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**I. Multidisciplinary  
beamlines at LNS**

**II. Radiobiological facility**

GAP Cirrone, P Pisciotta,  
FP Cammarata, V Marchese, G Petringa, G Russo

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# Outline

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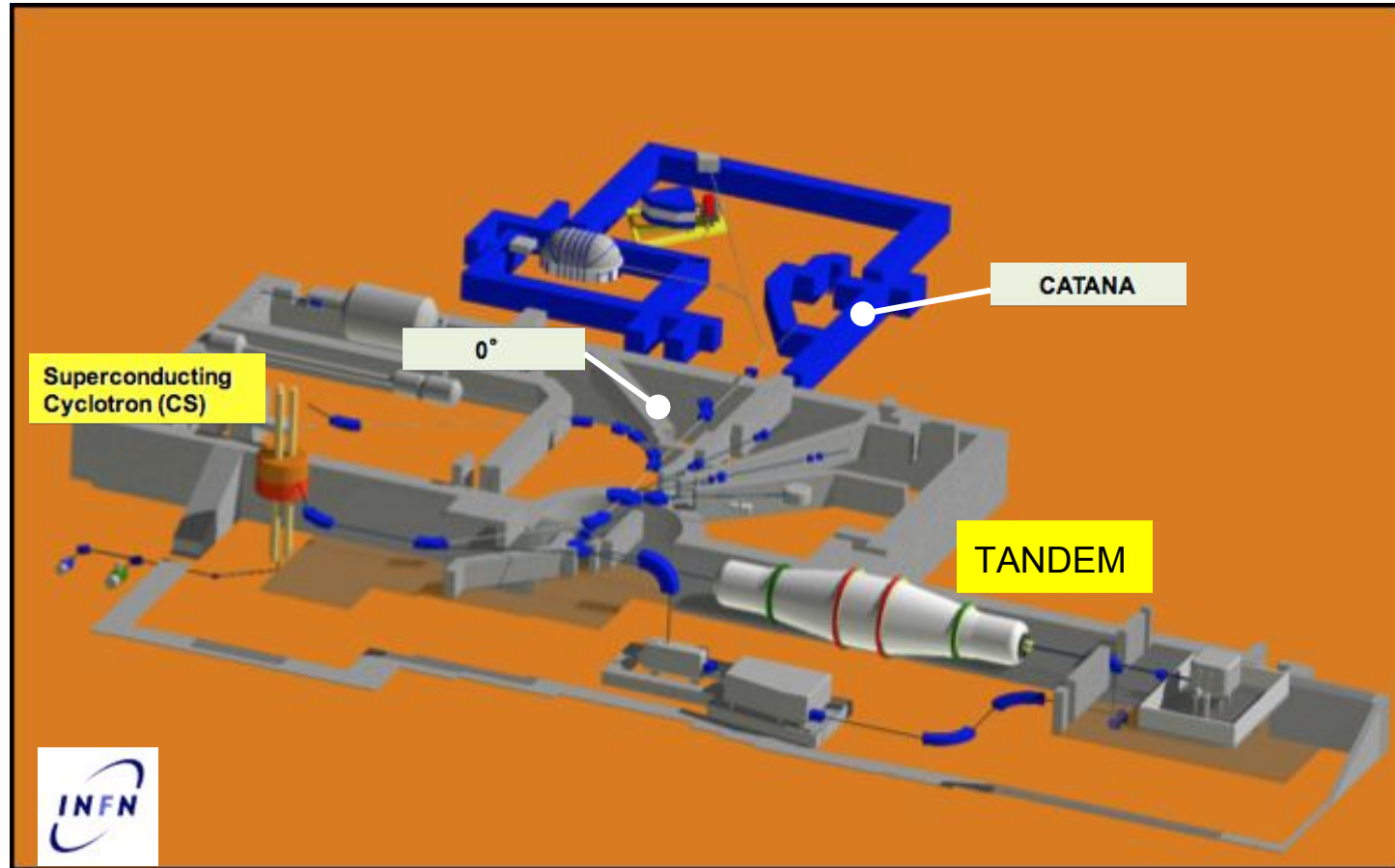
- CATANA protontherapy beamline
  - Zero degrees beamline
  - Dosimetric and monitoring devices
  - Monte Carlo simulations  
instruments
  - Radiobiology facilities
    - Cells growth laboratory
    - In-vitro and in-vivo activities
-

# Multidisciplinary beamlines

Two experimental rooms available for multidisciplinary irradiations

- **CATANA protontherapy** room (clinical and monoenergetic proton beams, 62 MeV)
- **0° beamline** (proton and light ions up to 80 AMeV)

Equipments for beam diagnostic, dosimetry and monitoring are available



# CATANA beamline

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Dedicated to proton therapy irradiation

Dosimetry and radiobiology

In-air only

Energy passively degraded

Fast and easy positioning system

Double scattering system for lateral spread → homogeneity below 3%

Collimated beams (1-35 mm diameter)

Fixed elements limiting some applications:

- Fluence

- High level homogeneity but no point-like spot like

- Radiation protection issues during the patient treatments may limit beam current



# 0° beamline

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Transported beams: p, He, C, O, Ne, Ar, Kr, Xe, ..

Relative and absolute dosimetry

In-air only but also in-vacuum possibility

Certified beamline for ESA experiment

Fast and easy positioning system

No particular constraints from fixed elements but ...

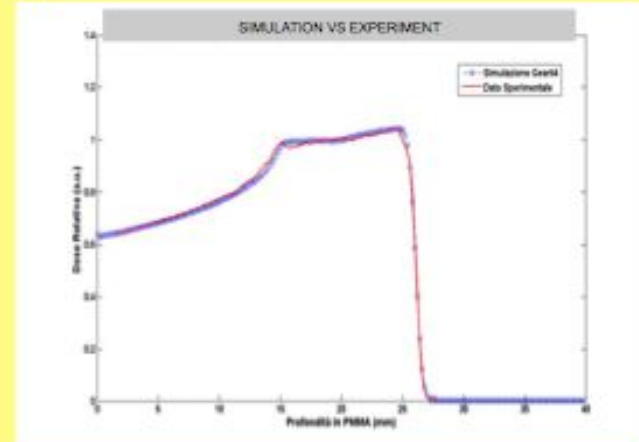
- Homogeneity about 15%

- Final collimator can be removed but alignment must be repeated (4 h)

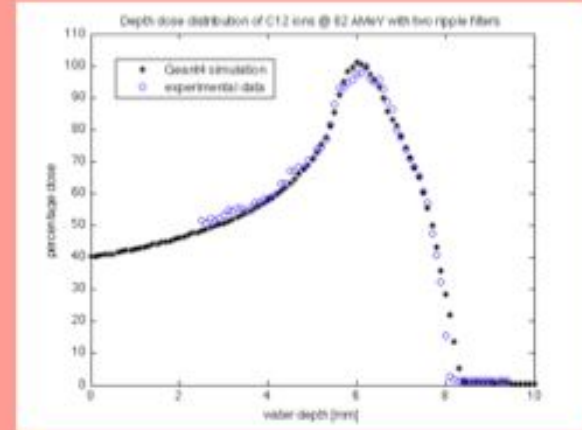
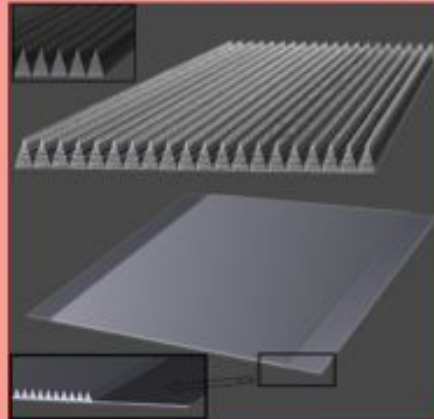
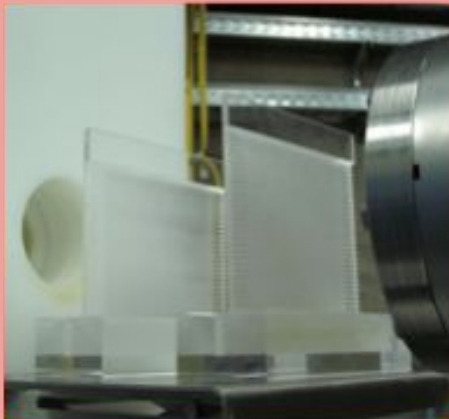


# Longitudinal dose distributions

*protons at Catana room*



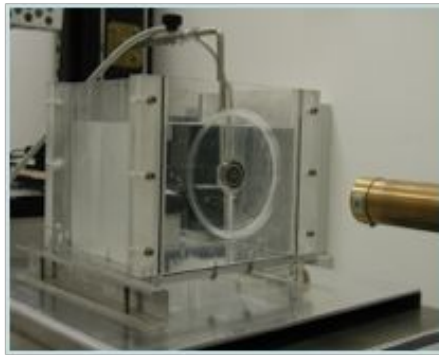
*ions at 0° room*



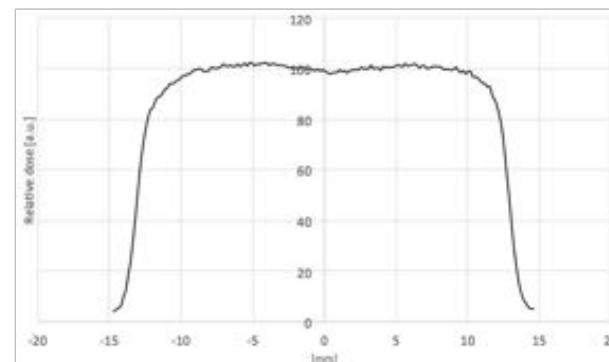
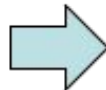
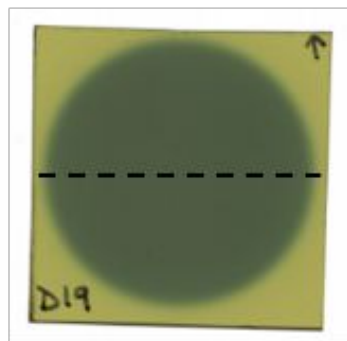
# Absolute dosimetry and on-line beam monitoring

## Dose distributions measurements

- ✓ Reference absolute dosimetry in a water phantom using plane-parallel PTW Markus ionization chamber, calibrated according to IAEA code of practice.



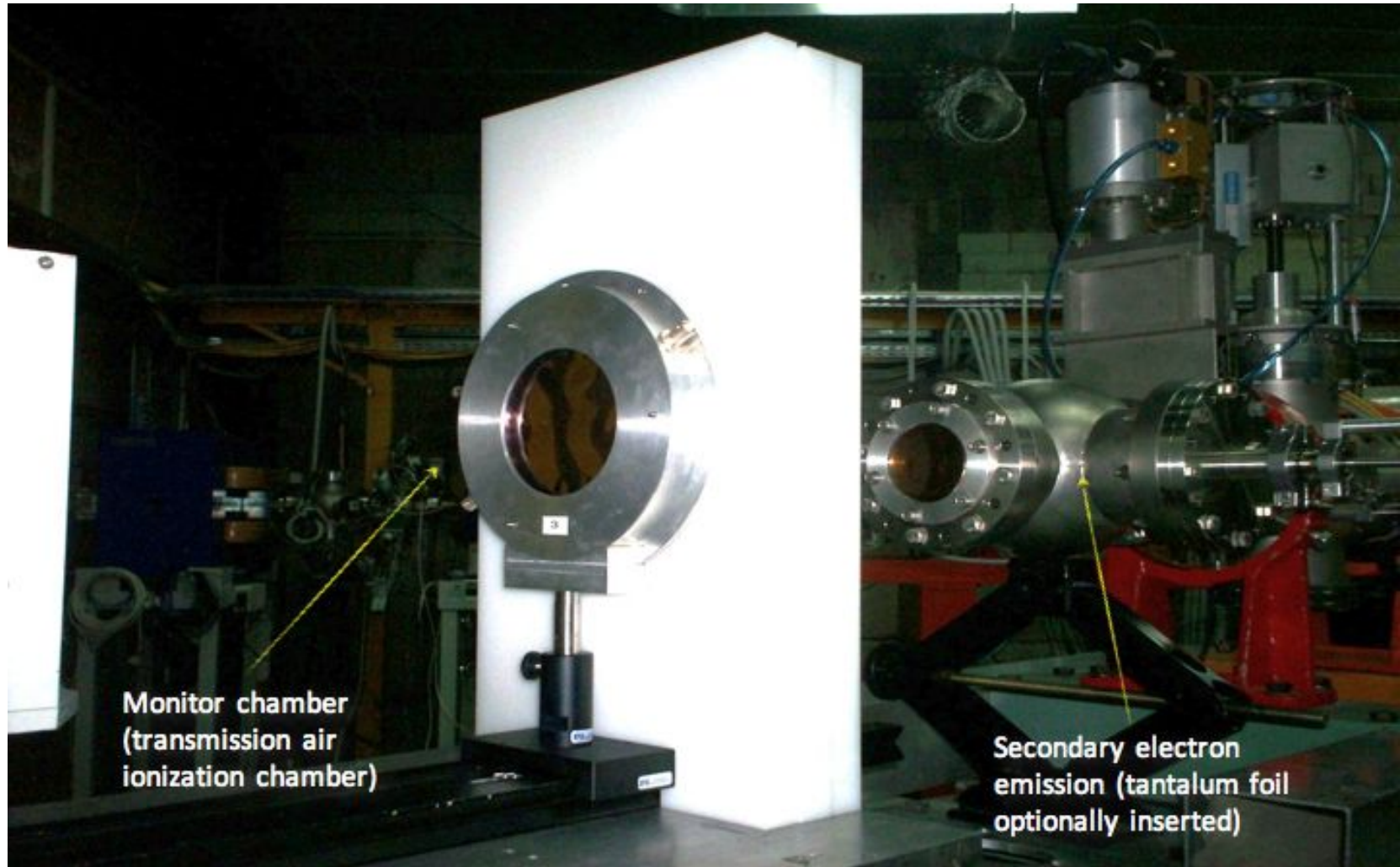
- ✓ Lateral dose distribution finally checked with radiochromic films (EBT3, HD-V2)





# Absolute dosimetry and on-line beam monitoring

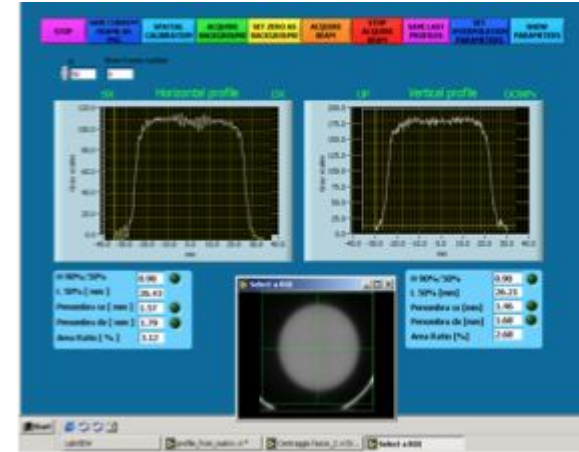
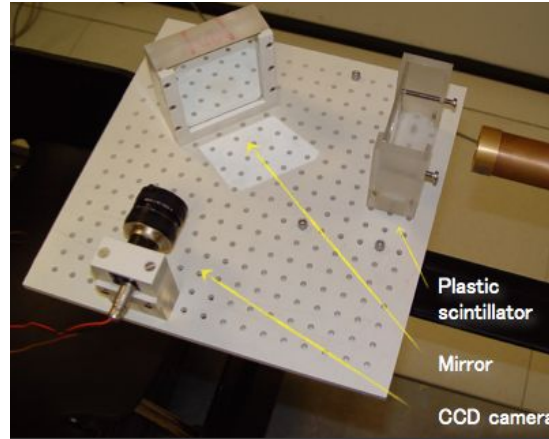
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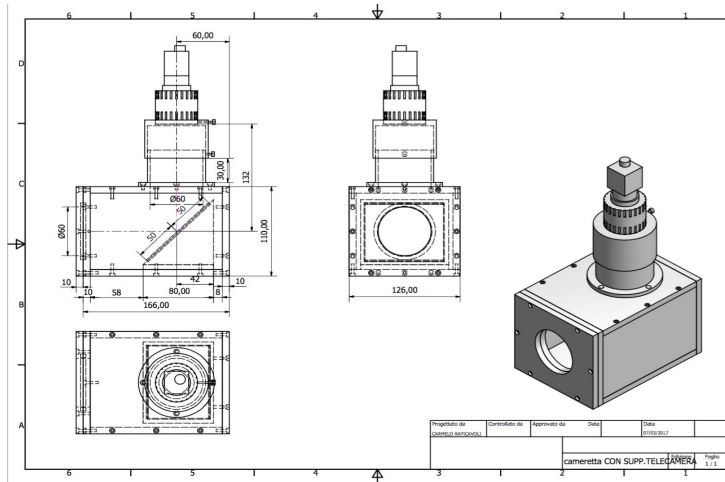


# Relative dosimetry: Beam profile monitoring

2004



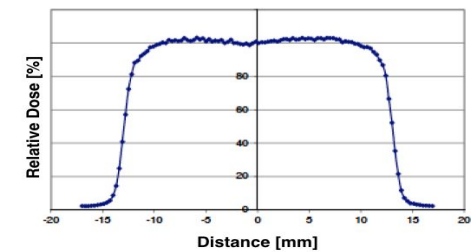
2017 (new set-up)



Plastic Scintillator EJ204: 0.5mm - 1mm

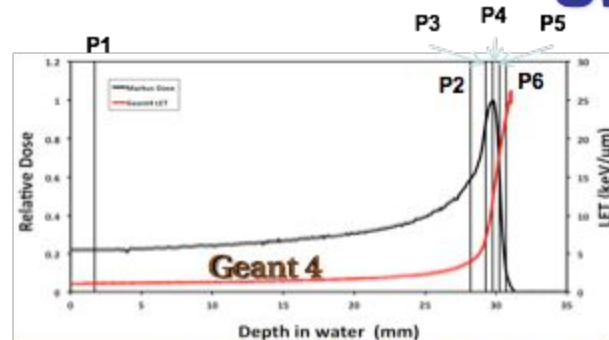
CCD Basler NI supported

Dedicated analysis software

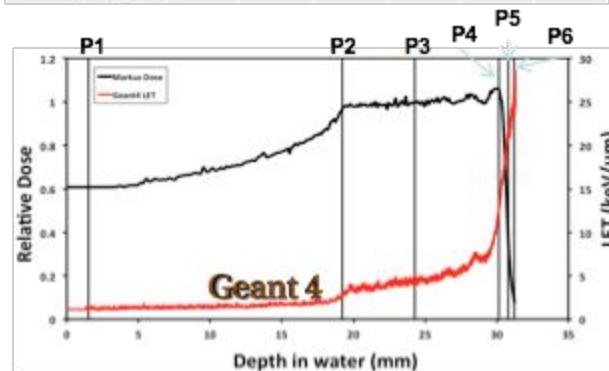


# Radiobiology: cells positioning

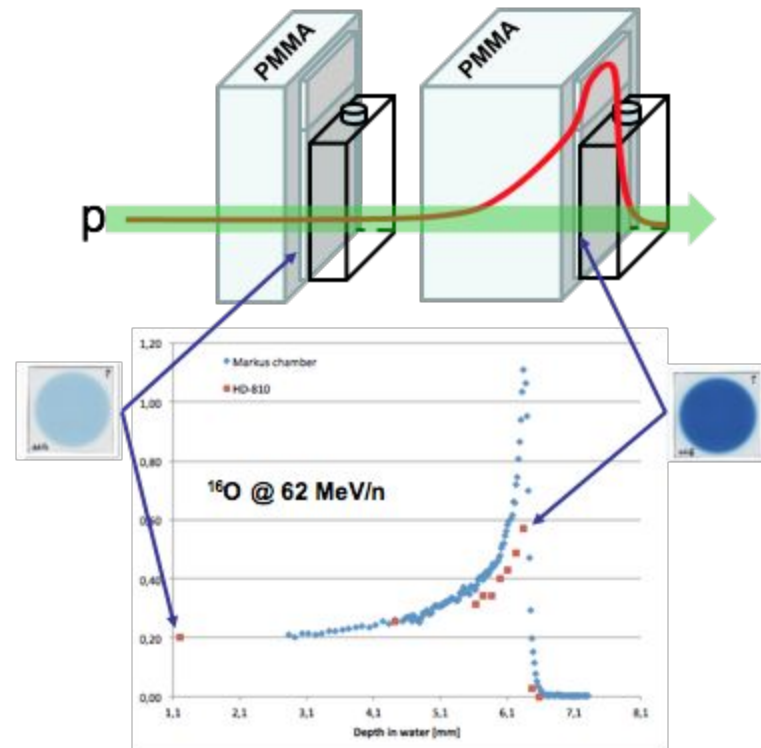
## Radiobiology: cell positioning



	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
Depth water [mm]	1.38	20.23	24.59	27.69	29.48	30.08
LET [keV/μm]	1.2	2.6	4.5	13.4	21.7	25.9



	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
Depth water [mm]	1.38	27.42	29.21	29.8	30.7	31.29
LET [keV/μm]	1.11	4.0	7.0	11.9	18.0	22.6

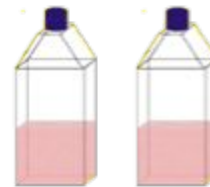
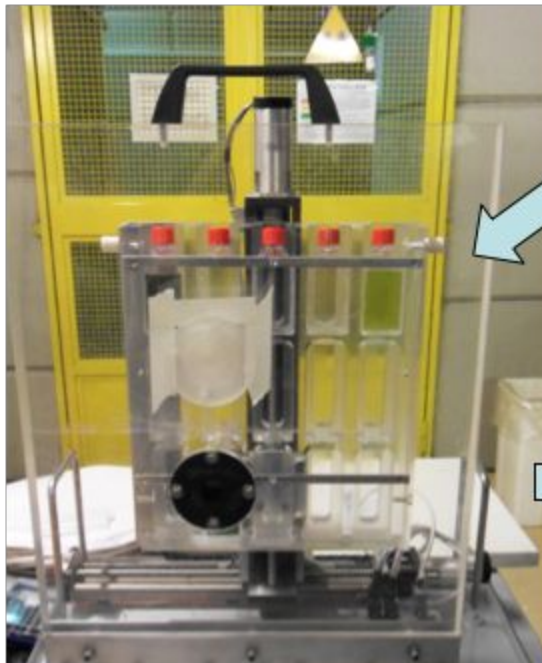


50 μm positioning accuracy achieved combining  
Gafchromic films with Markus Chamber

# Radiobiology: irradiation device

## Radiobiology: irradiation device

*The software for remote cell positioning has been updated*



- Motorized system with 100 um precision
- Remotely controlled
- Interfaced with beam control system
- Real time dose-rate monitoring



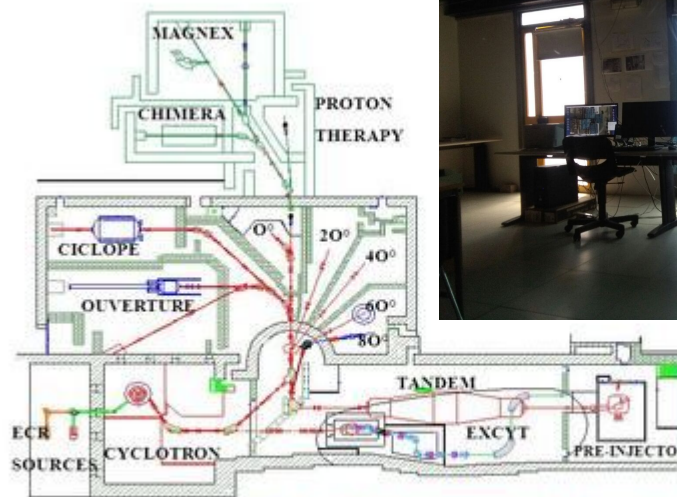
# Acquisition room allow the monitoring and controlling of the beam



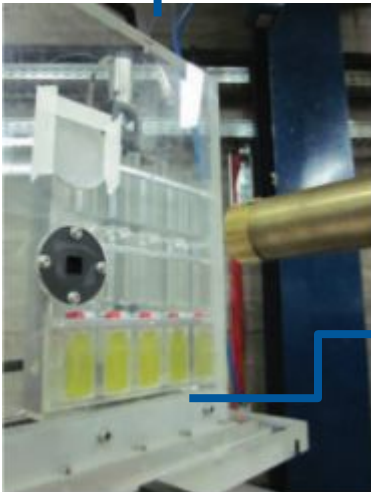
## Acquisition Room



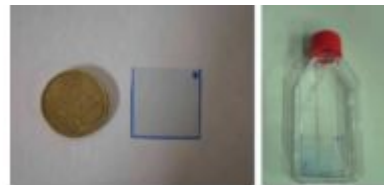
Software control system permit to handle mechatronic to flasks movement



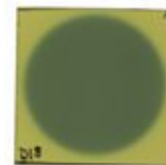
Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare  
Laboratori Nazionali del Sud



A special support located within the irradiation room permit the flasks movement



Using gafchromic film is possible to verify the beam uniformity and the geometry of system



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# Monte Carlo support with the Geant4 toolkit

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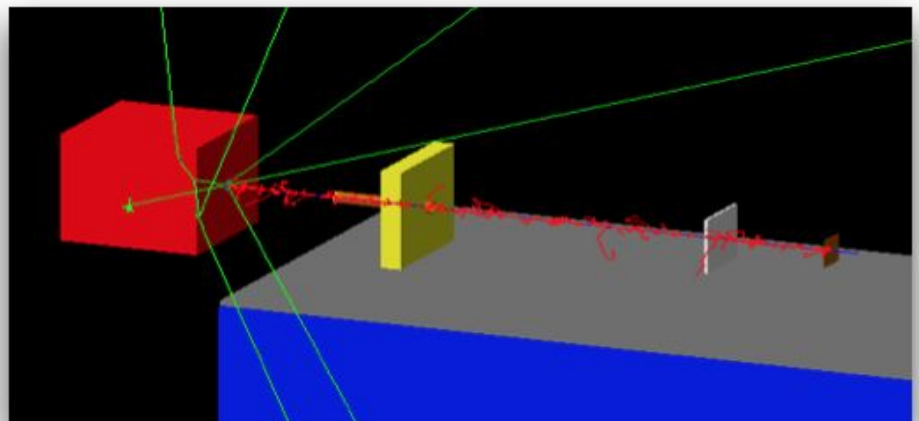
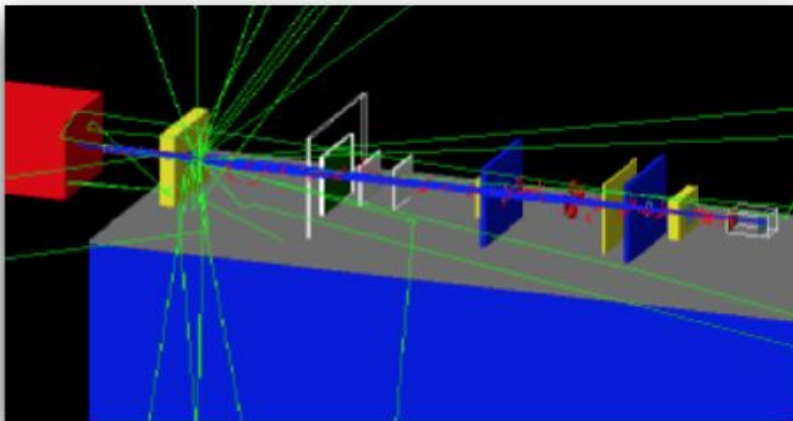


# Beamline Simulations

CATANA beamline



zero degree beamline



Hadrontherapy example inside the Geant4 distribution  
simulating the two LNS beam lines



# LET calculation

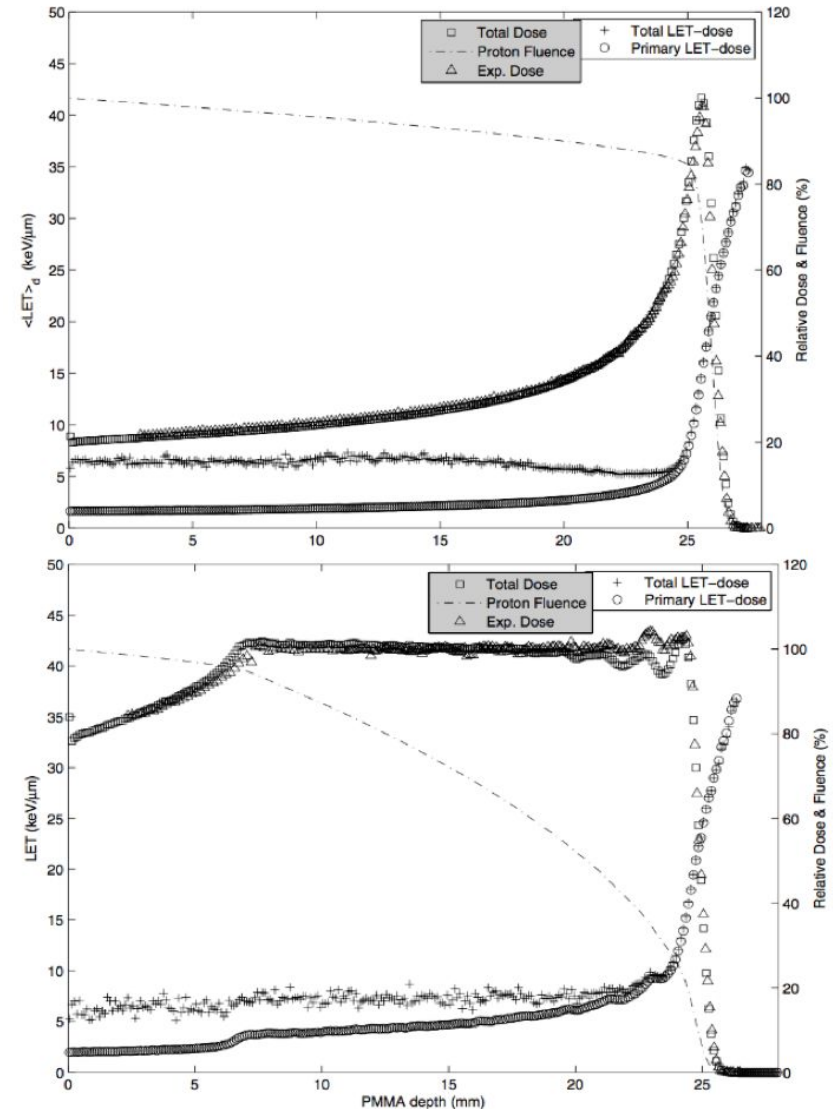
Total Let-dose

Primary LET-dose

$$\bar{L}_d^{MC}(z) = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^M dE_k (dE_k/dx_k)}{\sum_{k=1}^M dE_k}$$

step-by-step are retrieved  
information about:

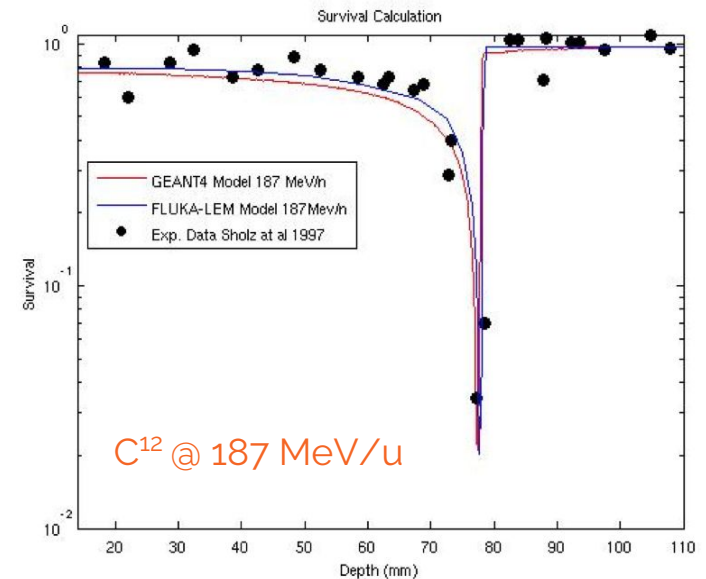
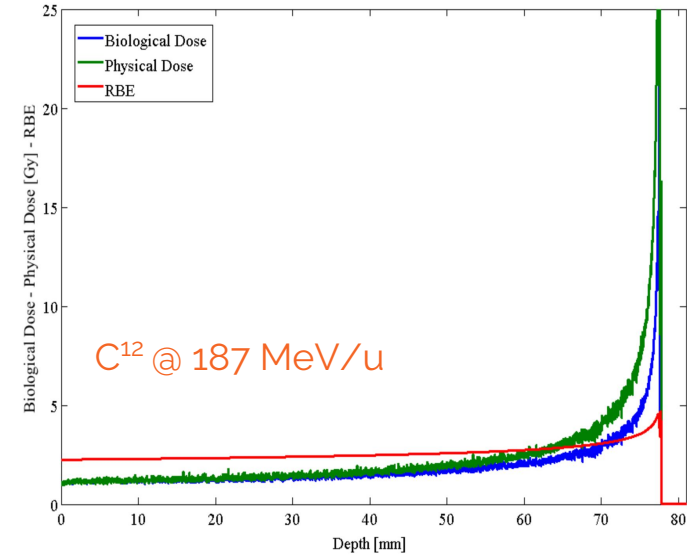
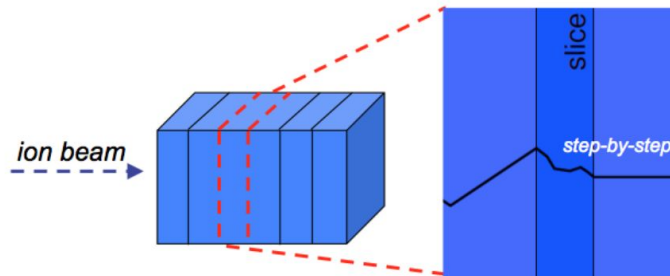
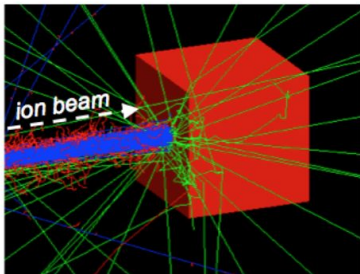
- Step Length
- Particle type (in term of Z and A)
- Deposited Energy



# RBE class

step-by-step are retrieved information about:

- Kinetic energy
- Particle type (in term of Z and A)
- LET
- Deposited Energy



# Radiobiology laboratory

## Radiobiology: cell growth laboratory

- New laboratory (larger and more equipped than the previous one)
- Fully equipped with the basic system for a biological analysis
  - Centrifuge
  - Incubators
  - Sterilizer
  - Microscope
- CO<sub>2</sub> "centralized" system

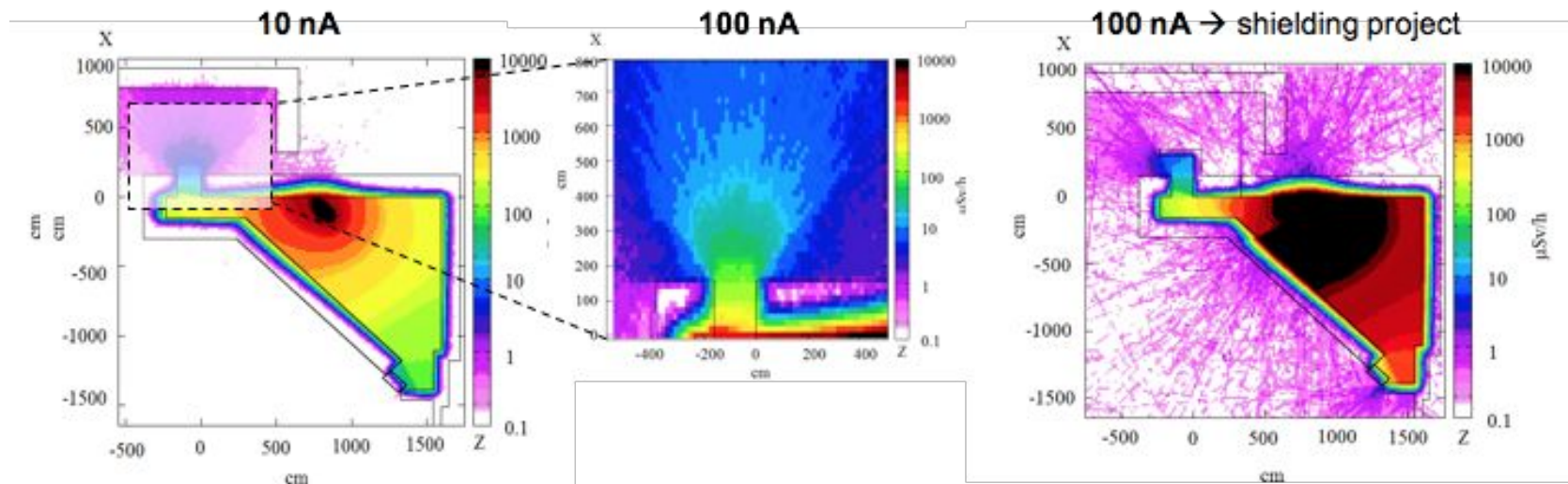


Overlapping of several groups no more critical

# High current irradiations

- Requirements for high currents → **radiation hardness** experiments
- Upgrade for enabling **100 nA** beam current at 0° room (10 nA so far)
  - **DIAPIX** experiment for CVD diamond detectors radiation damage
  - Radioprotection issues → environmental radiation due on neutron production
  - Funds from “Progetto Premiale IRPT “ for the realization of new **shielding** solutions
  - Same funds used also for cabling

*Monte Carlo calculations of environmental radiation fields with p beams @ 62 MeV in zero degree room  
(by S. Russo and R. Leanza)*

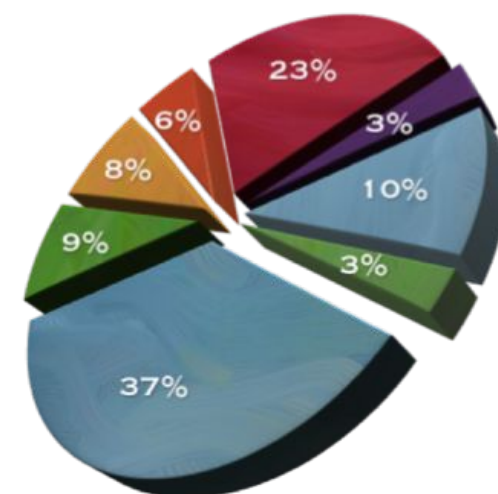


# Users' statistics

- Both Catana and zero degree rooms recently used for scheduled experiments
- Dosimetry / beam monitoring / beam shaping / position procedures: tested and well working

## User requirements:

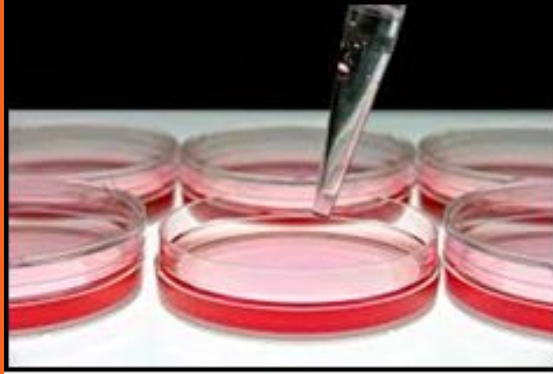
- ☒ Absolute and relative dosimetry
- ☒ On line measurements of beam lateral homogeneity
- ☐ Precise fluence measurements and contamination characterization
- ☒ Accurate protocol for checking the cell sample position
- ☒ Larger spaces for radiobiology and post experiment cell survival analysis
- ☒ High current experiments
- ☒ Cabling connection outside/inside the exp. Room (on-going)



**2017**

12 Groups for an average of 40 shift

Radiobiology	6 (3 in-vivo)
Detectors	5
Imaging	1



cell biology

## II. Radiobiological facility



animal sciences

in collaboration with:



UNIVERSITÀ  
degli STUDI  
di CATANIA



# RadioBiological Laboratory

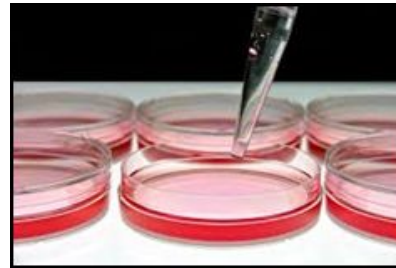
**PETs** - Preclinical Hadrontherapy Studies

**MoVe - IT** - Modeling and Verification for Ion beam Treatment planning

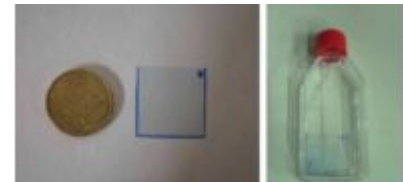
## *In vitro / ex vivo* cell-based models

Using different cell lines:

- Tumorigenic: MCF7; MDA-MB-231 (BC cell lines) - U87 (Glioma cells)
- Non-tumorigenic: MCF10A (BC cell lines)
- Normal and tumour primary cells from patients biopsies
- Under study:
  - new drugs and/or molecules radio sensitizing (LDS Siena - Betulla, etc...)



*In vitro* positioning system



# Preclinical Hadrontherapy facilities

**PETs** - Preclinical Hadrontherapy Studies

**MoVe - IT** - Modeling and Verification for Ion beam Treatment planning



UNIVERSITÀ  
degli STUDI  
di CATANIA

## In vivo approach with mouse models

- Animal facility
- Health ministry **authorization**
- **Dosimetry** and **simulation** studies
- **Personnel Felasa cat.C**

## Hadrontherapy on tumours inoculated in mice

- **RBE** relative biological effectiveness
- intra-tumor heterogeneity.



**CATANA**  
facility @  
**INFN-LNS**



*In vivo* positioning  
system



# Preclinical Monte Carlo studies



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di CATANIA

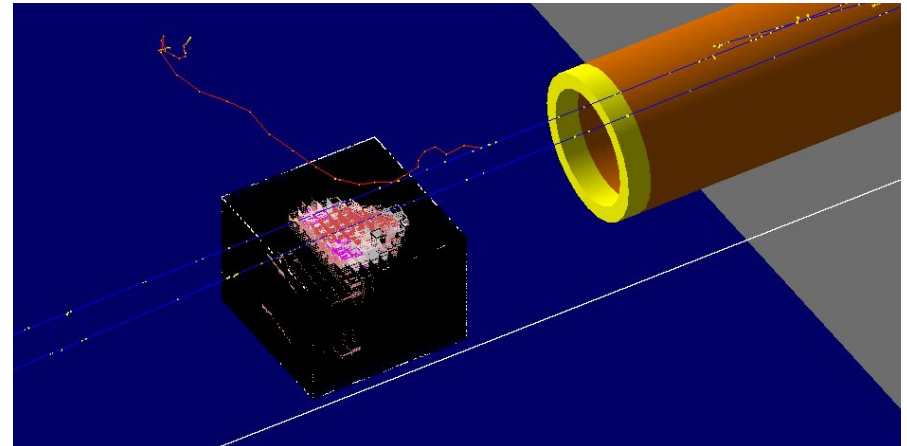
- **State of art**

- **Validation:**

- **Experimental validation** using gafchromic films and ionization chamber

- **Preliminary in vivo test:**

- Small animal treatment plans.  
**Dose** distribution and **LET** assessment.



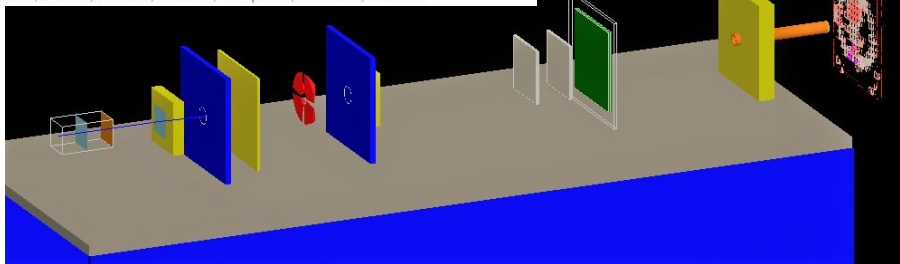
Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics  
Research Section A: Accelerators,  
Spectrometers, Detectors and Associated  
Equipment

Volume 846, 21 February 2017, Pages 126–134



Preliminary study for small animal preclinical hadrontherapy  
facility

G. Russo<sup>a</sup>, P. Pisciotto<sup>a, b</sup>, G.A.P. Cirrone<sup>a</sup>, F. Romano<sup>a</sup>, F. Cammarata<sup>a</sup>, V. Marchese<sup>a</sup>, G.I.  
Forte<sup>a</sup>, D. Lamia<sup>a</sup>, L. Minafra<sup>a</sup>, V. Bravata<sup>a</sup>, R. Acquaviva<sup>a</sup>, M.C. Gillardi<sup>a</sup>, G. Cuttone<sup>b</sup>



- Reproduces mouse tissue based on **DICOM** micro-CT images
- Reproduces **CATANA beam line**
- Permits to evaluate a **3D dose maps** for different beam configurations (e.g. modulators, range shifters, collimator diameters, etc.)

# Biomarkers discovery by proteogenomic technologies

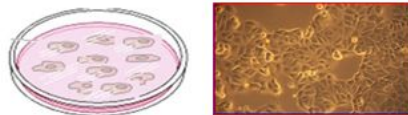
studies performed by



## Hadrontherapy



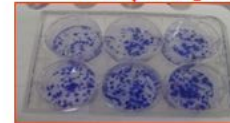
### 1. In vitro approach with cell culture models



### 2. In vivo approach with mouse models

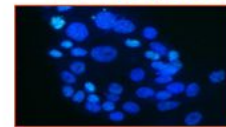


### Morphologic and Clonogenic Assay



Evaluation of morphology and cell viability in terms of reproductive capacity, by clonogenic survival assay of treated cells

### Immunofluorescence



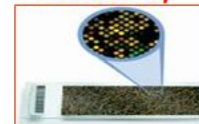
Analysis of  $\gamma$ -H2AX foci formation after treatment, as a marker of sensitive early cell response to the presence of DNA double-strand breaks

### Luminex



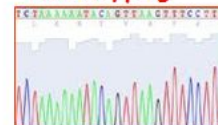
Evaluation of inflammatory response induced by treatment and able to influence cell fate decision

### Microarray



Comparative differential gene expression analysis between treated and untreated cells by Microarray

### Genotyping



Analysis of genetic alterations that could regulate radio-sensitivity and cell survival/death balance





New research platform  
and  
Radiopharmaceutical  
production

Already  
ready!!!

**"CATANA"** Centro di  
AdroTerapia e Applicazioni  
Nucleari Avanzate

Proton irradiation of **small  
animals**

Laboratory Animal Science  
**FELASA** cat.C

Quantification and elaboration  
of **diagnostics imaging**

**"CAPIR"** Center for Advanced Preclinical in vivo Research **PET  
facility** (checked in 4th May 2017)

**Optical Imaging** and **Ultrasound Imaging** facility

**"Behaviour"** platform

Coming soon

Cyclotron and  
Radiopharmaceuticals  
production for internal clinical  
purpose:

**[<sup>18</sup>F]-FDG**  
**[<sup>11</sup>C]-Colina**  
**[<sup>11</sup>C]-Metionina**  
**[<sup>68</sup>Ga]-DOTATOC**

Development of innovative  
radiopharmaceuticals:

**[<sup>18</sup>F]-FLT**  
**[<sup>18</sup>F]-MISO**  
**[<sup>18</sup>F]-Fluoruro**  
**[<sup>18</sup>F]-Colina**

Coming soon

Infrastructure update of **RadioBiological Laboratory &  
Preclinical Facilities:**

- **Fluorescence microscopy** (innovative radiobiological biomarker)
- **-80 fridge** and **liquid nitrogen dewar**
- **metabolic cage**

Coming soon



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# Thanks to

Amico Antonio

Cammarata Francesco

Leanza Renata

Marchese Valentina

Milluzzo Giuliana

Pisciotta Pietro

Petringa Giada

Russo Giorgio

The technical staff of LNS  
accelerators division

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**THANK YOU**

**GRACIAS**  
**ARIGATO**  
**SHUKURIA**  
**JUSPAXAR**  
**DANKSCHEEN**  
**TASHAKKUR ATU**  
**YAQHANYELAY**  
**SUKSAMA**  
**EKHMET**  
**TINGKI**  
**BIYAN**  
**SHUKRIA**  
**GOZAIMASHITA**  
**EFCHARISTO**  
**KOMAPSUNNIDA**  
**MAARKE**  
**GRAZIE**  
**MEHRBANI**  
**PALDIES**  
**BOLZIN**  
**MERCI**

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