

# EIS-based health micro-instrumentation for measurement of drug transdermal delivery



Pasquale Arpaia  
University of Napoli Federico II  
Italy





30 years of EIS in operation

# Research

1994-2007 2022-20224

- EIS for prosthesis osseointegration diagnostics in dentistry and audiology

2003-2009

- Artificial Intelligence for model definition in EIS

2007-2024

- EIS for transdermal delivery in aesthetics and in diabetology

1994



2004



2014

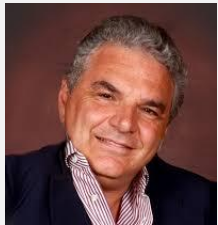


2024



# Friends of operation

30 years of EIS friendship in operation



V. Bruno



M. Urquidi



M. Allocca



R. Schiano



A. Zanesco



C. Romanucci



D. Acierno



I. Sannino



M. Frosolone



C. Manna



M. Tagliatela



O. Cuomo



M. Marvaso



P. Cimmino



U. Cesaro



G. Montenero



N. Moccaldi



F. Clemente



A. Smarra




G. Mastrati




F. Crauso

# Family of EIS operation

More than 30 years of EIS family in operation



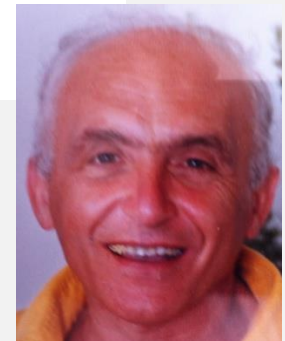
Materials Chemistry and Physics  
Volume 24, Issue 5 March 1990, Pages 525-534



---

A low frequency impedance study of  
steel/concrete interface

M. Arpaia, P. Pernice, A. Costantini  
[Show more](#)



EIS for transdermal delivery

# SCIENTIFIC REPORTS



nature

OPEN

## Noninvasive measurement of transdermal drug delivery by impedance spectroscopy

Pasquale Arpaia<sup>1,\*</sup>, Umberto Cesaro<sup>1,\*</sup> & Nicola Moccaldi<sup>2,\*</sup>



“Best Demonstration Award”



Received: 18 November 2016

Accepted: 06 February 2017

# Context

## Transdermal drug delivery advantages:

- no first-pass metabolism,
- less toxicity,
- less side effects
- greater patient compliance.

## Strategies:

- Chemical Enhancers,
- Physical systems as:
  - Sonophoresis,
  - Iontophoresis,
  - Electroporation.

# General problem

Different tissue conditions due to inter- and intra-individual characteristics (e.g. age, sex, ethnicity)



Lack for non invasive and in vivo assessment of the actual dose of drugs



Loss of the posology concept

# State of the art

- Biopsy
- Suction blisters
- Tape stripping
- Confocal Raman Spectroscopy
- Colorimetric scale for corticosteroid

- **No personalized dosages**
- **Possible waste of medication**
- **No real-time feedback to patient**



# Transdermal delivery in aesthetics



# Aesthetics without posology



courtesy of: [thedoctorstv.com](http://thedoctorstv.com).

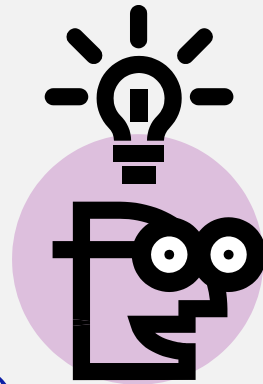
# Requirements

## General aims

- Low cost
- Non invasive measurement method
- Immediate efficacy assessment for all non-invasive systems for intradermal convey.

## Idea

- A method based on impedance spectroscopy ( $f < 50$  kHz) for measuring a substance delivered under the skin



# Laboratory emulation

## Screening measurement campaign

•

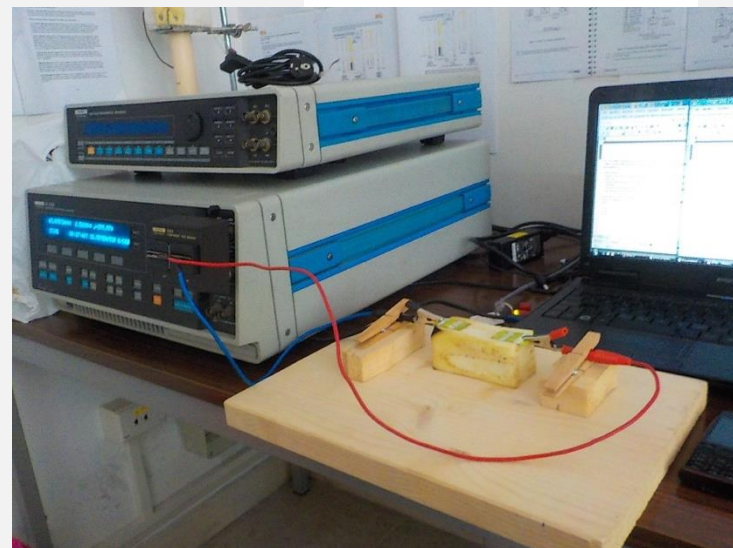
- A commercial drug used in aesthetics dermatology with a conductivity of  $526 \mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$
- Pre-gelled Ag/AgCl Electrodes
- Solartron 1260

Eggplants



to investigate relationship among

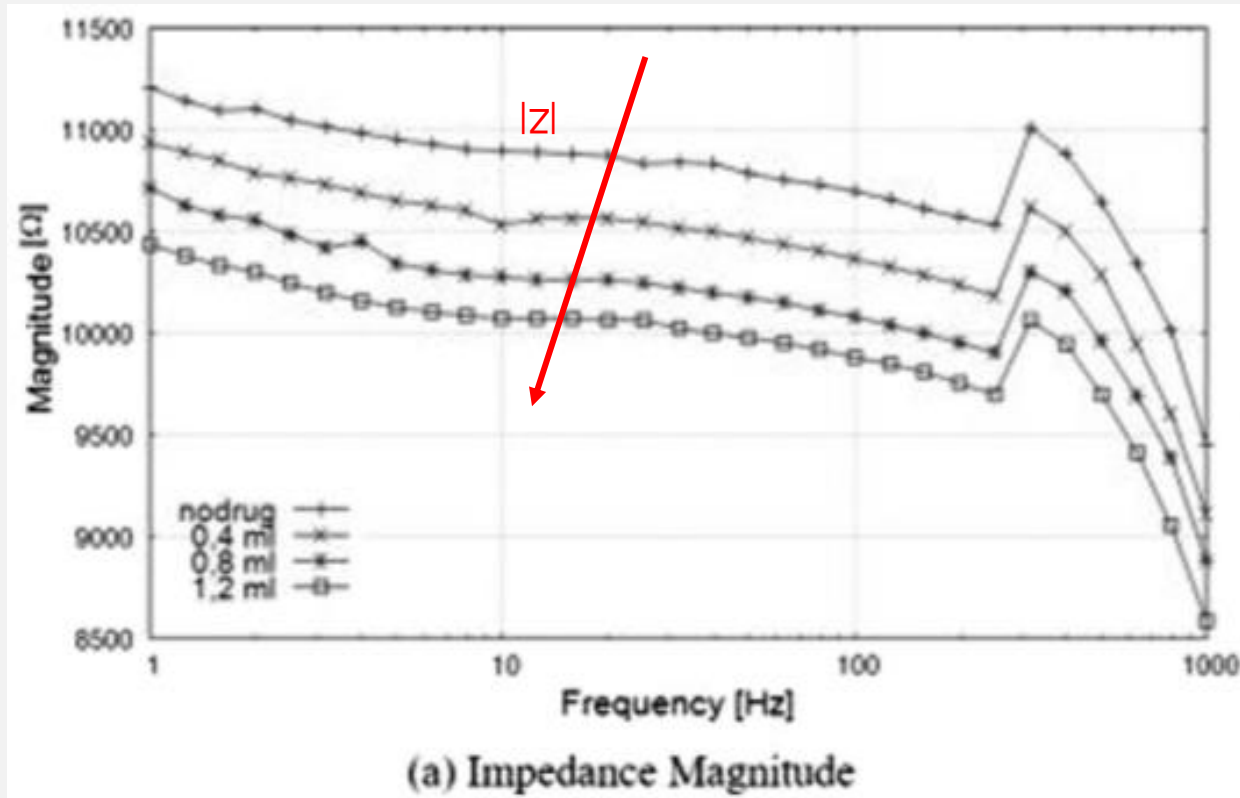
1. (i) drug amount (ii) impedance
2. and (iii) uncertainty sources.



# Laboratory emulation

Although uncertainty (different eggplant pulpe, electrode configuration, etc.)

a clear relationship between amount of injected substance and impedance



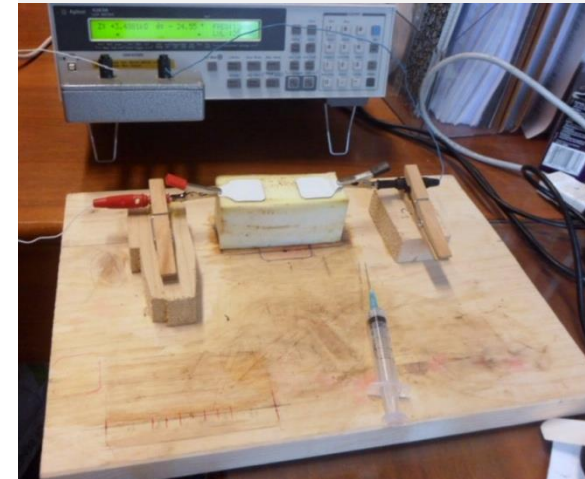
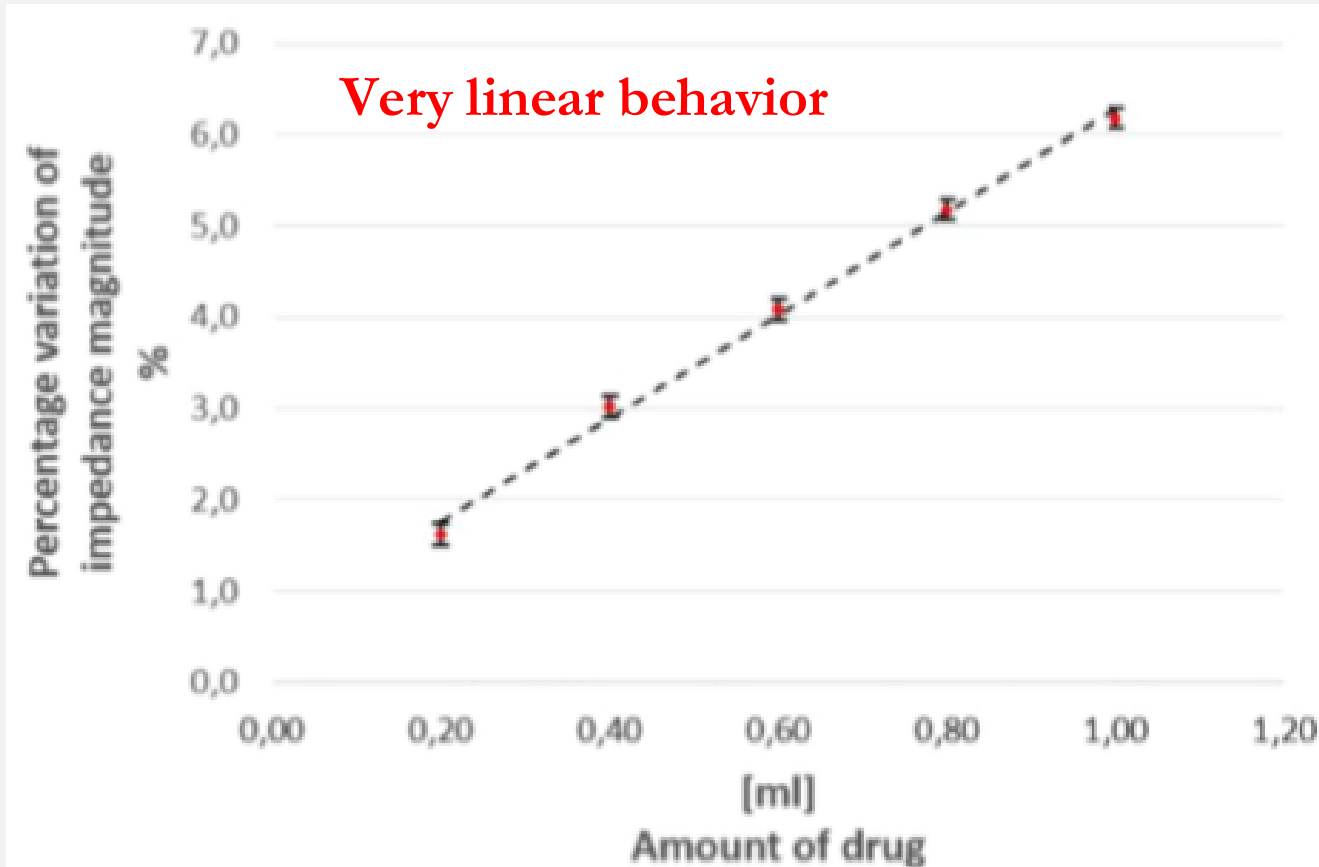
A drug increase by **0.8 ml** determines a decrease in impedance magnitude by **800 Ω**.

The trend of the phase is not correspondingly regular

# Laboratory emulation

Drug Conductivity	Signal Frequency	Electrodes Area	Electrodes Gap	Signal Amplitude
666 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$	1.00 kHz	3.64 $\text{cm}^2$	4.6 cm	20 mV
Sensitivity [ $\text{ml}^{-1}$ ]	Nonlinearity [%]	1 - $\sigma$ Repeatability [%]	Accuracy [%]	Resolution [ml]
3.8	0.47	0.07	0.68	0.005

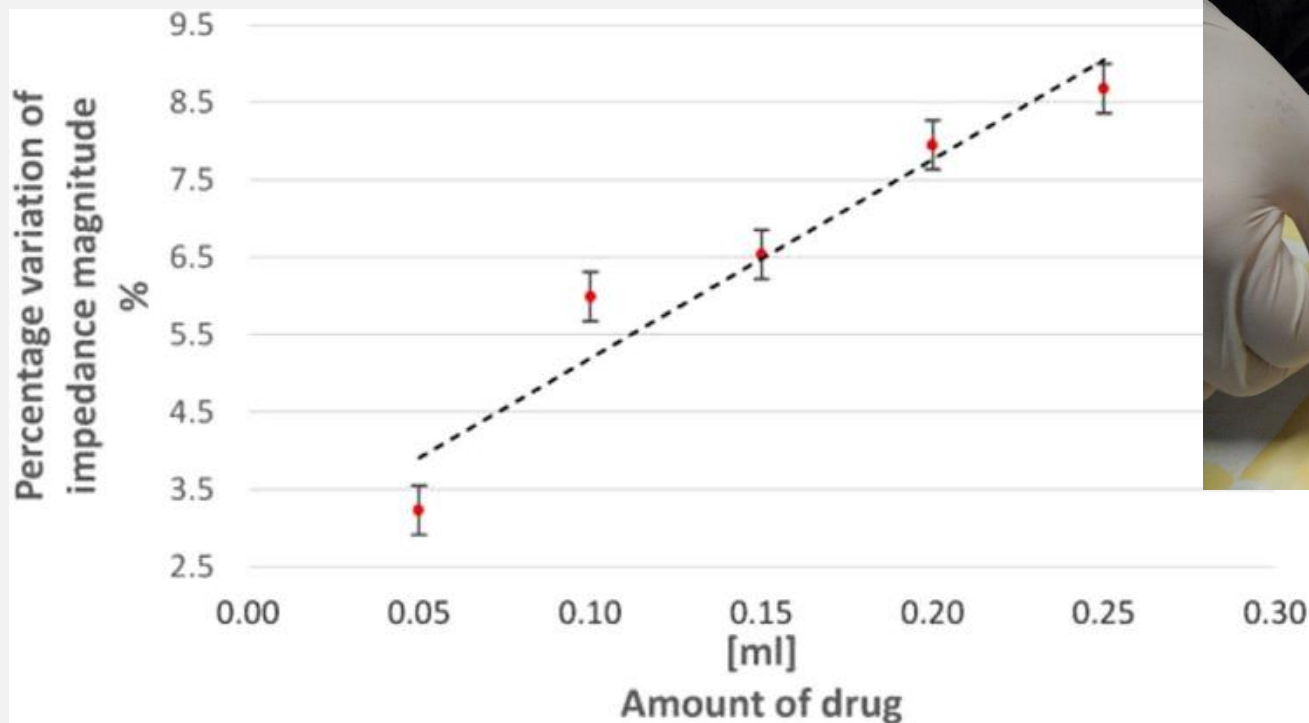
## Eggplants



# Ex-vivo tests

	Sensitivity [ml <sup>-1</sup> ]	Nonlinearity [%]	1 - $\sigma$ Repeatability [%]	Accuracy [%]	Resolution [ml]
Laboratory exp.	30.6	3.64	0.11	4.38	0.35
<i>Ex-vivo</i> exp.	34.4	5.04	0.47	6.20	0.44

Still good linear behavior



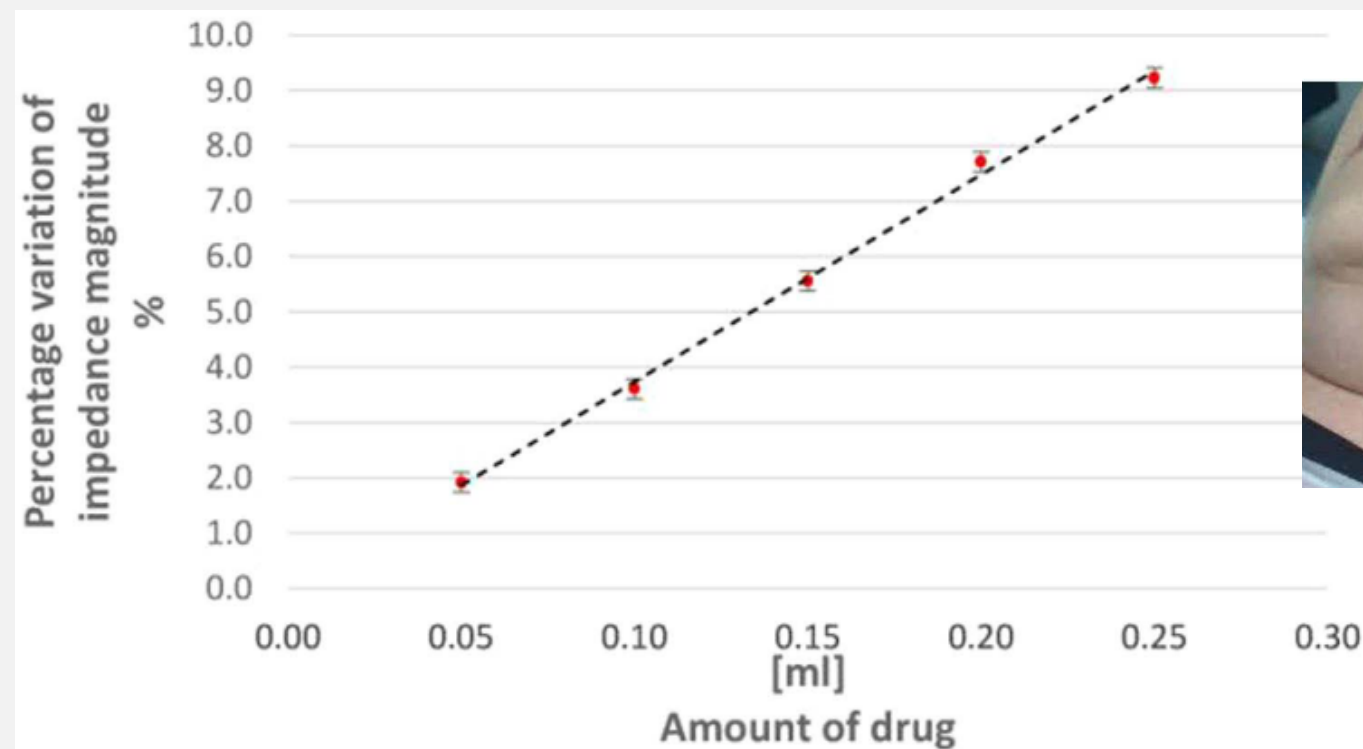
Pig ears



# Clinical tests

	Sensitivity [ $\text{ml}^{-1}$ ]	Nonlinearity [%]	$1 - \sigma$ Repeatability [%]	Accuracy [%]	Resolution [ml]
Laboratory experiments	29.5	2.35	0.07	5.23	0.23
<i>Ex-vivo</i> experiments	24.5	4.25	0.16	7.40	0.37
<i>In-vivo</i> experiments	22.7	3.31	0.27	5.71	0.19

## Satisfying linear behavior



## Human subjects





PAPER • OPEN ACCESS



## Non-invasive real-time in-vivo monitoring of insulin absorption from subcutaneous tissues

Pasquale Arpaia<sup>1</sup>, Ornella Cuomo<sup>2</sup>, Nicola Moccaldi<sup>1</sup>, Alessandra Smarra<sup>1</sup>, and Maurizio Tagliatela<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology,

<sup>2</sup> Department of Neuroscience and Reproductive Sciences and Odontostomatology,  
University of Naples Federico II, Naples, Italy.



# Diabetes: a pancreas disease



courtesy of: [10insalute.com](http://10insalute.com)

# Artificial Pancreas

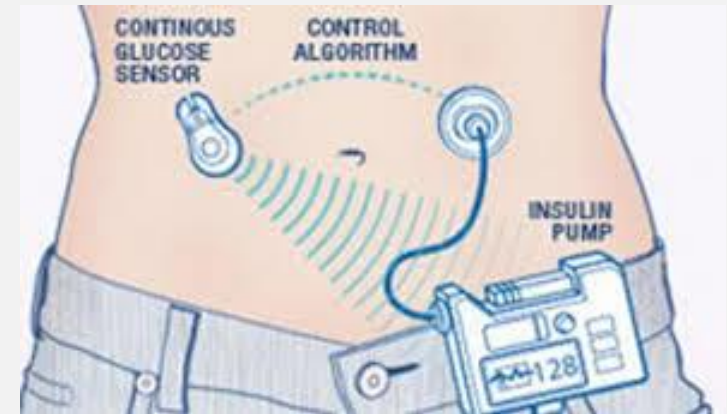
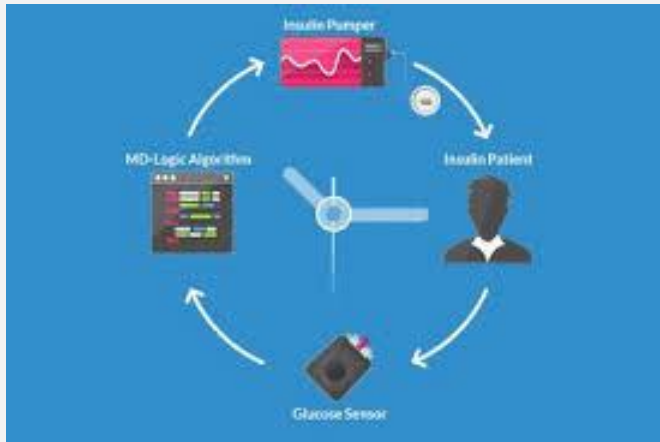
Artificial Pancreas (AP) consists of closed-loop control of blood glucose in diabetes)



# AP operation

The loop is closed in case of basal insulin administration (i.e. long term, e.g. daily).

At each meal, when food is ingested, further insulin is administered specifically (Bolus).



# The Bolus problem

Even most recent systems cannot react to such quick **glucose swing**.

Needs for new control inputs: e.g.,

1. insulin sensitivity factor (ISF)
2. and insulin duration of action. (IDA)

They are both fixed during Artificial Pancreas calibration.

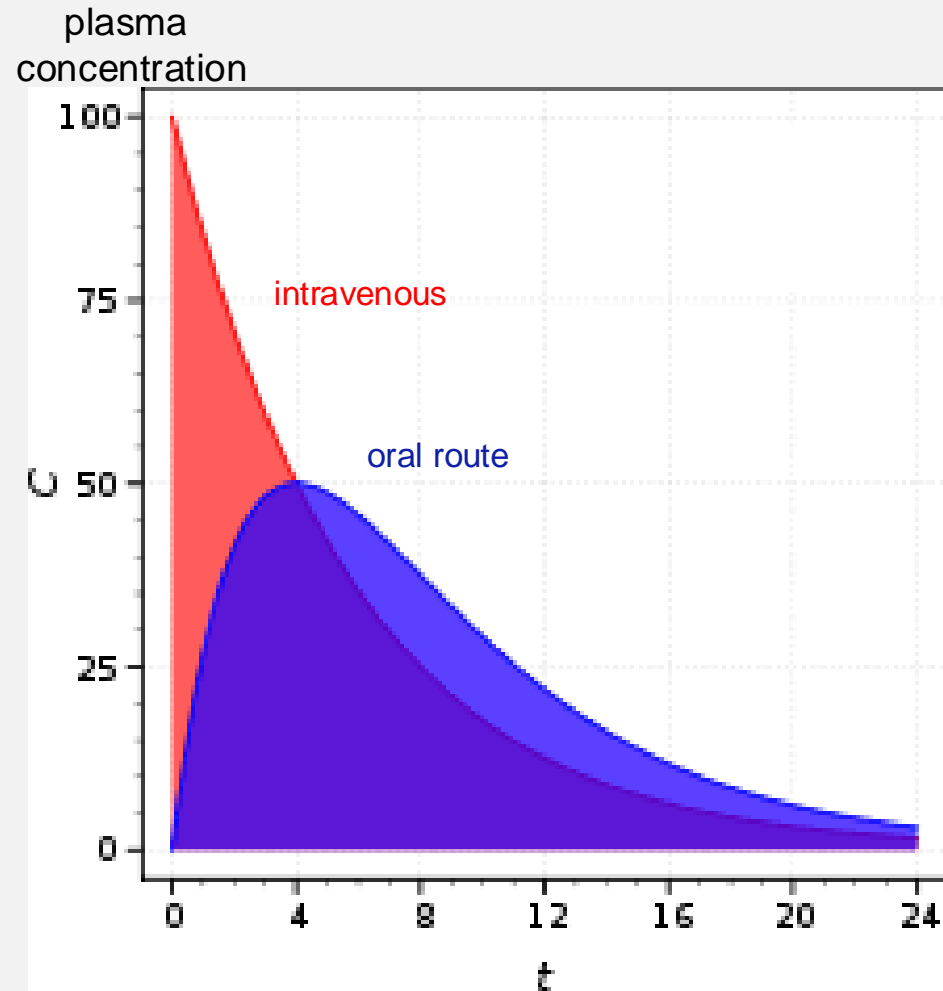


# Bioavailability

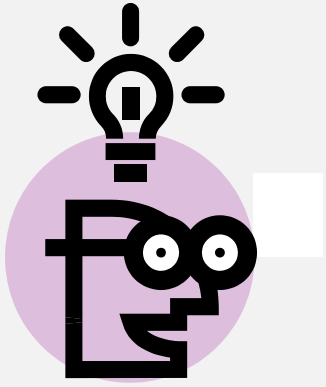
However, ISF and IDA can be subject to significant variations depending on the kinetics of the insulin absorption (**bioavailability**).

**Fraction of an administered dose of unchanged drug reaching the systemic circulation.**

The insulin bioavailability over time is assessed indirectly from the measurement of its **time dependent disappearance** from the administration volume

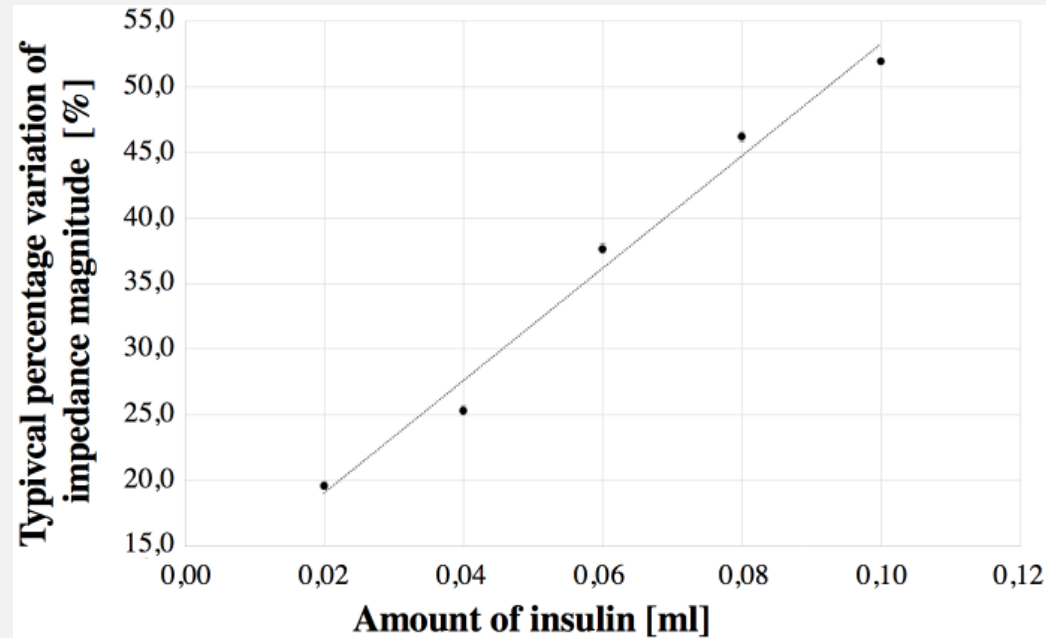


# The idea - 1

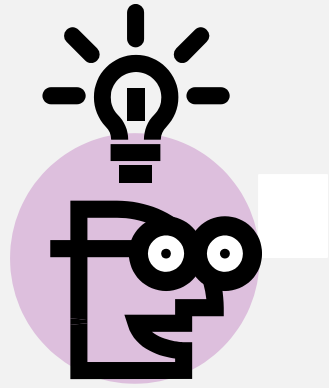


The insulin variation is assessed noninvasively by EIS.

The leakage of a given amount of insulin (ml) produces a corresponding variation in the measured equivalent impedance in the administration volume.

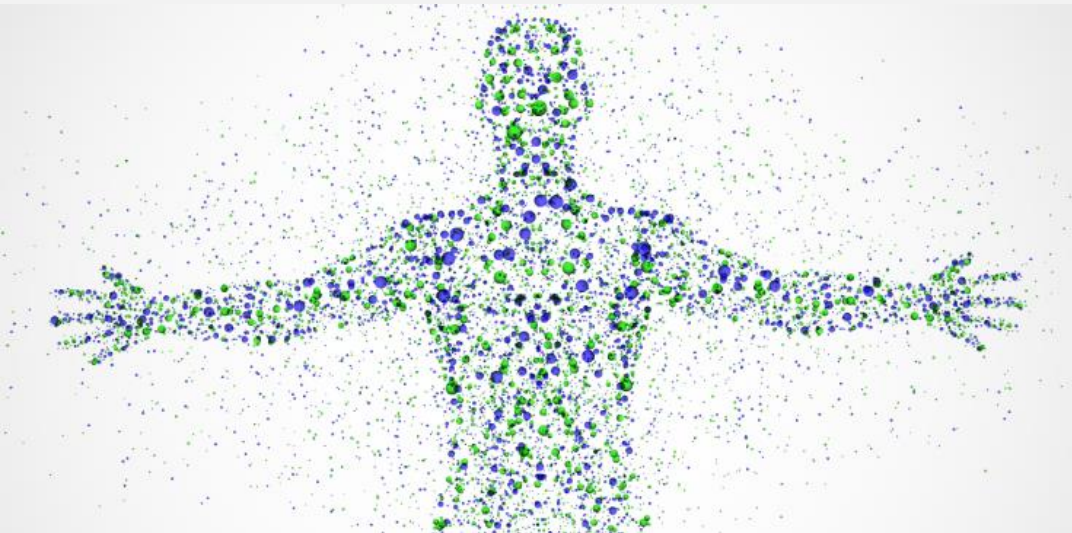


# The idea - 2



## Personalized medicine

At each administration, a linear model for the individual subject in each his/her condition is identified (personalized medicine).

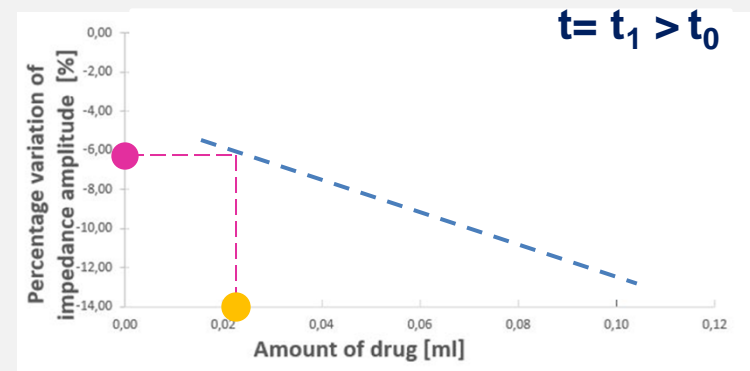
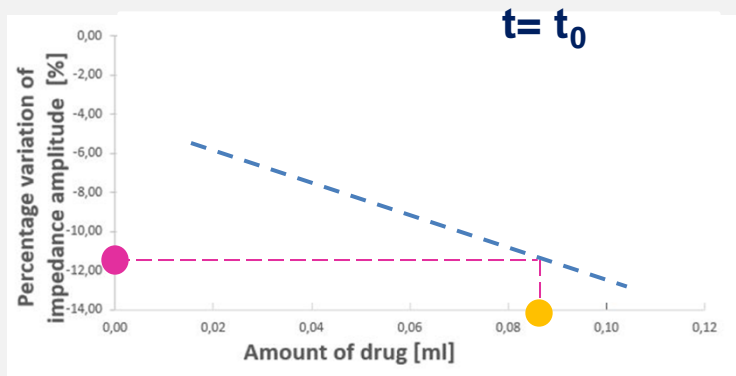


Significant increase in inter- and intra-individual reproducibility of bioavailability measurements



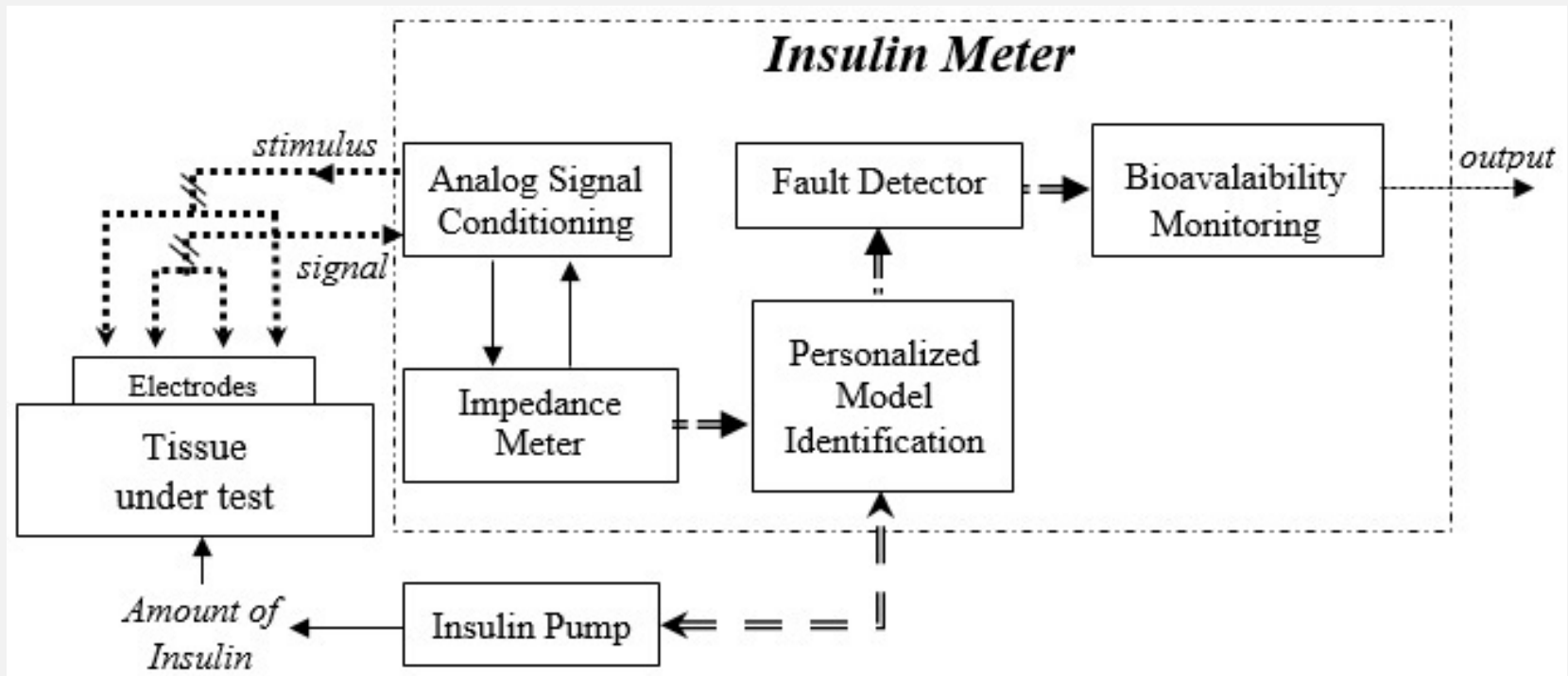
# The idea - 3

Inverse model of insulin **appearance** is used in the absorption (**disappearance**) phase

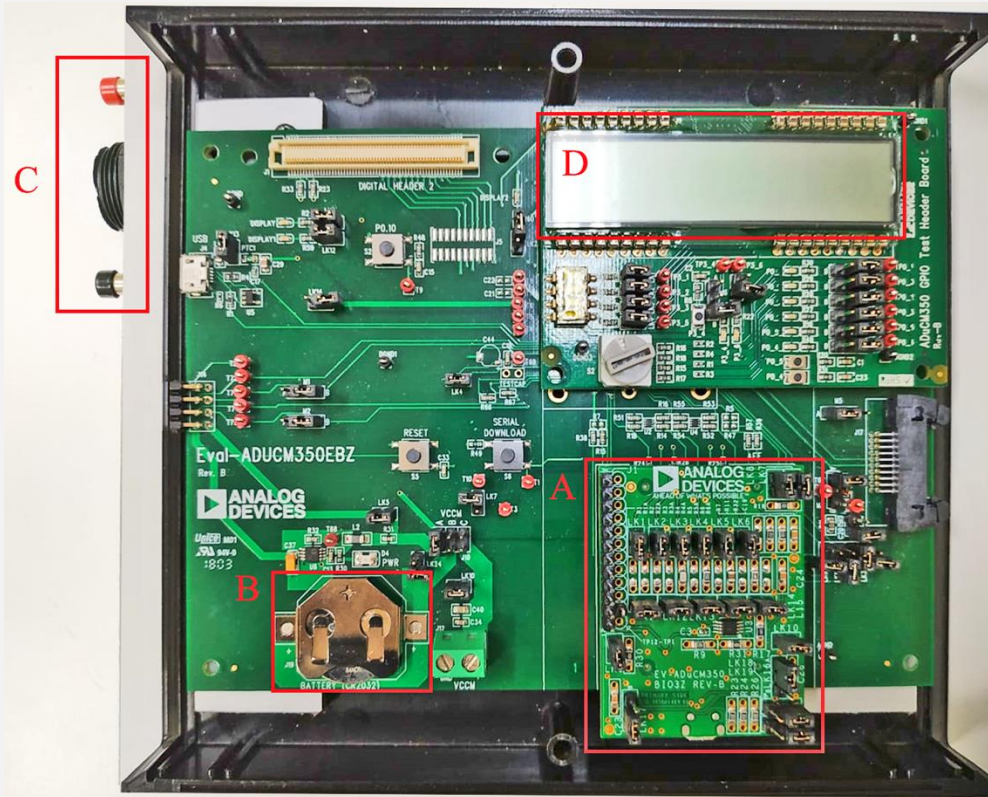


- Measured Impedance
- Estimated amount of drug still not absorbed

# EIS Insulin Meter



# Prototype

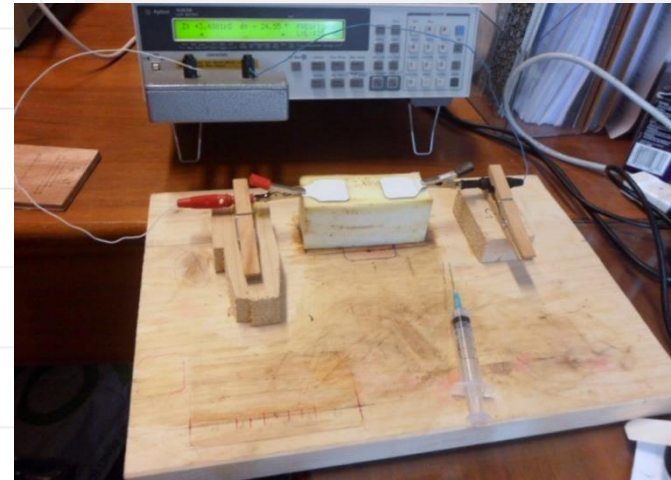
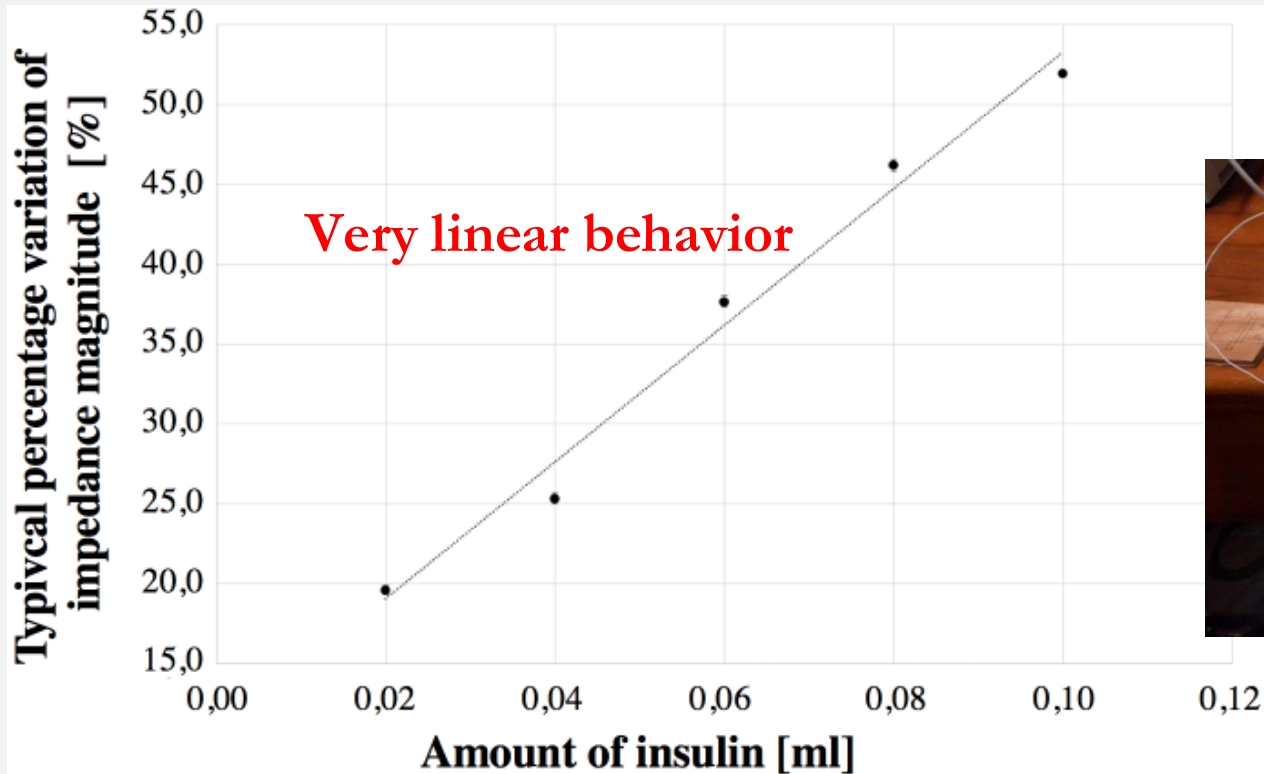


- A. Daughterboard BIO3Z for 4-wire bioimpedance measurement
- B. Battery
- C. ON and Reset buttons
- D. Display

# In-vitro results

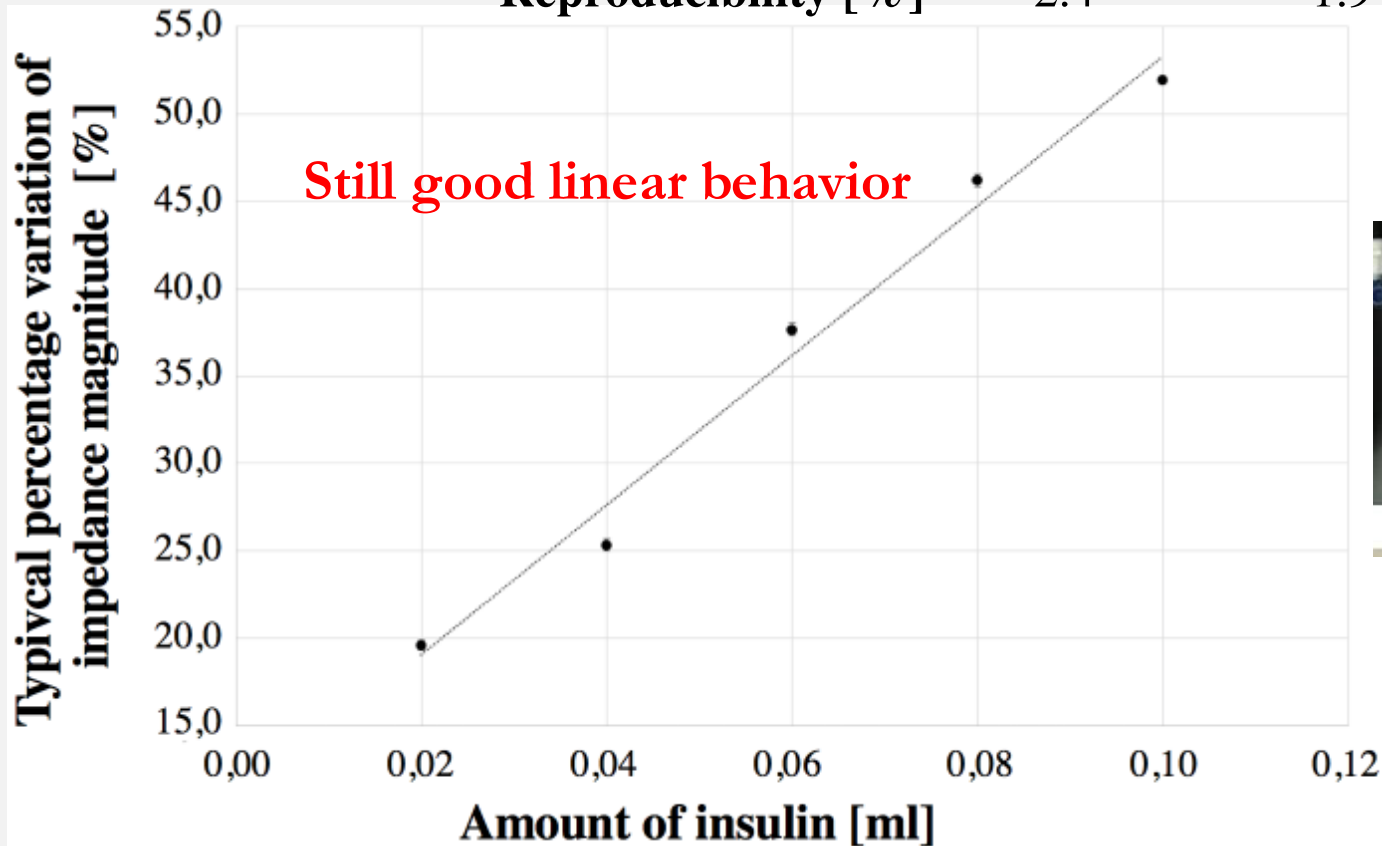


Eggplants



# Ex-vivo results

	Pig	Dried Eggplant
Sensitivity [ $\text{ml}^{-1}$ ]	157,2	497.3
Non-Linearity [%]	2.1	4.0
1- $\sigma$ repeatability [%]	1.6	1.3
Reproducibility [%]	2.4	1.9



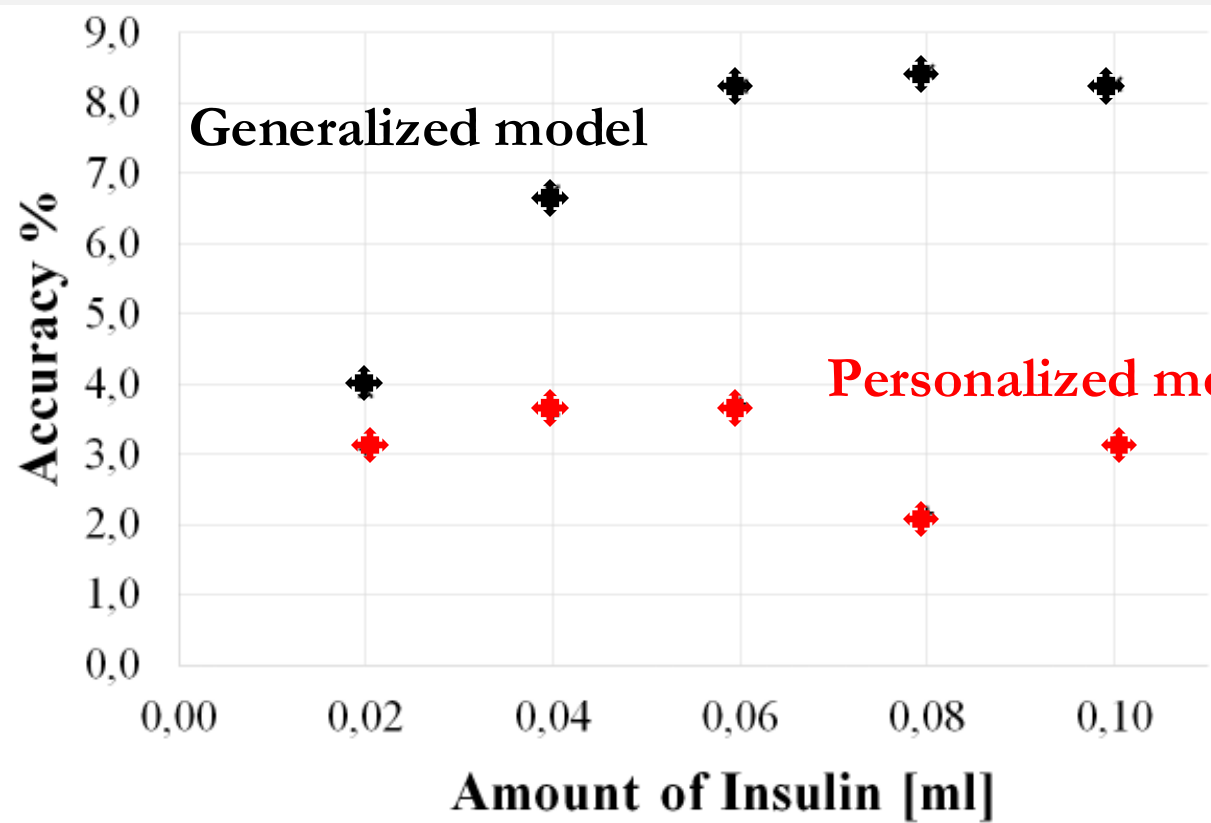
Pig muscle



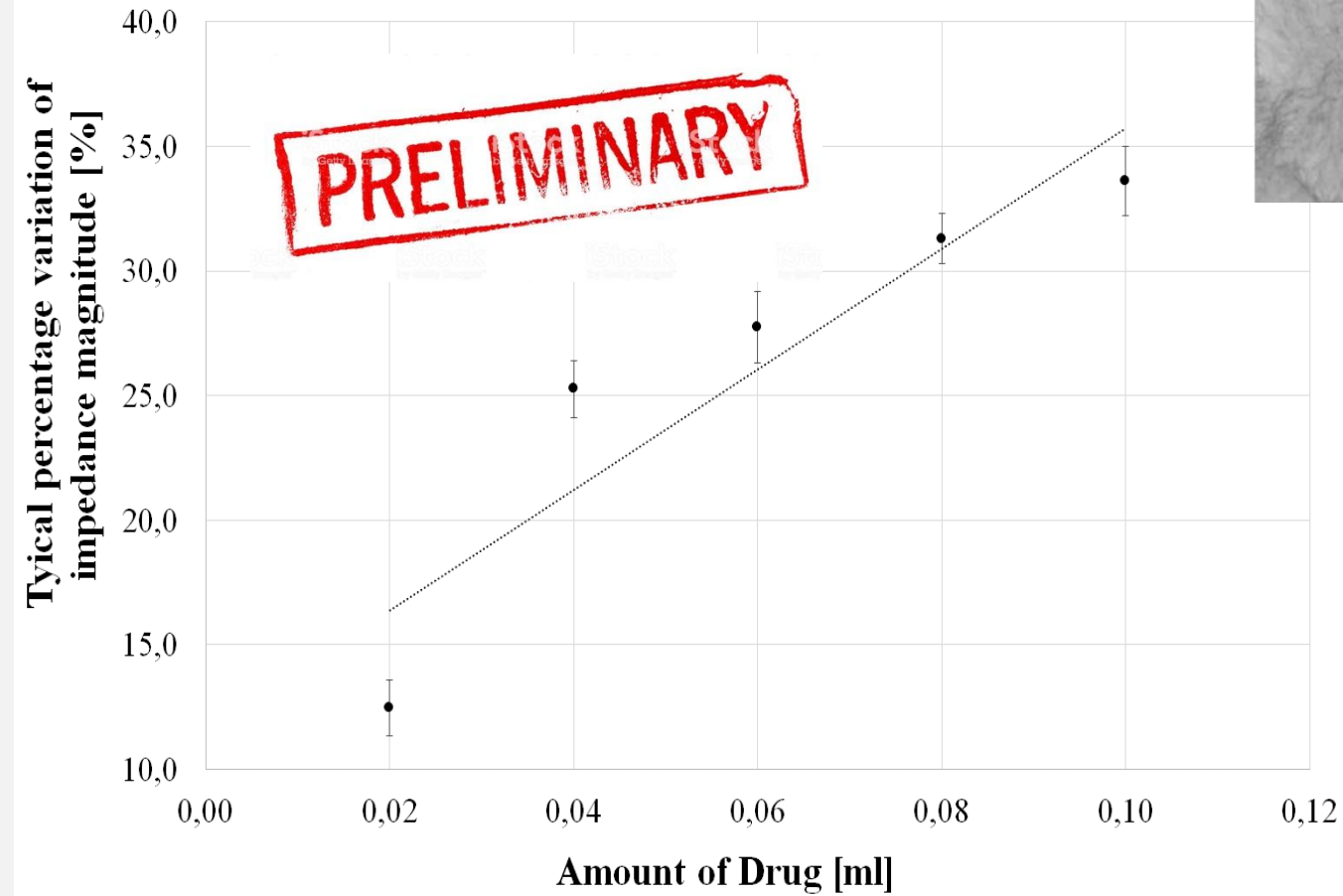
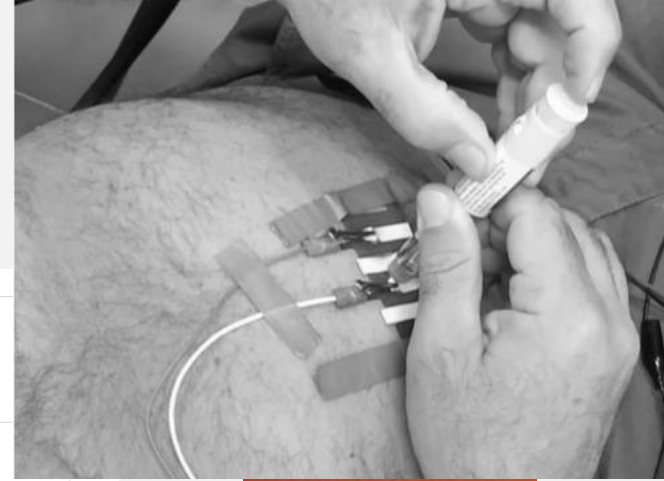
# Ex-vivo results

Pig muscle

Personalization accuracy



# In-vivo results



# EIS past, present and ...



O. Heaviside E. Warburg

Epelboin

Frumkin

Armstrong

McDonald/Lasia



Kanoun/Arpaia



IWIS 2025



# Internet of NanoThings (IoNT)

Nanosensors embedded over the world transmitting info under request



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



ARHeMLab  
DIETI



MIUR  
DIPARTIMENTO 2018  
DI ECCELLENZA 2022



Instrumentation & Measurement  
for Particle Accelerator Lab



Federico II



TE Technology Department

Magnets, Superconductors and  
Cryostats (MSC)  
GROUP