



# Biochemistry with low energy ions: tools and perspectives

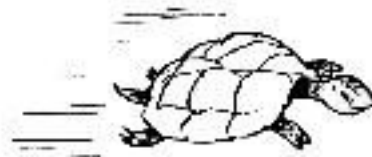
Marco Durante

Napoli, 17.1.2018



# Biomedical applications at low-energy accelerators

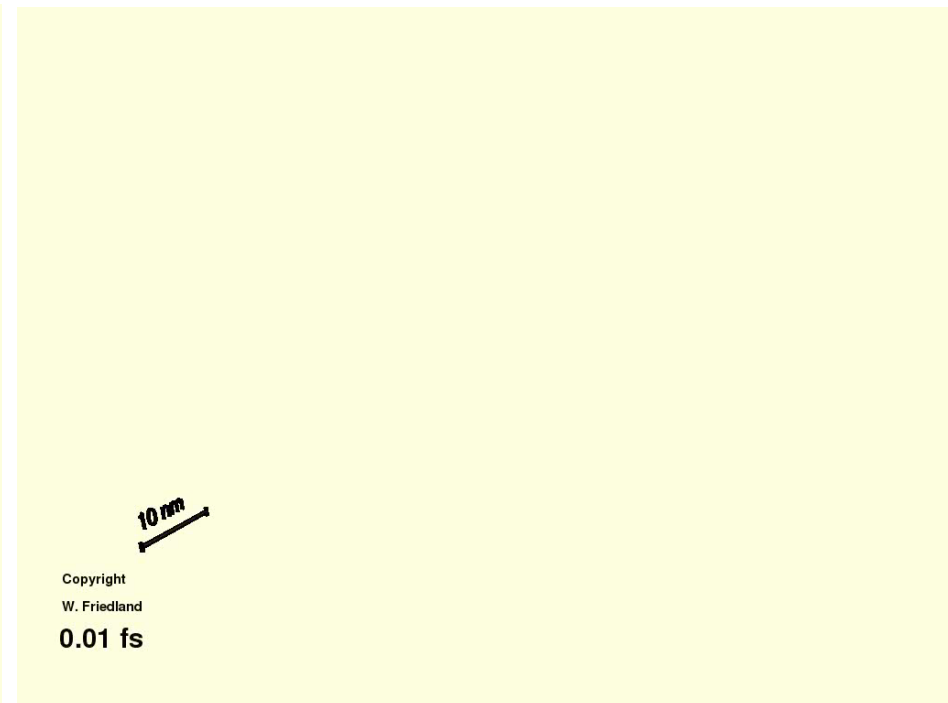
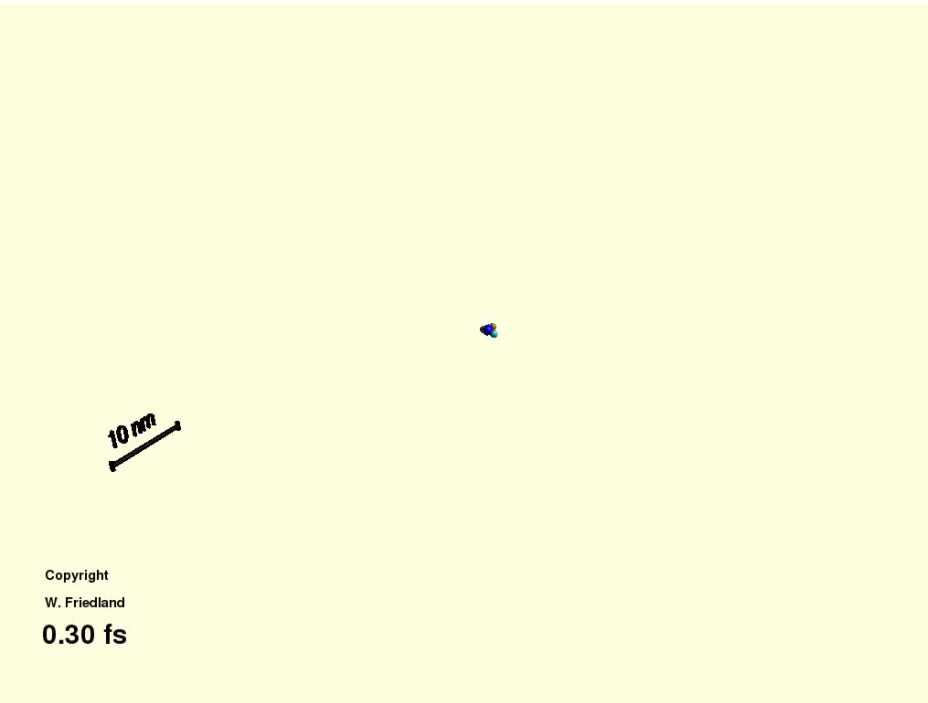
- Dosimetry for particle therapy (see Paolo Russo lecture, 18.1 at 9 am)
- Radiobiology research for protection and therapy (see Lorenzo Manti lecture, 18.1 at 9:25 am)
- Low-energy tool as a tool in chemical and molecular biology (this talk!)



# Low vs. high-energy ions at the same LET(=140 keV/ $\mu\text{m}$ )

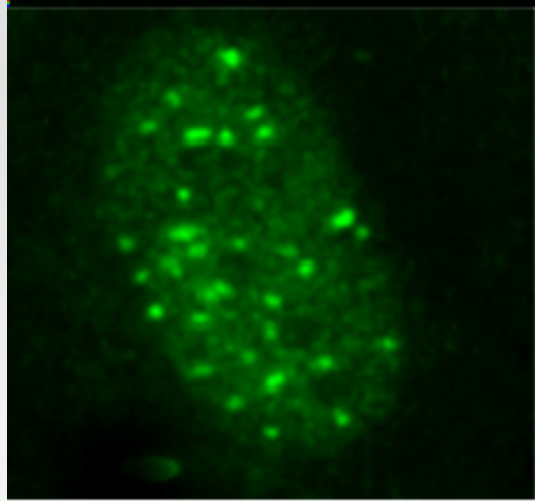
$\alpha$ -particles, 2 MeV

Fe-ions, 1 GeV/n

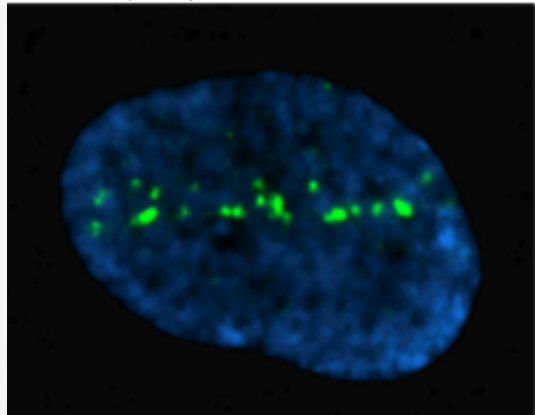


courtesy of Werner Friedland

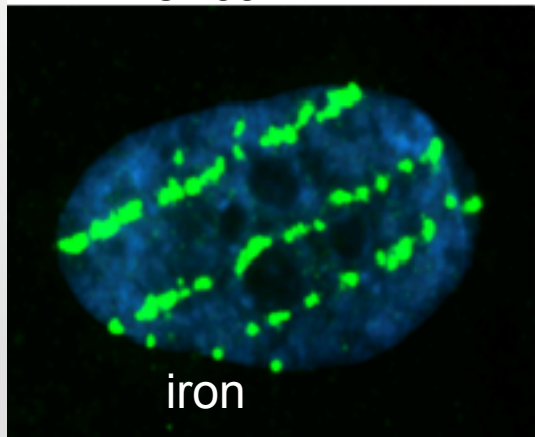
# Bio-tracks



γ-rays

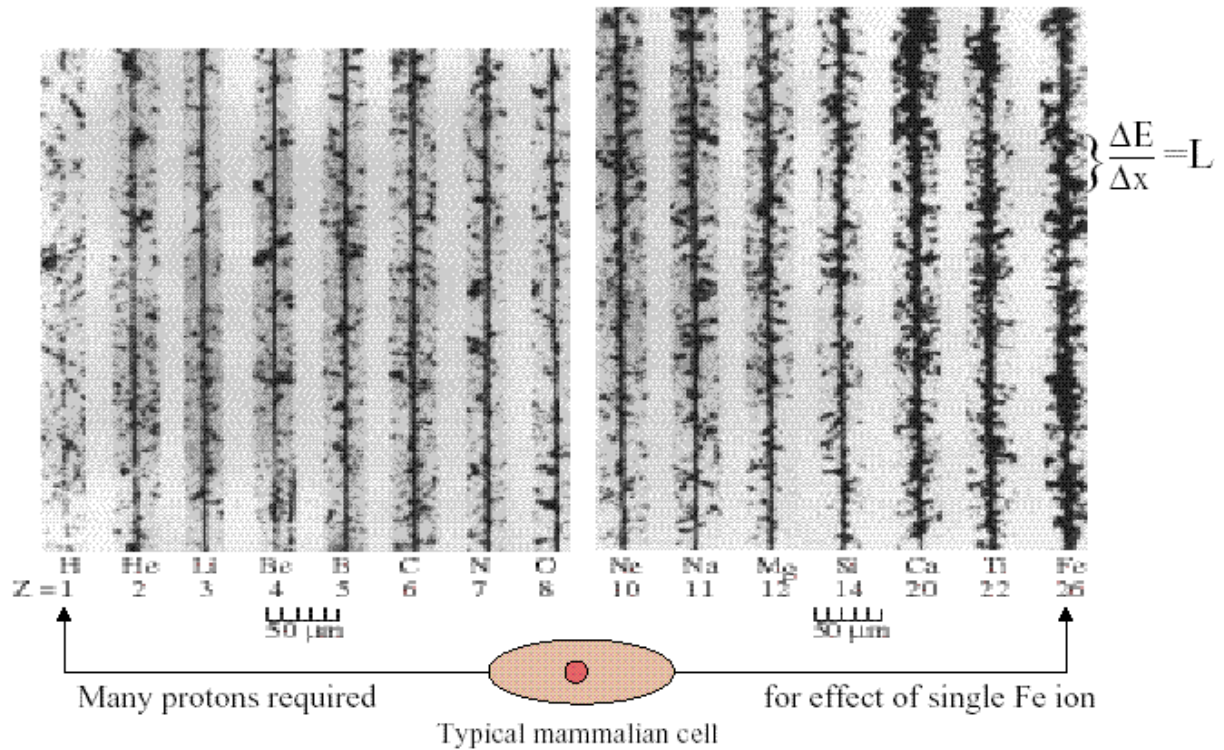
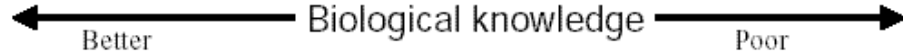


silicon

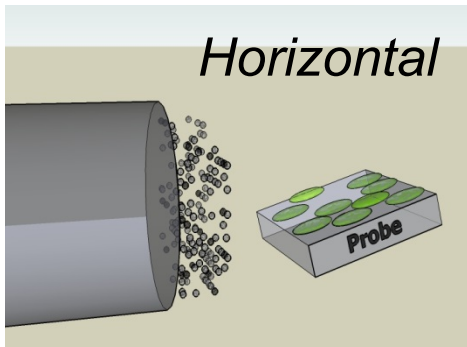


iron

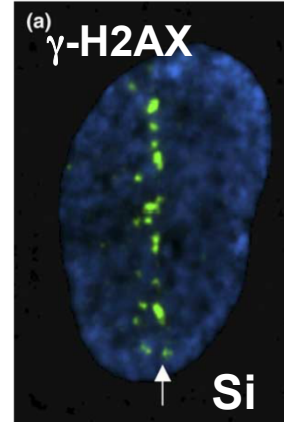
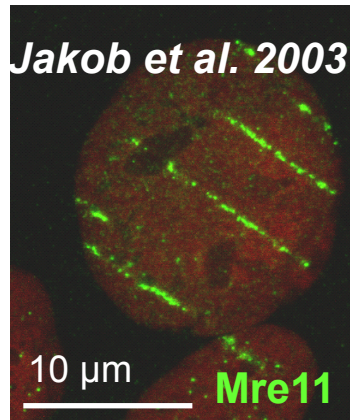
GCR Ion Tracks Are Dangerous



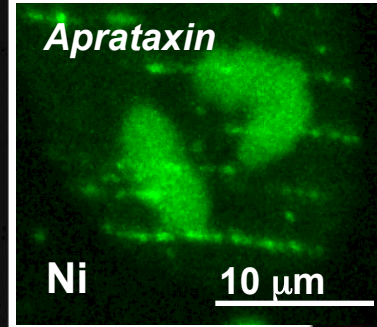
Cucinotta and Durante, *Lancet Oncol.* 2006



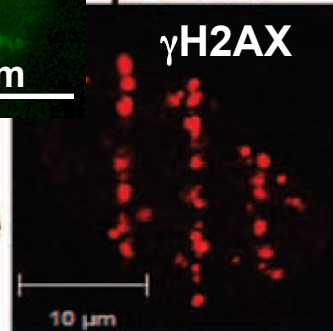
different repair proteins  
 different lesion densities (LET)  
 different cell lines



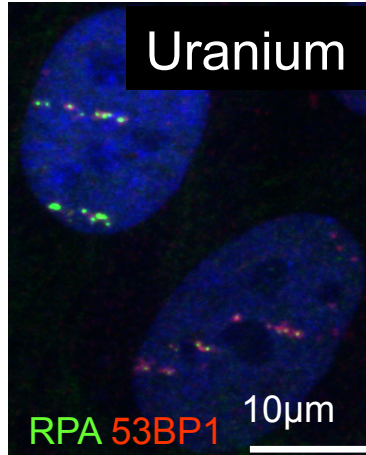
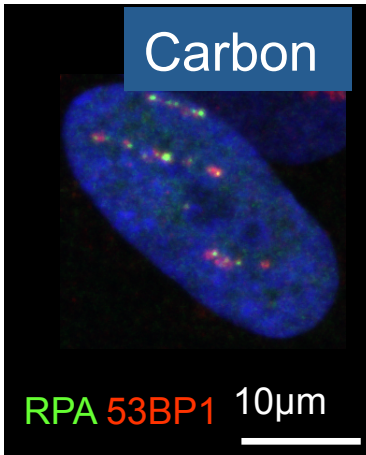
Desai et al. 2005



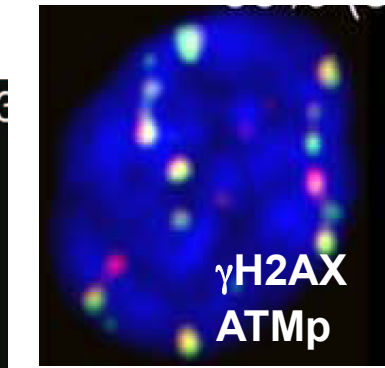
Gueven et al 2004



<sup>26</sup>Fe

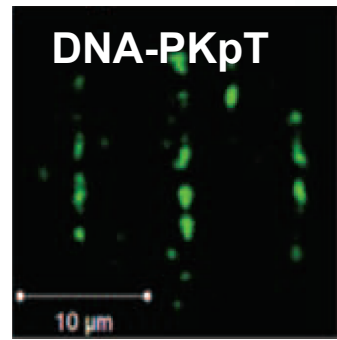
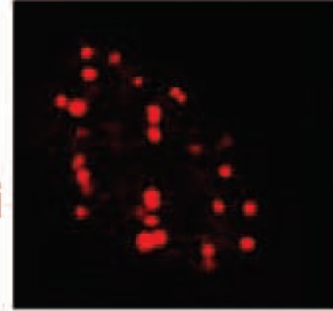


Takahashi et al, 2008

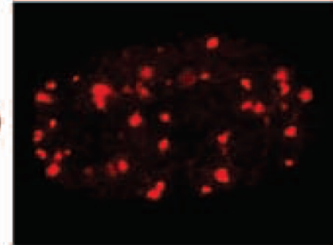


Costes et al. 2007

<sup>14</sup>Si



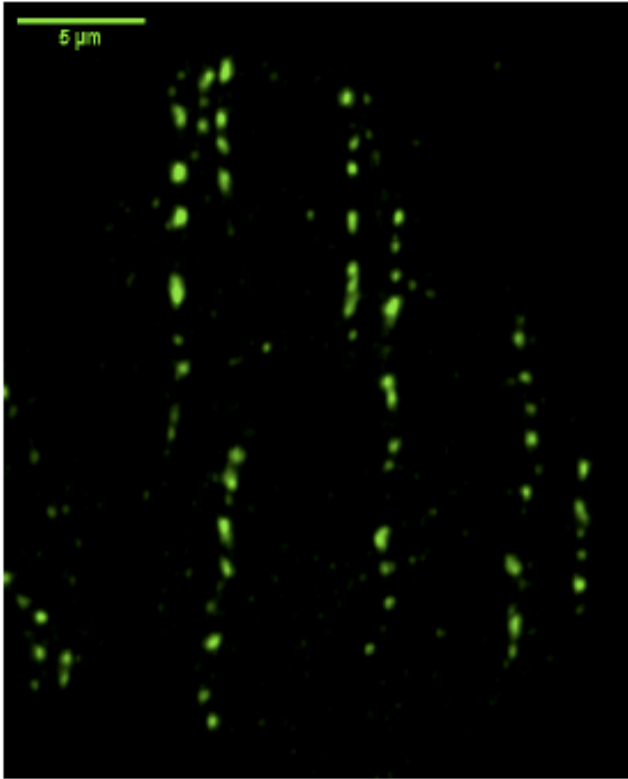
<sup>80</sup>O



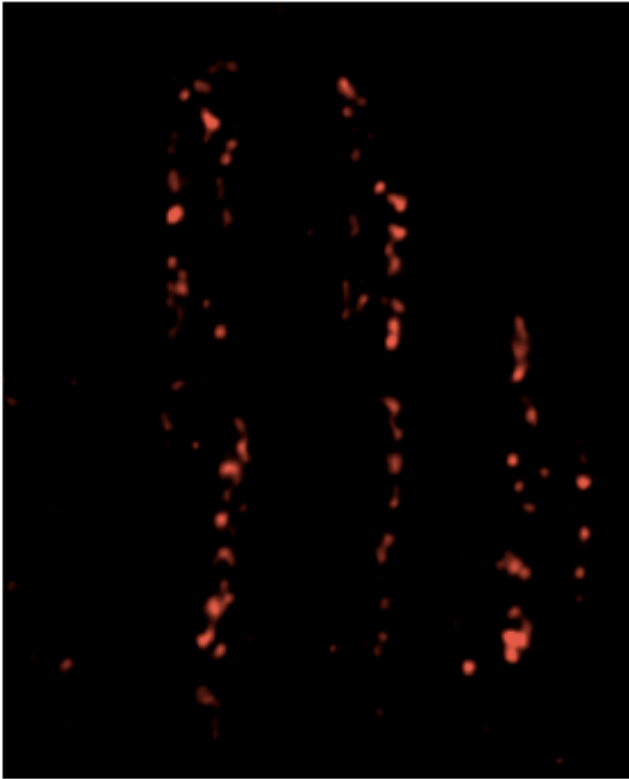
Asaithamby et al. 2008

Jakob et al. 2009

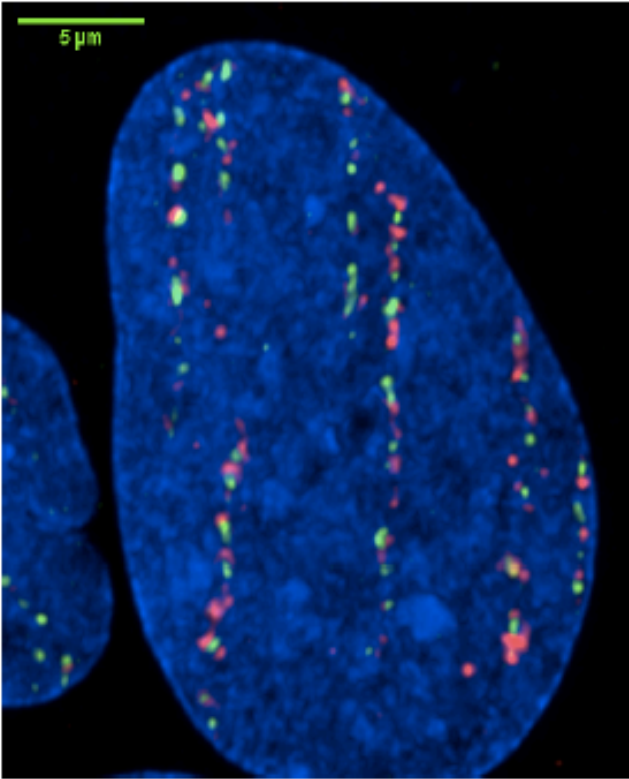
# Co-localization of different repair proteins



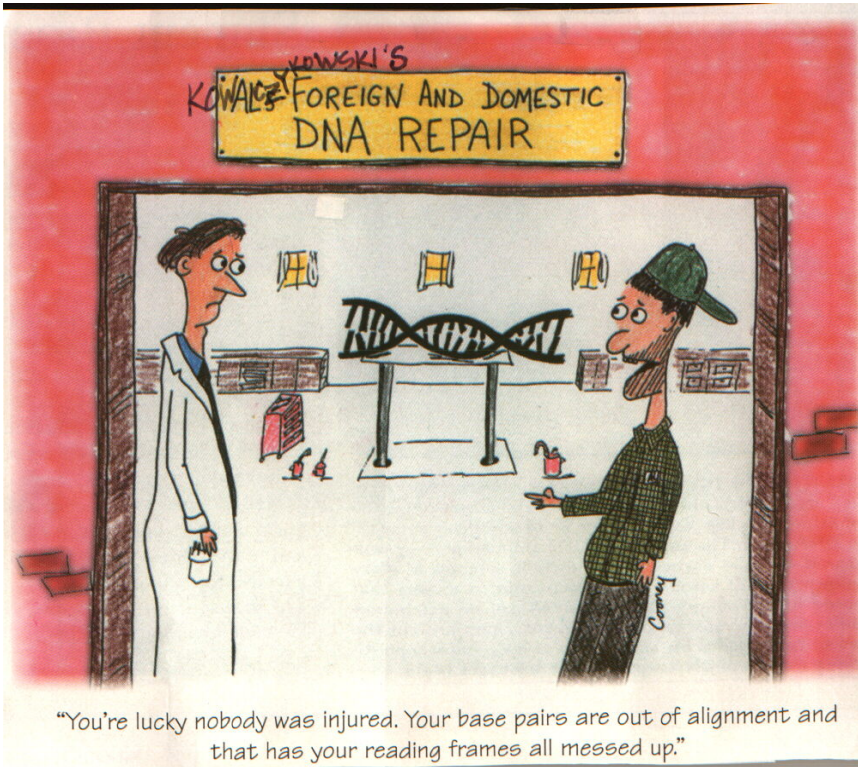
RPA



53BP1

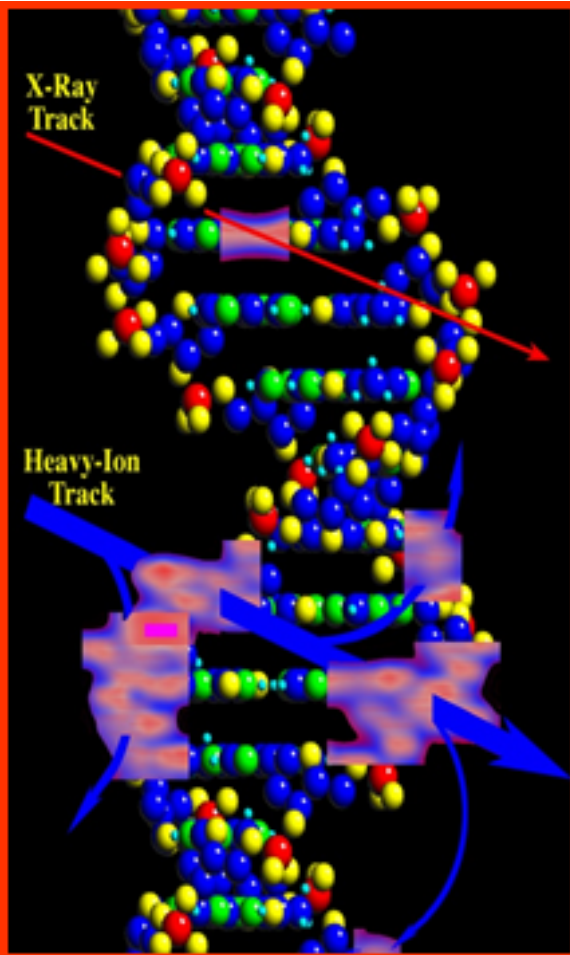


Overlap

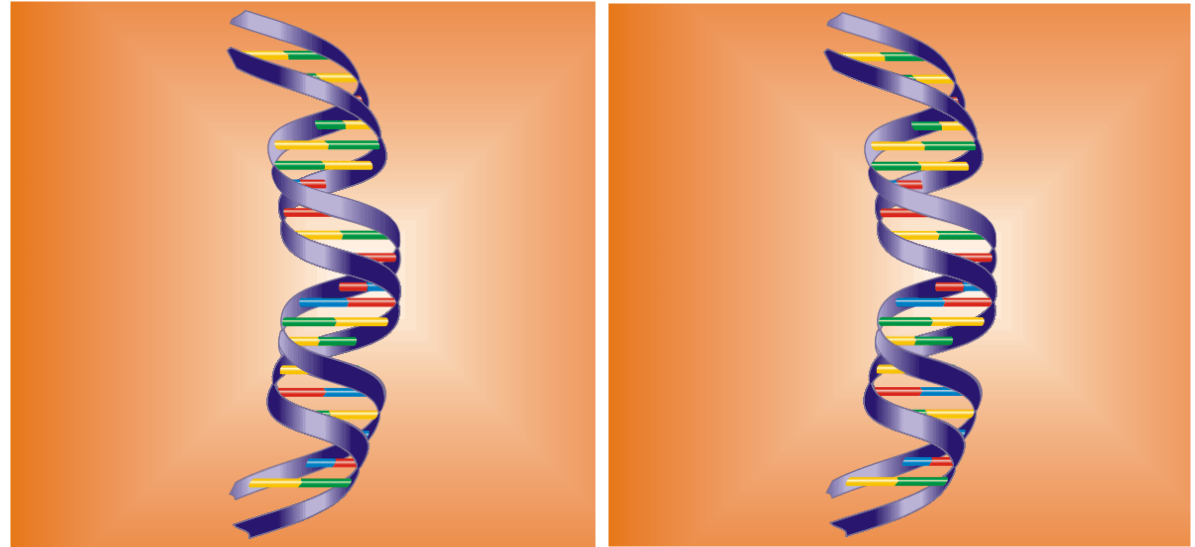


DNA repair: aging, cancer, genetic syndromes, .....

# The most unkindest cut of all (W. Shakespeare, Julius Caesar, Act 3)



Courtesy of NASA

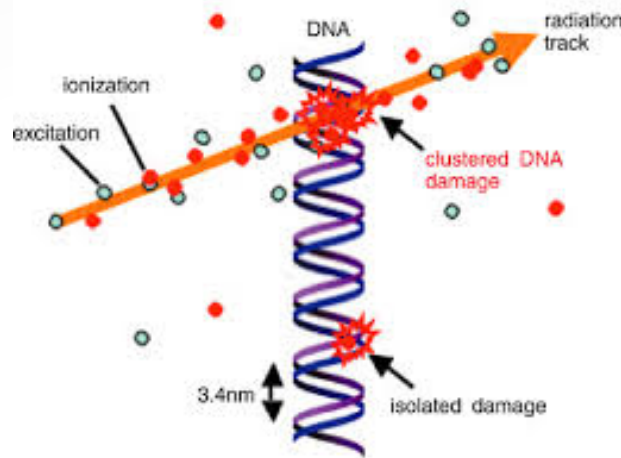
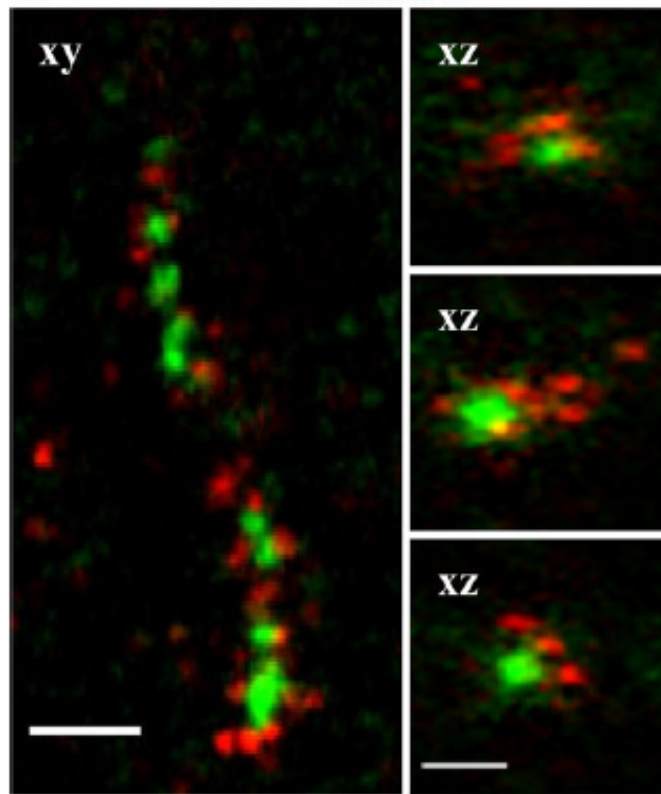


Courtesy of Valeria Conte



Courtesy of Nicole Averbeck



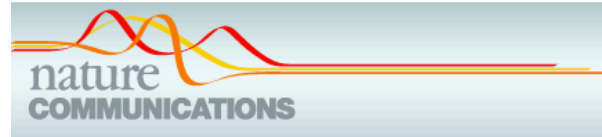
**A****RPA 53BP1**

# Clustered DNA breaks

Goodhead, *Int. J. Radiat. Biol.* 1994

Biological dose estimation of UVA laser microirradiation utilizing charged particle-induced protein foci *Mutagenesis* pp. 1–9, 2010

J. Splinter<sup>1</sup>, B. Jakob<sup>1,\*</sup>, M. Lang<sup>2</sup>, K. Yano<sup>2</sup>,  
J. Engelhardt<sup>2</sup>, S. W. Hell<sup>2</sup>, D. J. Chen<sup>3</sup>, M. Durante<sup>1,4</sup> and  
G. Taucher-Scholz<sup>1</sup>



## ARTICLE

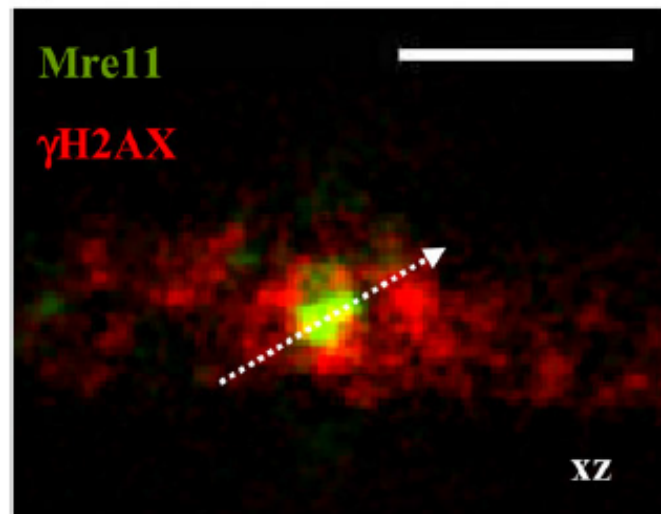
Received 20 Dec 2016 | Accepted 26 Apr 2017 | Published 12 Jun 2017

DOI: 10.1038/ncomms15760

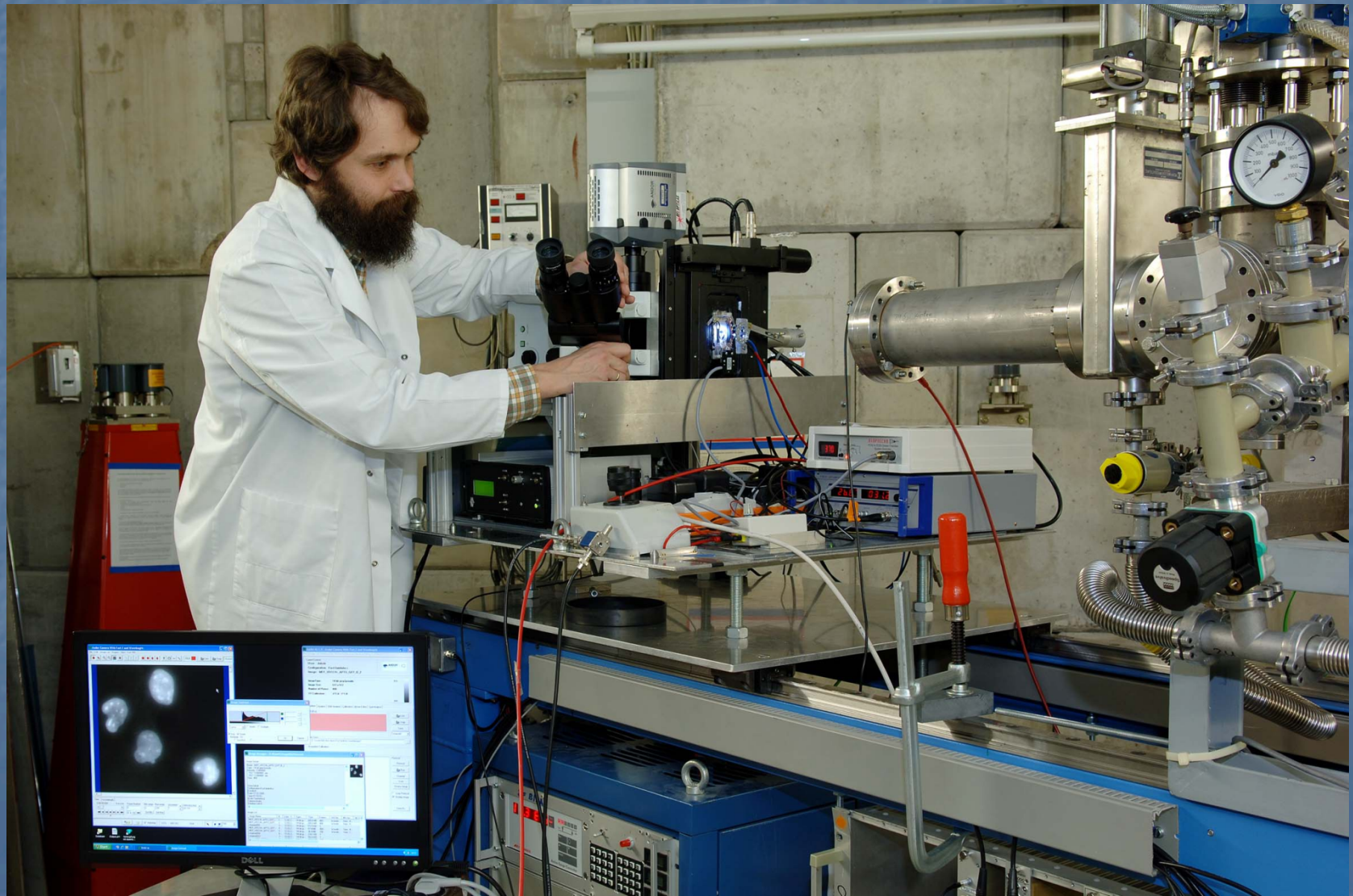
OPEN

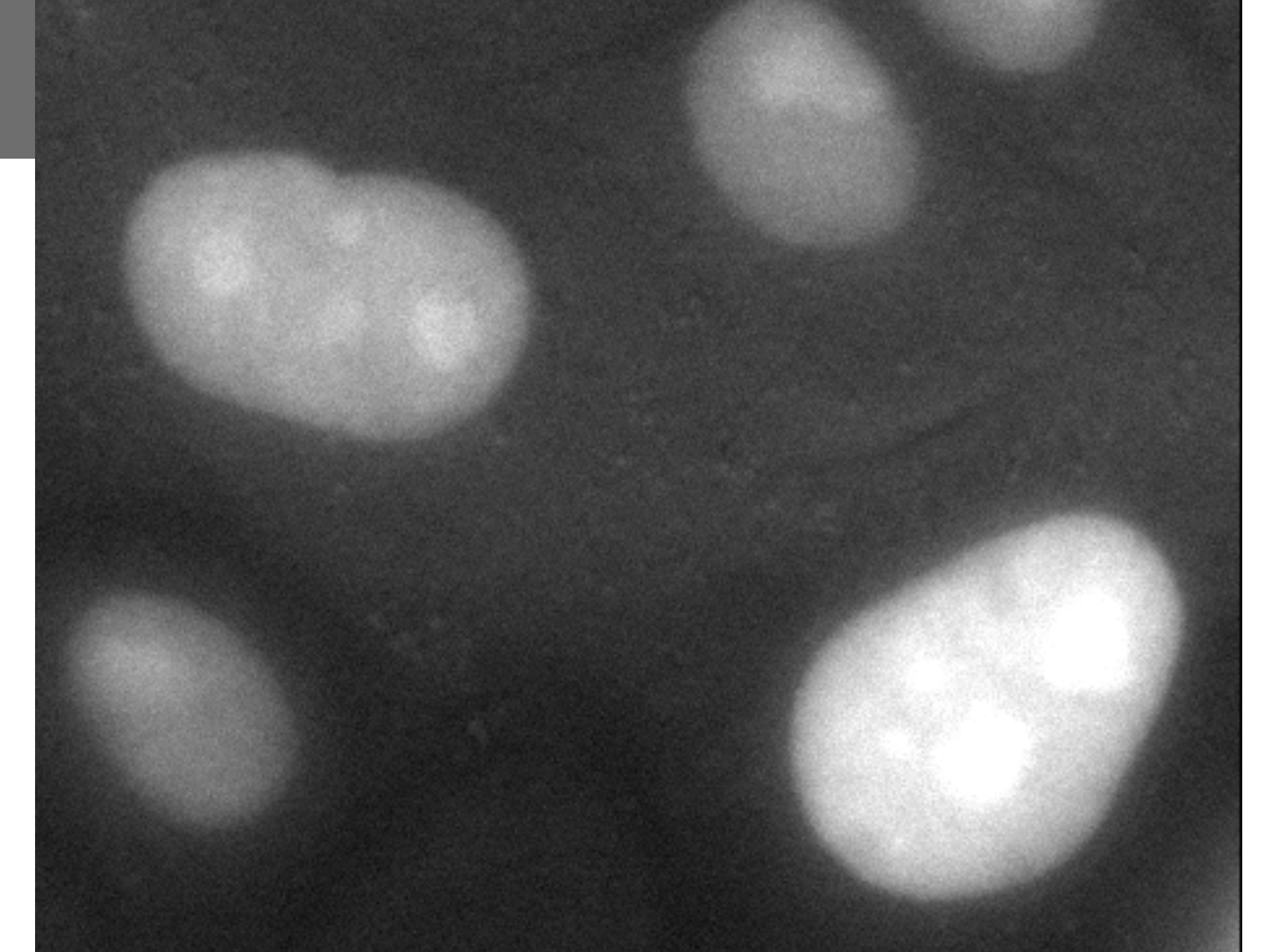
# Identification of the elementary structural units of the DNA damage response

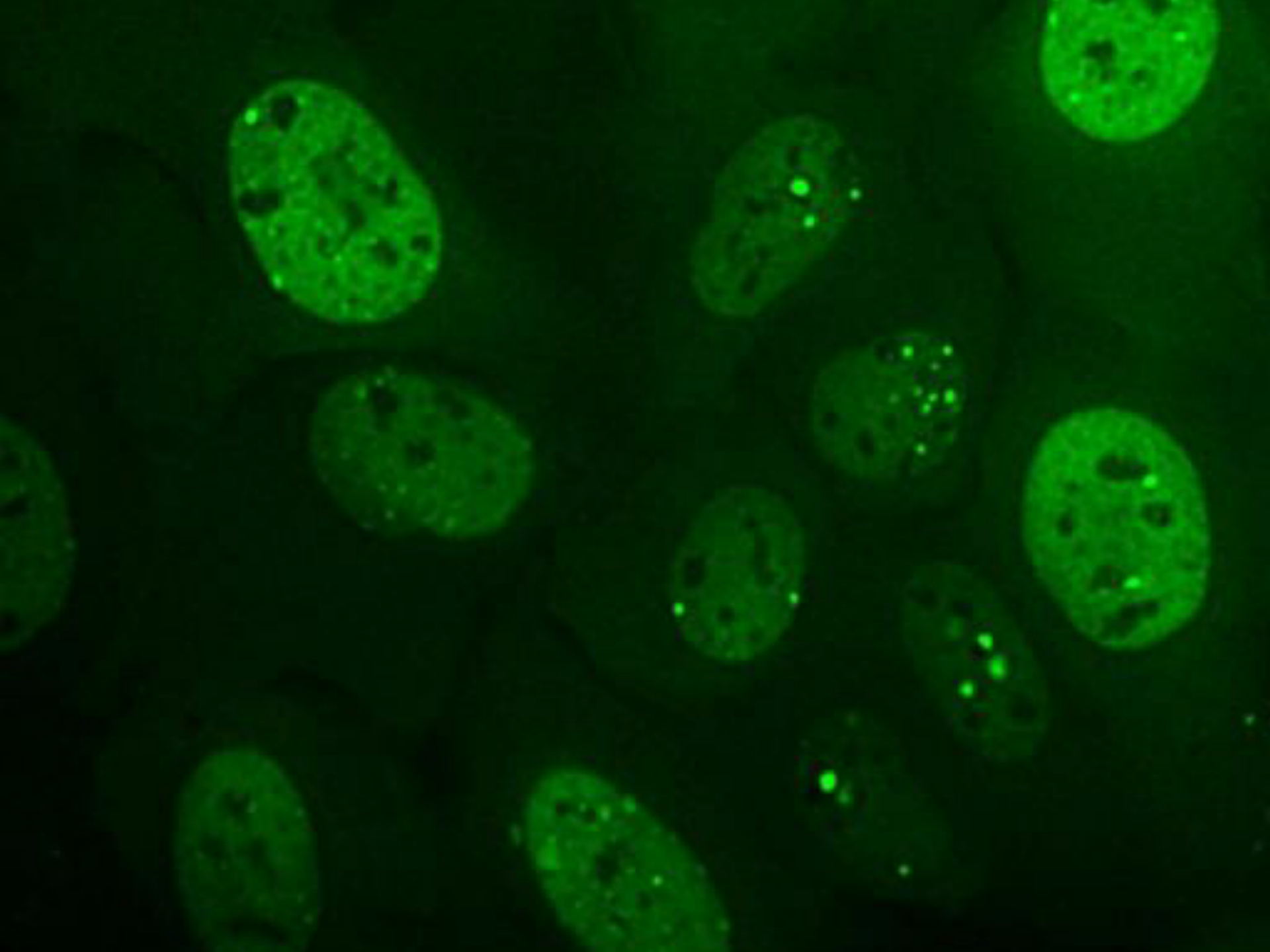
Francesco Natale<sup>1,\*</sup>, Alexander Rapp<sup>1,\*</sup>, Wei Yu<sup>1,†</sup>, Andreas Maiser<sup>2</sup>, Hartmann Harz<sup>2</sup>, Annina Scholl<sup>1</sup>, Stephan Grulich<sup>1</sup>, Tobias Anton<sup>2</sup>, David Hörl<sup>2</sup>, Wei Chen<sup>3</sup>, Marco Durante<sup>4,†</sup>, Gisela Taucher-Scholz<sup>4</sup>, Heinrich Leonhardt<sup>2</sup> & M. Cristina Cardoso<sup>1</sup>

**B**

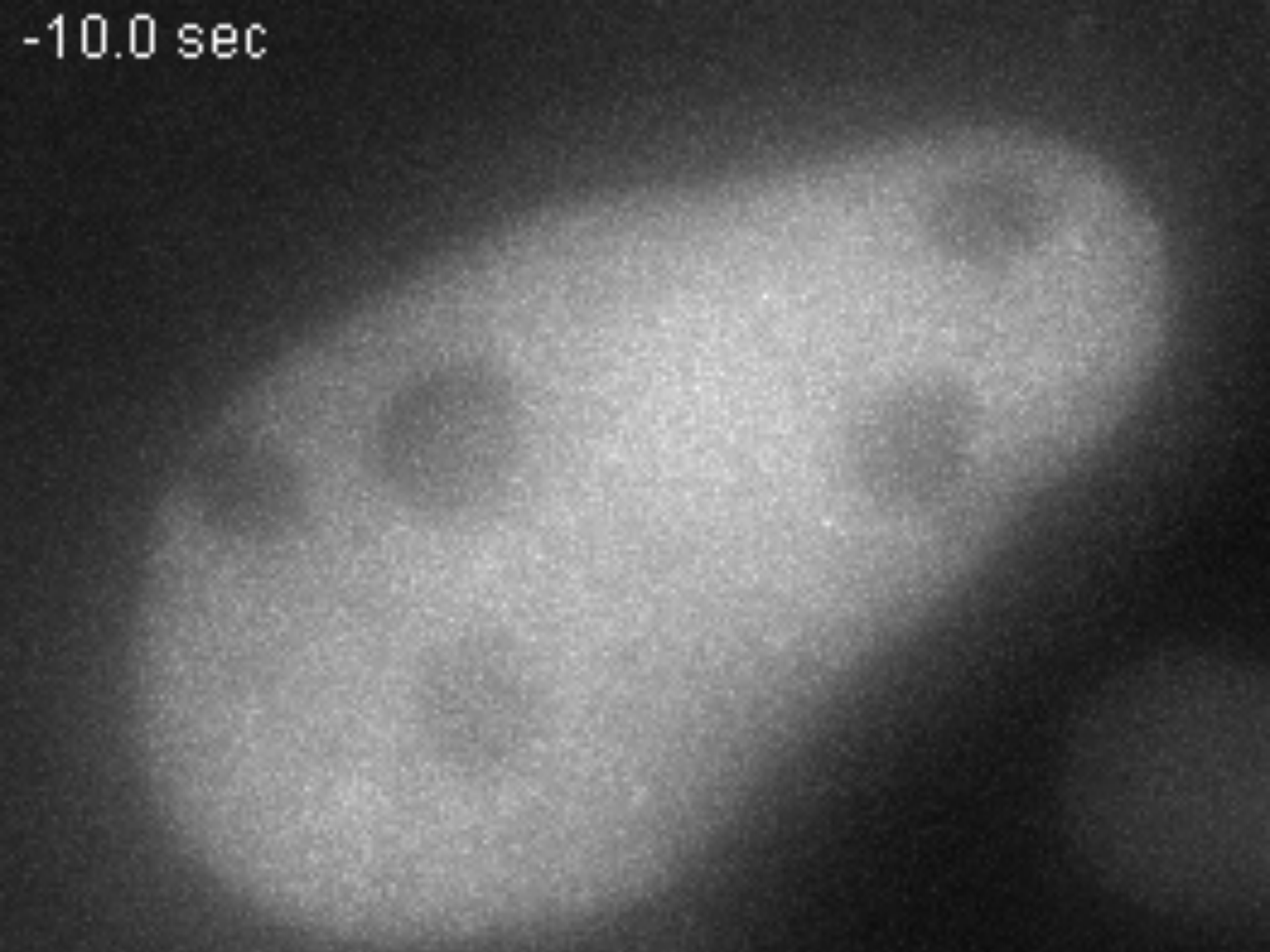
# Beamline live cell imaging







-10.0 sec





# Live cell microscopy analysis of radiation-induced DNA double-strand break motion

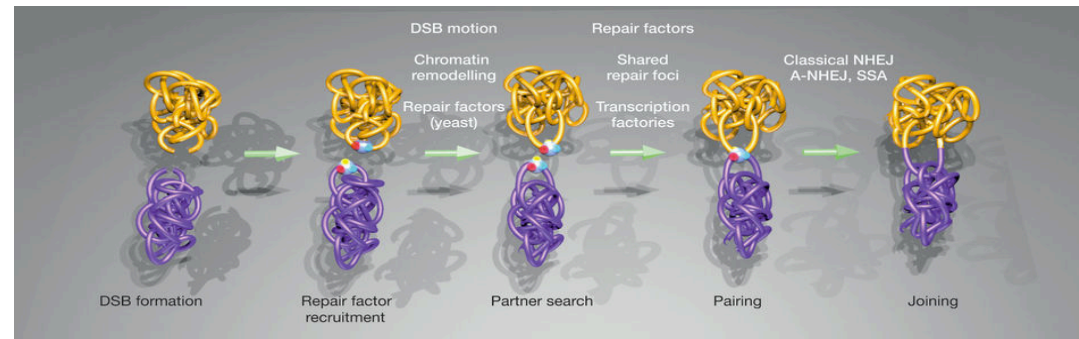
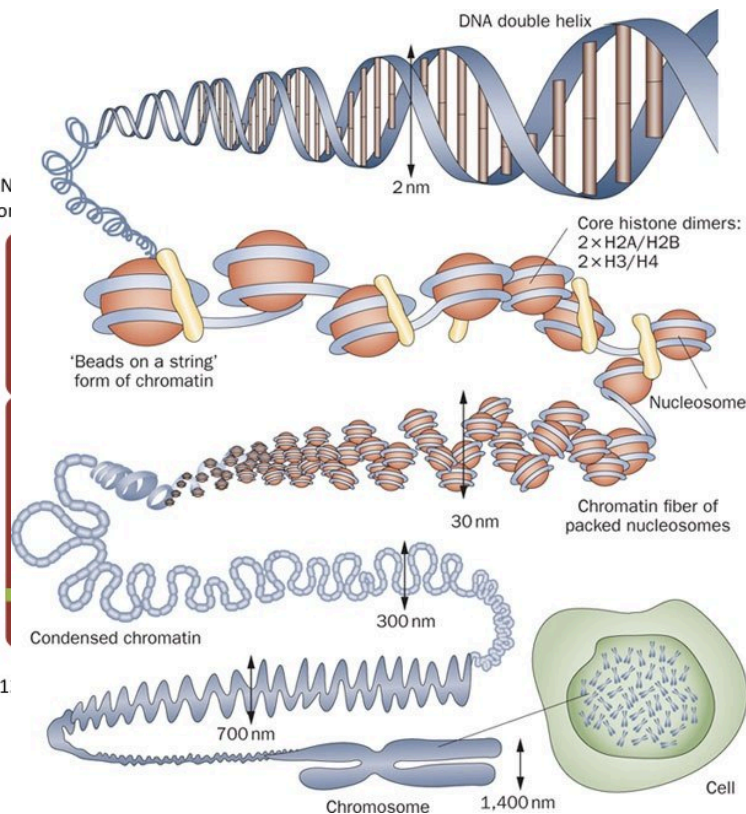
B. Jakob<sup>a</sup>, J. Splinter<sup>a</sup>, M. Durante<sup>a,b,1</sup>, and G. Taucher-Scholz<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Biophysics, GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung, Planckstrasse 1, D-64291 Darmstadt, Germany; and <sup>b</sup>Institut für Festkörperphysik, Technische Universität Darmstadt, D-64289 Darmstadt, Germany

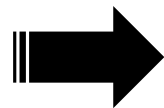
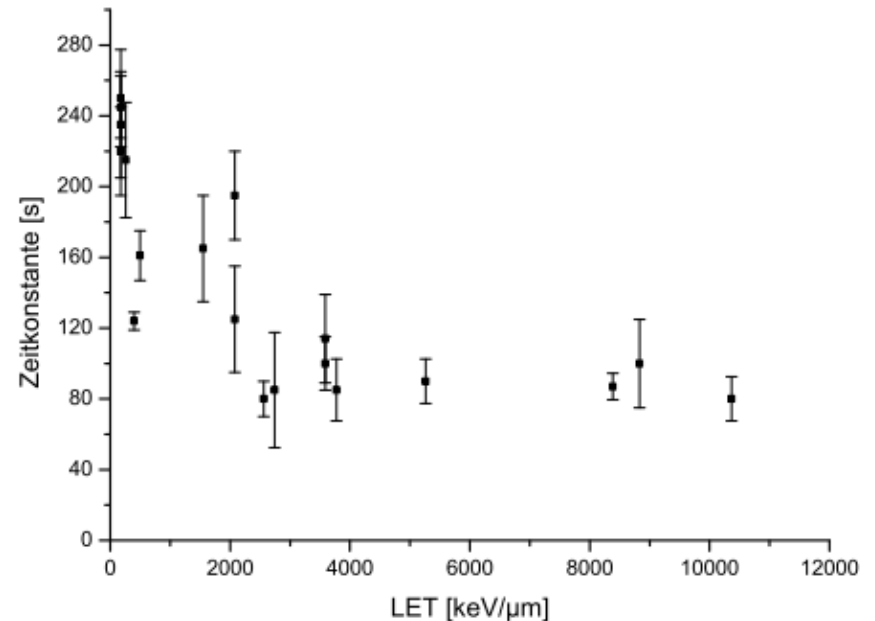
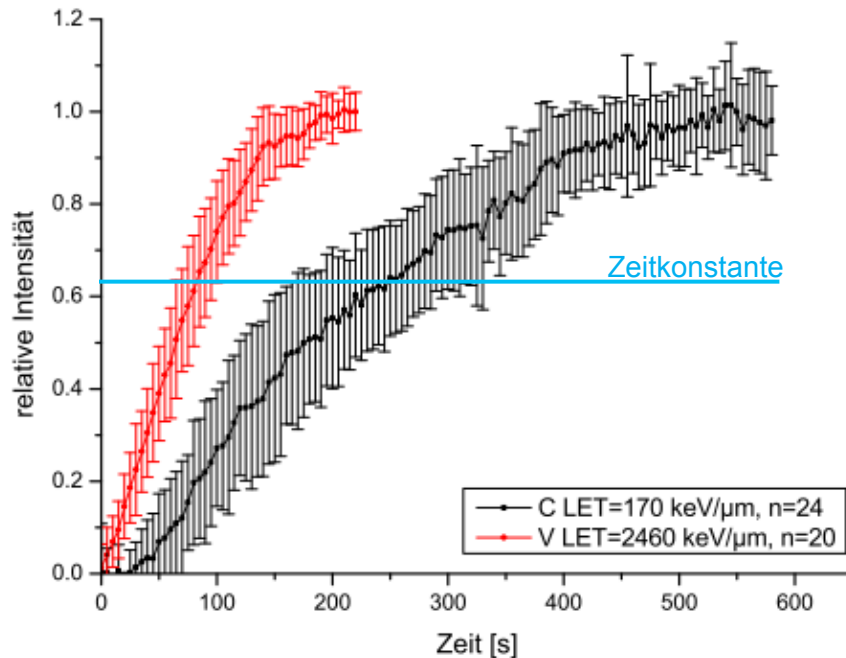
Edited by Philip C. Hanawalt, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, and approved January 13, 2009 (received for review October 31, 2008)

**We studied the spatiotemporal organization of DNA damage processing by live cell microscopy analysis in human cells. In unirradiated U2OS osteosarcoma and HeLa cancer cells, a fast**

**tin was described to occur after  $\gamma$ -rays or local UV-laser irradiation (15, 16). Furthermore, Aten *et al.* (11) discussed the formation of repair clusters after  $\alpha$ -particle irradiation, which**



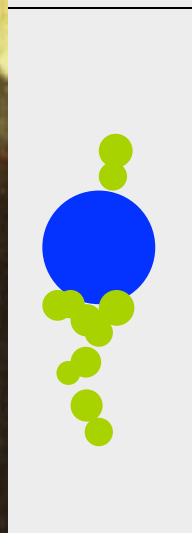
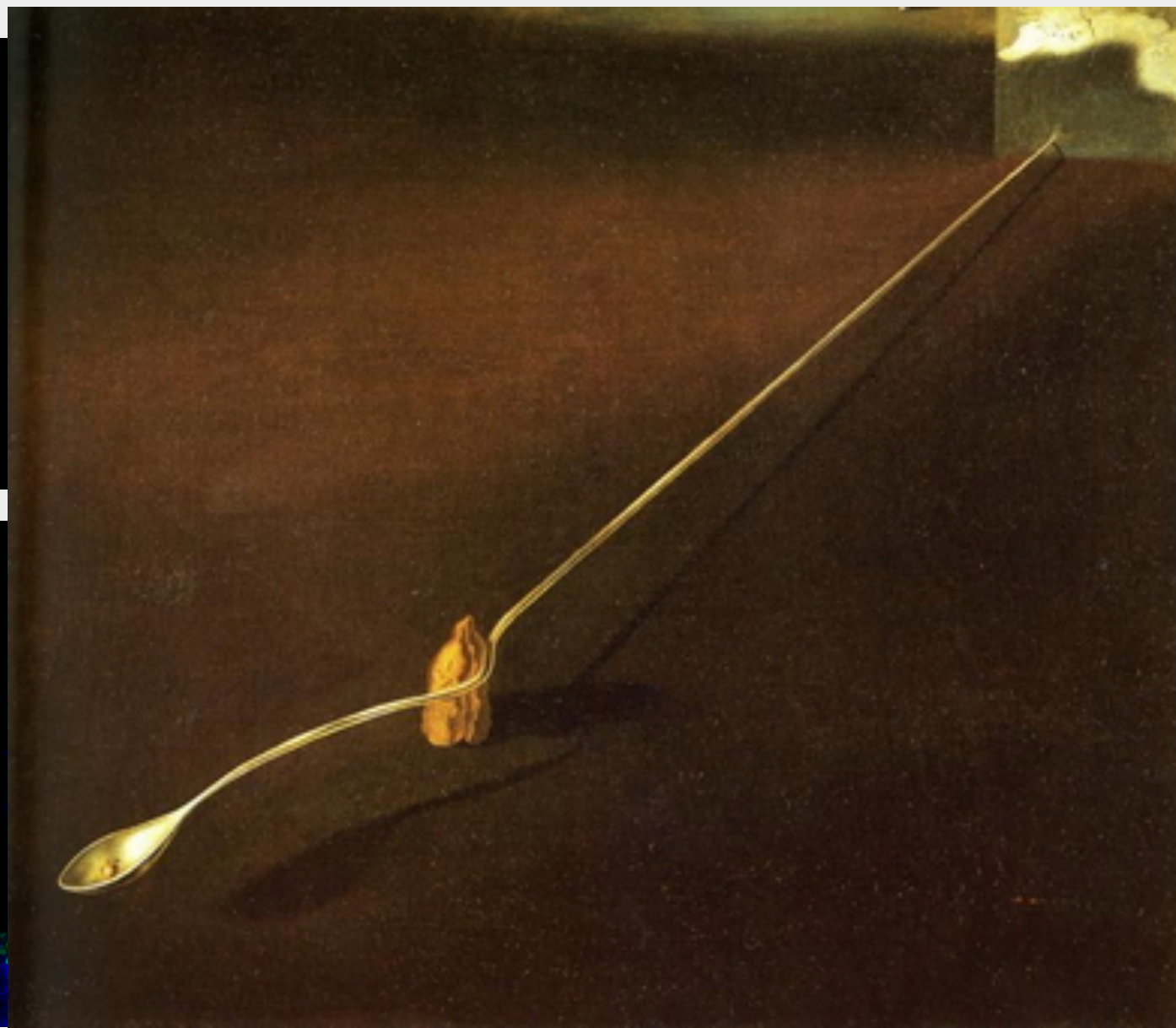
# NBS1 accumulation at DSBs after heavy ion irradiation



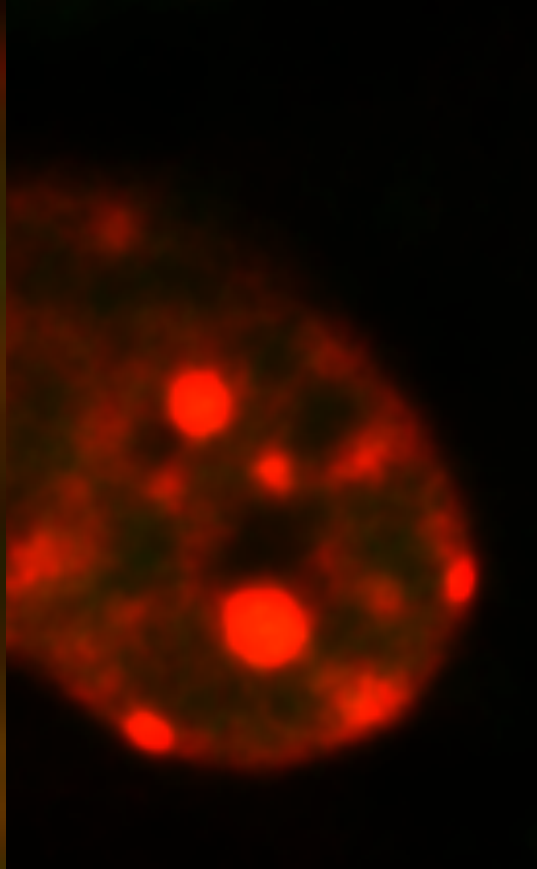
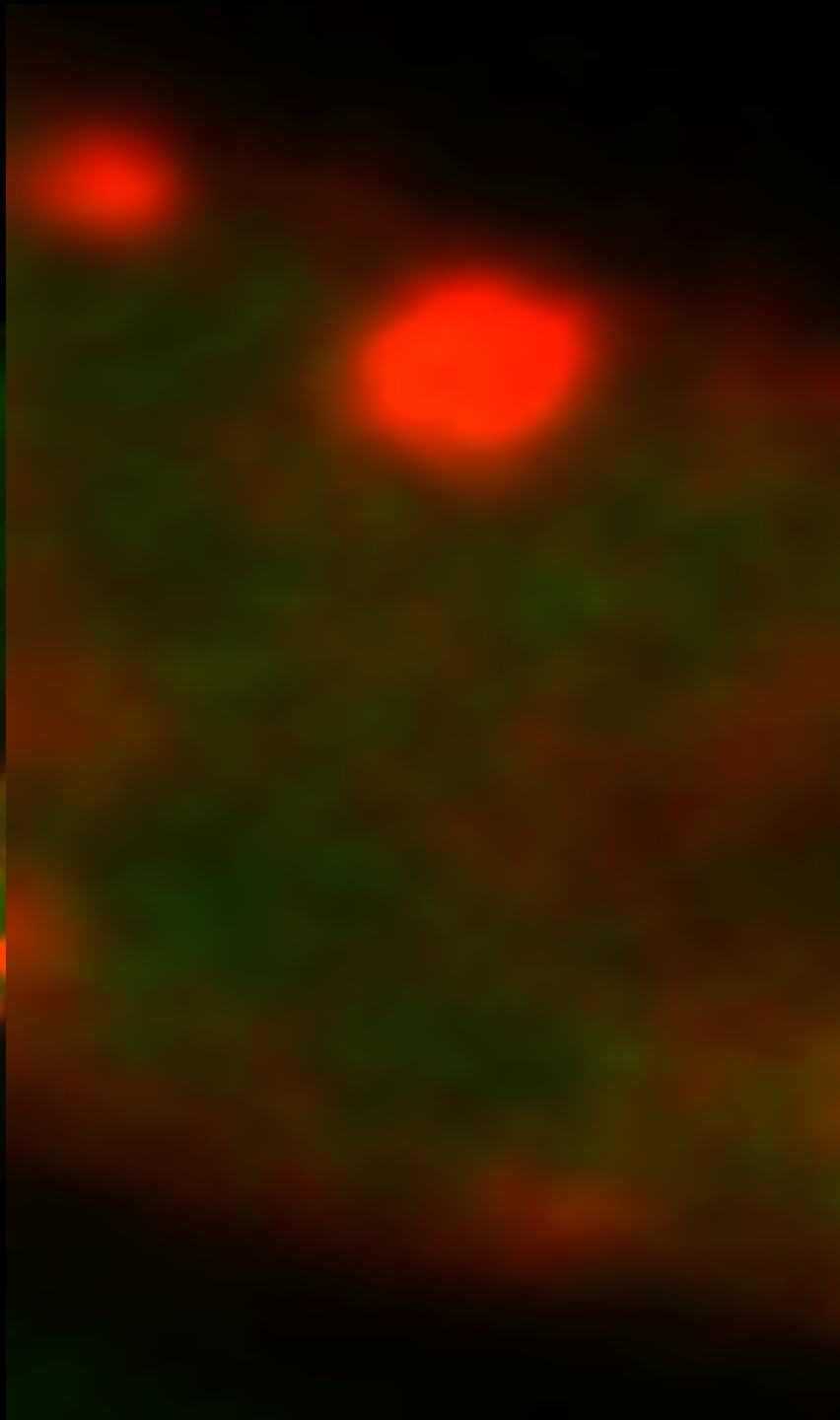
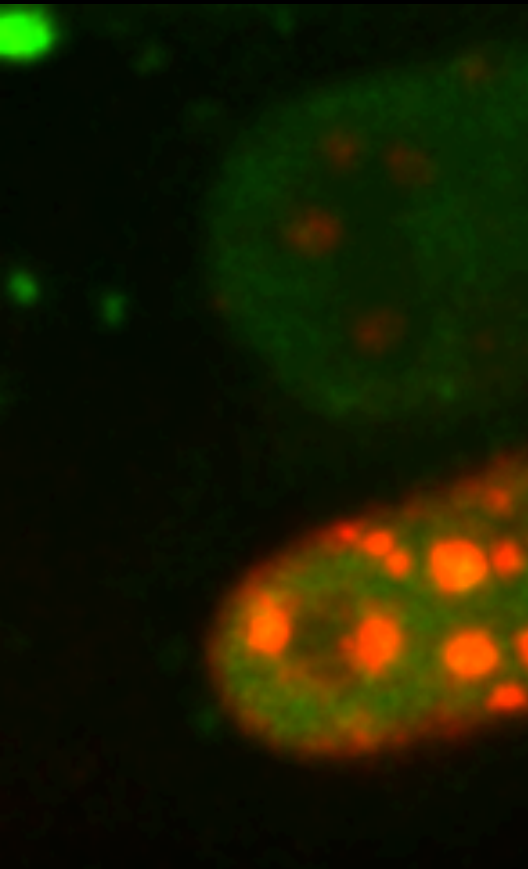
- Faster recruitment with heavy ions
- Saturation at very high-LET



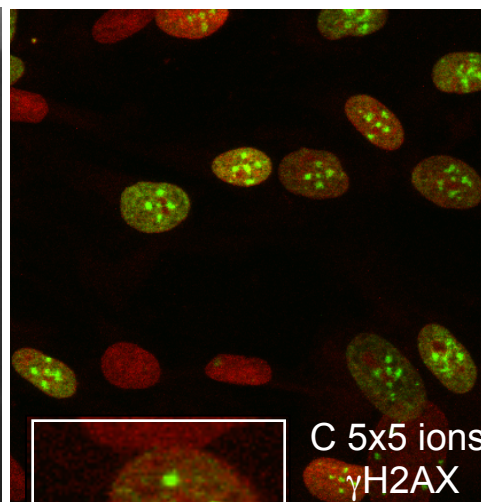
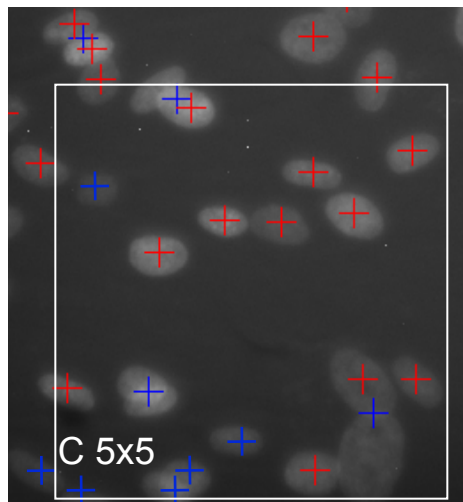
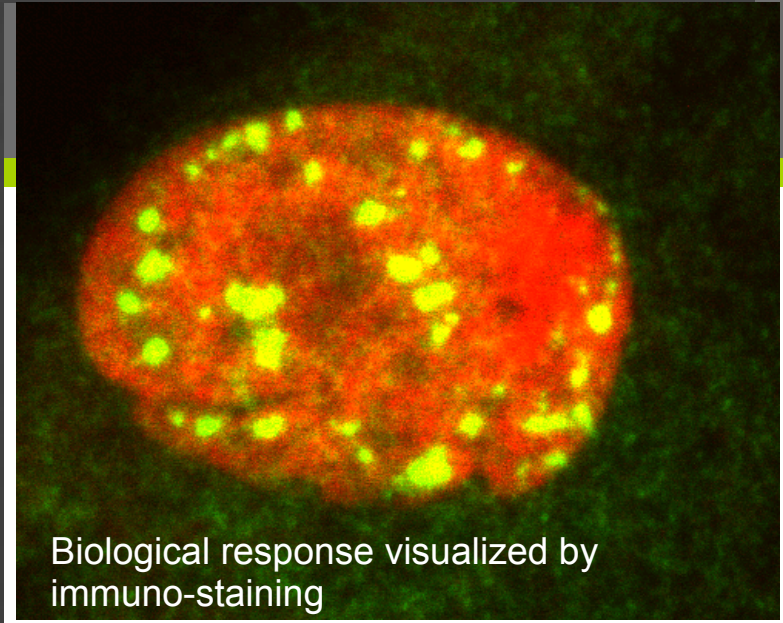
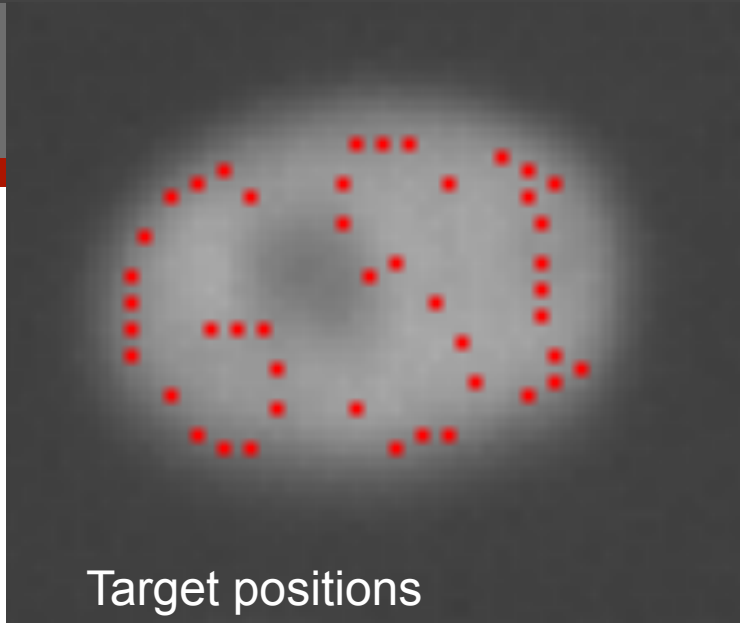
**HZE tracks in euchromatin and heterochromatin: „and the crooked shall be made straight“ (Isaiah, 40:4)**



ids Res. 2011

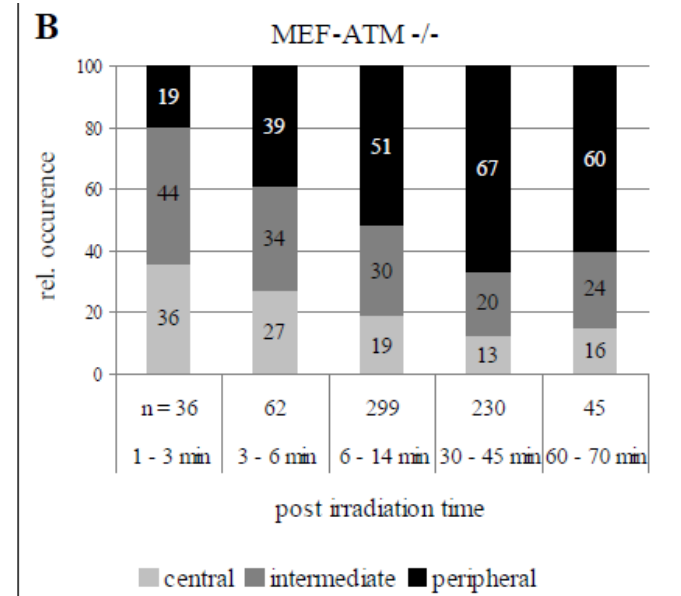
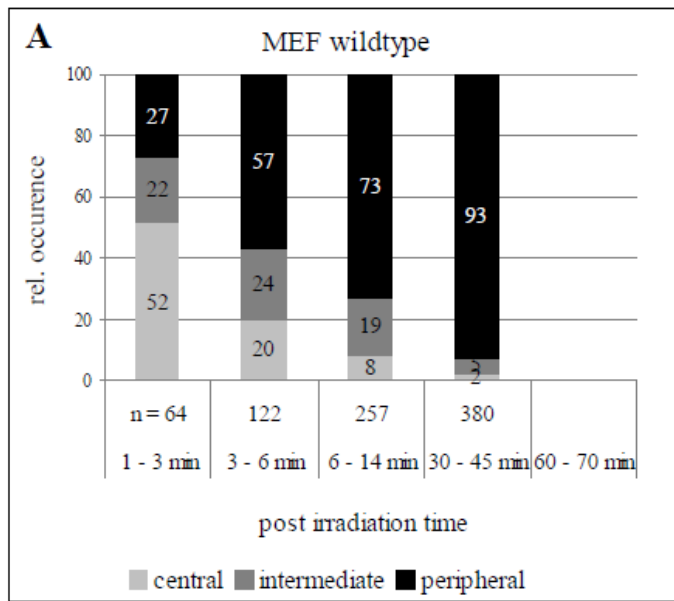
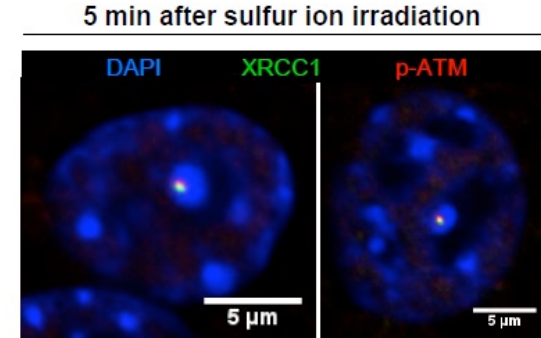
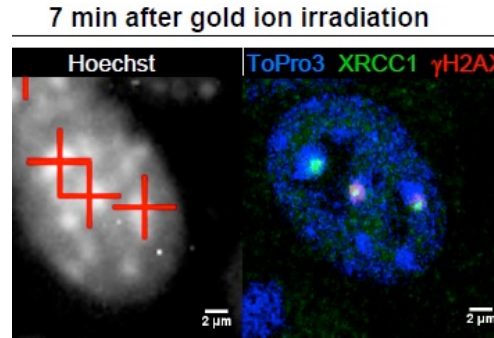
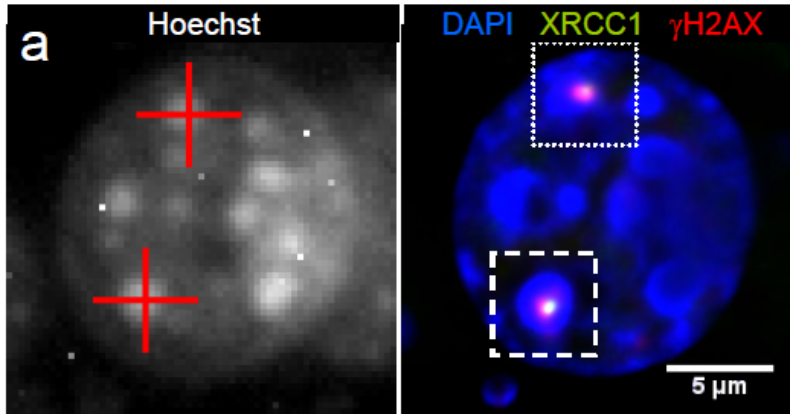


# Microbeam - Irradiation of single cells

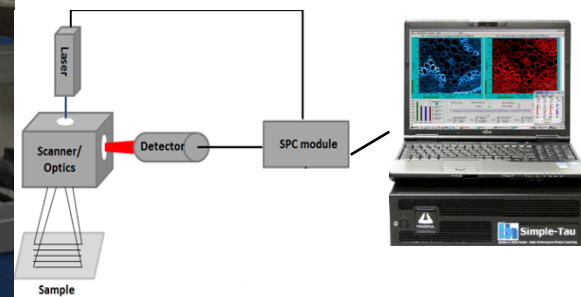
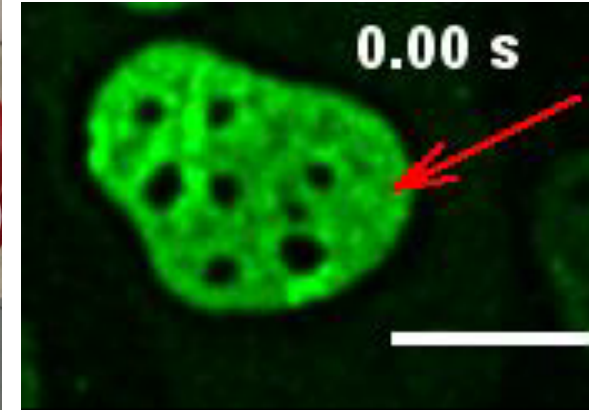
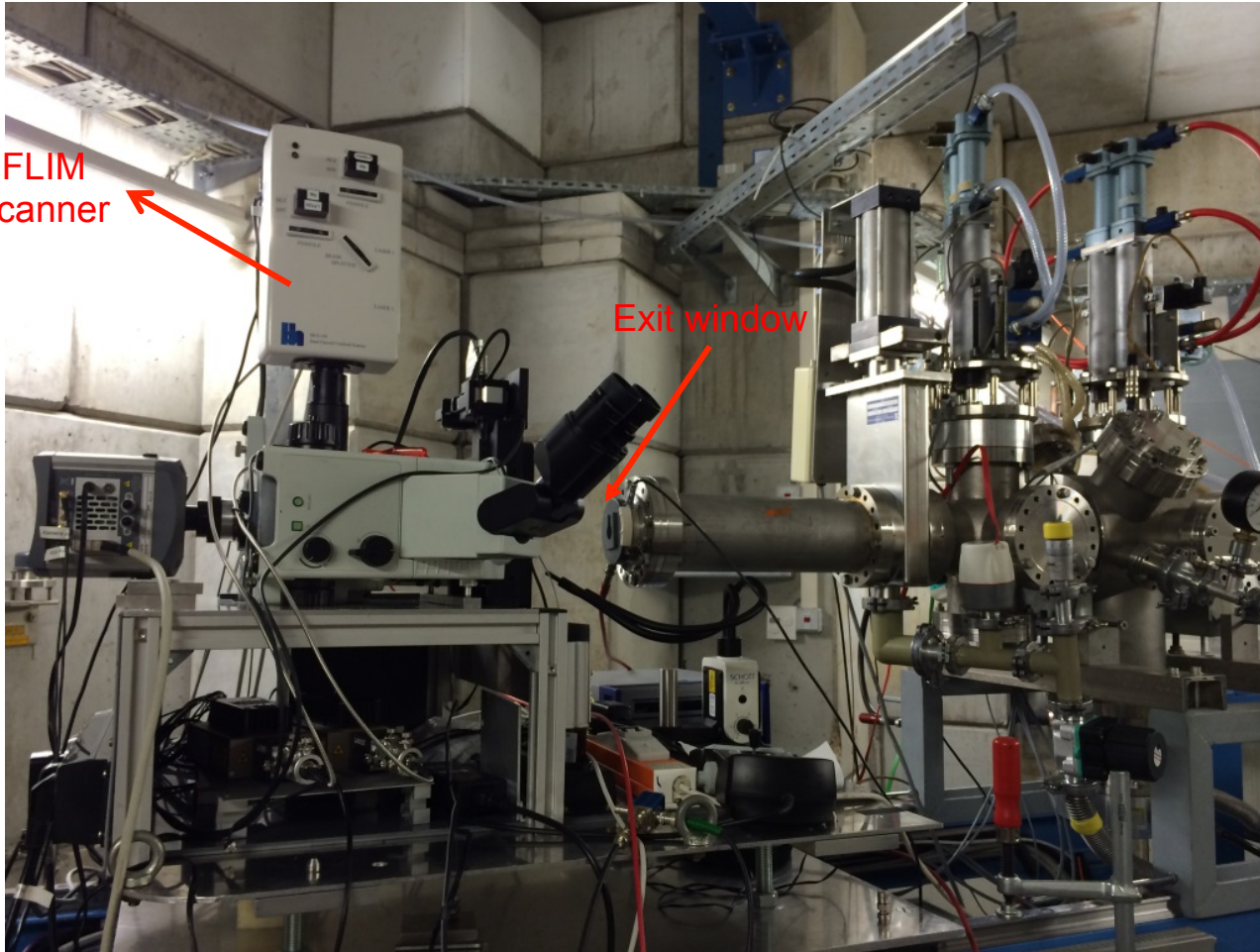


*M. Hei $\beta$  et al.  
Radiat. Res. (2006)*

# Hetrochromatin targeting with the heavy-ion microbeam

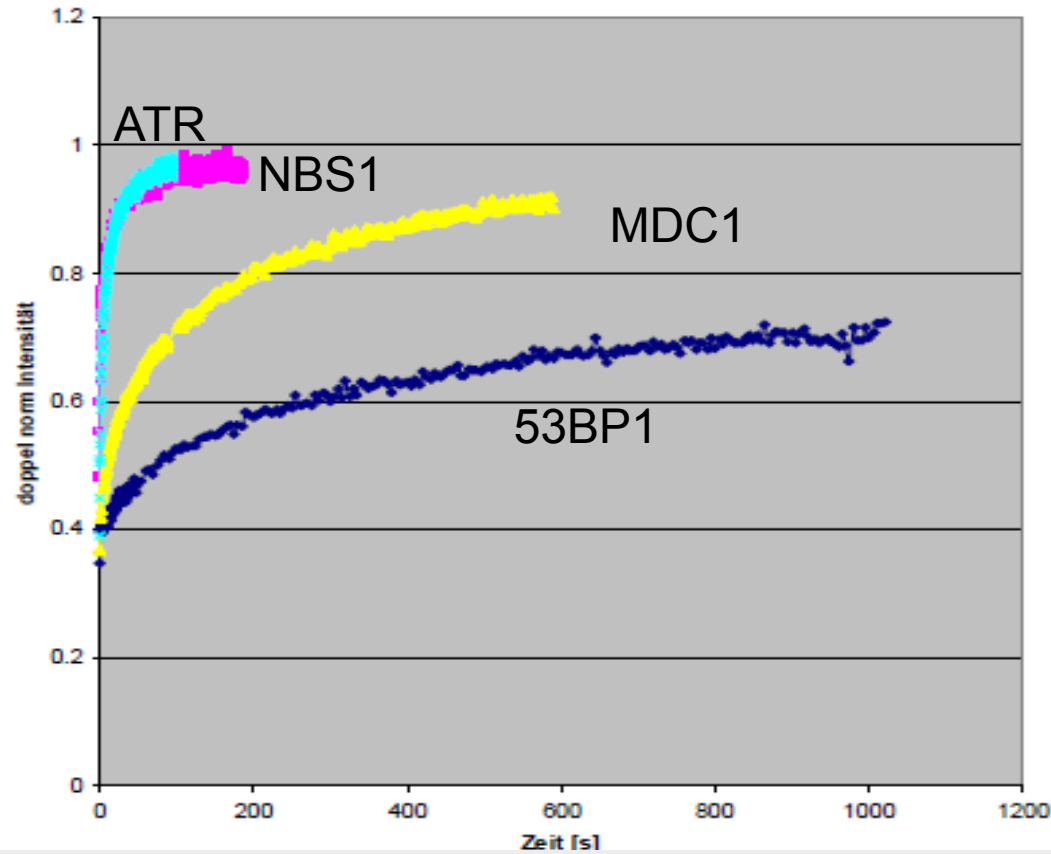
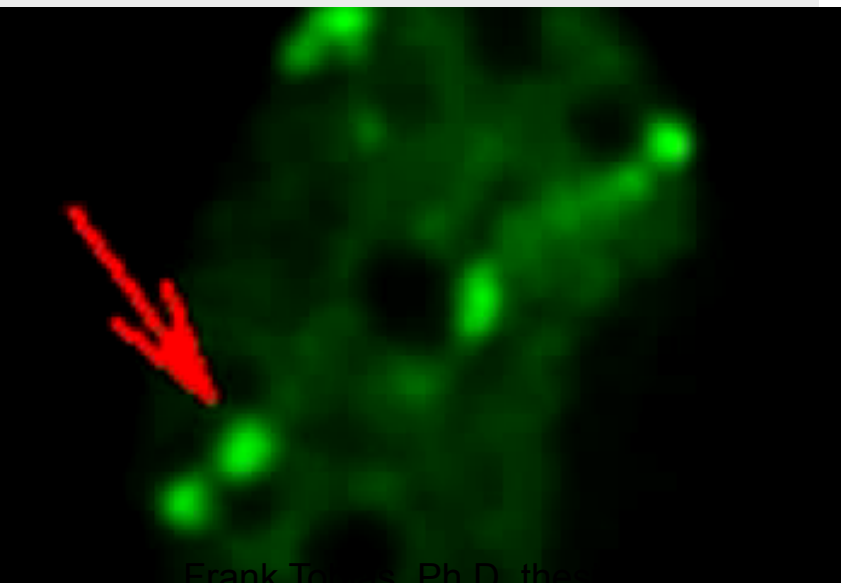
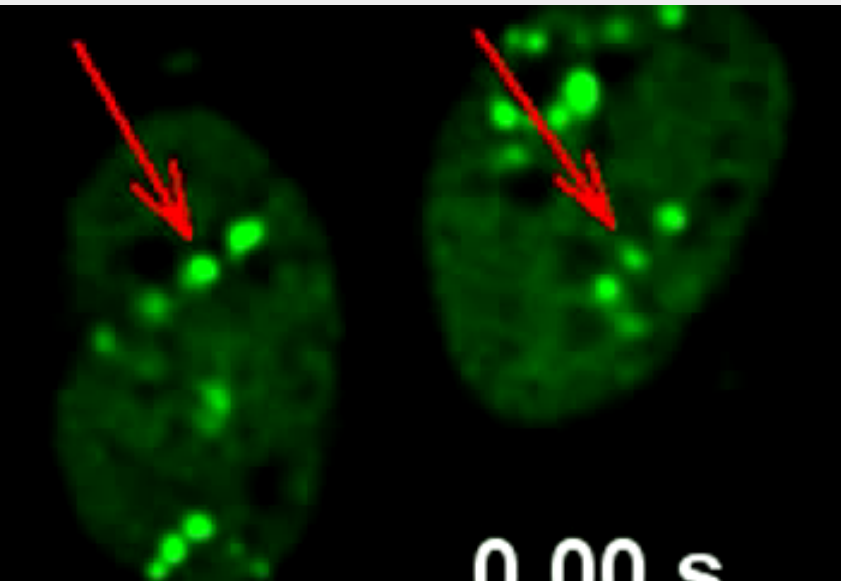


# Experimental setup

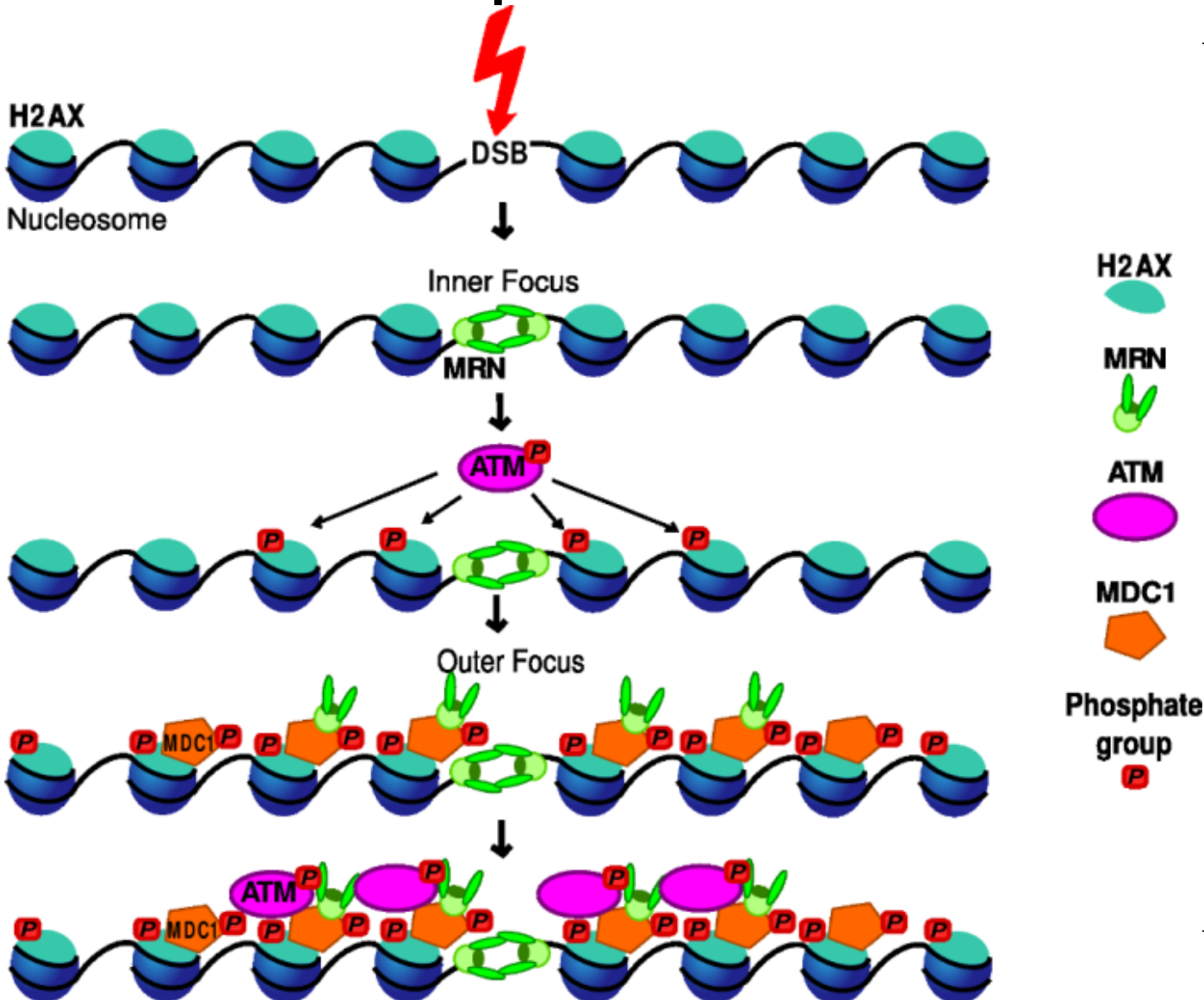


Schematic illustration of FLIM setup

# FRAP on streaks created by C-ions



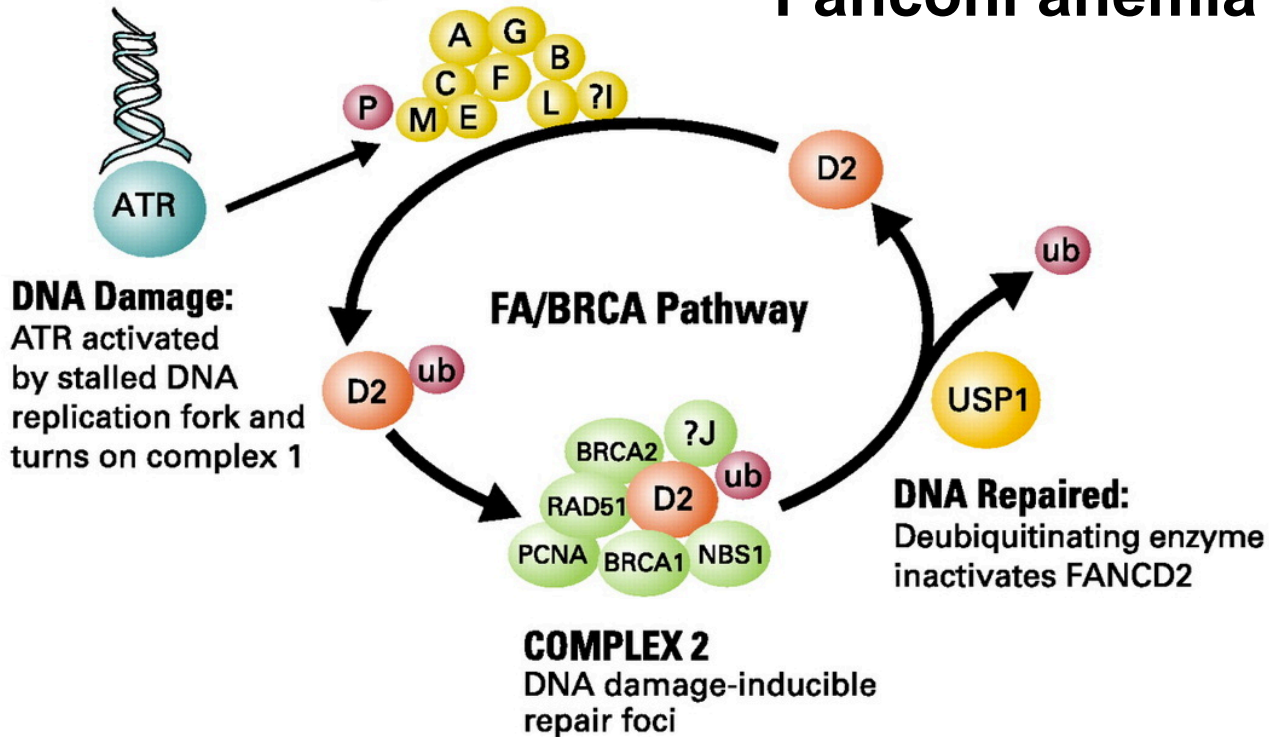
# Two qualitatively distinct interactions by which MRN complex binds to the DSB



1. MRN (MRE11/Rad50/NSBS1) binds directly to DNA ends (**inner focus**)
2. Size of the inner focus is proportional to the number of DSBs
3. ATM phosphorylates H2AX
4. MDC1 is recruited to  $\gamma$ H2AX
5. MRN binds to MDC1 (**outer focus**)
6. The number of binding sites in the outer focus is independent of the number of DSBs

**COMPLEX 1**  
E3 ligase activates FANCD2

# Fanconi anemia



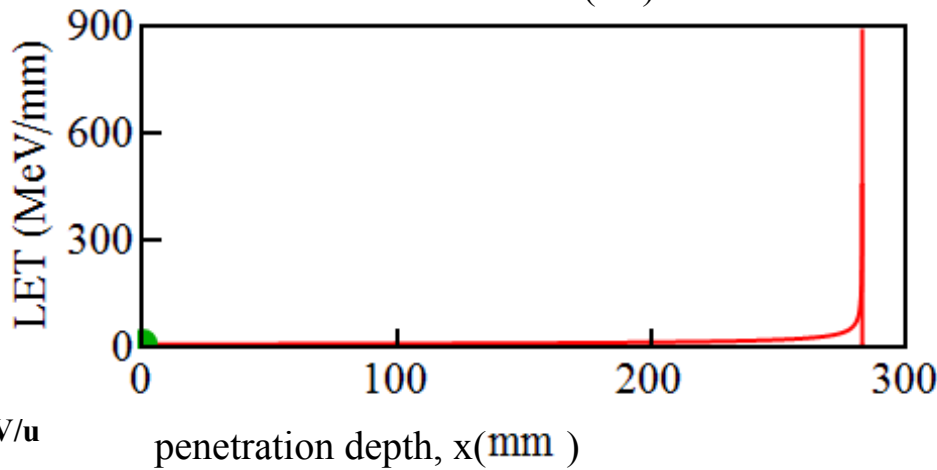
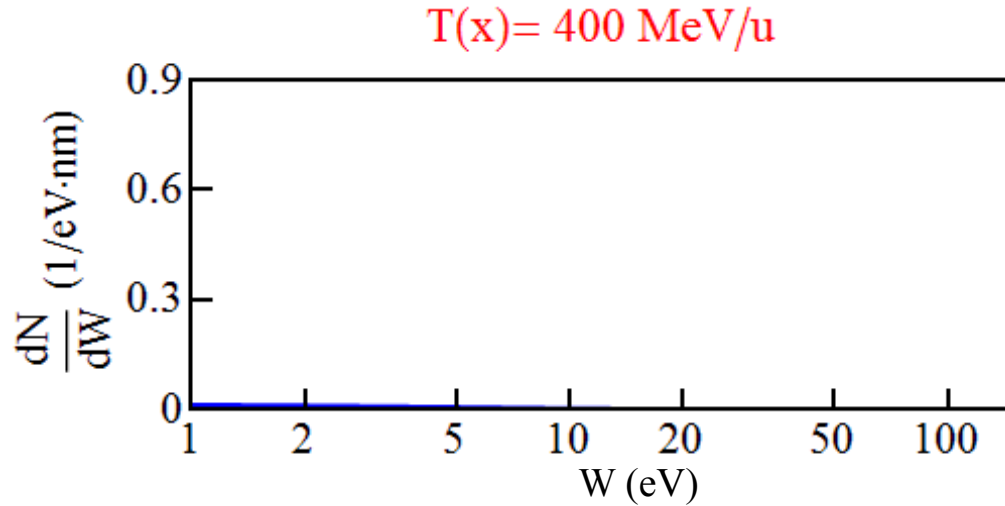
- A rare (1-5 in a million) autosomal recessive genetic disorder characterized by bone marrow failure
- It is caused by a defect in a cluster of approximately 20 proteins (FANCD2) involved in DNA repair
- Because most patients develop cancer, the syndrome is very much studied in cancer research
- FANCD2 turnover at sites of DNA damage is not known, and would be important to understand the role of protein quantity
- In Italy, 50% of the patients are from Campania



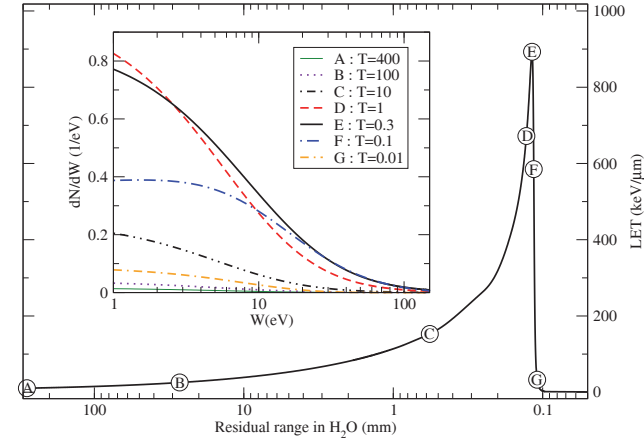
# Low energy ion beams applications in Chemistry

- Mechanistic studies of fundamental processes of ion interactions with atoms/molecules at Bragg Peak
  - Low energy electrons
  - Molecular Fragmentation studies
- Molecular Astrophysics
- Pulse Radiolysis
- Metallic Nanoparticles
- Ion implantation

# Secondary Electrons produced by an ion along a Bragg Peak

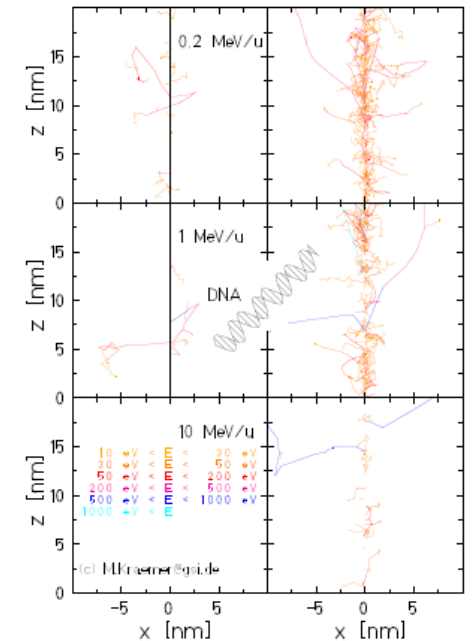


Scifoni, et al., 2009



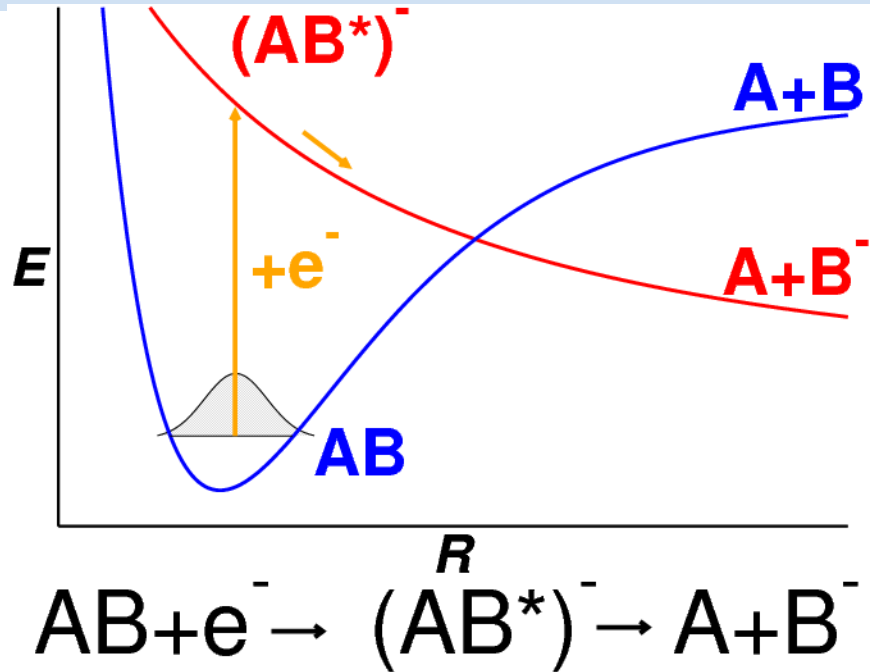
Scifoni Mod Phys Lett 2015

Protons in  $H_2O$  Carbon Ions in  $H_2O$

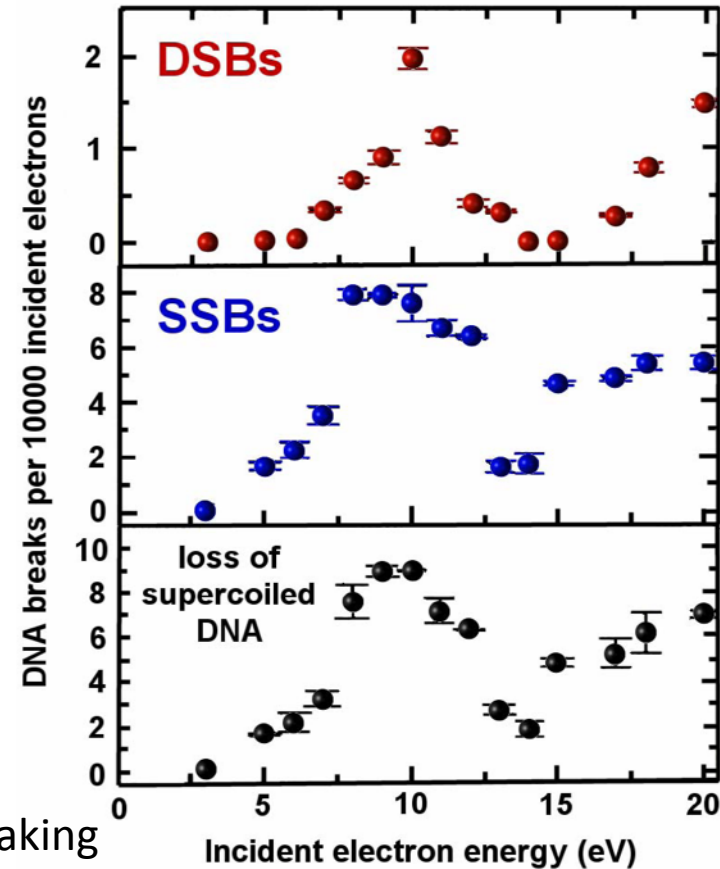


Kraemer et al JPCS 2012

# Low energy Dissociative Electron Attachment (DEA)



An electron attack to a molecule with a resonant energy, **lower** than the dissociation threshold, can lead to a dissociative negative state that evolves towards bond breaking



Many experiments (**Sanche**) and quantum collisional studies on selected DNA components (**Gianturco, Fabrikant**) confirm the presence of these resonances, at low energy, and The resonant mechanism has **comparable** effect to higher energy mechanism



# DEA on DNA components

PNAS

## DNA strand breaks induced by near-zero-electronvolt electron attachment to pyrimidine nucleotides

Xiaoguang Bao<sup>†</sup>, Jing Wang<sup>‡</sup>, Jlande Gu<sup>†‡§</sup>, and Jerzy Leszczynski<sup>†§</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Drug Design and Discovery Center, State Key Laboratory of Drug Research, Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai 201203, People's Republic of China; and <sup>‡</sup>Computational Center for Molecular Structure and Interactions, Department of Chemistry, Jackson State University, Jackson, MS 39217

Edited by Henry Schaefer III, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, and accepted by the Editorial Board February 23, 2006 (received for review December 2, 2005)

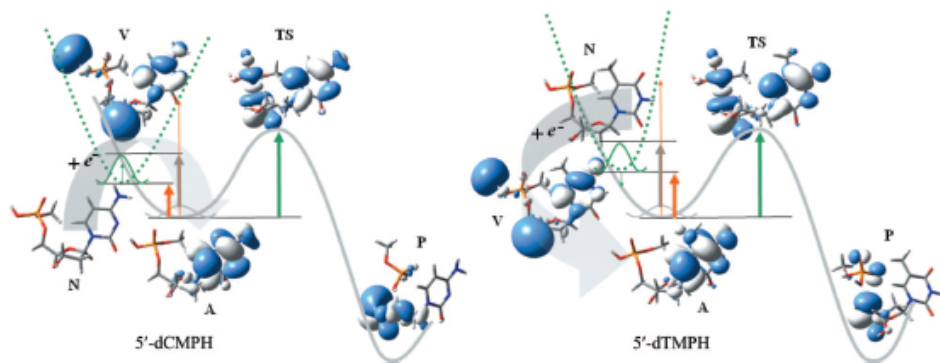
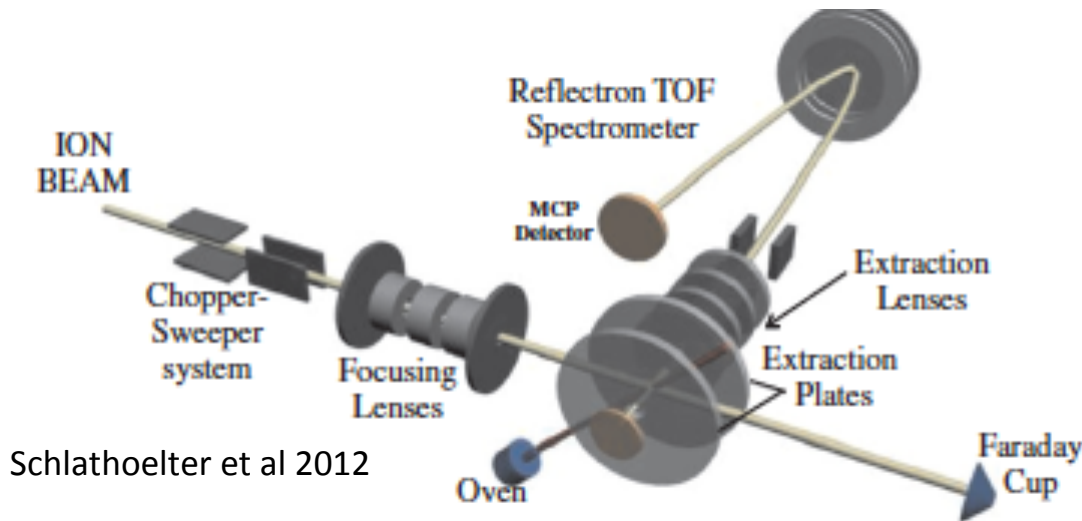


Fig. 2. The distribution of the unpaired electron along the LEE-induced  $C_5-O_5'$  bond-breaking pathway of the nucleotides. A green dotted line represents the potential energy surface of neutral 5'-dCMPH or 5'-dTMPH; a gray solid line represents the potential energy surface of radical anion 5'-dCMPH<sup>-</sup> or 5'-dTMPH<sup>-</sup>. A thin green arrow stands for VAE; a thin orange arrow is for VDE; a thick orange arrow is for ZPE-uncorrected  $EA_{rad}^0$ ; a thick gray arrow is for ZPE-corrected  $EA_{rad}^0$ ; and a thick green arrow is for the activation energy. N, neutral species; A, stable radical anion; V, electron vertical attached radical anion; TS, transition state; and P, bond-broken product.

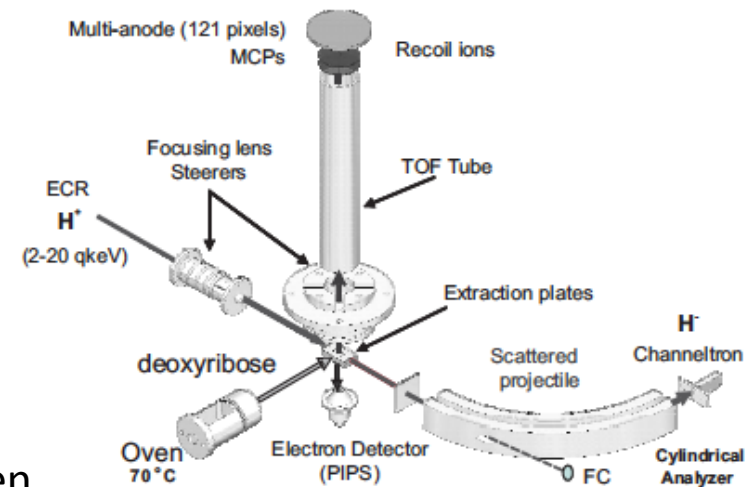
# Molecular fragmentation



Schlathoelter et al 2012

Figure 1 Sketch of the experimental setup

KVI Groeningen



LASIM Lyon

- Different Mass Spectrometer setups allow Ion induced radiation damage study on the molecular level

# Example: Water

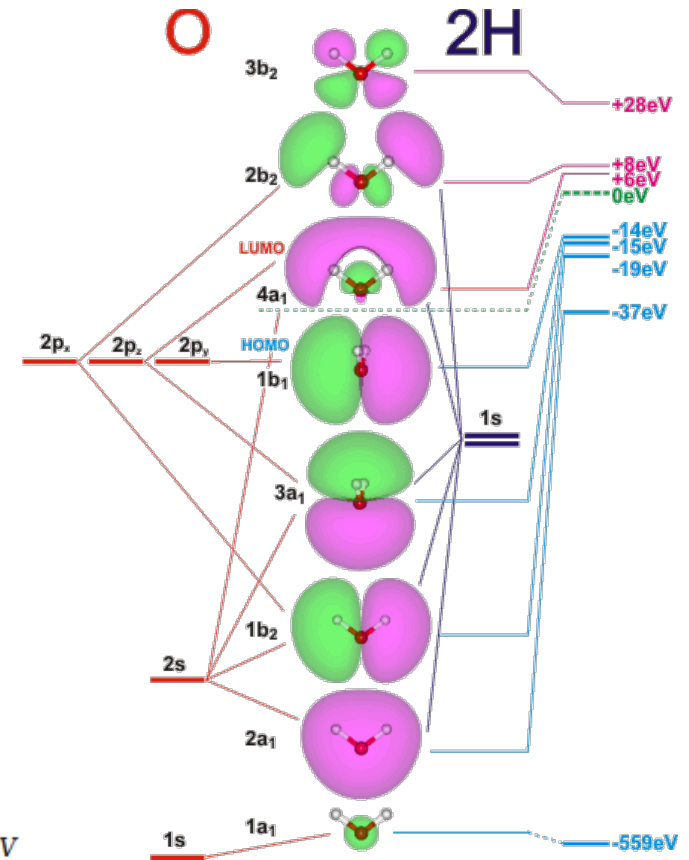
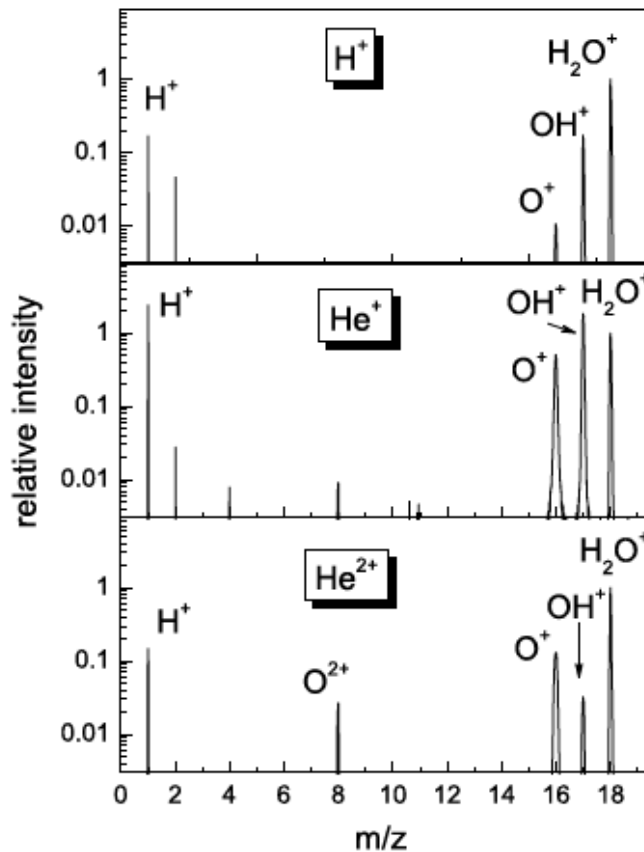


Figure 4.3: Fragmentation spectra of water molecules after collisions with  $H^+$ ,  $He^+$  and  $He^{2+}$  at 6 keV total energy of the projectile.

Alvarado et al. J. Phys. 2006  
 Jahnke et al. Nat. Phys. 2010

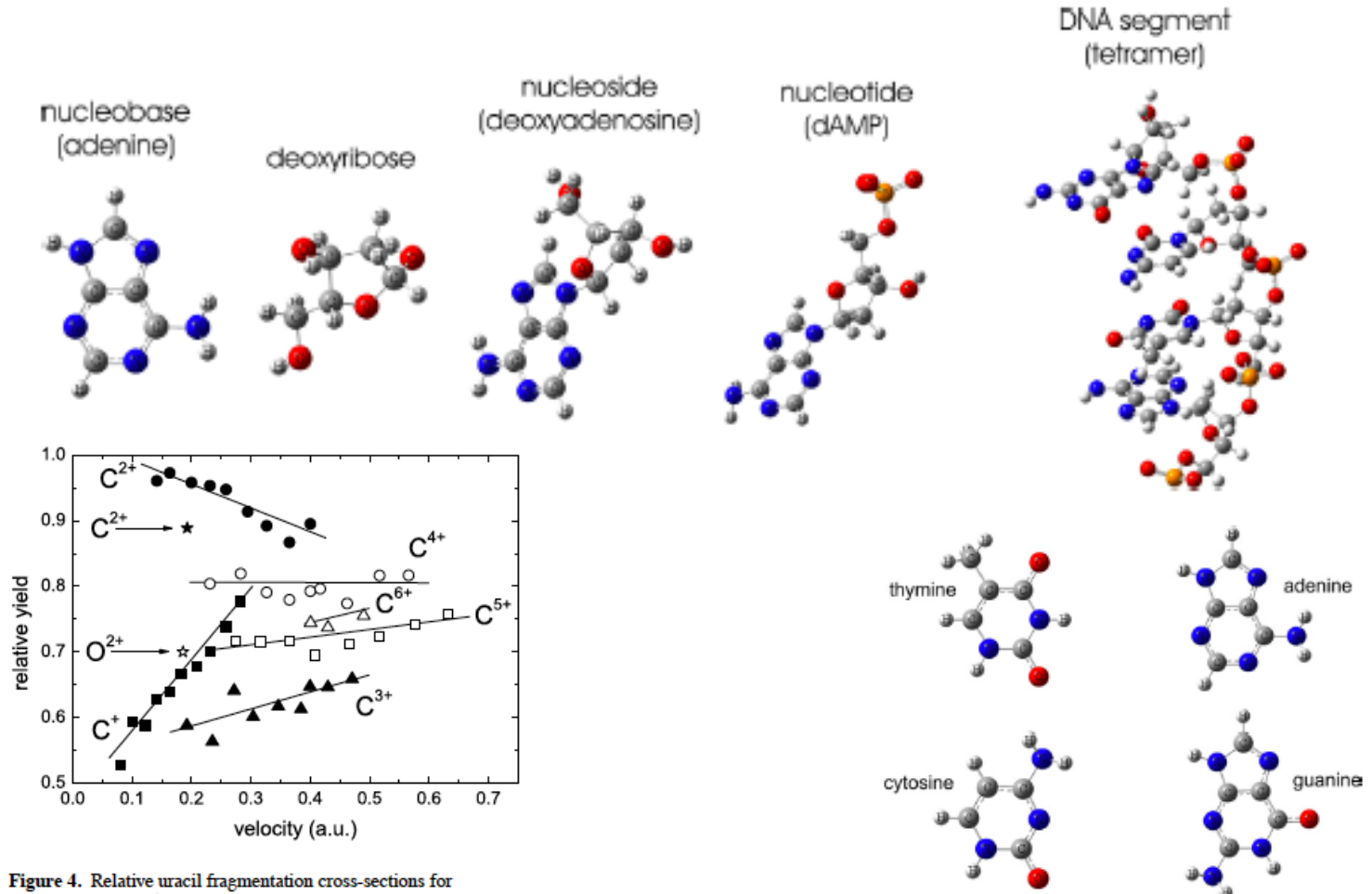
Water Molecular Orbitals



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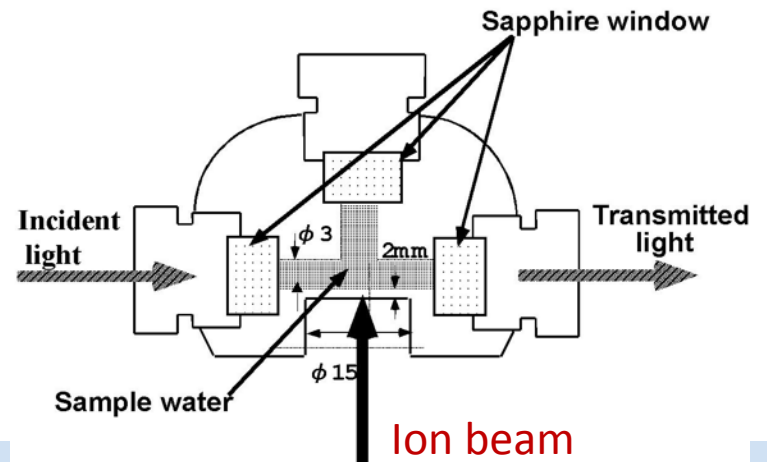
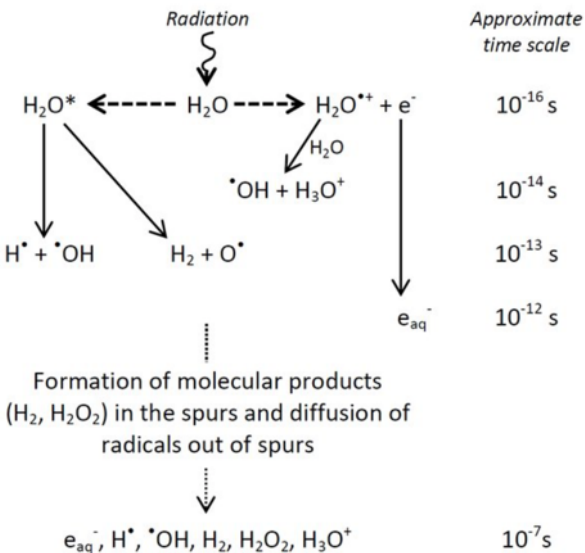
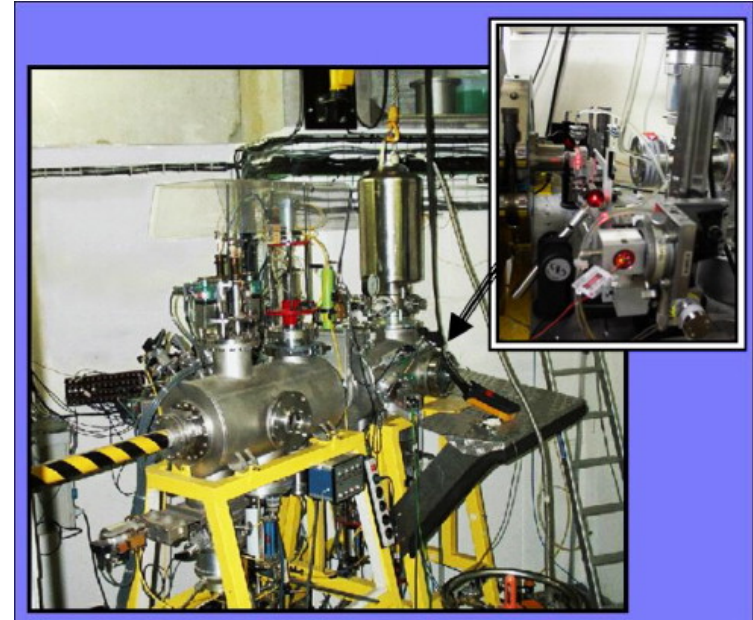
# DNA components

T Schlathöler *et al* Physica Scripta 2007



# Pulse radiolysis

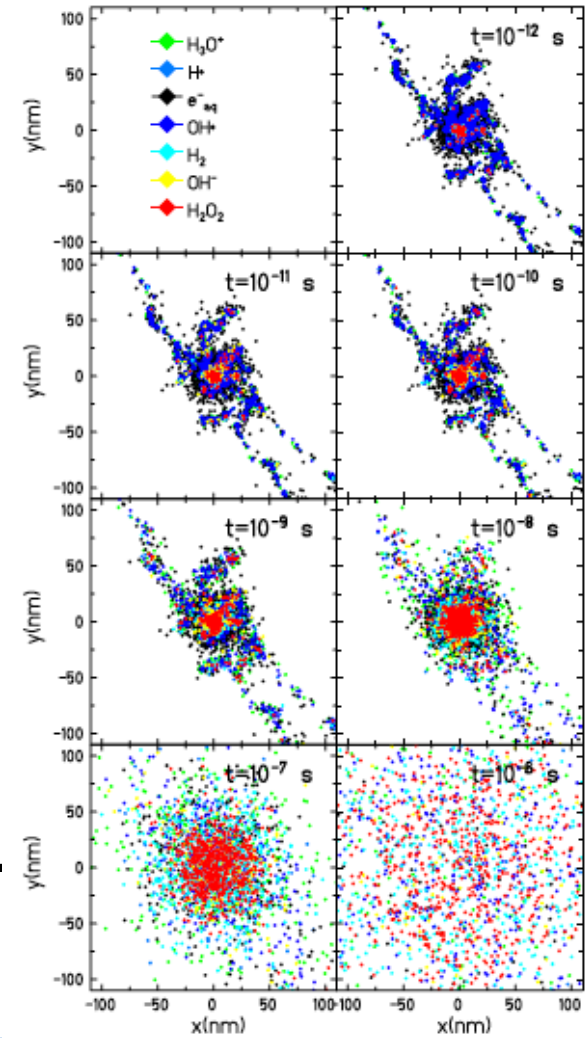
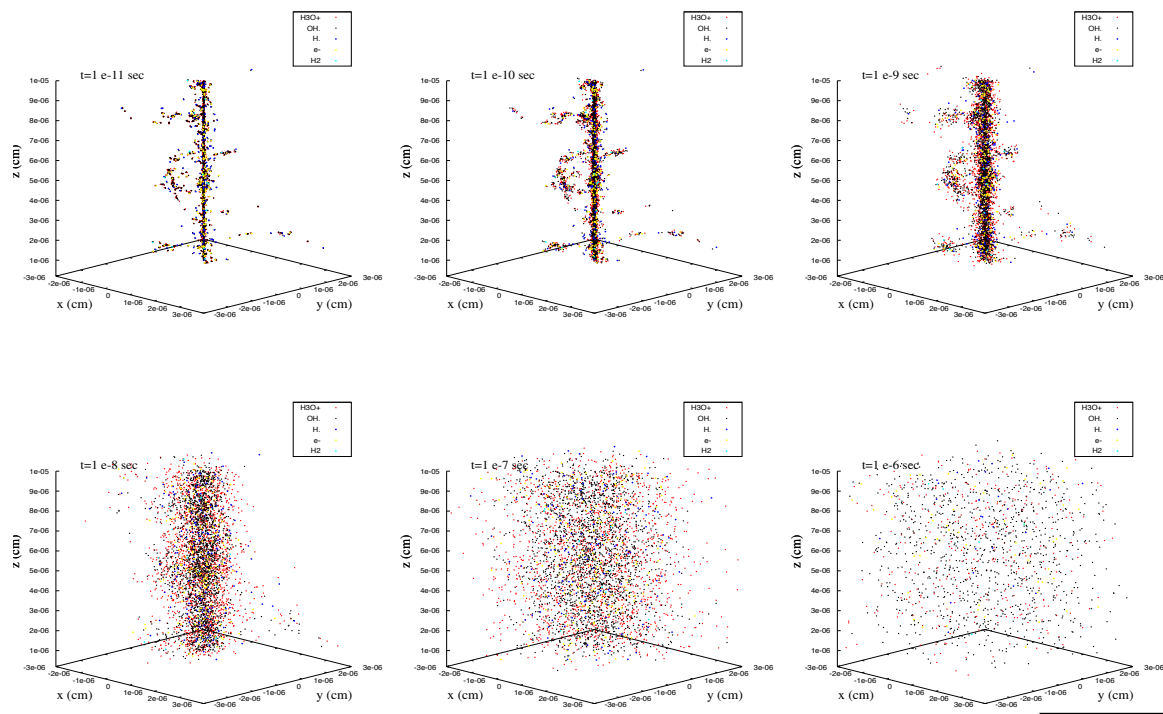
- Tandem type ion accelerators are indicated for pulse radiolysis studies
- Study of chemical evolution with high temporal resolution (ps and beyond)





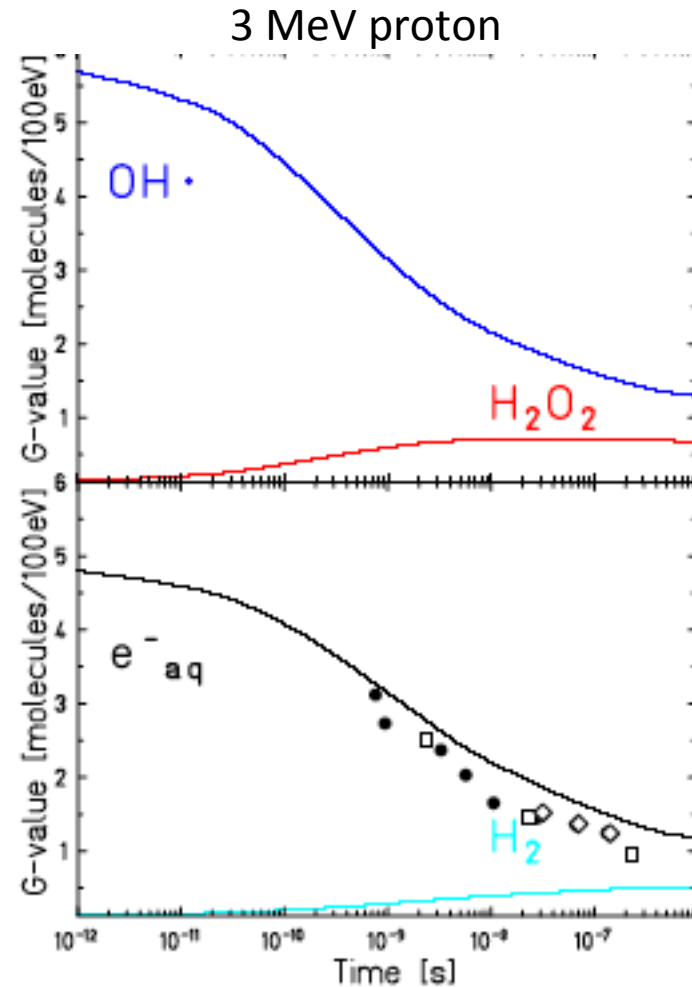
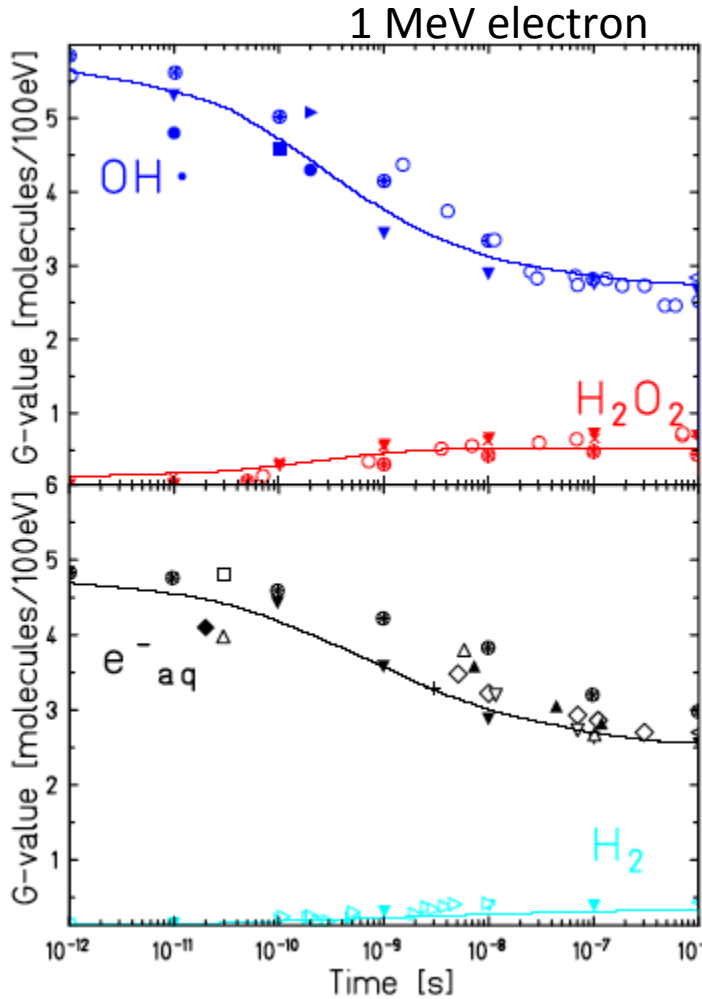
# Ion induced radical species evolution

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



Boscolo, Krämer, Durante, Fuss, Scifoni *Chem Phys Lett* (subm)

# Verification with PR data



Boscolo, Krämer, Durante, Fuss, Scifoni *Chem Phys Lett* (subm)

# San Marzano e Corbarino, alleati contro i tumori intestinali



di Luciano Pignataro



**1 | INTRODUCTION**

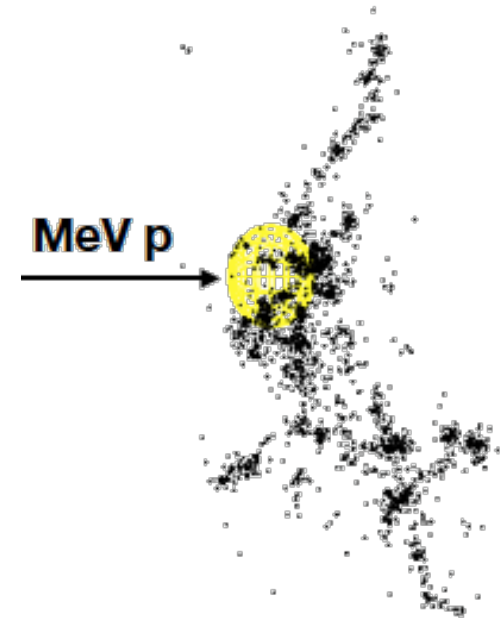
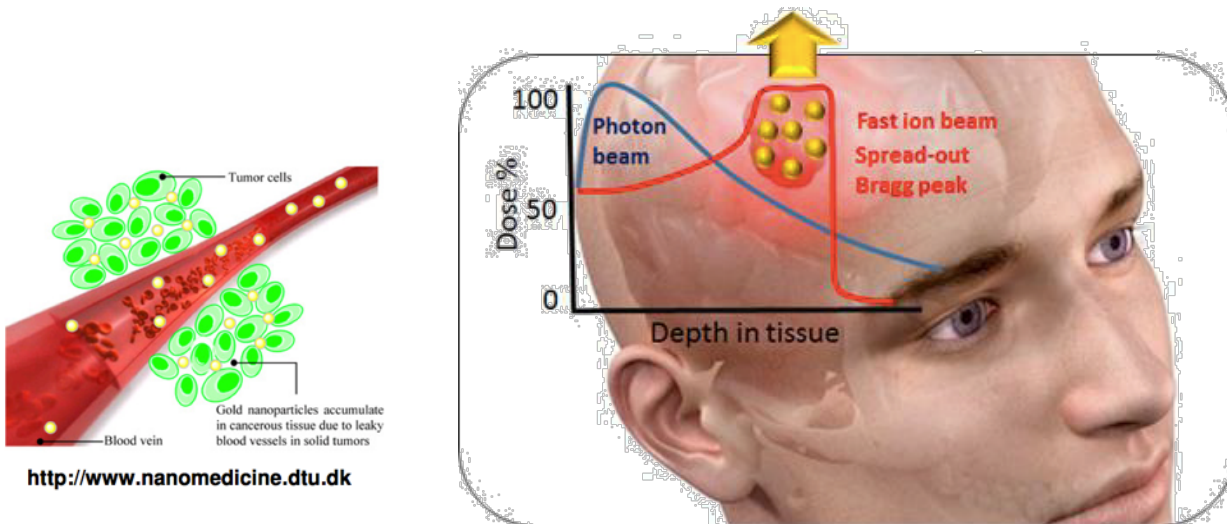
Gastric cancer is still one of the most common digestive tract malignancies. It originates in benign or malignant lesions of the gastric mucosa, which can progress to gastric cancer. The most common histological type is adenocarcinoma, which is characterized by the presence of malignant glandular structures. The incidence of gastric cancer is increasing worldwide, with a significant increase in the incidence of gastric cancer in the developing countries. The incidence of gastric cancer is increasing worldwide, with a significant increase in the incidence of gastric cancer in the developing countries. The incidence of gastric cancer is increasing worldwide, with a significant increase in the incidence of gastric cancer in the developing countries.

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Che i pomodori facciano bene alla salute è cosa nota. Ma la ricerca continua a regalare grandi sorprese. Protagonisti il San Marzano e il Corbarino, potenti alleati della lotta al cancro. Un nuovo studio ha dimostrato infatti che il trattamento con estratti totali di queste due varietà di pomodoro inibisce la crescita e le caratteristiche maligne delle cellule di cancro gastrico. Lo studio, apparso venerdì sul Journal of Cellular Physiology, si è concentrato sul cancro gastrico, che è il quarto tipo di cancro più diffuso al mondo. Lo sviluppo di questa patologia è associato sia a cause genetiche che ad infezioni sostenute da Helicobacter pylori ma soprattutto ad abitudini alimentari errate, come l'eccessivo consumo di prodotti affumicati e salati. Gli autori principali dello studio, Daniela Barone e Letizia Cito, del gruppo di ricerca diretto da Antonio Giordano presso l'Istituto Nazionale Tumori di Napoli, Fondazione Pascale, CROM, hanno esaminato gli effetti del San Marzano e del Corbarino.

# Gold nanoparticles as proton sensitizers

The addition of Gold NP has been suggested as a possibility to radiosensitize tumors, thanks to the possibility to selectively targeting tumor cells and the enhancement in electron production



# Au secondary electrons verification

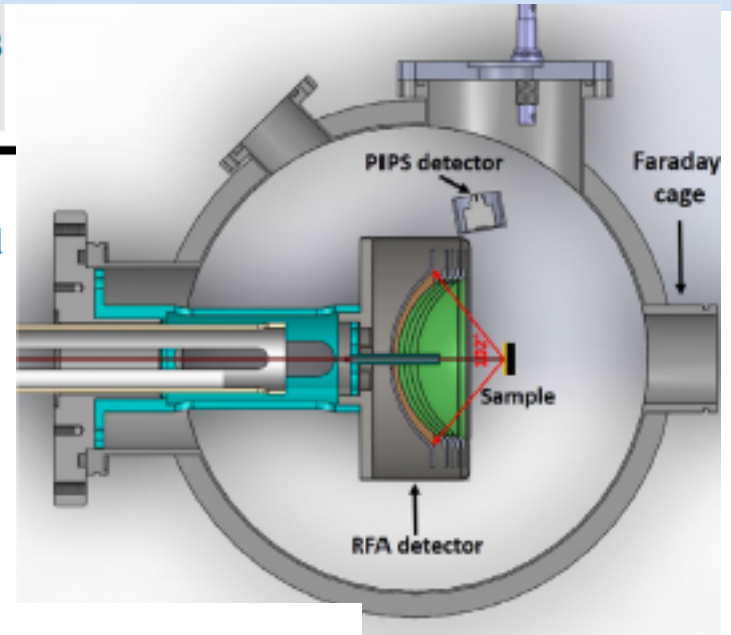
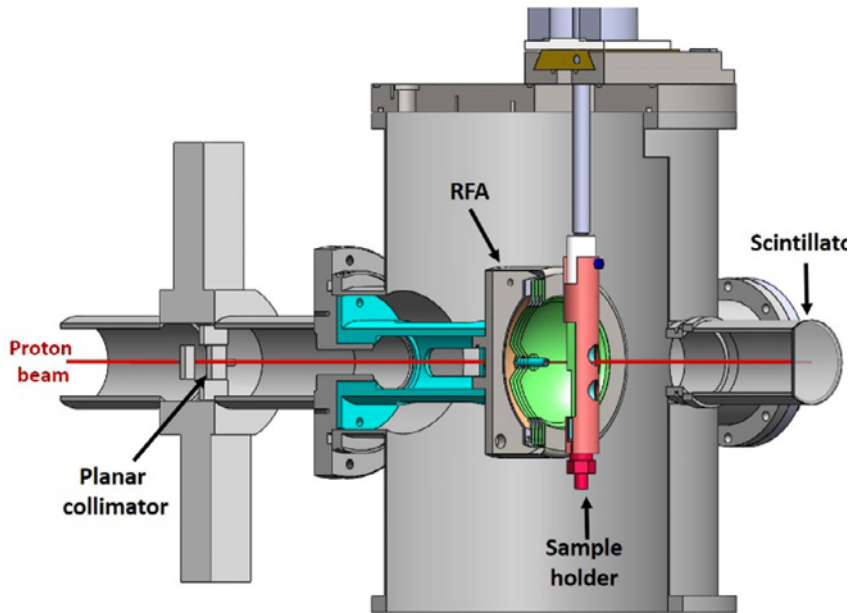


Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research B

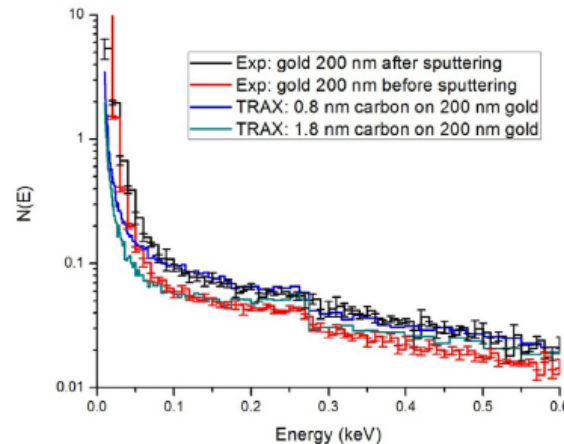
journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/nimb](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/nimb)

Backscattered electron emission after proton impact on carbon and gold films: Experiments and simulations

F. Hespeels<sup>a</sup>, A.C. Heuskin<sup>a</sup>, E. Scifoni<sup>b,c</sup>, M. Kraemer<sup>c</sup>, S. Lucas<sup>a,\*</sup> (2017)



Retarding Field Analyzer (RFA).



Retarding field analyzer allows to Collect Spectra of secondary electrons By scanning the retarding field potential

Altis 2-MV TANDEM accel @ Namur



Trento Institute for Fundamental Physics and Applications

# Ion implantation

Generating defects in solids, through ion beams, for i.e. semicond device realization

Light ions/at higher energy  $\rightarrow$  more electronic stopping

Heavier ions/at lower energy  $\rightarrow$  more nuclear stopping

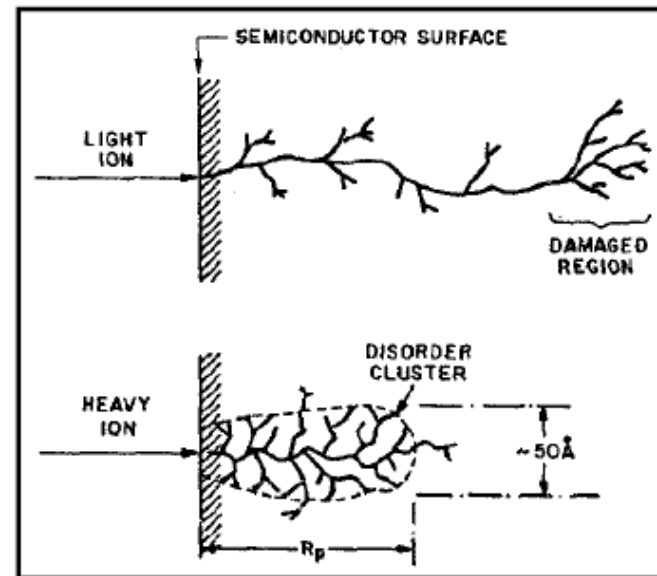
## EXAMPLES

Implanting into Si:

$H^+$   $\Rightarrow$  Electronic stopping dominates

$B^+$   $\Rightarrow$  Electronic stopping dominates

$As^+$   $\Rightarrow$  Nuclear stopping dominates



# Conclusions

- Low-energy accelerators are a powerful tool in biochemistry
- Investments in infrastructures (e.g. microscopes for FLIM, mass spectrometry for molecular fragmentation etc.) are necessary to attract users from chemistry and biology
- Such a facility would be unique in Italy and likely to attract users from all over Europe