



# **Radiation-Induced Acoustics for Real-Time Dosimetry & Medical Physics Education Perspectives**

**GILBERTO GONZALEZ, M.S.**

**PHD CANDIDATE, RADIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

# OUTLINE

I. PERSPECTIVES OF MEDICAL PHYSICS: MEXICO, GERMANY, USA

II. RADIATION-INDUCED ACOUSTICS FOR DOSE MONITORING

- **Education and programs**
- **Residency**
- **Certifications (ABR, Fachkunde, IOMP)**
- **About OUHSC**
  
- **Goal of Adaptive Radiotherapy**
- **Radiation- Induced Acoustic (RIA) Imaging**
- **Studies with Linac and Synchrocyclotron**
- **OUHSC research**
- **Questions**

# Disclaimer

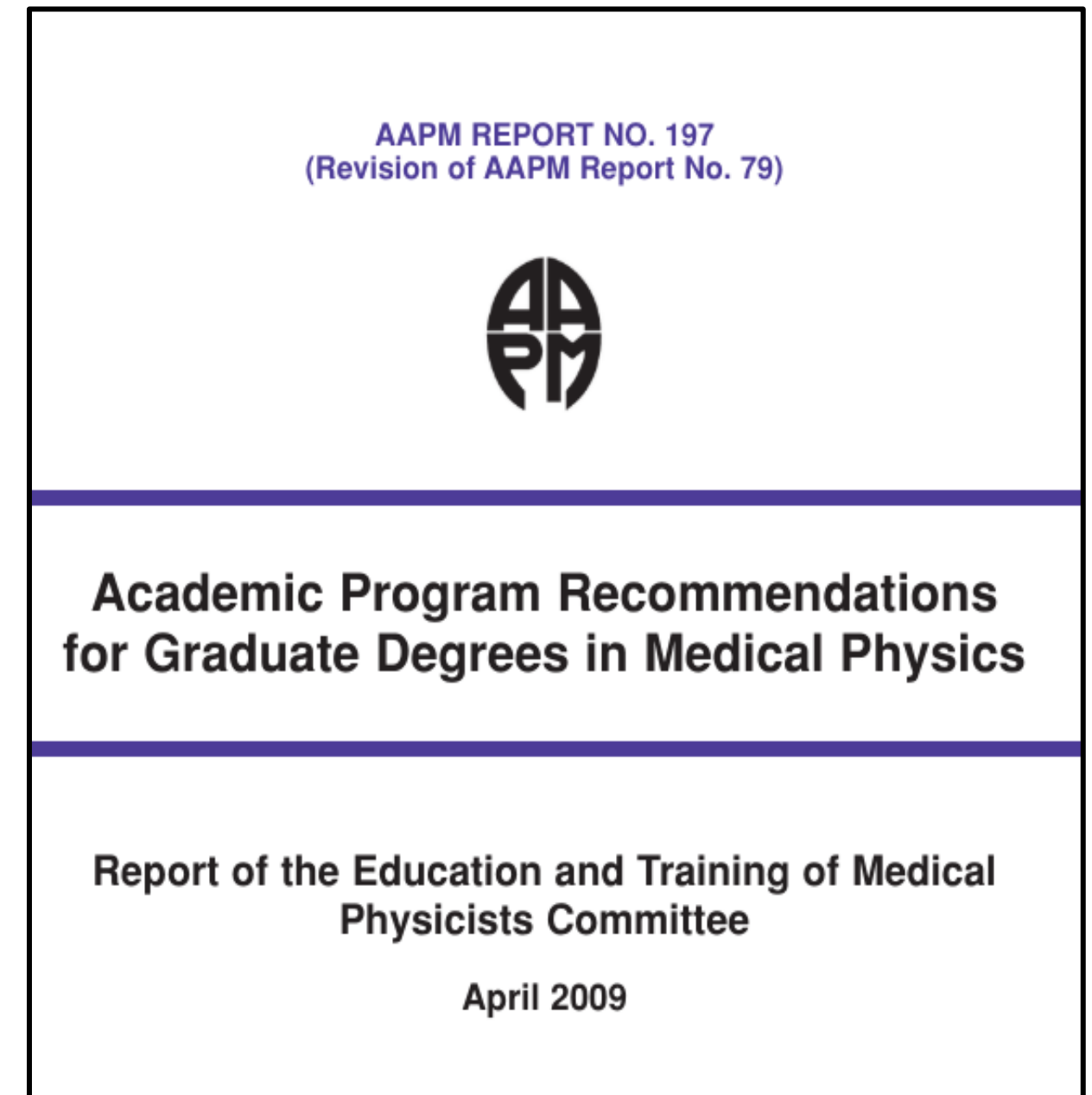
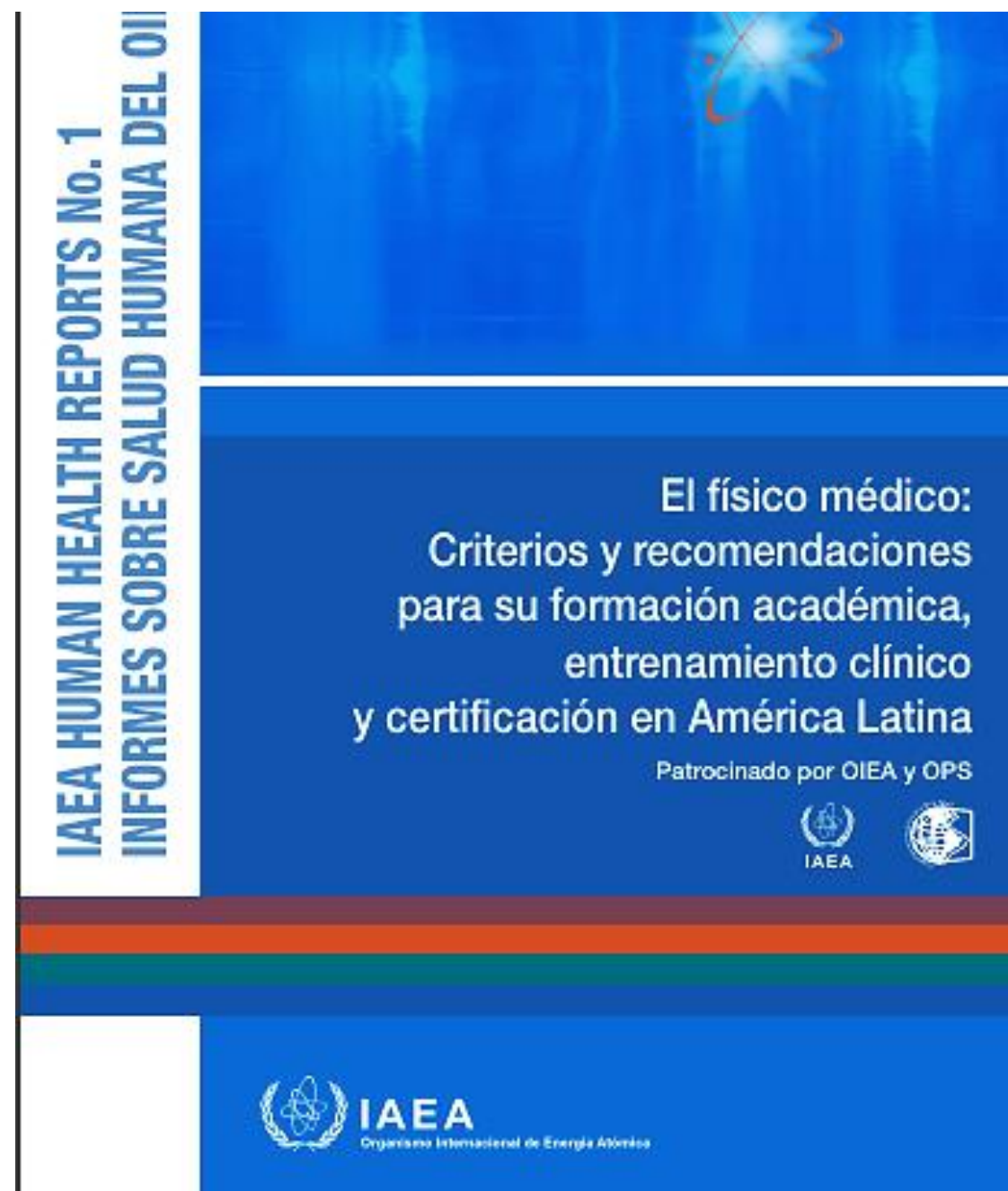
- All what is shared in this presentation are personal experiences and **may not necessarily** represent the interest of OUHSC, AAPM, nor other organizations mentioned.
- All **presented research** was performed between OUHSC and UCI under a NIH grant.

# EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS

TYPICAL PATHWAY?

WHERE CAN I STUDY?

WHAT BACKGROUND IS  
REQUIRED?



## QUALIFIED MEDICAL PHYSICIST

**IAEA:** profesional with a degree on physics, engineering or related, + 2 to 4 years of additional formation in medical physics (MS? PhD?) and Clinical training.

**AAPM:** MS or PhD in medical physics, or equivalent from an accredited school + board certification (ABR).



# EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS

TYPICAL PATHWAY?

WHERE CAN I STUDY?

WHAT BACKGROUND IS REQUIRED?



## CNSNS

COMISIÓN NACIONAL  
DE SEGURIDAD NUCLEAR  
Y SALVAGUARDIAS



## HOSPITAL GENERAL de MÉXICO

DR. EDUARDO LICEAGA



## REQUIREMENT FOR CLINICAL TRAINING

**6 Months:**

Treatment Planning, daily QA, Linac output, CT Simulation, Shielding

**Mandatory requirement for License of Operation**



# EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS

TYPICAL PATHWAY?

WHERE CAN I STUDY?

WHAT BACKGROUND IS  
REQUIRED?



*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Medizinische Physik e.V.*

## Participation of the DGMP in granting specialist qualifications in radiation protection for medical physics experts

When granting specialist licenses for medical physics experts (MPE) in Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg and Hesse, the DGMP is included as an expert in accordance with Section 20 of the Atomic Energy Act.

<https://www.dgmp.de/de-DE/977/studiengaenge-in-medizinischer-physik-fuer-das-mpe-qualifikationsniveau/>

<https://www.dgmp.de/de-DE/506/fachkunde-mpe/>



## REQUIREMENT OF FACHKUNDE (GERMANY)

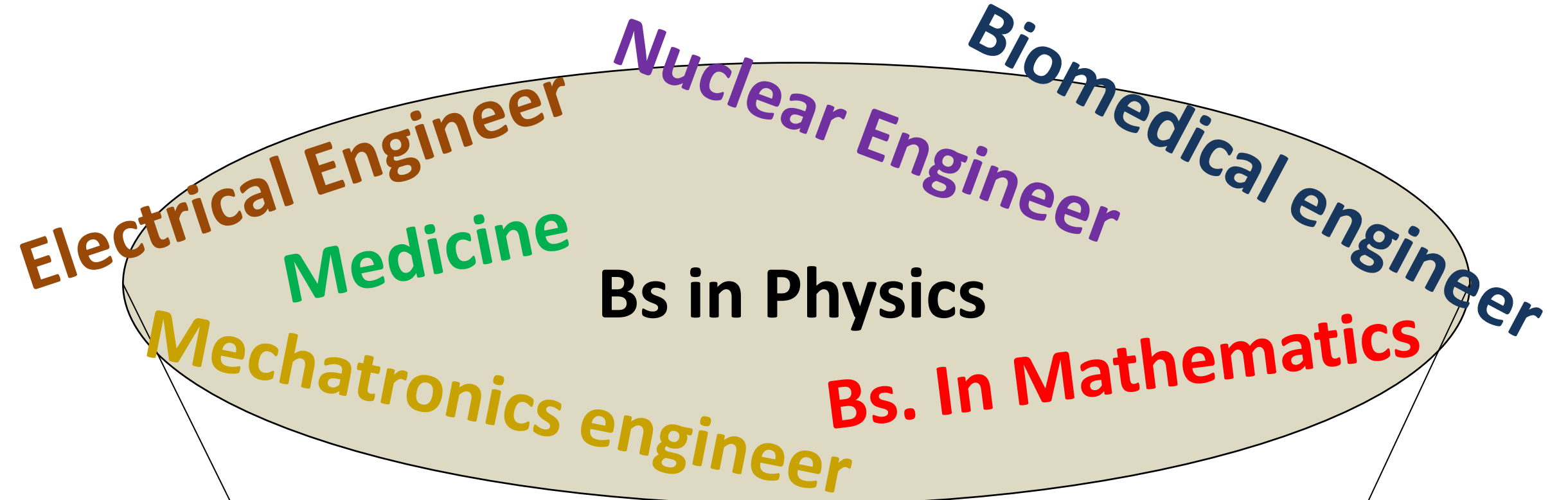
1. Adequate" education MS or PhD + **Technical interview in german with DGMP**
2. **Exam or proof of practical experience** which demonstrates knowledge and duration of practical training (Fachkunde), 2 years?
3. **Participate** in approved courses on Radiation safety

# EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS

TYPICAL PATHWAY?

WHERE CAN I STUDY?

WHAT BACKGROUND IS REQUIRED?



**CAMPEP Accredited Graduate Programs in Medical Physics**

**MS, PhD**



**CAMPEP Accredited Residency Programs in Medical Physics**

**ABR**

AMERICAN  
BOARD OF  
RADIOLOGY

**Part 1 Exam**

# RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

TYPICAL PATHWAY?

WHERE CAN I STUDY?

WHAT BACKGROUND IS REQUIRED?

## PROGRAMS AVAILABLE THRU “THE MATCH”

**SEPTEMBER 2023:** Residency Virtual Fair for AAPM Student members

**OCTOBER -NOVEMBER 2023:** Registration, payment, apply to vacancies

**JANUARY 2024:** First preliminary interviews for selected candidates

**FEBRUARY – MARCH 2024:** Final interviews (1- 2 rounds) for candidates

**20 MARCH 2024:** Deadline to submit the Ranking List

**27 MARCH 2024:** Result, 1 Match

**1 JULY 2024:** Start of Residency



## HOW TO STAND-OUT?

- **Clinical experiences:** PSQA, Linac calibration, Treatment Planning, CT Sim
- **MS vs PhD:** Publications and conferences
- **Personal experiences and volunteering**



# CERTIFICATION EXAMS

TYPICAL PATHWAY?

WHERE CAN I STUDY?

WHAT BACKGROUND IS REQUIRED?



## BOARD EXAMS

**ABR Part 1:** Remote 8h, Divided in General and Clinical

During your PhD, or during your Residency.

**ABR Part 2:** Remote 5h. By specialty: Therapy, Diagnostic, Nuclear Medicine

Right after Residency

**ABR Part 3:** Oral exam 3h, by specialty.

First years in your job

# RESEARCH AT OUHSC

MS Program  
(2 years)

PhD Program  
(At least 4 years)



Stephenson  
Cancer Center



## **RADIATION ONCOLOGY**

**10 Physicians, 9 Qualified Medical Physicists, 4 Physics Residents**

**4 Linear Accelerators, 1 Pencil beam Proton Therapy**

**1 HDR Brachytherapy, 1 Gammaknife SRS**

## **RESEARCH TOPICS**

**Radiation-induced acoustics (Collaboration with Uni of California Irvine)**

**Proton FLASH - RT**

**Monte Carlo modelling (TOPAS software)**



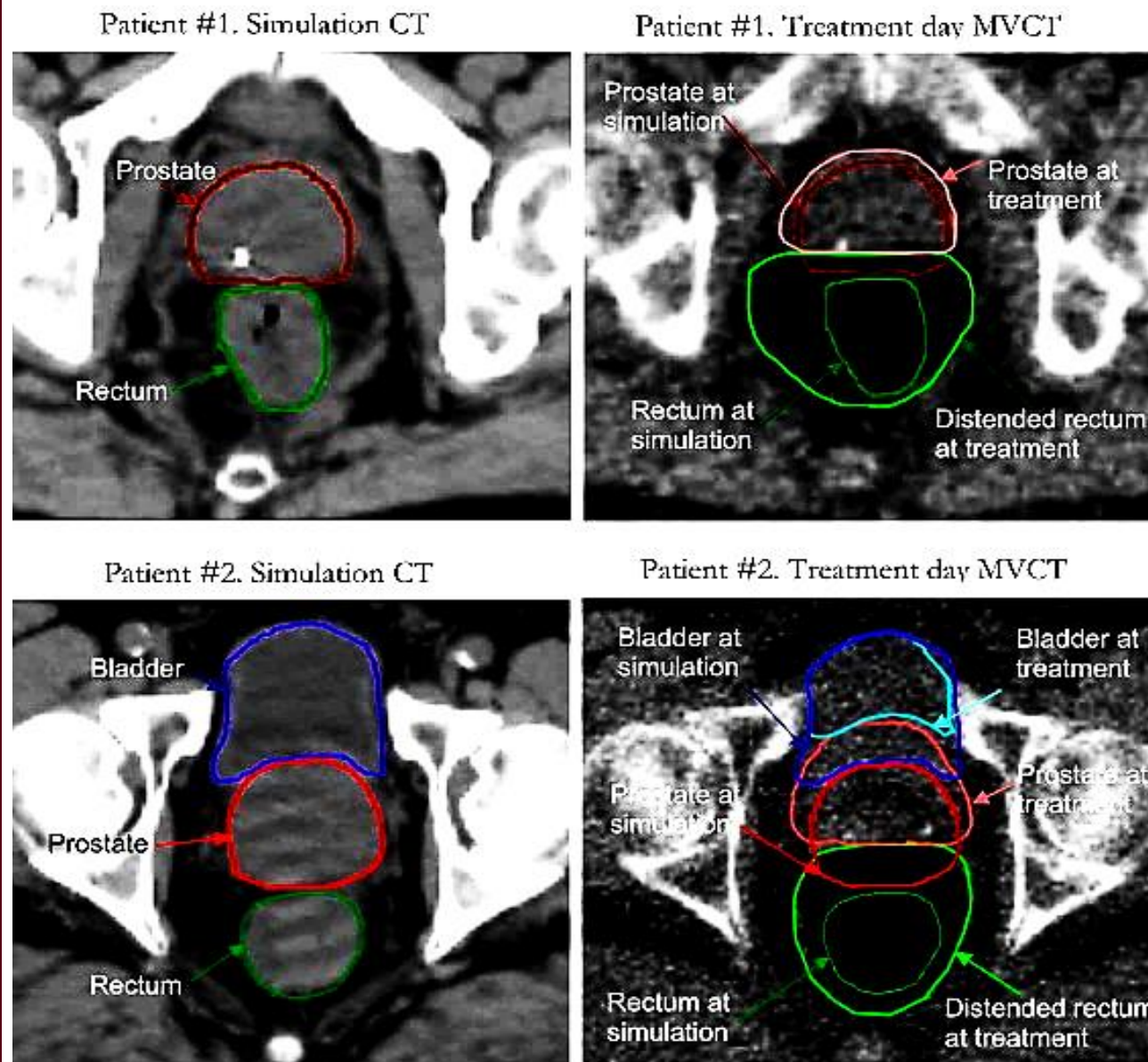
# GOAL OF RADIOTHERAPY

## TOWARDS PRECISION RT

Conventional IGRT:  
**pre-treatment** target localization.

Patient specific QA:  
**pre-treatment** dose verification.

Not **real-time** checks.



*Kupelian, P. et al. Seminars in radiation oncology. 18.1 (2008)*



*Alshareef, J. Radiation physics and chemistry (2021)*

## ADAPTATIVE MODALITIES

### MRI-LINAC AND ETHOS

Online workflows for **intrafraction motion**, allowing real-time treatment adjustments.

However, Ethos relies on x-ray imaging dose, whereas MRI imaging adds considerable time to the treatment.

## REAL-TIME DOSIMETRY

### IN-VIVO DETECTORS

Initially, TLDs offered point measurements, but lacked **real-time read-out**.

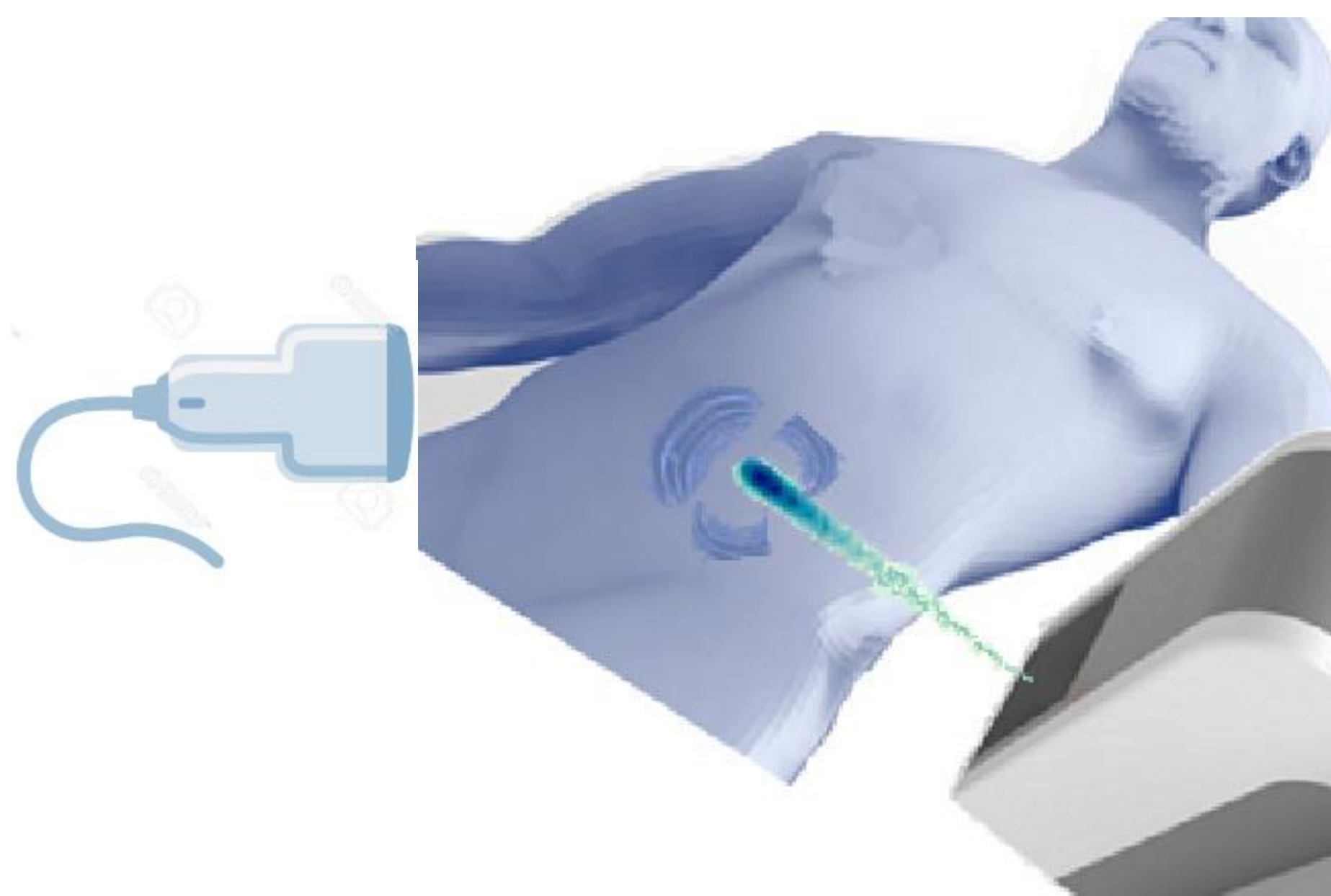
Silicon diodes, while giving instant readout, are limited to skin dose.

# A NOVEL SOLUTION

WHAT IF WE COULD “LISTEN” TO RADIATION?

Acoustic-based technology offers dynamic imaging.

There is promise for real-time dosimetry, alongside diagnostic ultrasound.



## RADIATION-INDUCED ACOUSTICS

### BASIC PRINCIPLE

Pulsed energy deposition causes localized heating, generating a rapid irradiated tissue expansion.

This expansion produces acoustic waves that can be picked up by transducers.

## PULSED RADIATION

LINACS (X-RAY, ELECTRON)  
SYNCHROCYCLOTRONS (PROTON)

Given a short pulse (less than a few microseconds), the acoustic signals reflect sharply the dose distribution.



# RECENT STUDIES

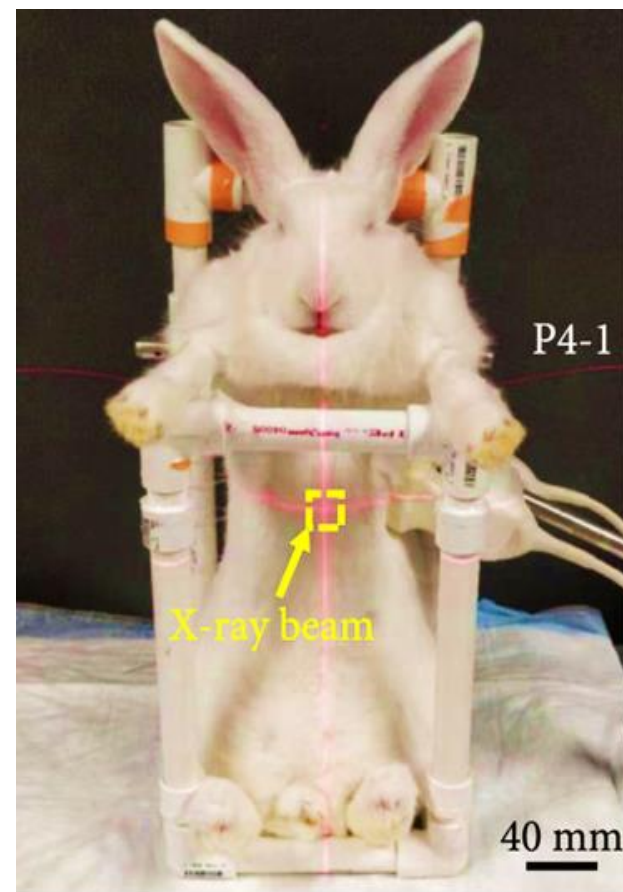
## X-RAY ACOUSTIC COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (XACT)

Dual modality with ultrasound imaging on in-vivo rabbit.

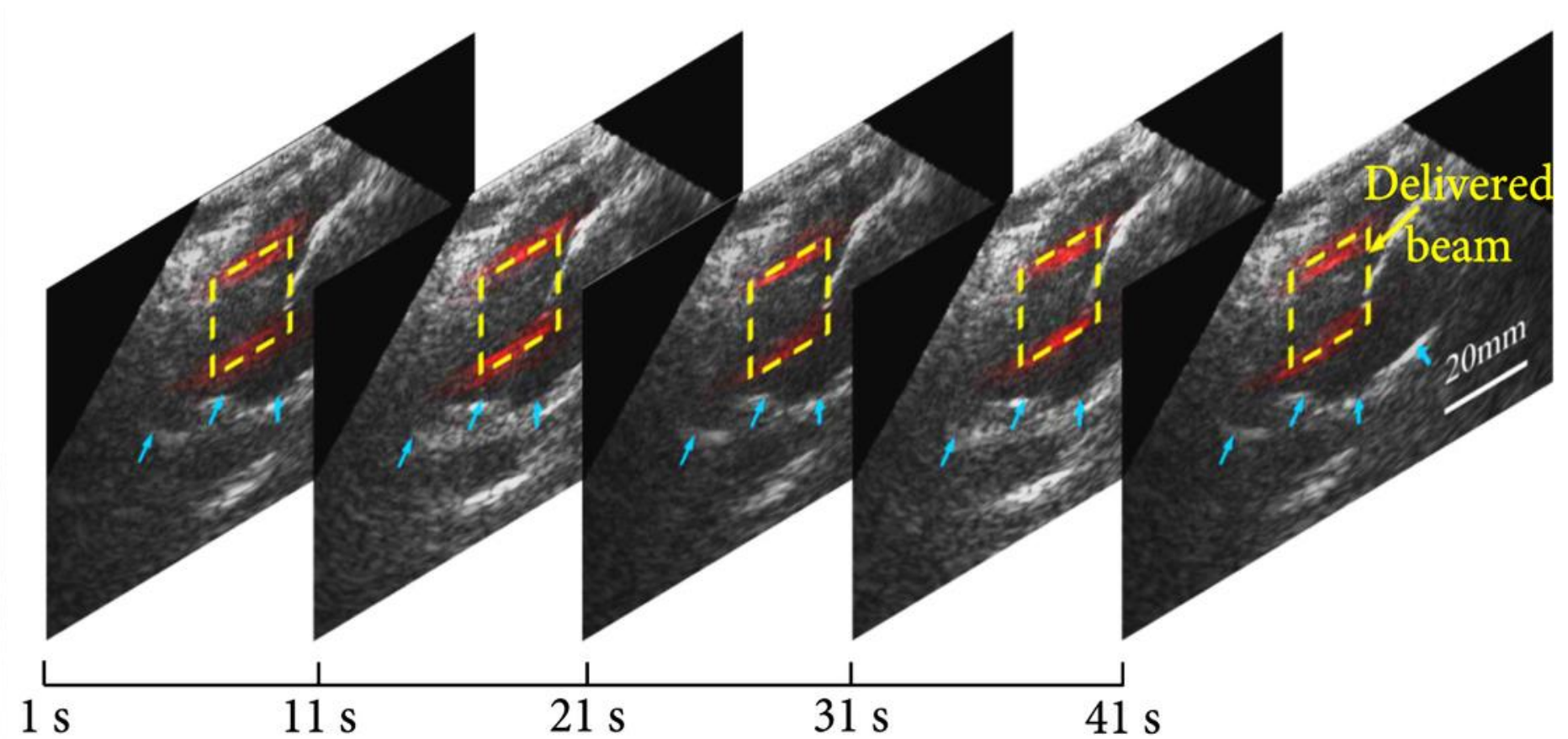
## PROTOACOUSTICS

Submillimeter ionoacoustic range determination for protons in water at a clinical synchrotron.

**Both limited to high-averaging (pulses)**

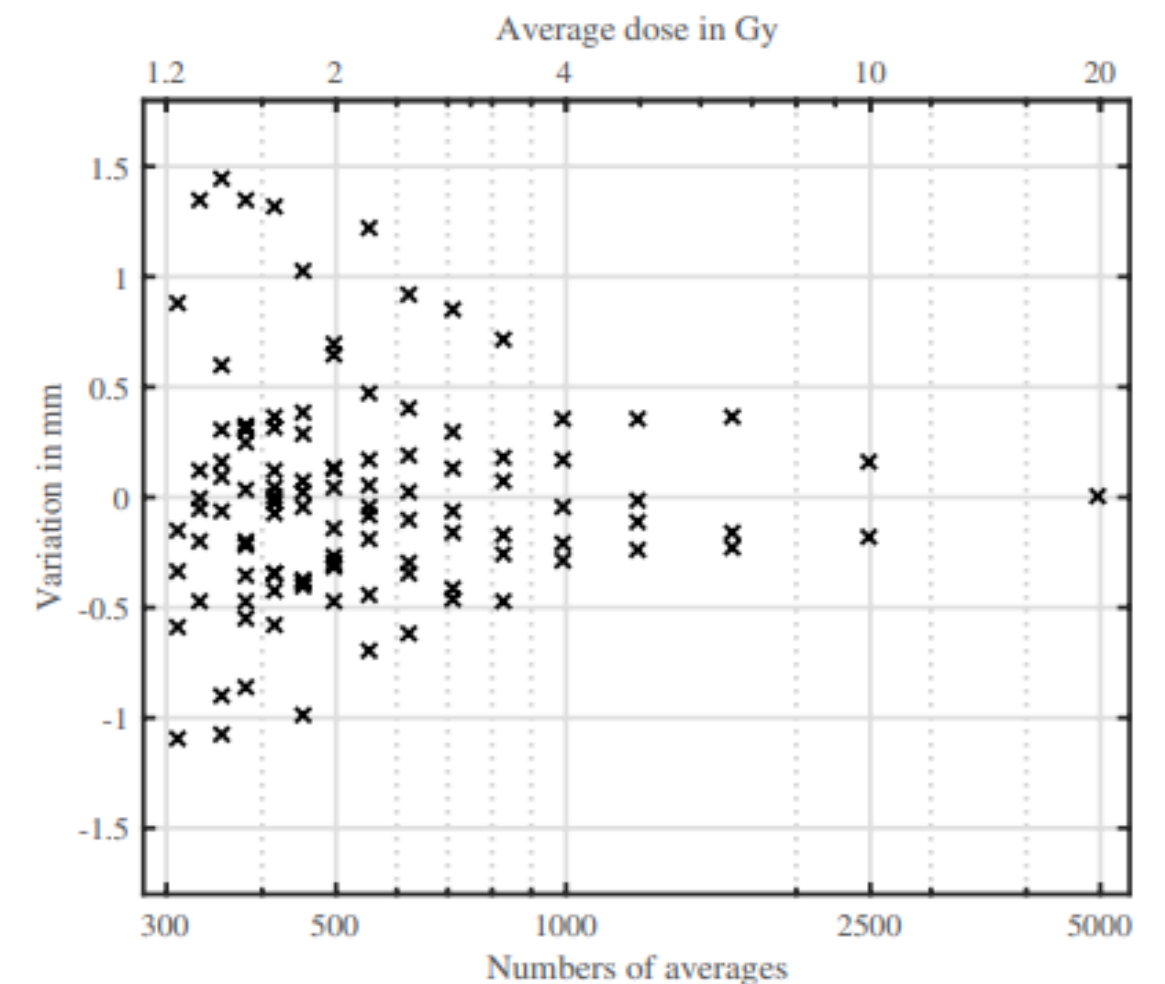
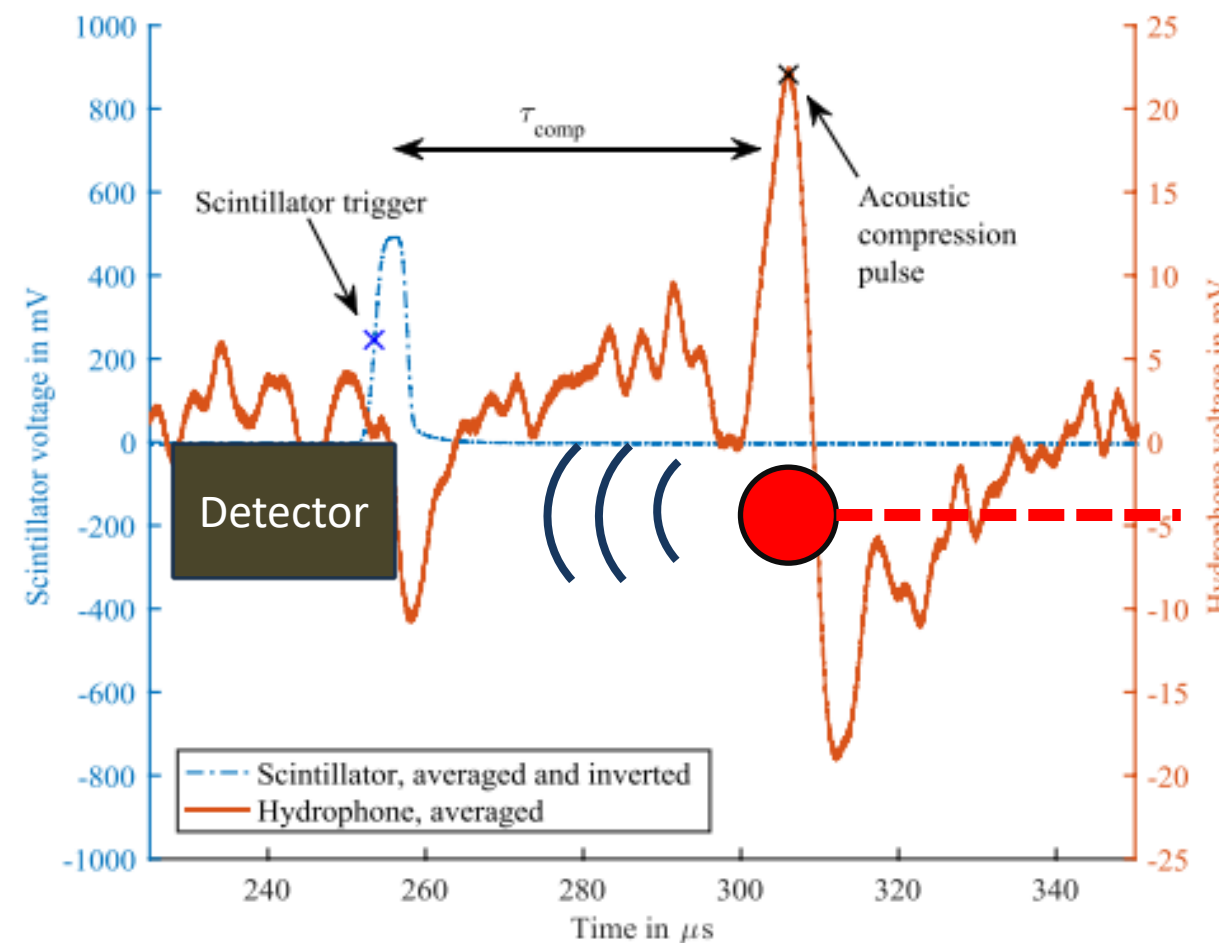


(a)



(b)

Zhang, W., et al. BME Frontiers, Volume 2020, Article ID 9853609, 10 pages



Lehrack, S., et al, Physics in medicine and biology vol. 62,17 L20-L30. 18 Aug. 2017

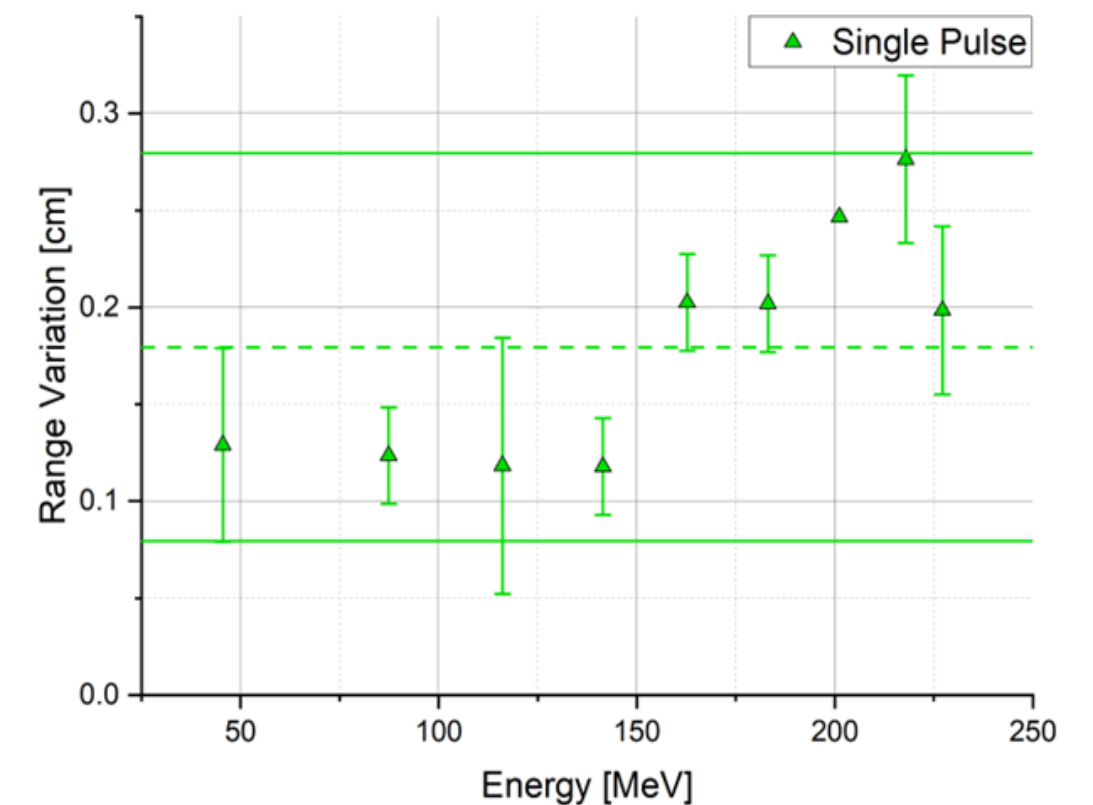
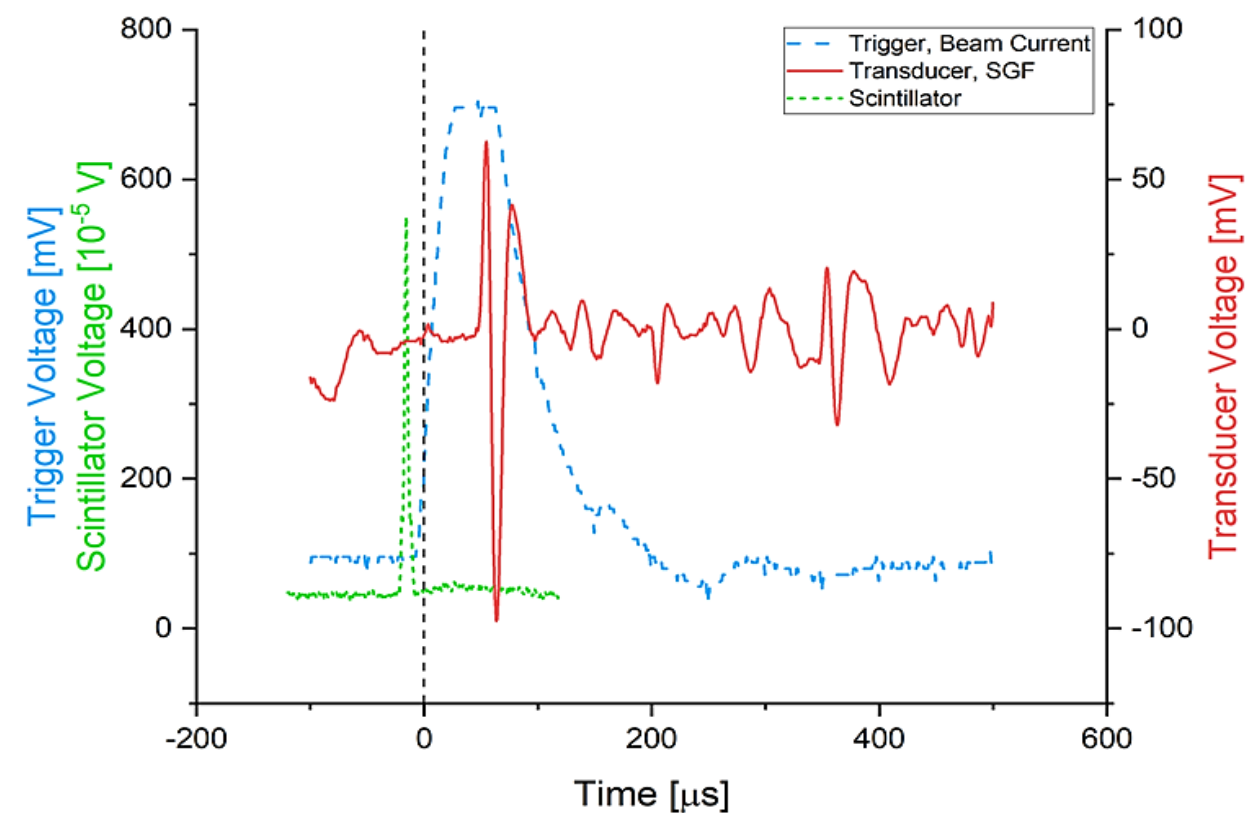
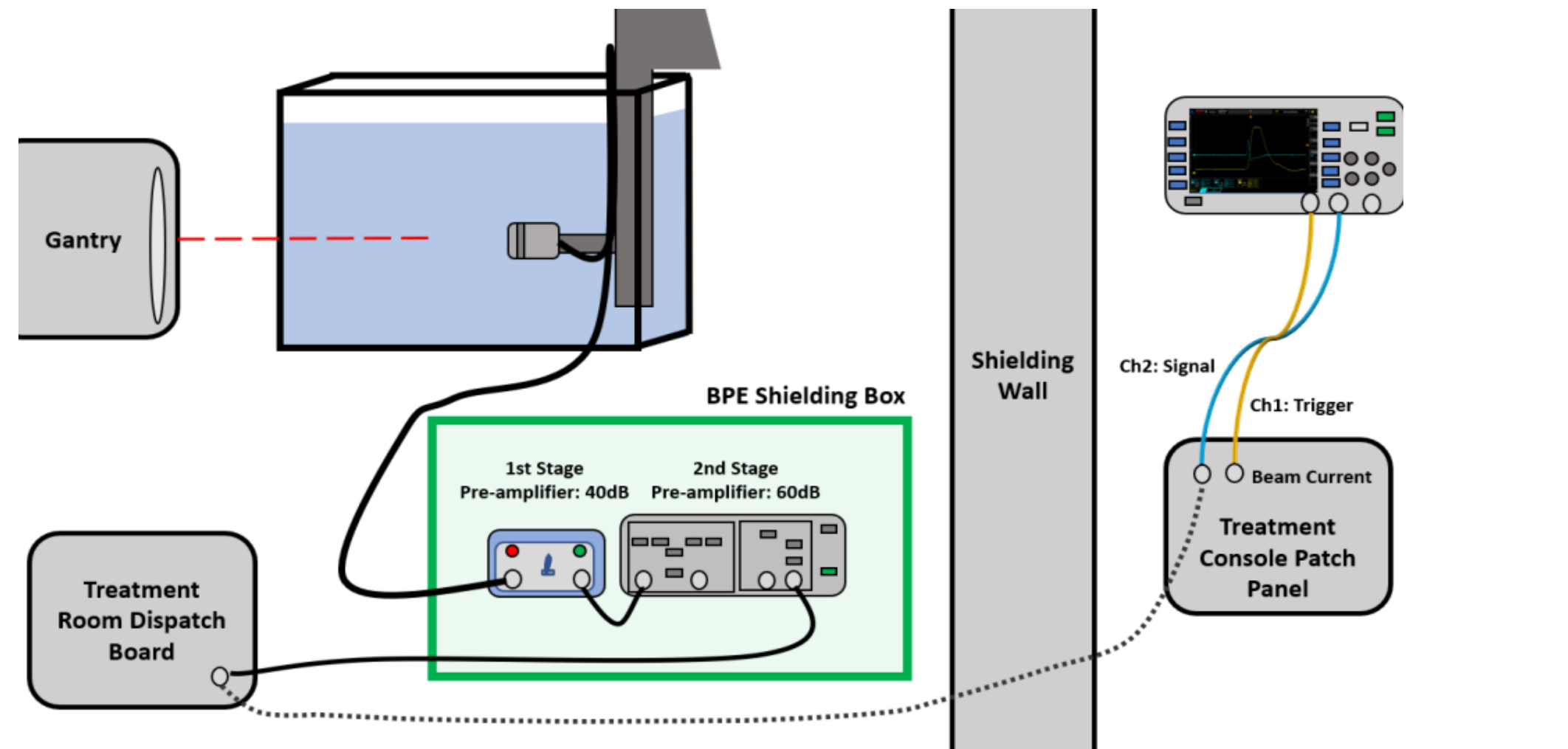




# SINGLE-PULSE PROTOACOUSTICS

**Goal:** To achieve proton range verification using single-pulse protoacoustic detection.

**Conclusion:** Across all clinical proton energies of our synchrocyclotron, the estimated range was within <3mm variation for single pulse.

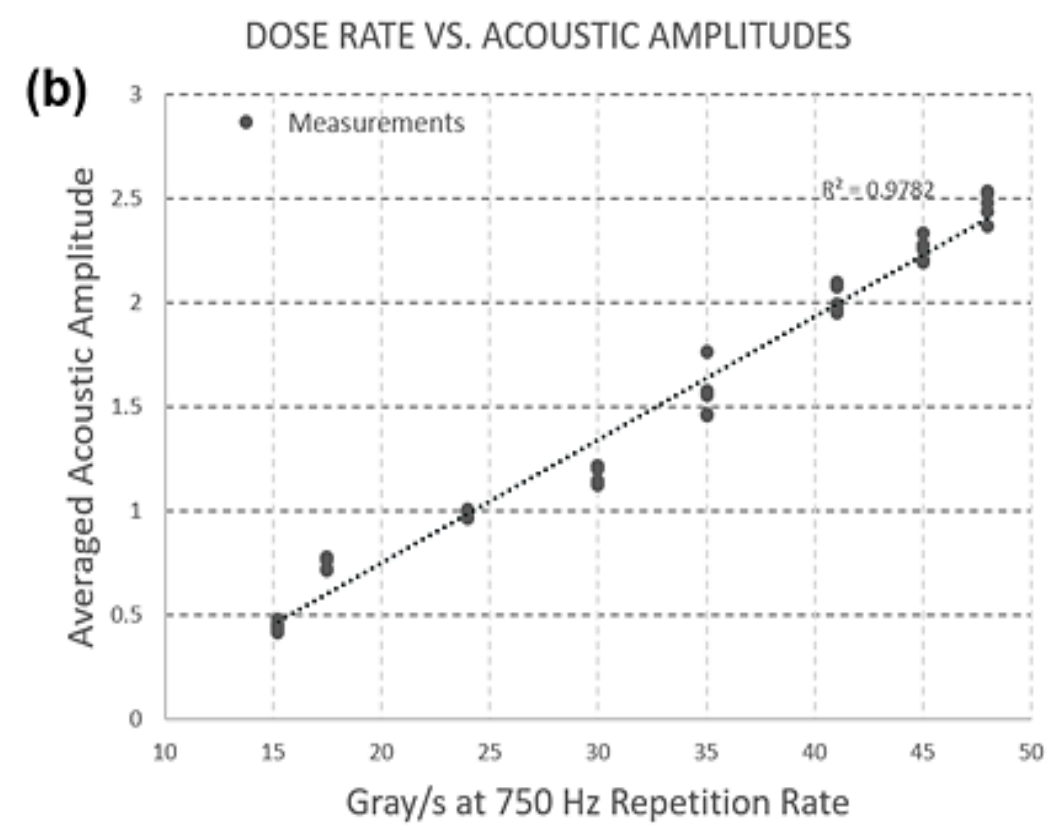
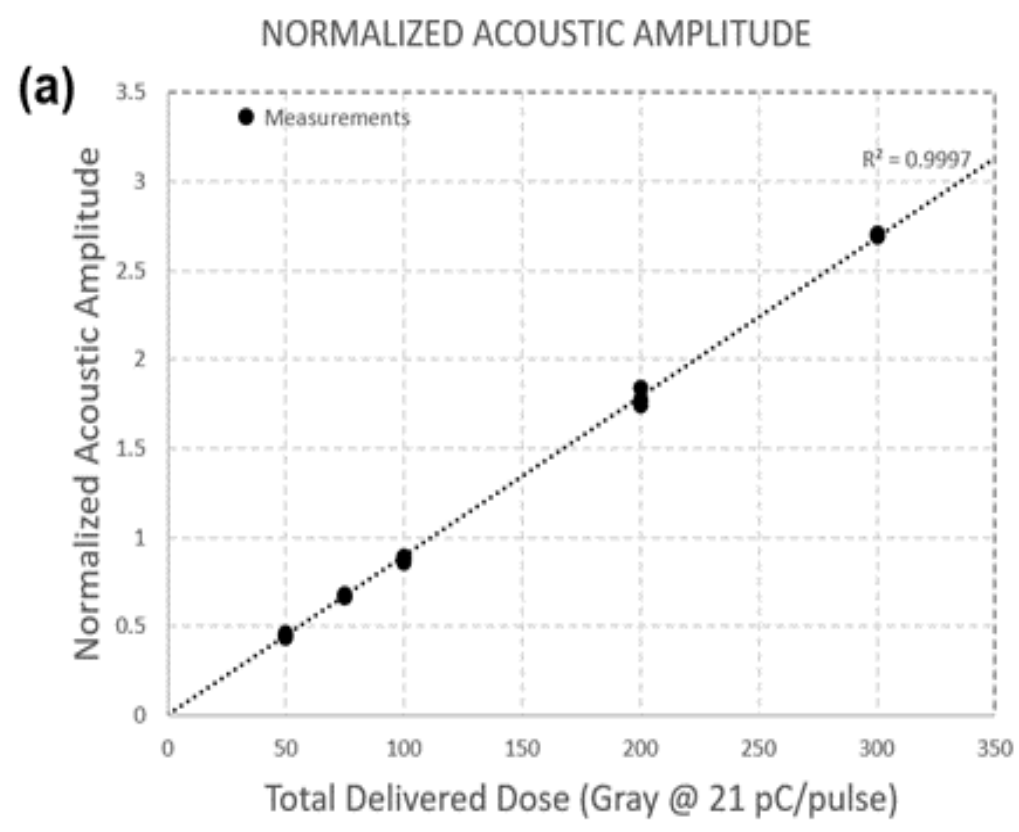
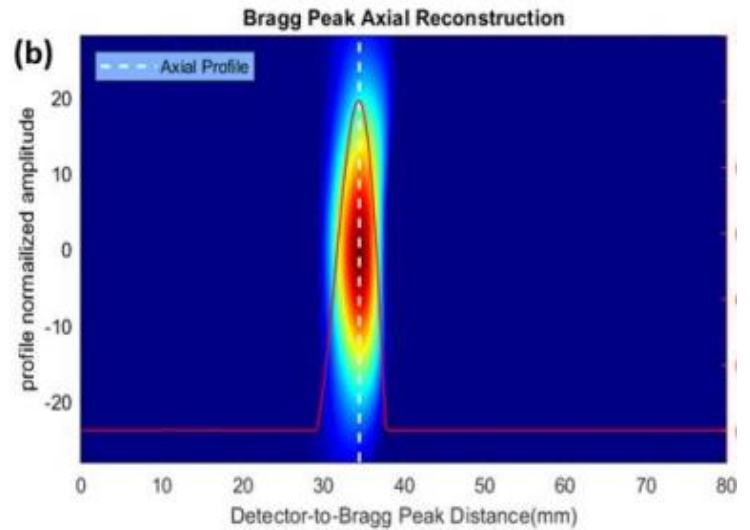
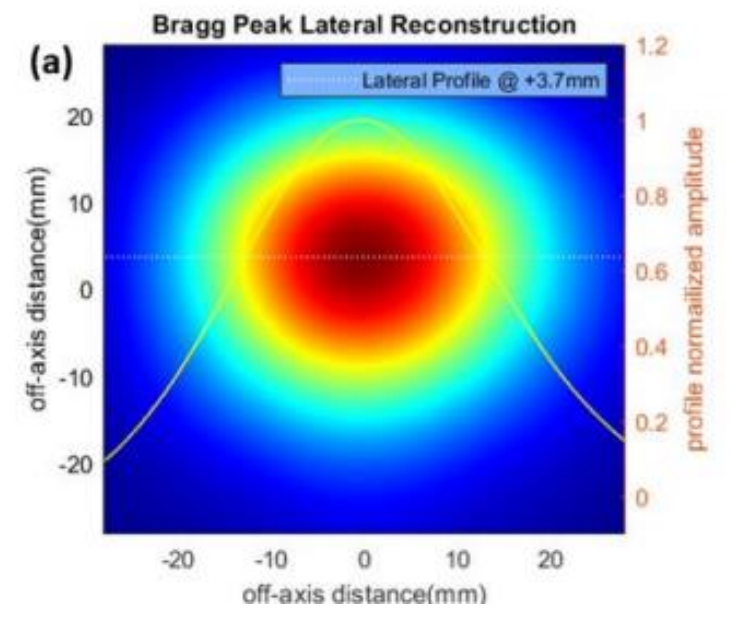
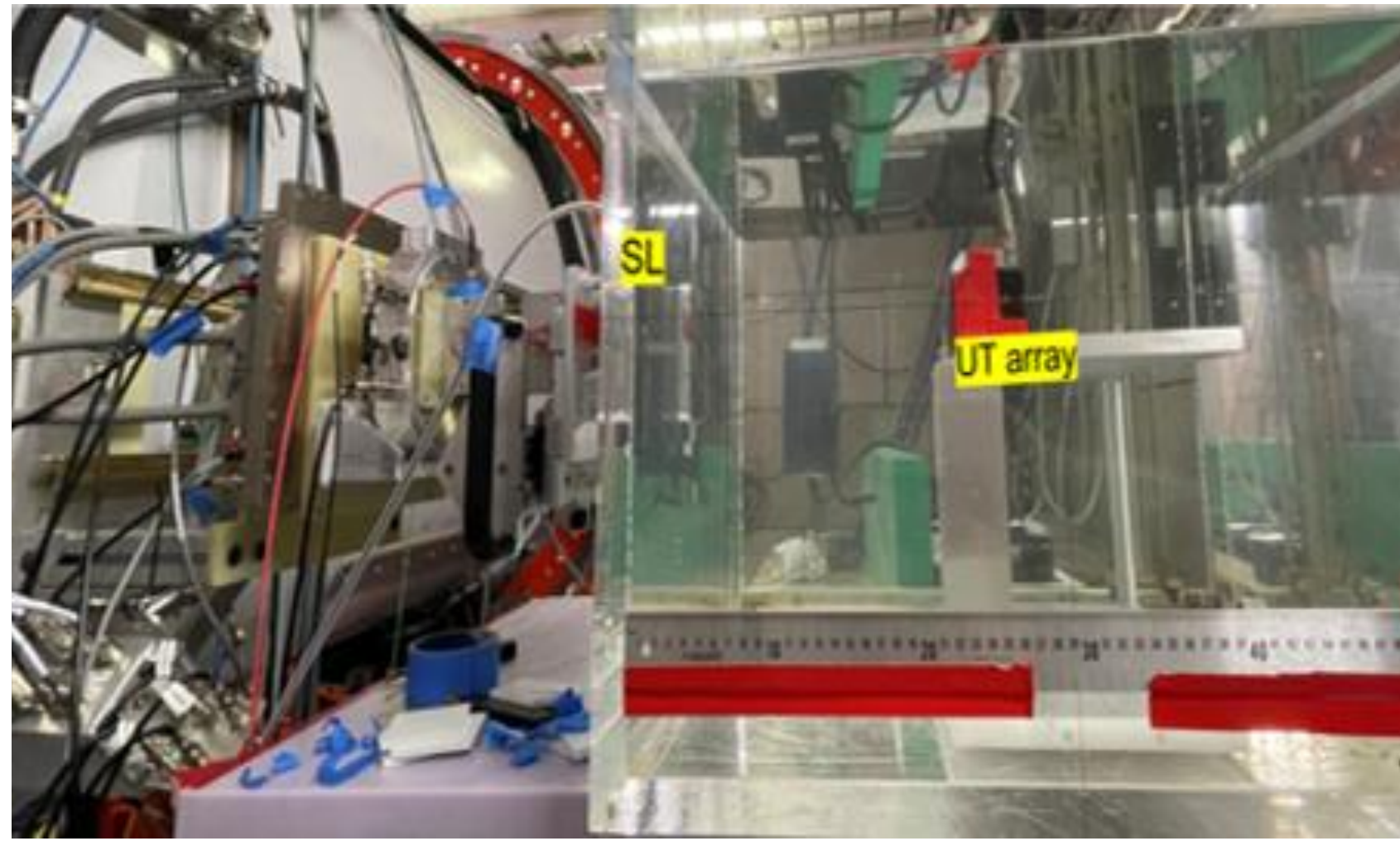




# TOWARDS 3D PROTON FLASH DOSIMETRY

**Goal:** To demonstrate viable linearity across conventional and FLASH dose rates for a clinical synchrotron.

**Conclusion:** This 2D array demonstrated accurate measurement of proton dose rates across conventional to FLASH and provided a 3D visualization of the Bragg Peak.





# CLINICAL FEASIBILITY

Nature journal showcasing RIA Imaging with a 2D Transducer for real-time visualization of a prostate Treatment with linac.

C-shape IMRT test.

Article | [Open access](#) | [Published: 02 January 2023](#)

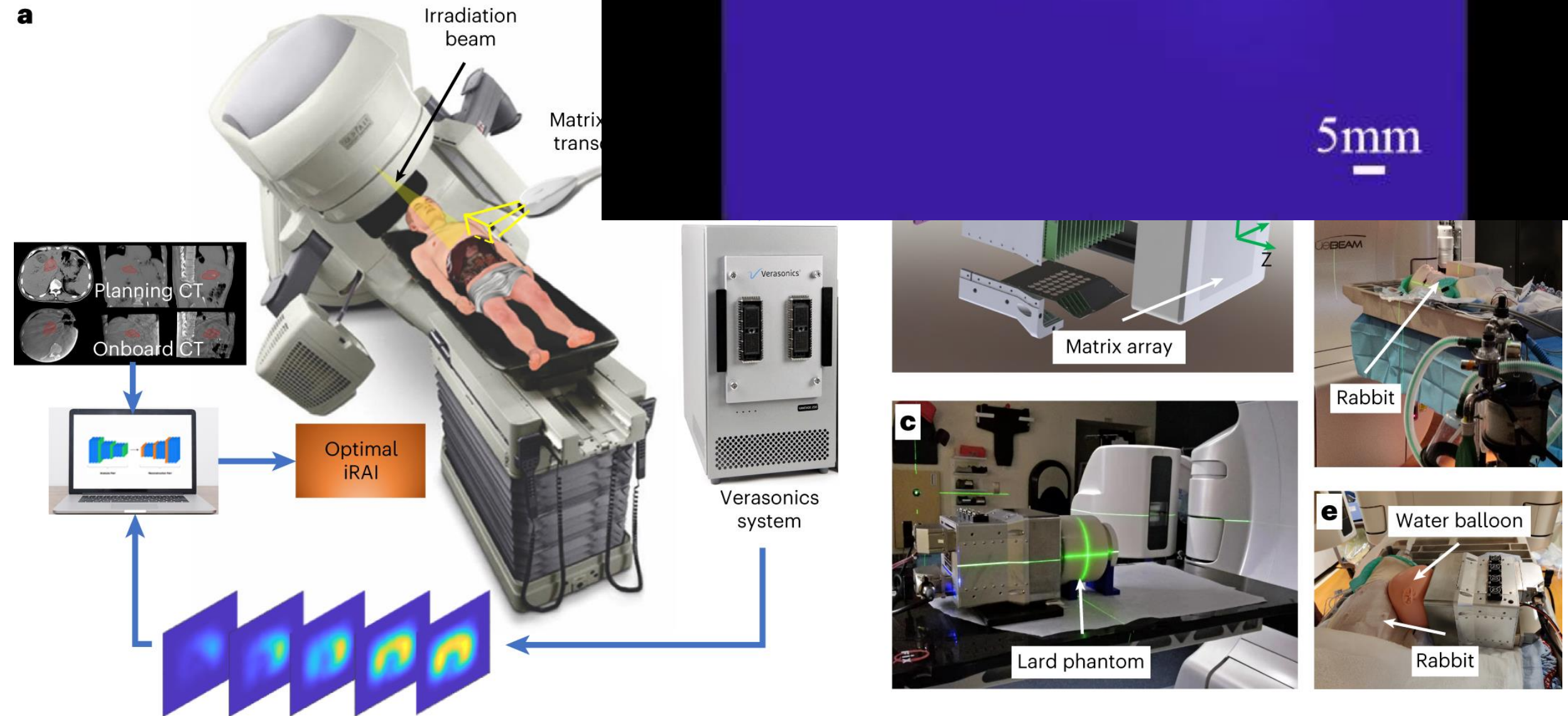
## Real-time, volumetric delivery deep into the

[Wei Zhang](#), [Ibrahim Oraiqat](#), [Dale Litzen](#)

[Matuszak](#), [Christopher J. Tichacek](#), [Eduar](#)

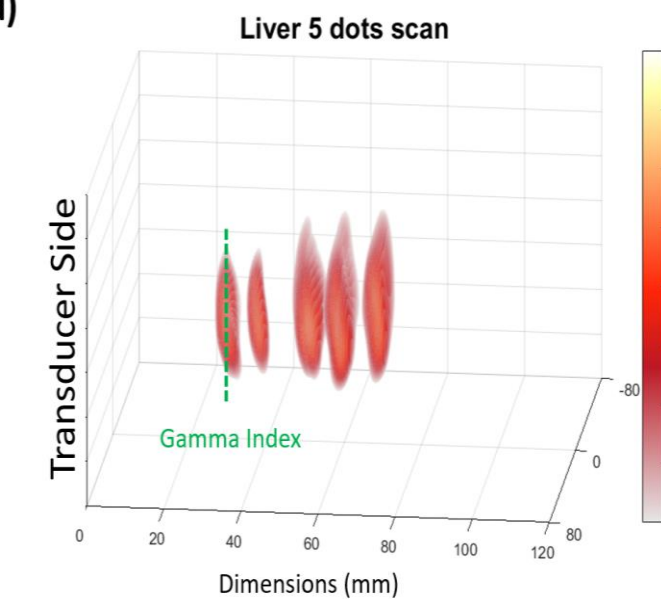
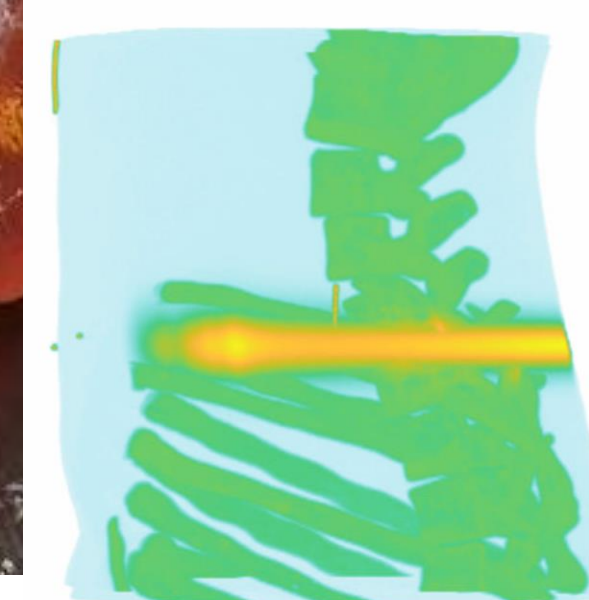
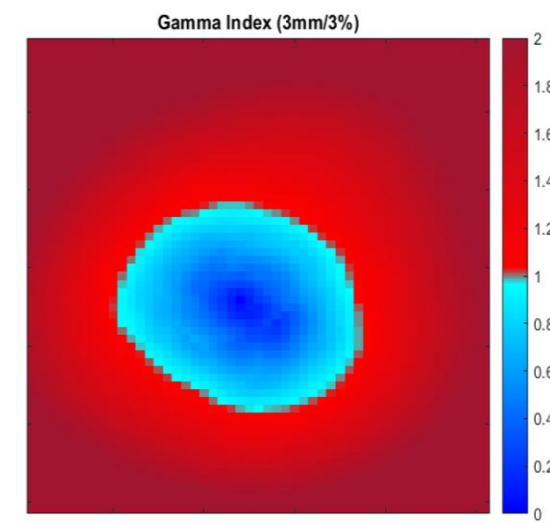
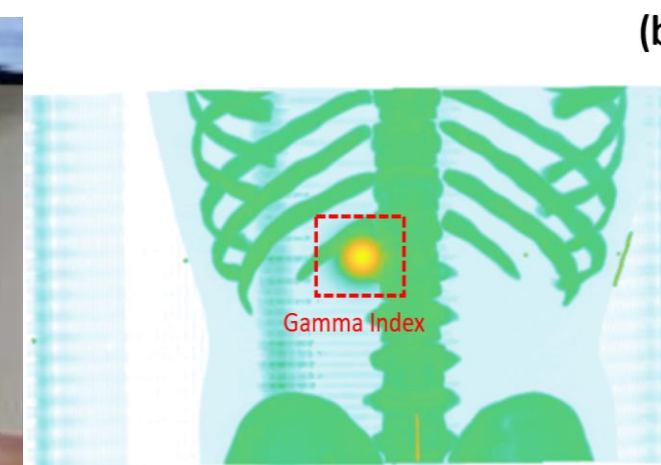
[Issam El Naqa](#) ✉

*Nature Biotechnology* **41**, 1160–1167 (2023)



# SUMMARY

TAKE HOME MESSAGES



- **Currently, RIA shows promising results in initial-stage water tank experiments. Groups are transitioning to human phantom tests.**





*The* UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA  
**Health Sciences Center**

**Gilberto Gonzalez**

**Joseph Caron**

**Kiana Prather**

**Salahuddin Ahmad, PhD, DABR**

**PI: Yong Chen, PhD, DABR**



**Siqi Wang, PhD**

**Prabodh Kumar Pandey, PhD**

**Leshan Sun**

**Kaitlyn Kim**

**Kristina Bjegovic**

**Lucia Gonzalez**

**PI: Liangzhong (Shawn) Xiang, PhD**

# GRACIAS

**Questions?**

**[gilberto-gonzalez@ouhsc.edu](mailto:gilberto-gonzalez@ouhsc.edu)**

**Acknowledgements to all involved collaborators.**

**This work was supported by the National Institute of Health (R37CA240806), American Cancer Society (133697-RSG-19-110-01-CCE), and the Oklahoma Center for Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST HR19-131).**