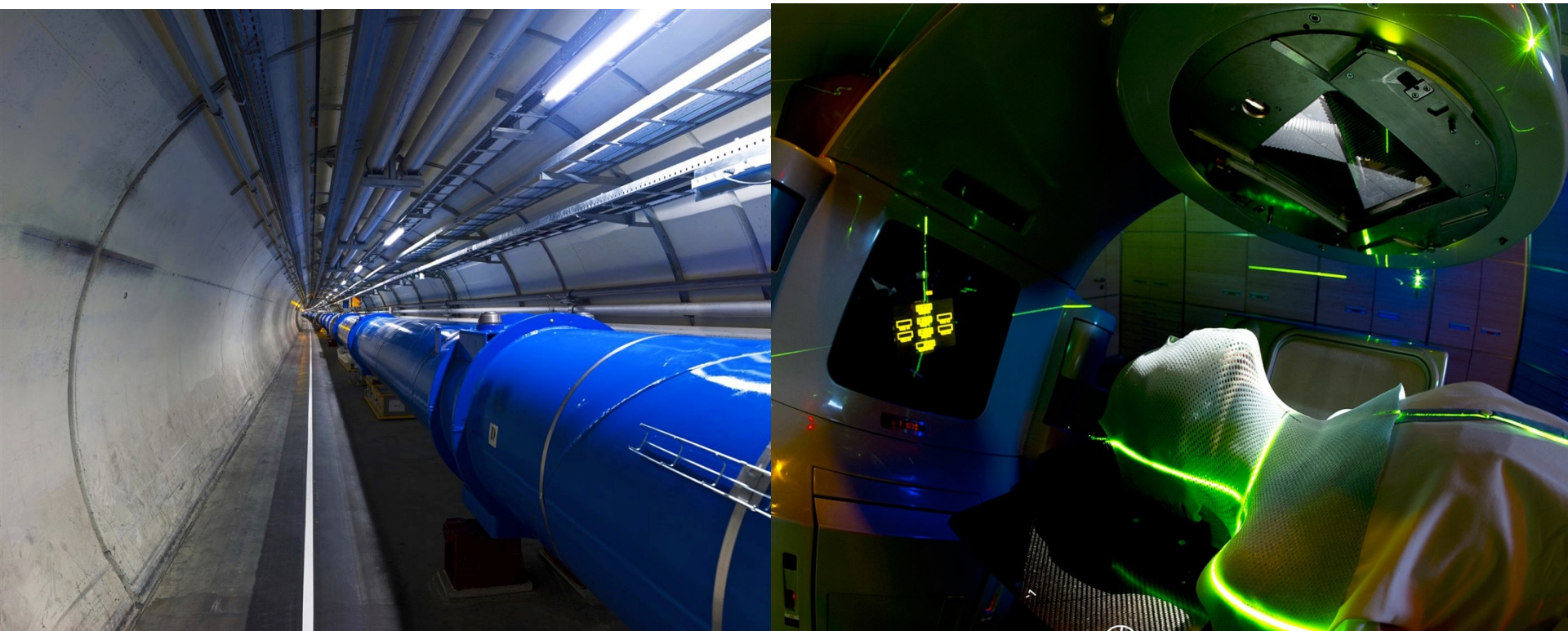


# From Physics to Medical Applications



Manjit Dosanjh

[Manjit.Dosanjh@cern.ch](mailto:Manjit.Dosanjh@cern.ch)

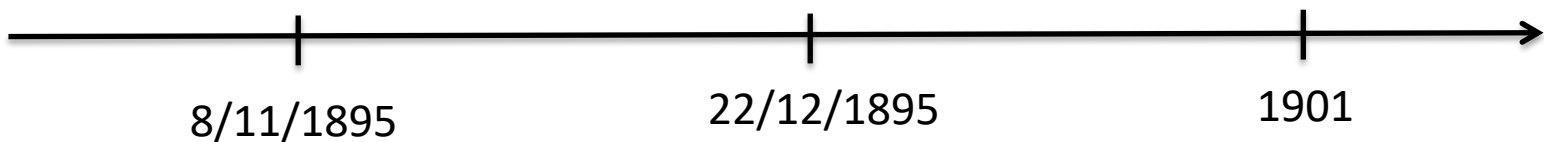
UK Teacher Programme, 07.12. 2023



# Modern medical physics.....beginnings



Wilhelm Röntgen

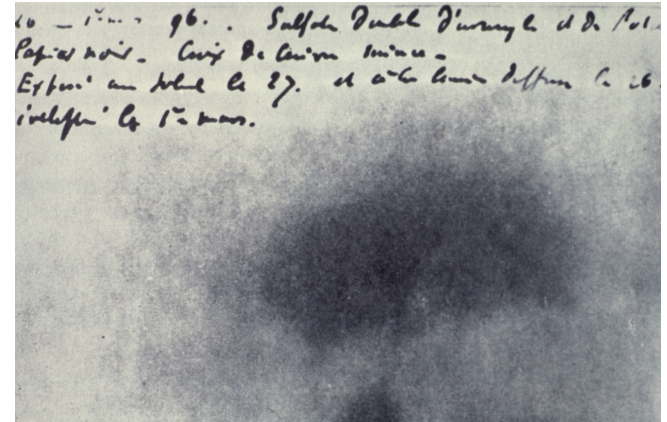


.....beginnings



Henri Becquerel

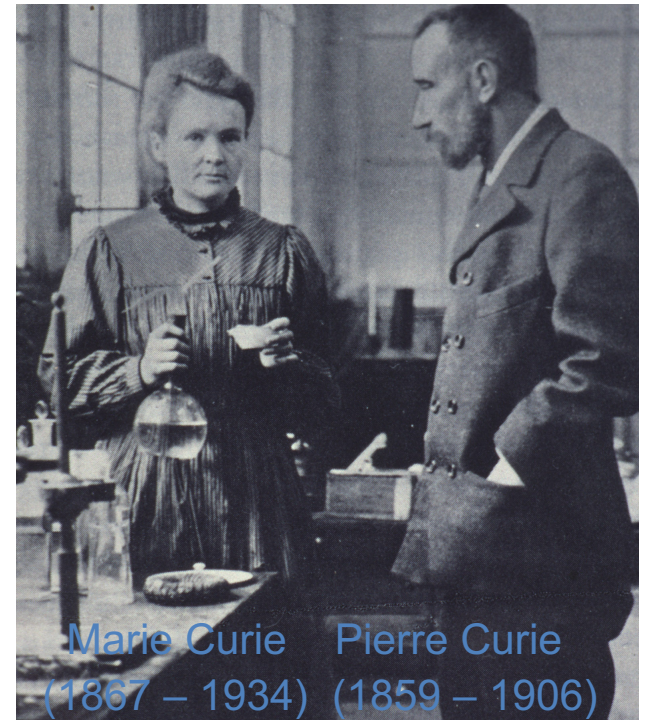
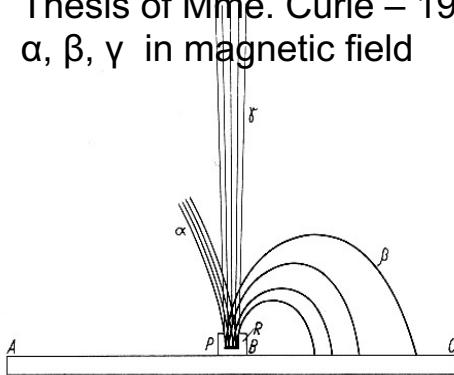
**1896:**  
**Discovery of natural radioactivity**



**1898: Discovery of radium**

**used immediately for “Brachytherapy”**

Thesis of Mme. Curie – 1904  
 $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$  in magnetic field



Marie Curie (1867 – 1934) Pierre Curie (1859 – 1906)

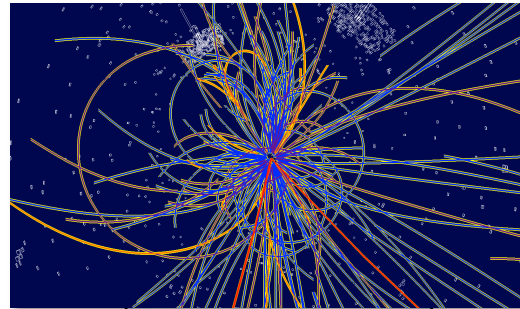
# First radiobiology experiment



Pierre Curie and Henri Becquerel

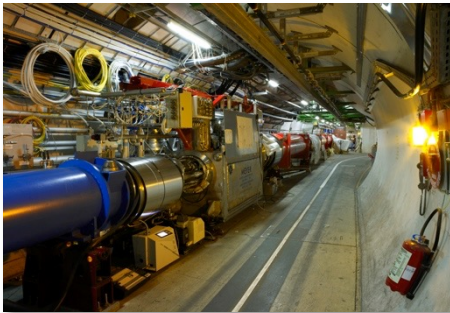


# CERN and Physics Technologies



Detecting particles

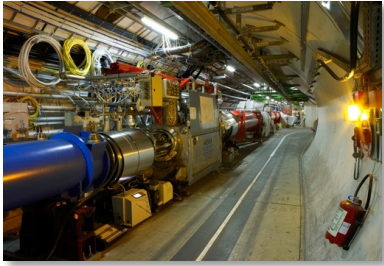
Accelerating particle beams



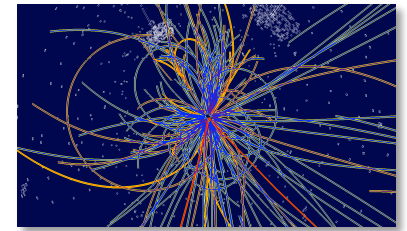
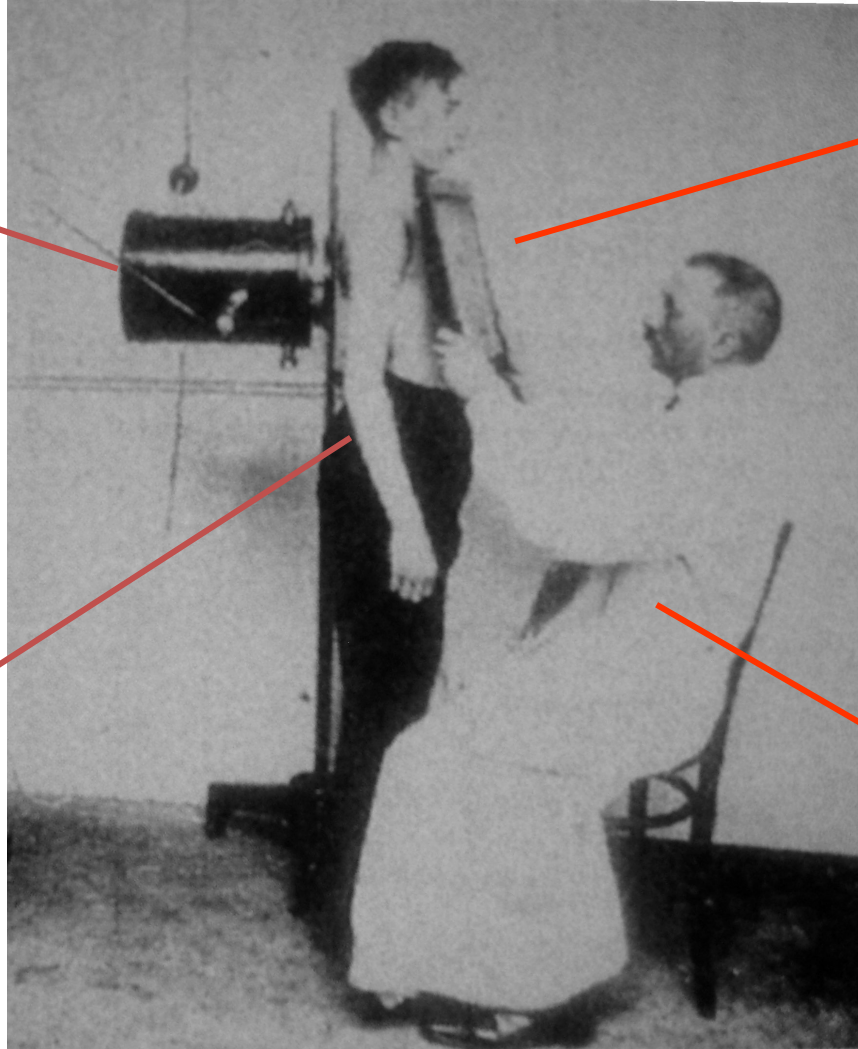
Large-scale computing (Grid)



Higgs



**X-ray source**



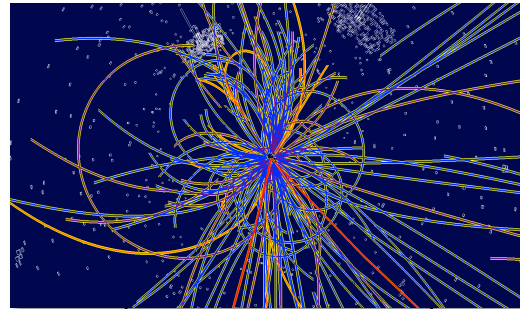
**Detector**



**Pattern Recognition System**

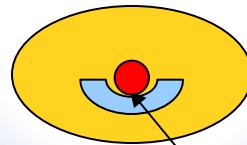
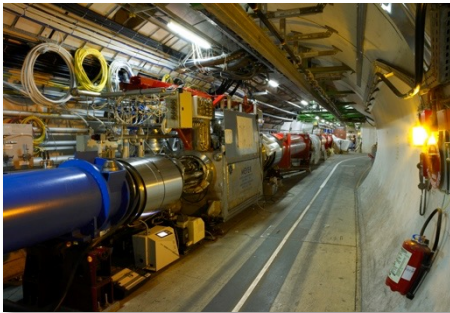
**Object**

# Physics Technologies helping health



Detecting particles

Accelerating particle beams



**CANCER**

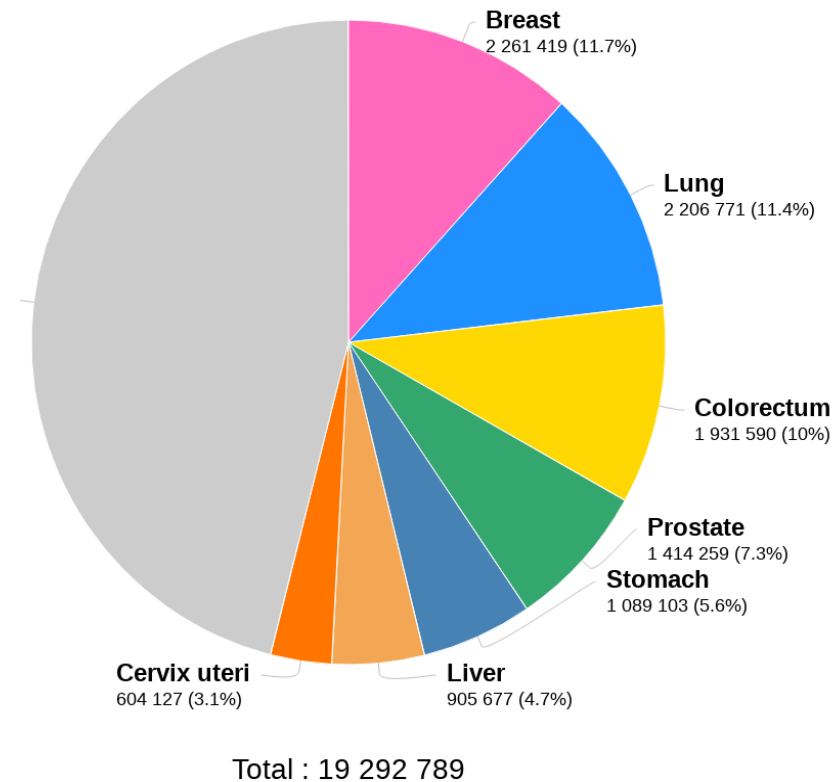
Large-scale computing (Grid)





# Cancer is a growing global challenge

- Globally **19.3** million new cases per year diagnosed and **9.96** million deaths in **2020**
- This will increase to **27.5** million new cases per year and **16.3** million deaths by **2040**
- **70% of these deaths** will occur in low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs)

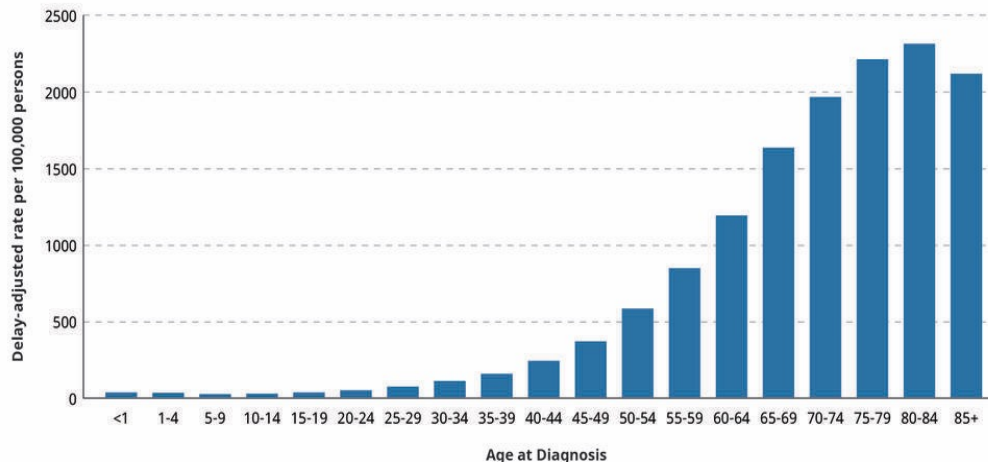


*Data source: GLOBOSCAN 2020*

**Radiation therapy is a key tool for treatment for about 50% patients**

# Cancer is a growing global challenge

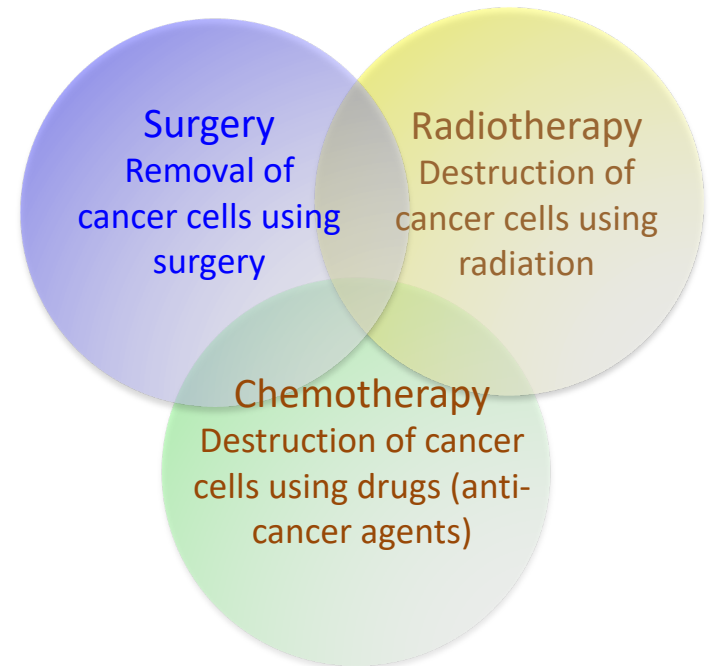
- 2020 Globally **19.3** million new cases per year diagnosed and **10** million deaths
- By 2040 this will increase to **27.5** million new cases per year and **16.3** million deaths
- **70% of these deaths** will occur in low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs)
- Nearly 50-60% of all cancers can benefit from RT for cure or palliation



- **Age** is the biggest factor
- More than nine out of 10 cancers are diagnosed in people **>45 and older**.
- Older than **70 make up almost quarter** of all new cases
- **1 in 4 cancer deaths** are caused by **smoking**
- **1 in 2 person** will get cancer in the UK

# What is Cancer?

- Tumour: what is it?
  - Abnormal growth of cells
  - Malignant: uncontrolled, can spread → cancer



# Cancer Treatment and Improving Outcomes

Ideally one needs to treat:

The tumour

The whole tumour

And nothing **BUT** the tumour

Treatment has **two important goals** to **kill** the tumour and **protect** the surrounding normal tissue. Therefore **“seeing”** in order to know where and precise **“delivery”** to make sure it goes where it should are **key**.



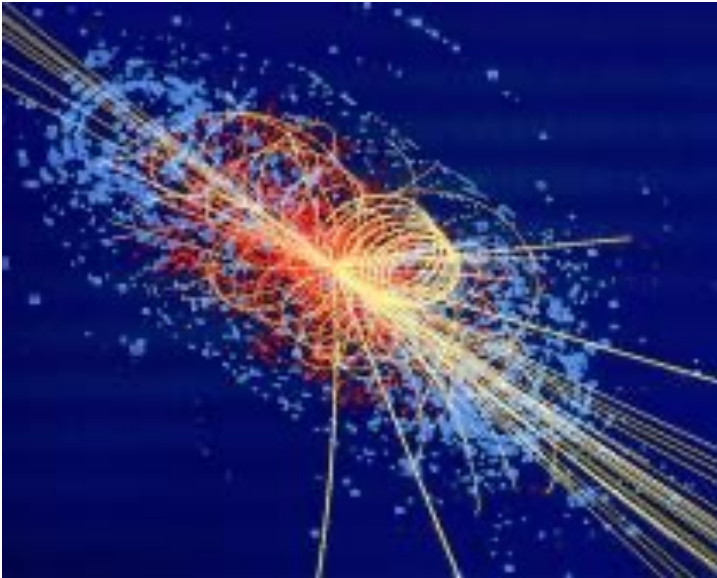
Early Diagnosis

Local Control

Fewer Side-effects

# Detectors and art of seeing.....

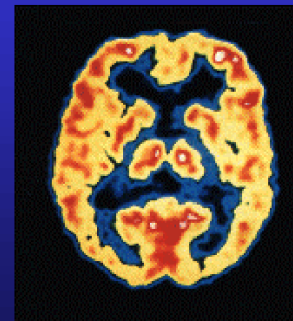
## Particle Detection



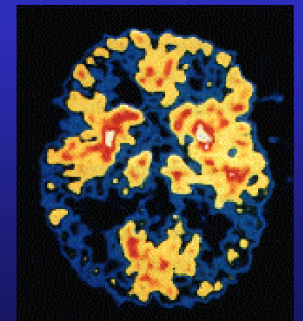
## Imaging

X-ray, CT, PET, MRI

Brain Metabolism in Alzheimer's Disease: PET Scan

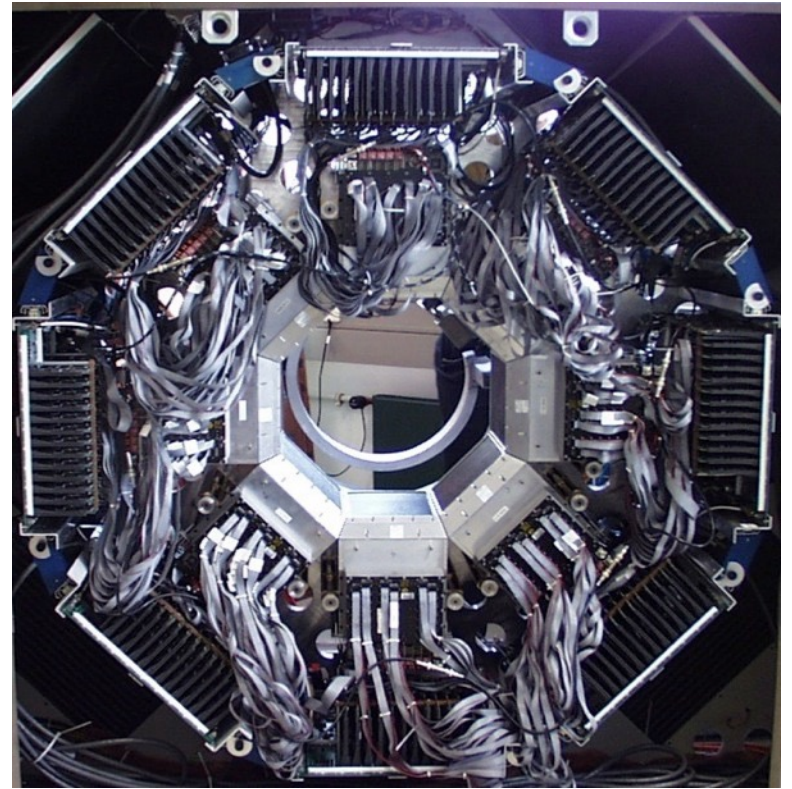
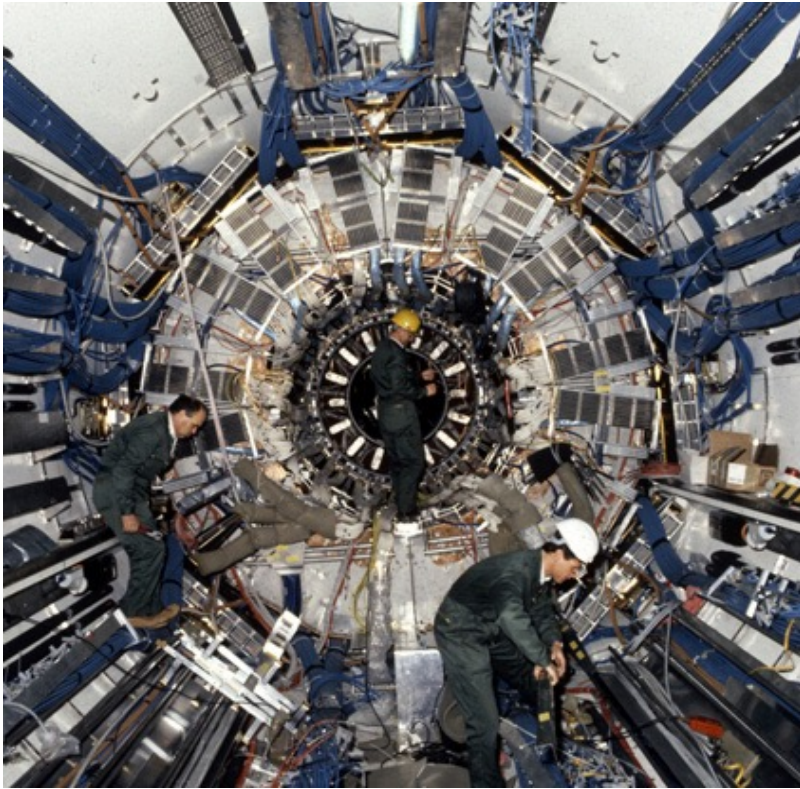


Normal Brain

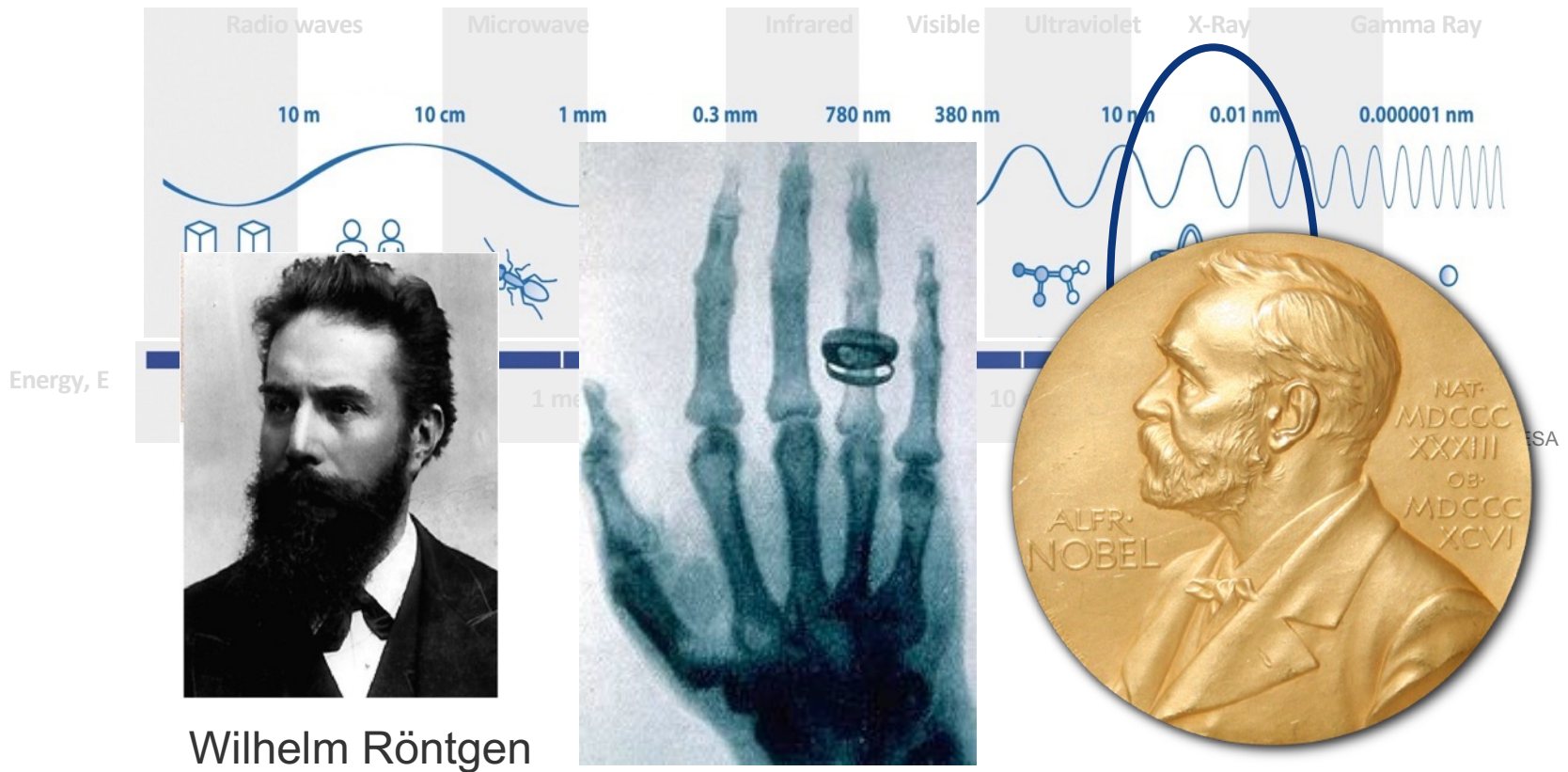


Alzheimer's Disease

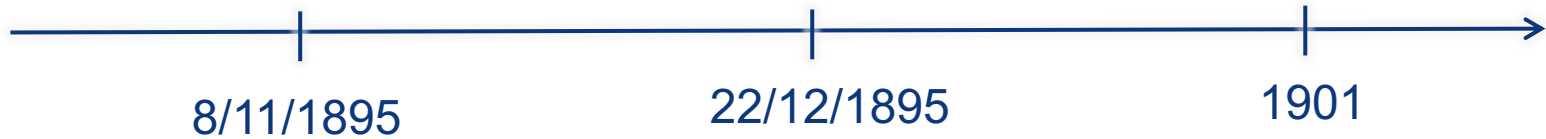
# The detector challenge



# X-ray imaging



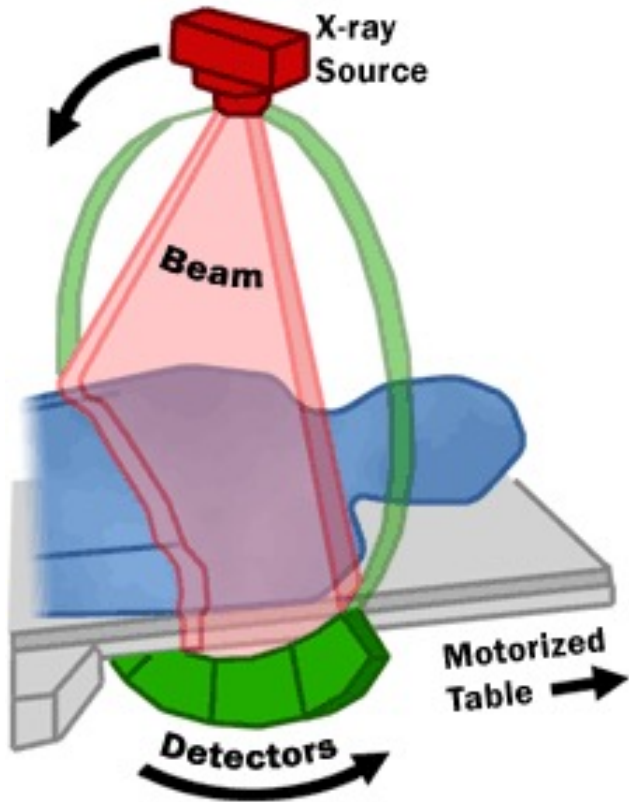
Wilhelm Röntgen



First time we could see beneath the skin without cutting open the patient

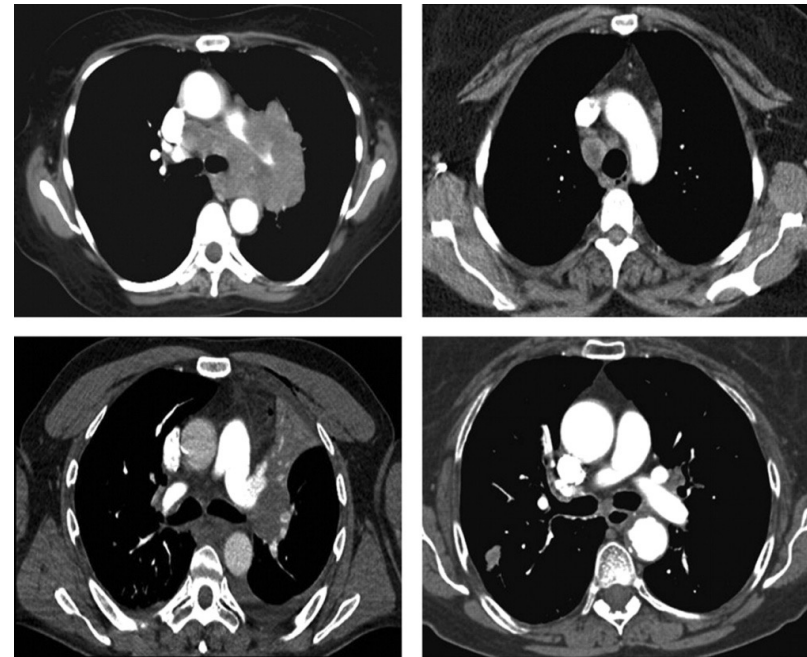
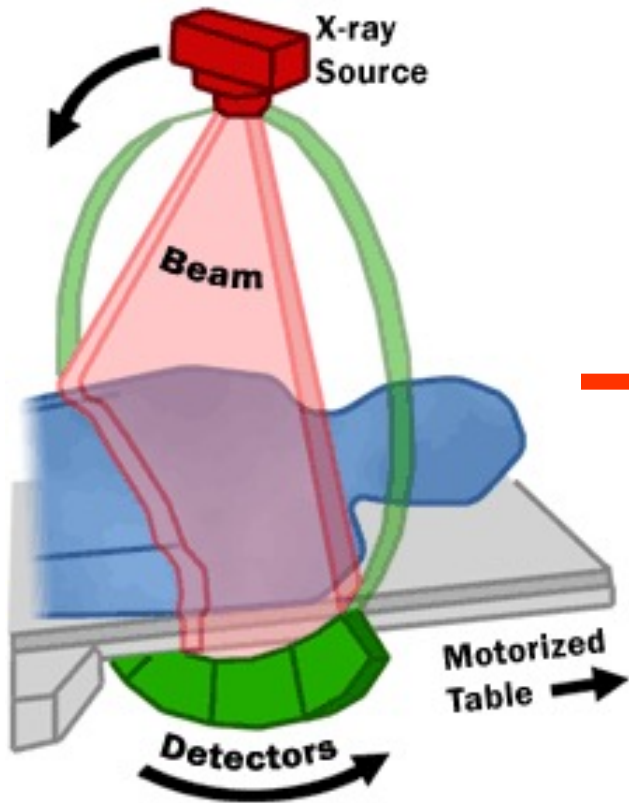
# CT – Computed Tomography

## *3d X-rays imaging*





# CT – Computed Tomography

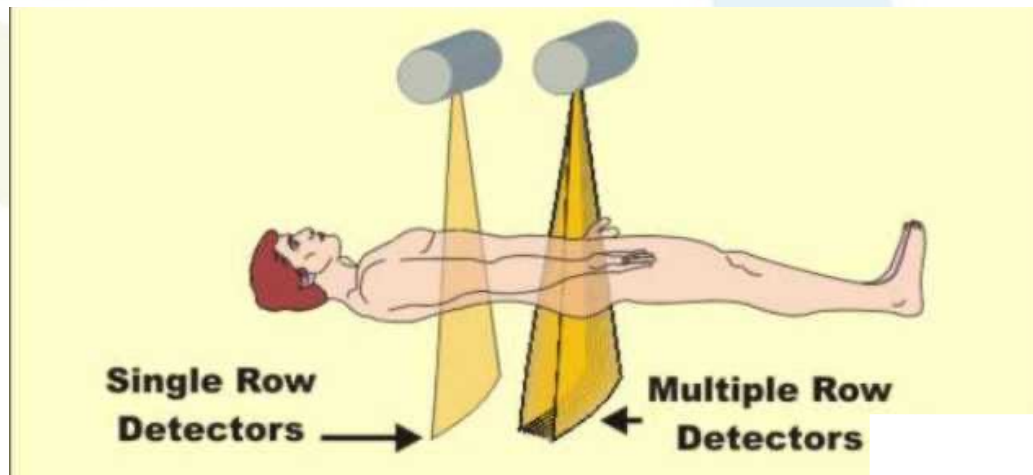


*“3D-imaging”*

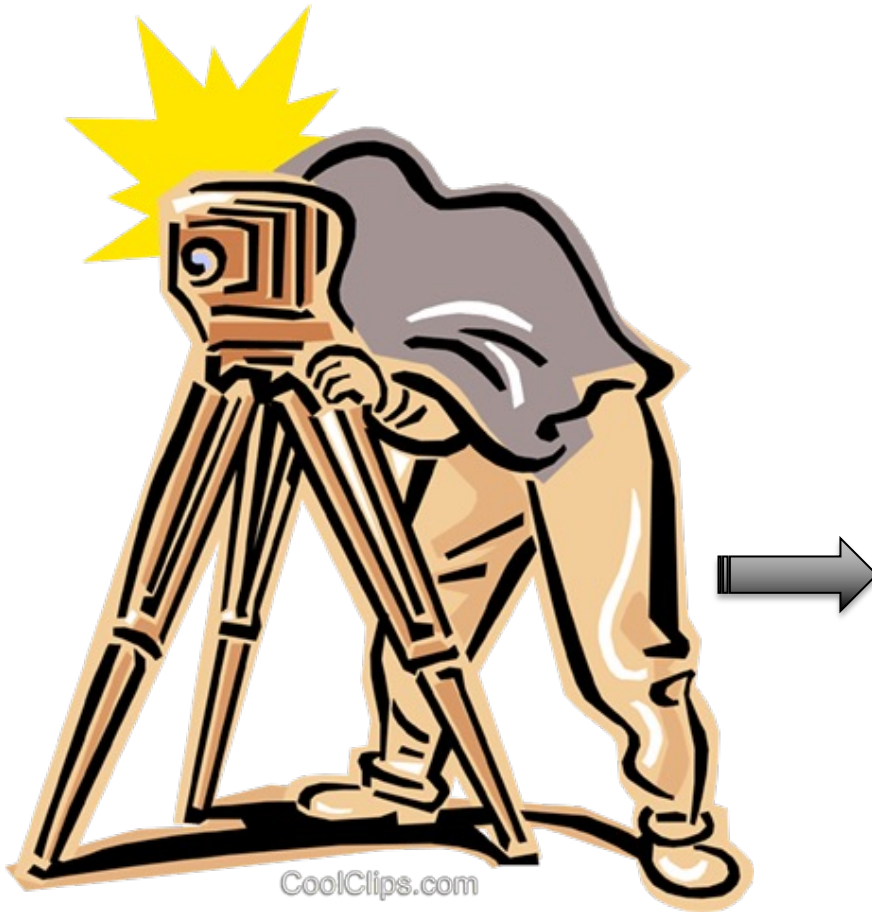
# X-ray CT is a key driver of change in medical imaging

2000-2008 “CT Slice War”

- *CT became very fast with small voxel / pixels*
  - 2000: acquire a single transverse slice per rotation
  - 2012: acquire up to 64-500 slices per rotation



# Revolution in Photography

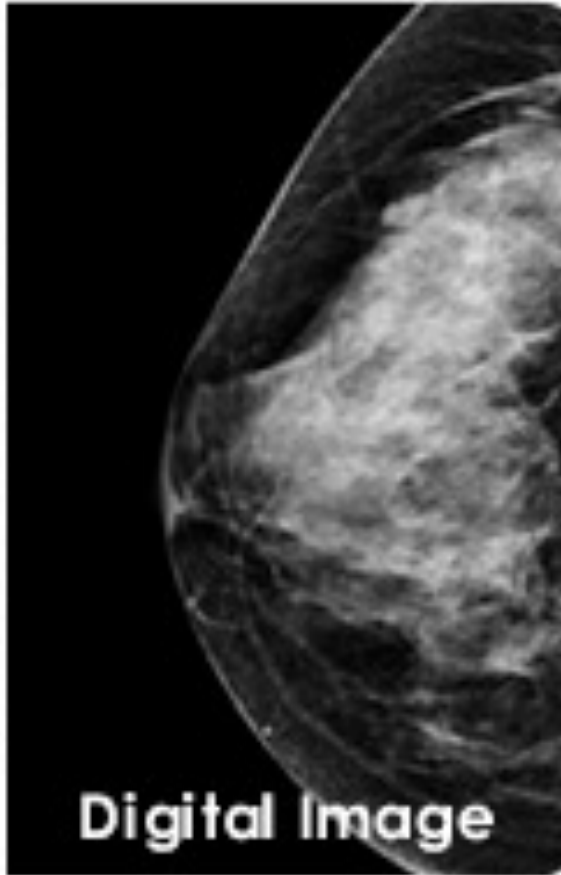
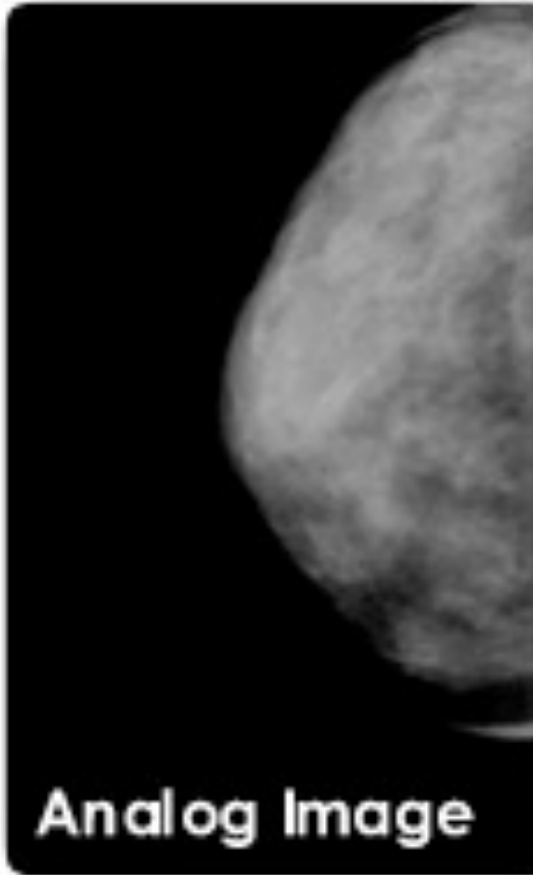


From black and white photos

To

Modern High-Tech photography

# Towards digital colour x-ray imaging



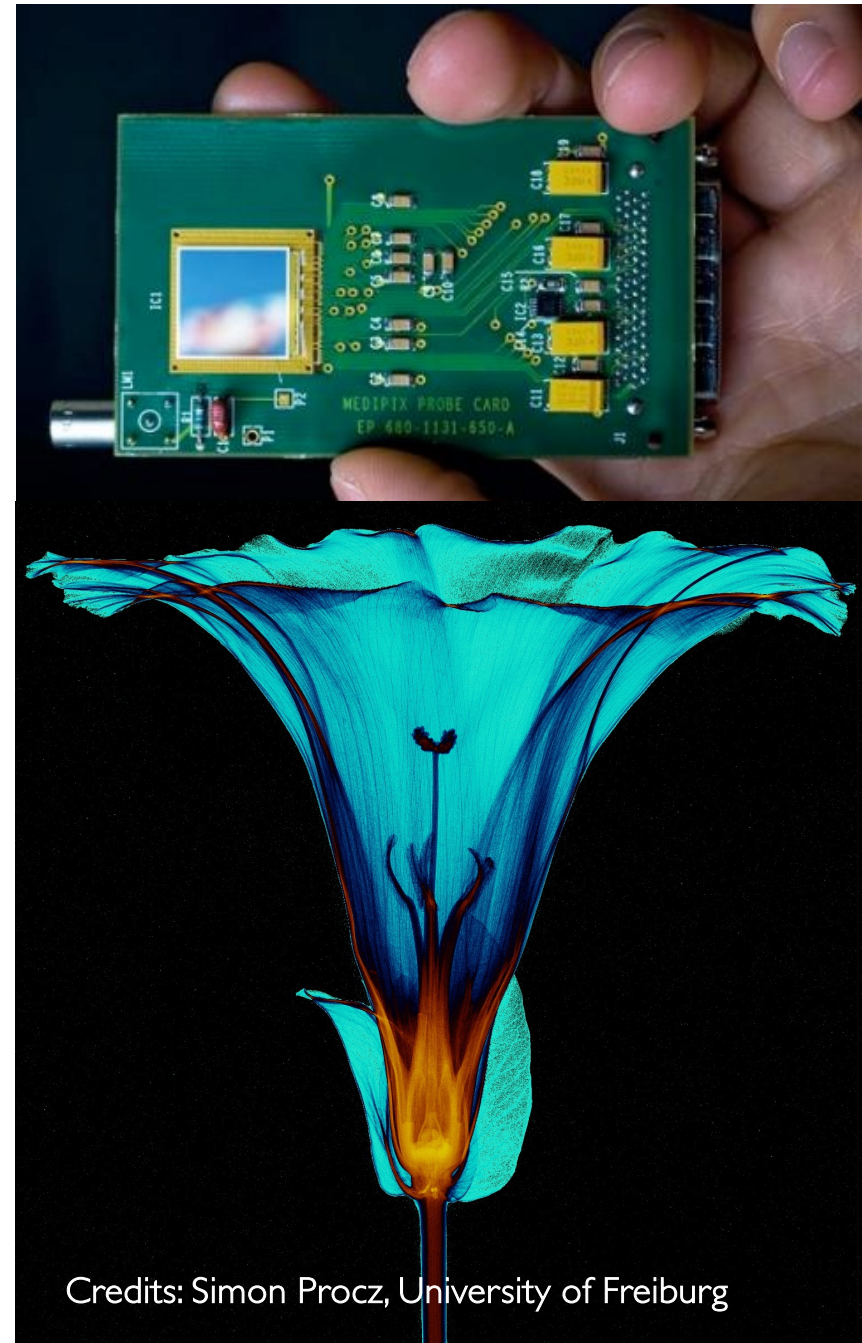
# Medipix

- High Energy Physics original development:

- Particle track detectors
- Allows counting of single photons in contrast to traditional charge integrating devices like film or CCD

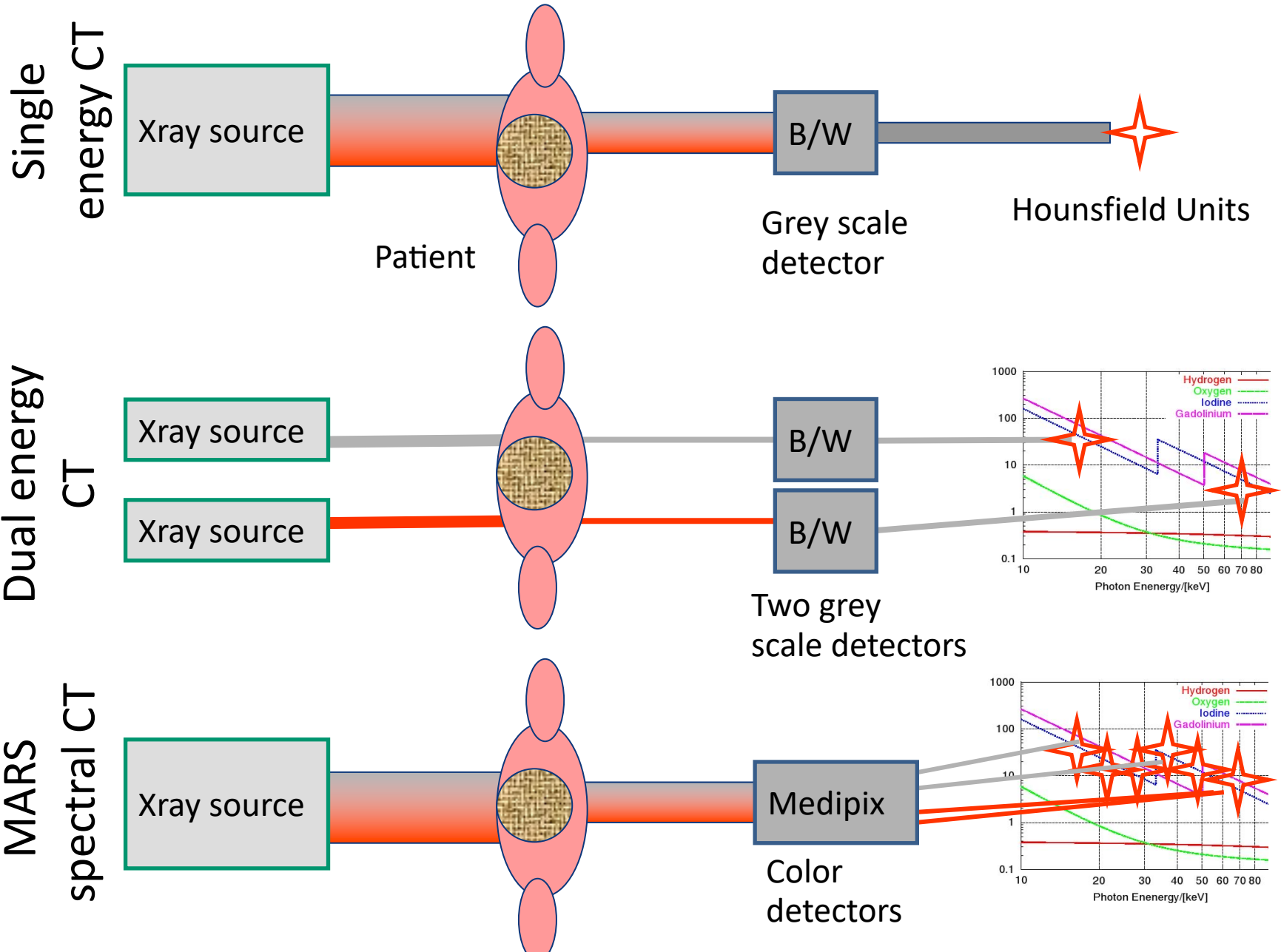
- Main properties:

- Fully digital device
- Very high space resolution
- Very fast photon counting
- Good conversion efficiency of low energy X-rays



Credits: Simon Procz, University of Freiburg

# Single-, dual-, and spectral CT



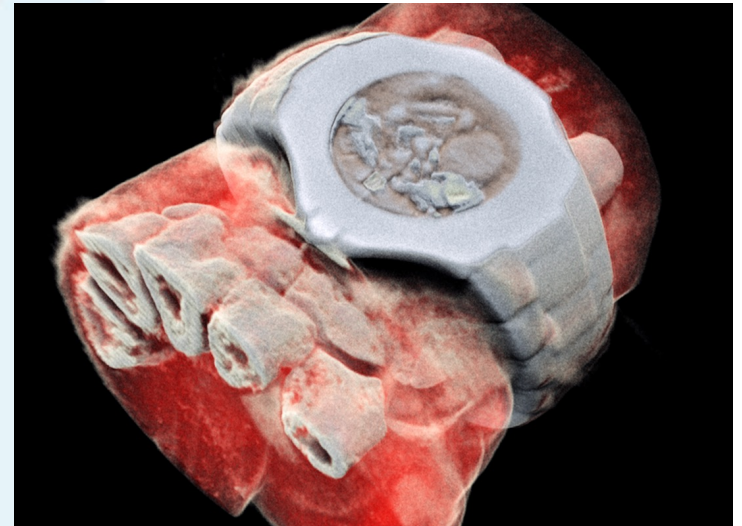
# Spectral CT is now possible

## Medipix All Resolution System

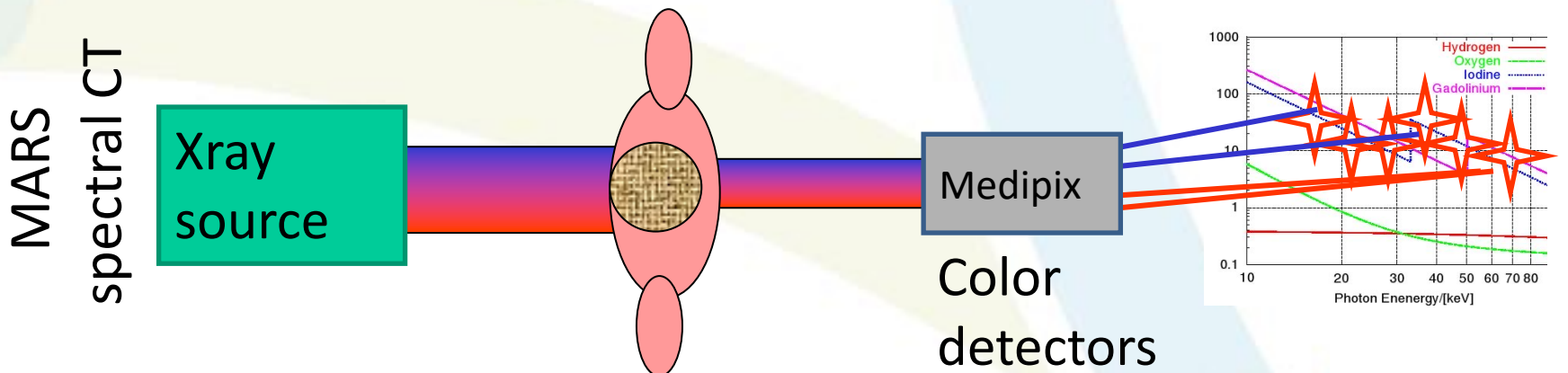
Energy resolution

Spatial resolution

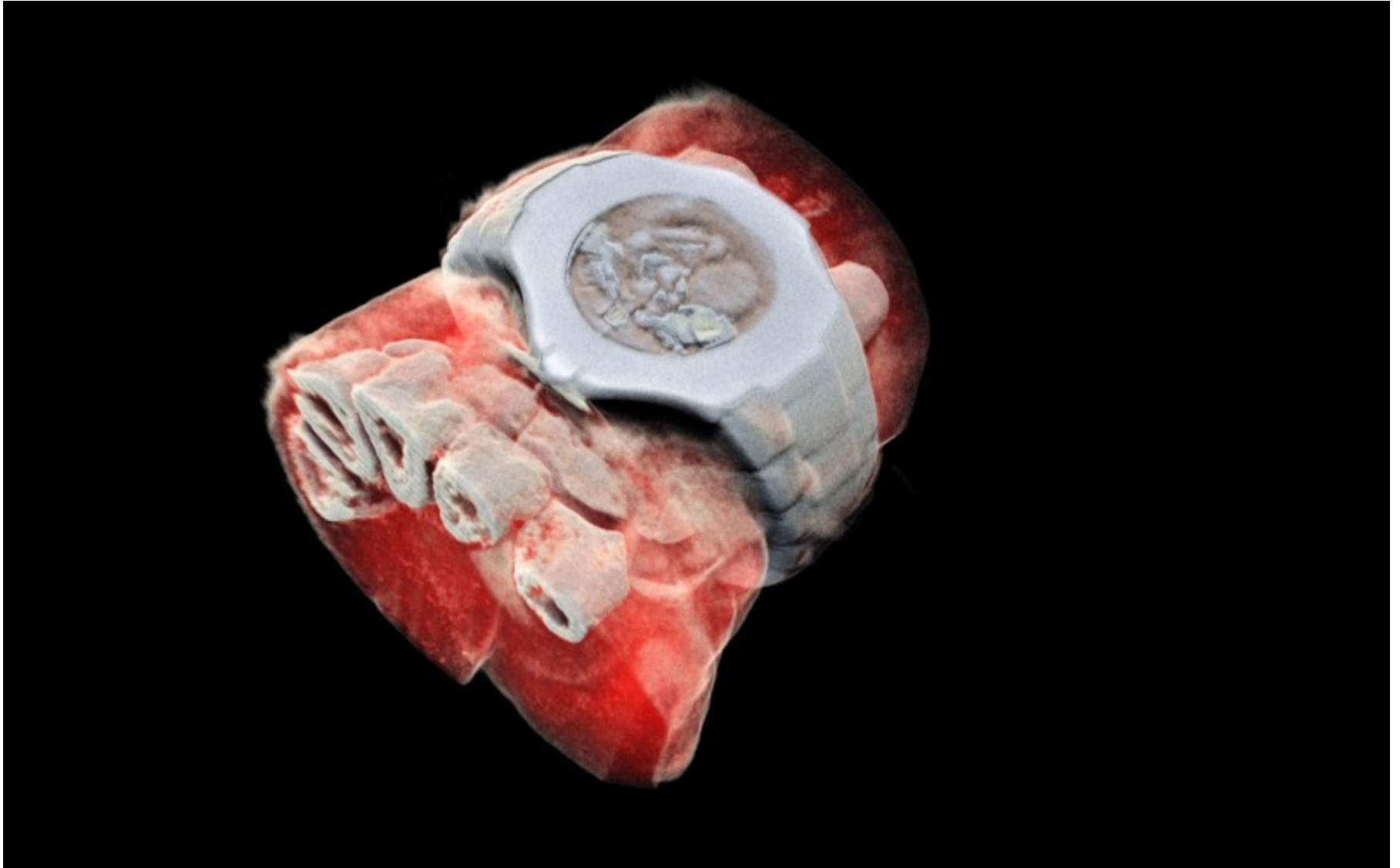
Temporal resolution



First 3D colour x-ray human image



# First 3D human colour x-ray image (2018)



A 3D image of a wrist with a watch showing part of the finger bones in white and soft tissue in red. couples the spectroscopic information generated by the Medipix3 with powerful algorithms to generate 3D images (Image: MARS Bioimaging Ltd)



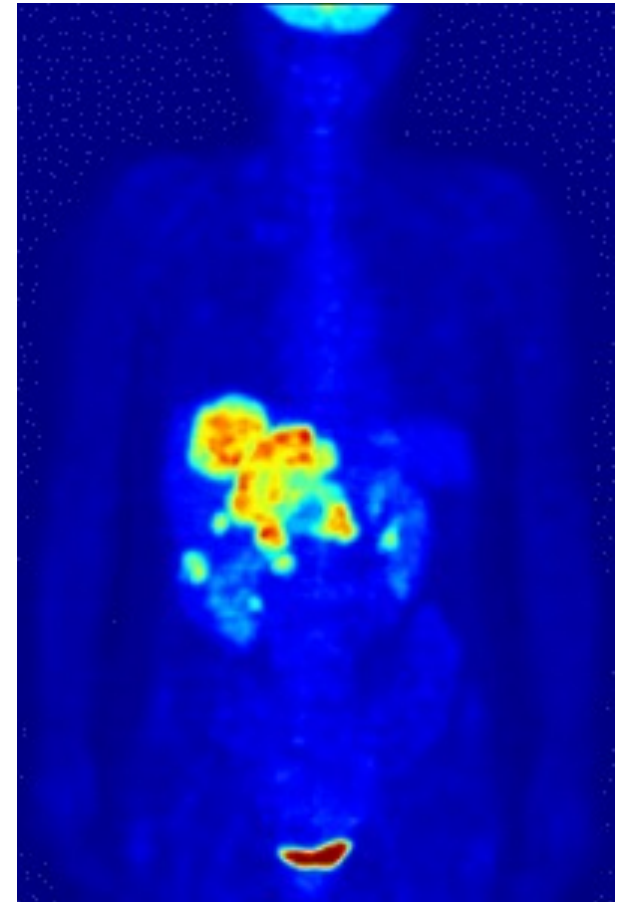
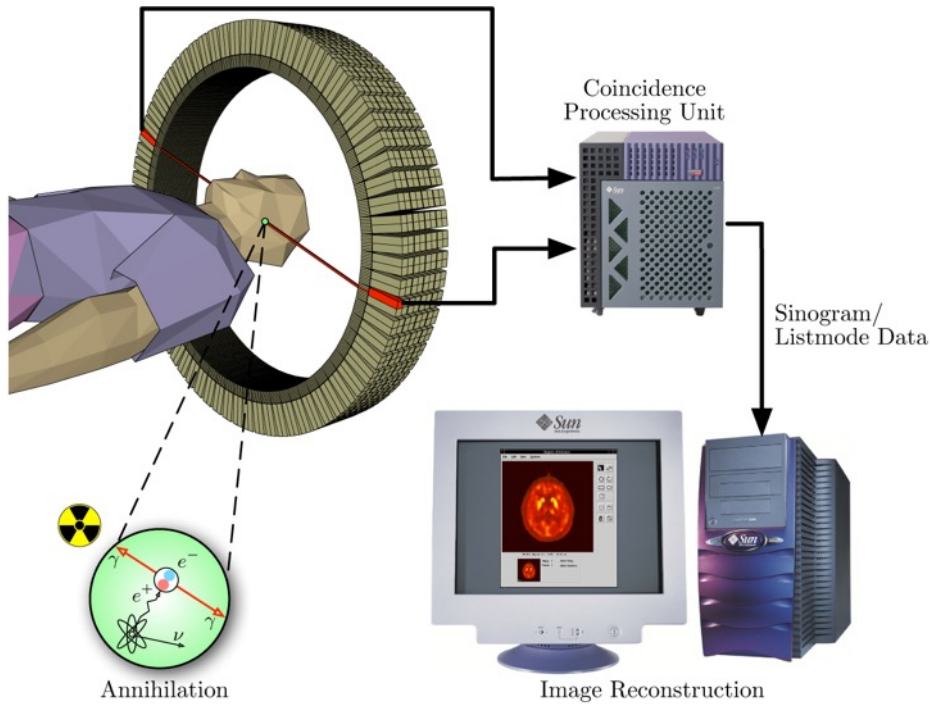
# More and more progress...

Colour 3D X-ray  
image of a fatty  
deposit on an artery  
(carotid plaque)  
taken using a  
Medipix3 detector

Image by Mars Bio-Imaging  
Feature article link:  
<https://rdcu.be/bOFuR>



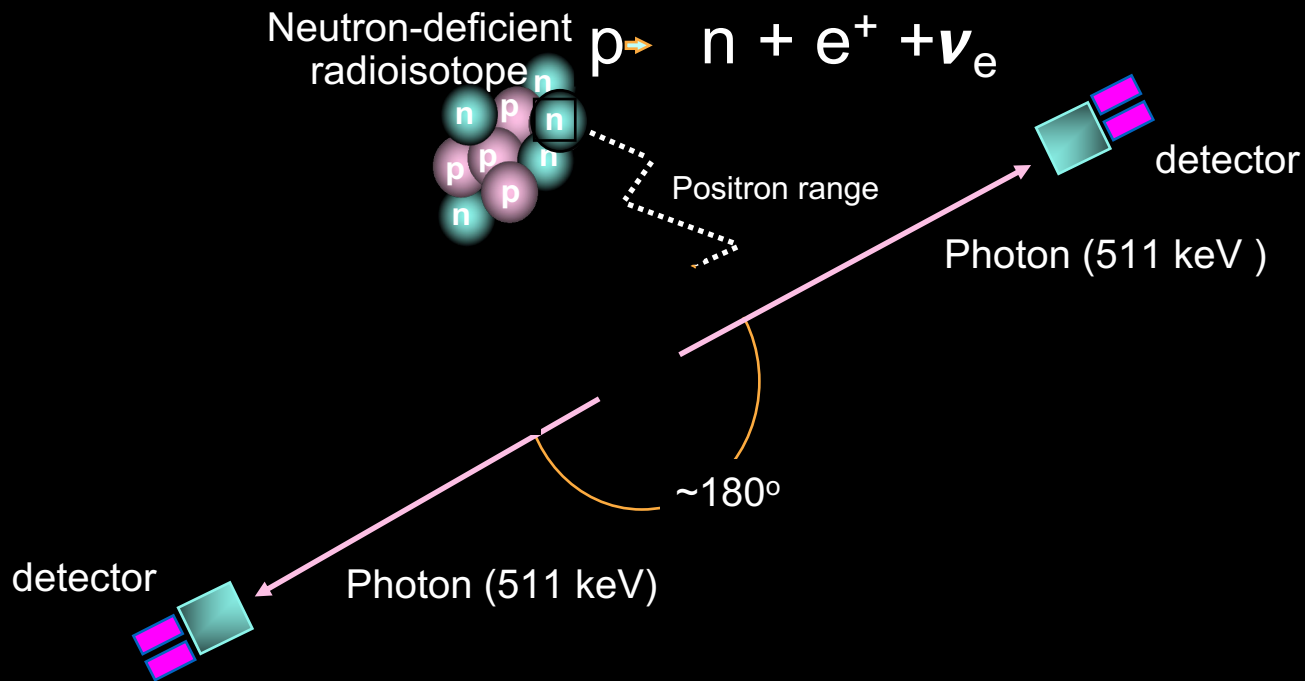
# Positron Emission Tomography



- $^{18}\text{F}$ FDG carries the  $^{18}\text{F}$  to areas of high metabolic activity
- 90% of PET scans are in clinical oncology

1974 the first human positron emission tomography

# Positron Emission Tomography

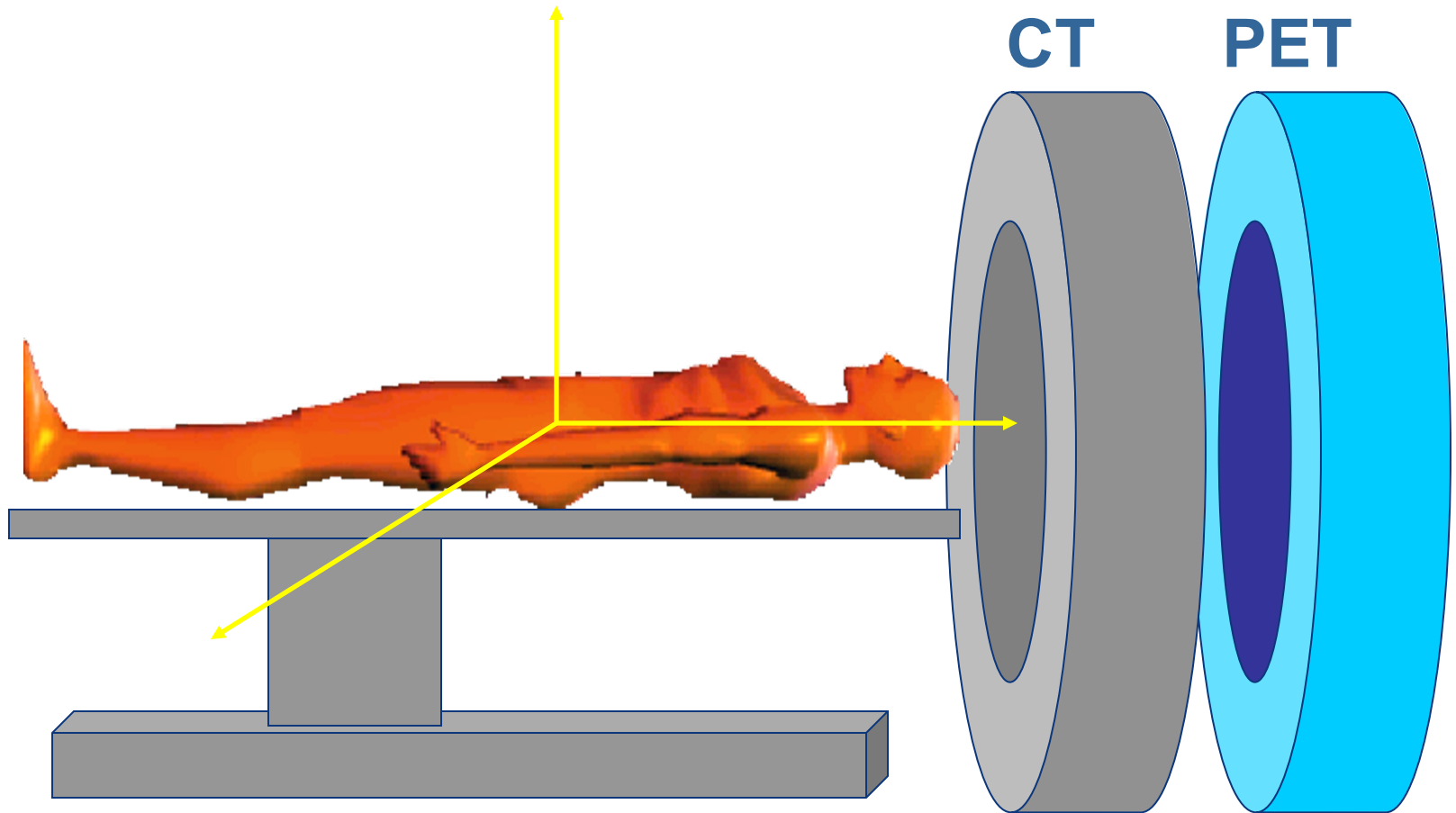


# PET – How it works

<http://www.nymus3d.nl/portfolio/animation/55>

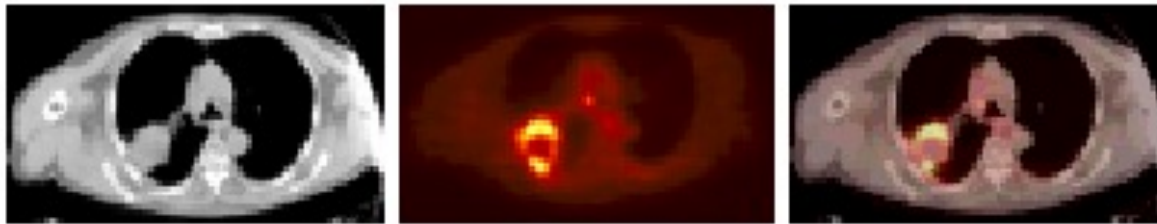
# Concept of PET-CT

*David Townsend*



# Multi-modality imaging

Primary lung cancer imaged with the Dual/Commercial scanner. A large lung tumor, which appears on CT as a uniformly attenuating hypodense mass, has a rim of FDG activity and a necrotic center revealed by PET.



*Courtesy of David Townsend*

# Multimodality imaging: CT with PET

Combining anatomic and functional imaging

morphology

metabolism



David Townsend, UK Physicist



**European NoVel Imaging Systems  
for ION therapy**



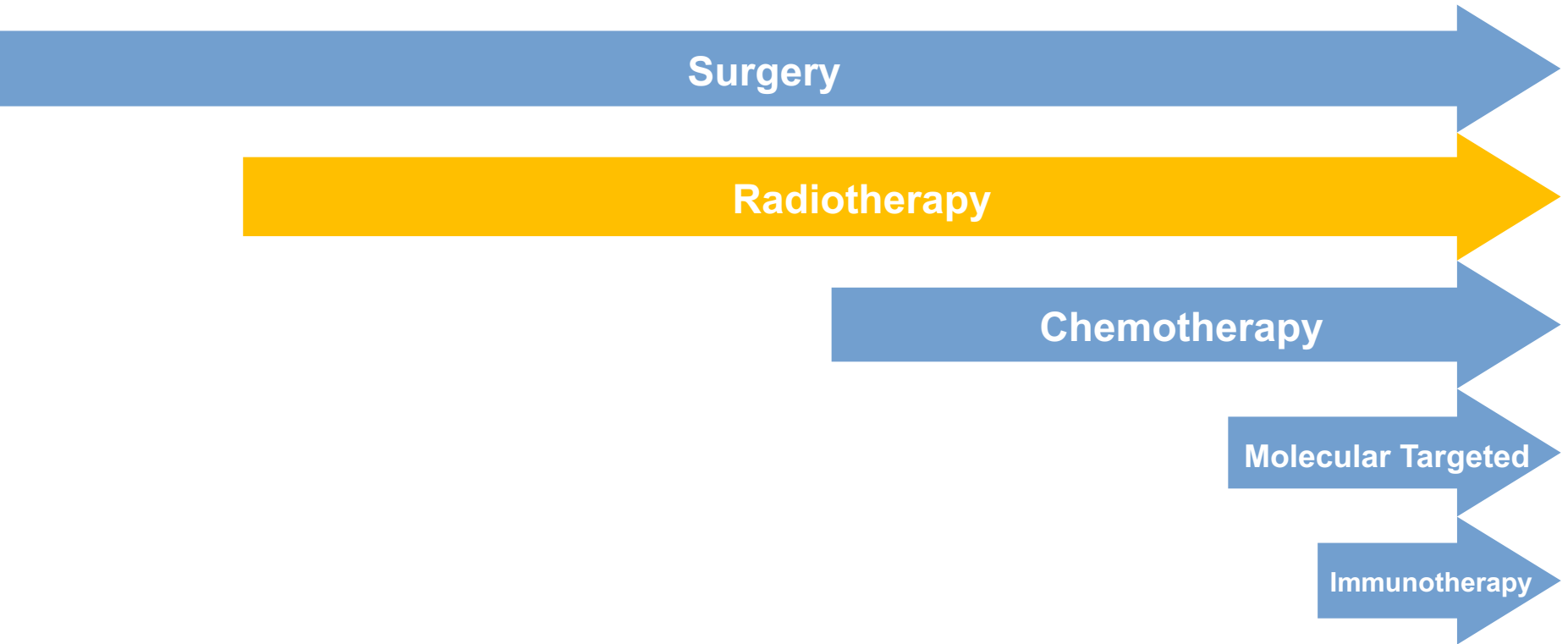
# How do we treat cancer?

1900

1950

2000

2021

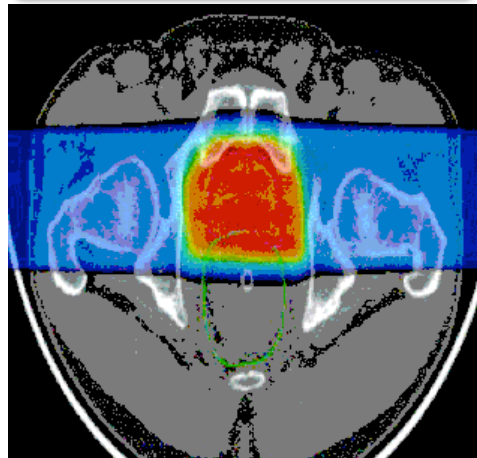


# Treatment options

Surgery



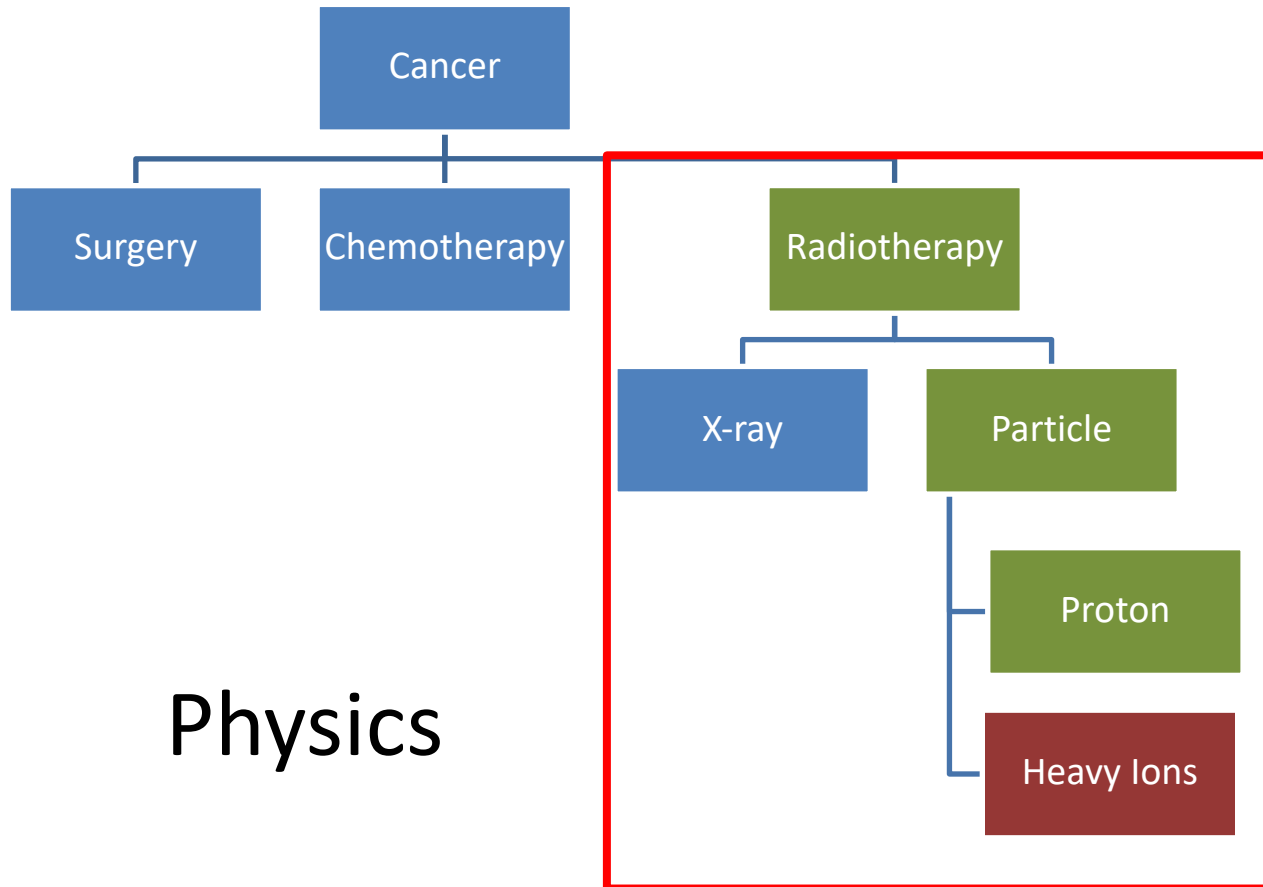
Radiotherapy



Chemotherapy (+ others)



# Cancer treatment options



# Radiotherapy in 21st Century

## 3 "Cs" of Radiation

**Cure** ( about 50% cancer cases are cured)

**Conservative** (non-invasive, fewer side effects)

**Cheap** (about 10% of total cost of cancer on radiation)

*(J.P.Gérard)*

- About 50% patients are treated with RT
- No substitute for RT in the near future
- No of patients is increasing

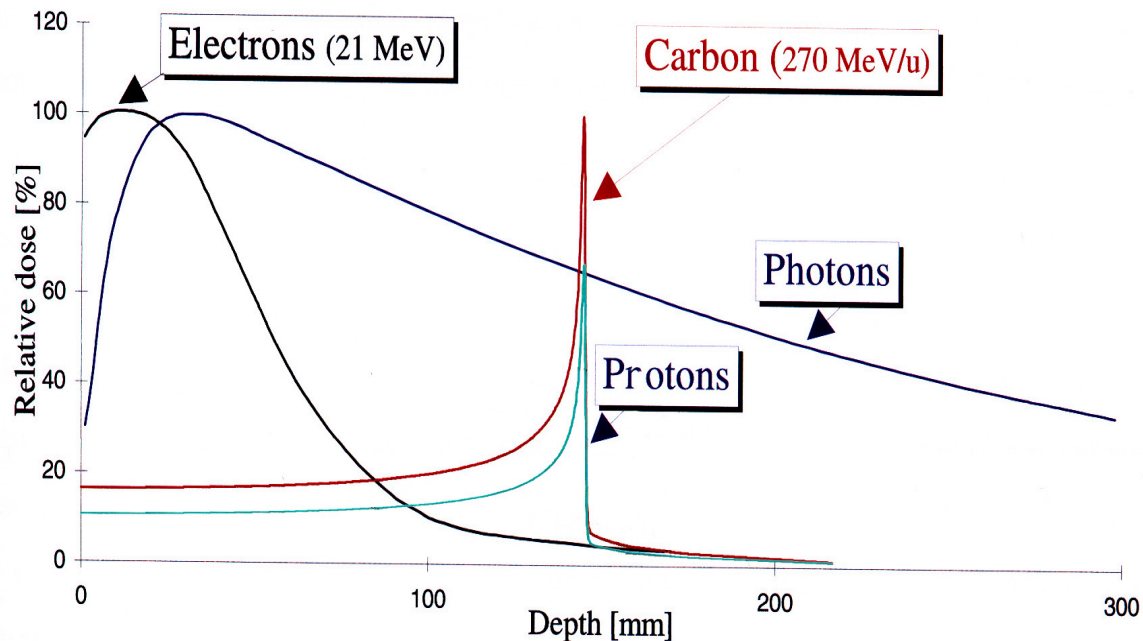


## Aims of Radiotherapy:

- Irradiate tumour with sufficient dose to **stop cancer growth**
- **Avoid complications** and **minimise** damage to surrounding tissue

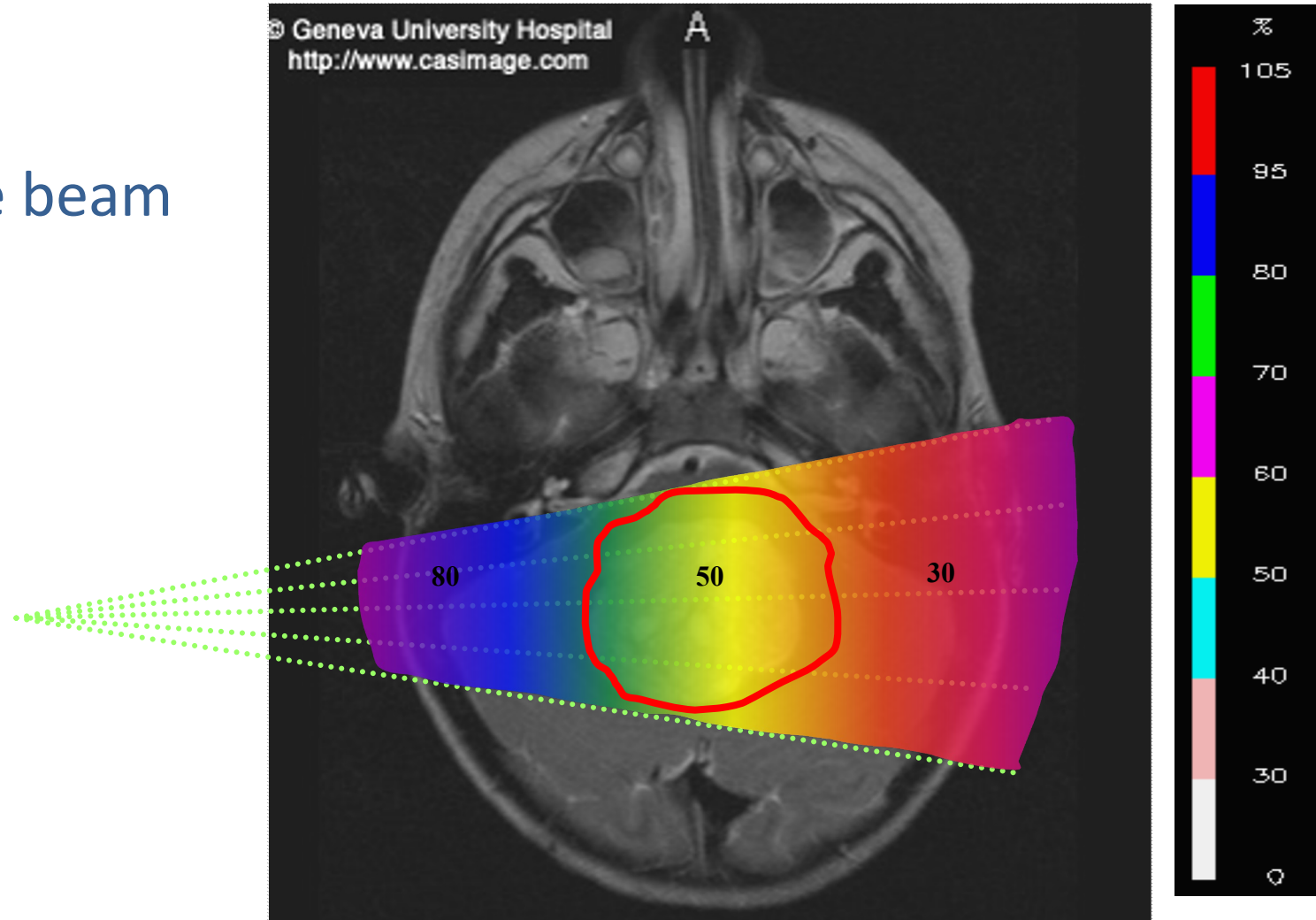
## Current radiotherapy methods:

- 5-25 MV photons
- 5 - 25 MeV electrons
- 50 - 400 MeV/u hadrons



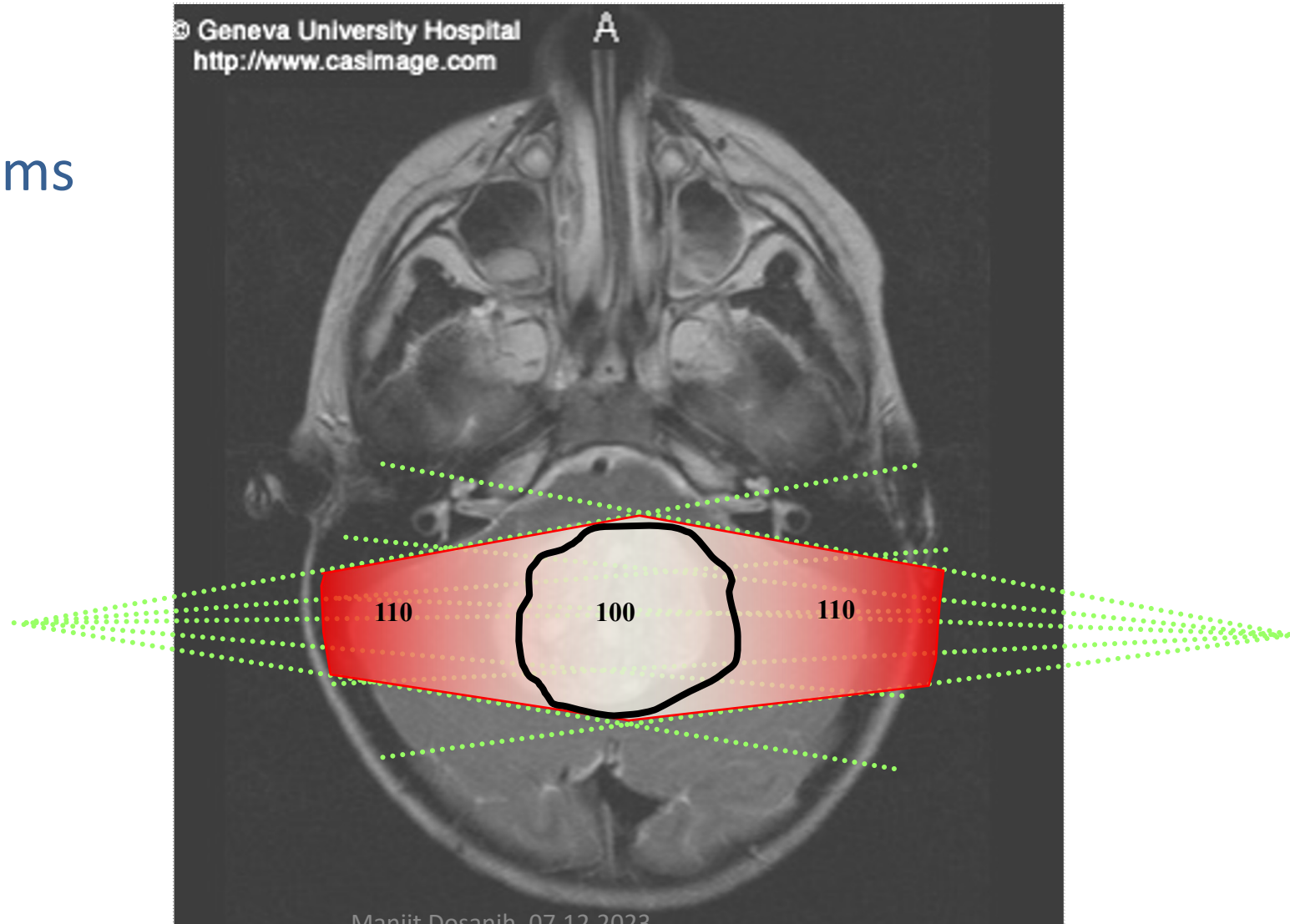
# Classical Radiotherapy with X-rays

single beam

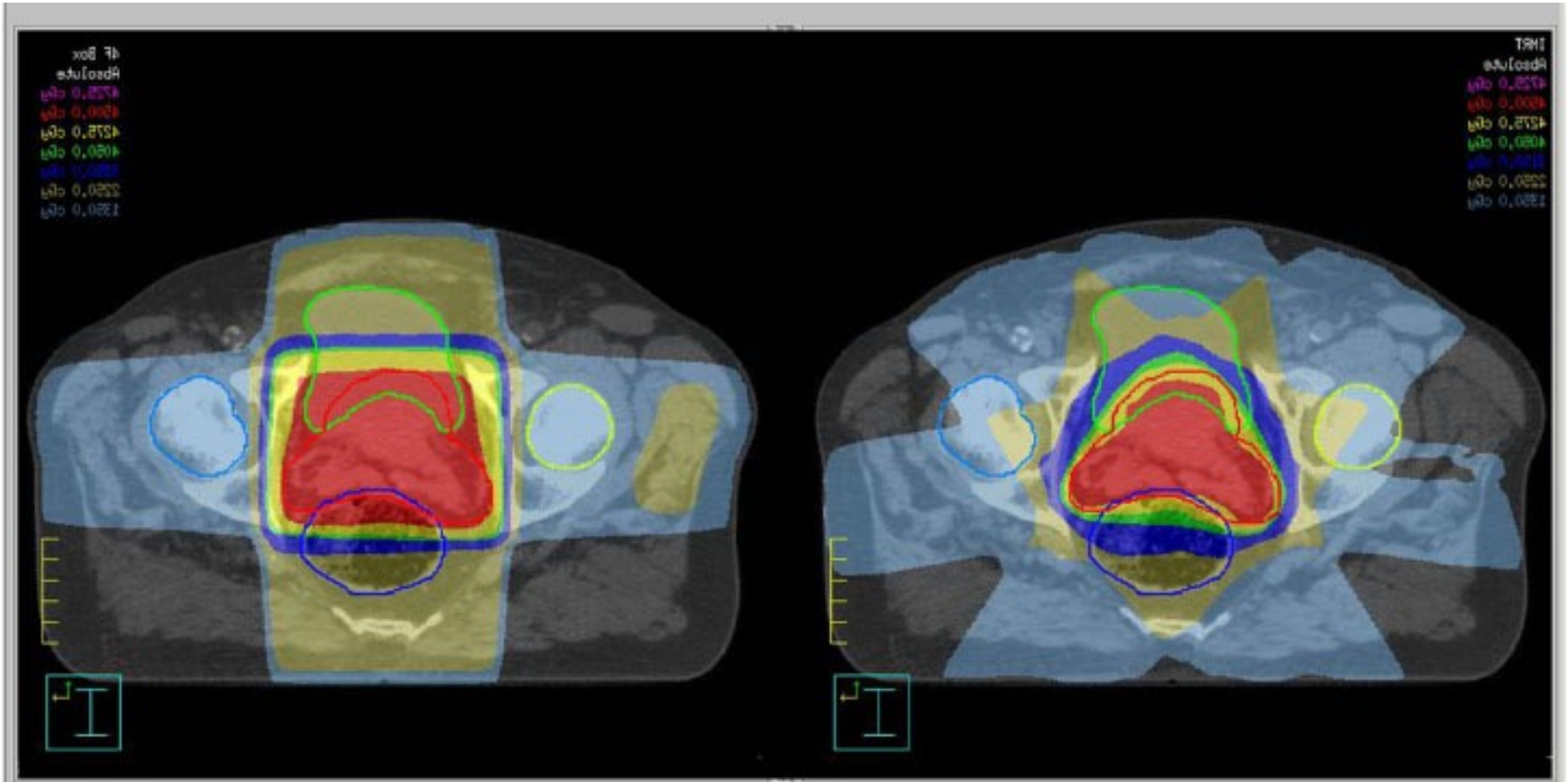


# Radiotherapy with X-rays

two beams



# Improved Delivery



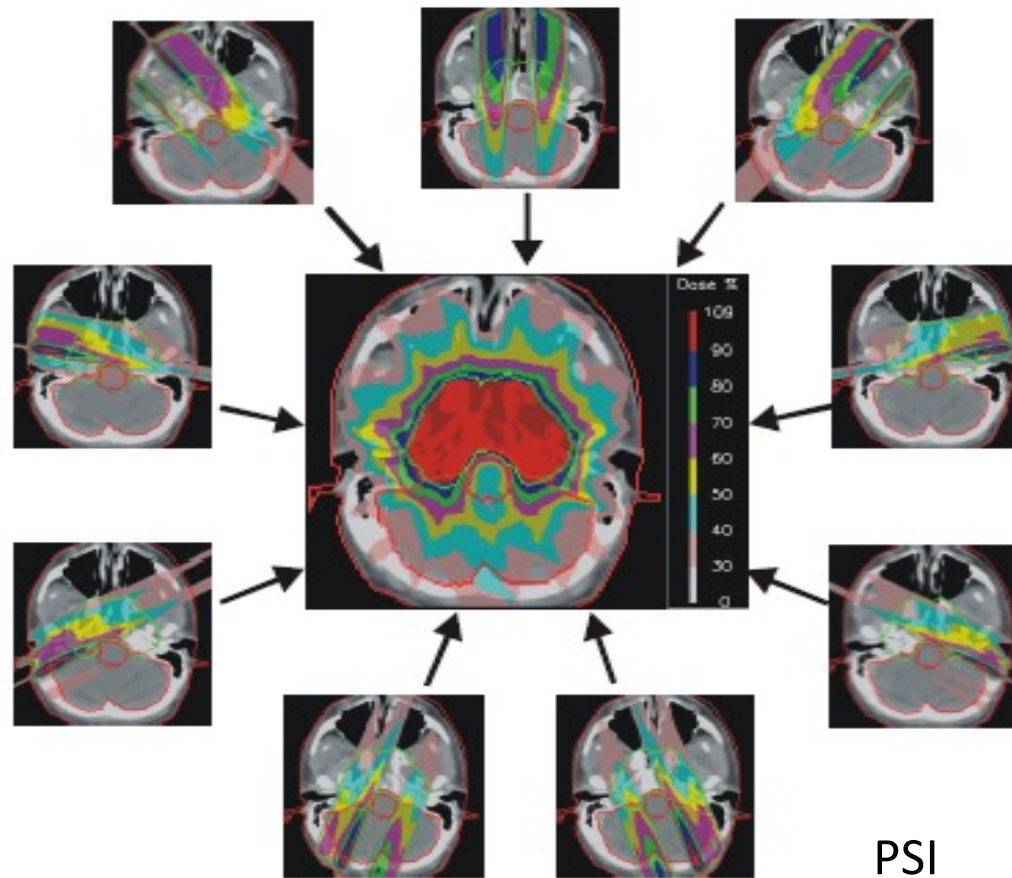
1990s: 4 constant intensity fields

Current state of RT: **Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT)** – Multiple converging field with planar (2D) intensity variations



# Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy

9 NON-UNIFORM FIELDS



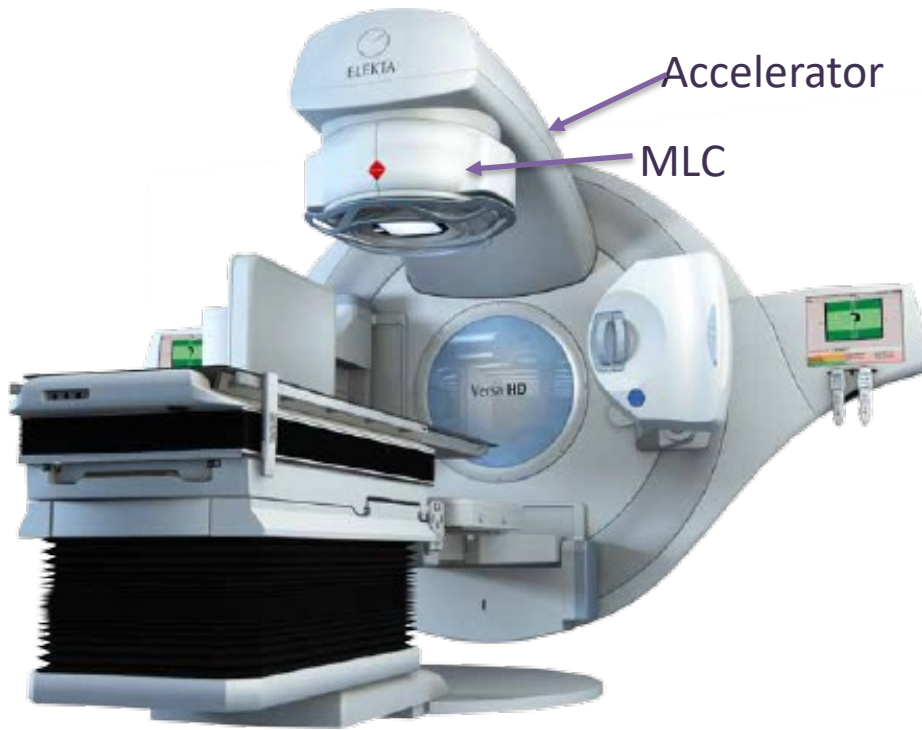
60-75 grays (joule/kg) given in 30-35 fractions (6-7weeks)  
to allow healthy tissues to repair:

90% of the tumours are radiosensitive

# The most widely available accelerator

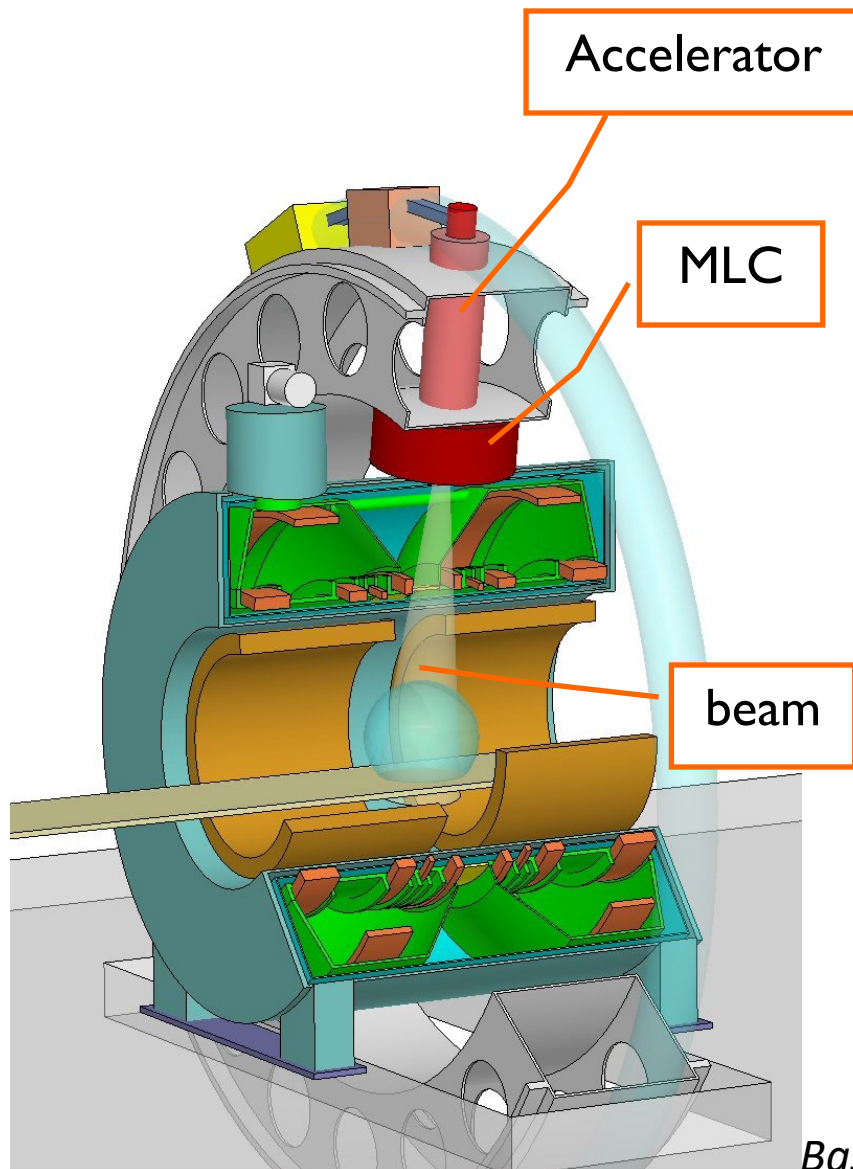
Electron Linac (linear accelerator) for radiation therapy treatment of cancer)

More than 15,000 in use



Widely available in all major hospitals in specially in high income countries (HIC)

# Concept of MRI guided accelerator



Seeing what you treat at the moment of treatment

Bringing certainty in the actual treatment

# Utrecht solution: Integrating a Philips MRI scanner with a Elekta radiotherapy accelerator



1.5T 70 cm bore Philips Ingenia

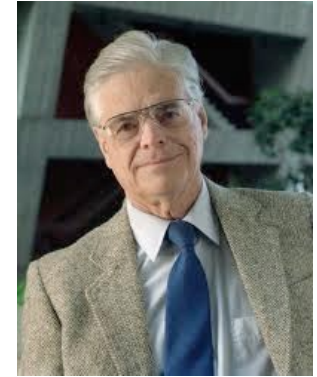


# Advances in Radiation Therapy

In the past two decades due to:

- improvements in imaging modalities, multimodality
- technology, powerful computers and software and delivery systems have enabled:
  - Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT),
  - Image Guided Radiotherapy (IGRT),
  - Volumetric Arc Therapy (VMAT) and
  - Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT)
  - MRI-guided Linac therapy
- Is Hadron/Particle Therapy the future?
- FLASH??

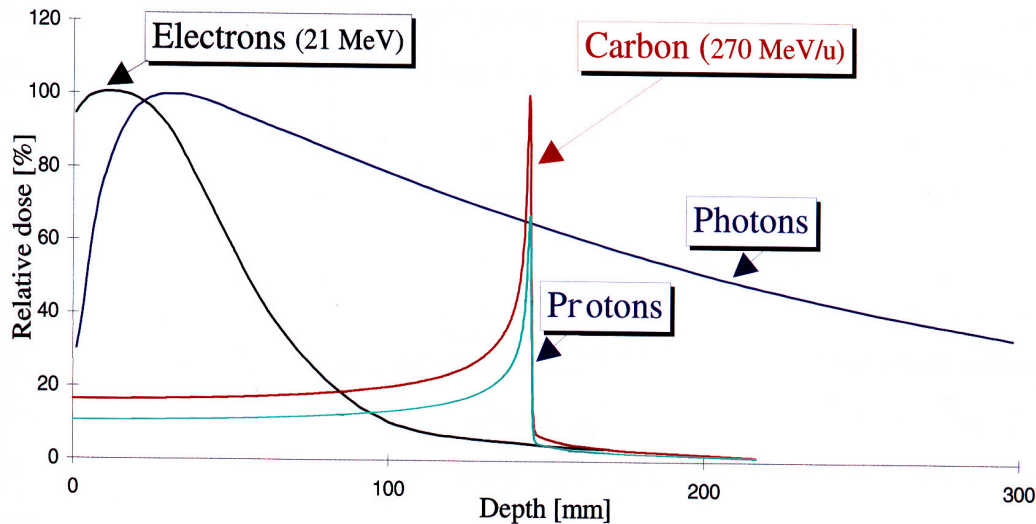
# Hadron Therapy



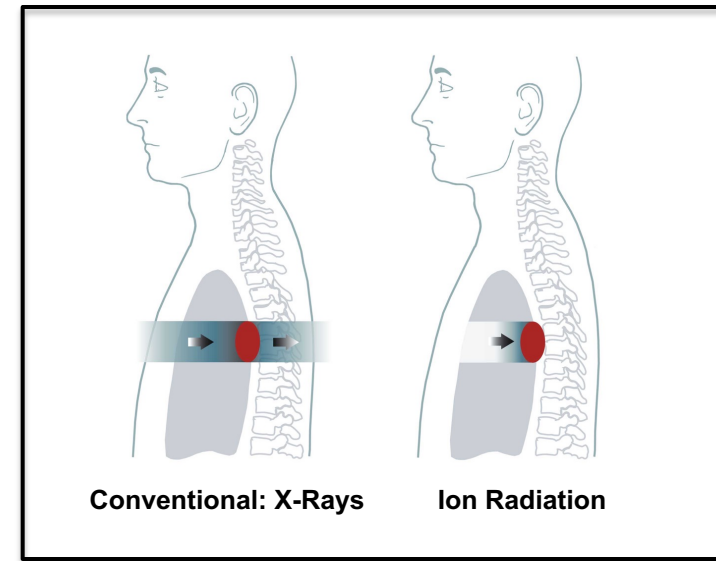
Robert Wilson  
Fermi Lab

In 1946 Robert Wilson:

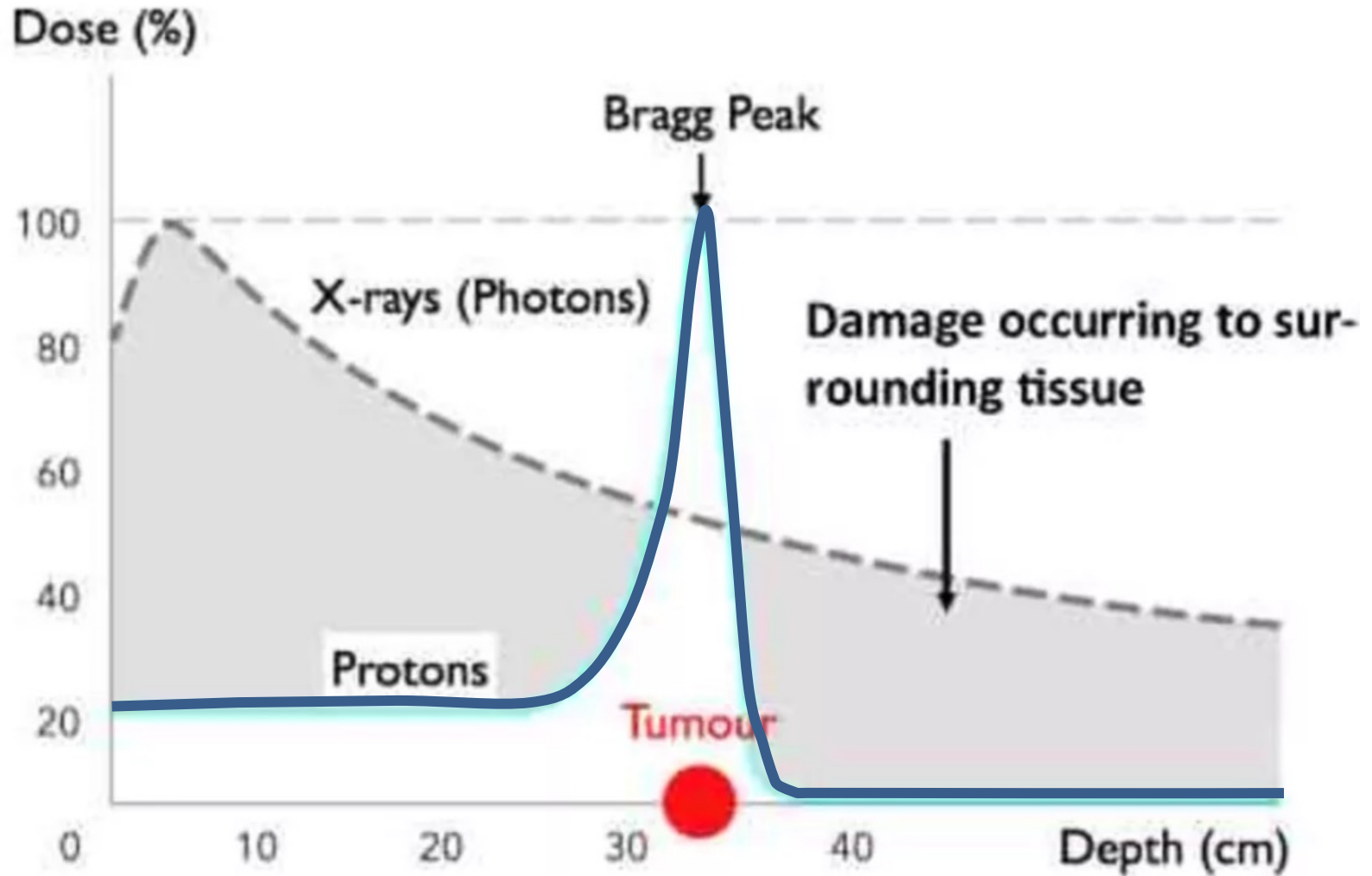
- Protons can be used clinically
- Accelerators are available
- Maximum radiation dose can be placed into the tumour
- Particle therapy provides sparing of normal tissues



Depth in the body (mm)

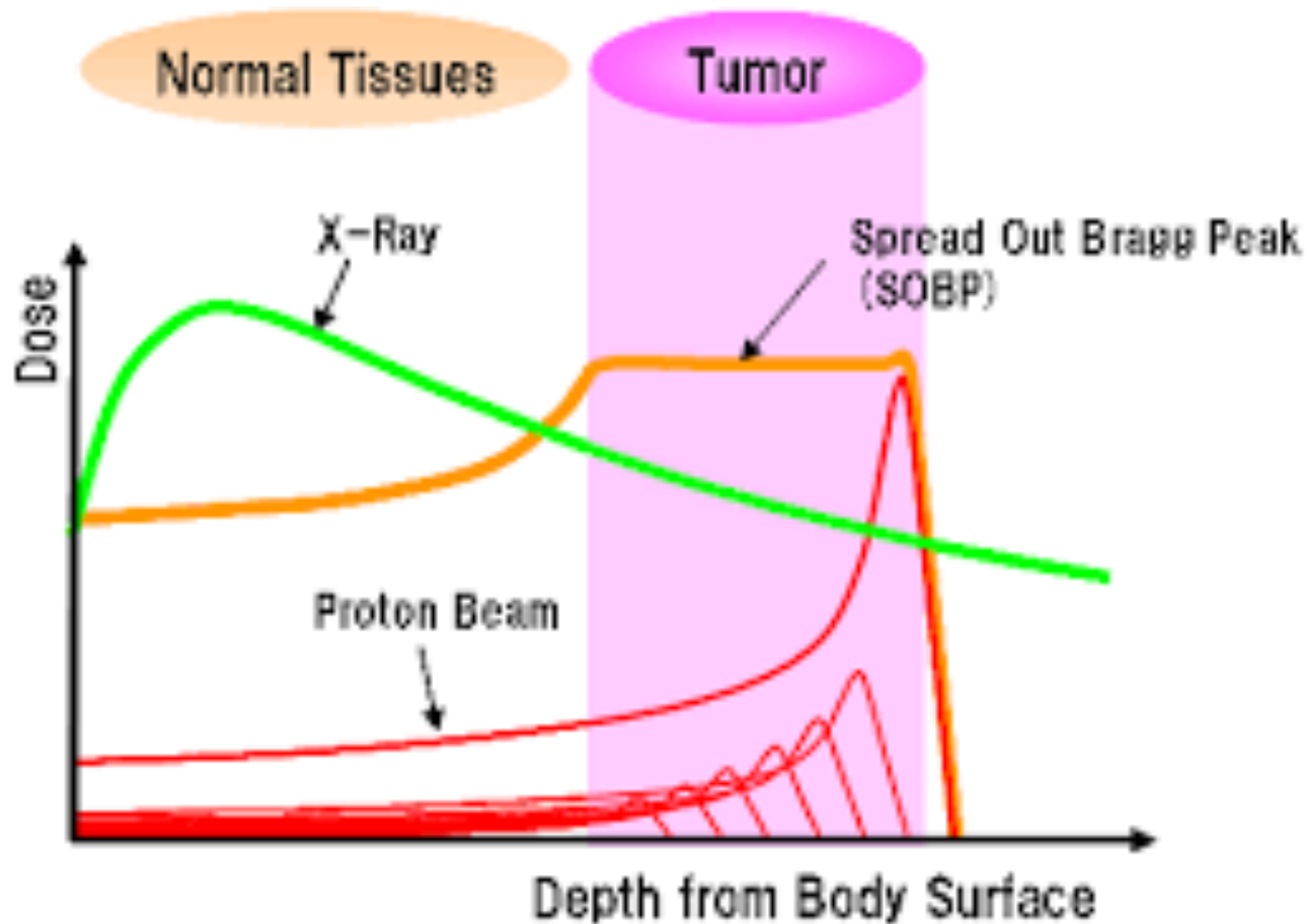


# Photons vs. protons





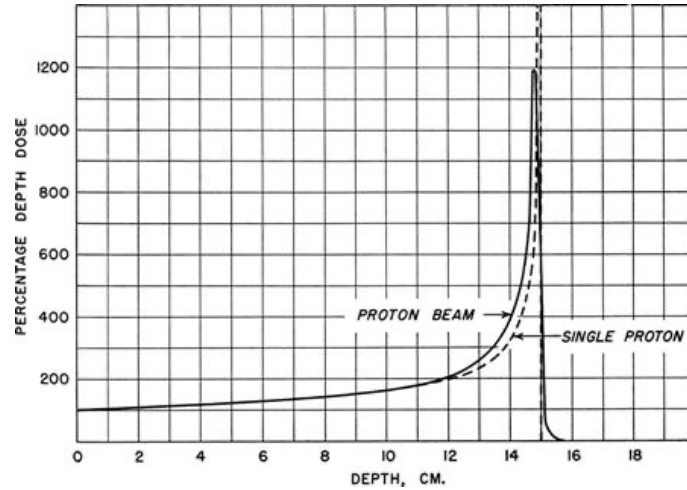
# Spread Out Bragg-peak targeting the **tumour**



1932 - E. Lawrence  
First cyclotron



1946 – proton therapy  
proposed by R. Wilson



Sept 1954 – Berkeley treats  
the first patient



From physics .....

**E. Lawrence  
First cyclotron**



**Lawrence brothers  
Physicist and Doctor**

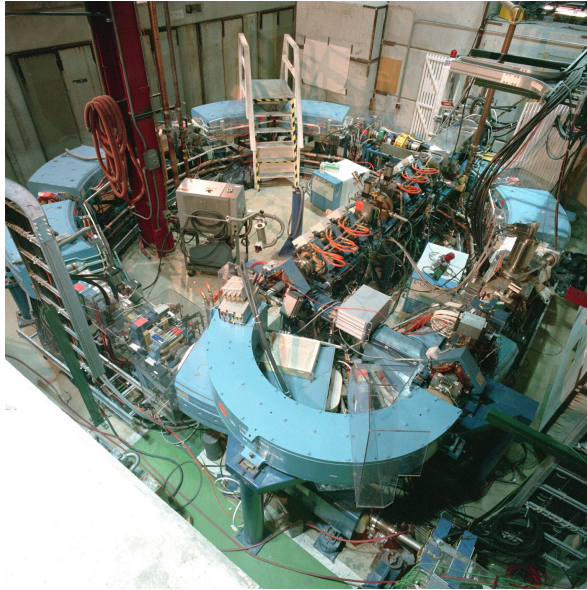


**Sept 1954 – Berkeley  
Treats first patient**



**Importance of collaboration.....**

**1993- Loma Linda  
USA (proton)**



First dedicated clinical  
facility

**1994 – HIMAC/NIRS  
Japan (carbon)**



**1997 – GSI  
Germany (carbon)**



Three crucial years for PT.....to clinics

# Key Milestones of Hadrontherapy

1991 — First hospital based *Proton* facility  
Loma Linda University Medical Center, CA, USA



**360° Gantry**



# The Darmstadt GSI 'pilot project' (1997-2008)

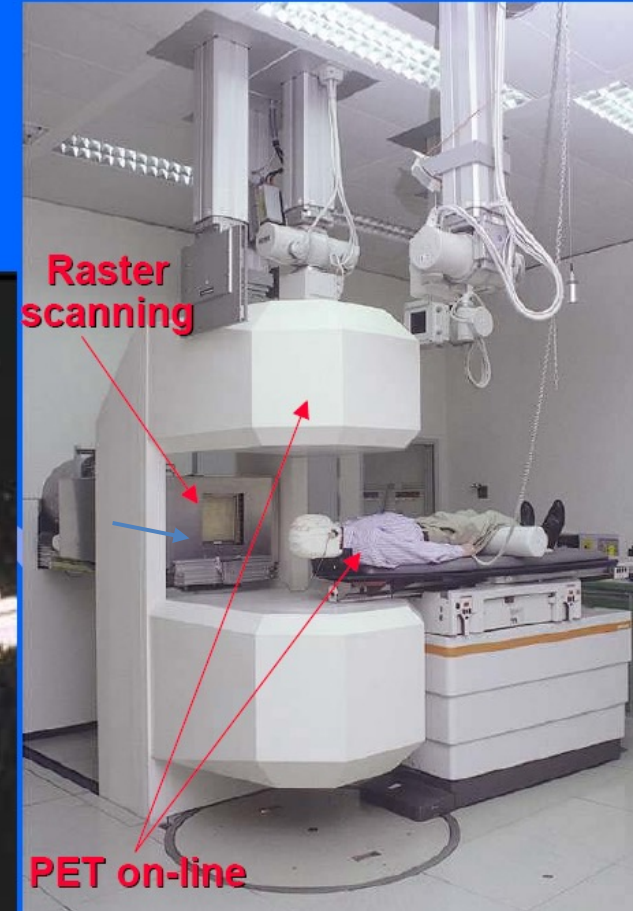


**G. Kraft**

**450** patients treated  
with carbon ions  
**J. Debus (Heidelberg Univ.)**

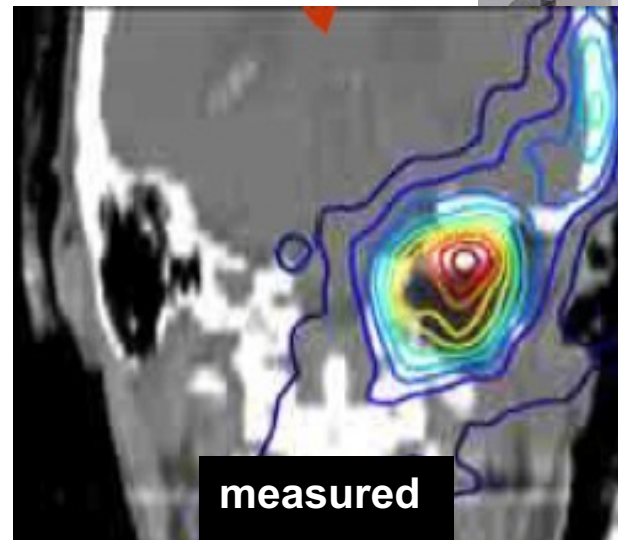
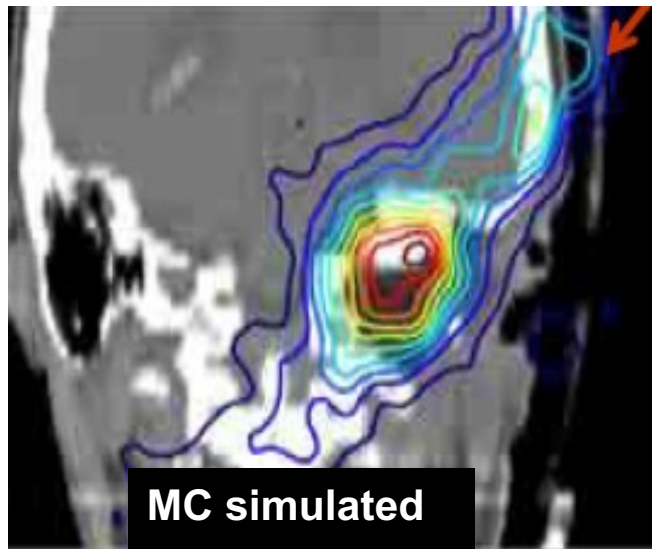


**J. Debus**

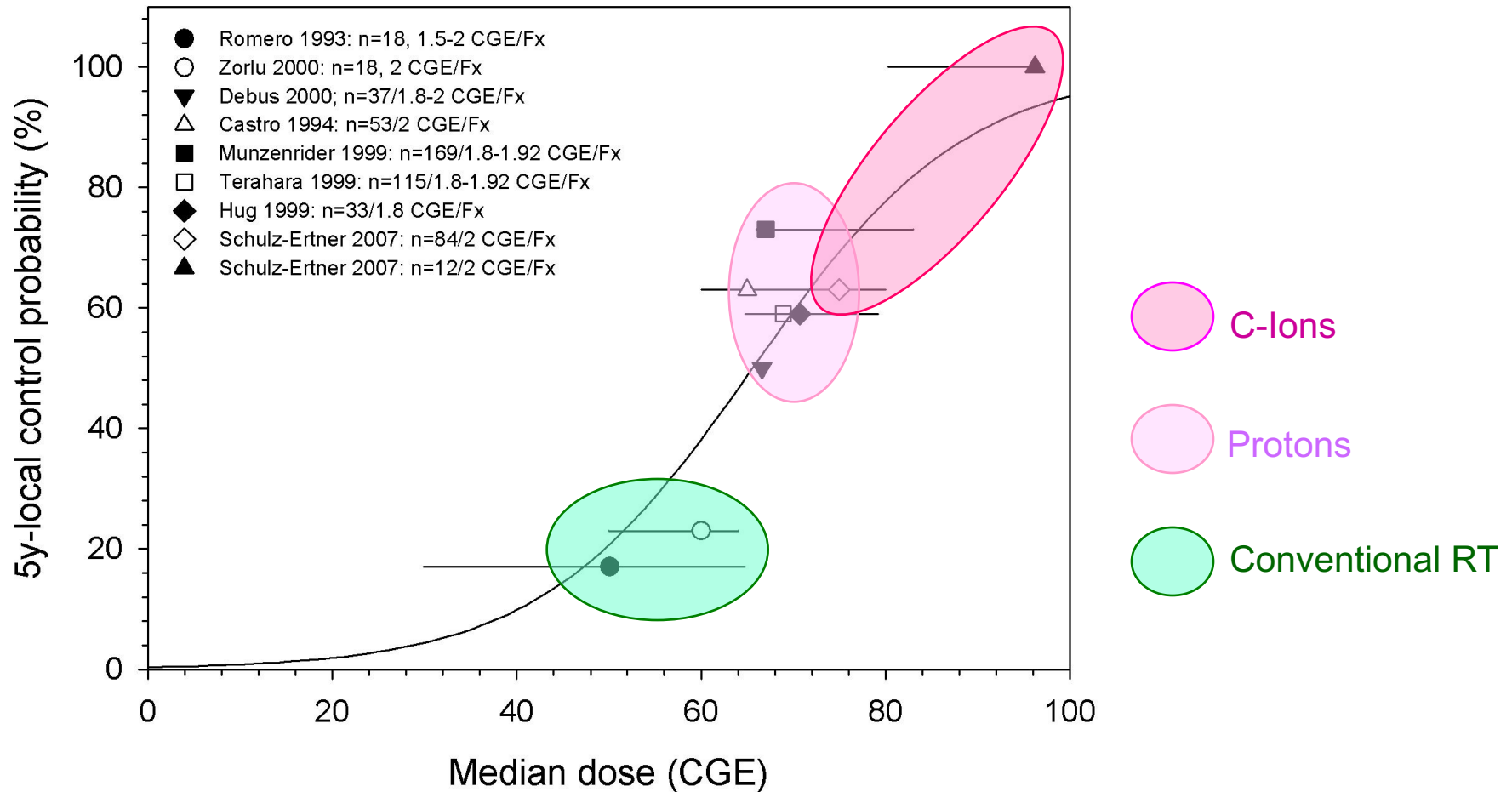


# Real-time monitoring

- In-beam PET @ GSI (Germany)
- MonteCarlo simulations
- Organ motion

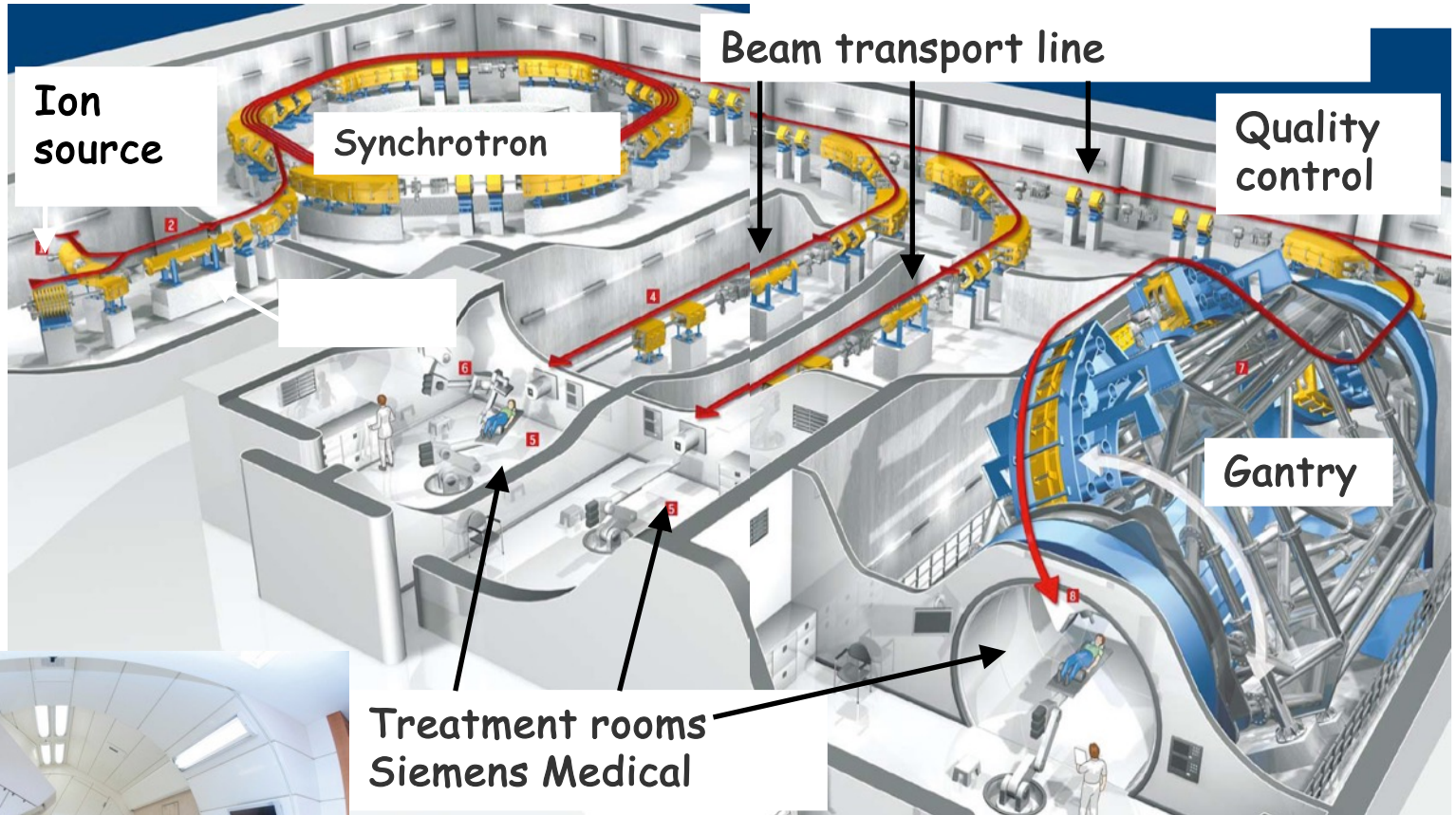


# Tumour Control Rate: Chordomas





# HIT - Heidelberg

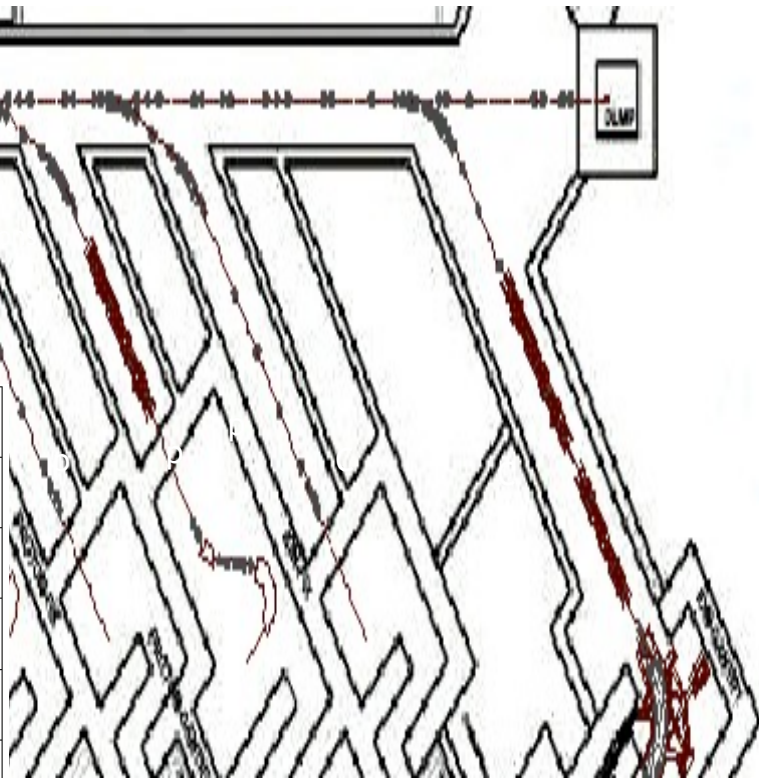
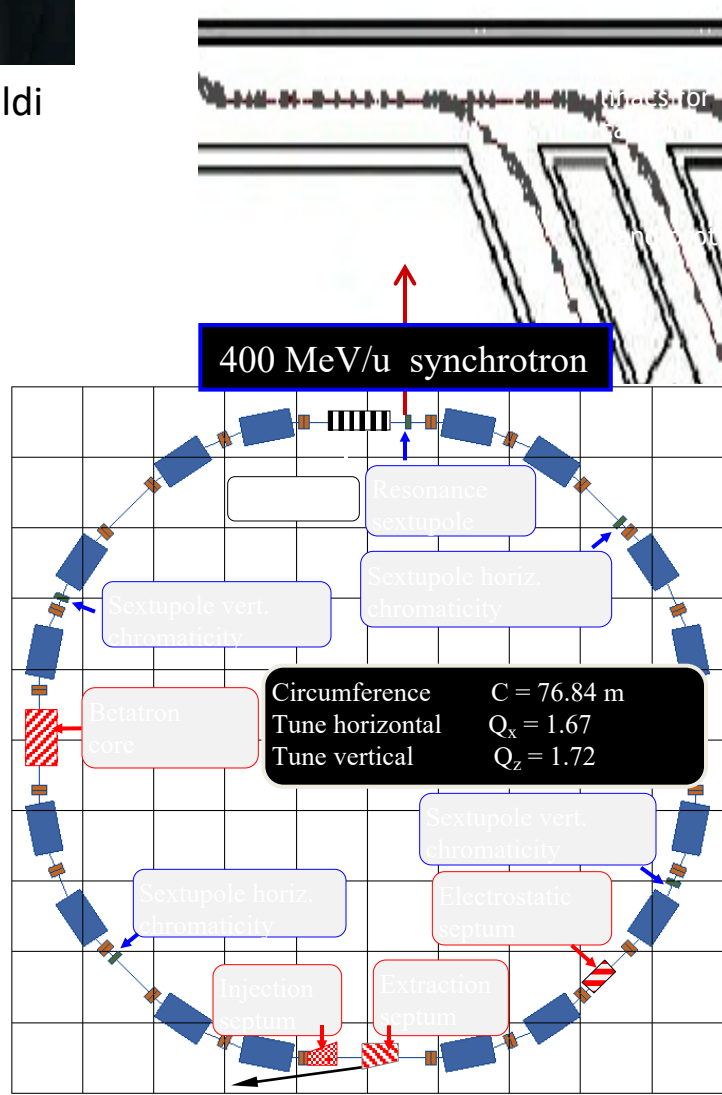


Carbon facilities in Europe: first was HIT in Heidelberg – started treating patients in 2009



Ugo Amaldi  
TERA

# PIMMS at CERN (1996-2000)

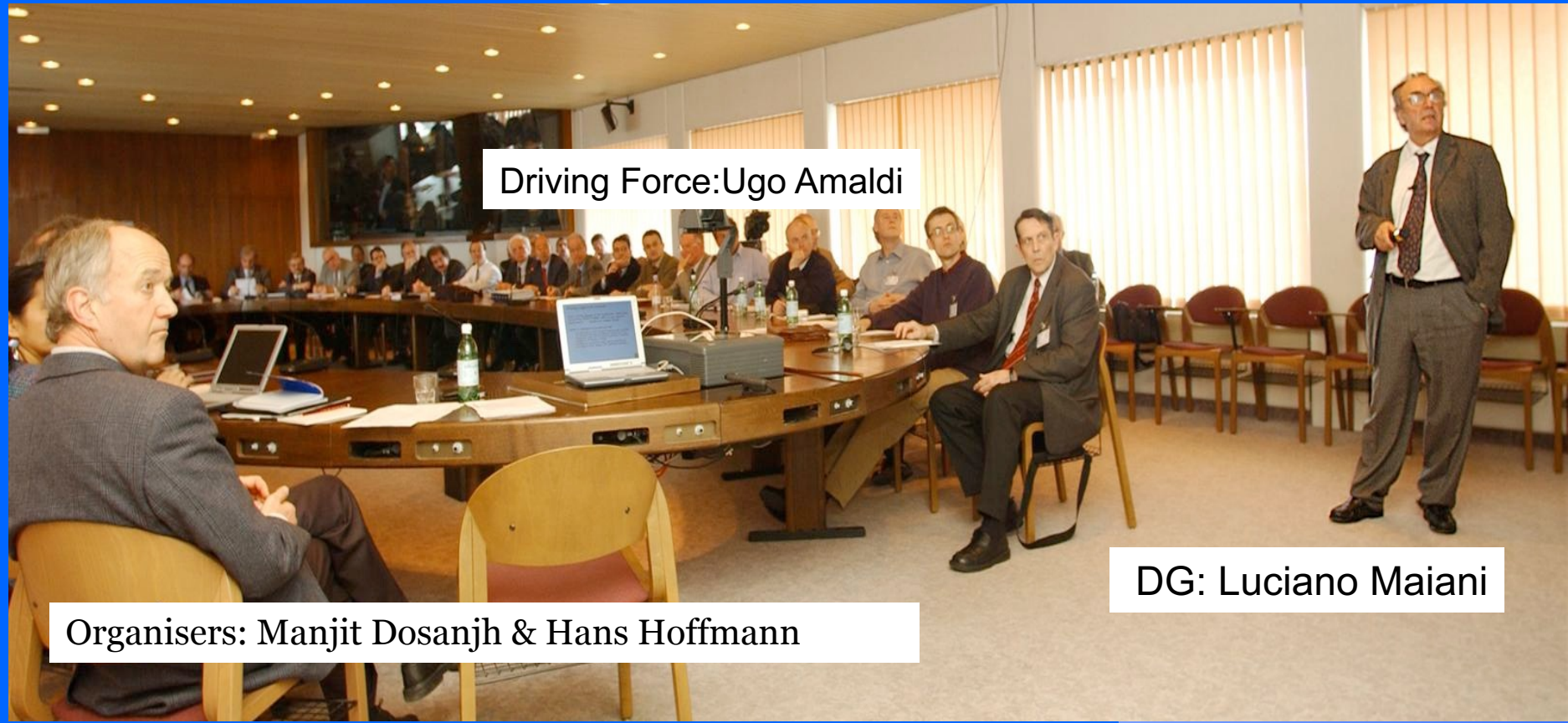


✦ CERN-TERA-MedAustron

**2001**

# *The beginnings of ENLIGHT*

- The idea germinated in 2001 after ESTRO- Med-AUSTRON meeting
- In October 2001 the proposal for a Thematic Network was submitted to EC
- ENLIGHT was launched In February 2002 at CERN
- Funded: 1 million Euros in 2002



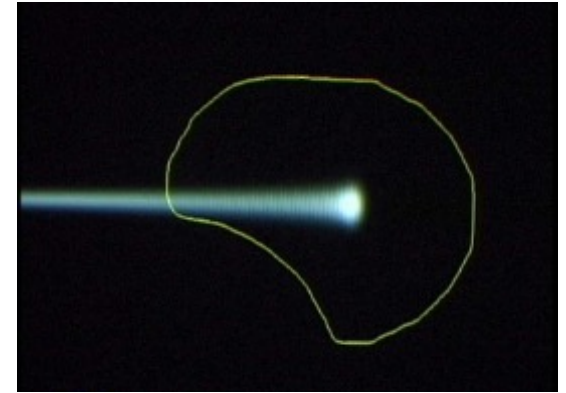
Driving Force: Ugo Amaldi

DG: Luciano Maiani

Organisers: Manjit Dosanjh & Hans Hoffmann

# ENLIGHT was established to .....

- Create common multidisciplinary platform
- Cancer treatment
- Identify challenges
- Share knowledge
- Share best practices
- Harmonise data
- Provide training, education
- Innovate to improve
- Lobbying for funding



Leveraging Physics collaboration  
philosophy into a multidisciplinary  
medical environment

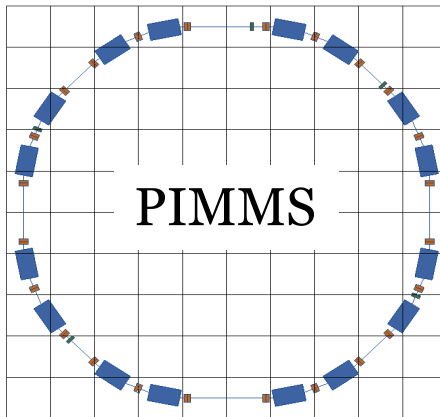


# PIMMS study at CERN (1996-2000)



Treatment , CNAO, Italy  
2011

1996-2000  
PIMMS study



MedAustron, Austria 2019



# From PIMMS study to clinical reality



First patient with carbon ions Nov 2012



Treatment started in 2016

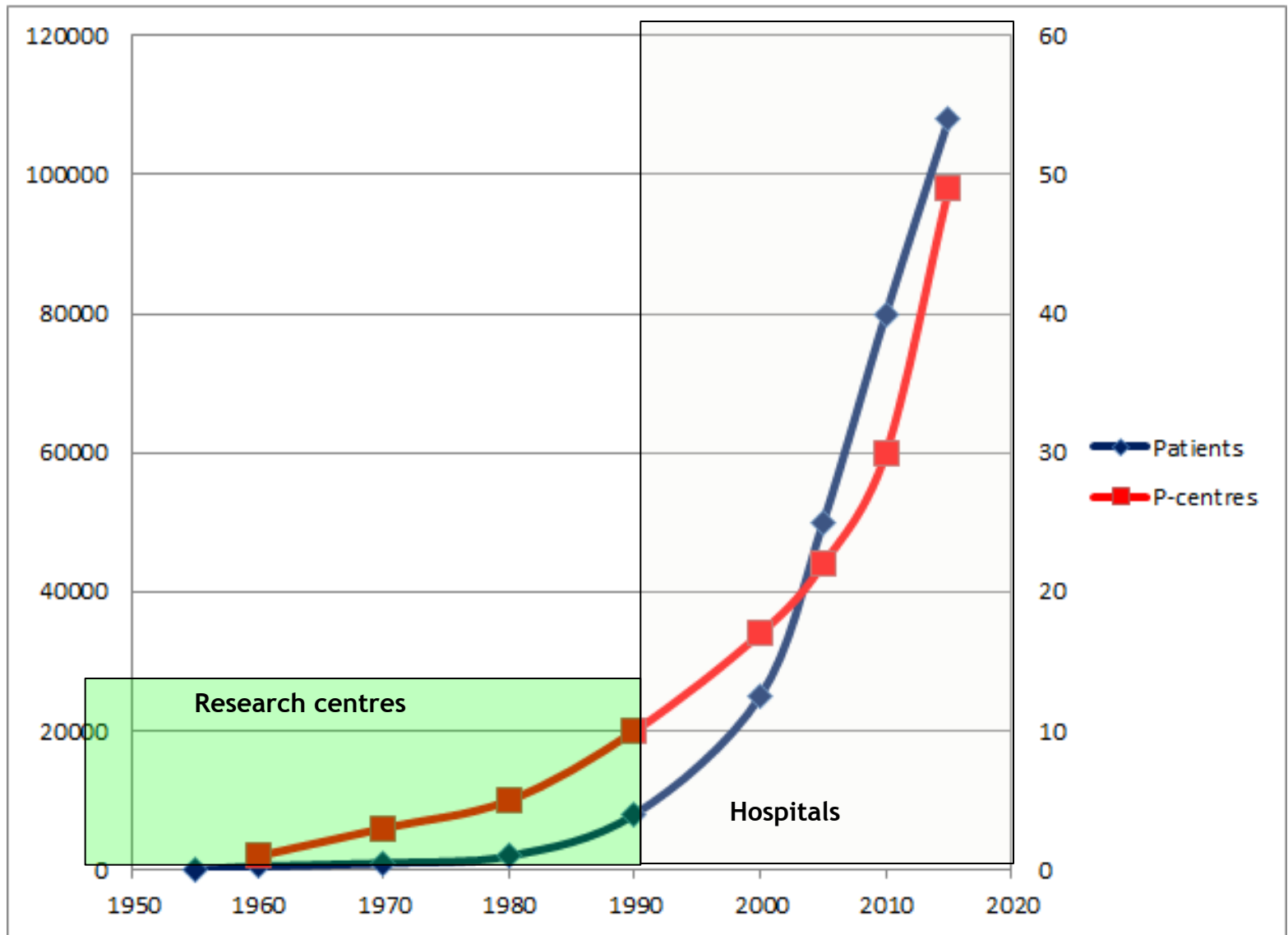
**TERA celebrated 30 years on 16 September 2022**

# CNAO: Pavia, Italy



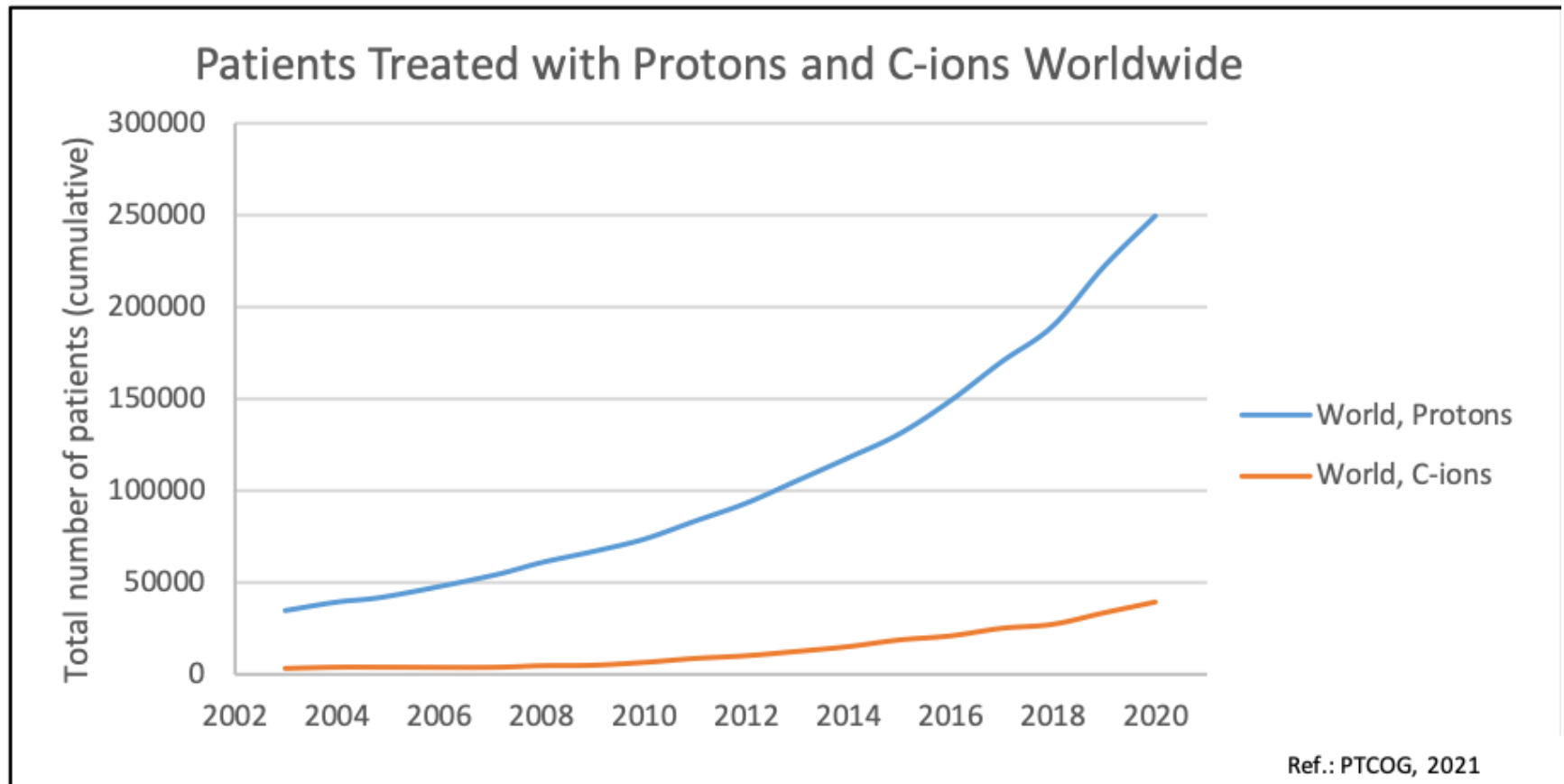
Started treating patients in 2011

[Data from [www.ptcog.ch](http://www.ptcog.ch)]

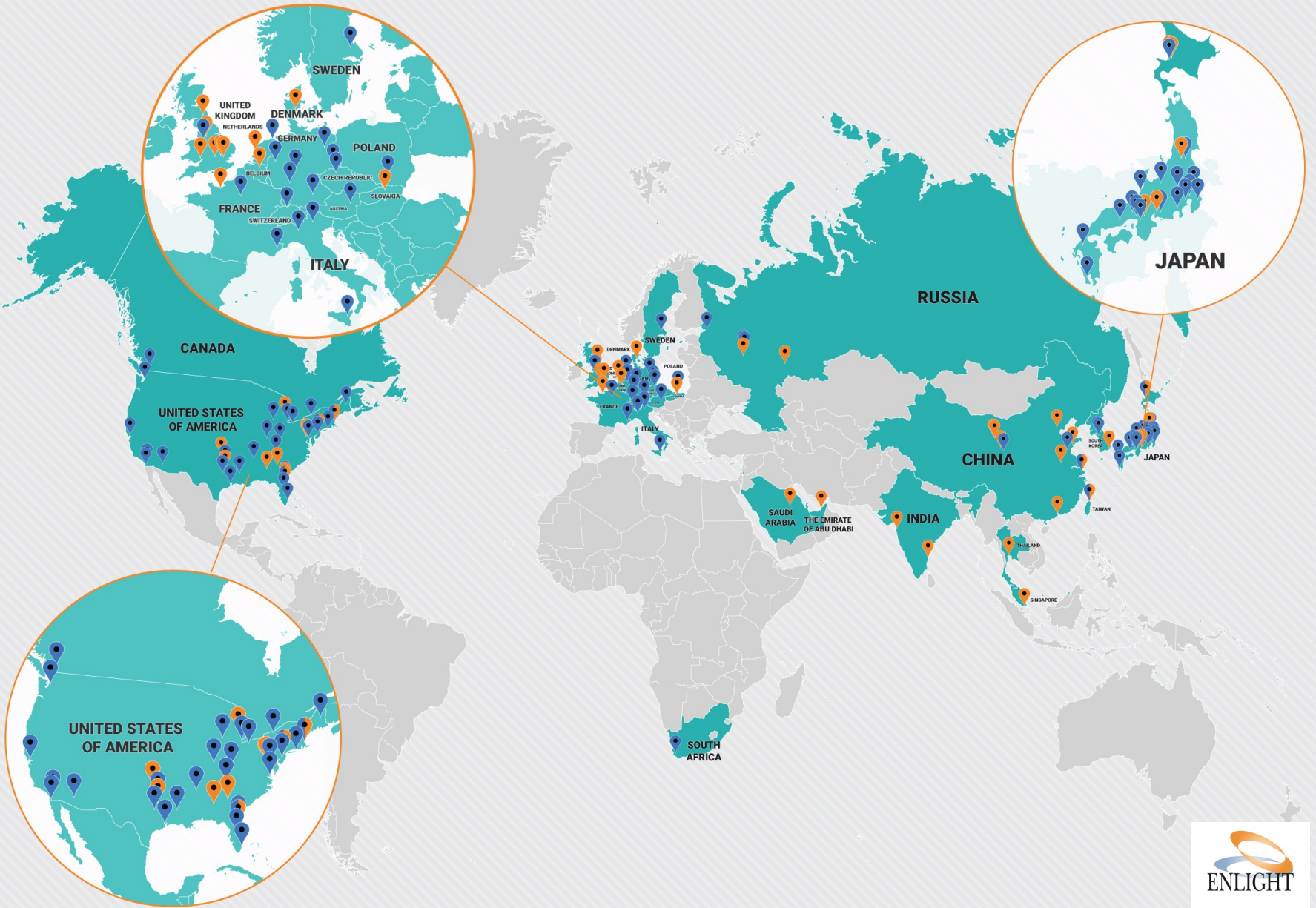




# Patient Numbers







# Much more still needs to be done

- Treat the tumour and only the tumour
  - ⇒ Imaging and dose delivery: control and monitor the ideal dose to the tumour
  - ⇒ Minimal collateral radiation “outside” the tumour
  - ⇒ Minimal radiation to nearby critical organs
  - Even if the tumour is moving
- Compact: Fit into a large hospital
  - ⇒ Accelerator: smaller, simpler, cheaper
  - ⇒ Gantry: compact, cheaper, energy efficient
- Be affordable
  - ✓ Capital cost ?
  - ✓ Operating costs ?
  - ✓ Increased number of treated patients per year ?
- Wish list from community
  - ✓ Improve patient through-put
  - ✓ Increase effectiveness
  - ✓ Decrease cost
- New ideas being explored



# FLASH: a new way of delivering Radiotherapy for treating cancer?



UNIVERSITY OF  
**OXFORD**

# FLASH therapy – a growing clinical interest

NATURE

May 23, 1959 VOL. 183

## Modification of the Oxygen Effect when Bacteria are given Large Pulses of Radiation

D. L. DEWEY  
J. W. BOAG

Research Unit in Radiobiology,  
British Empire Cancer Campaign,  
Mount Vernon Hospital,  
Northwood.

> [Sci Transl Med](#). 2014 Jul 16;6(245):245ra93. doi: 10.1126/scitranslmed.3008973.

## Ultrahigh dose-rate FLASH irradiation increases the differential response between normal and tumor tissue in mice

Vincent Favaudon<sup>1</sup>, Laura Caplier<sup>2</sup>, Virginie Monceau<sup>3</sup>, Frédéric Pouzoulet<sup>4</sup>, Mano Sayarath<sup>4</sup>, Charles Fouillade<sup>4</sup>, Marie-France Poupon<sup>4</sup>, Isabel Brito<sup>5</sup>, Philippe Hupé<sup>6</sup>, Jean Bourhis<sup>7</sup>, Janet Hall<sup>4</sup>, Jean-Jacques Fontaine<sup>2</sup>, Marie-Catherine Vozenin<sup>8</sup>

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 25031268 DOI: [10.1126/scitranslmed.3008973](#)

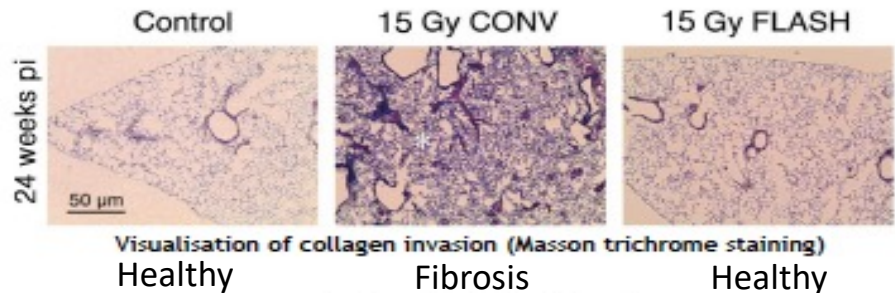
In vitro studies suggested that sub-millisecond pulses of radiation elicit less genomic instability than continuous, protracted irradiation at the same total dose. To determine the potential of ultrahigh dose-rate irradiation in radiotherapy, we investigated lung fibrogenesis in C57BL/6J mice exposed either to short pulses ( $\leq 500$  ms) of radiation delivered at ultrahigh dose rate ( $\geq 40$  Gy/s, FLASH) or to conventional dose-rate irradiation ( $\leq 0.03$  Gy/s, CONV) in single doses. The growth of human HBCx-12A and HEp-2 tumor xenografts in nude mice and syngeneic TC-1 Luc(+) orthotopic lung tumors in C57BL/6J mice was monitored under similar radiation conditions. CONV (15 Gy) triggered lung fibrosis associated with activation of the TGF- $\beta$  (transforming growth factor- $\beta$ ) cascade, whereas no complications developed after doses of FLASH below 20 Gy for more than 36 weeks after irradiation. FLASH irradiation also spared normal smooth muscle and epithelial cells from acute radiation-induced apoptosis, which could be reinduced by administration of systemic TNF- $\alpha$  (tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$ ) before irradiation. In contrast, FLASH was as efficient as CONV in the repression of tumor growth. Together, these results suggest that FLASH radiotherapy might allow complete eradication of lung tumors and reduce the occurrence and severity of early and late complications affecting normal tissue.

# Glimpse of FLASH THERAPY - 2014

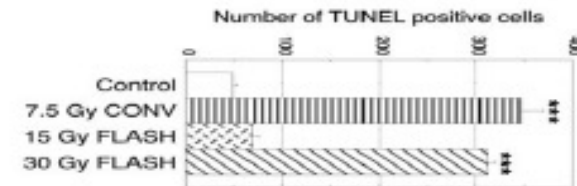
## First Proof-of-Concept with low-energy $e^-$

Sci Transl Med 6: 245ra93, 2014

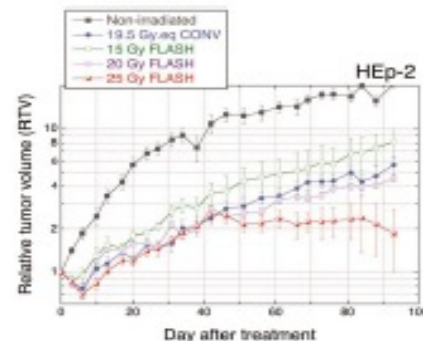
- **FLASH spared normal lung tissue** at doses known to induce fibrosis in mice exposed to conventional dose-rate irradiation (CONV).



- **FLASH spared smooth muscle cells** in arterioles from radio-induced apoptosis.



- No difference between FLASH and CONV with regard to tumor growth inhibition.
- However, **normal tissue sparing by FLASH** allowed dose escalation without complications, resulting in complete tumor cure in some xenograft models.



# FLASH THERAPY

## What are the underlying mechanisms in FLASH effect?

### The role of the oxygen of emerges

#### Playing with the oxygen tension = modify ROS production

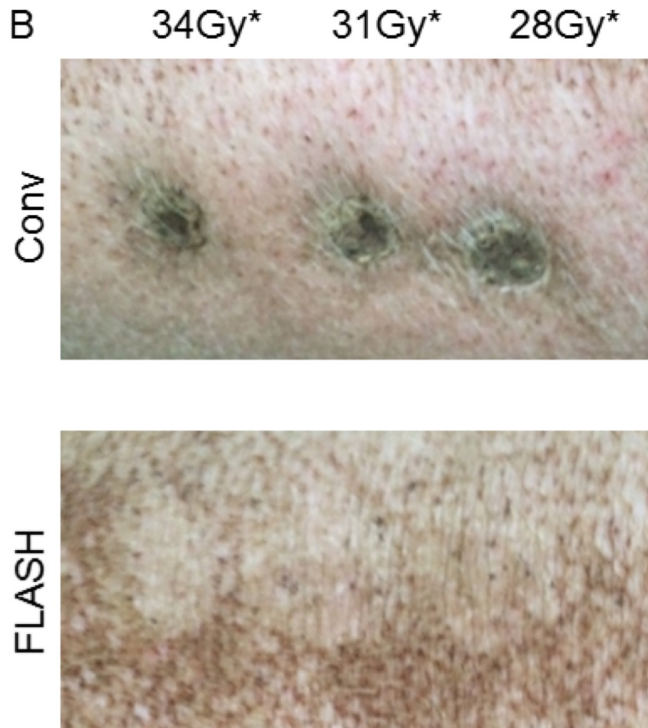
- 1 – Make mice breathe 95% of oxygen (before and during IR)
- 2 – Increase oxygen tension in the brain
- 3 – Deliver FLASH or conventional dose-rate irradiation
- 4 – Evaluate memory



Increase in O<sub>2</sub> tension reverses the FLASH effect  
Less ROS produced by FLASH-RT ?



# The FLASH Effect – gaining huge momentum

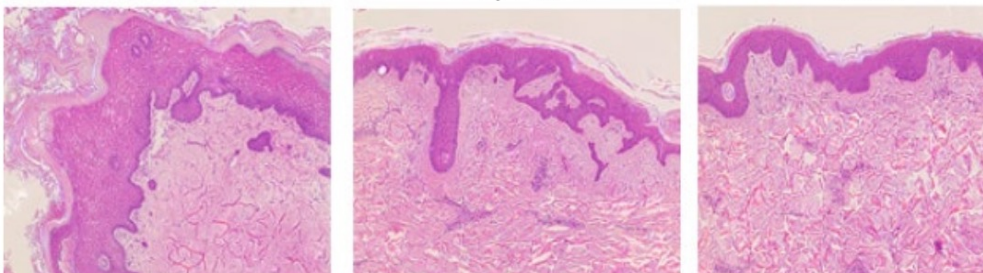


- Apparent sparing of healthy tissue when dose is delivered at **ultrahigh dose rates (UHDR) of > 40 Gy/s**.
- Healthy tissue sparing observed in virtually all radiation modalities.
  - ✓ Majority of experiments/trials with low energy electrons and shoot-through protons.
- So far, 2 human trials:
  - Skin lymphoma with 6 MeV electrons (CHUV, 2019).
  - Bone metastases with 250 MeV (shoot-through) protons (Cincinnati, 2020). Pain relief and not curative
  - Further trials are ongoing

34 Gy Conv

34 Gy FLASH

Control



**FLASH mechanism is still not fully understood.**

# Clinical Translation (2019): Treatment of a first patient with FLASH-radiotherapy,

**5.6 MeV** linac adapted for accelerating  
electrons in FLASH mode

**15 Gy** with 10 pulses in **90 ms**

3.5 cm diameter tumour, multiresistant  
cutaneous

Appears that instantaneous dose  
Induces a massive oxygen consumption  
and a transient protective hypoxia in  
normal tissues



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Radiotherapy and Oncology

journal homepage: [www.thegreenjournal.com](http://www.thegreenjournal.com)



Original Article

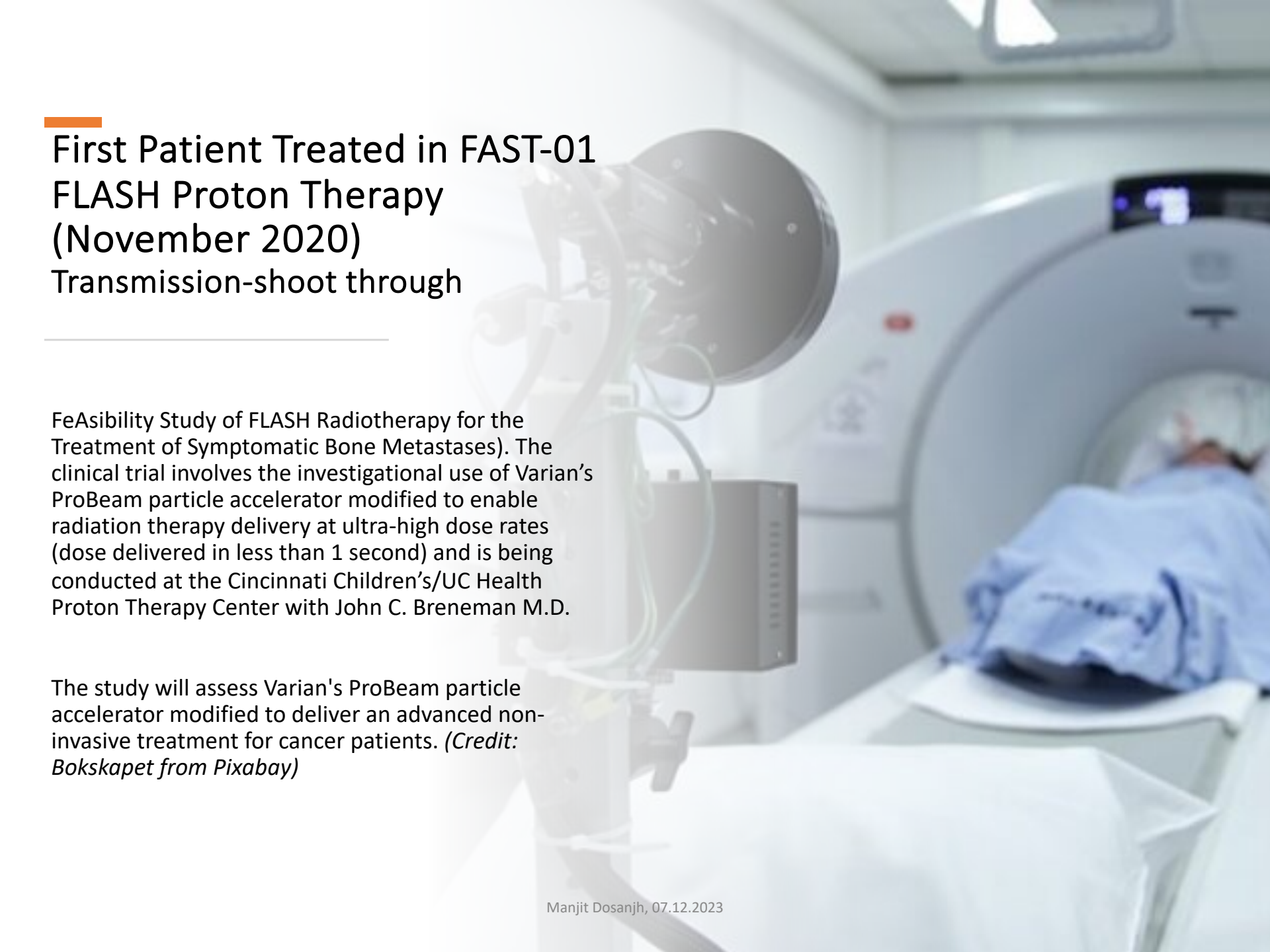
## Treatment of a first patient with FLASH-radiotherapy

Jean Bourhis<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Wendy Jeanneret Sozzi<sup>a</sup>, Patrik Gonçalves Jorge<sup>a,b,c</sup>, Olivier Gaide<sup>d</sup>, Claude Bailat<sup>c</sup>, Frédéric Duclos<sup>a</sup>, David Patin<sup>a</sup>, Mahmut Ozsahin<sup>a</sup>, François Bochud<sup>c</sup>, Jean-François Germond<sup>c</sup>, Raphaël Moeckli<sup>c,1</sup>, Marie-Catherine Vozenin<sup>a,b,1</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Radiation Oncology, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne; <sup>b</sup>Radiation Oncology Laboratory, Department of Radiation Oncology, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne; <sup>c</sup>Institute of Radiation Physics, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne; and <sup>d</sup>Department of Dermatology, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne, Switzerland



**Fig. 1.** Temporal evolution of the treated lesion: (a) before treatment; the limits of the PTV are delineated in black; (b) at 3 weeks, at the peak of skin reactions (grade 1 epithelitis NCI-CTCAE v 5.0); (c) at 5 months.



# First Patient Treated in FAST-01 FLASH Proton Therapy (November 2020) Transmission-shoot through

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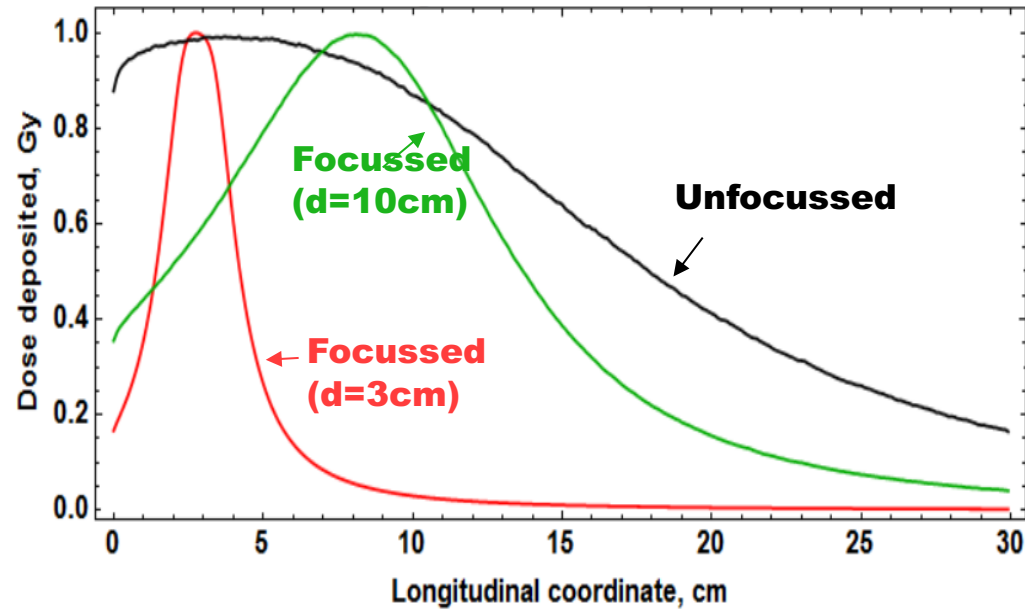
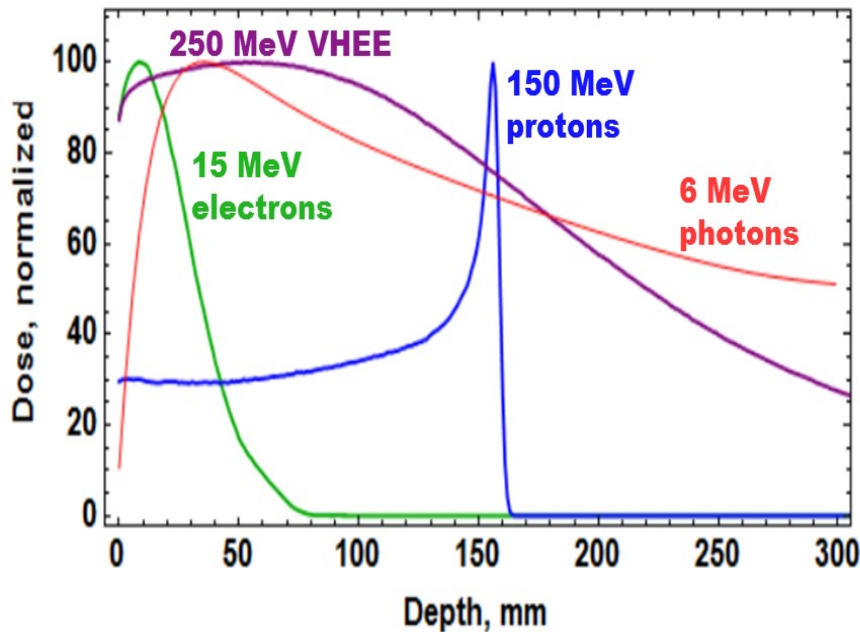
FeAsibility Study of FLASH Radiotherapy for the Treatment of Symptomatic Bone Metastases). The clinical trial involves the investigational use of Varian's ProBeam particle accelerator modified to enable radiation therapy delivery at ultra-high dose rates (dose delivered in less than 1 second) and is being conducted at the Cincinnati Children's/UC Health Proton Therapy Center with John C. Breneman M.D.

The study will assess Varian's ProBeam particle accelerator modified to deliver an advanced non-invasive treatment for cancer patients. *(Credit: Bokskapet from Pixabay)*

# VHEE (Very High Energy Electrons)

# VHEE

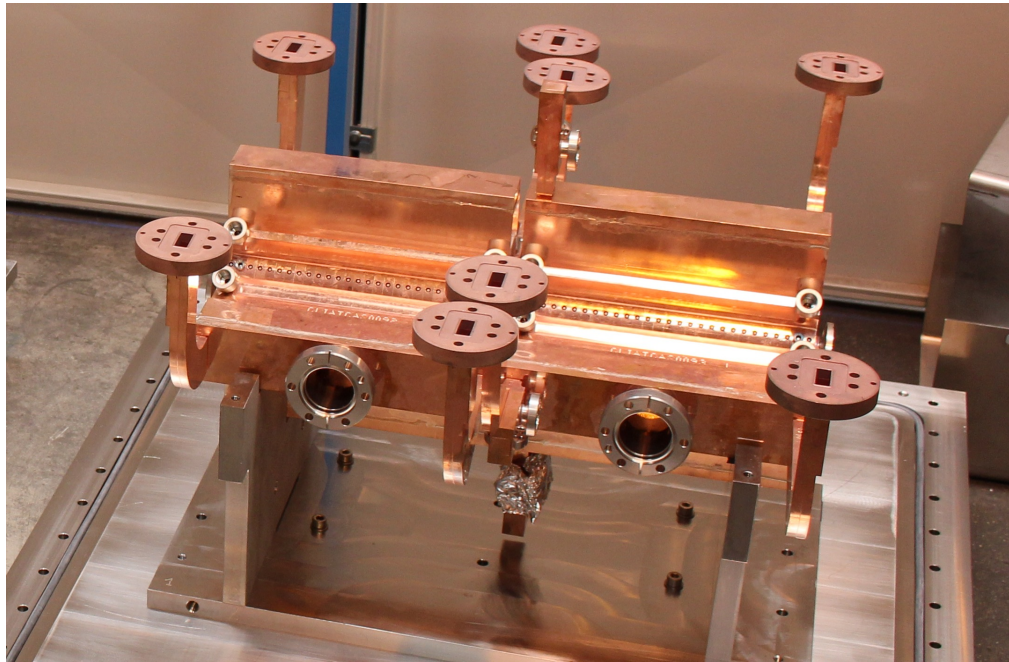
- Their ballistic and dosimetric properties can surpass those of photons, which are currently the most commonly used in RT.
- Their position compared to protons need to be evaluated, but they can be produced at a reduced cost.



Depth Dose curve for various particle beams in water (beam widths  $r=0.5$  cm)

# New State of the art?

With recent High-Gradient linac technology developments, **Very High Energy Electrons (VHEE)** in the range 100–250 MeV offer the promise to be a cost-effective option for Radiation Therapy



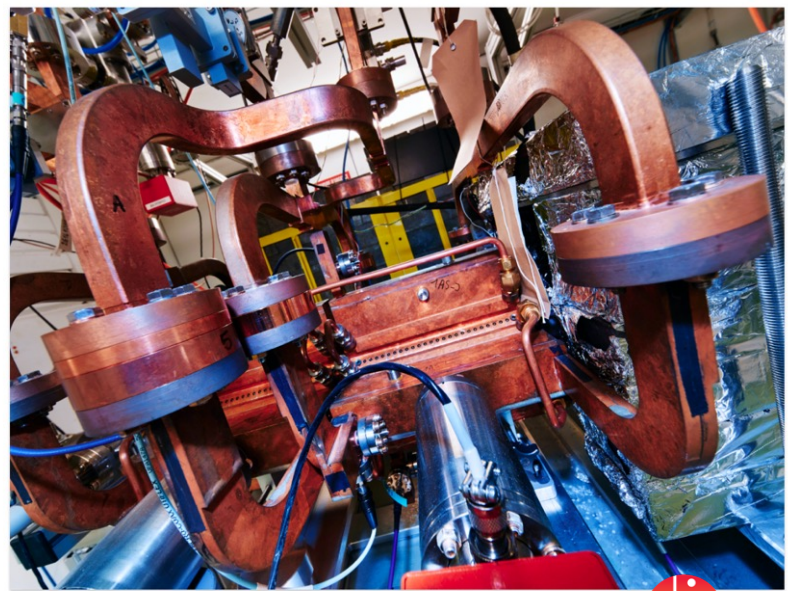
**CLIC RF X-band cavity prototype (12 Ghz, 100 MV/m)**

**Compact Linear Collider**

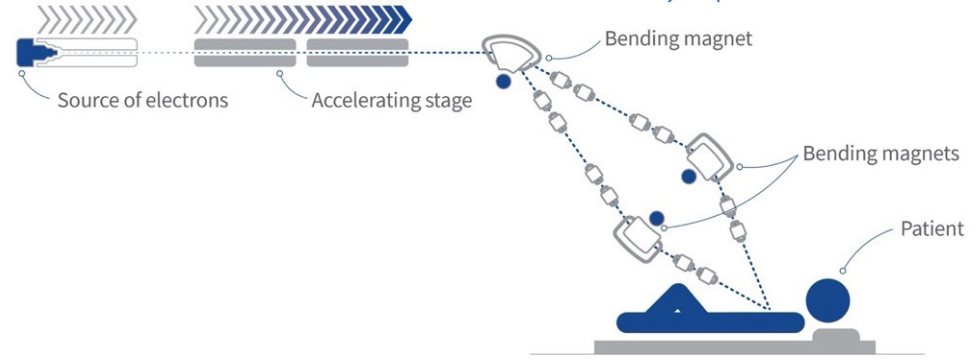
Manjit Dosanjh, 07.12.2023

# CERN – CHUV collaboration on FLASH VHEE therapy

CLIC technology for a FLASH VHEE facility being designed in collaboration with Lausanne University Hospital CHUV



Close-up of the Compact Linear Collider prototype, on which the electron FLASH design is based (Image: CERN)



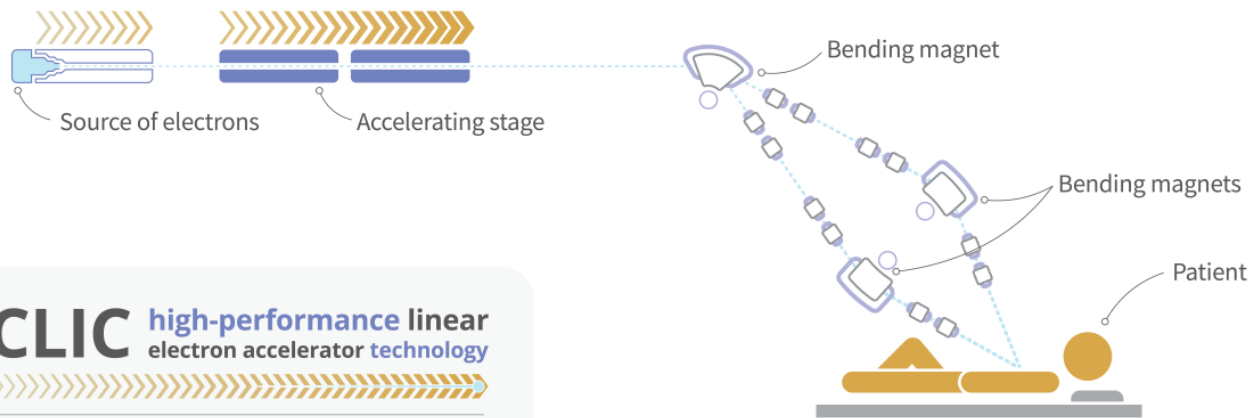
An intense beam of electrons is produced in a photoinjector, accelerated to around 100 MeV and then is expanded, shaped and guided to the patient.

The design of this facility is the result of an intense dialogue between groups at CHUV and CERN.

Jean Bourhis from CHUV:  
“The clinical need that we have really converges with the technological answer that CERN has.”

Walter Wuensch (CERN)

# CERN, CHUV and THERYQ join forces for a first VHEE Facility (Nov 2022)



**CLIC** high-performance linear electron accelerator technology

FLASH treatments of large and deep-seated tumours

More healthy tissue spared

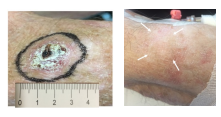
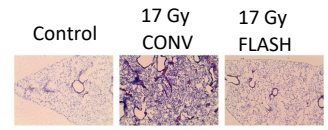
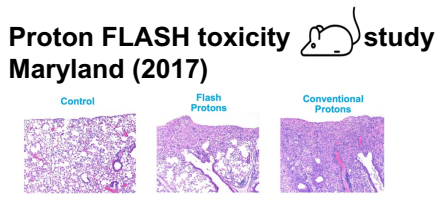
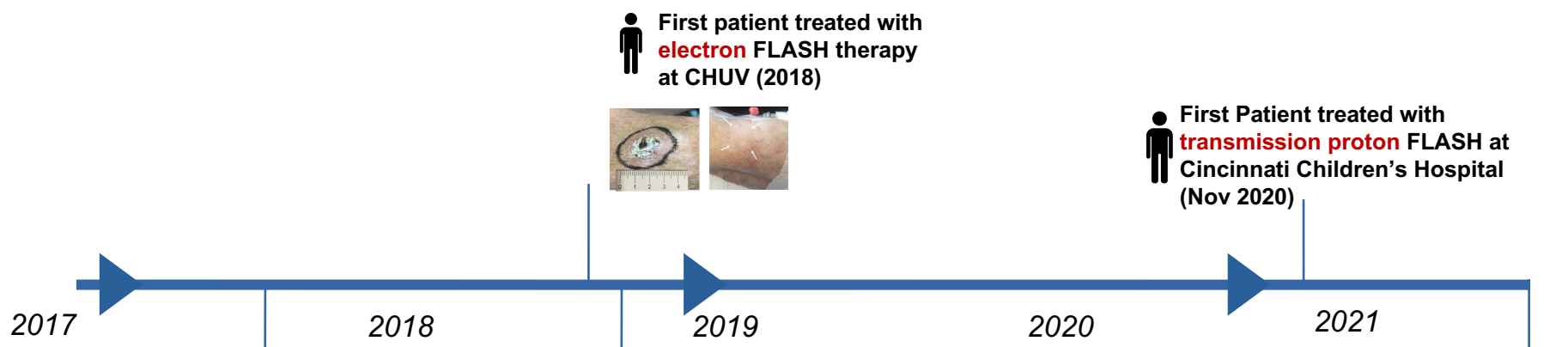
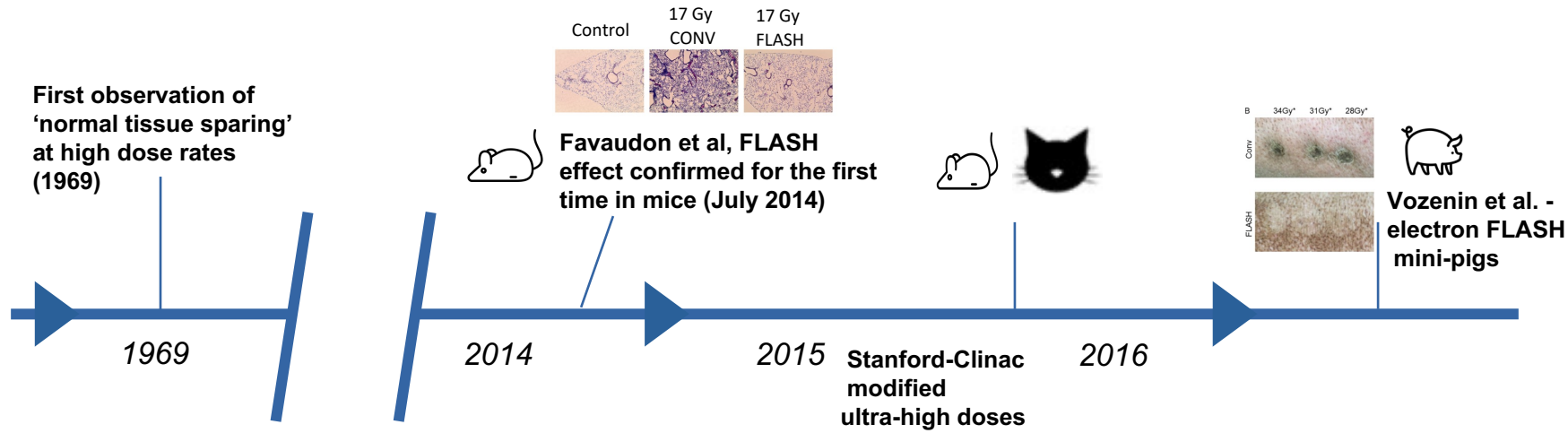
**< 200 ms**

Full dose is delivered by a beam of electrons in less than 200 ms

## Innovative Radiation Therapy with Electrons

It will produce very high-energy electron (VHEE) beams of 100 to 200 MeV in less than 100-200ms, based on CLIC (Compact Linear Collider) technology, allowing all types of cancers up to a depth of 20 cm to be treated using the FLASH technique.



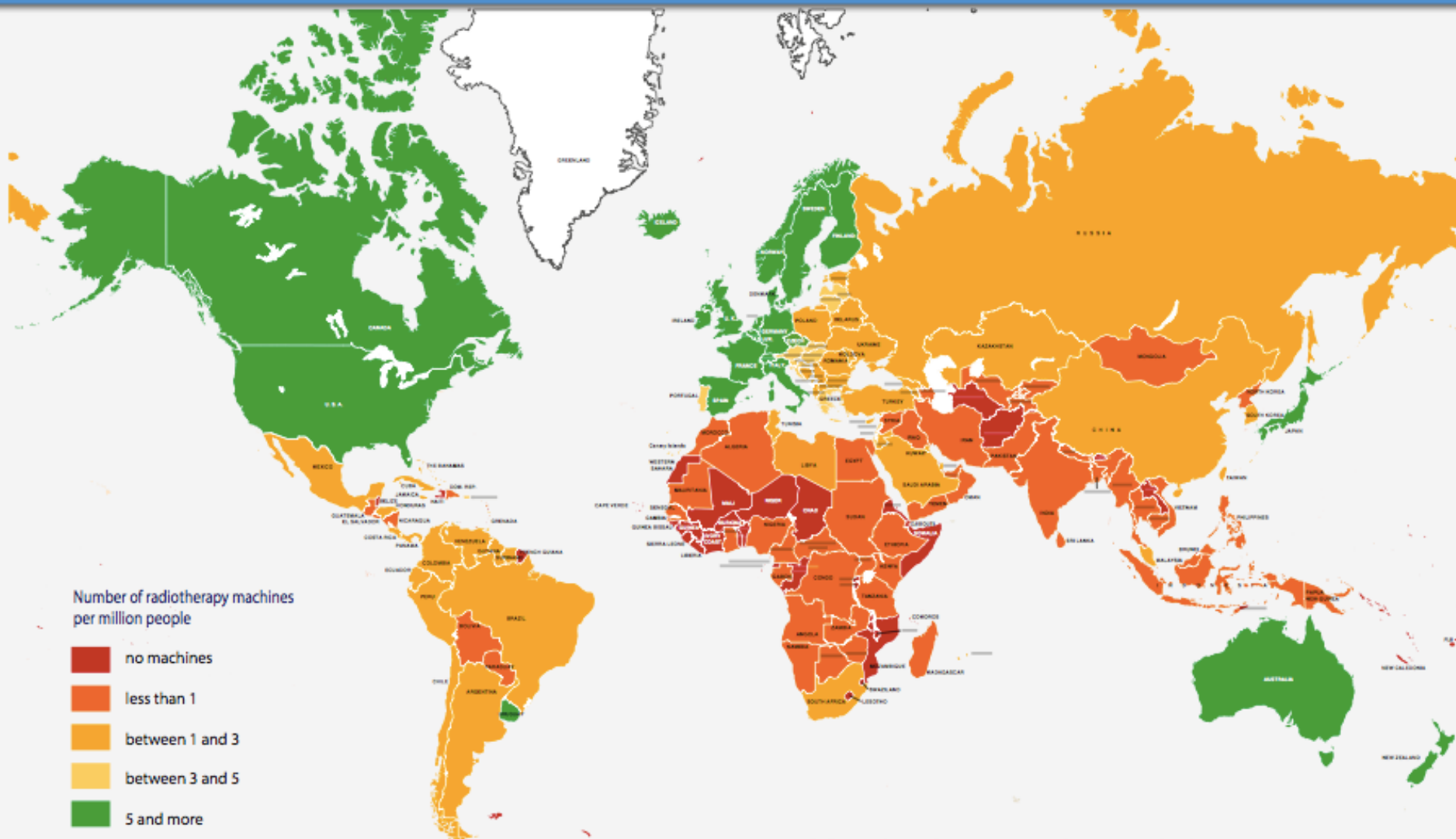


**Current Challenge: how to go from almost no radiotherapy to high quality radiotherapy globally**

# Availability of **RADIATION THERAPY**

Number of Radiotherapy Machines per Million People

2012

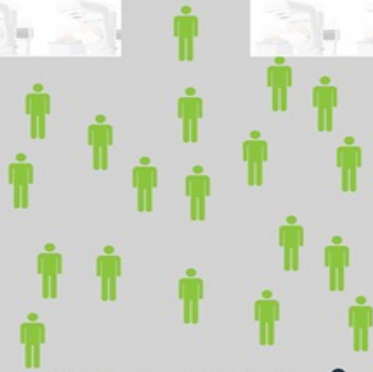
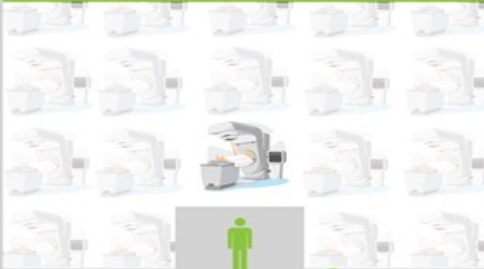


Source: DIRAC (Directory of Radiotherapy Centres), 2012 / IAEA

For more information: <http://www-naweb.iaea.org/nahu/dirac/>  
[dirac@iaea.org](mailto:dirac@iaea.org)

# Radiotherapy in Cancer Care

## In high income countries



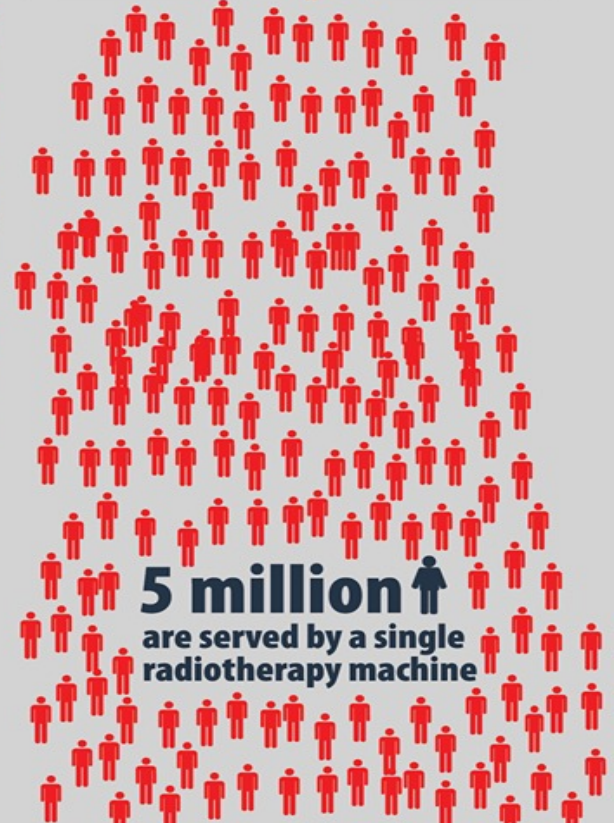
**120,000** ↑  
are served by a single  
radiotherapy machine

## In middle income countries



**1 million** ↑  
are served by a single  
radiotherapy machine

## In low income countries



**5 million** ↑  
are served by a single  
radiotherapy machine

# Great strides have been made in the fight against cancer

## But there are dramatic disparities in Access

Country	LINACs	Population	People per LINAC
Ethiopia	1	115 M	115,000,000
Nigeria	7	206 M	29,000,000
Tanzania	5	59.7 M	11,900,000
Kenya	11	53.9 M	4,890,000
Morocco	42	36.9 M	880,000
South Africa	97	59 M	608,000
UK	357	67 M	187,000
Switzerland	83	8.6 M	103,000
US	3727	331 M	88,000

Italy has 433 LINACS for 59 M = 136,000

**Africa: 420 MV RT units for around 1.4 billion people**

1 machine per 3.5 million people

**UK: 359 MV RT units for around 68 million people**

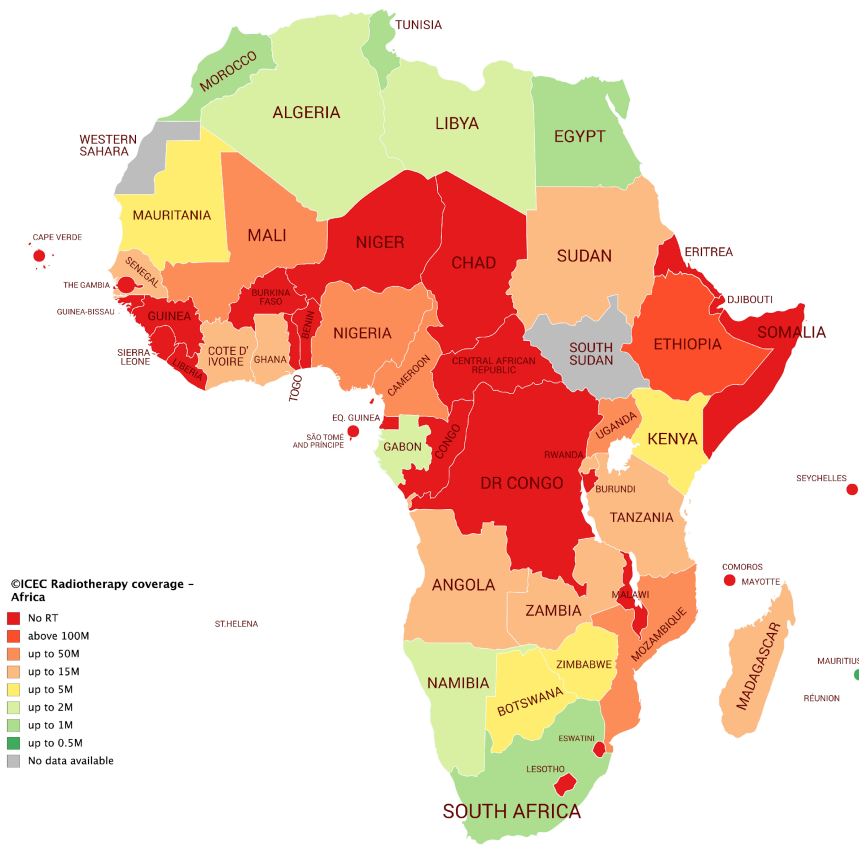
1 machine per 190,000

**Switzerland: 84 MV for 8.7 million people**

1 machine for 100,000

**US: 3854 MV for around 330 million people**

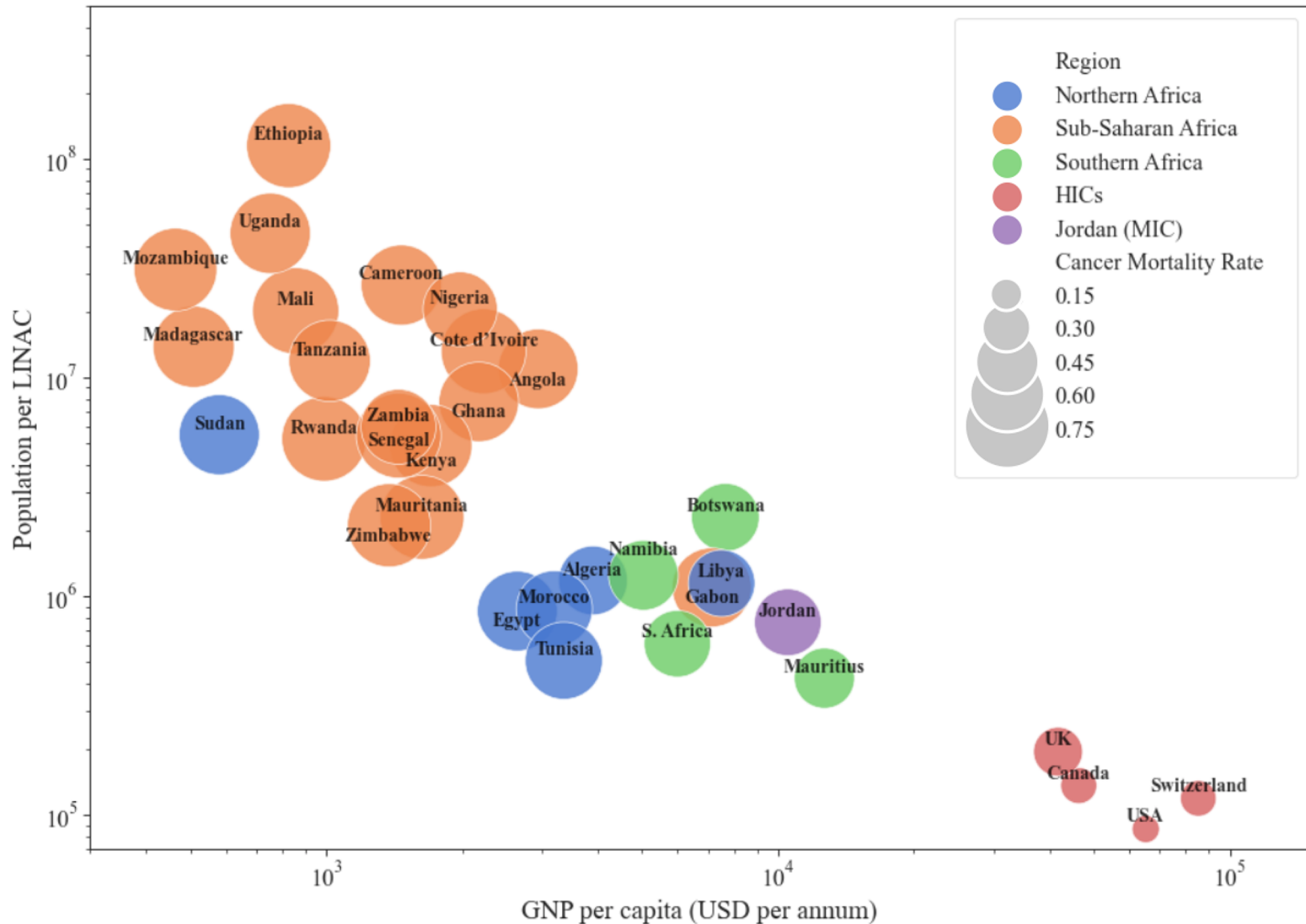
1 machine for 86,000



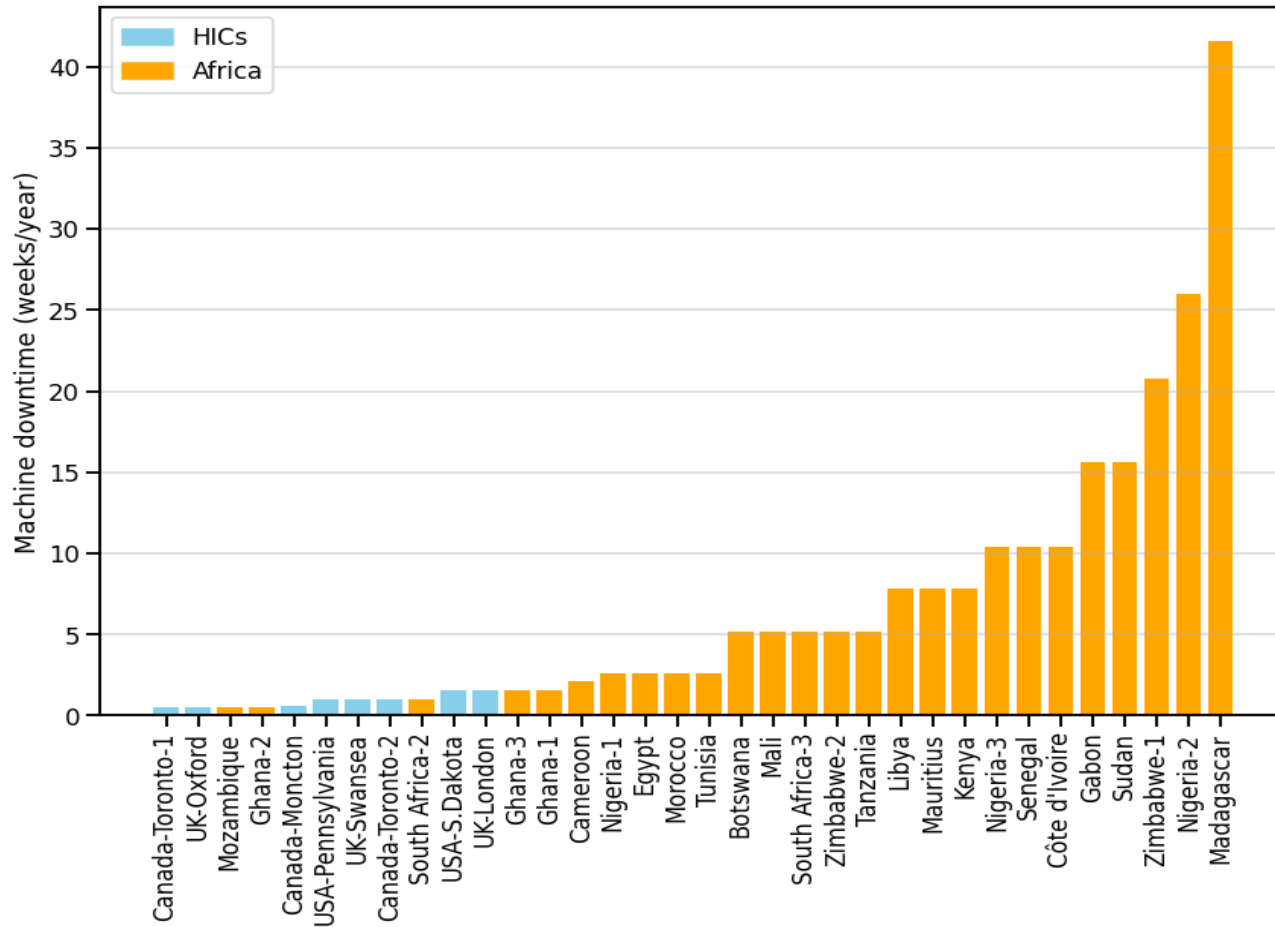
# LINAC Needs Assessment and Challenges

- There are ~15,000 LINACs globally; approximately 400 in all of Africa
- There is a **current need for around 4000 LINACs** in Africa alone
- Estimated need for more than 10,000 LINACs in LMICS by 2035
- LINAC machines offer state of the art treatment but:
  - Cost more
  - More complex and
  - Labour intensive to operate and maintain
  - Need trained personnel experts which are lacking
- Current technology not designed for LMIC environments-  
infrastructure power, water, humidity challenges, etc.
- Need affordable LINACs and lower operating costs for RT is a global priority
- Risks associated with Cobalt-60 need a cost-effective alternative

# GNP per Capita and the Ratio of Inhabitants to RT Machines and Cancer Mortality Rates



# Downtime in weeks comparison African and HICs





# Looking for solutions for building affordable RT

---

- **Define the problem**
- **Gather information** from African hospitals/facilities regarding challenges experienced in providing radiotherapy in Africa compare these to data from **HIC**.
- **Identify** the challenges from those who live with them day-to-day
- **Create design specifications** for a radiotherapy machine to meet these challenges for an improved design
- Assess applications of **ML, AI and use of cloud-computing** in African and LMIC settings
- Create **conceptual design report** for the radiotherapy system to enable technical design and prototyping in next phase





**[cern.ch/virtual-hadron-therapy-centre](https://cern.ch/virtual-hadron-therapy-centre)**

Manjit Dosanjh, 07.12.2023

# Interactive Material

- <https://youtu.be/ICWTaa5zhMQ> (improving access to Treatment)
- Imaging and hadron therapy animation  
<http://cds.cern.ch/record/1611721?ln=en>  
<http://cds.cern.ch/record/2002120>
- Interactive virtual visit to a hadrotherapy centre:  
<http://www.cern.nymus3d.nl/maps#>
- PARTNER Marie Curie  
<http://cds.cern.ch/record/1384426?ln=en>  
<http://cds.cern.ch/record/1327668>
- ENERVISION Marie Curie  
<http://cds.cern.ch/record/1541891>
  - FLASH An innovative electron radiotherapy technology  
<https://videos.cern.ch/record/2762058>  
<https://videos.cern.ch/record/2295068>

# Articles

1. Dosanjh, M.K., [From Particle Physics to Medical Applications](http://iopscience.iop.org/book/978-0-7503-1444-2/chapter/bk978-0-7503-1444-2ch1), IOP Publishing, e-book, <http://iopscience.iop.org/book/978-0-7503-1444-2/chapter/bk978-0-7503-1444-2ch1>
2. <https://cerncourier.com/a/the-changing-landscape-of-cancer-therapy/>
3. Pistenmaa, D., Coleman, C.N., and Dosanjh, M.K.; Developing medical linacs for challenging regions: <http://cerncourier.com/cws/article/cern/67710> (2017)
4. Dosanjh, M.K., Amaldi, U., Mayer, R. and Poetter, R.; ENLIGHT: European Network for Light Ion Hadron Therapy. DOI: 10.1016/j.radonc.2018.03.014  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167814018301464>
5. Ugo Amaldi, et al . South East European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies (SEEIST) Front. Phys., January 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fphy.2020.567466>
6. Angal-Kalinin D, Burt G and Dosanjh M. *Linacs to narrow radiation therapy gap*, CERN Courier, December 2021 <https://cerncourier.com/a/linacs-to-narrow-radiotherapy-gap/>
7. Manjit Dosanjh, Collaboration, the force that makes the impossible possible. [Advances in Radiation Oncology](#) 7(6):100966 DOI: [10.1016/j.adro.2022.100966](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adro.2022.100966)