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## STEVEN M. CHASE

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People often ask me, “How did you get involved in neural prosthetics?” When I was a PhD student enrolled in Electrical Engineering at UC Berkeley, I was designing tunable semiconductor lasers. One day for journal club, I was assigned the task of comparing the light detecting ability of the eye to that of a silicon photodetector. While researching this question, I became fascinated by what the eye could do, and wanted to know why there weren’t any artificial eyes in clinical use. Of course, you don’t have to think about the question for very long to realize that the main problem is that it’s hard to plug them in. Long after my assignment ended, I was staying up nights reading about nerve electrical interfaces. At some point, it dawned on me that if this is what I was doing for fun, it’s probably what I should be doing for research. I approached my advisor about my decision, and she was super supportive. That year, I left UC Berkeley with an MS degree and joined the Biomedical Engineering program at Johns Hopkins to learn more about neural engineering. In retrospect, this was probably the pivotal moment of my entire career, and I have never looked back.