

URL: <https://stvp.stanford.edu/blog/videos/experimenting-with-new-technologies>

When experimenting with new capabilities and technologies, unexpected things happen, notes Worthington. These unexpected results can often be a useful source of new knowledge.



Transcript

What I will say, a general observation, is that when you bring a new capability like a microfluidic system together with other things for the first time, you bring a microfluidic device together with protein chemistry, you bring a microfluidic device together with a detection in a light collection, things like that, unexpected things happen.. The interfaces between these different components will allow the intellectual property, will allow the inventionist, will allow this sort of very fortuitous "Aha's" happen.. And it turns out that you can almost always exploit that.. You'll always find something that's like, "Oh god, that's terrible!" But you'll almost always find something too that's like, "That's unexpected and interesting and I can use that in some way that I didn't know I had that in my toolbox." Because nobody had ever tried doing PCR and 50 picoliters before.. And lo and behold, it's different.. In some cases better, in some cases worst.. But you can use that and you can use that for detection as well..