

# «Radiopharmaceuticals for diagnostic and therapy in modern nuclear medicine»

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**Saint-Petersburg State University**

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# **Outline**

**Basis of the radionuclide diagnostic and therapy**

**The new methods in radionuclide diagnostic and therapy**

**Novel radionuclides for diagnostic and therapy**

**Investigations of the nuclear reactions for the production of new diagnostic and therapy radionuclides**

**Conclusion**

# Basis of the radionuclide diagnostic and therapy

## Radionuclide diagnostics

**Aims** To diagnose the deviations in the vital functions of organs at all stages of the illness

Quick detect

Effectively treatment of the illness

Saving **LIFE**

Saving



### How to reach



+ radionuclides



radionuclides distribution in the human body

Human body radiometry

Radiation detectors



Radiation detectors

It is possible to obtain an image of the organs, tumors, metastases



# Basis of the radionuclide diagnostic and therapy

## Radionuclide targeted therapy - RTT

### Aims

The ability to increase intracellular incorporation of the radiopharmaceutical without any toxicity

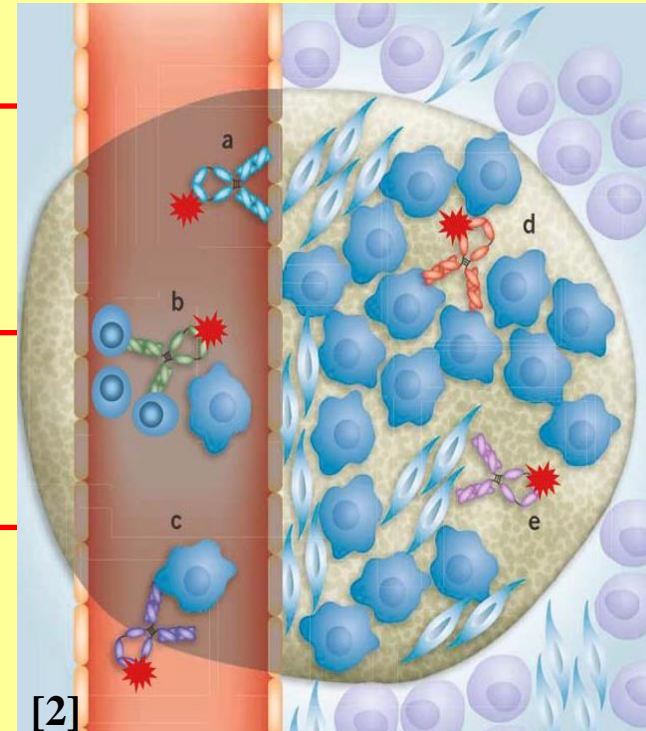
### One of the main challenges

of RTT remains in matching the physical and chemical characteristics of the radionuclide and targeting agent with the clinical character of the tumor

### How to reach

The radionuclide labeled agents are used to target cancer-associated structures

### Cancer cells





# Basis of the radionuclide diagnostic and therapy

## Radionuclide production

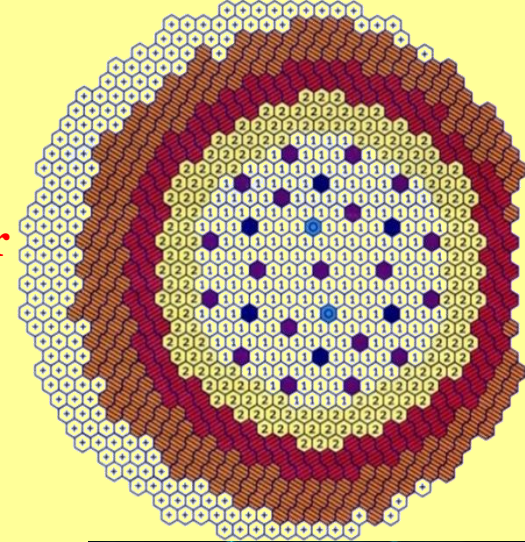
### Cyclotrons



Nuclear reactions with:  
 $^1_1\text{p}$ ,  $\text{d}$ ,  $\alpha$

Main channel:  
**Target( $^1_1\text{p}$ ,  $^1_0\text{n}$ )Product**

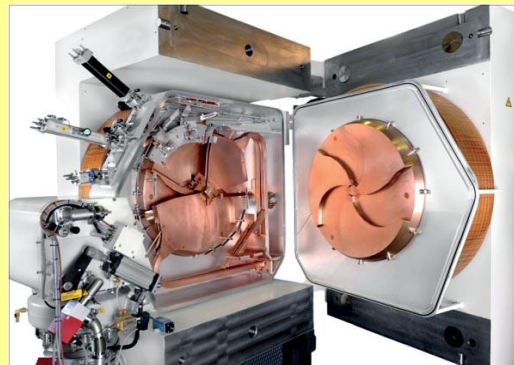
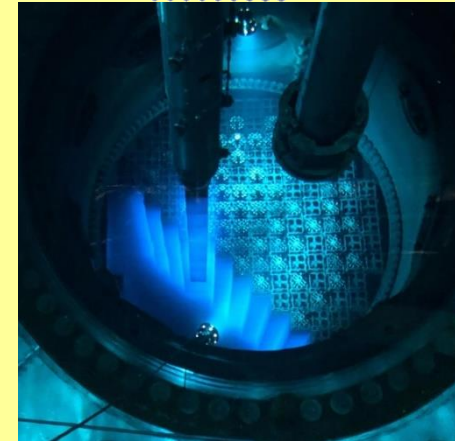
### Nuclear reactor



Nuclear reactions with  
 $^1_0\text{n}$ :

**Neutron capture  $\rightarrow$  decay**

**Fission fragments**

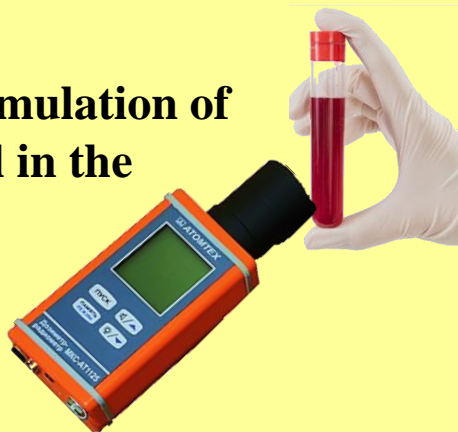


# Basis of the radionuclide diagnostic and therapy

## Types of radionuclide diagnostics

### In Vitro

1) Measuring the accumulation of a radiopharmaceutical in the biological samples



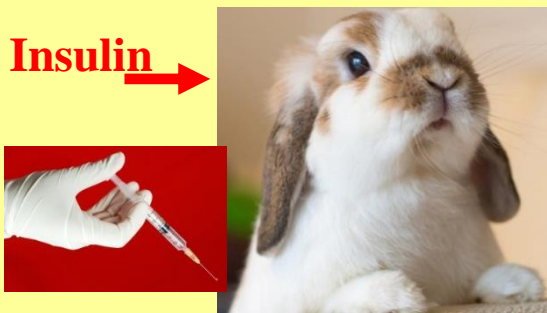
### In Vivo

1) Imaging – visualization of the some organs by using radionuclides

2) Measuring the accumulation of a radiopharmaceutical in the body

2) A radioimmunoassay:  
antigens-antibodies

**Insulin** →



The blood has antibodies  
to insulin

**Antiserum**



**$^{125}\text{I}$  + Insulin**



**Patient serum**



**Centrifugation**



Rosalyn Sussman Yalow

Solomon Aaron Berson

the Nobel Prize

for Medicine in 1977

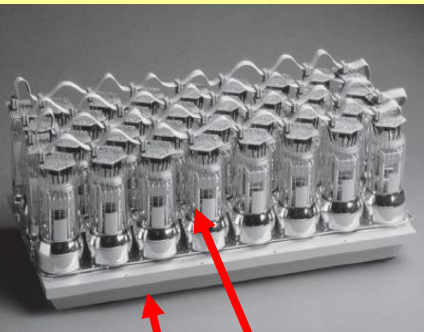
# Basis of the radionuclide diagnostic and therapy

## Single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) - Hal Oscar Anger

Gamma radionuclides

Collimators+scintillator detector

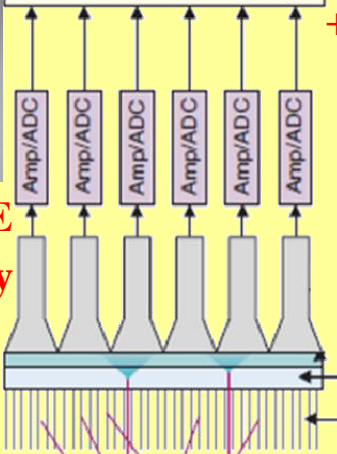
CT (3D image)



(nuclide image)

Computer compute X, Y and E linearity & uniformity corrections

Electronics + ADC



X, Y, E PMT array

scintillator

collimators

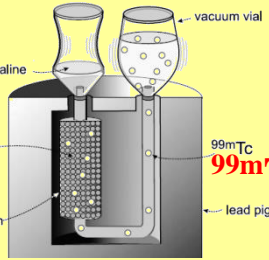
$^{123}\text{I}$

$^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$

140 keV

792 min.

360 min.



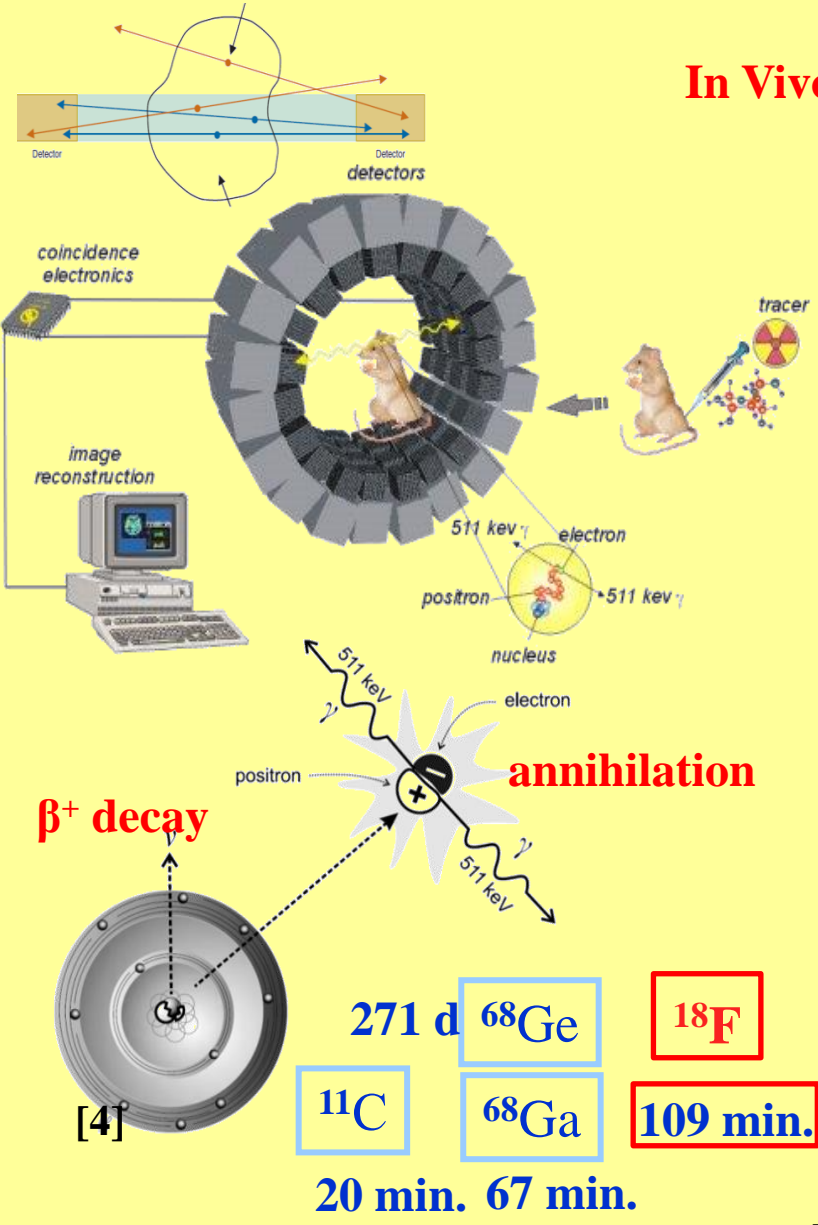
$^{99\text{m}}\text{Mo}$  67 h

$^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$

In Vivo

## Positron emission tomography (PET)

In Vivo



$\beta^+$  decay

annihilation

271 d  $^{68}\text{Ge}$

$^{18}\text{F}$

$^{11}\text{C}$

$^{68}\text{Ga}$

109 min.

20 min. 67 min.



# Basis of the radionuclide diagnostic and therapy

## Gamma-PET method

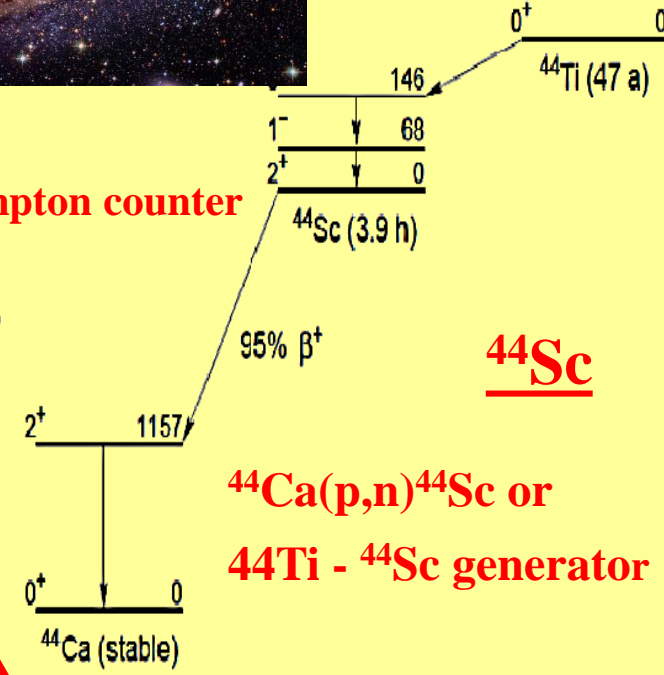
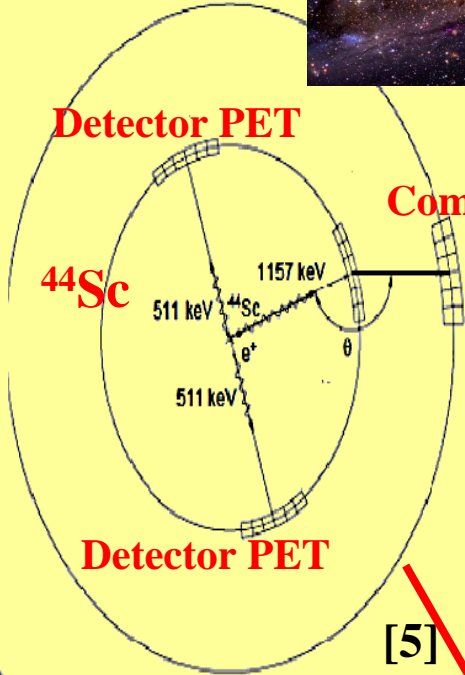
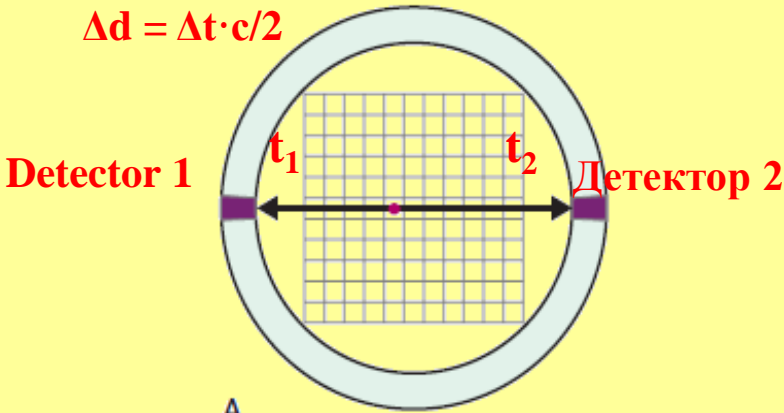
### Diagnostics



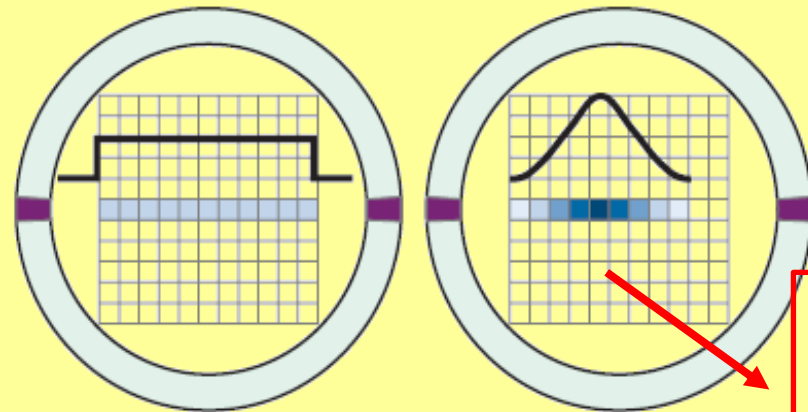
### Advanced detector technologies for the PET

### PET + Time of Flight (TOF) method

$$\Delta d = \Delta t \cdot c/2$$



**44Sc**  
**44Ca(p,n)44Sc or**  
**44Ti - 44Sc generator**



Standard PET  
Position resolution

PET+TOF  
Position resolution

Time – ps. We need  
 1. Fast scintillators  
 2. Multi channel plate detectors

**γ-quanta of 44Sc (1157 keV) is detected (by Compton spectrometer) together with two annihilation gammas (by standard PET detectors)**  
**3D position visualization**  
**The best position resolution!**



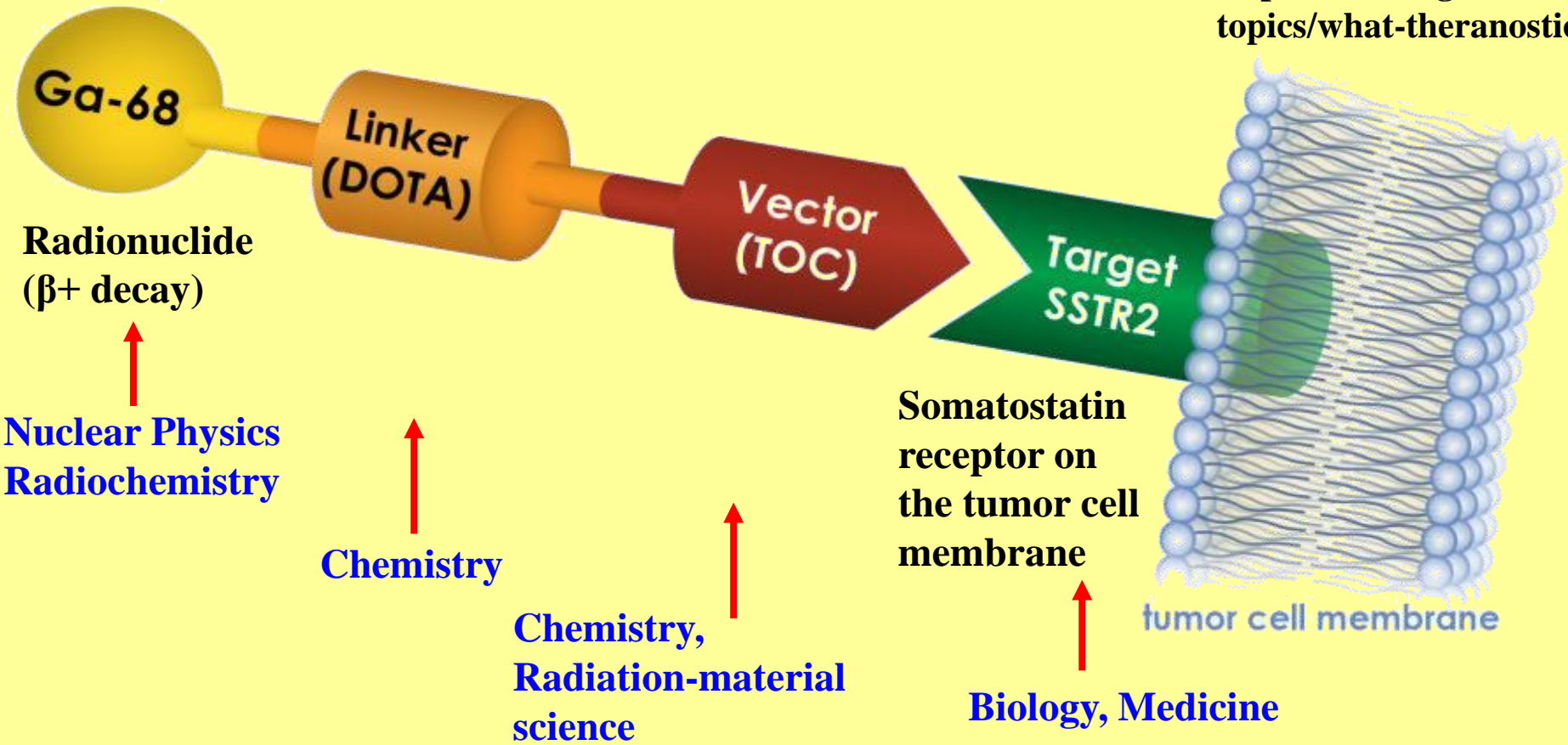
# Basis of the radionuclide diagnostic and therapy

## Positron emission tomography (PET)

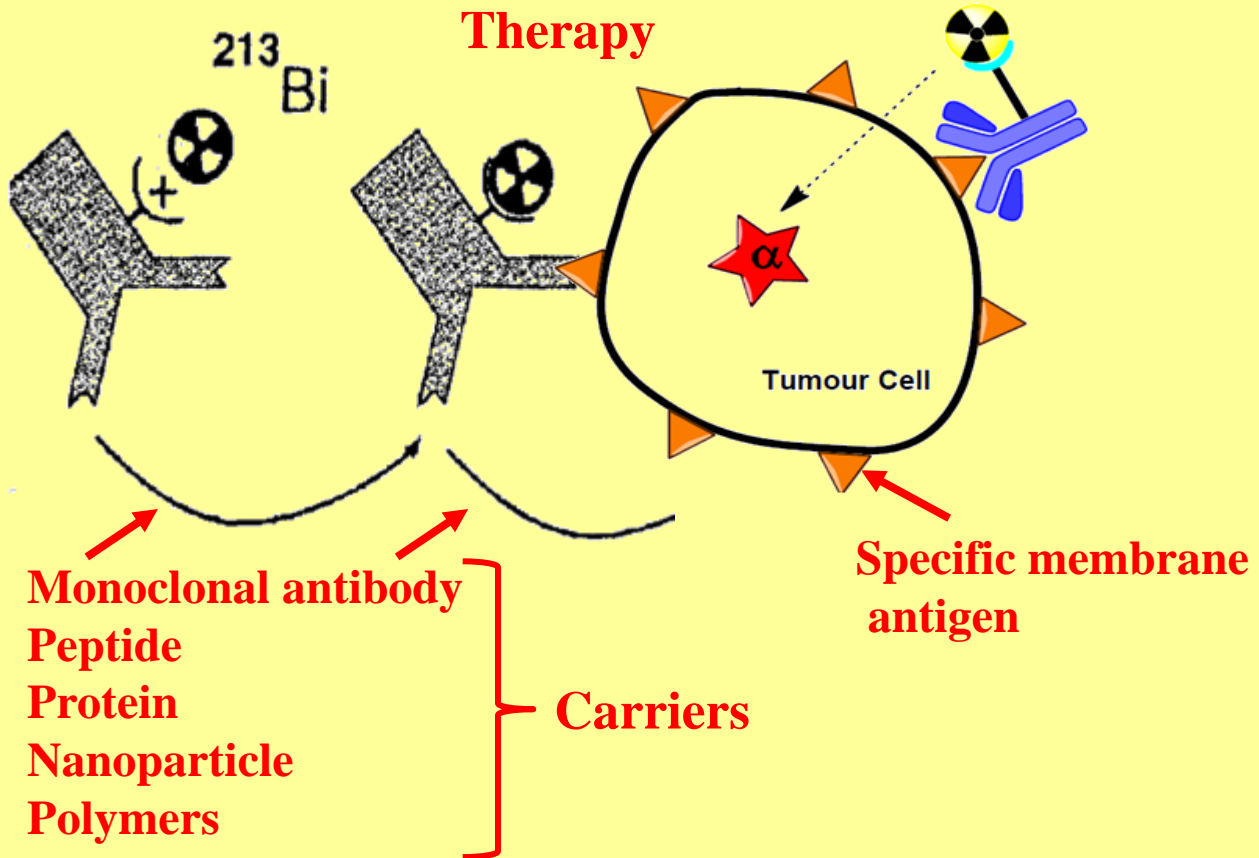
### Diagnostics

### Tumor visualization by the PET

<https://uihc.org/health-topics/what-theranostics>



# The new methods in radionuclide diagnostic and therapy



Alpha - particles (5-7 MeV) are effective to destroy the tumors at the diameter several microns

## Big problem – recoil nuclei

Recoil nuclei can kill of the vector molecules

$\alpha$  - decay  $\rightarrow$  recoil nuclei kinetic energy  $\sim 100 - 110$  keV  
5-7 peptide molecules are destroyed, and finally the whole radiopharmaceutical also destroyed.

$\beta$  - decay recoil nuclei kinetic energy  $\sim 25$  eV.  
There is no damaging, but continuous spectrum is not suitable for the optimal treatment planning.

# The new methods in radionuclide diagnostic and therapy

## Theranostics: therapy + diagnostic

Combine both therapeutic and diagnostic capabilities in one dose

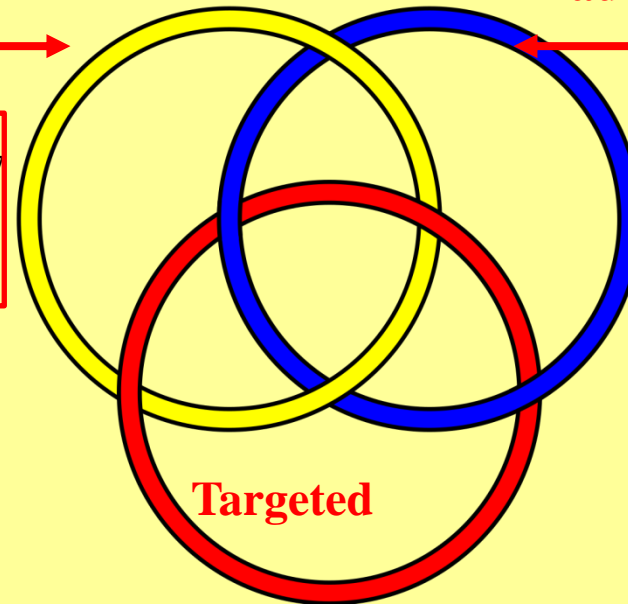
Theranostics – goals:

Imaging  
diagnostics

Radionuclide  
therapy

- 1) Increase the tumor visualization quality
- 2) Minimum side effects diagnostic
- 3) Control of the therapy processes

Minimum side effects at treatment



Increase the efficiency of the radiopharmaceutical delivery to the tumor

## Theranostics: history

Radioiodine therapy: “the gold standard” in thyroid diseases

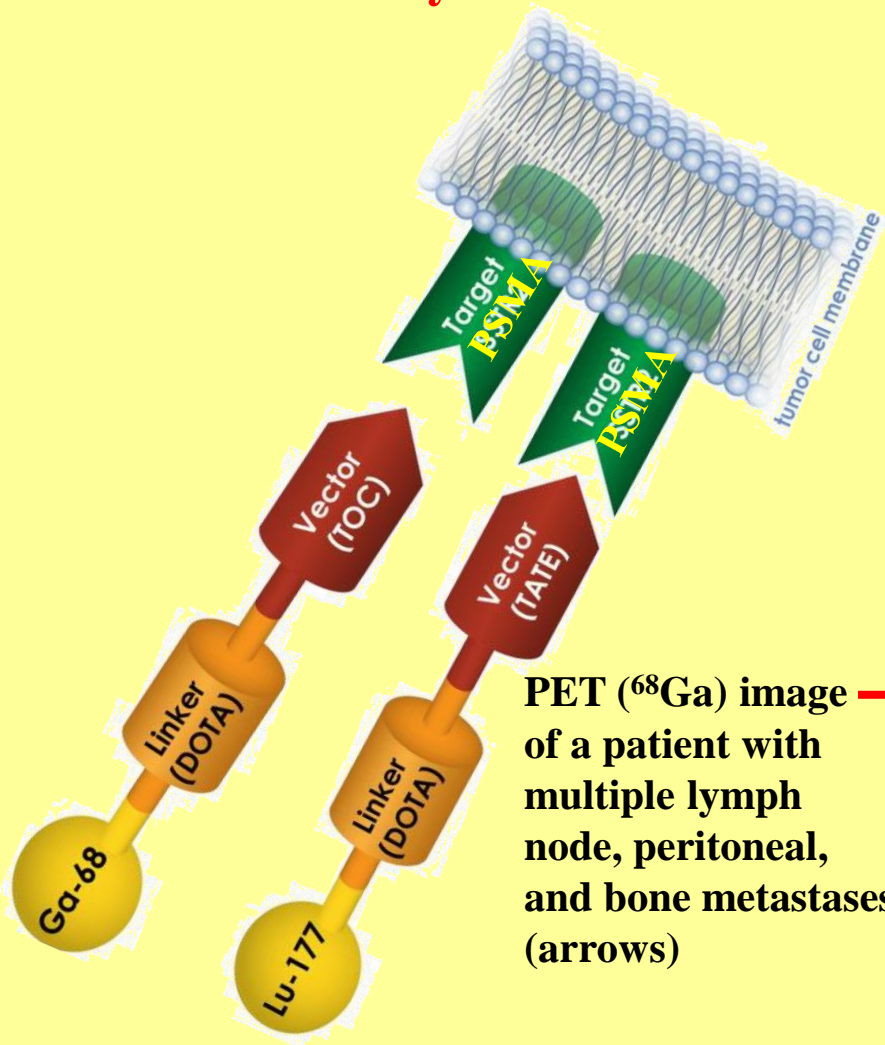
First radioiodine therapy with  $^{131}\text{I}$  ( $T_{1/2} - 8\text{d}$ ) in patients with thyroid cancer was undertaken by Seidlin et al in 1946

# The new methods in radionuclide diagnostic and therapy

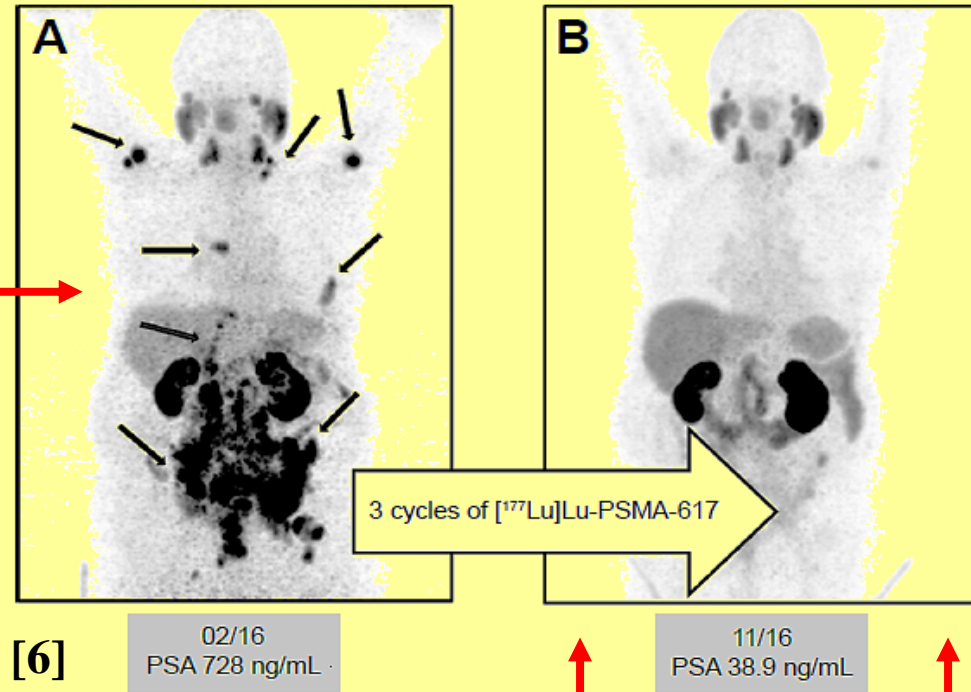
## Theranostics today – novel radionuclides

Prostate cancer is one of the common cancer in **men**. Cancer cells has prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA) on the cell surface.

There are several available radiopharmaceuticals that target PSMA:  $^{68}\text{Ga} + ^{177}\text{Lu}$



PET ( $^{68}\text{Ga}$ ) image of a patient with multiple lymph node, peritoneal, and bone metastases (arrows)



PET ( $^{68}\text{Ga}$ ) image of a patient after three cycles of  $^{177}\text{Lu}$  therapy, showed a very good response



# Novel radionuclides for diagnostic and therapy

## Terbium: Swiss Knife of Nuclear Medicine



$^{149}\text{Tb}$ -therapy

$^{152}\text{Tb}$ -PET

$^{155}\text{Tb}$ -SPECT

$^{161}\text{Tb}$ -therapy + SPECT

$^{155}\text{Tb}$ -SPECT

Manjit Dosanjh, X International Congress "Nevsky Radiology Forum – 2018", 27-28 April, Saint-Petersburg

Production method – reactor

**Advantages** – high yield,

**Disadvantages** – targets, radiochemistry,

Purity, high cost

Production method – cyclotron

**Advantages** – purity,

**Disadvantages** – targets, radiochemistry,

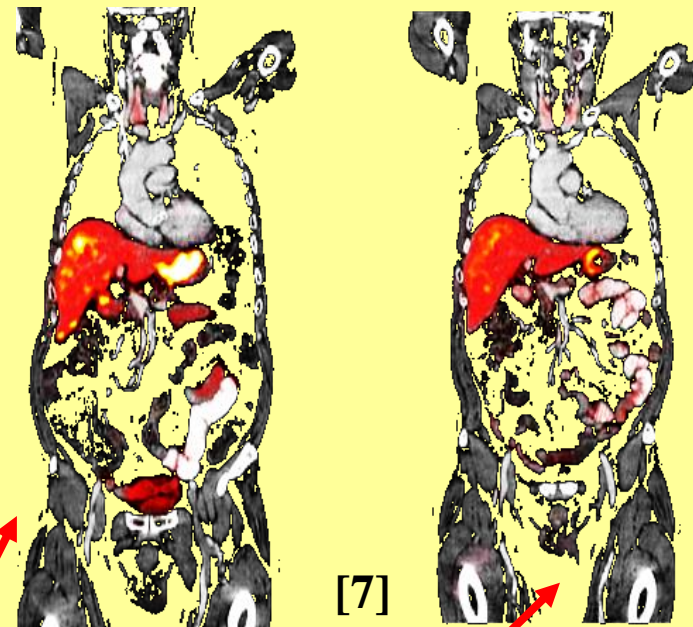
high cost

## Theranostics today – novel radionuclides

$^{46}\text{Sc}$ -therapy (bone palliation therapy include radiolabeled complexes of zoledronic acid)

$^{44}\text{Sc}$ -PET

$^{68}\text{Ga} + ^{177}\text{Lu}$



$^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTA-TATE PET/CT

before and after  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -DOTATATE therapy.  
Almost complete regression of the primary tumor and metastases

Production method – mass separation

**Advantages** – excellent purity,

**Disadvantages** – low yield, high cost

# Novel radionuclides for diagnostic and therapy

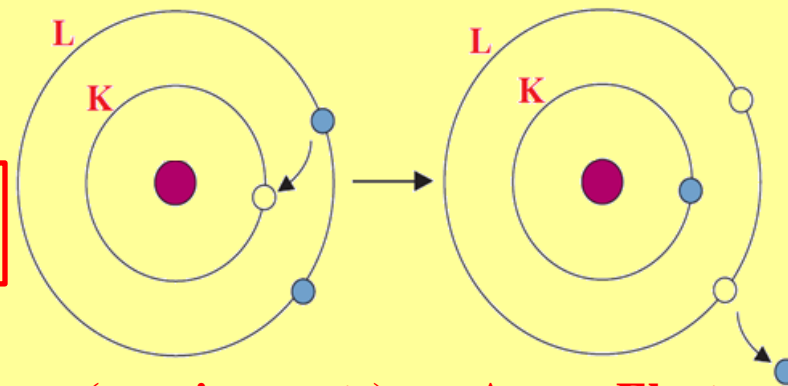
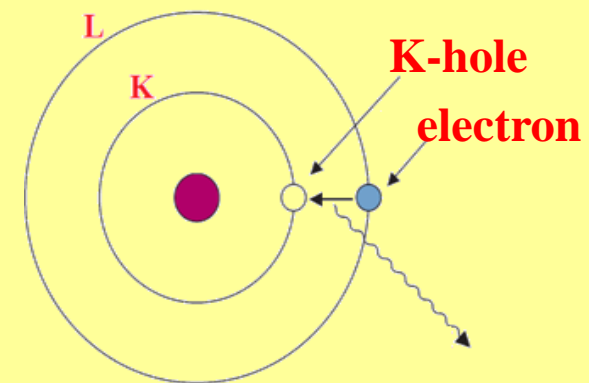
## Auger-Electron Radionuclide Therapy

An effective tool for the destruction of specific tumor cells, micrometastases and small tumors with minimal side effects.

The Auger-Electron emitters:

1) Have micron and submicron range

2) Higher energy transfer (increases the possibility of the cancer cells killing by the double breaking DNA)



**Auger Electron Emitting Radionuclides for the Therapy (requirements):** Auger-Electron

- 1) Number of the emitting electrons
- 2) Associated with this decay gamma and X-rays
- 3) Half -life time
- 4) Suitable "chemistry" for the radiopharmaceutical production

**For Theranostic were proposed:**

**$^{119}\text{Sb}$  - therapy**

$T_{1/2} = 38.2$  h, Electron energy: **2.95 (L), 21.0 (K)**  
Emission 147, 12 (on 100 mother nuclei)



**$^{117}\text{Sb}$  - diagnostics, SPECT (gamma – 158 keV)**

$T_{1/2} = 2.8$  h, Electron energy: **2.95 (L), 21.0 (K)**  
Emission 147, 12 (on 100 mother nuclei)

# Investigations of the nuclear reactions for the production of new diagnostic and therapy radionuclides

## OUR Project:

“The new radiopharmaceuticals based on biologically active synthetic polymers and Auger electron emitters for diagnostics and therapy of the oncological diseases”

## COLLABORATION:

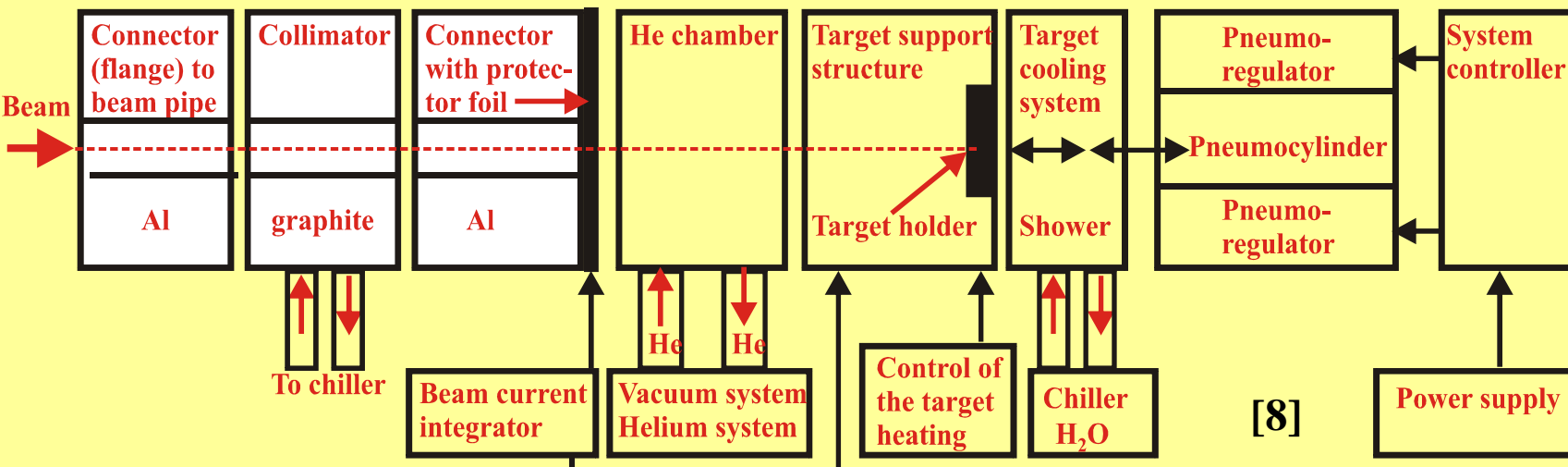
Saint-Petersburg State University, V.G. Khlopin Radium Institute

### Target unit (solid targets)

Power density  
up to **600 W/cm<sup>2</sup>**

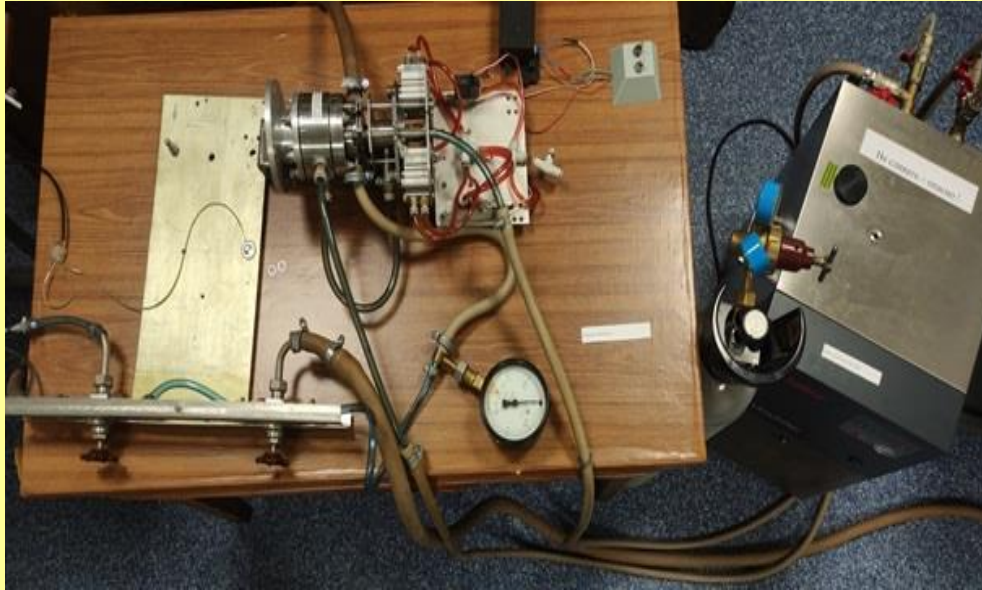
### Target system

- 1) Helium chamber
- 2) Innovative small diameter nozzle system (jet cooling of the target) for the high-effective cooling
- 3) Automatic target moving
- 4) The system for the control of the target heating



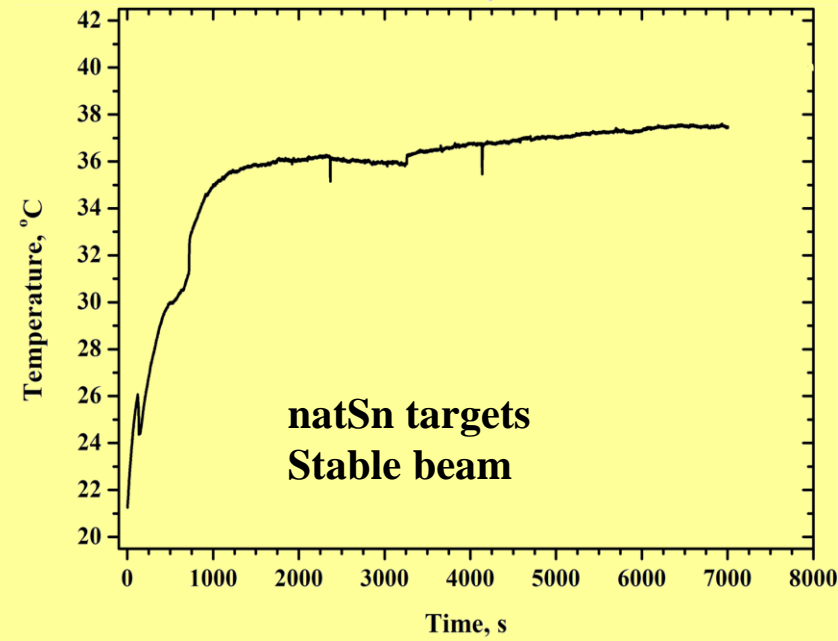
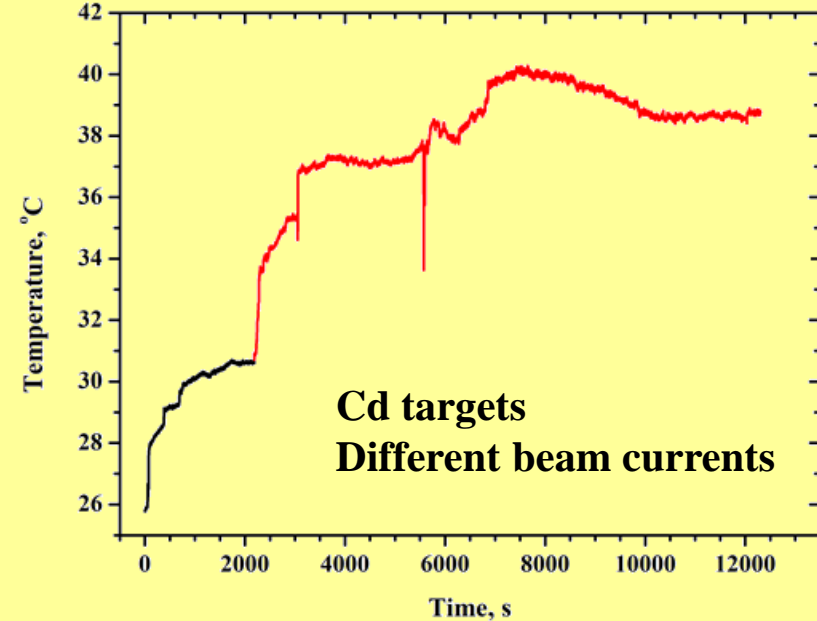
# Investigations of the nuclear reactions for the production of new diagnostic and therapy radionuclides

## Modernized target unit (solid targets)



- 1) New system for control of the target heating
- 2) Modernized cooling system

## Target heating measurements



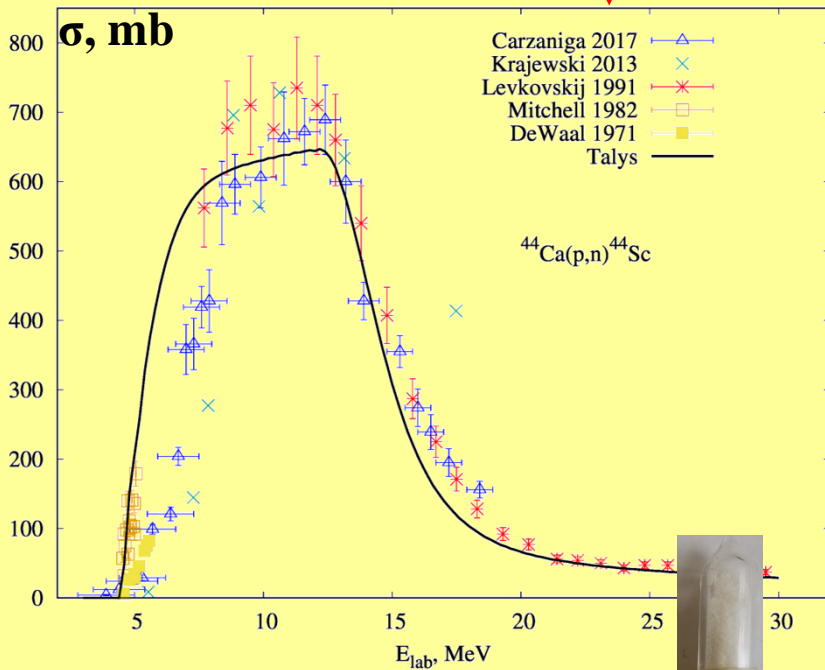


# Investigations of the nuclear reactions for the production of new diagnostic and therapy radionuclides

## Investigations of the nuclear reactions excitation functions for $^{44}\text{Sc}$ production

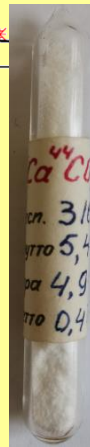
$^{44}\text{Ca}(p,n)^{44}\text{Sc}$  excitation functions

Our theoretical predictions



**Proposal:**

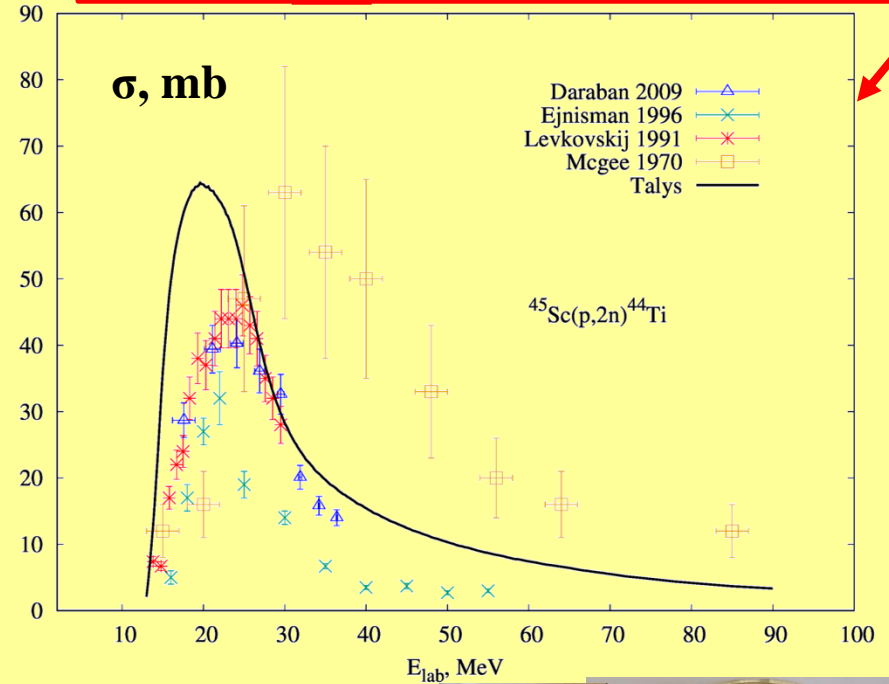
The powder  $^{44}\text{CCO}_3$  target



VS.

$^{45}\text{Sc}(p,2n)^{44}\text{Ti}$  excitation functions

$^{44}\text{Sc}$  commonly used generator



An especial target holder



# Investigations of the nuclear reactions for the production of new diagnostic and therapy radionuclides

Investigations of the nuclear reactions excitation functions

## Stacked foil method

1. Investigations of the monitor nuclear reactions excitation functions: Stainless steel foils, Ti foils, Fe-foils

Precise beam characteristics (**I, E**) measurements

2. Investigation of the nuclear reactions excitation functions for the production of Sb Tin targets. Two stages:

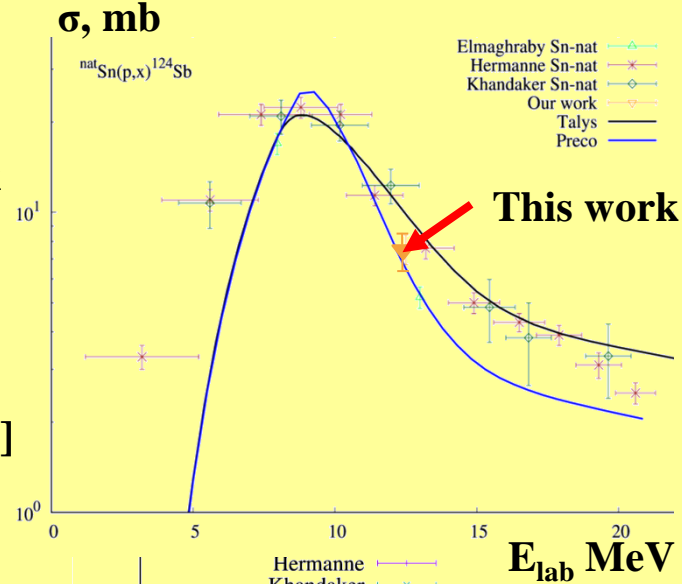
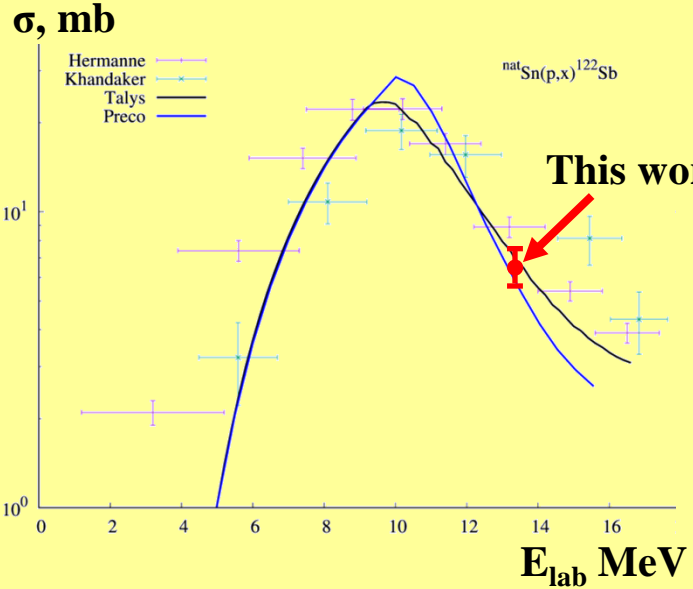
a) Investigations of the nuclear reactions on natural tin:  ${}^{\text{nat}}\text{Sn}(p,X){}^{122}\text{Sb}$  and  ${}^{\text{nat}}\text{Sn}(p,X){}^{124}\text{Sb}$

б) Investigations of the nuclear reactions on highly enriched tin isotopes:  
 ${}^{117}\text{Sn}(p,n){}^{117}\text{Sb}$  и  ${}^{119}\text{Sn}(p,n){}^{119}\text{Sb}$



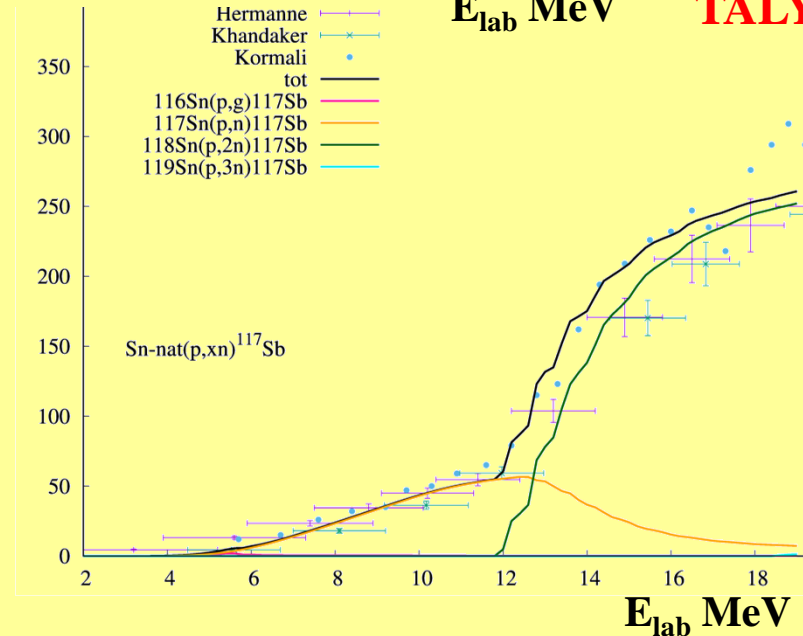
# Investigations of the nuclear reactions for the production of new diagnostic and therapy radionuclides

2) experimental studies of the nuclear reactions on natural tin + theoretical formalism adapted for the nuclear systems of the medium mass nuclei



**Theoretical models:**  
pre-equilibrium, equilibrium processes, evaporation mechanism.  
**PRECO**  
**TALYS**

**Analysis of proton reaction on nat-Tin isotopes with formation of  $^{117}\text{Sb}$  in the exit channels**



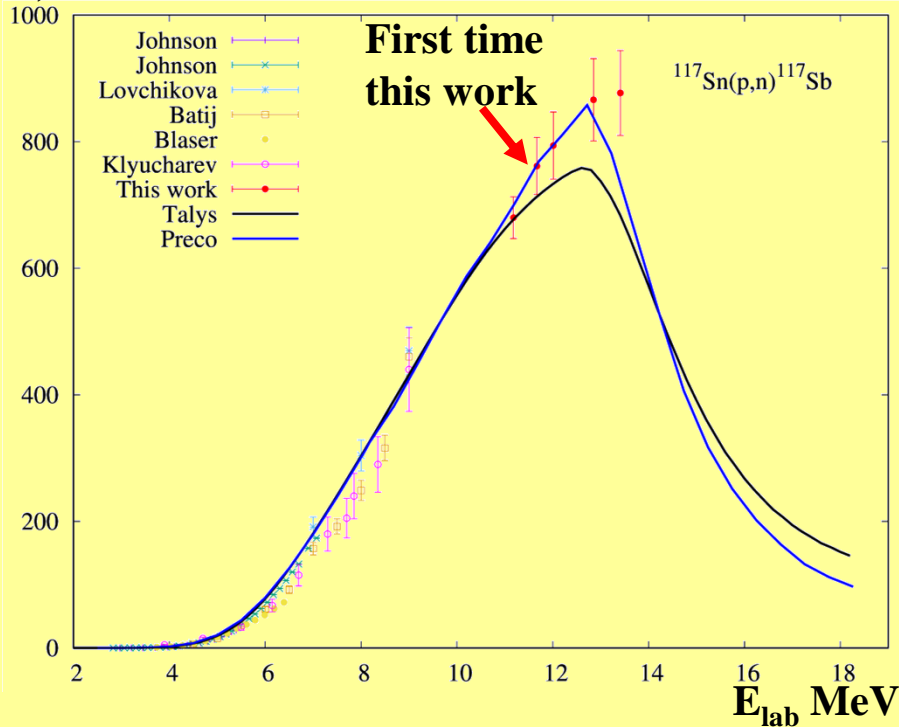
# Investigations of the nuclear reactions for the production of new diagnostic and therapy radionuclides

## 6) Investigations of the nuclear reactions on highly enriched tin isotopes:

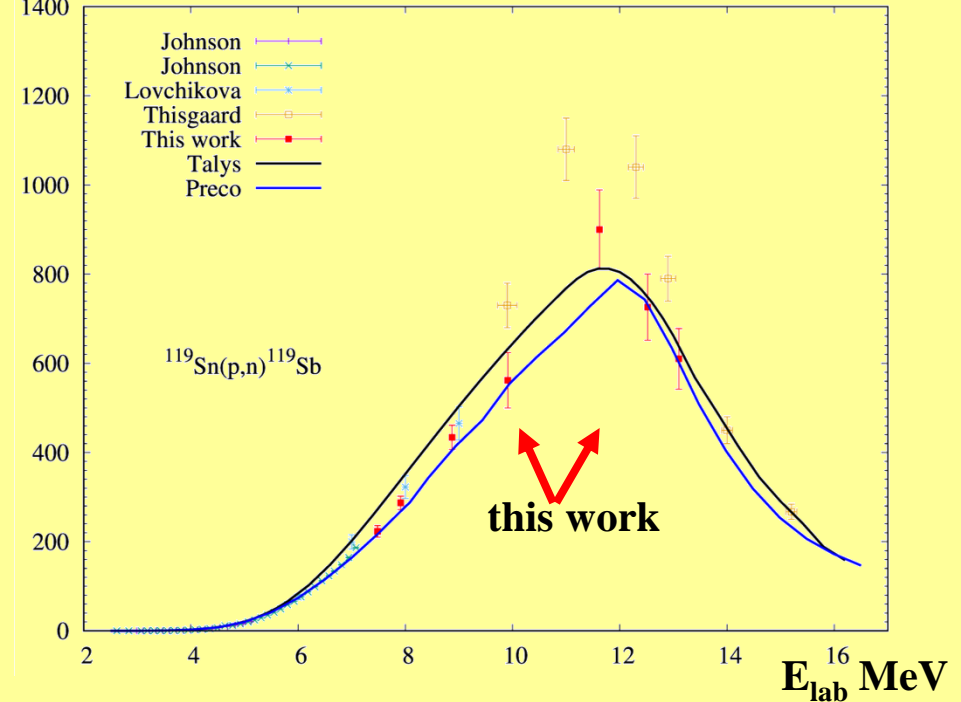
**$^{117}\text{Sn}(p,n)^{117}\text{Sb}$**

**$^{119}\text{Sn}(p,n)^{119}\text{Sb}$**

$\sigma$ , mb



$\sigma$ , mb



### New experimental data:

a) The peak area of the  $^{119}\text{Sn}(p,n)^{119}\text{Sb}$  excitation function has been investigated from 7.5 MeV up to 13.0 MeV – **7** new points

b) The first time cross-sections for the reaction  $^{117}\text{Sn}(p,n)^{117}\text{Sb}$  were obtained for energy region: from 11.0 MeV up to 13.3 MeV – **5** new points



# Conclusion

**1) Novel radionuclides for therapy and diagnostics:**

**a) Auger-Electron emitters – target therapy**

**b) registration of satellite gamma quanta for diagnostics**

**2) Modernized target system for radionuclide production**

**3) The studies of the nuclear reactions for the antimony radionuclide production**

## **NEXT:**

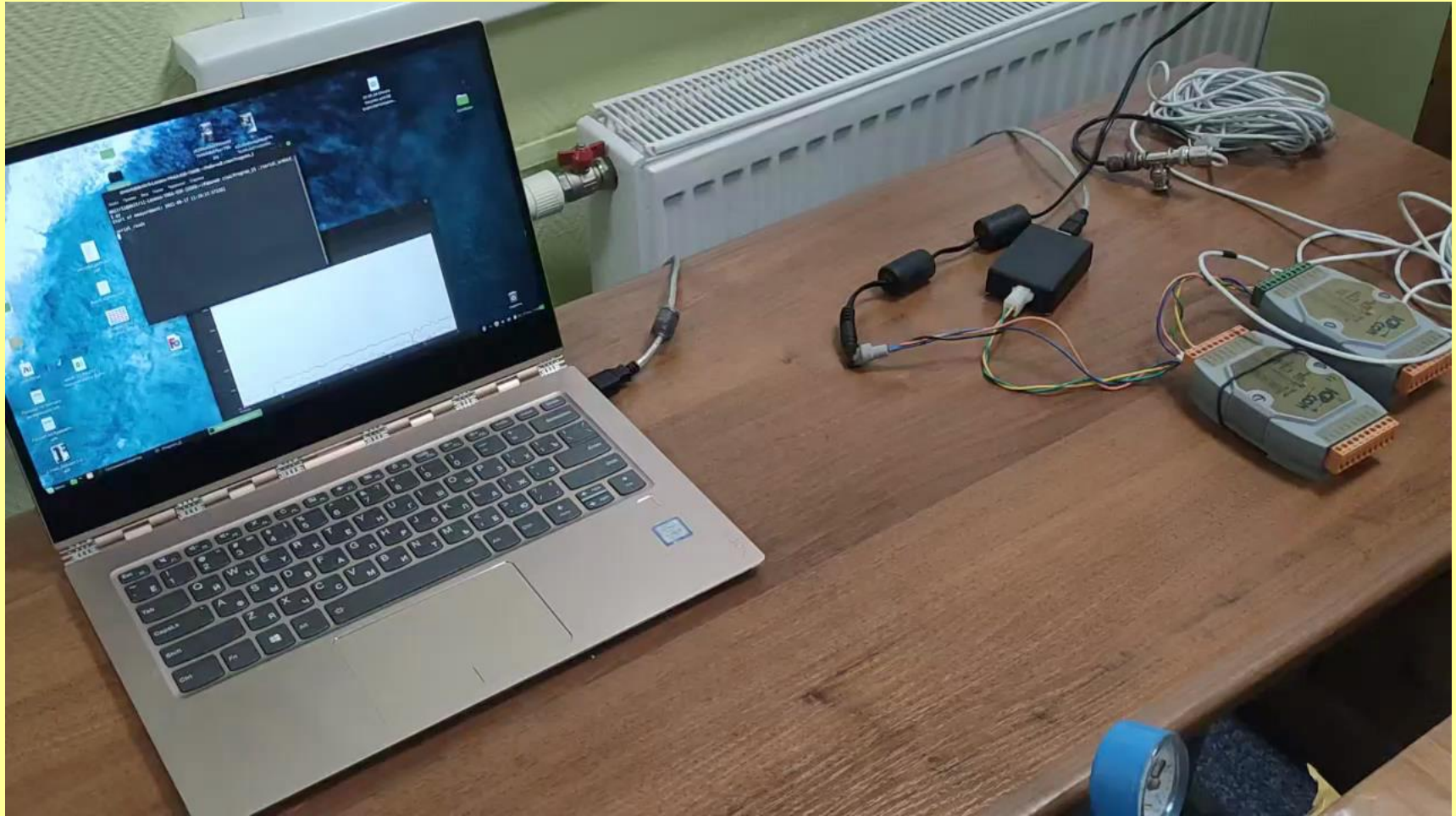
**Continue of the nuclear reaction investigations in particular in the excitation function peak area**

**Studies of the radiation properties of new polymers using as radionuclide carrier**

**Medical and biological research**

# Investigations of the nuclear reactions for the production of new diagnostic and therapy radionuclides

## Modernized Target unit



## References

- [1] **D. Volterrani, P.A. Erba, et.al., Nuclear Medicine: Methodology and Clinical applications, Springer, 2019**
- [2] **Targeted Radionuclide Tumor Therapy. T. Stigbrand, J. Carlsson, G. P. Adams, ISBN 978-1-4020-8695-3, Springer, 2008.**
- [3] **Physics in nuclear medicine. S. R. Cherry, J. A. Sorenson, M. E. Phelps. 4th ed, 2012.**
- [4] **Essential Nuclear Medicine Physics. R.A. Powsner, E. R. Powsner, Published by Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 2nd ed., 2006.**
- [5] **Medical Application Studies at ELI-NP, D. Habs, P.G. Thirolf, et.al., arXiv:1202.2238**
- [6] **Radionuclide Antibody-Conjugates, a Targeted Therapy Towards Cancer, S. L. Kitson, V. Cuccurullo, et.al., Current Radiopharmaceuticals, 2013, 6, 57-71. <http://sunradiology.com/>**
- [7] **Therapeutic Nuclear Medicine, Editor R. P. Baum, Springer, 2014, ISBN 978-3-540-36718-5, DOI 10.1007/978-3-540-36719-2**
- [8] **The Study of the Nuclear Reactions for the Production of Antimony Isotopes. V. I. Zherebchevsky, I. E. Alekseev, et.al., Bulletin of the Russian Academy of Sciences: Physics, 2016, Vol. 80, No. 8, pp. 888–893**

# **BACK-UP SLIDES**

# The new methods in radionuclide diagnostic and therapy

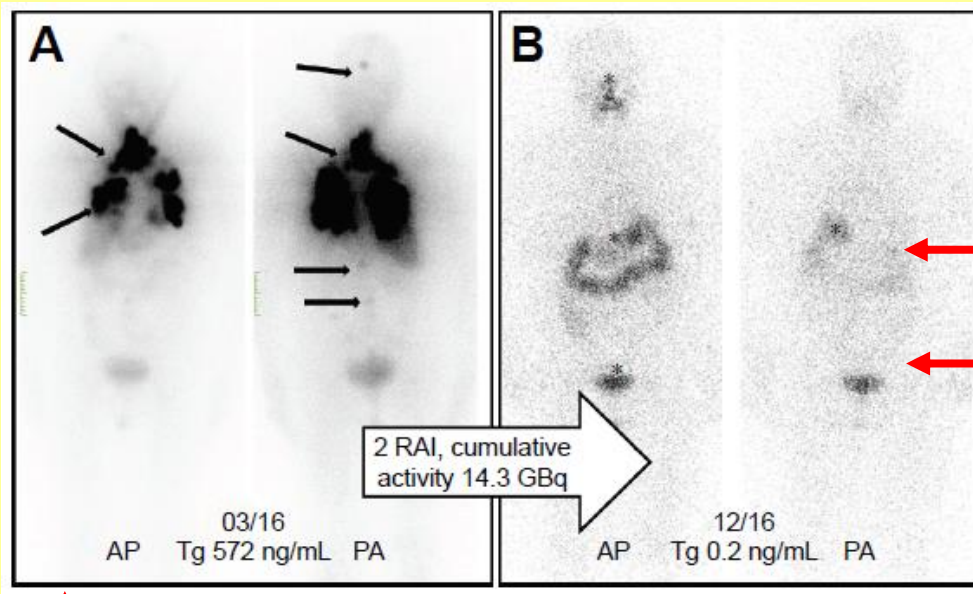
## Theranostics: history

### Radioiodine therapy: “the gold standard” in thyroid diseases

First radioiodine therapy with  $^{131}\text{I}$  ( $T_{1/2}$  – 8d) in patients with thyroid cancer was undertaken by Seidlin et al in 1946

### Iodine Theranostics today: needed for thyroid cancer (TC) treatments

$^{131}\text{I}$  combines the characteristics of a beta (90% of electrons, mean energy: 192 keV) and gamma (~81% of gammas, energy: 364.5 keV).



It can be visualized using a gamma camera or SPECT

After two administrations of radioiodine therapy (cumulative activity: 14.3 GBq), the patient was in complete remission

[5]

Initial  $^{131}\text{I}$  planar images with metastatic TC (lung, bone, intracranial soft-tissue metastases)



# The new methods in radionuclide diagnostic and therapy

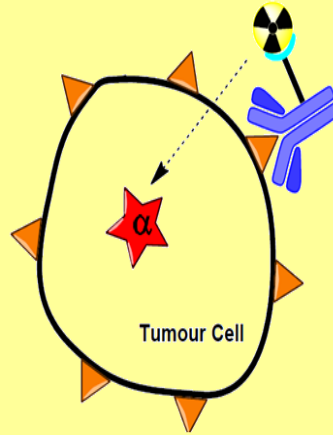
## Theranostics today – new radionuclides and methods

### Diagnostic

PET, SPECT

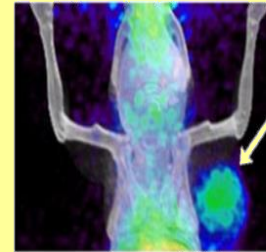
MRI, Optical methods

### Target therapy:

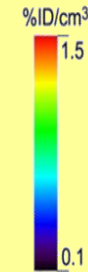
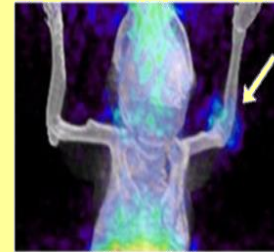


Example:  $^{64}\text{Cu}$ -DOTA-siRNA nanoparticles

nontargeted



targeted



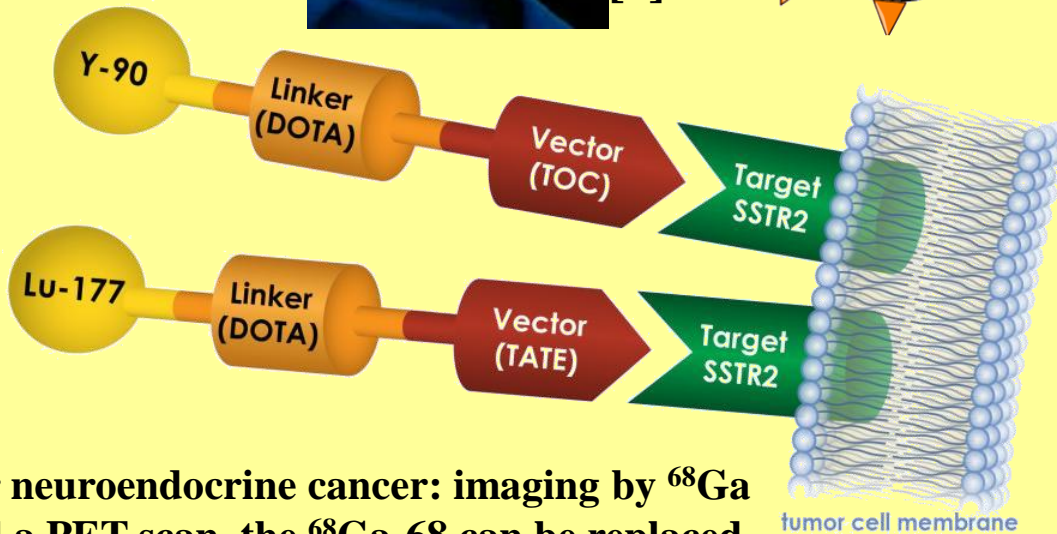
Micro (animal)-PET/CT image tumor (arrow) 1 day

[6]

Theranostics =



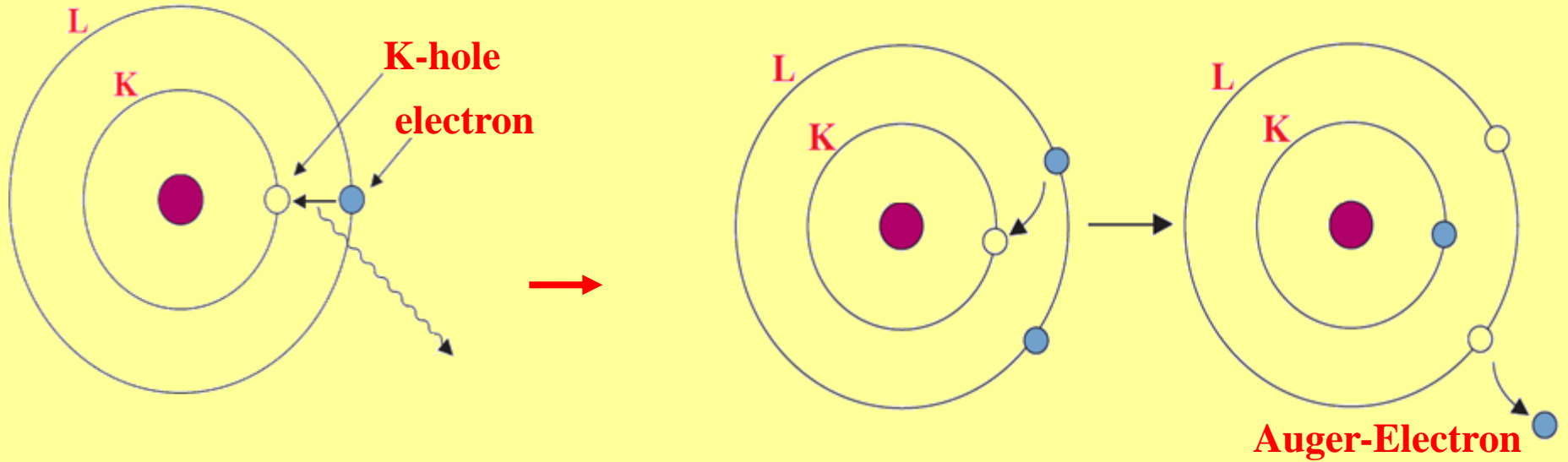
[7]



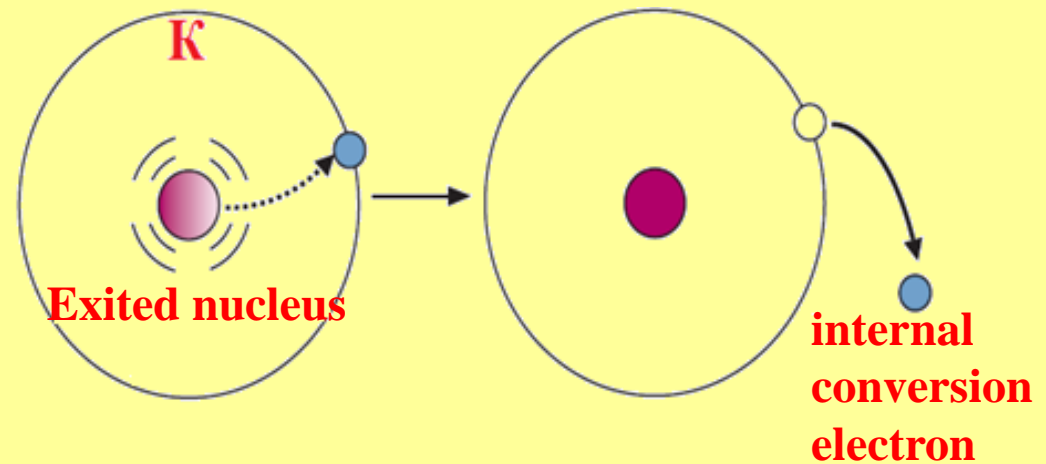
For neuroendocrine cancer: imaging by  $^{68}\text{Ga}$  and a PET scan, the  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -68 can be replaced with another radionuclide:  $^{177}\text{Lu}$  or  $^{90}\text{Y}$ , that can target and kill tumor cells

# The new methods in radionuclide diagnostic and therapy

## The origin of Auger-Electron



## The origin of internal conversion electrons (IC)



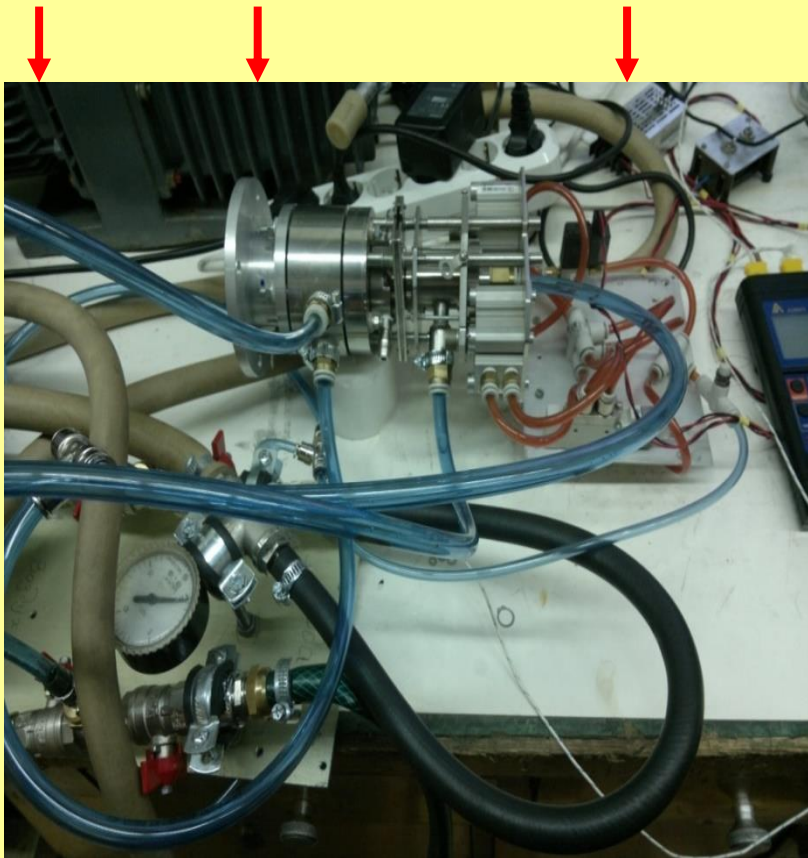
# The new methods in radionuclide diagnostic and therapy

## Auger and Internal conversion electron emitters:

Nuclide	Energy (keV)		$\bar{e}$ (on 100 mother nuclei)		Associated $\gamma$	T1/2	Daughter nuclide
	Auger $\bar{e}$	IC	Auger $\bar{e}$	IC			
<sup>55</sup> Fe	0.61(L) 5.19 (K)	no	139.9 60.1	no	5.9 (0.16)	2.744 y	<sup>55</sup> Mn (Stable)
<sup>67</sup> Ga	0.99 (L) 7.53 (K)	83.65 (K) 92.1 (L)	168.3 60.7	29.1 3.57	8.62 (0.17) 8.64 (0.33) 93.3 (0.39) 184.57 (0.21) 300.21 (0.17)	3.26 d	<sup>67</sup> Zn (Stable)
<sup>111</sup> In	2.72 (L) 19.30 (K)	144.57 (K)	100.4 15.5	8.07	171.28 (0.91) 245.35 (0.94)	2.80 d	<sup>111</sup> Cd (Stable)
<sup>123</sup> I	3.19 (L) 22.70 (K)	127.16 (K)	95.1 12.4	13.61	27.20 (0.25) 27.47 (0.46) <b>158.97 (0.83)</b>	13.22 h	<sup>123</sup> Te (> 9.2E+16 y)
<sup>195m</sup> Pt	7.24 (L)	17.01 (L) 20.5 (K) 115.62 (L)	140	69 65 61	65.12(0.22) 66.83(0.37) 98.90(0.11)	4.010 d	<sup>195</sup> Pt (Stable)
<sup>117</sup> Sb	2.95 (L) 21.0 (K)	129.36 (K) 154.10 (L)	94.5 13.4	11.57 1.46	25.04 (0.23) 25.27 (0.44) <b><u>158.56(0.85)</u></b>	2.8 h	<sup>117</sup> Sn (Stable)
<sup>119</sup> Sb	2.95 (L) 21.0 (K)	19.40 (L) 22.99 (M)	147.1 11.9	67.5 13.3	3.44 (0.12) 23.87 (0.16) 25.04 (0.21) 25.27 (0.39)	38.19 h	<sup>119</sup> Sn (Stable)

# Investigations of the nuclear reactions for the production of new diagnostic and therapy radionuclides

**New target unit (solid targets), irradiation of the targets by high-intensity charged particle beams for the production of diagnostic and therapeutic radionuclides**



- 1. Helium chamber**
- 2. Innovative small diameter nozzle system (jet cooling of the target) for the high-effective cooling**
- 3. Automatic target moving**
- 4. The system for the control of the target heating**

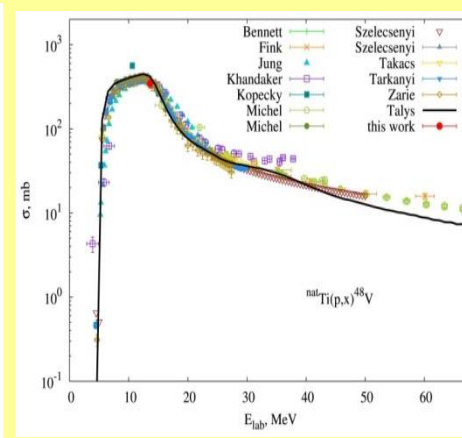
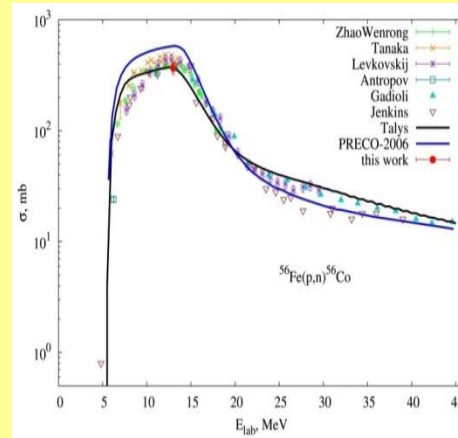
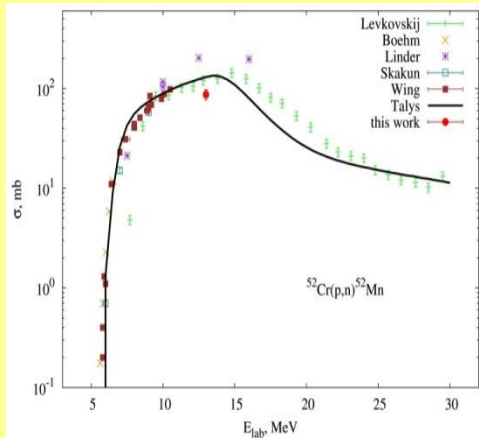
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# Investigations of the nuclear reactions for the production of new diagnostic and therapy radionuclides

## Investigations of the nuclear reactions excitation functions

### Stacked foil method

#### 1. Investigations of the monitor nuclear reactions excitation functions: Stainless steel foils, Ti foils, Fe-foil



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Precise beam  
Characteristics (I, E)  
measurements

#### 2. Investigation of the nuclear reactions excitation functions for the production of Sb Tin targets. Two stages:

a) Investigations of the nuclear reactions on natural tin:  $^{nat}\text{Sn}(p,X)^{122}\text{Sb}$  и  $^{nat}\text{Sn}(p,X)^{124}\text{Sb}$

b) Investigations of the nuclear reactions on highly enriched tin isotopes:

$^{117}\text{Sn}(p,n)^{117}\text{Sb}$  и  $^{119}\text{Sn}(p,n)^{119}\text{Sb}$

