**KU LEUVEN** 

NUCLEAR AND RADIATION PHYSICS

# Expanding the reach of nuclear medicine with ISOL radioisotopes

Chair Roger Van Geen Lecture 4 – 22 November 2021

### Outline

- Basics of nuclear medicine
- Theranostics opportunities with novel radioisotopes
   Tb quadruplet in greater details
- The place of ISOL
   CERN MEDICIS
   Tb-IRMA-V
   PRISMAP



### Basics of nuclear medicine

From molecular imaging ...

... to targeted radionuclide therapy





# Molecular imaging

Cell

- A radionuclide is transported to a specific location in the body where it decays with the emission of a  $\gamma$  ray.
- The γ ray penetrates the tissues and exits the body so that it may be recorded externally to visualize where it decayed.
- Multiple orientations (patient or camera) yield a 3D tomographic reconstruction of the image.





### **Targeted** action



The body uses some trace elements for specific actions:

- iodine for thyroid functions
- calcium in the bones



A radioactive isotope can be included in a molecule involved in metabolic activities: sugar-equivalent FDG



Cells may display receptors that are specific and can be linked to by targeting molecules:

- ► peptides
- hormones
- antibodies

Important to match Important to match biodistribution to half-life Interdisciplinary Research Group Instituut voor Kern- en Stralingsfysica Department of Physics & Astronomy





### Molecular imaging

> SPECT

➢ PET

> CT

Molecubes





# SPECT

Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography

- Using low-energy  $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$  rays
  - ≻<sup>99m</sup>Tc = 140 keV

≻<sup>111</sup>In = 171 keV, 245 keV

≻<sup>177</sup>Lu = 208 keV

- No need for high-energy resolution, but rather for sensitivity
  - Scintillators are best suited
- The image resolution requires that the radiation comes orthogonally onto the detector
  - The lead masks in front of the detectors are crucial in the technique!





А









### Positron Emission Tomography

- The source of the radiation is determined on the basis of the coincidence between the two 511 keV γ-ray photons
  - $_{\odot}$  This requires an array of detectors
  - $_{\odot}$  They must be efficient at 511 keV
  - The position resolution of the image depends on the detector granularity
- The time information between the two photons provides information on the depth of the source

≻ TOF-PET

• Typical isotopes are <sup>18</sup>F, <sup>11</sup>C, <sup>15</sup>O and <sup>68</sup>Ga



electron-positron annihilation:

When a positron encounters an electron, they form a positronium, spiral down towards one another and annihilates each other, like two neutron stars, emitting in the process two  $\gamma$ -rays with an energy of 511 keV.



# **Functional imaging**

- SPECT and PET allow to image where a radioisotope has decayed in the body. As such, it does not provide any information about the structure of the body, but only about the location of that isotope.
- By combining the isotope with a targeting action, it allows to image where that molecule travels in the body, e.g., sugar uptake for brain activity or searching for active cancer cells, identifying inflammations, increased uptake in the bones, ...
- The images themselves do not provide sufficient information as it only highlights a function, but not where in the body that action takes place.





# **Computed Tomography**

- Shining an external photon source, like x rays between 20-200 keV
- It consists in an absorption measurement: how much are the x rays attenuated by the material it has to penetrate.
- The most important is the position resolution, so that one may extract the density information from different path the photons cross.
- The multiple orientations are analyzed by an algorithm to create a 3D image.







### Combining functional and structural images









### In which direction do the bodies turn?

Both to the right

Right & left

Left & right

Both to the left

ARGHHH!

Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at polley.com/app



### Combining functional and structural images







### Image alignment is not trivial!





- Pre-clinical research on small animals is key to research into nuclear medicine, be it for determine the behaviour of a new vector with known isotopes, or the behaviour of a novel isotope.
- Pre-clinical imaging is performed with  $\mu$ -SPECT and  $\mu$ -PET machines that can be rather bulky and require quite some attention.
- UGent has developed new setups that combine multiple imaging capabilities in a single device the Molecube for efficient imaging capabilities.



### Molecubes in the wild





### Molecubes in the wild





### TRNT

Targeted RadioNuclide Therapy



12/2014 PSA = 2,923 ng/mL 7/2015 PSA = 0.26 ng/mL



# Switching to therapy

- Replacing the γ-ray emission with charged particle emission yields therapeutic effect.
- β<sup>-</sup> particles may reach up to a few mm, α particles reach but a few cells, Auger electrons act within a cell.
- For an efficient treatment, the DNA of the targeted cell must be damaged





### Beta decay

- Charge = 1
- Mass = ~0.0005u
- Energy = MeV

### β<sup>-</sup> decay

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- A neutron transforms into a proton with the emission of an electron and an antineutrino
- The energy is shared between the multiple particles so that it may be distributed over a continuous range

$$_{Z}^{A}X \rightarrow _{Z+1}^{A}Y + e^{-} + \overline{\nu}$$



E. Hindie et al., Dose deposits from 90Y, 177Lu, 111In, and 161Tb in micrometastases of various sizes..., The Journal of Nuclear Medicine **57** (2016) 759-764,



# Alpha decay

 $^{A}_{Z}X \rightarrow ^{A-4}_{Z-2}Y + ^{4}_{2}He$ 

- Emission of a heavy charged particle in the form of a <sup>4</sup>He nucleus
   10 MeV α in water
  - 2 protons
  - 2 neutrons
  - No electron
    - Charge +2
    - Mass 4u
    - Energy ~few MeV
- 2-body process
  - Single energy given to the  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$  particle
  - Fingerprint of the decay







### Theranostics

- If a single vector molecule can be identified with interchangeable radioisotopes, then its efficacy and properties can be tested with molecular imaging and then applied with therapy.
- If a single radioisotope decay by both γ-ray or β<sup>+</sup> emission and α or β<sup>-</sup> emission, then that single radioisotope can be used to treat and at the same time monitor the patient dose and the treatment's efficacy.

Final aim: personalized medicine where the treatment is tailored to the needs of the patient



When poll is active, respond at pollev.com/thomaseliasc687
 Text THOMASELIASC687 to +32 460 20 00 56 once to join

### Is theranostics or theragnostics?

Theranostics

Theragnostics

That's not even a word!

None of the above

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### Is it theranostics or theragnostics?

2021

### **Theragnostics**

- Thera-py + dia-gnostics
- From an etymological point, it is actually how this word should be constructed
- PubMed returns 195 articles

### **Theranostics**

- Thera-py + diag-nostics
- Rolls better on the tongue
- PubMed returns 9108 articles





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Department of Physics & Astronomy

2006





- Distributed cancers cannot be accessed by surgical means (e.g. cancer of the endocrine system and metastatic cancers).
- A targeted approach is required, e.g. using metabolic functions or overexpressed markers.
- Radioisotopes can be used for imaging ( $\beta^+$ ,  $\gamma$ ) or for therapy ( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta^+$ )



# BREAK



# Theranostics opportunities with novel radioisotopes

- Quick overview
- Deep dive into Tb research



### Historical theranostics: Iodine

### Imaging

- <sup>123</sup>I for SPECT imaging
   *F*<sub>1/2</sub> = 13.2 h
   Pure electron capture, no β
   *γ* ray at 159 keV
- <sup>124</sup>I for PET imaging
  - $>T_{1/2} = 4.15 \text{ d}$
  - $>\beta^+$  decay at 2.1 MeV

### Therapy

- <sup>131</sup>I for targeted therapy  $> T_{1/2} = 8 \text{ d}$   $> \beta^{-} \text{ decay} < 1 \text{ MeV}$ 
  - ≽γ ray at 264 keV

Iodine therapy has treated **10x more cancer patients** for just the thiroid than all nuclear incidents (military or industrial) combined!



### Pseudo theranostics

### <sup>68</sup>Ga PET imaging

- Unconventional PET isotope compared to the standard ones
- As radiometal, it can be chelated by DOTA and thus may resemble the way therapy isotopes are prepared
  - $>T_{1/2} = 68 \text{ min}$
  - $>\beta^+$  decay at 1.9 MeV



### <sup>177</sup>Lu therapy



 Following the success of the NETTER1 trial, Lutathera is the first drug marketed using <sup>177</sup>Lu

XXY-DOTA-TATE

• Radiometal, typically chelated with DOTA

$$>T_{1/2} = 6.65 \text{ d}$$

- $>\beta^{-}$  decay ~0.5 MeV
- ≽y ray at 113 & 208 keV



### Looking for more options

44	47	$T_{1/2} =$	4 h and 3.35	d
<b>SC</b>	<b>SC</b>	PET im	aging	
Scandium	Scandium	$\beta$ - there	apy	
64	67	$T_{1/2} =$	12.7 h and 6	2 h
Cu	Cu	PET im	aging	
Copper	Copper	$\beta$ - there	apy	
149	152	155	161	
<b>Tb</b>	<b>Tb</b>	<b>Tb</b>	<b>Tb</b>	
Terbium	Terbium	Terbium	Terbium	
165 <b>Er</b> Erbium	169 <b>Er</b> Erbium	$T_{1/2} =$ SPECT $\beta$ - and	10 h and 9.4 imaging Auger therap	d oy



# Tb: holy grail quadruplet

- <sup>161</sup>Tb:  $\beta^{-}$ , Auger e<sup>-</sup>, low-E  $\gamma$
- <sup>155</sup>Tb: pure electron capture (no  $\beta^+$ ), low-E  $\gamma$
- <sup>152</sup>Tb: β<sup>+</sup>
- <sup>149</sup>Tb: α, β<sup>+</sup>
- Once an appropriate molecule is found, it can be used with either choice of Tb radioisotope according to the need!

Important to match

biodistribution to half-life!





# Producing the Tb isotopes

149	152	155	161
Tb	Tb	Tb	Tb
Terbium	Terbium	Terbium	Terbium

<sup>151</sup> Er	<sup>152</sup> Er	<sup>153</sup> Er	<sup>154</sup> Er	<sup>135</sup> Er	<sup>156</sup> Er	<sup>267</sup> Er	<sup>158</sup> Er	<sup>169</sup> Er	<sup>160</sup> Er	<sup>161</sup> <b>Εr</b>	<sup>162</sup> Er	<sup>163</sup> Εr	<sup>164</sup> Er	<sup>165</sup> Er	<sup>166</sup> Er	<sup>167</sup> Er	<sup>168</sup> Er	<sup>169</sup> <b>Εr</b>	<sup>170</sup> Ег
<sub>β+</sub>	م	م	<sup>β⁺</sup>	β+	<sub>β+</sub>	β+	e- capture	<sub>β+</sub>	e- capture	<sub>β+</sub>	م	<sub>β+</sub>	م	e- capture	<sub>Stable</sub>	<sub>Stable</sub>	<sub>Stable</sub>	β-	<sub>2β-</sub>
<sup>150</sup> Ho	<sup>151</sup> Ho	<sup>152</sup> Ηο	<sup>153</sup> Ηο	<sup>154</sup> Η3	<sup>155</sup> Ηο	<sup>156</sup> Но	<sup>157</sup> Ηο	<sup>158</sup> Ηο	<sup>159</sup> Ηο	<sup>160</sup> Ηο	<sup>161</sup> Ho	<sup>162</sup> Ηο	<sup>163</sup> Ho	<sup>164</sup> Ho	<sup>165</sup> HO	<sup>166</sup> Но	<sup>167</sup> Ho	<sup>168</sup> Ηο	<sup>169</sup> Ηο
<sub>β+</sub>	<sup>β†</sup>	<sub>β+</sub>	<sup>β+</sup>	<sup>β+</sup>	<sub>β+</sub>	<sub>β+</sub>	<sub>β+</sub>	<sub>β+</sub>	<sub>β+</sub>	<sub>β+</sub>	e- capture	<sub>β+</sub>	e- capture	e- capture	<sub>Stable</sub>	<sub>β-</sub>	β-	β-	β-
<sup>149</sup> Dy	<sup>150</sup> Dy	<sup>151</sup> Dy	<sup>152</sup> Dy	<sup>153</sup> Dy	<sup>154</sup> Dy	<sup>155</sup> Dy	<sup>156</sup> Dy	<sup>157</sup> Dy	<sup>158</sup> Dy	<sup>159</sup> Dy	<sup>160</sup> Dy	<sup>161</sup> Dy	<sup>162</sup> Dy	<sup>163</sup> Dy	<sup>164</sup> Dy	<sup>165</sup> Dy	<sup>166</sup> Dy	<sup>167</sup> Dy	<sup>168</sup> Dy
β+	<sub>β+</sub>	<sub>β+</sub>	e- capture	<sub>β+</sub>	α	<sub>β+</sub>	α	<sub>β+</sub>	α	e- capture	<sub>Stable</sub>	<sub>Stable</sub>	<sub>Stable</sub>	<sub>Stable</sub>	<sub>Stable</sub>	β-	β-	β-	β-
<sup>148</sup> Tb	<sup>149</sup> Tb	<sup>150</sup> ТЬ	<sup>151</sup> Tb	<sup>152</sup> ТЬ	<sup>153</sup> Tb	<sup>154</sup> Тb	<sup>155</sup> Tb	<sup>156</sup> Тb	<sup>157</sup> Tb	<sup>158</sup> Tb	<sup>159</sup> Tb	<sup>160</sup> Tb	<sup>161</sup> Tb	<sup>162</sup> Tb	<sup>163</sup> Tb	<sup>164</sup> Tb	<sup>165</sup> Tb	<sup>166</sup> Tb	<sup>167</sup> Tb
<sub>β+</sub>	<sup>β+</sup>	<sub>вт</sub>	<sup>8+</sup>	<sub>в+</sub>	<sup>8+</sup>	<sub>β+</sub>	e- capture	<sup>в+</sup>	e- capture	<sub>β+</sub>	<sub>Stable</sub>	β-	β-	β-	β-	β-	Primary D	ecay <sup>β</sup> Mode	
<sup>147</sup> Gd <sub>β+</sub>	<sup>148</sup> Gd α	<sup>149</sup> Gd <sub>β+</sub>	<sup>150</sup> Gd α	<sup>151</sup> Gd e- capture	<sup>152</sup> Gd م	<sup>153</sup> Gd e- capture	<sup>154</sup> Gd <sub>Stable</sub>	<sup>155</sup> Sd Stable	<sup>156</sup> Gd <sub>Stable</sub>	<sup>157</sup> Gd <sub>Stable</sub>	<sup>158</sup> Gd <sub>Stable</sub>	<sup>159</sup> Gd β-	<sup>160</sup> Gd 2β-	<sup>161</sup> Gd β-	<sup>162</sup> Gd β-	<sup>163</sup> Gd β-	Stable βSd 2β-	<sup>165</sup> Gd β-	2β+ p <sup>166</sup> Gd 2p β-
<sup>146</sup> Eu <sub>β+</sub>	<sup>147</sup> Eu <sub>β+</sub>	<sup>148</sup> Eu <sub>β+</sub>	<sup>149</sup> Eu e- capture	<sup>150</sup> Eu <sub>β+</sub>	<sup>151</sup> Eu م	<sup>152</sup> Eu <sub>β+</sub>	<sup>153</sup> Eu <sub>Stable</sub>	<sup>154</sup> Eu β-	<sup>155</sup> Eu β-	<sup>156</sup> Eu β-	<sup>157</sup> Eu β-	<sup>158</sup> Eu β-	<sup>159</sup> Eu β-	<sup>160</sup> Eu β-	<sup>161</sup> Eu β-	<sup>162</sup> Eu β-	2n e+ capt e+	ure <sup>l64</sup> Eu	α Fission β-
<sup>145</sup> Sm	<sup>146</sup> Sm	<sup>147</sup> Sm	<sup>148</sup> Sm	<sup>149</sup> Sm	<sup>150</sup> Sm	<sup>151</sup> Sm	<sup>152</sup> Sm	<sup>153</sup> Sm	<sup>154</sup> Sm	<sup>155</sup> Sm	<sup>156</sup> Sm	<sup>157</sup> Sm	<sup>158</sup> Sm	<sup>159</sup> Sm	<sup>160</sup> Sm	<sup>161</sup> Sm	Estima	ved₃Sm	Unknown
e- capture	a	α	a	a	<sub>Stable</sub>	β-	<sub>Stable</sub>	β-	2β-	β-	β-	β-	β-	β-	β-	β-		ted <sub>β-</sub>	ß-





### Looking into the production





Ta AI	
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Cross sections are the first step in studying the production of any radioisotopes. For Tb, many paths are open, none of which are sufficiently understood to go to large-scale production, thus requiring in-depth investigations.

H. Verhoeven et al, Measurement of spallation cross sections of terbium... NIMB 463 (2020) 327-329.
 C. Duchemin et al, Production cross section measurements for terbium ..., Frontiers in Medicine 8 (2021).

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### Radiochemistry

- Once the radioisotopes are collected, they must be isolated from their substrate, separated, and finally attached to the distribution vector.
- The different steps in radiochemistry and radiolabelling determine the purity of the final product.
- Radiometals tend to have complex chemistry that renders their separation challenging.





### Pre-clinical studies with Tb

- Once the radiopharmaceuticals are ready, pre-clinical studies can begin, in-vitro and invivo.
- These include the study of the biodistribution, efficacy and toxicity in animal models.
- Based on the outcome of those studies, predictions can be made on the response in human bodies and proposals can be drawn for clinical studies.







C. Müller et al, The Journal of Nuclear Medicine, 53 (2012) 1951-1959.

35 C. Müller et al, Letter to European Journal of Nuclear Medicine & Molecular Imaging - Radiopharmacy & Chemistry **1** (2016) 5.



### Towards clinical studies with Tb

- Before bridging from pre-clinical to clinical studies, not only the biological aspects have to be addressed but also the technological ones.
- Nuclear data and equipment studies are essential to assess the best operating conditions towards their application.



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**National Physical Laboratory** 

#### PAUL SCHERRER INSTITUT



### First human trial

- A in-human comparison of <sup>152</sup>Tb-PSMA-617 and <sup>68</sup>Ga-PSMA-11 was performed.
- The <sup>152</sup>Tb half-life (17.5 hrs) is more favorable than that of <sup>68</sup>Ga (68 min) with respect to biodistribution.
- Bone metastasis and cancerous node can clearly be identified.



Fig. 6 Comparison of PET/CT scans obtained with <sup>152</sup>Tb-PSMA-617 and <sup>68</sup>Ga-PSMA-11, respectively. **a**, **c** PET/CT image acquired 18.5 h after injection of 140 MBq of <sup>152</sup>Tb-PSMA-617. **b**, **d** PET/CT image acquired 45 min after injection of 160 MBq of <sup>68</sup>Ga-PSMA-11. Red arrows show a bone metastasis in the ventrolateral part of the left 7th rib, and blue arrows show a small lymph node metastasis along the left common iliac artery



Fig. 5 PET/CT scans (transversal slices through the lower abdomen at the entrance level of the pelvis) obtained at a 50 min, b 2 h, c 18.5 h, and d 25 h, respectively after injection of 140 MBq <sup>152</sup>Tb-PSMA-617, revealing a small lymph node metastasis (< 8 mm in size) near the right common iliac artery (blue arrow) with maximum uptake observed at 18.5 and 25 h p.i.







# BREAK



# Producing novel radioisotopes with the ISOL technique

- CERN MEDICIS: right now, today
- Tb-IRMA-V: the Flanders dimension
- > PRISMAP: the European perspective





### MEDICIS

### MEDical Isotopes Collected from ISolde









### **CERN MEDICIS**















- Setup includes vacuum pumping (30 min), water cooling for HV operation (15 min), target heating (90 min) and beam optimization (before final temperature) (60 min).
- Between collection and shipping, minimum quality controls are necessary: decay spectroscopy, packaging, loading.





### The MEDICIS Collaboration

- Born from ISOLDE but separate entity.
  - Approved in 2013
  - Commissioned in 2017
  - Operated in 2019-2020 in spite of LS2
- 2 annual Collaboration Boards to report on progress and discuss scientific proposals.
- 31 approved projects (4 completed)



- The MEDICIS Collaboration includes CERN and 12 institutes from BE, DE, FR, LV, PK, PR, ES, CH, UK
- The European Association of Nuclear Medicine acts as an advisory member



- 26 target irradiations over the 2018 campaign.
- Separation of radioisotopes produced with the nuclear reactor from Institut Laue-Langevin (Grenoble, France).
- Activities up to 75 MBq for <sup>155</sup>Tb and 100 MBq for <sup>149</sup>TbO & 120 MBq for <sup>165</sup>Tm. **1 GBq extracted in total.**
- 5% surface ionization reached
- Radiochemistry performed at NPL
- Samples distributed to HUG, CHUV, IST, …





**Department of Physics & Astronomy** 

19%

MEDICIS

44%

MEDICIS

Converter 14%





- 100% operation with imported sources from ILL and from the ARRONAX cyclotron (Nantes, France) [30-70 MeV, <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>2</sup>H, <sup>4</sup>He]
- Installation of the MELISSA laser laboratory for laser ionization and of a dedicated fume hood for samples
- Tb/Gd radiochemistry pre-separation and new laser ionization scheme
- 15 collections of <sup>155</sup>Tb, <sup>169</sup>Er, <sup>175</sup>Yb over 15 weeks for a total of 870 MBq delivered to KUL, HUG, NPL, PSI







- 100% operation with imported sources again, from ARRONAX, from the Proton Injector 2 cyclotron at PSI (Villigen, Switzerland), from the SCK CEN BR2 (Mol, Belgium), and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (Karlsruhe, Germany)
- Adding a CZT gamma-ray detector at the collection point to monitor the growth of activity; developing on-site radiochemistry for radiolanthanides
- 17 collections of <sup>153</sup>Sm, <sup>155</sup>Tb, <sup>167</sup>Tm, and <sup>225</sup>Ac, for 540 MBq for KUL, NPL, PSI





- Mixed operation with CERN-produced radioisotopes and external sources from ILL, BR2 and PSI
- Investigating new implantation substrate to accommodate high throughput, new Ti target & gas injection system for ScF<sub>2</sub> extraction, new possibilities for UV-light at MELISSA, systematic radiochemistry of lanthanides
- Record-breaking collections of <sup>44,47</sup>Sc, <sup>128</sup>Ba, <sup>153</sup>Sm, <sup>155</sup>Tb, <sup>167</sup>Tm, <sup>175</sup>Yb, <sup>191</sup>Hg and <sup>225</sup>Ac, amounting to over 1.3 GBq for PSI, KUL, SCK CEN, NPL, CHUV... and collections are still ongoing!





### **Tb-IRMA-V**

Terbium ISOL Radioisotopes for Medical Applications in Flanders (Vlaanderen)



# **Belgium: innovation leader**







- Belgium has a very strong molecular imaging community: UZ Leuven, UZ Gent, UZ Brussel, UZ Antwerpen, Institut Jules Bordet (Bruxelles), UZ Louvain, UZ Liège with many ongoing nuclear medicine clinical trials and technology transfers.
- Belgium has the largest production capacity for <sup>99</sup>Mo in the world at the BR2 reactor and one of the few authorized facility to produce the <sup>99m</sup>Tc generator.
- IBA is world-leader in cyclotrons and accelerator-based radioisotope production solutions.





### Tb-IRMA-V: towards a sustainable supply







### ISOL@MYRRHA: a new facility

- Up to 600 MeV protons, 4 mA
- Phase 1 with 100 MeV, 0.5 mA
- Fundamental and applied program





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#### Tb-IRMA-V: ISOL Production Power (MEDICIS) = 2.8 kW Power (MYRRHA) = 50 kW

- Investigate the necessary developments towards the ISOL@MYRRHA facility
  - High-power target systems
  - Ion source to handle highintensity radioactive ion beam production







**ISOL Production** 





### **Tb-IRMA-V: Production**

**ISOL** Production



M.Sc. Thesis Hannelore Verhoeven, KU Leuven (2018).

56 PhD work Benji Leenders, UGent & SCK CEN.

Instituut voor Kern- en Stralingsfysica Department of Physics & Astronomy M. Griseri et al., Porous TaCx ISOL target materials ..., The Journal of the European Ceramic Society 41 (2021) 3947,



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H: Static Structural - 380A-Tab **ANSYS** Total Deformation Type: Total Deformation Unit: mm Time: 1000 2021-02-10 17:16 2 387 May **ISOL Production** 2.1217 1,8565 1,5913 1,3261 1,0609 0,79565 0,7950 0,53043 0,26522 0 Min **Temperature profiles** 17,50 Recall from lon source research 104 current (nA) (nA) 10<sup>3</sup> Boron nitride Cathode insulators 2000 °C Total beam current (nA) current 10<sup>2</sup> ▲ ▲ <sup>85</sup>Rb (nA) RILIS laser ●● <sup>71</sup>Ga (nA) End plates beams 10<sup>1</sup> Anode 71Ga cavity Ion Extraction plates **10**<sup>0</sup> variable voltage) 1 Cathode support Anode 30 kV  $< 7 \ V$ **10**<sup>-1</sup> 0 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 Handling the ion load 0 5 Rb oven current (A)

M.Sc. Thesis Hannelore Verhoeven, KU Leuven (2018).
Predoc work Esraa Ahmed, KU Leuven (2020).
PhD work Sophie Hurier, KU Leuven & SCK CEN.



# **Tb-IRMA-V: Purification**

- Concentrating on the Tb/Gd separation
  - <sup>161</sup>Tb production in the BR2 reactor at SCK, already delivering radioisotopes
  - Working on oxidizing Tb(III) to Tb(IV) to go beyond the existing state-of-the-art with α-HIBA





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# **Tb-IRMA-V: Distribution**

- Limited international regulation on the transport of Tb radioisotopes
  - Basic regulations are very stringent and impractical for medical practice
  - New regulations from IAEA since 2019 on <sup>149,161</sup>Tb
  - Calculations completed and to be submitted to the Federal Agency for Nuclear Control for <sup>152,155</sup>Tb
  - All values appropriate for medical use



Isotope	IAEA	New A2
<sup>149</sup> Tb	800 GBq	800 GBq
<sup>152</sup> Tb	(20 GBq)	800 GBq
<sup>155</sup> Tb	(20 GBq)	2 000 GBq
<sup>161</sup> Tb	700 GBq	700 GBq

#### Distribution





### **Tb-IRMA-V: Radiopharma**

- Devising new radiopharmaceuticals
  - How to use the samples after the new radiochemistry
  - Producing peptides-based radiopharma that are heat sensitive (max 40°C), starting with Human Serum Albumin
  - Linking with nanobodies
  - Demonstrating the process with cold isotopes, then in-vitro, and finally invivo in mice models











p-SCN-Bn-DOTA



FC CH3 FC CH3





60 PhD work Irwin Cassells, KU Leuven & SCK CEN.

### Tb-IRMA-V: <sup>155</sup>Tb-DOTAGA-Nb

Radiopharm & pre-clinic



<sup>155</sup>Tb-labelled Nanobody® Single SPECT FOV ~0.6 MBq Fused SPECT/CT

30 minutes acquisition

γ(<sup>155</sup>Tb)/keV = 87 (32%), 105 (25%)







Images acquired with the Molecubes systems from the pre-clinical laboratory.





# KU LEUVEN SCI: CON

### **Tb-IRMA-V**





Interdisciplinary Research Group Instituut voor Kern- en Stralingsfysica Department of Physics & Astronomy



fwo



### PRISMAP

The European Medical Radioisotope Programme





- Single access point for the entire community
- Full access for all across Europe on scientific excellence basis
- Distributed production for improved access and reliability
- Shared access to pre-clinical facilities



27 EU PRISMAP Medical Radionuclides

- Network activities to enhance visibility, harmonize legislation, and train new generations
  - Joint research projects to improve the supply and showcase the possibilities

**KU LEUVEN** 

64 https://www.prismap.eu/

Department of Physics & Astronomy

Research Group

en Stralingsfysica







### **PRISMAP Day-1 isotopes**







### **PRISMAP Transnational access**

### What PRISMAP offers

We offer trans-national access to the following goods, facilities, and services:

- Production and delivery of high-purity grade radionuclides for medical research
- Access to a selection of medical research laboratories to perform the associated research
- Selection of preclinical research techniques fully performed as a service

### First call is open:: To whom PRISMAP offers

- The user group leader and the majority of the users must work in a country other than the country(ies) where the installation(s) providing the services are located. (CERN & JRC excluded)
- Users need to be affiliated to an academic research institution, to a non-academic research institution, to a research hospital, or to the research department of an SME.
- The research project must relate to the use of radionuclides in medical applications.







#### Who we are and what we offer — a PRISMAP public information event

We are very pleased to announce that our first PRISMAP call for user projects is now open.

At this occasion we invite all to join us for this public event to learn more about the project and the available services. This event is organised in hybrid format and you are welcome to join in person or remotely.

**Register now** 

#### https://www.prismap.eu/event/

#### 24 NOV 2021 8.45-11.30

8.45	Online reception
9.00	Welcome address by the
	coordinator
9.20	Meeting overview
9.30	PRISMAP public info even

CERN campus, Esplanade des Particules 1, 1217 Meyrin

Conference room 222/R-001 (Filtration plant Meyrin)



✓ We discussed some basics of nuclear medicine:

- > Functional imaging and how it has to be combined with structural imaging
- Targeted radionuclide therapy
- Combining both towards personalized medicine with theranostics
  - ✓ With existing isotopes like <sup>123,124,131</sup> or <sup>68</sup>Ga/<sup>177</sup>Lu
  - ✤ With novel isotopes like <sup>44,47</sup>Sc, <sup>64,67</sup>Cu, <sup>165,169</sup>Er or the Tb quadruplet
- > Access to radioisotopes is holding those developments back

✓ Breaking the void with the largest radioisotope catalog: ISOL

- 4 years of operation at CERN MEDICIS have delivered 3.7 GBq of novel radioisotopes for research
- Tb-IRMA-V upscales the research into the Tb isotopes at all stages towards new opportunities in Flanders, in particular via ISOL@MYRRHA
- PRISMAP offers a European-wide opportunity that should not be missed



### To be continued in the next lecture series

- 4 Expanding the reach of nuclear medicine with ISOL radioisotopes
- Nuclear medicine with existing isotopes
- Novel isotopes: theranostics
   prospects
- CERN MEDICIS
- Tb-IRMA-V
- PRISMAP

# 5 – From research to patient care – Challenges and prospects

- Distribution of radioisotopes
- After the collection...
  - Radiochemistry
  - ≻Radiopharmacy
  - ➢Pre-clinical research
- Bringing radioisotopes to the clinic
  - Decay properties
  - Detector response

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