

# “*Interesting things occur at the edges of fields of expertise*”

Project kick-off workshop attendee,  
April 2007.

## What is Material Beliefs?

Material Beliefs takes emerging biomedical and cybernetic technology out of labs and into public spaces.

The project focuses on technologies which blur the boundaries between our bodies and materials, and how design as a tool for public engagement can be used to stimulate discussion about the value of these forms of hybridity.

## Designing in labs

Rather than focusing on the *outcomes* of science and technology, Material Beliefs approaches research as an unfinished and ongoing set of practices, happening in laboratories and separate from public spaces.

The lab becomes a site for collaboration between scientists and engineers, designers, social scientists and members of the public. Alongside existing research activity such as collecting experimental data, writing academic papers and funding proposals, the collaborations lead to a parallel set of outcomes including interviews, brainstorming, drawing, photography, filming and discussion.

The collaborations lead to the design of prototypes, which embed these parallel outcomes into something tangible. These prototypes are exhibited, transforming emerging laboratory research into a platform that encourages a debate about the relationship between science and society.

## About these posters

These posters offer snapshots of activity from two Material Beliefs projects. *Vital Signs* and *Neuroscope* are collaborative projects involving design researchers at Goldsmiths, University of London, and researchers at the Institute for Biomedical Engineering, Imperial College, London and Cybernetics and the School of Pharmacy, University of Reading.

Material Beliefs is based at the Interaction research Studio, in the Department of Design at Goldsmiths, University of London, and is funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, through a Partnerships for Public Engagement Award.

# *Material Beliefs*

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