Open Source Medical Devices: Lessons Learned From a Complex Collaborative Research Project

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Motivation for OSMD

- Forum for free sharing and development of ideas and resources
 - To complete medical devices design that have been left out
 - Involve good ideas from small labs with less resources
 - Networking to provide matching expertise
- Make affordable medical devices for research

 - Goal within 1/3rd- 1/4th cost of commercial systems
 - Only cost is for the physical









OSMD Conference

- Identify interested researchers and collaborate
- Determine design specifications for integrated micro-CT/PET/RT system
- Collective scientific fun brainstorming





mRT to Initiate OSMD

- Need to kick-off OSMD by giving out our ideas and technology first
- This project is big and multi-faceted
- Chose to develop a portion of mRT system that can deliver IMRT in preclinical settings
- Make it available via OSMD



Innovation: mRT with IMRT

- Critical component 1: mechanical design of binary micro-MLC (bmMLC) for mRT and its dosimetry
- Critical component 2: kV treatment planning system for mRT (WiscPlankV) to enable IMRT dose delivery
- Validation of WiscPlankV dose calculation using the bmMLC assembly
- AAPM 2016 Poster: SU-F-T-667

Design of bmMLC

- Simple and concise design
- Smallest dynamic collimator designed for any RT system
- Using 3D printing to fabricate custom-build parts
- Using open-source micro-controller (Arduino)
- Designed to provide 1 mm resolution at isocenter using 0.5 mm thick interleaved brass plates, with leaf motion < 1 sec

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bmMLC Design 1: Iterations



bmMLC Design 2: Iterations



Current bmMLC Design



Current Design Prototype: One Side And Leaf Fabrication



Current Design Prototype Assembling



Current Design Prototype: Full Assembly (Material Cost < \$500)



Phantom Design and Fabrication



WiscPlankV: Dose Distribution



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OSMD Impact

- OSMD was featured in the Economist (2012)
 http://www.economist.com/node/21556098
 When code can kill or cure
- Several medical device engineers contacted us with questions on how to open-source their ideas
- There has been a lot of interest shown by medical physics community
- We have openly shared our idea
- WiscPlan TPS has been used by several researchers as we have shared with it freely

Our OSMD Challenges

- We started a very ambitious project
- Interest by several outside researchers but their interest would come into play in later part in the project
- I had no experience to manage interests for future project
- We received no outside interest for hardware project
- Hardware design collaboration is still challenging
- Proposal for inter-university collaboration turned into mostly a interdepartment collaborations
 - Got help from different research groups at UW-Madison
 - A lot of colleagues (who are not in the project) shared ideas for mRT project

General OSMD Challenges

- A lot of work, not easy to begin
- Driven by passion not interest from institute, need a critical mass
- Not transparent information from vendors
- Funding
- Potential regulatory obstacle for clinical developments

Conclusions

- OSMD initiative was a good start and a great learning experience
- A part of an OSMD project on mRT was completed
 bmMLC Design was demonstrated
- Both bmMLC and WiscPlankV are available via the OSMD website: https://morgridge.org/open-source-medical-devices/
- We hope that our effort to open-source our ideas and technology will kick-off the OSMD and involve many research groups in the future
- We need a consortium organization or AAPM tasks group (critical mass) with a web platform to share ideas and collaborate

