

### LhARA; the Laser hybrid Accelerator for Radiobiological Applications

#### KENNETH LONG; IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON/STFC



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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



### Synchrotron based



#### **Christie Hospital Manchester**







#### Christie Hospital Manchester











- 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:
- Scale-up in provision essential:
- 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:
- **Provision on this scale requires:**  $\bullet$ 
  - 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

Rationale for clinical benefit
<ul> <li>Deliver a higher, targeted radiation dose with decreased toxicity to surrounding tissue compared with photon therapy, especially near critical structures</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Further increase target tissue damage with decreased secondary tissue affected compared with proton</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Specific potential benefit with intractable radio-resistant tumors</li> </ul>

### Superior Dose Distribution of Carbon lons Compared to Protons and Photons



A. Giacca; RAL Lecture, 28Apr22

### Carbon lons 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

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



#### Increased Biological Effectiveness:

#### **Relative Biological Effectiveness is 3 times protons**

- Reduces # fractionations by ~ 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



Progress in Medical Physics 2020;31:1-7

RAL Lecture, 28Apr22

## 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 C<sup>6+</sup>
- 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**



Control

0

Hours post-IR

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

-radiation

## 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

### <u>A novel, hybrid, approach:</u>

- 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

5—34 Me

- Variable energy
  - Protons: 15-127 N
  - lons:

		LhARA performance summary				
/		12 MeV Protons	15 MeV Protons	127 MeV Protons	33.4 MeV/u Carbon	
u	Dose per pulse	7.1 Gy	12.8 Gy	$15.6\mathrm{Gy}$	$73.0\mathrm{Gy}$	
	Instantaneous dose rate	$1.0 imes10^9{ m Gy/s}$	$1.8 imes10^9{ m Gy/s}$	$3.8 imes10^8{ m Gy/s}$	$9.7 imes10^8{ m Gy/s}$	
	Average dose rate	71 Gy/s	128 Gy/s	156 Gy/s	730 Gy/s	

Lh AR

DOI: 10.3389/fphy.2020

September 2020;

ront. Phys., 29



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

#### <u>On Draco @ HZDR</u>

DOI: 10.1038/s41598-020-65775-7

- Draco:
  - Petawatt laser
    - E = 13 J,  $\tau$  = 30 fs, 3  $\mu$ m FWHM
- Beam line:
  - Target Normal Sheath Acceleration (TNSA)

c)

E 45

eter 40

diam 35

36am

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



## Laser-driven beams for rbio: example 2

#### <u>On BELLA @ Berkeley</u>

DOI 10.1038/s41598-022-05181-3

- Berkeley Lab Laser Accelerator (BELLA):
  - Petawatt laser
    - E = 35 J,  $\tau = 35 fs$ , 52  $\mu m$  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:**  $\mathbf{O}$ 
  - Petawatt High-Energy Laser for Heavy **Ion EXperiments** 
    - $E < 25 J, \tau = 500 fs, I > 10^{19} J/cm^2$
- 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,  $\tau$  = 30 fs, 5  $\mu$ m FWHM
- Beam line:
  - Target Normal Sheath Acceleration (TNSA)
  - Quadrupole triplet focusing

TABLE I. The CLAPA beam line parameters.									
Туре	Length	Aperture	Max B	# turns	Current				
Q1	100 mm	30 mm	5 KGs/cm	16	300 A				
Q2	200 mm	64 mm	2.5 KGs/cm	20	540 A				
O3	100 mm	64 mm	2.5 KGs/cm	20	540 A				

- 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







MQPI

#### Article 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 scinillator screen  $\mathcal{S}$  can 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. Trancterisation 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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Whyte, C. Anomalous Beam Transport through Gabor (Plasma) Lens Prototype. Appl. Sci. 2021, 17, 4357. https://doi.org/10.3390/ app11104357

Dascalu, T.S.; Bingham, R.; Cheung, C.L.; Lau, H.T.; Long, K.; Pozimski, L;

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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  $60 \, \mathrm{keV}$  [1–3] and ions with kinetic energies typically below 120  $\, \mathrm{keV}$  [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  $12/\epsilon-81$ .

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 laser-driven production of large on 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 to 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 ions 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



# Rapid, flexible acceleration for stage 2

Ē

0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 1.2 1.4 1.6

s [m]

- 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)



-20 -25\_\_\_

-10

-5

x [mm

-15

10

15



### LhARA @ the Ion Therapy Research Facility



14 June 2021



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LhARA; the Laser-hybrid Accelerator for Radiobiological Applications

## 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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