



## **Wearables Weekly**

Compiled by Sarah Kunkle and Gillian Christie

February 1, 2016

*In the wake of two lawsuits against Fitbit, Consumer Reports defends the accuracy of the device's heart rate monitoring functionality. Researchers at Stanford and UC Berkeley have developed a wearable sensor that measures skin temperature in addition to glucose, lactate, sodium and potassium in sweat. Beyond wearables, there is more evidence that companies are getting serious about virtual/augmented reality as Apple recruits a top researcher in the field. Read the latest below!*

### **[Consumer Reports revisits, reasserts accuracy of Fitbit heart rate monitoring](#)**

Consumer Reports, which attested to the accuracy of Fitbit devices in an initial review, has re-tested the Fitbit Charge HR and Fitbit Surge and concluded again that they are accurate. The publication tested the Fitbit devices against a Polar heart rate strap and examined additional variables based on the specific complaints in the suit. This included looking at performance during higher intensity workouts and device placement both high on the forearm and on the wrist. Consumer Reports found minimal difference between the Fitbit devices and the Polar heart rate strap. The lawsuit claims that the devices were off by 24.34 bpm on average and 75 bpm in extreme cases.

### **[Samsung's gold Gear S2 Classic to cost thousands less than Apple Watch Edition](#)**

A few weeks ago, Samsung announced the launch of its new Gear S2 Classic smartwatch at CES. Although the company did not officially provide pricing details on the premium rose gold and platinum smartwatches, there are reports that the watch is available for preorder in Europe for €480, or about \$520 when it makes it to the United States, making it much less expensive than Apple's gold smartwatch. Although the new Gear S2 Classic models are made of more premium materials than the original models, they are plated in rose gold or platinum while Apple's version is made of solid gold. The new Samsung watches will be available first in China in other countries soon after.

### **[The first promising 'smart strap' for the Pebble Time](#)**

Tylt, a company known for wireless charging products, is designing the Vu Pulse, a smart accessory for Pebble's Time smartwatch. Pebble allows outside companies to add more functionality to their products through smart straps and other add-ons. The Vu Pulse will monitor user heart rate every 30 seconds in "passive" mode or every 10 seconds in "active" mode. It will sync with both Google Fit and Apple Health. Vu Pulse will ship to beta backers from Kickstarter in June, with the final product tentatively scheduled to arrive in August.

## **Other Health Technology Headlines**

[Apple Hires Top Augmented/Virtual Reality Researcher](#)

[Can Under Armour's wearables woo the next generation from Nike?](#)

[Employee Wellness Programs Use Carrots and, Increasingly, Sticks](#)

[Flexible sweat sensors monitor fluids while you exercise](#)

[Mobile diabetes intervention reduced HbA1c 2 percentage points more than standard of care](#)

[Partners offers \\$1 million in innovation grants to employees](#)

[Problems found at Theranos Lab](#)

[The future of wearables depends on an entirely new business model](#)

[Warning: trying to disrupt health insurance may cause headaches](#)