

PAUL SCHERRER INSTITUT



WIR SCHAFFEN WISSEN – HEUTE FÜR MORGEN



Nicholas P. van der Meulen Ph.D.

*Radionuclide*  *Development*

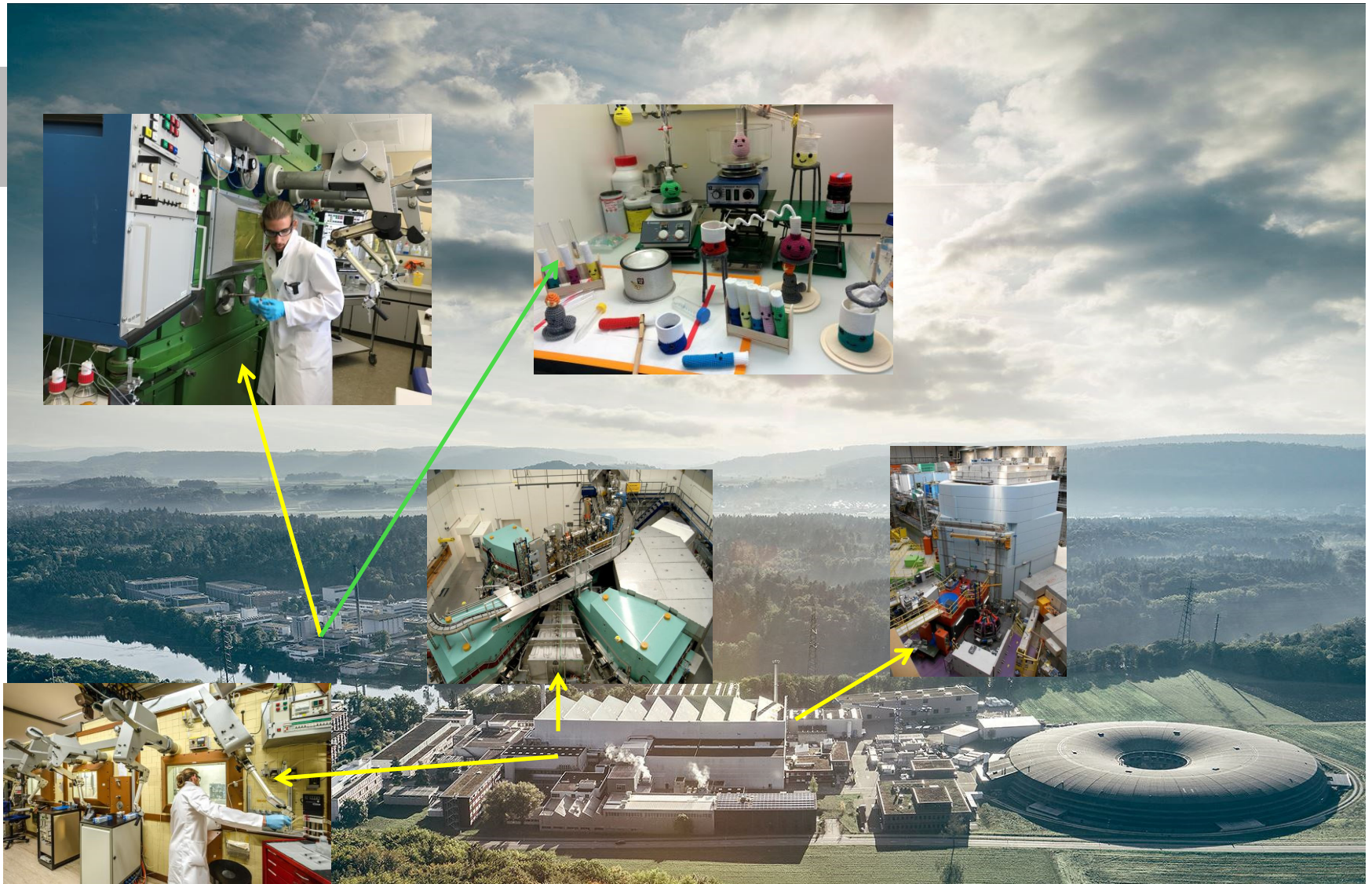
## The use of PSI's IP2 beam line towards exotic radionuclide development and its application towards proof-of-principle preclinical and clinical studies

International Conference on Cyclotrons and their Applications  
24 September 2019

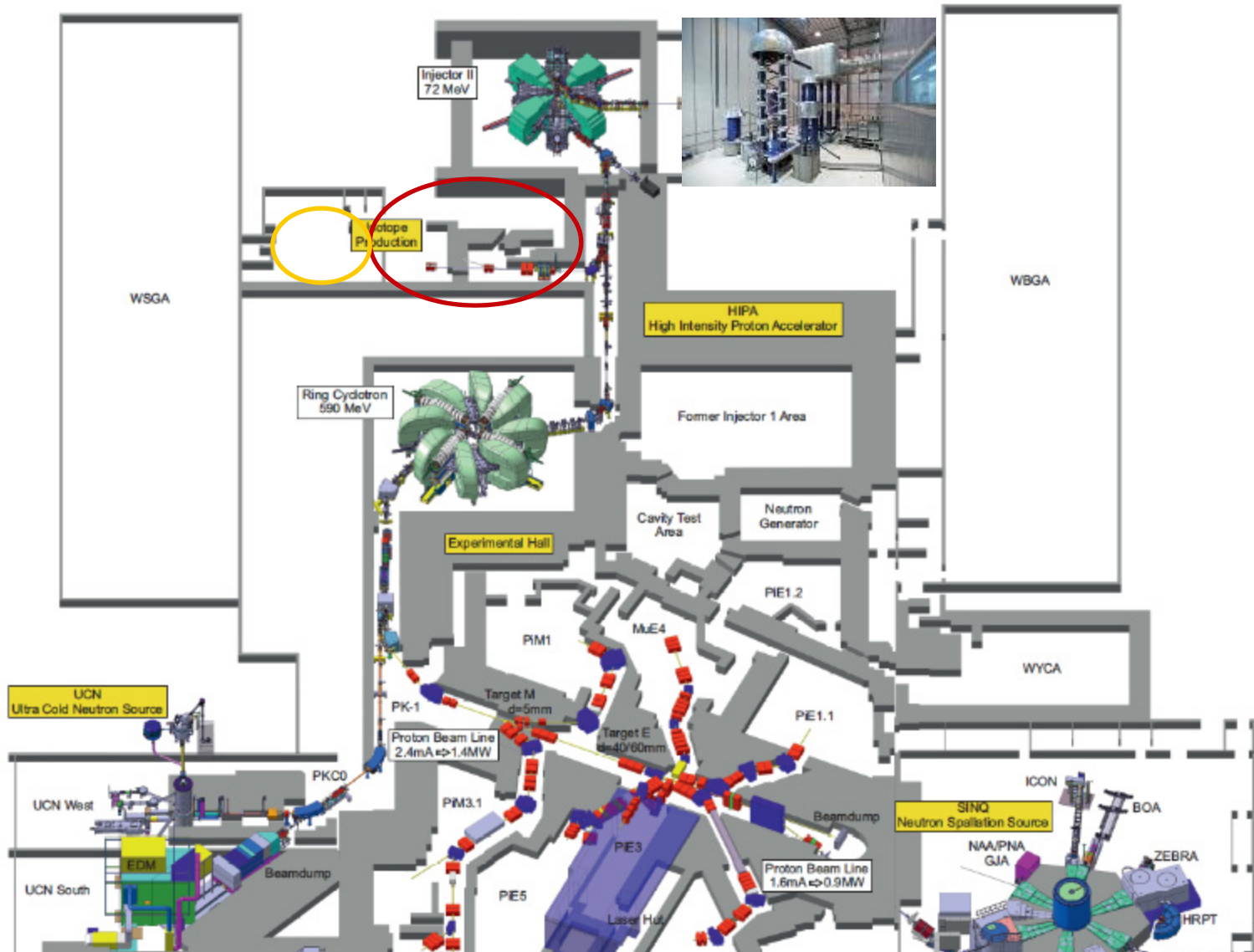
# Use of Large Facilities at PSI



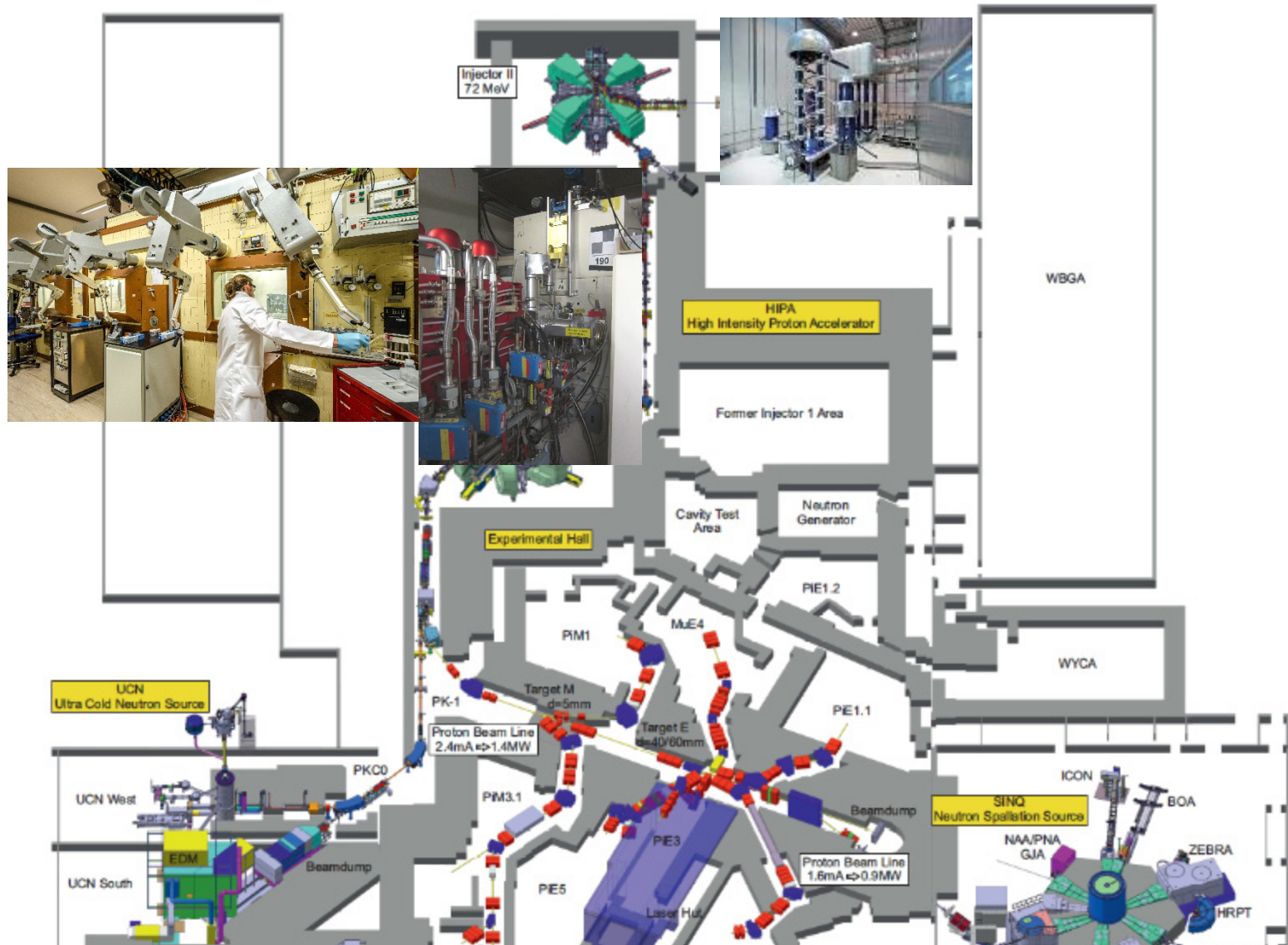
# Use of Large Facilities at PSI



# PSI's High Intensity Proton Accelerator Complex



# PSI's High Intensity Proton Accelerator Complex



# Radionuclide Development at PSI

Target Irradiation with Protons



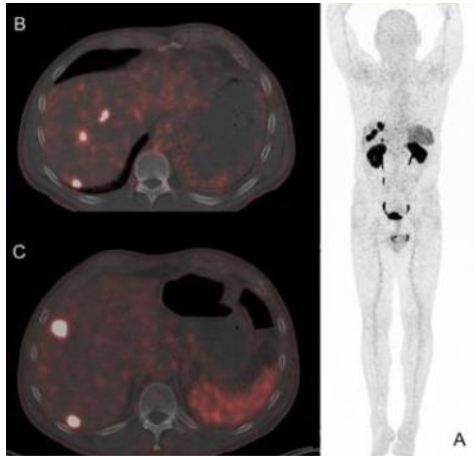
Target Preparation & Encapsulation

Target Loading into Irradiation Station

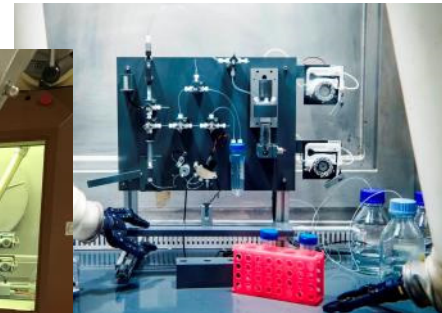
Sc 44	
2.44 d	3.92 h
$\beta^-$ 271	$\beta^+$ 1.5...
c	$\gamma$ 1157...
$\gamma$ (1002; 1261; 1157)	

(p,n) Nuclear Reaction

Ca 44	
2.086	

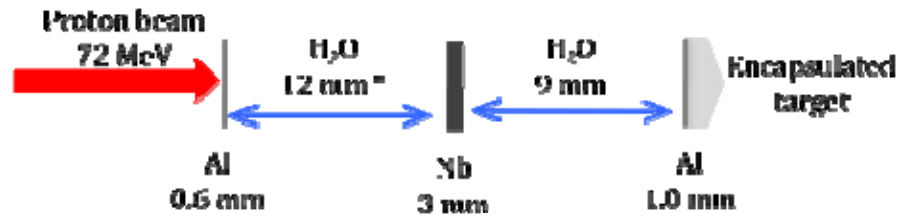


Radiolabelling and Imaging



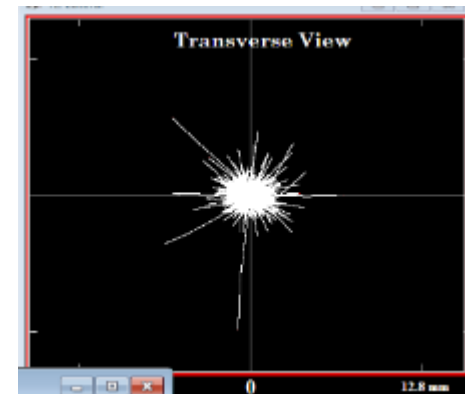
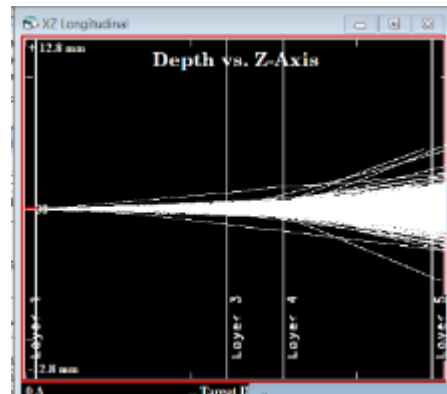
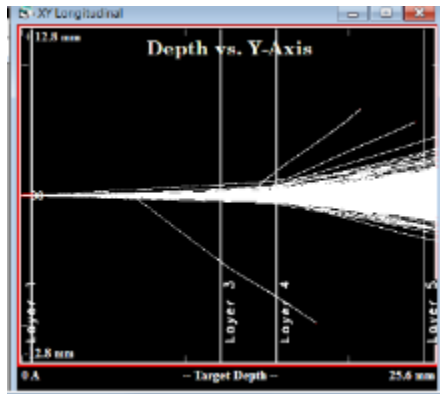
Chemical Separation and Processing

# Energy Degradation @ IP2

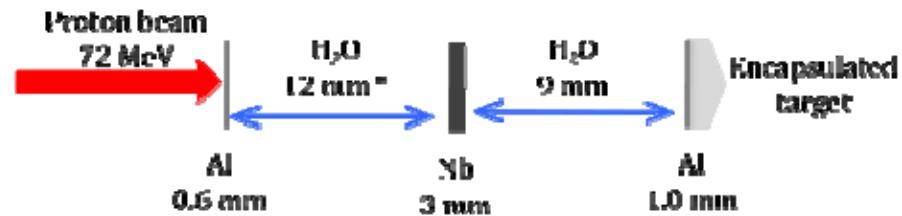


## 3.4 mm Nb Degraded

72MeV Proton beam - Al (0.6mm) – 11.6 mm H<sub>2</sub>O – Nb – 9 mm H<sub>2</sub>O – Al (1mm) – Target → 10.3 MeV



# Energy Degradation @ IP2



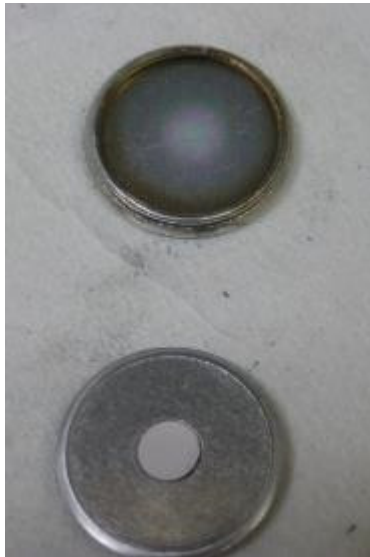
Reduction of proton energy @PSI:



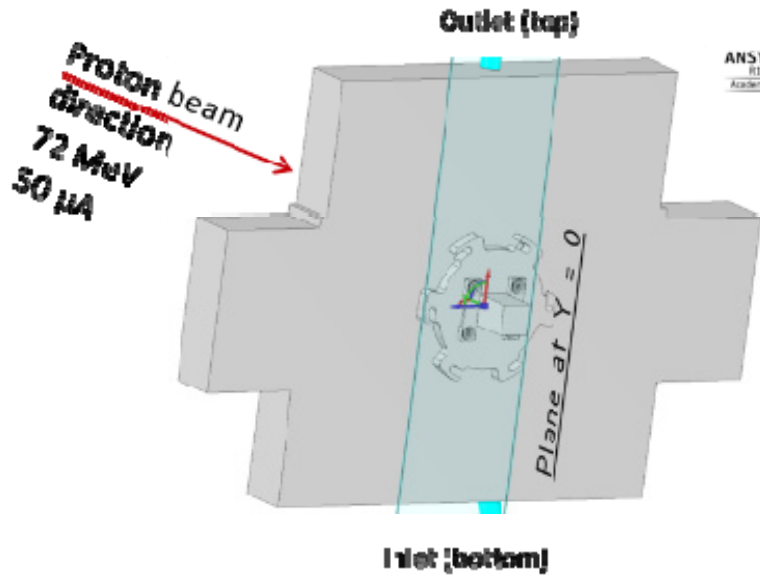
Nb Degrader [mm]	Proton energy [MeV]
3.4	10.3
2.8	18.6
2.4	22.8
2.2	24.7
2.0	26.4
1.8	28.1
1.0	34.1

# Irradiation and its Effect on Target Cooling

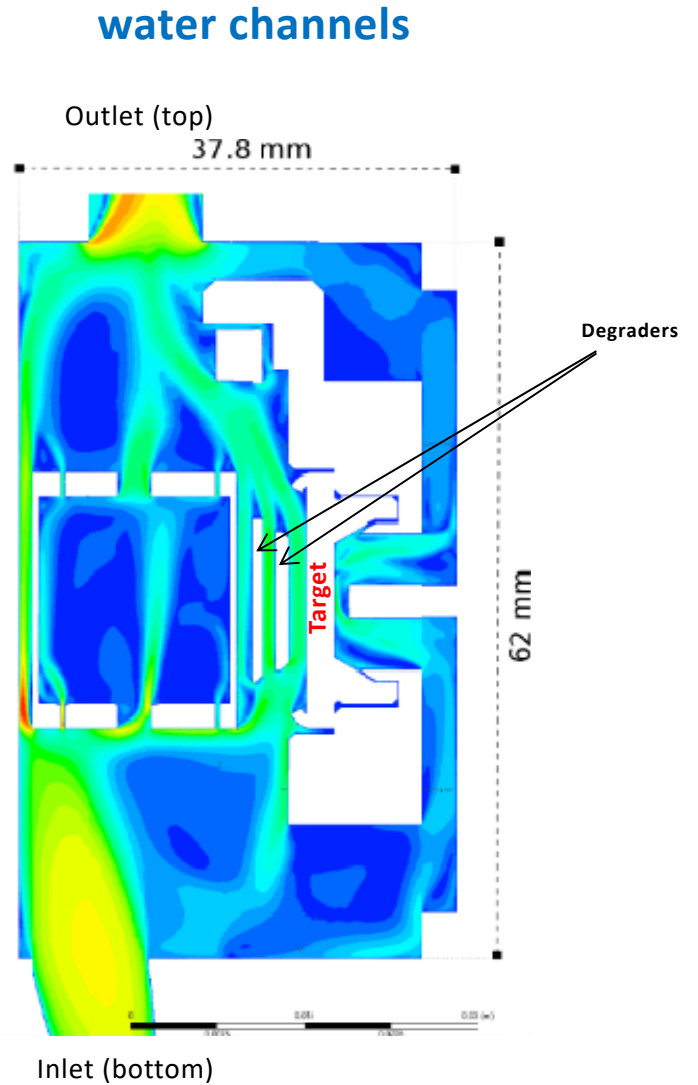
- Cooling to be optimized – no rastering, wobbling or beam sweeping on target.
- Defocusing of beam has been performed.
- Cooling on target becomes an issue, particularly when it comes to longer irradiations.
- Beam settings are important: see Dr. H. Zhang's presentation on Wednesday ([WEB04](#)).



# IP2 Geometry: cutting plane

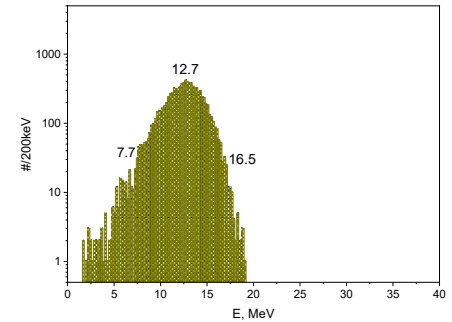
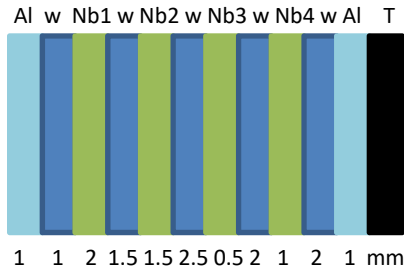


H<sup>+</sup> beam direction  
72 MeV  
50  $\mu$ A

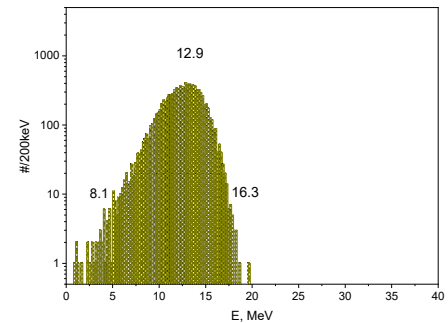
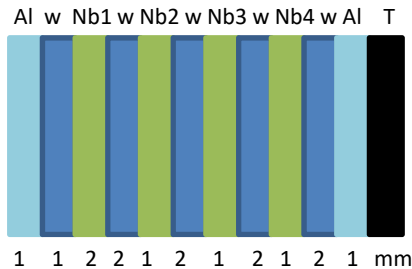


# Upgrade of Degrading Concept To Improve Cooling

5mm Nb  
9 mmH<sub>2</sub>O  
2mm Al



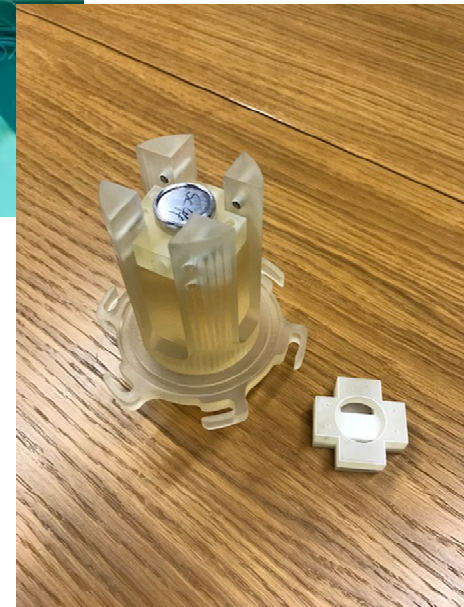
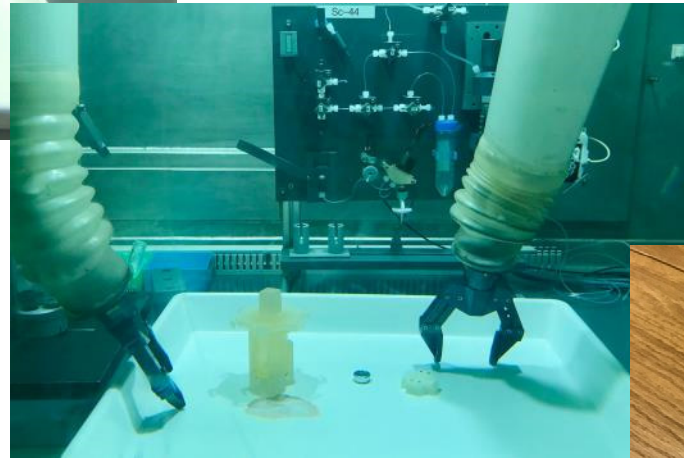
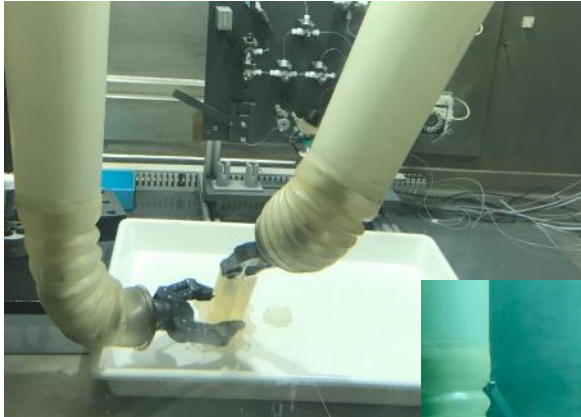
5mm Nb  
9 mmH<sub>2</sub>O  
2 mm Al



Various compositions with same thickness do not significantly change the result

YZ-Scattering: ~8 mm, i.e. target radius ~ beam radius + 4mm

# Testing and Manipulation of Dummy Target



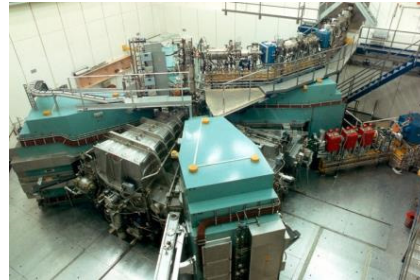
- After irradiation, the target has to be removed remotely
- Use of a hot cell necessary
- Target holder needs easy mounting/dismounting

# <sup>44</sup>Sc: “From-Bench-To-Bedside”

Target Preparation



Proton Irradiation of Target Material



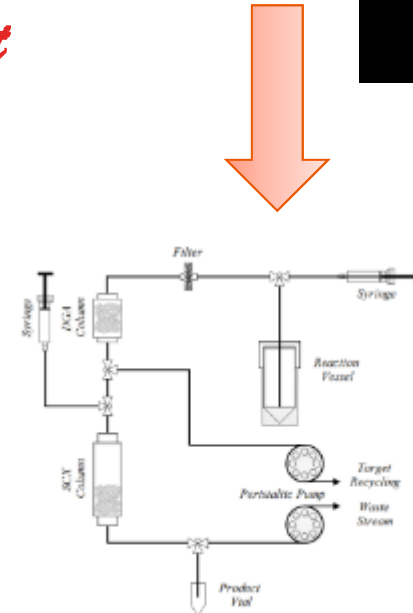
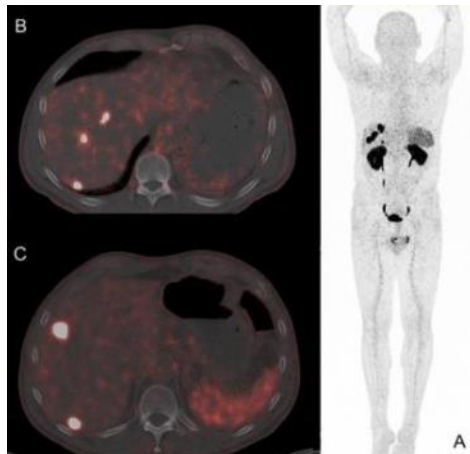
Sc 44	
2.44 d	3.92 h
I <sub>γ</sub> 271	β <sup>+</sup> 1.5...
ε	γ 1157...
γ (1002; 1261; 1157)	



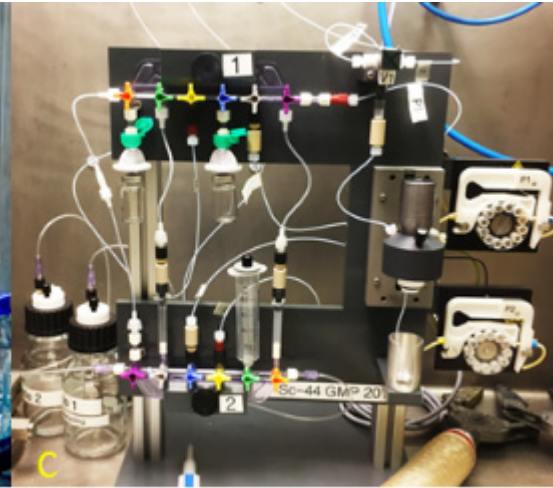
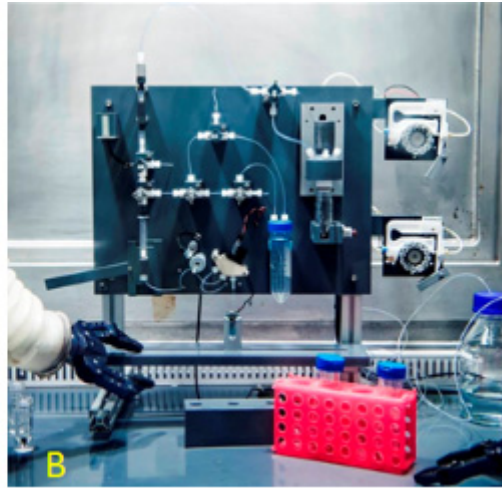
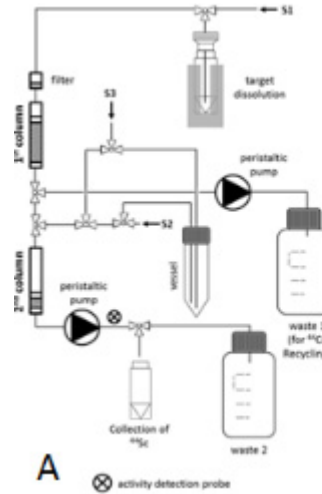
Ca 44
2.086

## Radionuclide Development

Radiolabelling and Imaging



Chemical Separation and Processing



Initial PSI Target

Current PSI Target/ETH

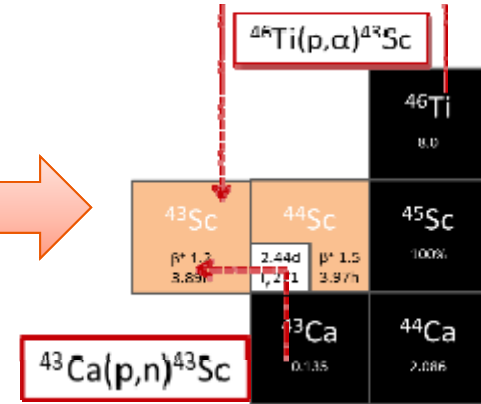
UniBe Target

# $^{43}\text{Sc}$ : A Proposed Improvement in Radiometal PET

Target Preparation



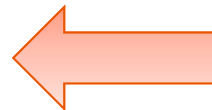
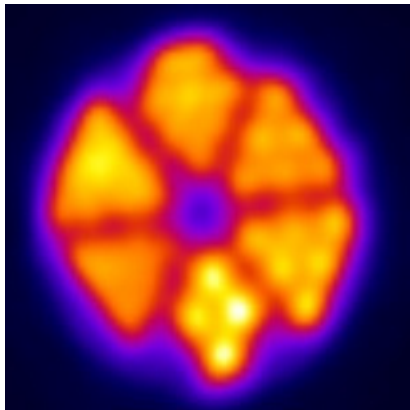
Proton Irradiation of Target Material



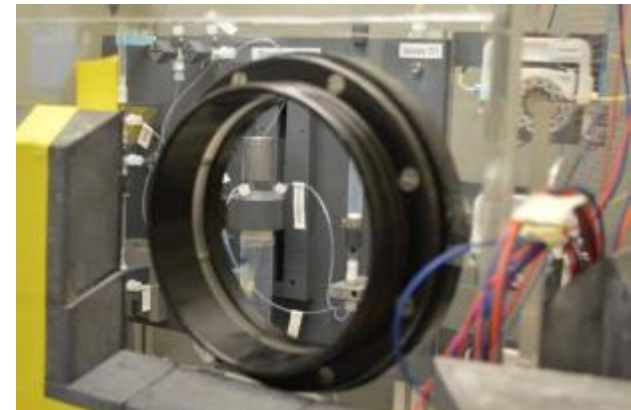
## Radionuclide Development



Radiolabelling and Imaging



Chemical Separation and Processing

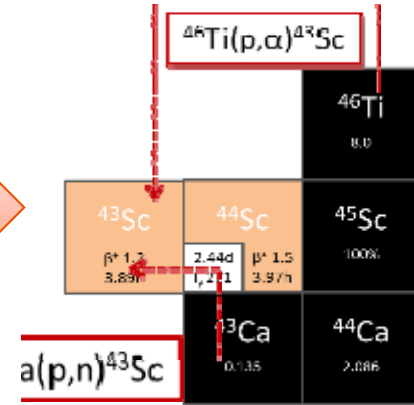


# $^{43}\text{Sc}$ : A Proposed Improvement in Radiometal PET

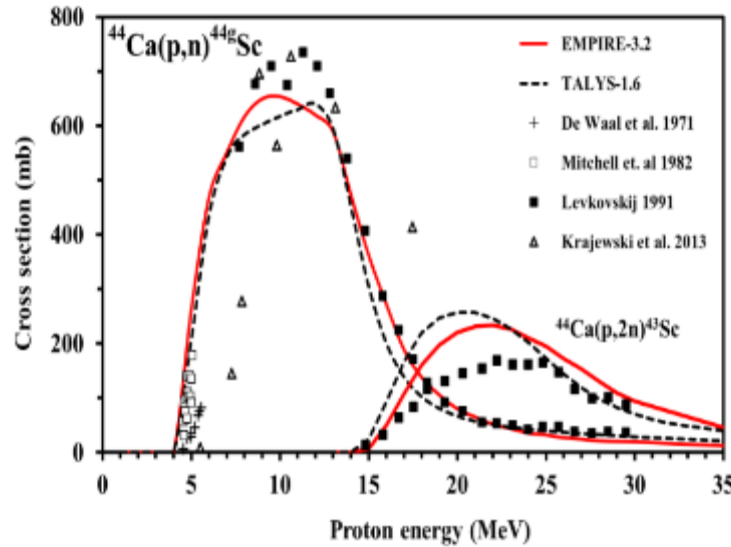
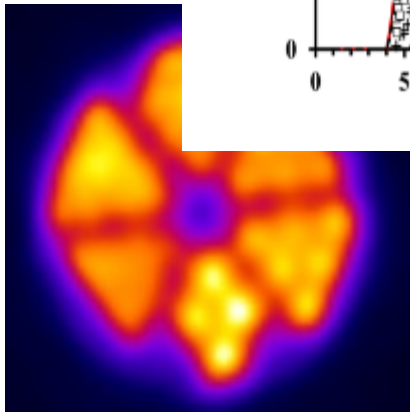
Target Preparation



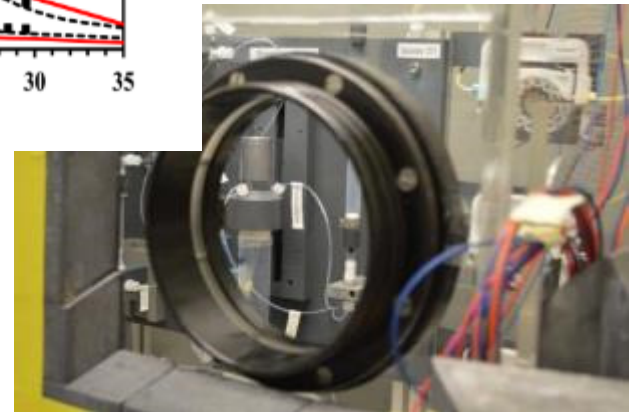
Proton Irradiation of Target Material



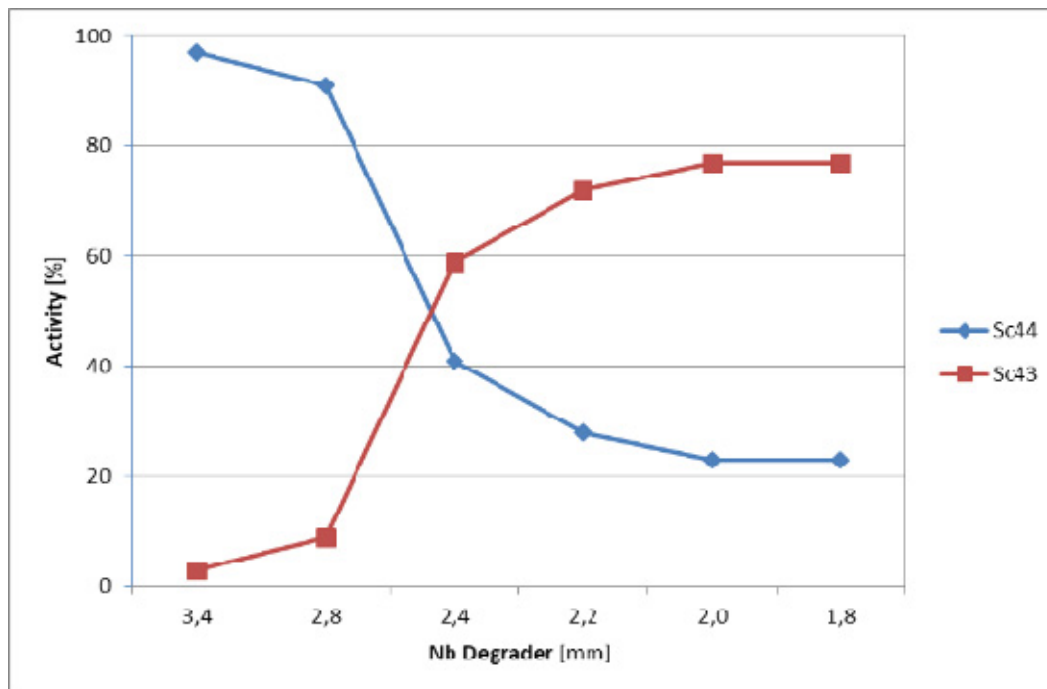
Radiolabellir



Separation and Processing



# $^{43}\text{Sc}$ : $^{44}\text{Sc}$ at Various Energies

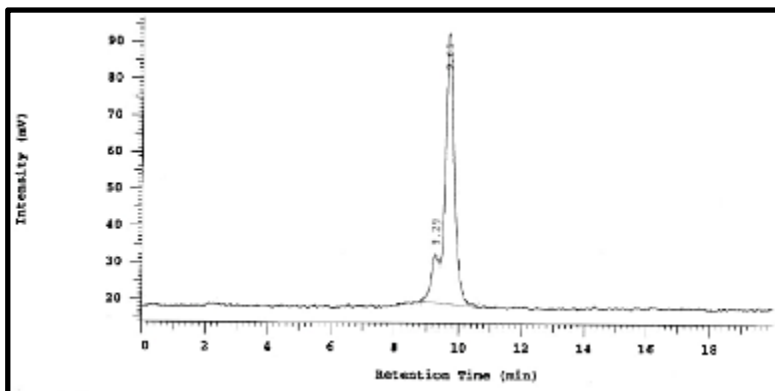


Reduction of proton energy @PSI:

Nb Degrader [mm]	Proton energy [MeV]
<b>3.4</b>	<b>10.9</b>
<b>2.8</b>	<b>18.6</b>
<b>2.4</b>	<b>22.8</b>
<b>2.2</b>	<b>24.7</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>26.4</b>
<b>1.8</b>	<b>28.1</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>34.1</b>

$^{44}\text{Sc}$ : 26.2 %,  $^{44\text{m}}\text{Sc}$ : 0.8 %

$^{43}\text{Sc}$ : 73.0 %



DOTANOC labelling (100 %):

$^{44}\text{Sc}$ : 7.5 MBq/nmol ( $^{44\text{m}}\text{Sc}$ : 0.2 MBq/nmol)

$^{43}\text{Sc}$ : 20.9 MBq/nmol

# $^{64}\text{Cu}$ : PET Radionuclide

## Target Preparation

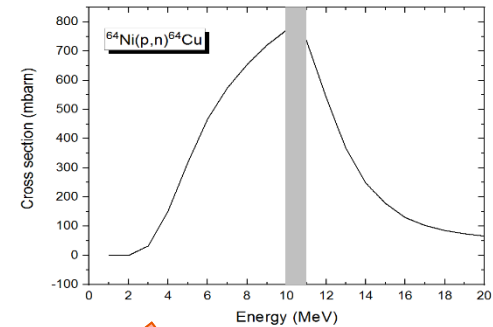


## Proton Irradiation of Target Material

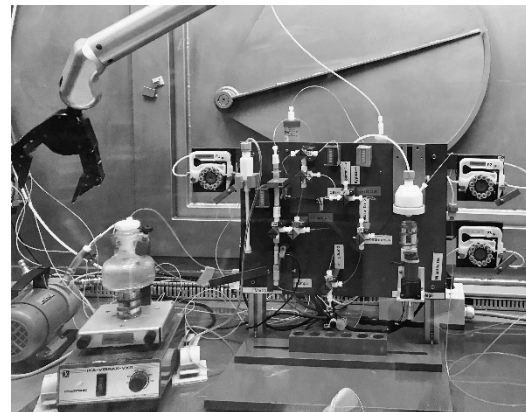
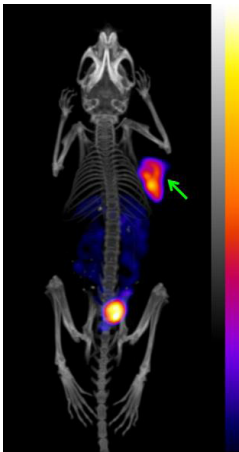


Cu 64 12.7004 h	Cu 65 30.85
ε γ (1346) β <sup>+</sup> 0.6, β <sup>-</sup> 0.7 σ ~270	σ 2.17
Ni 63 100 a	Ni 64 0.9, 56
β <sup>-</sup> 0.07 no γ σ 20	σ 1.6

*Radionuclide Development*



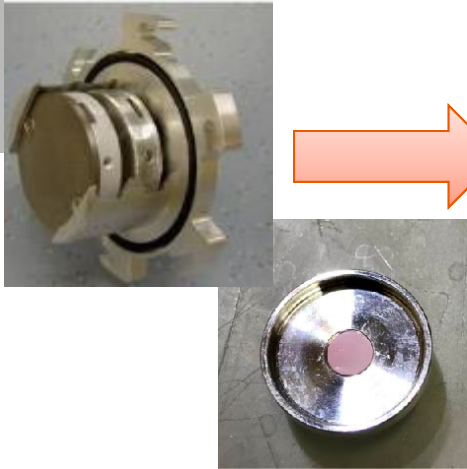
## Radiolabelling and Preclinical Imaging



## Chemical Separation and Processing

# $^{165}\text{Er}$ : Potential Auger Therapy?

## Target Preparation



## Proton Irradiation of Target Material

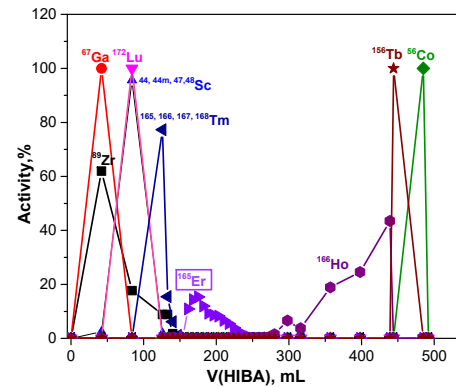


<b>Er 165</b> 10.38 h	<b>Er 166</b> 33.503
$\alpha$ 3 + 14 $\sigma_{th} < 7E-5$	$\alpha$ 3 + 14 $\sigma_{th} < 7E-5$
<b>Ho 164</b> 29 m	<b>Ho 165</b> 110
$\beta^-$ 1.6... $\gamma$ 87, 67... $\sigma_{th} < 2E-5$	$\beta^-$ 1.6... $\gamma$ 87, 67... $\sigma_{th} < 2E-5$

<b>Tm 165</b> 32.08 h	<b>Tm 166</b> 7.70 h	<b>Tm 167</b> 9.25 d
$\beta^-$ 1.9... $\gamma$ 243, 47, 257 1607...	$\beta^-$ 1.9... $\gamma$ 778, 2052 184, 1274...	$\alpha$ 3 + 14 $\sigma_{th} < 7E-6$
<b>Er 164</b> 1.601	<b>Er 165</b> 10.38 h	<b>Er 166</b> 33.503
$\alpha$ 13 $\sigma_{th} < 0.0012$	$\alpha$ 3 + 14 $\sigma_{th} < 7E-6$	$\alpha$ 3 + 14 $\sigma_{th} < 7E-6$
<b>Ho 163</b> 1.08 s	<b>Ho 164</b> 29 m	<b>Ho 165</b> 100
$\beta^-$ 1.6... $\gamma$ 87, 67... $\sigma_{th} < 2E-5$	$\beta^-$ 1.6... $\gamma$ 87, 67... $\sigma_{th} < 2E-5$	$\beta^-$ 1.6... $\gamma$ 87, 67... $\sigma_{th} < 2E-5$

*Radionuclide Development*

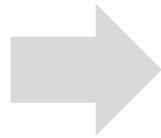
## Radiolabelling and Preclinical Imaging



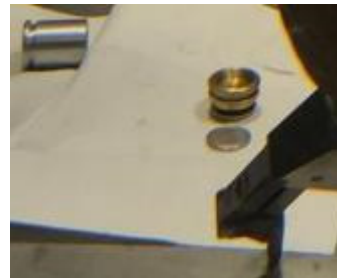
## Chemical Separation and Processing

# Implementation @ IBA Cyclone 18, Bern

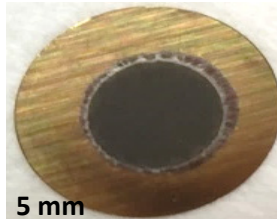
- Irradiation of  $^{44}\text{CaO}$  (@  $5\mu\text{A}$ )  $\rightarrow$   $^{44}\text{Sc}$  production;
- Irradiation of  $^{64}\text{Ni}$   $\rightarrow$   $^{64}\text{Cu}$  production;
- Irradiation of Ho and  $^{166}\text{Er}_2\text{O}_3$   $\rightarrow$   $^{165}\text{Er}$  production;
- Chemical separation @PSI;
- Proof-of-principle with medical cyclotron.



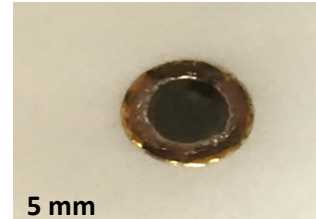
PSI: 10 mm



SWAN: 6 mm



5 mm



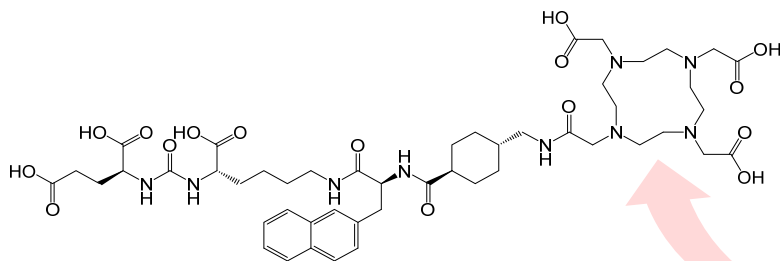
5 mm



# Radiolabeling of Biomolecules (e.g. PSMA-617)

## Biomolecule

- Chemical synthesis: metal-free working environment
- Preparation of stock solution: in metal free environment (no metal spatula)



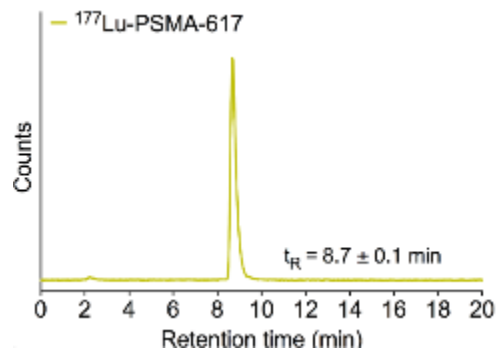
The **macrocyclic chelator** is **NOT selective for the radiometal** of interest, but will coordinate other (cold) metal ions.

## Radionuclide

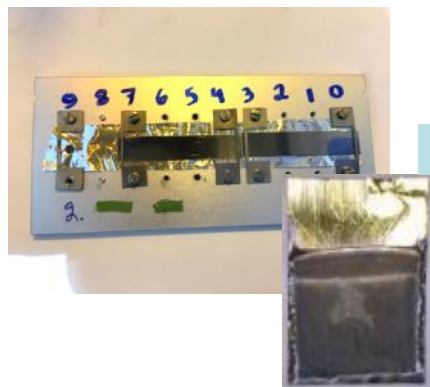
- Radionuclidic purity: **>99.9%**
- Chemical purity: **no metal ions (i.e. absence of Fe, Co, Cu, Zn, Gd, Pb etc.)**

## Labeling Conditions

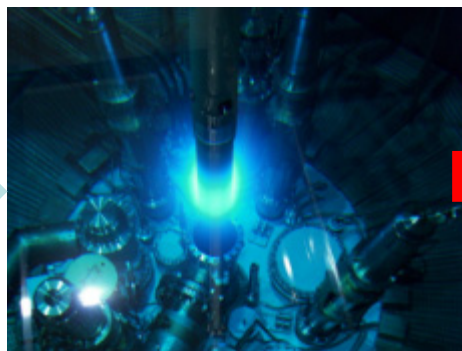
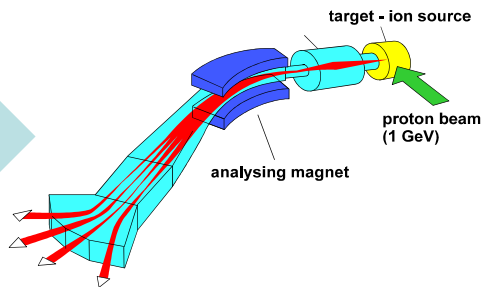
- pH value: ~ 4.5
- Temperature: 95 °C
- Incubation time: 15 min
- Specific activity: **up to 150 MBq/nmol (<sup>177</sup>Lu)**



# Vital Aspects of Radiochemistry often overlooked



**Targetry**



**Irradiation Facility**

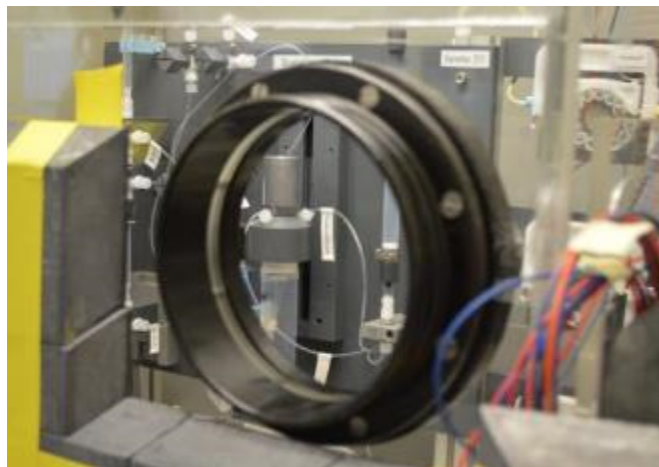
Before introduction to GMP



**Chemical Separation**

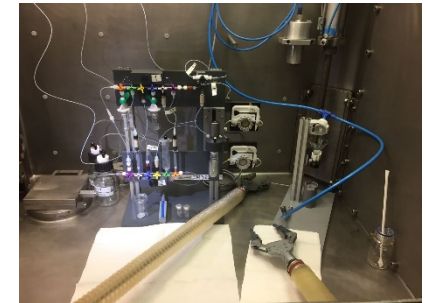
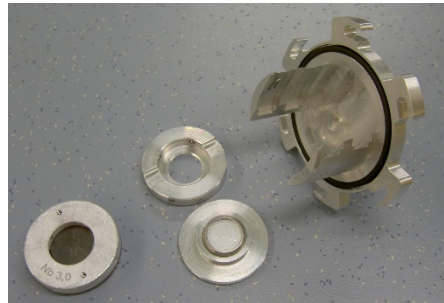
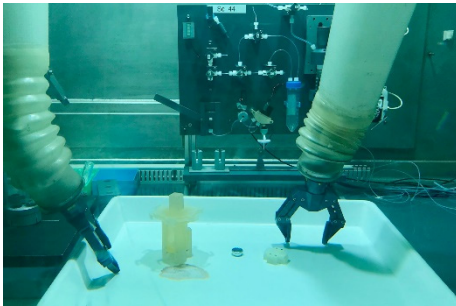
# Vital Aspects of Radiochemistry often overlooked

- **Targetry** use and optimization requires development!
- The resultant (dependant on choice of target) **chemical separation** requires development!
- Optimization of the production of a radionuclide takes years...
- Multidisciplinary: physics, chemistry, engineering.



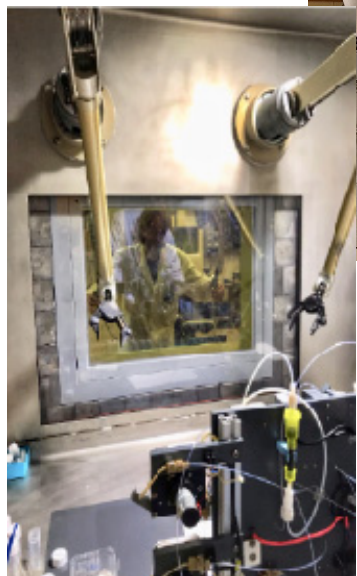
# Conclusions and Outlook

- PSI's IP2 beam line is used extensively for the development of novel radionuclides.
- The use of degraders is important to degrade the 72 MeV proton beam.
- The cooling of target is important, therefore, target holder is being redesigned.
- Developments can be implemented (technology transfer) for use at a medical cyclotron facility.





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Dr. P. Grundler  
C. Favaretto  
N. Gracheva



Past members: R. Hasler  
Dr. K. Domnanich  
Dr. C. Vermeulen



# Thank you for your Attention!

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  - W. Hirzel
  - A. Sommerhalder
  - M. Djelili
- Radiation Safety, PSI
  - L. Pedrazzi
  - T. Schneider
  - U. Meyer
  - R. Küng
- Center of Radiopharmaceutical Sciences
  - PD Dr. C. Müller
  - Dr. M. Behe
  - Prof. Dr. R. Schibli
- Laboratory of Radiochemistry
  - Dr. Robert Eichler



- Laboratory of High Energy Physics  
University of Bern
  - Prof. Dr. S. Braccini