



# AUTOMATIC DE-EPITHELIALIZATION DEVICE

**Advisor:** Dr. Krishanu Saha

**Client:** Dr. Carol Soteropoulos

**Consultant:** Todd Le

2020/10/01



# Team Members

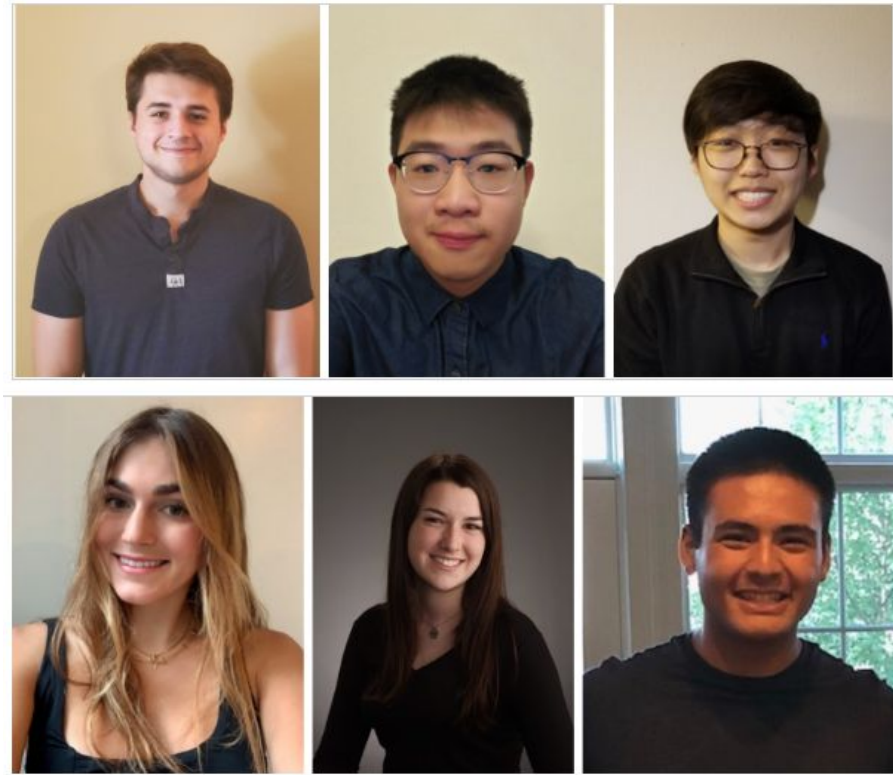
**Team Leader:** Joshua Giarto

**Communicator:** Young Kim

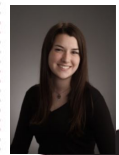
**BSAC:** Noah Ruh

**BWIG:** Colleen Cuncannan, Tatum Rubald

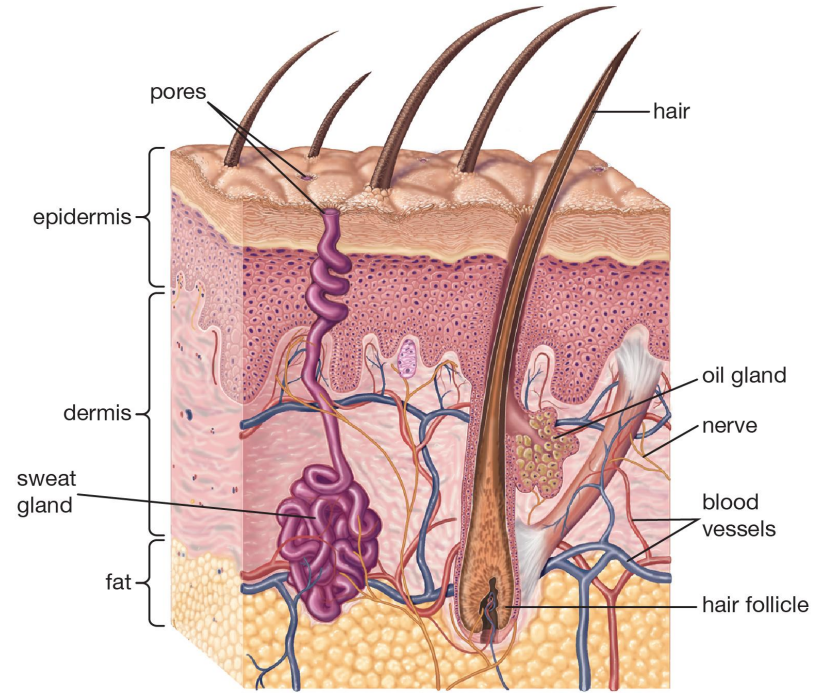
**BPAG:** Michael Chiariello



**Figure 1:** From top-left to bottom-right: Noah Ruh, Joshua Giarto, Young Kim, Tatum Rubald, Colleen Cuncannan, Michael Chiariello

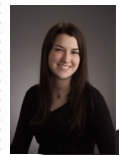


# Important Anatomy of the Skin



© 2013 Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

**Figure 2:** Diagram representing the different layers and components of human skin.  
W. Montagna and F. J. G. Ebling, "Pigmentation," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 01-Apr-2020. [Online]. Available: <https://www.britannica.com/science/human-skin/Pigmentation>. [Accessed: 01-Oct-2020].



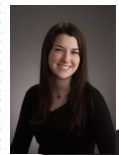
# Current Problems with De-epithelialization

- Time consuming [1]
- Inconsistencies in depth [2]
- Lack of tension in the skin



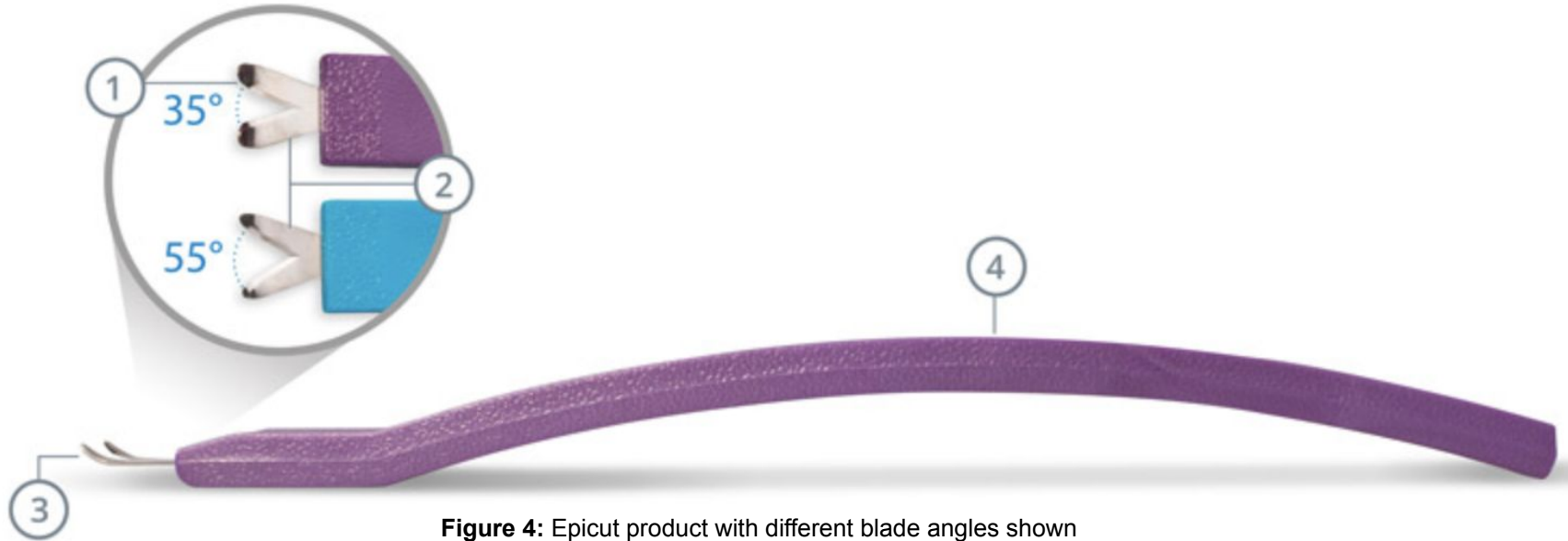
**Figure 3:** A photo of a current method for de-epithelialization of breast tissue using “button holes”

T. O'Neill and P. Regan, "Button Holes: Novel Deepithelialization Technique in Reduction Mamaplasty," *Oxford Academic*, 01-Mar-2011. [Online]. Available: <https://academic.oup.com/asj/article/31/3/358/193829>. [Accessed: 01-Oct-2020].



# Current/Competing Products

- EPICUT™ [3]



**Figure 4:** Epicut product with different blade angles shown

MicroAire Surgical Instruments, LLC. 2020. *Microaire Epicut™ De-Epithelialization Device*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.microaire.com/products/epicut/>> [Accessed 1 October 2020].



# PDS-Summary

## Function:

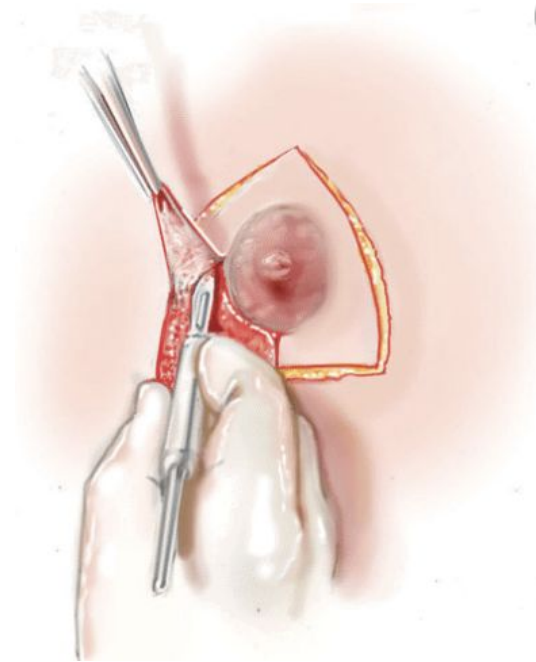
- Facilitate removal of epidermis

## Client Requirements:

- Efficient
- No significant learning curve
- Uniform depth
  - Tension

## Cost:

- \$300



**Figure 5:** Animated photo of current breast epithelialization process.

2020. [online] Available at: [https://www.researchgate.net/figure/a-Diagram-of-the-flap-after-deepithelialization-b-Diagram-of-the-raised-deepithelialized\\_fig1\\_51160939](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/a-Diagram-of-the-flap-after-deepithelialization-b-Diagram-of-the-raised-deepithelialized_fig1_51160939) [Accessed 1 October 2020].



# Design Ideas

- **Potato Peeler**
  - Forceps to provide tension on removed tissue
- **Shovel Scalpel**
  - Augmented scalpel with client preferred motion
- **Spiked Roller**
  - Series of wheels to provide tension



# Design #1- Potato Peeler

- Guard above blade for safety
- Pushing mechanism
- Forceps can rotate to continue tension
- Requires surgeon to use both hands
- Not adjustable
  - Thickness and blade width
- Least feasible out of the 3
  - Most complicated
  - Difficult to fabricate

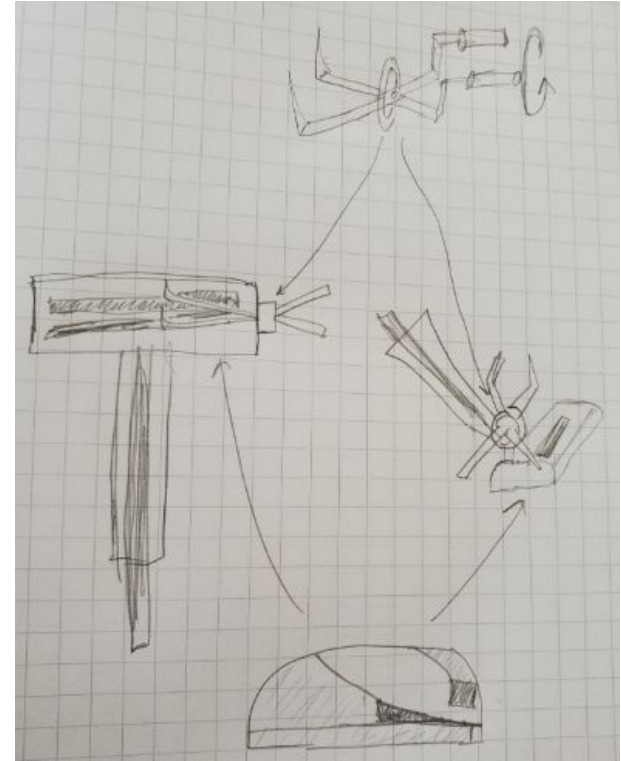


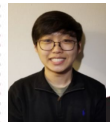
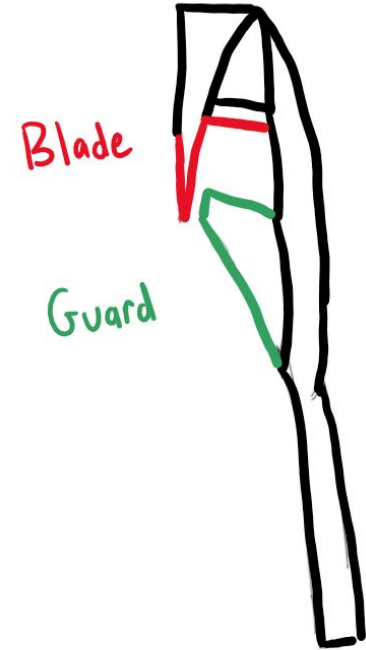
Figure 6: First draft of the Potato Peeler





# Design #2- Shovel Scalpel

- Pulling motion favored by client
  - Easier motion
  - Must be validated with prototype
- Adjustable Guard in place to prevent thick sections
- Issues arise if cuts are too thin
  - Must be addressed by operating surgeon
- Doesn't address issue of tension
  - Non-dominant hand responsible



# Design #3- Spiky Roller

- Utilizes a system of rollers with teeth
- Blade adjusted to a desired depth
- Issues arise if cuts are too thin
  - Must be addressed by operating surgeon
- Problems initializing removal
- Could tear skin, nullifying design
  - Very thin layer of skin  $\approx 0.35\text{mm}$

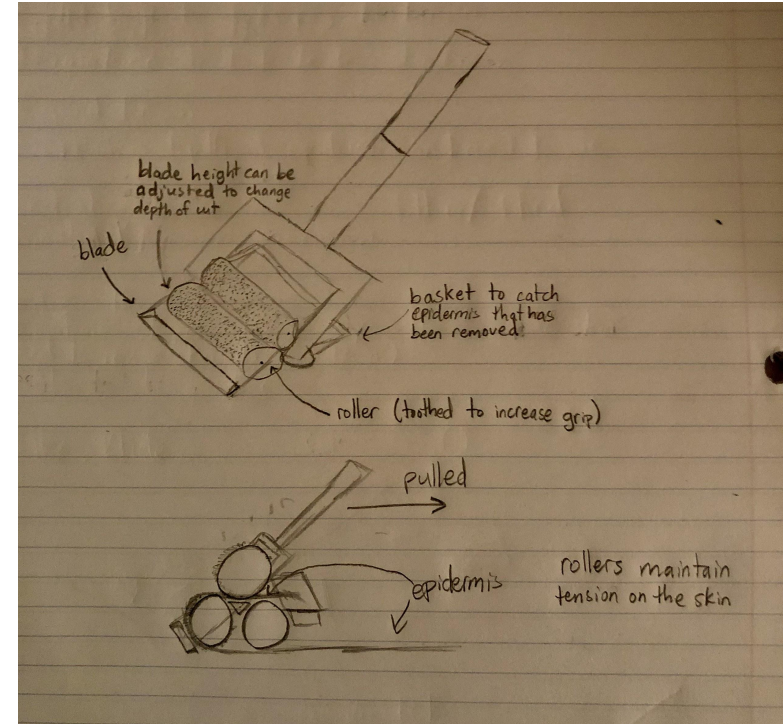


Figure 8: Spiky Roller

# Design Matrix



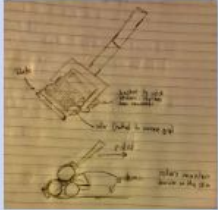
|                    | Design 1<br>Potato Peeler   |    | Design 2<br>Shovel scalpel   |    | Design 3<br>Spiked Roller   |    |
|--------------------|---|----|--|----|---|----|
|                    |  |    |  |    |  |    |
| Safety (30)        | 3/5   | 18 | 4/5  | 24 | 3/5   | 18 |
| Efficiency (25)    | 4/5   | 20 | 4/5  | 20 | 4/5   | 20 |
| Precision (20)     | 3/5   | 12 | 4/5  | 16 | 3/5   | 12 |
| Feasibility (15)   | 1/5   | 3  | 4/5  | 12 | 2/5   | 6  |
| Learning Curve (5) | 5/5   | 5  | 5/5  | 5  | 3/5   | 3  |
| Cost (5)           | 2/5   | 2  | 3/5  | 3  | 2/5   | 2  |
| Total (100)        | 60  |    | 80   |    | 61  |    |

Figure 9: Design Matrix

# Current Chosen Design

- Shovel Scalpel
  - Safest
  - Most Precise
  - Just As Efficient
  - Easy to Operate
  - Feasible and Cost Effective

|                    | Design 1<br>Potato Peeler |    | Design 2<br>Shovel scalpel |    | Design 3<br>Spiked Roller |    |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----|----------------------------|----|---------------------------|----|
| Safety (30)        | 3/5                       | 18 | 4/5                        | 24 | 3/5                       | 18 |
| Efficiency (25)    | 4/5                       | 20 | 4/5                        | 20 | 4/5                       | 20 |
| Precision (20)     | 3/5                       | 12 | 4/5                        | 16 | 3/5                       | 12 |
| Feasibility (15)   | 1/5                       | 3  | 4/5                        | 12 | 2/5                       | 6  |
| Learning Curve (5) | 5/5                       | 5  | 5/5                        | 5  | 3/5                       | 3  |
| Cost (5)           | 2/5                       | 2  | 3/5                        | 3  | 2/5                       | 2  |
| Total (100)        | 60                        |    | 80                         |    | 61                        |    |

Figure 9: Design Matrix

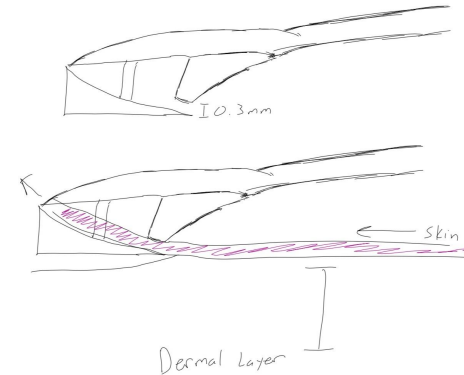
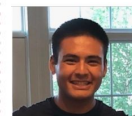


Figure 10: Shovel Scalpel



# Foreseeable Problems

- Tension
- Prototyping
- Testing

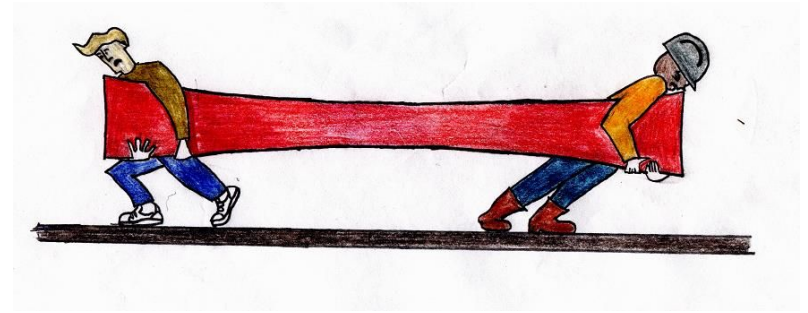
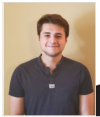


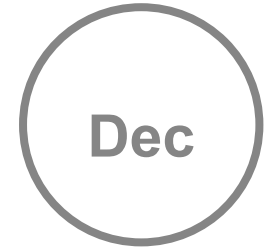
Figure 11: Two people creating tension



Figure 12: Manufacturing floor for medical devices



# Future Work



**Finalize Design**  
**Model prototype**  
**Obtain testing material**

**Testing**  
**Evaluating**

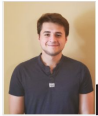
**Work with client for**  
**improvements for**  
**future semesters**



# Acknowledgements

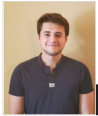
Thanks to:

- Our clients, Dr. Carol Soteropulos, for proposing this project and providing input on different design ideas
- Our advisor, Dr. Krishanu Saha, for guiding us throughout the preliminary design process
- Our consultant, Todd Le, for providing assistance in meetings and design
- The BME Department, for providing us with the opportunity to work on this project



# References

- [1] Current De-eping: T. O'Neill and P. Regan, "Button Holes: Novel Deepithelialization Technique in Reduction Mamaplasty," *Oxford Academic*, 01-Mar-2011. [Online]. Available: <https://academic.oup.com/asj/article/31/3/358/193829>. [Accessed: 01-Oct-2020].
- [2] Important anatomy of the skin: W. Montagna and F. J. G. Ebling, "Pigmentation," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 01-Apr-2020. [Online]. Available: <https://www.britannica.com/science/human-skin/Pigmentation>. [Accessed: 01-Oct-2020].
- [3] MicroAire Surgical Instruments, LLC. 2020. *Microaire Epicut™ De-Epithelialization Device*. [online] Available at: <https://www.microaire.com/products/epicut/> [Accessed 1 October 2020].





**Questions?**

