



Trento Institute for  
Fundamental Physics  
and Applications



*OMA School – CNAO 2017*

# **Radiobiology of particle beams**

**- Basics & Hot Topics -**

Emanuele Scifoni

*TIFPA-INFN , Trento (I)*



# Overview

- **Radiobiology: the basics**
- **Particle beam radiobiology (PR)**
- **RBE**
- **OER**
- **Radiosensitizers**
- **Biophysical Models**
- **Radiobiology based treatment planning**
- **Selected Hot Topics in PR**

# *Basics*

# Why is Radiobiology important?

## SIMPSONS GUIDE TO RADIATION



**Bequerel [Bq]**  
How brightly your  
Cesium glows

*ACTIVITY*



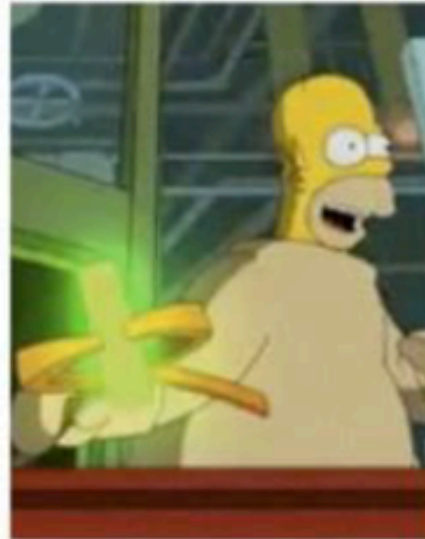
# Why is Radiobiology important?

## SIMPSONS GUIDE TO RADIATION



**Bequerel [Bq]**  
How brightly your  
Cesium glows

*ACTIVITY*



**Gray [Gy]**  
How brightly  
Cesium will make  
you glow

*ABSORBED DOSE*

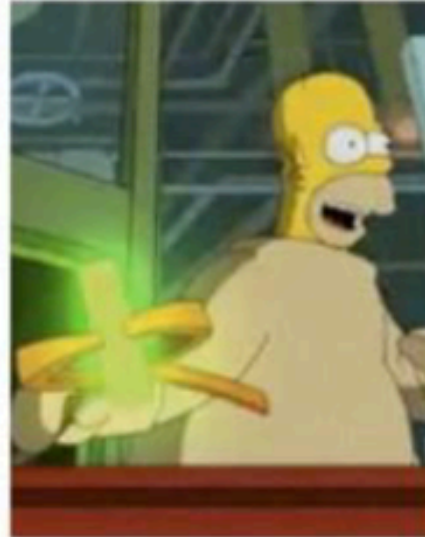
# Why is Radiobiology important?

## SIMPSONS GUIDE TO RADIATION



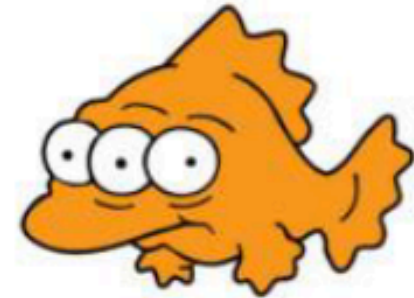
**Bequerel [Bq]**  
How brightly your  
Cesium glows

*ACTIVITY*



**Gray [Gy]**  
How brightly  
Cesium will make  
you glow

*ABSORBED DOSE*



**Sieverts [Sv]**  
How many extra  
eyes will you have  
after glowing?

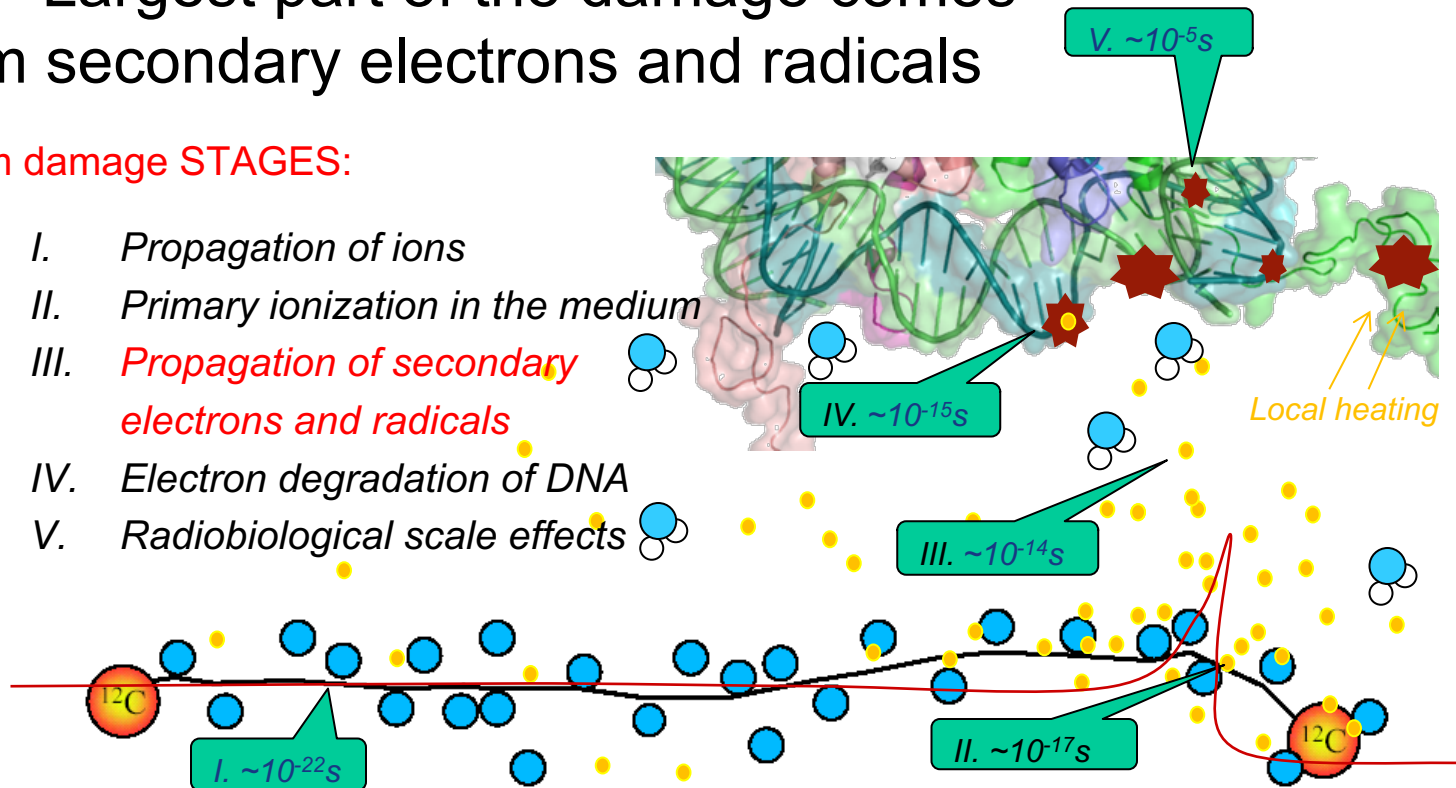
*(BIOLOGICAL) EFFECTIVE DOSE*

# The mechanism of biological damage with ions

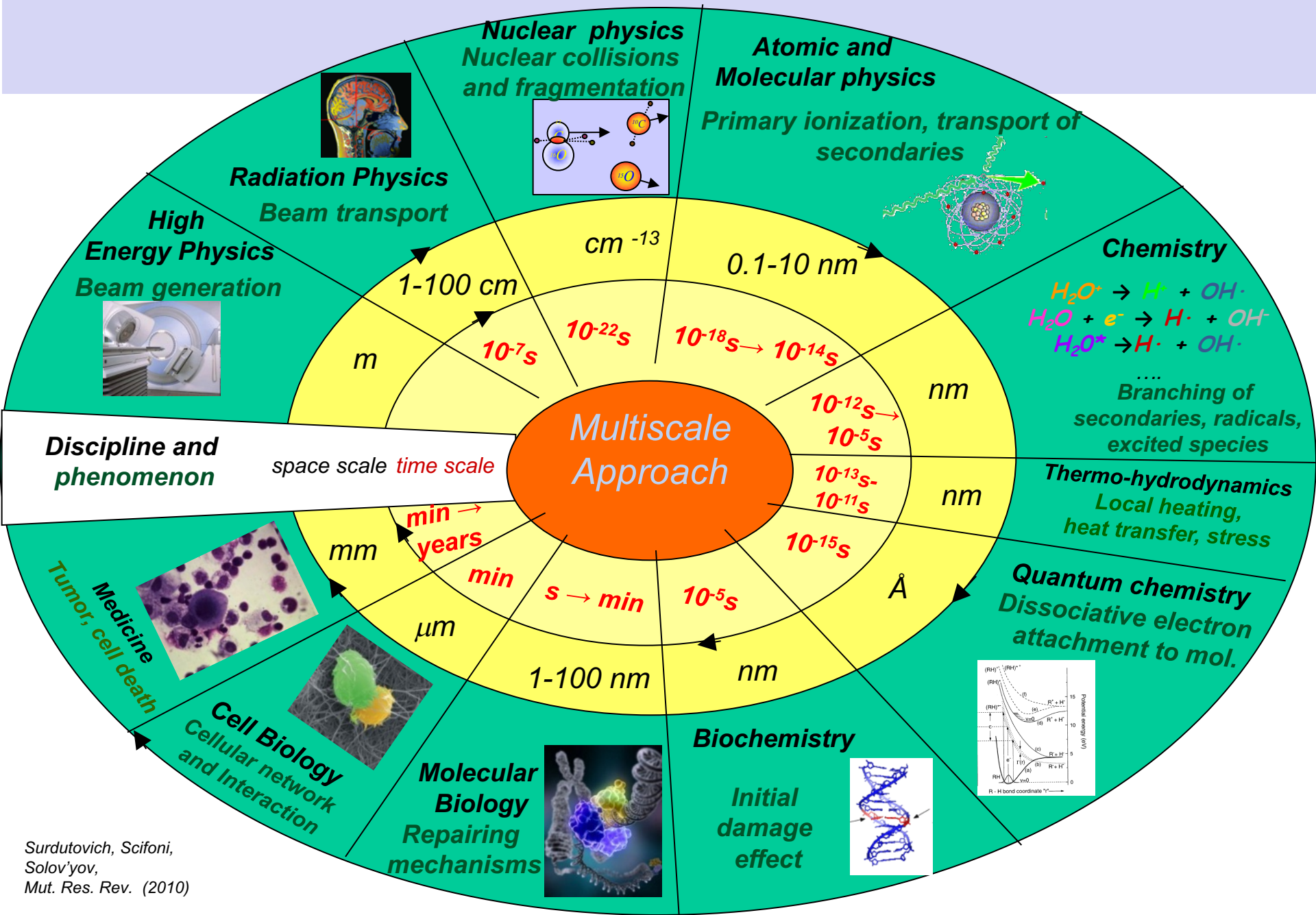
Largest part of the damage comes from secondary electrons and radicals

## Ion beam damage STAGES:

- I. Propagation of ions
- II. Primary ionization in the medium
- III. Propagation of secondary electrons and radicals
- IV. Electron degradation of DNA
- V. Radiobiological scale effects

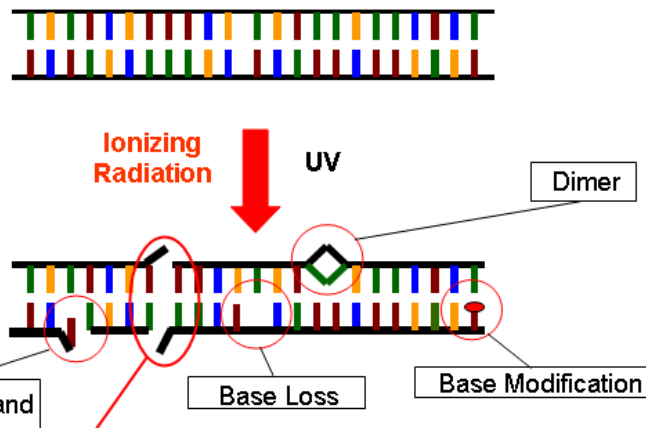


# Spatiotemporal scales of Radiation Damage



# DNA Damage

Scholz 2006  
Adv Pol Sci



- The DNA **Double Strand Break (DSB)** is considered the type of lesion most directly related to cell killing
- Different radiation qualities produce the same spectrum of DNA lesions
- **BUT** the distribution of lesions inside the target can be very different

**Photons**  
x-rays

**Random**  
DSB distribution

A 3D wireframe box containing several scattered red dots, representing a random distribution of DNA double-strand breaks (DSBs) induced by photons (x-rays).

**<sup>12</sup>C Low LET**  
200 MeV/u,  $\approx 16$  keV/ $\mu$ m

**Random**  
DSB distribution  
(photon-like)

A 3D wireframe box containing several scattered red dots, representing a random distribution of DNA double-strand breaks (DSBs) induced by <sup>12</sup>C ions at low linear energy transfer (LET), similar to photons.

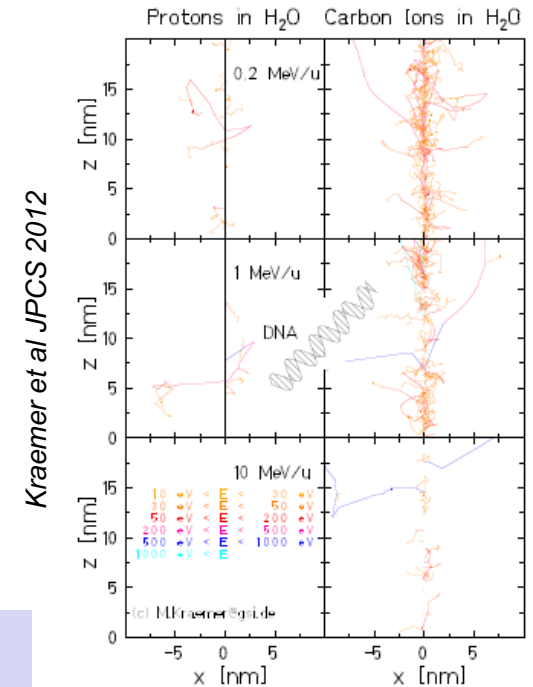
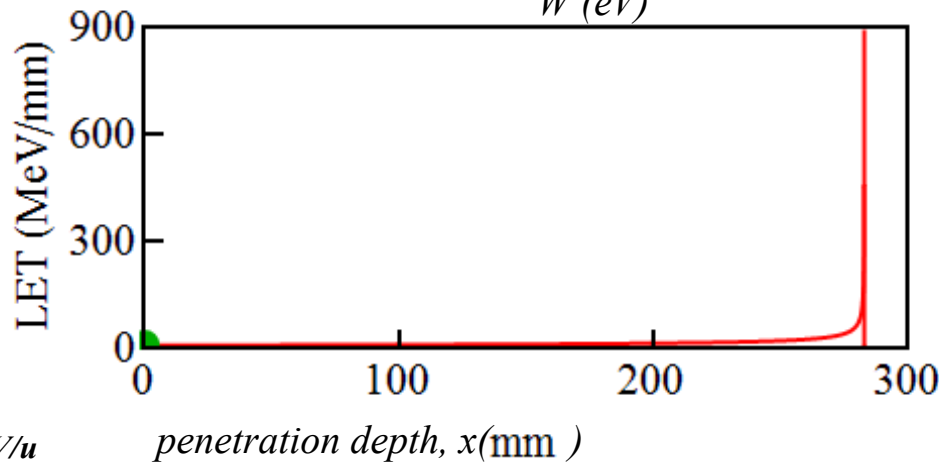
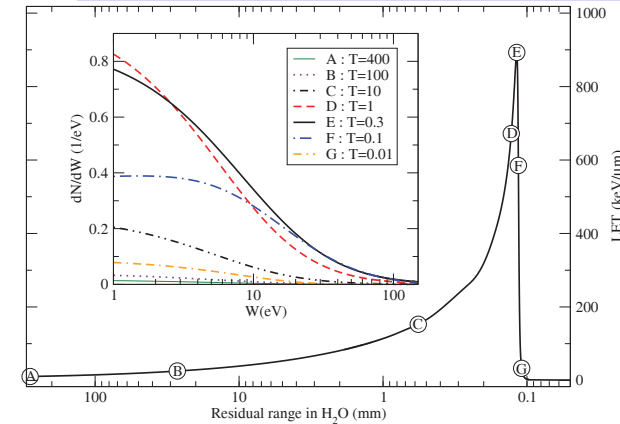
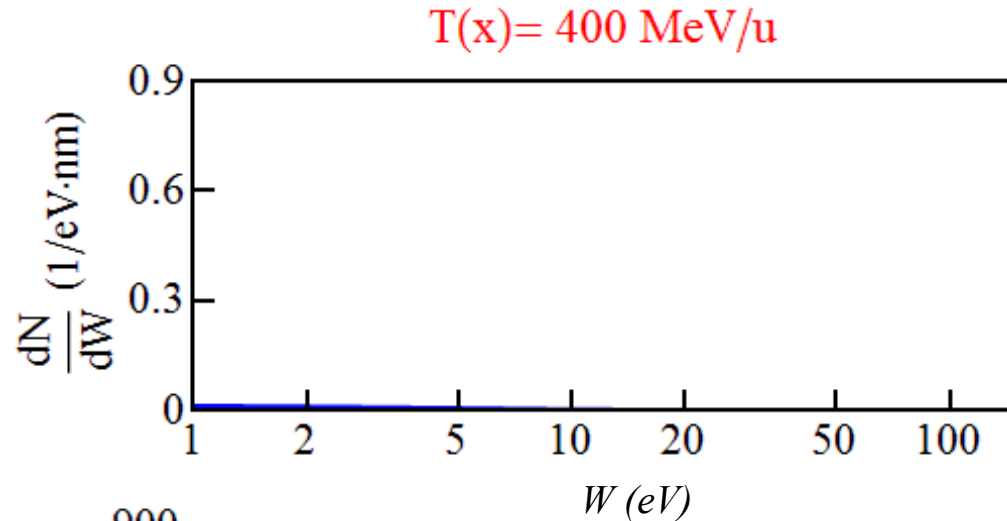
**<sup>12</sup>C High LET**  
1 MeV/u,  $\approx 690$  keV/ $\mu$ m

**Non-random**  
DSB distribution  
(RBE $\gg$ 1)

A 3D wireframe box containing several vertical clusters of red dots, representing a non-random distribution of DNA double-strand breaks (DSBs) induced by <sup>12</sup>C ions at high linear energy transfer (LET), where the relative biological effectiveness (RBE) is much greater than 1.

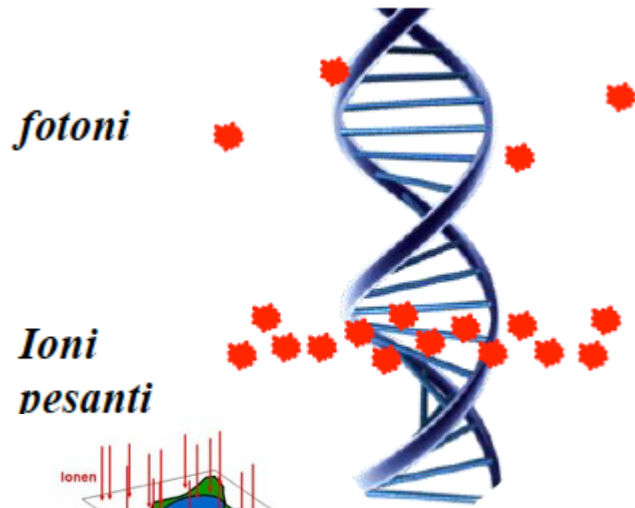
Courtesy of F. Tommasino

# Secondary Electrons produced by an ion along a Bragg Peak





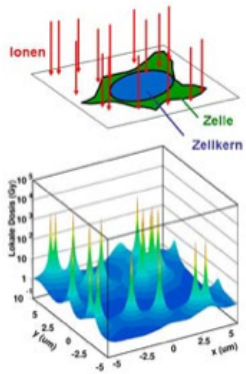
# RBE: Relative Biological Effectiveness



Photons



Ions



# RBE: Relative Biological Effectiveness

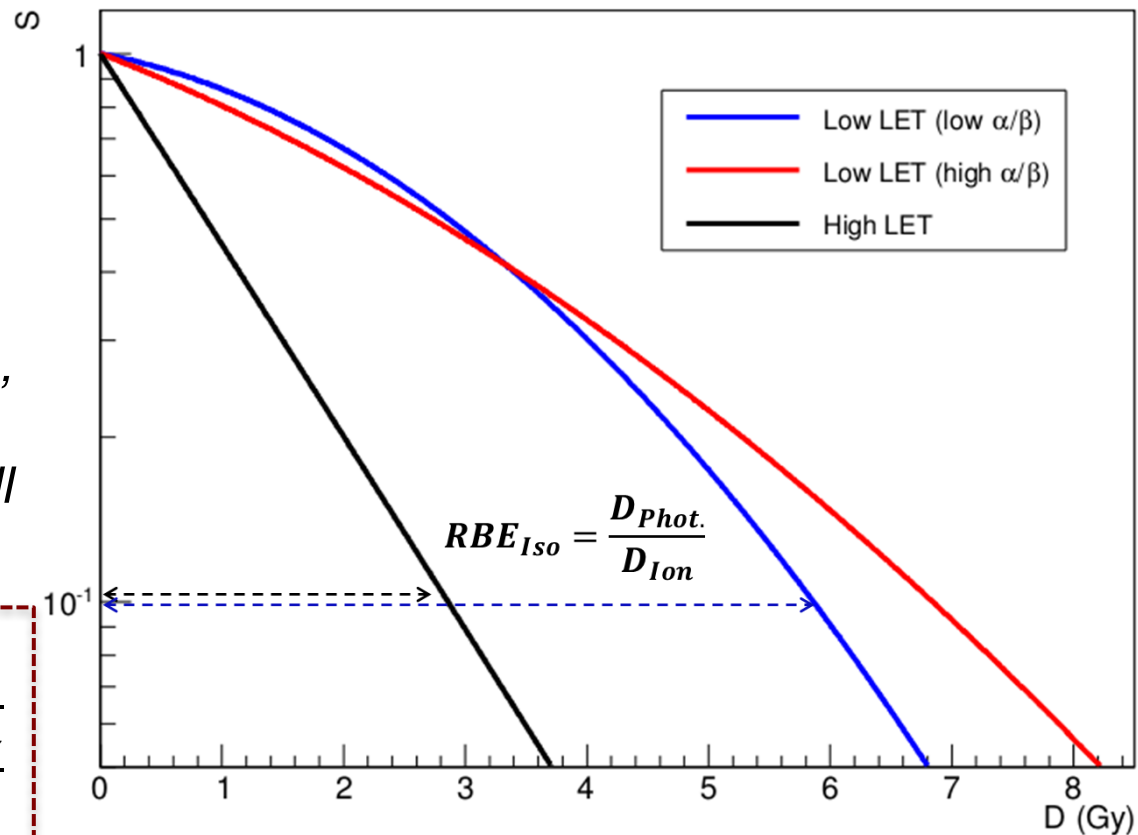
$$RBE = \frac{D_\gamma}{D_{Ion}} \Big|_{Isoeffect}$$

## RBE depends on:

- Physical parameters (dose, LET, fractionation).
- Biological parameters (cell cycle, oxygenation, end-point).

$$RBE(\alpha_\gamma, \beta_\gamma, \alpha_I, \beta_I, S) = \frac{-(\alpha/\beta)_\gamma \pm \sqrt{(\alpha/\beta)_\gamma^2 - 4(\ln S/\beta)_\gamma}}{-(\alpha/\beta)_I \pm \sqrt{(\alpha/\beta)_I^2 - 4(\ln S/\beta)_I}}$$

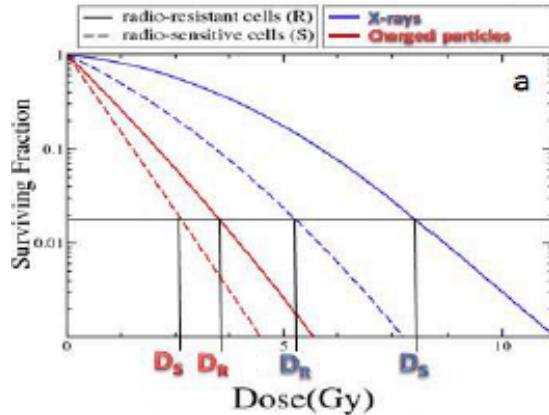
LQ model:  $S(D) = e^{-\alpha D - \beta D^2}$





# Particle beams advantage with resistant tissue

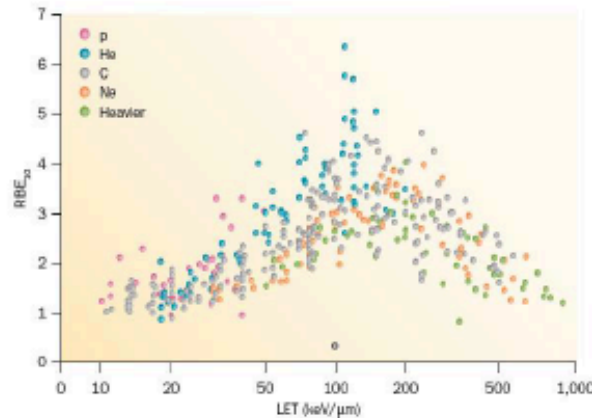
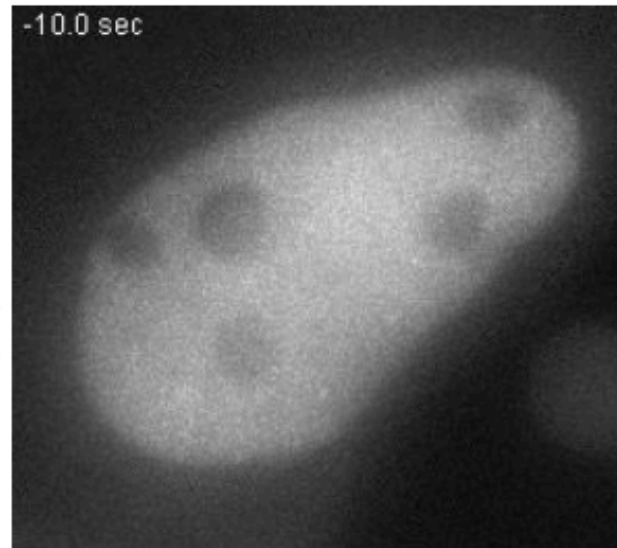
Jakob et al.,  
PNAS 2009



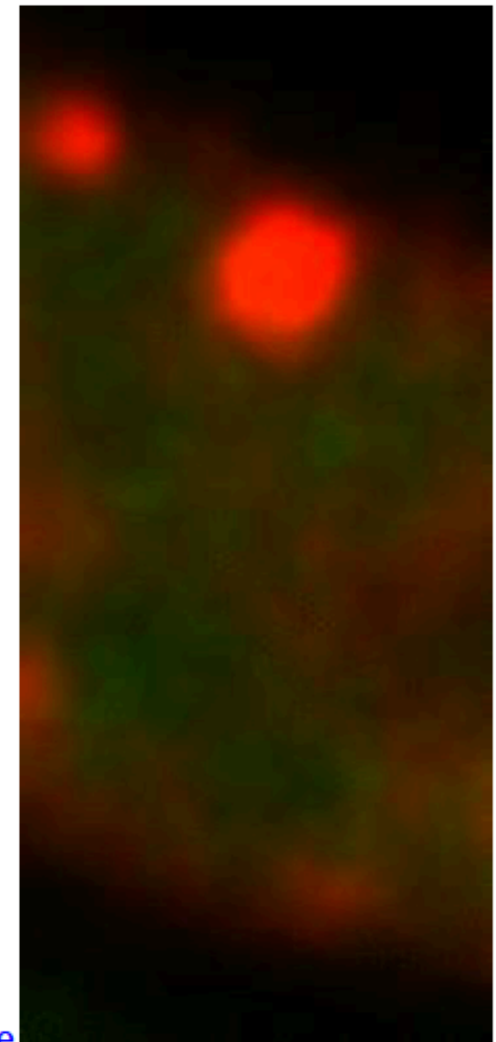
$$RBE_R = \frac{D_R(\text{photons})}{D_R(\text{ions})} > RBE_S = \frac{D_S(\text{photons})}{D_S(\text{ions})}$$

Overcoming resistance  
of cancer stem cells

www.thelancet.com/oncology Vol 13 May 2

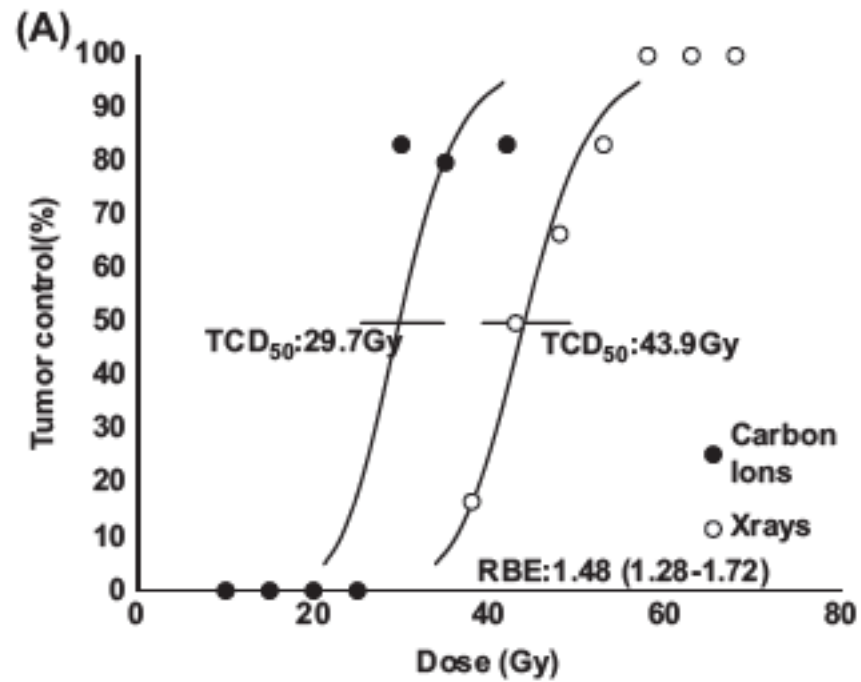


PIDE database – <http://www.gsi.de/bio-pide>  
Friedrich et al., J. Radiat. Res. 2013



Courtesy of M. Durante

# RBE in vivo

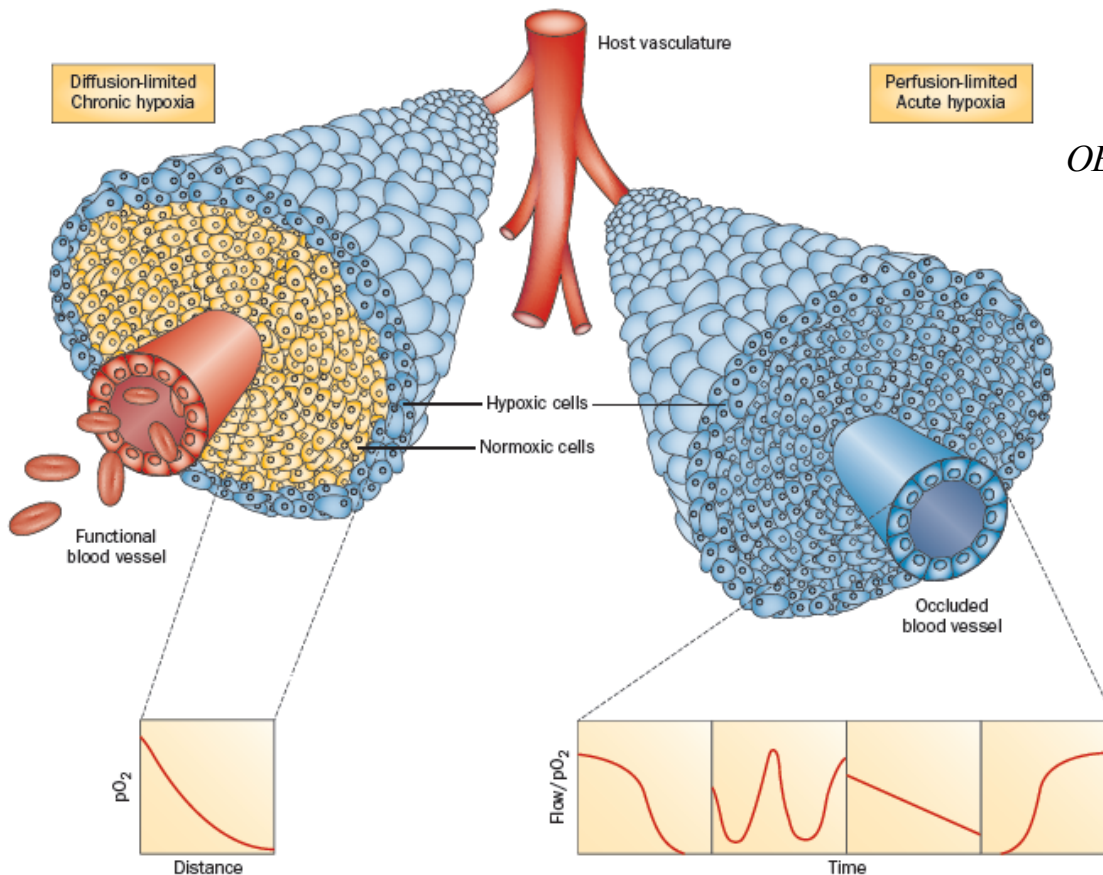


*Sorensen Acta O 2016*

# *Modifiers of radiation response*

- 1. Intrinsic (genetic) radiosensitivity*
- 2. Fractionation/Dose rate*
- 3. Cell-cycle*
- 4. Oxygen/scavenger concentrations*
- 5. Radioprotectors/radiosensitizers*

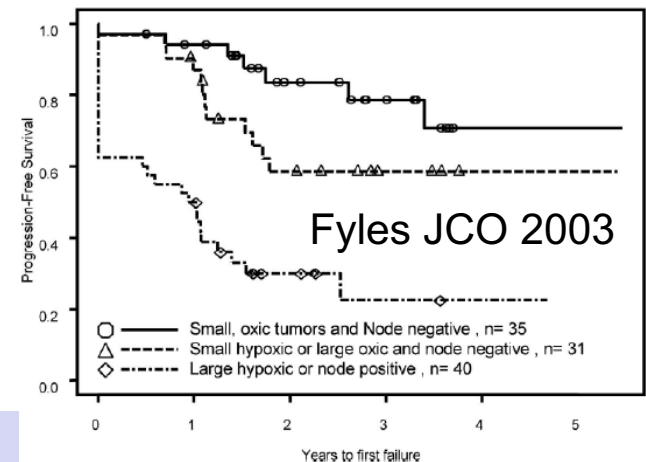
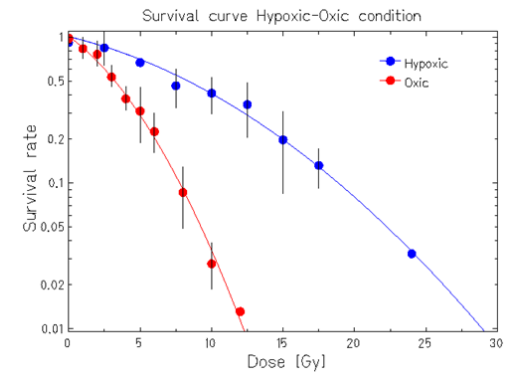
# Hypoxia and OER



Horsman et al *Nat. Rev. Clin. Oncol.* (2012)

## Oxygen Enhancement Ratio

$$OER = \frac{D_{hypoxic}}{D_{normoxic}} \Big|_{\text{same effect}} ; \quad OER(p) = \frac{D(p)}{D_{normoxic}} \Big|_{\text{same effect}}$$



# Radiosensitizers

- in general a dose enhancement factor (DEF) is defined as a ratio of doses compared to normal conditions (n.c.)

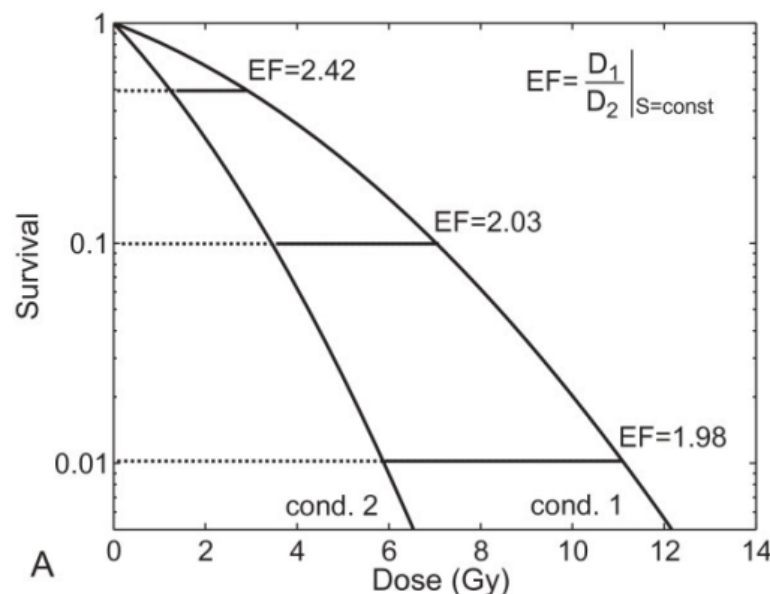
-also called Sensitizer enhancement Ratio (SER)-

$$DEF = \frac{D_{\text{special conditions}}}{D_{\text{n.c.}}} \Bigg|_{\text{same effect}(S)} ; \quad DEF([C]) = \frac{D([C])}{D_{\text{n.c.}}} \Bigg|_{\text{same effect}(S)}$$

- instead of being a radiation quality related feature like RBE, it is more a *target* property (like e.g. OER)
- it is called a „dose modifying factor“ if independent on S (or D)

*Relevant effects in low-LET radiation:  
what about high LET?*

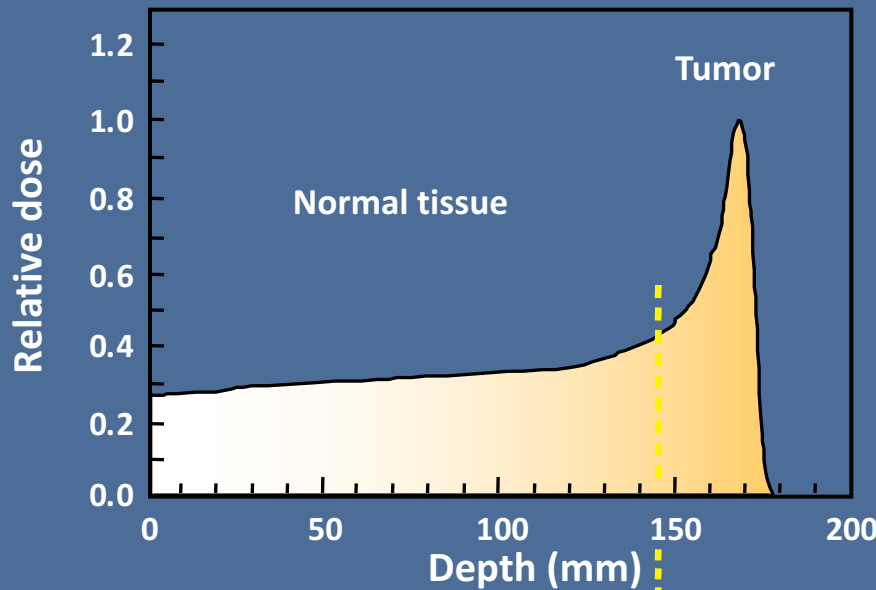
$$DEF(LET, [C]) = \frac{D(LET, [C])}{D_{\text{n.c.}}} \Bigg|_{\text{same effect}(S)}$$



Wenzl & Wilkens 2011

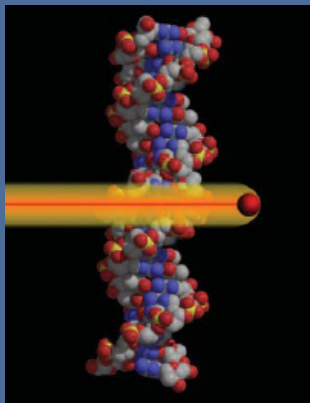
**Charged particle therapy:**  
improved physics and enhanced  
biological effectiveness

Durante & Loeffler,  
*Nature Rev Clin Oncol* 2010



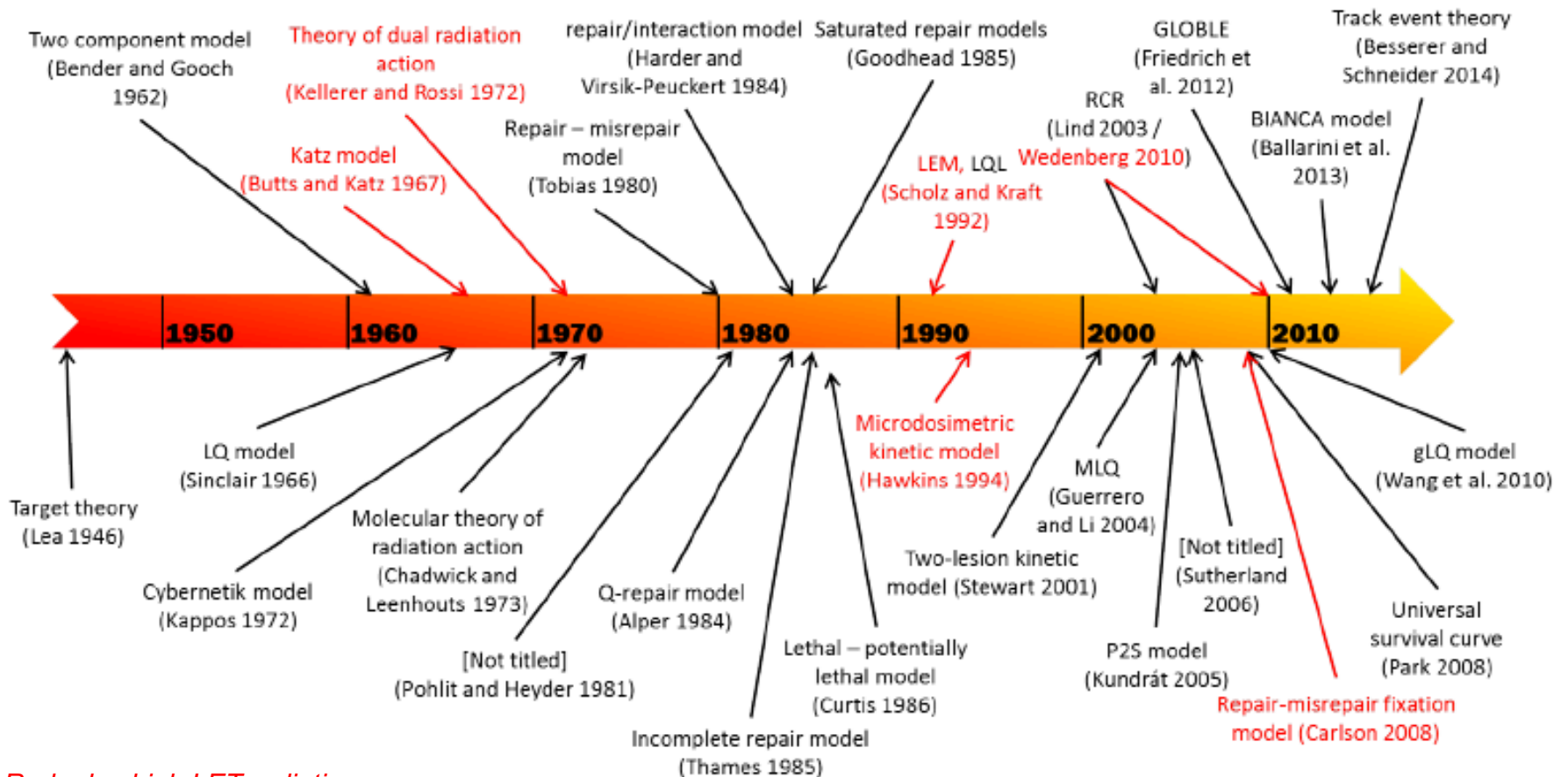
**Potential advantages**

Energy	high	low	
LET	low	high	
Dose	low	high	High tumor dose, normal tissue sparing
RBE	≈ 1	> 1	Effective for radioresistant tumors
OER	≈ 3	< 3	Effective against hypoxic tumor cells
Cell-cycle dependence	high	low	Increased lethality in the target because cells in radioresistant (S) phase are sensitized
Fractionation dependence	high	low	Fractionation spares normal tissue more than tumor
Angiogenesis	Increased	Decreased	Reduced angiogenesis and metastatization
Cell migration	Increased	Decreased	



# *Biophysical Models*

# History of biophysical modeling



*Red=also high LET radiation*

T. Friedrich (Habil Thesis) TUD 2016



# Clinically applied models

- *MKM – Microdosimetric Kinetic Model (Japan)*
- *LEM– Local Effect Model (Europe)*

# *Amorphous Track Structure Model Assumptions*

- 1. Simplification of Track Structure by neglecting the stochastic processes of secondary electron emission. The concept of an amorphous radial dose distribution is used.***
- 2. No general difference between high- and low LET radiation, since all damage is generated by secondary electrons***
- 3. Convolution of low-LET survival curve and radial dose distribution yields response to heavy ion irradiation.***

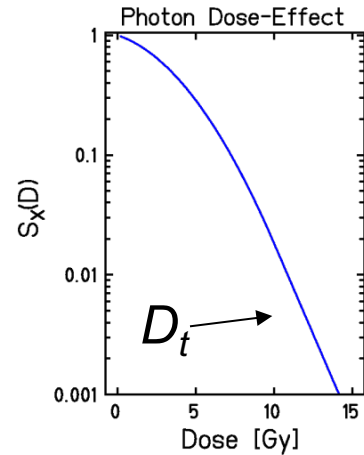
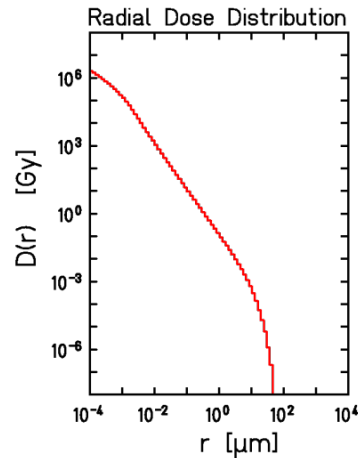
# LEM I: Three Ingredients

## Physics

### Radial Dose

### Distribution:

Monte-Carlo (Krämer),  
Experimental Data,  
Semi-empirical



## Radiobiology

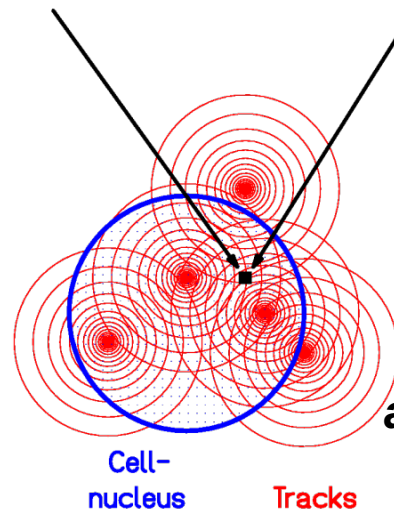
### Photon Survival

Curve: large data  
base available  
linear-quadratic-linear:  
LQL

## Geometry

### Target (cell nucleus):

Experimental Data



$$S = e^{-(\alpha D + \beta D^2)}, \quad D < D_t$$

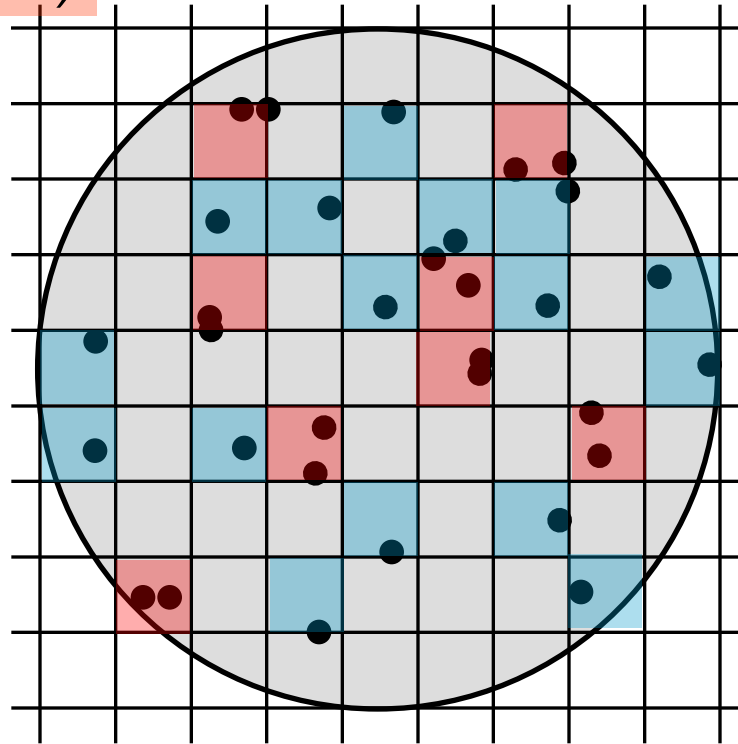
$$S = e^{-s_{\max} \eta (D - D_t)}, \quad D \geq D_t$$

average number of lethal events

# LEM IV: Cluster Index

Distinguish between

- Isolated DSBs (iDSB)
- DSB clusters (cDSB)



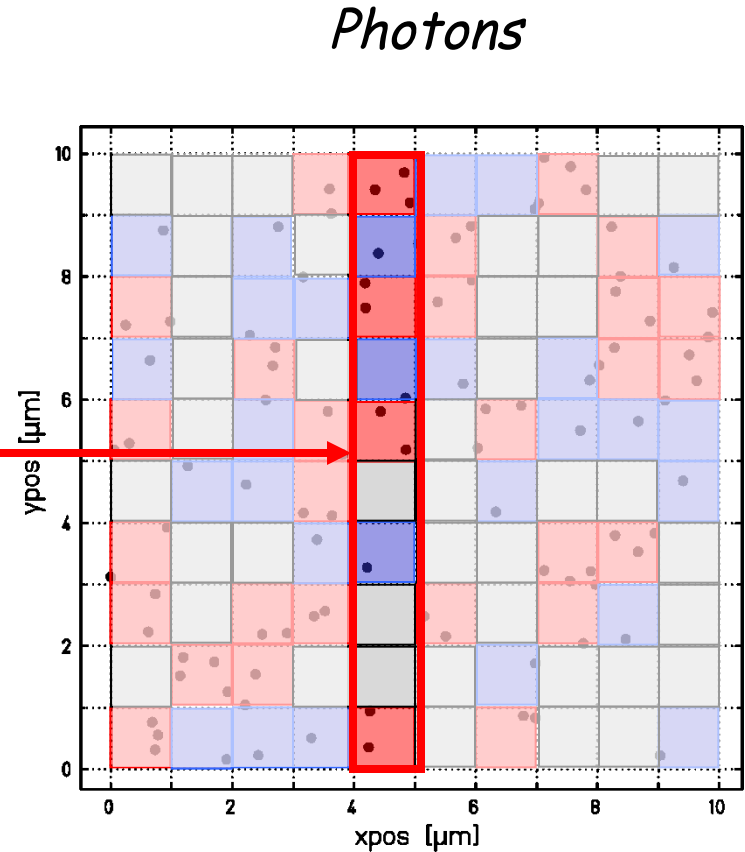
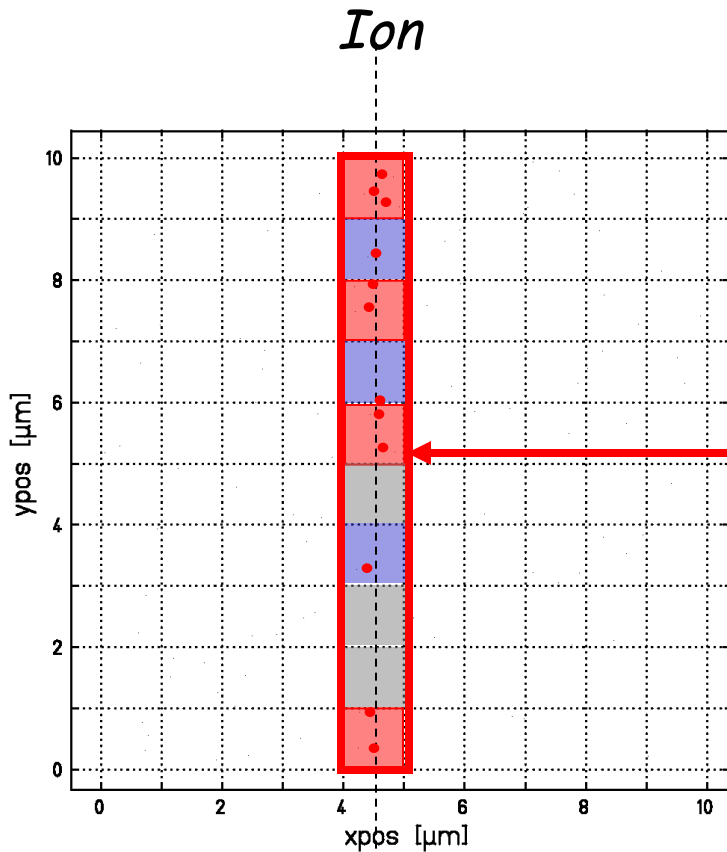
Measure for complexity  
of lesions:  
Cluster index

$$CI = \frac{\#(cDSB)}{\#(cDSB) + \#(iDSB)}$$

→ Derive statistics of lesions

Courtesy of T. Friedrich

# LEM IV: Ion-Photon Equivalence



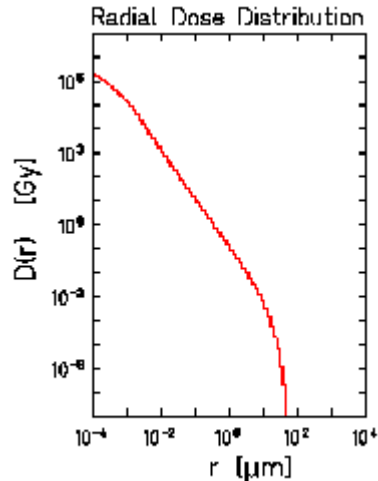
*DSB distribution in single track = cut-out of X-ray damage pattern*

*Photon equivalent situation:*

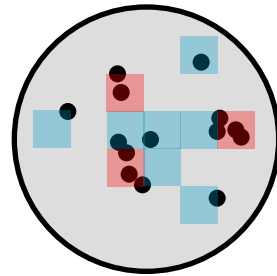
$$CI_{Photons} = CI_{Ion} \text{ at dose } D_{eq}$$

Courtesy of T. Friedrich

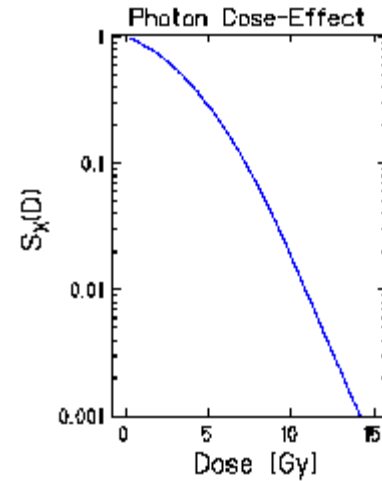
# LEM IV: Calculation Path



Amorphous track structure

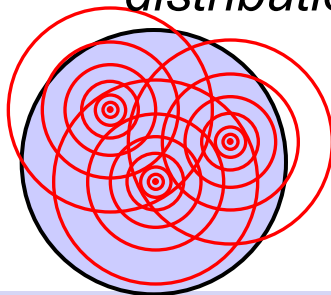


Local lesion distribution

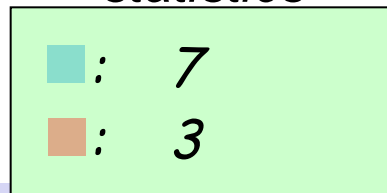


Photon equivalent situation

Local dose distribution



Lesion statistics



**RBE**

Courtesy of T. Friedrich

# Microdosimetric Kinetic Model

*Extension of the Dual Radiation Action Model.*

*Cell nucleus divided into a number  $q$  of microscopic sites called domains.*

*Survival fraction  $s_d$  of a domain after a dose  $z$  is absorbed:*

$$-\ln s_d = Az + Bz^2$$

*Independent of the radiation quality.*

*Number of hits to a domain: Poisson distribution.*


*Survival fraction of a cell:  $S$ .*

*A cell survives if all domain survive.*

# *Biologically based Treatment planning*

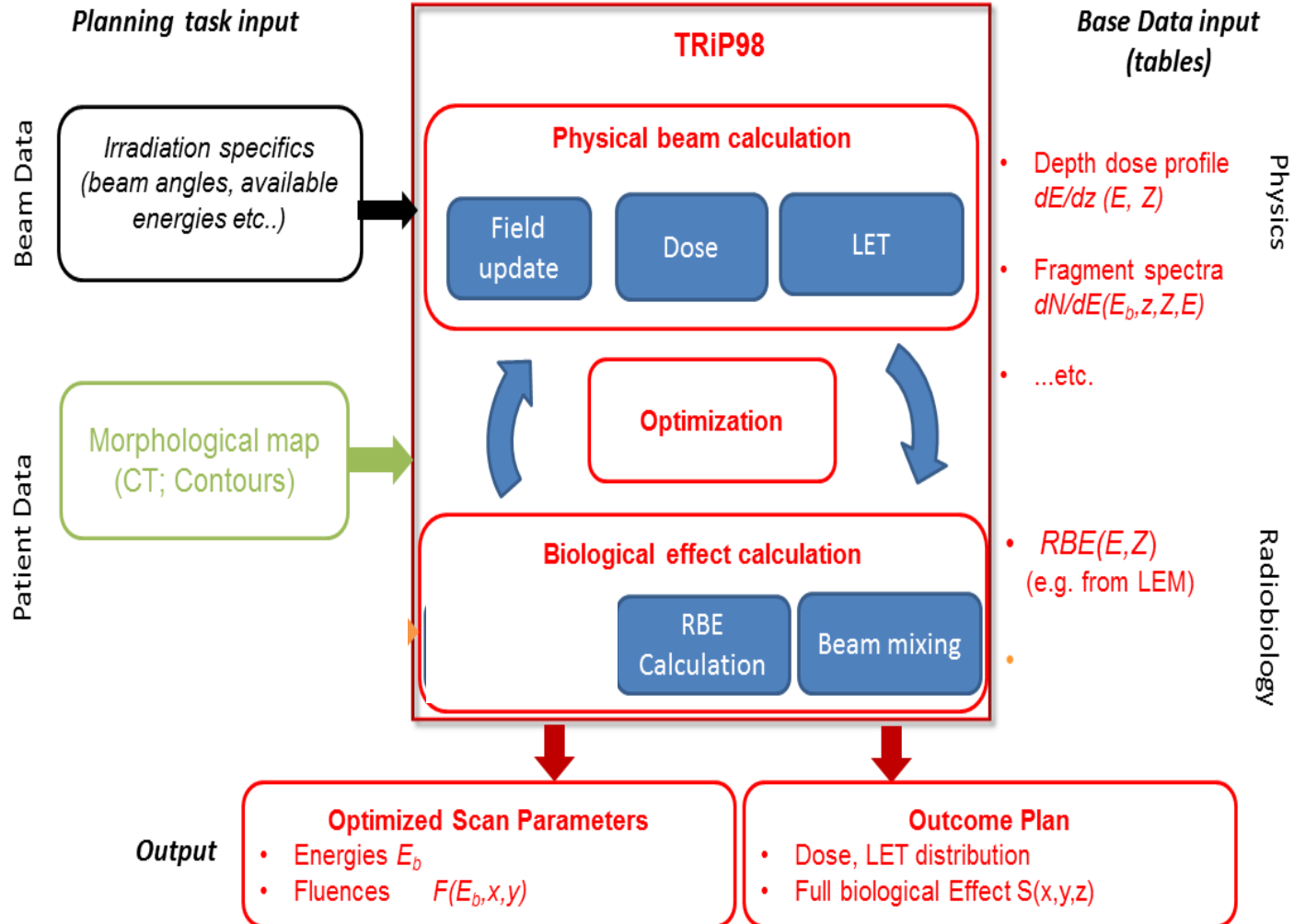


# Advancing clinical prescription for Particle therapy

- Absorbed Dose *optimized quantity:*  

- Biologically effective Dose (RBE weighted)

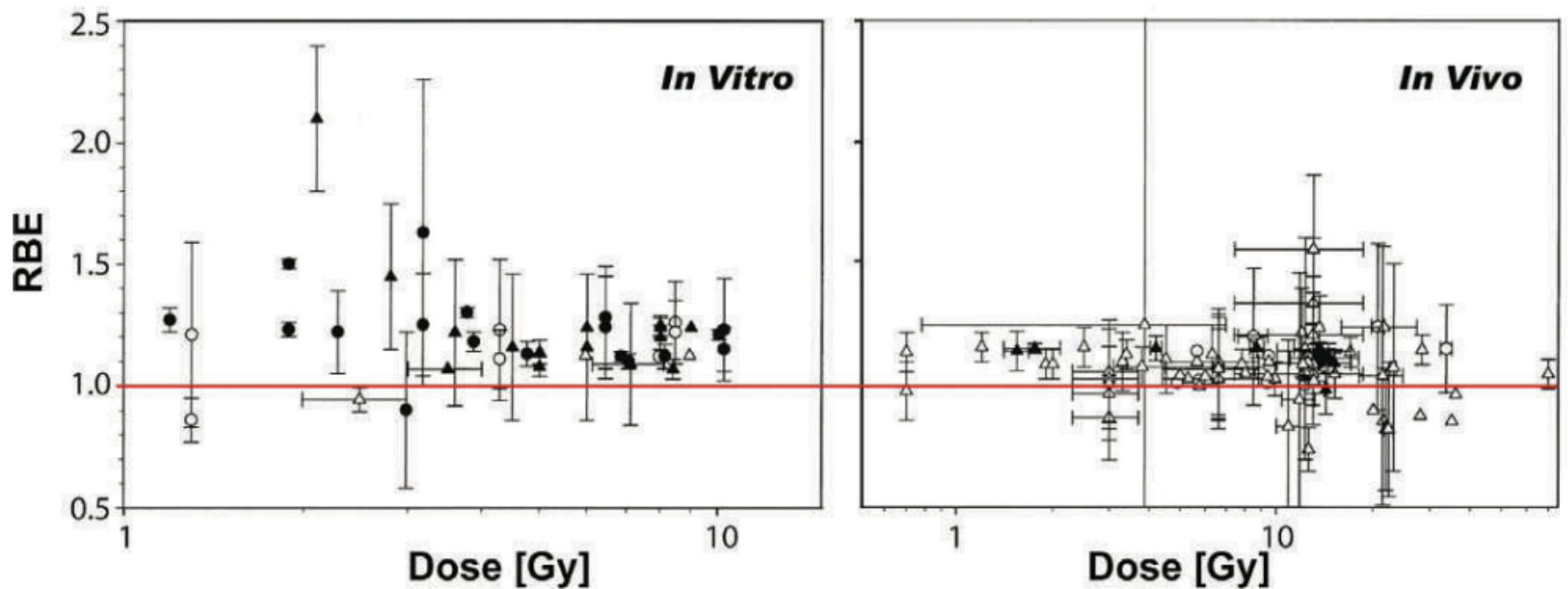
# TRiP98 – Treatment planning for Particles

*Clinical use in pilot project, Research use in GSI, HIT, Aarhus, Lyon etc.  
Reference for: Siemens SynGo/PT, RayStation Carbon*



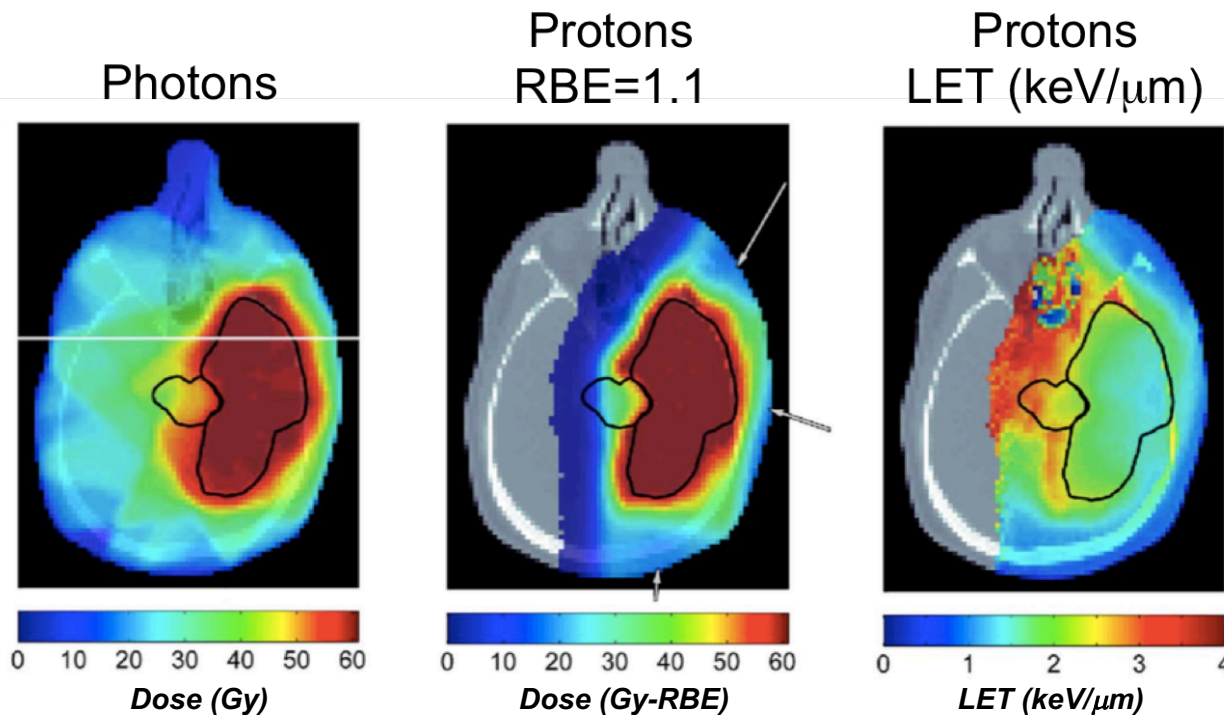
# *Proton RBE*

# ***RBE=1.1 for protons in radiation therapy (ICRU recommendations)***



Paganetti 2002 PMB

*...are deviations from 1.1 of clinical relevance?*



Wedenberg 2014 Med Phys

**- Potential improvements offered by biological optimization**

**- Possible bias when neglecting variable RBE**

**- Sensitivity to RBE model**

**- Only 3 patients considered!**

Courtesy of F. Tommasino

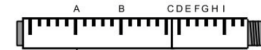
# Biological Range uncertainty

(additional to physical range uncertainty!)

## Distal SOBP:

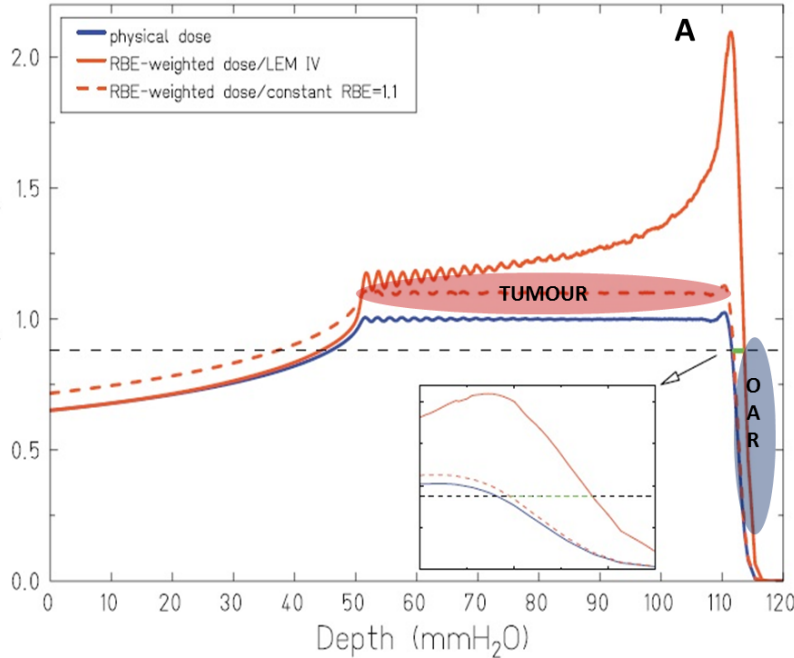
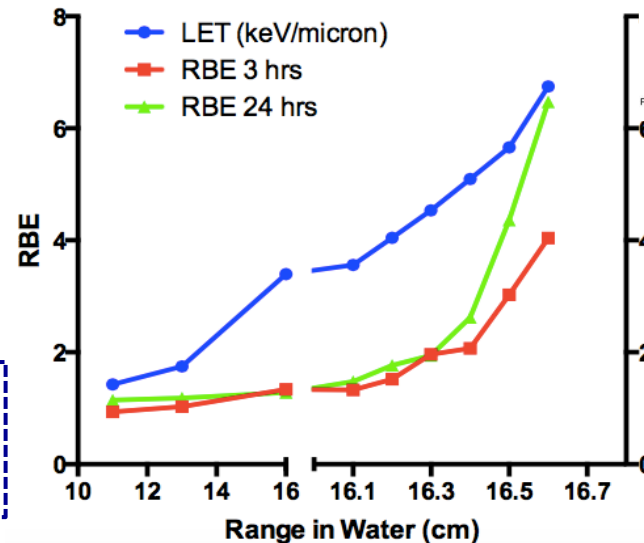
- Parallel decrease of dose and increase in LET
- RBE is highly uncertain
- RBE can be  $\gg 1$  in OAR!!
- Better characterization  $\rightarrow$  more accurate treatments

$\rightarrow$  more



Proton Beam Direction

LET (keV/micron)



Range defined as distal D80

Grün 2013 Med Phys

Cuaron  
2016  
IJROBP

DSB induction and repair

# Chasing a Clinical Impact

Radiotherapy and Oncology 2013

Int J Rad Oncol Biol Phys 2016

Proton radiotherapy

Selection of patients for radiotherapy with protons aiming at reduction of side effects: The model-based approach

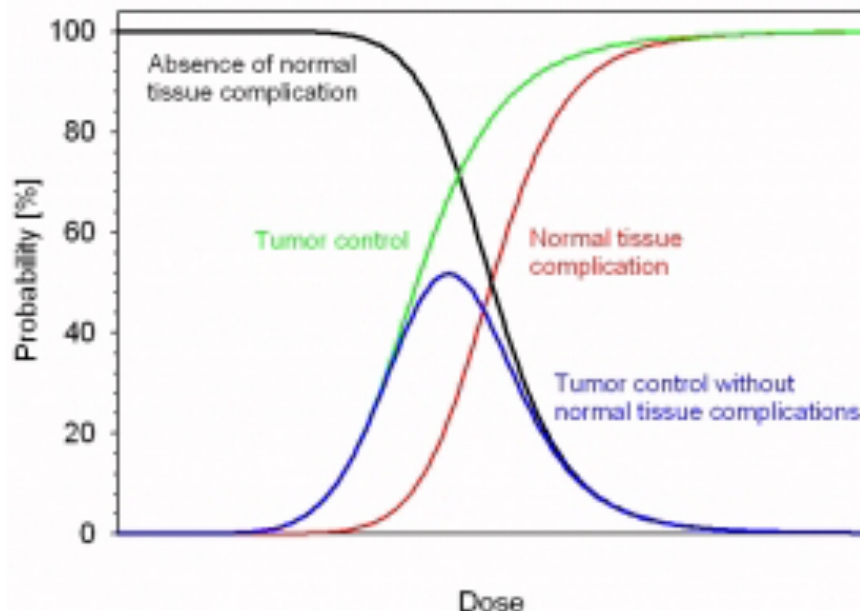
Johannes A. Langendijk<sup>a,\*</sup>, Philippe Lambin<sup>b</sup>, Dirk De Ruyscher<sup>c</sup>, Joachim Widder<sup>a</sup>, Mike Bos<sup>d</sup>, Marcel Verheij<sup>e</sup>

Original Investigation

**The Quest for Evidence for Proton Therapy: Model-Based Approach and Precision Medicine**



Joachim Widder, MD, PhD,<sup>\*</sup> Arjen van der Schaaf, PhD,<sup>\*</sup> Philippe Lambin, MD, PhD,<sup>†</sup> Corrie A.M. Marijnen, MD, PhD,<sup>‡</sup> Jean-Philippe Pignol, MD, PhD,<sup>§</sup> Coen R. Rasch, MD, PhD,<sup>||</sup> Ben J. Slotman, MD, PhD,<sup>¶</sup> Marcel Verheij, MD, PhD,<sup>#</sup> and Johannes A. Langendijk, MD, PhD<sup>\*</sup>



Protons will lead to improved clinical outcomes (less serious toxicity) if:

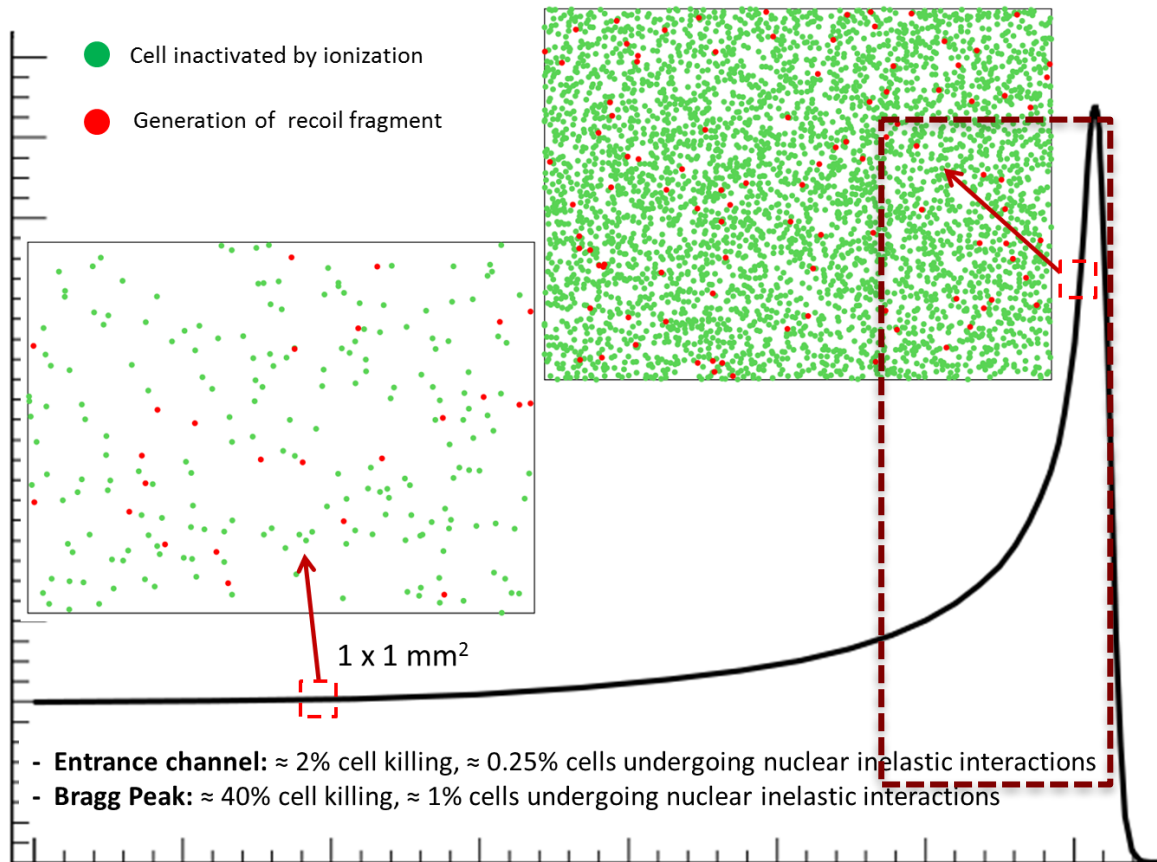
1. **Normal tissue sparing can be obtained ( $\Delta$ dose)**
2.  **$\Delta$ dose will result in lower clinically significant complication risks ( $\Delta$ NTCP)**

Courtesy of F. Tommasino

# Target fragmentation in proton therapy



Relative Dose



About 10% of biological effect in the entrance channel due to secondary fragments



Largest contributions of recoil fragments expected from **He, C, Be, O, N**



**Heavy fragments have low residual energies and release low doses -> high RBE!!**

Tommasino & Durante 2015 Cancers

Depth

Courtesy of F. Tommasino

E. Scifoni - OMA school 2017



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# Target fragmentation in proton therapy



About 10% of biological effect in the entrance channel due to secondary fragments



Largest contributions of recoil fragments expected from  
**He, C, Be, O, N**



**Heavy fragments have low residual energies and release low doses -> high RBE!!**

Fragment	E (MeV)	LET (keV/ $\mu\text{m}$ )	Range ( $\mu\text{m}$ )
$^{15}\text{O}$	1.0	983	2.3
$^{15}\text{N}$	1.0	925	2.5
$^{14}\text{N}$	2.0	1137	3.6
$^{13}\text{C}$	3.0	951	5.4
$^{12}\text{C}$	3.8	912	6.2
$^{11}\text{C}$	4.6	878	7.0
$^{10}\text{B}$	5.4	643	9.9
$^8\text{Be}$	6.4	400	15.7
$^6\text{Li}$	6.8	215	26.7
$^4\text{He}$	6.0	77	48.5
$^3\text{He}$	4.7	89	38.8
$^2\text{H}$	2.5	14	68.9

Tommasino & Durante 2015 Cancers

Courtesy of F. Tommasino

E. Scifoni - OMA school 2017



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## *BioTPS with New ions*

# (Re)introducing new ions

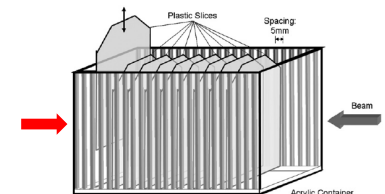
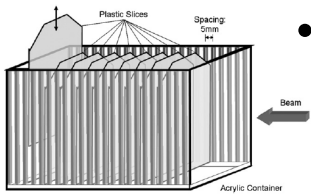
- **O** and **He** available @HIT with full active scanning capabilities and potentially in future at CNAO and Med-AUSTRON

- Comparative TPS studies between different ions require an advanced modeling of the physics and radiobiology
- Such biological characterization in some cases should go beyond the concept of RBE-weighted dose.
- Biological dosimetry *in vitro/in vivo*, not only on monoenergetic but on extended targets
- Treatment planning tests on several levels

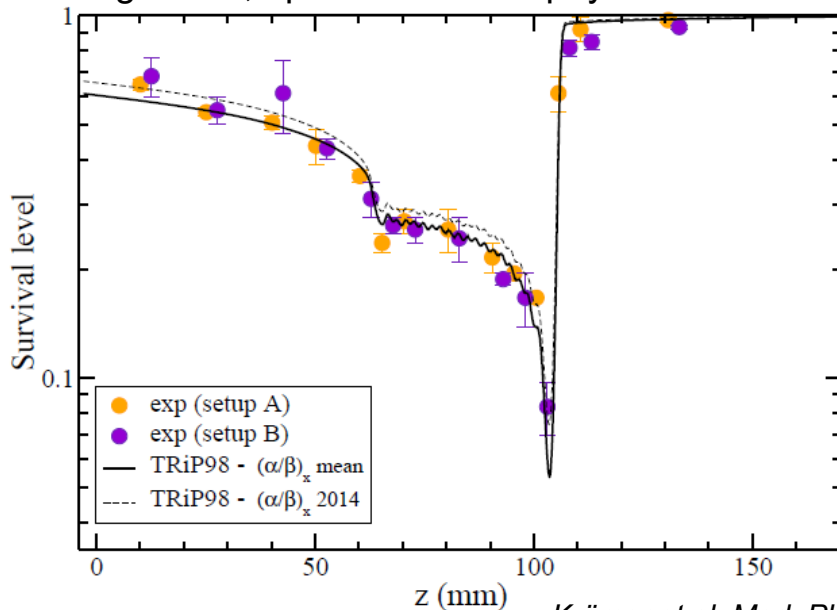
# $^4\text{He}$ biological verification

- New Beam model + LEMIV

- CHO cells Survival on a He planned extended volume
- spatial resolution : 2.5 mm

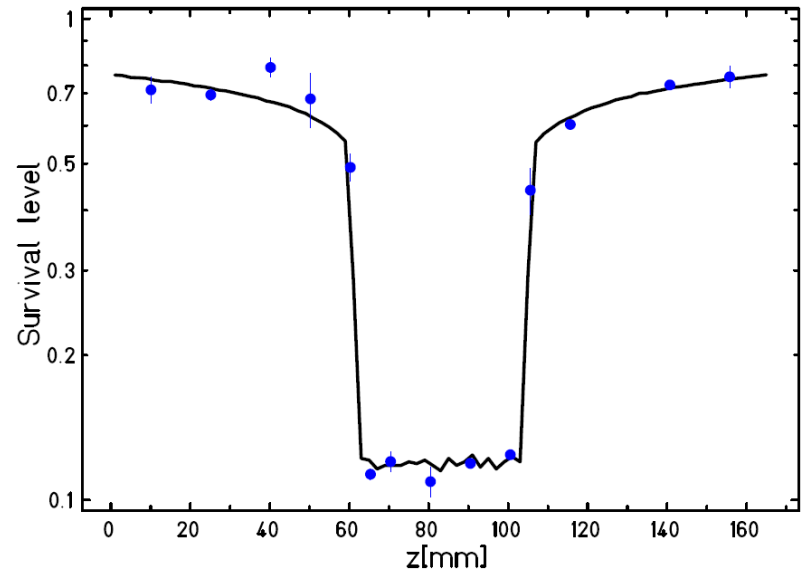


• Single field, optimized on flat physical dose =4Gy



Krämer et.al. Med. Phys. 43, 2016

• 2 Fields bio-optimized (MFO) on uniform survival



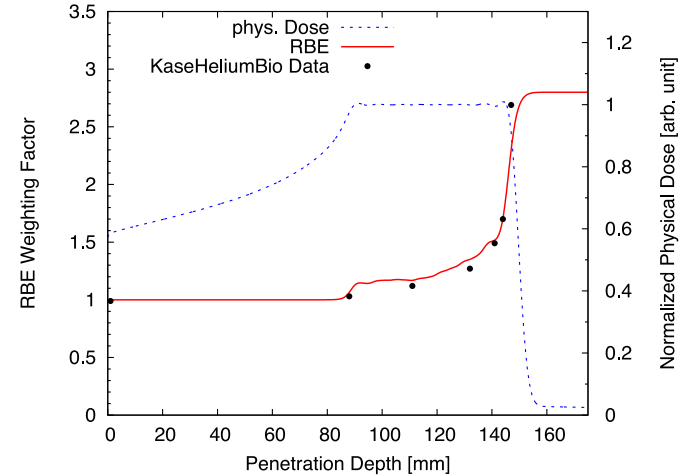
Sokol et. al. in prep for Med Phys.

# $^4\text{He}$ Med AUSTRON model

*Fuchs et al Med Phys (2015),*

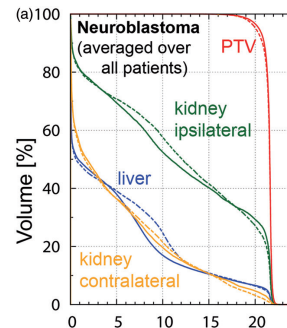
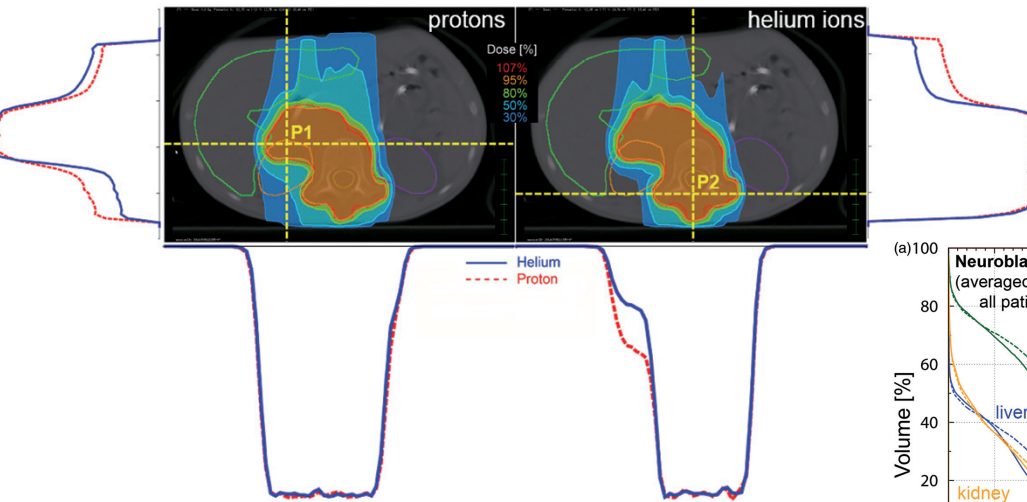
- empirical “zonal” depth-dependent RBE model, independent from dose level and cell type.
- 1.0 in the plateau, then increasing RBE up to a value of 2.8 at the Bragg peak region and constant in fragmentation

## TPS: HYPERION



(b)

Treatment plan quality slightly improved with  $^4\text{He}$  compared to proton plans, but advantages in OAR sparing were depending on indication and tumor geometries.  
**High sensitivity to beam model**



*Knäusl et al. Acta Oncol. 2016*

# $^4\text{He}$ CNAO/HIT model

Mairani et al. PMB 2016 A,B

Phys Med Biol. 2016 Jan 21;61(2):888-905

## Data-driven RBE parameterization for helium ion beams.

RBE(dose, LET,  $(\alpha/\beta)_{\text{ph}}$ )

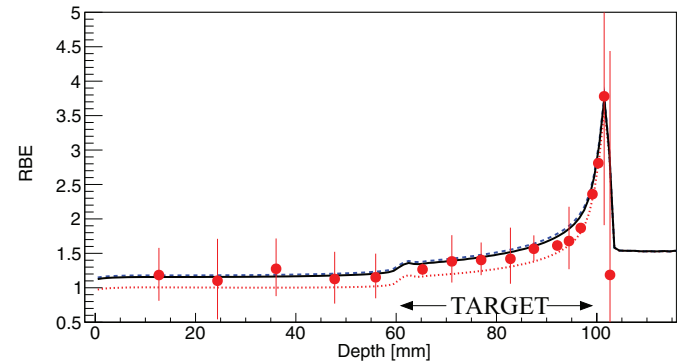
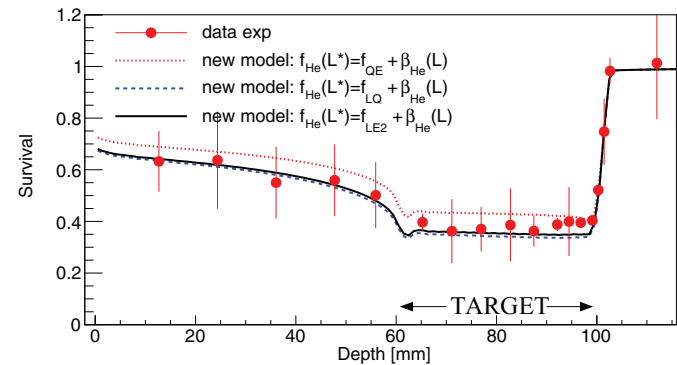
IOP Publishing | Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine  
Phys. Med. Biol. 61 (2016) 4283–4299

Physics in Medicine & Biology  
doi:10.1088/0031-9155/61/11/4283

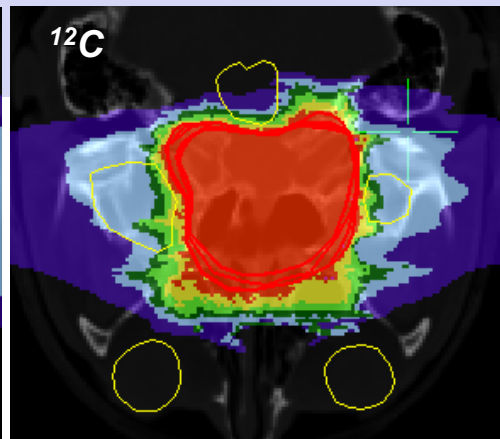
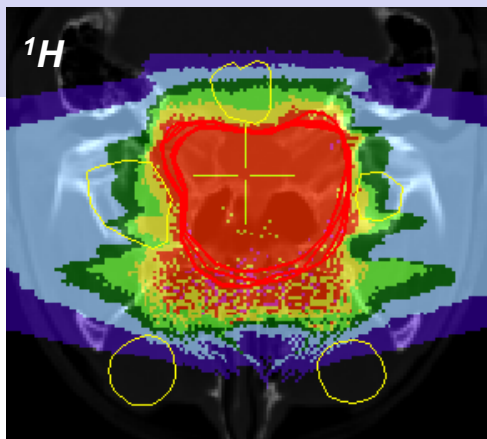
**Biologically optimized helium ion plans:  
calculation approach and its *in vitro*  
validation**

A Mairani<sup>1,2</sup>, I Dokic<sup>2,3,4,5</sup>, G Magro<sup>1</sup>, T Tessonnier<sup>5,6</sup>,  
F Kamp<sup>7</sup>, D J Carlson<sup>8</sup>, M Ciocca<sup>1</sup>, F Cerutti<sup>9</sup>, P R Sala<sup>10</sup>,  
A Ferrari<sup>9</sup>, T T Böhlen<sup>11</sup>, O Jäkel<sup>2,4</sup>, K Parodi<sup>2,5,6</sup>, J Debus<sup>2,5</sup>,  
A Abdollahi<sup>2,3,4,5</sup> and T Haberer<sup>2</sup>

TPS: MCTP->FLUKA

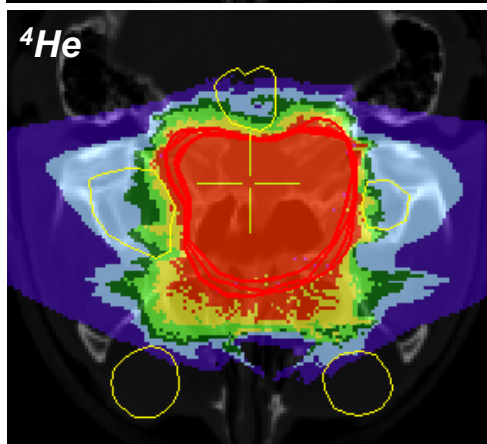


# TRiP98 treatment plans comparison - a patient example



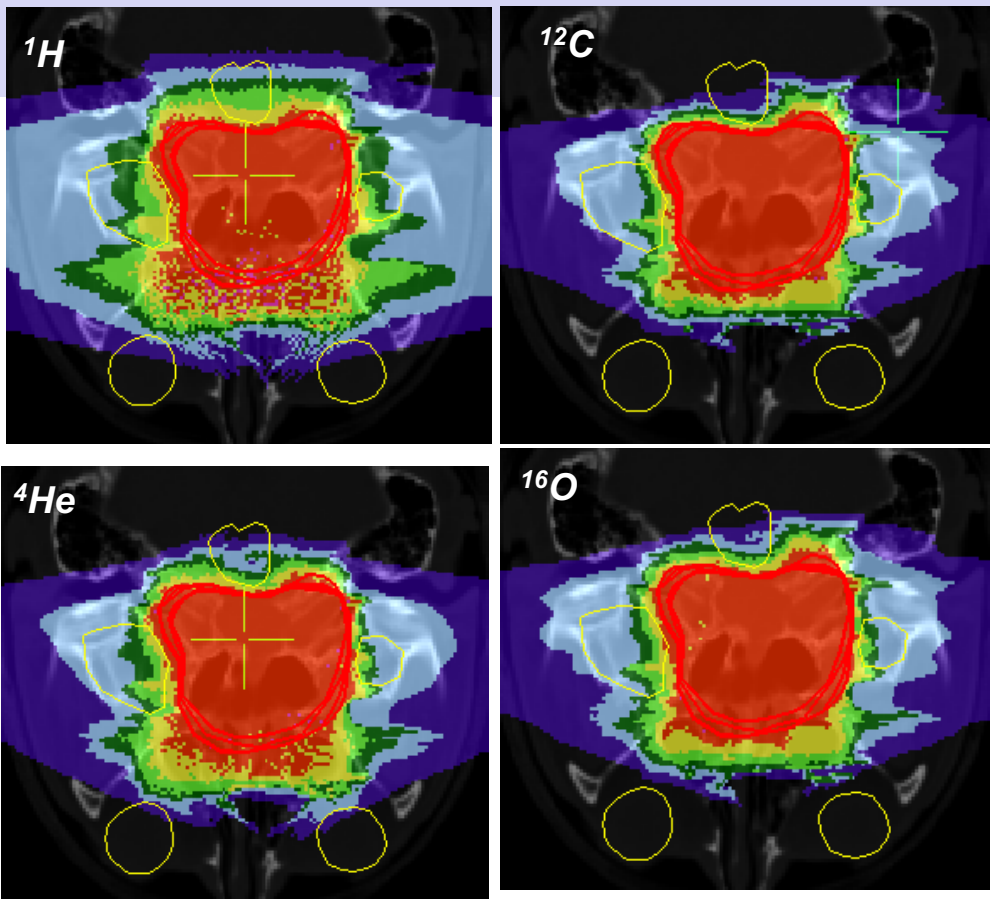
*Two-dimensional dose distributions for GSI pilot project patient CT slice  
Plans for double-field irradiation of chordoma with  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^4\text{He}$ ,  $^{12}\text{C}$*

*R. Grün et al, Med.Phys. 42, 1037 (2015)*



***Helium: a promising alternative for carbon and protons***

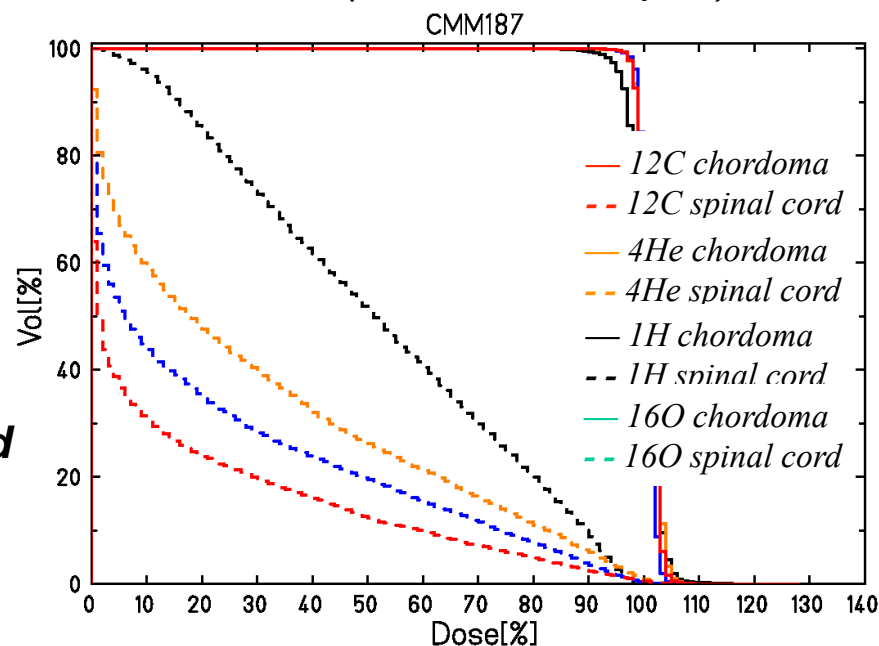
# TRiP98 treatment plans comparison - a patient example



Two-dimensional dose distributions for GSI pilot project patient CT slice  
Plans for double-field irradiation of chordoma with  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^4\text{He}$ ,  $^{12}\text{C}$

*R. Grün et al, Med.Phys. 42, 1037 (2015)*

Extended +  $^{16}\text{O}$  (Sokol et al. unpub)

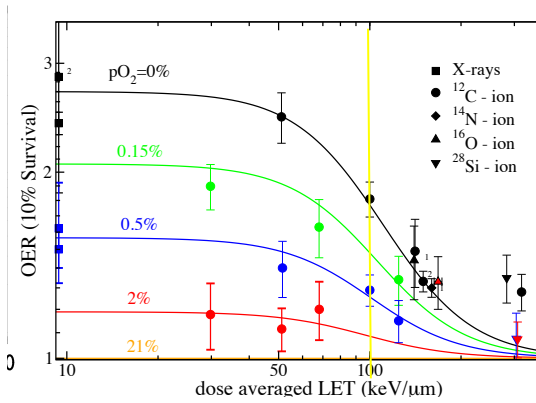


**Helium: a promising alternative for carbon and protons**

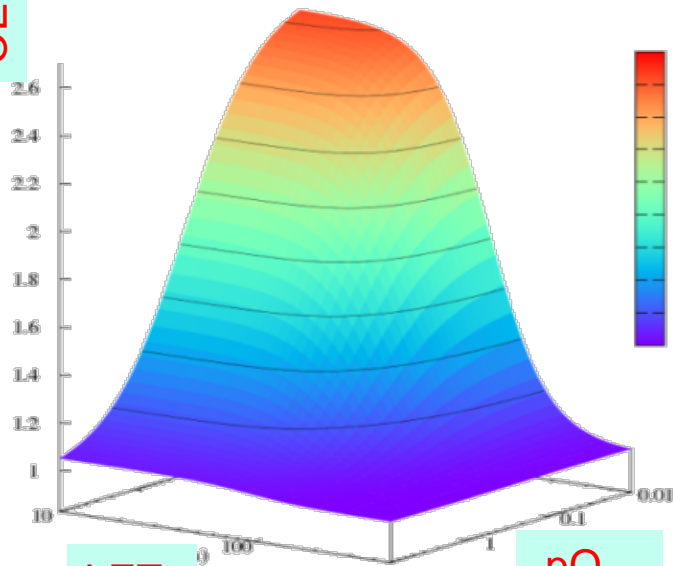
**Special cases for using oxygen?**



# OER (pO<sub>2</sub>,LET)

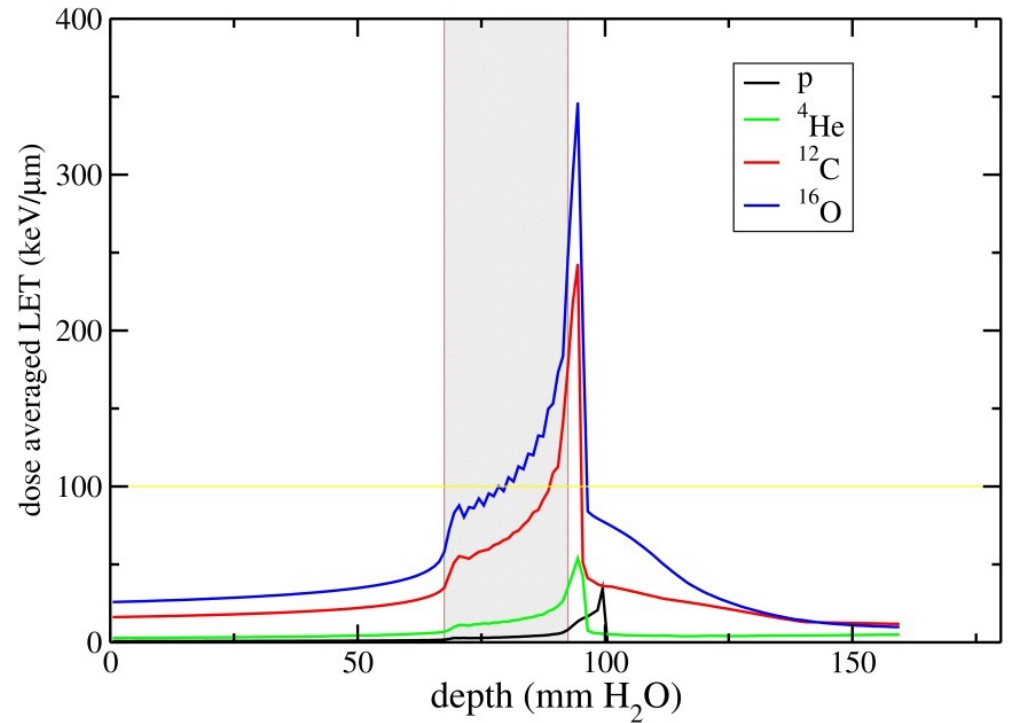


OER



LET

pO<sub>2</sub>

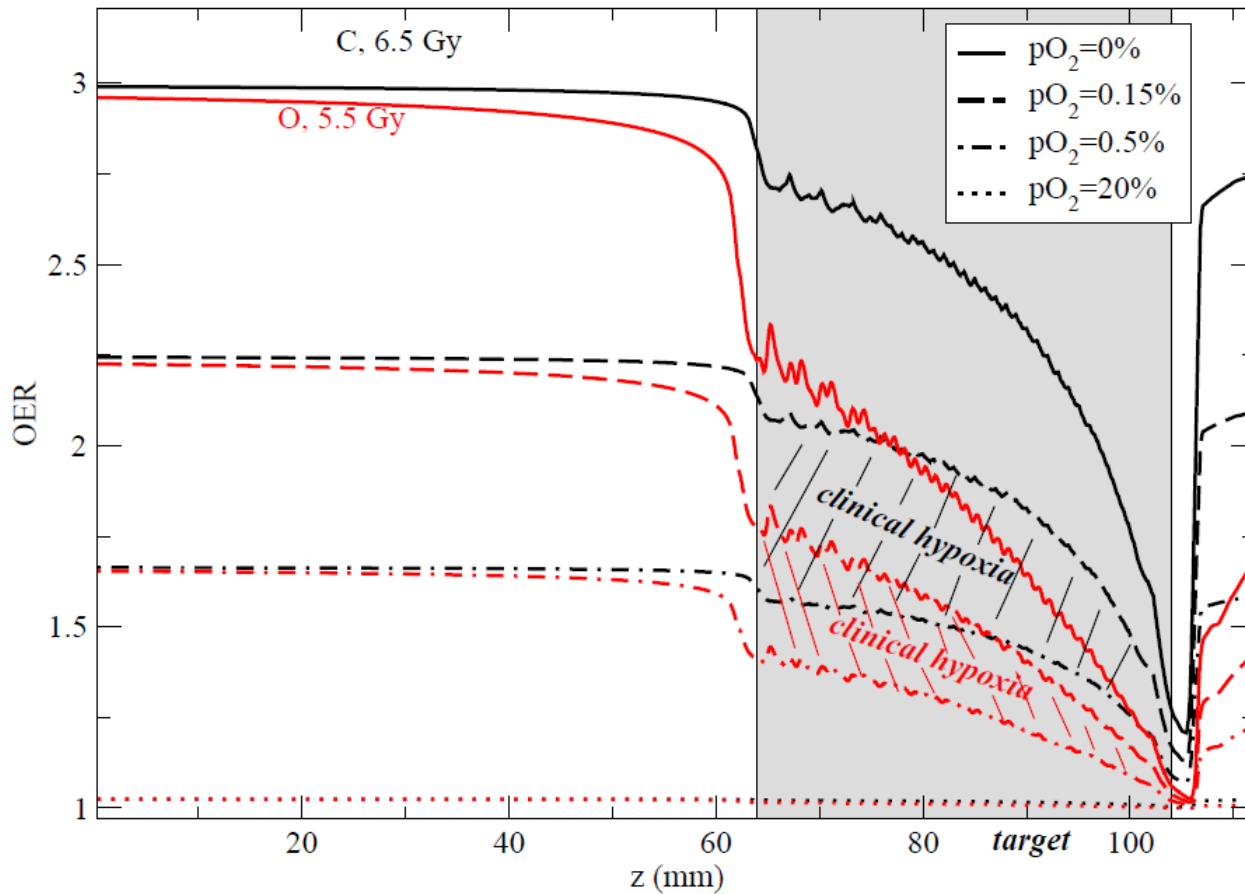


Tommasino Scifoni Durante *Int J Part Ther* 2015

Scifoni et al *PMB* 2013

Tinganelli et al. *Sci Rep* 2015

# OER profile O vs C



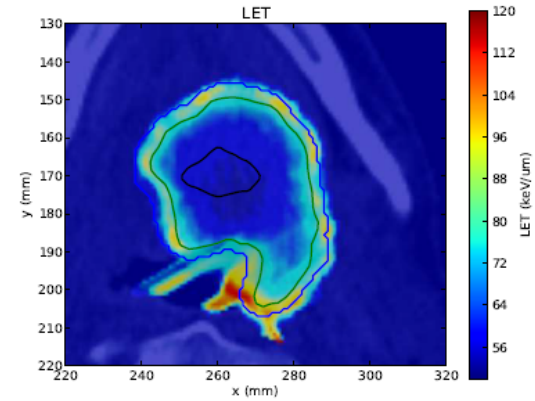
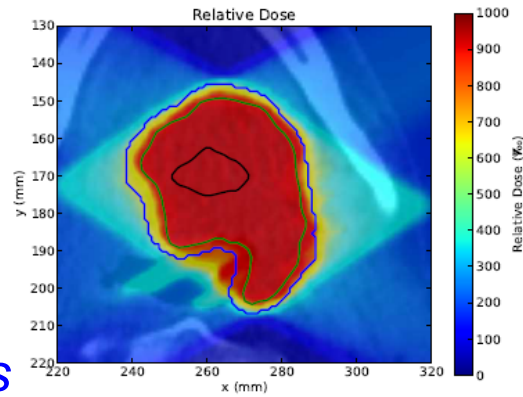
- OER along the irradiation depth for different ion and  $pO_2$
- selective advantage of O beam

Scifoni et al PMB 2013

# LET painting

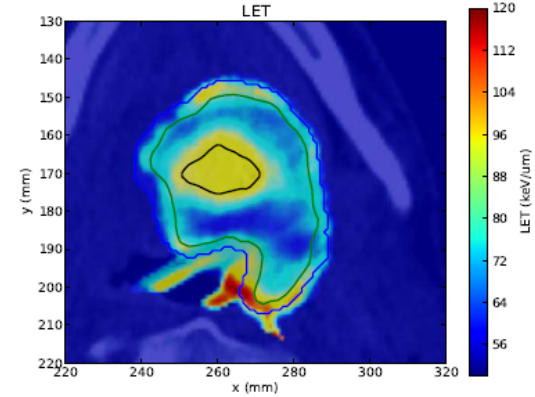
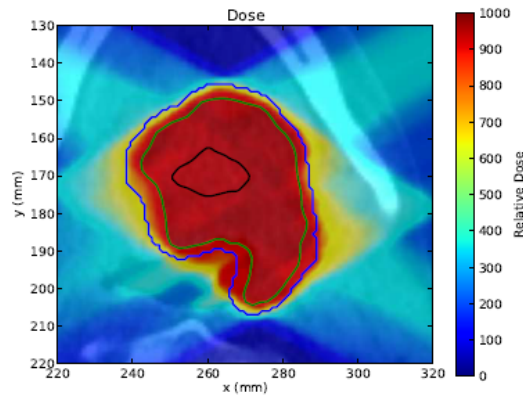
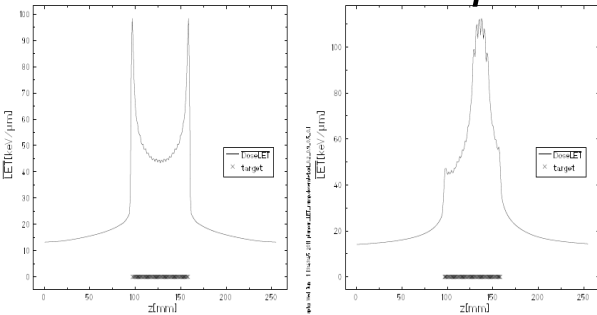
- Redistribution of LET,  
to be maximized  
in a target volume,

4 Flat  
C fields

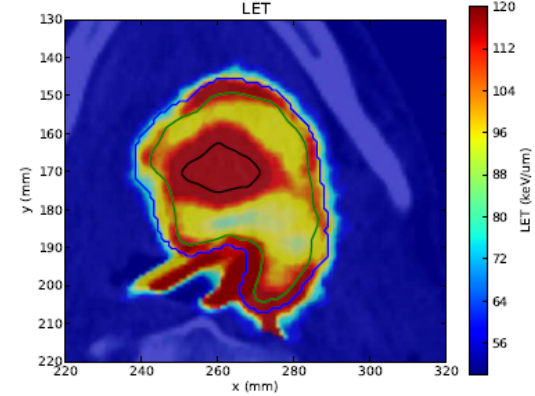
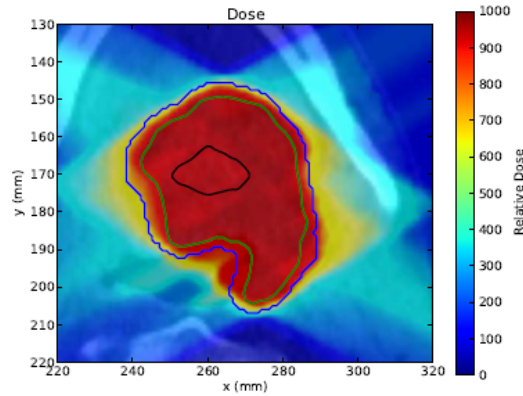


using TRiP98  
with dose ramps

4 Dose  
ramped  
C



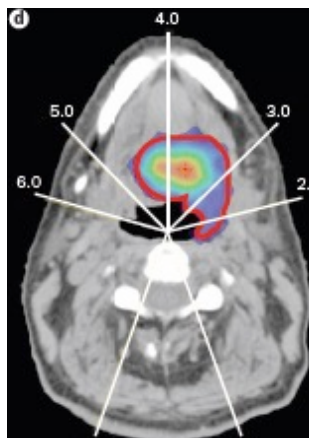
4 Dose  
Ramped  
O



Bassler et al. Acta Oncol 2014

# The kill painting basic idea

- Absorbed Dose *optimized quantity:*  
↓
- Biologically effective Dose (RBE weighted)  
↓
- Biologically isoeffective Dose in the local microenvironment

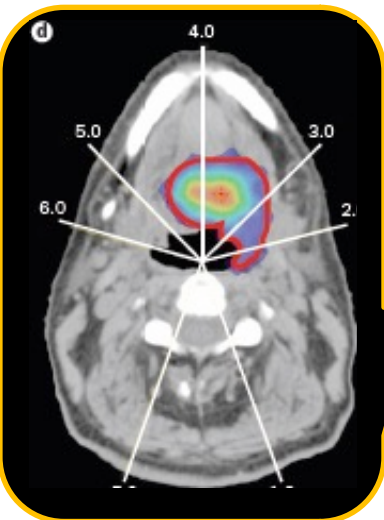


Intra-tumour  
Heterogeneity  
revealed by functional imaging  
e.g. CT/PET(FMISO)  
Horsman NRCO 211

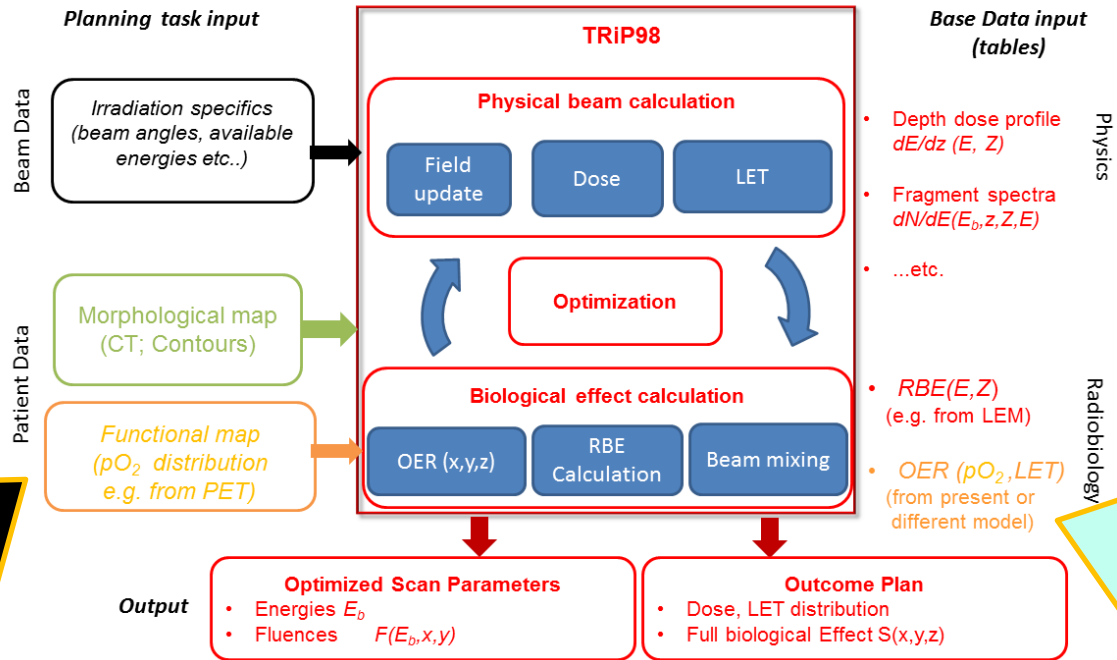
*What is needed:*

- ✓ Physical beam modeling
- ✓ RadioBiological modeling
- ✓ Implementation in TPS
- ✓ Experimental Verification

# Kill painting implementation in TPS

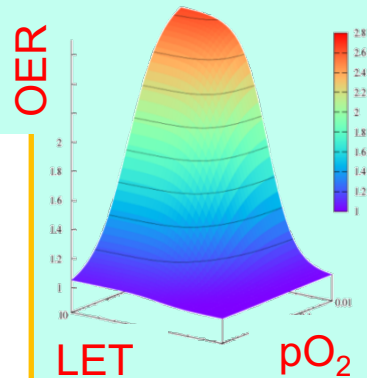


Horsman et al  
Nat. Rev. Clin. Oncol. (2012)

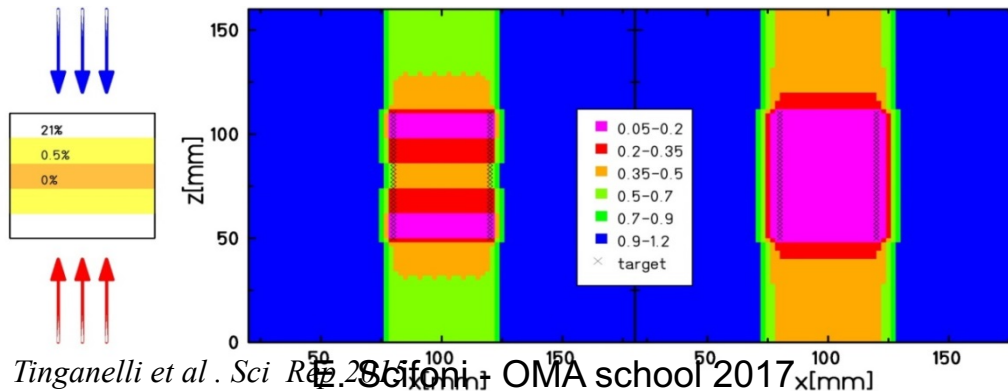


Semi-empirical model for OER ( $pO_2, LET$ )

Scifoni et al.  
Phys Med Biol 2013



LET and dose distribution of the particle fields automatically adjusted from the optimization to the oxygen distribution

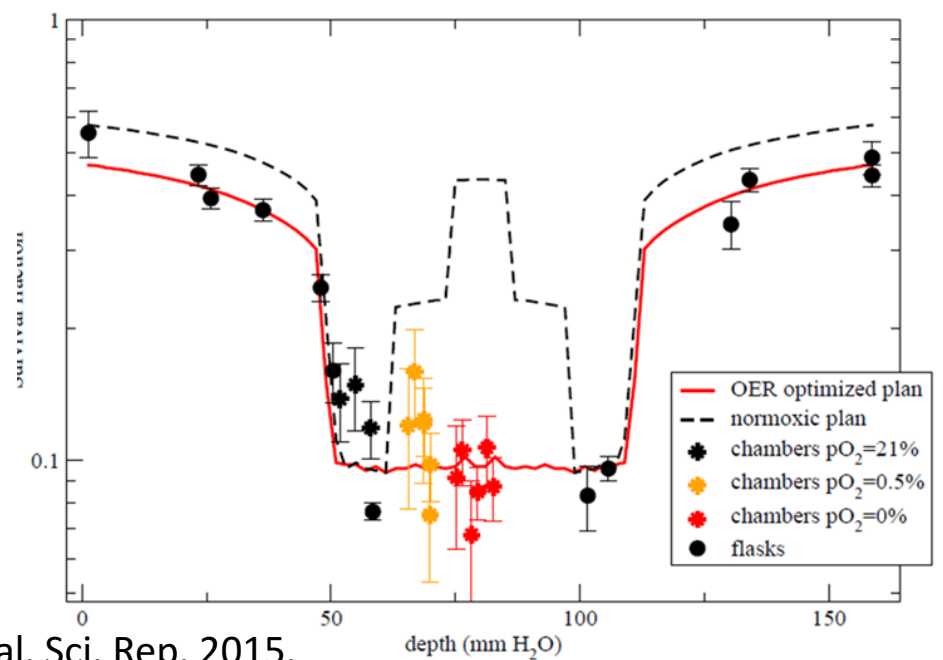
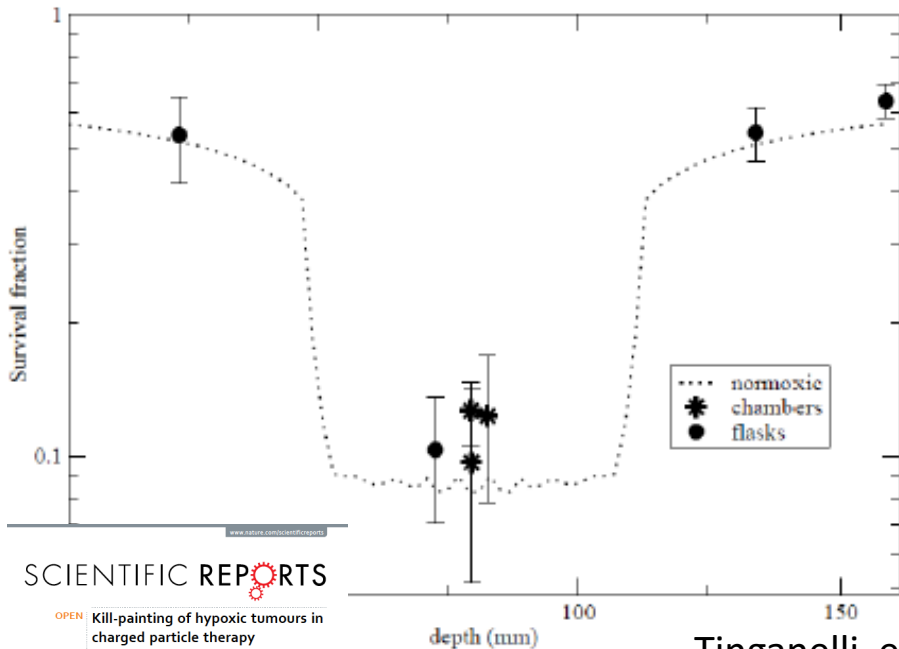
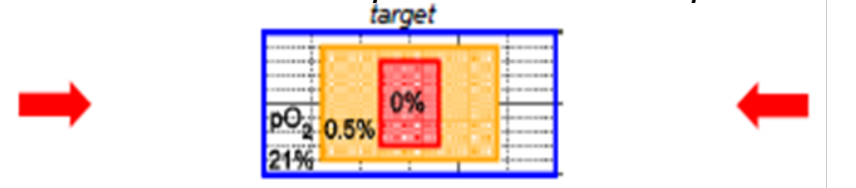
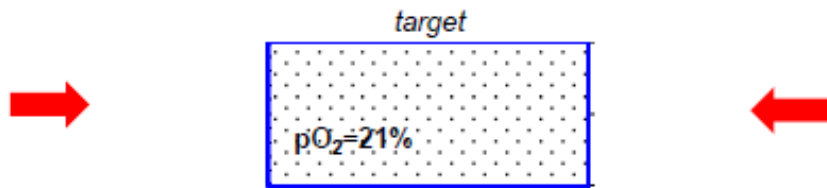
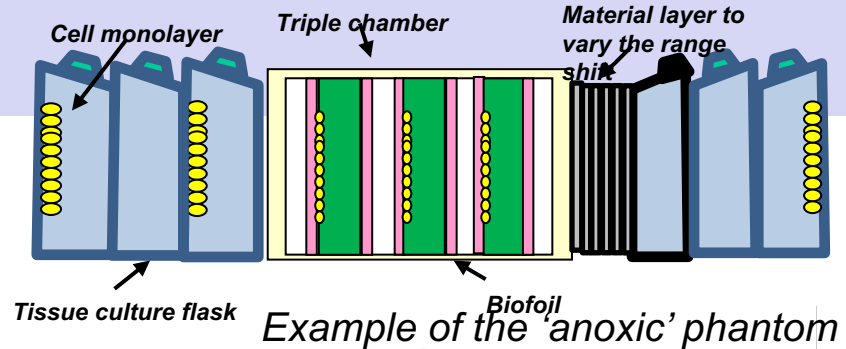
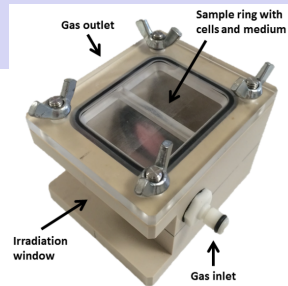


Tinganelli et al. Sci Rep 2017

Scifoni OMA school 2017

# Experimental verification: Hypoxic cell chambers

2 Fields C ions@GSI



Tinganelli et al. Sci. Rep. 2015.

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

OPEN Kill-painting of hypoxic tumours in charged particle therapy

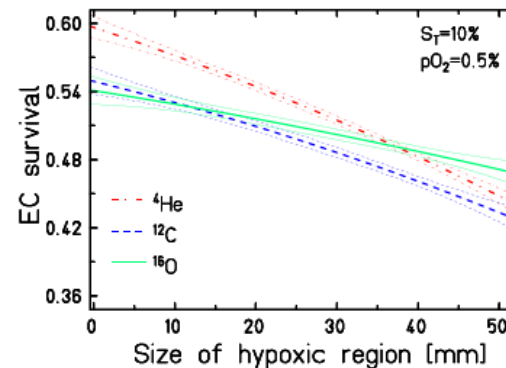
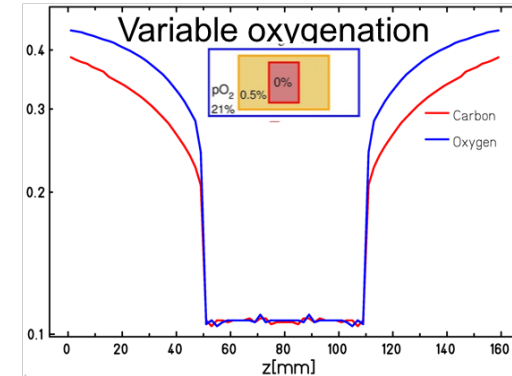
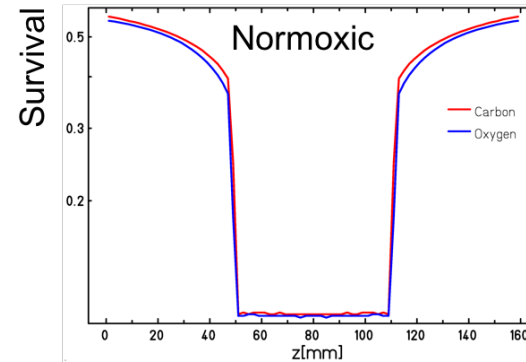
Walter Trogger<sup>1</sup>, Marco Durante<sup>1</sup>, Evelyn Hwang<sup>1</sup>, Michael Krämer<sup>1</sup>, Andreas Möhr, Wilma Kraft-Weyrauch<sup>1</sup>, Yoshie Furusawa<sup>1</sup>, Thomas Friedhof<sup>1</sup> & Christoph Scholz<sup>1</sup>



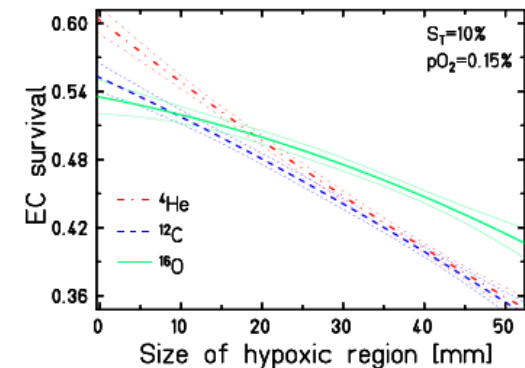
# OER optimized plans with O (kill painting)

Sokol et al. *subm to PMB (minor rev.)*

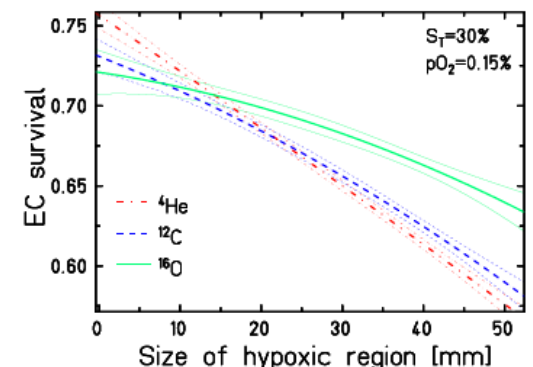
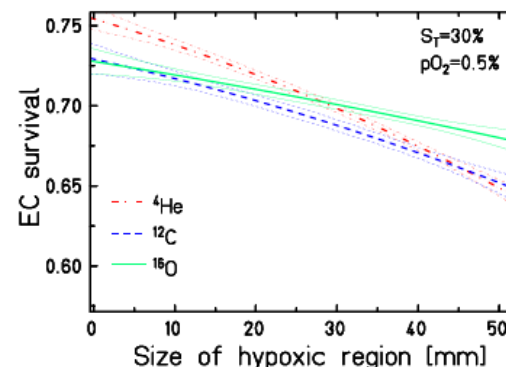
- In case of hypoxia, proper optimization accounting for OER may lead to **Inverted peak-to-entrance ratios** as compared to a normoxic case
- According to actual oxygenation, O beam may overcome the price of larger entrance channel with the LET advantages
- Trade-off analysis between better **LET distribution** and worse **Fragmentation** in entrance and tail



(c)



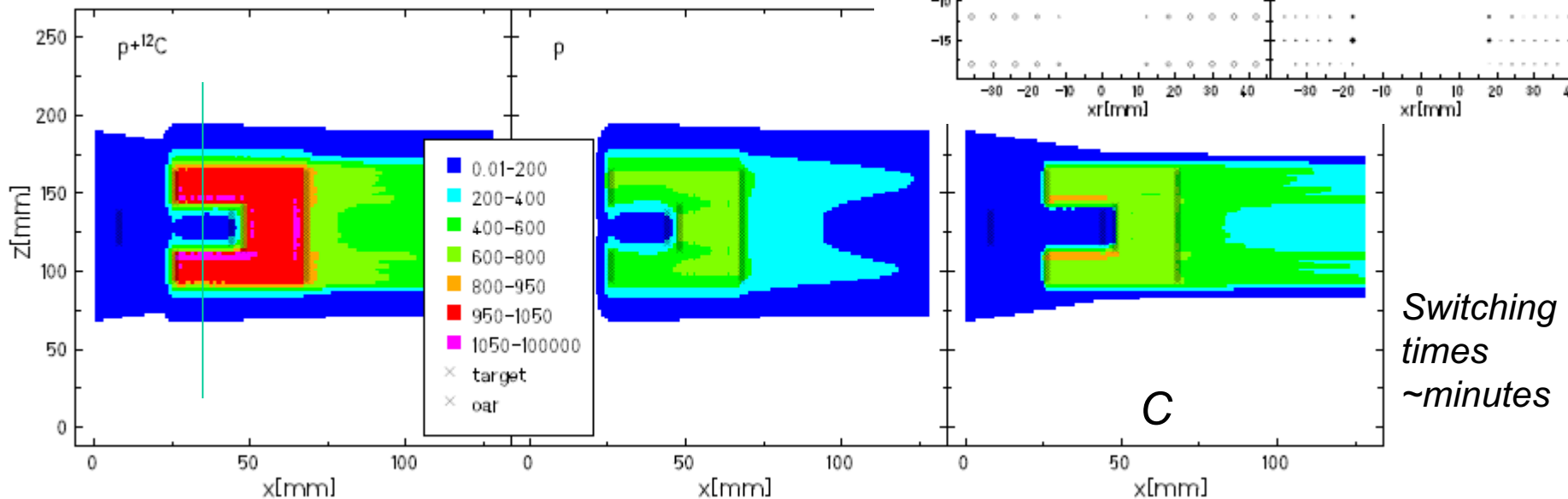
(d)



# Multi-ion treatment planning

- **TRiP** version for a biologically optimised multi-ion treatment plan
- TPS enhanced to handle more than one ion at once (e.g.  $^{12}\text{C}+^{16}\text{O}$ ,  $p+^{12}\text{C}$ )

OAR dose constraint prefers  $^{12}\text{C}$



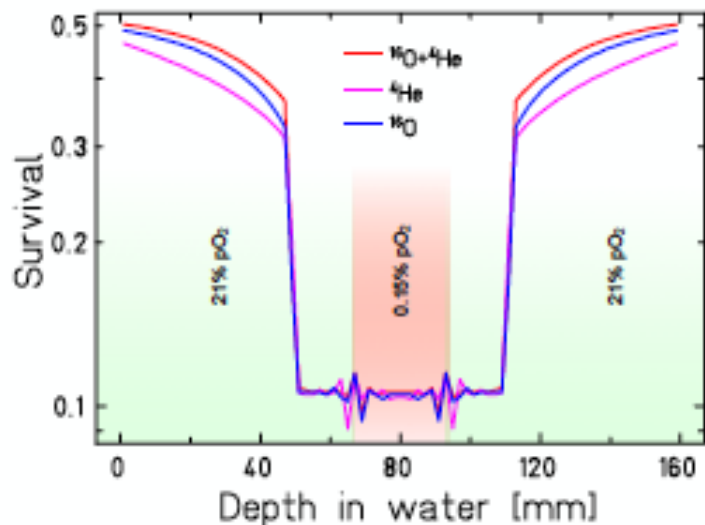
Krämer, Scifoni, Schmitz, Sokol, Durante, *EPJD* 68 (2014)



# Multi-ion plans + OER driven optimization

## Towards the multi-ion treatment planning with $^{16}\text{O}$ beams

*O. Sokol<sup>1,2</sup>, E. Scifoni<sup>1,3</sup>, S. Hild<sup>1,3</sup>, M. Krämer<sup>1,2</sup>, and M. Durante<sup>2</sup>*



Survival distributions for single-ion double-field optimizations ( $^4\text{He} + ^4\text{He}$  and  $^{16}\text{O} + ^{16}\text{O}$ ), and multi-ion quadruple-field optimization ( $^{16}\text{O} + ^{16}\text{O} + ^4\text{He} + ^4\text{He}$ ).

$\text{pO}_2 = 20\%: z < 6.6 \text{ \& } z > 9.4$

$\text{pO}_2 = 0.5\%: 6.6 < z < 9.4$

Depth	Entrance channel survival, %		
	$^{16}\text{O}$	$^4\text{He}$	$^{16}\text{O} + ^4\text{He}$
5 mm	48.4	45.4	<b>49.9</b>
45 mm	34.3	32.4	<b>37.7</b>

*GSI Sci Rep. (2017)*  
*Sokol et al. PTCOG '17*

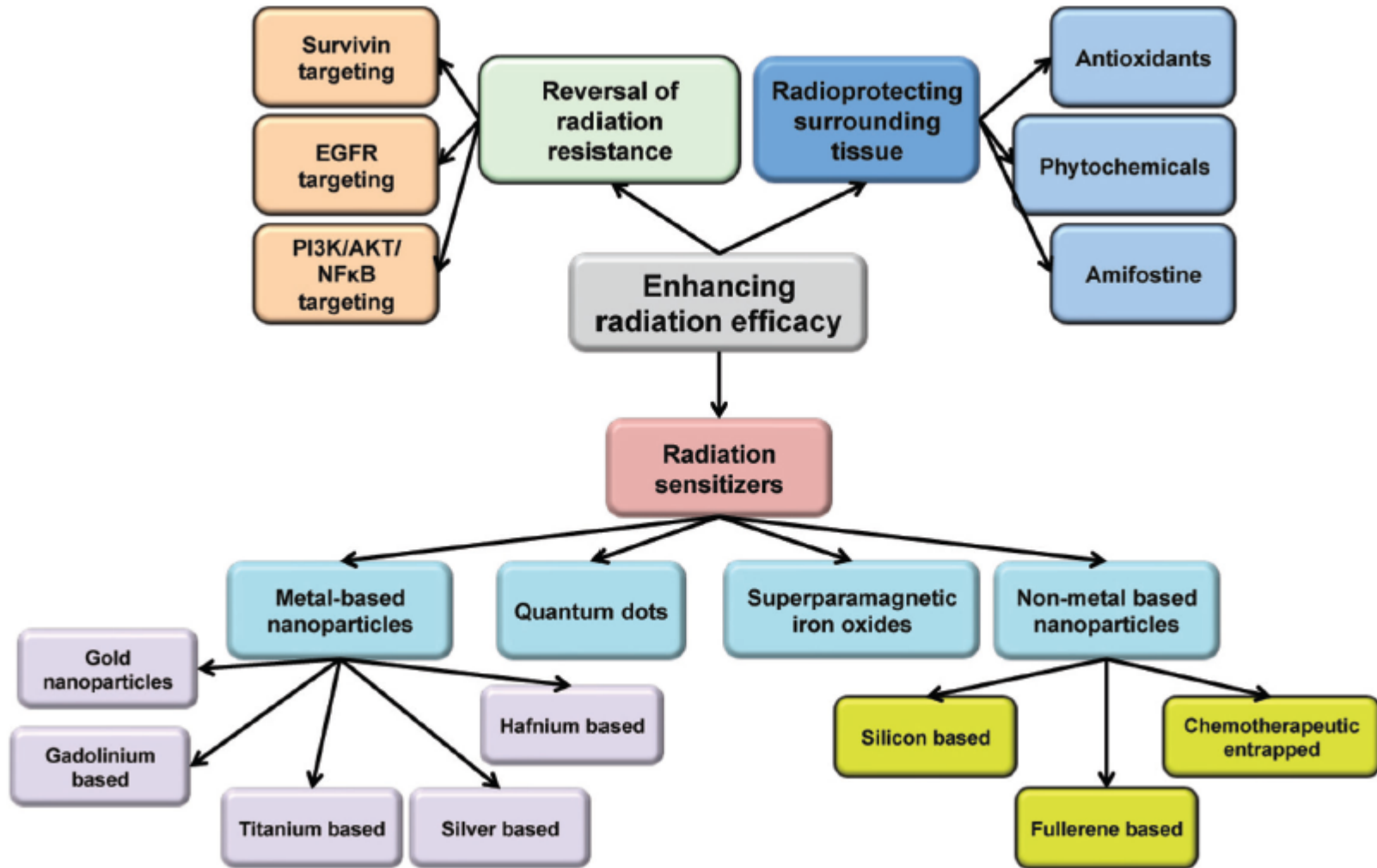
Research based  
TRiP98 version  
Including both features

The aim is let the optimization choose the ion at different Spots also according to the local oxygenation

*4 Fieds (2He +2O) MF optimized*

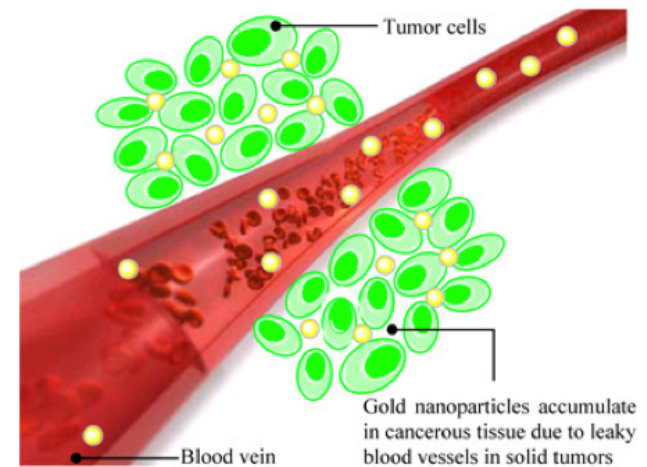
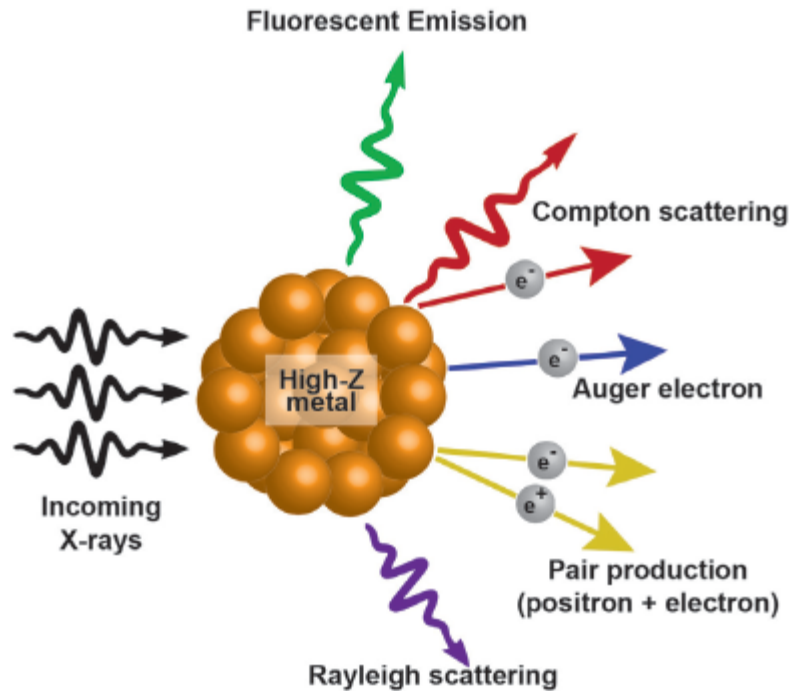
## *Nanoparticles as dose enhancers*

# Radiation sensitizers



*Kwatra et al. Transl. Cancer Res. 2013*

# High Z Nanoparticle sensitization



<http://www.nanomedicine.dtu.dk>

*Kwatra et al. Transl. Cancer Res. 2013*

NP: high cellular uptake in tumours

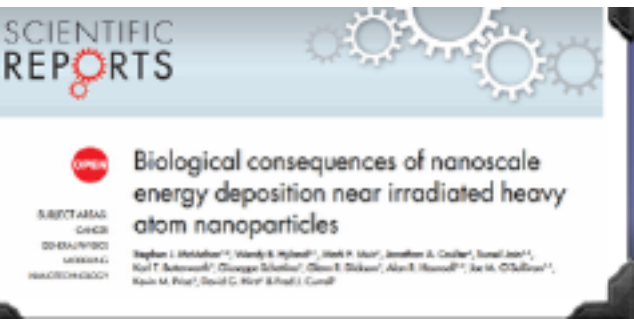
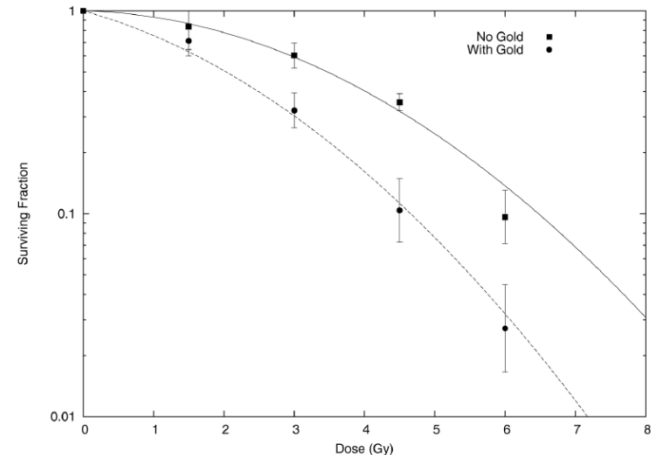
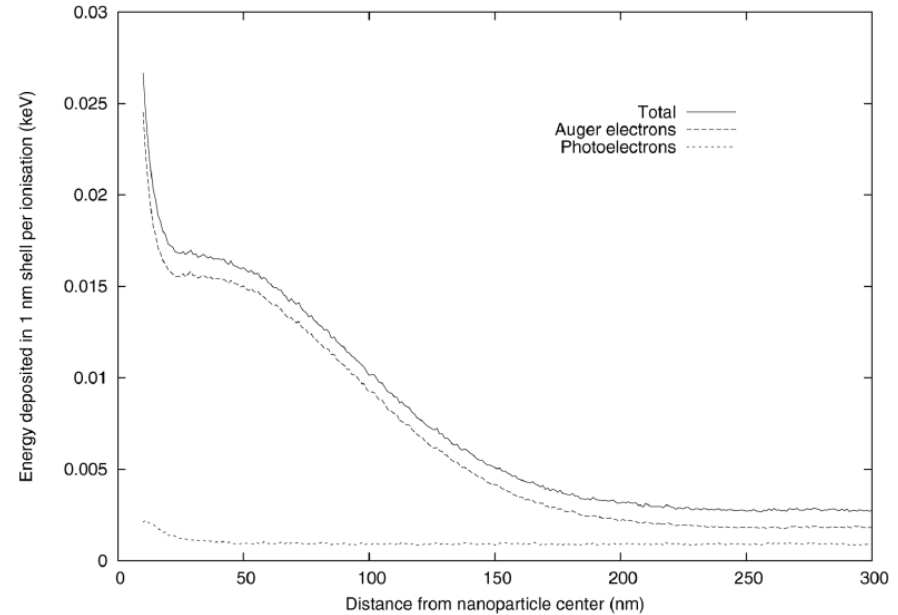
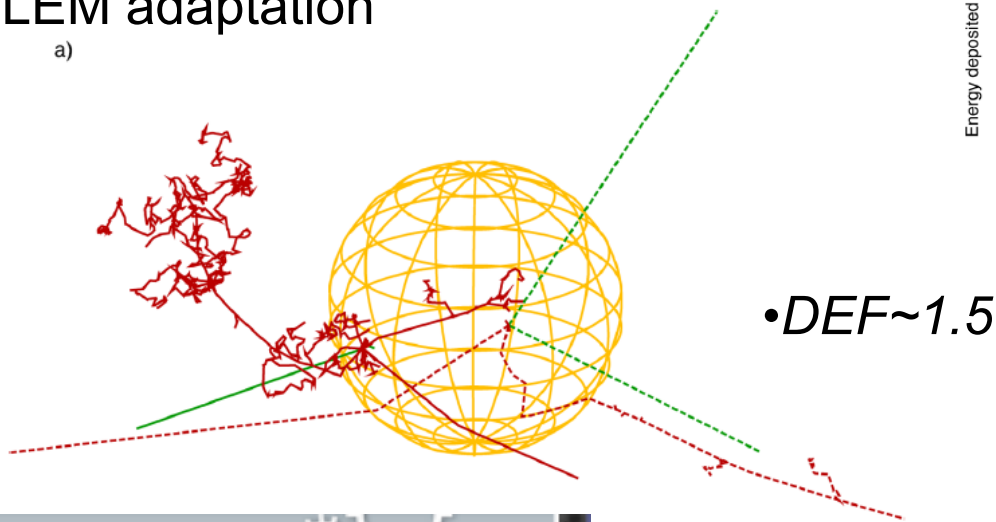
*well known advantage for photons;  
high Z  $\rightarrow$  high  $e^-$  emission vs. high absorption*

***advantage with ion irradiation?***

# Au NP with photons – Mechanistic insight

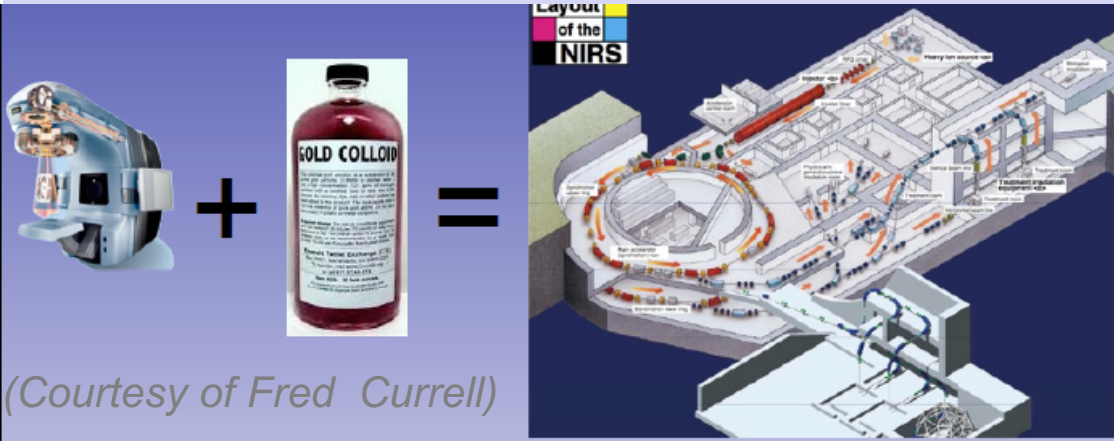
- Auger electrons play a crucial role for photons
- local dose enhancement analysis based on track structure and LEM adaptation

a)



Mc Mahon et al.  
Sci. Rep. 2011

# Local dose enhancement?

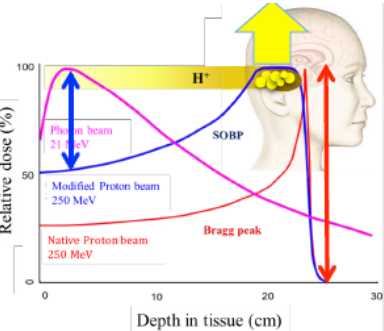


(Courtesy of Fred Currell)

- photon + NP  $\approx$  Ion ?

Then, what about:

- Ion + NP = ??

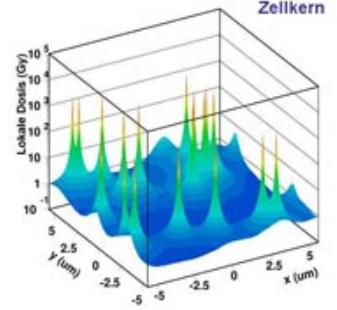
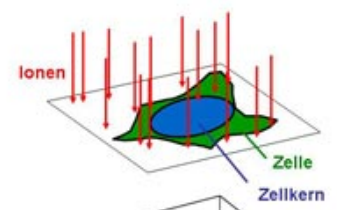
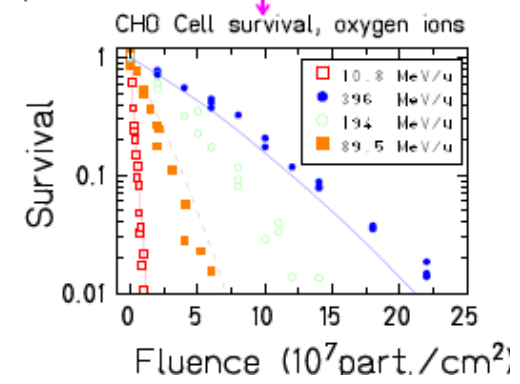
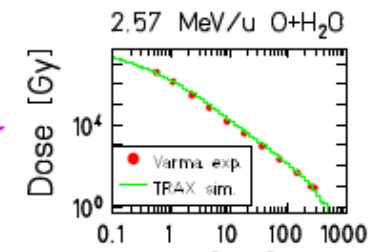
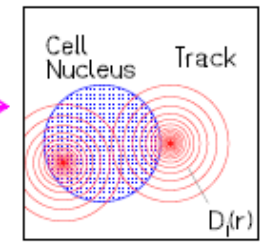
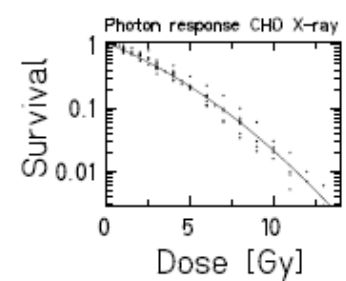


(Courtesy of S. Lacombe)

## Local Effect Model (LEM)

$$\text{Proton Dose-Effect} \propto \alpha_x D + \beta_x D^2$$

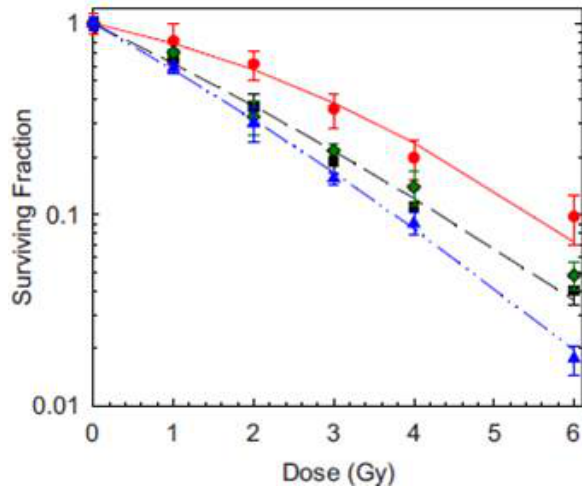
for single particles (RBE base data set)



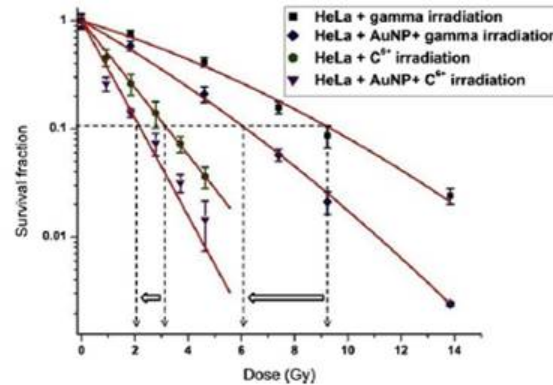
Elsaesser, Scholz 2008



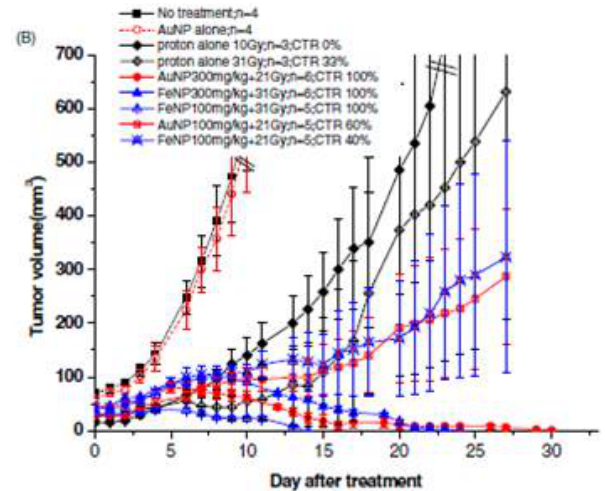
# NP sensitization with ion beams



p+NP, pc, 15% enhancement  
Polf et al., Appl.Phys.Lett. 98(2011)



C 5 MeV/u +NP, HeLa, 40%  
enhancement  
Kaur 2012



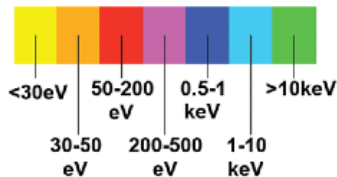
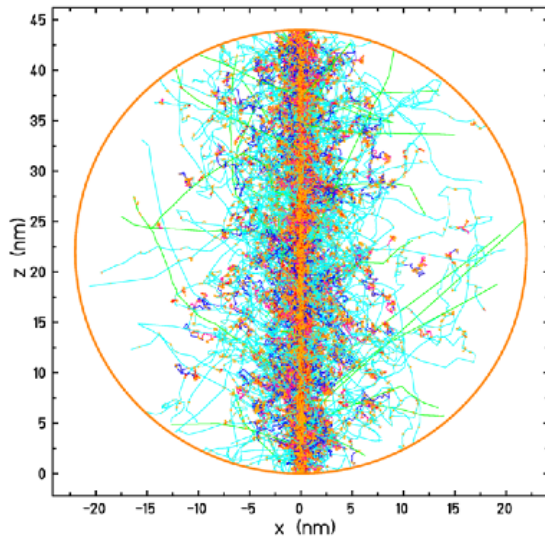
p+NP, mouse tumour,  
Kim et al. PMB 57(2012)

*Preclinical data evidence, no explanation*

~> dependence on cell line, NP conditions, ...

~> sensitive target  $\neq$  cell nucleus?

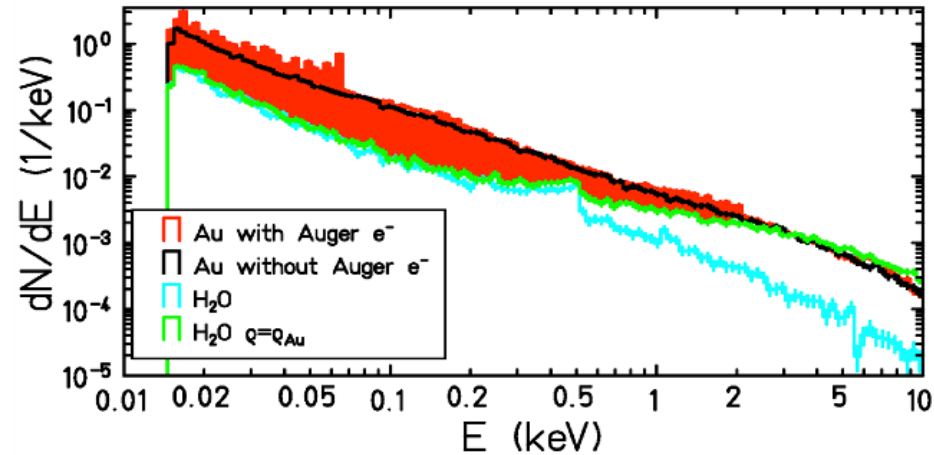
# Track structure analysis (TRAX)



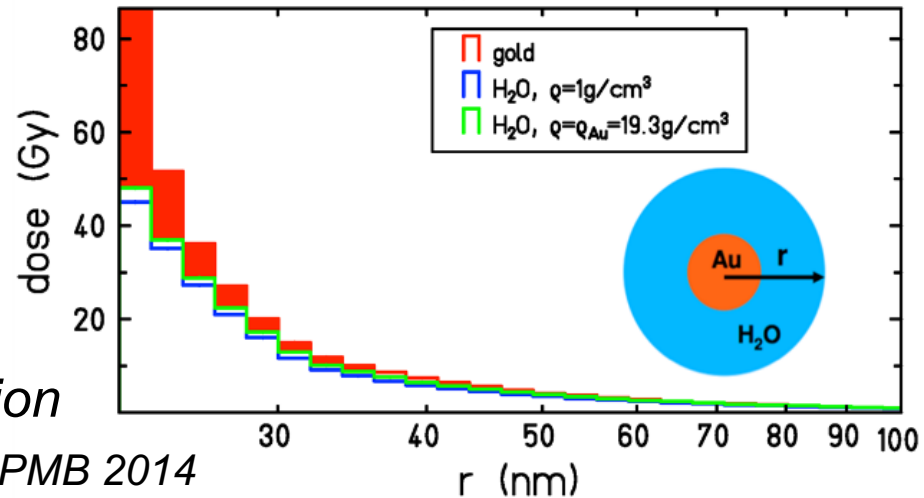
*Direct traversal not enough  
to justify relevant sensitization*

Waelzlein, Scifoni, Kramer, Durante PMB 2014

secondary electron spectra outside NP

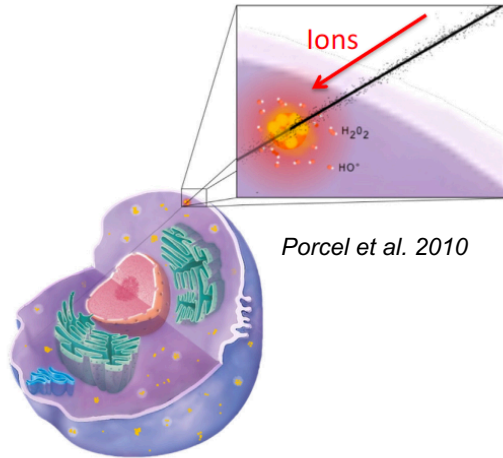


spherical dose of  $1\text{E}6$  80MeV p (disk source) around  $r=22\text{nm}$  Au NP



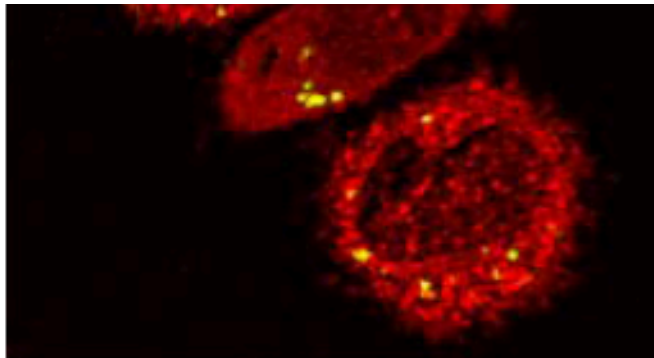


# Cellular Localization

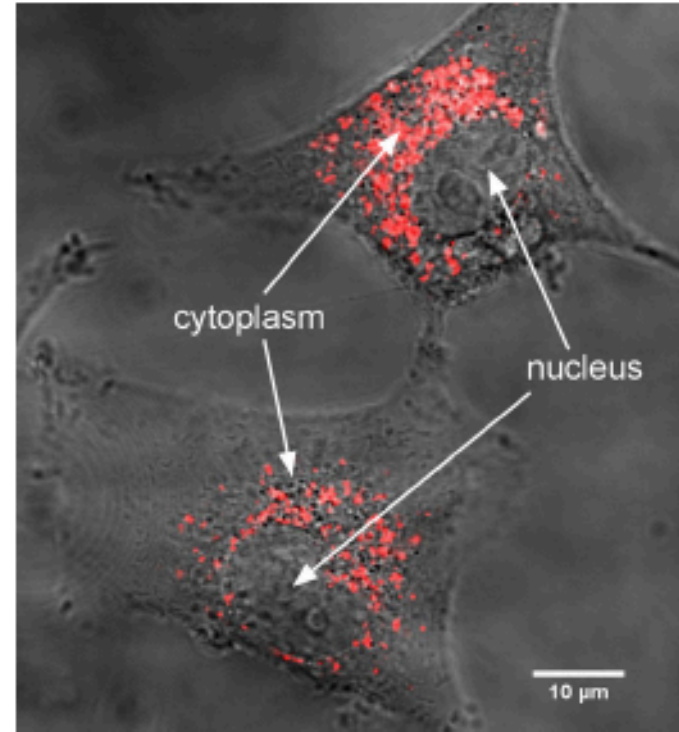


Porcel et al. 2010

Figure 3: Sketch of nanoscale impact initiated by nanoparticles in the cytoplasm. Adapted from



b)



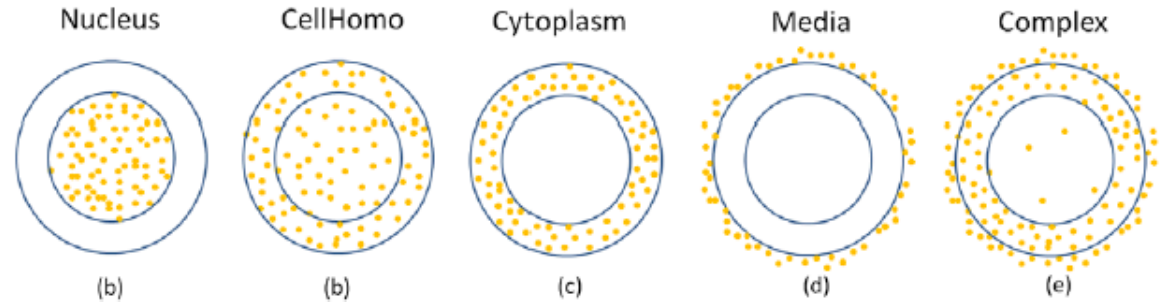
*Confocal microscopy show evidence of localization in the cytoplasm*

*Usami et al. 2010  
Stefancikowa et al 2015*

# Impact of Cellular localization

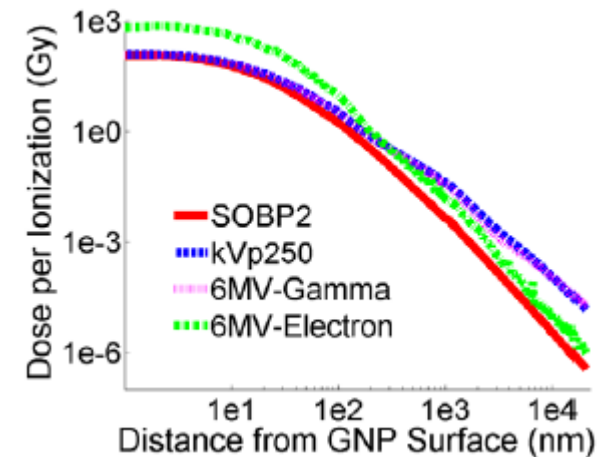
Lin et al. *PMB* 2015

*GNP-LEM, pure dose enhancement study at different concentrations*



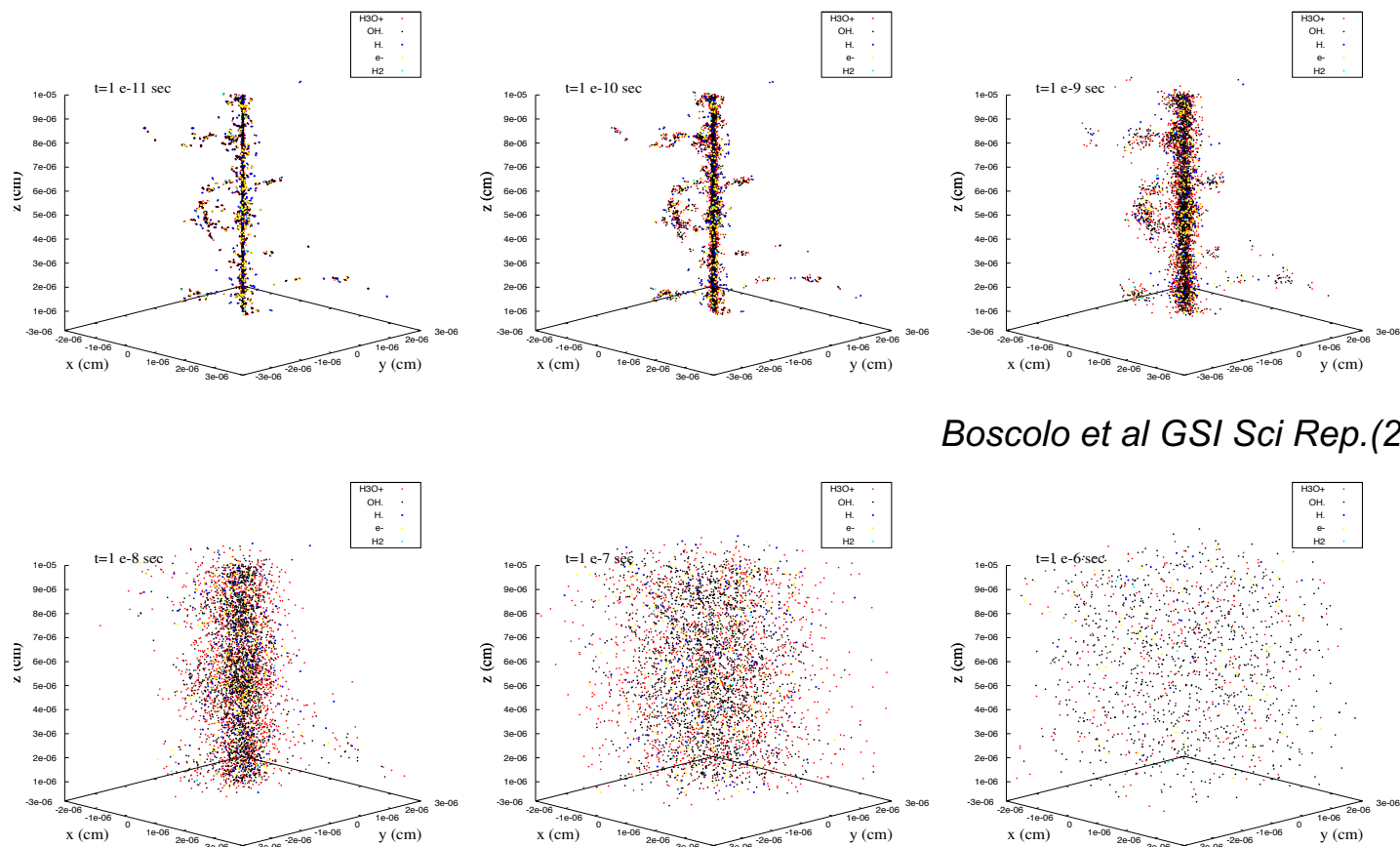
- GNPs not internalized, no DEF
- GNPs in the cytoplasm, a smaller sensitization  $\sim 1.1$  after a given dose from proton treatment than when photons
- GNPs into the cell nucleus, significant effect ( $\sim 1.3$ ) for all beams

Protons induced Secondary electrons range in water much shorter compared to photons, dose enhancement  $\sim 1/30$  vs kV photons at  $10 \mu\text{m}$  from the GNP surface.



# Direct effect + Radiation Chemistry

radical diffusion  $^{12}\text{C}$  3 MeV/u (TRAX simulation, D.Boscolo)

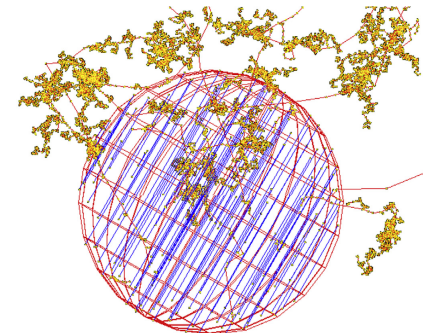
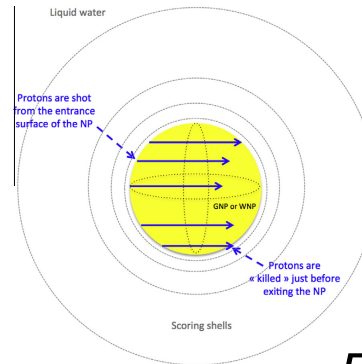


*Boscolo et al GSI Sci Rep.(2016)*

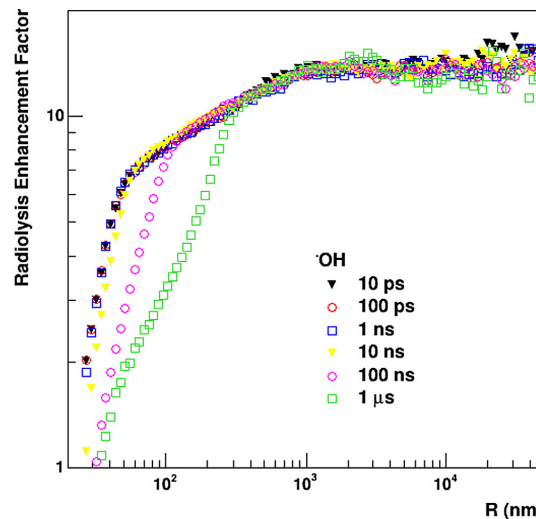
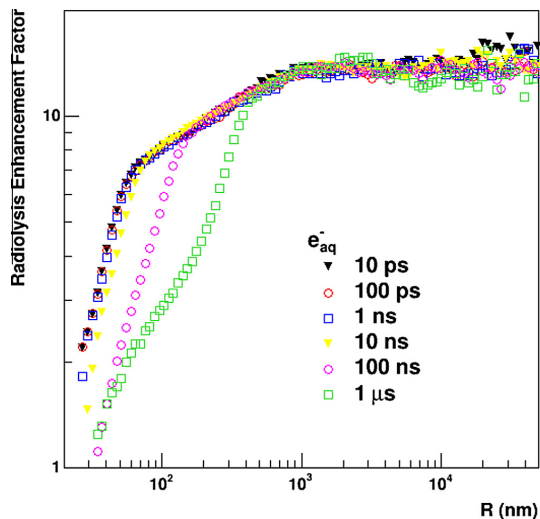
# Radiolysis enhancement factor

$$REF = \frac{G(OH)^{NP}}{G(OH)^{H_2O}}$$

H.N. Tran et al. / NIMB 373 (2016) 126–139  
 GEANT4+GEANT4DNA



Protons 2 to 170 MeV



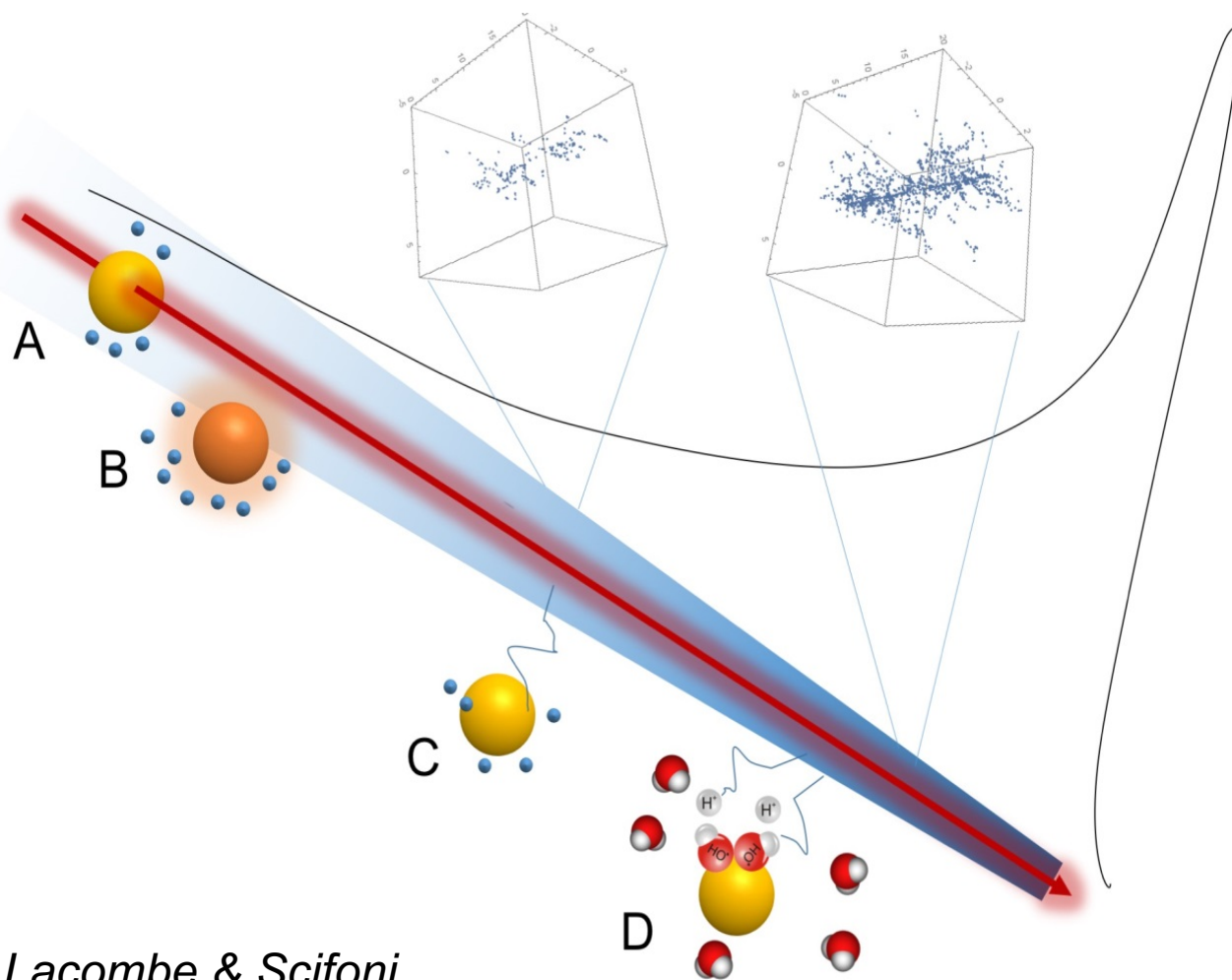
Relevant enhancement of radical products

Decreasing for higher LET, in contrast to higher absolute dose deposition

Fig. 19. Radiolysis Enhancement Factor of the distribution of chemical species ( $e_{aq}^-$ ,  $\cdot OH$ ) produced by incident 100 MeV protons as a function of radial distance from the NP. Results are shown at six different times after irradiation (10 ps, 100 ps, 1 ns, 10 ns, 100 ns, 1  $\mu s$ ).

Limits: cutoff in delta electrons

# Possible sensitization mechanisms

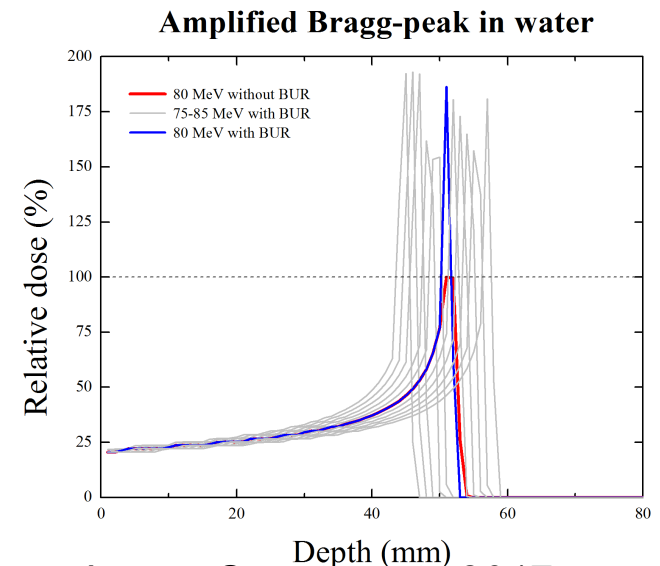


- A) *Direct traversal: enhanced electron production from Auger processes*
- B) *Plasmon excitation coupling with strong electron production.*
- C) *Secondary electrons on the NP, produces additional electron emission*
- D) *Catalytic effect on radiolytic species*

Lacombe & Scifoni  
Cancer Nanotech. 2016 (Review subm.)

# Other Hot Topics in Particle Radiobiology :

- Radioimmunotherapy: Is carbon ion more immunogenic than photons?
- Proton Boron Fusion Therapy. Feasible? Relevant dose enhancement? Better than BNCT?
- Particle radiosurgery (hypofractionation)



Jung – Oncotargets 2017

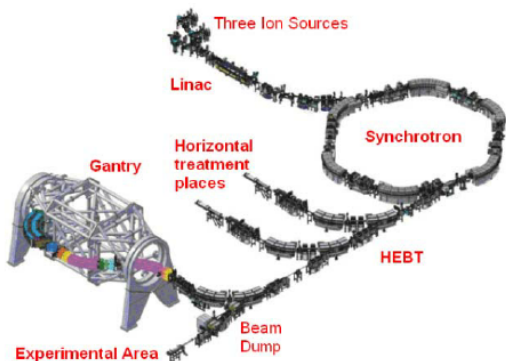
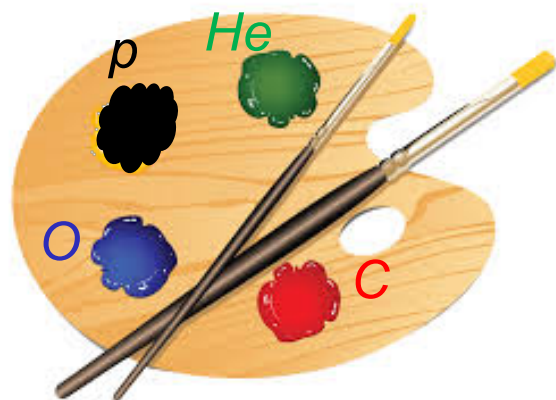
# Summary

- Radiobiology of charged particles developed a lot, but still several open questions are pending
- **Proton RBE** is clearly differing from a constant. But the clinical impact of considering this variation seems negligible.
- **Biologically optimized** TPS is needed for exploiting new ions and different merits
- **Helium ions** are promising alternative to protons, their implementation in TPS has been advanced in latest years from some groups. Biology seems consistent between different models. Variable RBE is a must
- **Oxygen ions** are mostly useful when hypoxia is accounted via proper adaptive TP tools, so that O beam may overcome the price of larger entrance channel with the LET advantages
- **Multi-ion** optimization may exploit combination of different ions peculiarities for specific biological/geometrical scenarios. Mixed **He/O** plans promise to be a powerful combination of low/high LET.
- **Nanoparticles** may act as sensitizers also for ion beams, increasing the selectivity, but their mechanistic comprehensive description is still missing



# Challenges for OMA

Towards the dream „ion palette“



- Optimized Accelerators and beamlines are relevant for allowing better research on these biological effects
- New Ions are attracting interest and possibly their combination: Design of optimized ion sources and their transport is crucial.
- Future accelerators may offer fast switching time between different ions allowing combined treatments



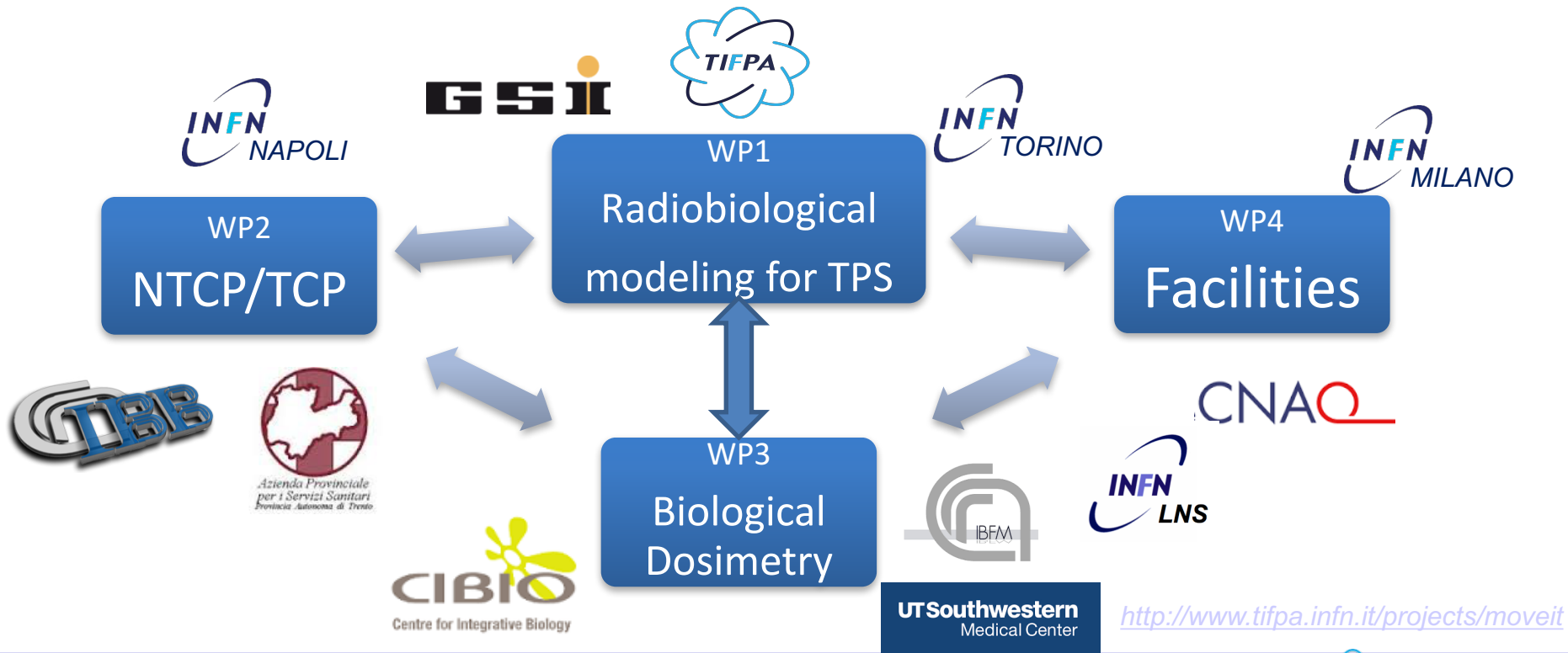
# ...in case you didn't get enough:

## (a few) **References**

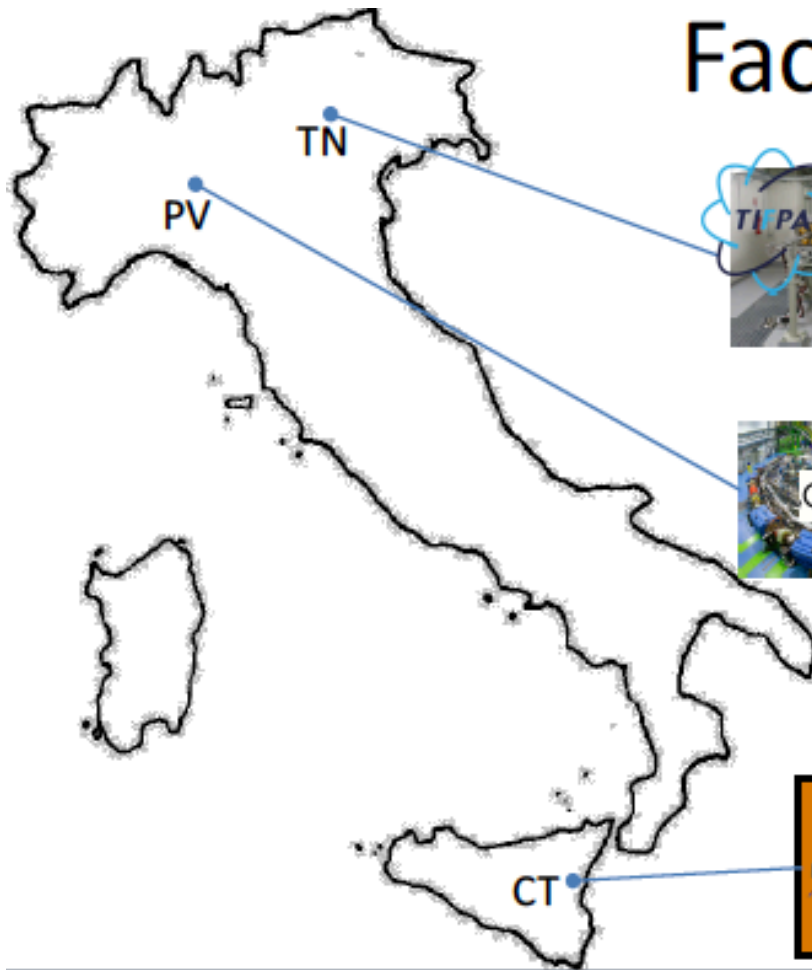
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- *Schardt D, Elsässer T, Schulz-Ertner D (2010) Heavy-ion tumor therapy: Physical and radiobiological benefits. Rev Mod Phys 82:383–425.*
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INFN Network - Call group V - funded 2017-2019- Coordinator: E. Scifoni

- Advancing biological treatment planning (e.g. impact of full nuclear spectra (including target fragments) on RBE, hypoxia, intra-tumour heterogeneities)
- Developing new systems and tools for biological verification



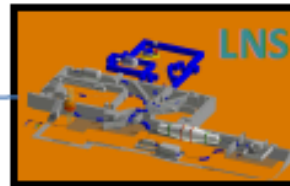
# Facilities



- **p** high E ( 70-235 MeV)

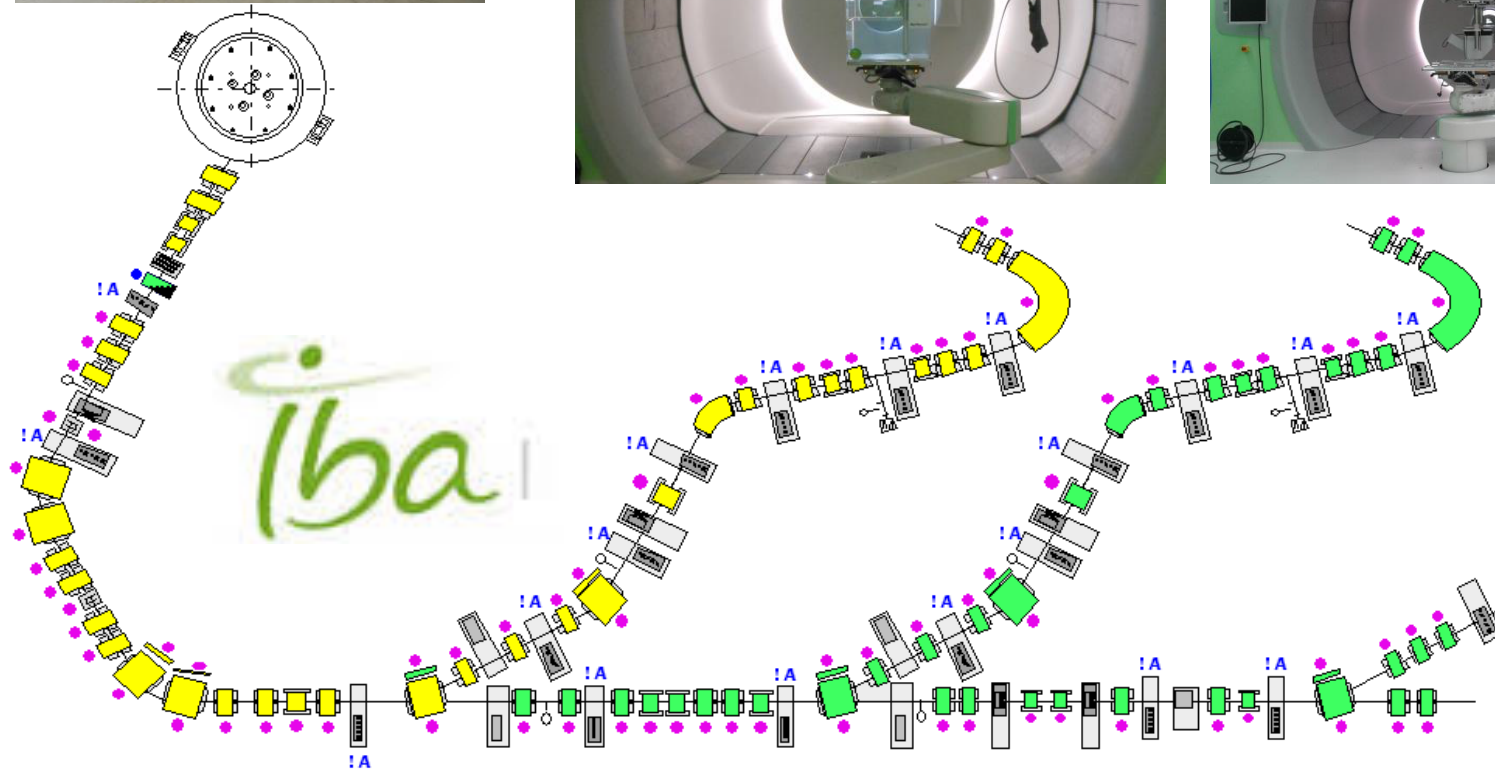
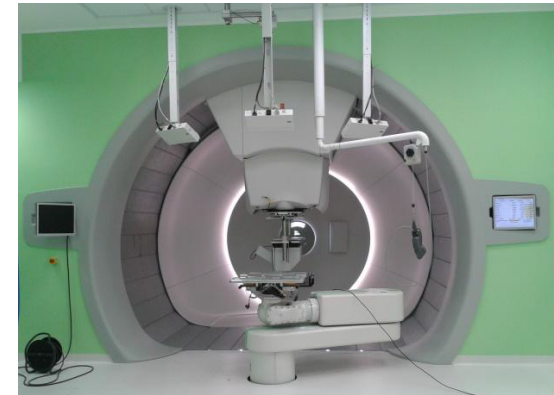
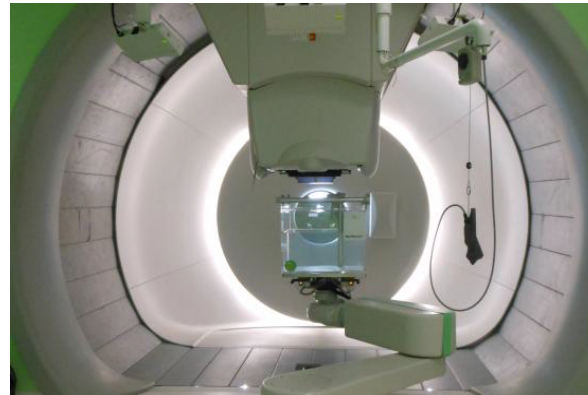


- **C,He,O** high E  
( 80-400 MeV/u)



- **p,C,He,O** low E  
( 20-80 MeV/u)

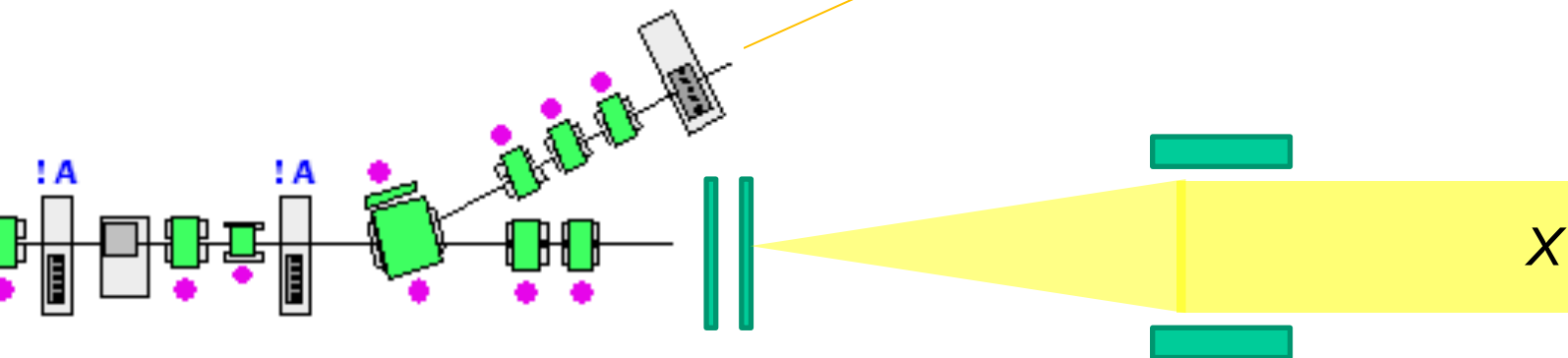
# TIFPA Experimental beam facility @ Trento protontherapy center



# Lines details

## **Beam Production:**

- *Isochronous Cyclotron*
- *Energy Range: 70-225 MeV*
- *Beam Current: 1-320 nA*
- *Min Time for Energy Change: 2 s*



X  
*Physics, narrow beam  
(FWHM~5mm)*

*Radiobiology, broad beam  
5-10 cm  
Via Passive Scattering  
Or Scanning Nozzle*

PAC open for BT proposals at :

<http://www.tifpa.infn.it/sc-init/med-tech/p-beam-research/>

- **Mon/Fri 19:00-22:30**
- **Sat 6:00 – 14:30**



# Thanks to



M. Kraemer  
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Fundamental Physics  
and Applications

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S. Hild  
C. La Tessa



S. Brons

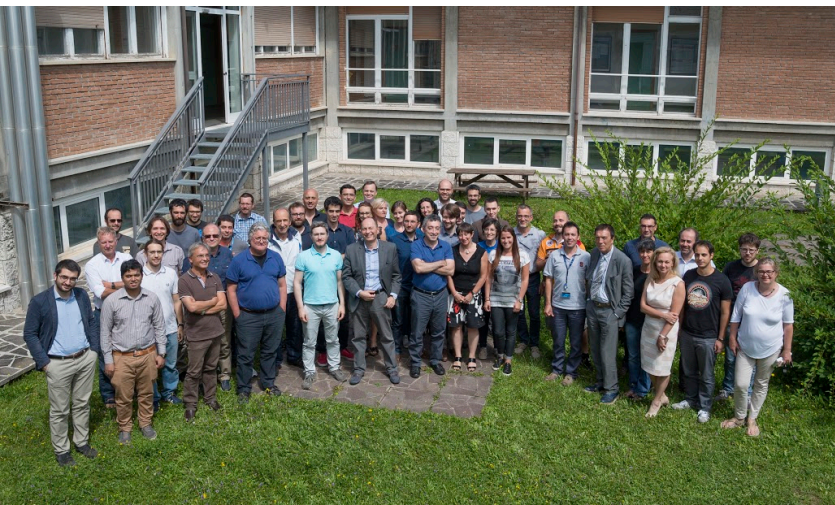


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*Thanks for your attention!*