A cheap, disposable device for diagnosing disease

MRSEC-supported researchers have developed a reusable microfluidic device based on “acoustic tweezers” that can sort and manipulate cells and other micro/nanometer scale objects, potentially making biomedical diagnosis of diseases cheaper and more convenient in regions where medical facilities are sparse or cost is prohibitive. The team has found a way to separate the fluid-containing part of the device from the much more expensive ultrasound-producing piezoelectric substrate, which makes disposable acoustic tweezers possible.