

# Designing a Regenerative Implant to Help Heal Critical Bone Defects



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# Background

## **What is the problem we are trying to solve?**

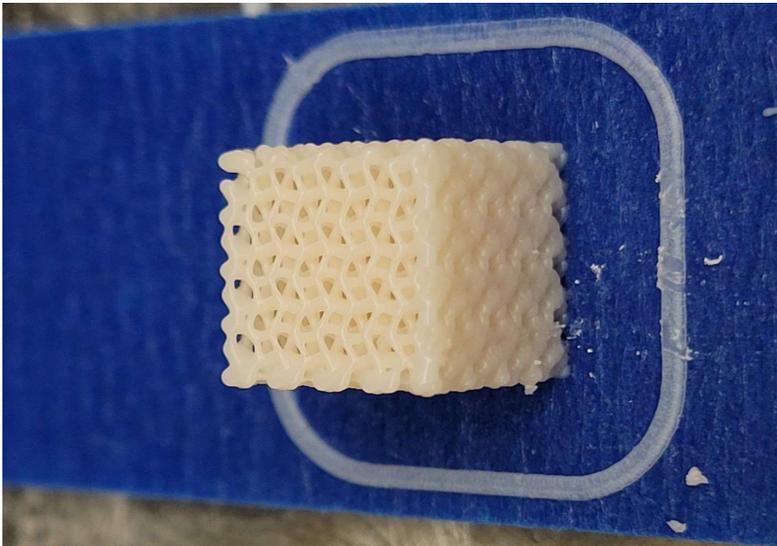
- Humans, dogs, and other animals often must have substantial sections of bone removed due to bone cancer and trauma
- Often results in limb loss

## **What is the current solution?**

- Plates and screws are surgically implanted to partially retain skeletal structure and support normal loads
- Usually remains in the body permanently



# Our Current Design



## The Scaffold

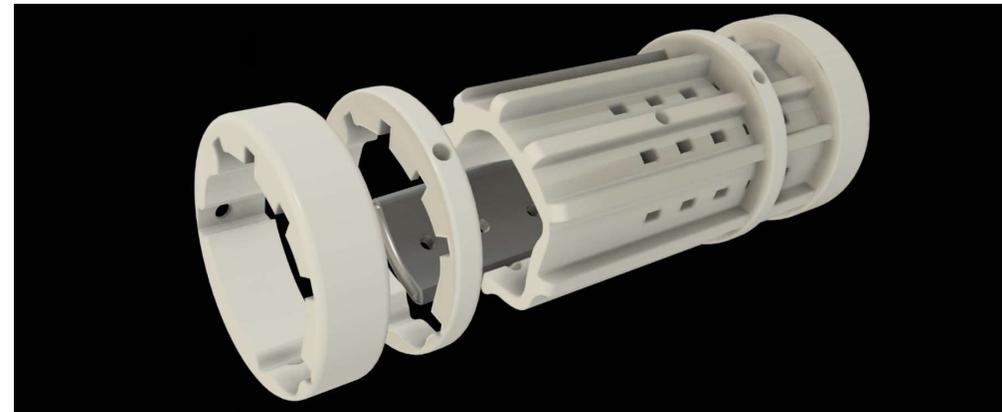
- Facilitates the regeneration of natural bone
- “Gyroid” topology
- Varies from 60 to 80% porosity
- Currently printed with hydroxyapatite (HAp)

## Plate (gold standard)

- Stainless steel, supports the loads

## Sleeve & Cuff Prostheses

- Sleeve contains/protects the bioactive hydroxyapatite (HAp) scaffold
- connected to plate
- Held together by surgical screws and cuffs
- 3D printed using polycaprolactone (PCL).



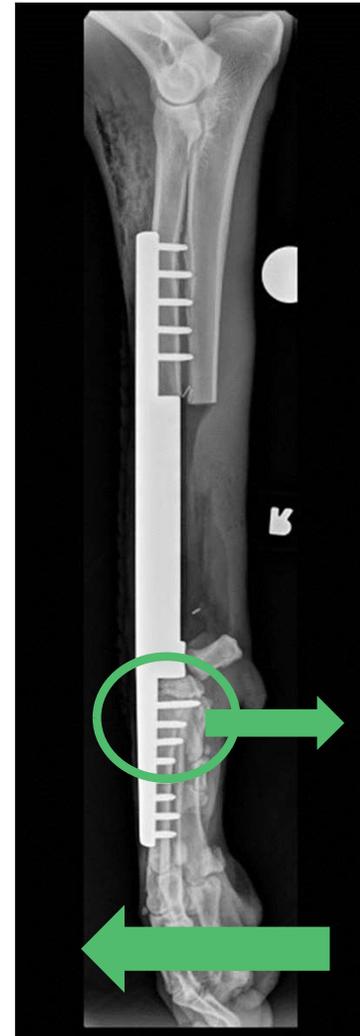
# My Project

## What is the problem?

The screws fastening the plate loosen and fail due to repetitive movement under load when the paw bends in normal gait.

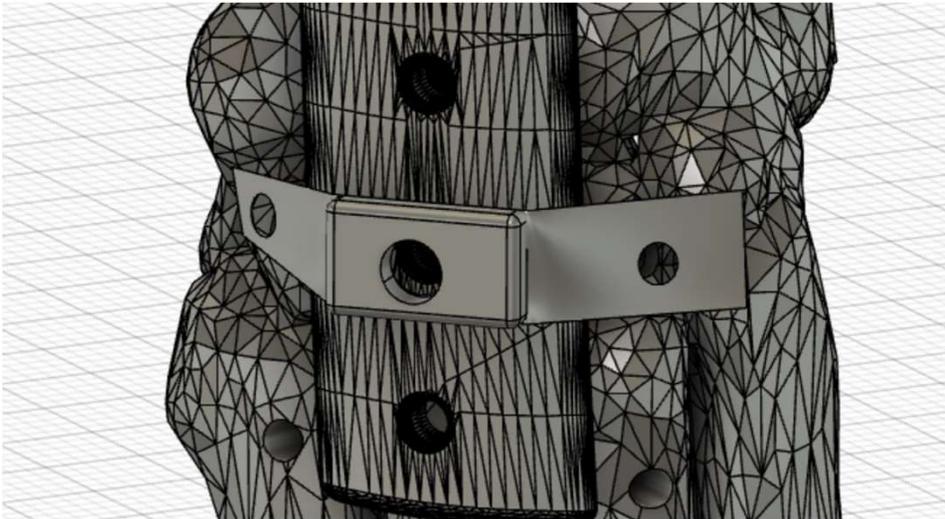
## My Project

Design an additional prosthetic to augment the current design, which shares the loads and reduces screw loosening.



# Proposed Solution

**Fastening the plate with a stiff plastic “strap” that distributes stress across two other metacarpals.**



## Pros:

- Minimal impact on patient
- Does not introduce new complications
- Distributes stress across two additional metacarpals

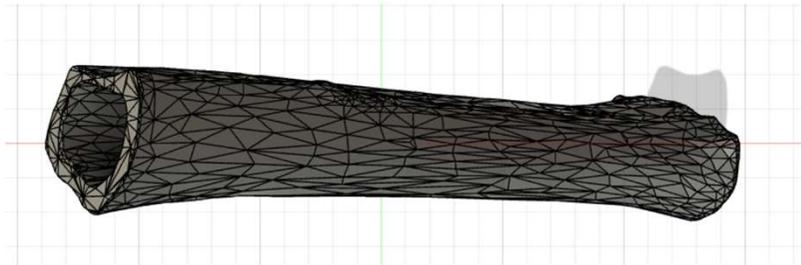
## Cons:

- Involves drilling two more screws that must be removed later (one goal is all hardware must be removed after healing)



## Next Steps

- Device modifications will be 3D printed and tested
  - Surgical procedure developed on canine cadaver limbs
  - Mechanical testing on cadaver limbs
- Clinical trials with client dogs after testing



## Conclusions

- A device was designed to mitigate screw loosening
- A surgical procedure will be developed
- Clinical trials will be enabled later this year



## What benefits did you get from you SURE experience?

- During this semester I had the opportunity to...
  - Sharpen my CAD skills
  - Learn how to slice STL files into G-code
  - Print my designs on a standard PRUSA printer and a Hyrel Hydra.
- However, the most important lesson I learned was that proper preparation and forethought are central to any goal one wishes to achieve.

## References & Acknowledgements

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All CAD models were made with Autodesk Fusion 360.



# Thank you



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