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CENTER FOR DISRUPTIVE  
MUSCULOSKELETAL INNOVATIONS

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# Development of Novel Impedance Sensor to Monitor Fracture Healing

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# Clinical Need and Industrial Relevance

15M

fracture injuries/year in the U.S. <sup>1</sup>

20%

fractures result in delayed or non-union <sup>2</sup>

46%

when in conjunction with vascular injury <sup>3</sup>

## Current Methods of Monitoring

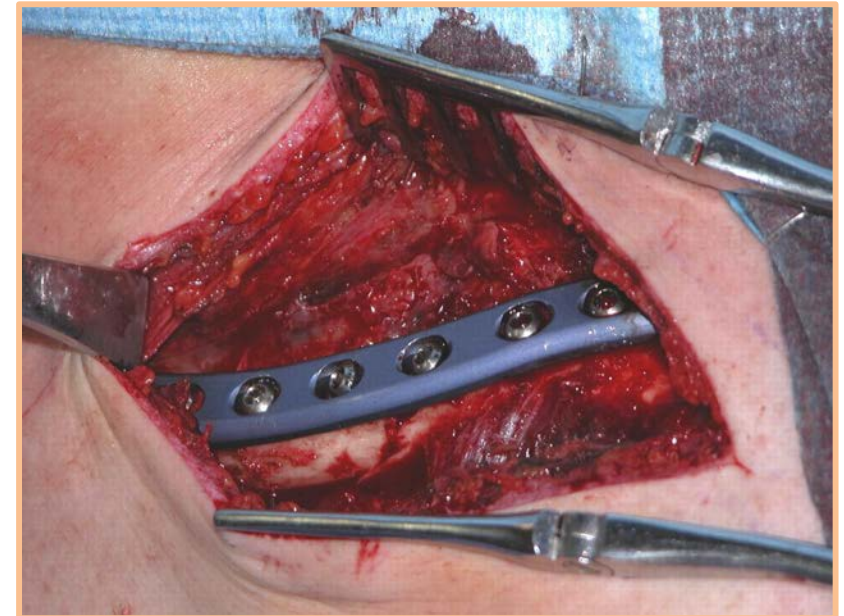
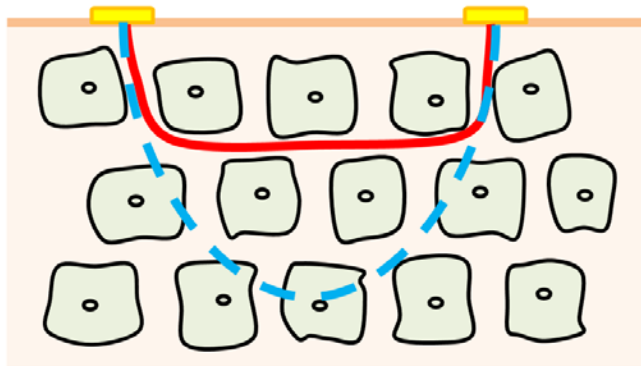
- **X-ray**: cannot detect soft tissue
- **CT scan**: high radiation, expensive
- **Observation**: subjective



[1] Schenker, 2014 [2] AAOS, 2008 [3] Einhorn, 1995

# Technique: Impedance Spectroscopy

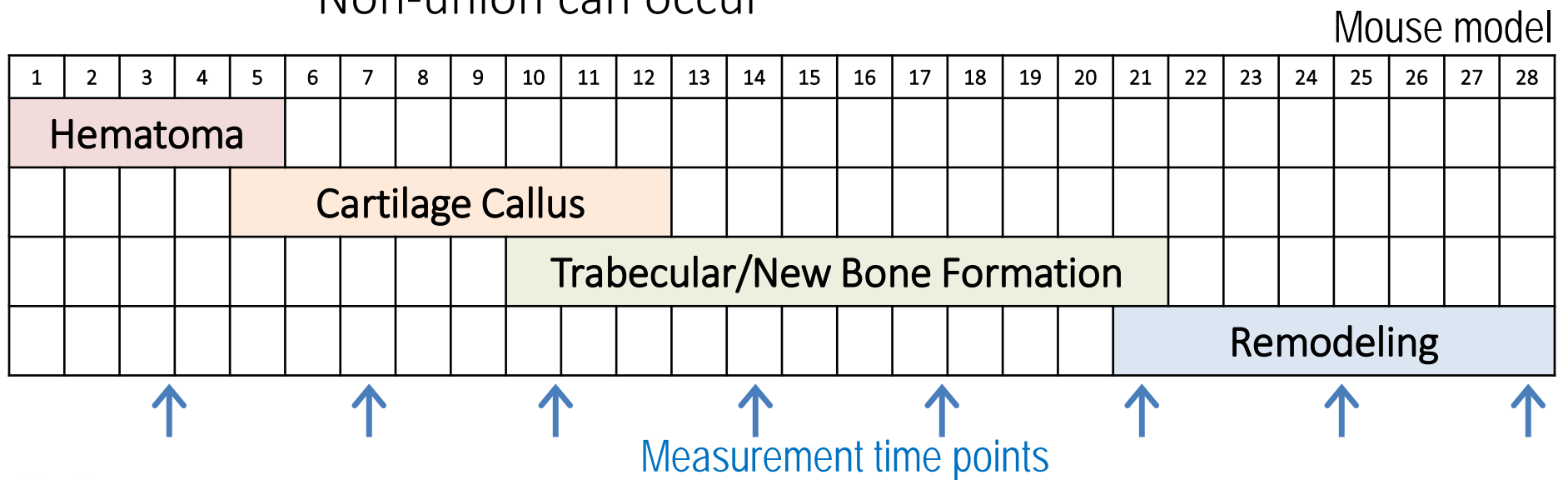
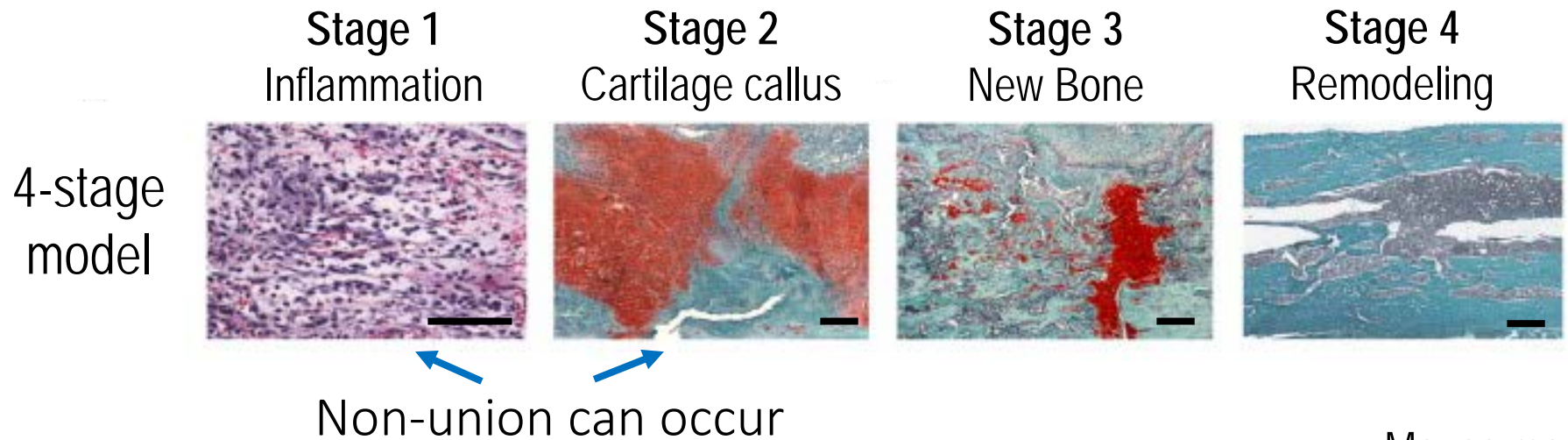
- Impedance:  $Z = R + jX = R + j \frac{-1}{\omega C}$ 
  - Resistance: intra and extra-cellular environment
  - Capacitance: cell membrane



- Low frequencies: primarily reflect extracellular environment
- High frequencies: reflect both intra- and extracellular environment

# Fracture Healing

## Endochondral ossification:



# Project Aims

## 1 Quantitatively assess fracture healing in an *in vivo* murine model

- 1a. Develop sensors for *in vivo* stabilized fracture model
- 1b. Monitor healing: serial impedance measurements compared to radiographs & histology

## 2 Determine earliest time point of detecting fracture non-union

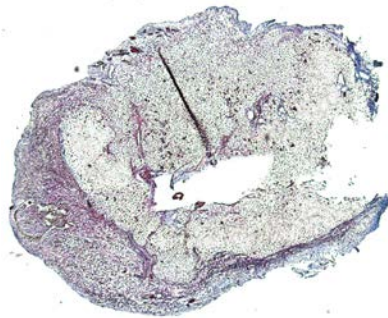
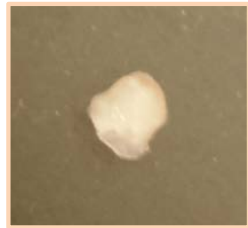
- 2a. Monitor healing in *in vivo* non-union fracture model
- 2b. Compare normal and non-union measurements: determine when complications can be detected

### Hypothesis:

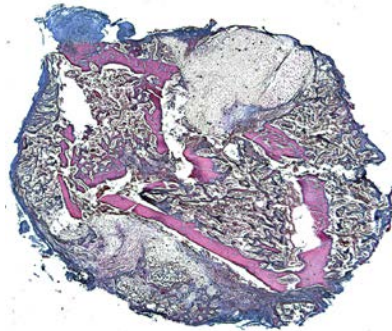
Impedance can be used to track fracture healing and detect non-union early

# Impedance Correlates to Cartilage and Bone Fractions in Fracture Calluses

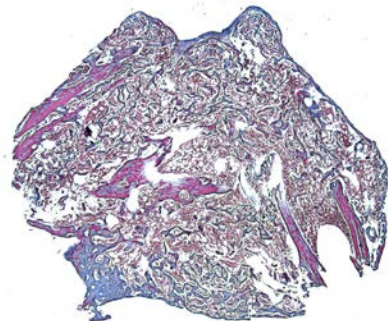
Day 8



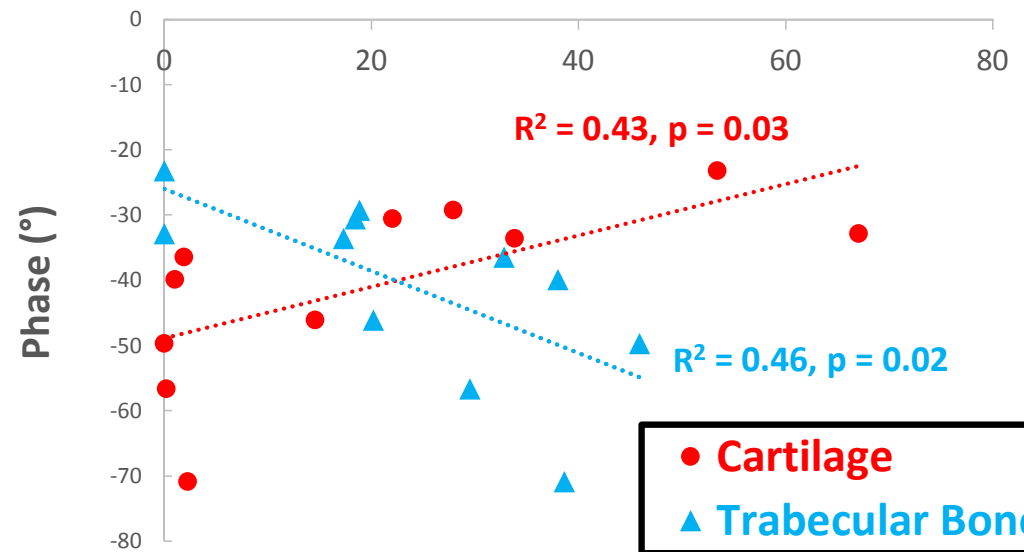
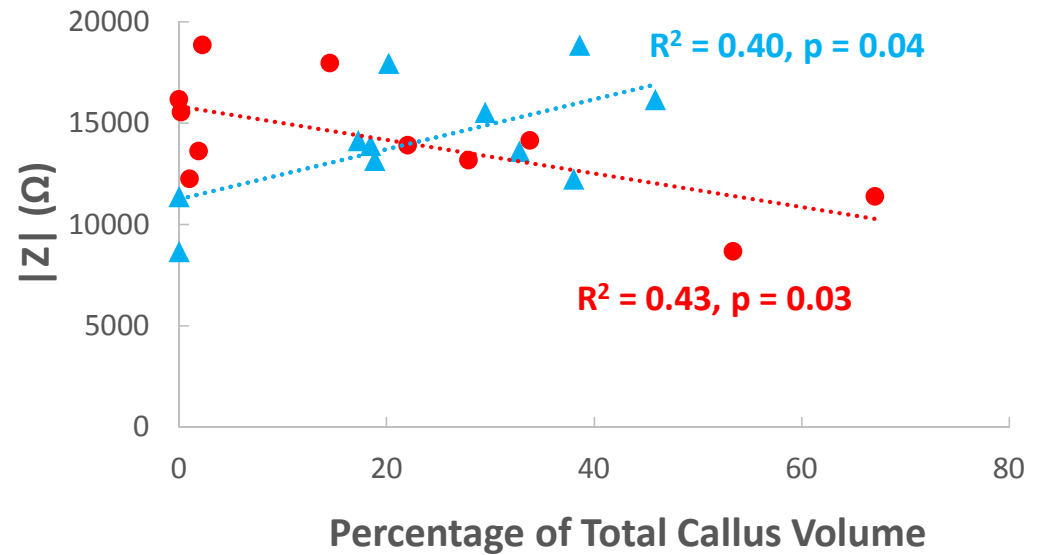
Day 14



Day 21

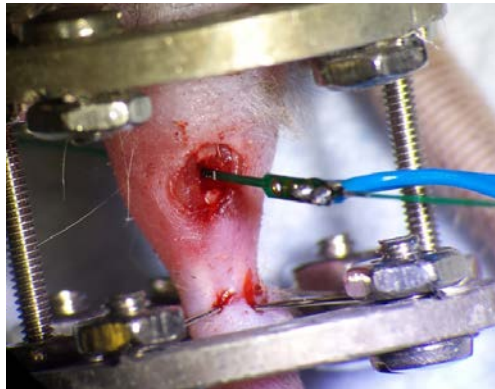


N = 11



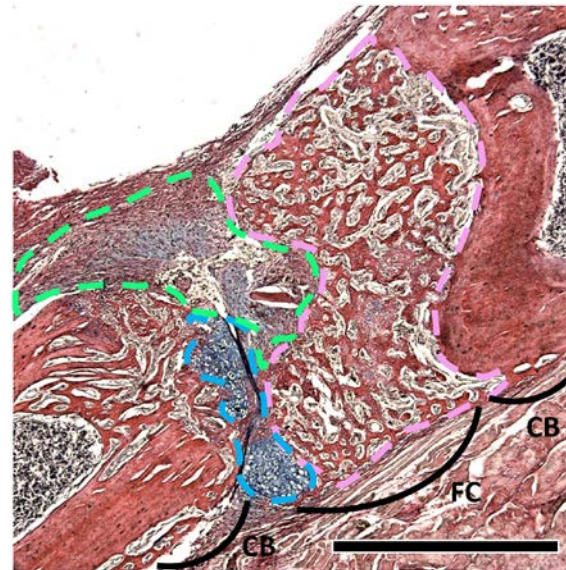
● Cartilage  
▲ Trabecular Bone

# Clear difference in impedance for fractures initially 0.5 mm vs 2 mm in size

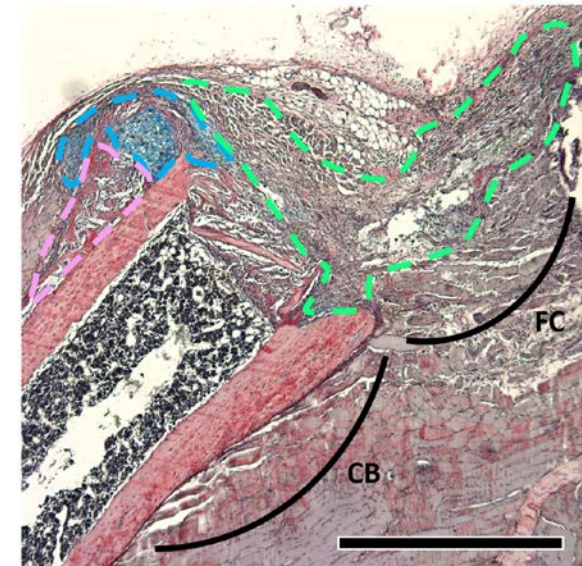


250 um sensor

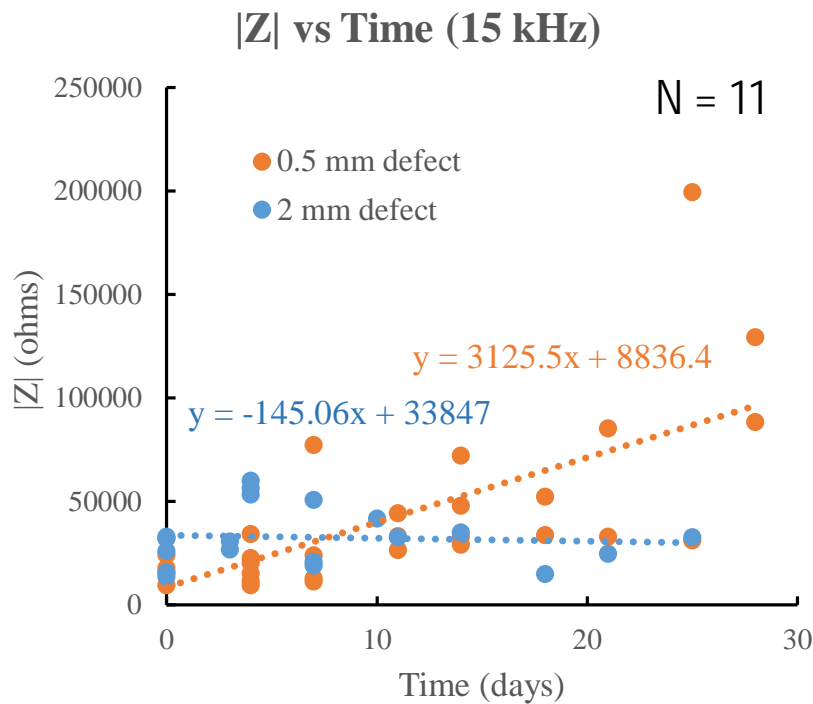
## Histology @ Day 14



0.5 mm defect



2 mm defect

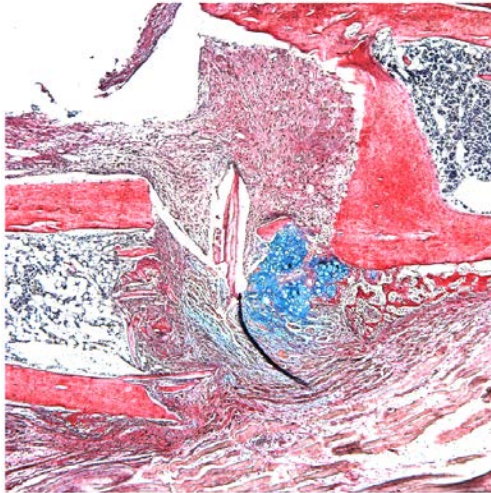


CB Cortical Bone  
 FC Fracture Callus

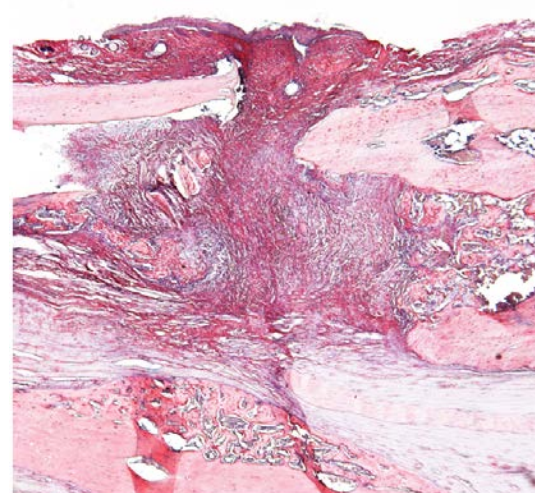
— Cartilage  
 — New Bone  
 — Fibrous Tissue

# A lot of variability between mice in stabilized model with 250 um sensor

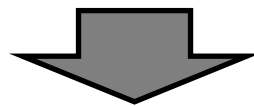
Day 14



Day 28



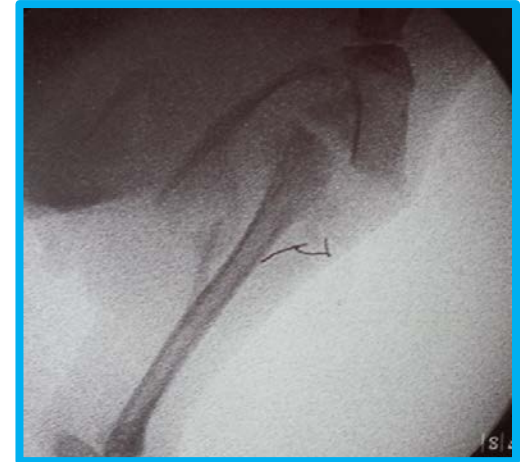
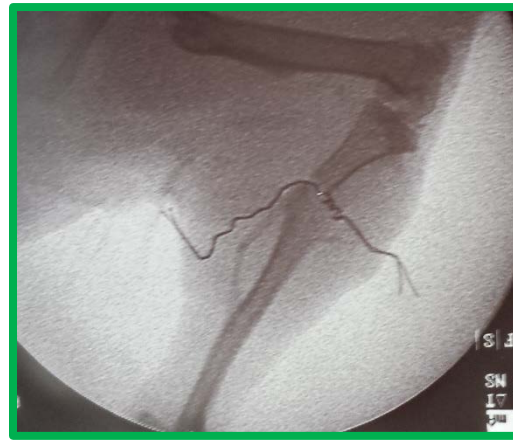
- Sensor too large relative to fracture callus
- Motion of rigid sensor causes soft tissue damage



Move to unstable model: **larger callus**  
New prototype of sensor: **smaller, flexible**

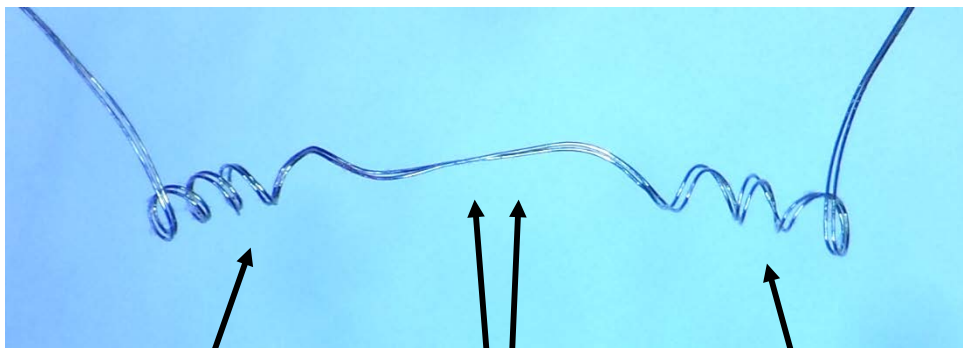


# 50 um sensors break in unstable model



Day 0

Day 14



coils for strain relief

electrodes

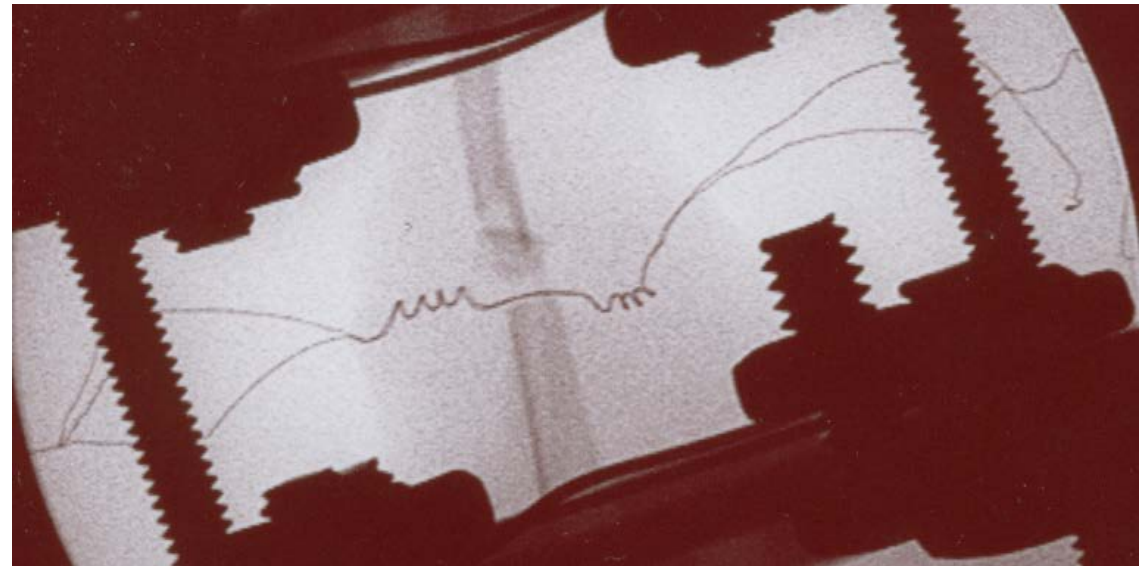
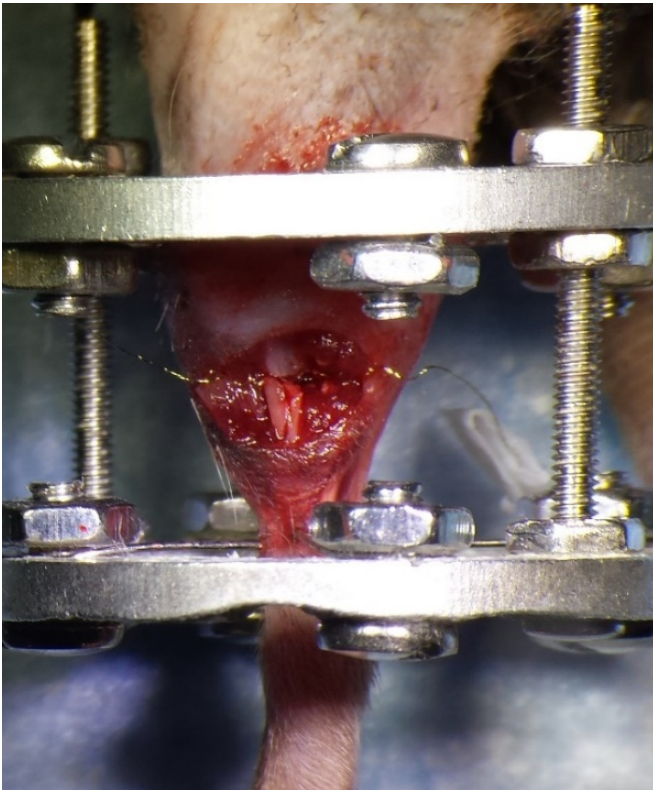
coils for strain relief

- 3 rounds of experiments
- N = 12

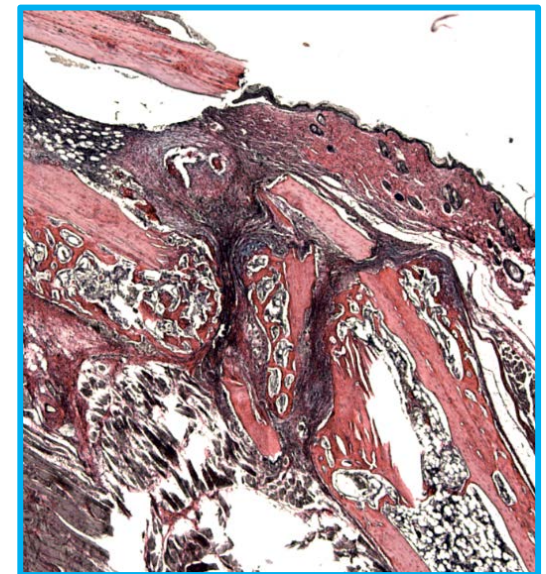
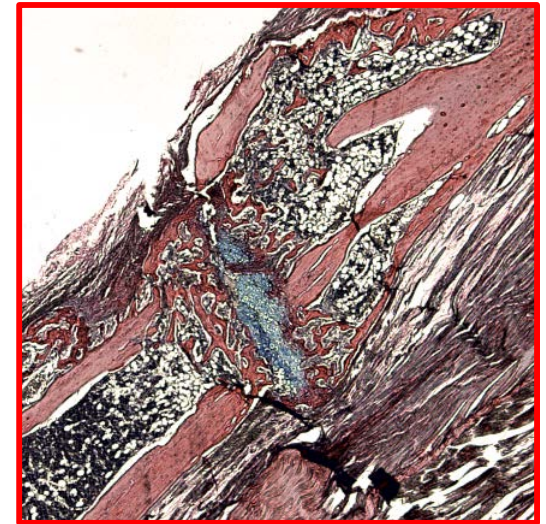
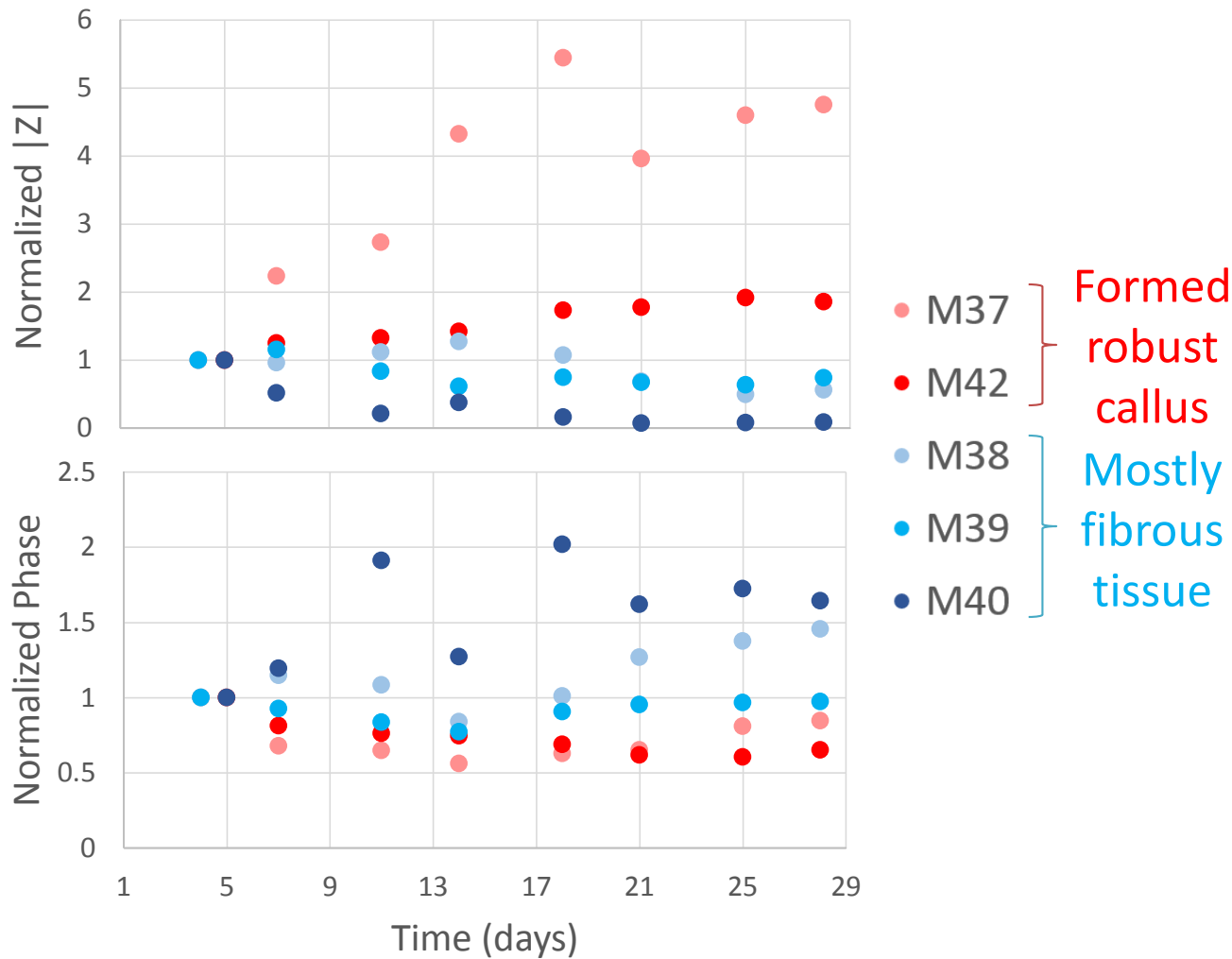


Sensor always broken or pulled out of leg by Day 14

# Small 50 um sensors in stabilized external fixator model



# Difference in impedance between fractures forming robust callus vs. fibrous tissue



# Deliverables

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UCSF INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL  
CARE AND USE COMMITTEE



AN143402-01

Mouse model  
development



Prototype sensors

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILES OF DATE	URP ART UNIT	FIL FEE RECD	ATTY DOCKET NO	TOT CLAIMS	END CLAIMS
62/205,561	08/14/2015		130	130996-389271		

CONFIRMATION NO. 7867  
FILING RECEIPT

26694  
VENABLE LLP  
P.O. BOX 34385  
WASHINGTON, DC 20043-9998

SEP - 1 2015

Date Mailed: 09/01/2015

Receipt is acknowledged of this provisional patent application. It will not be examined for patentability and will become abandoned not later than twelve months after its filing date. Any correspondence concerning the application must include the following identification information: the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please submit a written request for a Filing Receipt Correction. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections

Inventor(s)

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Meir Marmor, Foster City, CA;

Applicant(s)

The Regents of the University of California, Oakland, CA;

Provisional patent

# Publications & Presentations

## Conferences

- M.C. Lin, F. Yang, S.T. Herfat, C.S. Bahney, M.M. Maharbiz, M. Meir. ***“Novel Impedance Spectroscopy Device Detects Fracture Progression in Mice”***. Orthopaedic Research Society (ORS) Annual Meeting: Orlando, FL (Mar. 2016). [podium talk]
- M.C. Lin, F. Yang, S.T. Herfat, C.S. Bahney, M.M. Maharbiz, M. Meir. ***“Impedance Measurements Correlate to Callus Maturation of Mice Tibia Fractures”***. OTA Annual Meeting: National Harbor, MD (Oct. 2016). [podium talk]
- M.C. Lin, D. Hu, F. Yang, S.T. Herfat, C.S. Bahney, M.M. Maharbiz, M. Marmor. ***“Using Impedance to Characterize Fracture States in Externally-Stabilized Mouse Tibia Fractures vs. Critical-Sized Defects.”*** ORS 2017 Annual Meeting. [abstract submitted Aug 29, 2016]

## Manuscripts

- M.C. Lin, F. Yang, S.T. Herfat, C.S. Bahney, M. Meir, M.M. Maharbiz. ***“Ex Vivo Evaluation of Impedance Spectroscopy to Distinguish Different Phases of Fracture Healing.”*** [article in preparation]

## Intellectual Property

- Monica Lin, et al. ***“Quantitative tool using impedance spectroscopy to monitor fracture healing.”*** PCT International Application. Filed Aug 11, 2016.



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*2016-2017 Project Proposal:*  
**Smart Implant to Detect Fracture Healing**

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University of California – Berkeley

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□

TRAUMA

L

2

CROSS TABLE

L  
REJ



MZK

L

OR5

Can you make this heal faster?

How fast will this heal?

Will this heal?



MZK

L

CROSS TABLE

OR5





6 weeks post op

Can I start weight bearing?

Is there an imaging study I can do?

Is there a blood test I can take?



R  
TMN

R  
TMN

# Impedance Signatures Differ Between Tissue Types

Tissue types present in healing fractures



Blood



Coagulated Blood



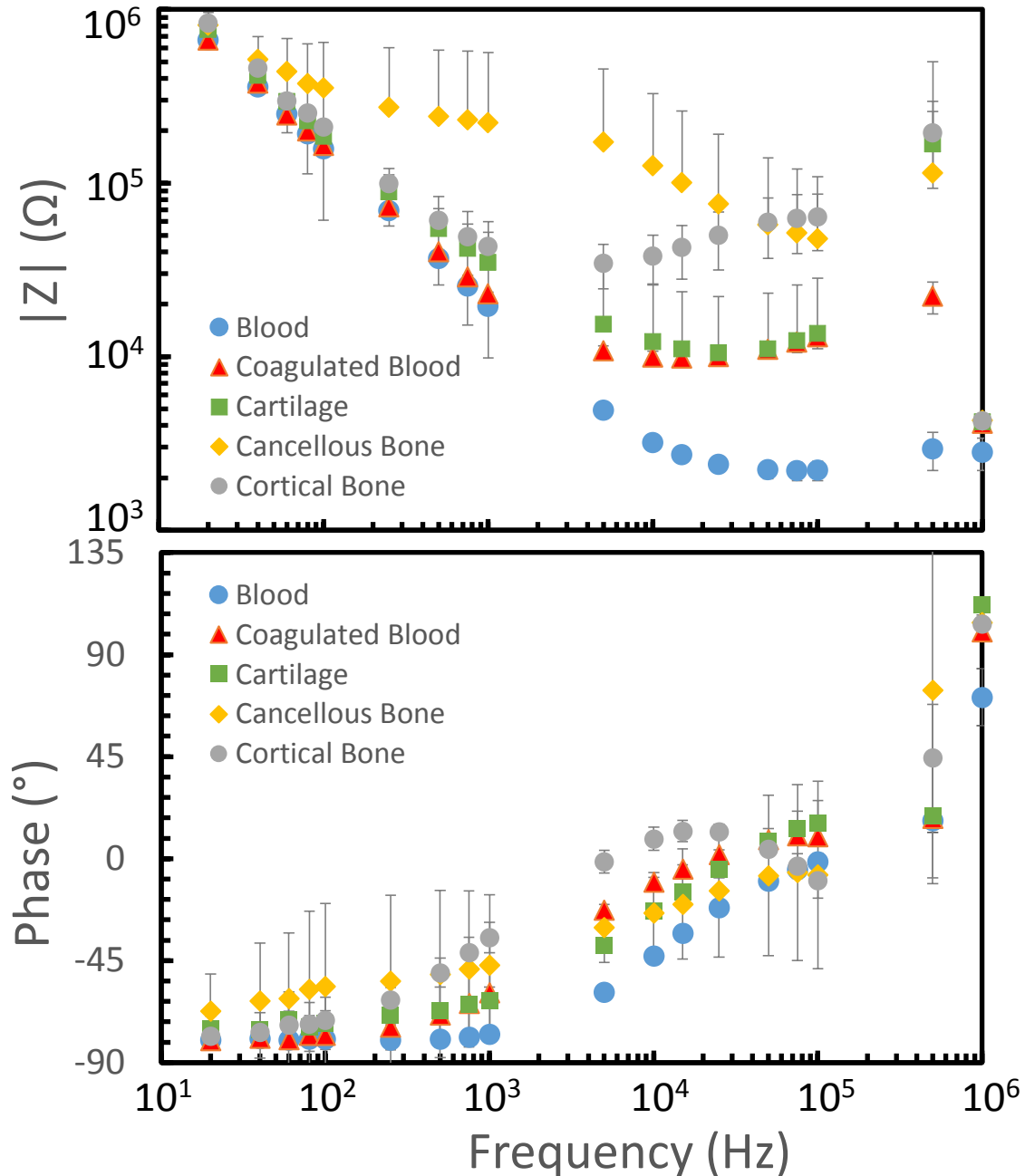
Cartilage



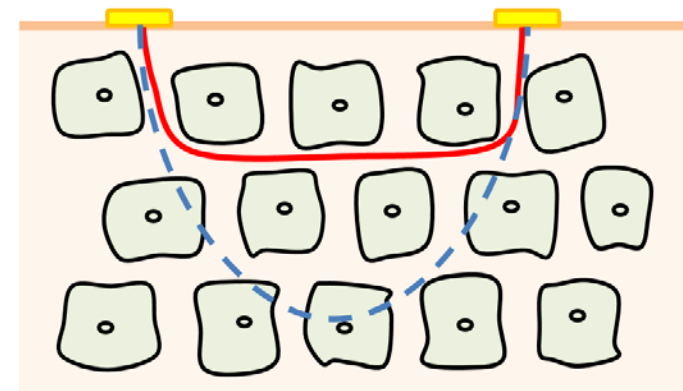
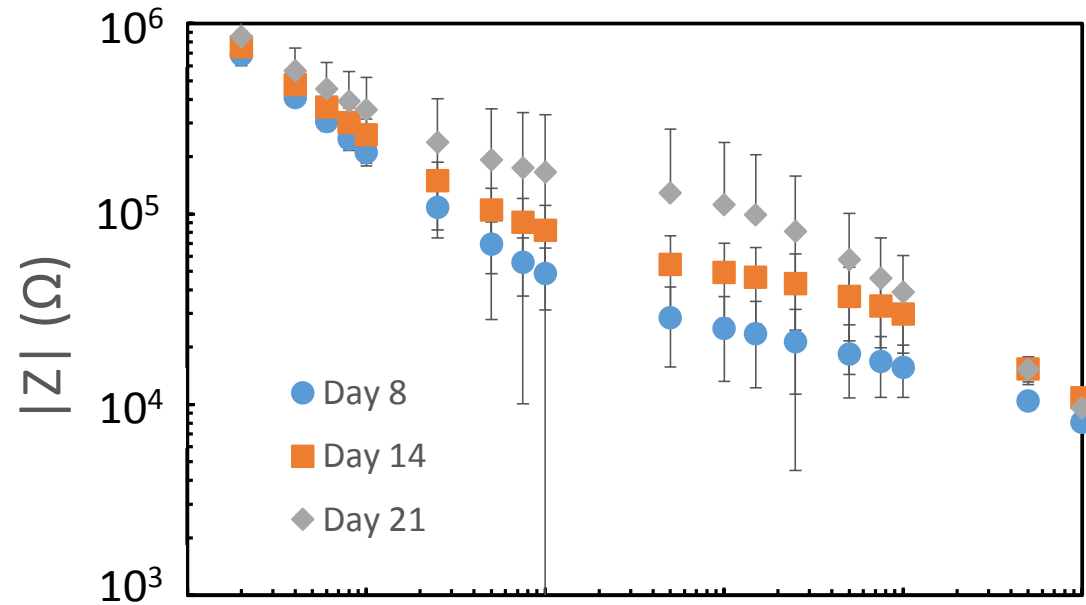
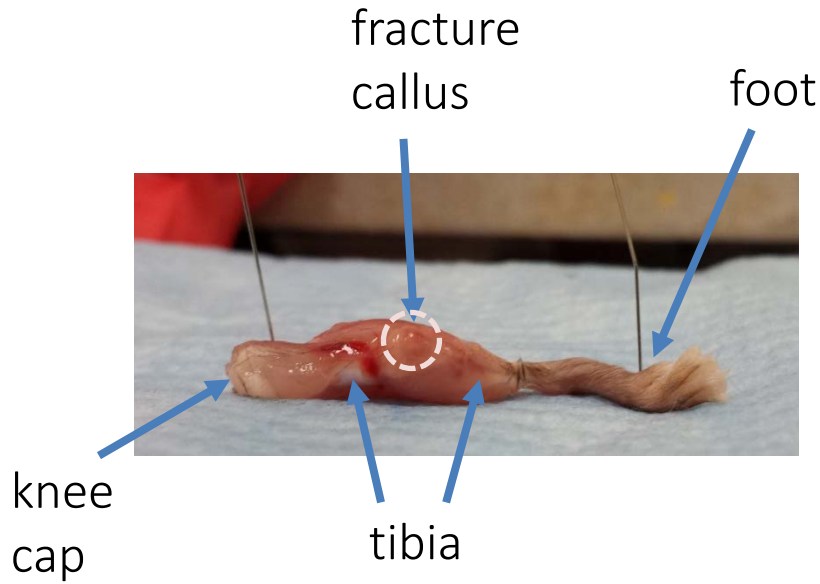
Cancellous Bone



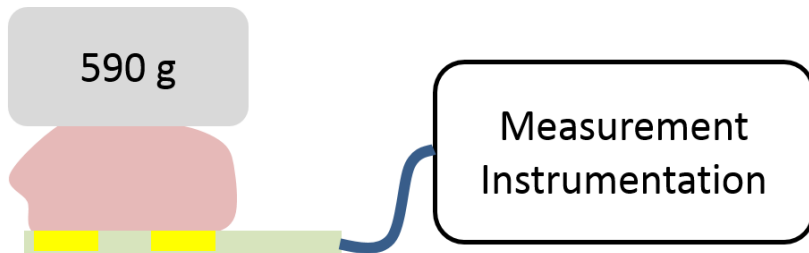
Cortical Bone



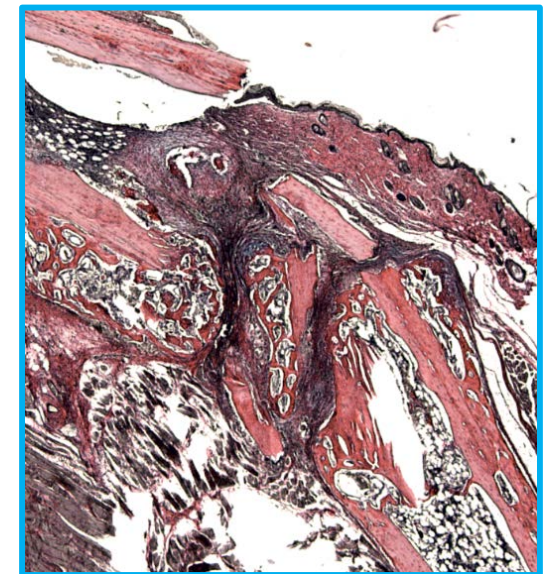
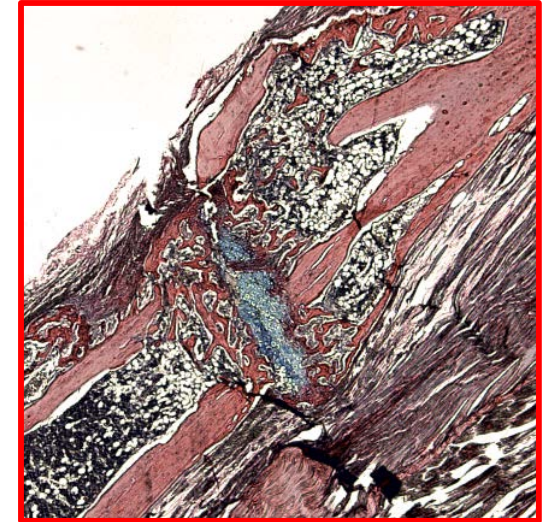
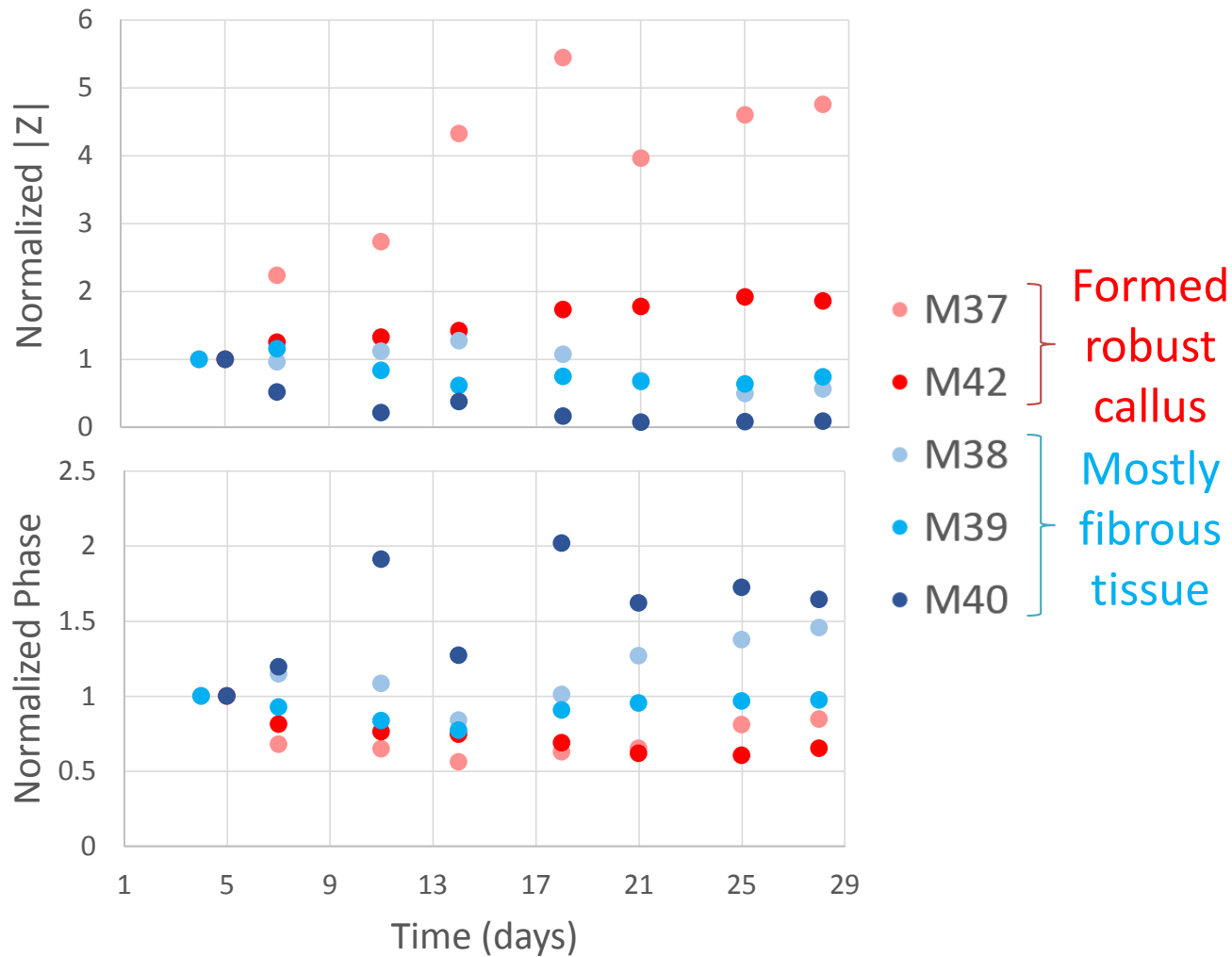
# Impedance Tracks with Healing Progression



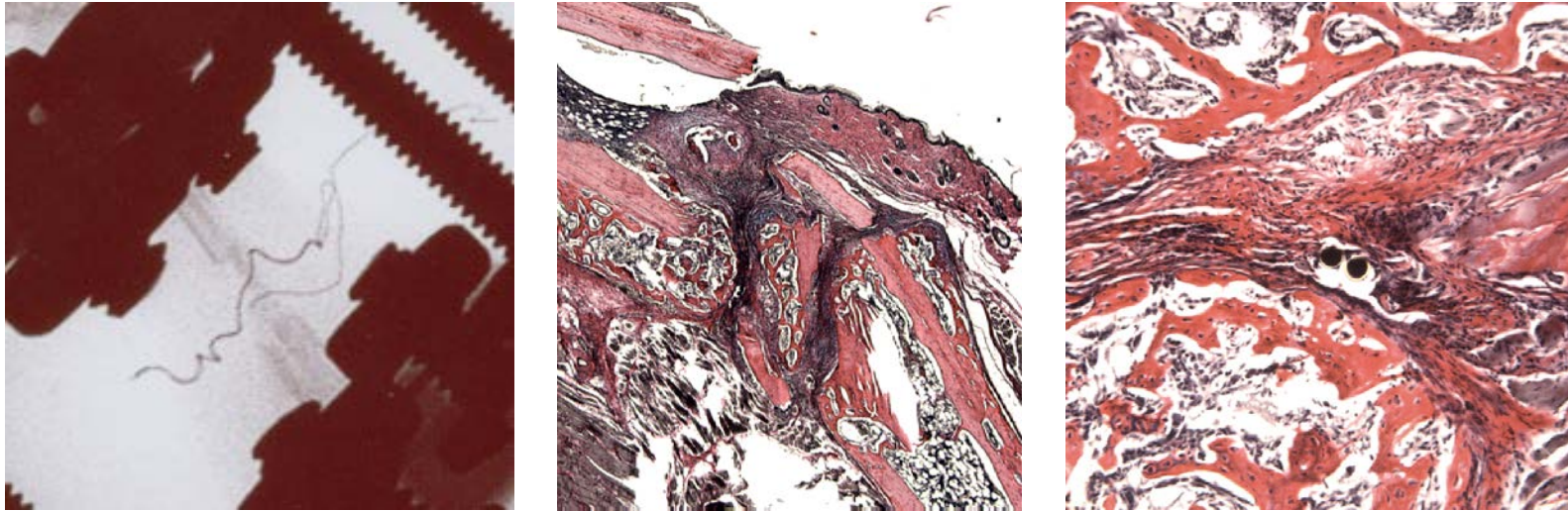
$|Z| \approx$  conductivity of tissue



# Difference in impedance between fractures forming robust callus vs. fibrous tissue



# Clinical Need and Industrial Relevance

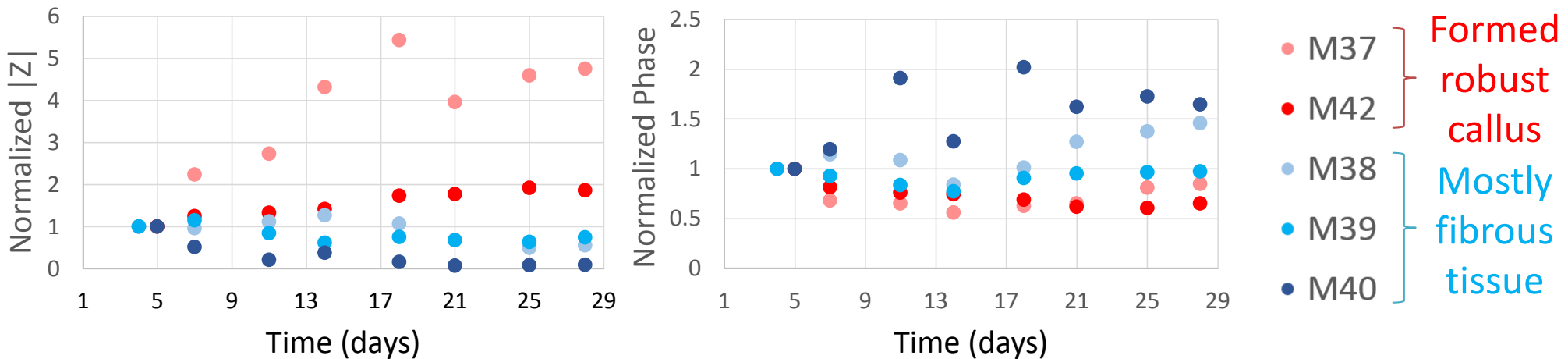


0.05 mm sensors in stabilized fracture model cause prevailing fibrous tissue & delayed healing

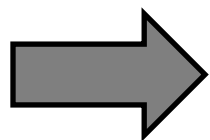
- Due to excess motion of the sensor relative to bone ends
- Many challenges with small scale of mouse tibia

→ **Scaling-up to a larger animal model will address these issues**

# Clinical Need and Industrial Relevance



Changes in impedance are correlated with stages of fracture healing in cadaveric, *ex vivo*, and *in vivo* models



Scaling-up to a larger animal model will provide increased control of fracture stability and sensor movement & progress towards clinical use

# 2016-2017 Project Proposal

## 1 Develop sensor electronics integrating impedance measurements & wireless capability

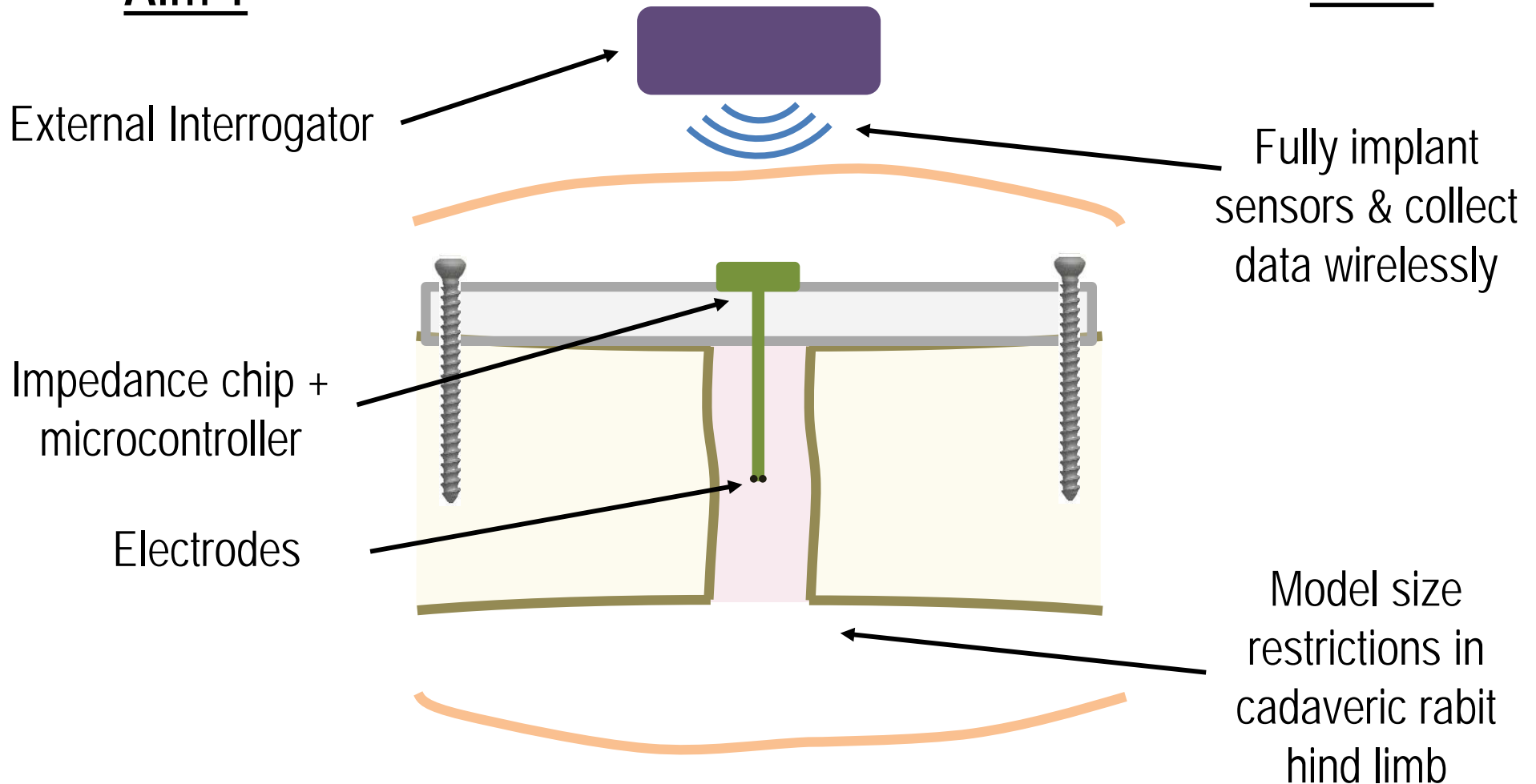
- 1a. Replace LCR meter with impedance measurement chip solution
- 1b. Establish wireless communication, data transfer, and power transfer

## 2 Prototype sensor for a larger animal model

- 2a. Use cadaveric tibias to model size restrictions and determine necessary dimensions
- 2b. Fully implant sensors in cadaveric rabbit hind limb to verify ability to collect data wirelessly

## Aim 1

## Aim 2



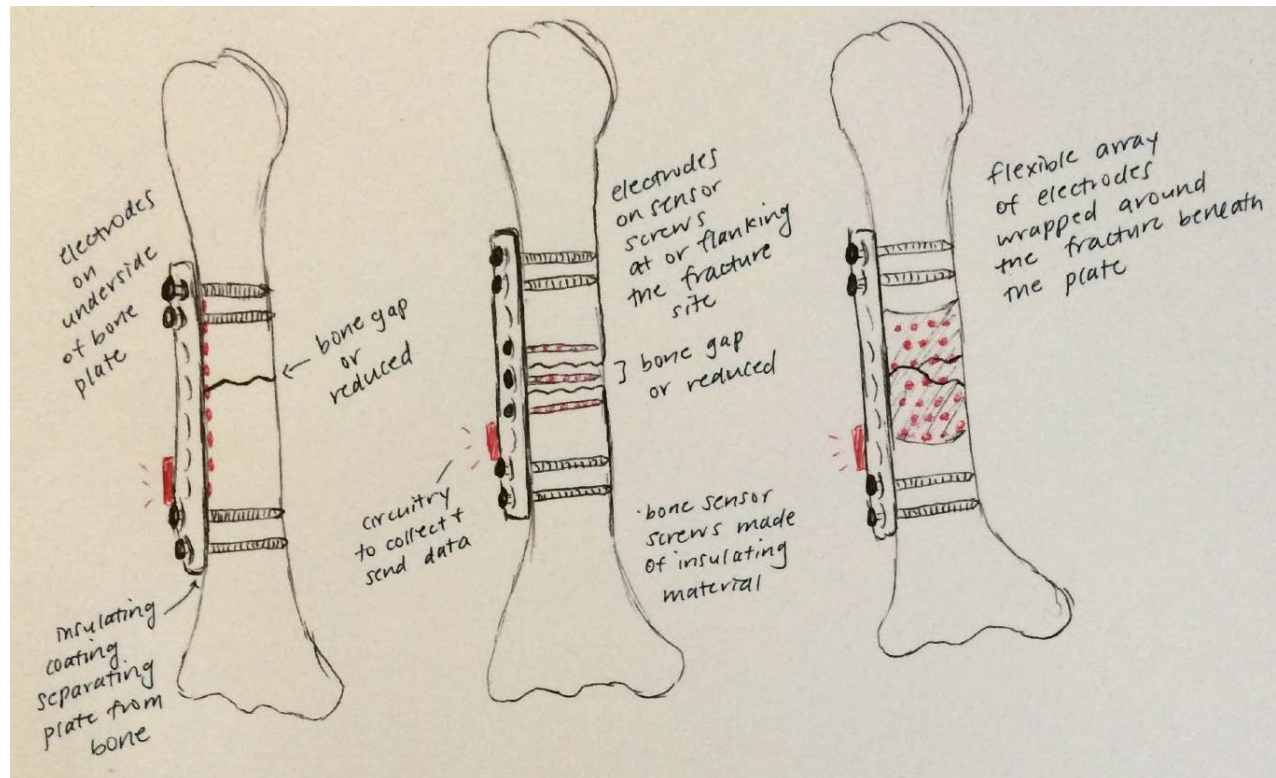


# Milestones & Timeline

	Oct 2016	Nov 2016	Dec 2016	Jan 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2017	May 2017	Jun 2017	July 2017	Aug 2017	Sept 2017
<b>Aim 1 Sensor Electronics</b>	Tune impedance chip for use in monitoring fractures (Aim 1a)						Build prototype for rabbit model					
			Design board incorporating wireless capabilities (Aim 1b)									
<b>Aim 2 Cadaveric Rabbit Model</b>						Initial studies in cadaveric rabbit hind limb to determine dimensions (Aim 2a)						
								Fully implant sensors in cadaveric rabbit (Aim 2b)				
<b>Writing</b>				EMBC Conference Submission							Write journal manuscript	

# Deliverables

- Prototype for larger animal model



- Journal article
- Application for full U.S. patent

# Proposed Budget

Personnel	\$ 8,000	← Monica Lin (PhD student)
Supplies	\$ 5,000	← Electronic components, precision sensor fabrication
Prototyping	\$ 10,000	← Laser cutting, 3D printing, machining
Specimens/Implants	\$ 10,000	← Rabbit specimens, implant hardware
<i>Total Directs</i>	<i>\$ 33,000</i>	
<i>Indirects (10%)</i>	<i>\$ 3,300</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 36,300</b>	