Google Glass could help stop emerging public health threats around the world

The much-talked-about Google Glass – the eyewear with computer capabilities – could potentially save lives, especially in isolated or far-flung locations, say scientists. They are reporting development of a Google Glass app that takes a picture of a diagnostic test strip and sends the data to computers, which then rapidly beam back a diagnostic report to the user. The information also could help researchers track the spread of diseases around the world. The study appears in the journal *ACS Nano*, a publication of the American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society.

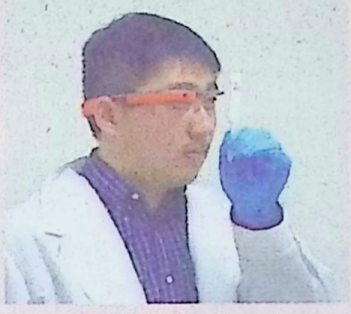


PHOTO COURTESY: AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

"It's very important to detect emerging public health threats early, before an epidemic arises and many lives are lost," writes Aydogan Ozcan, PhD of the UCLA, "With our app for Google Glass and our remote computing and data analysis power, we can deliver a one-two punch – provide quantified biomedical test results for individual patients, plus analyze all those data to determine whether an outbreak is imminent."

Google Glass looks like a pair of eyeglasses without the lenses, but with a small rectangular transparent screen near the right eye that functions as a tiny computer screen. A mouse is built into the right arm of the frame.

What happens when the lightbulb turns on?

A team of researchers led by a Michigan State University neuroscientist has created a quick but reliable test that can measure a person's creativity from single spoken words.

While some believe ingenuity is spontaneous, MSU neuroscientist Jeremy Gray suspects there's a lot of hard work going on in the brain even when the proverbial light bulb turning on feels effortless. The findings from his latest research are published in the journal *Behavior Research Methods*.

For his latest research, 193 participants were shown a series of nouns and instructed to respond creatively with a verb in each case. The test took about two minutes.

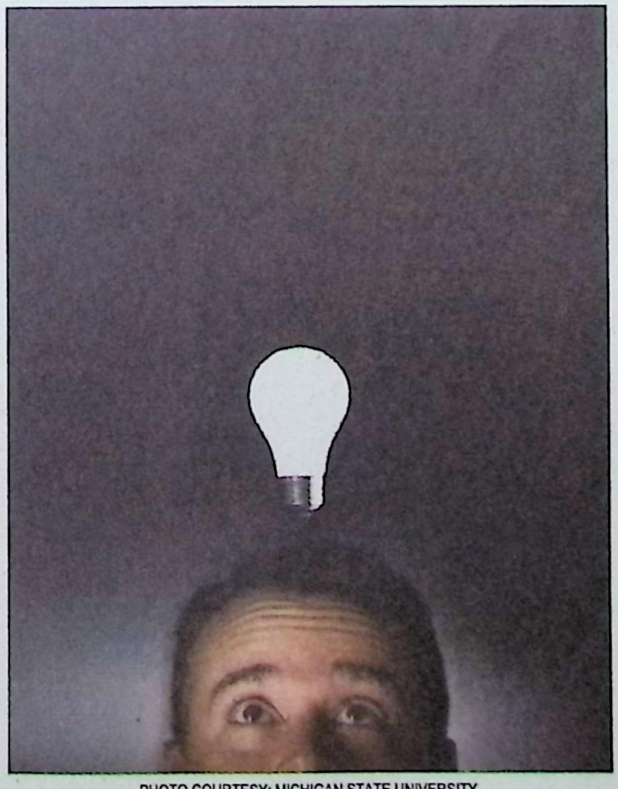


PHOTO COURTESY: MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

For the noun "chair," for example, instead of answering with the standard verb "sit," a participant might answer "stand," as in to stand on a chair to change a light bulb. The researchers checked that the answers were in fact verbs and somehow related to the noun; excluding the few nonsensical responses made no difference to the results.

The results: Those who gave creative answers in the noun-verb test were indeed the most creative as measured by the more in-depth methods. This suggests the noun-verb test, or a future variation, could be successful by itself in measuring creativity.