



Trento Institute for  
Fundamental Physics  
and Applications



# *Heavy ions in therapy and space*

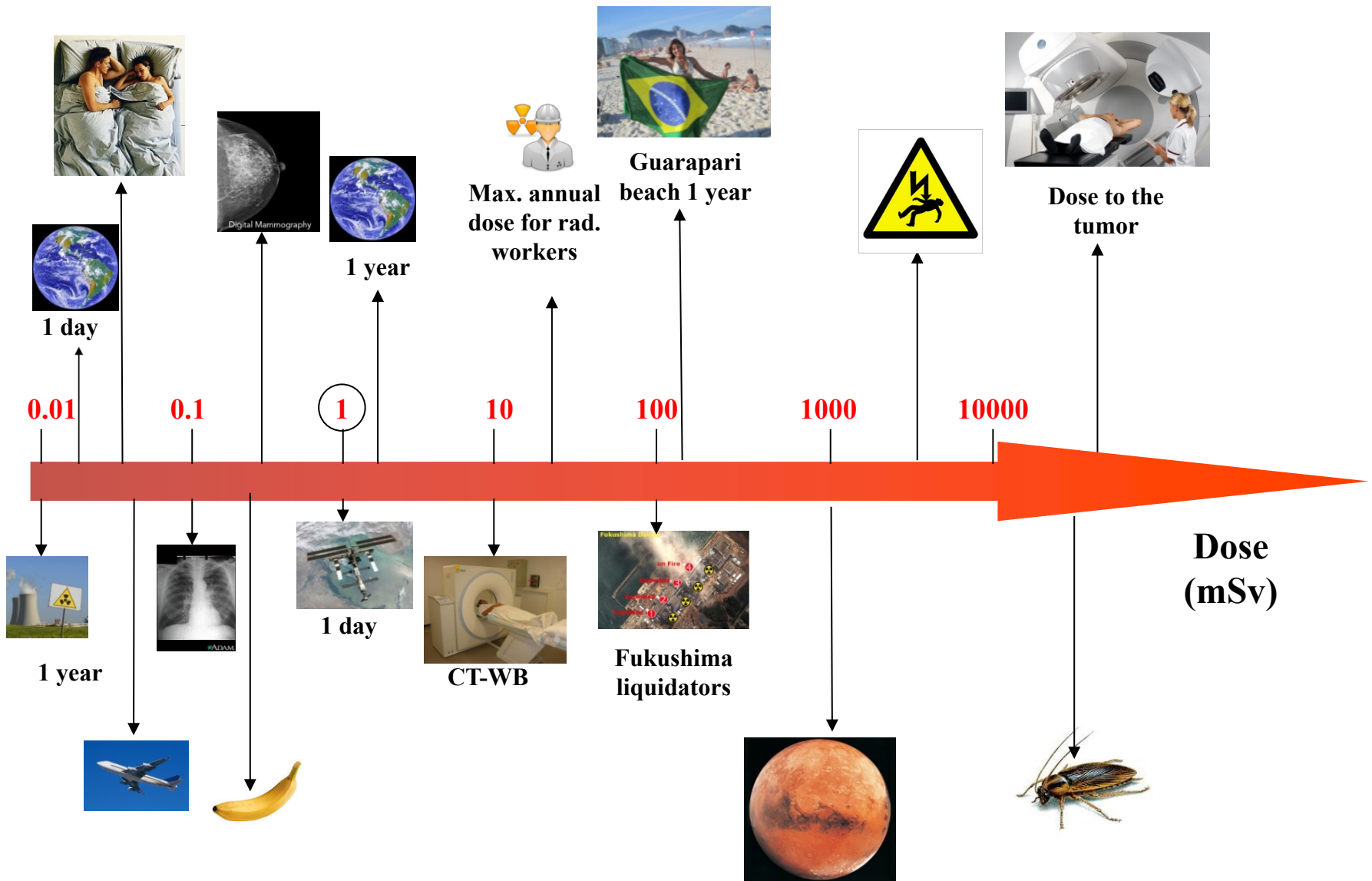
Marco Durante, TIFPA

[www.tifpa.infn.it](http://www.tifpa.infn.it)

20.1.2017

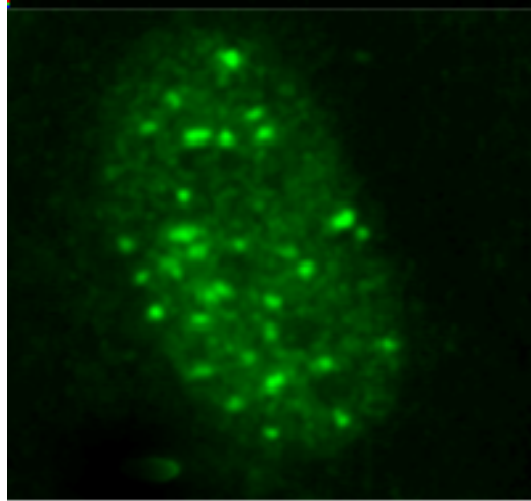
Radiation effects depends on the DOSE

Dose is an energy per unit mass and is measured in Sievert = Joule/kg

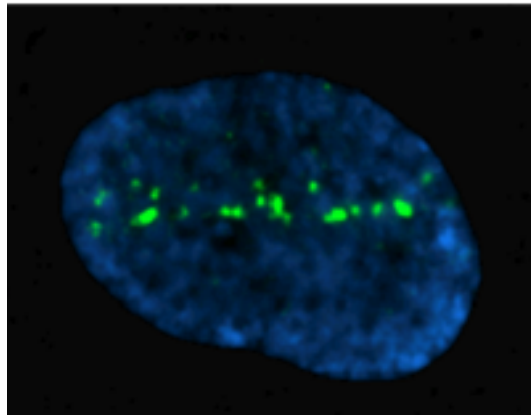




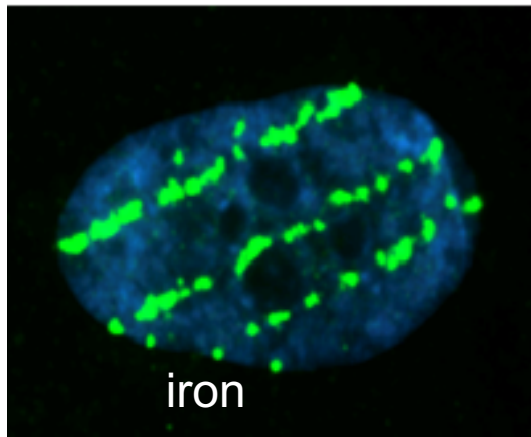
# Charged particles



γ-rays

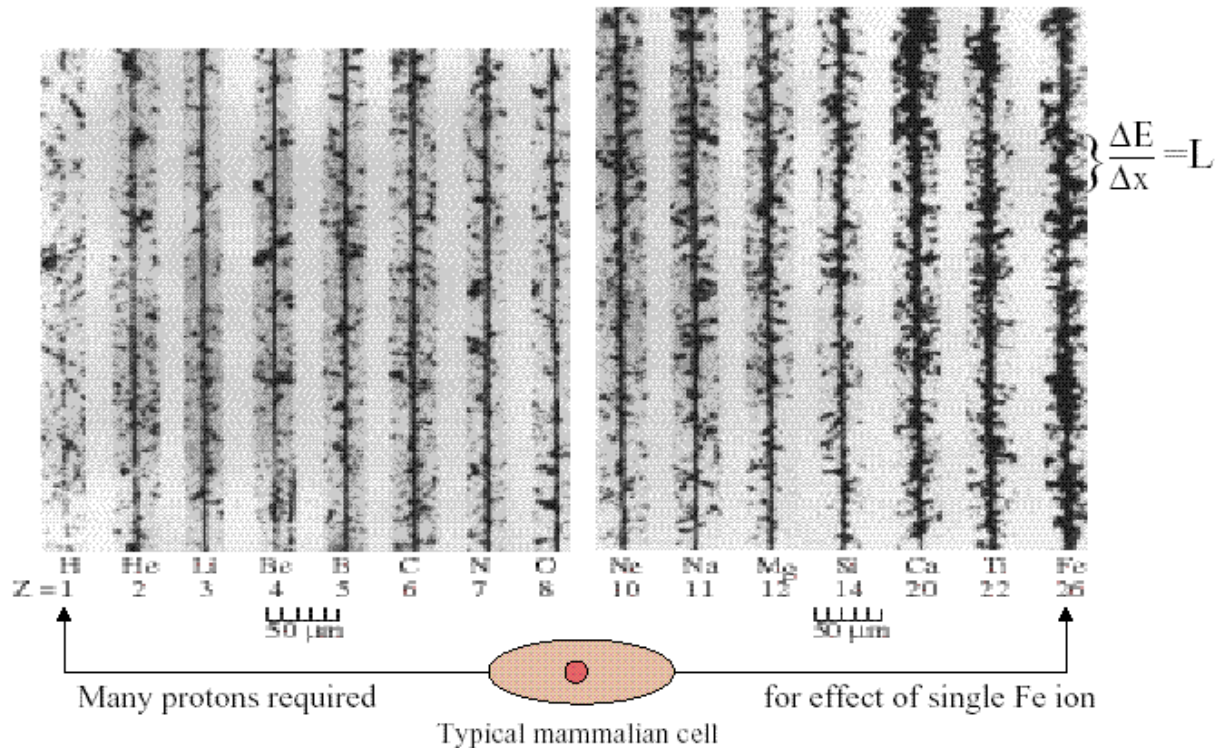


silicon



iron

GCR Ion Tracks Are Dangerous  
 ← Better Biological knowledge → Poor

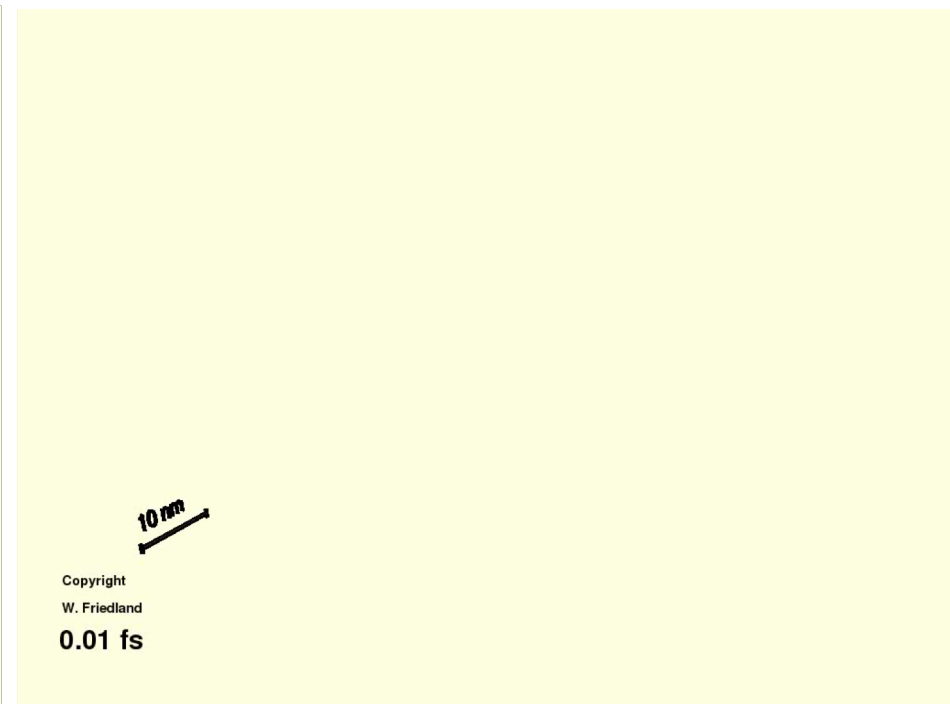
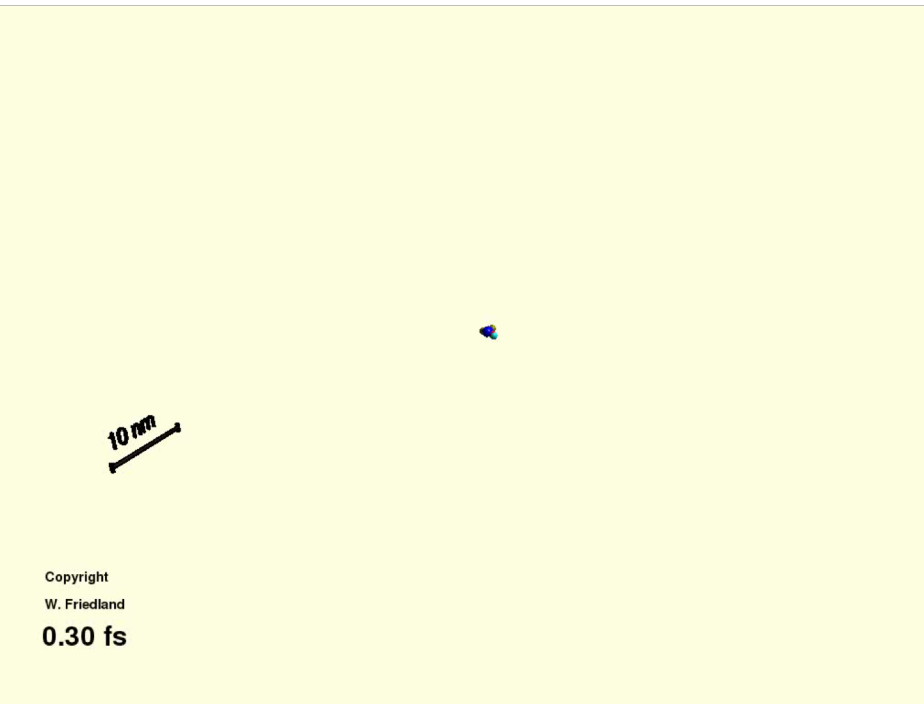


Cucinotta and Durante, *Lancet Oncol.* 2006

# Light vs. heavy ions at the same linear energy transfer (LET=140 keV/ $\mu\text{m}$ )

$\alpha$ -particles, 2 MeV

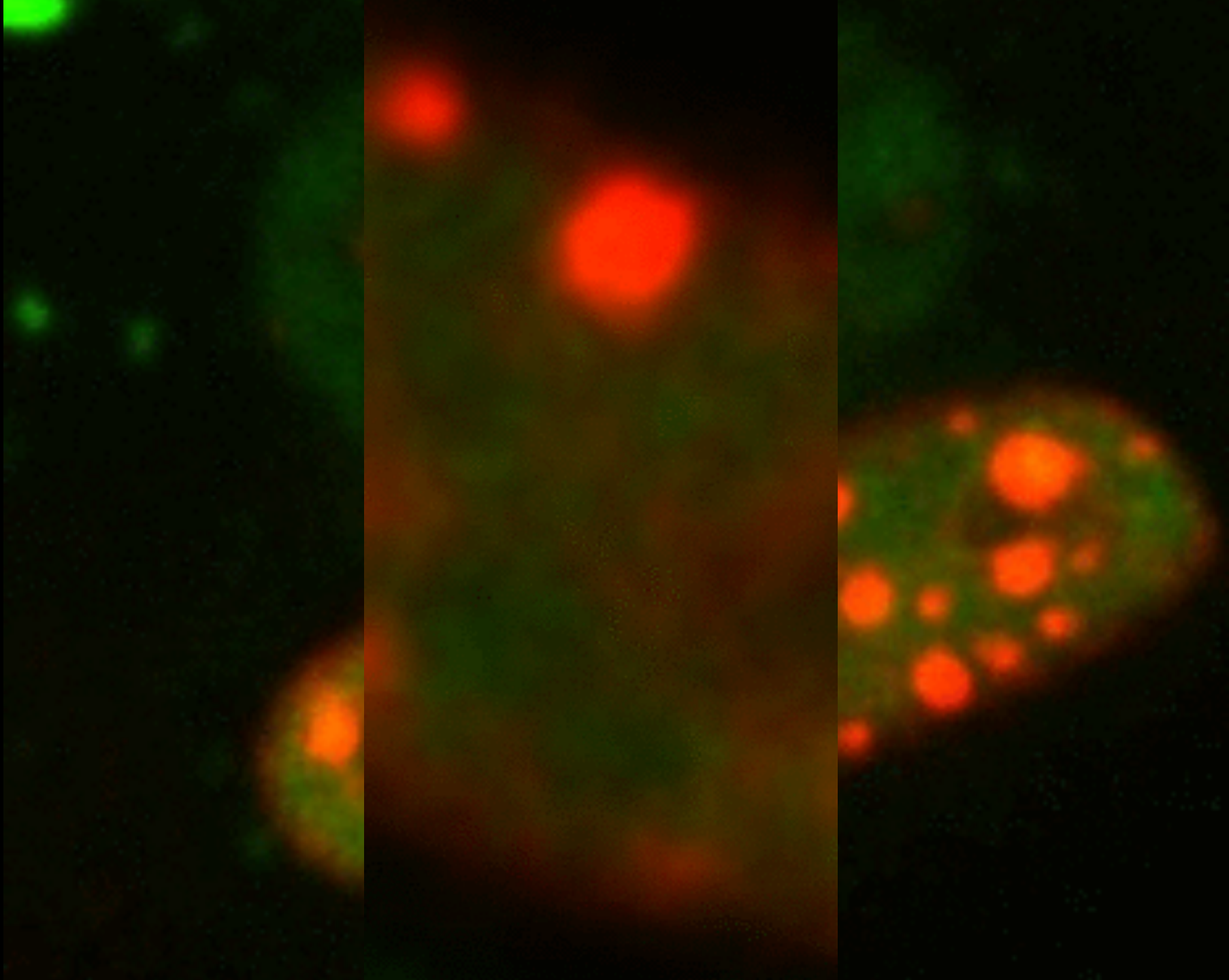
Fe-ions, 1 GeV/n



courtesy of Werner Friedland

# Live cell imaging of heavy ion traversals in euchromatin and heterochromatin







## An Analogy for Structured Energy Deposition and its Consequences



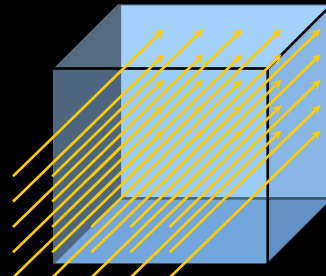
Low LET radiation produces isotropic damage to organized targets.



High LET radiation produces correlated damage to organized targets.

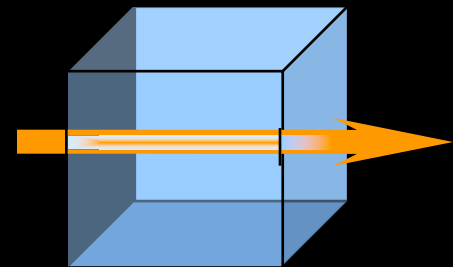
**LET: Linear Energy Transfer**

1 Dose Unit



Low LET radiation deposits energy in a uniform pattern

1 Dose Unit



High LET radiation deposits energy in a non-uniform pattern

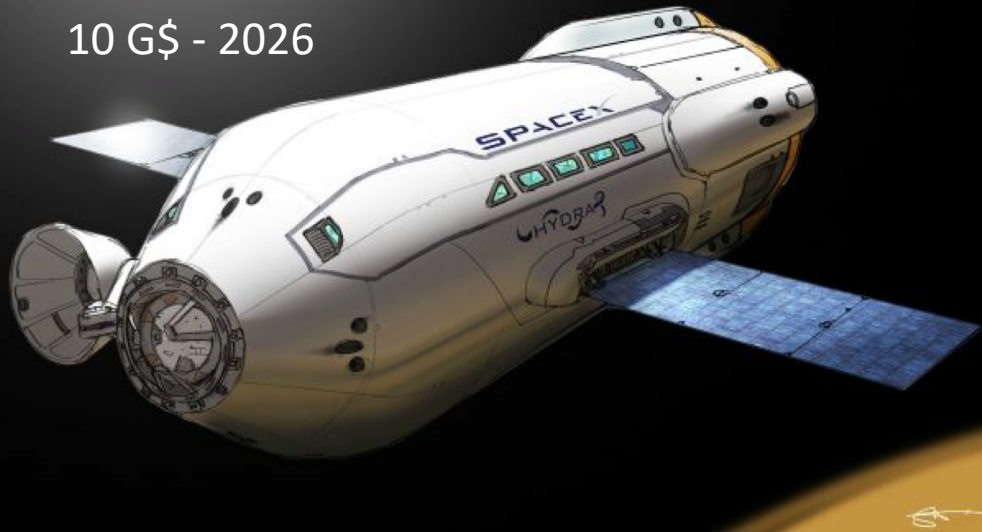
# Why are we interested in energetic heavy ions?



**Heavy ion radiation is not present naturally on Earth**



10 G\$ - 2026



Elon Musk,  
September,  
27, 2016

The New York Times

Space & Cosmos

WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION

ENVIRONMENT SPACE & COSMOS

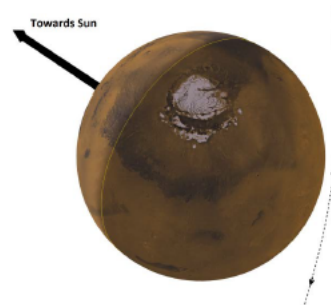
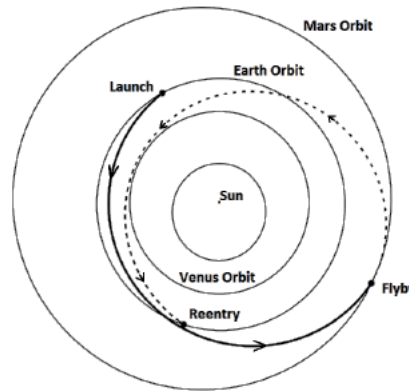
May, 30, 2013

Data Point to Radiation Risk for Travelers to Mars



Dose=1.8  
mSv/dayx501x2=1.8 Sv <sup>9</sup>

- o A 501-day "free-return" Mars flyby passing within a hundred miles of the surface
  - Only small correction maneuvers are needed during transit
- o Simple mission architecture lowers risk
  - No entry into Mars atmosphere
- o An exceptionally quick free return occurs twice every 15 years
  - 1.4 years duration vs. 2 to 3.5 years typical
  - Launch Jan 5, 2018, (or 2031)
  - Mars on 20 Aug 2018 (227 days)
  - Earth on 20 May 2019 (274 days)
  - At Mars, Earth is 38,000,000 miles away
- o [Video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBGIYNd2tmA)
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBGIYNd2tmA>



# NASA might build an ice house on Mars

December 30, 2016 by Nancy Atkinson, Universe Today





# Protection by ISRU materials





# Health in Deep Space

1. Protection from space radiation (particularly very high energy heavy ions)
2. Psychosocial and behavioural problems
3. Physiological changes caused by microgravity

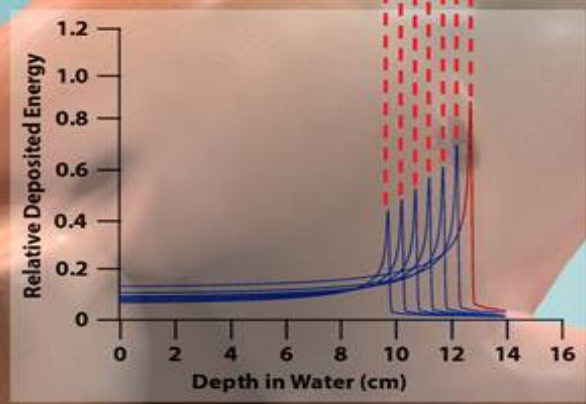
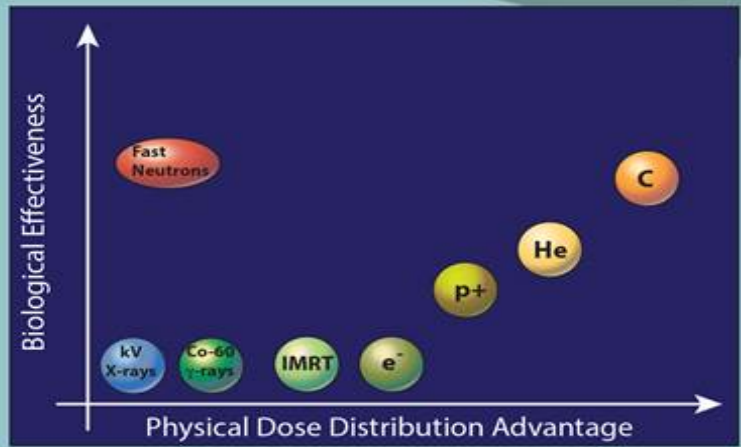
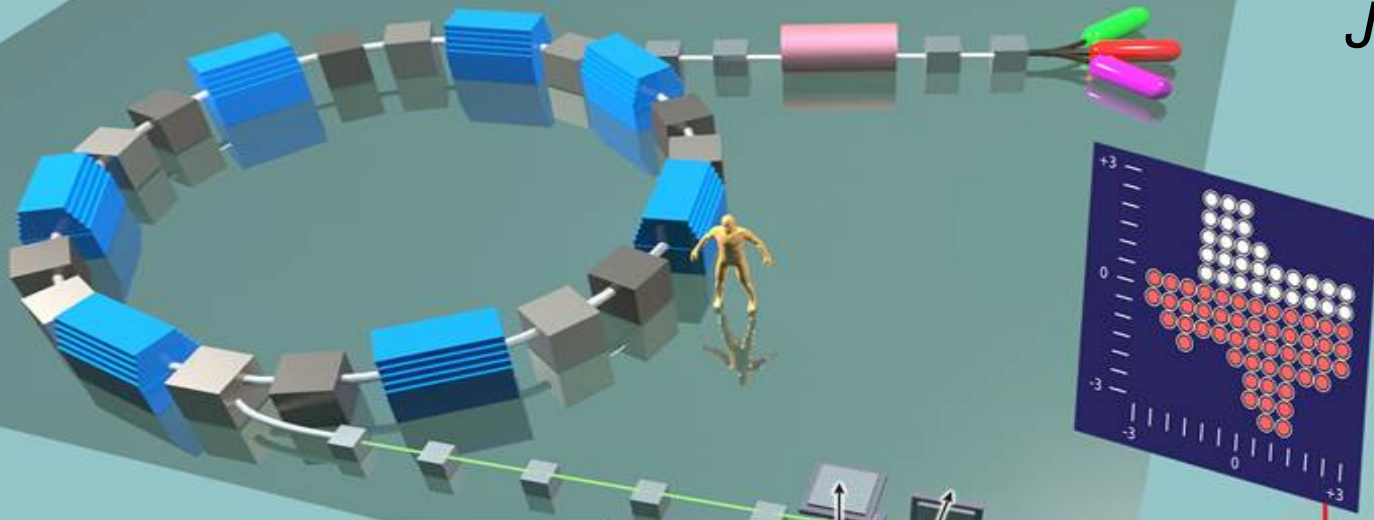
Modified by Mike Lockwood

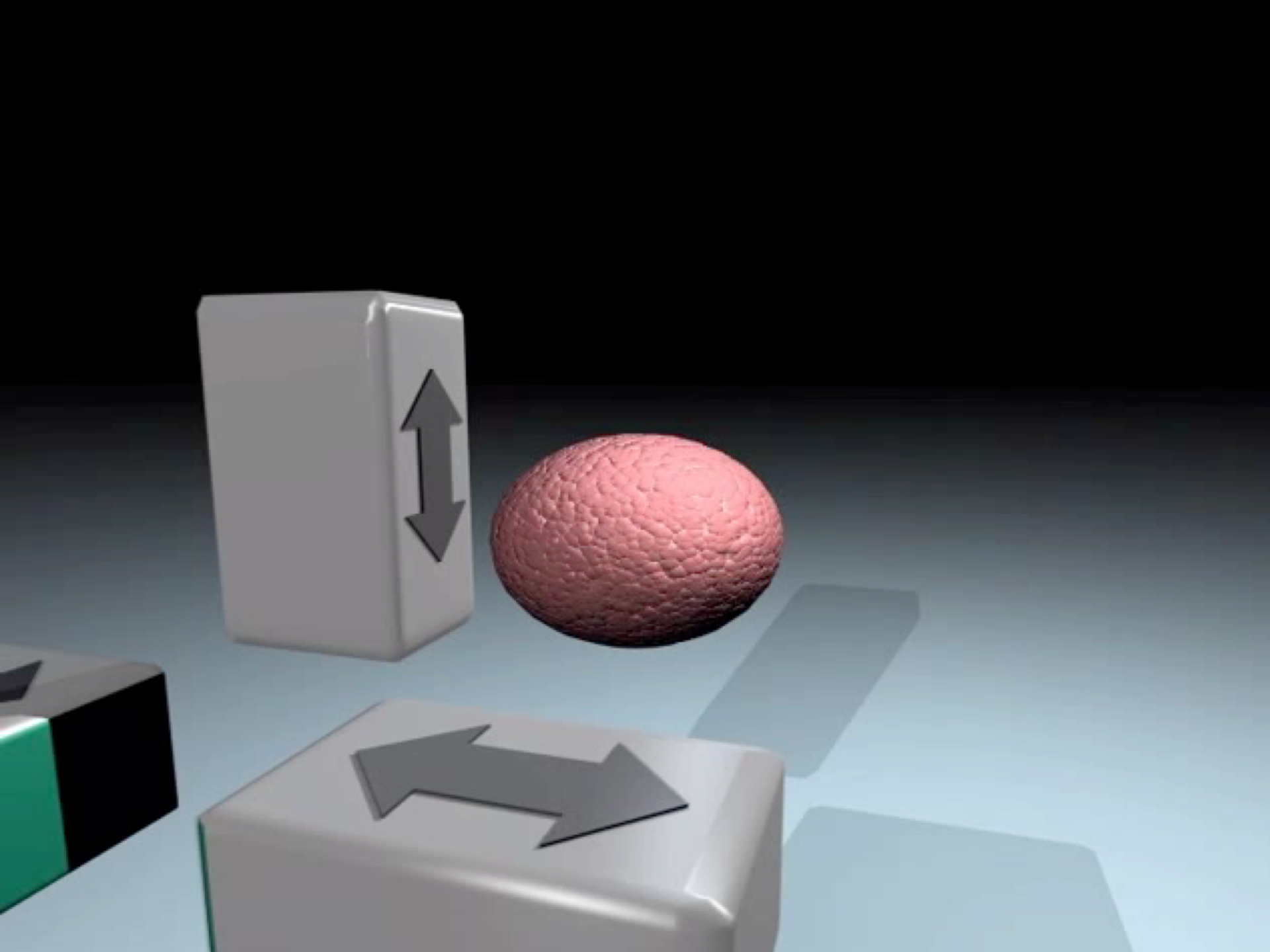


THE ROUGH GUIDE to

**The Moon  
& Mars**

Pompos *et al.*,  
*JAMA Oncol.*  
2016



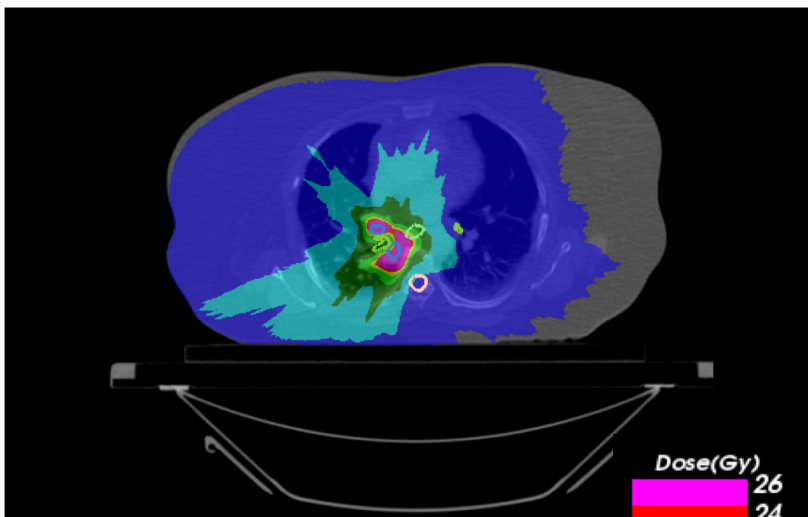




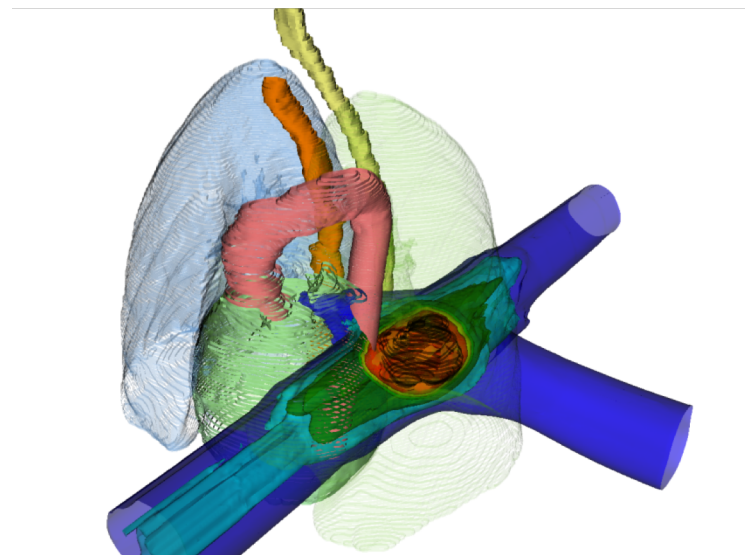
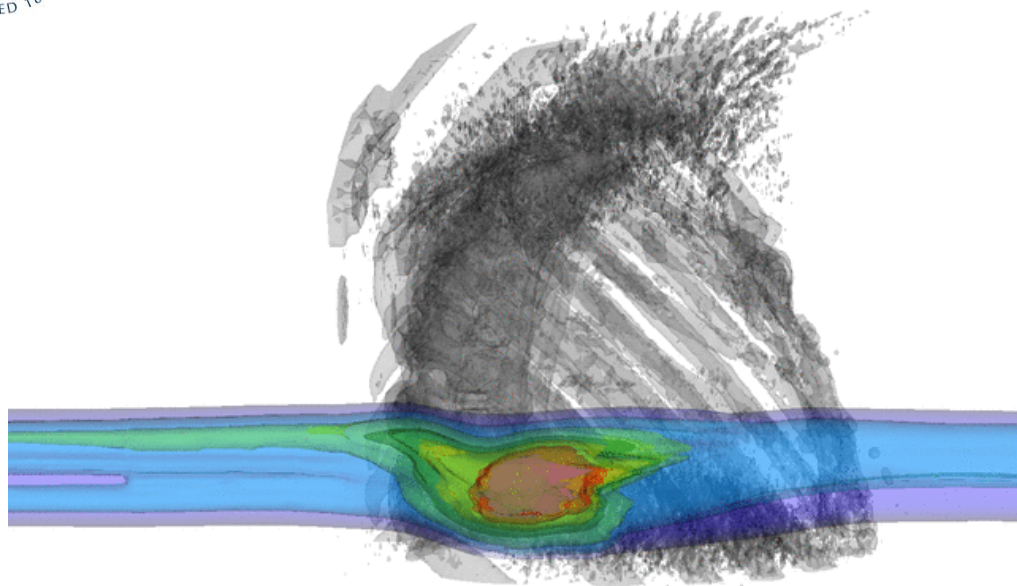
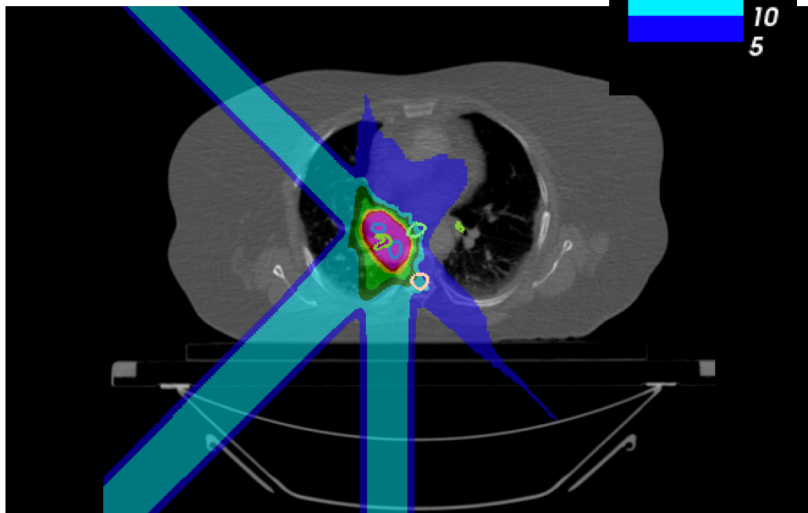
# Lung tumors: SBRT vs. C-ions

Single fraction, 25 Gy

X-rays



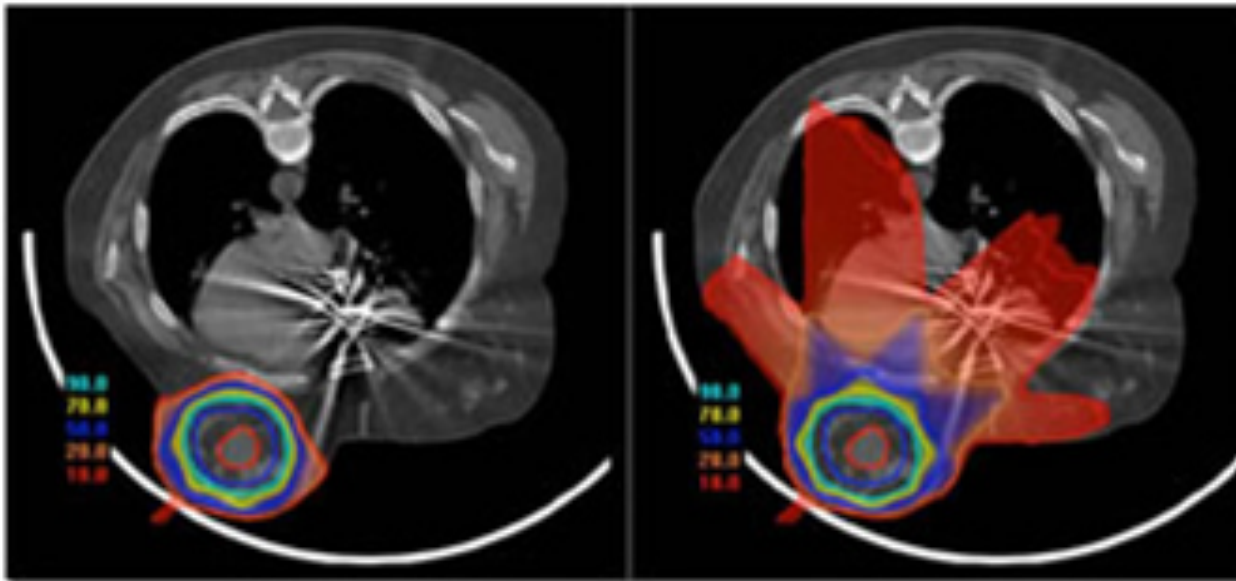
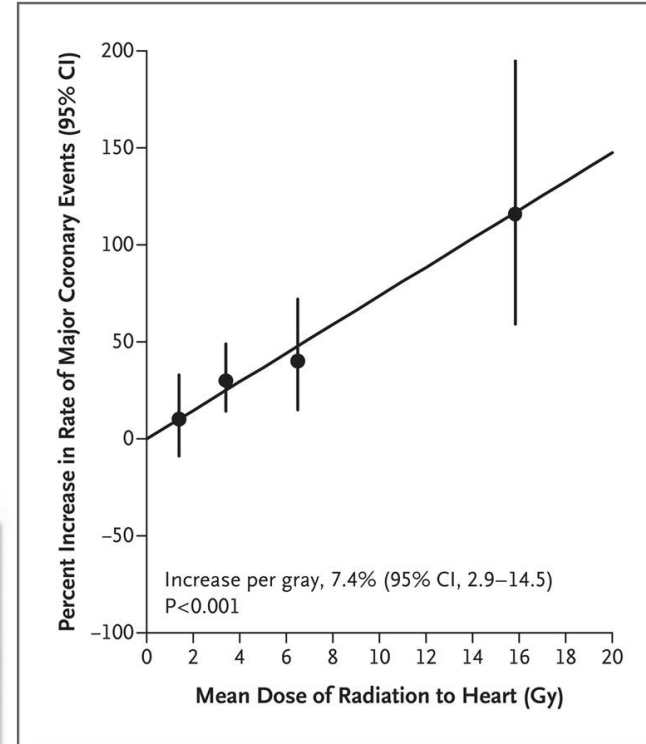
C-ions





## Breast cancer

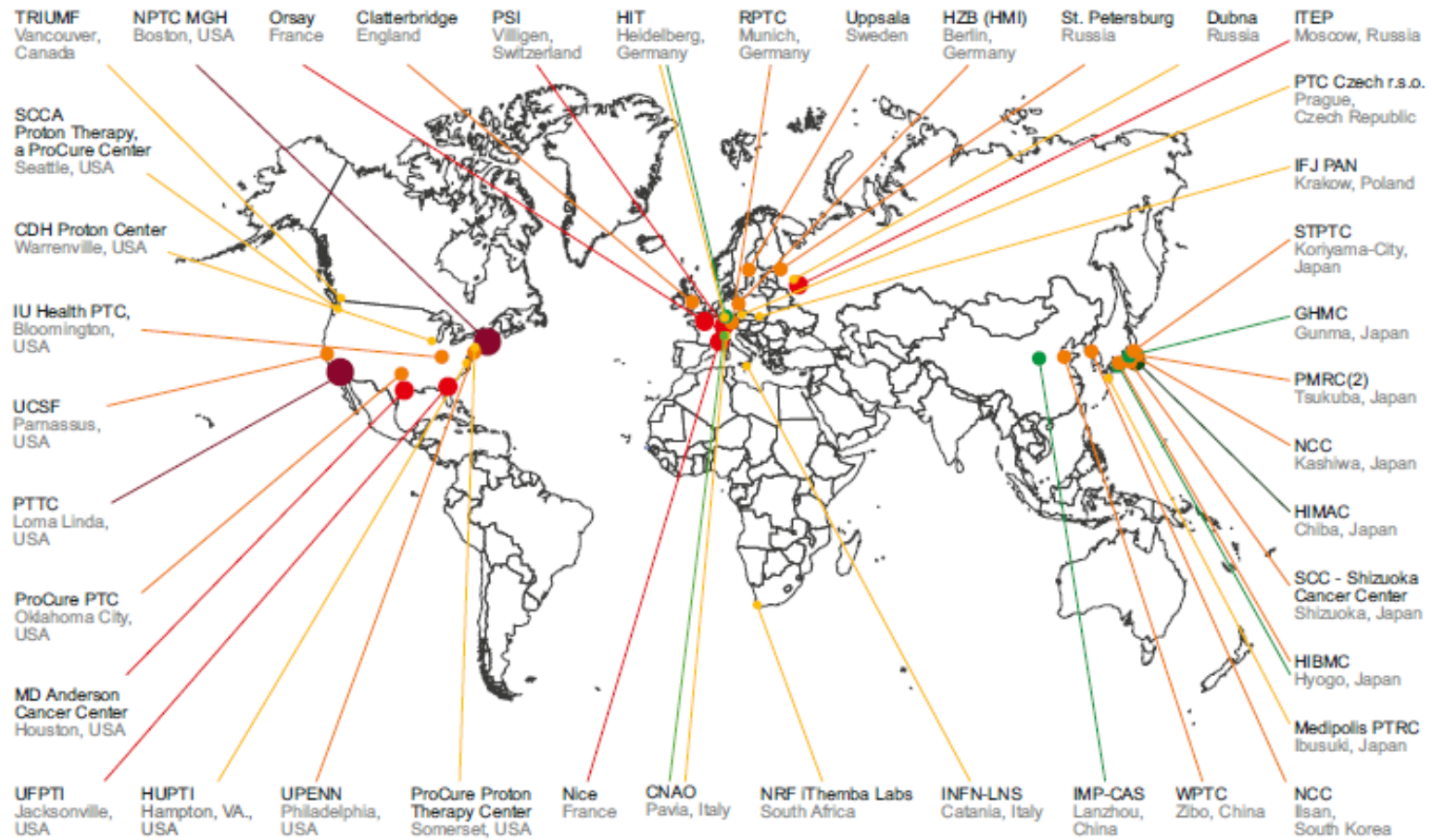
- 1st cancer in women (1 in 8)
- survival rate 80%
- high risk of late cardiac morbidity



Breast cancer treatment: Proton left, IMRT right



14.3.2013

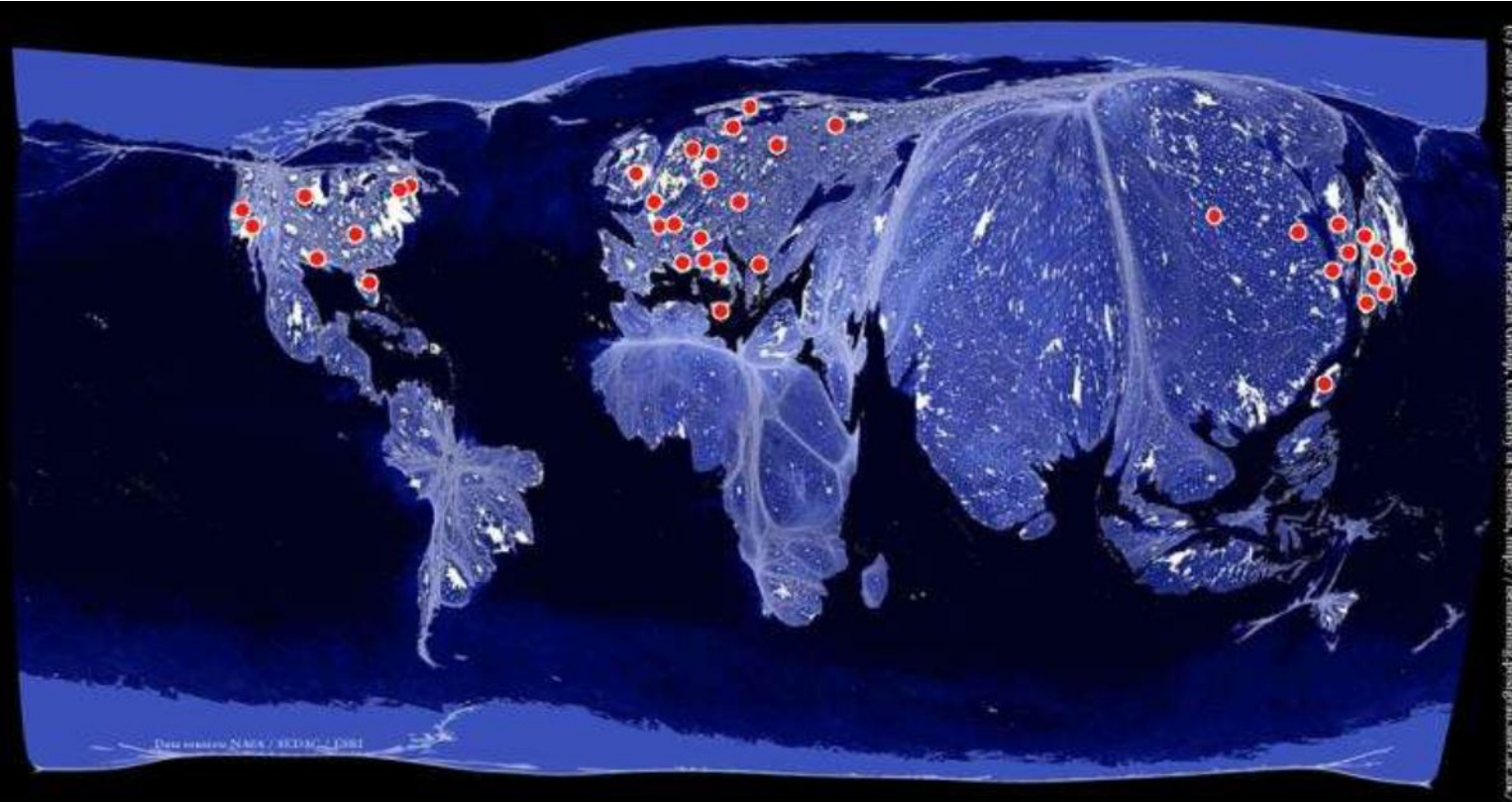


**March 2014: 44 proton/7 heavy ion centers**  
**Under construction: 25 proton/ 4 heavy ion centers**  
**Only in USA, 27 new centers expected by 2017**

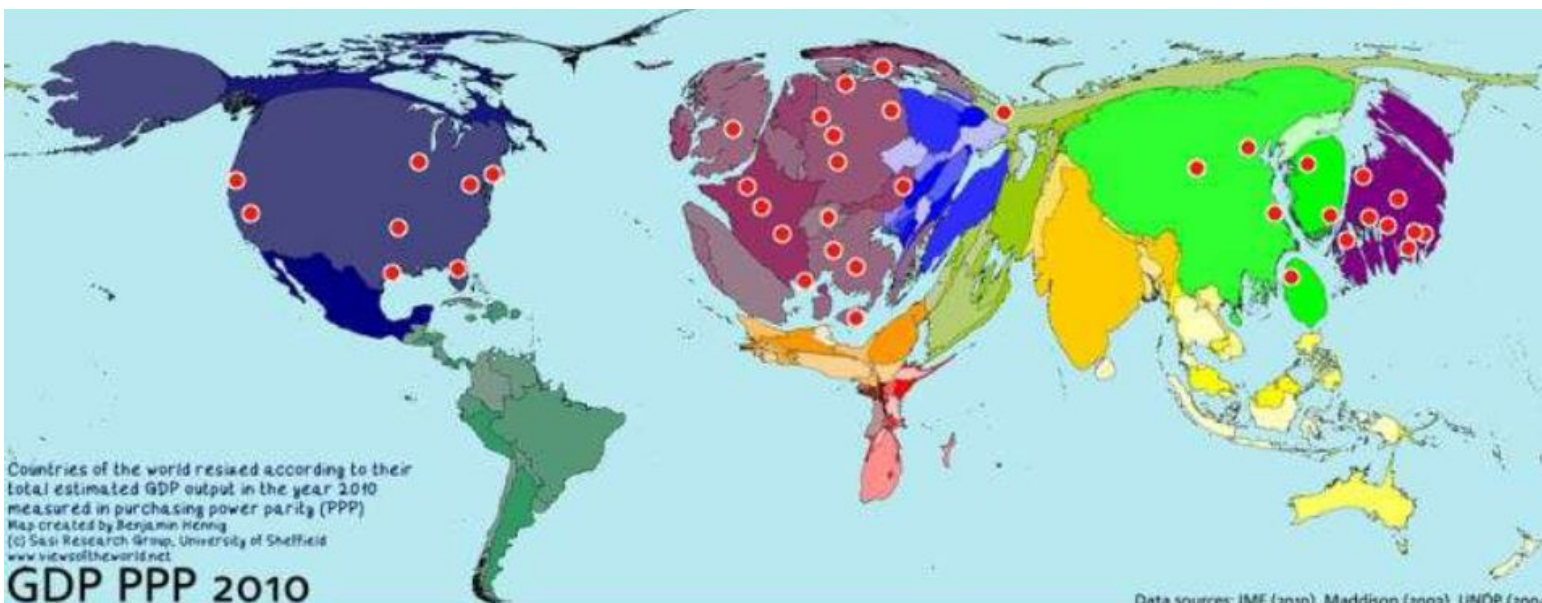


uPECC report „Nuclear Physics in Medicine“, 2014  
 available online [www.nupecc.org](http://www.nupecc.org)



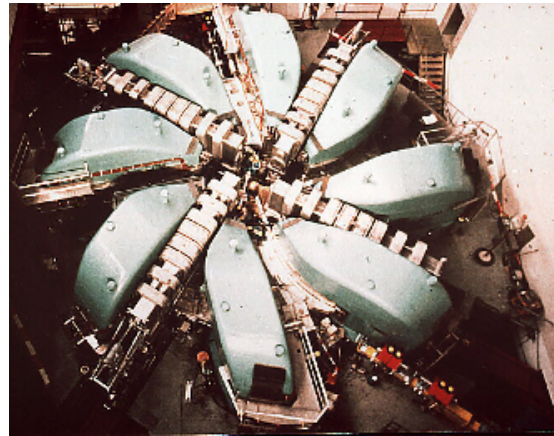
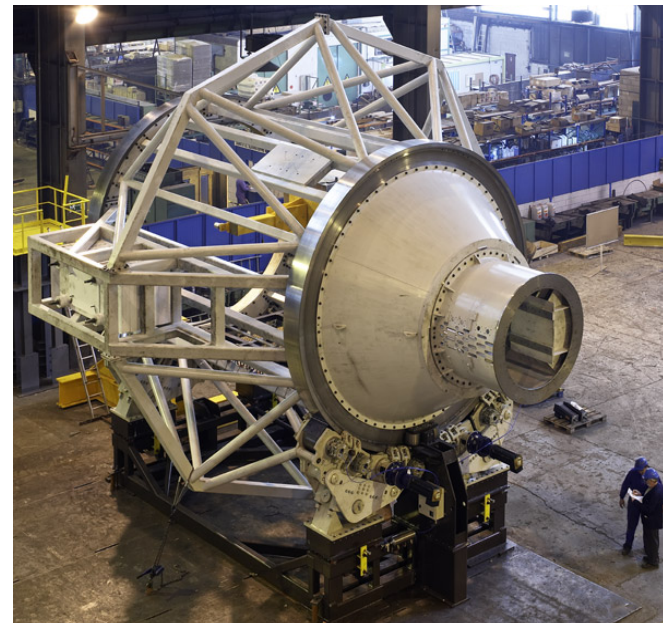


Population  
– scaled



GDP-  
scaled





# The cost of particle therapy



**Protons**  
\$\$\$



**Carbon**  
\$\$\$\$(\$)

**Dose  
Distribution**

Exponential



**Photons**  
\$

Low

**Neutrons**  
\$\$

High



**LET**

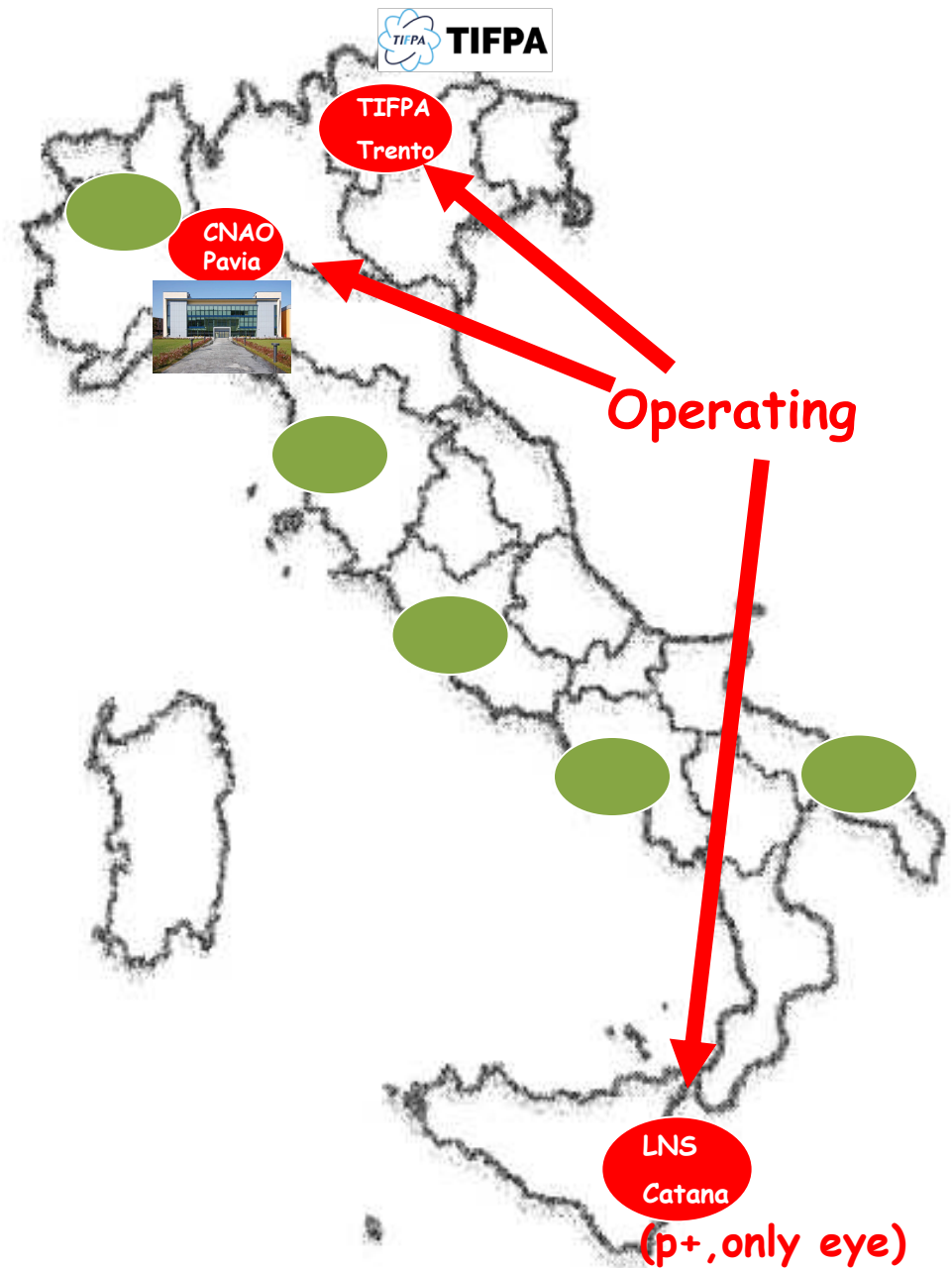


# ITALIAN NETWORK FOR HADRONTHERAPY

EXISTING CENTRES



INTEREST FOR PROTONS

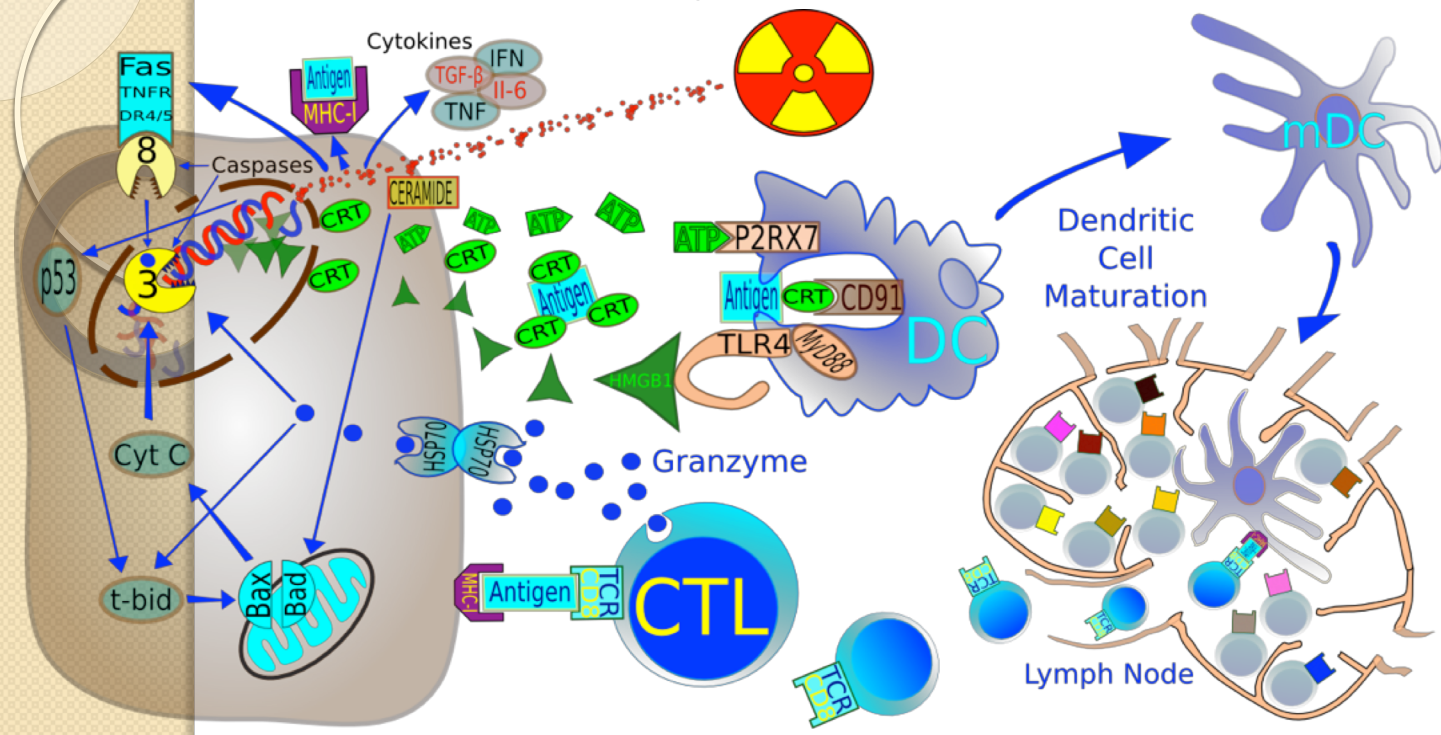


# LEA adroterapia – Settembre 2016

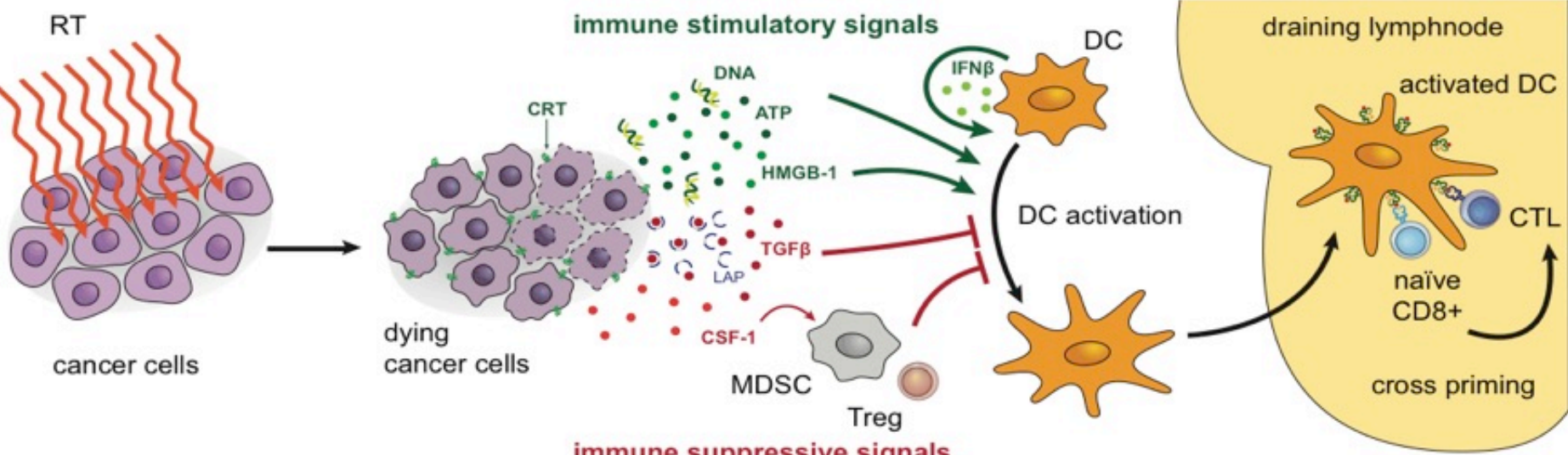


- Cordomi e condrosarcomi della base del cranio e del rachide;
- Tumori del tronco encefalico (esclusi i tumori intrinseci diffusi del ponte) e del midollo spinale;
- Sarcomi del distretto cervico-cefalico, paraspinali, retroperitoneali e pelvici;
- Sarcomi delle estremità ad istologia radioresistente (osteosarcoma, condrosarcoma);
- Meningiomi intracranici in sedi critiche (stretta adiacenza alle vie ottiche e al tronco encefalico);
- Tumori orbitari e periorbitari (es. seni paranasali) incluso il Melanoma oculare;
- Carcinoma adenoideo--cistico delle ghiandole salivari;
- Tumori solidi pediatrici;
- Tumori in pazienti affetti da sindromi genetiche e malattie del collagene associate ad un'aumentata radiosensibilità;
- Recidive che richiedono il ritrattamento in un'area già precedentemente sottoposta a radioterapia;

# Radioimmunotherapy – a new frontier



Durante *et al.*,  
*Trends Mol. Med.*  
2013

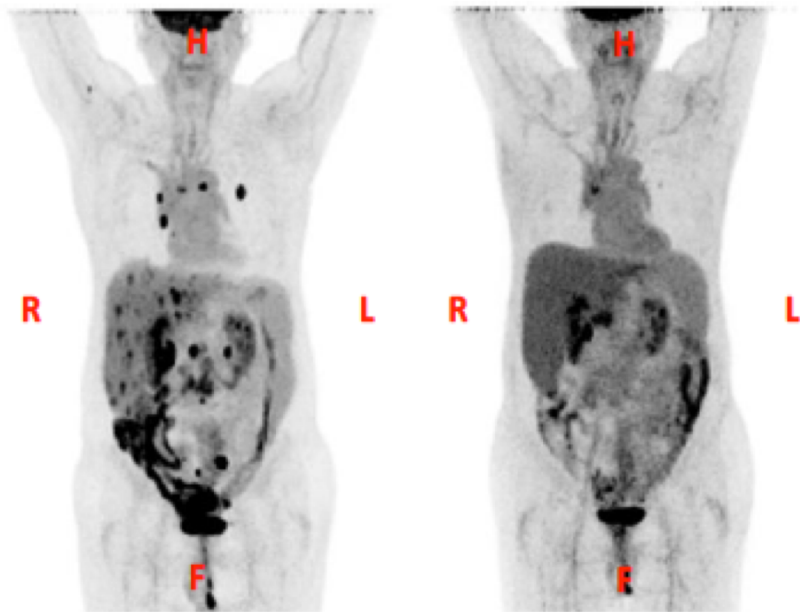


Formenti *et al.*, *JAMA Oncol.* 2015



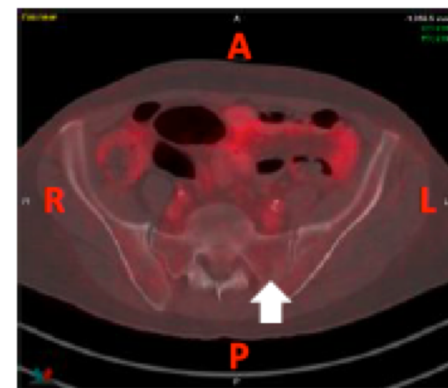
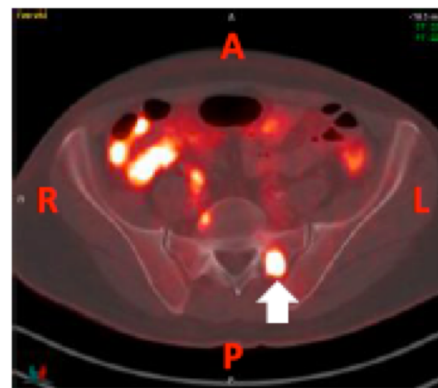
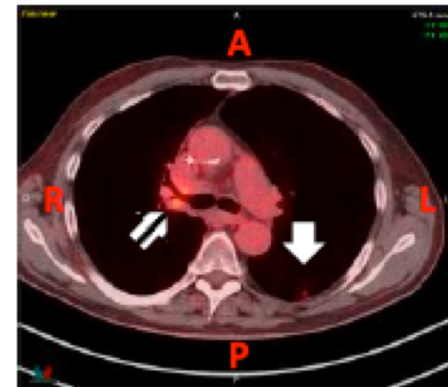
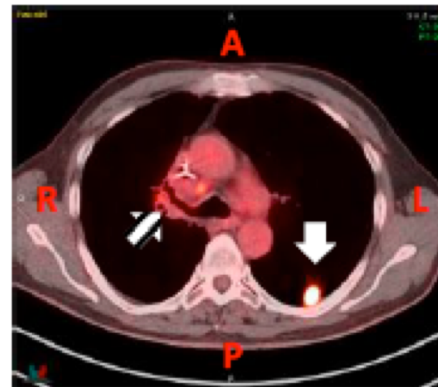
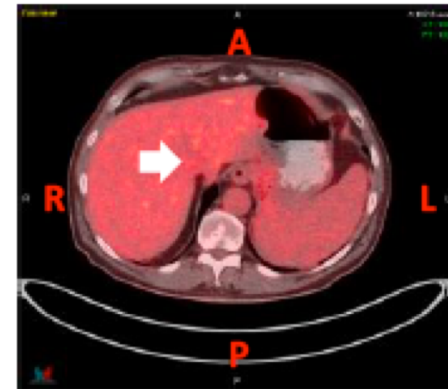
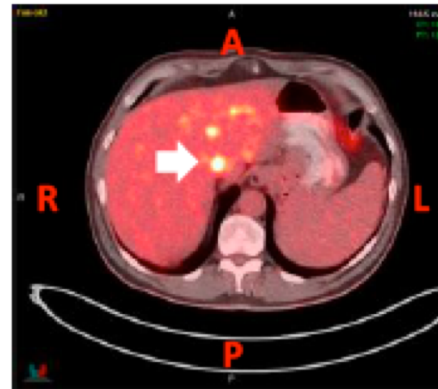
# Combined radiotherapy and immunotherapy in the clinics: lung cancer trial

NSCLC progressing after 3 lines of and chest RT. Multiple lung bone



August 2012 PET/CT      January 2013 PET/CT

RT to one liver met 6 Gy X 5 ( TD 30 GY)  
Ipilimumab, 3 mg/Kg, after first RT q3 weeks, X 4 c



August 2012 PET/CT

January 2013 PET/CT

# Does Heavy Ion Therapy Work Through the Immune System?

Marco Durante, PhD,<sup>\*</sup> David J. Brenner, PhD,<sup>†</sup>  
and Silvia C. Formenti, MD<sup>‡</sup>

*<sup>\*</sup>Trento Institute for Fundamental Physics and Applications-National Institute for Nuclear Physics, University of Trento, Trento, Italy; <sup>†</sup>Center for Radiological Research, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, New York; and <sup>‡</sup>Department of Radiation Oncology, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, New York*

Received Aug 10, 2016, and in revised form Aug 21, 2016. Accepted for publication Aug 25, 2016.



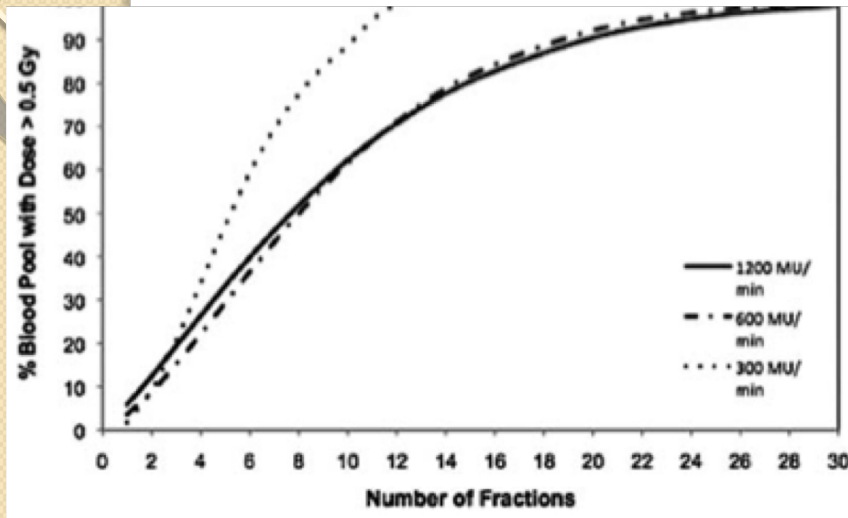
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International Journal of  
Radiation Oncology  
biology • physics

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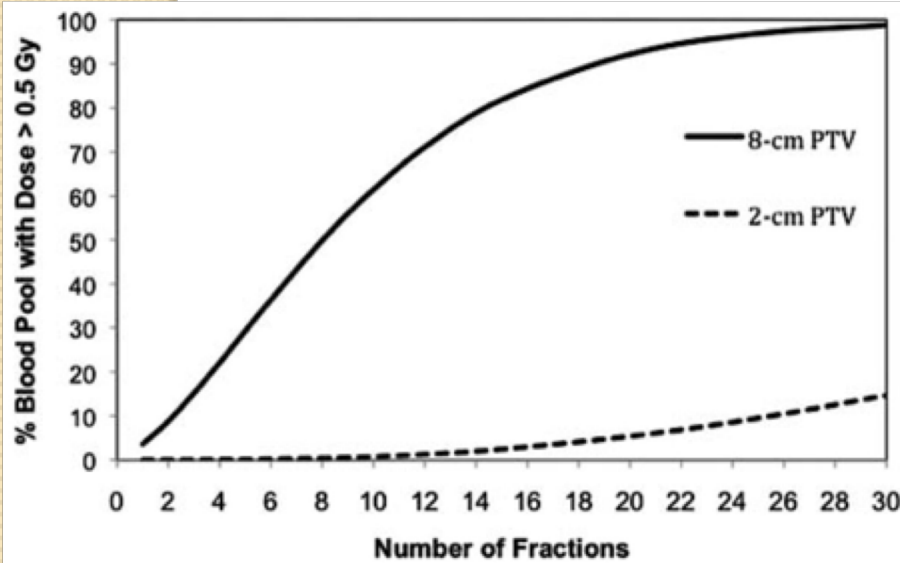
[www.redjournal.org](http://www.redjournal.org)

# Radiotherapy (and chemotherapy) compromise the immune system



**A single radiation fraction delivered 0.5 Gy to 5% of circulating cells, after 30 fractions 99% of circulating blood had received  $\geq 0.5$  Gy**

**Circulating lymphocytes : D10 = 3 Gy  
D50 = ~2 Gy  
D90 = ~.5 Gy**



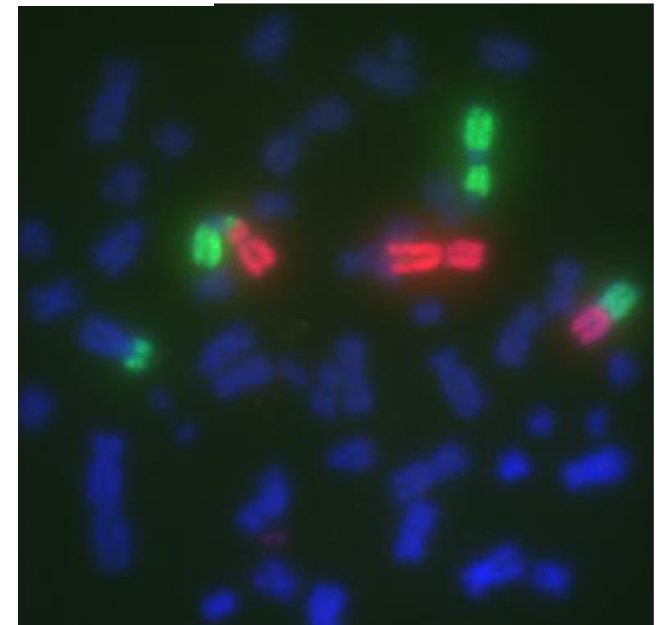
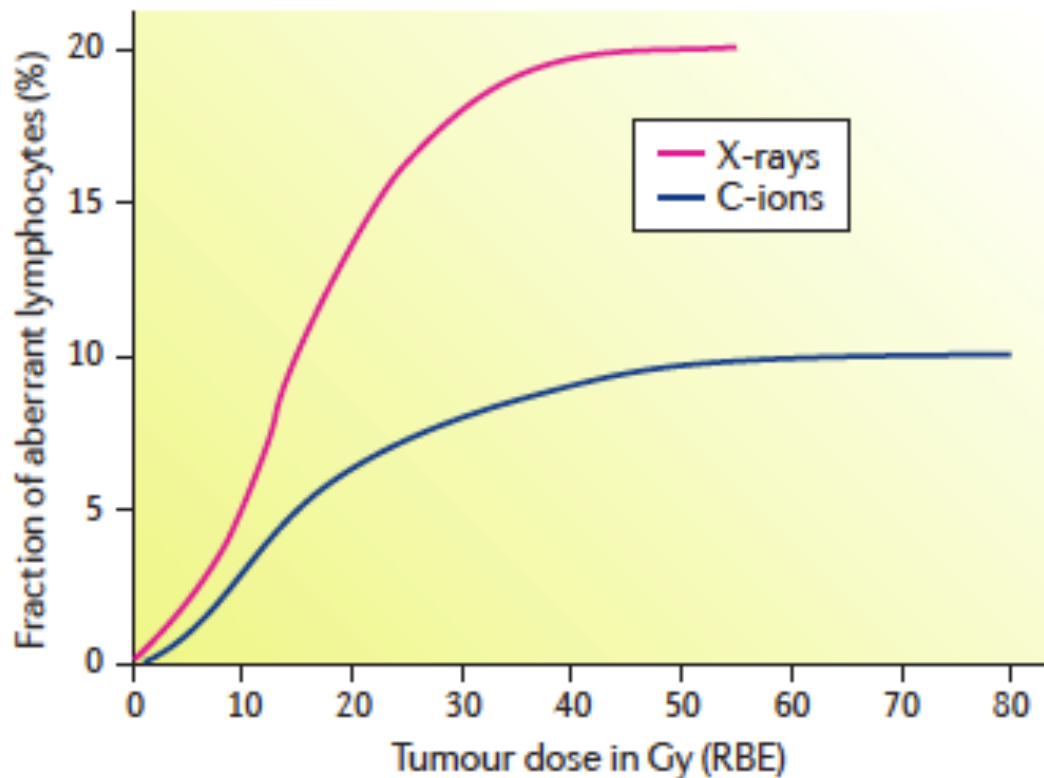
Need:

- High dose-rate
- Hypofractionation
- Reduced integral dose

*Yovino et al Cancer Invest. 2013*



# Physical advantages of particle therapy for immunology: chromosome aberrations in lymphocytes from patients during the treatment for uterine cancer by either X-rays or C-ions



# Particle therapy: beyond cancer

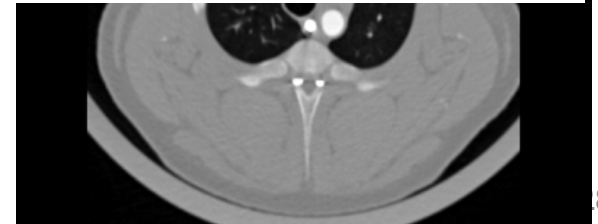
# SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

OPEN

## Feasibility Study on Cardiac Arrhythmia Ablation Using High-Energy Heavy Ion Beams

Received: 08 August 2016  
Accepted: 09 November 2016  
Published: 20 December 2016

H. Immo Lehmann<sup>1,\*</sup>, Christian Graeff<sup>2,\*</sup>, Palma Simoniello<sup>2</sup>, Anna Constantinescu<sup>2</sup>, Mitsuru Takami<sup>2</sup>, Patrick Lugenbiel<sup>3</sup>, Daniel Richter<sup>2,4</sup>, Anna Eichhorn<sup>2</sup>, Matthias Prall<sup>2</sup>, Robert Kaderka<sup>2</sup>, Fine Fiedler<sup>5</sup>, Stephan Helmbrecht<sup>5</sup>, Claudia Fournier<sup>2</sup>, Nadine Erbedinger<sup>2</sup>, Ann-Kathrin Rahm<sup>3</sup>, Rasmus Rivinius<sup>3</sup>, Dierk Thomas<sup>3</sup>, Hugo A. Katus<sup>3</sup>, Susan B. Johnson<sup>2</sup>, Kay D. Parker<sup>2</sup>, Jürgen Debus<sup>6</sup>, Samuel J. Asirvatham<sup>1</sup>, Christoph Bert<sup>2,4</sup>, Marco Durante<sup>2,7</sup> & Douglas L. Packer<sup>1</sup>



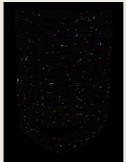


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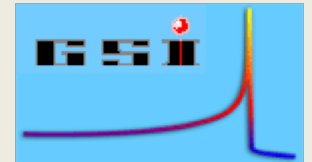
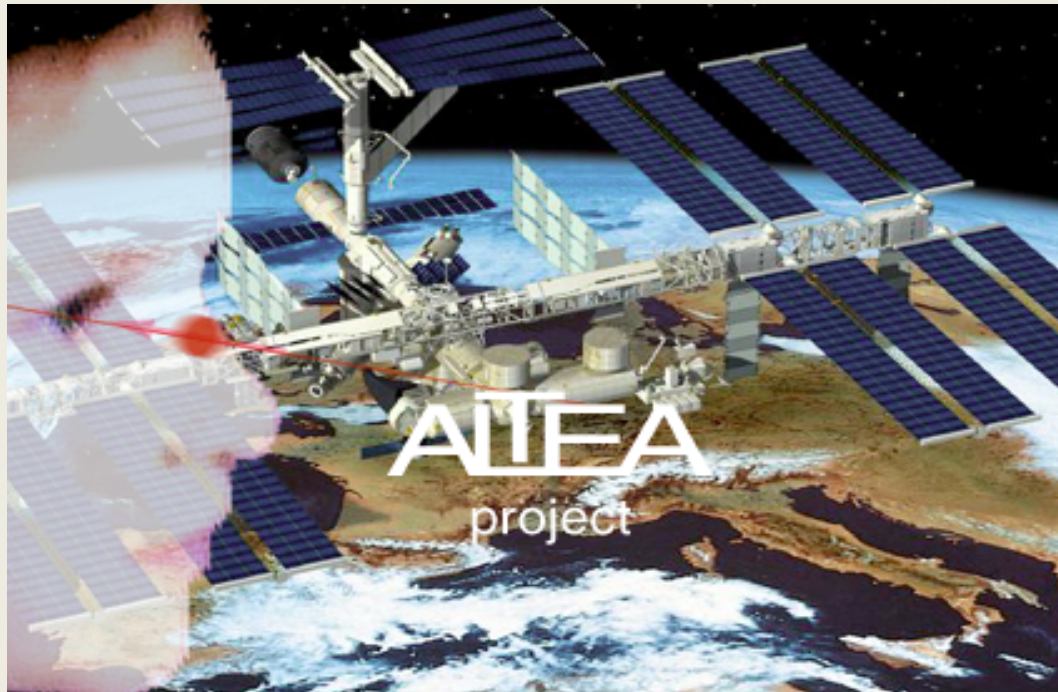


# 1. Particle therapy contributing to space research

*Heavy ion effects on the Central Nervous System: ground and space investigations: the ALTEA program*



University of  
Rome  
"Tor Vergata"

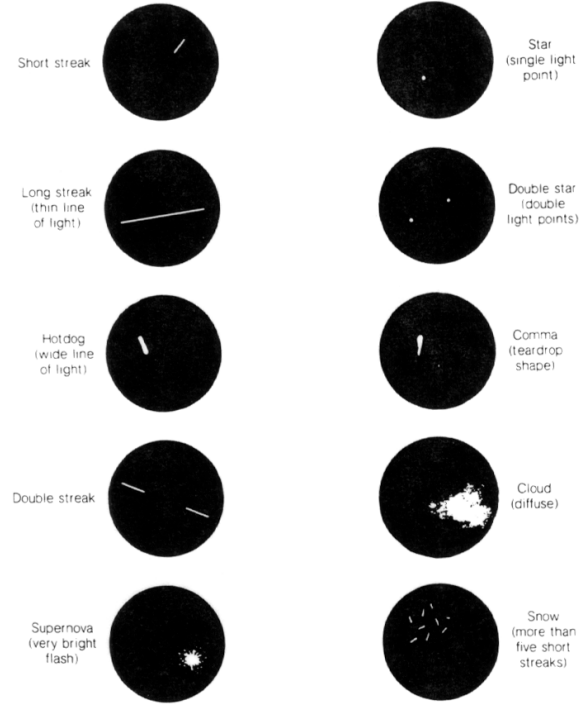


*PI: Livio Narici  
Department of Physics, University of Rome and INFN  
'Tor Vergata' Rome, Italy*

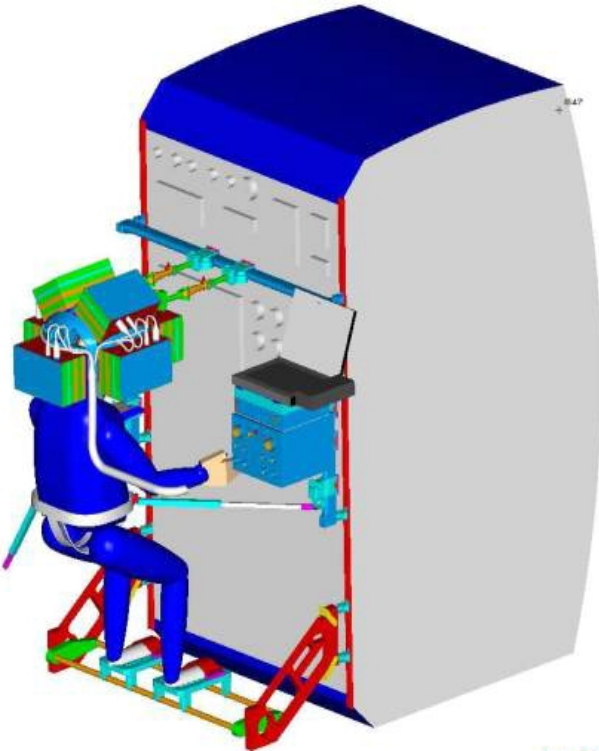


# ALTEA - space: the launch and set up

STS121: July 4, 2006



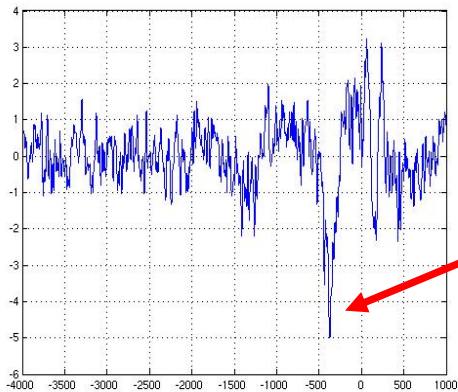
**Light flashes seen by astronauts in space**



*A controlled approach on patients at GSI*

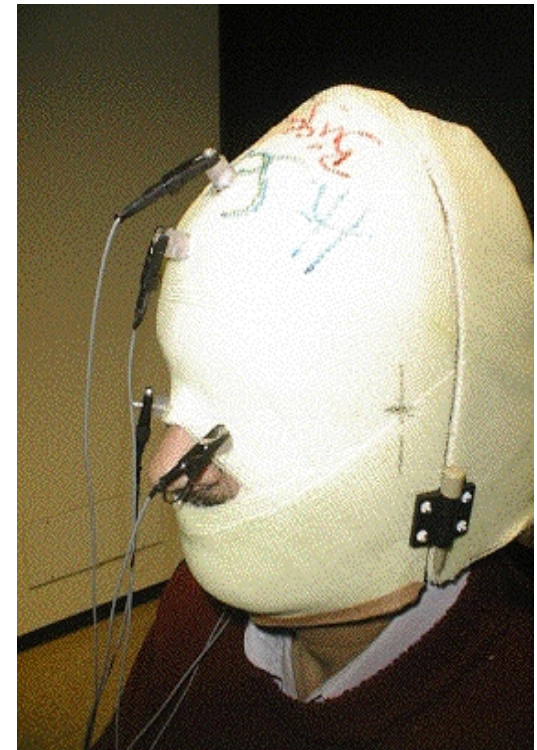
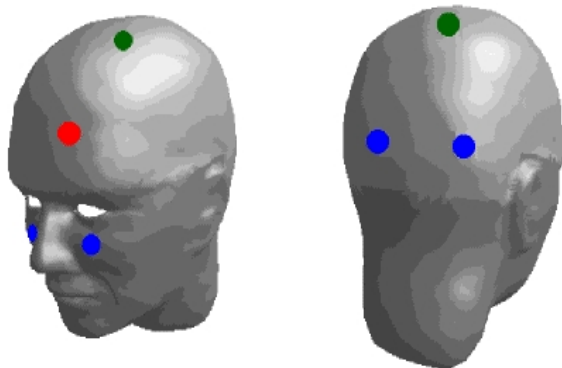
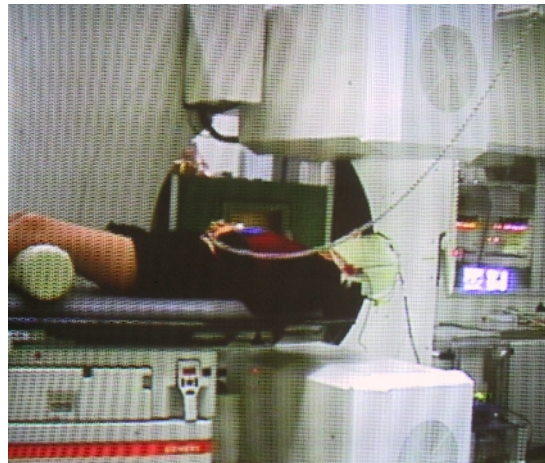
# ALTEA-HIT

- LF perceived by several patients during the therapy
- Use the high precision in beam time/site localisation to search for the interaction site
- Electrophysiology during the treatment



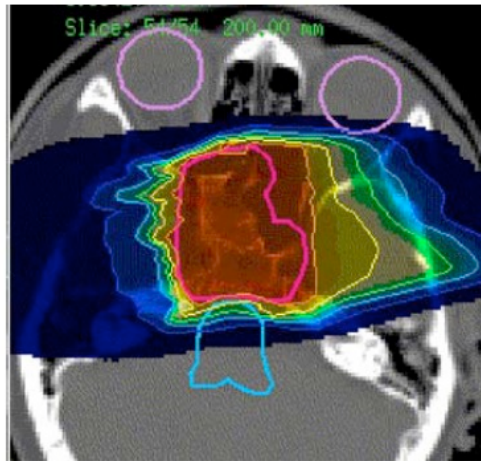
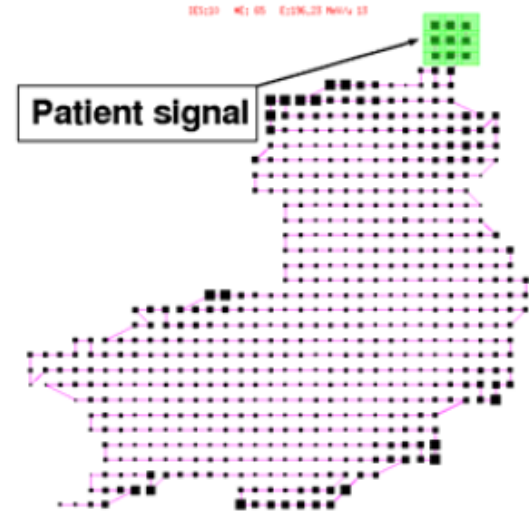
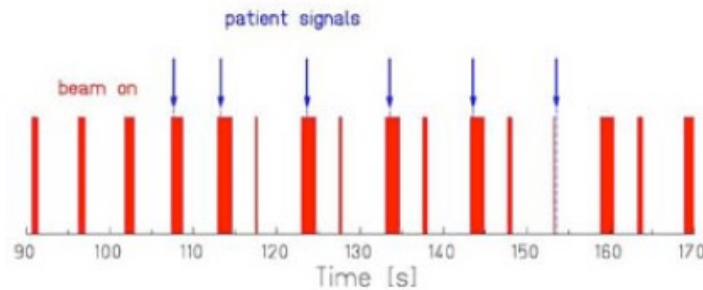
- Particle Evoked Responses?

*A candidate for an electrophys. averaged ion response*

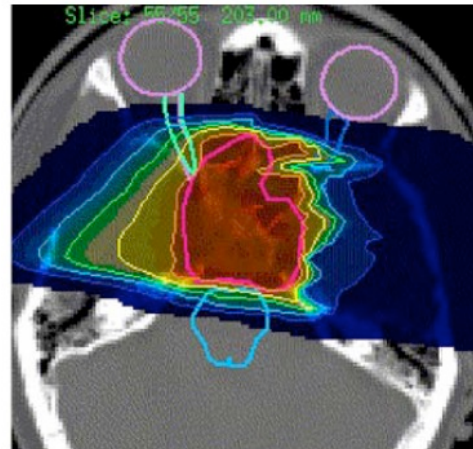




# Patients' experiments at GSI



Phosphene



No phosphene

Phosphenes are correlated to dose deposition within the eye

*Schardt et al., Brain Stimul. 2012*

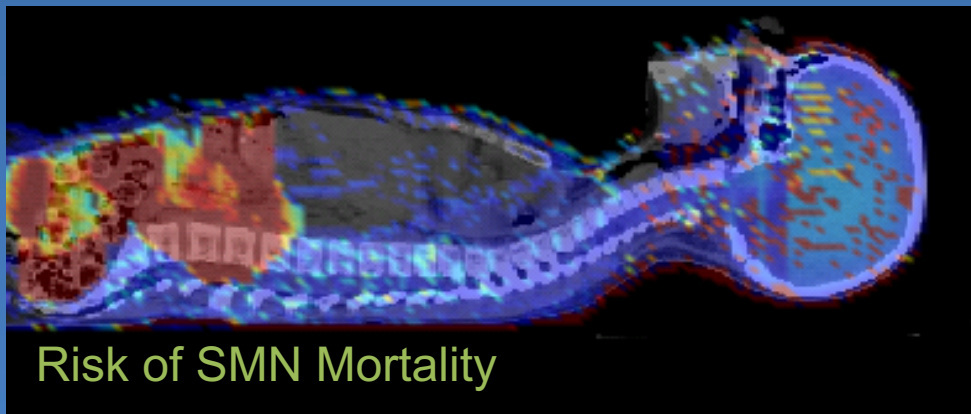
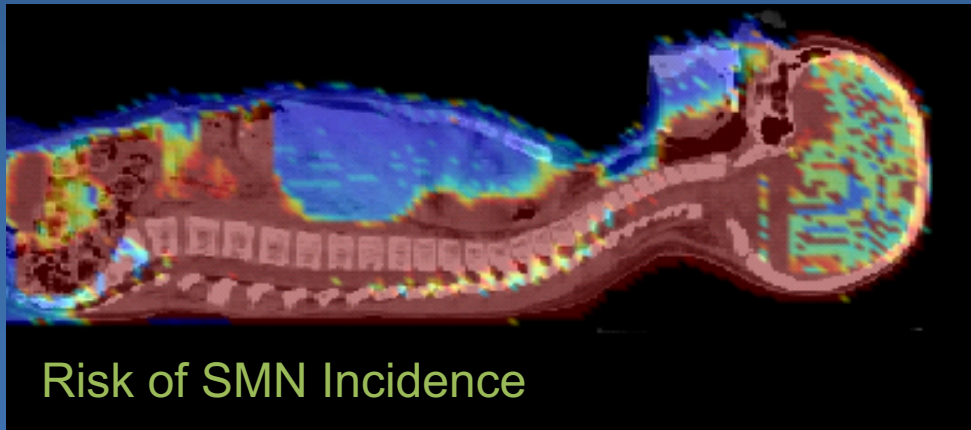
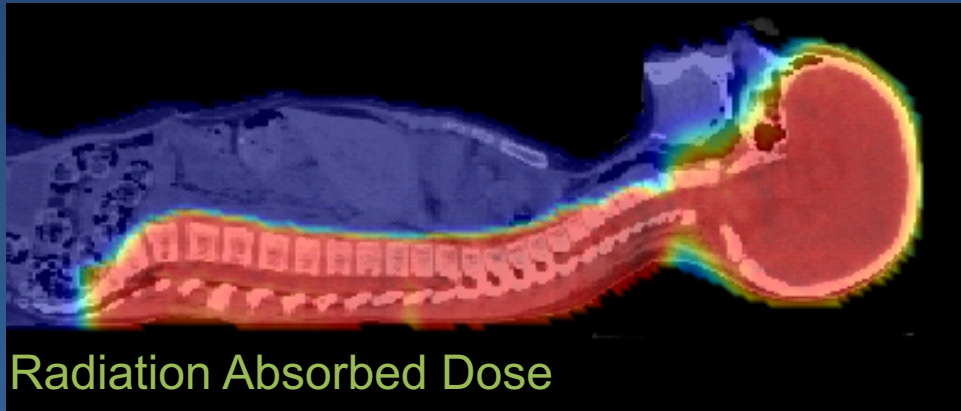


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## 2. Space research contributing to particle therapy





## Secondary Malignant Neoplasms (SMN) in particle therapy

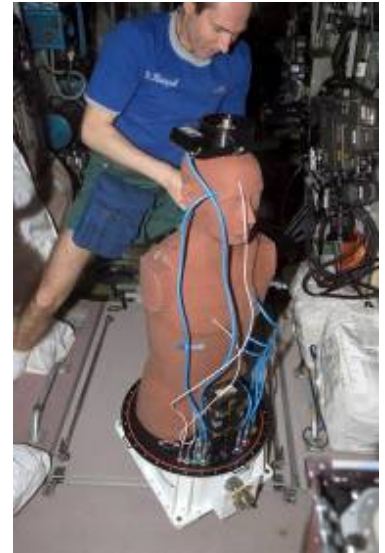
Comparison of relative radiation dose distribution with the corresponding relative risk distribution for radiogenic second cancer incidence and mortality. This 9-year old girl received craniospinal irradiation for medulloblastoma using passively scattered proton beams. The color scale illustrates the difference for absorbed dose, incidence and mortality cancer risk in different organs.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
**MD Anderson**  
**Cancer Center**  
Making Cancer History<sup>®</sup>

**Newhauser & Durante, *Nat. Rev. Cancer* 2011**

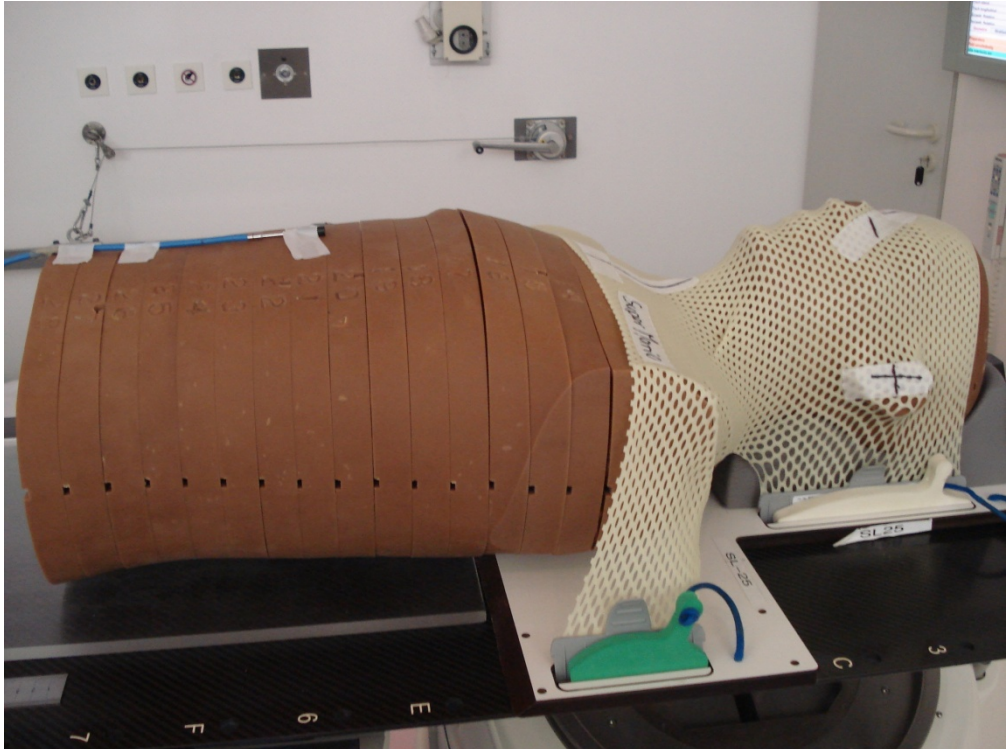
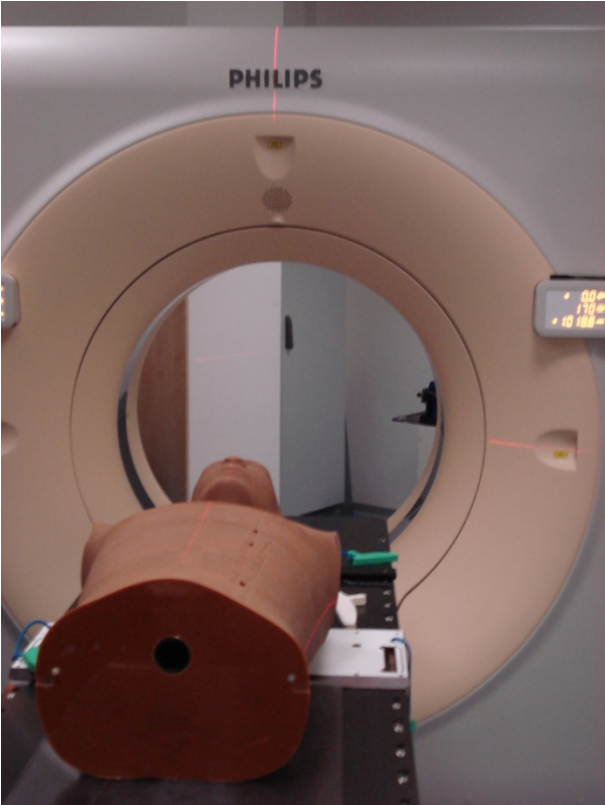
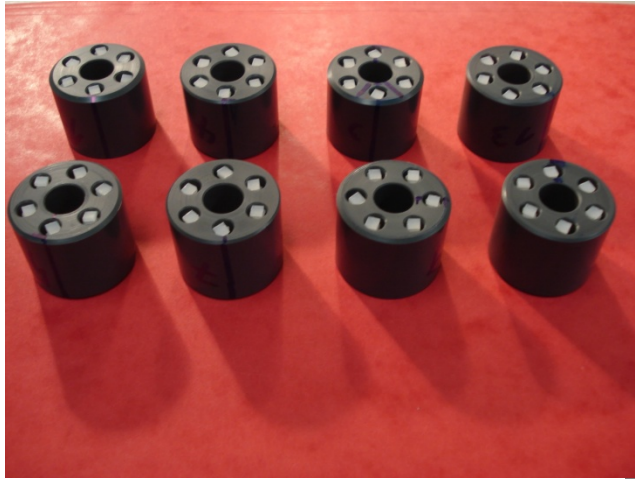
# The MATROSHKA facility

- Standard RANDO phantom of property of DLR (German Aerospace center)
- 850 mm high divided into 34 slices
- Holders for detectors in several slices
- Currently used for space radiation dosimetry inside the ISS

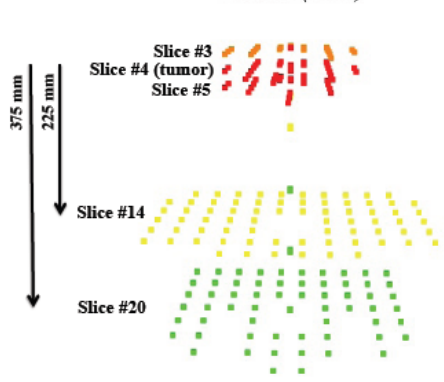


In collaboration with G. Reitz, T. Berger et al. (DLR)

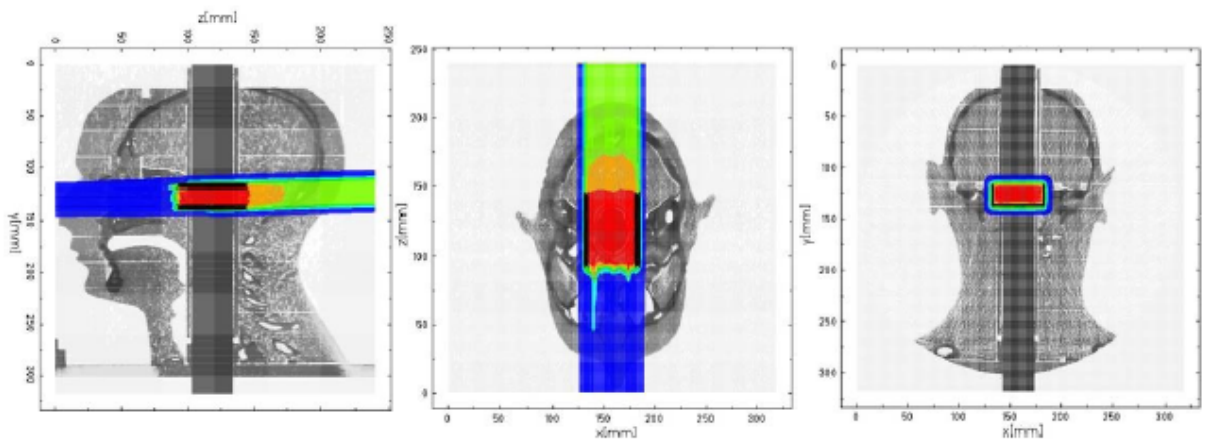
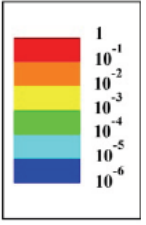




**Photons (KGU)**



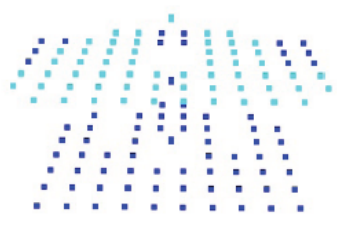
**Dose (Gy/treatment-Gy)**



**Protons (TSL)**



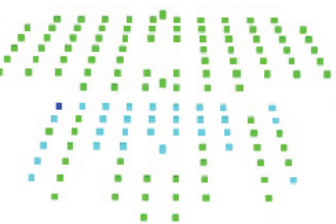
**Protons (PSI)**



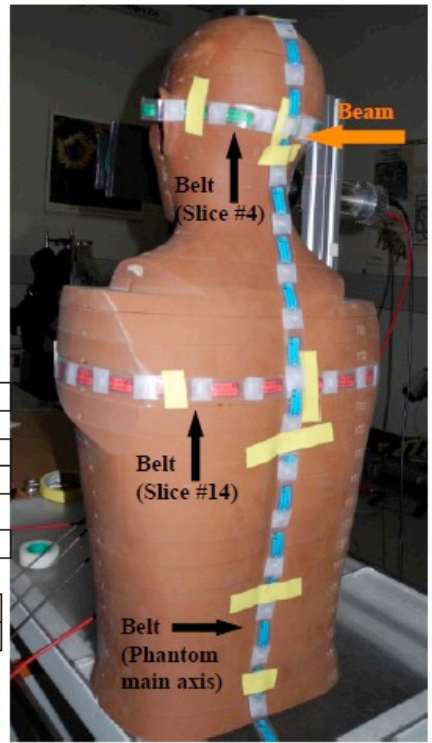
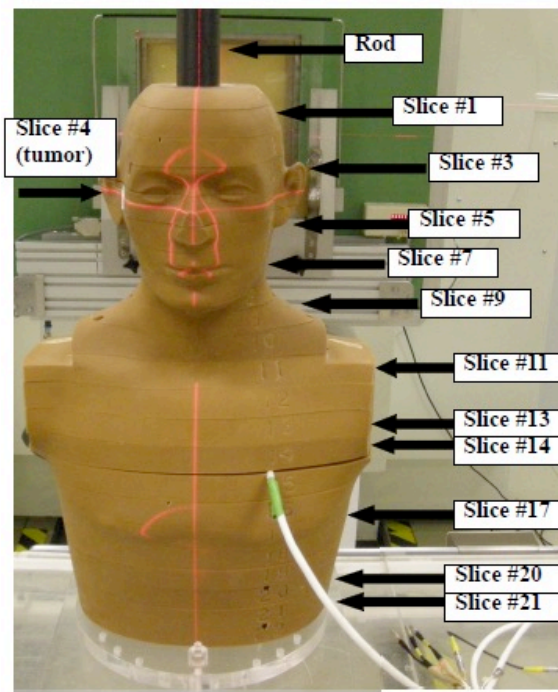
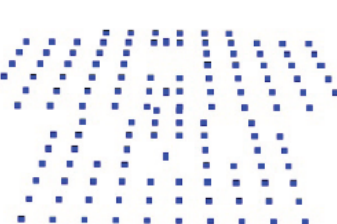
**Carbon ions (HIMAC)**



**Carbon ions (GSI)**



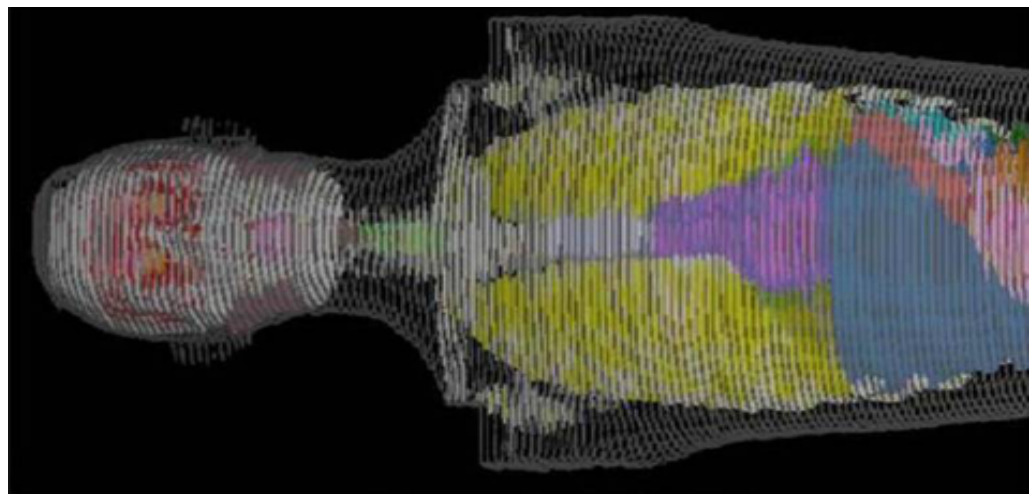
15



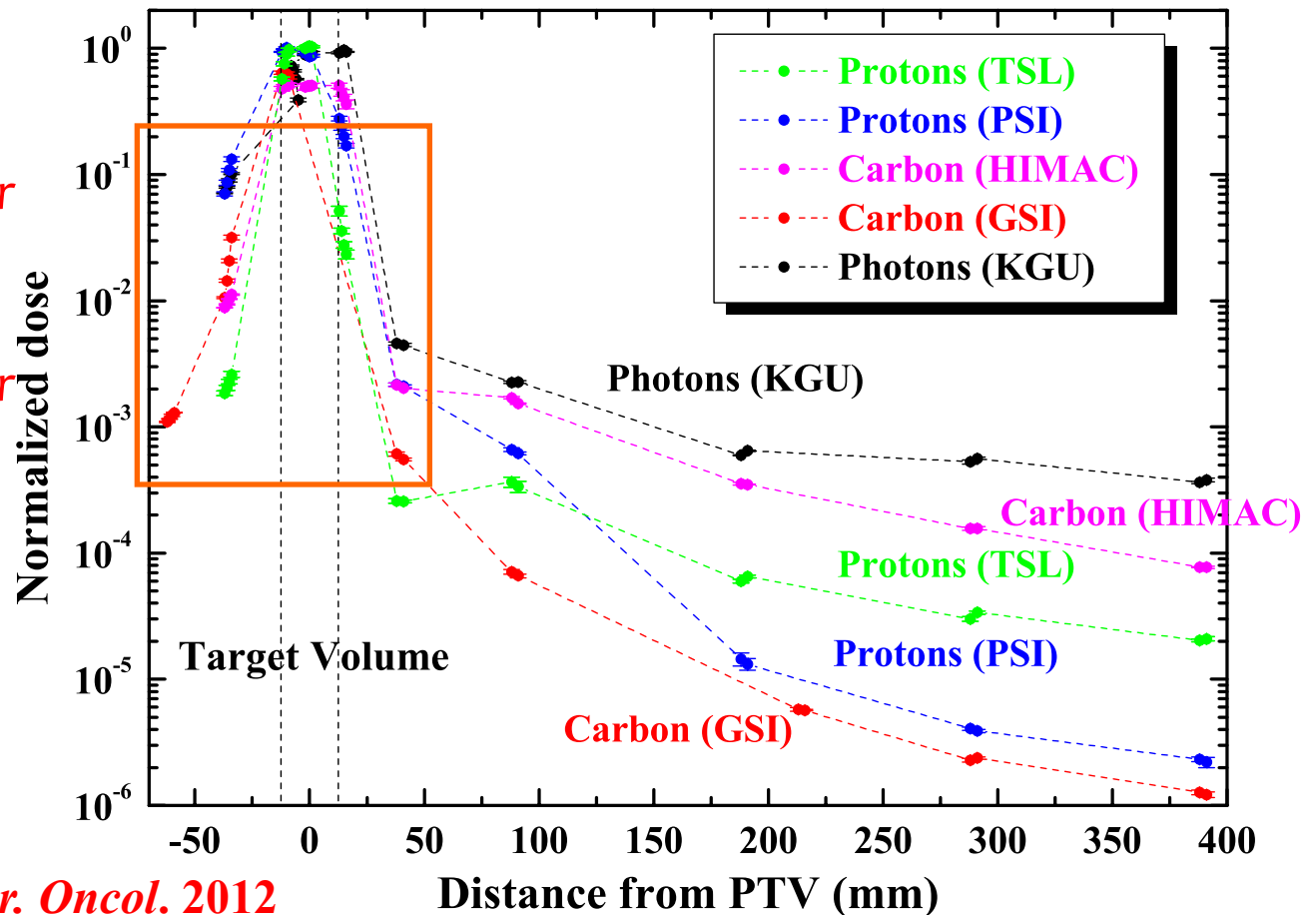


# Inner dose

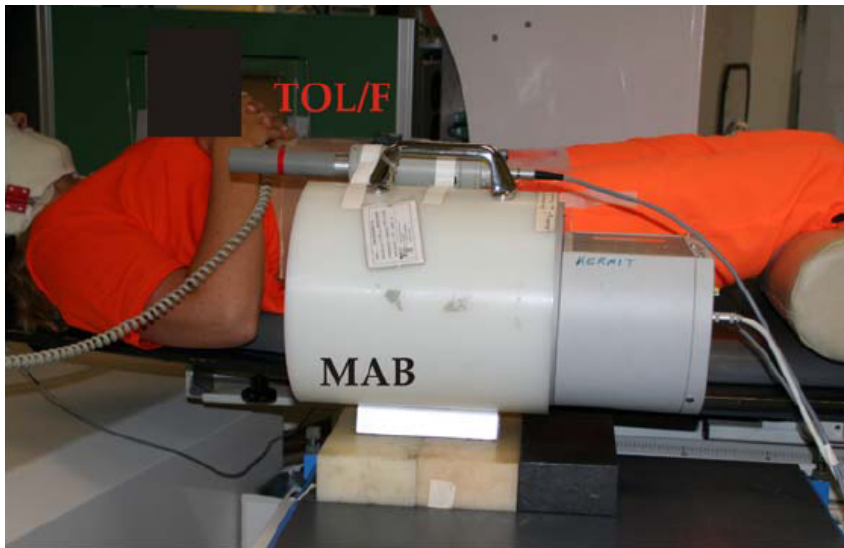
## TLD 700



- Highest out-of-field dose for photons
- Higher lateral dose for passive modulation than scanning delivery
- Higher lateral dose for protons than carbon ions
- Collimator produces sharper field edges



# In patient dosimetry (uterus dose for a pregnant woman)



Total dose < 0.3 mSv

*Very low stray radiation  
reduced risk of secondary  
cancers or teratogen effects*

**TABLE 1**

Measured doses in the pelvic region during the treatment.

	Photon dose ( $\mu\text{Sv}/\text{fraction}$ )	Neutron dose ( $\mu\text{Sv}/\text{fraction}$ )	No. of fractions	Total dose ( $\mu\text{Sv}$ )
Normal field	3.0 <sup>a</sup>	1.4	15	66
Boost field	2.2 <sup>b</sup>	1.0	5	16
Total treatment			20	82

<sup>a</sup> Calculated assuming a factor of 1.4 between normal and boost fields as in neutron dose.

<sup>b</sup> Measured by the TOL/F gamma dose rate meter. The passive thermoluminescence dosimeter films did not measure any significant dose above the normal background.

Münter. Heavy ion radiotherapy during pregnancy. *Fertil Steril* 2010.

Münter et al., *Fertil Steril*. 2010



Trento Institute for  
Fundamental Physics  
and Applications



### 3. Hibernation: a futuristic view of space and therapy

# Hibernation: space and therapy

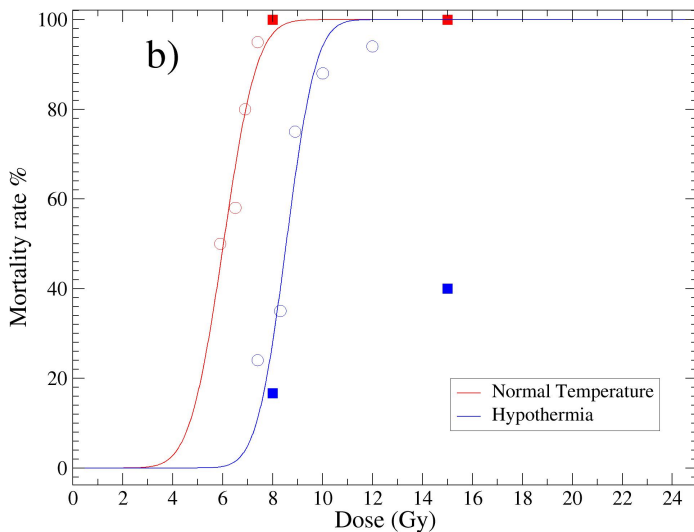
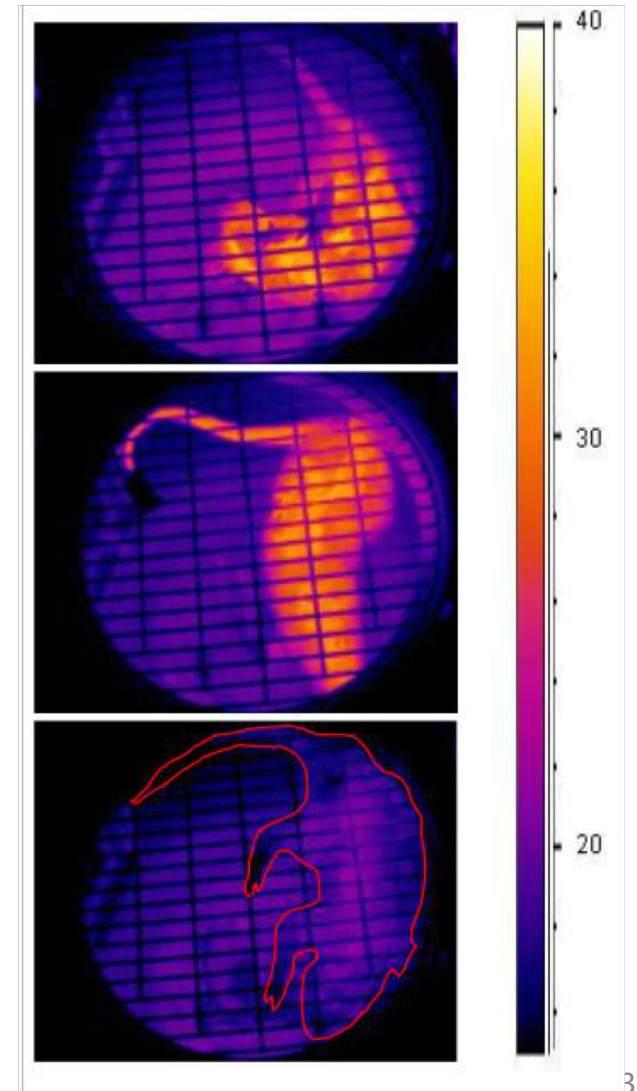
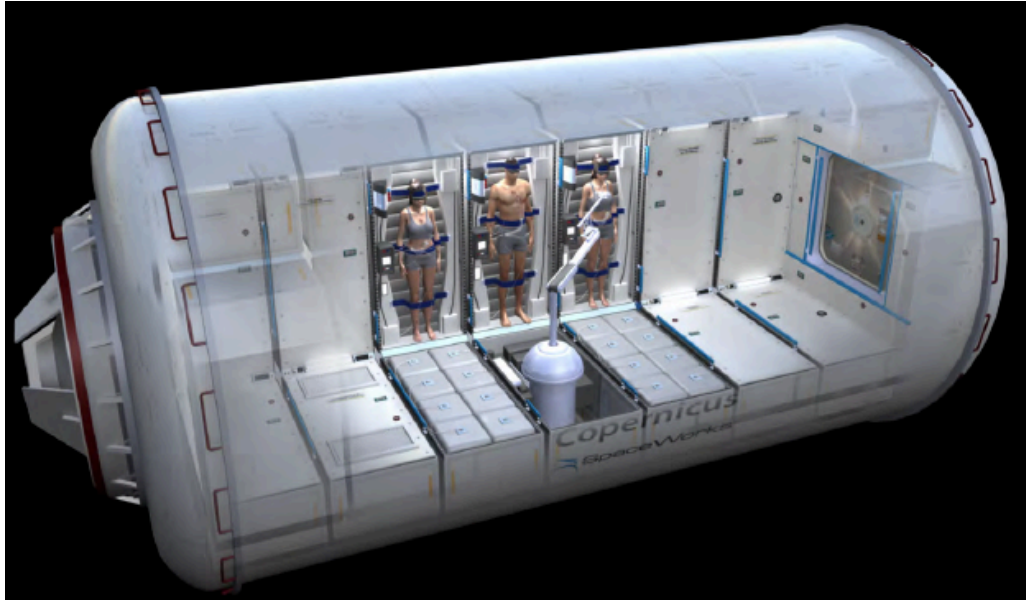


- Increased radioresistance in hibernation
- Reduced tumor growth
- Reduced organ motion
- Radiotherapy in hibernation?





# Radiosensitivity in non-hibernating



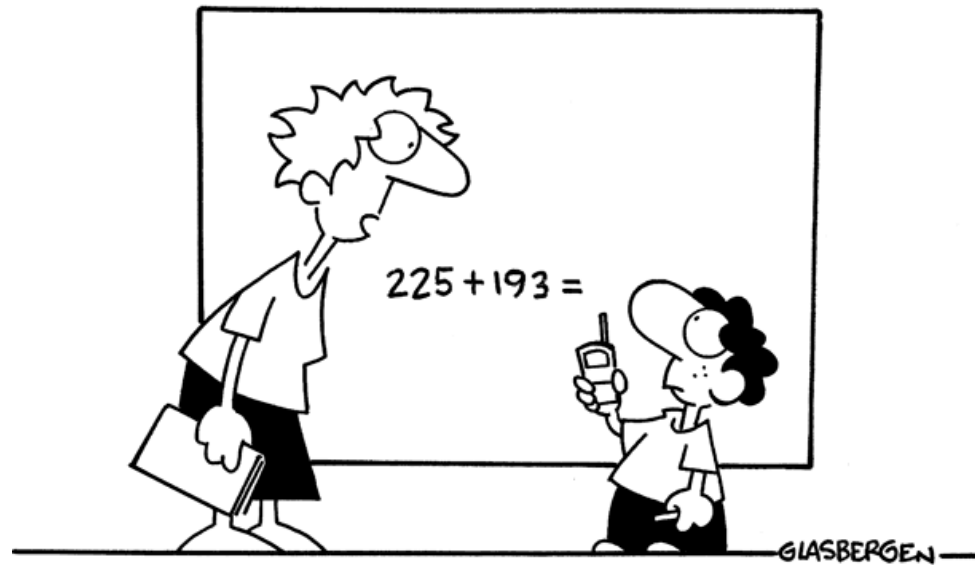
Cerri et al., Life Sci.  
Space Res. 2016



- Heavy ions are different in many facets from X-rays and other genotoxic agents
- Their „special“ radiobiological properties make them very effective in radiotherapy, but potentially dangerous for late effects, and therefore a major hazard in human space exploration
- Accelerator-based research in radiobiology is essential for improving radiotherapy and ensure protection in space: it should be increased, and can serve both medical and space research communities

# Thank you for attention!

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**“You have to solve this problem by yourself. You can’t call tech support.”**