

Progress in particle therapy in Europe

Saturday, August 21, 2010 2:45 PM (1 hour)

Hadrons play a critical role in the 21st century oncology: proton beams are now regularly used to treat cancer, and carbon-ion therapy starts to spread as well. State-of-the-art techniques borrowed from particle accelerators and detectors are a key element in particle therapy, and several European projects are actively fostering the connections between clinicians, physicists, biologists and engineers.

It is anticipated that the next decade will produce better outcomes from radiation techniques used in cancer therapy. There are many challenges along the way to achieve this for the largest number of suitable patients, as well as the integration of hadron therapy techniques into the multi-modality management of cancer. The generous contributions of the EU to this multidisciplinary effort by sharing training, education, research and development, is both exemplary and necessary in order to achieve progress as efficiently and rapidly as possible and at the lowest overall cost.

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Session Classification: ASP Closure & Outreach, Forum Day: A Gateway to Innovation