelerating the drug development process?
 - Find the bottleneck & turn the problem inside out
 - Create *in vitro* surrogate human immune systems





AIS

ARTIFICIAL IMMUNE SYSTEM

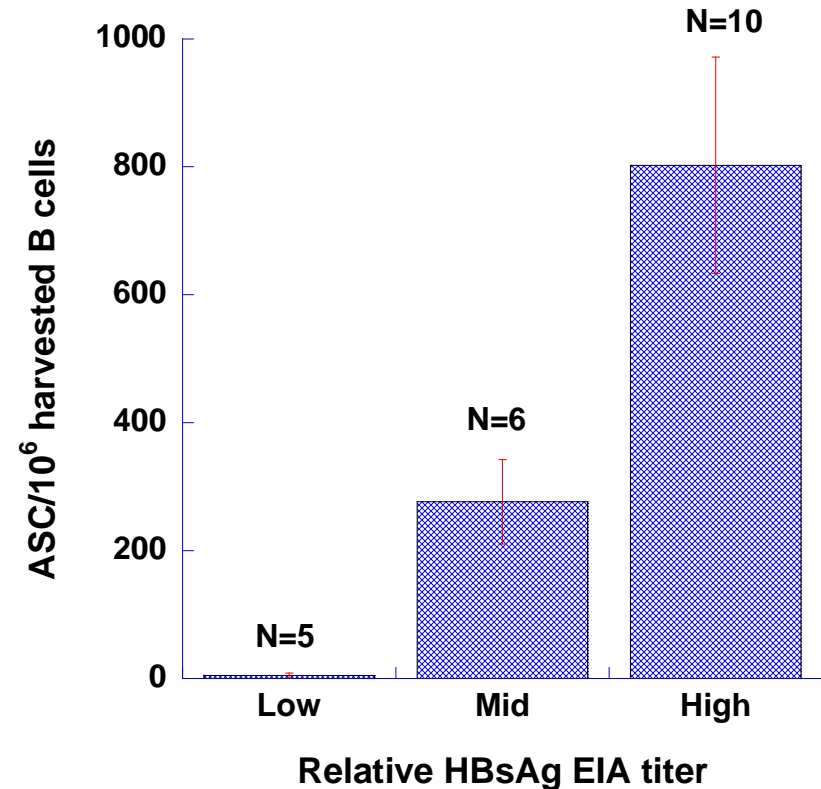
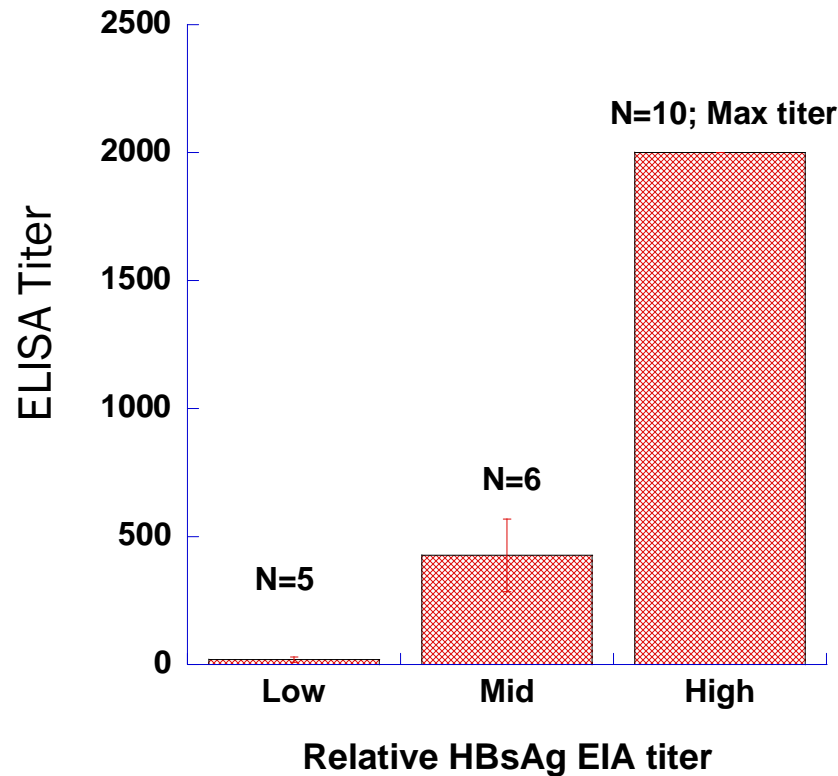
MODEL · PROCESS · AUTOMATION



Correlative Analysis of AIS Response vs Serum Titer for Hepatitis B

HBsAg ELISA Titers

LTE ELIspot



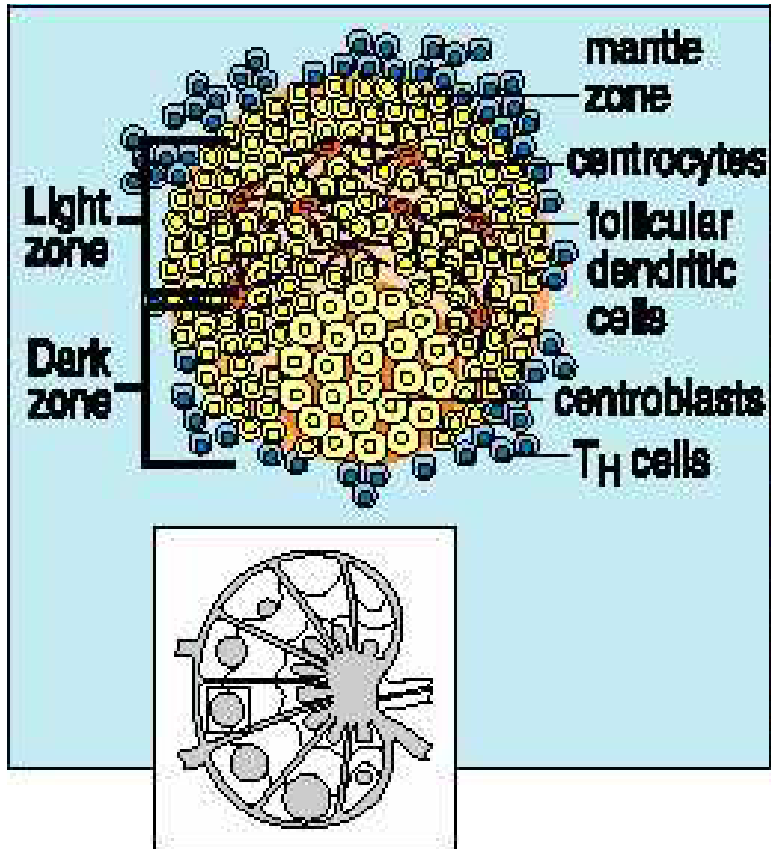
Serum titer groupings: Low 3-57.1; Mid 128-864; High 2000 or > 2000

Designing an *In Vitro* Biological System

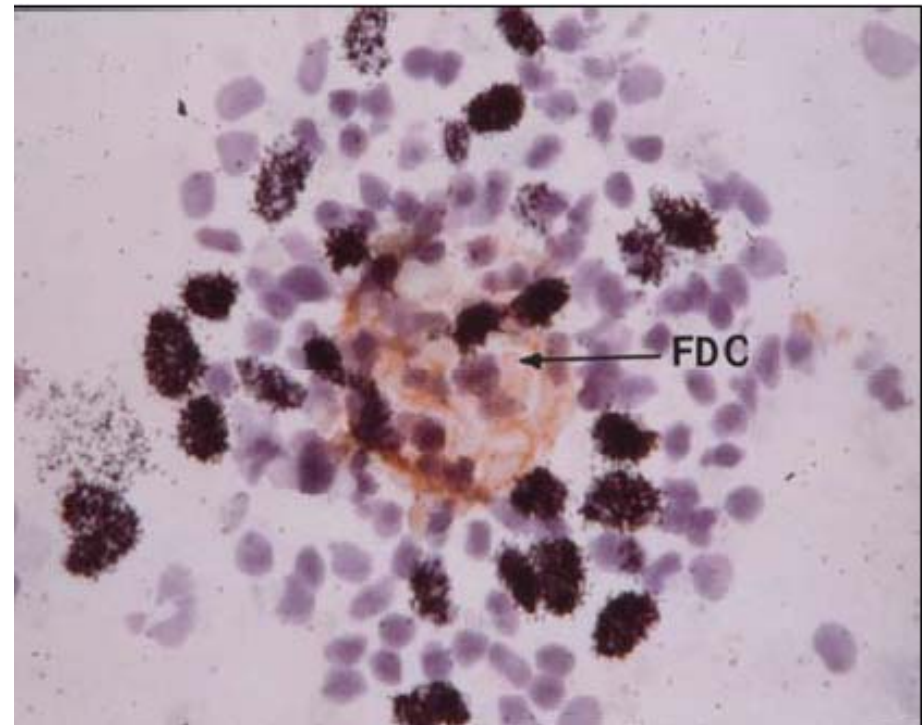
- How to mimic biology
 - don't give into the biologists
 - don't make it too simple
 - the right cells @ the right time @ the right place
- How to assemble biology
 - self-assembly
 - synthetic assembly
 - forced assembly

Self-Assembly of the Germinal Center

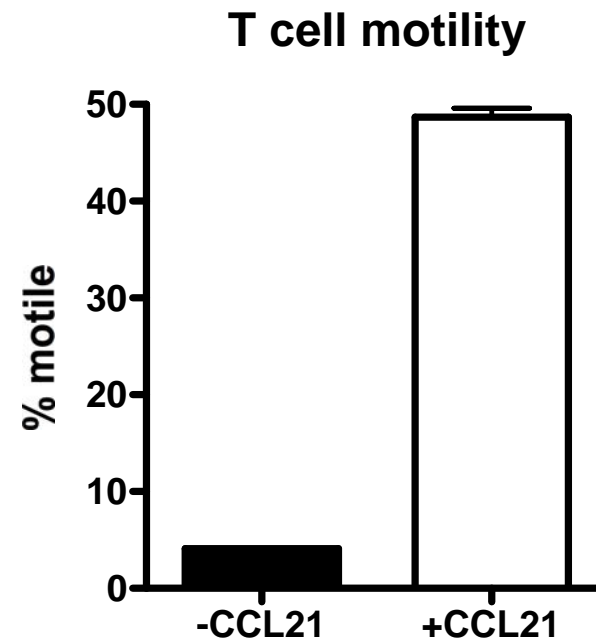
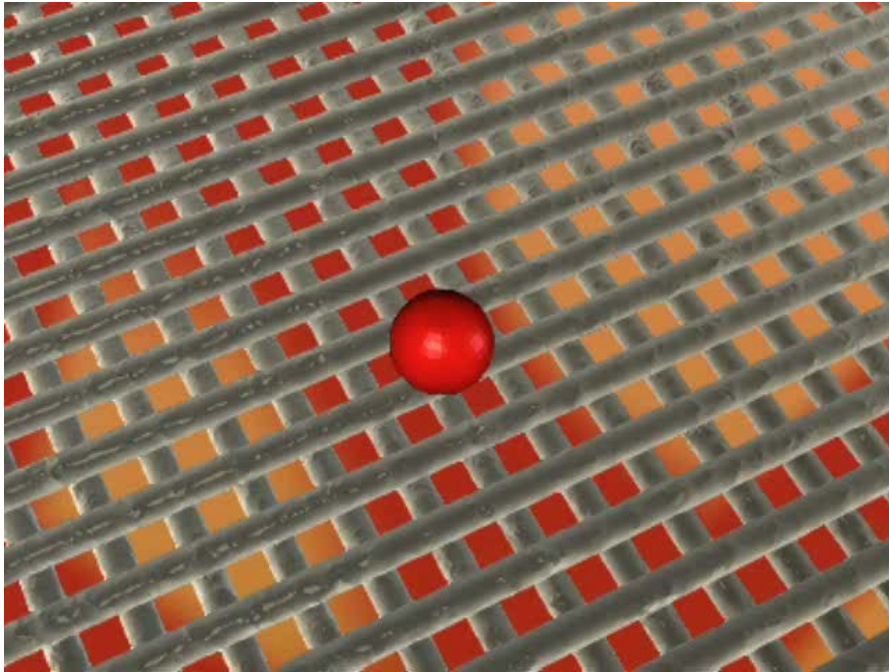
Schematic representation of a GC



In vitro GC



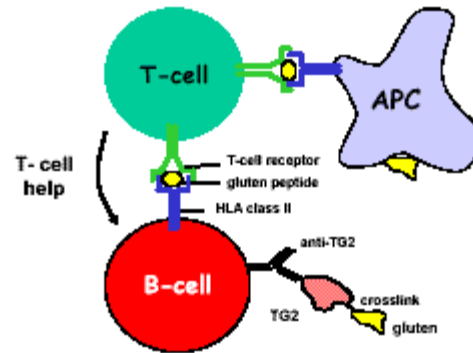
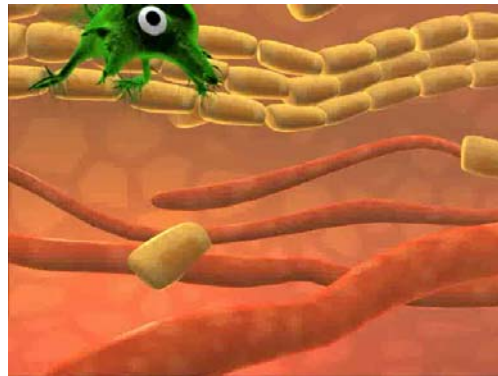
Synthetic Assembly of a Germinal Center



“Forced” Assembly



Biotech/Tissue Engineering Opportunities



Interaction statistics: digital biology

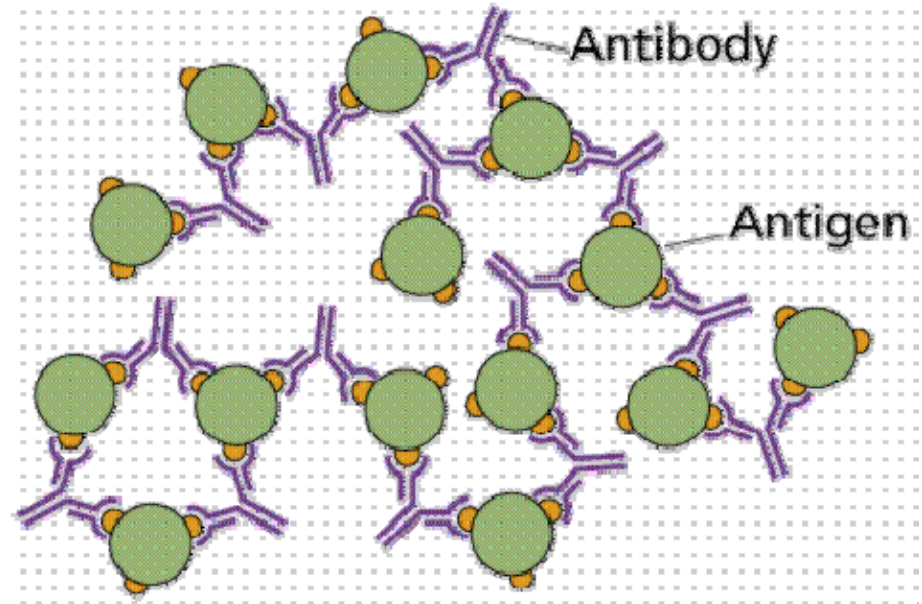
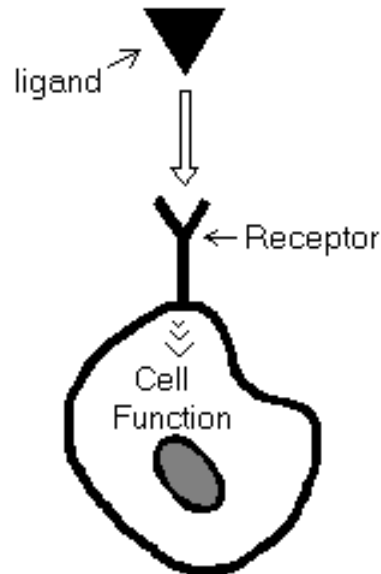


Detect: rare event imaging

Prevent: artificial immune system

Cure: creation
of neo-organs *in vivo*

Challenge the Antigen/Antibody Physical Contact Model



The 3D structure of the ligand molecule, e.g. an antigen (agonist) matches the 3D structure of the antibody (receptor). This physical contact induces the cell function.

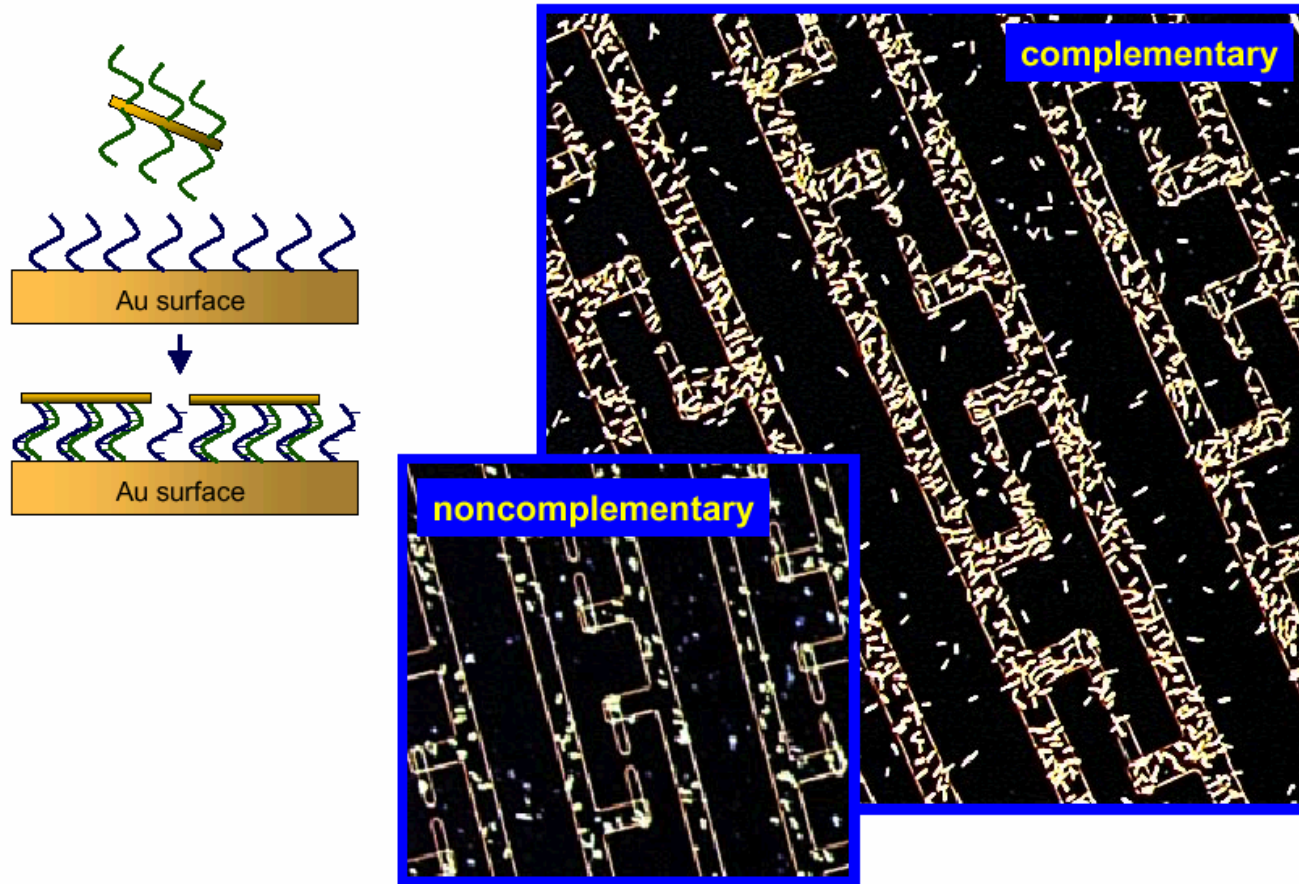
<http://www.emc.maricopa.edu/faculty/farabee/biobk/antigenAB.gif>

Physical Contact Model

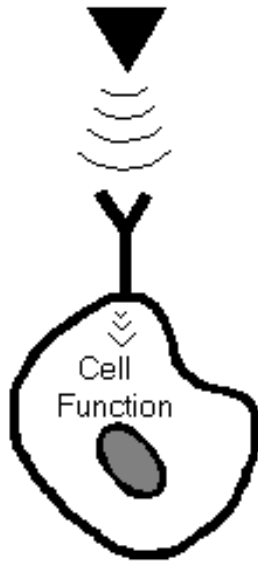
- ✚ Specific molecular interactions happen after random collisions between partners on a trial-and-error basis, using electrostatic, short range (two to three times the molecule size) forces.
- ✚ But this kind of random encounter, amidst the bulk of molecules which are foreign to a given biochemical reaction, would give to these meetings statistically little chance of occurring.
- ✚ Thus, the simplest biological event might require a very long time to happen. This paradox is still unexplained by those adhering to this theory...

Short Range Interactions Do Not Satisfy i.e, they are all “wet”

SS DNA and its complement act like psuedo “glue”



If Not Physical Contact Alone, Could Electromagnetics Come to the Rescue?



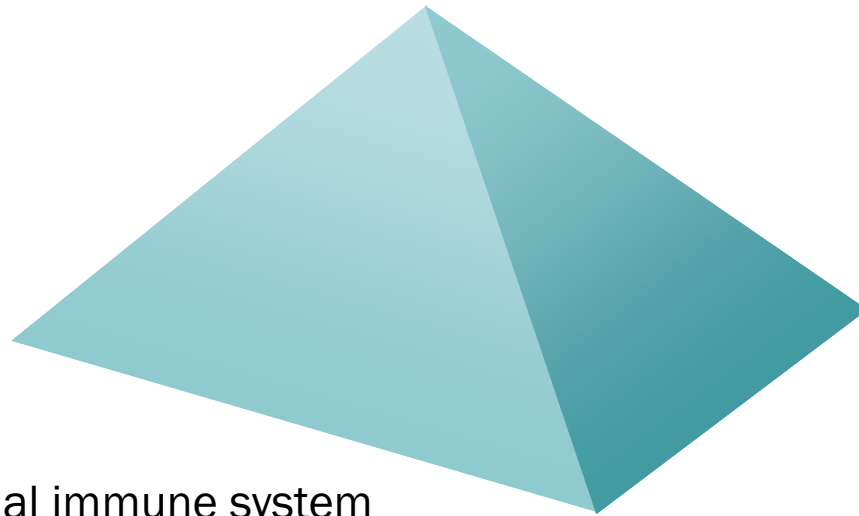
Small changes in the spectrum of a molecule (e.g. induced by a tiny structural change) would profoundly alter its resonating characteristics

Minute changes radically modify the molecular tertiary structure and function.

- phosphorylation,
- replacement of an ion by a similar one,
- switching of two peptides,
- 1 to 4 amino acid substitutions within HA can give rise to new viral strains

Biotech/Tissue Engineering Opportunities

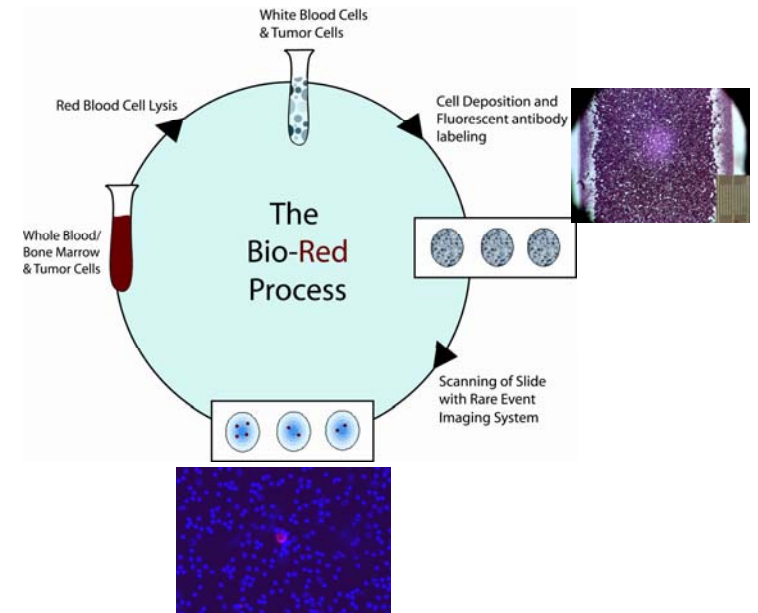
Interaction statistics: digital biology



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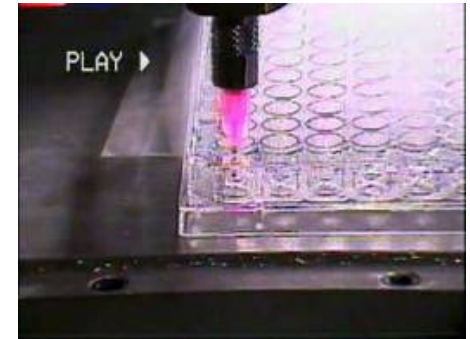
Detect: rare event imaging



Going from Science to Business

- (1) building *in vitro* models & diagnostics, which will not require FDA approval
- (2) manufacturing of the AIS constructs will occur via more automated processes in a cost effective manner

96 well format
automated
cost-effective
simple manufacturing



- (3) the targeted market segments are the vaccine, cosmetics, big pharma, and chemical industries which are significantly larger and have deeper pockets than that of the burn and wound healing markets

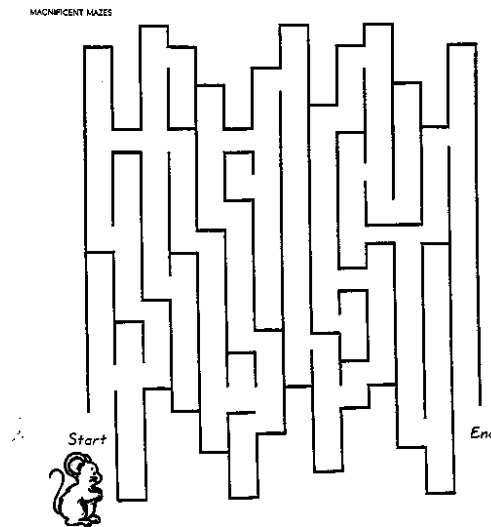
Sometimes You Have To Think Differently – Turn the Problem Upside Down

Technical community is working on

- *in vitro* bioreactors
- *in vivo*/FDA approval
- stopping an immune reaction
- animal studies
- expensive nanoscience
- manual processes
- centralized distribution
- experts

A better approach is

- *in vivo* bioreactor (human)
- *in vitro* models
- inducing an immune response
- using surrogate models
- duct tape, ebay,
- automated processes
- distributed processes
- nature



Thank you!



This work was funded by DARPA/DSO in the
Rapid Vaccine Assessment Program