

LhARA; the Laser hybrid Accelerator for Radiobiological Applications

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Hadron beams for radiation therapy

Robert R. Wilson

• **Wilson, then at Harvard designing 150 MeV cyclotron:**

– **Identified benefits and properties of proton beams for RT**

– **Pointed out potential of ions (carbon) and electrons**

Evolving state of the art

Particle beam therapy today

Cyclotron based

Christie Hospital Manchester

Christie Hospital Manchester

1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020 2030 2040 2050

• **Challenges and opportunities**

- **Radiobiology**
- **LhARA**

• **Conclusions**

LhARA; the Laser-hybrid Accelerator for Radiobiological Applications

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Radiotherapy; the challenge

- **Cancer: second most common cause of death globally**
	- **Radiotherapy indicated in half of all cancer patients**
- **Significant growth in global demand anticipated:**
	- **14.1 million new cases in 2012** ⇢ **24.6 million by 2030**
	- **8.2 million cancer deaths in 2012** ⇢ **13.0 million by 2030**
- **Scale-up in provision essential:**
	- **Projections above based on reported cases (i.e. high-income countries)**
	- **Opportunity: save 26.9 million lives in low/middle income countries by 2035**
- **Provision on this scale requires:**
	- **Development of new and novel techniques … integrated in a**
	- **Cost-effective** *system* **to allow a distributed network of RT facilities**

The benefit of particles

- **Maximise therapeutic benefit by:**
	- **Maximising damage to tumour**
	- **Minimising damage to healthy tissue**

- **X-ray therapy:**
	- **Modality used in most radiotherapy**
	- **Dose falls exponentially with depth**
	- **Proximity of sensitive organs limits dose to tumour**

There is a strong rationale for the clinical benefit of proton and carbon therapies, but current evidence is limited

Superior Dose Distribution of Carbon Ions Compared to Protons and Photons

A. Giacca; [RAL Lecture, 28Apr22](https://ccap.hep.ph.ic.ac.uk/trac/wiki/Communication/ExternalSeminars/2022)

Carbon Ions Provide Highly Localized Tumor Deposition of Dose (Sharper Transverse Edge)

Better Localization

- Tighter deposition in depth (Bragg peak is narrower)
- Transverse deposition is more narrowly collimated
- **Less dose to the healthy tissue**

A. Giacca; [RAL Lecture, 28Apr22](https://ccap.hep.ph.ic.ac.uk/trac/wiki/Communication/ExternalSeminars/2022)

Carbon Ions Induce More Lethal Damage Per Unit Dose than Photons or Protons

Increased Biological Effectiveness:

Relative Biological Effectiveness is 3 times protons

- Reduces # fractionations by \sim 2: greater patient throughput/compliance
- Countermands radio-resistance: non-repairable, double-strand breaks

Production of positrons permits active monitoring using PET A. Giacca;

[RAL Lecture, 28Apr22](https://ccap.hep.ph.ic.ac.uk/trac/wiki/Communication/ExternalSeminars/2022)

The need for a step-change in capability

- **Growing recognition of benefits of PBT worldwide:**
	- **70 PBT centres in operation; 40 under construction**
- **'Incremental' development of technique**
	- **Existing suppliers**
	- **New initiatives**
- **To meet the Radiotherapy Challenge require transformative techniques:**

Furthermore … exciting indications of additional benefits of novel beams …

The benefit of novel beams …

Worked example: FLASH

Conventional regime: ~2 Gy/min FLASH regime : >40 Gy/s

Evidence of normal-tissue sparing while tumour-kill probability is maintained: i.e. enhanced therapeutic window

Time line:

- **Initial reports: 2014 (e.g. Flauvadon et al, STM Jul 2014)**
- **Confirmation in mini-pig & cat: 2018 (Clin. Cancer Research 2018)**
- **First treatment 2019 (Bourhis et al, Rad.Onc. Oct 2019)**

Prezado; 13Nov19

The benefit of novel beams …

Worked example: micro beams

Conventional regime: > 1 cm diameter; homogeous Microbeam regime : < 1 mm diameter; no dose between 'doselets'

Remarkable increase of normal rat brain resistance.

[Dilmanian et al. 2006, Prezado et al., Rad. Research 2015]

Dose escalation in the tumour possible – larger tumor control prob.

LhARA; the Laser-hybrid Accelerator for Radiobiological Applications

RADIOBIOLOGY

The case for fundamental radiobiology

- **Relative biological effectiveness:**
	- **Defined relative to reference X-ray beam**

Relative dose

- **Known to depend on:**
	- **Energy, ion species**
	- **Dose & dose rate**
	- **Tissue type**
	- **Biological endpoint**
- **Yet:**
	- *p***-treatment planning uses 1.1**
	- **Effective values are used for C6+**
- **Maximise the efficacy of PBT now & in the future:**
	- **Require systematic programme to develop full understanding of radiobiology**

Biological impact from the physics of ionisation

• **Low-LET radiation:**

- *Repairable* **single/double strand breaks**
- **High-LET radiation:**
	- *Complex* **DNA lesions**
		- **Multiple DNA pathways**
		- **More difficult to repair**
		- **Enhances cell death**

0

 $Control < 0$

Hours post-IR

- **Programmatic approach:**
	- **Dynamic studies of impact of radiation**
	- **Interpret with advanced computer models (e.g. G4DNA)**

Carbon is More Effective In Killing Cancer Stem Cells

Radiobiology in new regimens

and with chemo/immuno Therapies

LhARA; the Laser-hybrid Accelerator for Radiobiological Applications

Laser-hybrid Accelerator for Radiobiological Applications

- **Novel, hybrid, approach:**
	- **High-flux, laser-driven proton/ion source:**
		- **Overcome instantaneous dose-rate limitation**
		- **Delivers protons or ions in very short pulses:**
			- **Pulse length 10 – 40 ns**
		- **Arbitrary pulse structure**
	- **Novel plasma-lens capture & focusing**
	- **Fast, fixed-field (FFA) post acceleration**

compact, uniquely flexible facility

Vision and ambition

LhARA will be a uniquely-flexible, novel system that will:

- *Deliver a systematic and definitive radiobiology programme*
- *Prove the feasibility of the laser-driven hybrid-accelerator approach*
- *Lay the technological foundations for the transformation of PBT*
	- **automated, patient-specific: implies online imaging & fast feedback and control**

LhARA collaboration's mission

Create a uniquely-flexible, novel system that will:

- **Deliver a systematic and definitive radiobiology programme**
- **Prove the feasibility of the laser-hybrid approach**
- **Lay the foundations for transformative ion-beam therapy**
	- **Highly automated, patient-specific**
		- **Implies triggerable source, online imaging, integrated fast feedback and control**

Laser-hybrid Accelerator for Radiobiological Applications

A novel, hybrid, approach:

- **Laser-driven, high-flux proton/ion source**
	- **Overcome instantaneous dose-rate limitation**
		- **Capture at >10 MeV**
	- **Delivers protons or ions in very short pulses**
		- **Bunches as short as 10—40 ns**
	- **Triggerable; arbitrary pulse structure**
- **Novel "electron-plasma-lens" capture & focusing**
	- **Strong focusing (short focal length) without the use of high-field solenoid**
- **Fast, flexible, fixed-field post acceleration**
	- **Variable energy**
		- **Protons: 15 127 M**
		- **Ions:** 5–34 Me

 $\sqrt{\mathsf{Lh}}$

Schwoerer, H. et al., 2006; Nature, 439(7075).

Sheath acceleration • **Laser incident on foil target:** – **Drives electrons from material** – **Creates enormous electric field**

• **Field accelerates protons/ions** – **Dependent on nature of target**

- **Active development:**
	- **Laser: power and rep. rate**
	- **Target material, transport**

Many initiatives in Americas, Europe, Asia

Applications in biological research, ambition to push toward clinical application …

Phys Lett A. (2002) 299:240–7. doi: 10.1016/S0375-9601(02)00521-2 Med Phys. (2003) 30:1660–70. doi: 10.1118/1.1586268 Med Phys. (2004) 31:1587–92. doi: 10.1118/1.1747751 Science. (2003) 300:1107–111 New J Phys. (2010) 12:85003. doi: 10.1088/1367-2630/12/8/085003 Phys Med Biol. (2011) 56:6969–82. doi: 10.1088/0031-9155/56/21/013 Appl Phys Lett. (2011) 98:053701. doi: 10.1063/1.3551623 Appl Phys Lett. (2012) 101:243701. doi: 10.1063/1.4769372 AIP Adv. (2012) 2:011209. doi: 10.1063/1.3699063 Appl Phys B. (2013) 110:437–44. doi: 10.1007/s00340-012-5275-3 Appl Phys B. (2014) 117:41–52. doi: 10.1007/s00340-014-5796-z Radiat Res. (2014) 181:177–83. doi: 10.1667/RR13464.1 Phys Rev Acceler Beams. (2017) 20:1–10. doi: 10.1103/PhysRevAccelBeams.20.032801 J Instrum. (2017) 12:C03084. doi: 10.1088/1748-0221/12/03/C03084 A-SAIL Project. (2020). Available online at: https://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/A-SAILProject/ Vol. 8779. Prague: International Society for Optics and Photonics. SPIE (2013). p. 216–25. Vol. 11036. International Society for Optics and Photonics. SPIE (2019). p. 93–103. Nuovo Cim C. (2020) 43:15. doi: 10.1393/ncc/i2020-20015-6 10th International Particle Accelerator Conference. Melbourne, VIC (2019). p. TUPTS005

I will not attempt a review, choosing instead to focus on opportunity

…

Laser-driven beams for rbio: example 1

On Draco @ HZDR

DOI: 10.1038/s41598-020-65775-7

- **Draco:**
	- **Petawatt laser**
		- **E = 13 J, τ = 30 fs, 3 μm FWHM**
- **Beam line:**
	- **Target Normal Sheath Acceleration (TNSA)**

c)

 \overline{E}_{45}^{50}

 d ameter $\frac{1}{3}$

 $\frac{E}{\sigma}$ 30

- **Pulsed solenoid focusing**
	- **19.5T, 2 or 3 pulses/min.**
	- **S1, S2: 40 mm bore**
	- **Half angle acceptance 14^o**
- **Measured transmission (18.6 MeV** *p***)**
	- **50.6% (dual solenoid)**
	- **28.6% (single solenoid)**

Laser-driven beams for rbio: example 2

On BELLA @ Berkeley

DOI 10.1038/s41598-022-05181-3

- **Berkeley Lab Laser Accelerator (BELLA):**
	- **Petawatt laser**
		- **E = 35 J, τ = 35 fs, 52 μm FWHM**
- **Beam line:**
	- **Target Normal Sheath Acceleration (TNSA)**
	- **Active plasma lens focusing**
		- **1 mm diameter Ar gas filled capillary**
		- **33 mm length**
		- **13 mm behind the tape drive target**
		- **~0.2% transport efficiency for protons with** *E* **> 1.5 MeV**

Variety of initiatives; some key examples

On PHELIX @ GSI

DOI: 10.1063/1.3299391 DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevSTAB.14.121301 DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevSTAB.16.101302 DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevSTAB.17.031302 NIMA 909 (2018) 173–176

- **PHELIX:**
	- **Petawatt High-Energy Laser for Heavy Ion EXperiments**
		- **E < 25 J, τ = 500 fs, I > 10¹⁹ J/cm2**
- **LIGHT:**
	- **Target Normal Sheath Acceleration (TNSA)**
	- **Ion beam is collimated by a pulsed highfield solenoid**
	- **Phase rotation in RF cavity**
	- **Final focus with a second pulsed highfield solenoid**

Capture

https://www.gsi.de/work/forschung/appamml/plasmaphysikphelix/experimente/light

Variety of initiatives; some key examples

On CLAPA @ Peking University

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevAccelBeams.22.061302 DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevAccelBeams.23.121304

- **Compact Laser Plasma Accelerator (CLAPA):**
	- **Petawatt laser**
		- **E = 1.3 J, τ = 30 fs, 5 μm FWHM**
- **Beam line:**
	- **Target Normal Sheath Acceleration (TNSA)**
	- **Quadrupole triplet focusing**

- **Measured transmission:**
	- **88% transmission through triplet**
	- **±50 mrad collection angle @ 5 MeV**

Extreme Light Infrastructure, Prague, Czech Republic:

- **ELI Multidisciplinary Applications of laser-Ion Acceleration (ELIMAIA)**
	- **ELI MEDical and multidisciplinary applications (ELIMED)**
		- **ELIMAIA section dedicated to ion focusing, selection, characterization, and irradiation**
	- **Proton energies from 5 to 250 MeV transported to in-air section**

ELIMAIA-ELIMED

Quantum Beam Sci. 2018, 2, 8; doi:10.3390/qubs2020008 Frontiers in Phys. Med. Phys. & Imag. – doi: 10.3389/fphy.2020.564907

Laser-driven proton/ion source

- **Commercial laser:**
	- **Motivation: risk management**

H.T. Lau

LhARA Capture

• **"Electron-plasma" (Gabor) lens:** – **Strong focusing exploiting electron gas in "Penning/Malmberg" trap**

MDPI

Anomalous Beam Transport through Gabor (Plasma) Lens Prototype

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Abstract: An electron plasma lens is a cost-effective, compact, strong-focusing element that can ensure efficient capture of low-energy proton and ion beams from laser-driven sources. A Gabor lens prototype was built for high electron density operation at Imperial College London. The parameters of the stable operation regime of the lens and its performance during a beam test with 1.4 MeV protons are reported here. Narrow pencil beams were imaged on a scintillator screen 67 cm downstream of the lens. The lens converted the pencil beams into rings that show position-dependent shape and intensity modulation that are dependent on the settings of the lens. Characterisation of the focusing effect suggests that the plasma column exhibited an off-axis rotation similar to the $m = 1$ diocotron instability. The association of the instability with the cause of the rings was investigated using particle tracking simulations.

Keywords: plasma trap; space-charge lens; beam transport; instability; proton therapy

1. Introduction

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One of the principal challenges that must be addressed to deliver high-flux pulsed proton or positive-ion beams for many applications is the efficient capture of the ions ejected from the source. A typical source produces protons with kinetic energies of approximately 60 keV $[1-3]$ and ions with kinetic energies typically below 120 keV $[4,5]$. At this low energy the mutual repulsion of the ions causes the beam to diverge rapidly. Capturing a large fraction of this divergent flux therefore requires a focusing element of short focal length. Proton- and ion-capture systems in use today employ magnetic, electrostatic, or radio

frequency quadrupoles, or solenoid magnets to capture and focus the beam [2,6-8]. Laser-driven proton and ion sources are disruptive technologies that offer enormous potential to serve future high-flux, pulsed beam facilities [9-16]. Possible applications include proton- and ion-beam production for research, particle-beam therapy, radio-nuclide production, and ion implantation. Recent measurements have demonstrated the laserdriven production of large ion fluxes at kinetic energies in excess of 10 MeV [17-20]. The further development of present technologies and the introduction of novel techniques [21,22] makes it conceivable that significantly higher ion energies will be produced in the future [13,23,24]. By capturing the laser-driven ions at energies two orders of magnitude greater than those pertaining to conventional sources, it will be possible to evade the current space-charge limit on the instantaneous proton and ion flux that can be delivered. While in some situations the high divergence of laser-driven ion beams can be reduced [25,26], for the tape-drive targets proposed for medical beams [16,20] it necessary to capture the beam using a strong-focusing element as close to the ion-production point as possible.

Beam envelopes Stage 1

- **Propagation of "semi-realistic" source distribution:**
	- **Generated using SMILEI**
	- **Optimisation studies on going**

LhARA Rapid, flexible acceleration for stage 2

0

0.6 0.8 1 1.2 1.4

s [m]

1

 β_{h}

 β_{v}

 $2 +$

ء $\overline{\epsilon}$ -3 H

 $4k$

-5-

- **Fixed-field alternating-gradient accelerator (FFA):**
	- **Invented in 1950s**
		- **Kolomensky, Okhawa, Symon**
	- **Compact, flexible solution:**
		- **Multiple ion species**
		- **Variable energy extraction**
		- **High repetition rate (rapid acceleration)**
		- **Large acceptance**
	- **Successfully demonstrated:**
		- **Proof of principle at KEK**
		- **Machines at KURNS**
		- **Non-scaling PofP EMMA (DL)**

-25--20

-20 -15 -10 -5 0 5 10 15 20

x [mm]

LhARA @ the *Ion Therapy Research Facility*

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CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions

- **Laser-driven sources are disruptive technologies …**
	- **With the potential to drive a step-change in clinical capability**
- **Laser-hybrid approach has potential to:**
	- **Overcome dose-rate limitations of present PBT sources**
	- **Deliver uniquely flexible facility:**
		- **Range of: ion species; energy; dose; dose-rate; time; and spatial distribution**
	- **Be used in automated, triggerable** *system* **→ reduce requirement for large gantry**
		- **Disruptive/transformative approach to "distributed PBT for 2050"**
- **To serve the ITRF, the LhARA collaboration now seeks to:**
	- **Prove the novel laser-hybrid systems in operation**
	- **Contribute to the study of the biophysics of charged-particle beams**
		- **Enhance treatment planning**
	- **Create novel capabilities to 'spin back in' to science and innovation**

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