

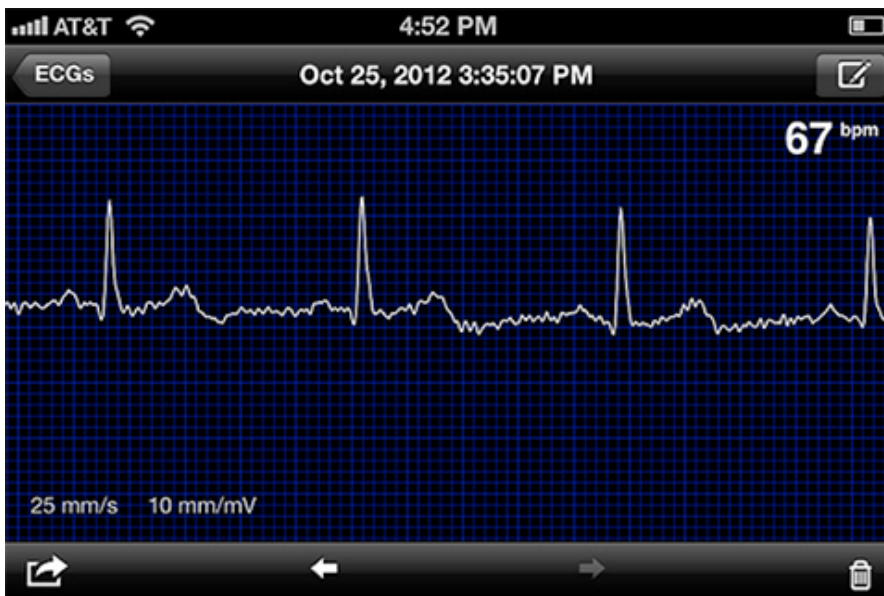
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# Body Area Network Technology Advances the State of the Heart

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When tech companies partner with universities, it's a win-win-win proposition. Universities benefit from research funding. Tech companies benefit from commercializing research. Consumers benefit from the advances

in technology. Such is the case with Jabil's partnership with the University of South Florida's College of Engineering.

What once was bound by hardwiring is becoming unfettered. Research into wireless technology enablers will allow doctors to diagnose and monitor more patients at less cost. Leading the way in the field of body area networks are Jabil and the University of South Florida. Their mission: To improve the outcome of patients requiring monitoring, diagnoses and possible action.

As an example, in today's world when a person has a pacemaker or an issue with their heart that requires monitoring, a doctor attaches electrodes to the body that transmits information about the hearts' activities to a recorder that graphs the data over a period of time. The information allows the doctor to perform the appropriate potentially lifesaving actions. However, this procedure is limited to in-office visits and does not capture big data events over time.

Tomorrow's view of the state-of-the-art involves sensors in the body that collect and transmit physiological changes in order to monitor the patient's health no matter their location. The information is transmitted wirelessly and immediately

notifies a physician of a change requiring action. These technology advancements allow inexpensive and continuous health monitoring with real-time updates of medical records via the Internet.

Though we've a way to go before this vision is realized, the area is being widely researched by Jabil in conjunction with the University of South Florida's Department of Engineering. Leading the charge from Jabil is Thomas Hartranft, Sr. Director Engineering Services who has partnered with Dr. Richard Gitlin from the University of South Florida. Dr. Gitlin's focus is on the intersection of communications and medicine. With an impressive list of recognitions and credentials, the distinguished Dr. Gitlin holds 47 patents and is recognized by the State of Florida as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century World Class Scholar. His credentials include:

- Senior VP for Communications and Networking Research at Bell Labs
- CTO of Lucent's Data Networking Business Unit
- Professor of Electrical Engineering at Columbia University
- Chief Technology Officer of Hammerhead Systems

According to Thomas Hartranft of Jabil, "The healthcare industry is a rapidly growing market and Jabil is uniquely positioned to support our customers in delivering the required products and services. We already have the design and manufacturing capabilities to fulfill our customers basic needs. However, we want to be more, we want to innovate for our customers and provide them with technology that gives them differentiated products. Our partnership with USF allows us to develop our capabilities to new levels and we gain access to leading-edge technologies."

The realization of body area network technology holds promise for people with a wide range of diseases that require monitoring. These diseases include but are not limited to: Diabetes, asthma, depression, Alzheimer's, COPD and sleep disorders.

In the future, doctors will perform diagnoses and actions on their patients remotely. As with any technology there will be early adopters and non-adopters – people who prefer to see their physician in person. Which one are you? What are the upsides/downsides?

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