

**AWARD NUMBER: W81XWH-19-1-0542**

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**TITLE:** Intraocular Microdisplay Projection for Vision Restoration after Corneal Blindness

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# REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

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<b>13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES</b>					
<b>14. ABSTRACT:</b> The cornea is the front clear window into the eye through which light must pass in order for the eye to see. Because of its location at the front of the eye it is the most exposed structure to military relevant trauma such as blast, chemical, and thermal injury. About 36% of eye injuries in Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom involved the cornea. Future beam weapons such as infrared and UV lasers, and microwaves will be primarily absorbed by the cornea when hitting the eye. When the cornea is injured and blood vessels grow onto the cornea, there is currently no effective treatment because corneal transplantation (replacing the cornea with a cornea from a deceased donor) does not work in this situation due to high risk of rejection. Plastic buttons placed into the cornea have been performed but these are exposed to the external environment and are at high risk of infection and other complications such as falling out. In addition to disease, there are thousands of patients who suffer corneal injuries in work related accidents. Due to the industrial nature of many ocular chemical and thermal burns, corneal injury disproportionately affects those in the prime of their life. Lastly, 12.7 million people around the world are unable to obtain corneas for transplantation due to a shortage of donors. Building on the most recent developments in state-of-the-art high-resolution small display technology we have created a tiny projector (like a movie projector) that can be implanted into the eye (intraocular) of these patients. The device can wirelessly receive video data and power from a camera and processor positioned upon the frame of a pair of glasses. A lens focuses the image onto the retina. This in effect will place a miniature movie projector inside the eye, so that the patient will be able to see a projected image even with a completely scarred cornea or even if the eyes are closed. This design is superior to currently used devices because it is completely covered and not exposed to infection and it does not require cornea tissue to be collected from donors. The risks of our implant are that it may become dislocated or there may be leakage of liquid around the cable. Both of these can be fixed with further surgery. We have demonstrated prototypes of this device and discussed our published findings that this is a feasible technology. In this study we propose to test this type of device in animals.					
<b>15. SUBJECT TERMS</b> NONE LISTED					
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

1. Introduction
2. Keywords
3. Accomplishments
4. Impact
5. Changes/Problems
6. Products
7. Participants & Other Collaborating Organizations
8. Special Reporting Requirements
9. Appendices

1. **INTRODUCTION:** *Narrative that briefly (one paragraph) describes the subject, purpose and scope of the research.*

This project seeks to build and test 15 intraocular projection devices, then perform their implantation and observe their function in living rabbits. This device is the basis of a new way of treating corneal blindness and is free from the limitations of traditional methods. It also forms the basis of possible vision enhancing technology with military applications. Successful demonstration in rabbits validates the technology.

2. **KEYWORDS:** *Provide a brief list of keywords (limit to 20 words).*

Cornea, blindness, display, transplant, vision, wireless, projection, LED, LCD, keratoprosthesis

3. **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** *The PI is reminded that the recipient organization is required to obtain prior written approval from the awarding agency grants official whenever there are significant changes in the project or its direction.*

**What were the major goals of the project?**

*List the major goals of the project as stated in the approved SOW. If the application listed milestones/target dates for important activities or phases of the project, identify these dates and show actual completion dates or the percentage of completion.*

Year 1 of this project production of 15 intraocular projection implants. It is covered by

**Major Task 1: Implant Manufacture**

Below we list the subgoals and actual dates of completion:

Subtask 1 Manufacturer of Intraocular Projectors (unspecified time)

Milestone 1 Demonstration of Rabbit Prototype Devices (Month 6) *February 10, 2020 - 100%*

Subtask 2 Benchtop optical characterization (Months 10-12)

Subtask 3 Waterproof packaging and haptic fixation (Months 11-12)

Milestone 2 Demonstration of 15 implants after packaging and waterproofing (Month 12) *August 18, 2020- 100%*

In summary we were able to remain on nearly schedule with production of implants despite difficulties caused by the public health crisis and temporary campus shut down from March to April

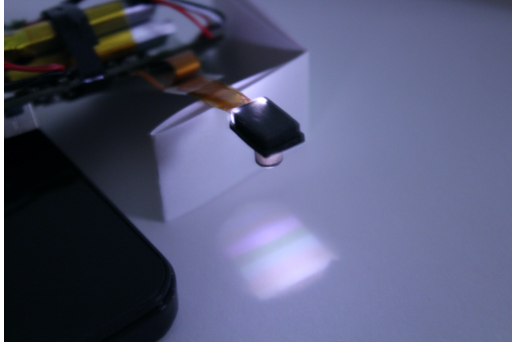
**What was accomplished under these goals?**

*For this reporting period describe: 1) major activities; 2) specific objectives; 3) significant results or key outcomes, including major findings, developments, or conclusions (both positive and negative); and/or 4) other achievements. Include a discussion of stated goals not met. Description shall include pertinent data and graphs in sufficient detail to explain any significant results achieved. A succinct description of the methodology used shall be provided. As the project progresses to completion, the emphasis in reporting in this section should shift from reporting activities to reporting accomplishments.*

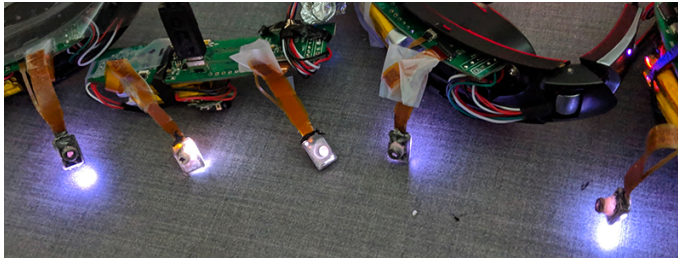
In this first year of the project:

- 1) Major activities were the building, optical characterization and waterproof testing of 15 intraocular projector implants
- 2) Specific objectives were building 15 implants, ensuring their optical performance, and testing them underwater to ensure function after submersion.
- 3) Significant results are successful production of 15 implants which were waterproof and had within specified optical performance parameters.
- 4) Other accomplishments: we were able to complete and publish a study on heat modeling of the device which was not directly included in this project

Figures demonstrating each goal are below.



**Optical Characterization**



**Set of Five Active Projectors**



**Testing of Waterproofing**

**What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?**

*If the project was not intended to provide training and professional development opportunities or there is nothing significant to report during this reporting period, state “Nothing to Report.”*

*Describe opportunities for training and professional development provided to anyone who worked on the project or anyone who was involved in the activities supported by the project. “Training” activities are those in which individuals with advanced professional skills and experience assist others in attaining greater proficiency. Training activities may include, for example, courses or one-on-one work with a mentor. “Professional development” activities result in increased knowledge or skill in one’s area of expertise and may include workshops, conferences, seminars, study groups, and individual study. Include participation in conferences, workshops, and seminars not listed under major activities.*

Nothing to report

**How were the results disseminated to communities of interest?**

*If there is nothing significant to report during this reporting period, state “Nothing to Report.”*

*Describe how the results were disseminated to communities of interest. Include any outreach activities that were undertaken to reach members of communities who are not usually aware of these project activities, for the purpose of enhancing public understanding and increasing interest in learning and careers in science, technology, and the humanities.*

We submitted an abstract for presentation at the MHSRS, which was held online only due to the pandemic.  
We had scheduled a presentation to local patients of poor vision however this was cancelled due to campus closure  
We presented this research at Artificial Vision 2019 Conference in Aachen, Germany October 2020  
We published a paper in the journal Numerical Heat Transfer, Part A: Applications

**What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals?**

*If this is the final report, state “Nothing to Report.”*

*Describe briefly what you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals and objectives.*

We will move onto the next stage which is surgical implantation of rabbits. We have already ordered rabbits for this purpose.

4. **IMPACT:** Describe distinctive contributions, major accomplishments, innovations, successes, or any change in practice or behavior that has come about as a result of the project relative to:

**What was the impact on the development of the principal discipline(s) of the project?**

*If there is nothing significant to report during this reporting period, state “Nothing to Report.”*

*Describe how findings, results, techniques that were developed or extended, or other products from the project made an impact or are likely to make an impact on the base of knowledge, theory, and research in the principal disciplinary field(s) of the project. Summarize using language that an intelligent lay audience can understand (Scientific American style).*

Nothing to report

**What was the impact on other disciplines?**

*If there is nothing significant to report during this reporting period, state “Nothing to Report.”*

*Describe how the findings, results, or techniques that were developed or improved, or other products from the project made an impact or are likely to make an impact on other disciplines.*

Nothing to report

**What was the impact on technology transfer?**

*If there is nothing significant to report during this reporting period, state “Nothing to Report.”*

*Describe ways in which the project made an impact, or is likely to make an impact, on commercial technology or public use, including:*

- *transfer of results to entities in government or industry;*
- *instances where the research has led to the initiation of a start-up company; or*

- *adoption of new practices.*

Nothing to report

**What was the impact on society beyond science and technology?**

*If there is nothing significant to report during this reporting period, state “Nothing to Report.”*

*Describe how results from the project made an impact, or are likely to make an impact, beyond the bounds of science, engineering, and the academic world on areas such as:*

- *improving public knowledge, attitudes, skills, and abilities;*
- *changing behavior, practices, decision making, policies (including regulatory policies), or social actions; or*
- *improving social, economic, civic, or environmental conditions.*

Nothing to report

- 5. CHANGES/PROBLEMS:** *The PD/PI is reminded that the recipient organization is required to obtain prior written approval from the awarding agency grants official whenever there are significant changes in the project or its direction. If not previously reported in writing, provide the following additional information or state, “Nothing to Report,” if applicable:*

Nothing to report

**Actual or anticipated problems or delays and actions or plans to resolve them**

*Describe problems or delays encountered during the reporting period and actions or plans to resolve them.*

We suffered a month long shutdown which we have largely recovered from, there is no more than a few weeks delay which should be caught up with soon.

**Changes that had a significant impact on expenditures**

*Describe changes during the reporting period that may have had a significant impact on expenditures, for example, delays in hiring staff or favorable developments that enable meeting objectives at less cost than anticipated.*

I have had one research associate leave for medical school, and have hired another to replace her. I do not anticipate a net change in costs at this time.

**Significant changes in use or care of human subjects, vertebrate animals, biohazards, and/or select agents**

*Describe significant deviations, unexpected outcomes, or changes in approved protocols for the use or care of human subjects, vertebrate animals, biohazards, and/or select agents during the reporting period. If required, were these changes approved by the applicable institution committee (or equivalent) and reported to the agency? Also specify the applicable Institutional Review Board/Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee approval dates.*

**Significant changes in use or care of human subjects**

None

## Significant changes in use of biohazards and/or select agents

None

**6. PRODUCTS:** *List any products resulting from the project during the reporting period. If there is nothing to report under a particular item, state “Nothing to Report.”*

- **Publications, conference papers, and presentations**

*Report only the major publication(s) resulting from the work under this award.*

**Journal publications.** *List peer-reviewed articles or papers appearing in scientific, technical, or professional journals. Identify for each publication: Author(s); title; journal; volume: year; page numbers; status of publication (published; accepted, awaiting publication; submitted, under review; other); acknowledgement of federal support (yes/no).*

Gongal, D., Thakur, S., Panse, A., Pawar, R., Yu, C. Q., Foster, C. D. **Thermal analysis of intraocular electronic display projector visual prosthesis** *Numerical Heat Transfer, Part A: Applications* 2020; 78 (5) PUBLISHED, YES acknowledgement of federal support.

**Books or other non-periodical, one-time publications.** *Report any book, monograph, dissertation, abstract, or the like published as or in a separate publication, rather than a periodical or series. Include any significant publication in the proceedings of a one-time conference or in the report of a one-time study, commission, or the like. Identify for each one-time publication: author(s); title; editor; title of collection, if applicable; bibliographic information; year; type of publication (e.g., book, thesis or dissertation); status of publication (published; accepted, awaiting publication; submitted, under review; other); acknowledgement of federal support (yes/no).*

None

**Other publications, conference papers and presentations.** *Identify any other publications, conference papers and/or presentations not reported above. Specify the status of the publication as noted above. List presentations made during the last year (international, national, local societies, military meetings, etc.). Use an asterisk (\*) if presentation produced a manuscript.*

C Yu, V Fan, I Viera. *Visual Prosthesis for Corneal Blindness*. Artificial Vision 2019. Aachen, Germany

- **Website(s) or other Internet site(s)**

*List the URL for any Internet site(s) that disseminates the results of the research activities. A short description of each site should be provided. It is not necessary to include the publications already specified above in this section.*

<https://yulab-stanford.github.io/people/> - github lab website for PI

- **Technologies or techniques**

*Identify technologies or techniques that resulted from the research activities. Describe the technologies or techniques were shared.*

None

- **Inventions, patent applications, and/or licenses**

*Identify inventions, patent applications with date, and/or licenses that have resulted from the research. Submission of this information as part of an interim research performance progress report is not a substitute for any other invention reporting required under the terms and conditions of an award.*

None

- **Other Products**

*Identify any other reportable outcomes that were developed under this project. Reportable outcomes are defined as a research result that is or relates to a product, scientific advance, or research tool that makes a meaningful contribution toward the understanding, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and /or rehabilitation of a disease, injury or condition, or to improve the quality of life. Examples include:*

- *data or databases;*
- *physical collections;*
- *audio or video products;*
- *software;*
- *models;*
- *educational aids or curricula;*
- *instruments or equipment;*
- *research material (e.g., Germplasm; cell lines, DNA probes, animal models);*
- *clinical interventions;*
- *new business creation; and*
- *other.*

None

## 7. PARTICIPANTS & OTHER COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

### **What individuals have worked on the project?**

*Provide the following information for: (1) PDs/PIs; and (2) each person who has worked at least one person month per year on the project during the reporting period, regardless of the source of compensation (a person month equals approximately 160 hours of effort). If information is unchanged from a previous submission, provide the name only and indicate “no change”.*

Example:

*Name: Mary Smith  
Project Role: Graduate Student  
Researcher Identifier (e.g. ORCID ID): 1234567  
Nearest person month worked: 5*

*Contribution to Project: Ms. Smith has performed work in the area of combined error-control and constrained coding.*

*Funding Support: The Ford Foundation (Complete only if the funding support is provided from other than this award.)*

Name: Roopa Dalal  
Project Role: Technician  
Research ID: n/a  
Person Months worked: 0.08 calendar months  
Contribution to Project: helped with sealants for device

Name: Victoria Fan  
Project Role: Research Associate  
Research ID: n/a  
Person months worked – 6.58 calendar months  
Contribution to Project: primary role in all parts, including production, optical testing, and waterproofing

Name: Daniel Palanker  
Research Role: Co Investigator  
Research ID: 2-0480-3025 ORCID  
Person Months worked – 0.85 calendar months  
Contribution to Project: advised and helped with device design and manufacture

Name: Charles Yu  
Research Role: PI  
Research ID: 1-8095-2930 ORCID  
Person Months worked – 3.00 calendar months  
Contribution to Project: Direct supervision and involvement in all aspects of project

**Has there been a change in the active other support of the PD/PI(s) or senior/key personnel since the last reporting period?**

*If there is nothing significant to report during this reporting period, state “Nothing to Report.”*

*If the active support has changed for the PD/PI(s) or senior/key personnel, then describe what the change has been. Changes may occur, for example, if a previously active grant has closed and/or if a previously pending grant is now active. Annotate this information so it is clear what has changed from the previous submission. Submission of other support information is not necessary for pending changes or for changes in the level of effort for active support reported previously. The awarding agency may require prior written approval if a change in active other support significantly impacts the effort on the project that is the subject of the project report.*

None

**What other organizations were involved as partners?**

*If there is nothing significant to report during this reporting period, state “Nothing to Report.”*

*Describe partner organizations – academic institutions, other nonprofits, industrial or commercial firms, state or local governments, schools or school systems, or other organizations (foreign or domestic) – that were involved with the project. Partner organizations may have provided financial or in-kind support, supplied facilities or equipment, collaborated in the research, exchanged personnel, or otherwise contributed.*

*Provide the following information for each partnership:*

*Organization Name:*

*Location of Organization: (if foreign location list country)*

*Partner’s contribution to the project (identify one or more)*

- *Financial support;*
- *In-kind support (e.g., partner makes software, computers, equipment, etc., available to project staff);*
- *Facilities (e.g., project staff use the partner’s facilities for project activities);*
- *Collaboration (e.g., partner’s staff work with project staff on the project);*
- *Personnel exchanges (e.g., project staff and/or partner’s staff use each other’s facilities, work at each other’s site); and*
- *Other.*

None

## 8. SPECIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

**COLLABORATIVE AWARDS:** *For collaborative awards, independent reports are required from BOTH the Initiating Principal Investigator (PI) and the Collaborating/Partnering PI. A duplicative report is acceptable; however, tasks shall be clearly marked with the responsible PI and research site. A report shall be submitted to <https://ers.amedd.army.mil> for each unique award.*

**QUAD CHARTS:** *If applicable, the Quad Chart (available on <https://www.usamraa.army.mil>) should be updated and submitted with attachments.*

**9. APPENDICES:** *Attach all appendices that contain information that supplements, clarifies or supports the text. Examples include original copies of journal articles, reprints of manuscripts and abstracts, a curriculum vitae, patent applications, study questionnaires, and surveys, etc.*