



# **Biomimetic MicroElectronic Systems**

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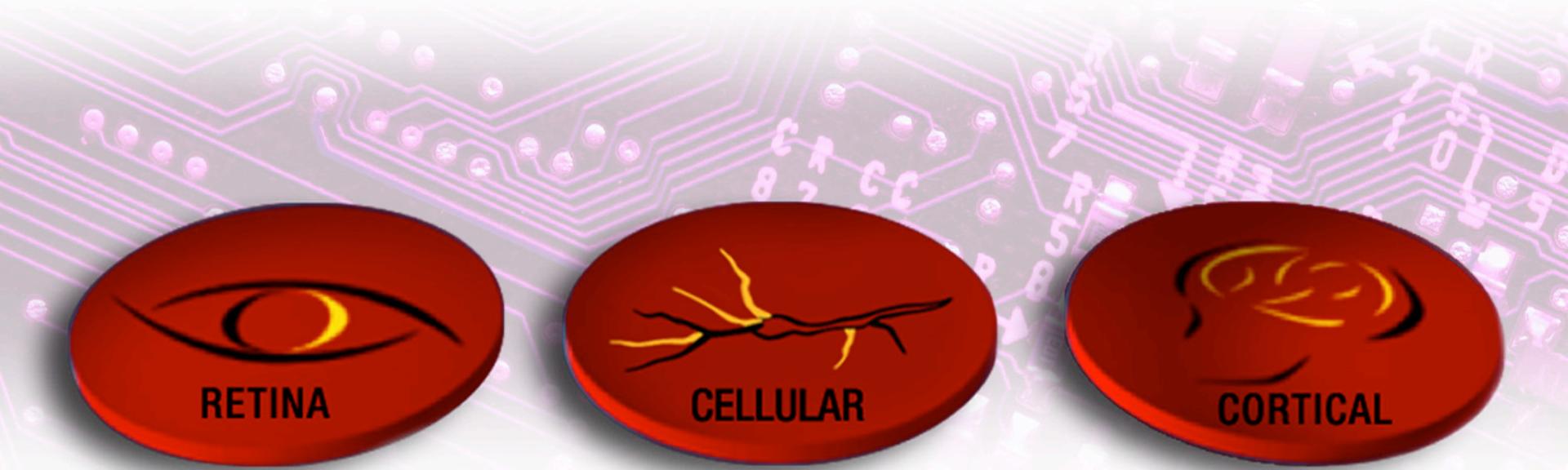
Cornelius Pings Chair in Biomedical Sciences

Professor of Ophthalmology and Biomedical Engineering, USC

Director of USC Ginsburg Institute for Biomedical Therapeutics

Co-Director USC Roski Eye Institute

# Vision of BMES ERC

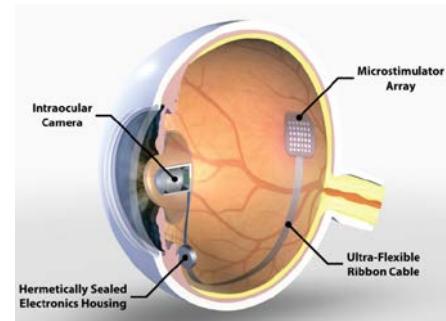


**Biomimetic microelectronic systems will form direct high-density interfaces with the human nervous system to restore lost function**

# Goals of Testbeds

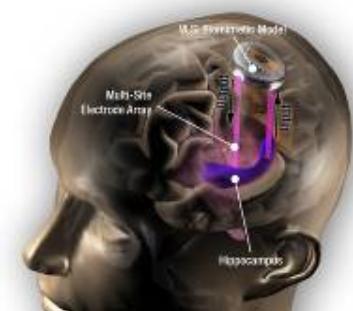
## Retinal Testbed:

To research and develop a biomimetic microelectronic system to restore **reading and face recognition** to the blind



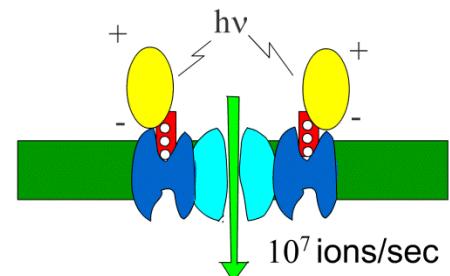
## Cortical Testbed:

To research and develop a biomimetic microelectronic system to restore cognitive functions such as **formation of new memories**



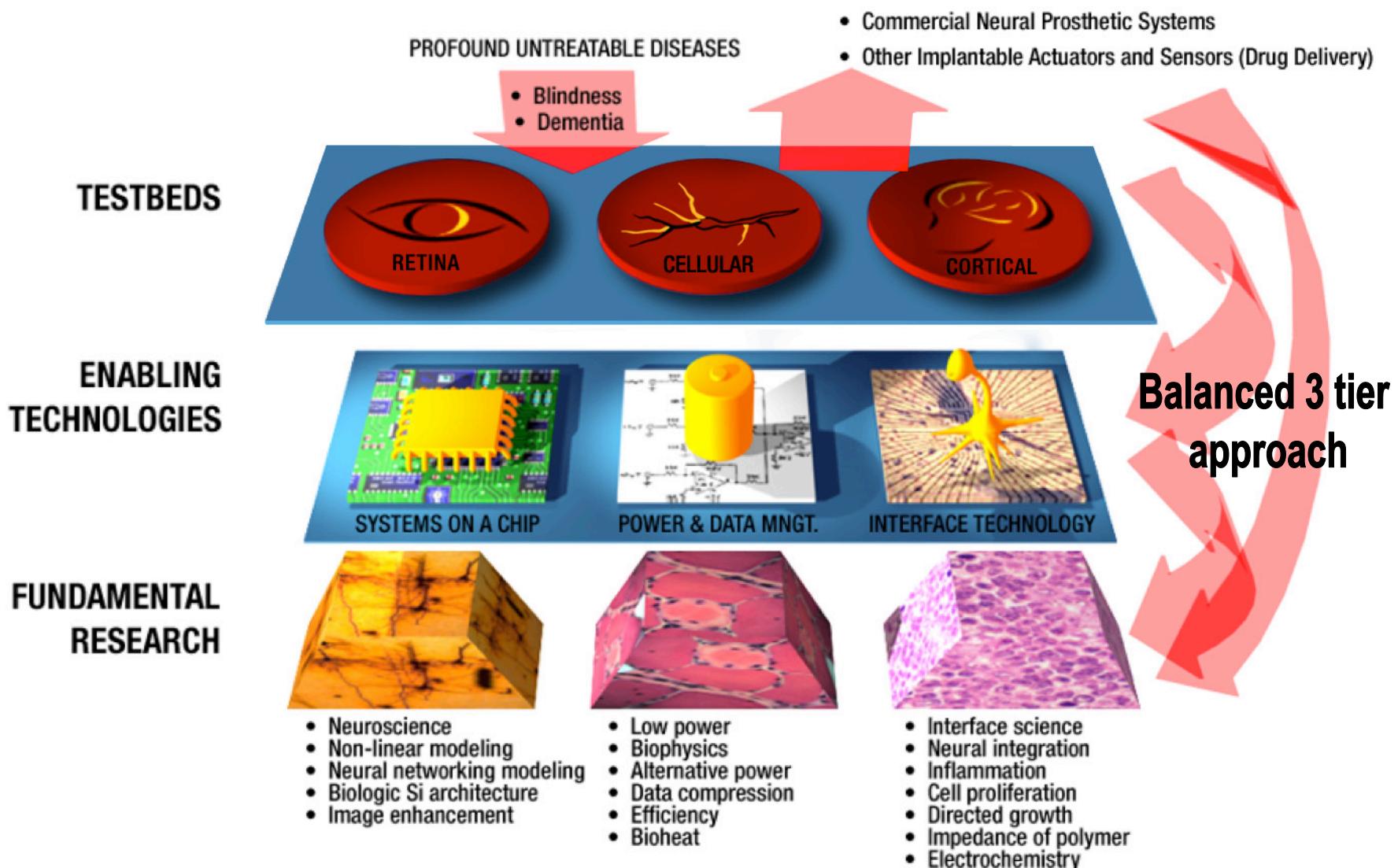
## Cellular Testbed:

To develop a **photoactivated cellular switch** to impart light sensitivity to neurons



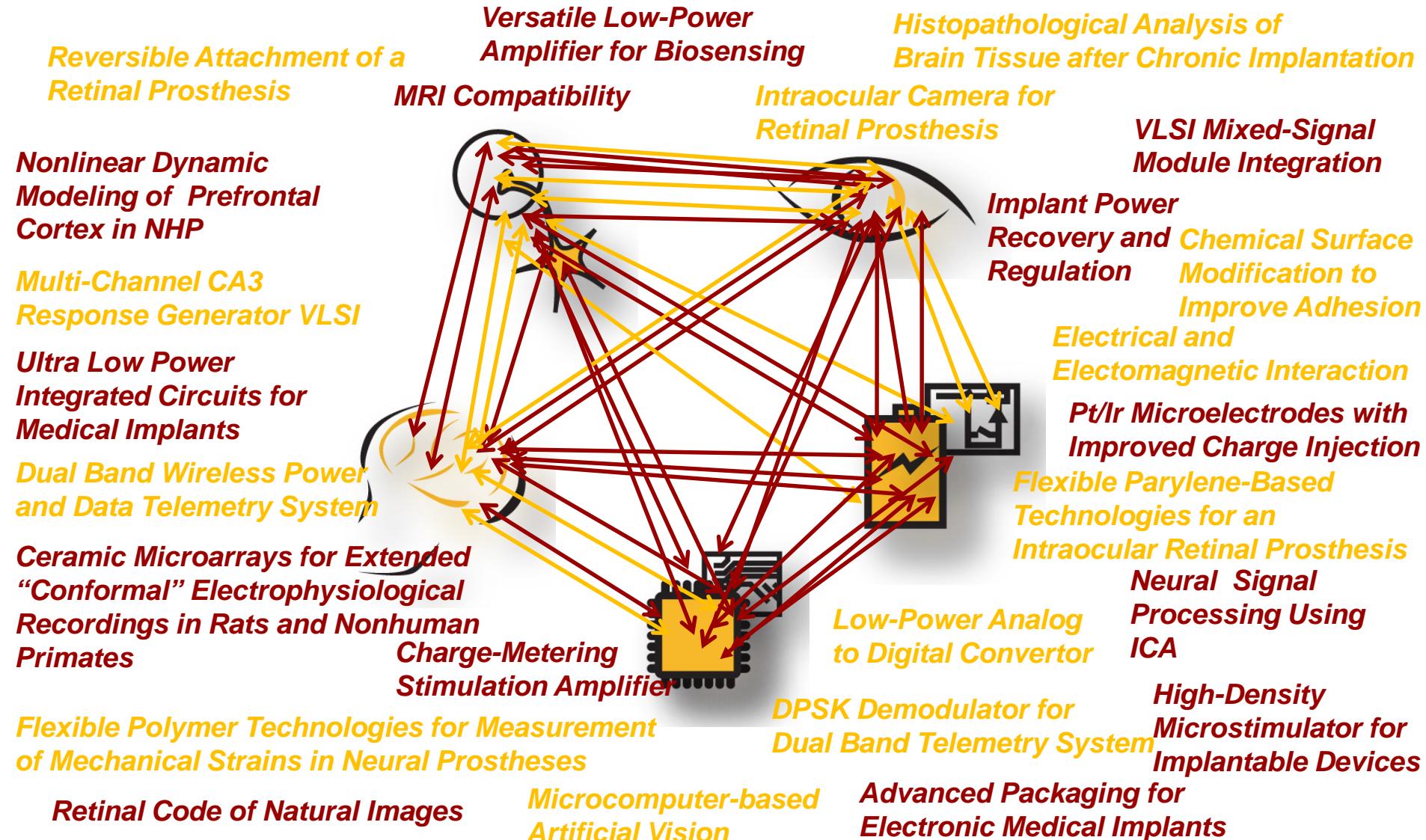
# Strategic Plan

## Transformative Engineered System: Neural Prostheses

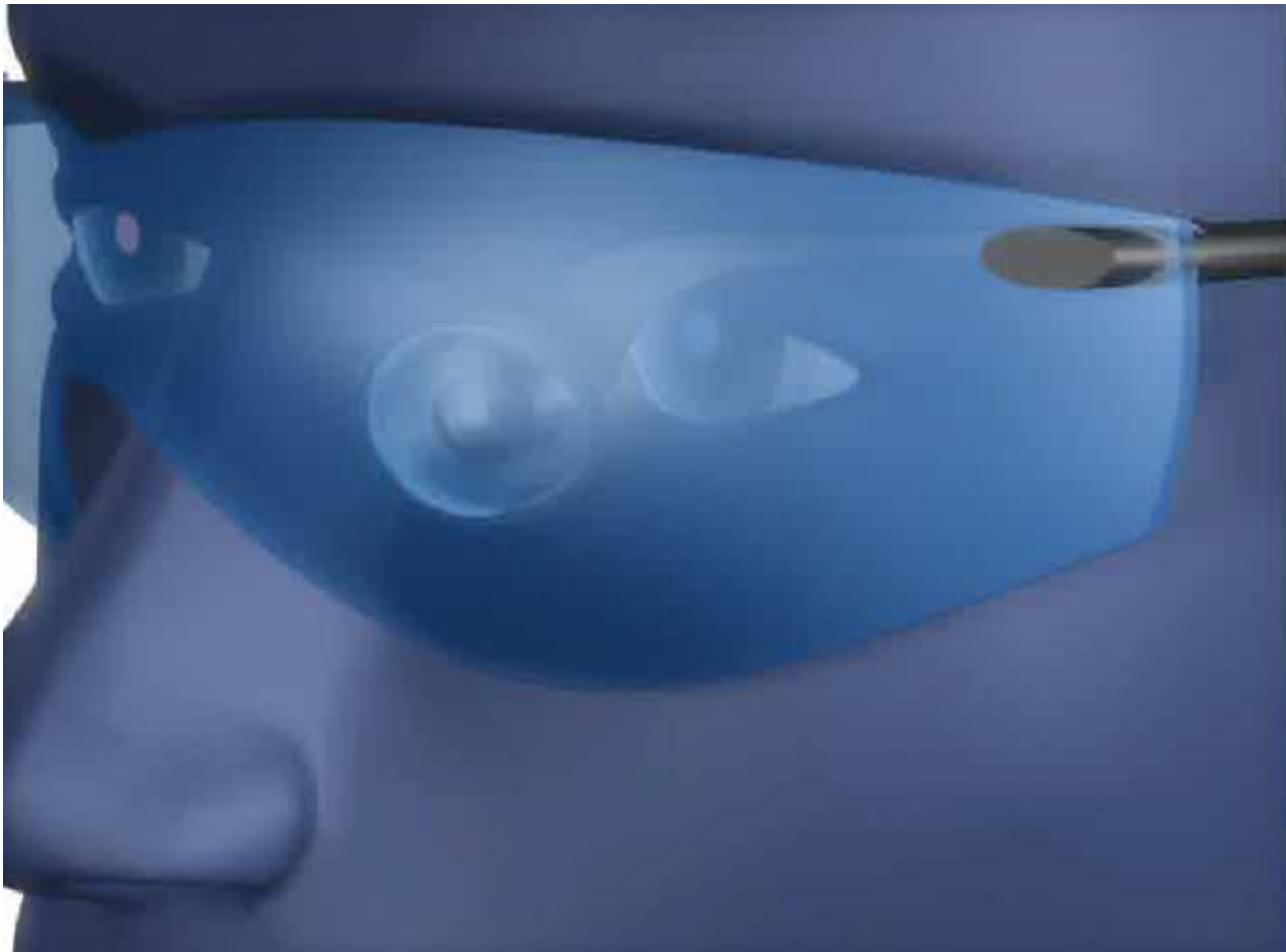




# BMES: An Integrated Research Center (25 projects)

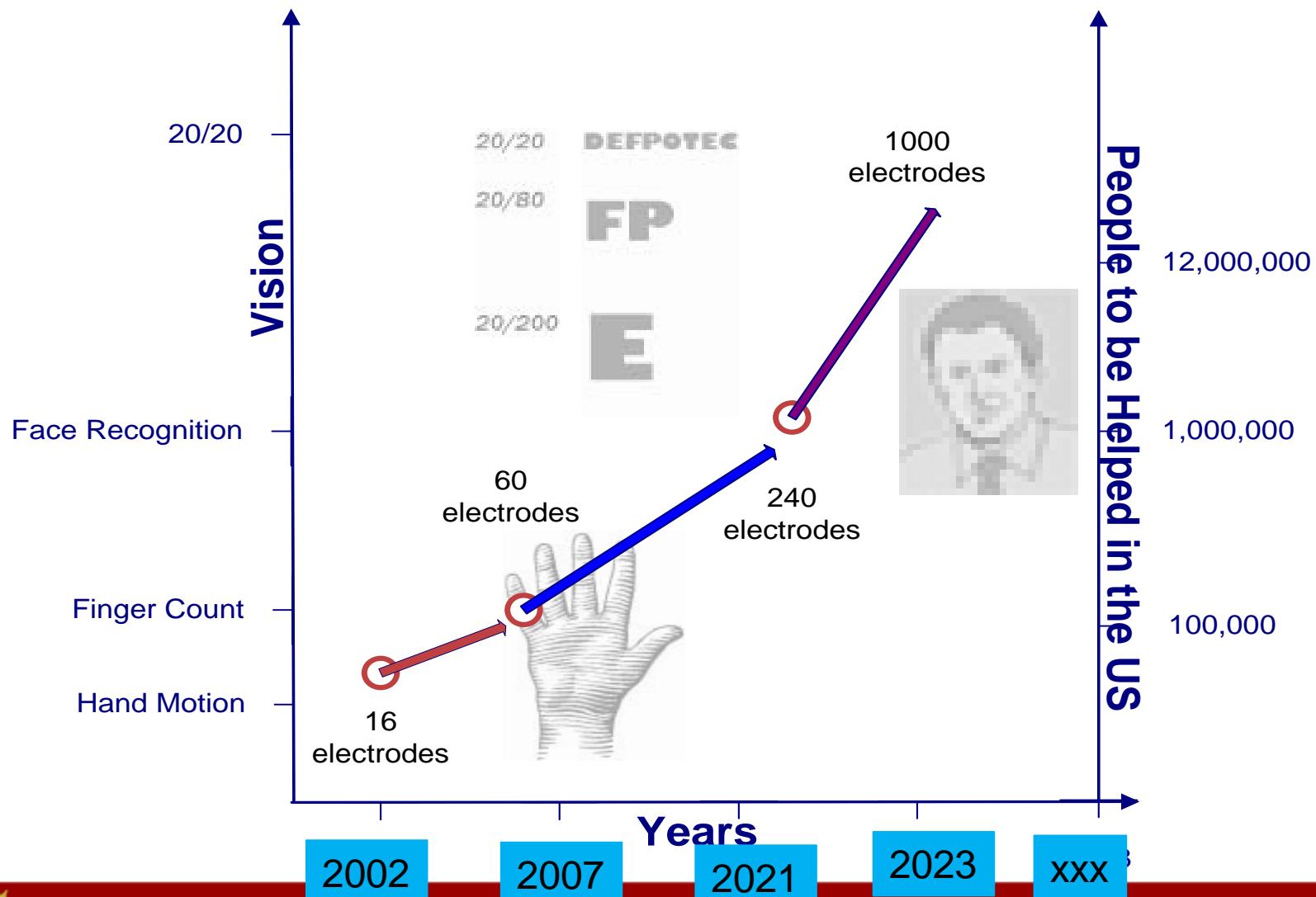


# Restoring Vision to the Blind Artificial Retina System



# Artificial Retina Timeline

## Progress of the Artificial Retina

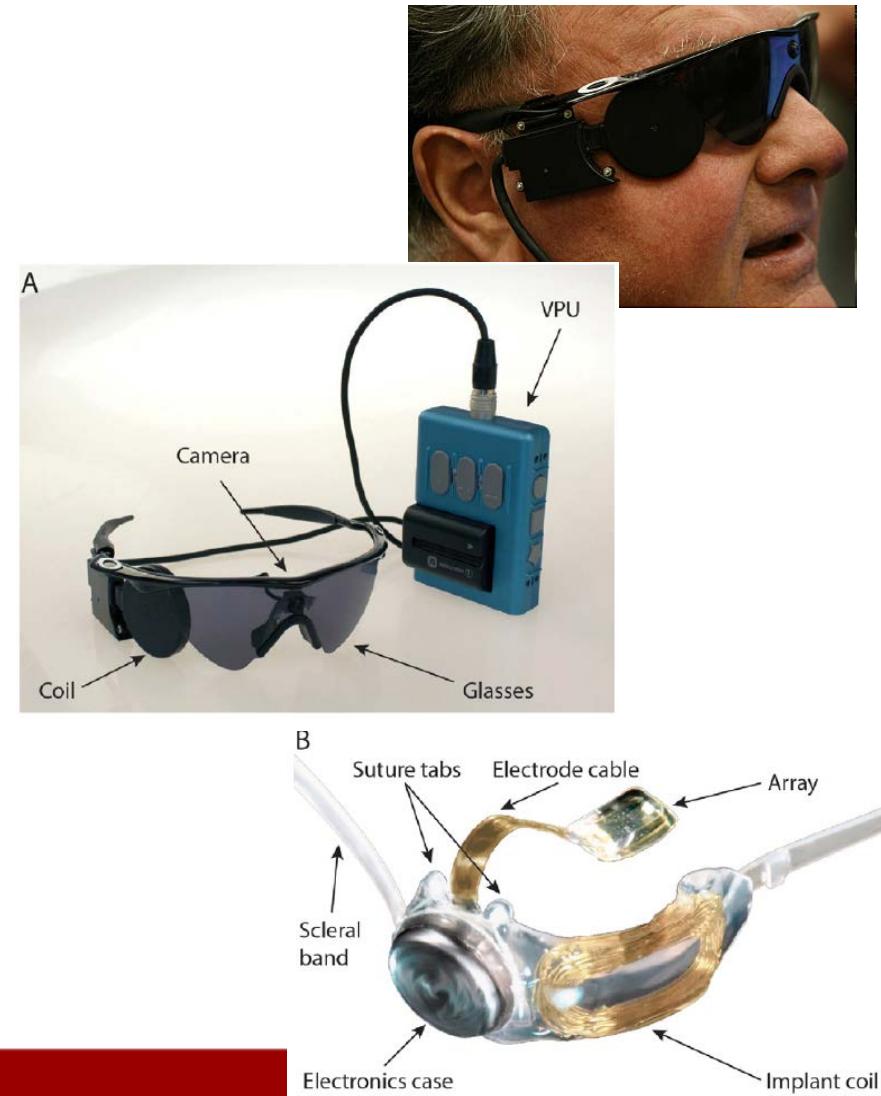




# Argus II Retinal Prosthesis

## Second Sight Medical Products, Inc.

- Only FDA approved Retinal Prosthesis to date
- 6x10 micro-fabricated electrode array
  - Polymer substrate
  - High surface area platinum
- Improved mobility demonstrated in multi-center clinical trial (n=30)
- Letter reading in majority of subjects
- Implant can be controlled while in MRI





# Blind Patient Recognizing Letters With The Retinal Implant



Biomimetic MicroElectronic Systems



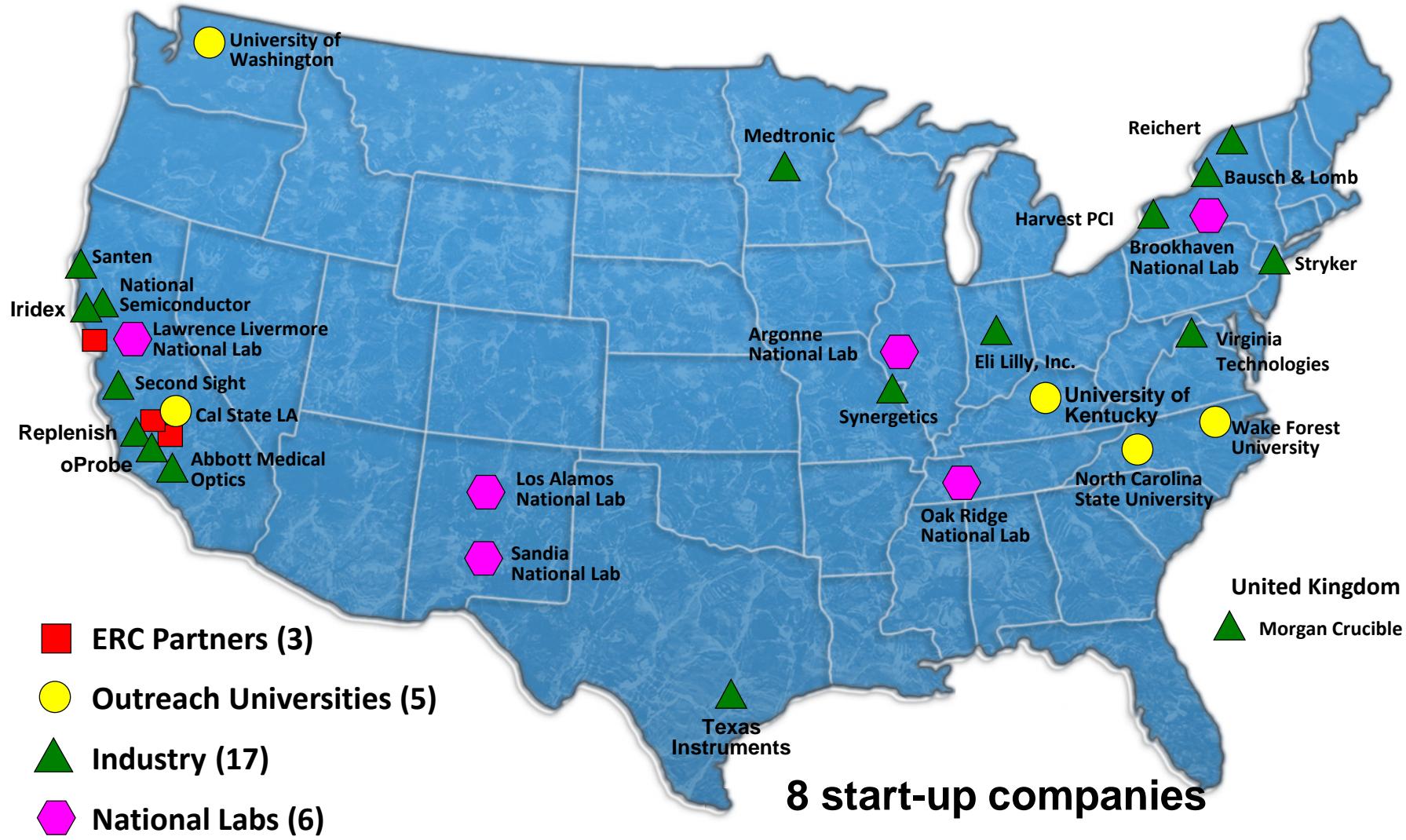
# Retinal Prosthesis Video (orientation and mobility)

Blind patient using Argus II retinal implant in an ambient environment  
Courtesy BBC TV

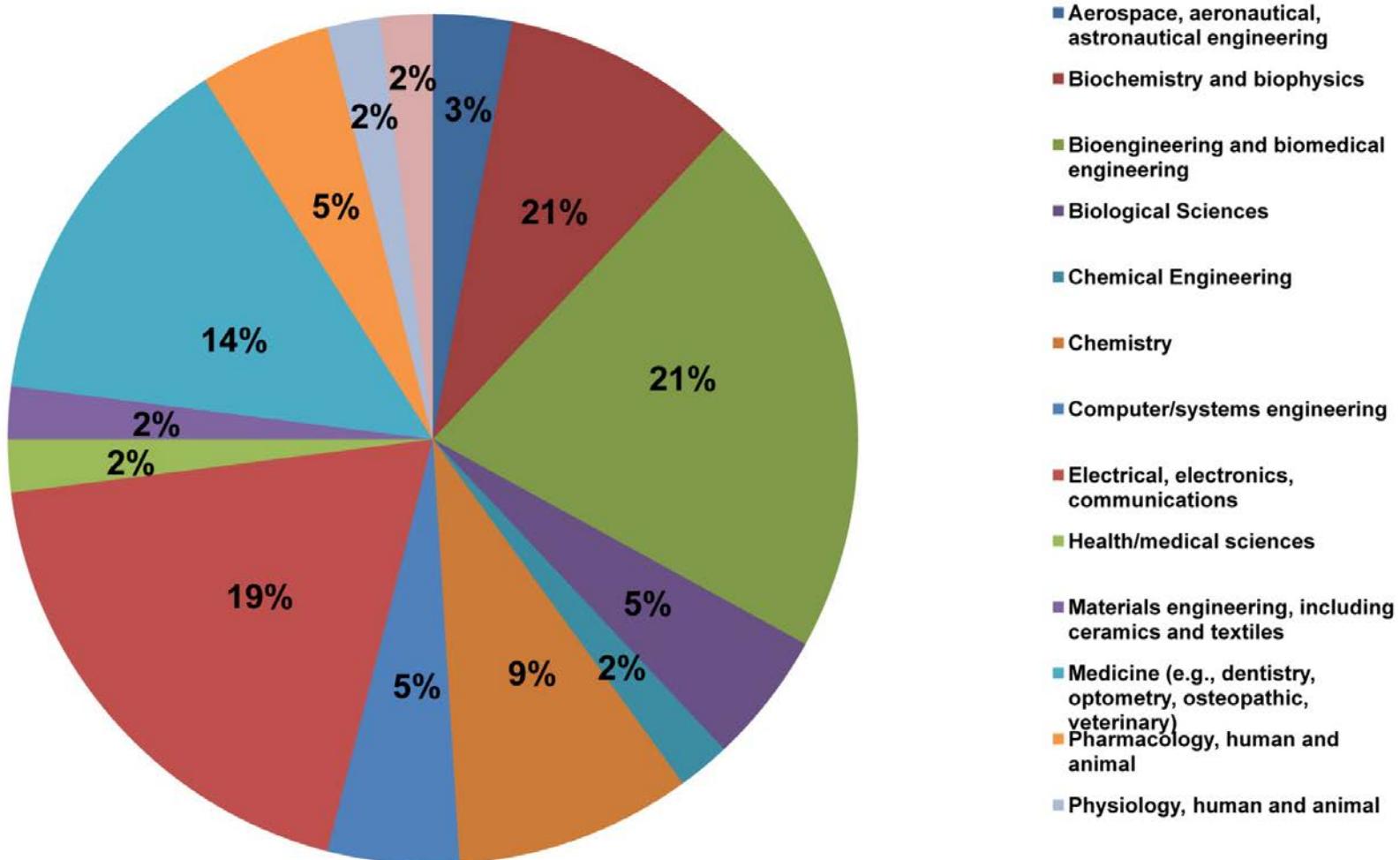


Biomimetic MicroElectronic Systems

# BMES ERC: A Model of University – Industry Partnership



# Interdisciplinary Team (14 disciplines)



# BMES Education Program

## Curricular Initiatives: BMES-related Courses (14)

### a) BME-201: “Biomedical Engineering Practice”

- Translation of bioengineering principles and methods into real-world applications in the industrial and clinical settings, with special emphasis on neural prosthetics and medical device design. **Total enrollment: 72 student**

### b) BME-350 Biomedical Engineering Industrial Project (UG) **Total enrollment: 24**

- Preparation for industrial internships

### c) BME-414 Rehabilitation Engineering (UG) (revised course) **Total enrollment: 200**

- Introduction to neuromuscular biomechanics & clinical rehabilitation

### d) BME-451 Fundamentals of Biomedical Microdevices (UG) **Total enrollment: 88**

- Introduction to bio-MEMS and biomedical microelectronics

### e) BME-452 Introduction to Biomimetic Neural Engineering (UG) **Total enrollment: 51**

- Survey of neural implants and BMES-ERC research areas

### f) BME-505abL Laboratory Projects in Biomedical Engineering (Grad) **Total enrollment: 157**

- Lab rotations in BMES-ERC labs

### g) BME-552 Neural Implant Engineering (Grad) **Total enrollment: 94**

- Advanced studies in implantable neural prostheses (retinal, brain)

### h) BME-575L Computational Neural Engineering (Grad) **Total enrollment: 78**

- “Hands-on” exposure to computational models in neuroengineering

### i) BME-670 Early Visual Processing (Grad) **Total enrollment: 50**

- Low-level visual processing (retina, LGN, phototransduction)

### j) BME-671 Late Visual Processing (Grad) **Total enrollment: 42**

- High-level visual processing (cortex, computer vision, psychophysics)

### k) EE/BE185 MEMS Technology and Devices (Grad) **Total enrollment: 120**

### l) EE 273 - Implantable Neural Implants (Grad) **Total enrollment: 78**

### m) EE 485 Biomedical Instrumentation (Grad) **Total enrollment: 35**

### n) EE486 Biomedical Signal Processing (Grad) **Total enrollment: 21**



# BMES K-12 Outreach Program

## Create and Sustain a Pipeline

### Science for Life (SFL): Grades 3-5

247 students, 11 teachers, 87 mentors,  
369 contact hours per year



Bringing the BMES ERC into  
the classroom

### Research Experience for Teachers (RET): Grades 6 -12

Middle and High School teachers translate BMES  
ERC lab experience into classroom curriculum



### Engineering for Health Academy (EHA) : Grades 10 -12

72 students, 3 teachers, 16 mentors, 9 USC labs per year



A small learning community focused on BME

### Informal Family Education (SFL and EHA)

113 students and family members, 6 teachers, 18 mentors at  
the California Science Center and Bravo High School

**2,193 K-12 Student have  
been impacted over 8 years**



*Biomimetic MicroElectronic Systems*

# BMES Technology Track Record

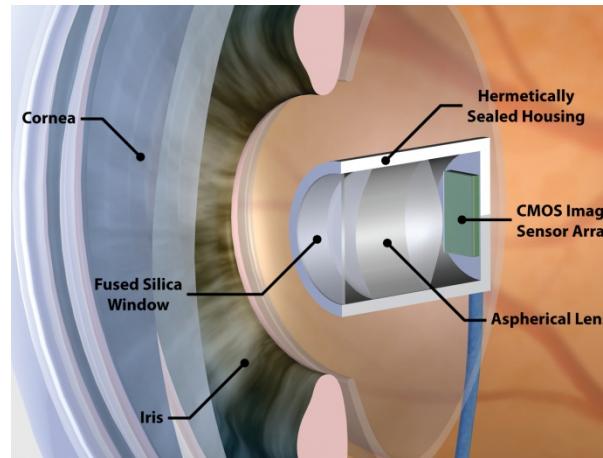
Annual BMES  
Productivity Over  
Lifetime of Center



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# Advanced Imaging Technologies for Retinal Prostheses

■ **Integration of intraocular camera with haptic elements and new flex cable system (in progress)**



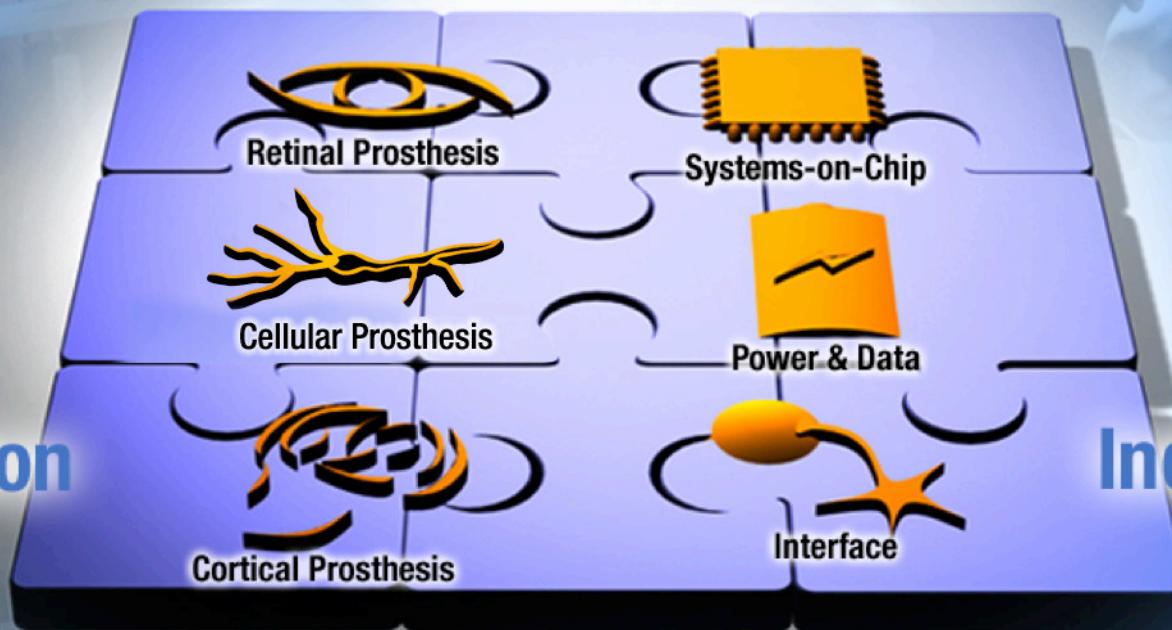
Intraocular camera with refractive lens and fused silica window



IOC with lens and image sensor awaiting haptic elements

# BMES: The Interdisciplinary Convergence

Outreach



Education

Industry

Restoring Neural Function through  
Biomimetic Microelectronic Systems



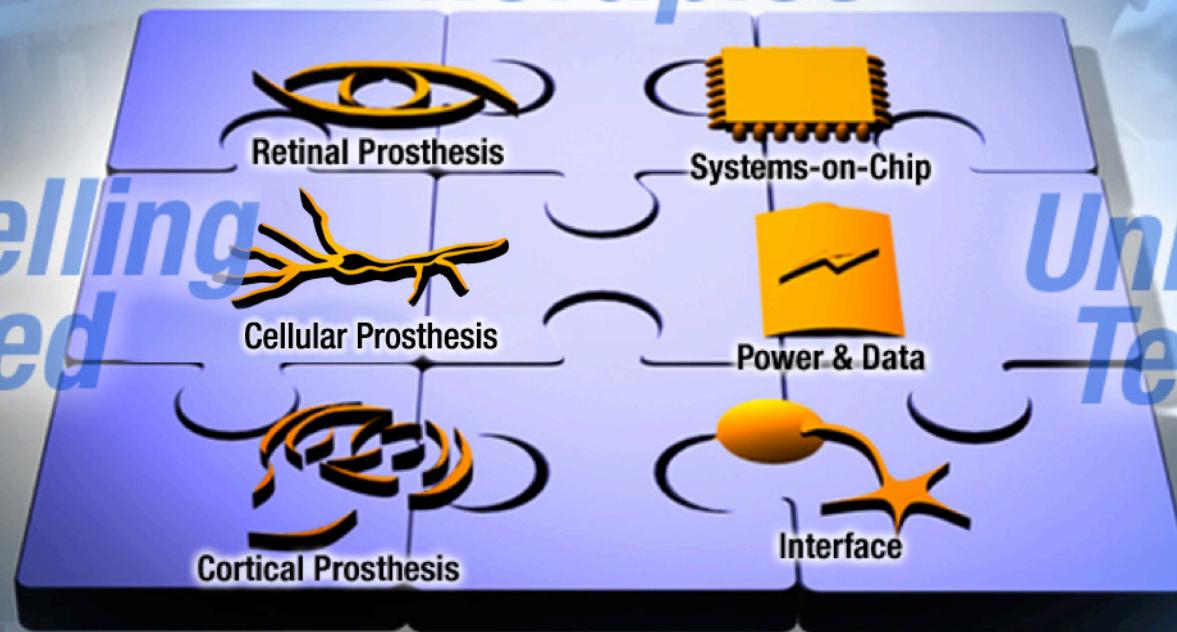
Biomimetic MicroElectronic Systems

# BMES: The Interdisciplinary Convergence

New Therapies

Compelling  
Need

Unique  
Team



Restoring Neural Function through  
Biomimetic Microelectronic Systems



# Conclusions

- Biomimetic high density bioelectronic interfaces with neural systems are challenging but have unique advantages in restoring neural function to potentially millions of patients for whom there is no foreseeable cure
- Federal (e.g., NSF, DOE, NEI), State, Foundations/Philanthropic, and Commercial funding are critical to develop technologies into therapies and in doing so also train the required workforce to engineer and commercialize these technologies

