# **Charged Particle Therapy Overview**



## LIP Mini-School on Charged Particle Therapy Applications

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cern.ch/virtual-hadron-therapy-centre

# Cancer is growing global challenge

- Globally 18 million new cases per year diagnosed and 9.6 million deaths in 2018
- This will increase to 27.5 million new cases per year and 16.3 million deaths by 2040
- **70% of these deaths** will occur in lowand-middle-income countries (LMICs)



#### Radiation therapy is a key tool for treatment for over 50% patients

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## **Improving Cancer Outcomes**



- New Technologies
- Advanced radiotherapy
- Radiobiology, Biology, Clinical
- Multi-disciplinary collaboration

# The Challenge of Treatment

## Ideally one needs to treat:

- The tumour
- The whole tumour
- And nothing **BUT** the tumour

Treatment has two important goals to kill the tumour and protect the surrounding normal tissue. Therefore "seeing" in order to know where and precise "delivery" to make sure it goes where it should are key.

# **Treatment options**



# Radiotherapy in 21st Century

3 "Cs" of Radiation

Cure (about 50% cancer cases are cured)Conservative (non-invasive, fewer side effects)Cheap (about 10% of total cost of cancer on radiation)

- About 50% patients are treated with RT
- No substitute for RT in the near future
- Number of patients is increasing

#### Aims of Radiotherapy:

- Irradiate tumour with sufficient dose to **stop cancer growth**
- Avoid complications and minimise damage to surrounding tissue

#### **Current radiotherapy methods:**

- MV photons
- 5 25 MeV electrons
- 50 300 MeV/u hadrons



# **Classical Radiotherapy with X-rays**

## single beam



# Radiotherapy with X-rays

#### two beams



# **Improved Delivery**



1990s: 4 constant intensity fields

Current state of RT: Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT) – Multiple converging field with planar (2D) intensity variations

## Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy

**9 NON-UNIFORM FIELDS** 



DCI

60-75 grays (joule/kg) given in 30-35 fractions (6-7weeks) to allow healthy tissues to repair: 90% of the tumours are <u>radiosensitive</u>

# Advances in Radiation Therapy

In the past two decades due to:

- improvements in imaging modalities, multimodality
- technology, powerful computers and software and delivery systems have enabled:
  - Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT),
  - Image Guided Radiotherapy (IGRT),
  - Volumetric Arc Therapy (VMAT) and
  - Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT)
  - MRI-guided Linac therapy
- Is Hadron/Particle Therapy the future?
- FLASH??

# Hadron Therapy

In 1946 Robert Wilson:

- Protons can be used clinically
- Accelerators are available
- Maximum radiation dose can be placed into the tumour
- Particle therapy provides sparing of normal tissues

- Tumours near critical organs
- Tumours in children
- Radio-resistant tumours



Spread Out Bragg-peak targeting the tumour



## Why Particle/Hadron Therapy?



Depth dose profiles in water (a) and treatment plans (b) comparing photons, delivered with the most advanced intensity modulation RT (IMXT), and state-of-the-art scanned protons and <sup>12</sup>C ions, showing the increased tumour-dose conformity of ion therapy due to the characteristic Bragg peak (a).

#### 1932 - E. Lawrence First cyclotron

#### 1946 – proton therapy proposed by R. Wilson

#### **1954 – Berkeley treats the first patient**







# From physics.....

# 3 crucial years for HT

In the years 1992-1994 the rate of progress changed:

- 1992 at Loma Linda first proton patient
- 1993 MGH (Boston) orders the first commercial protontherapy centre
- 1993 GSI starts the carbon ion 'pilot project'
- 1994 HIMAC first carbon ion patient

## Key Milestones of Hadrontherapy

<u>1991</u> — First hospital based *Proton* facility Loma Linda University Medical Center, CA, USA



#### 360<sup>°</sup> Gantry



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## HIMAC in Chiba is the pioneer of carbon therapy

#### Yasuo Hirao



Since the cells do not repair. less fractions are possible HIMAC: reduced fractions! Even single fraction



# **HIMAC and New Facility**

First patient: 1994 - So far about 13.000 patients



(Courtesy K. Noda)

## The Darmstadt GSI 'pilot project' (1997-2008)



#### 1993- Loma Linda USA (proton)

#### 1994 – HIMAC/NIRS Japan (carbon)

#### 1997 – GSI Germany (carbon)





First dedicated clinical facility

# 

## Three crucial years for PT.....to clinics

## **Tumour Control Rate: Chordomas**



Schulz-Ertner, IJROBP 2007

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## Treatment with heavier ions

Heavy ions are **more effective than protons or X-rays** in killing cells:

- 1. Higher energy deposition (and ionisation) per length generates a larger number of double-strand DNA breaks and complex DNA damage that are difficult to repair
- 2. Energy deposition more precise, with lower straggling and scattering
- The different damage mechanism makes ions effective on hypoxic radioresistant tumours – around 3% of all RT cases (200-500 cases/year per 10M people).
- 4. Recent studies show that ion therapy combined with immunotherapy may be successful in treating diffused cancers and metastasis.







# HIT - Heidelberg



#### [Data from www.ptcog.ch]



# Particle therapy: a short history



## PIMMS at CERN (1996-2000)



#### PIMMS (Proton-Ions Medical Machine Study)



Objective: define the optimal hadrontherapy centre without constraints

Regione Lombardia fondazione CNA Centro Nazionale di Adroterapia Oncologica

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## PIMMS study at CERN (1996-2000)



Treatment , CNAO, Italy 2011

#### MedAustron, Austria 2016





09/12/2021

## CNAO: Pavia, Italy



#### Started treating patients in 2011

# MedAUSTRON – collaboration with CERN



## Started treating patients December 2016, First carbon in2019

# **Facilities in operation in Europe 2020**







## **Patient Numbers**



## Much more still needs to be done

- Treat the tumour and only the tumour
  - ⇒ Imaging and dose delivery: control and monitor the ideal dose to the tumour
  - $\Rightarrow$  Minimal collateral radiation "outside" the tumour
  - $\Rightarrow$  Minimal radiation to nearby critical organs
  - Even if the tumour is moving
- Compact: Fit into a large hospital
  - $\Rightarrow$  Accelerator: smaller, simpler, cheaper
  - $\Rightarrow$  Gantry: compact, cheaper, energy efficient
- Be affordable
  - ✓ Capital cost ?
  - ✓ Operating costs ?
  - $\checkmark$  Increased number of treated patients per year ?
- Wish list from community
  - ✓ Improve patient through-put
  - ✓ Increase effectiveness
  - ✓ Decrease cost
- New ideas being explored

# New Developments

Future Plan



## **Plan of Miniaturizing Machine**



Courtesy of Dr. Kojii Noda

# **CERN: Beyond PIMMS to NIMMS**

## A new accelerator design





**1. Concentrate on heavy ions** (Carbon but also Helium, Oxygen, etc.) because proton therapy is now commercial (4 companies offer turn-key facilities) while ions have higher potential for treatment but lower diffusion.

2. A next generation ion research and therapy accelerator must have:
Lower cost, compared to present;

Reduced footprint;

- Lower running costs;
- □ Faster dose delivery with higher beam intensity or pulse rate;
- □ A rotating ion gantry;

□ Operation with multiple ions (for therapy and research).

#### An innovative design:

- Can attract a wide support from the scientific community;
- Can increase the exchange SEE-WE and inside SEE thanks to stronger collaboration on scientific and technical issues;
- Can bring modern high technology to the region, with new opportunities for local industry and scientific institutions.

## + Specific requirements for SEEIIST:

- Easy Industrialization
- Reliability
- Simple operation
- Reduced risk
- Acceptable time to development



## **CERN: Beyond PIMMS to NIMMS**

## New technologies for future ion therapy accelerators

- Improved multiturn injection for higher intensity 2 x 10<sup>10</sup> ppc, 20 times higher than HIT or CNAO.
- New linac injector design at higher intensity, higher energy (10 MeV/u) and higher frequency (325 MHz).
- **3.** New lattice with intermediate number of magnets between CNAO (16) and HIT (6).
- 4. Combined slow and fast extraction to test new treatment modalities and to extend the experimental programme.
- 5. Superconducting gantry different options to be compared for a modern superconducting gantry.
- 6. Superconducting accelerator magnets can bring smaller dimensions and lower cost.



TERA superconducting gantry proposal



CERN LHC superconducting magnet



# **LhARA: Laser-hybrid Accelerator for Radiobiological Applications (K.Long, ICL)**

#### A novel, hybrid, approach:

- High-flux, laser-driven proton/ion source:
  - Overcome instantaneous dose-rate limitation
- Delivers protons or ions in very short pulses:
  - Pulse length 10 40 ns
- Arbitrary pulse structure
- Novel plasma-lens capture & focusing
- Fast, flexible, efficient acceleration using FFA:
  - Protons up to 127 MeV p;
  - Ions up to ~33 MeV/u

#### $\rightarrow$ compact, uniquely flexible facility







#### 09/12/2021

## New Initiatives



South-East European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies (SEEIIST) in the spirit of 'Science for Peace'



Prof. Herwig Schopper, former Director General of CERN Dr. Sanja Damjanovic, Minister of Science of Montenegro



#### positive reception by a number of organizations and institutions











# Why do we need SEEIIST?



Candidate Members for the South-East European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies

**Republic of Albania** 

**Bosnia and Herzegovina Republic of Bulgaria Republic of Croatia** Hellenic Republic Kosovo<sup>\*</sup> FYR of Macedonia Montenegro



Republic of Serbia

**Republic of Slovenia** 

# South-East European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies SEEIIST

Major initiative to create a pan-European facility in South Eastern Europe Bottom-up led by European Scientists across Europe – building international cooperation

'Science for Peace', 'Science Diplomacy' initiative similar to CERN and SESAME



#### **The Pan-European Dimensions:** SEEIIST Cancer Therapy Research Infrastructure Brings an Added Value for Europe

#### Fighting against cancer

Nuclear medicine as crucial component of future personalised cancer care Develop advanced cancer therapy with ion beams and isotopes Two Strategic Objectives — One initiative Building international cooperation and scientific capacity in South East Europe

Advance European integration, reverse brain drain, connect to Europe

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## **New European initiative in ion therapy - SEEIIST**

SEE

- The SEEIIST (South East Europe International Institute for Sustainable Technologies) is a new international partnership aiming at the construction of a new Research Infrastructure for cancer research and therapy in South East Europe (10 member countries).
- SEEIIST is supported by the European Commission, to develop the facility design in collaboration with CERN.
- Goals are to develop a new advanced design and to build international cooperation and scientific capacity in a region that will join EU but is less develop and still divided, in the line of "science for peace".
- Promoted by H. Schopper, former Director General of CERN, and S. Damjanovic, former Minister of Science of Montenegro.

Accelerator: a large normal-conducting synchrotron Estimated cost of facility: 240 M€





# Goals and Benefits for SEE Region

- more than 40 millions people could benefit from this project
- possibility for education, training and innovation
- more effective cancer treatment using the cutting-edge technologies and innovative treatment options
- participate in clinical trials Europe-wide
- a unique facility in Europe which will have 50% time for fundamental, translational, clinical innovative research
- attractive for external research community: also cheaper research and living costs
- possibility to boost the regional development and create a new generation of young scientists, industry
- mitigate brain-drain reverse brain in some cases



Heavy Ion Therapy Research Integration

## 22 Institutes

(4 CIRT centres, 10 research institutions, 5 universities, 3 SMEs)

## **14 European Countries**

CERN

ng science and innovation

Participant No *	Participant organisation name	Country
1 (Coordinator)	Fondazione Centro Nazionale di Adroterapia Oncologica (CNAO)	IT
2	Bevatech GmbH (BEVA)	DE
3	Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives (CEA)	FR
4	European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN)	IEIO
5	Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas, Medioambientales y Tecnológicas (CIEMAT)	ES
6	Cosylab Laboratorij za kontrolne systeme dd (CSL)	SI
7	GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung GmbH (GSI)	DE
8	Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg (UKHD/HIT)	DE
9	Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (INFN)	IT
10	EBG MedAustron GmbH (MEDA)	AT
11	Marburger Ionenstrahl-Therapie Betreibergesellschaft mbH (MIT)	DE
12	Paul Scherrer Institut (PSI)	CH
13	South East European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies (SEEIIST)	CH
14	Universita ta Malta (UM)	MT
15	Philipps-University Marburg (UMR)	DE
16	Uppsala University (UU)	SE
17	Wigner Research Centre for Physics (Wigner RCP)	HU
18	Riga Technical University (RTU)	LV

Partic	ipant No *	Participant organisation name	Country
	19	Ss, Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia (UKIM)	MK
	20	Clinical Centre of Montenegro (CMSM)	ME
	21	Sentronis a.d. (SEN)	RS
	22	Jožef Stefan Institute (IJS)	SI



## HITRIplus Objectives

Starting from its basic motivations, the HITRI*plus* Consortium has identified five strategic objectives to be achieved within the Project, aimed at the advancement of ion therapy research with ions heavier than protons.

1. To **integrate**, **open up** and **broaden** the leading European Research Infrastructure for the treatment of cancer with **beams of ions**, ranging from helium to carbon and to heavier ions.

2. To **coordinate and strengthen** the research programmes on heavy ion therapy of different European institutions, by promoting synergies, collaborations, innovation, knowledge transfer, new initiatives and sharing of tools and data.

3. To develop in a joint and coordinated way **novel technologies** to improve the accelerators and their ancillary systems that provide particle beams to this scientific community. These technologies will **improve the present generation** of facilities and will be the **foundation for a next generation** European design for ion therapy facilities.

4. To establish a European multidisciplinary community for heavy ion therapy research, aiming at improving treatment strategies and modalities by connecting physics and engineering with medicine, biology and biophysics, and to extend this community towards emerging European regions, addressing in particular new initiatives in South East Europe.

5. To define the main technical features and the scientific programme of a future **pan-European Research Infrastructure** for medical and radiobiological research with heavy ion beams, to be built in South East Europe or in another European region.

#### https://www.hitriplus.eu/



Networking Activities: communication, dissemination and outreach, clinical networking, innovation technology transfer and industry relations, education and training; Transnational Access: to promote the access to the existing facilities of the research and clinical communities;

Joint Research Activities: improved accelerator and gantry design, superconducting magnet design, advanced beam delivery, multiple energy extraction system, controls and safety, radiobiological dosimetry and Quality Assurance.



## Transnational access opens to Clinical and Research programmes. www.hitriplus.eu/transnational-access-what-is-ta/

## **Clinical and Research programmes**

Transnational Access opens to scientific community the five European facilities providing ion beams









This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101008548



For **internship and secondment opportunities**, we have created a form for the application. It is required to upload a CV, that will be directly adressed to UM (Malta University) for application evalutation.

# HITRI*plus* internship and secondment opportunities







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- Annual meeting, open, free
- Latest developments in the field
- Oral presentation for winning posters
- <u>Networking</u>
- <u>Collaboration</u>
- Raising awareness at international level
- Special session dedicated to training
- Magazine *Highlights*
- @ENLIGHTNETWORK



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