

6) The pump receiver and housing are made from a polyurethane No. 30 powder metallurgical grade polymer. Features C, microfluidics are fabricated in small batches using a [redacted] technique¹⁷. The microelectrodes used for electrodes are both fabricated on glass slides using standard microfabrication techniques¹⁸. The previously demonstrated wireless telemetry for inductive power transfer to biomedical implants, including Class II and III systems [redacted]¹⁹. The wireless real-time control of drug delivery is used²⁰. The same system triggered in vivo a microfluidic developed for a subcutaneous microfluidic drug delivery pump used in freely behaving mice^{21, 22}. Inductive power transfer (2 MHz) between an external primary coil and integrated secondary coil was achieved in both cases^{23, 24}. The current wireless telemetry system builds off these previous results and consists of a primary and secondary circuit for inductive powering and control of the pump (Fig. 1). The base station primary circuit uses a class E amplifier to drive a 2 MHz inductive coil²⁵ with a secondary circuit inside the pump housing. The primary and secondary circuit designs were optimized so that sufficient power transfer is obtained through inductive coupling at distances of 1 cm after the mouse-accessible cage where above the base station. There is no interference from adjacent base stations using such an approach (data not shown).

The receiving power module after the pump is contained in a flexible printed circuit board and housed after the pump. The single coil wrapped around the pump receiver collects power from the emitting base station, coupling is maximized when the pump lies in the horizontal plane parallel to cage floor. The pump electronics rectify and limit the current that drives the electrohydraulic actuators [redacted] coils. A single coil design provides excellent coupling with a pump orientation angle of about [redacted] from plane²⁶. In some cases, the angle tolerance is insufficient to guarantee coupling between the base station and the pump in a pump is implanted on its side. After post-implantation, being animal movement or being resting or drinking, it is estimated that rodents engage in respiratory activity (breathing, drinking, standing, grooming) ~25% of the time on average. Therefore, there is a possibility that the pump may not receive sufficient power when desired. Given these observations, it is necessary to provide reliable inductive power transfer to the pump under all possible rodent orientations.

Approach. To achieve orientation independence, we will investigate a three coil design on the receiving circuit. This implementation allows three orthogonal coils which can provide inductive coupling under all orientation angles. The proposed circuit topology (Fig. 1) parallels the output from three series connected coil systems which provide coupling with the primary under any orientation. This approach has been demonstrated in other implantable devices such as ingestible cameras and multi-modal sensors with similar angular orientation challenges²⁷, but is yet to be demonstrated as a viable powering scheme for implantable pumps. Integration of the three coil design after the pump housing and with the integrated electronics will be tested at the benchtop and evaluated for transfer performance and current output homogeneity. Wireless power transfer performance will first be evaluated using a pump implanted head in series with the base receiving coil network to obtain maximum power transfer capability including (i) 600 mW range power transfer vs. distance of secondary coil and (ii) transfer power transfer vs. alignment angle of secondary coil. Current output homogeneity over the base station footprint will be assessed to ensure adequate power regulation in under and over coupling regions. Power transfer will be measured for single and multiple pump conditions. In addition, multi-pump power transfer will be evaluated in lateral and vertical directions to assess possible mode of interference. Consistent with standards set by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, an operating frequency of 2 MHz is selected (observed in tissue is minimal below 10 MHz)²⁸ and power exposure will be kept below the recommended maximum fractional specific absorption rate (SAR) of 0.05 W/kg.

Expected outcomes, potential problems, and solutions. It is expected that increased transfer performance will come at a cost of suboptimal coupling. The ability to have base station output power will be important in addressing the concern. Also, integration of additional coils is expected to exponentially increase the system weight currently [redacted] g, but will still satisfy the size and weight acceptance criteria (Table 1).

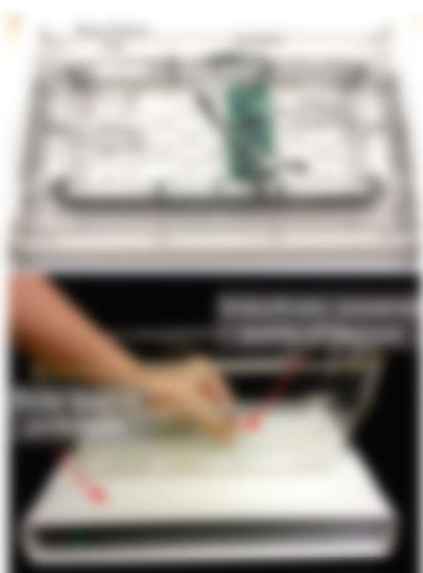


Figure 1. Pump receiver assembly including telemetry coil and drug module. Station 1, 2, 3, mounted base station all under cage floor.



Figure 2. Circuit design to improve current output homogeneity.