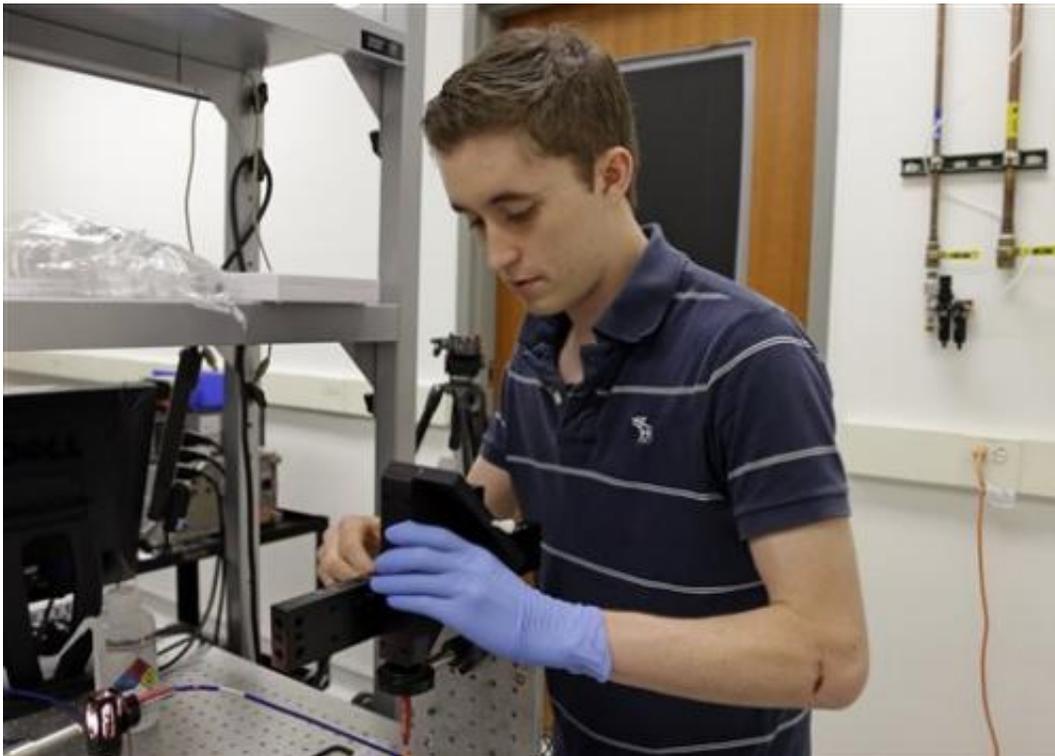


Smartphone cradle, app detect toxins, bacteria (w/ Video)

August 1 2013

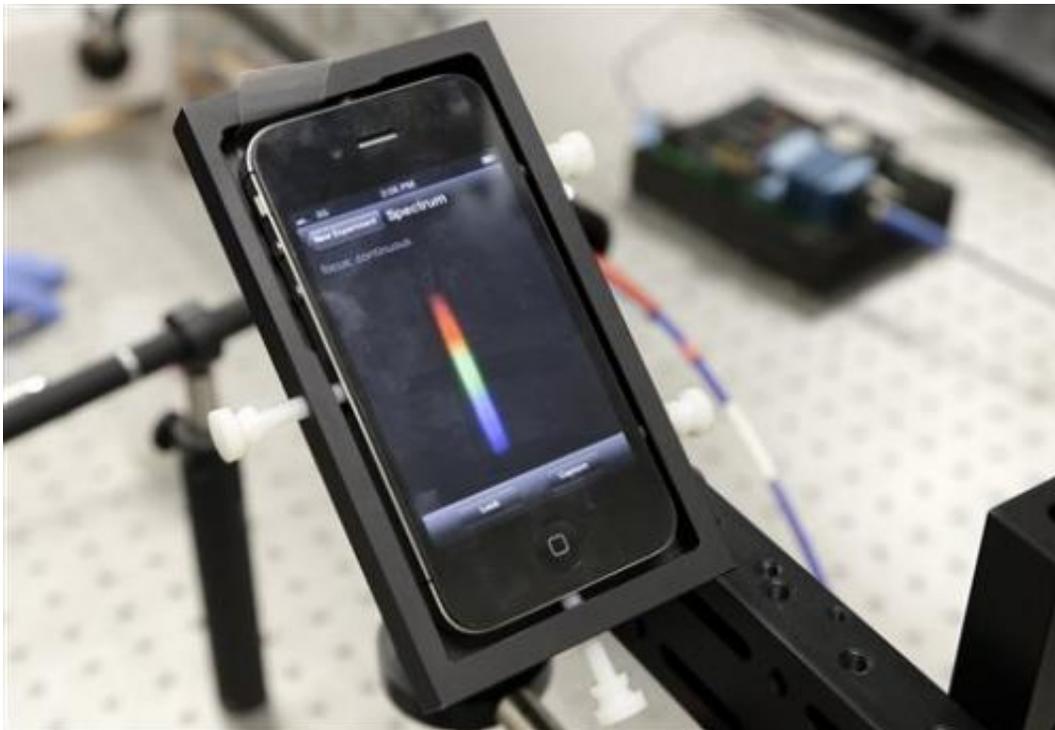


Kenny Long, a graduate researcher studying engineering and medicine at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign works with a handheld biosensor based on an iPhone, is shown in this June 21, 2013 photo in Urbana, Ill. (AP Photo/Michael Conroy)

Afraid there may be peanuts or other allergens hiding in that cookie? Thanks to a cradle and app that turn your smartphone into a handheld biosensor, you may soon be able to run on-the-spot tests for food safety,

environmental toxins, medical diagnostics and more.

The handheld [biosensor](#) was developed by researchers at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. A series of lenses and filters in the cradle mirror those found in larger, more expensive laboratory devices. Together, the cradle and app transform a smartphone into a tool that can detect toxins and bacteria, spot [water contamination](#) and identify allergens in food.



A handheld biosensor was developed by researchers at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, is shown June 21, 2013 in Urbana, Ill. Thanks to a cradle and app that turn your smartphone into a handheld biosensor, you may soon be able to run on-the-spot tests for food safety, environmental toxins, medical diagnostics and more. (AP Photo/Michael Conroy)

Kenny Long, a graduate researcher at the university, says the team was able to make the smartphone even smarter with modifications to the cellphone camera.

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Citation: Smartphone cradle, app detect toxins, bacteria (w/ Video) (2013, August 1) retrieved 21 September 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2013-08-smartphone-cradle-app-toxins-bacteria.html>

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