



# A Therapy to Eliminate Certain Tumors Without the Collateral Damage of Chemo, Radiation or Surgery

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September 2023

# Forward Looking Statement

This presentation contains forward-looking information under applicable securities law. All information that addresses activities or developments that we expect to occur in the future is forward-looking information. Forward-looking statements are based on the estimates and opinions of management on the date the statements are made.

Such forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements regarding the benefits to accrue to Sona from the future development of Targeted Hyperthermia Therapy and the development of diagnostic devices.

Forward-looking statements are necessarily based upon a number of assumptions or estimates that, while considered reasonable, are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors which may cause the actual results and future events to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements, including the risk that Sona may not be able to successfully complete the Giacomantonio study, secure animal and human clinical studies, or develop the envisioned device or therapy, and the risk that equity financing may not be available on the anticipated terms or at all.

Actual results may differ materially from those set forth in this presentation due to risks and uncertainties affecting Sona and its products, including the demand for Sona's therapies and tests which may be adversely affected by introduction or success of competing products, the ability for Sona to successfully develop longer-term applications for its technology and other risks detailed from time to time in Sona's ongoing filings and in its most recent annual information form filed with the Canadian regulatory authorities on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

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# Sona Nanotech at a Glance

- Patented<sup>(1)</sup>, biocompatible proprietary gold nanoparticle technology
- **Therapies:**  
Developing 'Targeted Hyperthermia Therapy' to eliminate colorectal tumours without collateral damage
- **Diagnostics:**  
Developer of novel lateral flow assay rapid tests for concussions and animal disease

## Poised to benefit from multiple catalysts

### Therapies

Multiple milestones targeted for 2023-24

### Diagnostics

**Two** novel, rapid point of care tests heading towards pre-clinical trials



## What are Gold Nanorods?

- Rod-shaped nanoparticles made of gold
- Produced by chemical synthesis
- Can be conjugated to different molecules

## Uses of Nanorods

### Therapies

- Photothermal therapy
- Tumor targeting activity
- Anti-bacterial activity
- Drug delivery vehicle

### Diagnostics

- Diagnostic markers for imaging
- Immunoassays and biosensing

## Limitations of Other Nanoparticles

- **Toxicity & Shape:** Other gold nanorod producers use CTAB (cyltrimethylammonium bromide)
- **Shape:** Nanospheres, nanostars or nanoshells have less surface area, stability, penetration depth into cells and ability to tune for resonance

Sona GNRs could unlock the power of in-vivo applications

## Sona's GNR Advantages

- ✓ **Uniquely Biocompatible:**  
**Sona surfactant uses no CTAB**
  - Equally as effective at heat transfer as CTAB-based GNRs.
  - Potentially more suitable for use in the body: inert and biocompatible
- ✓ **Functional:**  
**Nanorods by Sona have:**
  - Variety of lengths and widths to increase surface area
  - Long shelf life and stable surface properties
- ✓ **Validated:**
  - Vetted by NCL, which was established by the FDA & NCI to accelerate the progress of nanomedicine by providing preclinical characterization and safety testing of nanoparticles.
    - Neither endotoxins nor microbial contamination were detected



01

# GNR-Based Therapies

BIOCOMPATIBLE  
**GNR**  
GOLD NANOROD  
TECHNOLOGY

## Sona Gold Nanorod ("GNR") Technology

Uniquely biocompatible

Unlocking of in-vivo medical applications potential  
by developing 'Targeted Hyperthermia Therapy'

# Sona Has Engineered the Right 'Gene Pool' to Pursue Its Cancer Therapy



## Board



**Mark Lievonon**  
Chairman

- Led vaccine maker Sanofi-Pasteur to a billion-dollar value



**Walter Strapps PhD**  
Director

- CEO of Khosla Ventures CRISPR/Cas13 biotech



**Neil Fraser**  
Director

- Led Medtronic Canada for ~20 years



**Dr. Michael Gross**  
Director

- Surgeon and corporate director



**Jim Megann**  
Director

- 25 years of experience in capital markets

## Project Team



**Glenn Kanner, B.Eng., MBA**

- Medical device product development consultant



**Len Pagliaro, PhD**

- Developer of Targeted Hyperthermia Therapy



**Kulbir Singh, PhD**

- Co-Developer of CTAB-free gold nanorods



**Sandra Brannen**

- Head of Quality & Regulatory Affairs



**David Regan, MBA**

- CEO
- Commercial and project lead

## Advisors



**Dr. Catherine J. Murphy**

- Inventor of gold nanorods



**Dr. Swarna Balasubramaniam**

- Colorectal surgeon & entrepreneur

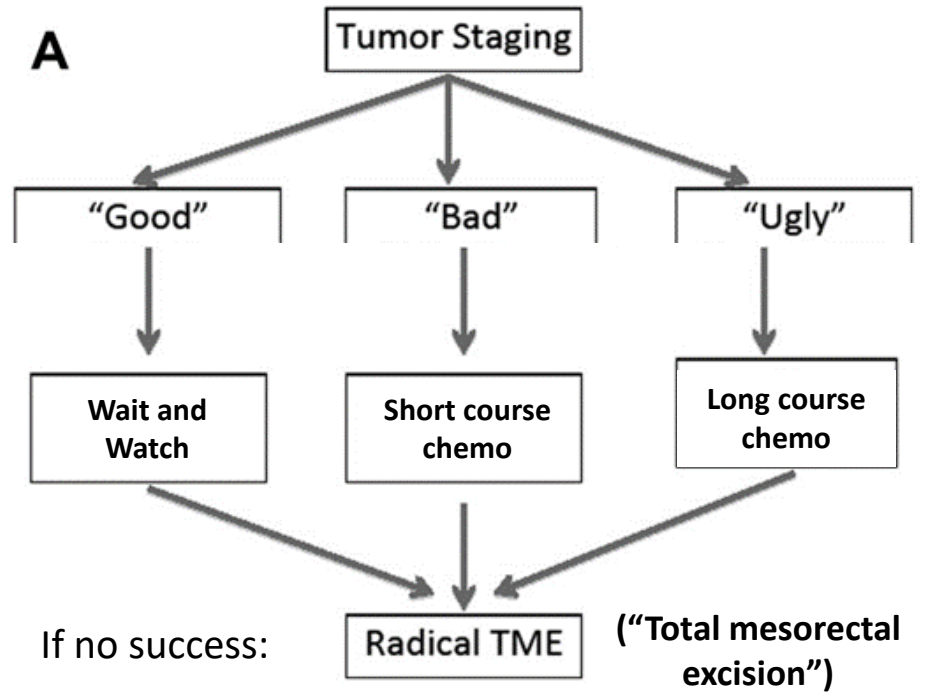
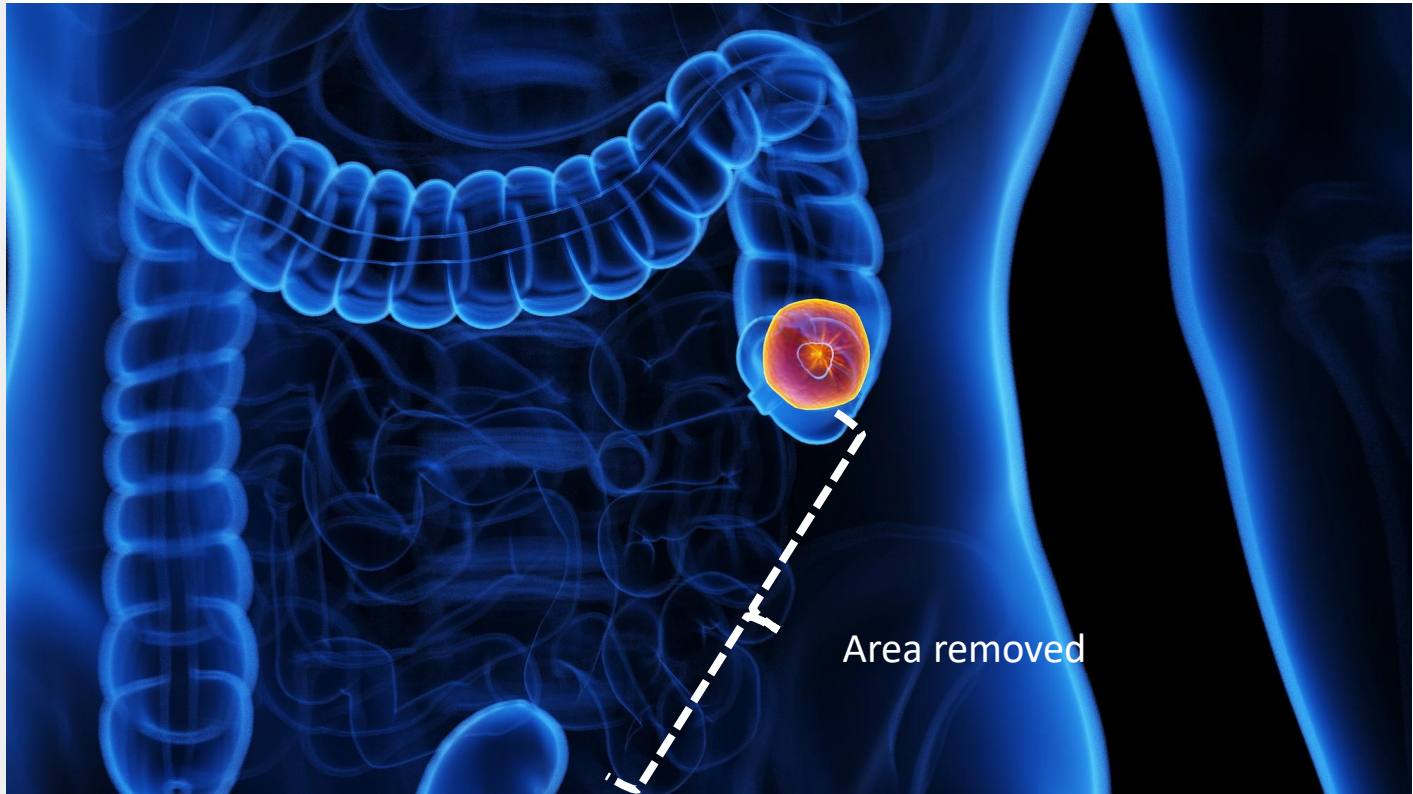


**Dr. Gerry Marangoni**

- Co-Developer of CTAB-free gold nanorods

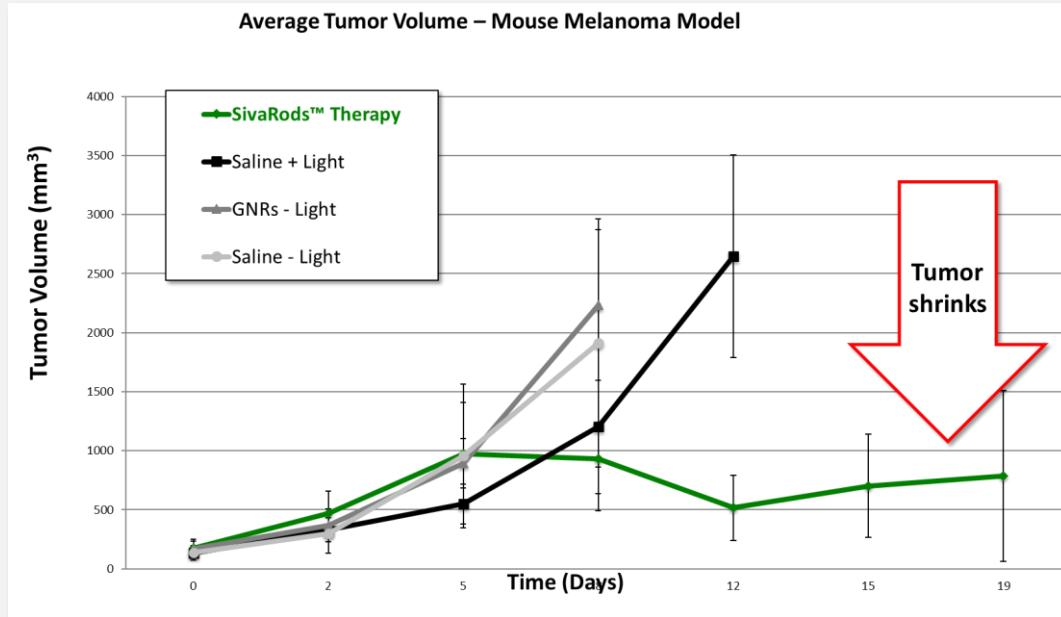


# Treatment for Rectal Cancer is Often Limited to Risky Surgery, Resulting in a Poor Quality of Life



Too often, there is no choice but excision of a section of the bowel

# Sona is Developing a Therapy to Shrink Tumors Without Surgery, Chemo or Radiation with Positive Results to Date



Popp, M.K., Oubou, I., Shepherd, C., Nager, Z., Anderson, C. and Pagliaro, L. (2014) *Photothermal therapy using gold nanorods and near-infrared light in a murine melanoma model increases survival and decreases tumor volume.* Journal of Nanomaterials.



**Day 0**  
Immediately after treatment, large multi-lobed tumor



**Day 19**  
Tumor mass gone

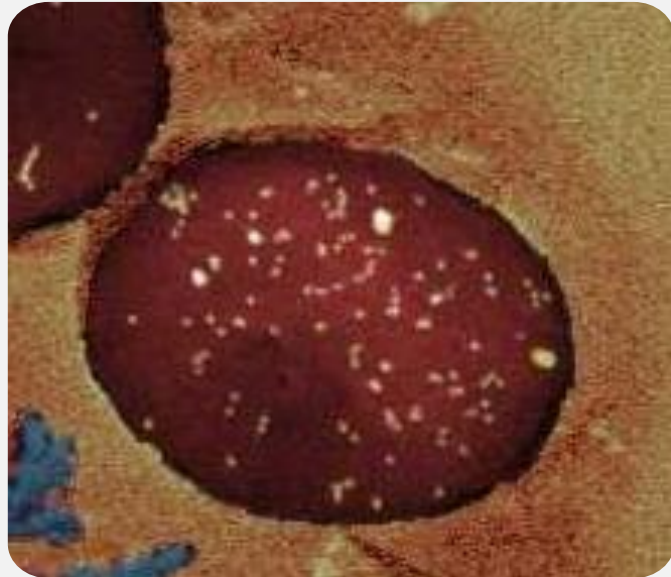


**Day 59**  
“Durable cure”  
(same mouse in all images)

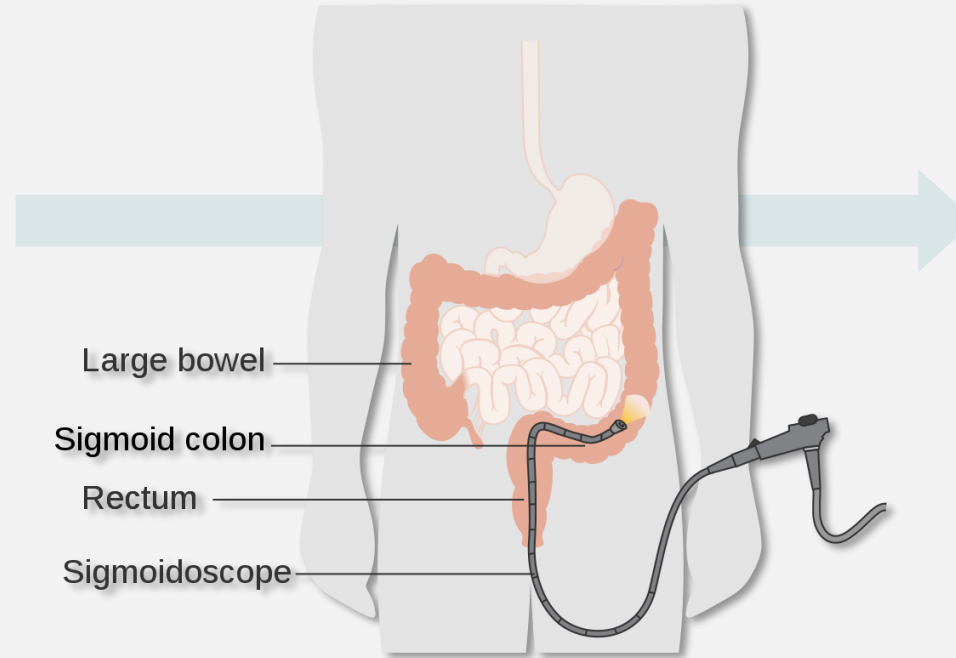
# 'Targeted Hyperthermia Therapy' ("THT") Will Use Current Technology to Apply IR Light to GNR-saturated Tumors

## A Two-step Therapy

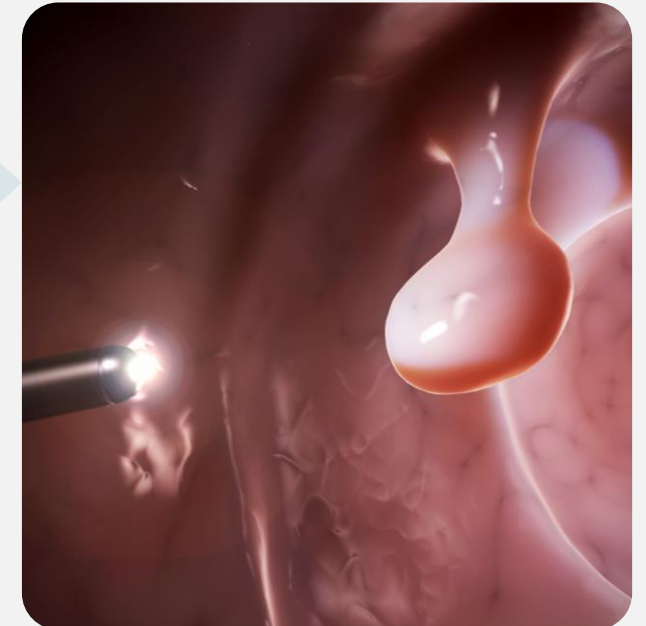
Step 1.  
Inject Biocompatible  
Gold Nanorods



Nanoparticles shown in a red blood cell



Step 2.  
Shine IR Light Tuned  
to 850nm on tumour



Sona's 2.0 light device to be applied to a tumour saturated with Sona GNRs



# THT's 'Hyperthermia' Approach is Designed to Kill Cancer Cells Selectively, and Not Harm Healthy Tissue

*Steak As An Analogy For Human Tissue*

**Typical Approach:**  
**"ABLATION"**  
( $> 55^{\circ}\text{C}$ )



Medium-well

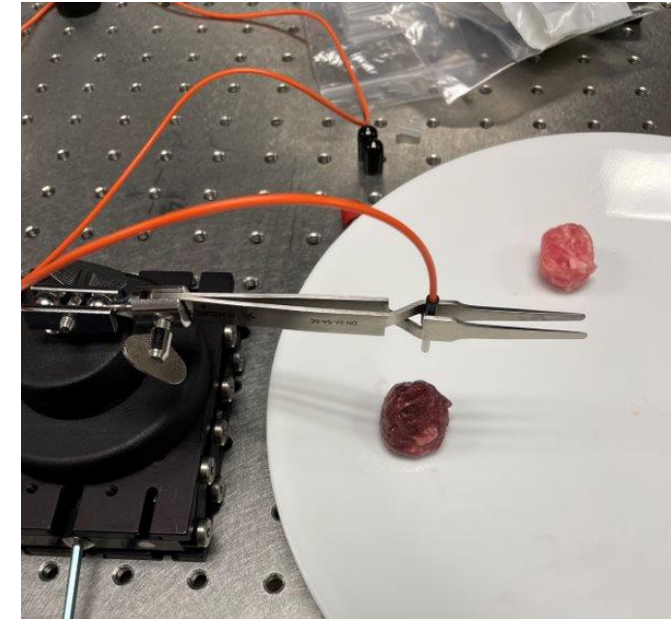
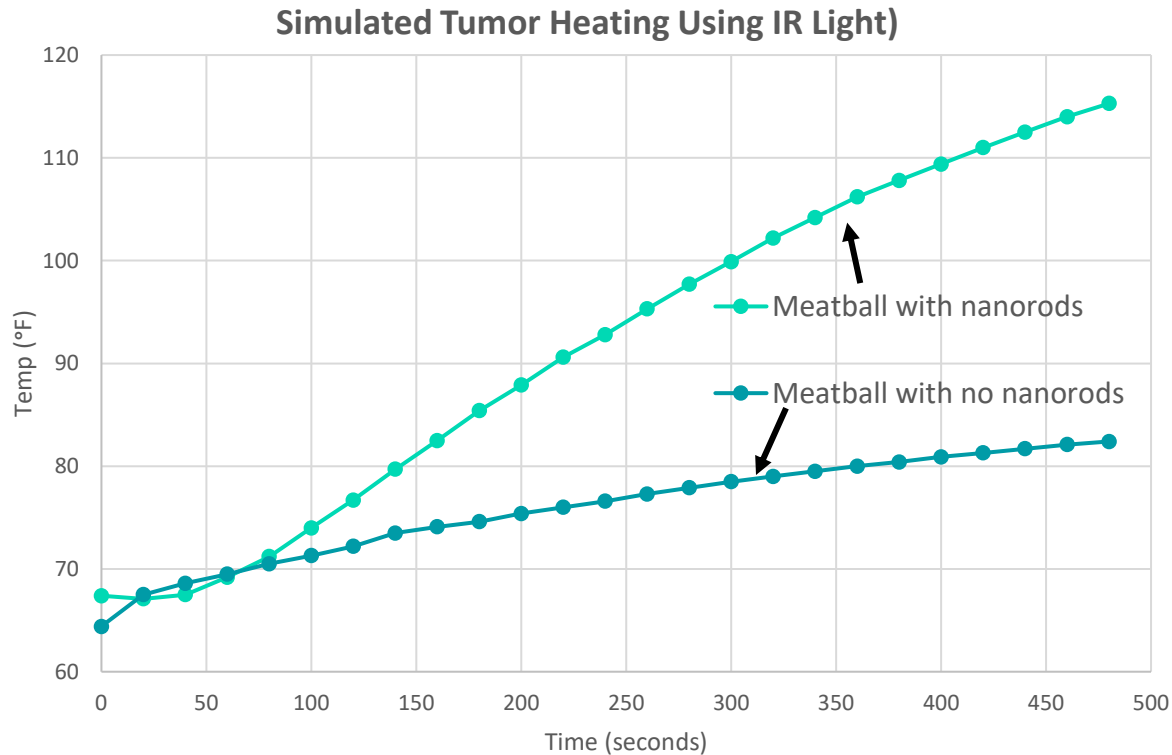
**Sona's THT Approach:**  
**"HYPERTHERMIA"**  
( $\sim 44^{\circ}\text{C}$ )



Blue Rare

Goal is to avoid the damage of  
'blasting' heat indiscriminately

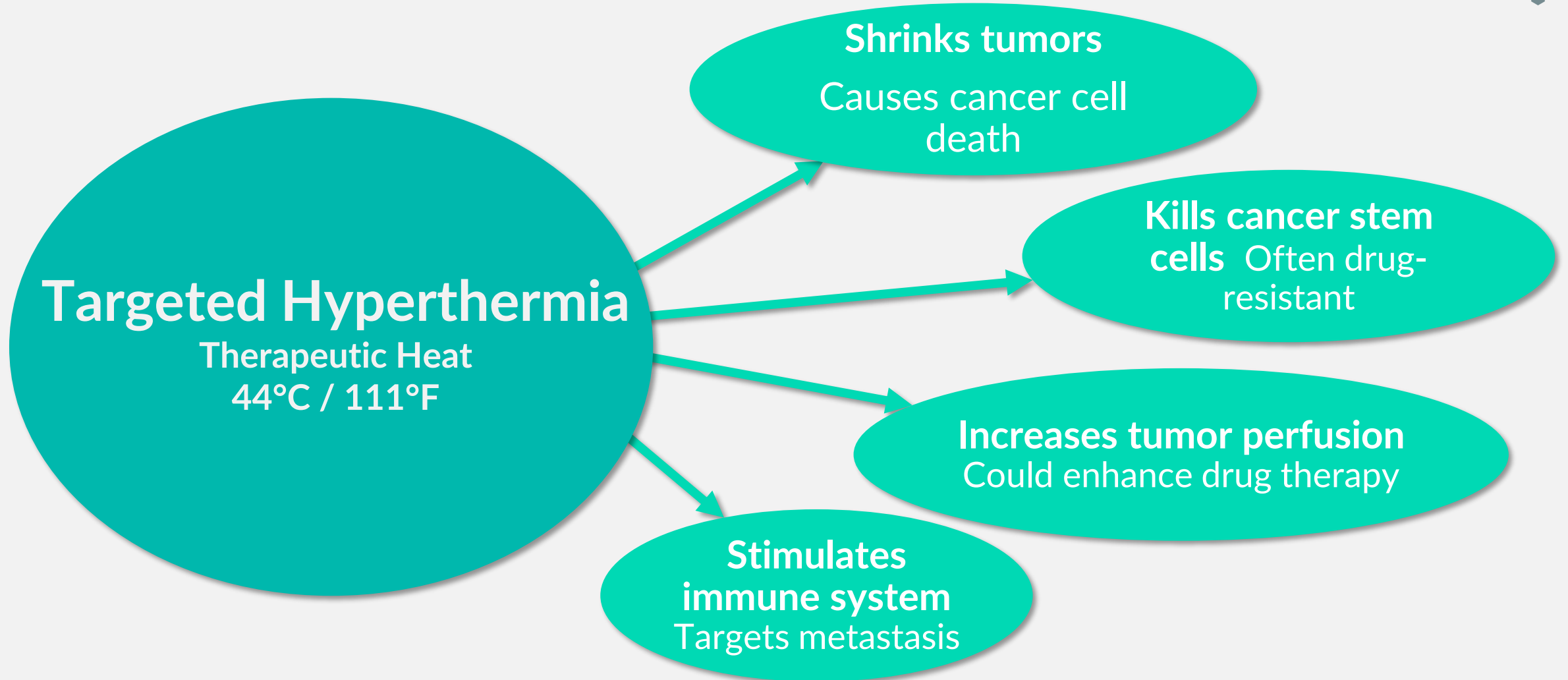
# Heat Kills Cancer Cells and Gold Nanorods are Highly Efficient at Converting Harmless IR Light Energy into Heat



An IR Light Shining on  
A Simulated Tumor  
Saturated with GNRs

Simulated tumour reaches hyperthermia with GNRs

# Plus, 'Hyperthermia' Brings Multiple, Incremental Physiological Benefits



# Goal to 'Steal' Market Share From Chemo, Radiation and Resection Surgeries for Rectal Cancer

Prospective

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Cancer Stage Characteristics	Local	Regional	Lymph Node	Metastatic
Current Standard of Care	Watch and wait/CRT	CRT/Resection	CRT/Resection	CRT/Resection
Targeted Hyperthermia Therapy Applicable?	<b>Expected</b>	<b>Expected</b>	<b>Possible, for early stage 3 cancers</b>	Not applicable

Plan to start with rectal cancer, but then extend to others

# The Risks of the Commercialization of THT May Be More Operational than Technical

## Previously Done/Approved:

- ✓ Using heat to treat cancer
- ✓ Photothermal treatment using infrared light devices
- ✓ FDA has approved NPs for injection for human clinical trials
- ✓ THT efficacy and safety in small animals demonstrated in peer reviewed scientific journal

## Sona Needs to Do:

1. Deliver infrared light through an endoscope that can monitor temperature in real time
2. Studies to demonstrate safety and efficacy of THT in large mammals
3. Studies to determine optimal dosage of GNRs
4. Studies to determine optimal treatment duration
5. Develop intellectual property protection



# Compelling Prospective Market...and Potential to Save Thousands of Lives Annually



Cancer	Rectal	Colon	Esophageal	Head & Neck	Total
Cases per Year	46,000	106,000	21,000	67,000	238,000
Treatable by THT	28,000	40,000	9,000	30,000	106,000
Deaths Per Year	18,000	34,000	17,000	16,000	85,000

## USA Data only

Colon, rectal, colorectal data:

Siegel, RL, Wagle, NS, Cercek, A, Smith, RA, Jemal, A. Colorectal cancer statistics, 2023. *CA Cancer J Clin.* 2023; 73( 3): 233- 254. doi:[10.3322/caac.21772](https://doi.org/10.3322/caac.21772)

Esophageal: <https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/esoph.html>

Head & Neck: <https://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/head-and-neck-cancer/statistics>

# Progress Updates:

## GNR 'GMP' Manufacturing:

- Increased yield via tangential flow filtration ("TFF")
- Significantly reduced free surfactant levels
- Diligencing three 'GMP' manufacturing partners

## Pre-clinical Trial Plan:

- Two CRO's recommendations for:
  - Safety studies
  - Biocompatibility studies
- Discussing efficacy study at medical university laboratory

## Stakeholder Engagement:

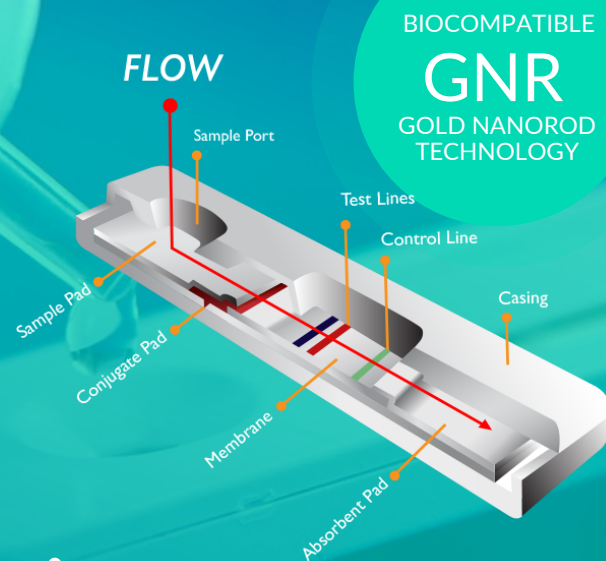
- Clinician engagement – discussing facilitation for expert feedback
- Community engagement – outreach to 150+ patient advocacy groups

## Regulatory Pathway:

- Engaged experienced regulatory advisor
  - Lead is ex-FDA medical devices group (CDRH)
- Communicating with FDA
- "Pre-Sub" meeting pending
- Two device strategy being pursued initially

# 02

## GNR- Based Diagnostics



Lateral Flow Assays (LFA's) as diagnostic tools are:

- Simple
- Fast
- Low-cost
- Rely on nanoparticles

Can provide rapid results (eg. at-home pregnancy tests) at point-of-care

**How could Sona's GNRs make a difference?**

- Multiple test lines per unit
- Easy-to-read results from one small sample
- Potentially greater sensitivity could detect trace amounts of biomarkers



# Sona's Bovine Tuberculosis Test Prototype



17.7m

BOVINE TB TESTING  
EVENTS PY IN UK<sup>13</sup>

*"With help from the NRC IRAP program and the collaboration with our partners in the UK, we hope to offer farmers a more effective method for early detection of bovine TB than is currently used to mitigate the spread of this debilitating disease."*

David Regan  
CEO of Sona Nanotech

## Current Methods & Issues

### Time to results



No cost-effective early detection methods currently available

- A diagnosis through a skin test, turnaround of 48-72 hours<sup>10</sup>
- Post-mortem examination and tissue culture, can take up to 12 weeks<sup>11</sup>

### Cost of Intervention



Once bTB is confirmed, all exposed animals in a herd are destroyed  
Estimated costs of bovine TB control in UK to top £1 billion over the next decade<sup>12</sup>

### Accuracy



Skin test cannot distinguish between infected and vaccinated cattle

## Sona's Bovine Tuberculosis Solution



Early detection at low cost without the need for test-and-slaughter

- Blood sample taken for rapid lateral flow test
- Associated app for tracking and reporting in minutes



Rapid screening of individual animals, no need to destroy healthy cattle



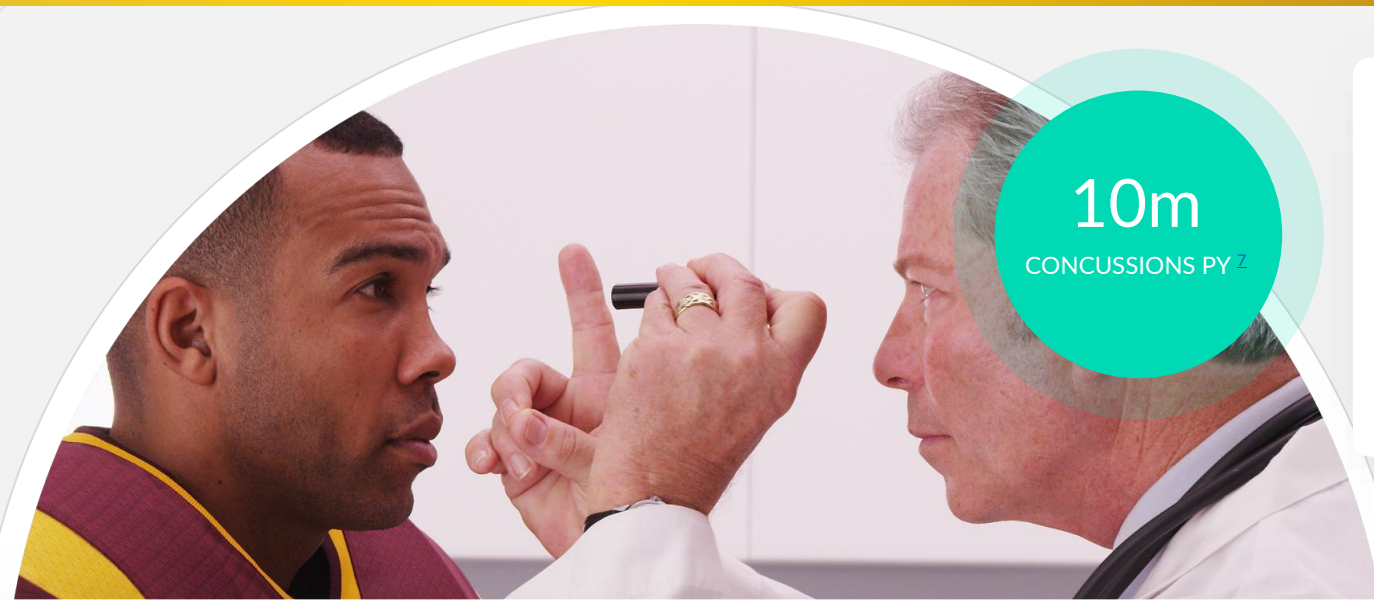
Discern TB positive from TB inoculated cattle

Validated in-lab with contrived  
blood samples

## Next Steps

- Validate with clinical samples
- Clinical trials

# Sona's Concussion Screening Test Prototype



"We estimate that between 1.1 and 1.9 million sports and recreation related concussions occur annually in US children aged ≤18 years."  
**American Academy of Pediatrics<sup>8</sup>**

## Current Problems

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Biomarkers</b>     | ✗ Other concussion markers only elevate within hours or days  |
| <b>Assessments</b>    | ✗ Current tests rely on subjective cognitive assessment   |
| <b>Time to result</b> | ✗ Currently no readerless, true <b>point of impact</b> , rapid concussion test commercially available |

## Sona's Concussion Screening Solution

- ✓ GFAP (Glial Fibrillary Acidic Protein) Released into the blood stream within minutes of a concussion<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ GFAP to be multiplexed with other concussion biomarkers to create unique mTBI fingerprint
- ✓ Relies on definitive biomarker identified associated with concussions
- ✓ Rapid lateral flow test at the scene

Validated in-lab with contrived concussion blood samples

## Next Steps

- Validate with clinical samples
- Clinical trials

Sona's concussion screening test to be used at the scene of injury



# Management Team



David Regan  
CEO

- Business and commercial operations oversight
- Strategy consultant and corporate director
- 15 years public company experience in strategy, IR and corporate development
- MBA from INSEAD and BBA (Hons) from St. FXU



Len Pagliaro, PhD  
CSO

- Prof. of Bioengineering & Laboratory Medicine at University of Washington
- 24yrs exp with biotechnology products, services, & technology licensing
- Developed commercialization at Biolumage from concept to a \$26M P&L in 4 yrs, leading to acquisition & integration by ThermoFisher Scientific
- As CEO of Dynamic Light, Inc. led the spinout of an academic team from concept to first revenues in under 3 years



Darren Rowles  
Head of Diagnostics

- 17 years' experience with nanoparticle diagnostics
- Grew nanoparticle sales from \$200K to \$5.5M with ~\$4M profit
- Advisory board member to Gold Conference and multiple university collaboration projects
- MBA from Bath University and BSc in Biomedical Science and Toxicology from UWIC



Kulbir Singh PhD  
Co-Founder &  
Head of GNR R&D

- Responsible for GNR development
- Named author on 35 research papers and 2 patents
- PhD in chemistry from Guru Nanak Dev University
- Co-founder of a science-based, consumer product company



Robert Randall, CPA  
Chief Financial Officer

- Extensive public company experience as CFO
- Torrent Capital, Antler Gold and eXeBlock Technology
- B.Comm. from St. Mary's University with CA designation in 1987 with Coopers and Lybrand Chartered Accountants

# Board of Directors



**Mark Lievonen**  
Chair

- Past-president of Sanofi Pasteur Limited
- Co-Chair of the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force
- Director of OncoQuest Pharmaceuticals, Biome Grow, and the Gairdner Foundation
- MBA, FCPA



**Walter Strapps**  
Director

- CEO and co-founder, Carver Biosciences Inc., a Khosla Ventures CRISPR/Cas13 antivirals development company
- Previously Chief Scientific Officer of Gemini Therapeutics, head of Discovery at Intellia Therapeutics, and working with RNA therapeutics
- M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D



**Neil Fraser**  
Director

- Past-president of Medtronic Canada
- Life Sciences Strategy Council Member, Canadian Chamber of Commerce
- Health Canada's Advisory Panel on Health Innovation chaired by Dr. David Naylor
- Director of CloudMD
- B.A.Sc., MBA



**Dr. Michael Gross**  
Director

- Professor of Orthopedic surgery
- Medical director of the Regional Tissue Bank
- Current director of Fortune Bay, Chair Boomersplus
- MBBS FRCSC, ICD.D



**James Megann**  
Director

- 25 years of experience in venture capital, capital markets and marketing
- Managing Director of Numus Financial which has completed over \$1.5B in transactions
- He also serves on the board of Torrent Capital (TSX-V: TORR).

## Advisory Board



**Dr. Catherine J. Murphy**

- Peter C. and Gretchen Miller Markunas Professor of Chemistry at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)



**Dr. Xu Zhang**

- Industrial research chair in applied nanotechnology at Cape Breton University, NS
- Chemist with extensive experience in immunoassay and cancer research.



**Dr. Gerry Marangoni**

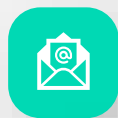
- Co-Founder of Sona
- Tenured professor of chemistry at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, NS



**Fiona Marshall**

- Extensive experience in the lateral flow industry.
- Responsible for establishing a US based R&D and production facility for various lateral flow tests, including tests for class 3 deadly pathogens that served US military contracts





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# Thank you

David Regan

CEO

Sona Nanotech Inc.

BIOCOMPATIBLE  
**GNR**  
GOLD NANOROD  
TECHNOLOGY





# APPENDIX

# Appendix A

## Sources in document

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9. Association between plasma GFAP concentrations and MRI abnormalities in patients with CT-negative traumatic brain injury in the TRACK-TBI cohort: a prospective multicentre study
10. Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board 2020
11. Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
12. National Farmers' Union (NFU) of England and Wales
13. Bovine TB summary for England over the 12 months up to September 2022
14. Michaeli, D. T., Yagmur, H. B., Achmadeev, T., & Michaeli, T. (2022). Value drivers of development stage biopharma companies. *The European Journal of Health Economics*, 23, 1287-1296
15. Rooswinkel, R.W., Berbers, D.S.W., Claassen, E.H.J.H.M., van Deventer, S.: Venturing across the Atlantic. *Nat Biotechnol* 34, 1095–1098 (2016)
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# Appendix B

## Additional Reading

### Gold Nanorods

[Gold nanorods as contrast agents for biological imaging: optical properties, surface conjugation and photothermal effects](#)

[Fabrication of Gold Nanorods with Tunable Longitudinal Surface Plasmon Resonance Peaks by Reductive Dopamine](#)

[Gold Nanorods: The Most Versatile Plasmonic Nanoparticles | Chemical Reviews](#)

[Functionalized gold nanorods for nanomedicine: Past, present and future](#)

[Nanomaterials: An Overview of Nanorods Synthesis and Optimization |](#)

[Spheres vs. rods: The shape of gold nanoparticles influences aggregation and deposition behavior –](#)

### Targeted Therapies

[Functionalized Gold Nanorods for Tumor Imaging and Targeted Therapy – PMC](#)

[Nanomaterials | Free Full-Text | Potential of Polymeric Films Loaded with Gold Nanorods for Local Hyperthermia Applications](#)

[Effects of differently shaped TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs \(nanospheres, nanorods and nanowires\) on the in vitro model \(Caco-2/HT29\) of the intestinal barrier | Particle and Fibre Toxicology | Full Text](#)

[Gold nanospheres and nanorods for anti-cancer therapy: comparative studies of fabrication, surface-decoration, and anti-cancer treatments - Nanoscale \(RSC Publishing\)](#)

### Traumatic Brain Injury

[Injury in review, 2020 edition: Spotlight on \*\*traumatic\*\* brain injuries across the life course - \*\*Traumatic\*\* Brain Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits, Hospitalizations, and Deaths –](#)

[United States, 2007 and 2013 – PMC](#)

[Epidemiology of severe \*\*traumatic\*\* brain injury - Surveillance Report of \*\*Traumatic\*\* Brain Injury-related Emergency Department Visits, Hospitalizations, and Deaths](#)

[The impact of \*\*traumatic\*\* brain injuries: a global perspective – PubMed](#)

[Publications & Reports | Concussion | \*\*Traumatic\*\* Brain Injury | CDC Injury Center](#)

[\*\*Traumatic\*\* Brain Injury-Related Deaths by Race/Ethnicity, Sex, Intent, and Mechanism of Injury – United States, 2000–2017 | MMWR](#)

[\*\*Traumatic\*\* Brain Injury: An Overview of Epidemiology, Pathophysiology, and Medical Management – ScienceDirect](#)

[Estimating the global incidence of \*\*traumatic\*\* brain injury – PubMed](#)

[Epidemiology of \*\*Traumatic\*\* Brain Injury in Europe: A Living Systematic Review | Journal of Neurotrauma](#)

[Surveillance Report of \*\*Traumatic\*\* Brain Injury-related Emergency Department Visits, Hospitalizations, and Deaths](#)