

GT10

Nuclear technologies for life sciences

Denis Dauvergne & Lydia Maigne

On behalf of GT10 collaborators

Plan

- Introduction
- 4 Science Drivers: scientific questions, 10-year projects
 - 1: Improve therapeutic efficiency through innovative irradiation modalities
 - 2: Develop innovative medical imaging toward personalized medicine
 - 3: Develop efficient multiscale and open source simulations
 - 4: Develop novel radioisotope production toward therapy and/or diagnostics
- Recommendations

Introduction

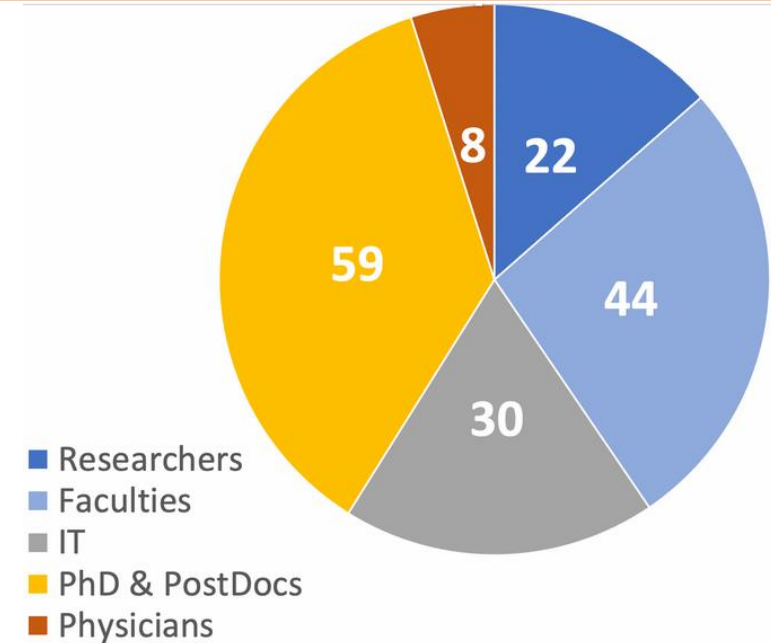
GT10 « Nuclear sciences for Health »

- COPIL GT10: S. Incerti, D. Dauvergne, F. Farget, L. Maigne, C. Morel, M. Rousseau, H. Seznec
- September – October 2019: call for contributions
About 30 contributions
- 5 February 2020, Strasbourg, « **Séminaire Thématique GT10** »
<https://indico.in2p3.fr/event/19756/>
66 participants, 18 presentations
- May 2020: redaction of report

Introduction

Innovative Nuclear Techniques for Health at IN2P3

- **12 laboratories**
- **GDR MI2B:** created in 2004 – renewed in 2020 (INSB deputy)
- **"Innovative Nuclear Techniques for Health (INTH)"** research program gathering the community
 - **Common goal: use of ionizing radiation to observe and understand living organisms, for therapeutic and diagnostic purposes** (e.g. in the fight against cancer).
 - **IN2P3 skills:** simulation, production of beams and radionuclides, instrumentation for imaging and dosimetry
 - Several teams of **biologists and clinicians have joined IN2P3 laboratories** (e.g. CENBG, IP2I, IJCLab, LPC, LPC-Caen, IPHC ...)
 - **Network of national irradiation facilities**, associated to common instrumentation and **development of biophysical models**



Science Driver 1

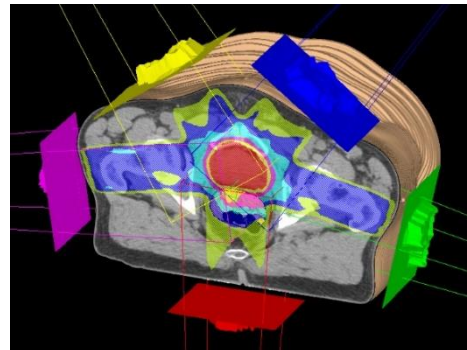
Improve therapeutic efficiency through innovative irradiation modalities

SD1 Improve therapeutic efficiency through innovative irradiation modalities

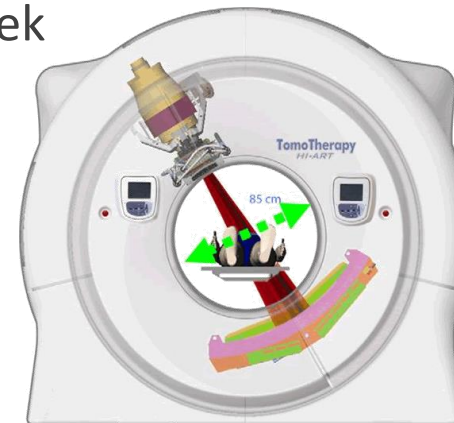
- “Conventional” radiotherapy (>95%)
 - **Particles:** X-rays 6-25 MV, electrons 3-18 MeV (surface tumors)
 - **Machines:** clinical electron accelerators - multileaf collimator - embedded imaging systems
 - **Time fractionation:** 2 Gy/session, 5 sessions/week
 - **Dose:** 40-70 Gy, (Dose rate: 30-70 mGy/s)



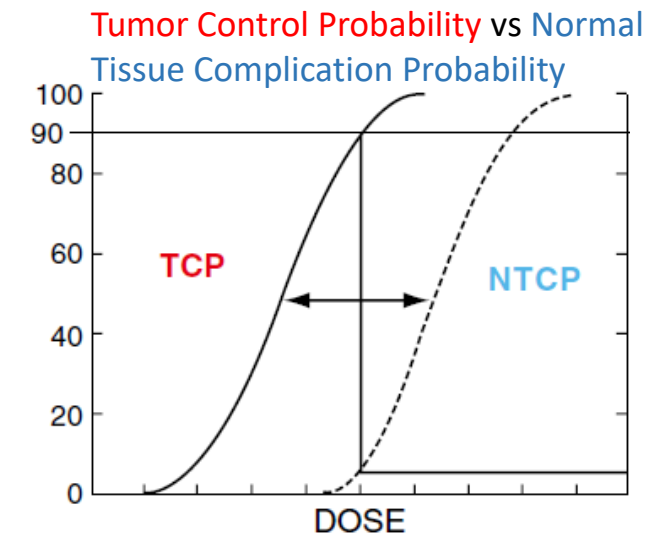
Standard clinical accelerator with embedded imaging systems



Intensity-modulated irradiation

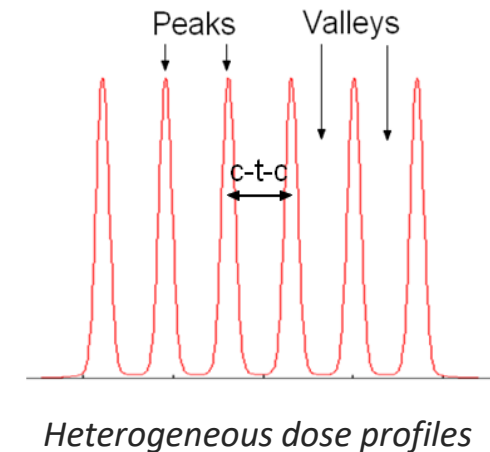
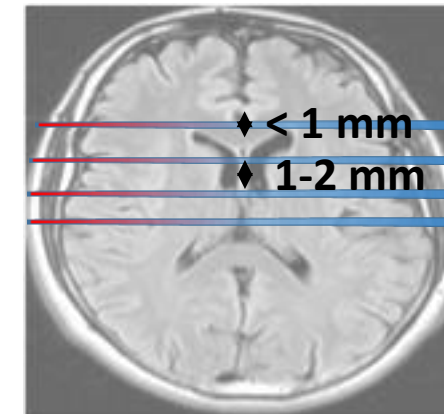
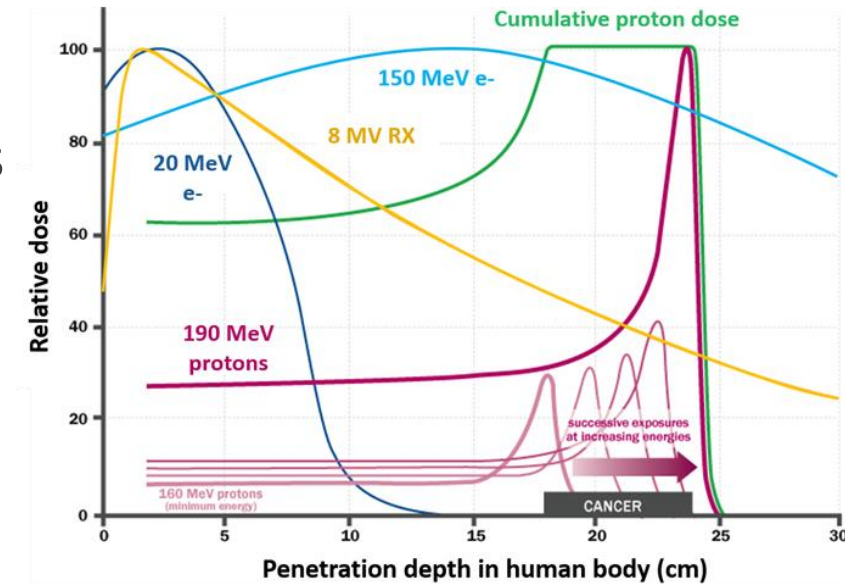


Tomotherapy
Cyber-knife



SD1 Improve therapeutic efficiency through innovative irradiation modalities

- Innovative irradiation modalities
 - **Hadrontherapy** - ballistic precision and high LET particles
 - Proton therapy became clinical standard (PBS, gantries, ...)
 - Carbon and light ions (He, Li, O...):
 - 4 centers in EU: 6000 patients (36000 worldwide) in 2019
 - Higher RBE, smaller straggling than protons
 - Spatial fractionation
 - **Proton minibeam**s were initiated at IN2P3
 - X-ray **microbeam**s (MRT): veterinary translation (ESRF)
 - VHEE: ($> 10^2$ MeV) keeps spatial tailoring in depth
- Increased dose tolerance of healthy tissues



SD1 Improve therapeutic efficiency through innovative irradiation modalities

- Innovative irradiation modalities

- Hypo-fractionation with high fluxes: **FLASH therapy**

- First observation with electrons (Favaudon et al, 2014)
- Confirmed with high- and low-energy X-rays
- Under study with protons

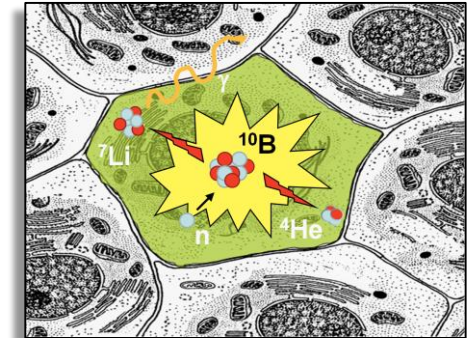
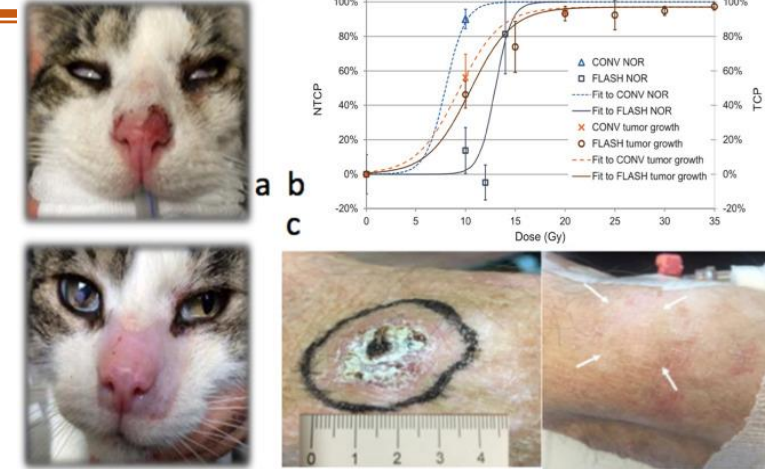
→ Better normal tissue tolerance >40 Gy/s, irradiation time <100 - 200 ms

- Drug-assisted targetting

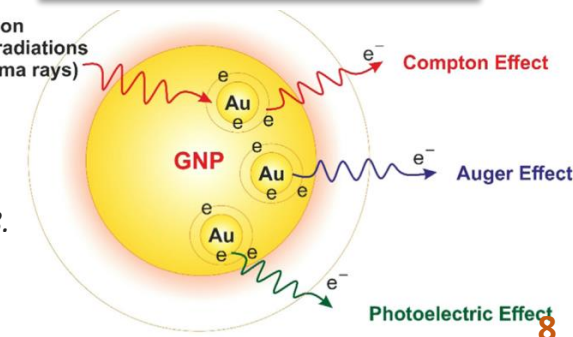
- **AB-BNCT**: renewed interest with accelerator-based irradiation
- **Local dose enhancers** (high-Z, nanoparticles, PDT-nanoscintillators...)
- Internal **vectorized therapies** (alpha-beta emitters)

- Combination with other modalities (immunotherapy)

Mazal et al., 2020.
British J Rad



Borran et al., 2018.
Rad. Phys. Chem.



SD1 Improve therapeutic efficiency through innovative irradiation modalities

A unique offer for complementary irradiation modalities in France

protons and light ions (He, C, O...), photons from **synchrotron** X-rays to high-energy, **pulsed beams** of high energy electrons, with **FLASH** irradiation capability, radioisotopes, neutron sources.

Challenges for radiobiology and for a versatile dosimetry, some of them being in the research field of IN2P3

- Prediction of radiobiological effectiveness of radiation through multi-scale simulations **Geant4 with Geant4-DNA and GATE**;
- Need for online, and possibly real-time control of the treatment quality;
- Development of strategies for patient-data based models for personalized treatment efficiency modelling;
- Acquisition of nuclear data to improve the precision of the effective dose during hadrontherapy treatments.

SD1 Improve therapeutic efficiency through innovative irradiation modalities

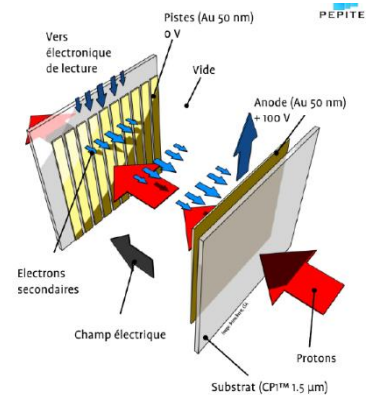
10-years project

- **Development of new-dose delivery modalities**

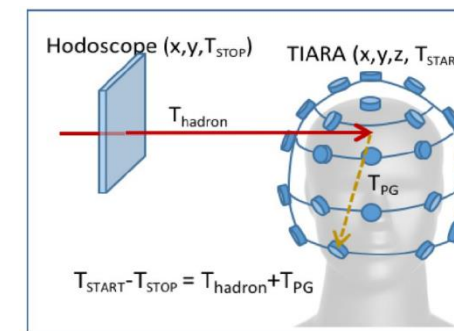
- FLASH irradiation (CYRCé – ARRONAX) : **MP Dosiflash, FLASHMOD**
- Hadrontherapy (protons at CAL-Nice, light ions: ARCHADE, CNAO...)
 - Basic physical data
 - Radiobiological data → Biophysics models (NanOx, G4-DNA)
 - Radioactive ions?
- VHEE ?
- Targeted radiotherapies & ab-BNCT: neutron & radioisotope production with dose modelling (PICTURE project)

- **Specific instrumentation**

- Beam monitors
 - Flash (Dosiflash)
 - Spatially fractionated beams
 - Fast timing (Diamtech)
 - Microdosimeters
- Online control
 - Thidos (gamma camera targeted therapy)
 - Prompt gamma range verification (CLaRyS – TIARA)
- Clinical data collection and processing: PMRT



PEPITES (LLR)



TIARA
(LPSC-CPPM-CAL)



Diamond: Diamtech
(LPSC-Arronax-Subatech)

Science Driver 2

Innovative medical imaging toward personalized medicine

SD2 Innovative medical imaging toward personalized medicine

- Recent evolutions in medical imaging (provided by industry)
 - PET imaging:
 - Whole body PET
 - Time of Flight
 - Dual modality PET/MRI
 - Single Photon (SPECT) imaging
 - Increased efficiency
- Remaining challenges
 - Improve sensitivity to get better images at lower dose and faster

Total-Body PET EXPLORER Project



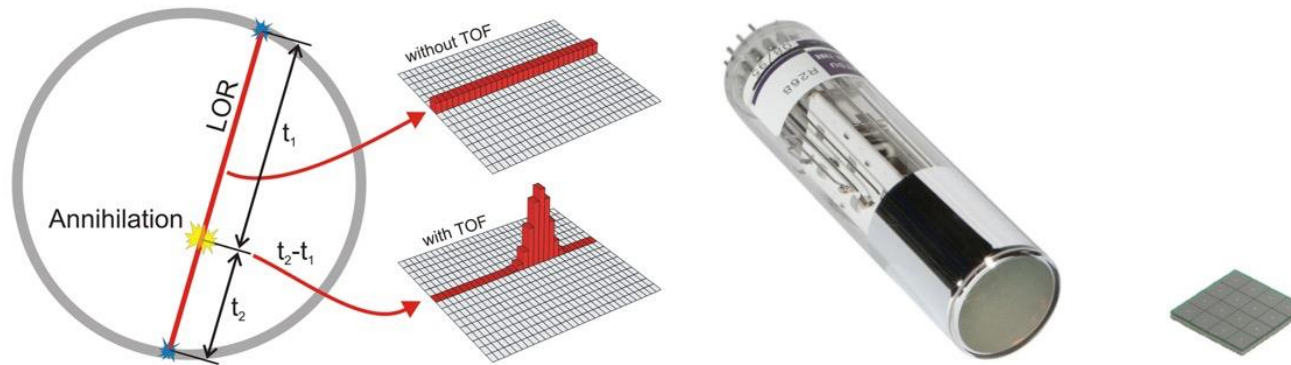
R D Badawi et al. (2019)



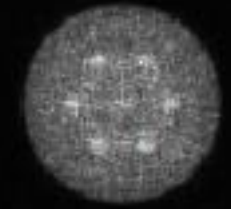
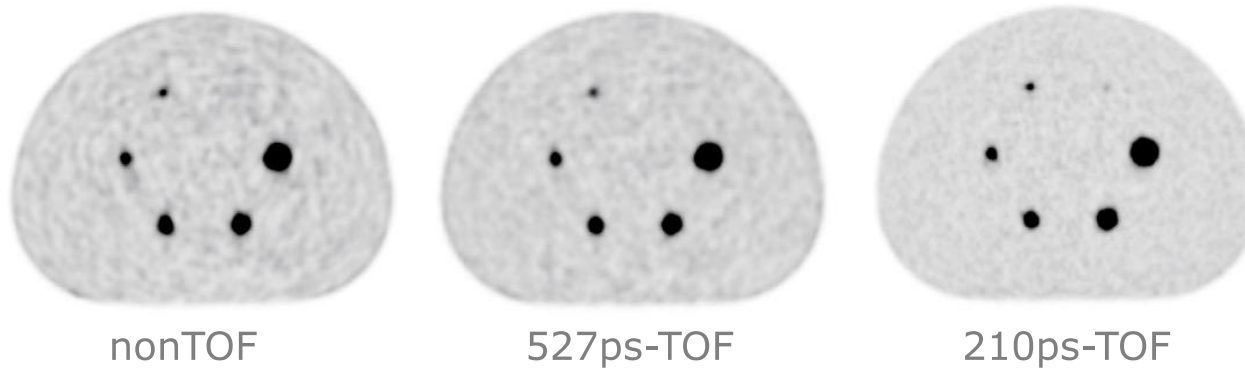
VERITON camera 12 CZT heads

SD2 Innovative medical imaging toward personalized medicine

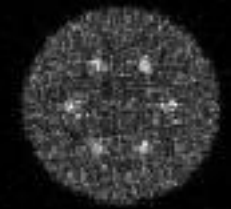
Time-Of-Flight (TOF)-PET



$$\left(\frac{SNR_{TOF}}{SNR_{nonTOF}} \right)^2 = \frac{2D}{c \times CTR}$$



nonTOF



700ps-TOF



500ps-TOF

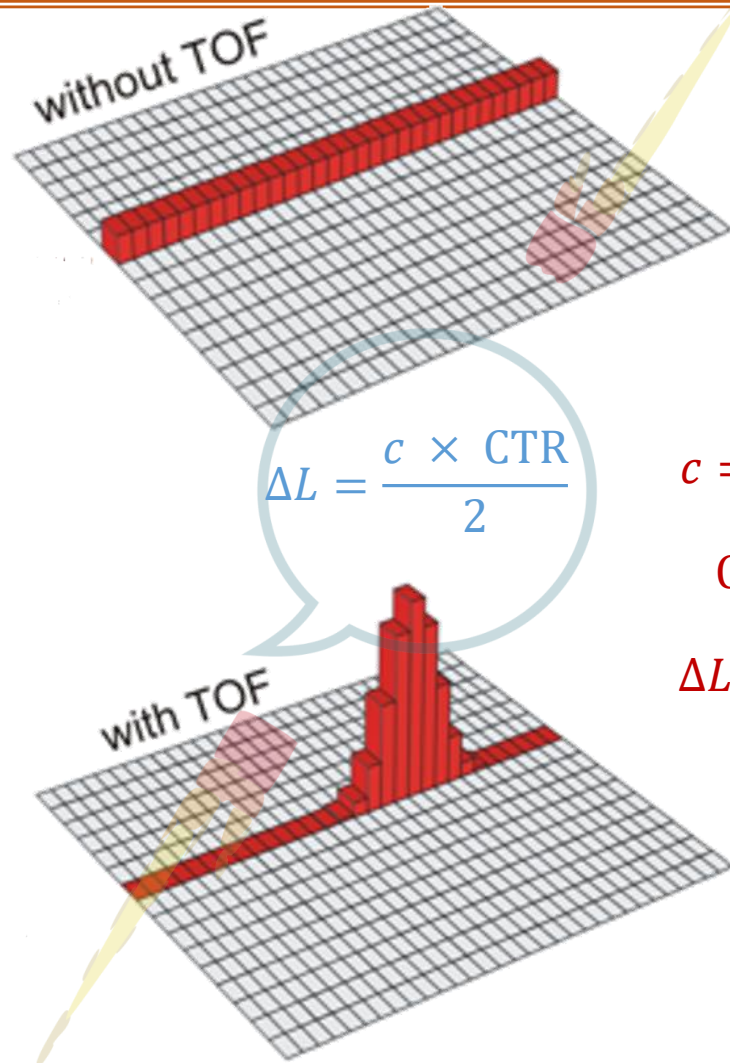


300ps-TOF

M. Conti and B. Bendriem, Clinical and Translational Imaging (2019) 7:139–147

SD2 Innovative medical imaging toward personalized medicine

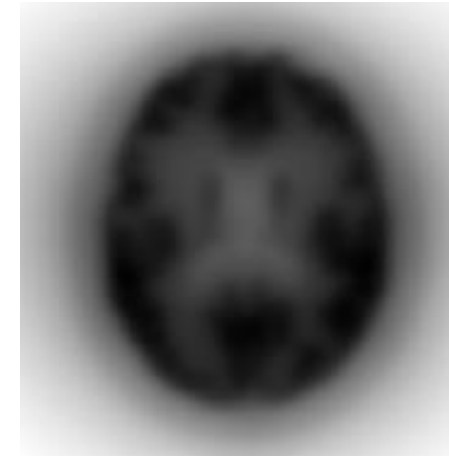
Case for setting up a 10 ps challenge: a step toward reconstruction-less TOF-PET



$$c = 30 \text{ cm ns}^{-1}$$

$$\text{CTR} = 10 \text{ ps}$$

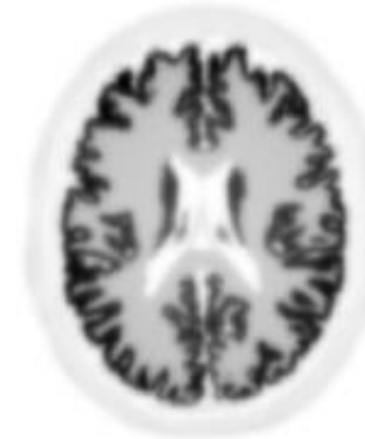
$$\Delta L = 1.5 \text{ mm}$$



nonTOF backproj



nonTOF OSEM

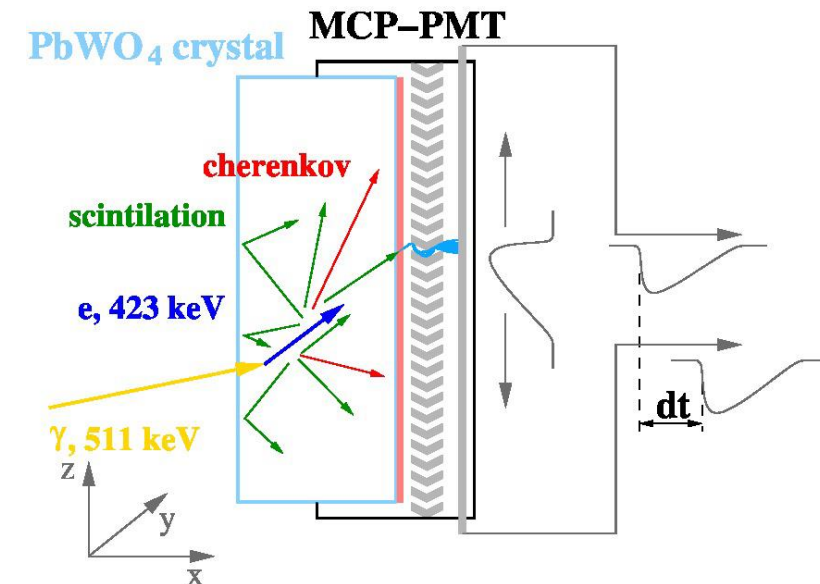


10ps-TOF backproj



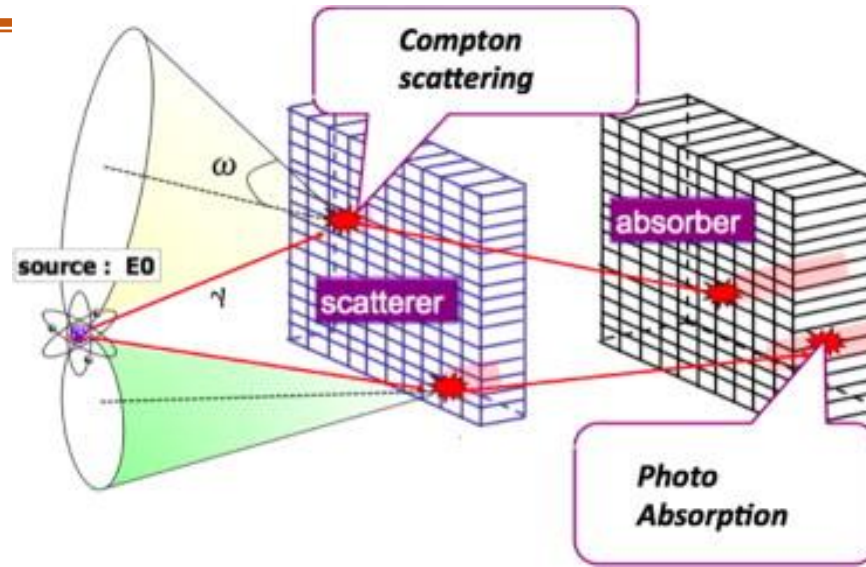
10ps-TOF OSEM

- Detection of Cherenkov and scintillation light in PWO
- Direct deposition of a photocathode ($n \sim 2,7$) on the surface of PWO ($n \sim 2,3$)
- PWO surface used as entrance window of an MCP-MT
- Read out transmission lines on both ends
- Spatial resolution on the gamma ray interaction point of $\sim \text{mm}^3$ in 3D
- CRT ~ 20 ps FWHM (excluding MCP-MT contribution)



SD2 Innovative medical imaging toward personalized medicine

Compton imaging



Y. Nakamura et al. NIM A 2013

Requirements for Compton telescope:

- Angular resolution ~ 1 deg
- Spatial resolution ~ 1 mm
- Good energy resolution for electron recoil (Compton scattering)
- Distance between 2 interactions large enough
- Angular resolution limited by Doppler Broadening (low Z scatterer)

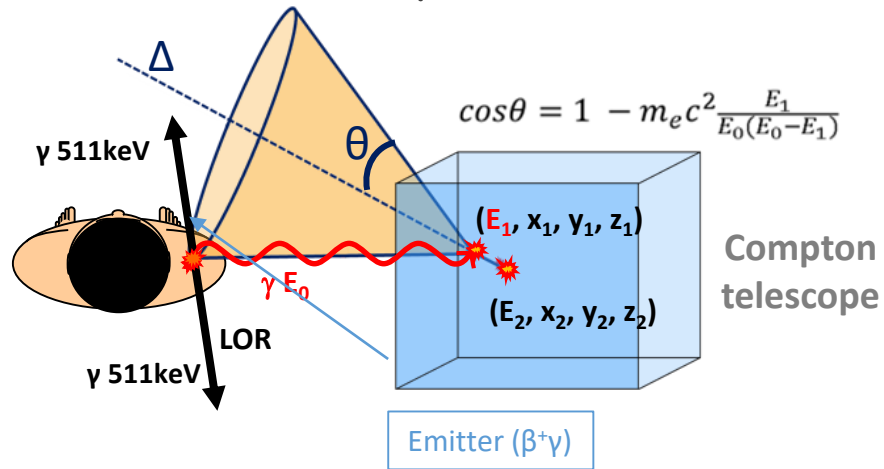
Application to Medical Imaging:

- High flux (source activity)
- High detection efficiency
- Energy of γ is known
- Source distribution 3D reconstructed from Compton cones

- Not only stimulated by medical applications, but also for other applications such as nuclear dismantling and waste management
- Strategic reflection to be undertaken at IN2P3, which involves instrumentation, reconstruction and application aspects
- Organization of a workshop on CC by the GDR MI2B Nov 30 – Dec 1 2021

SD2 Innovative medical imaging toward personalized medicine

3 γ imaging with Compton telescope

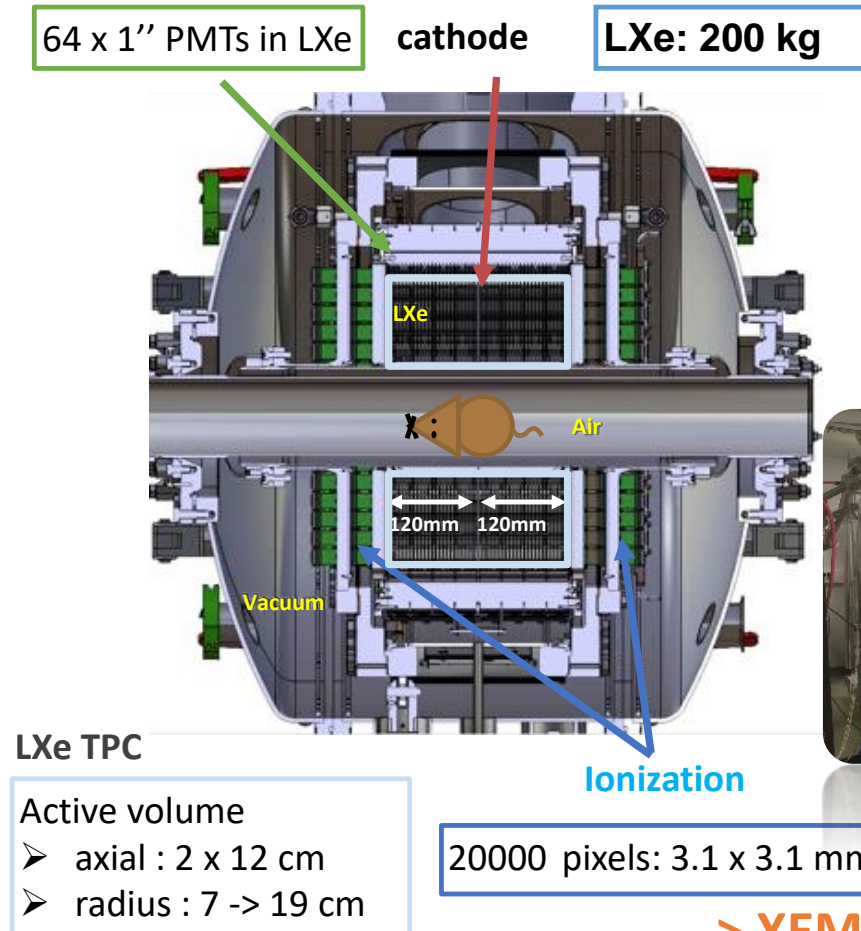


Reconstructed γ direction {
Spatial resolution: cone axis (Δ)
Energy resolution: opening angle (θ)

- Direct 3D location of the radioactive source: res. along LOR ~ 1 cm (FWHM)
- Reduction of injected activity: 100 times less

➤ **Both new radiopharmaceutical and new camera technology !**

XEMIS2 – small animal imaging



In CHU-Nantes



-> **XEMIS3 – clinical imaging**

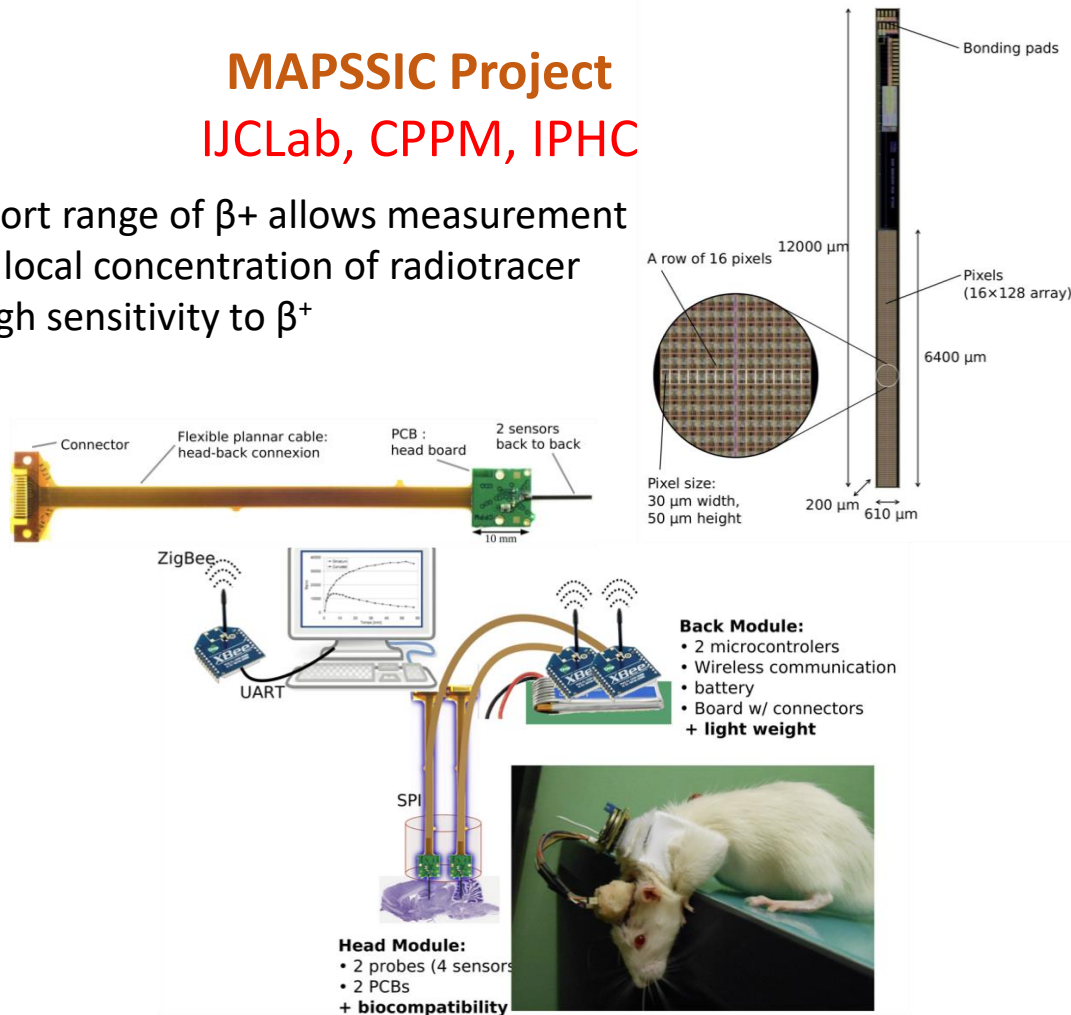
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Interventional imaging

Intracerebral imaging of β^+

MAPSSIC Project IJCLab, CPPM, IPHC

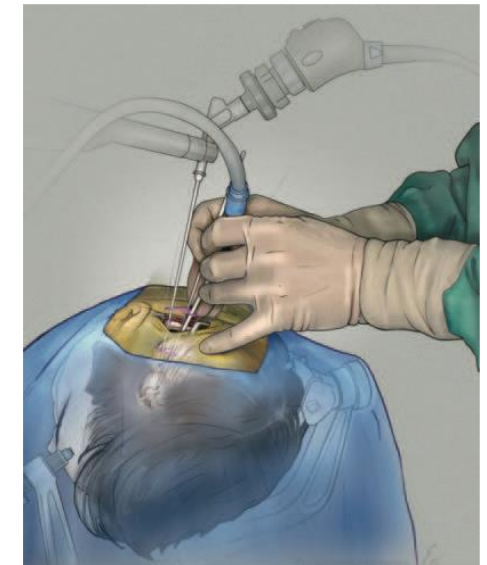
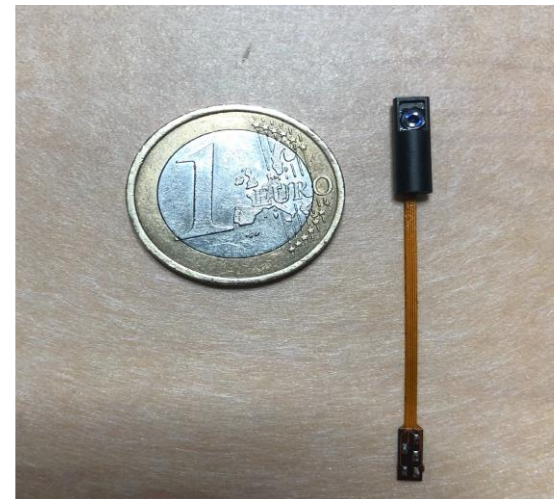
- Short range of β^+ allows measurement of local concentration of radiotracer
- High sensitivity to β^+



Multimodal non-linear endomicroscopy

IMOP Project IJCLab

- Fluorescence lifetime spectroscopy of living tissues using a double-clad photonic crystal fiber
- Development of an innovative miniature biocompatible scanning device
- CNRS-Innovation: next start-up creation



SD2 Innovative medical imaging toward personalized medicine

Interventional imaging

Strategies

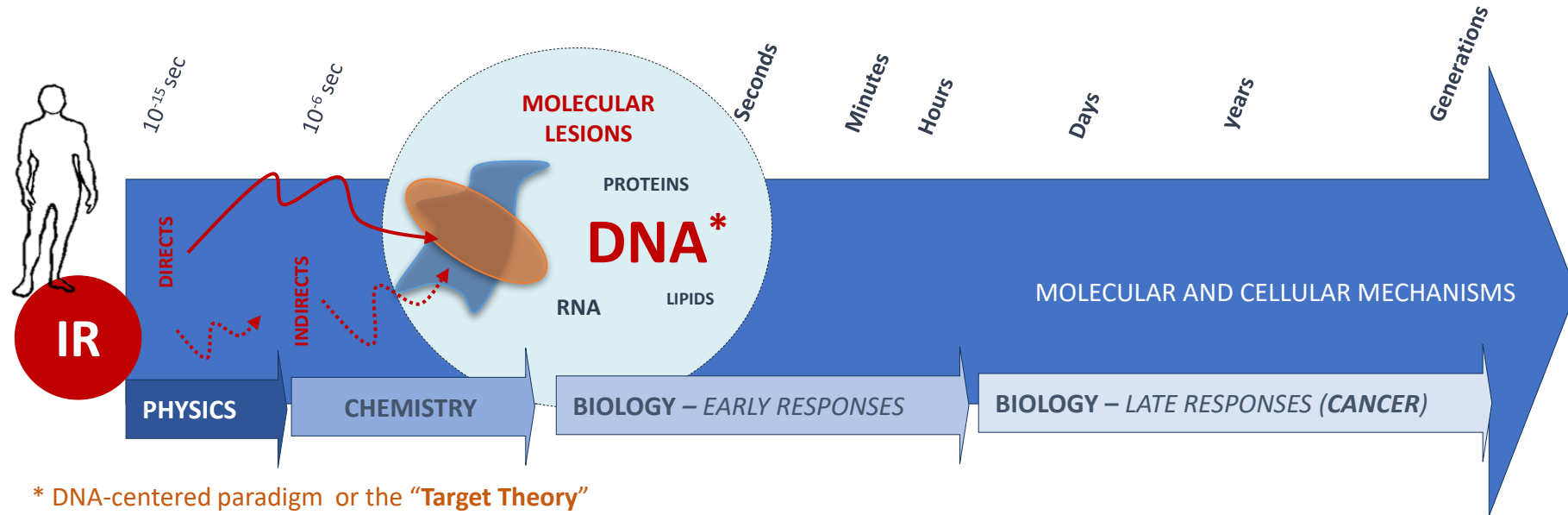
- Towards high temporal resolution (paradigm breakthrough)
- Explore Compton imaging
- Interventional imaging
 - Miniaturization
 - Multi-modality
 - Multi-scale (molecular imaging)
 - Multi-organ
- Valorization

Science Driver 3

Develop efficient multiscale and open source simulations

SD3 Develop efficient multiscale and open source simulations

Radiation Biology – Open questions



- **DNA** was considered as **the main target of Ionizing Radiation**
- **Ionizing radiation** produces **DNA damage**
- **Relationship** between **DNA damage**, **mutations** and **cancer development**
 - **DNA-centered paradigm**, known as “**the target theory**”
 - **Linear no-threshold model**.

Non-Targeted Effects occur when **IR energy** has not been deposited exclusively in **DNA**

Distinct classes of NTE : **genomic instability**, **bystander effect**, **adaptive response**, **low dose radiation-induced hypersensitivity**.

SD3 Develop efficient multiscale and open source simulations

Radiation Biology – Goals

Dosimetry

Simulation,
mathematics,
computing sciences

characterize the energy
deposit at different
biological levels & time
scales

Modeling

Optimization process to
improve RT accuracy
&
estimation of their risks

improve RT response for
different modalities
understand their
consequences in
oncogenesis

**Complete mechanistic
understanding of IR
biological impacts at a
molecular
cellular
organism levels**

Approach

validate a multidisciplinary and multimodal approach
integrating the chain of physical, chemical and biological
events triggered by well-characterized irradiation conditions
within emerging cancer models
(such as spheroids-3D models, *C. elegans*...)

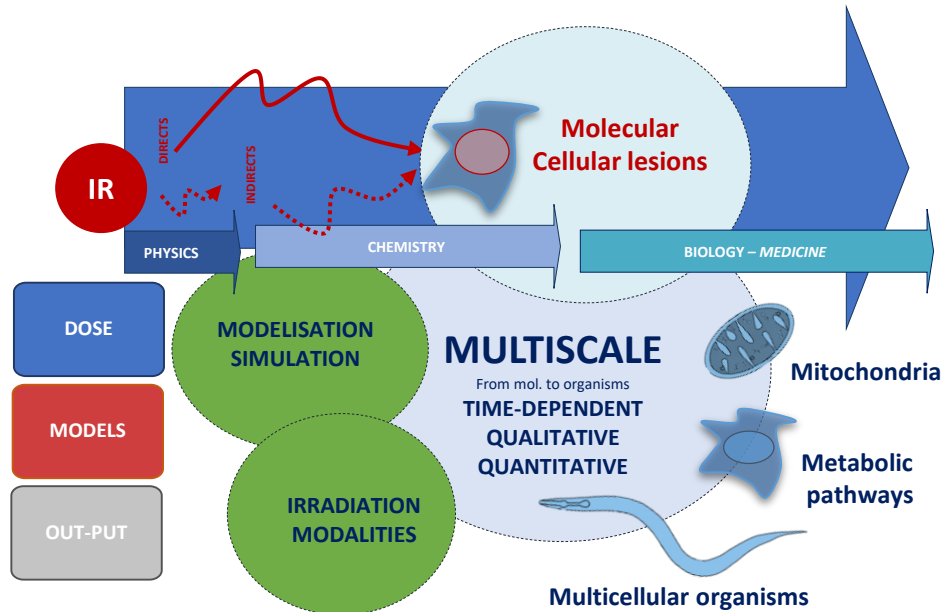
SD3 Develop efficient multiscale and open source simulations

ResPlaNDIr: Specific and well-characterized technical Environments

  <p>Biology Lab L2, CENBG</p>	  <p>Biology Lab L2, in vitro in vivo, animalry, small-animal PET</p>	  <p>Cell irradiation facility Time-lapse microscopy</p>	  <p>Radiograaff Cell irradiation facility</p>	  <p>Carbon ions 95 MeV/u</p>
<p>Nuclear microprobe Protons, alpha < 3 MeV</p>	<p>25 MeV protons 2 to 23 mm irradiation field Dose rate: 10^{-3} Gy/s to 100 Gy/s</p>	<p>Pulsed beams (100 Gy/T with $10\mu s < T < min$) Protons, alpha, < 70 MeV Photons, Low-high Energy</p>	<p>Protons < 28 MeV, alpha, lithium and heavier ions</p>	

SD3 Develop efficient multiscale and open source simulations

Radiation Biology Conclusions



► Radiation Biology - Needs

► Technical development

Detection, ...
High-resolution time-lapse microscopy, ...

► Expertises

Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computing sciences (Big Data, AI), Bio-informatics
Nanosciences/Nanotechnologies, Microfluidics

► Interdisciplinary

Long-term support (team, facilities,...)

Radiation Biology @ IN2P3

- **active** and **dynamic** research domain
- **several teams involved and integrated in collaborative networks**
INSB, INSERM, CEA, ESA, IRSN, INRA, universités
- **Interdisciplinary** (Physics, med. Phy., chemistry, biology,...)

Specific and highly well-characterized facilities

- AIFIRA, ARRONAX, CYRCÉ, LSM, GANIL...
- Open to other communities
- **Technological transfer**
(Ex: nuclear microprobe/IRSN,...)
- From **physics to biology** with installation of dedicated laboratory (L2)

Strong interactions with “modeling/simulation” community

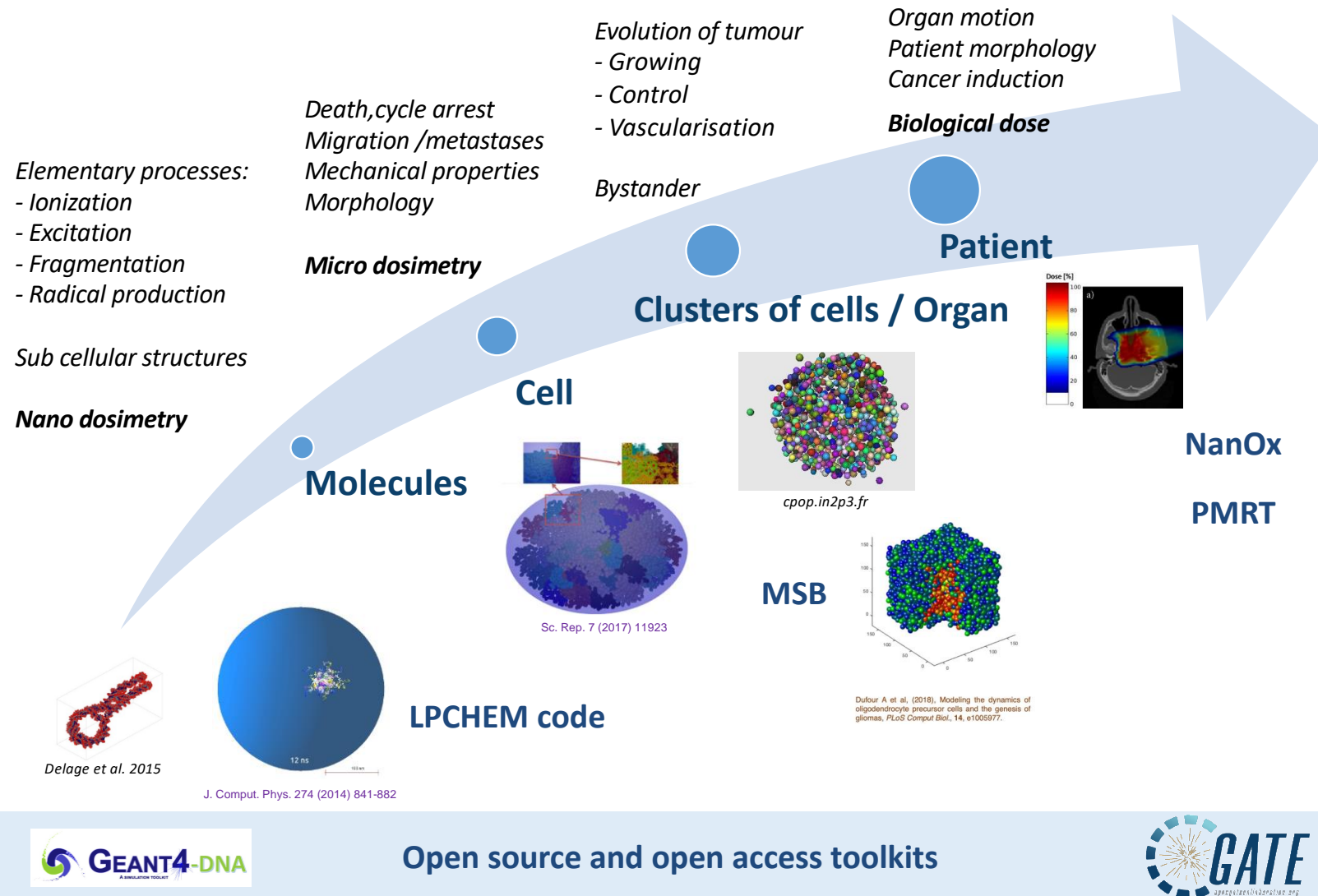
- Strong needs to experimental validation of numeric tools
- From **molecule to organism (multiscale)**

Emerging concept and strategies Proof of concept - originality

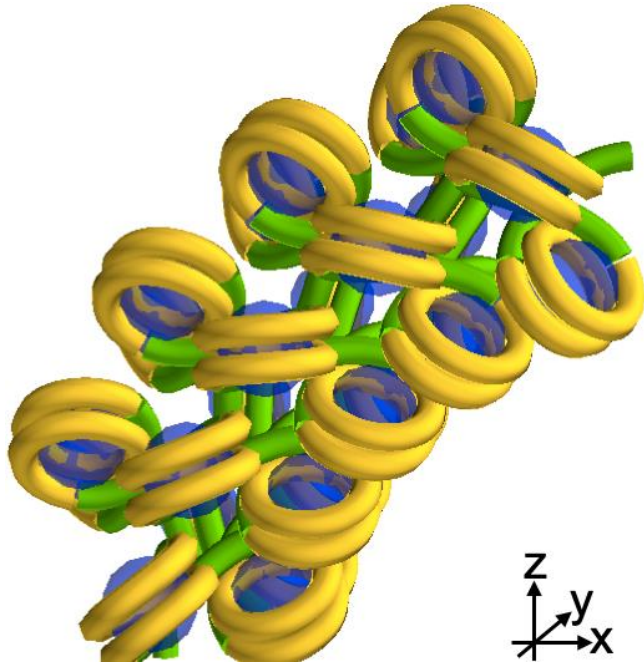
- Mitochondria
- Multiscale radiation biology
- C. elegans
- Genomics (bio-info), data collection (meta-analysis)

SD3 Develop efficient multiscale and open source simulations

Multi-scale modeling of Irradiation effects on Life



SD3 Develop efficient multiscale and open source simulations



The **unique** open source and open access simulation toolkit for micro/nano dosimetry and radiation biology

- **Long term development** fully included in Geant4 releases
- International collaboration composed of 53 collaborators (3 IN2P3 labs)
- **Coordinated by IN2P3/CNRS** since 2008
- Funded by regular support from institutions and international calls
- Fruitful involvement in international conferences & tutorials
 - Geant4 International User Conference at the Physics-Medicine-Biology frontier » series of conferences initiated by IN2P3 in 2005
 - Annual international tutorials
- High rank and highly cited publications (104 since 2007)

**DEVELOPMENT ACCESSIBLE TO OTHER TOOLKITS,
PARTICULARLY TO GATE**

SD3 Develop efficient multiscale and open source simulations

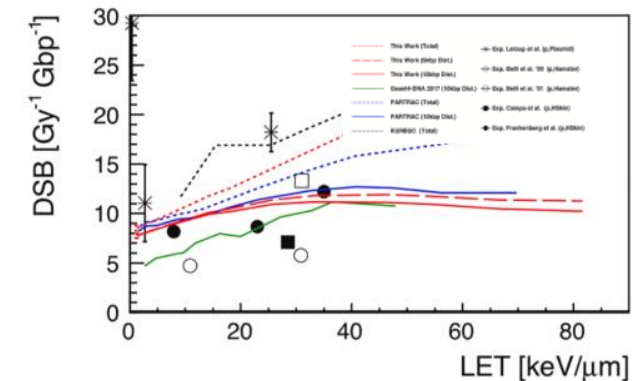
Geant4-DNA: Highlights and future challenges

- **Recent highlights**

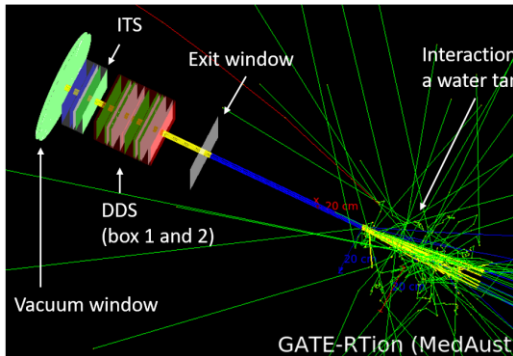
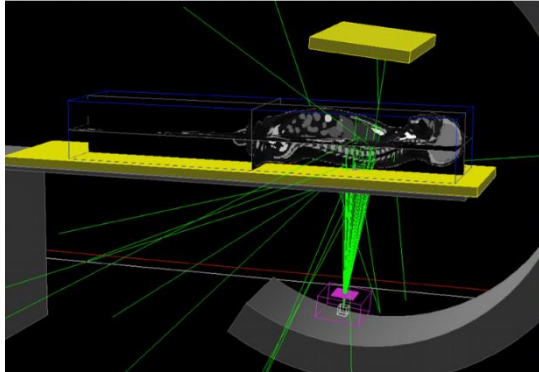
- Accurate Track Structure simulations of electrons and ions in **liquid water**
- New cross section models for electrons and protons in **DNA components**
- New cross section models for electrons in **gold nanoparticles**
- **Prediction of early DNA damage** in human cell following two approaches

- **Challenges**

- Track structure simulations in **biological medium**
- Improve physico-chemistry and chemistry models for radiolysis simulations
- Simulation of **late effects** of radiation
 - Full set of realistic biological geometry: DNA fibers, cell populations....
 - Repair and survival models
- Improve **computing performance**
 - GP-GPU, AI (neural networks)



SD3 Develop efficient multiscale and open source simulations



An open source and open access simulation platform for medical physics

- **Long term development** based on Geant4 toolkit
- International collaboration composed of 27 members: laboratories (6 **IN2P3 labs**), companies and clinics
- **Very large community of users** (more than 2000 users)
- **Newly coordinated by IN2P3/CNRS** since 2018
- Funded by regular support from institutions and international calls
- Fruitful involvement in international conferences, workshops & tutorials
 - 2 tutorials /year + Tutorials in medical physics master programs
- High rank and highly cited publications
 - 2 PMB citation prizes in 2009 and 2015 for the 2 collaboration papers

A PLATFORM TO GATHER INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE FUTURE CHALLENGES IN MULTI-SCALE SIMULATIONS

- **Highlights**

- Validated **quality insurance** of preclinical and clinical beams
- Integration and validation of biophysical models to tackle relative biological effectiveness in hadrontherapy
- New developments to assess **microdosimetry** & **nanodosimetry**

- **Challenges**

- Improve biophysical models
 - Better combine MCTS simulation outputs to macroscopic simulations
 - Use AI to train the models for different types of cells
- Adapt or develop new biophysical models for new techniques
 - FLASH, mini-beam therapy, VHEE, IRT, NP.....
- Combine the models to tumoral growth simulations
- Combine to statistical analysis of clinical data

Science Driver 4

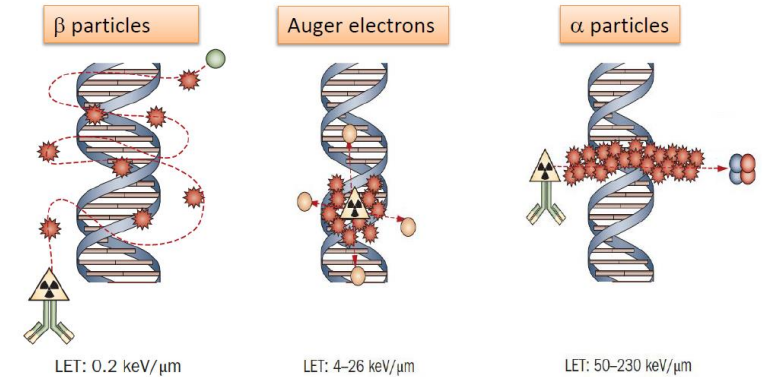
Develop novel radioisotope production toward
theranostics

SD4 Develop novel radioisotopes production toward theranostics

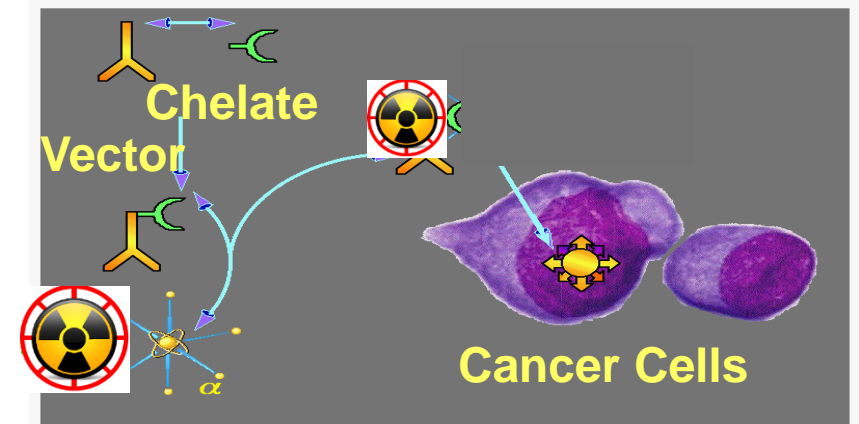
- **Develop personalized treatments based on the vectorization of nuclear medicine probes to address new targets**
- The development of radioisotopes subdivided into five research and development activities:
 - Research for alternative production pathways of theranostic pairs
 - Identification and production of high LET radioactive emitters
 - Study of the chemical properties of these radionuclides in view of their absorption in molecular vectors
 - Development of high power targetry
 - Development and exploitation of isotope mass separator

SD4 Develop novel radioisotopes production toward theranostics

- In Nuclear medicine, radionuclides are used:
 - for **imaging and diagnosis**
 - SPECT (X, γ)
 - PET (β^+)
 - for **therapy** (α, β^- , e-Auger)
- In most cases, **a vector molecule is needed** to target the cells or tissues of interest.
- Nuclear medicine needs radionuclide with different **decay radiations, LET, Chemical properties, Half-lives...**

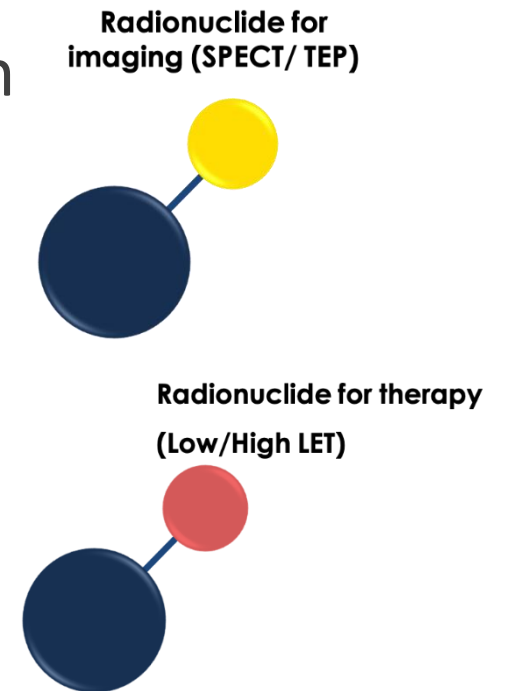


Pouget et al, *Nat. Rev. Clin. oncol.* **2011**, 8, 720



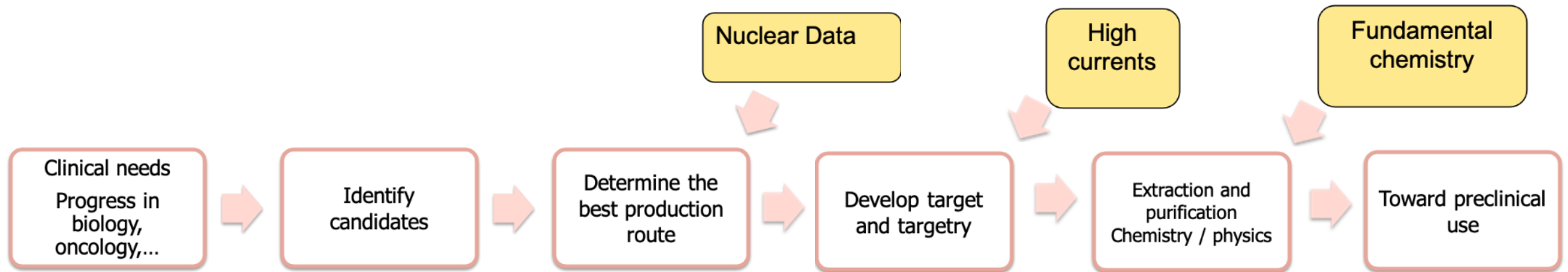
SD4 Develop novel radioisotopes production toward theranostics

- Theranostic approach: A strategy to personalize treatment
 - The Right Drug To The Right Patient For The Right Disease At The Right Time With The Right Dosage
- Nuclear Medicine is well suited for the Theranostic approach
- Which radionuclides?
 - Radionuclides of the same element
($^{44}\text{Sc}/^{47}\text{Sc}$, $^{64}\text{Cu}/^{67}\text{Cu}$, $^{124}\text{I}/^{131}\text{I}$, ^{155}Tb or $^{152}\text{Tb}/^{161}\text{Tb}/^{149}\text{Tb}$...)
 - Radionuclides with comparable properties
($^{68}\text{Ga}/^{177}\text{Lu}/^{225}\text{Ac}$, $^{211}\text{At}/^{18}\text{F}$, $^{211}\text{At}/^{123,124}\text{I}$...)
 - Radionuclide with radiations for both imaging and therapy
($^{117\text{m}}\text{Sn}$, ^{64}Cu ...)



SD4 Develop novel radioisotopes production toward theranostics

- Radionuclide production:

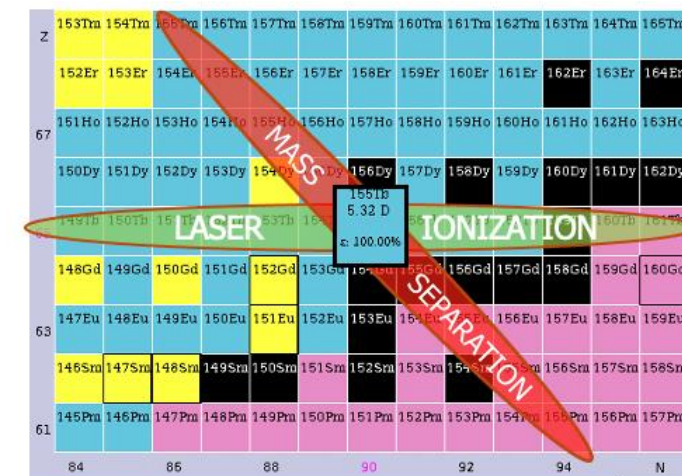
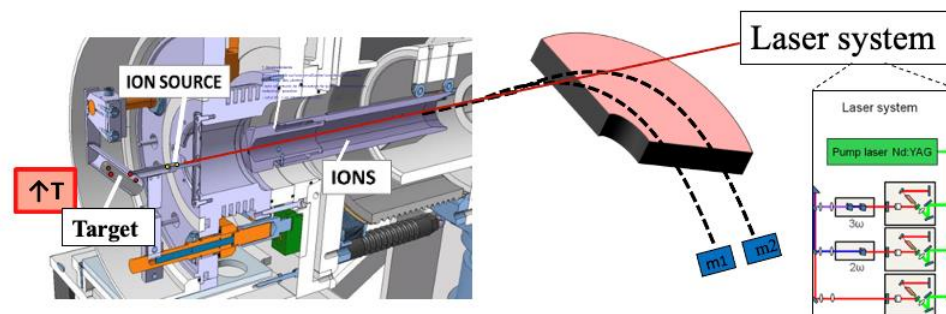


- Most important factors: **purity and quantity**
- Nuclear Physics and radiochemistry can help by developing **efficient large scale** production of **high purity** radionuclides (innovative or not)
- Cross section measurement, engineering for production, radiochemistry, radiobiology, preclinical test (vectorisation...)

SD4 Develop novel radioisotopes production toward theranostics

- Most important factors: **purity** and quantity

Laser resonance ionization coupled to mass separation can increase product purity when chemistry is useless.

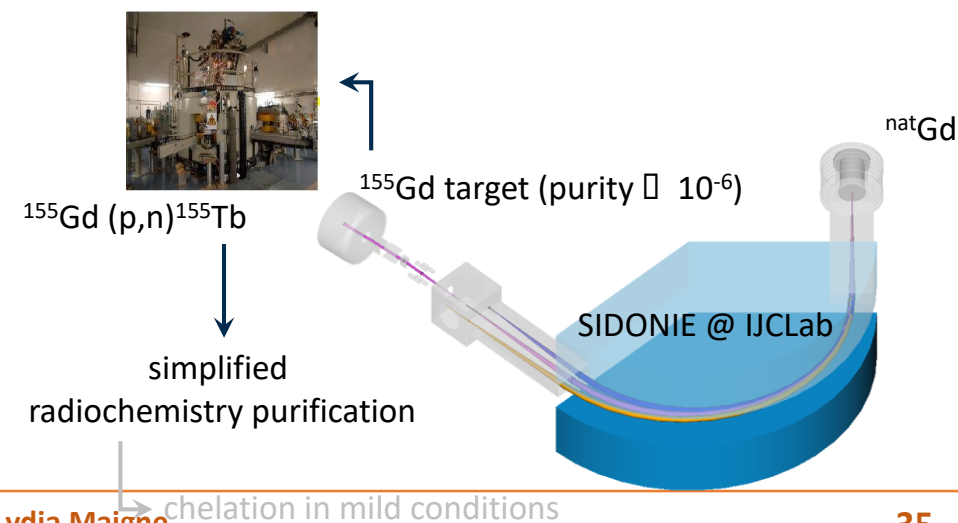


- ➔ Project SMILE(Séparation en Masse couplée à l'Ionisation Laser pour des applications Environnementales et en Santé)

- Goal: increase efficiency with a dedicated optimized system
- Foreseen Applications: enriched material, environmental analysis, radionuclide separation

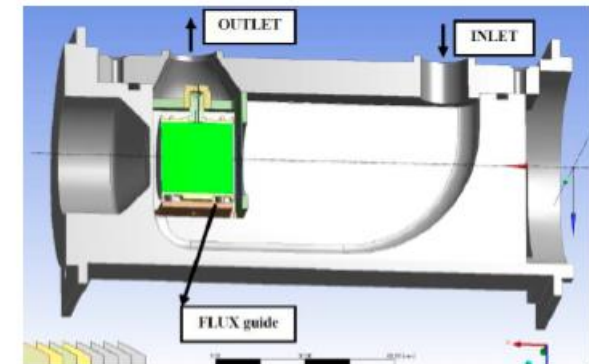
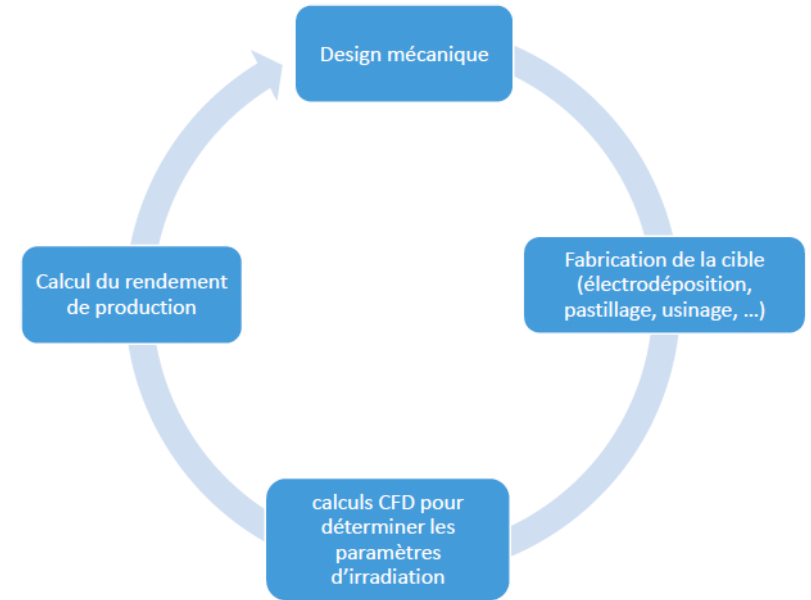
- ➔ ANR TTRIP (Tools for Tb Radiol isotopes Production for nuclear medicine)

- ^{155}Tb study
- use of a magnetic separator for production of precursor (high enriched target)
- development of new chelator for Tb



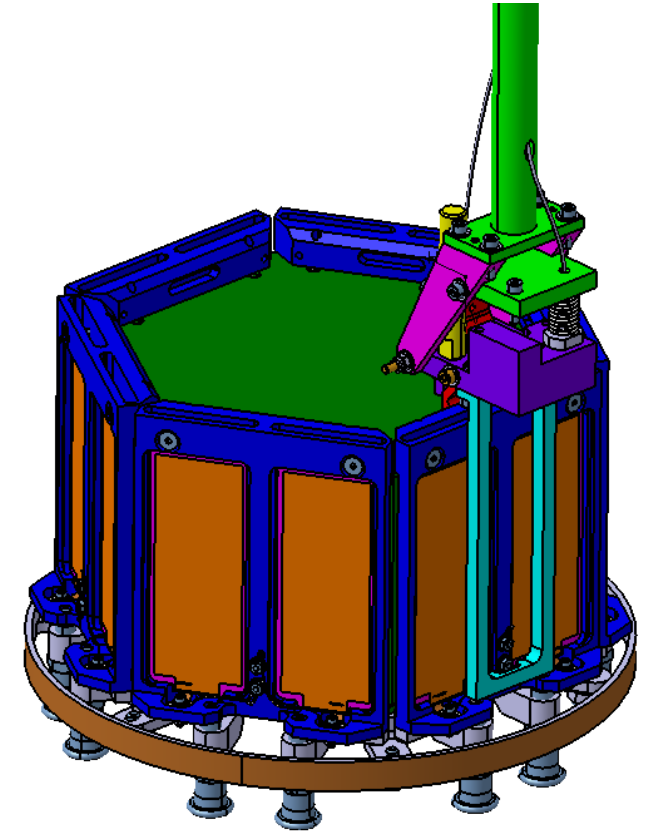
SD4 Develop novel radioisotopes production toward theranostics

- Most important factors: purity and **quantity**
 - To produce enough radiosotopes we need to use high intensity beams.
 - For a (new) radioisotope production we need to
 - Identify the nuclear reaction to be used
 - Chose the energy range
 - Chose a chemical form
 - Determine the thickness of targets and thermal load
 - Example : production of strontium-82 at ARRONAX
 - 140 μ A at 70 MeV routinely
 - Target remains the blocking point



SD4 Develop novel radioisotopes production toward theranostics

- Most important factors: purity and **quantity**
 - High power target:
 - Example of the ANR REPARE:
 - to study the different production pathways of astatine-211: direct pathway with an alpha particle beam or indirect pathway with a lithium beam (SPIRAL2).
 - Prototype of a 10 kW solid rotating target
 - R&D for Liquid target
 - Long term goal: produce ^{211}At and other innovative radioelements for R&D (including potentially clinical trials) at SPIRAL2 and ARRONAX



Recommendations

1. Strengthen IN2P3 central leading role in radiation biology in France

Physicists, radiobiologists, internal irradiation platforms, know-how in dosimetry, multi-scale simulation and modelling, the GDR as structuring network

Recommendations

2. Reinforce collaboration links with key national or international partners

CNRS: INSB, INP, INSIS,

INSERM, IRSN, CEA

RadiotransNet: preclinical research in radiotherapy

IBC@FAIR (International Biophysics Collaboration), ENLIGHT (Network hadrontherapy)

Recommendations

3. Multi-disciplinary **career opportunities are essential to stimulate excellent young scientists.**

We do attract excellent and motivated students, thanks to various fundings.

However, the lack of long-term perspective is a serious issue.

Inter-disciplinary research is made by researchers from multiple different disciplines

Recommendations

4. Long-term sustainability of IN2P3 irradiation platforms.
5. Challenging collaboration opportunities
 - on platforms: AIFIRA, ARRONAX, CYRCé, GANIL, Tandem-ALTO
 - and treatment centers (ARCHADE, CAL-Nice, CPO, CNAO).

Recommendations

6. Support the leading role of IN2P3 within international open-science collaborations Geant4, GATE and Geant4-DNA

Both collaborations are now lead by IN2P3 scientists.

Engineering resources, supported by IN2P3, are needed to maintain this leadership

Recommendations

- 7. **SD1**: Innovative radiotherapies challenges : Instrumentation & platform development and access to get data for modelling fundamental mechanisms
- 8. **SD1**: New strategies for online treatment control are needed, including accelerator technology developments (**GT07**).
- 9. **SD4**: Efficient methods for radioisotopes production (**GT02**).
- 10. **SD2**: Overcome limitations in the performance of medical imaging modalities.
- 11. **SD1,2,3**: Contribute to the national initiatives of health-data collection and sharing.

Recommendations

Science Drivers:

- 1: Improve therapeutic efficiency through innovative irradiation modalities
- 2: Develop innovative medical imaging toward personalized medicine
- 3: Develop efficient multiscale and open source simulations
- 4: Develop novel radioisotope production toward therapy and/or diagnostics

1. Strengthen IN2P3 central leading role in radiation biology in France
2. Reinforce collaboration links with key national or international partners (CNRS, INSERM, IRSN, CEA, RadiotransNet, IBC@FAIR...).
3. Multi-disciplinary **career opportunities are essential to stimulate excellent young scientists.**
4. Long-term sustainability of IN2P3 irradiation platforms.
5. Challenging collaboration opportunities on platforms: AIFIRA, ARRONAX, CYRCé, GANIL, Tandem-ALTO and treatment centers (ARCHADE, CAL-Nice, CPO, CNAO).
6. Support the leading role of IN2P3 within international open-science collaborations Geant4, GATE and Geant4-DNA
7. Innovative radiotherapies challenges : Instrumentation & platform development and access to get data for modelling fundamental mechanisms
8. New strategies for online treatment control are needed, including accelerator technology developments (**GT07**).
9. Efficient methods for radioisotopes production (**GT02**).
10. Overcome limitations in the performance of medical imaging modalities.
11. Contribute to the national initiatives of health-data collection and sharing.

Transverse questions

GT10 contributes to fundamental questions
Common technological challenges with GT 2, 7, 8, 9