

Press Release:**Public Website Launched for the GIFT-Surg Project (Guided Instrumentation for Fetal Therapy and Surgery)**

A new public website has been launched for GIFT-Surg, the collaborative research project aiming to develop breakthrough instrumentation and imaging solutions for fetal therapy and surgery, at www.gift-surg.ac.uk.

The project recently began a £10million 7-year grant from the Wellcome Trust and the EPSRC under the 'Innovative Engineering for Health' Initiative, to revolutionise the field of fetal therapy and surgery. Led by Professor Sebastien Ourselin (UCL), GIFT-Surg consists of a collaborative team of over 41 researchers, between University College London, KU Leuven and both their associated hospitals.

Now a new website has been launched designed to engage the public community with the project, offering information on the history of GIFT-Surg, the research aims under development and the backgrounds of those who are working on the project.

Those who visit the site will be able to learn about the early prototypes under development, such as the proposed multi-arm instrument which will support the minimally invasive surgical techniques. Other developments include the teams' work using image computing to develop surgical planning systems, and leveraging photoacoustic imaging probes and laser generated ultrasound to produce game-changing high resolution images of the fetal anatomy.

A dedicated section for Media & Engagement offers details of public events and ways to get involved which support the Public Engagement activities of the project. This section also outlines involvement in academic conferences and any journal publications related to the project.

"We are delighted to launch this website and bring details of our research to a wider audience. Advances in prenatal treatment of congenital malformations will have a major impact on clinical practice, potentially targeting a third of all paediatric hospital admissions and providing greatly improved outcomes for the child." comments Professor Sebastien Ourselin, Principle Investigator.

The project encourages all interested users to join their mailing list at gift-surg-info@ucl.ac.uk for exclusive updates on the latest news and events activity.

Related Links:

www.gift-surg.ac.uk
www.facebook.com/GIFTSurg
www.twitter.com/GIFT_Surg

www.ucl.ac.uk
www.kuleuven.be/english
www.epsrc.ac.uk
www.wellcome.ac.uk/

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Media Files:



Figure 1: A dual-segment fluidic-actuated instrument. The compliant nature of this actuator is well suited to operating in a fragile environment.

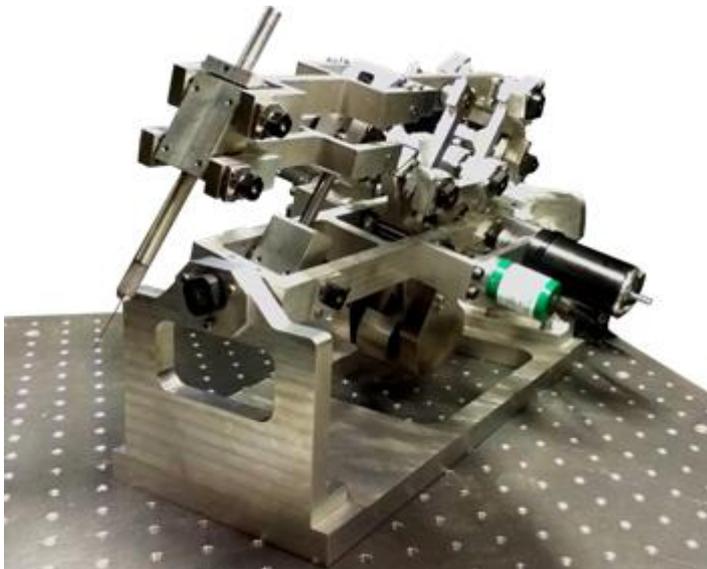


Figure 2: Stabiliser designed for ophthalmological micro-surgery, KUL technology made available for fetal surgery stabilization in GIFT-Surg

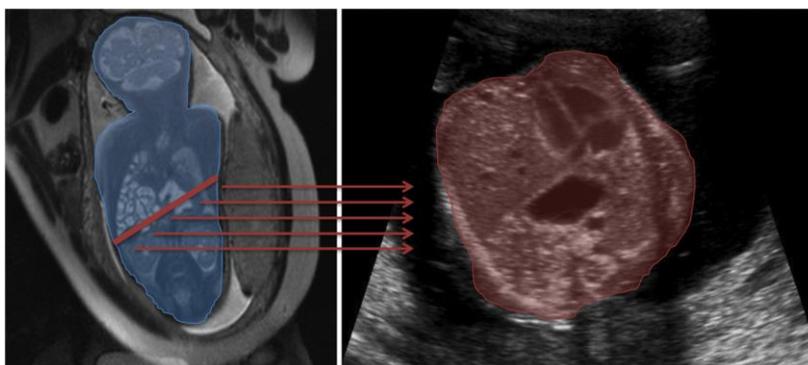


Figure 3: Anatomical information extracted from magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is propagated to an ultrasound (US) image for surgical navigation purposes

