

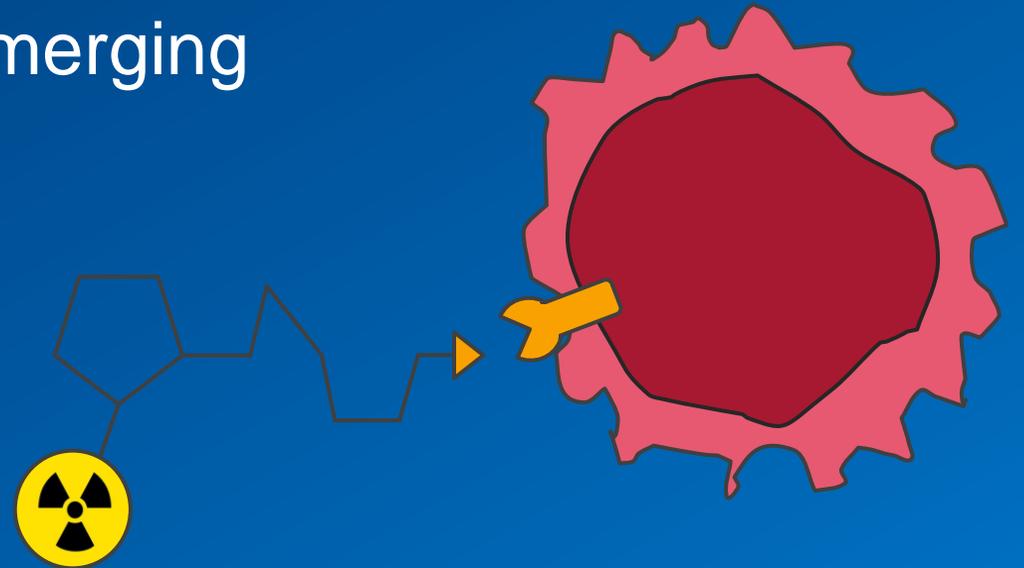
AlphaMet

A European project on **metrology** for emerging targeted alpha therapies

Ana Denis-Bacelar, PhD

ana.denisbacelar@npl.co.uk

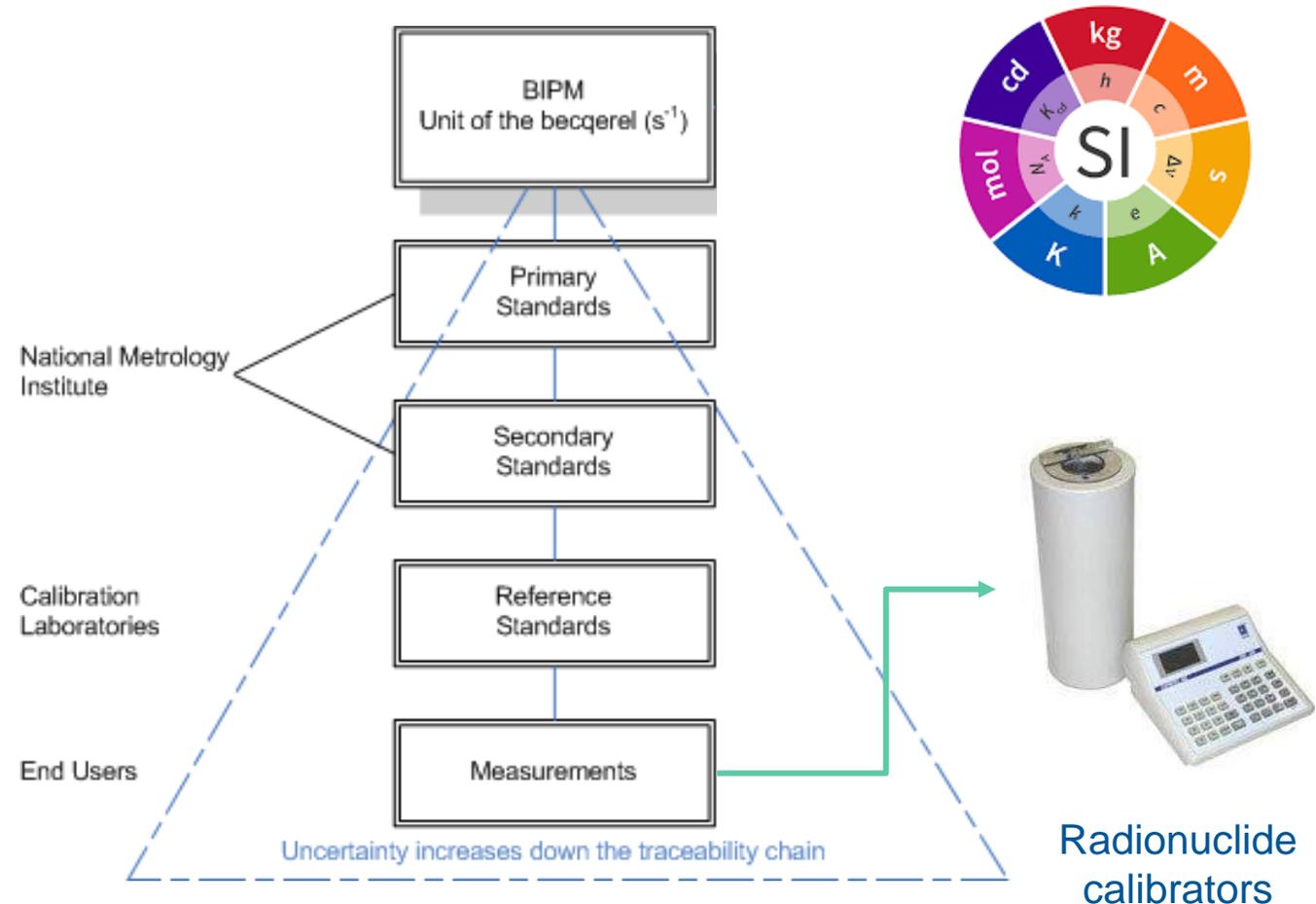
National Physical Laboratory, UK



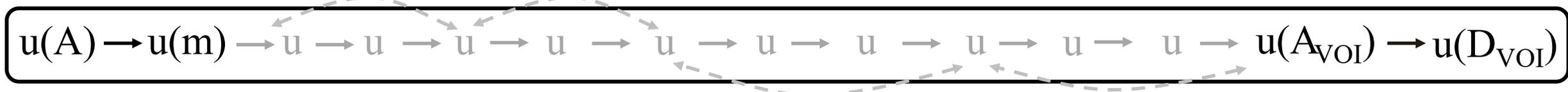
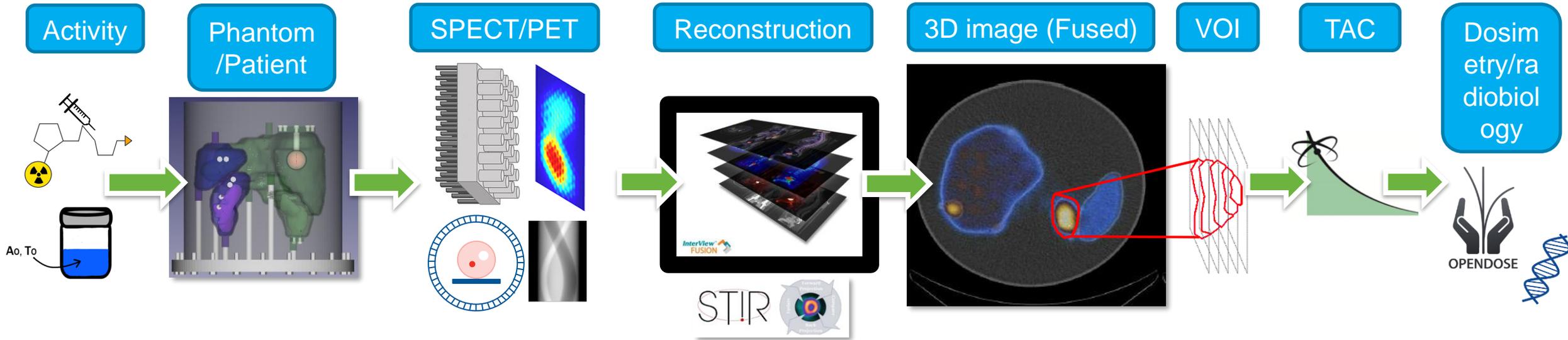
Why is metrology important?

Metrology:

- provides an international measurement infrastructure which is **stable** over time, **comparable** between locations, and **coherent**
- establishes **traceability** chains by disseminating the value of accuracy, and therefore calculation of measurement **uncertainties**



Metrological traceability in nuclear medicine



Need to understand the measurements and associated uncertainties

History of MRT European metrology

Supporting MRT dosimetry for over 10 years:

Current funding programme: <http://www.metpart.eu/>



EMRP
European Metrology Research Programme
Programme of EURAMET

The EMRP is jointly funded by the EMRP participating countries within EURAMET and the European Union



EMPIR

The EMPIR initiative is co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the EMPIR Participating States



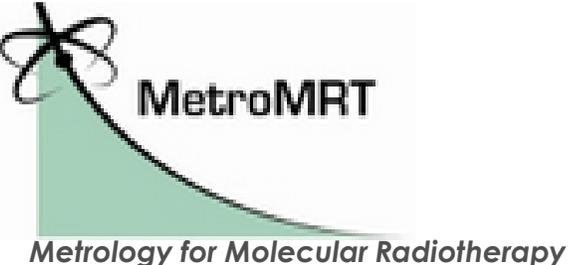
EMPIR

The EMPIR initiative is co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the EMPIR Participating States

2012 – 2015

2016 – 2019

2020 – 2023



MetroMRT
Metrology for Molecular Radiotherapy



**MRT
DOSIMETRY**
Metrology for clinical implementation
of dosimetry in molecular radiotherapy



PINICAL-MRT
Protocols for clinical impact in
molecular radiotherapy

History of MRT European metrology

EMRP
European Metrology Research Programme
Programme of EURAMET 
The EMRP is jointly funded by the EMRP participating countries within EURAMET and the European Union

2012 – 2015



Metrology for Molecular Radiotherapy

EMPIR  
The EMPIR initiative is co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the EMPIR Participating States

2016 – 2019

 **MRT
DOSIMETRY**
*Metrology for clinical implementation
of dosimetry in molecular radiotherapy*

EMPIR  
The EMPIR initiative is co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the EMPIR Participating States

2020 – 2023

 **PINICAL-MRT**
*Protocols for clinical impact in
molecular radiotherapy*

First international guidelines on uncertainty calculations

European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (2018) 45:2456–2474
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00259-018-4136-7>

GUIDELINES

EANM practical guidance on uncertainty analysis for molecular radiotherapy absorbed dose calculations

Jonathan I. Gear¹ • Maurice G. Cox² • Johan Gustafsson³ • Katarina Sjögren Gleisner³ • Iain Murray¹
Gerhard Glatting⁴ • Mark Konijnenberg⁵ • Glenn D. Flux¹

Received: 9 August 2018 / Accepted: 14 August 2018 / Published online: 14 September 2018
© The Author(s) 2018



History of MRT European metrology

EMRP
European Metrology Research Programme
Programme of EURAMET

The EMRP is jointly funded by the EMRP participating countries within EURAMET and the European Union



EMPIR EURAMET

The EMPIR initiative is co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the EMPIR Participating States.

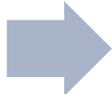


EMPIR EURAMET

The EMPIR initiative is co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the EMPIR Participating States.



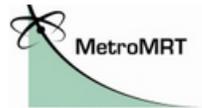
2012 – 2015



2016 – 2019



2020 – 2023

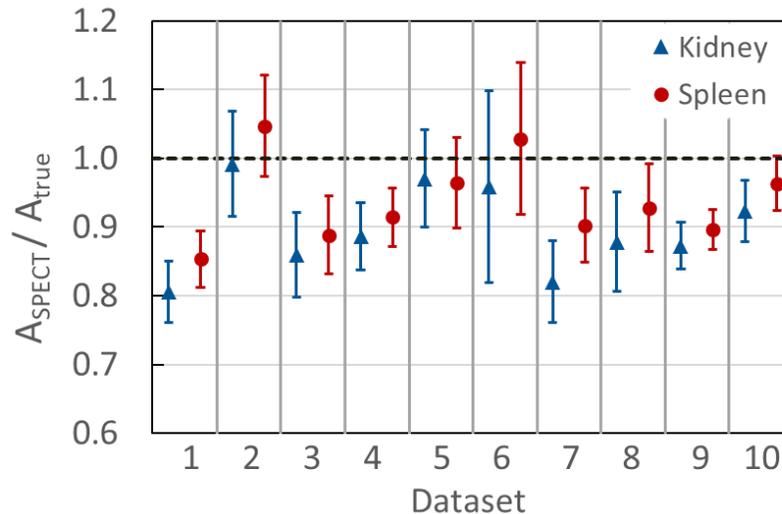
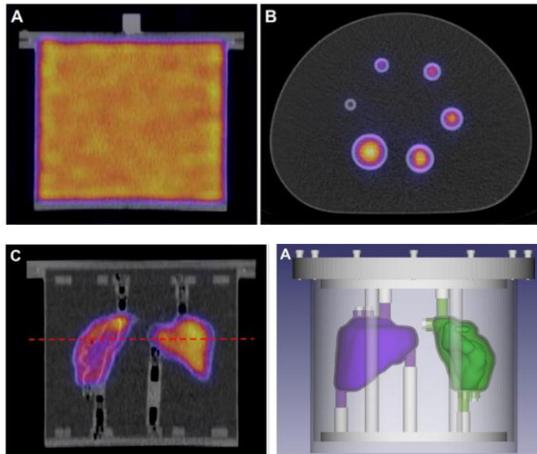


Metrology for Molecular Radiotherapy

MRT DOSIMETRY
Metrology for clinical implementation of dosimetry in molecular radiotherapy

PINICAL-MRT
Protocols for clinical impact in molecular radiotherapy

Towards harmonisation of ¹⁷⁷Lu quantitative imaging



Tran-Gia et al. EJNMMI Physics (2021) 8:55
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40658-021-00397-0>

EJNMMI Physics

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Open Access

A multicentre and multi-national evaluation of the accuracy of quantitative Lu-177 SPECT/CT imaging performed within the MRTDosimetry project



Johannes Tran-Gia^{1*}, Ana M. Denis-Bacelar², Kelley M. Ferreira², Andrew P. Robinson^{2,3,4}, Nicholas Calvert³, Andrew J. Fenwick^{2,5}, Domenico Finocchiaro^{6,7}, Federica Fioroni⁶, Elisa Grassi⁶, Warda Heetun², Stephanie J. Jewitt⁸, Maria Kotzassalidou⁹, Michael Ljungberg¹⁰, Daniel R. McGowan^{8,11}, Nathaniel Scott⁸, James Scuffham^{2,12,13}, Katarina Sjögreen Gleisner¹⁰, Jill Tipping³, Jill Wevrett^{2,12,13}, The MRTDosimetry Collaboration and Michael Lassmann¹



History of MRT European metrology

EMRP
European Metrology Research Programme
Programme of EURAMET

The EMRP is jointly funded by the EMRP participating countries within EURAMET and the European Union



EMPIR EURAMET

The EMPIR initiative is co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the EMPIR Participating States.



EMPIR EURAMET

The EMPIR initiative is co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the EMPIR Participating States.



2012 – 2015

2016 – 2019

2020 – 2023



Metrology for Molecular Radiotherapy

MRT DOSIMETRY
Metrology for clinical implementation of dosimetry in molecular radiotherapy

PINICAL-MRT
Protocols for clinical impact in molecular radiotherapy

Towards harmonisation of ¹⁷⁷Lu quantitative imaging



Results now used by EARL to establish an international accreditation programme for the harmonisation of SPECT ¹⁷⁷Lu imaging → improve accuracy and reproducibility in multi-centre studies



Tran-Gia et al. EJNMMI Physics (2021) 8:55
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40658-021-00397-0>

EJNMMI Physics

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Open Access



A multicentre and multi-national evaluation of the accuracy of quantitative Lu-177 SPECT/CT imaging performed within the MRTDosimetry project

Johannes Tran-Gia^{1*}, Ana M. Denis-Bacelar², Kelley M. Ferreira², Andrew P. Robinson^{2,3,4}, Nicholas Calvert³, Andrew J. Fenwick^{2,5}, Domenico Finocchiaro^{6,7}, Federica Fioroni⁶, Elisa Grassi⁶, Warda Heetun², Stephanie J. Jewitt⁸, Maria Kotzassarlidou⁹, Michael Ljungberg¹⁰, Daniel R. McGowan^{8,11}, Nathaniel Scott⁸, James Scuffham^{2,12,13}, Katarina Sjögren Gleisner¹⁰, Jill Tipping³, Jill Wevret^{2,12,13}, The MRTDosimetry Collaboration and Michael Lassmann¹



History of MRT European metrology

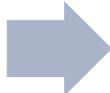
EMRP
European Metrology Research Programme
Programme of EURAMET
The EMRP is jointly funded by the EMRP participating countries within EURAMET and the European Union



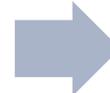
EMPIR  EURAMET
The EMPIR initiative is co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the EMPIR Participating States.

EMPIR  EURAMET
The EMPIR initiative is co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the EMPIR Participating States.

2012 – 2015



2016 – 2019



2020 – 2023

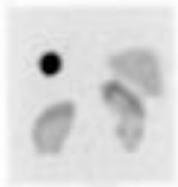
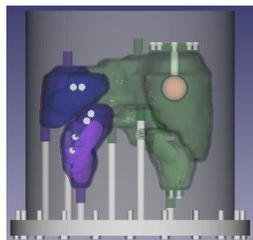


Metrology for Molecular Radiotherapy

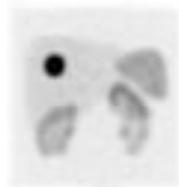
MRT DOSIMETRY
Metrology for clinical implementation of dosimetry in molecular radiotherapy

PINICAL-MRT
Protocols for clinical impact in molecular radiotherapy

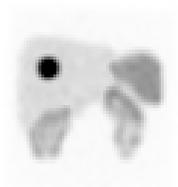
Quality assurance of dosimetry software



1 h



4 h



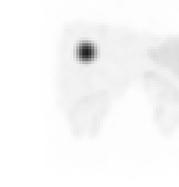
24 h



40 h



72 h



144 h

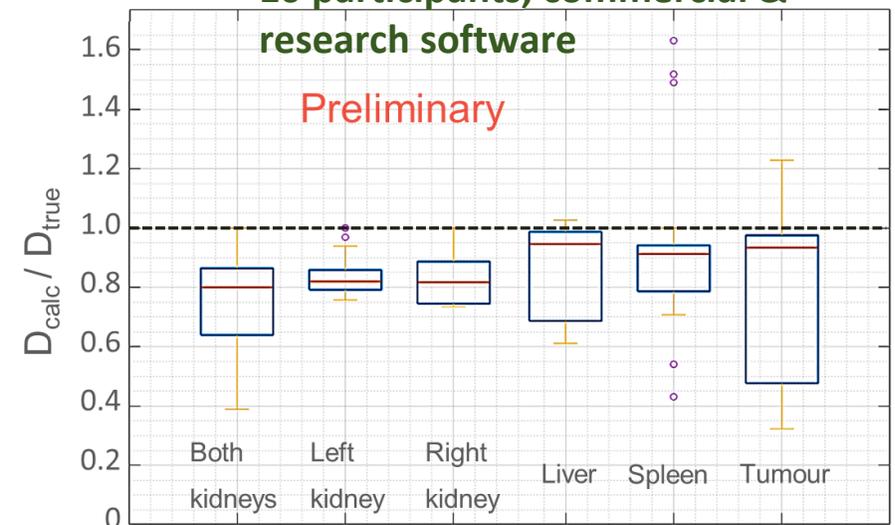
Reference dataset

Robinson *et al.*

Physica Medica 2023

<https://osf.io/69nge/>

10 participants, commercial & research software

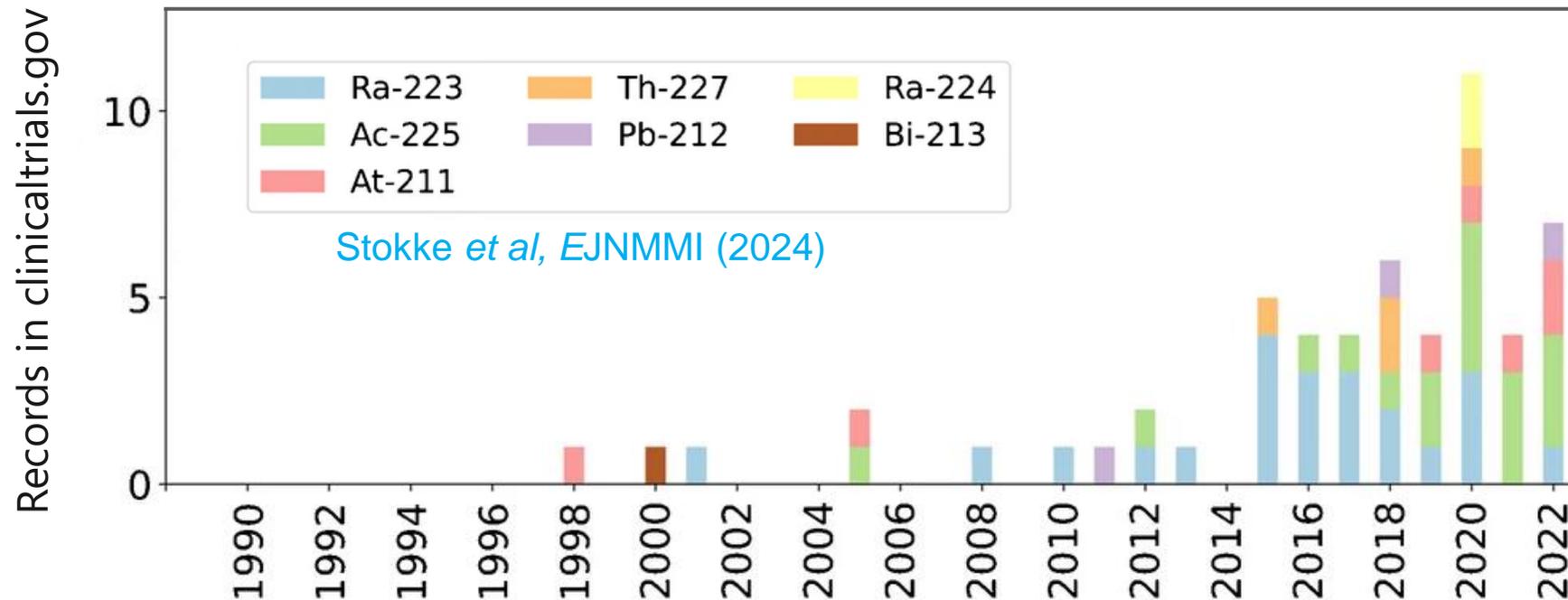


Denis-Bacelar *et al.* In preparation

What next?

• $^{223}\text{RaCl}_2$ is the first and only α -emitter with marketing authorisation, leading to:

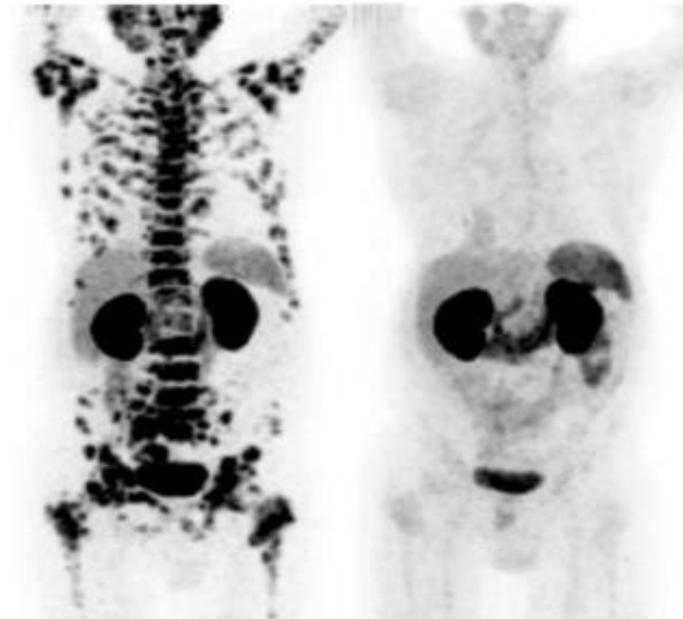
- increased investment in targeted alpha therapies (TAT): US\$ 672 million global market expected to grow 36.7% by 2027
- other α -emitting therapies under development (^{225}Ac , ^{213}Bi , ^{224}Ra , ^{212}Pb , ^{211}At , ^{149}Tb)



What next?

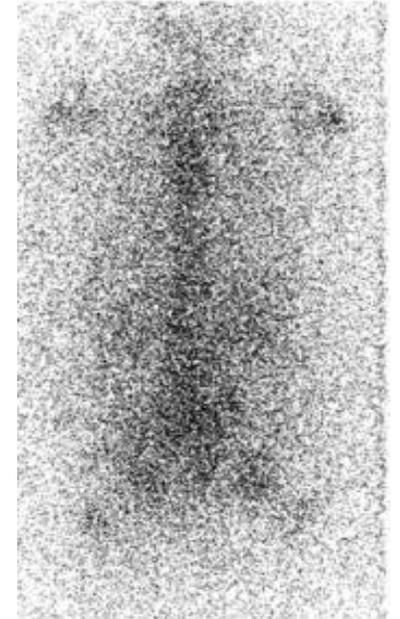
- **However...** robust radioactivity standards, good practice guides on activity and absorbed dose quantification are not available
- **Therefore...** presently **no traceability, unknown uncertainties, accuracy and reproducibility of measurements in TAT**
- The Basic Safety Standards (BSS) EC Directive 2013/59/EURATOM mandates dosimetry

Pre- and post-treatment scans



^{68}Ga -PSMA
PET

Therapy scan



^{225}Ac -PSMA
SPECT

AlphaMet aims to address the unique and unmet metrological challenges of alpha emitters and support the implementation of end-to-end traceability for alpha therapies before wide routine adoption

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP



Co-funded by the European Union

METROLOGY PARTNERSHIP



Consortium



Eight metrology institutes (NMI/DI)



Eight clinical and research partners, and one affiliated entity



2.6 (1.9)M€, Sep 2023 – Aug 2026

AlphaMet: Technical Work Packages



WP1
Standards

Standards (^{225}Ac ,
 ^{212}Pb , ^{211}At)

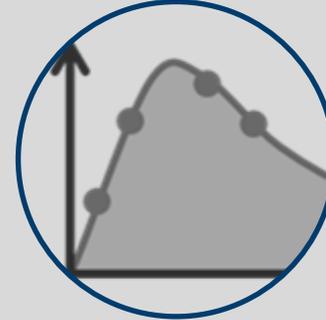
Measurement
capabilities of end-
users?



WP2
Activity

QI of alpha
emitters

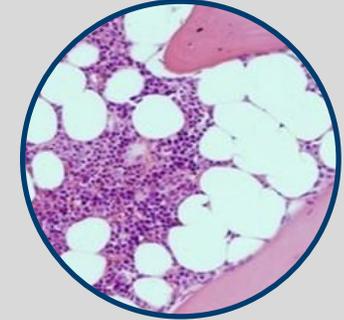
Accuracy,
reproducibility,
uncertainties?



WP3
Absorbed dose

Uncertainty analysis
in biokinetic
modelling

Macro to micro-
dosimetry



WP4
Bone marrow

Quantitative
morphological
imaging of the
bone marrow
(DECT & MRI)

End-to-end metrology

WP1: Radioactivity standards

Challenges

- Revision of ^{223}Ra standards found that patients were being injected with 9% more activity than intended
- No fully validated standards available for other α -emitters

Measurement technique	Activity concentration/kBq g ⁻¹
Primary methods	
CIEMAT/NIST efficiency traced LSC	52.37 ± 0.35
4 π LS- γ digital coincidence counting with computer discrimination	52.34 ± 0.18
Weighted mean	52.35 ± 0.16
Secondary methods	
γ -spectrometry	51.97 ± 0.76
Ionisation chamber based on calibration factors of Bergeron et al. (2010)	47.5 ± 0.3
4 π APPC (α)– γ coincidence counting	52.37 ± 0.40
4 π APPC (α + β)– γ coincidence counting	52.5 ± 1.0

9% bias

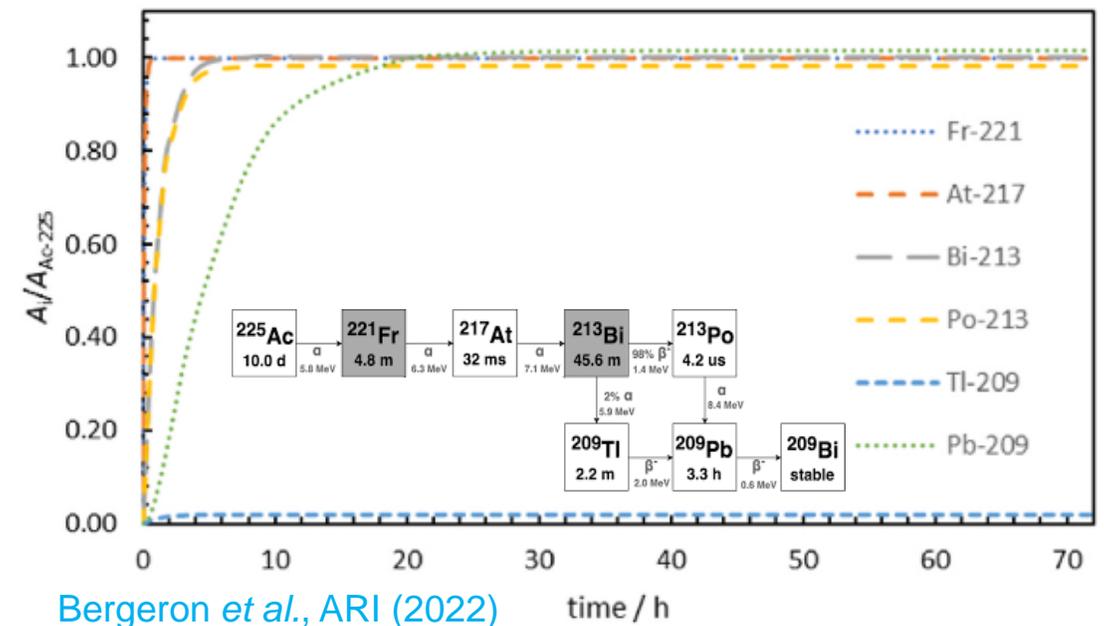
Keightley J et al. (2015). ARI 95, 114–121

2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION From 50 to 55 kBq/kg

2.1 Recommended Dosage

The dose regimen of Xofigo is 50 kBq (1.35 microcurie) per kg body weight, given at 4 week intervals for 6 injections. Safety and efficacy beyond 6 injections with Xofigo have not been studied.

- International guidance recommends that therapeutic administered activities should be accurate within $\pm 5\%$,
- How well can end-users measure alpha emitters?



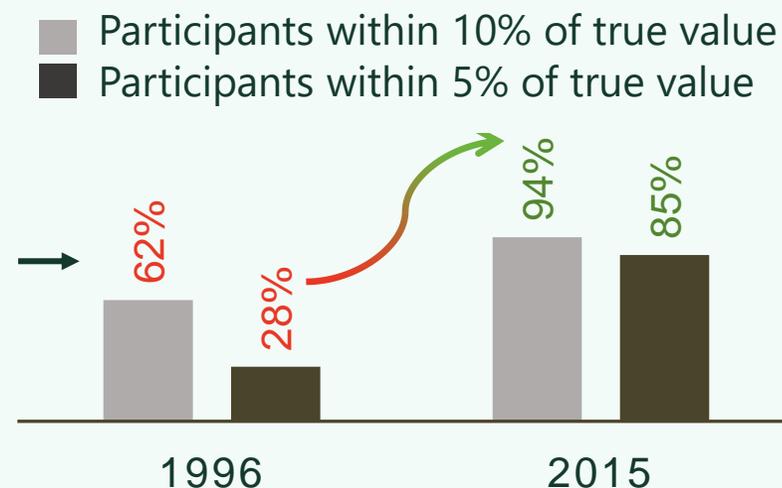
WP1: Radioactivity standards

Beyond the start of the art

- Develop new primary (secondary) standards:
 - ^{225}Ac : **CEA, CMI, ENEA, NPL, CIEMAT, NCBJ, CHUV** (combined with CCRI KCWG)
 - ^{212}Pb : **CEA, CMI, NPL, CIEMAT**
 - ^{211}At : **CEA, CMI, CHUV, CIEMAT**
- Perform intercomparison exercise of activity measurement capabilities (radionuclide calibrators & gamma counters) at research and clinical settings to assess user needs (^{225}Ac)



Potential improvements in activity measurement capabilities (e.g. ^{123}I)



AlphaMet: Technical Work Packages



WP1
Standards

Standards (^{225}Ac ,
 ^{212}Pb , ^{211}At)

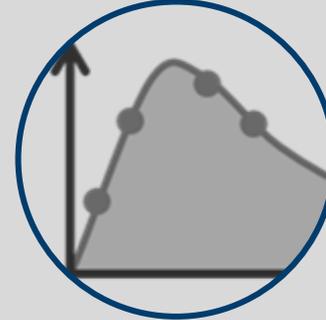
Measurement
capabilities of end-
users?



WP2
Activity

QI of alpha
emitters

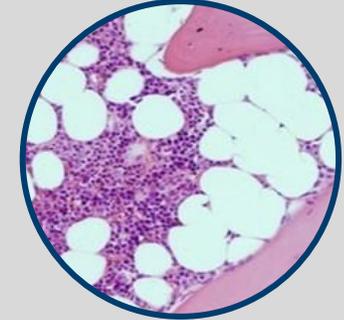
Accuracy,
reproducibility,
uncertainties?



WP3
Absorbed dose

Uncertainty analysis
in biokinetic
modelling

Macro to micro-
dosimetry



WP4
Bone marrow

Morphological
imaging of the
bone marrow
(DECT & MRI)

End-to-end metrology

WP2: In-vivo activity quantification

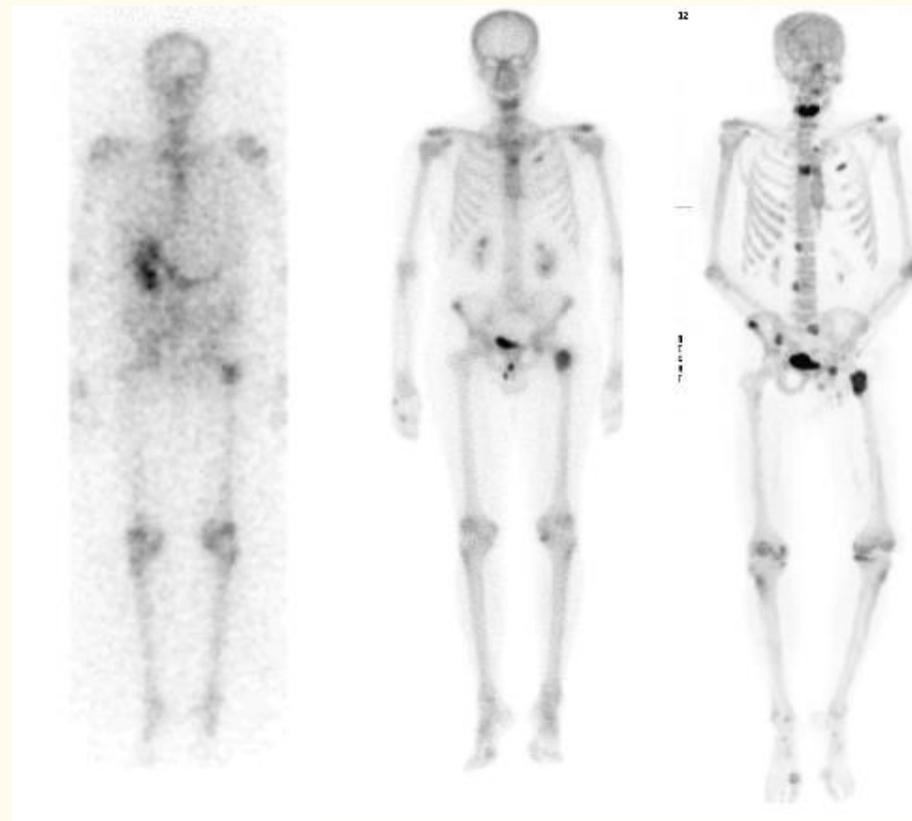
Challenges

- 3D quantitative SPECT imaging is not well established for α -emitters, but is essential for post-treatment verification (BSSD)
- Progeny in-growth, low activities → low counts, poor resolution
- Unknown accuracy, reproducibility and uncertainties
- **Is it quantitatively good enough?**

SPECT



^{223}Ra



$^{223}\text{RaCl}_2$

$^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc-MDP}$

$^{18}\text{F-fluoride}$

WP2: In-vivo activity quantification

Challenges

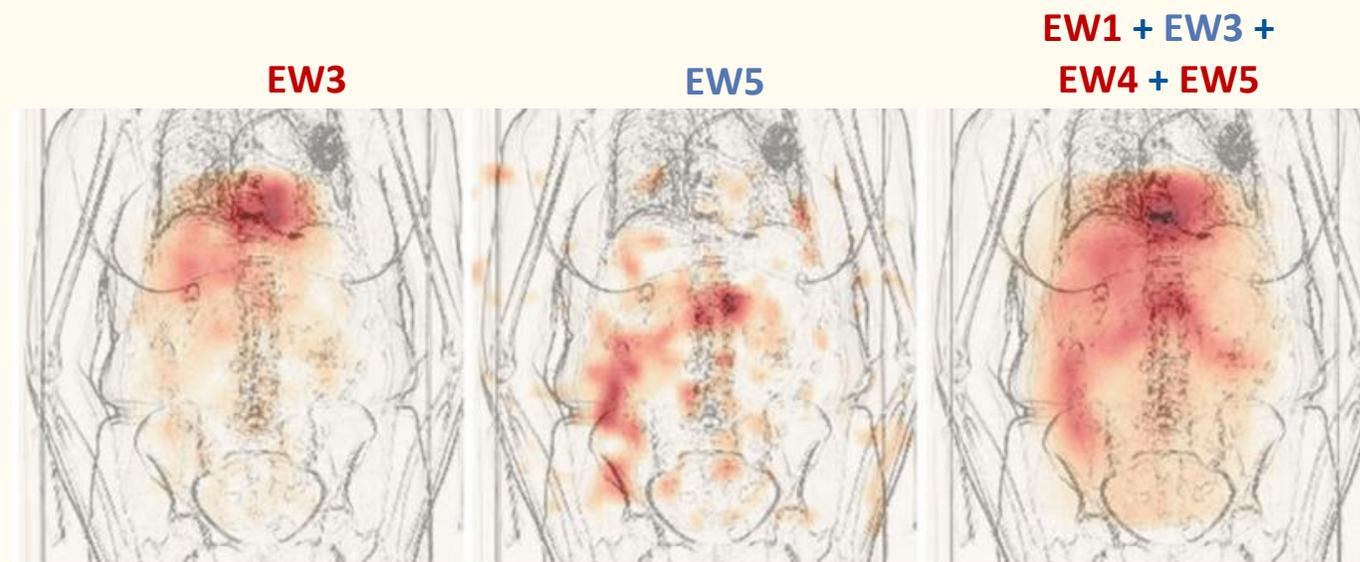
- 3D quantitative SPECT imaging is not well established for α -emitters, but is essential for post-treatment verification (BSSD)
- Progeny in-growth, low activities → low counts, poor resolution
- Unknown accuracy, reproducibility and uncertainties
- **Is it quantitatively good enough?**

SPECT



$^{227}\text{Th}/^{223}\text{Ra}$

- A sum of all windows is useful to improve statistics, but cannot alone differentiate ^{227}Th from ^{223}Ra .



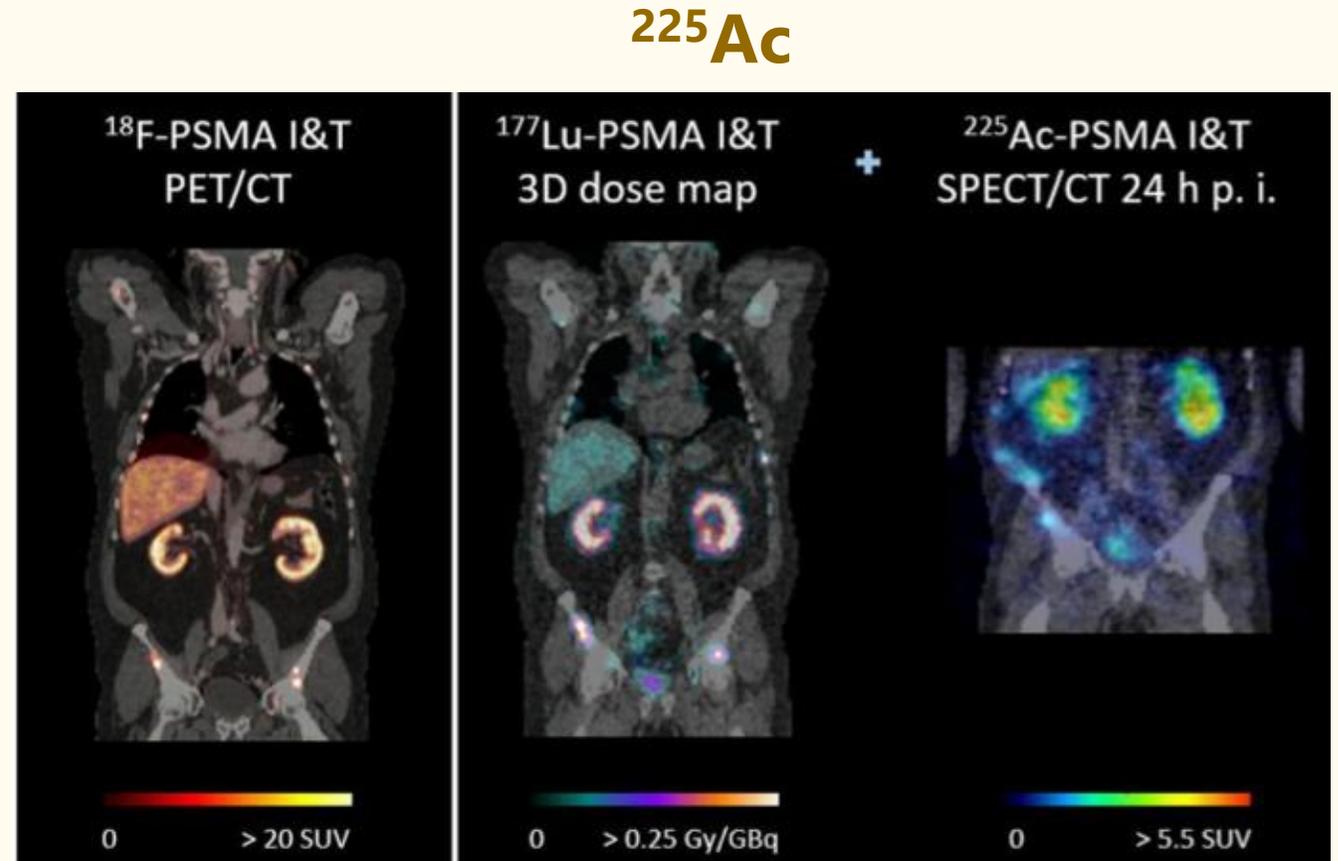
Larsson E, Brolin G, Cleton A, et al. Cancer Biother Radiopharm. 2020 Sep;35(7):540-548

WP2: In-vivo activity quantification

Challenges

- 3D quantitative SPECT imaging is not well established for α -emitters, but is essential for post-treatment verification (BSSD)
- Progeny in-growth, low activities → low counts, poor resolution
- Unknown accuracy, reproducibility and uncertainties
- Is it quantitatively good enough?

SPECT



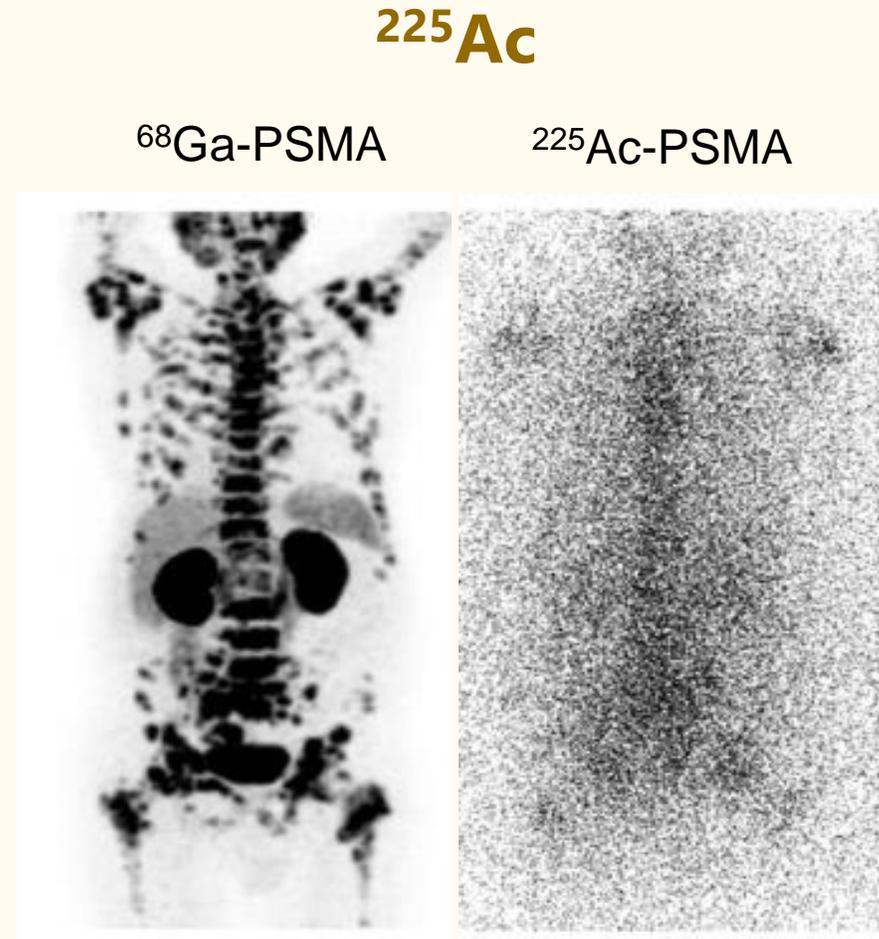
Gosewisch *et al.* EJNMI (2021)

WP2: In-vivo activity quantification

Challenges

- 3D quantitative SPECT imaging is not well established for α -emitters, but is essential for post-treatment verification (BSSD)
- Progeny in-growth, low activities → low counts, poor resolution
- Unknown accuracy, reproducibility and uncertainties
- **Is it quantitatively good enough?**

SPECT



Kratochwil *et al*, JNM (2016)

WP2: In-vivo activity quantification

Challenges

- 3D quantitative SPECT imaging is not well established for α -emitters, but is essential for post-treatment verification (BSSD)
- Progeny in-growth, low activities → low counts, poor resolution
- Unknown accuracy, reproducibility and uncertainties
- **Is it quantitatively good enough?**

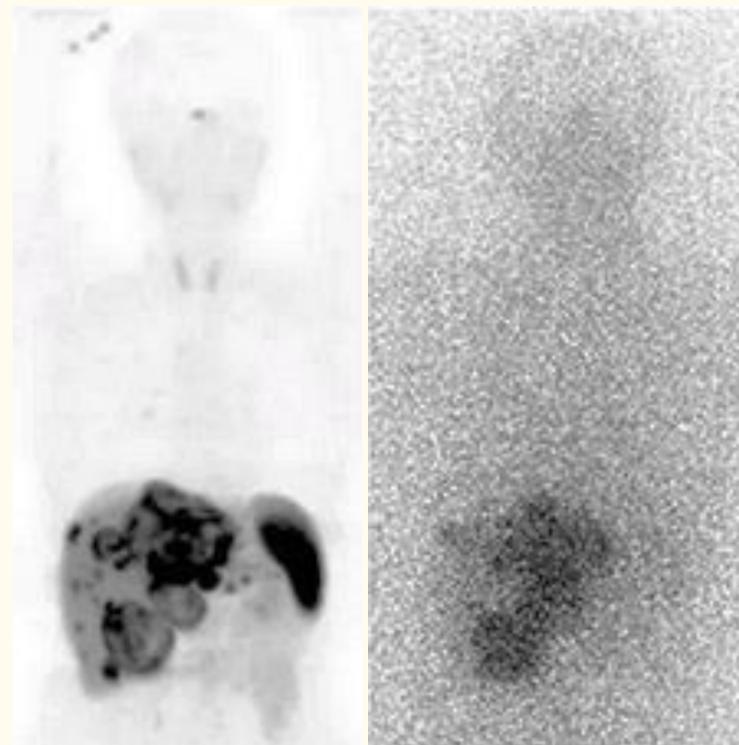
SPECT



^{213}Bi

^{68}Ga -DOTATOC

^{213}Bi -DOTATOC



^{213}Bi -DOTA-SP co-injected with ^{68}Ga -DOTA-SP to assess biodistribution



Kratochwil et al, EJNMMI (2014) 41,2106-19

Krolicki L et al, EJNMMI (2019) 46,614-22

WP2: In-vivo activity quantification

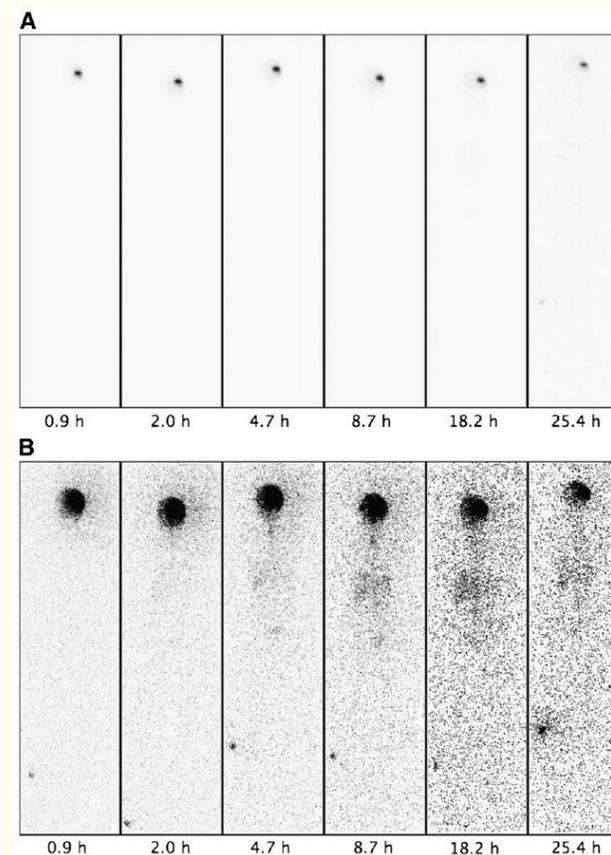
Challenges

- 3D quantitative SPECT imaging is not well established for α -emitters, but is essential for post-treatment verification (BSSD)
- Progeny in-growth, low activities → low counts, poor resolution
- Unknown accuracy, reproducibility and uncertainties
- **Is it quantitatively good enough?**

SPECT



^{211}At



^{211}At RIT
for brain cancer

Loco-regional
administration into
the surgically
created resection
cavity

WP2: In-vivo activity quantification

Challenges

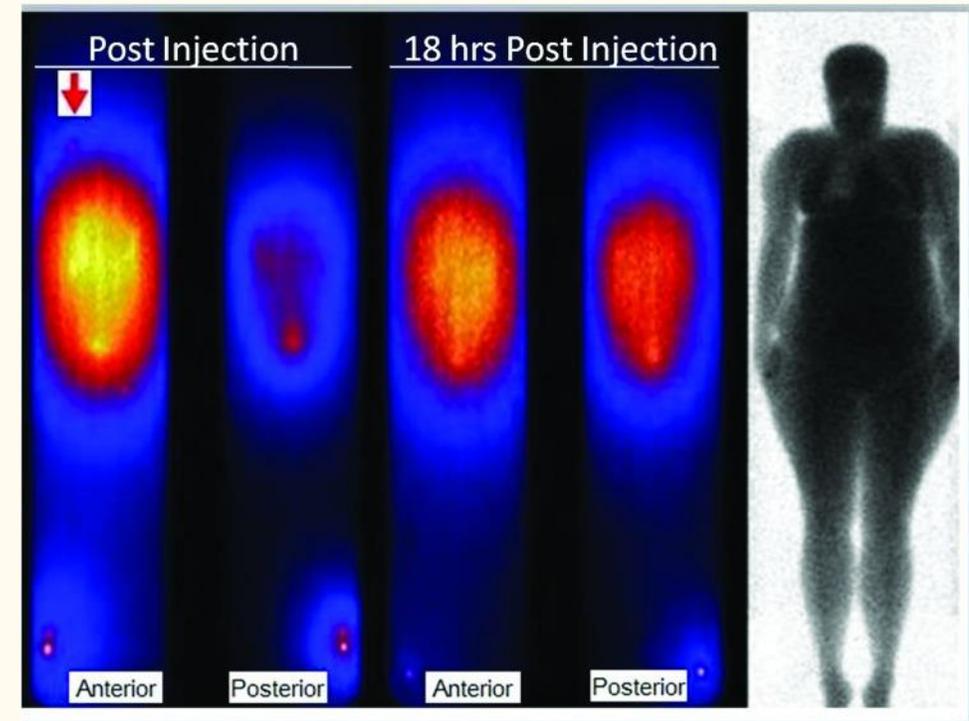
- 3D quantitative SPECT imaging is not well established for α -emitters, but is essential for post-treatment verification (BSSD)
- Progeny in-growth, low activities → low counts, poor resolution
- Unknown accuracy, reproducibility and uncertainties
- **Is it quantitatively good enough?**

SPECT



^{212}Pb

$^{212}\text{Pb}/^{212}\text{Bi}$ RIT targeting HER-2 positive cancers in the abdominal cavity



Meredith et al, *Cancer Biother Radiopharm* (2014) 29:12-7

WP2: In-vivo activity quantification

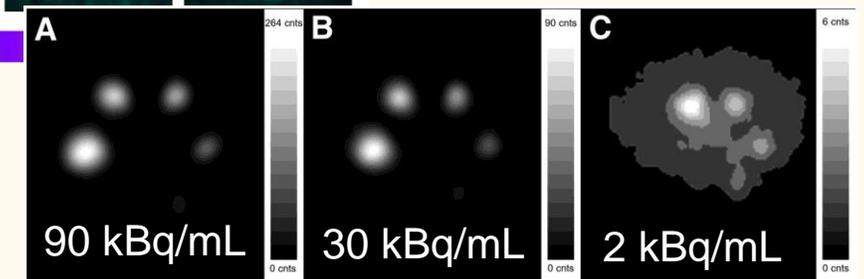
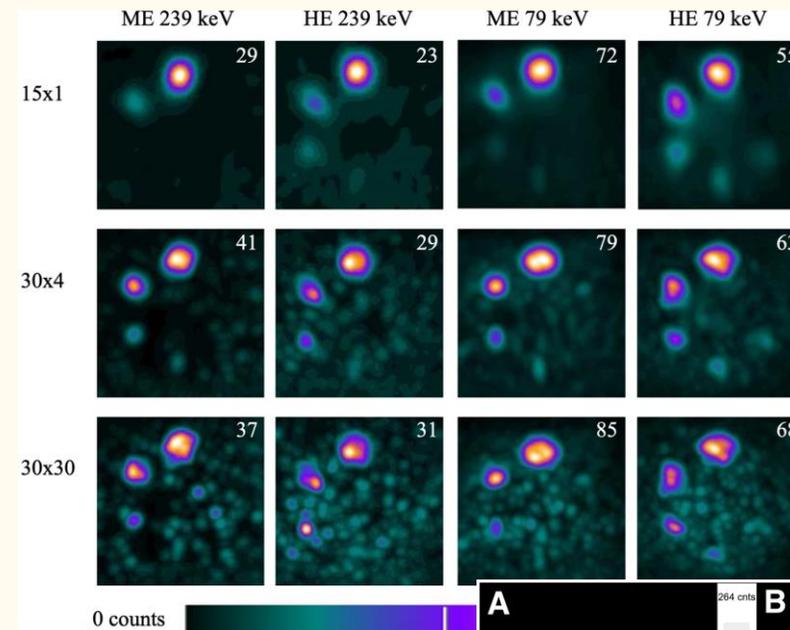
Challenges

- 3D quantitative SPECT imaging is not well established for α -emitters, but is essential for post-treatment verification (BSSD)
- Progeny in-growth, low activities \rightarrow low counts, poor resolution
- Unknown accuracy, reproducibility and uncertainties
- Is it quantitatively good enough?

SPECT



$^{224}\text{Ra}/^{212}\text{Pb}$



WP2: In-vivo activity quantification

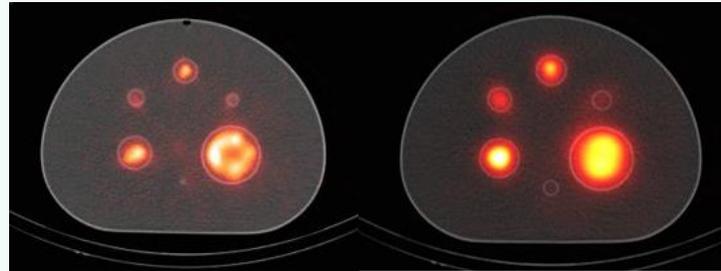
Beyond the state of the art

- Assess feasibility/practicality of QSPECT for α -emitters (calibration, limits of detectability, quality control)

^{225}Ac

^{212}Pb

^{211}At

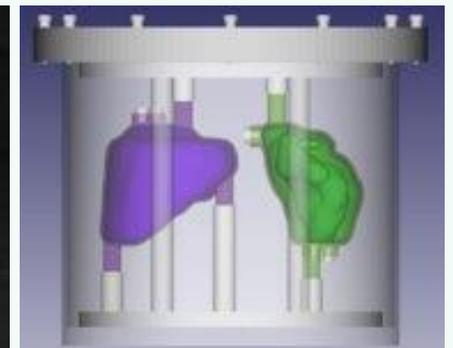
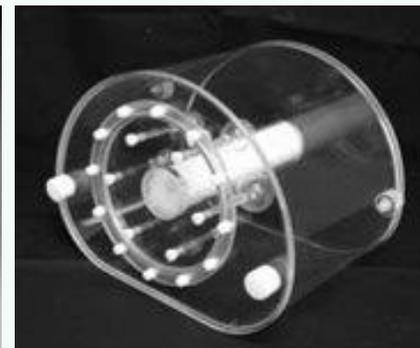


- Improve α -QSPECT with advanced processing techniques:

- In-silico models for image optimisation and generation of ground truth reference data*
- Reconstruction algorithms*

- Organise an **international multi-centre comparison exercise** of α -QSPECT imaging to:

- assess accuracy, reproducibility and uncertainties of activity quantification
- Include major manufacturers (GE, Siemens & Mediso)
- propose guidance for **harmonisation**



AlphaMet: Technical Work Packages



WP1
Standards

Standards (^{225}Ac ,
 ^{212}Pb , ^{211}At)

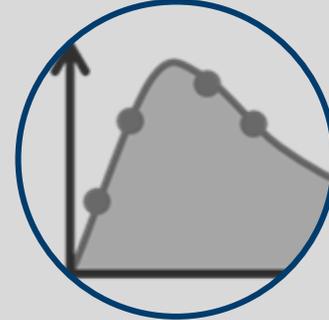
Measurement
capabilities of end-
users?



WP2
Activity

QI of alpha
emitters

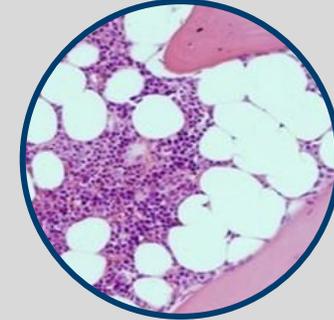
Accuracy,
reproducibility,
uncertainties?



WP3
Absorbed dose

Uncertainty analysis
in biokinetic
modelling

Macro to micro-
dosimetry



WP4
Bone marrow

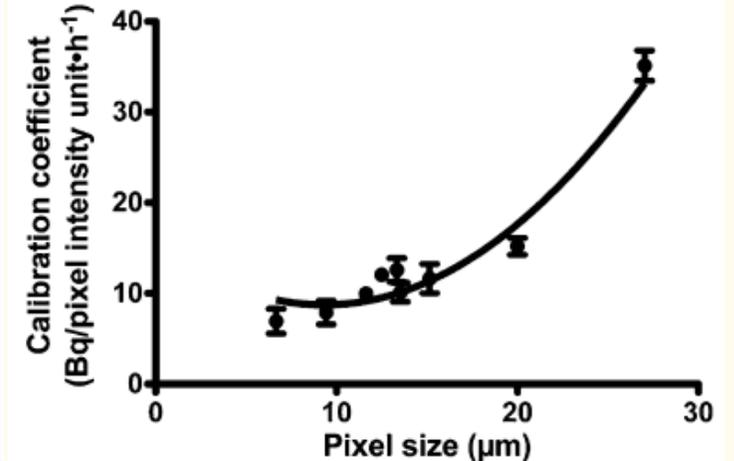
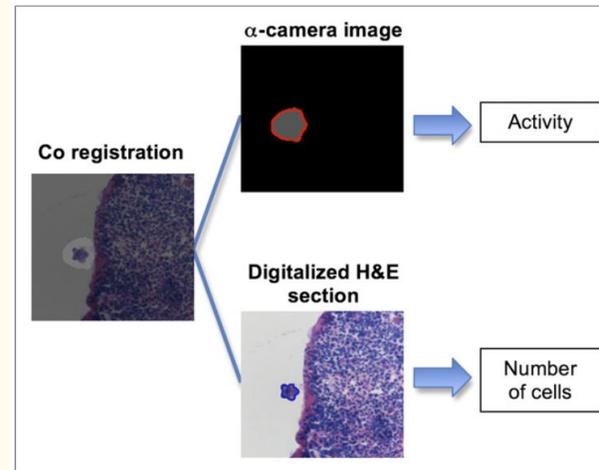
Quantitative
morphological
imaging of the
bone marrow
(DECT & MRI)

End-to-end metrology

WP3: Absorbed dose quantification

Challenges

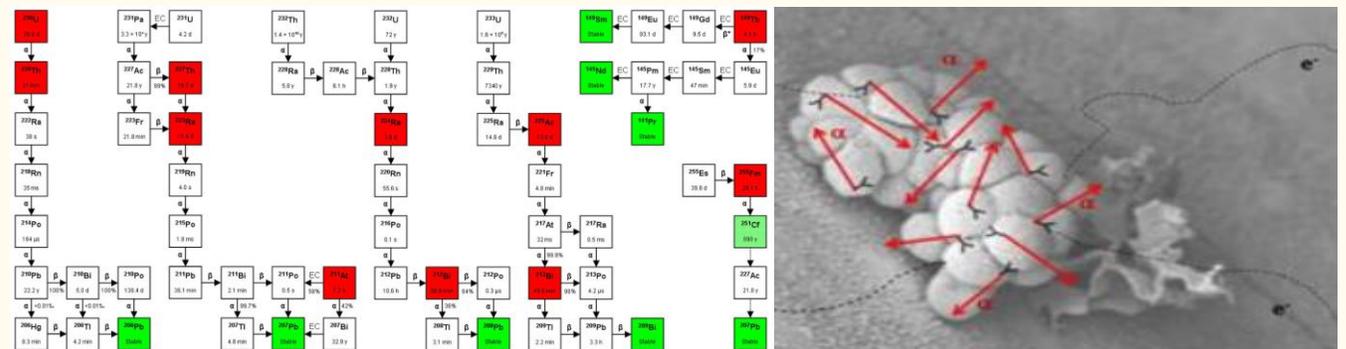
- α particles have short range and high energy (100 keV/μm) → need microscopic uptake distribution (uncertainties of 75% reported by Chouin *et al.*)
- Heterogenous distributions, complex decay schemes, in-growth, separations of progeny... → routine clinical macro-dosimetry methods are not applicable



Chouin *et al.*, JNM (2013) 54:1347–53

- Murray *et al.* (100 kBq/kg ²²³RaCl₂): Median 4.1 Gy (0.6 – 44.1 Gy)
- Pacilio *et al.* (50 kBq/kg ²²³RaCl₂): Mean 0.7 Gy (0.2 – 1.9 Gy)
No daughters included

What is the impact of macro vs micro dosimetry?

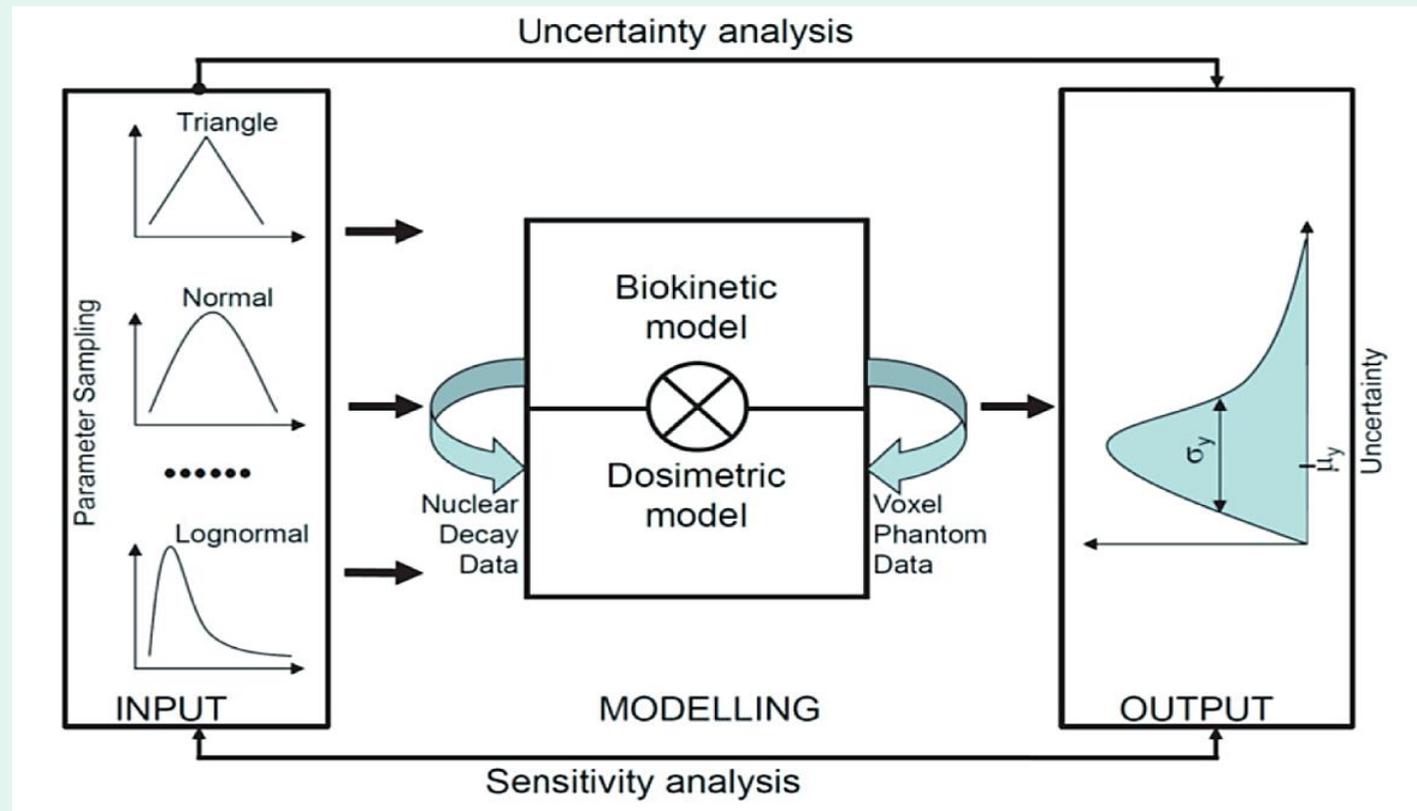


Elgqvist *et al.* Frontiers in Oncology (2013) 3:324

WP3: Absorbed dose quantification

Beyond the state of the art

- Provide recommendations to improve *ex-vivo* autoradiography for the quantification of activity
- Quantification of uncertainties in pharmacokinetic modelling (using existing data for ^{211}At -mAb) → sensitivity analysis
- Investigate the impact of macro-to micro-dosimetry → guidance on end-to-end metrology: from activity to absorbed dose quantification



AlphaMet: Technical Work Packages



WP1
Standards

Standards (^{225}Ac ,
 ^{212}Pb , ^{211}At)

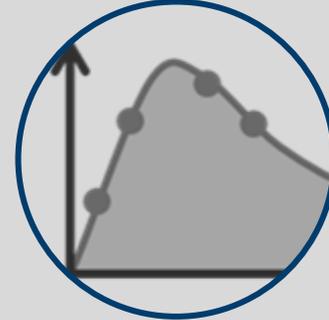
Measurement
capabilities of end-
users



WP2
Activity

QI of alpha
emitters

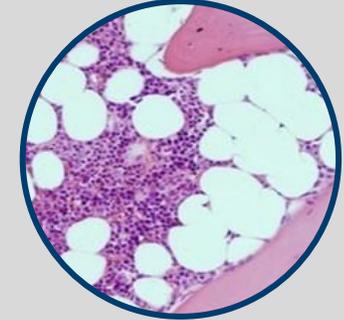
Accuracy,
reproducibility,
uncertainties?



WP3
Absorbed dose

Uncertainty analysis
in biokinetic
modelling

Macro to micro-
dosimetry



WP4
Bone marrow

Quantitative
morphological
imaging of the
bone marrow
(DECT & MRI)

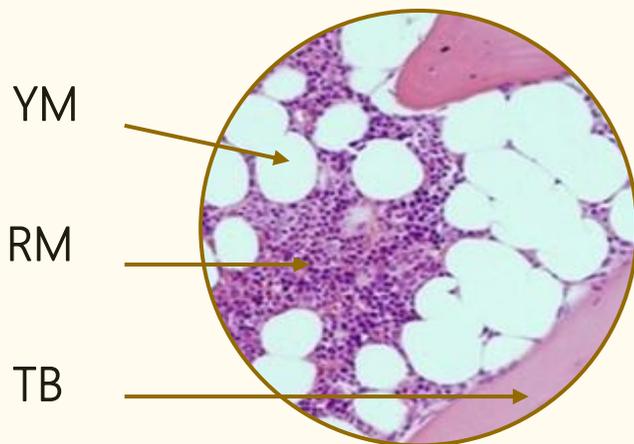
End-to-end metrology

WP4: Bone marrow morphological imaging

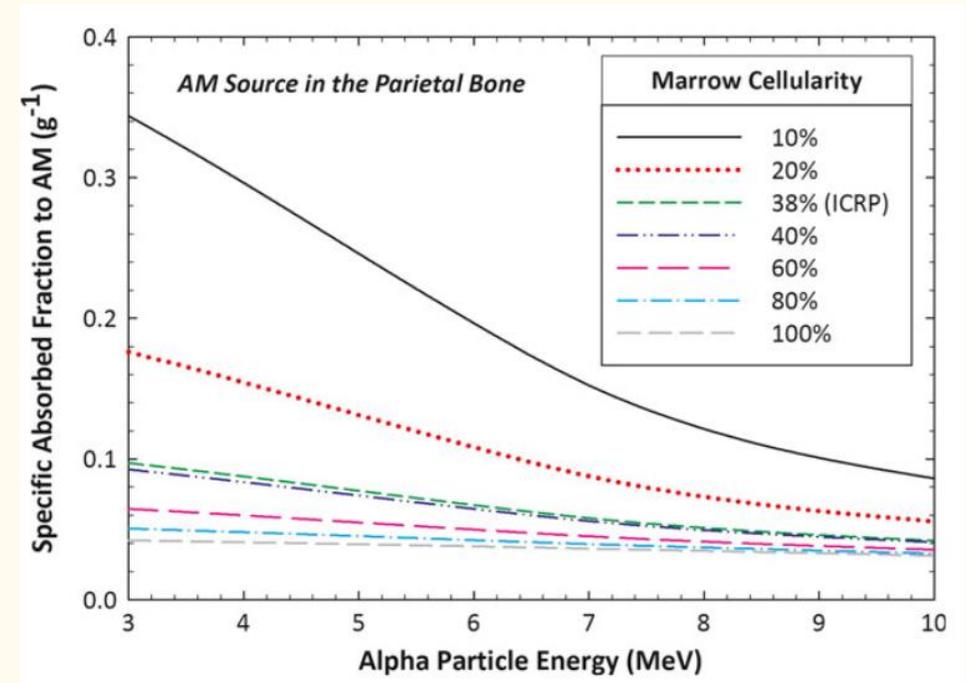
Challenges

- Red marrow (RM) is the most radiosensitive tissue → often limits administered activity
- Spongiosa = Red bone marrow (RM) + yellow marrow (YM) + trabeculae (TB)
- Composition changes with patient age and bone site → not currently used

- ICRP reference models based on simplistic skeletal models
- Errors in dose factors can exceed 200-300% for self irradiation active marrow factors



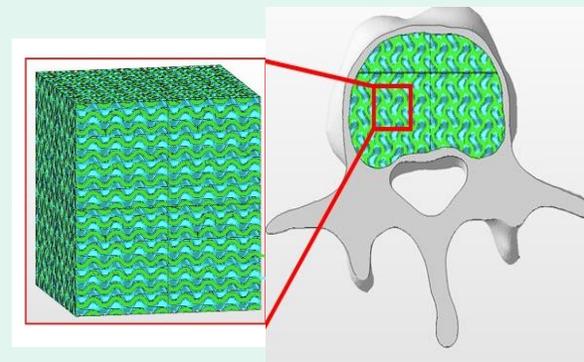
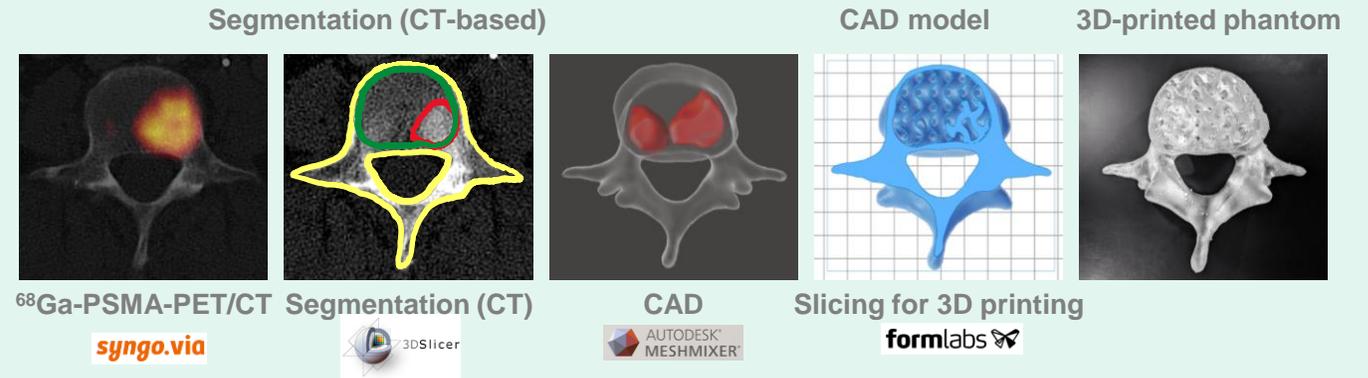
Clear need for
patient-specific
RM dosimetry



WP4: Bone marrow morphological imaging

Beyond the state of the art

- Design/manufacturing of a tailor-made fillable bone site phantom
- Optimise a protocol for morphological MR and DECT imaging to quantify the spongiosa composition (uncertainty budgets)
- Assess the imaging-based error in RM absorbed doses
- Investigate the influence of the geometry of bone metastases on absorbed doses to the red marrow in bone sites



Need realistic densities

Used in the WP2 imaging intercomparison

WP5: Creating impact



Strong stakeholder support through letters of support



How can YOU get involved?

- Follow project website www.alphametproject.com and LinkedIn page
 - Contact us: Coordinator (jan.rusnak@cmi.cz), Impact WP leader (ana.denisbacelar@npl.co.uk)
- Become an official collaborator:
 - Sign-up to participate in the research
 - Gives access to follow project meetings and on-going research
 - Easy (sign agreement with coordinator) & free 😊
- Join our stakeholder workshops:
 - 1st @ at BIPM
 - 2nd (TBC, Summer 2025) & 3rd (TBC, Sep-2026)
- Coming up in September 2024:
 - Survey on activity measurements, imaging and dosimetry for alpha emitters



Thank you for listening



A.M. Denis-Bacelar, C. Bobin, M. Koole, S. Palm, J. Tran-Gia, C. Bailat, R. Broda, M. Capogni, S.M. Collins, D. Deidda, A. Delker, M.T. Duran Ramiro, A.J. Fenwick, K. Ferreira, F. Haddad, F. Juget, M. Kellet, M. Lassmann, W.B. Li, P. Mínguez Gabiña, D. Panciera, M. Roteta Ibarra, M. Salas Ramirez, C. Saldarriaga Vargas, J. Sochorova, A.P. Robinson, J. Scuffham, J. Solc, L. Struelens, A.L. Thiesen, T. Ziemek, S. Ziegler, **J. Rusnak**



AlphaMet

Metrology for Emerging Targeted Alpha Therapies

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or EURAMET. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

The project has received funding from the European Partnership on Metrology, co-financed from the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme and by the Participating States.

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP



Co-funded by the European Union

METROLOGY PARTNERSHIP

