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Seth W. Donahue

Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Email: swdonahu@mtu.edu

Office: 309 M&M Building

Telephone: 906-487-1729
Fax: 906-487-1717

Michigan Technological University
Department of Biomedical Engineering
309 Minerals and Materials Eng. Bldg.
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton, MI 49931-1295

[Publications on PubMed](#)

Research Interests: The role of mechanical forces in bone adaptation, bone cell signaling, stress fractures, osteoporosis, and tissue engineering

Research Projects:

1. Bone Metabolism in Black Bears: Analysis of serum hormones and bone remodeling markers in hibernating bears

[Hibernating bears as a model for preventing disuse osteoporosis](#)

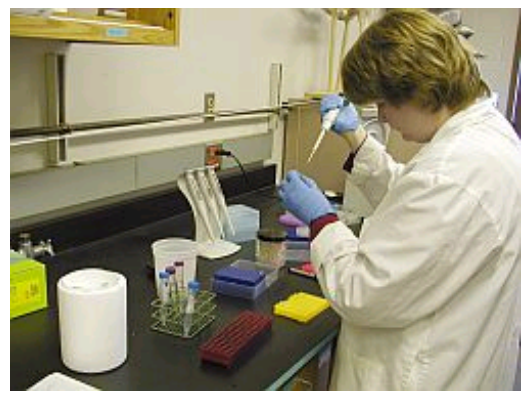
[Parathyroid hormone may maintain bone formation in hibernating black bears \(*Ursus americanus*\) to prevent disuse osteoporosis](#)

[Article in the NewScientist](#)
[Article on ScienCentral](#)



2. Bone Cell
Mechanotransduction:
Mechanically induced bone
cell signaling and gene
expression

Osteoblastic cells have
refractory periods for fluid-
flow-induced intracellular
calcium oscillations for short
bouts of flow and display
multiple low-magnitude
oscillations during long-term
flow



3. Bone Tissue Engineering:
Mechanical stimulation in 3-
dimensional bone cell
cultures

Mechanical stimulation of
MC3T3 osteoblastic cells in a
bone tissue-engineering
bioreactor enhances
prostaglandin E2 release



4. Bone Mechanics: Bone
material properties and
modeling of fluid flow in
bone

A fatigue microcrack alters
fluid velocities in a
computational model of
interstitial fluid flow in cortical
bone

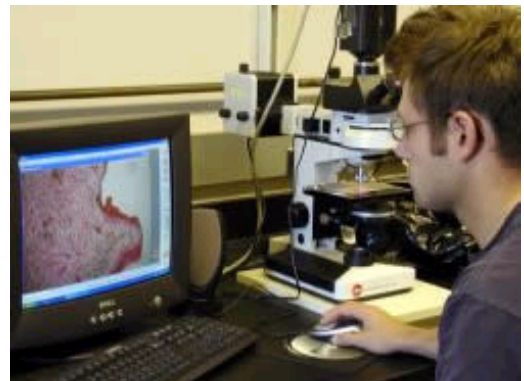
The tensile strength of black
bear (*Ursus americanus*)
cortical bone is not
compromised with aging
despite annual periods of
hibernation



[View Movie of breaking bear bones 2 Mb WMV](#)

5. Quantitative
Histomorphometry of Bone:
Bone remodeling and fatigue
microdamage

Bone strain and microcracks at
stress fracture sites in human
metatarsals





Boneheads Softball team

Courses:

[BE 3750: Human Biomechanics—Fall](#)

[BE 4100/5100: Cell and Tissue Mechanics—Spring](#)

[The other Dr. Donahue](#)

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College of Engineering

Michigan Technological University
[Department of Biomedical Engineering](#)
1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, Michigan 49931-1295
biomed@mtu.edu
ph: 906-487-2772
fx: 906-487-1717

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Last modified 06/06/2009
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