Endoscopic TOFPET

(Time of Flight Positron Emission Tomography)

& Ultrasound

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Overall Projects and Goals



Focus

Pancreatic Cancer

- 5-year survival rate: 6%
- 4th leading cause for cancer-related death in Western countries
- No reliable method for early detection (yet)
- Standard procedures:
 Ultrasound and CT scans
 - Lack metabolic information

Prostate Cancer

- 6th leading cause for cancer-related death amongst male population worldwide
- Good prognosis if cancer confined to prostate and treated aggressively
- Standard procedures: Ultrasound and MRI
 - Lack metabolic information

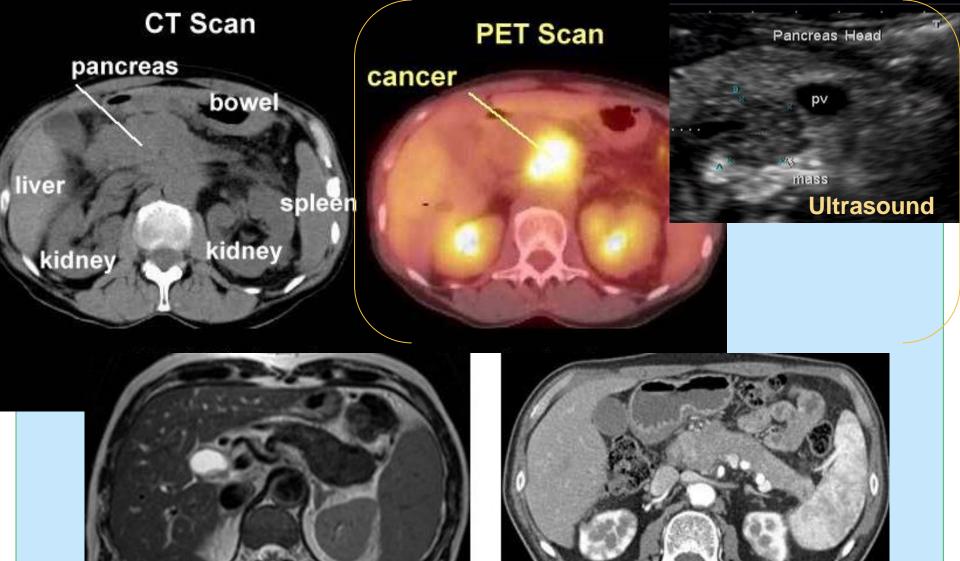
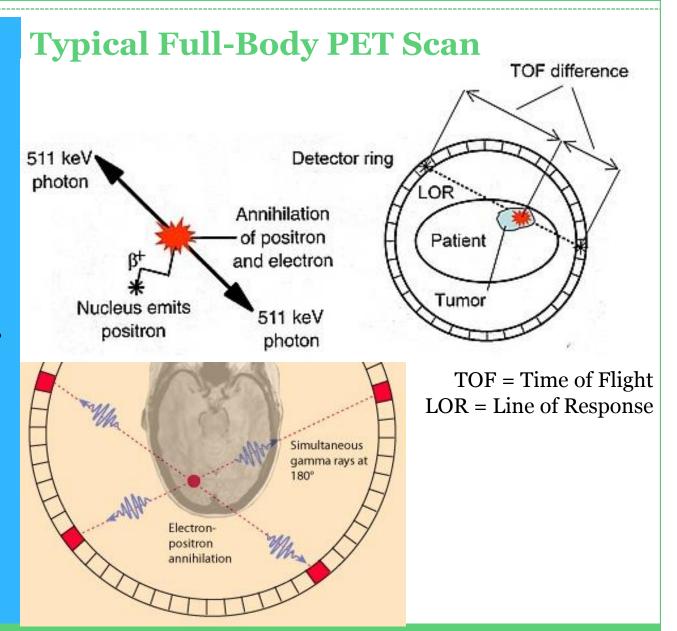


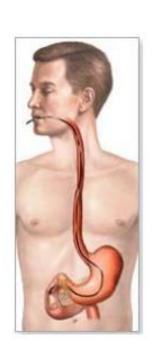
Figure 2. MRI abdomen (T2 weighted image) demonstrating diffuse pancreatic enlargement with low-T2 signal rim around the tail.

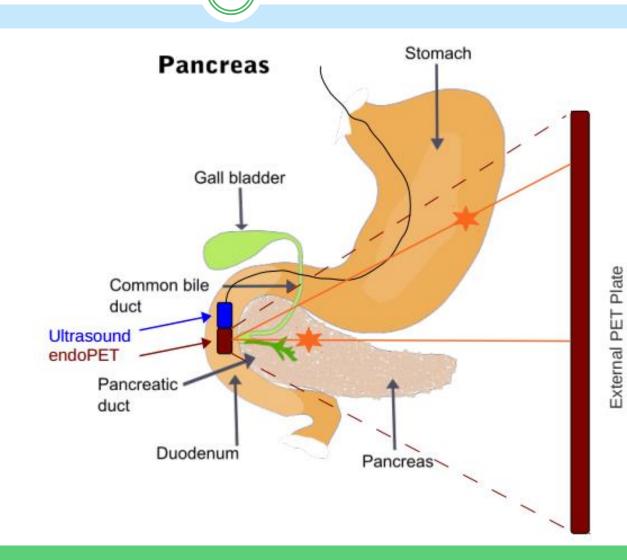
Figure 3. CT abdomen with contrast demonstrating diffuse pancreatic enlargement with hypoattenuation. Multiple wedge-shaped low attenuation lesions are present in the bilateral renal cortices.

- Fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) injected into body
- FDG is basically radioactive glucose
- Cancerous cells process glucose differently to normal cells
- FDG releases positrons, which break down and release gamma waves
- PET scanner detects gammas
- Images from scan highlight how FDG is broken down in body, giving insight into tumors' metabolism

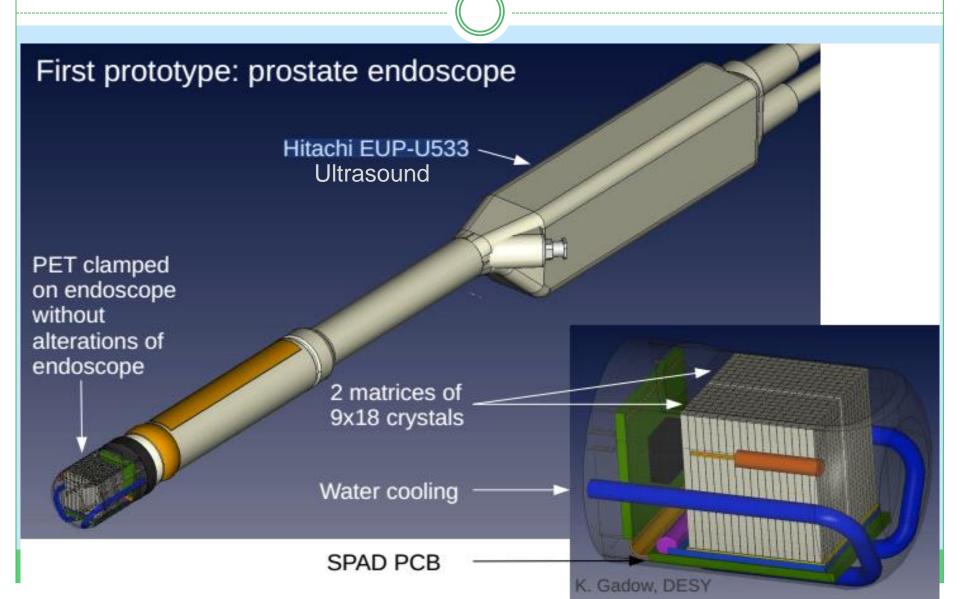


Endoscopic PET probe



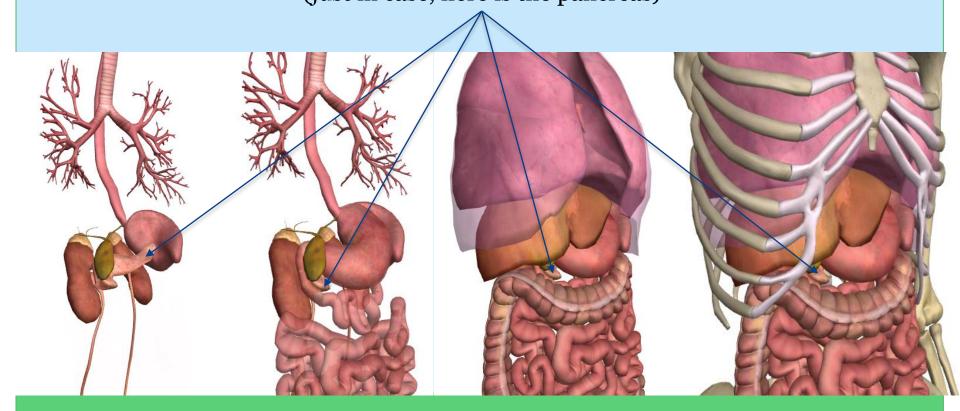


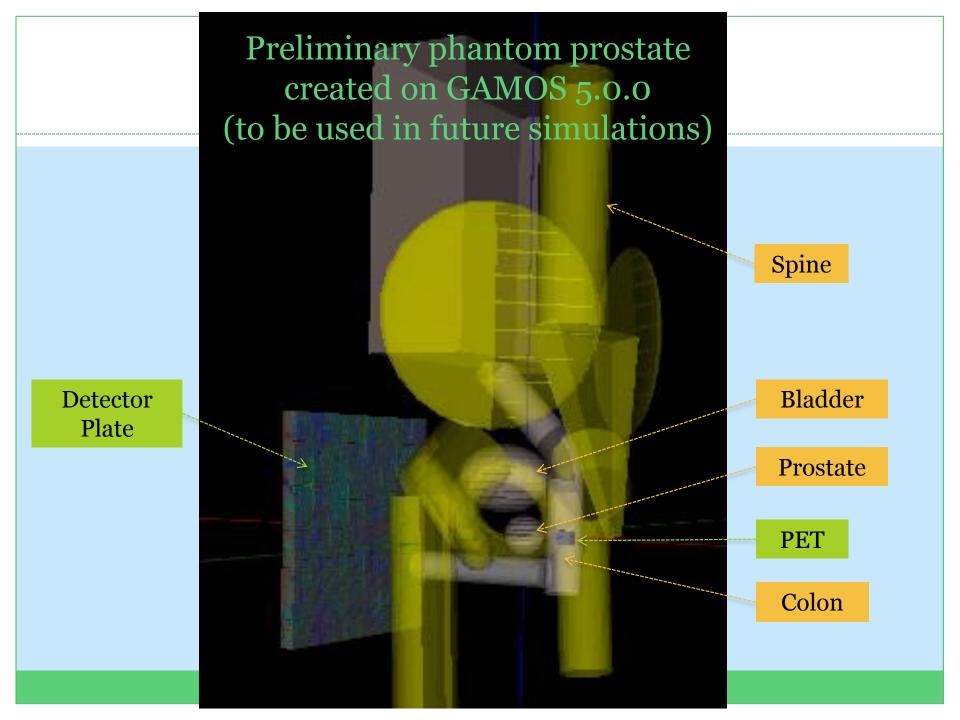
Close-up of probe



What I Do

• Currently working on simulation of phantom pancreas and surrounding organs/bones (just in case, here is the pancreas)





What I Do

 Testing physical and scintillation properties of various crystals

