

# Multisensory Pre-Alarm System for Physicians



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Mystery Machine

Oral Report 1  
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**What's the Problem?**

# Problem Statement

- Too many distracting alarms and sounds in Intensive Care Units
- Only 23% of ICU alarms go off correctly
- Leads to patient and physician fatigue
  - Snoozing alarms
  - Patient distress
- No differentiation between different parameters



# Problem Statement

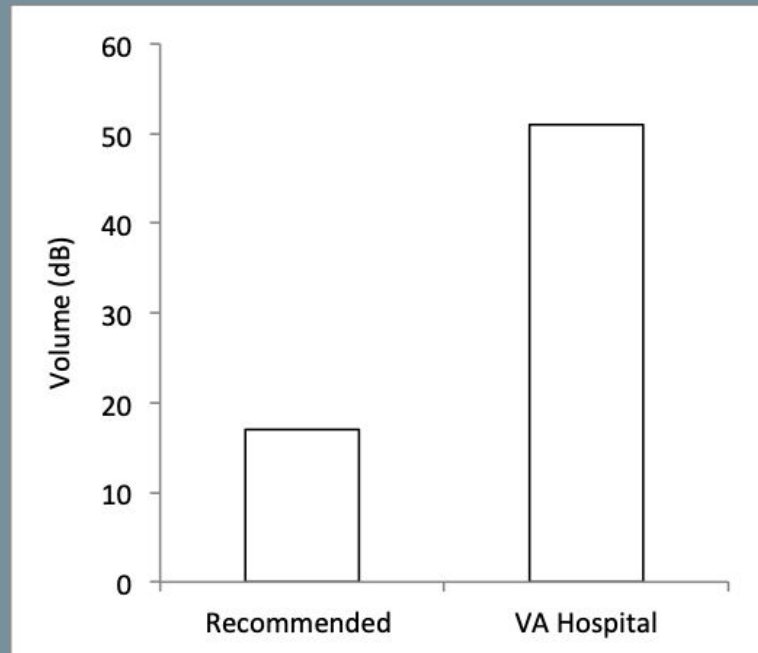
- Multisensory pre-alarm device
- Alerts physicians before alarm goes off
  - Uses musical sounds and haptics
- Improves positive predictive value
- Less stress for patient and physician



# Previous Work

# Literature Confirms the Issues

- WHO recommends below 15-20 dB in a clinical environment
- Vanderbilt VA Hospital: 51 dB (1)
- False alarm rates: 72-99% (2)
- Alarm fatigue: #1 technology device hazard in 2013
  - Alarm fatigue → clinician error → adverse patient outcomes
- 500 deaths over 4 years due to faulty alarm management (2)



# Dynamic Alarm Systems for Hospitals (D.A.S.H.)

- Self-regulates volume based on environment noise level
- Aims to improve patient safety and ease clinician alarm fatigue
  - Improve sleep, reduce delirium, prevent long-term cognitive impairment
- Testing confirmed that the system successfully regulates volume based on background (2)

**Table 1. Sound Measurements From Device and Conventional Alarms in a Patient-Occupied ICU Room**

| <b>Variable</b>       | <b>Minimum Sound Level (dB)</b> | <b>Maximum Sound Level (dB)</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Quiet ICU room        | 44.9                            | 52.3                            |
| D.A.S.H. (our alarm)  | 52                              | 61.5                            |
| Infusion pump         | 62                              | 63                              |
| Patient monitor alarm | 65                              | 75                              |
| Ventilator            | 70                              | 74                              |

*Note.* ICU = intensive care unit; D.A.S.H. = Dynamic Alarm Systems for Hospitals.

# Multimodal Alarms

- Multisensory integration of the haptic and auditory channels
- Improves information transfer
- Reduced auditory threshold of perception
- Cocktail party example



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**What is needed?**

# Needs Assessment

- UX
- Patient Efficacy
- Safety
- Hospital System Efficiency
- Technical Needs

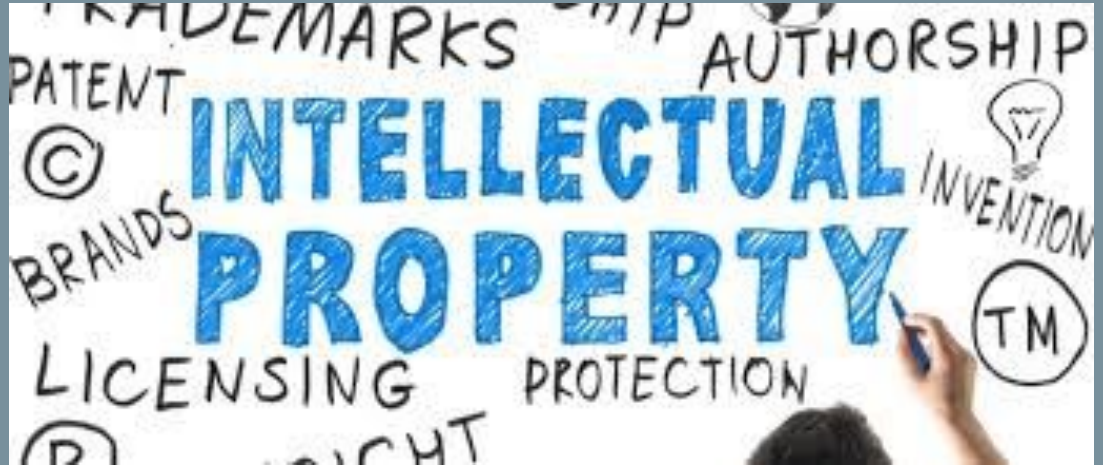


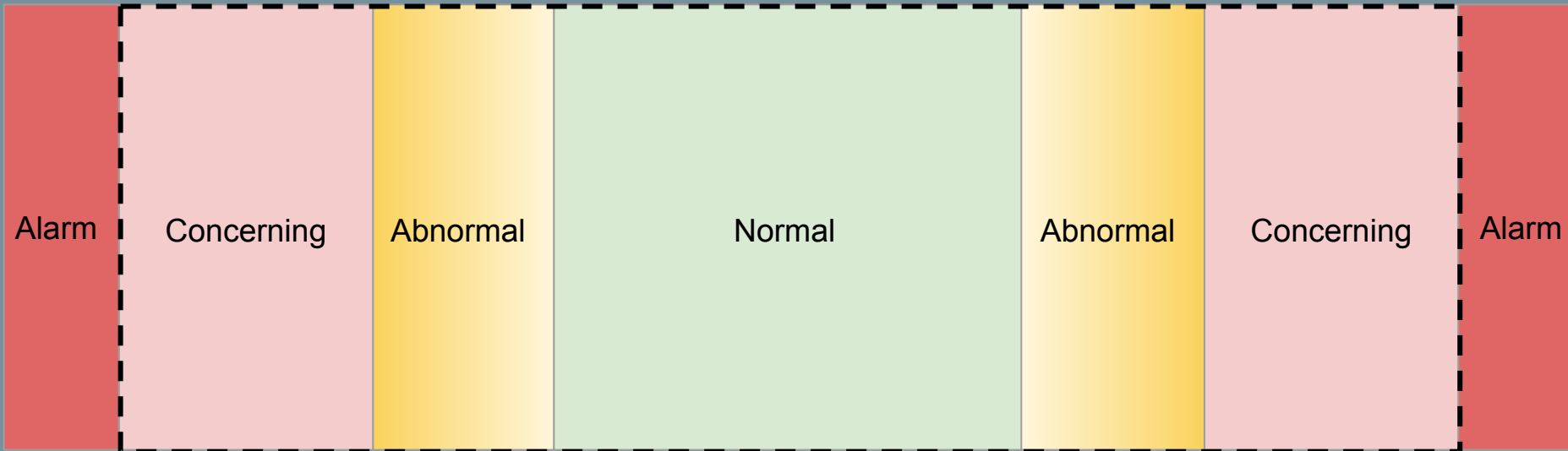
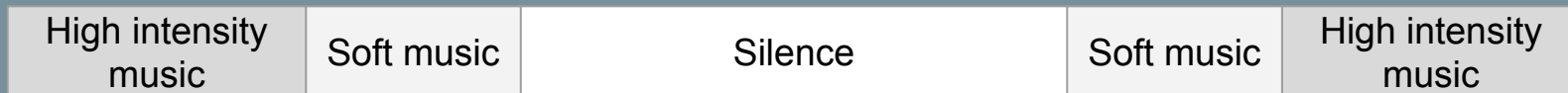
# Updates

- 1) IP Issues
- 2) Thresholds
- 3) Sounds
- 4) Efficacy Tests

# IP Issues

- McGill University
- Haptics
  - Next steps





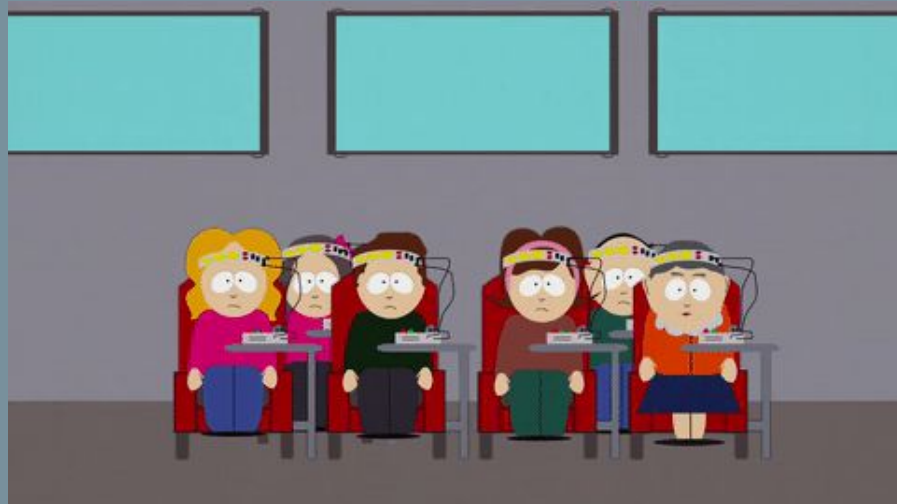
\*Additional haptic when change in secondary patient's vitals

# Sounds



# Next Steps - Short Term

- Determine haptic actuator use
- Create a second iteration of sounds
- Determine different ways to differentiate between the ranges
- Come up with an idea for an experiment



# Efficacy Study Planning

- Draft IRB
- Sound recognition and differentiation testing
  - “Black box room”
  - Previous group set up ICU in a dorm room
- Transmitter location efficacy testing
  - Assess ideal haptuator locations
- Power law prediction of study participants
  - Initial expectation of  $N = 30$  based on prior research



# Long-Term Planning

- Multiple meetings with Joe to discuss project ideation
  - DIVE Team Collaboration - Python script and improved workflow
  - VA Hospital ICU Visits
- IRB Draft and Efficacy Studies
- HFES Conference March 2019 - Chicago
  - Meet with Dr. Schlesinger's collaborators from multiple institutions
  - Increase insight into other research in the field
- Beyond design day
  - Plans to publish?

# References?

1. Alirezaee, P., Girgis, R., Kim, T., Schlesinger, J. J. and Cooperstock, J. R. (2017). Did you feel that? Developing novel multimodal alarms for high consequence clinical environments. *ICAD*.
2. Burdick, K. J., Chowdhury, A. R., Greer, J. M., and Schlesinger J. J. (2018). Dynamic Alarm Systems for Hospitals (D.A.S.H.). *Ergonomics in Design*.

# QUESTIONS?

