

# Occupant Safety in Highly Automated Vehicles

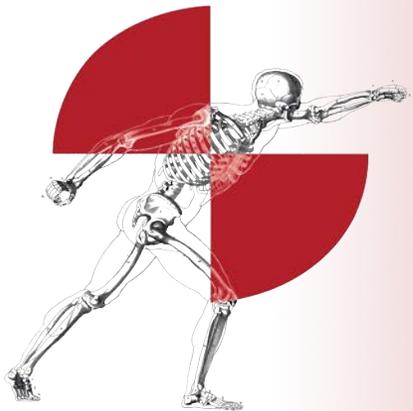
---

John H Bolte IV, PhD

*Injury Biomechanics Research Center, The Ohio State University*

---

*Automotive Safety Council  
March 19, 2022*



INJURY BIOMECHANICS  
RESEARCH CENTER



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

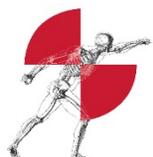
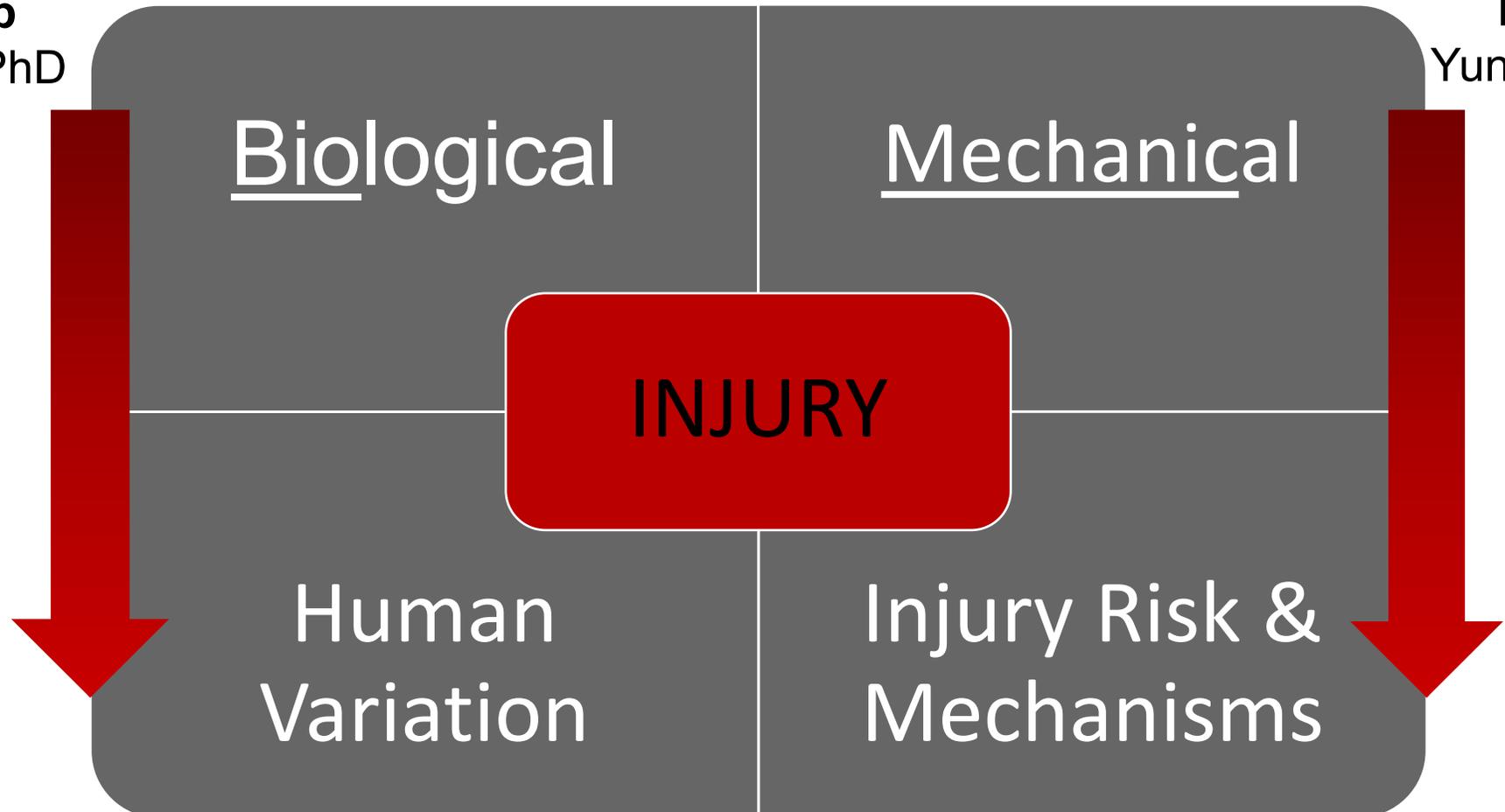
# Our approach is *interdisciplinary*...

## Injury Biomechanics Research Center

John Bolte IV, PhD

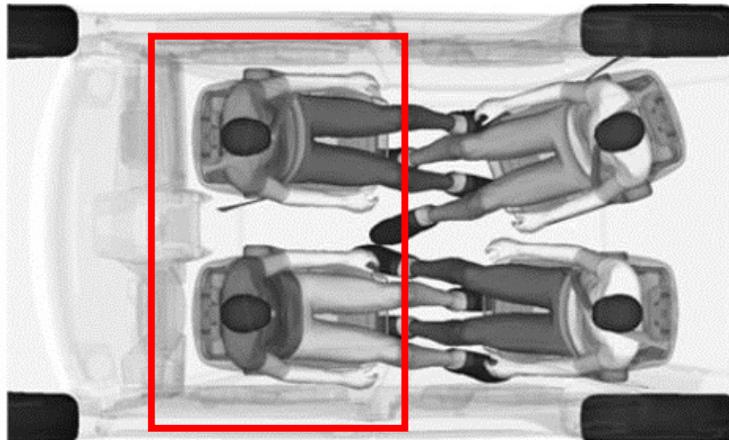
**Skeletal Biology  
Research Lab**  
Mandy Agnew, PhD

**Injury Biomechanics  
Research Lab**  
Yun-Seok Kang, PhD



# Introduction

- Future vehicle interior cabin designs may incorporate non-standard seating configurations for vehicles with Automated Driving Systems (ADS).
  - One potential configuration is a reclined seat that is rear-facing in a frontal collision [Jorlov et al., 2017; Koppel et al., 2019; Ostling and Larsson, 2019]
  - Studies using computational models and ATDs [Kitagawa et al., 2017; Jin et al., 2018; Zeller and Manneck, 2019]
    - FE models: validated in low-speeds (< 17 km/h)
    - ATDs: not validated for rear impacts



Kitagawa et al., 2017

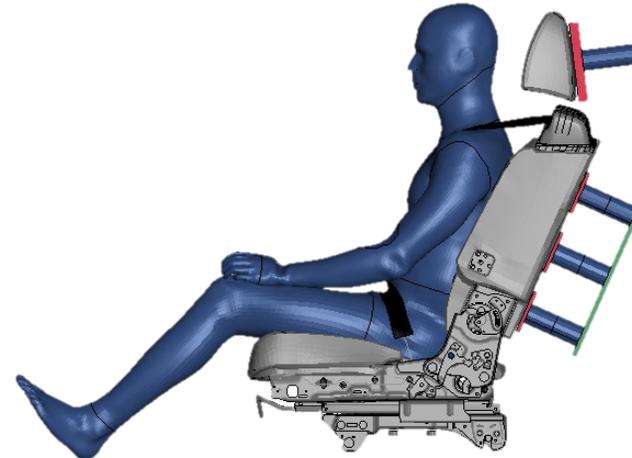
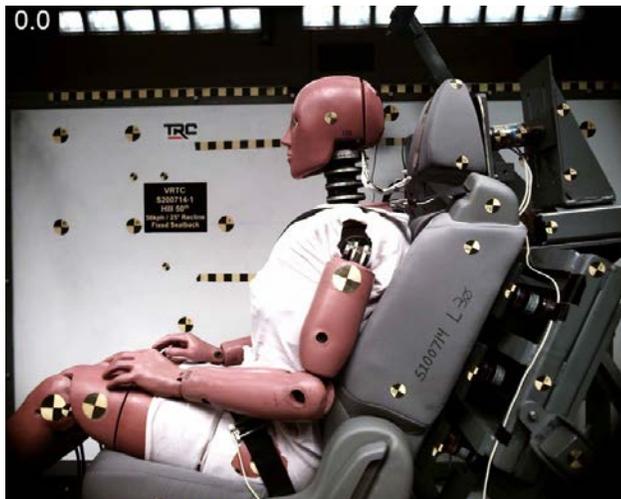


Zellmer and Manneck, 2019



# Objective

- To investigate responses and injuries from PMHS in multiple scenarios in a rear-facing seating configuration during frontal crashes
  - Effect of Seat Back Recline (25 deg vs. 45 deg)
  - Effect of Belt Restraint/Seat Type (Integrated vs. Fixed D-ring)
  - Effect of Speed (24 km/h vs. 56 km/h)

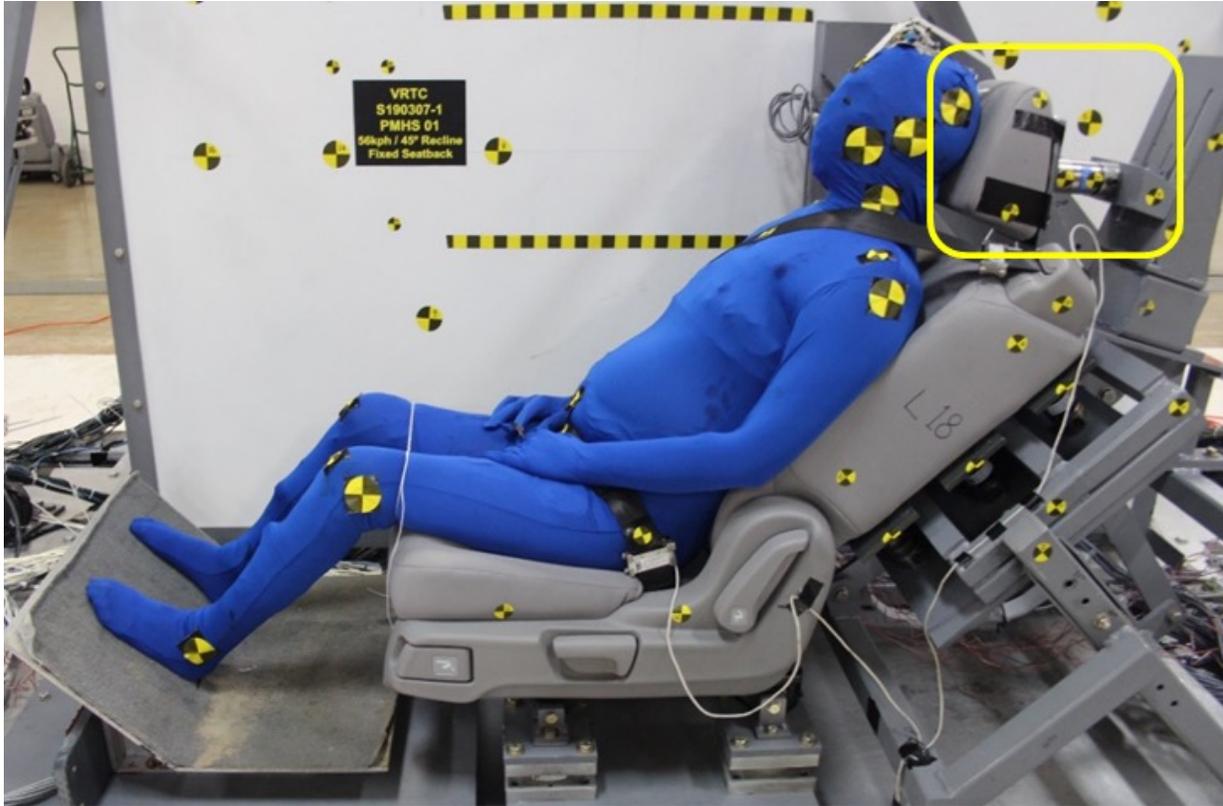


# Content Warning

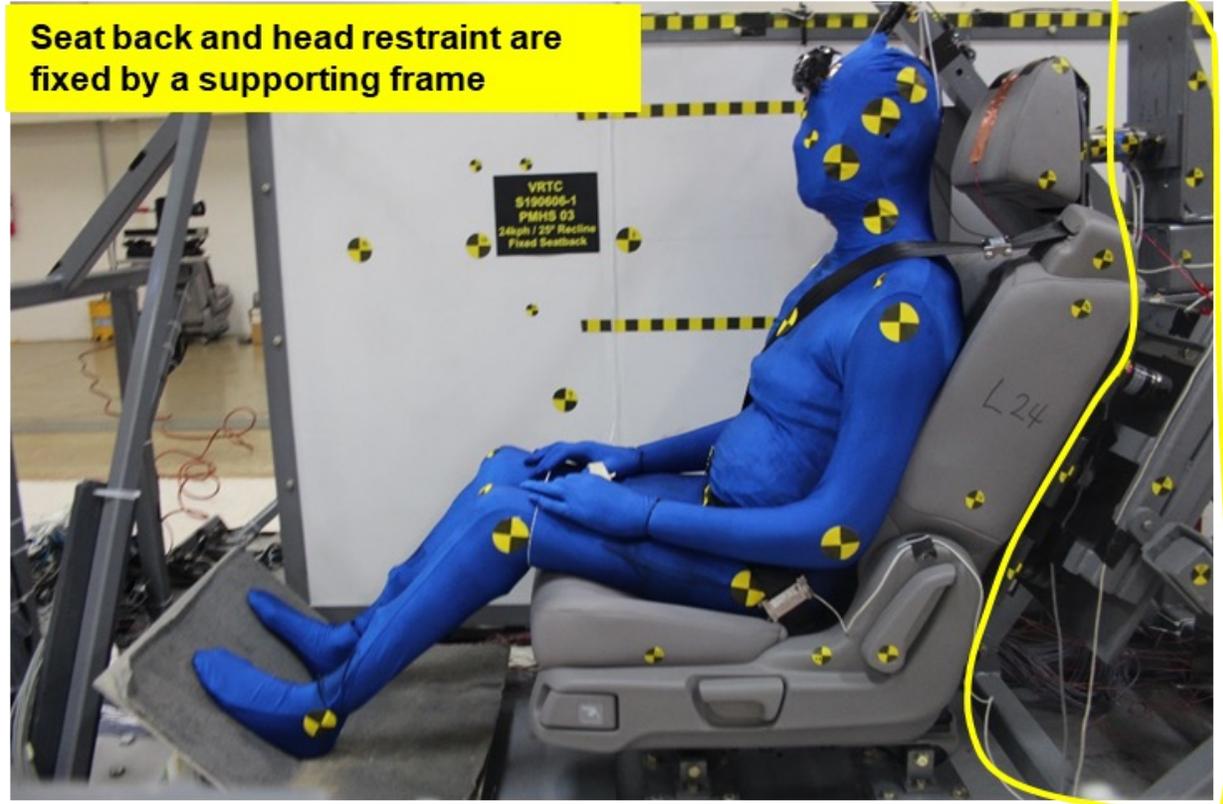
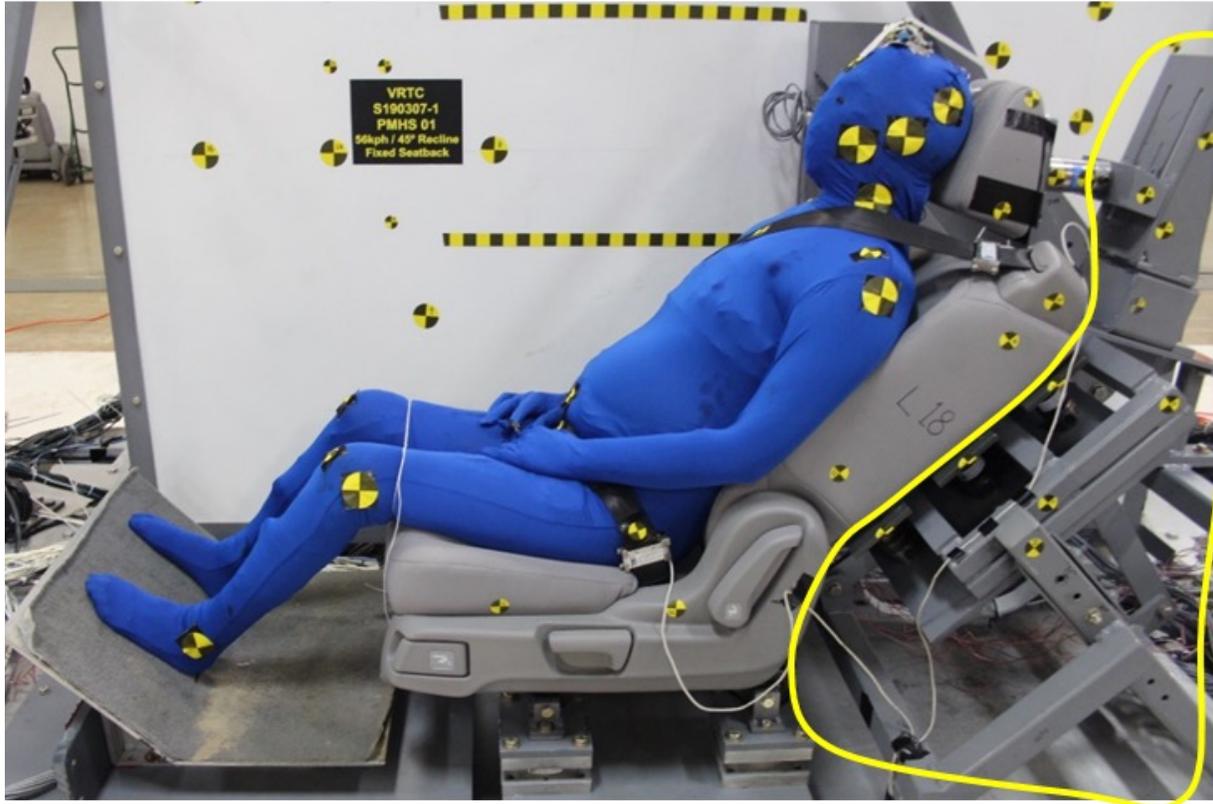
---



# Sled Buck Description



# Sled Buck Description

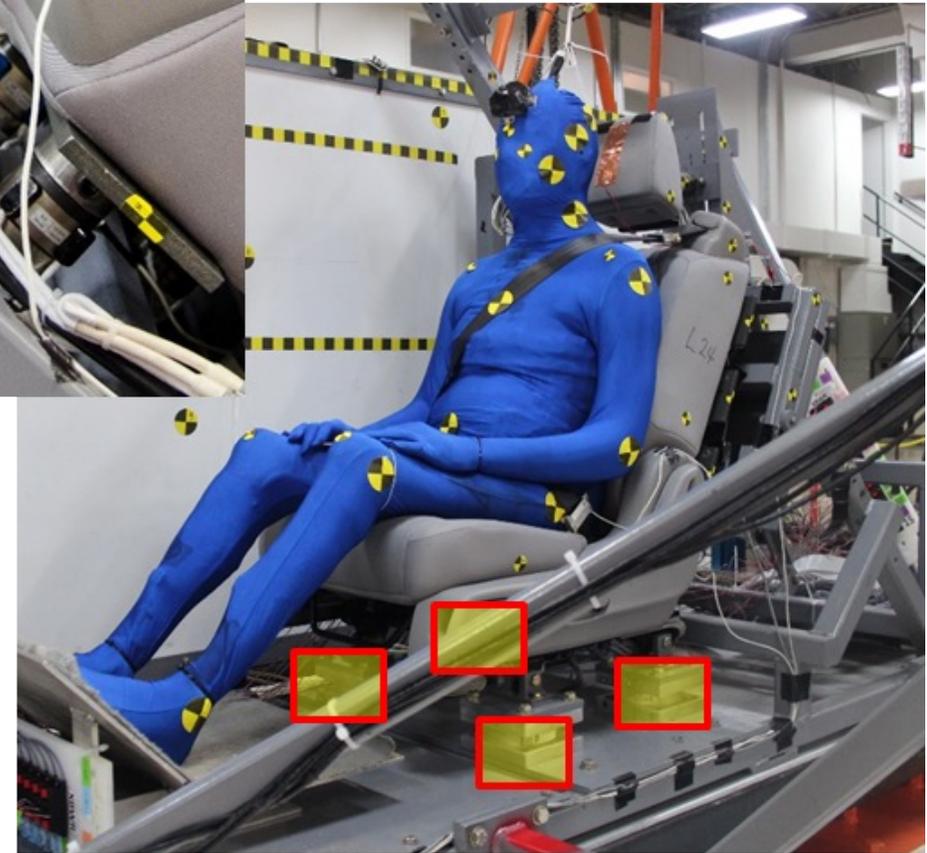
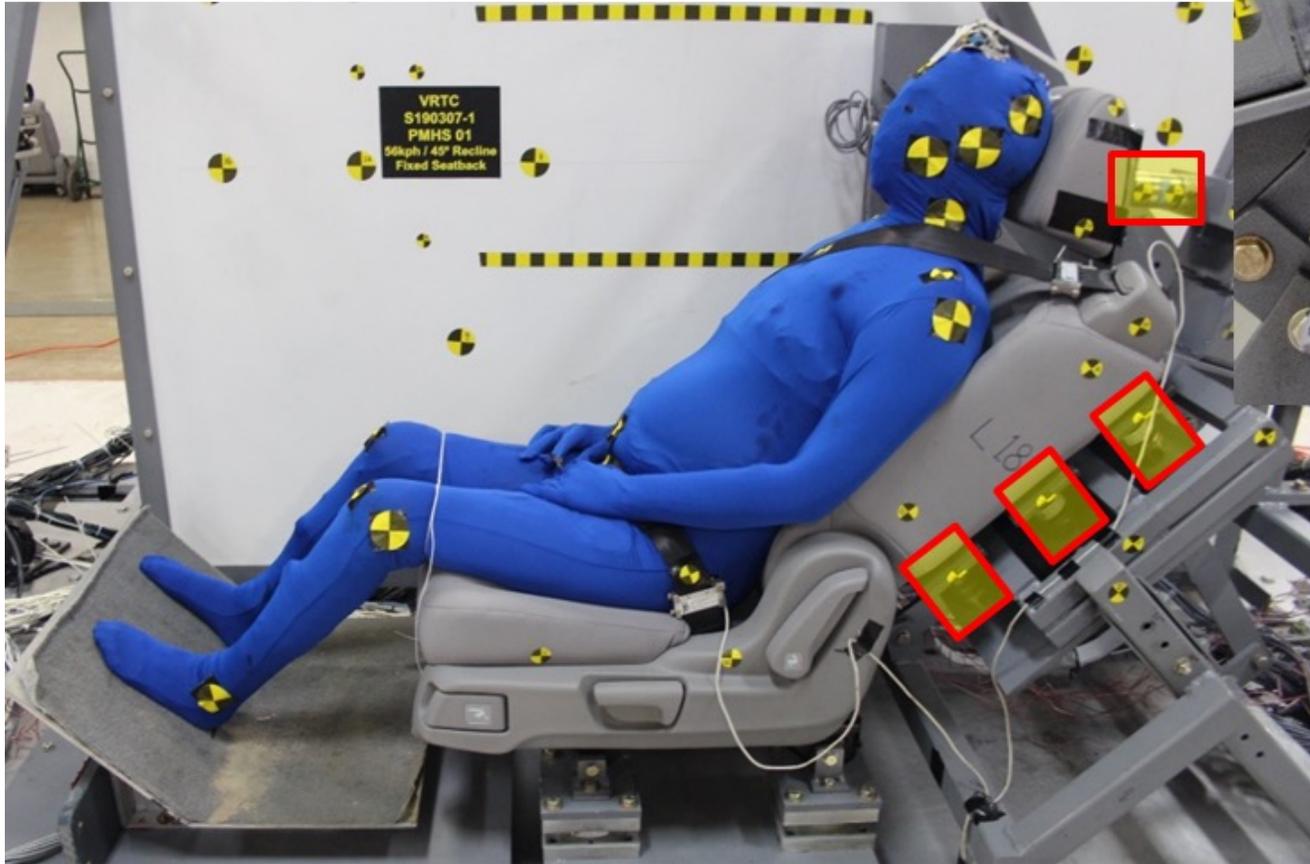


Seat back and head restraint are fixed by a supporting frame



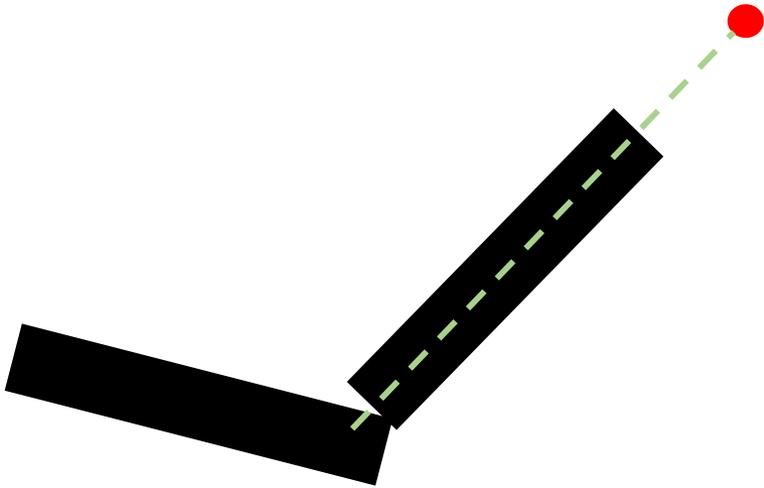
# Sled Buck Description

Load cells at head restraint (1), seat back (6), and seat anchors (4) to measure reaction loads



# Sled Buck Description

D ring location  
45 deg

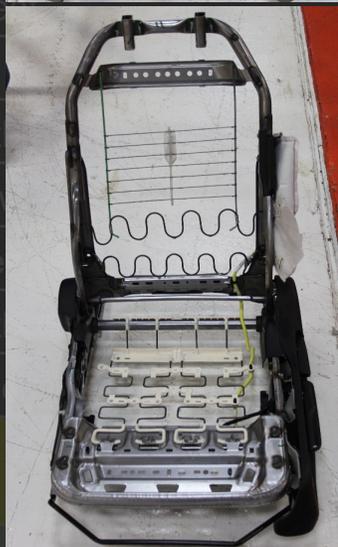


# PMHS Characteristics – 56 km/h

N=14	Speed	Seat	Recline	Age	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)	Seated Height (cm)	Head Mass (kg)	Chest Depth (cm)	Cause of Death
PMHS01	56	ABTS	45	57	167.0	62.6	90.0	3.8	20.6	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
PMHS02	56	ABTS	25	64	171.0	62.6	92.4	3.6	17.6	Alcohol Abuse
PMHS03	56	ABTS	25	54	174.0	93.9	97.0	5.0	20.6	Choking and asphyxiation
PMHS04	56	ABTS	45	59	178.0	96.2	96.5	4.4	23.2	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
PMHS05	56	ABTS	45	62	176.0	77.1	95.7	3.5	21.2	Pancreatic CA
PMHS06	56	ABTS	25	61	176.5	72.6	94.0	3.9	20.2	Ischemic stroke, heart failure
PMHS09	56	FDR	45	71	187.5	89.4	96.5	4.3	17.1	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
PMHS10	56	FDR	25	62	177.8	100.7	94.5	4.4	20.1	Cardiac Arrest
PMHS11	56	FDR	25	65	181.0	92.1	96.5	4.3	21.7	Stroke
PMHS12	56	FDR	25	58	177.8	71.7	94.2	3.9	21.1	Lung CA with mets
PMHS13	56	FDR	45	53	176.3	76.2	95.7	3.7	19.7	Melanoma with mets
PMHS14	56	FDR	45	63	172.3	85.3	93.0	3.8	23.4	Heart failure
PMHS21	56	FDR	25	62	172.7	68.5	89.7	3.8	20.2	Lung CA with mets
PMHS22	56	FDR	45	61	176.6	71.7	94.1	3.6	19.3	Metastatic squamous cell carcinoma
Mean (SD)	N/A	N/A	N/A	61 (5)	176.0 (4.8)	80.0 (12.7)	94.3 (2.3)	4.0 (0.4)	20.4 (1.8)	N/A
50 <sup>th</sup> Male	N/A	N/A	N/A	45	175	78.2	90.7	4.5	22.9	N/A

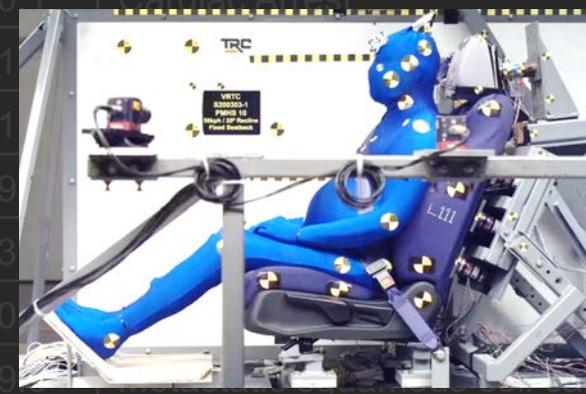
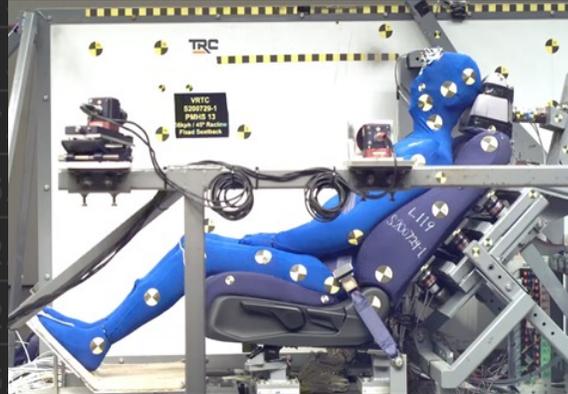
# PMHS Characteristics – 56 km/h

N=14	Speed	Seat	Recline	Age	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)	Seated Height (cm)	Head Mass	Chest Depth	Cause of Death
PMHS01	56	ABTS	45		175	78.2	90.7	4.5	22.9	N/A
PMHS02	56	ABTS	25							
PMHS03	56	ABTS	25							
PMHS04	56	ABTS	45							
PMHS05	56	ABTS	45							
PMHS06	56	ABTS	25							
PMHS09	56	FDR	45							
PMHS10	56	FDR	25							
PMHS11	56	FDR	25							
PMHS12	56	FDR	25							
PMHS13	56	FDR	45							
PMHS14	56	FDR	45							
PMHS21	56	FDR	25							
PMHS22	56	FDR	45							
Mean (SD)	N/A	N/A	N/A							
50 <sup>th</sup> Male	N/A	N/A	N/A							

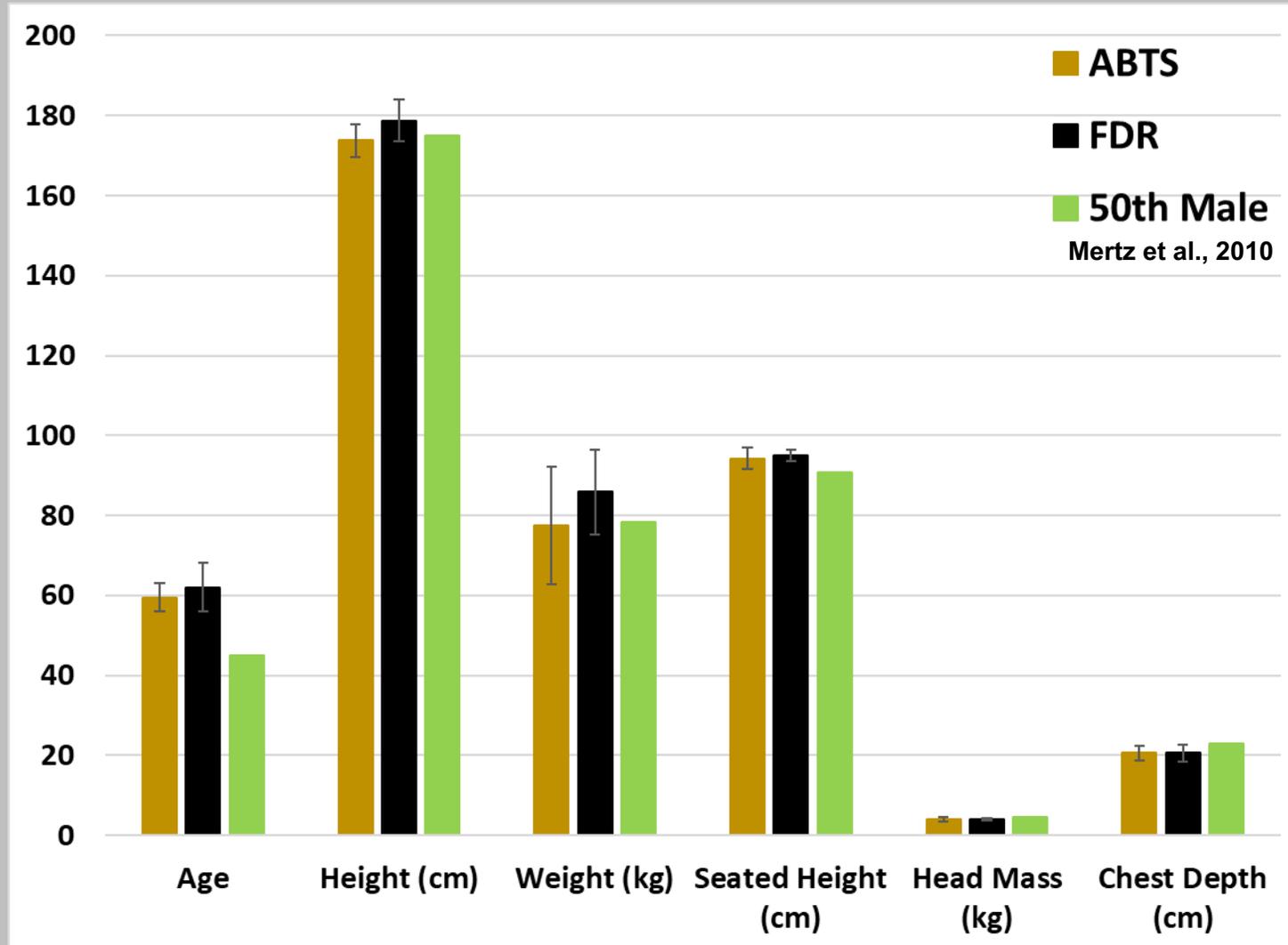


# PMHS Characteristics – 56 km/h

N=14	Speed	Seat	Recline	Age	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)	Seated Height (cm)	Head Mass (kg)	Chest Depth (cm)	Cause of Death
PMHS01	56	ABTS	45	57	167.0	62.6	90.0	3.8	20.6	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
PMHS02	56	ABTS	25	64	171.0	68.6	92.4	3.6	17.6	Alcohol Abuse
PMHS03	56	ABTS	25	54	174.0	68.6	92.4	3.6	20.0	Alcohol Abuse
PMHS04	56	ABTS	45	59	178.0	68.6	92.4	3.6	23.0	Alcohol Abuse
PMHS05	56	ABTS	45	62	176.0	68.6	92.4	3.6	21.0	Alcohol Abuse
PMHS06	56	ABTS	25	61	176.0	68.6	92.4	3.6	20.0	Alcohol Abuse
PMHS09	56	FDR	45	71	187.0	100.7	94.5	4.4	17.0	Alcohol Abuse
PMHS10	56	FDR	25	62	177.0	100.7	94.5	4.4	20.1	Cardiac Arrest
PMHS11	56	FDR	25	65	181.0	100.7	94.5	4.4	21.0	Alcohol Abuse
PMHS12	56	FDR	25	58	177.0	100.7	94.5	4.4	21.0	Alcohol Abuse
PMHS13	56	FDR	45	53	176.0	100.7	94.5	4.4	19.0	Alcohol Abuse
PMHS14	56	FDR	45	63	172.0	100.7	94.5	4.4	23.0	Alcohol Abuse
PMHS21	56	FDR	25	62	172.0	100.7	94.5	4.4	20.0	Alcohol Abuse
PMHS22	56	FDR	45	61	176.0	100.7	94.5	4.4	19.0	Alcohol Abuse
Mean (SD)	N/A	N/A	N/A	61 (5)	176.0 (4.8)	80.0 (12.7)	94.3 (2.3)	4.0 (0.4)	20.4 (1.8)	N/A
50 <sup>th</sup> Male	N/A	N/A	N/A	45	175	78.2	90.7	4.5	22.9	N/A



# PMHS Characteristics – 56 km/h



# PMHS Characteristics – 24 km/h

N=8	Speed	Seat	Recline	Age	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)	Seated Height (cm)	Head Mass (kg)	Chest Depth (cm)	Cause of Death
PMHS07	24	ABTS	25	68	174.3	71.7	91.6	3.9	20.4	Coronary artery disease
PMHS08	24	ABTS	45	71	178.0	72.1	95.0	3.6	21.6	Throat & lung CA
PMHS19	24	ABTS	45	60	184.7	87.1	97.4	4.6	20.4	Glioblastoma
PMHS20	24	ABTS	25	67	167.2	68.0	92.2	3.3	20.5	Bladder CA
PMHS15	24	FDR	45	83	173.0	81.6	93.0	3.9	20.7	Respiratory failure
PMHS16	24	FDR	25	58	169.1	63.5	94.7	4.3	22.2	Lung CA
PMHS17	24	FDR	25	57	169.1	55.3	93.8	3.6	18.9	Lung CA
PMHS18	24	FDR	45	54	173.0	59.0	91.3	3.6	19.1	Lung CA
Mean (SD)	N/A	N/A	N/A	65 (10)	173.6 (5.7)	69.8 (10.8)	93.6 (2.0)	3.9 (0.4)	20.5 (1.1)	N/A
50 <sup>th</sup> Male	N/A	N/A	N/A	45	175	78.2	90.7	4.5	22.9	N/A



# PMHS Characteristics – 24 km/h

N=8	Speed	Seat	Recline	Age	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)	Seated Height (cm)	Head Mass (kg)	Chest Depth (cm)	Cause of Death
PMHS07	24	ABTS	25	68	174.3	71.7	91.6	3.9	20.4	Coronary artery disease
PMHS08	24	ABTS	45	71	178.0	72.1	95.0	3.6	21.6	Throat & lung CA
PMHS19	24	ABTS	45	60	184.7	87.1	97.4	4.6	20.4	Glioblastoma
PMHS20	24	ABTS	25	67	167.2	68.0	92.2	3.3	20.5	Bladder CA
PMHS15	24	FDR	45	83	173.0	81.6	93.0	3.9	20.7	Respiratory failure
PMHS16	24	FDR	25	58	169.1	63.5	94.7	4.3	22.2	Lung CA
PMHS17	24	FDR	25	57	169.1	55.3	93.8	3.6	18.9	Lung CA
PMHS18	24	FDR	45	54	173.0	59.0	91.3	3.6	19.1	Lung CA
Mean (SD)	N/A	N/A	N/A	65 (10)	173.6 (5.7)	69.8 (10.8)	93.6 (2.0)	3.9 (0.4)	20.5 (1.1)	N/A
50 <sup>th</sup> Male	N/A	N/A	N/A	45	175	78.2	90.7	4.5	22.9	N/A

**Total: 22 PMHS tests (2 speeds, 2 reclines, 2 seat/restraint systems)**

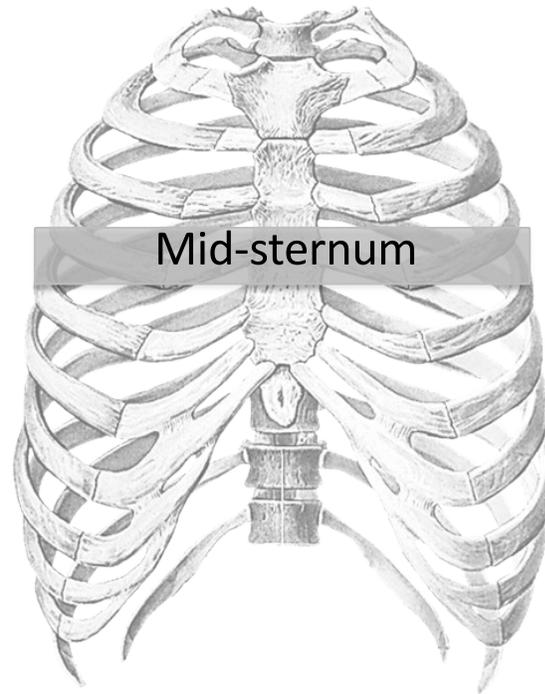
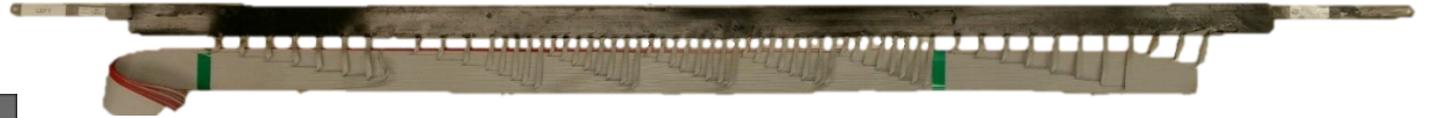
**56 km/h: 14 PMHS tests & 24 km/h: 8 PMHS tests**



# PMHS Instrumentation

- 6aω
- Chestband
- Strain Gauges

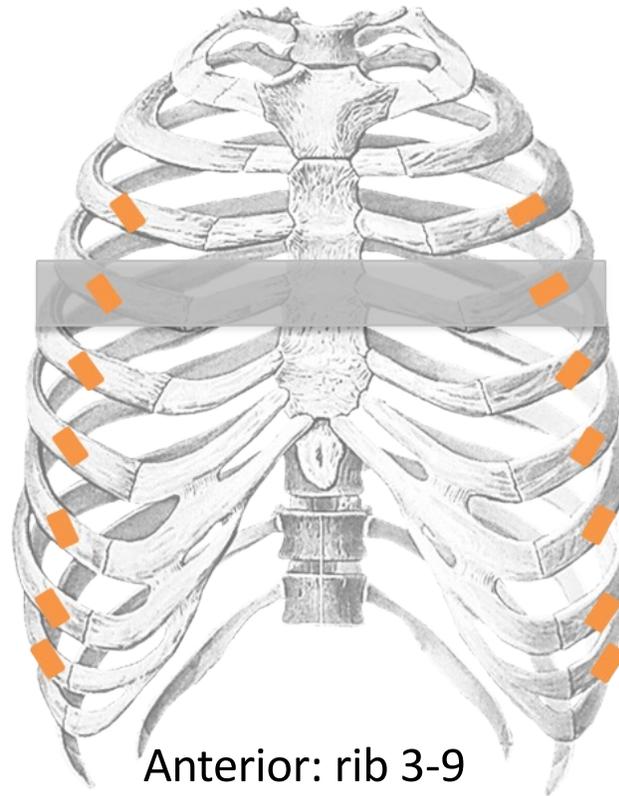
Head	<span style="color: green;">■</span>
Chest	<span style="color: gray;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span>
C2/C4/C6	●
T1	●
T4	●
T8	●
T12	●
S1	●
Pelvis	● ●
Femur	● <span style="color: gray;">■</span>
Tibia	● <span style="color: gray;">■</span>
L Humerus	● <span style="color: gray;">■</span>



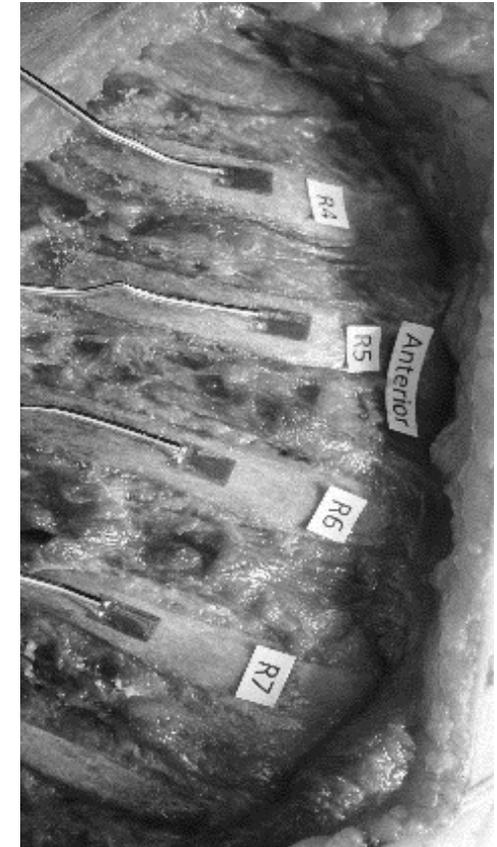
# PMHS Instrumentation

- 6aω
- Chestband
- Strain Gauges

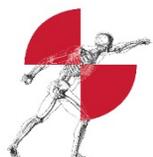
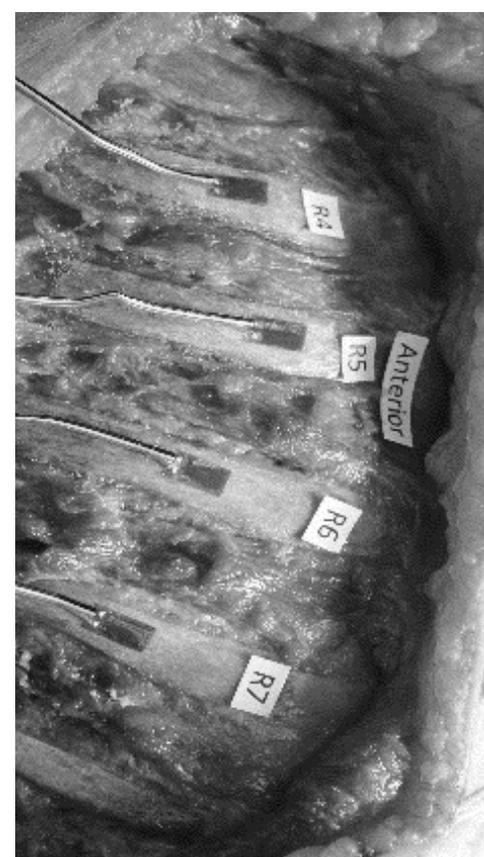
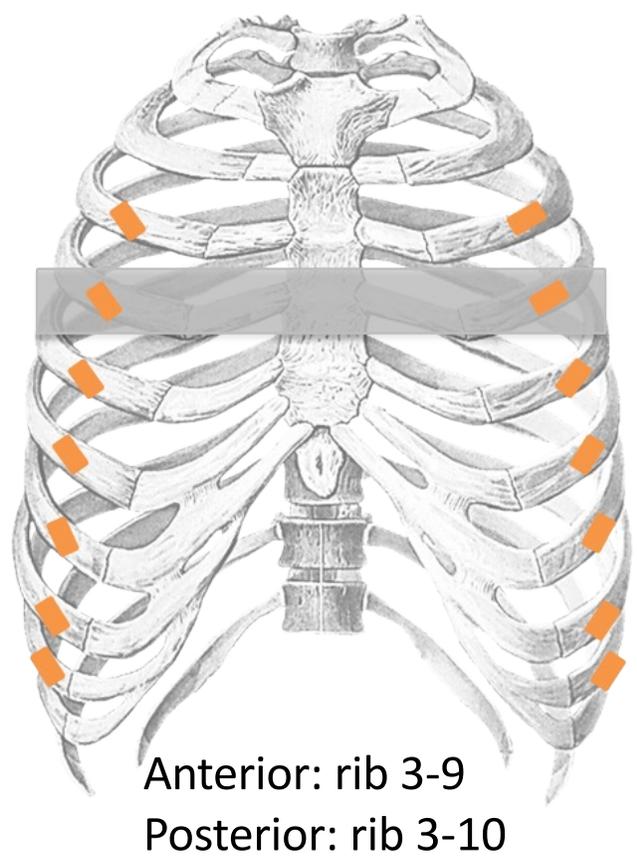
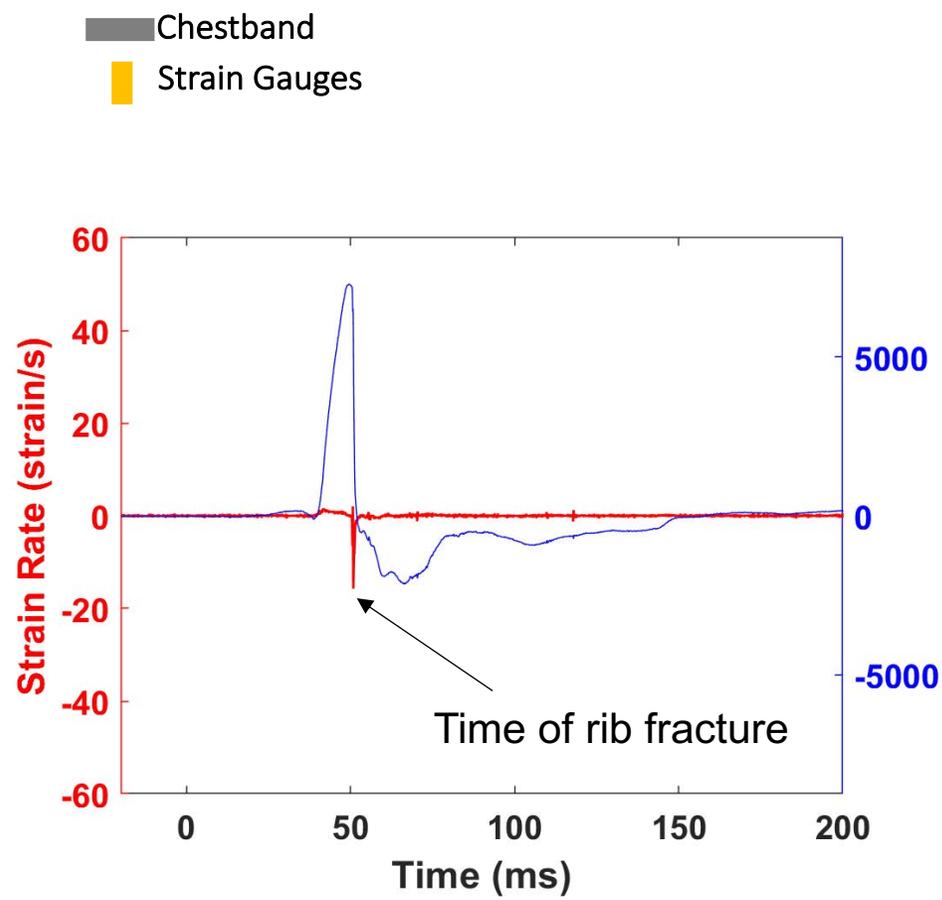
Head	<span style="color: green;">■</span>
Chest	<span style="color: gray;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span>
C2/C4/C6	●
T1	●
T4	●
T8	●
T12	●
S1	●
Pelvis	● ●
Femur	● <span style="color: gray;">■</span>
Tibia	● <span style="color: gray;">■</span>
L Humerus	● <span style="color: gray;">■</span>



Anterior: rib 3-9  
Posterior: rib 3-10



# PMHS Instrumentation – Rib Strain Gage



# PMHS Instrumentation

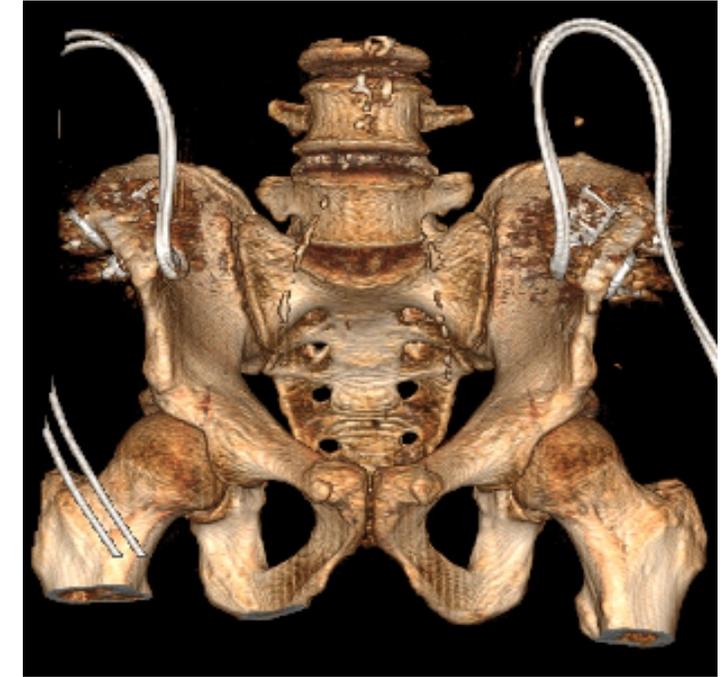
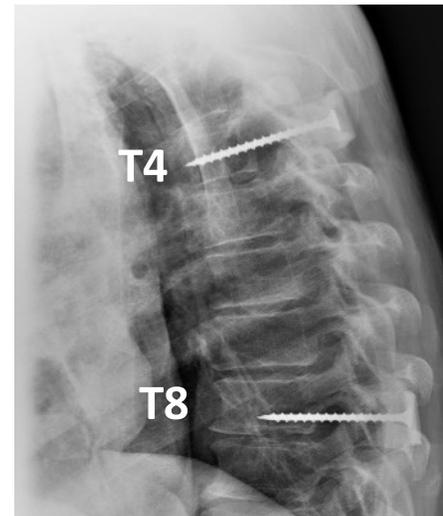
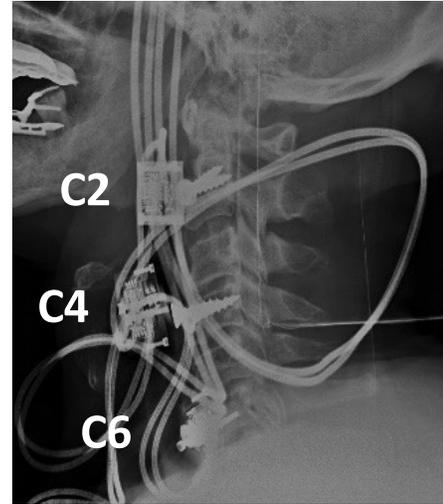
■ 6aω

■ Chestband

■ Strain Gauges

● 3aω

Head	■
Chest	■ ■
C2/C4/C6	●
T1	●
T4	●
T8	●
T12	●
S1	●
Pelvis	● ●
Femur	● ■
Tibia	● ■
L Humerus	● ■

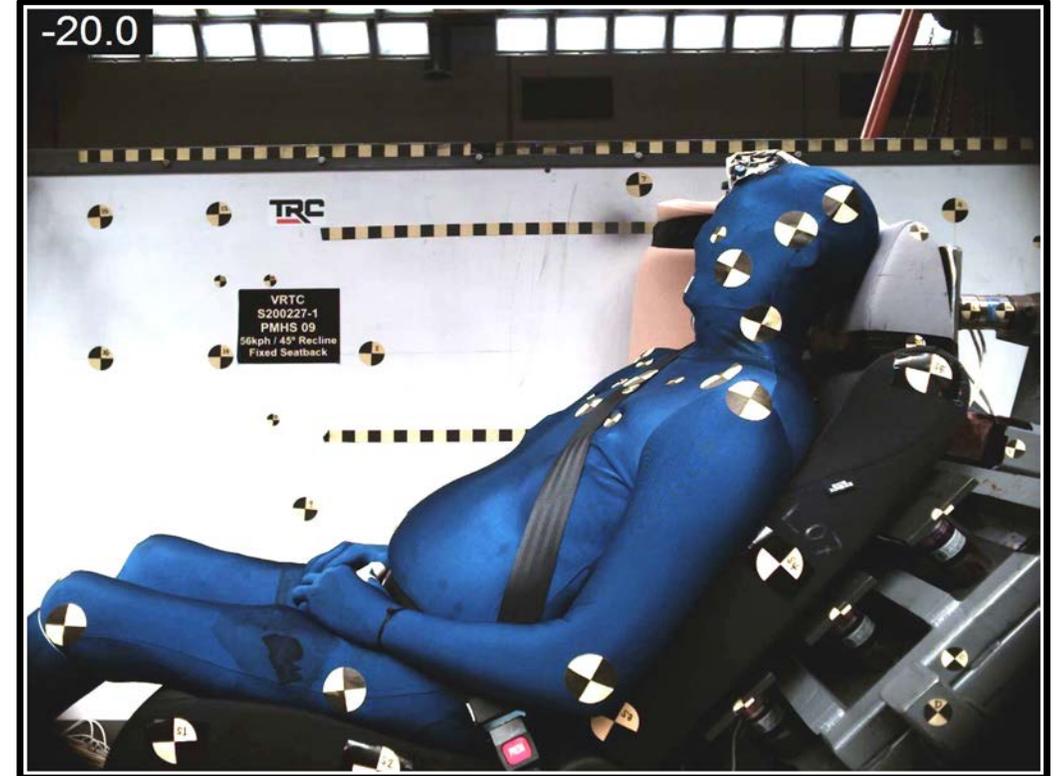
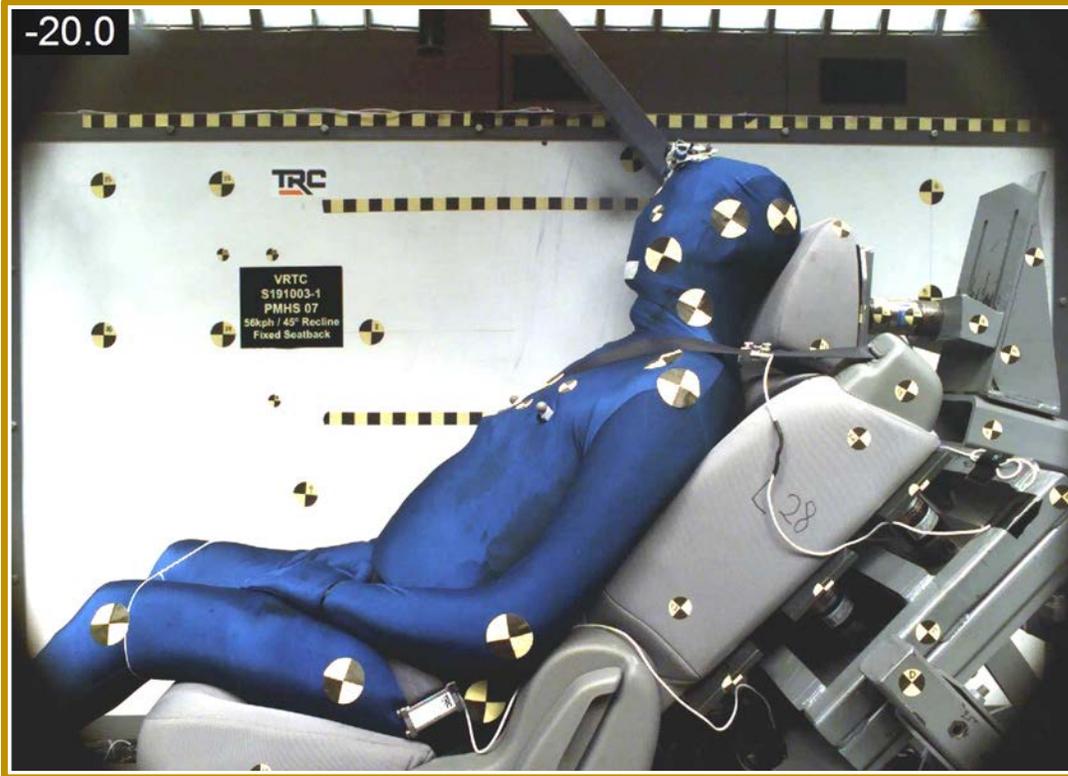


# High Speed Videos – 56 km/h

ABTS

FDR

45 deg

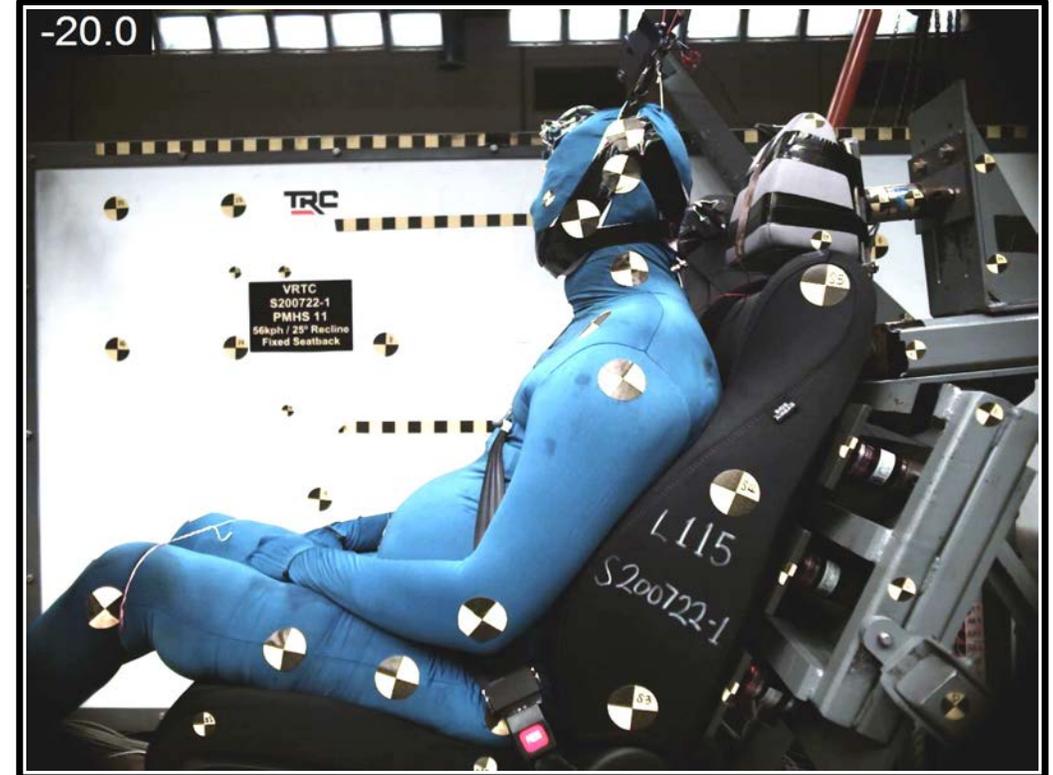
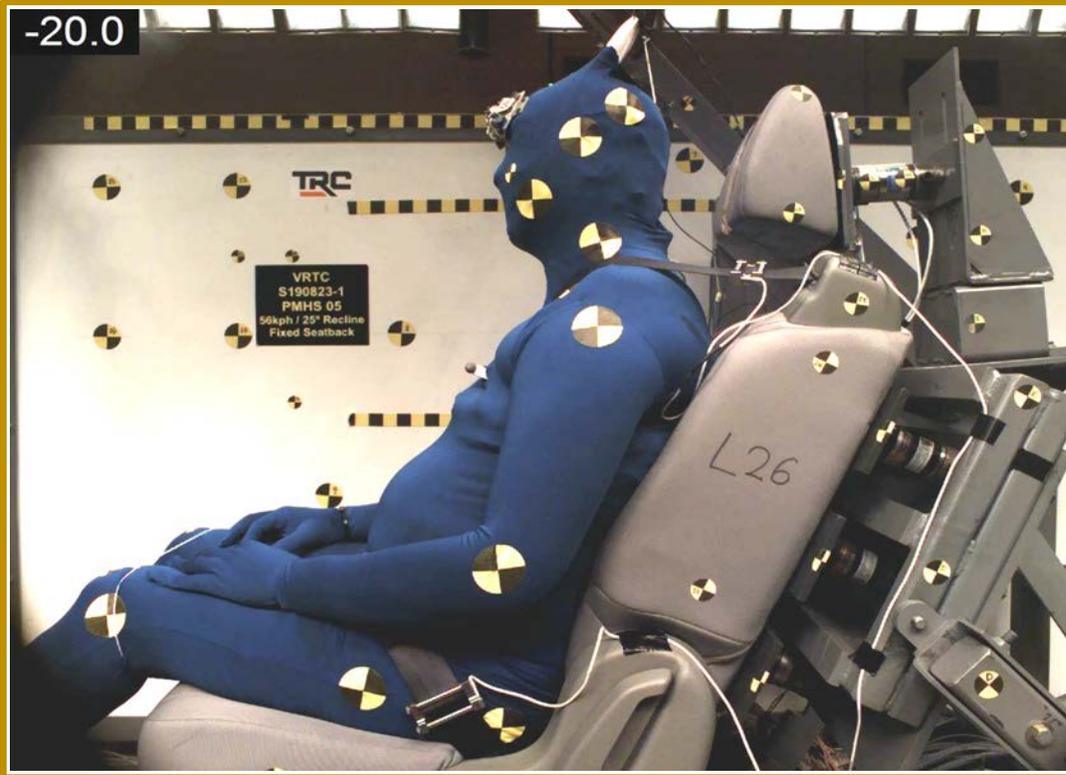


# High Speed Videos – 56 km/h

ABTS

FDR

25 deg

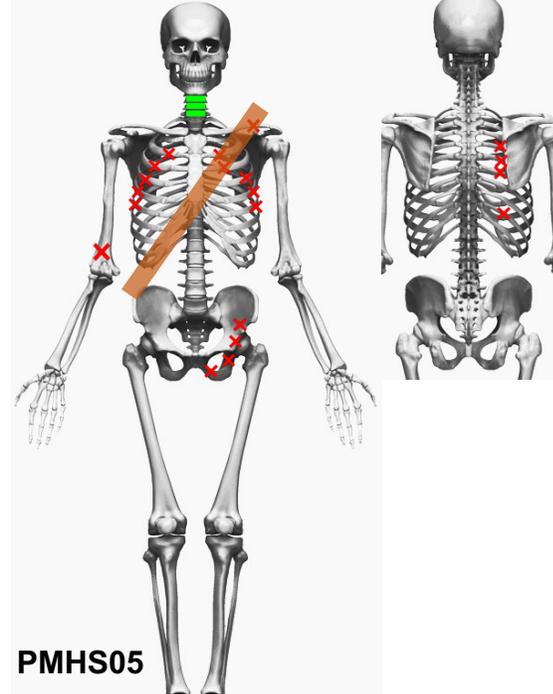
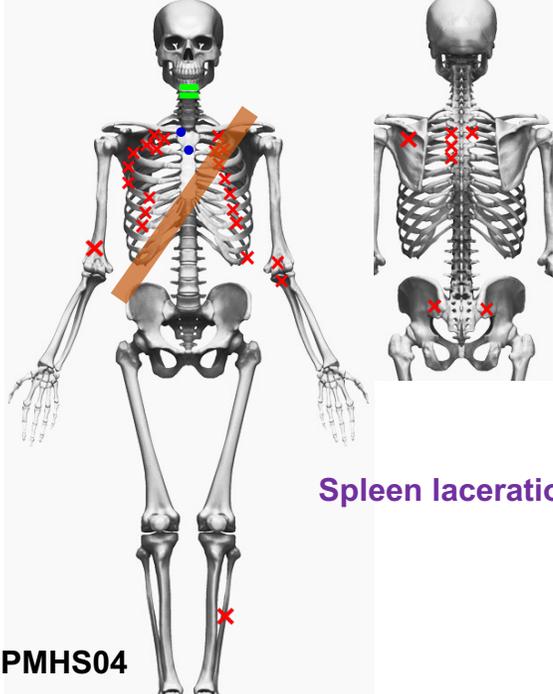
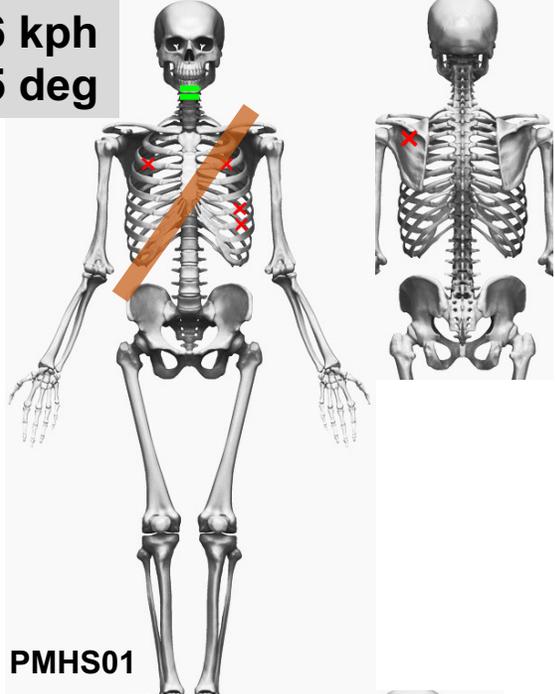


PMHS Injury – 56 km/h

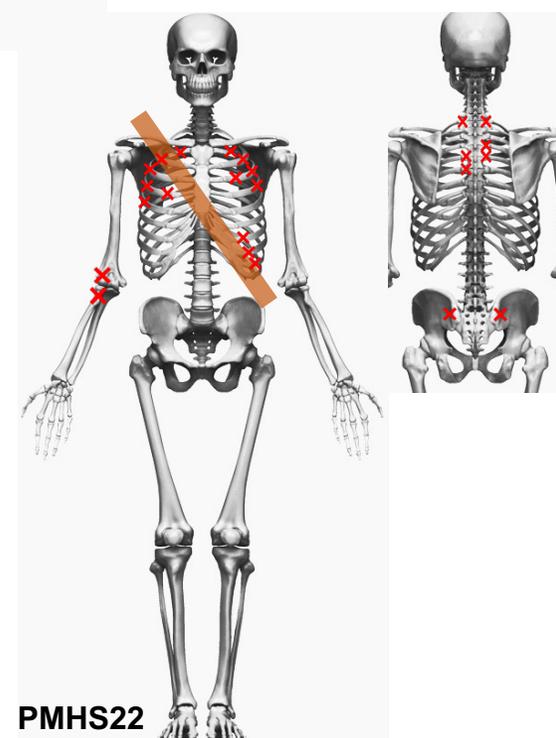
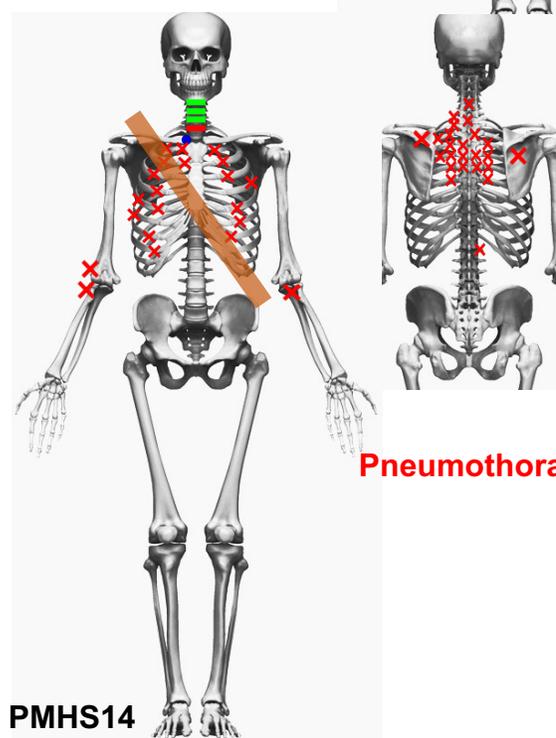
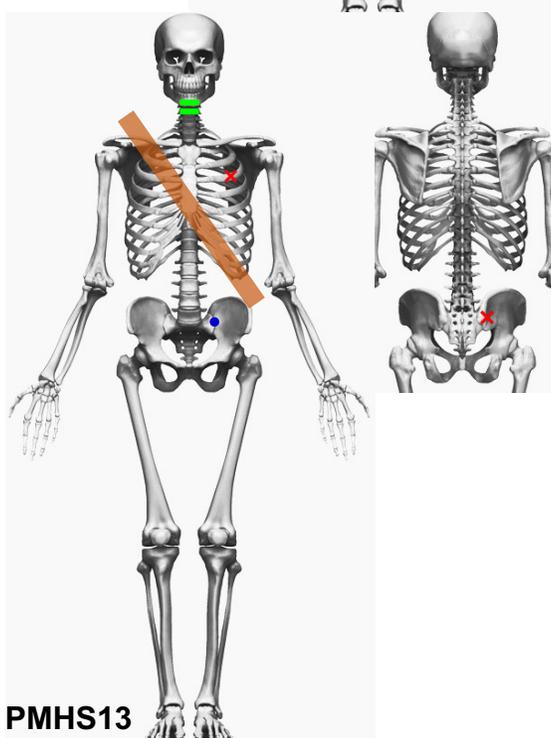
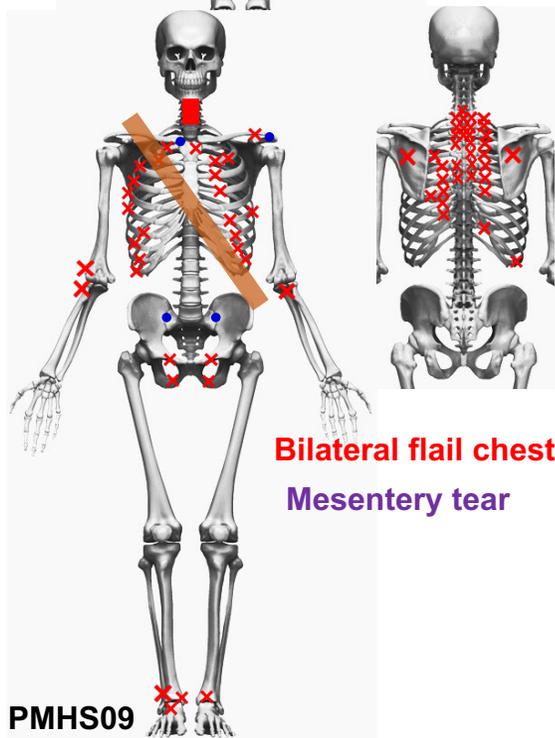
ABTS

FDR

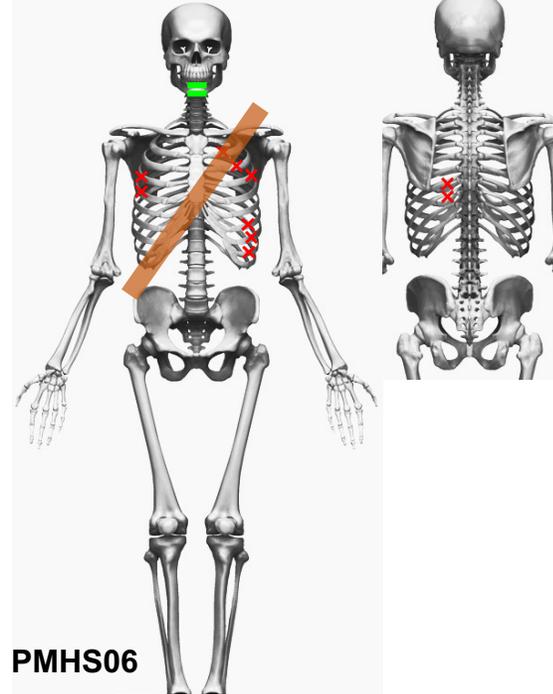
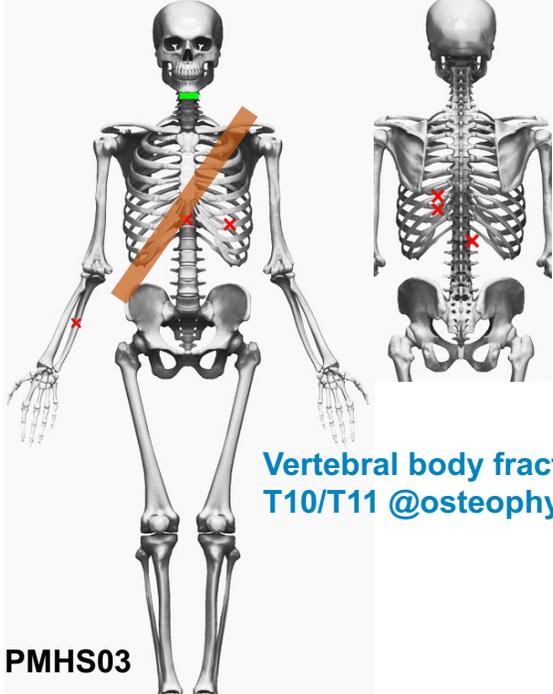
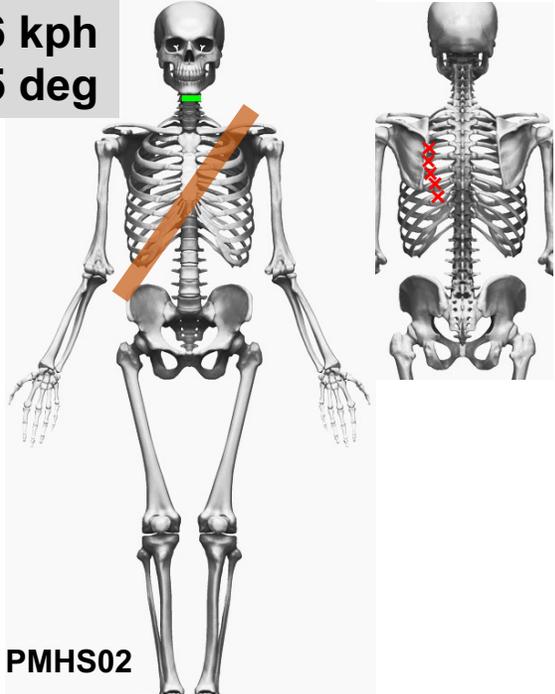
56 kph  
45 deg



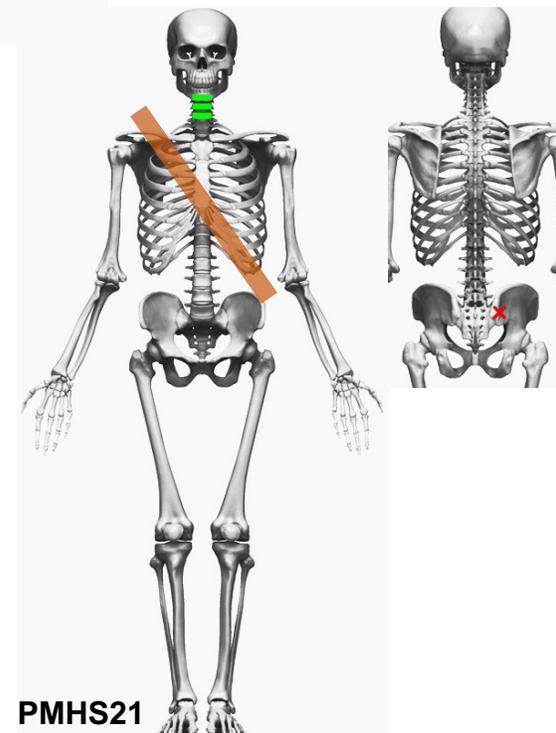
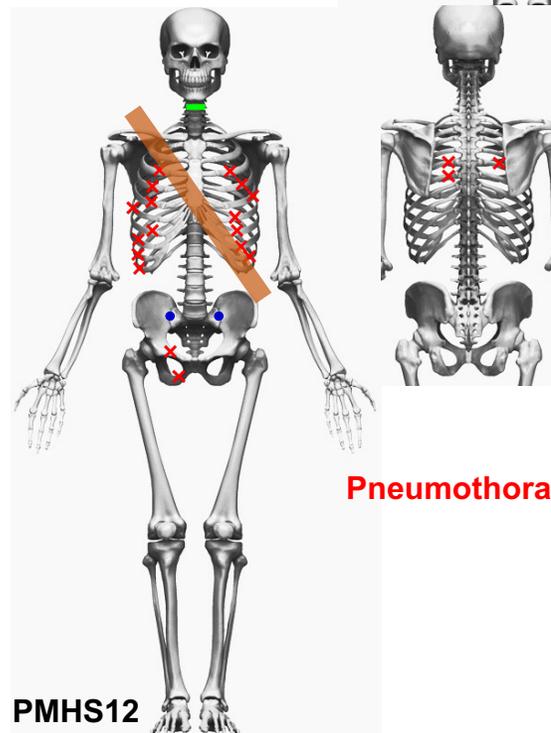
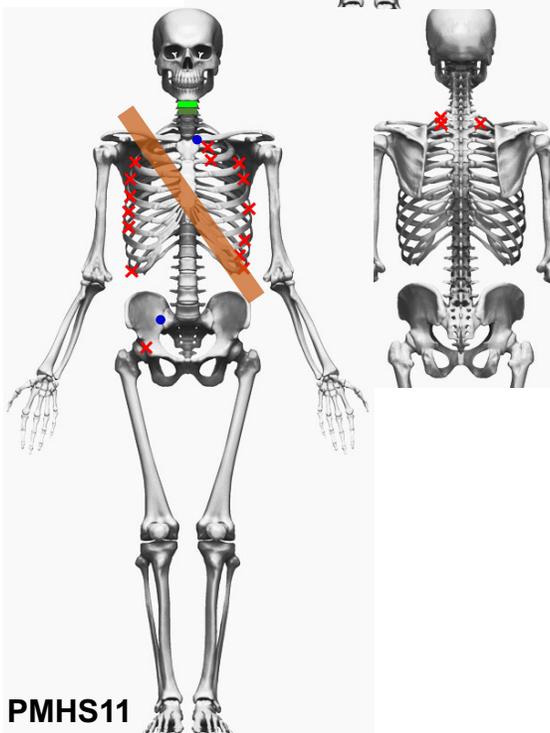
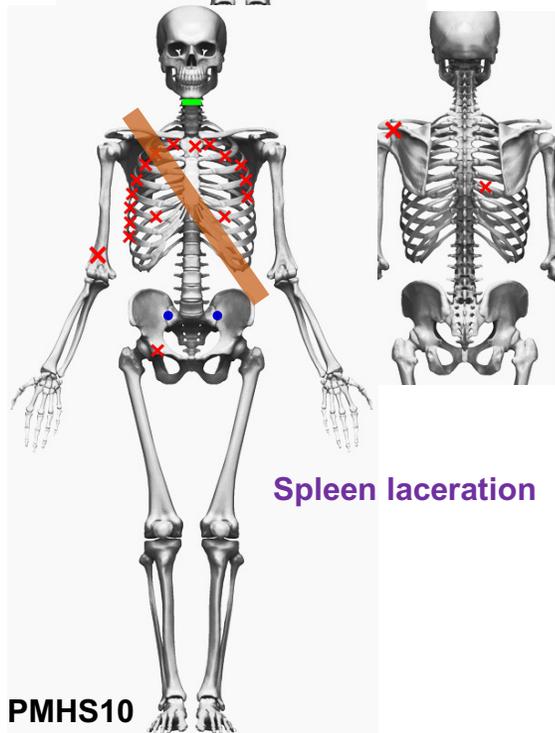
- laxity
- × Fracture
- Joint damage



56 kph  
25 deg



- laxity
- ✗ Fracture
- Joint damage



No major injuries

PMHS Injury – 24 km/h

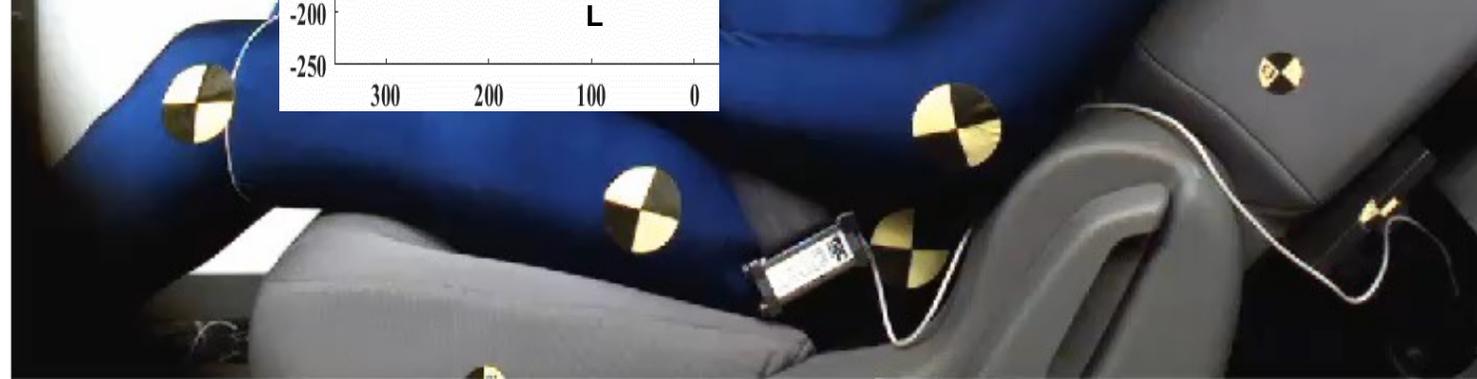
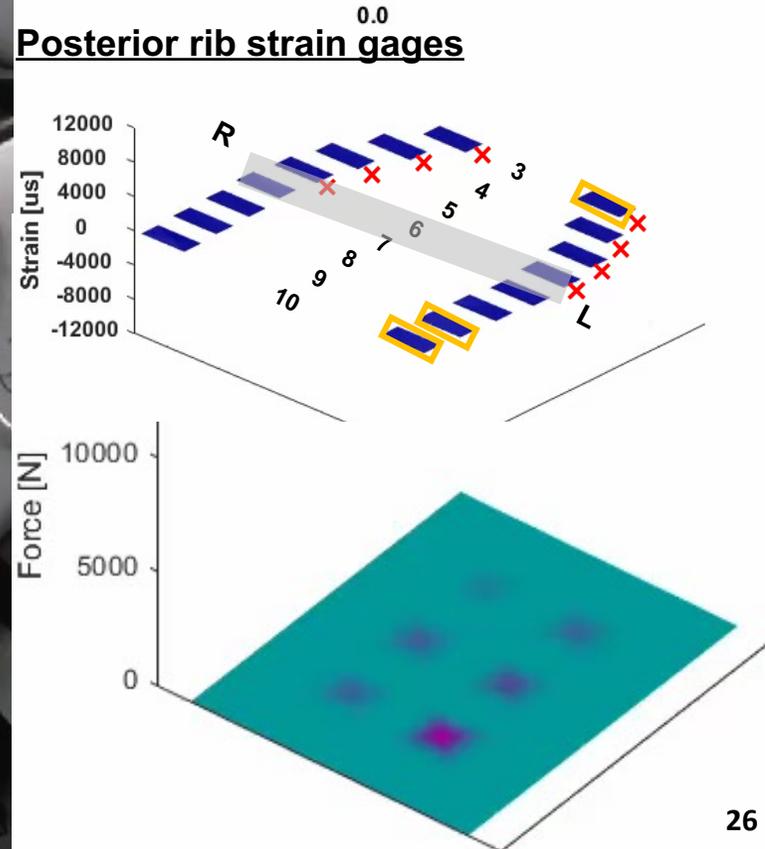
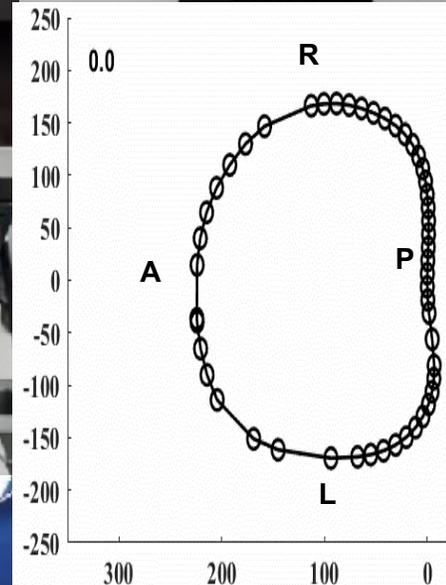
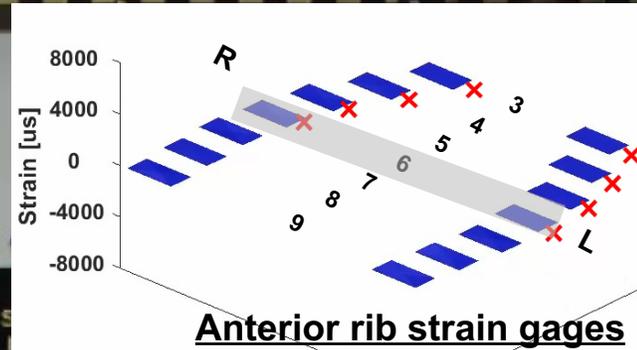
-No rib fractures

-No pelvis fractures

0.0

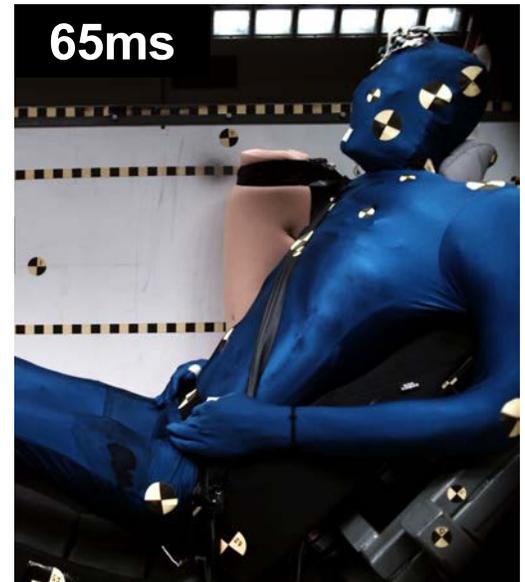
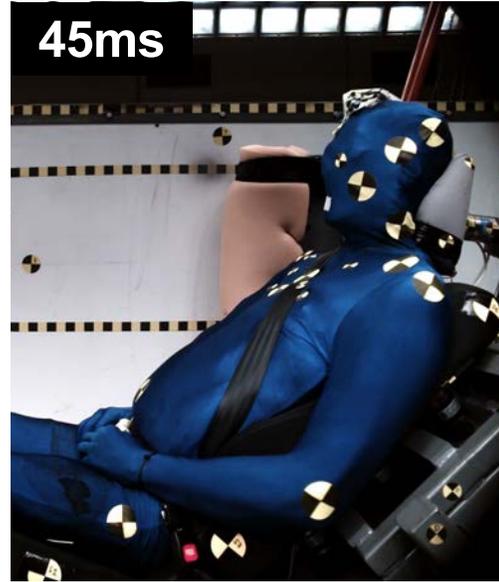
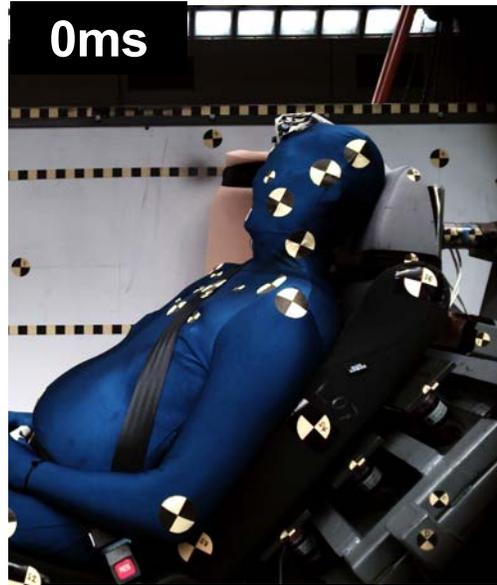
# ABTS 45deg at 56 km/h

✗ Fracture  
☐ Broken gage



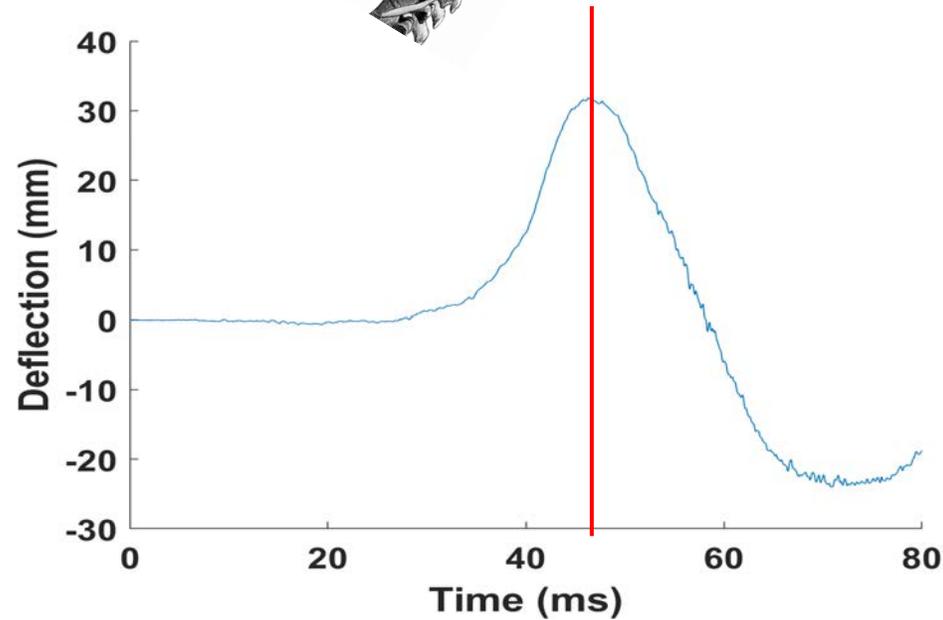
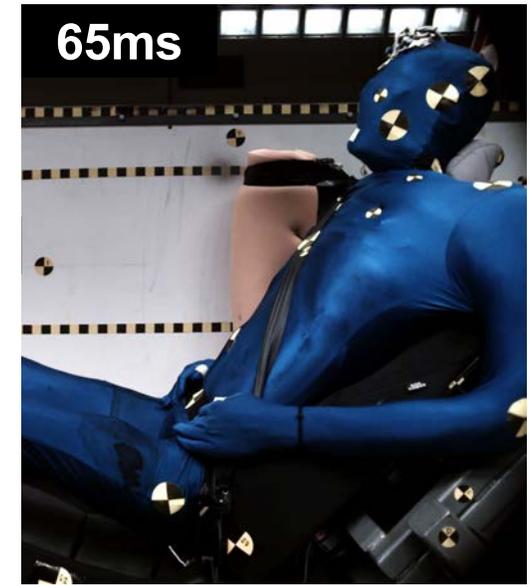
# Rib Fracture Timing

FDR 45deg



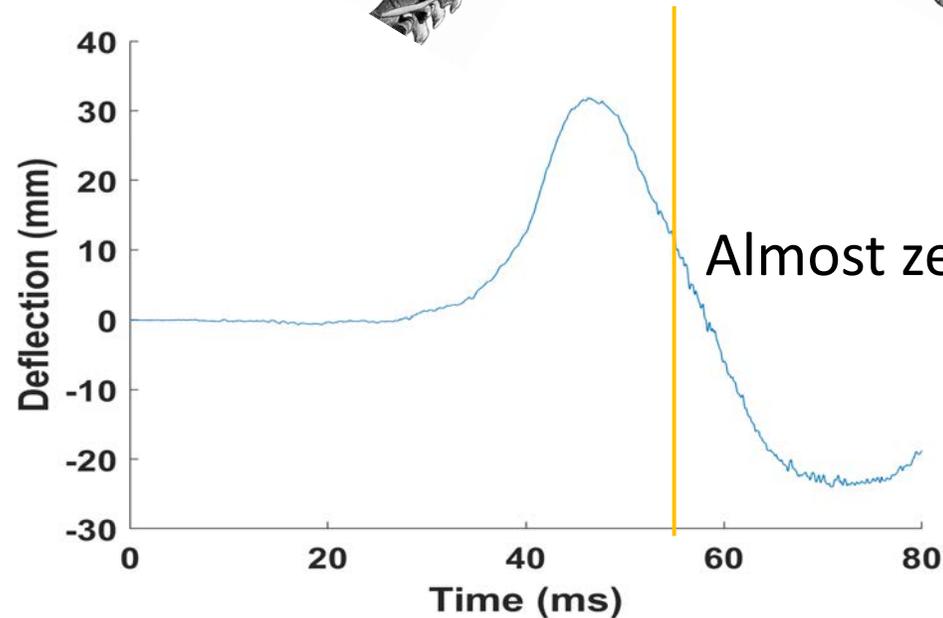
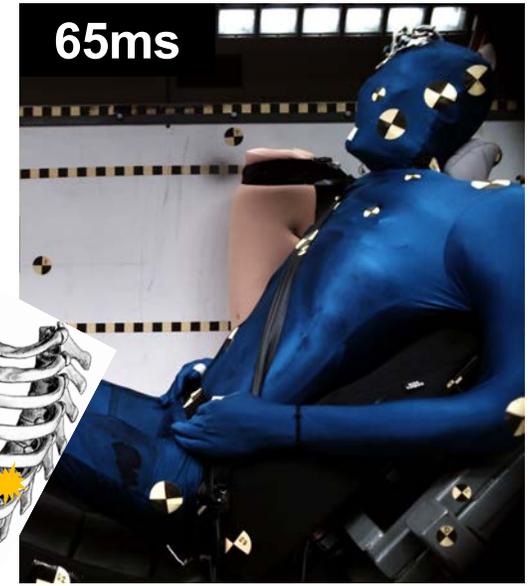
# Rib Fracture Timing

FDR 45deg



# Rib Fracture Timing

FDR 45deg

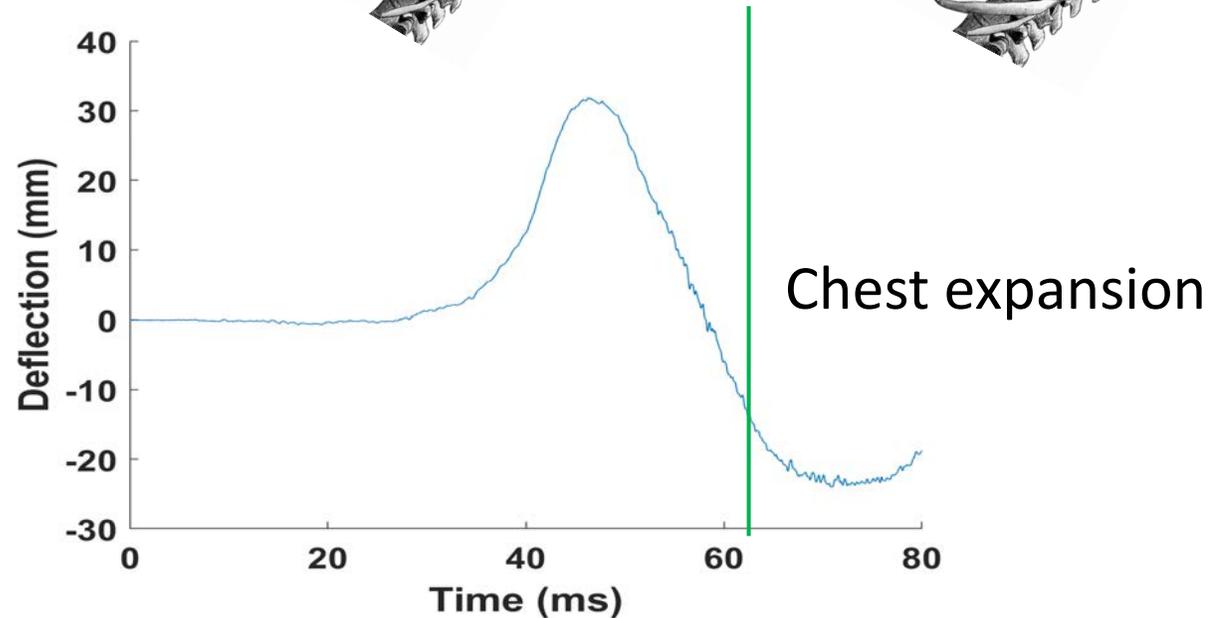


Almost zero chest deflection



# Rib Fracture Timing

FDR 45deg



# Summary

- Injury
  - More injuries were observed in the FDR seats during 56 km/h
  - No major injuries in 24 km/h even with the rigidized seatback
- Rib fracture
  - Difference in fracture distribution between ABTS and FDR
    - More rib fractures in 45deg
    - Anterior & lateral fractures occurred due to chest inertial loads
  - Rib fractures after maximum chest deflection
    - Thorax experiences complex combined loading
      - Compression due to A-P inertial loading
      - Shear due to ramping up motion
- Pelvis fracture
  - Off-axis rotations from both iliac wings represent pelvis outward deformation
    - Maybe an indicator of the pubic ramus fractures



# Thoracic Response & Injury Analysis of Small, Elderly Female PMHS in Simulated Near-Side Crashes

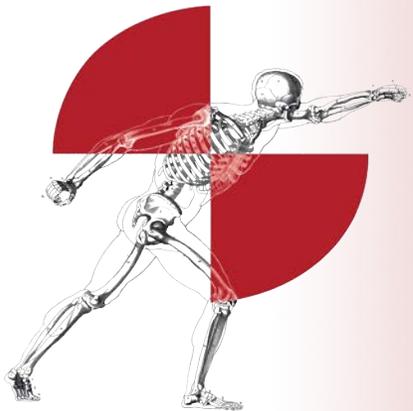
*J. Bolte IV<sup>1</sup>, B. Shurtz<sup>2</sup>, B. Pipkorn<sup>2</sup>, H. Rhule<sup>3</sup>, K. Moorhouse<sup>3</sup>, A. Agnew<sup>1</sup>, Y-S. Kang<sup>1</sup>*

*<sup>1</sup>Injury Biomechanics Research Center, OSU*

*<sup>2</sup>Autoliv; <sup>3</sup>Vehicle Research and Test Center, NHTSA*

---

*49<sup>th</sup> NHTSA Workshop on Human Subjects for Biomechanical Research  
27 October, 2021*

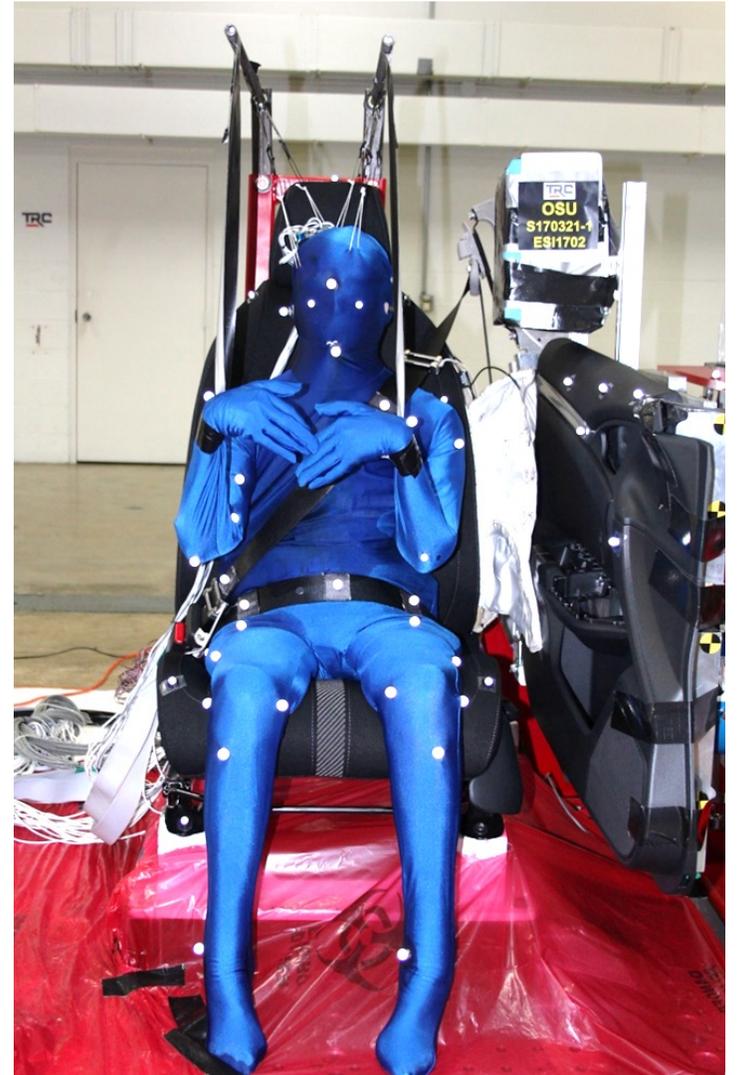
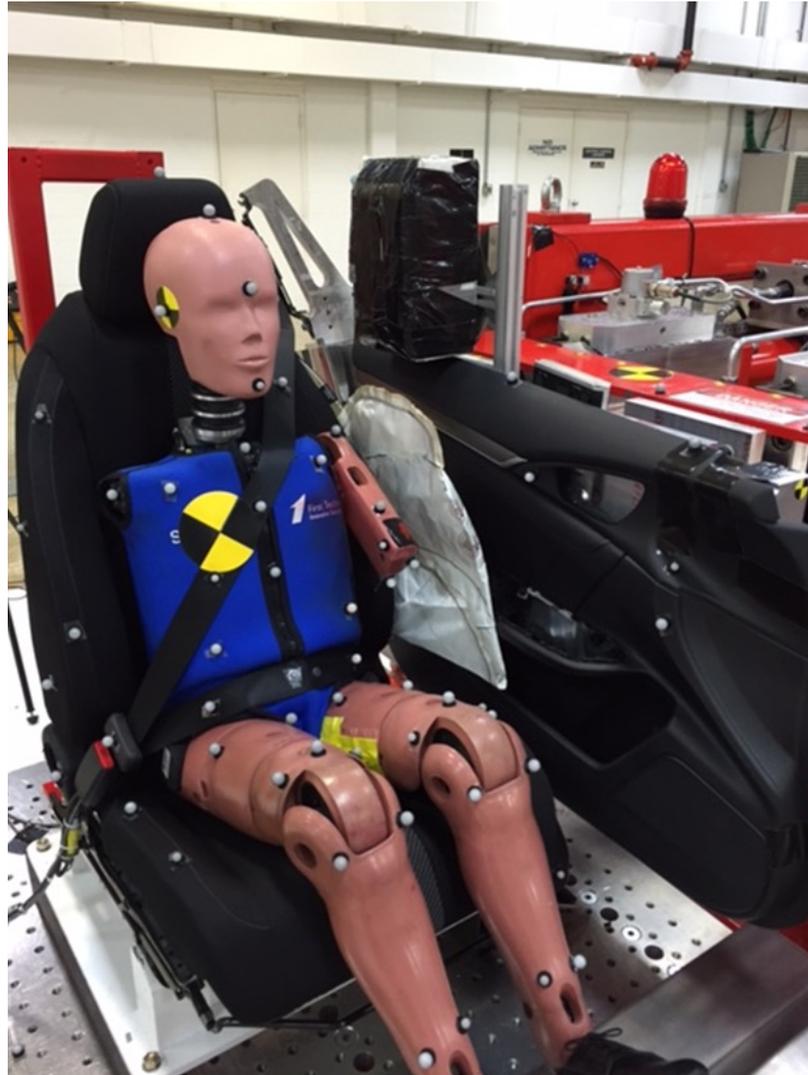


INJURY BIOMECHANICS  
RESEARCH CENTER

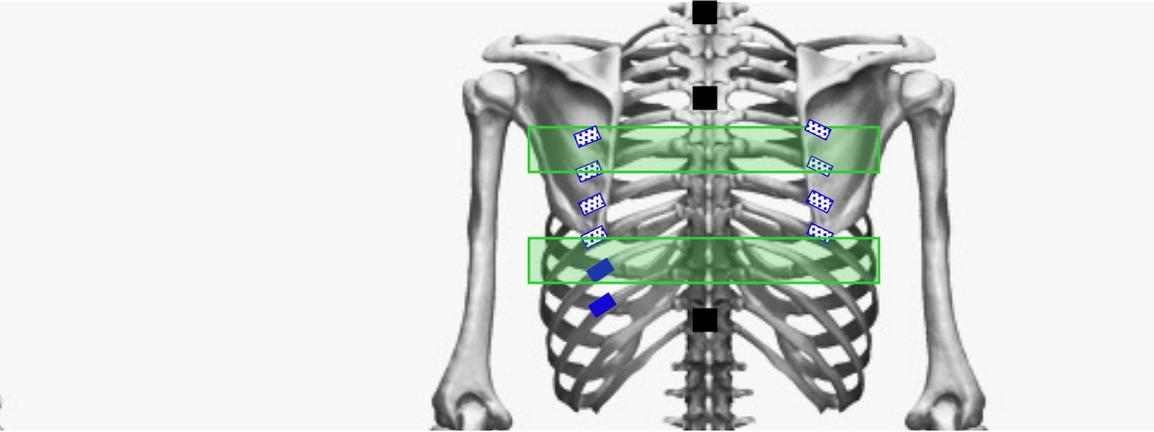
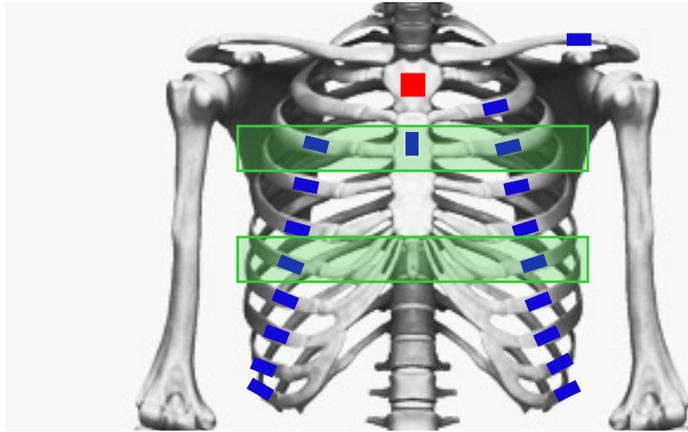


THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

# Methods



# Instrumentation



- Strain Gages ■
  - Sternum
  - Impacted Side:
    - Lateral Clavicle
    - Anterior ribs 2-10
    - Posterior ribs 4-9
  - Non-Impacted Side:
    - Anterior ribs 3-10
    - Posterior ribs 4-7

- Chestbands ■
  - Axilla
  - Xiphoid process
- 6DX Pro ■
  - Manubrium



# Phase I – Initial Positions

ESI 01



ESI 02



ESI 03



ESI 04



ESI 05



Seated Ht.

81 cm

71 cm

81 cm

80 cm

82 cm

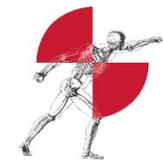
\*All photos are approx. lined up with the silver line on the door frame lining

# Phase I – Exemplar Video

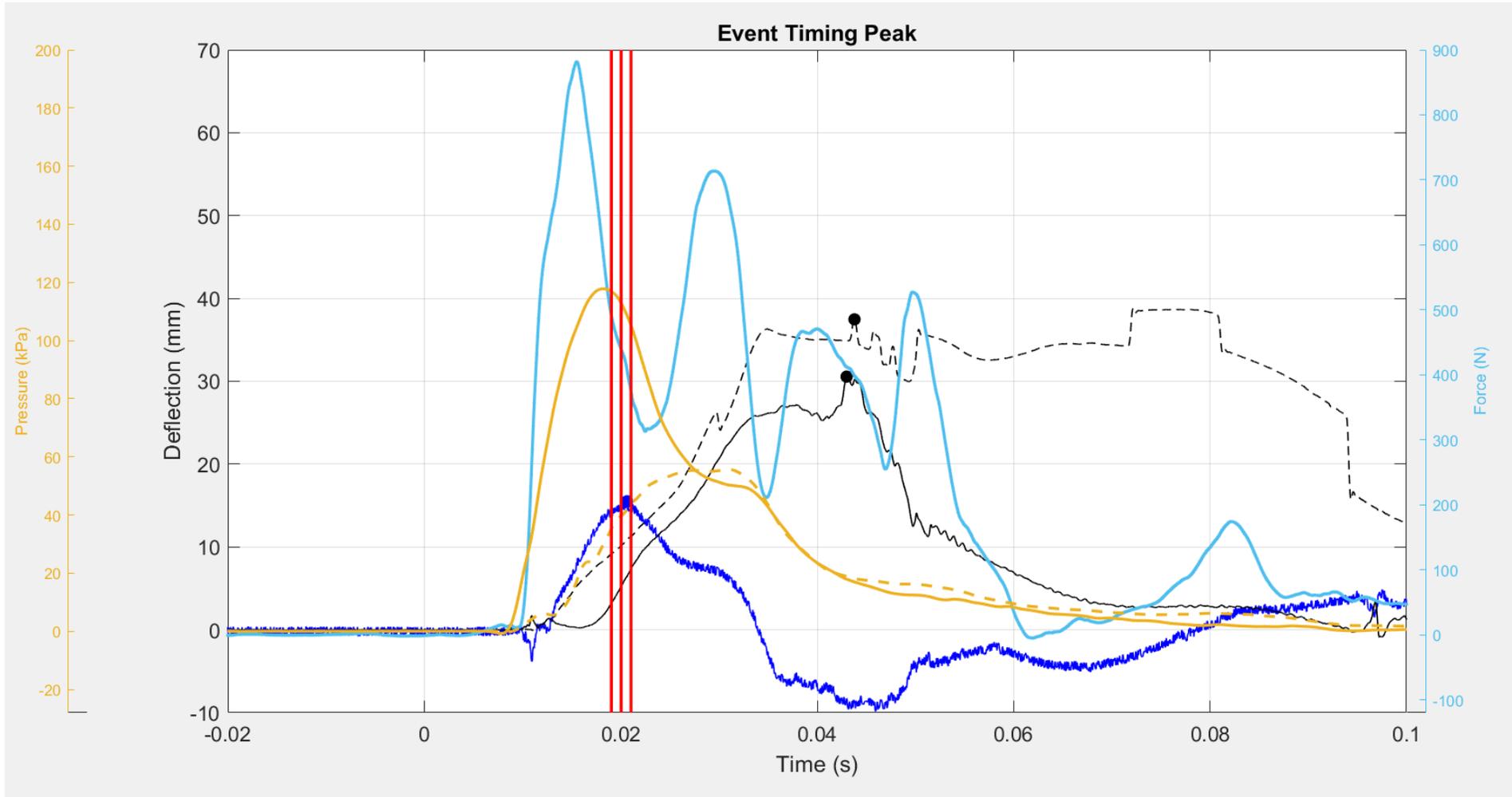


# Phase I – Injury Summary

	TARGET (female)	ESI 01	ESI 02	ESI 03	ESI 04	ESI 05
Age (yrs)	60+	61	83	81	67	69
Height (cm)	136-167	167	155	160	155	165
Weight (kg)	42-56	56	44	51.7	54.9	54.9
aBMD (t-score)	-2.5 < x < -1	-2.4	-1.6	-1.4	-1.5	-2.2
Test Injuries	-	5 rib fx	15 rib fx L clavicle fx spleen lac	5 rib fx	20 rib fx sternum fx	5 rib fx L clavicle fx
MAIS	-	3	3	3	3	3



# Event Timing - ESI 02



- AP, axilla
- AP deflection @ Peak
- Half Lat, axilla
- Half Lat deflection @ Peak
- - - Half Lat, xiphoid
- Half Lat deflection @ Peak
- Fracture
- SB Load Cell
- Airbag Pressure Low
- - - Airbag Pressure Up



# Chest Deflection & Compression

AIS=3 timing

39 ms

21 ms

23 ms

21 ms

30 ms



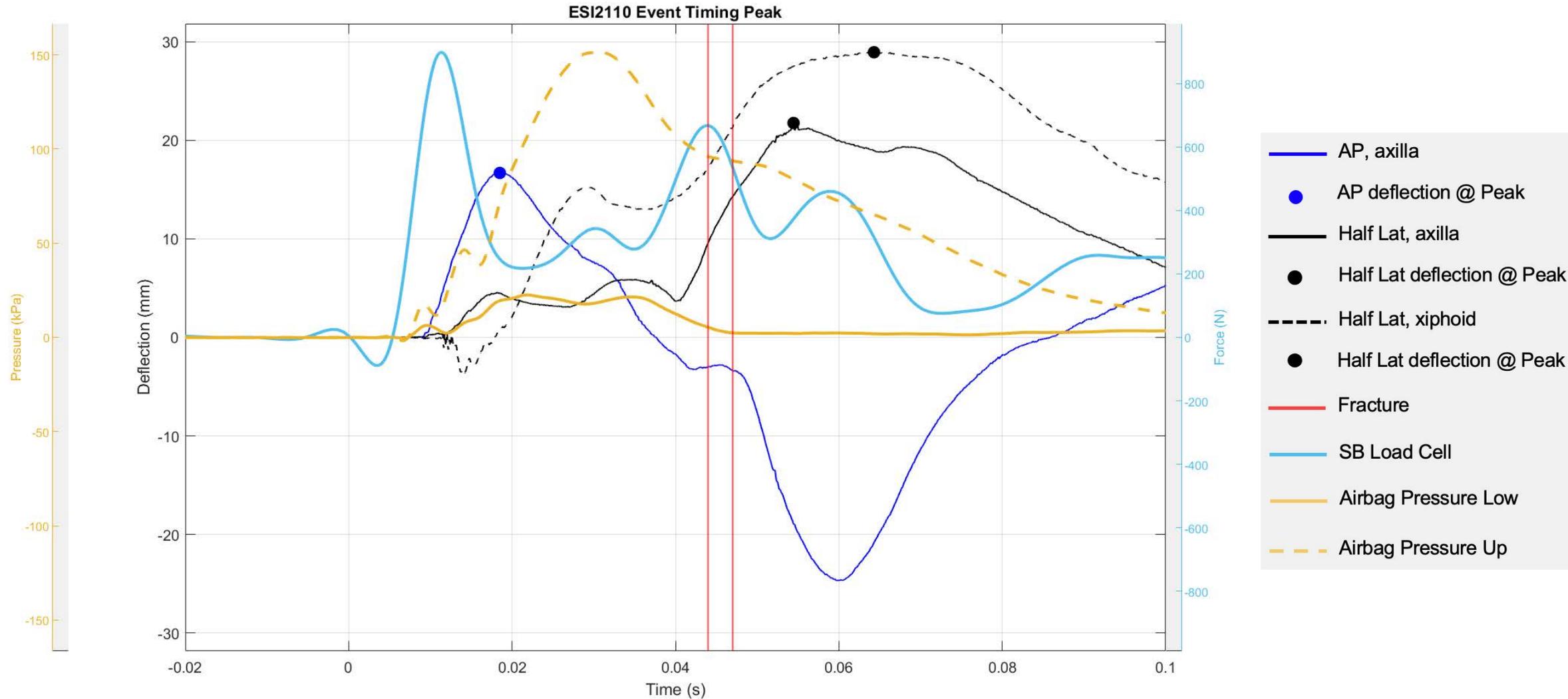
	ESI 01		ESI 02		ESI 03		ESI 04		ESI 05	
	Peak	AIS=3	Peak	AIS=3	Peak	AIS=3	Peak	AIS=3	Peak	AIS=3
Axillary Half Defl (mm)	23	19	31	7	12	1	21	4	24	18
<b>Axillary Half Comp (%)</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>6.5</b>
Axillary AP Defl (mm)	16	<b>-20</b>	15	<b>14</b>	16	<b>16</b>	15	<b>12</b>	14	<b>-11</b>

# Phase II Sled – PMHS Summary

	Phase I	ESI 07	ESI 08	ESI 09	ESI 10	ESI 11	Phase II
<b>Age (yrs)</b>	74.2 ( $\pm$ 9.7)	62	67	94	83	80	77.2 ( $\pm$ 12.8)
<b>Height (cm)</b>	161.5 ( $\pm$ 5.6)	147	159	152	163	158	155.8 ( $\pm$ 6.3)
<b>Weight (kg)</b>	52.1 ( $\pm$ 4.4)	56	51	55	50	40	50.4 ( $\pm$ 6.3)
<b>aBMD (t)</b>	-1.6 ( $\pm$ 0.4)	-1.0	-2.1	-2.2	-1.4	-1.7	-1.7 ( $\pm$ 0.5)
<b>Test Injuries</b>	-	<b>3 rib fx</b>	<b>14 rib fx</b>	<b>5 rib fx</b> L clavicle fx	<b>19 rib fx</b> Pneumothorax L clavicle fx		
<b>MAIS</b>	-	<b>2</b>	3	3	4	<b>0</b>	



# ESI 10 – Injuries & Timing



# ESI Test Summary

ESI Test	MAIS	Rib Fx(s)	Time of AIS 3 (msec)	Axillary Compression @ AIS 3
ESI 01	3	5	39	7%
ESI 02	3	15	21	3%
ESI 03	3	5	23	0% (1 mm)
ESI 04	3	20	24	1%
ESI 05	3	5	30	7%
ESI 07	2	3	51	8%
ESI 08	3	14	39	1%
ESI 09	3	5	46	9%
ESI 10	4	19	46	3%
ESI 11	0	0		Peak - 3%
			<b>Avg -</b>	<b>4.5%</b>



# Acknowledgements

Anatomical Donors of...   
THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

---



Jason Stammen, Kevin Moorhouse



Alena Hagedorn, Rakshit Ramachandra,  
Colton Thomas, Hyun Jung Kwon

Co-PIs: Yun Kang & John Bolte  
[yunseok.kang@osumc.edu](mailto:yunseok.kang@osumc.edu) & [john.bolte@osumc.edu](mailto:john.bolte@osumc.edu)

Alex Bendig, Vikram Pradhan, Gretchen Baker, Amanda Agnew,  
Akshara Sreedhar, Molly Tillis, Myeongkwan Kang,  
Angela Tesny, Zac Haverfield, Tim DeWitt, Angela Harden, Randee Hunter



# Occupant Safety in Highly Automated Vehicles

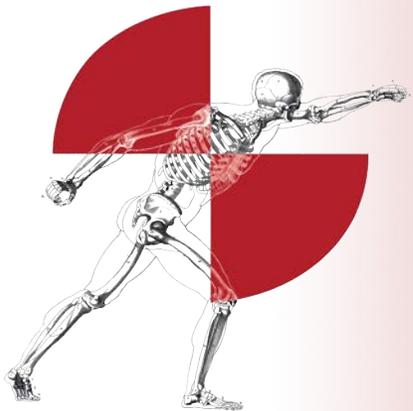
---

John H Bolte IV, PhD

*Injury Biomechanics Research Center, The Ohio State University*

---

[John.bolte@osumc.edu](mailto:John.bolte@osumc.edu)



INJURY BIOMECHANICS  
RESEARCH CENTER



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY