



Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare

# FRIDA

*FLASH Radiotherapy with high Dose-rate particle beams*

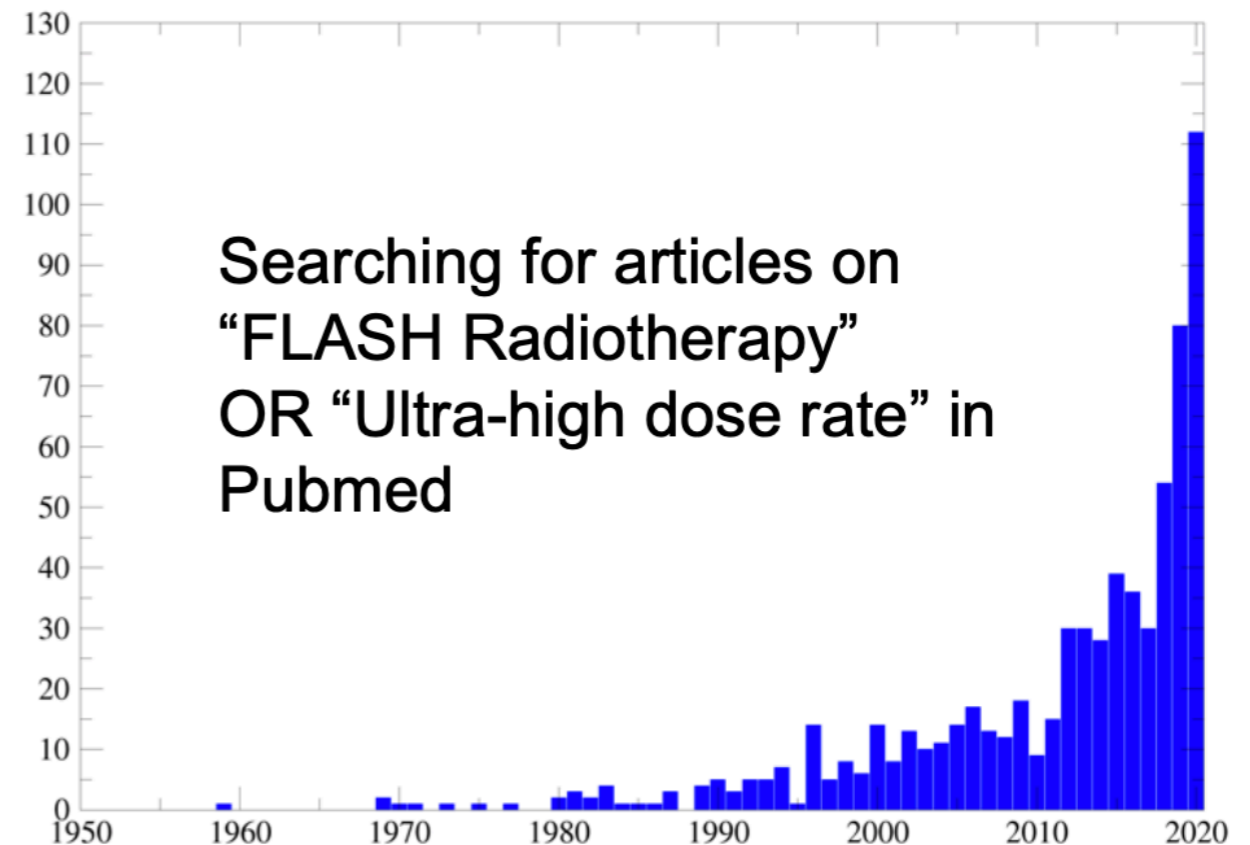
*National: Dr A Sarti (Roma 1)*

*Local: Dr GAP Cirrone*

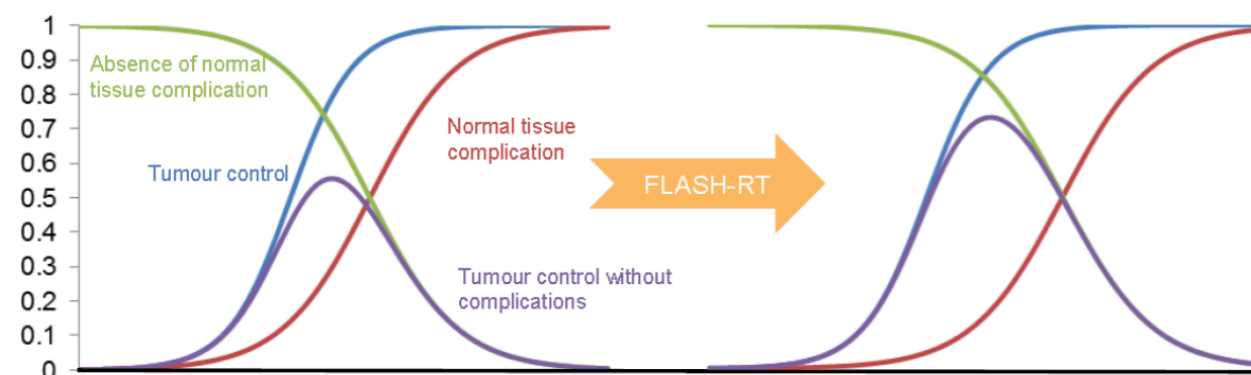
# FRIDA motivations

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- For a long time, one of the paradigm in External Beam Radio & Particle Therapy was the one indicating that ‘the slower.. the better’:  
=> the overall dose to the patient had to be ‘fractionated’ to give enough time to the normal tissues (NT) to recover.. as NT recovers better than the tumour ones..
- Actually, already sixty years ago a preliminary indication that, instead, going to very high dose rates could result in a better sparing of normal tissues was already obtained.. But the effect at that time was not considered to be significant enough to trigger dedicated investigations.



## Potential for widening the therapeutic window



# FRIDA motivations

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**High dose rate beams** represent one of the frontier of the external radiotherapy

Radiations (electrons, protons, X) with dose rates **exceeding the 40 Gy/sec**, show an increase in the NTCP (Normal Tissue Control Probability)-TCP (Tumour Control Probability) curves

The FLASH effect **has been already observed** in many conditions, in-vivo and in-vitro and clinical trials on patients are ongoing

But the FLASH effects **is not still understood** and the dosimetry and monitoring of such beams is a challenge

# FRIDA main goals

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## WP1: FLASH effects understanding

G Forte (CNR-IBFM and LNS), E Scifoni (TIFPA)

Understanding the phenomena at chemical and biological level

## WP2: FLASH beam delivery

GAP Cirrone (LNS), A Mostacci (RM1)

Implementing new solution to generate flash beam with conventional and laser-driven approaches

## WP3: FLASH beam monitoring and dosimetry

G Bisogni (INFN-PI), A Vignati (INFN-TO)

Developing new approaches for the absolute dosimetry and the monitoring of these new beams

## WP4: FLASH Treatment planning

A Schiavi (RM1), M Schwarz (TIFPA)

Implementing solutions for the FLASH-oriented treatment planning



# FRIDA participant units and INFN-LNS role

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INFN-CT

INFN-Mi

INFN-Pi

Roma1

TIFPA

Torino

INFN-LNS

Contribution on **WP1** for the understanding of the radiobiology models staying at the base of FLASH

Contribution on **WP2**, for the development of new systems to delivery electron FLASH beams with conventional approaches and proton FLASH beams with laser-driven approaches

Contribution on **WP3** for the development of new, non-invasive techniques for the monitoring of proton FLASH beams

**TOTAL FTE: 24.1**

# FRIDA involved people and funds requests

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## Requests

273.800 € - Three years

56.000 € personnel

57.000 € travel

160.800 € consumable and  
equipment

Bravatà	50
Calvaruso	50
Cammarata	10
Catalano	10
Cirrone	20
Cuttone	10
Ficarra	100
Forte	70
Patti	30
Minafra	10
Petringa	10
Russo	50
Torrìsi	10

# 2022 - Funds

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Sigla Loc.	Capitolo	Riunione	Note Alla Richiesta	Rich.	Rich. SJ	Assegn.	Assegn. SJ	Assegn. Dot.	Assegn. Ant.	Assegn. Ant. Dot.	Commento Alla Assegnazione	
LNS	MISS	Assegnazioni	Experimental tests at Queens Univ., ELI-Beamlines (CZ) and other facilities	4.0	0.0	3.0						
		Assegnazioni	Experimental tests at INO-CNR (Pisa) and ELI- Beamlines (CZ)	2.0	0.0	1.0						
		Assegnazioni	Radiobiology exp. at Tifpa	8.0	0.0	0.0	6.0				SJ alla assegnazione del tempo macchina	
		<b>Totale MISS</b>			<b>14.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	
	CON	Assegnazioni	Needs for the experimental set-up preparation	3.0	0.0	0.0						
		Assegnazioni	Acquisto del 50% dei "coil target". La restante parte sarà acquistata dalla QUB University (Belfast). L'offerta dei coil target è allegata	11.0	0.0	11.0						
		Assegnazioni	Meccanica di accoppiamento tra i coil target e il sistema di focalizzazione quadrupolare	2.0	0.0	2.0						
		<b>Totale CON</b>			<b>16.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	
	TRA	Assegnazioni	Transport of detectors to Queens Univ (UK) and ELI- Beamlines (CZ)	1.0	0.0	1.0						
		Assegnazioni	Transport of detectors to INO-CNR (Pisa) and ELI- Beamlines (CZ)	2.0	0.0	1.0						
		<b>Totale TRA</b>			<b>3.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	
	INV	Assegnazioni	Integrating Current Transformer Detector for beam monitoring	18.0	0.0	0.0	18.0					SJ alla presentazione di una relazione da discutere coi referee
		<b>Totale INV</b>			<b>18.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	
	SPSERVIZI	Assegnazioni	Assegno di ricerca biennale (quota per il primo anno)	28.5	0.0	0.0						Concordato con il RL lo spostamento dell'assegno junior al 2023
		<b>Totale SPSERVIZI</b>			<b>28.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	
<b>Totale LNS</b>				<b>79.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>		
<b>Totale Generale FRIDA</b>				<b>79.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>		



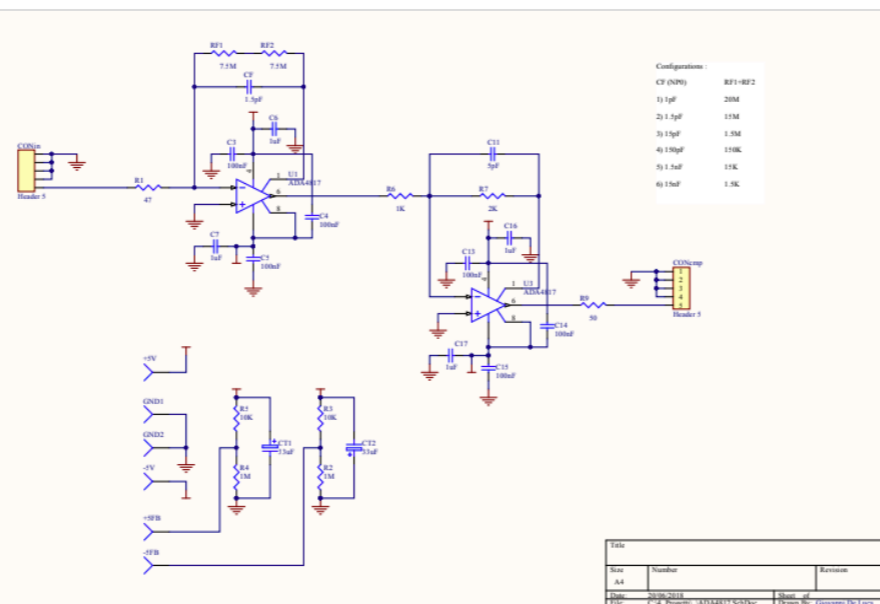
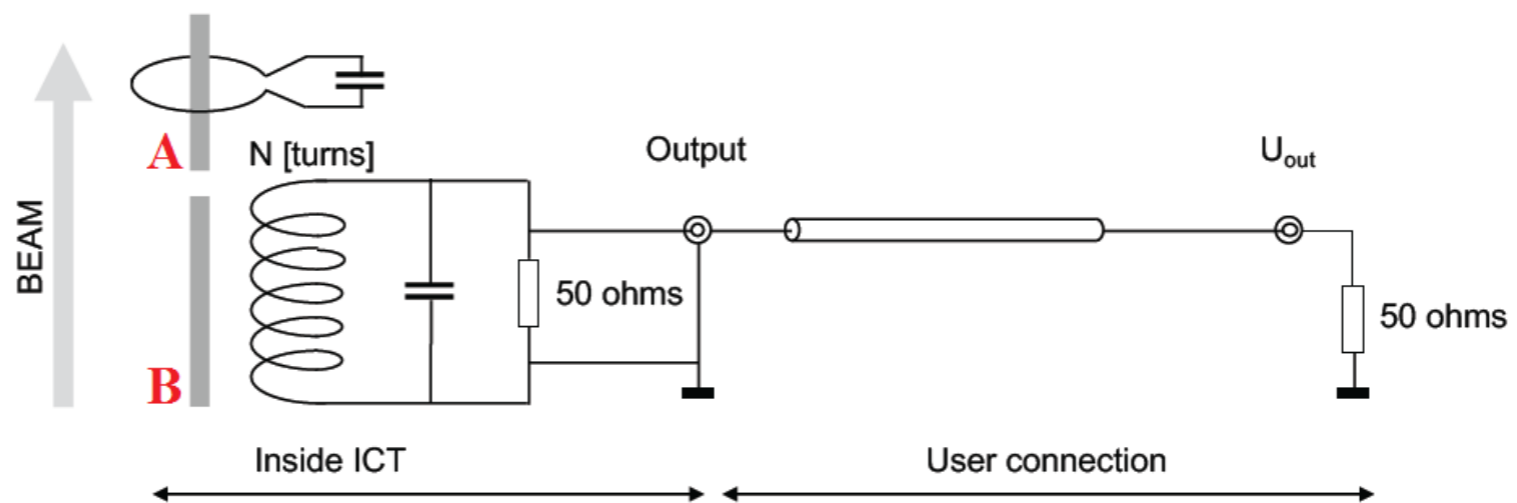
# WP3 and WP2

=> experimental session  
@ELI-NP

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$1\text{fs} \leq T_w \leq 70\text{ ns}$   
Sensitivity:  $5\text{ Vs/C}$   
N. of turns: 5  
Electr. noise:  $0,55\text{ pC}_{\text{rms}}$



The electronic readout will  
be realized  
@LNS-INFN

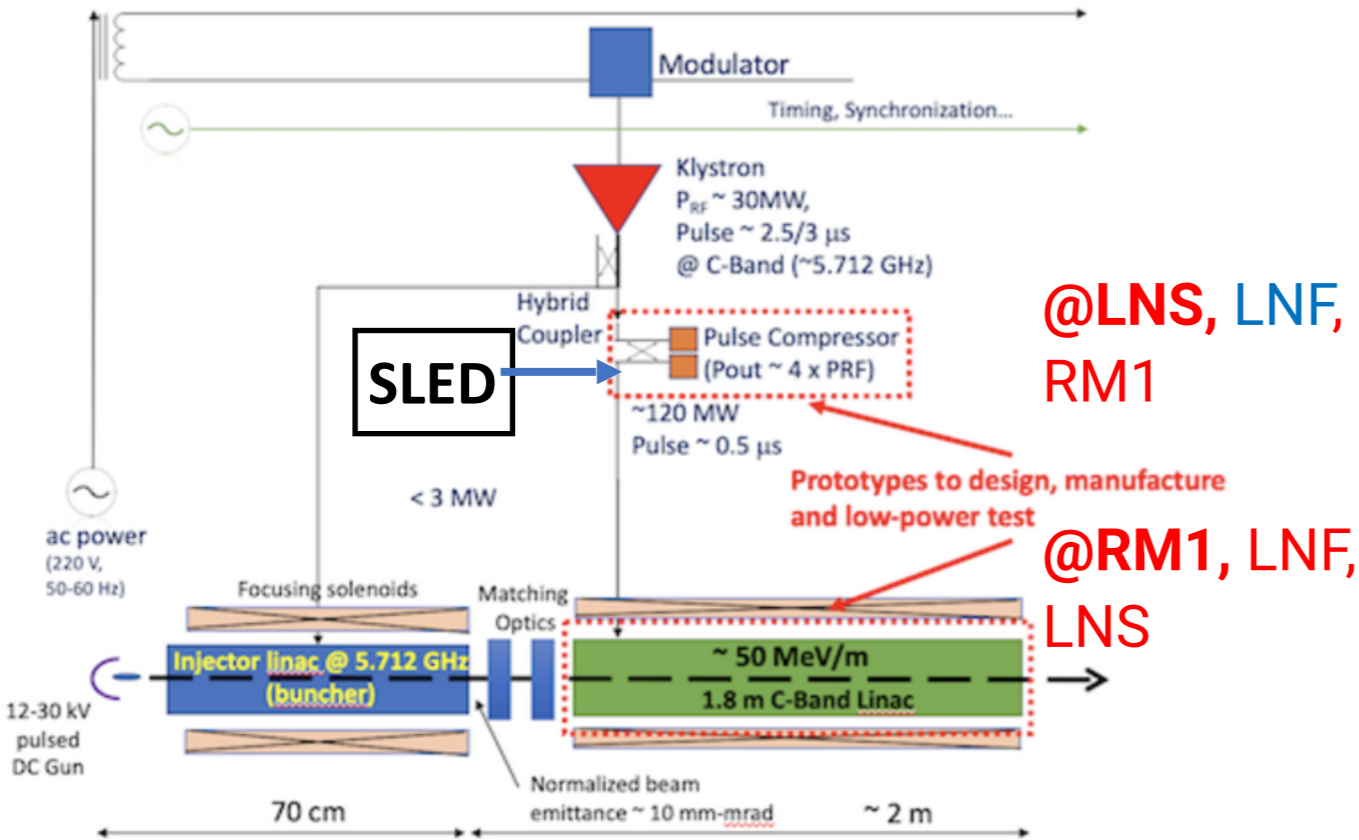
Fast Charge Amplifier  
High Speed Peak Detector

Coil targets will be realized and optimized to perform experimental test with TW class laser  
@ ELI-NP (short pulses)



# WP2: RF accelerator

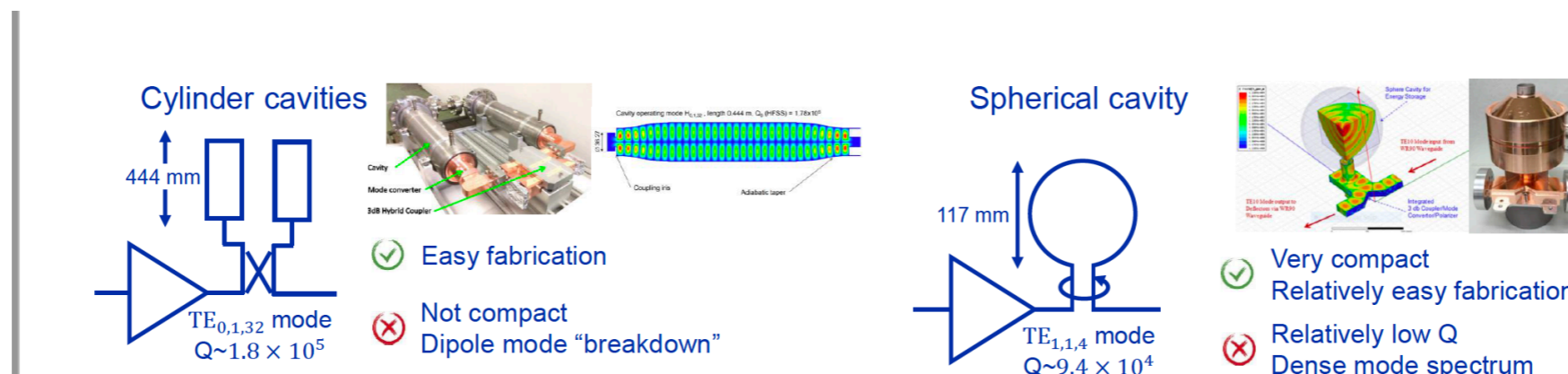
## Very High Energy Electron (VHEE) Linac modular Layout



## WP2 Milestones and Deliverables

D2.1.2	RF accelerating structure design	Design of the high gradient accelerating structure prototype	18
D2.2.1	RF compr. design	Design of the SLED RF pulse compressor.	18
D2.1.3	RF accel. structure manufacturing	Manufacturing high gradient accelerating prototype	24
D2.2.2	RF compressor manufacturing	Manufacturing of the pulse compressor prototype	24
D2.1.4	RF accelerating structure test	Low power RF tests of accelerating prototype	36
D2.2.3	RF compr. test	Low power RF tests of the SLED prototype	36

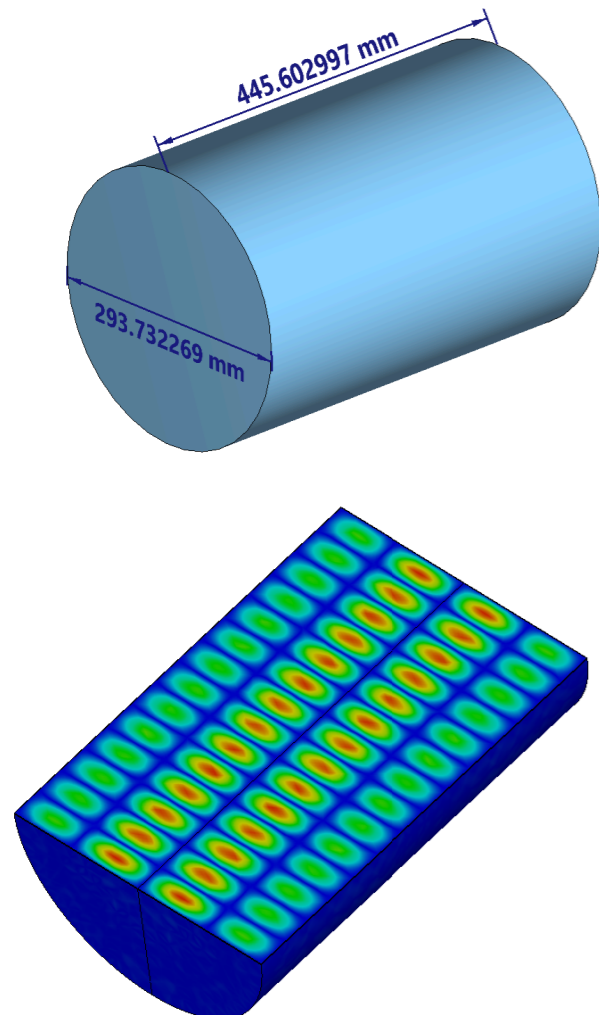
## SLED-type PULSE COMPRESSOR: selected geometries for comparison



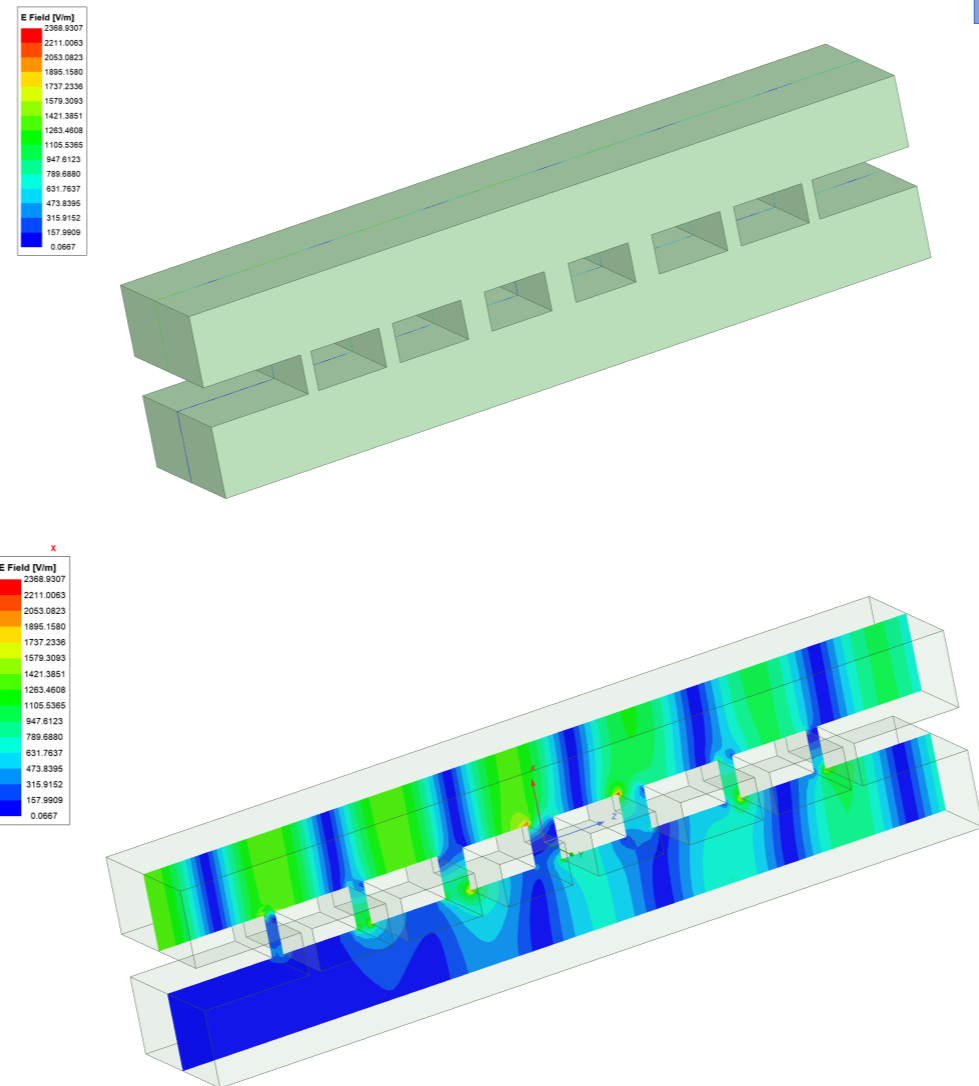
# WP2: RF accelerator

Design step:  
1. Storage cavity design

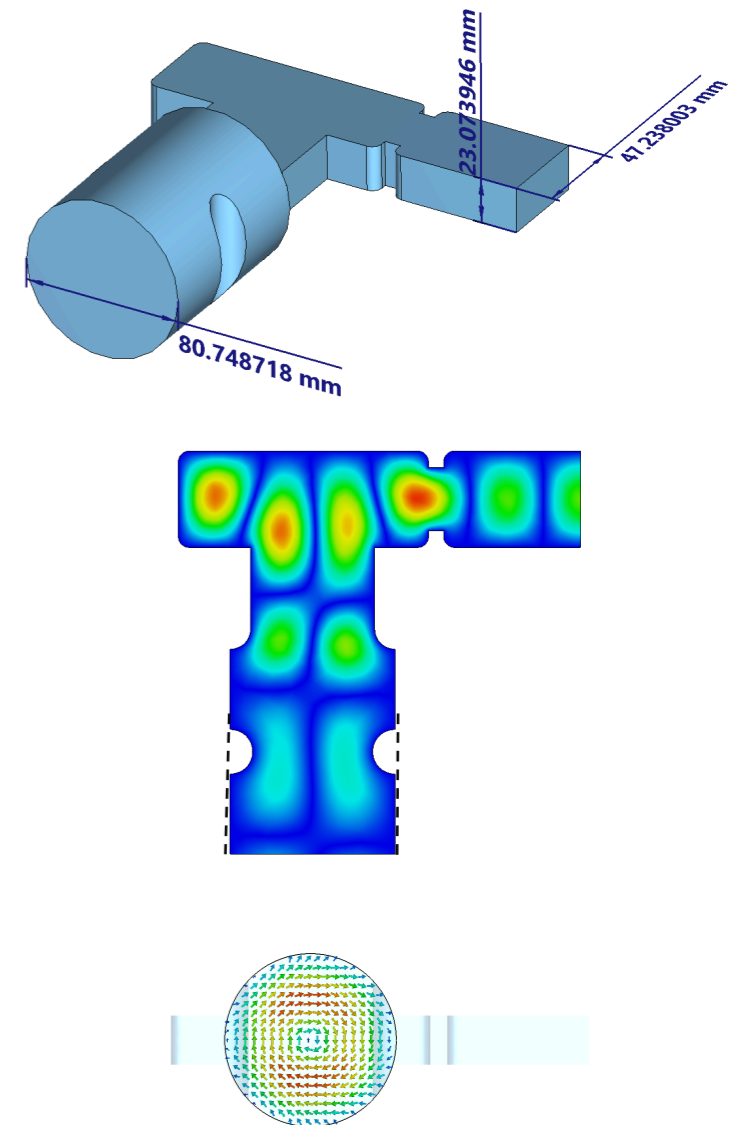
$TE_{0,2,14}$  mode ( $Q_0 = 2e5$ ,  $f=5.235$  GHz,  $\text{Beta}=2-8$ )








Design step:  
2. NOVEL 3 dB hybrid RF design



Design step:  
3. rect  $TE_{10}$  to circ  $TE_{01}$  mode converter



# Status - 2022

- ▶ resonant mode 
- ▶ Q-factor 
- ▶ coupling constant of the cavity 
- ▶ VSWR 
- ▶ machining accuracy required *ongoing*
- ▶ maximum peak surface *ongoing*
- ▶ coil target realization *ongoing*
- ▶ ICT realization 

# Richieste 2023

**FTE 2022 => verranno  
riconfermati nel 2023**

consumo

11k€ coil target

50k€ SLED RF pulse compressor prototype

10k€ SLED compressor for low power test

5k€ radiobiological experiments

missioni

7k€ esperimenti facility lasers

8k€ esperimenti radiobiologia

2k€ meeting a LNF

trasporto

3k€



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# NEPTUNE

*Nuclear process driven Enhancement of Proton  
Therapy Unraveled*

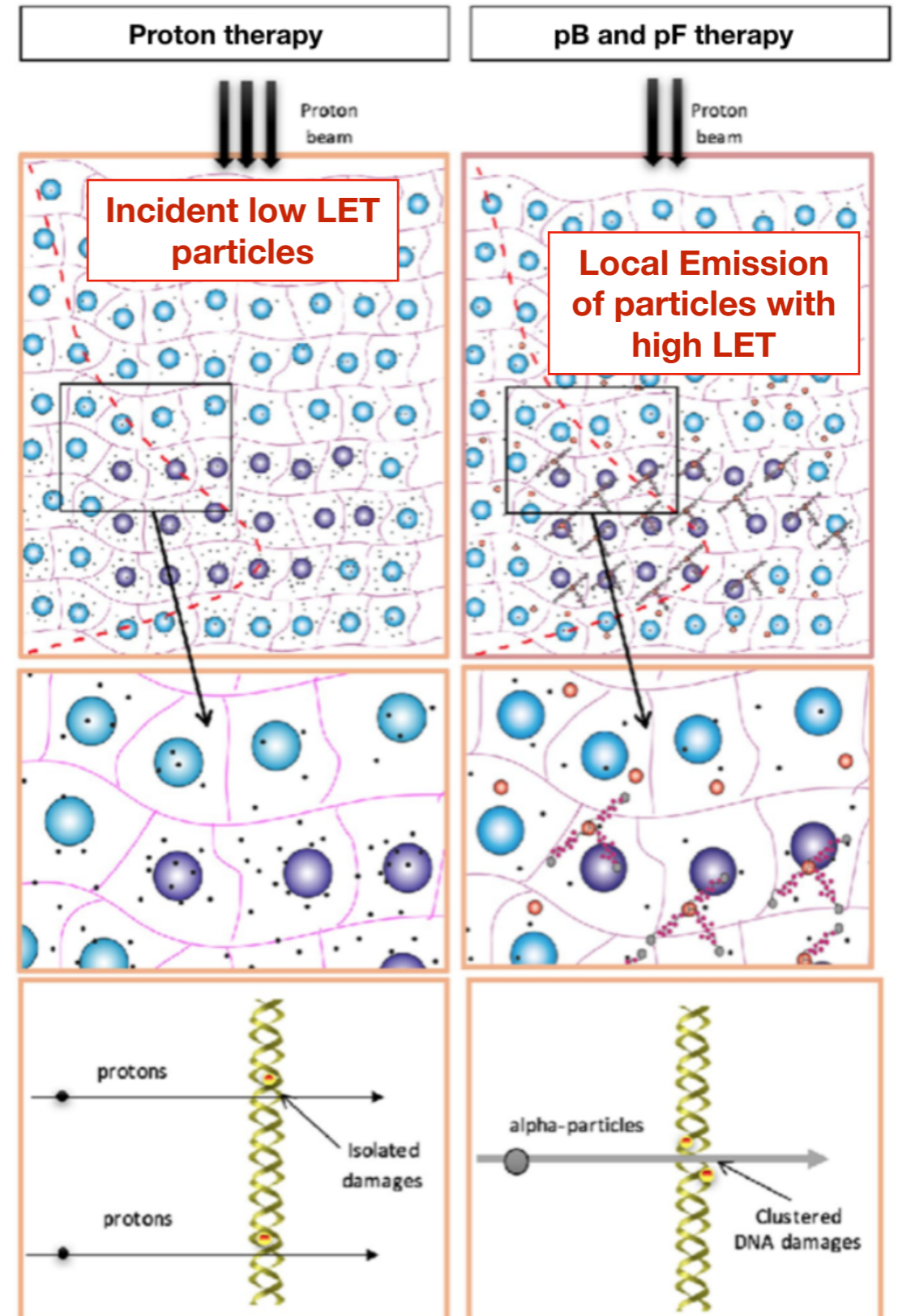
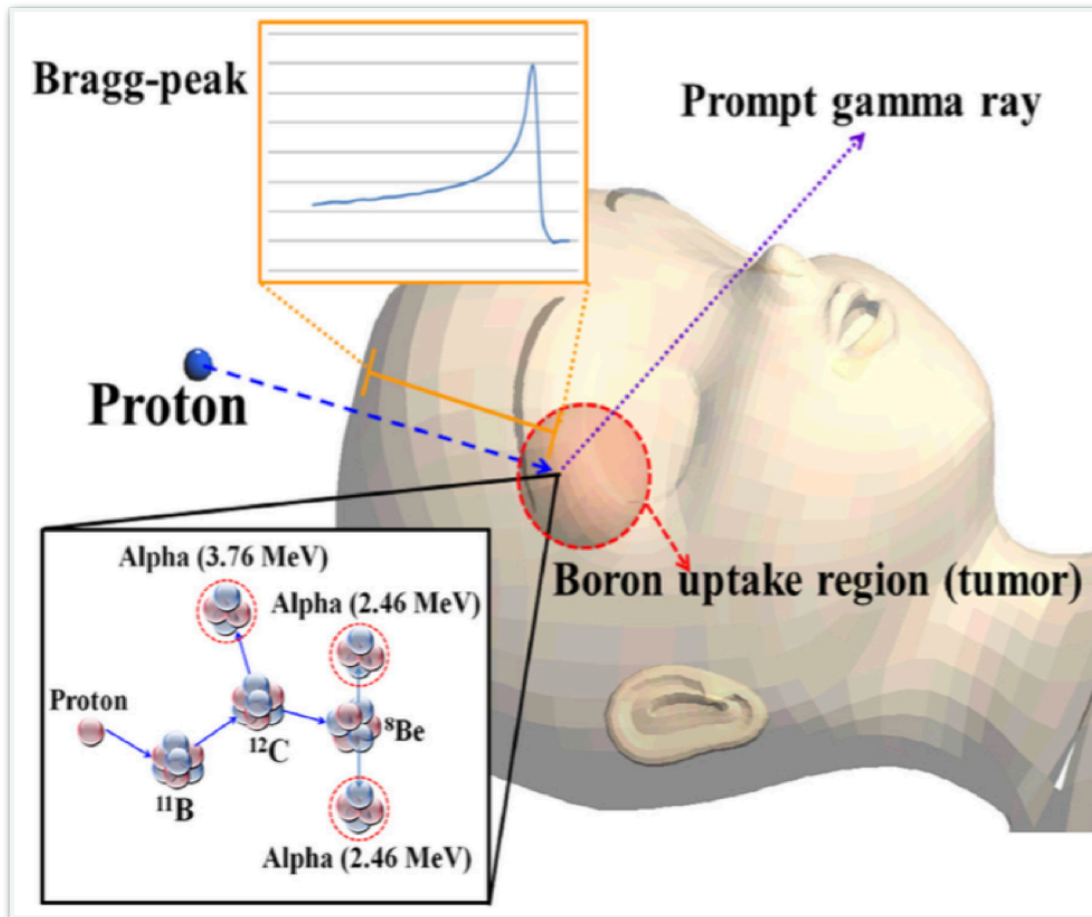
*National: Dr Giacomo Cuttone*

*Local: Dr Giacomo Cuttone*



# NEPTUNE Main Goal

14



nature.com > scientific reports > articles > article

**SCIENTIFIC REPORTS**

Article | OPEN | Published: 18 January 2018

**First experimental proof of Proton Boron Capture Therapy (PBCT) to enhance protontherapy effectiveness**

G. A. P. Cirrone , L. Manti, D. Margarone, G. Petringa, L. Giuffrida, A. Minopoli, A. Picciotto, G. Russo, F. Cammarata, P. Pisciotto, F. M. Perozziello, F. Romano, V. Marchese, G. Milluzzo, V. Scuderi, G. Cuttone & G. Korn

Scientific Reports 8, Article number: 1141 (2018) | Download Citation 

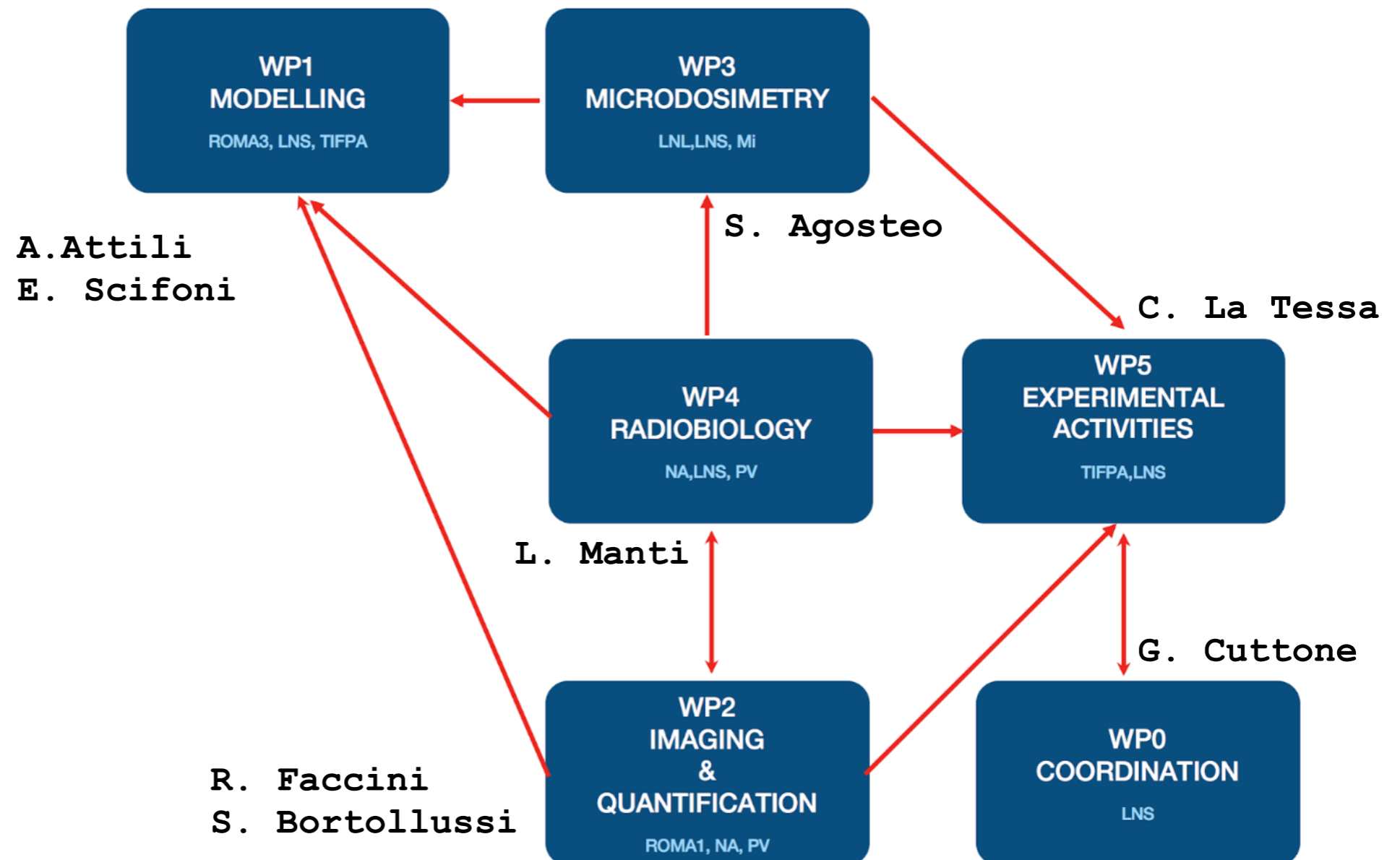
# NEPTUNE Structure

15

Call-Project

Project duration: 3 years (2019-2021)

INFN Participant units: LNS,Roma3, Milano,LNL, Roma1,Pavia,Napoli,TIFPA,





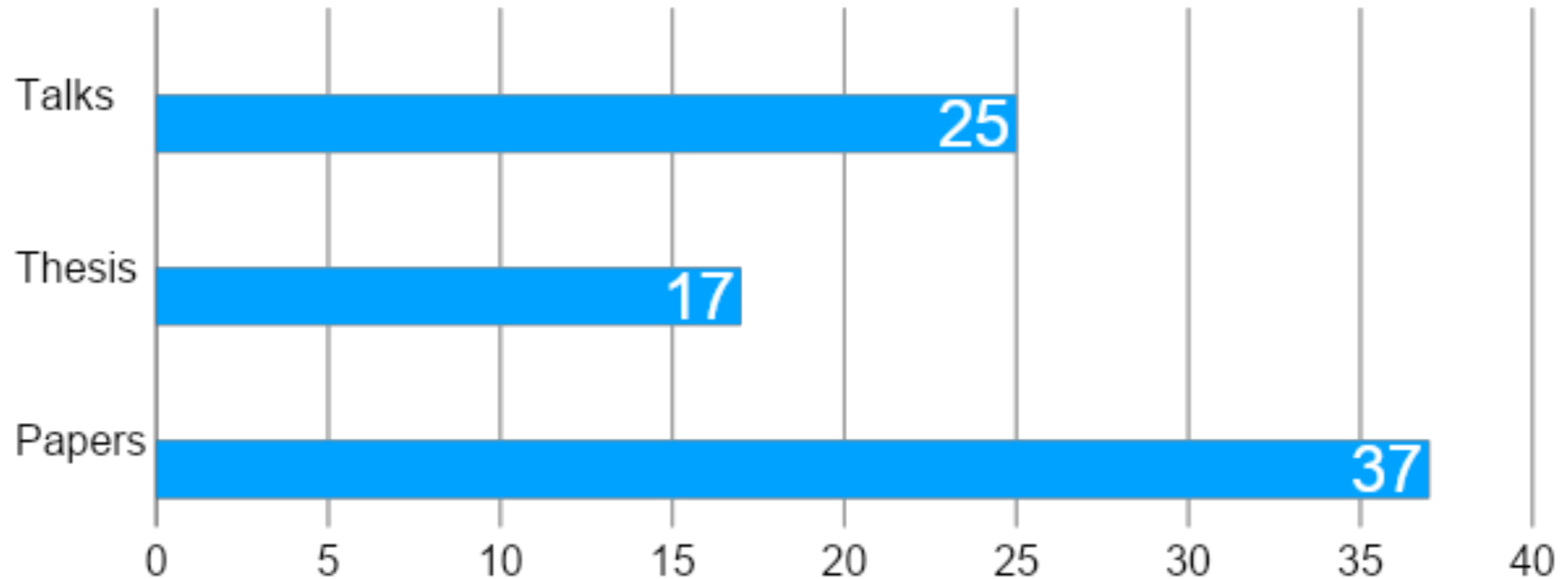
# Important Results

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- **Molecula:** BPA was identified as best molecula in terms of toxicity and 11B concentration;
- **Radiobiological experiments:** different radiobiological endpoints (survival, ROS, chromosome aberrations, pathway repairs) with different incident proton energies (60 MeV and 150 MeV) and different LET (1 keV/um up to 20keV/um) was studied;
- **Microdosimetric measurements:** experimental campaigns were performed adopted 3 different detectors along the same SOBP adopted for the radiobiological experiments;
- **Neutron contamination:** the flux of neutron was experimentally evaluated;

# Scientific production

17



MAECI - Grande rivelanza project (2019-2021) melanoma cells

PRIN - PBCT (2020-2023) melanoma cells

pB

# Richiesta prolungamento

18

La richiesta di estensione di un anno è stata dettata dall'esigenza di completare l'attività che era stata prevista per l'anno 2020-2021. A causa della situazione epidemiologica non è stato possibile condurre gli esperimenti radiobiologia e microdosimetria volti a quantificare l'effetto biologico del  $^{19}\text{F}$  (WP4 e WP3).

Il 2022 è dedicato alle misure sperimentali con F-BPA e target di  $^{19}\text{F}$ . Inoltre, il WP2 si sta dedicando allo studio di tossicità della molecola FDG, un potenziale carrier adottabile per la reazione p- $^{19}\text{F}$ .

Infine il WP1 si sta occupando di simulare il danno indotto dalla presenza nelle cellule di atomi di  $^{19}\text{F}$  e nel contempo completerà gli studi sui radicali liberi e sulla modellizzazione del bystander effect.

# Project Status - Third year

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Deadline	Description	%
30/06	WP4 - Cellular and biomolecular studies on the possible enhancement of clinical proton biological effectiveness due to combined proton-boron and proton-fluorine reactions	80%
30/06	WP4 - Pre-clinical relevant effects and elucidation of the radiobiological mechanisms underlying the potential use of proton- boron and/or proton-fluorine nuclear fusion reaction to enhance protontherapy efficacy	?
31/12	WP3 - Measurement of microdosimetric spectra across the proton Bragg peak at TIFPA and CNAO with the 4 microdosimeters with tissue-equivalent (TE) walls/converters unloaded and loaded with natural B, B-11 and F	40%
31/12	WP3 - Development of tissue-equivalent plastics enriched with F	?
31/12	WP0 - Final report	50%
31/12	WP2 - test ex-vivo on mice models with $^{19}\text{F}$ -BPA	?
31/12	WP2 - complete the laboratory tests to assess the improvements achievable with the new antenna and SDR	?
31/12	WP1 - Implementation of MC simulations and full biophysical treatment for $p+^{19}\text{F}$ nuclear process generated in the experimental setup	20%
31/12	WP1 - Evaluation of themicro/nanodosimetric spectra and reactive species by means of Geant4-DNA/Trax-Chem	80%