PRECISION MEDICATION DELIVERY SYSTEM

Alexander L. Yarin, PhD, Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, University of Illinois, Chicago, IL, USA
Lev Neymotin, PhD, N5Digital, Inc., CEO, Plainview, NY, USA

ABSTRACT
This proposal presents a novel medical delivery system: the **Piezo-Generated Aerosol Wand (PAW)**, designed for **precise, contact-free application** of liquid medications to sensitive tissue surfaces. A compact, hand-held device, PAW overcomes limitations of traditional drops and sprays by generating a gentle, focused micro-aerosol cloud using piezoelectric actuation. To further enhance precision, we propose a **modular Composite Spherical Piezo-Lens (CSPL)** that geometrically converges aerosolized droplets at a tunable focal point, enabling dose control from pinpoint targeting to uniform surface coating.

The design draws on **validated principles from acoustic levitation, boundary element modeling, and fluid dynamic droplet tracking**, as established in prior foundational research. These techniques inform both simulation and engineering strategies for aerosol shaping, stability, and delivery efficiency. The system's broad clinical potential spans ophthalmology, ENT, dermatology, wound care, and beyond. A four-phase development plan is proposed, balancing innovation with safety, usability, and regulatory alignment.

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1. THE PROBLEM: IMPRECISE DELIVERY, SYSTEMIC EXPOSURE, PATIENT DISCOMFORT
Across many medical domains—dermatology, ENT, ophthalmology, wound care, dental medicine, and surgery—medication delivery methods are hampered by:

- **Excess medication loss** due to imprecise aiming or overflow.
- **Uncontrolled systemic absorption** from drainage or spread beyond the intended site.
- **Patient discomfort or pain**, especially on inflamed, sensitive, or post-operative tissues.
- **Manual administration issues**, such as dosage inconsistency and user error in children, elderly, or non-compliant patients.
- **Cross-contamination risk** in contact-based devices.

Conventional sprays and droppers often oversaturate or undersupply the target tissue and fail to provide adequate control over both **dose** and **delivery geometry**.

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2. THE SOLUTION: A CONTROLLED, GENERAL-PURPOSE DELIVERY PLATFORM
We propose the development of a **non-contact, precision medication applicator platform**—the **Piezo-Generated Aerosol Wand (PAW)**—capable of:

- Delivering a **precisely metered dose** of liquid medication,
- Shaping the dose into a **focused aerosol micro-cloud**,
- **Targeting tissue with geometric precision** while avoiding adjacent areas,
- Operating **without physical contact**, thus reducing risk of contamination and mechanical irritation.

The PAW platform is broadly applicable to multiple therapeutic areas, including but not limited to:

- **Ophthalmology**: post-operative or chronic ocular conditions,
- **ENT**: nasal, pharyngeal, and ear canal applications,
- **Dermatology**: burns, wounds, and sensitive skin treatment,
- **Dental care**: localized oral delivery,

- **Surgical and post-surgical**: precise application of anesthetics, antimicrobials, or hemostatic agents,
- **Pediatrics and geriatrics**: safe, comfortable dosing for those with physical or cognitive limitations.

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3. COMPOSITE SPHERICAL PIEZO-LENS IN PAW DESIGN: A FOCUSING SYSTEM FOR PRECISION MEDICATION DELIVERY

The centerpiece of the proposed platform is the Piezo-Generated Aerosol Wand (PAW)—a hand-held, contact-free system for the precision application of liquid medications. In its baseline form, PAW uses a micro piezoelectric actuator to generate a soft, confined aerosol cloud. This gentle mist can be directed manually onto sensitive tissue surfaces, minimizing waste, physical discomfort, and systemic absorption. PAW is particularly suited for applications involving the eye, nose, oral cavity, wounds, and post-surgical areas, where handheld control provides essential adaptability.

To extend the PAW platform's capability, we propose an integrated or modular enhancement: the Composite Spherical Piezo-Lens (CSPL). This system allows a hand-held user-controlled device to focus converging streams of micro-droplets toward a tunable focal point—much like a lens focuses light. The CSPL enables highly controlled and localized medication delivery or broader coverage, depending on therapeutic need and proximity to the target surface.

3.1. How It Works

- Piezoelectric micro-nozzles are arranged on a spherical or parabolic dome housed in the hand-held unit.
- Each nozzle emits micro-droplets on demand, forming streams that converge spatially at a focal region in free air.
- The focal zone is controlled by adjusting droplet velocity, timing, or by moving the device closer or farther from the treatment surface.
- The operator can easily guide the device to follow anatomical contours, enabling both spot treatment and wide-area coverage.

3.2. Benefits

- High precision and portability: The hand-held PAW + CSPL system allows flexible, user-directed application across various body sites.
- Contact-free targeting: The lens design eliminates the need for physical contact, preserving sterility and avoiding discomfort.
- Versatile use: Designed for clinicians, caregivers, and patients alike, the portable format makes it suitable for both in-clinic and at-home use.

The behavior of the Composite Spherical Piezo-Lens (CSPL) in shaping and directing converging aerosol streams is closely aligned with principles demonstrated in prior studies of acoustic levitation and droplet manipulation. Specifically, the techniques validated by Yarin et al. in *J. Fluid Mech.* (1998, 1999) show that stable, focused regions of aerosolized or liquid material can be created and maintained in free space using spatially modulated acoustic fields. These insights are being adapted to support the design of CSPL systems that replicate similar control through a distributed array of piezo-actuated nozzles.

3.3. Optional Enhancements

- Aerodynamic assist: A coaxial low-velocity airflow may be added to guide droplets in varied room conditions.

- Electrostatic or acoustic steering: Advanced versions may allow dynamic adjustment of convergence via internal field control.
- Smart targeting: Future models may integrate miniaturized sensors to help the operator maintain optimal distance and aim.

Computational design of the CSPL architecture will incorporate Boundary Element Methods (BEM) and acoustic streaming field analysis, enabling predictive control of focal cloud stability and convergence geometry under hand-held operation.

The combined architecture—PAW's gentle cloud generation with CSPL's precision-focused delivery—forms a compact, intelligent, and adaptable medication applicator, advancing the state of non-invasive therapeutic delivery.

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4. DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

To realize the hand-held PAW + CSPL platform, we propose a structured, four-phase development plan that balances innovation, usability, and clinical validation.

Phase 1: Feasibility and Simulation

- Model piezo-droplet dynamics and convergence behavior in CSPL dome geometry under mobile hand-held use conditions.
- Simulate fluid dispersion, focal tuning, and interaction with irregular body surfaces.
- Explore acoustic and aerodynamic approaches to stabilize droplet trajectories in open air.
- Apply Boundary Element Methods (BEM) to model aerosol field shaping and streaming-induced stabilization of micro-droplet paths, based on validated techniques from acoustic levitation research (Yarin et al., 1998, 1999).

Phase 2: Prototype Fabrication

- Construct hand-held PAW prototypes with integrated piezo elements.
- Develop the CSPL curved nozzle array and fit it within a lightweight ergonomic housing.
- Integrate user interface components for manual focal adjustment and spray modulation.
- CSPL nozzle design will incorporate droplet convergence modeling using both two-interpenetrating jet formulations and discrete droplet tracking methods, building upon principles developed in multiphase flow studies (e.g., Yarin et al., JFM 2019).

Phase 3: Application Testing and Adaptation

- Validate performance across various therapeutic use cases using test surfaces and tissue analogs.
- Evaluate the handheld device's precision, coverage, and ease of use in comparison with traditional methods.
- Adapt device form factor, grip, and feedback mechanisms based on use-case feedback.

Phase 4: Clinical Integration and Regulatory Review

- Conduct small-scale trials in partnership with clinical centers.
- Initiate regulatory pathway based on intended use and classification (likely as a Class II device).
- Finalize designs for scalable production, considering both consumer and clinical market entry points.

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5. EXAMPLE APPLICATION: OPHTHALMIC DELIVERY

The inefficiencies of standard **eye drop administration** are well-documented:

- **Over 90% of eye drop volume is lost** via spillage or drainage into the nasolacrimal duct.

- **Drainage into the nasal cavity** may trigger sneezing or rhinorrhea, risking post-operative complications such as displacement of intraocular lenses.
- **Instillation challenges**—especially for elderly or post-op patients—reduce adherence and effectiveness.
- **Tear duct overload** may cause long-term dysfunction due to prolonged exposure.

The PAW applicator, when adapted for ophthalmology:

- **Delivers an exact dose directly into the conjunctival sac**, avoiding overflow,
- **Avoids contact with periorbital skin**, reducing contamination and irritation,
- **Minimizes systemic exposure**, especially corticosteroids or antibiotics,
- **Simplifies use**, eliminating the need for coordinated squeezing, tilting, or manual occlusion of tear ducts.

This application not only demonstrates PAW's utility but also showcases its comfort, safety, and precision in a highly sensitive use case.

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6. CONCLUSION

The **hand-held PAW system**, enhanced with the **Composite Spherical Piezo-Lens (CSPL)**, represents a breakthrough in safe, precise, and non-contact medication delivery to sensitive body surfaces. By combining a soft, focused aerosol cloud with geometric targeting and dose control, the PAW platform addresses longstanding limitations of conventional drops, sprays, and swabs—improving patient comfort, delivery accuracy, and therapeutic outcomes.

This proposal is grounded in **validated principles of acoustic levitation, internal streaming, and droplet convergence**, with modeling approaches adapted from landmark studies by Yarin et al. (JFM 1998, 1999; Phys. Fluids 2000). These foundations provide a robust theoretical and experimental basis for developing and optimizing the PAW and CSPL components. By employing **Boundary Element Methods**, **two-phase flow simulations**, and **Lagrangian droplet tracking**, the platform will achieve new levels of control over aerosol cloud behavior and application dynamics.

A four-phase development strategy is proposed—from modeling and prototyping to clinical adaptation and regulatory preparation—ensuring that the PAW system can be safely and effectively deployed across a broad range of clinical and consumer health applications. With further development, the PAW platform is positioned to become a new standard for high-precision, user-friendly, non-invasive drug delivery.[1]

[1] **Acknowledgment:**
The theoretical modeling approaches used in the PAW platform build upon foundational research in acoustic levitation, aerosol dynamics, and internal streaming, as developed by A. L. Yarin and collaborators in *J. Fluid Mech.* (1998, 1999) and *Phys. Fluids* (2000). These works inform both the computational modeling and physical design strategies employed in PAW's core and CSPL subsystems.

APPENDIX: FOUNDATIONAL FLUID DYNAMICS AND ACOUSTIC TECHNIQUES IN SUPPORT OF PAW SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

General Context and Relevance

One of the co-authors of this proposal, **Dr. Alexander L. Yarin**, is also a principal author of several landmark publications in the field of **acoustic levitation**, **multiphase fluid dynamics**, and **acoustic streaming** (JFM 1998, 1999; Phys. Fluids 2000). These studies, which investigate the behavior of droplets and small bodies in strong acoustic fields, have laid the theoretical and experimental groundwork for many of the key principles applied in the **PAW (Piezo-Generated Aerosol Wand)** system.

In particular, the **PAW technology** leverages the concepts of **acoustic shaping, non-contact droplet manipulation, and internal acoustic streaming**—all of which are thoroughly modeled and validated in these earlier works. This appendix reviews the most applicable techniques from those sources and outlines their integration into the development of the PAW and **Composite Spherical Piezo-Lens (CSPL)** platform.

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1. Relevant Techniques from Literature

1.1. Acoustic Levitator Geometry and Droplet Stability (JFM 1998)

- The 1998 study developed a **Boundary Element Method (BEM)** to calculate the **shape and displacement** of droplets levitated in acoustic fields. This includes deformation under radiation pressure and droplet positioning relative to the pressure node.
- It establishes a validated computational approach for predicting **droplet behavior in acoustic traps**, which can be adapted to model the **droplet stream behavior** within the focal zone of the CSPL lens.
- The findings suggest that **quasi-stable droplet zones** can be formed and maintained even in complex, dynamically tuned acoustic fields—supporting the feasibility of **quasi-static aerosol bodies** described in the PAW proposal.

1.2. Acoustic Streaming and Surface Effects (JFM 1999)

- This study investigated **heat and mass transfer on acoustically levitated droplets**, accounting for both **surface deformation** and **acoustic streaming near the droplet interface**.
- A major outcome is the derivation of **Sherwood and Nusselt number distributions** as functions of droplet geometry, internal flow, and field intensity. These insights are critical for understanding how to:
    - Maintain aerosol shape coherence near the tissue surface.
    - Optimize the **application efficiency** of the PAW system by positioning its stream focal point to coincide with the **highest transfer efficiency zone** (typically around the droplet equator).
- The modeling includes **displacement from the pressure node**, which directly supports PAW's need to operate in **non-symmetric, mobile field environments** (i.e., hand-held usage near a patient's body).

1.3. Acoustic Streaming and Mass Transfer Enhancement (Phys. Fluids 2000)

- This work provides theoretical and experimental analysis of **acoustic streaming induced near a solid or sublimating spherical surface**, showing how **secondary flow** can dominate surface-level mass and heat transfer.
- The study demonstrates that the **acoustic field can enhance or direct material deposition**, a principle that may be inverted in PAW to **optimize delivery** rather than sublimation.

- The findings confirm that **acoustic field shaping** can be used to control **surface distribution** of materials, which is essential in fine-tuning **dose concentration** in PAW's clinical applications.

1.4. Two-Phase Flow Modeling of Droplet Jets (JFM 2019 and beyond)

- While not included in the uploaded documents, Dr. Yarin's comment recommends treating PAW's focused micro-droplet streams as either:
    - **Two-interpenetrating fluids** (useful in modeling piezo-driven aerosol jets), or
    - **Discrete droplet systems**, using **Lagrangian particle tracking** in CFD simulations to monitor convergence, collision, or evaporation behavior.
- These approaches are highly relevant to PAW's **Composite Piezo-Lens**, particularly in modeling the convergence and stability of **droplet beams** in air under varying ambient conditions.

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2. Integration into PAW Development Strategy

These techniques provide a strong scientific basis for advancing the PAW system beyond traditional droplet emission. Specific applications include:

- **Boundary Element Methods (BEM)**: For modeling shape and convergence zones of aerosol clouds under modulated acoustic or piezoelectric actuation.
- **Acoustic Pressure Field Tuning**: For generating non-symmetric but quasi-stable aerosol focal points—achievable with partial elements of acoustic levitators integrated into CSPL.
- **Acoustic Streaming Design**: To guide droplet motion and enhance residence time at the application surface, potentially allowing for uniform coating or deep penetration into microstructures.
- **Two-Phase and Discrete Flow Modeling**: For developing next-generation control algorithms that modulate nozzle timing, droplet size, and pulse amplitude to shape dose distribution profiles.

3. Conclusion of the Appendix

The development of the PAW system—and its CSPL enhancement—rests on a firm foundation of theoretical and experimental work in acoustic levitation, aerosol dynamics, and multiphase jet behavior. The work of A. L. Yarin and collaborators provides validated techniques, including boundary element modeling, streaming optimization, and droplet deformation prediction, that are directly applicable to shaping and stabilizing micro-aerosol clouds in open air environments.

These techniques, when adapted to a **hand-held, clinical-grade device**, will ensure the PAW system delivers on its promise of **safe, precise, and non-contact medication delivery** across a range of sensitive medical applications.