

# Microdosimetry and nanodosimetry for internal emitters – changing the scale

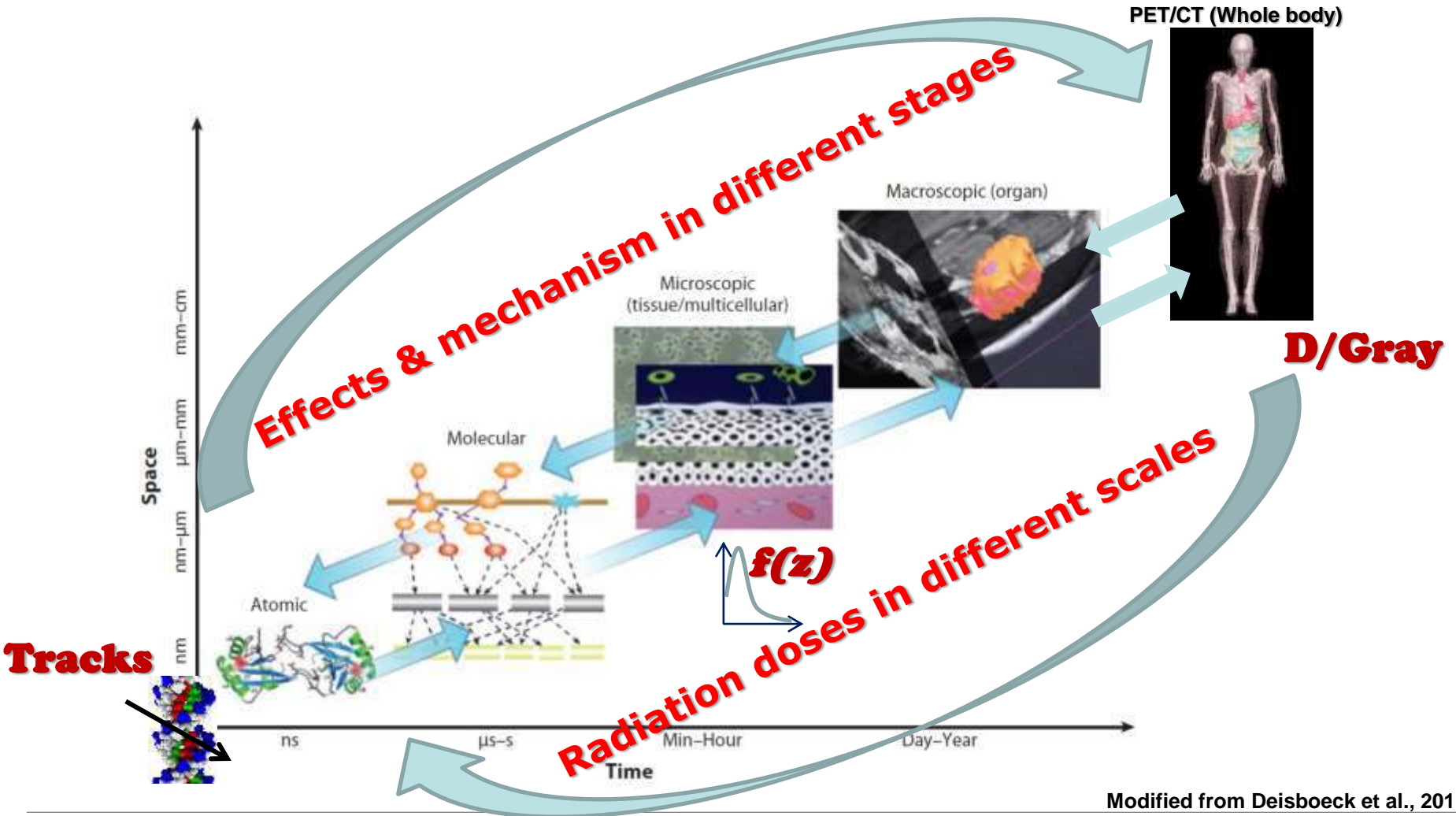
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Helmholtz Zentrum München, Neuherberg, Germany

EURADOS Winter School, 02/03/2017, Karlsruhe

# Motivation and Innovation

## Multistage mechanism needs Multiscale dosimetry



Modified from Deisboeck et al., 2011

# Microdosimetry and nanodosimetry in EURADOS

- 1982, EURADOS established Working Group 1 – Application of the microdosimetric principle in radiation protection
- Workshop on Microdosimetry in radiation protection, 1984
- EURADOS 6th Winter School on Microdosimetry: Perspectives of Computational Nanodosimetry (AM2013):
  - Davidkova - Introduction to microdosimetry
  - Grosswendt - Introduction to nanodosimetry
  - Villagrasa - Micro- and nanodosimetry: Monte Carlo DNA Monte Carlo code
  - Hofmann - Alpha particle microdosimetry
  - Bordage - Microdosimetry of Alpha particles

## Radiation Protection Dosimetry

### MICRODOSIMETRIC COUNTERS IN RADIATION PROTECTION

Proceedings of a Workshop held at  
Homburg/Saar (FRG)  
May 15th - 17th 1984

*Organised by:*  
Commission of the European Community  
European Radiation Dosimetry Group  
Universität des Saarlands/Saar

*Proceedings Editors:*  
J. BOOZ, CEC  
A. A. EDWARDS, NRPB (UK)  
K. G. HARRISON, AERE (UK)

# Overview

- **Radiation dosimetry**
  - Roentgen,  $r$
  - Absorbed dose,  $D$
  - Linear energy transfer,  $LET$
- **Microdosimetry for cellular biological effects**
  - Cellular effects cannot be explained by absorbed dose
  - Lineal energy and specific energy
  - Proximity function
  - Compound Poisson process
- **Nanodosimetry for molecular radiation mechanism**
  - Tracks and initial events lead to molecular damages
  - Radiation track structure theory
  - Physical tool for molecular mechanism of radiation effects
- **Internal micro- and nanodosimetry**
  - Cellular dosimetry of targeted radionuclides
  - Microdosimetry of radon progeny
  - Dose–response relationship
- **Future development**

# Radiation dosimetry



- ❖ 1895 Wilhelm Röntgen discovered X-rays
- ❖ 1896 Dermatitis and damages to hands
- ❖ 1902 Skin cancer
- ❖ 1925 Measurement of X-rays by free-air chamber
- ❖ 1928 ICRU established a unit “roentgen” for that “quantity” which was measured by free-air chamber
- ❖ 1953 ICRU established “absorbed dose”
- ❖ 1956 ICRU used the unit “roentgen” for established “exposure dose” and later “exposure” (ICRU 1962), now the SI unit “C kg<sup>-1</sup>”
  
- ❖ 1538 Paracelsus “Dosis sola facit venenum” – the dose makes the poison – Rühm, 2016 in Rösch ed. Nuclear- and Radiochemistry Vo.II
  
- ❖ ***Radiation Dosimetry deals with the measurement of absorbed dose / dose rate resulting from the interaction of ionizing radiation with matters***

# Absorbed dose

- ❖ The *absorbed dose*,  $D$ , is the quotient of  $d\bar{\varepsilon}$  by  $dm$ , where  $d\bar{\varepsilon}$  is the mean energy imparted by ionizing radiation to matter of mass  $dm$ , thus

$$D = \frac{d\bar{\varepsilon}}{dm}.$$

**Unit: J kg<sup>-1</sup> (special name is gray: Gy)**

Note: The absorbed dose,  $D$ , is considered a **point quantity**, but it should be recognized that the physical process does not allow  $dm$  to approach zero in the mathematical sense.

The energy imparted,  $\varepsilon$ , to the matter in a given volume is the sum of all energy deposits in the volume, thus

$$\varepsilon = \sum_i \varepsilon_i,$$

where the summation is performed over all energy deposits,  $\varepsilon_i$ , in that volume.

Unit: J

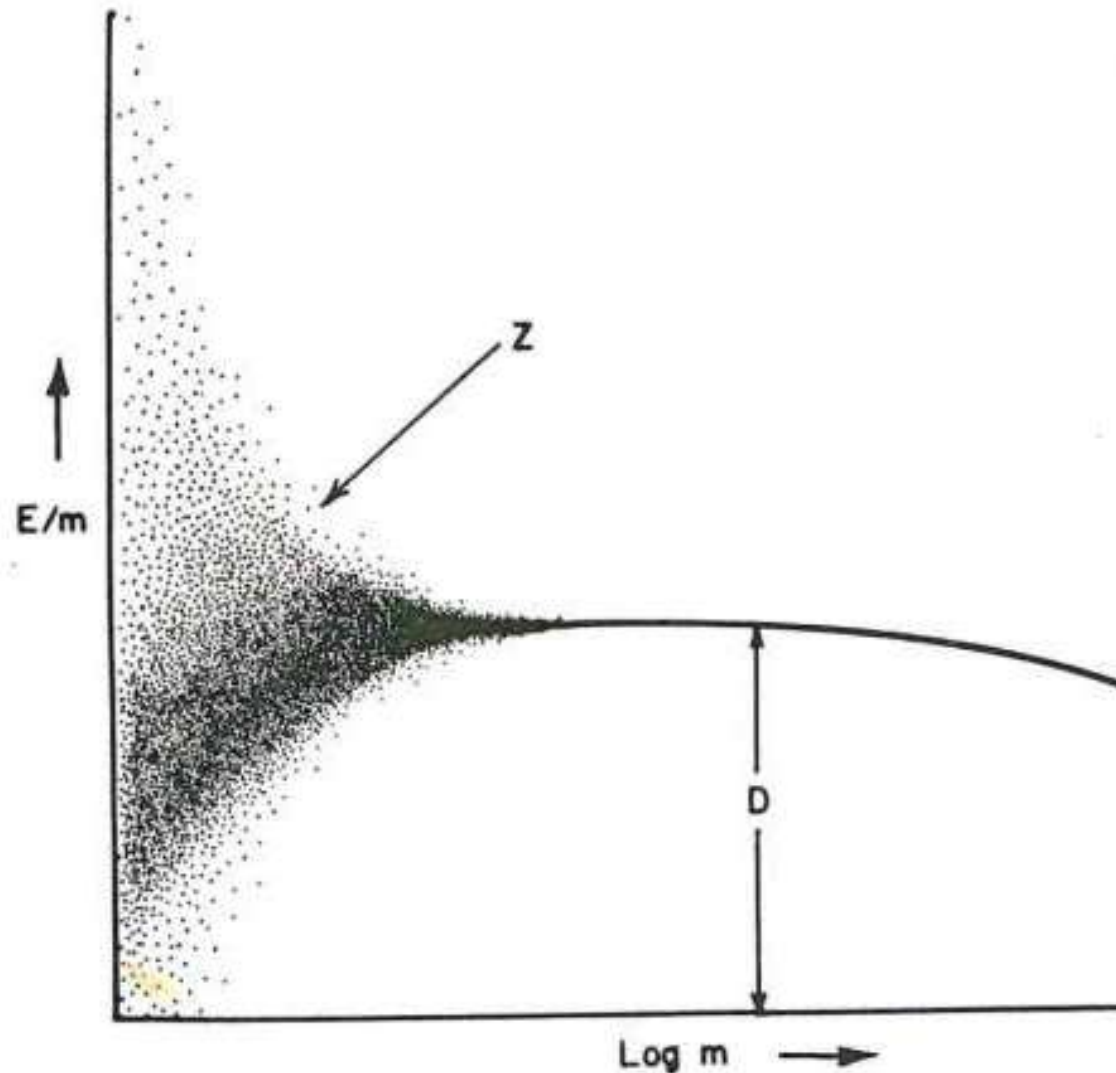
The energy deposit,  $\varepsilon_i$ , is the energy deposited in a single interaction,  $i$ , thus

$$\varepsilon_i = \varepsilon_{in} - \varepsilon_{out} + Q,$$

where  $\varepsilon_{in}$  is the energy of the incident ionizing particle (excluding rest energy),  $\varepsilon_{out}$  is the sum of the energies of all charged and uncharged ionizing particles leaving the interaction (excluding rest energy), and  $Q$  is the change in the rest energies of the nucleus and of all elementary particles involved in the interaction ( $Q > 0$ : decrease of rest energy;  $Q < 0$ : increase of rest energy).

Unit: J

# Absorbed dose and limitations



- ❖ Absorbed dose is a statistic average quantity and disregarded the random fluctuations
- ❖ However, the biological effects are related to the energy deposit and event in cellular region
- ❖ If the volume under investigation becomes smaller, the absorbed dose becomes fluctuant or random
- ❖ Absorbed dose is still used as basic quantity for other derived dosimetric quantities in radiation protection and medicine

Rossi, 1968

# Microdosimetric quantities and distributions

## → Stochastic quantities $y$ and $z$ for microscopic distribution of energy deposition

- ❖ The **lineal energy**,  $y$ , is the quotient of  $\varepsilon_S$  by  $\bar{l}$ , where  $\varepsilon_S$  is the **energy imparted** by ionizing radiation to the matter in a given volume by a single energy-deposition event, and  $\bar{l}$  is the mean chord length of that volume, thus

$$y = \frac{\varepsilon_S}{\bar{l}}.$$

Unit: J m<sup>-1</sup> (keV μm<sup>-1</sup>, this makes you recall LET)

- ❖ The **specific energy** (imparted)  $z$ , is the quotient of  $\varepsilon$  by  $m$ , where  $\varepsilon$  is the **energy imparted** by ionizing radiation to the matter in a volume of mass  $m$ , thus

$$z = \frac{\varepsilon}{m}.$$

Unit: J kg<sup>-1</sup>, special name is gray (Gy)

- ❖ In practice, the probability density of  $y$  and  $z$ , i.e.  $f(y)$  and  $f(z)$  are measured and calculated
- ❖ For convex volumes,  $y = \frac{\rho A}{4} z$ , with  $A$  the surface area and  $\rho$  density

ICRU 36, 1983; Kellerer, 1985; Rossi and Zaider, 1996



# Microdosimetric quantities and distributions

→ **Proximity function**  $T(x)$  and  $t(x)$

Integral proximity function  $T(x)$  is defined as:

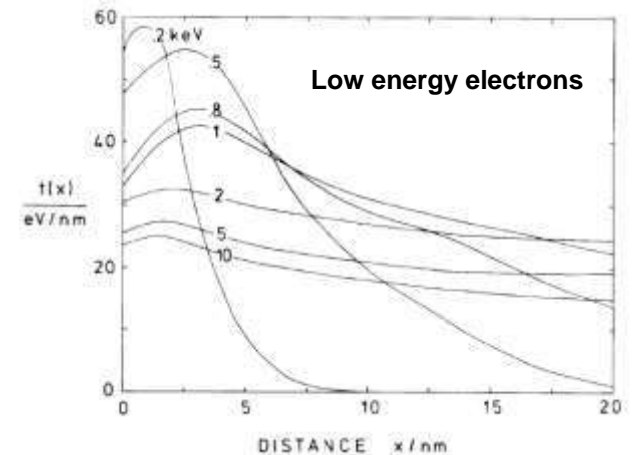
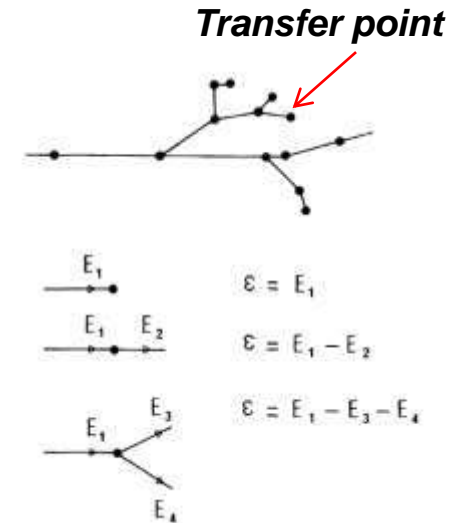
$$T(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \tilde{T}_j(x)$$

$$\tilde{T}_j(x) = \sum_i \sum_k \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_k / \sum_i \varepsilon_i$$

The differential proximity function  $t(x)$  is the derivative of  $T(x)$

$$T(x) = \int_0^x t(x') dx'$$

- $T(x)$  can be also named as **point-pair distance distributions**, of the geometric objects T and S
- $t(x)$  can be understood as **distance distribution of energy transfers** multiplied by total energy of the tracks



ICRU 36, 1983; Kellerer, 1985; Chmelevsky et al. 1980

# Central issues in microdosimetry

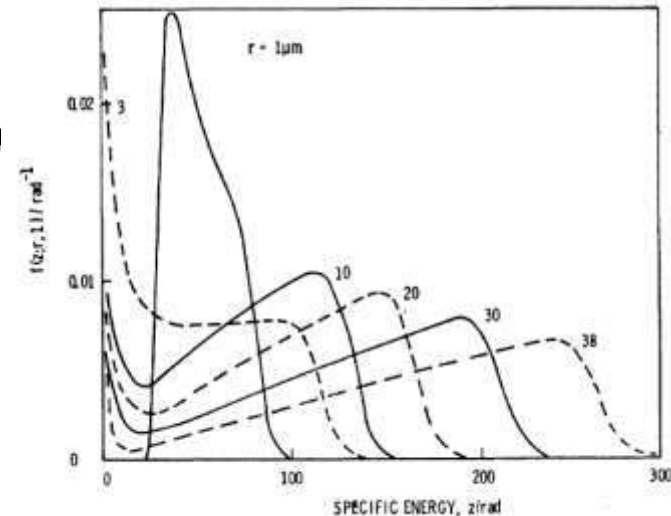
## ■ Compound Poisson process

$$f(z; D) = \sum_{\nu=0}^{\infty} e^{-n} \frac{n^{\nu}}{\nu!} f_{\nu}(z), \quad \text{with } n = \frac{D}{\bar{z}_F}$$

$$f_{\nu}(z) = \int_0^z f_1(x) f_{\nu-1}(z-x) dx \quad (\nu = 2, 3, \dots)$$

## ■ Single-event distribution calculation

- Measurement
- Energy-loss straggling
- Monte Carlo track structure calculation



# Microdosimetry for **internal emitters**

➔ **William Carl Roesch explicitly highlighted a treatise on Internal Microdosimetry**

## SIXTH SYMPOSIUM ON MICRODOSIMETRY

Brussels, Belgium, May 22-26, 1978

Edited by

J. Booz and H. G. Ebert

1213

INTERNAL MICRODOSIMETRY\*

W. C. Roesch

Battelle

Pacific Northwest Laboratories  
Richland, Washington 99352 U.S.A.

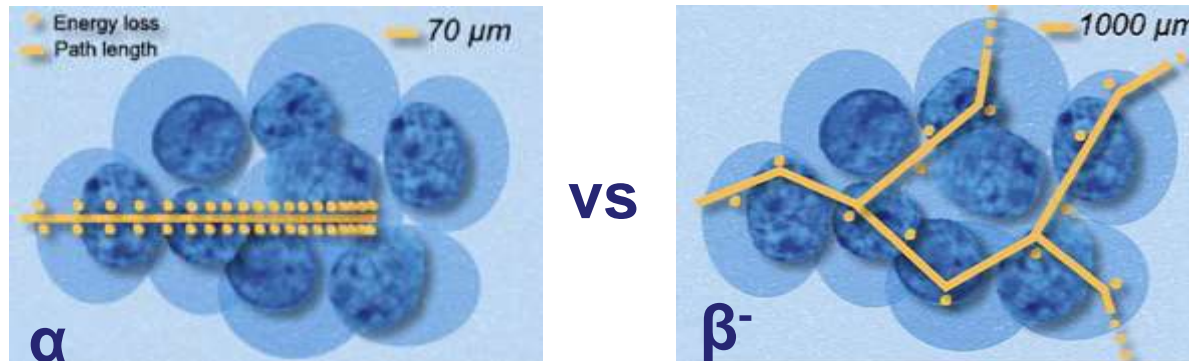


- **Applications of microdosimetry in internal dosimetry**
  - Inhomogeneous distributions of radionuclides in cells
  - Determination of  $f_1(z;D)$
  - Calculating  $f(z;D)$  through Compound Poisson process
- **Microdosimetric biokinetic modelling**

Roesch, 1977; Roesch, 1978

# Microdosimetry of targeted radionuclides

## Advantages of $\alpha$ particles



- Short range: 50 – 80  $\mu\text{m}$
- High LET :  $\sim 100 \text{ keV}/\mu\text{m}$  vs  $0,2 \text{ keV}/\mu\text{m}$  for  $\beta^-$  particles

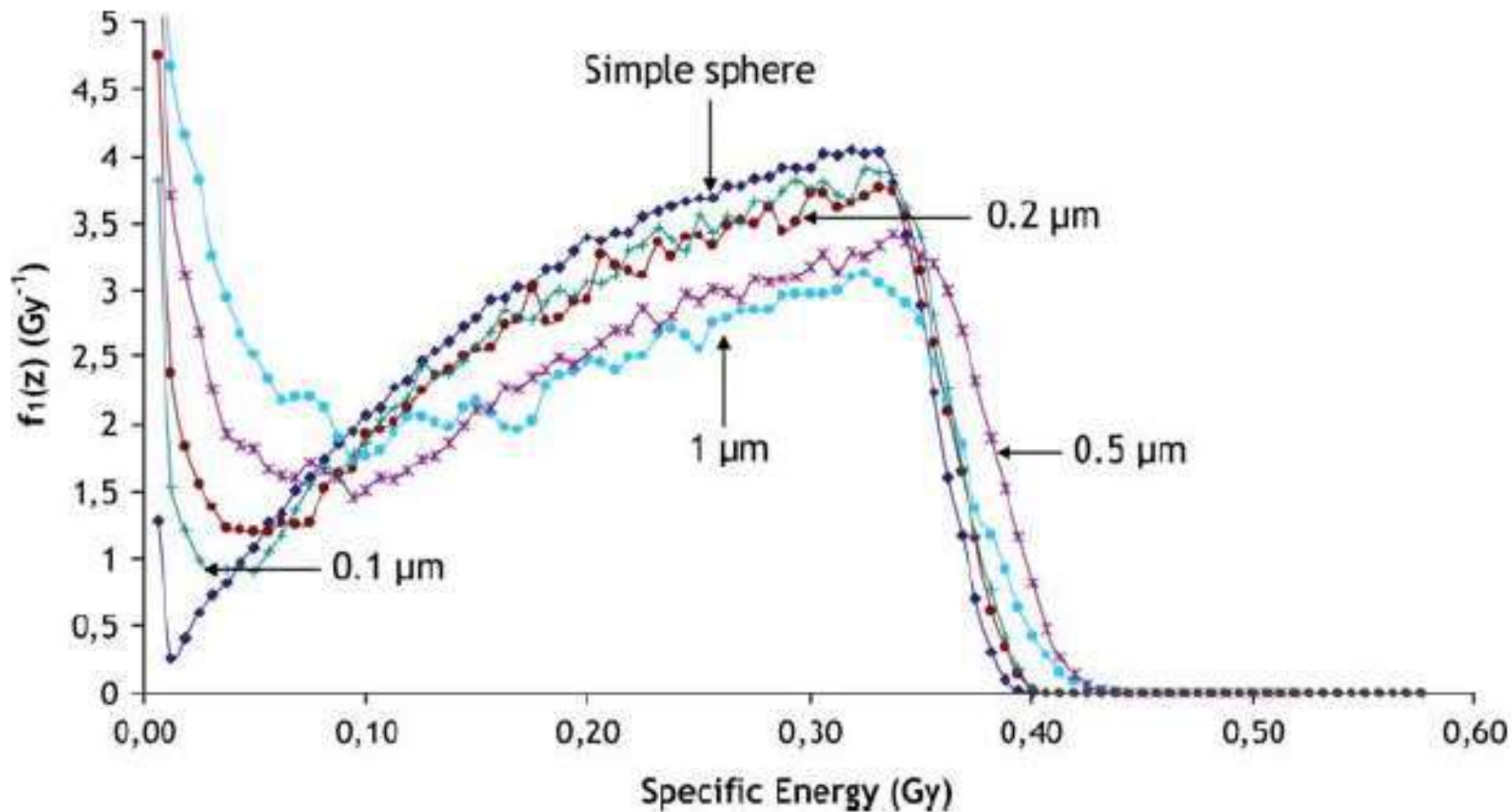
- Principally used for the treatment of metastases. **High cytotoxicity for cancer cells and limited irradiation of the non-targeted healthy tissues**
- Bone metastases after a breast cancer, a kidney cancer ...

## Emergence of alphatherapy

- Astatine-211 ( $^{211}\text{At}$ ), Bismuth-212 ( $^{212}\text{Bi}$ ), Bismuth-213 ( $^{213}\text{Bi}$ ), Actinium-225 ( $^{225}\text{Ac}$ ), Lead-212 ( $^{212}\text{Pb}$ ), Thorium-227 ( $^{227}\text{Th}$ ), ...

Desbrée, et al. 2016

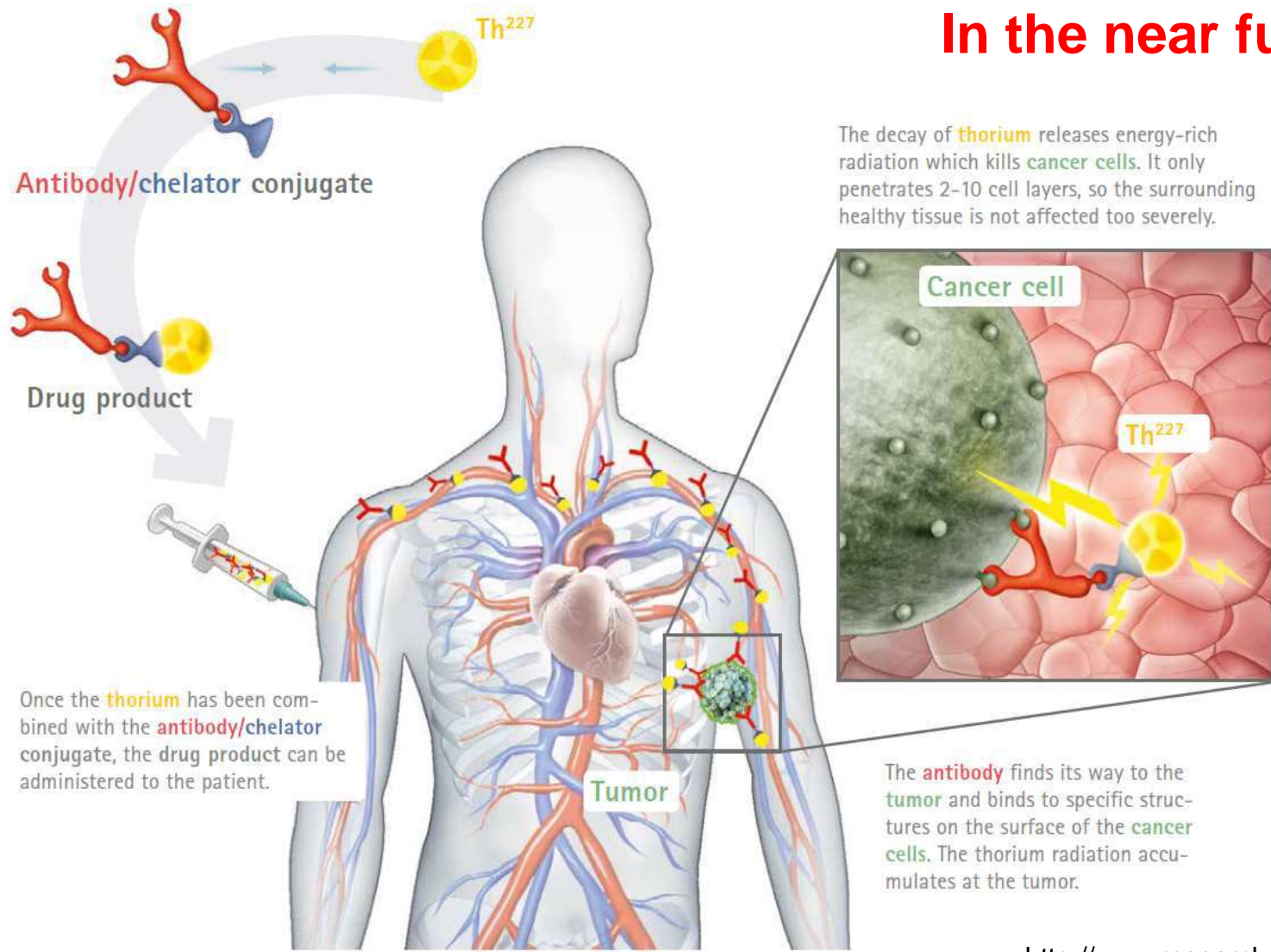
# Xofigo<sup>®</sup> (<sup>223</sup>RaCl<sub>2</sub>)



Desbrée, et al. 2012; 2016

# Microdosimetry of $^{227}\text{Th}$ targeted radiopharmaceutical

In the near future!

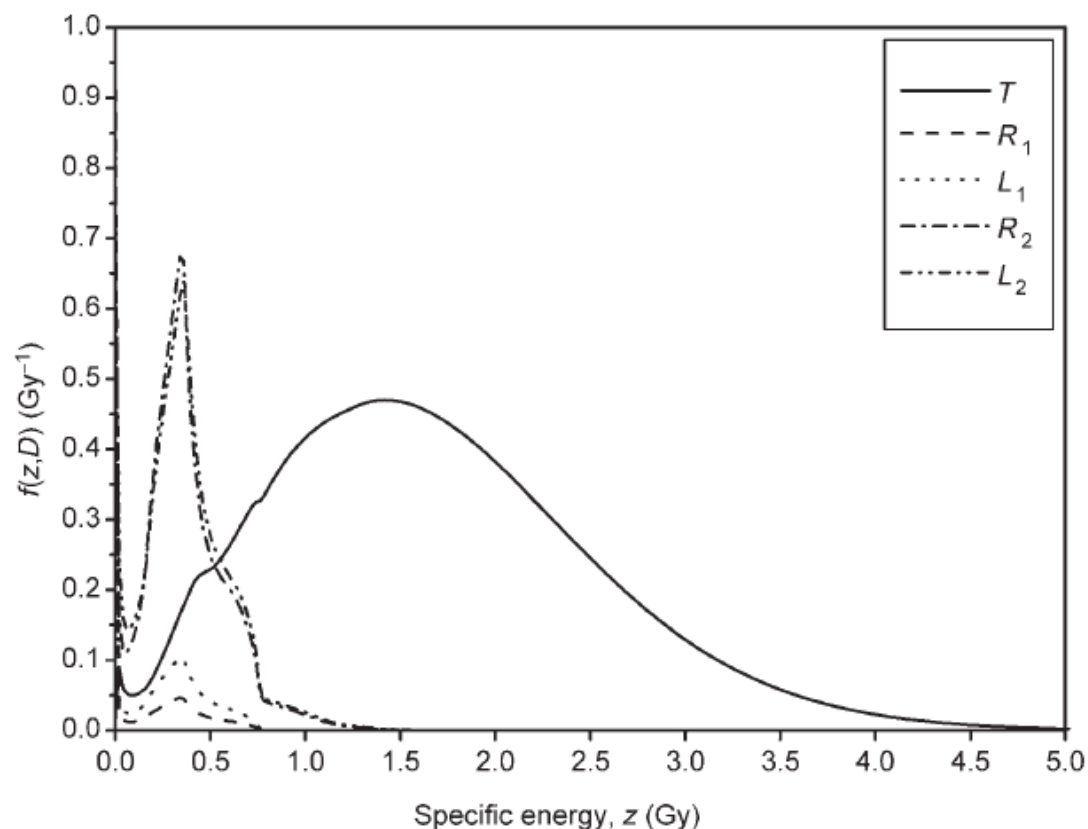
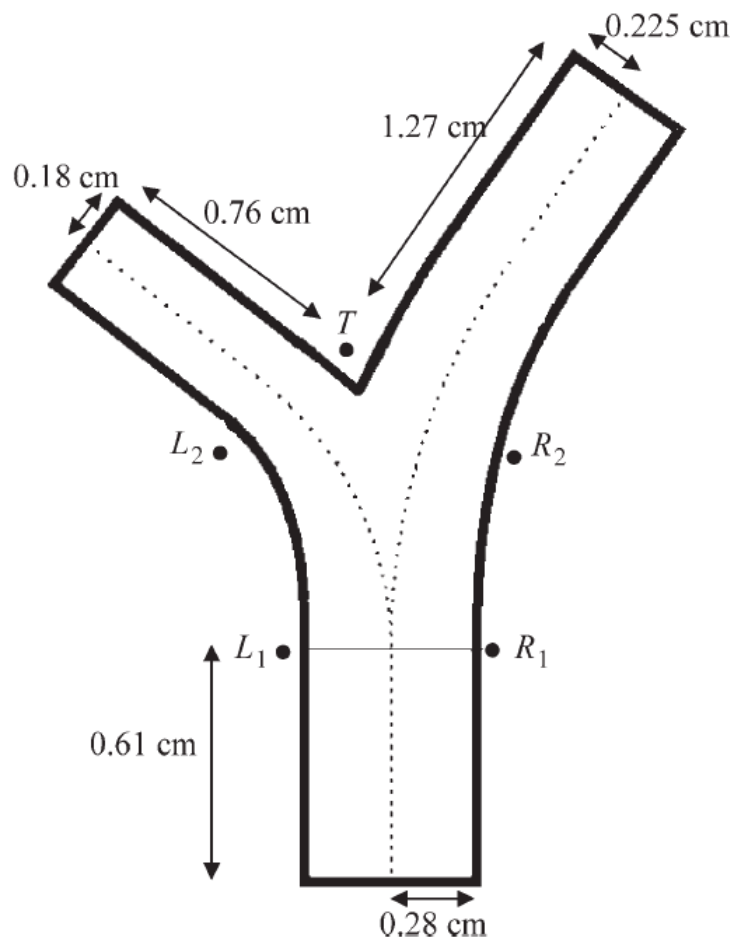


<http://www.research.bayer.com>

# Microdosimetry of inhaled radon progeny

Radiation Protection Dosimetry (2007), Vol. 127, No. 1 4, pp. 40 45  
Advance Access publication 6 September 2007

doi:10.1093/rpd/ncm414



Hofmann et al., 2007

# Relationship - $y$ and $z$ to $LET$ and $D$

## ■ $LET$ and $y$

- $LET$  is based on cut energy
- $y$  is based on a small volume
- A cut energy is limited to a volume

## ■ Absorbed dose, $D$ and $z$

$$\bar{z} = \int_0^{\infty} z f(z; D) dz = D$$

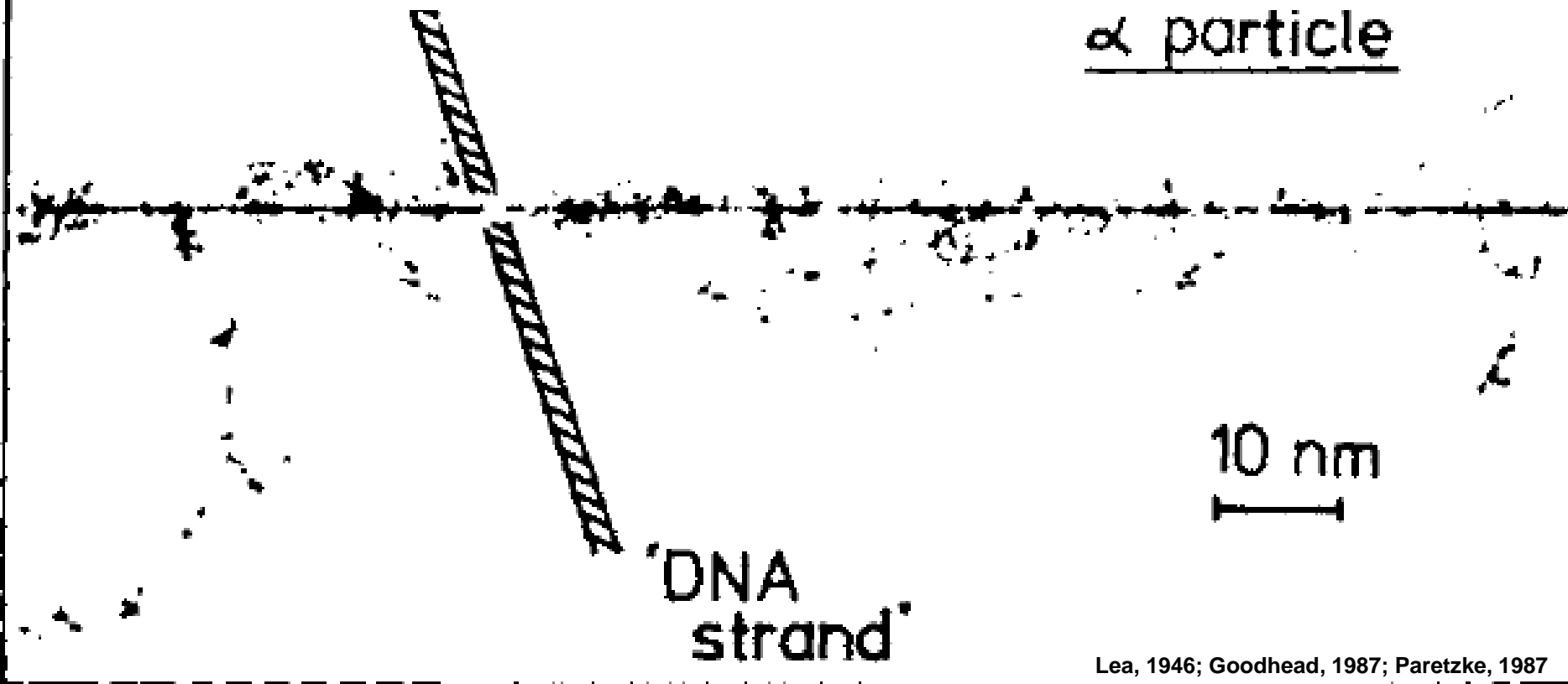
## ■ Radiation quality $Q$ based on $y$

$$Q = \int Q(y) y f(y) dy / \bar{y}_F$$



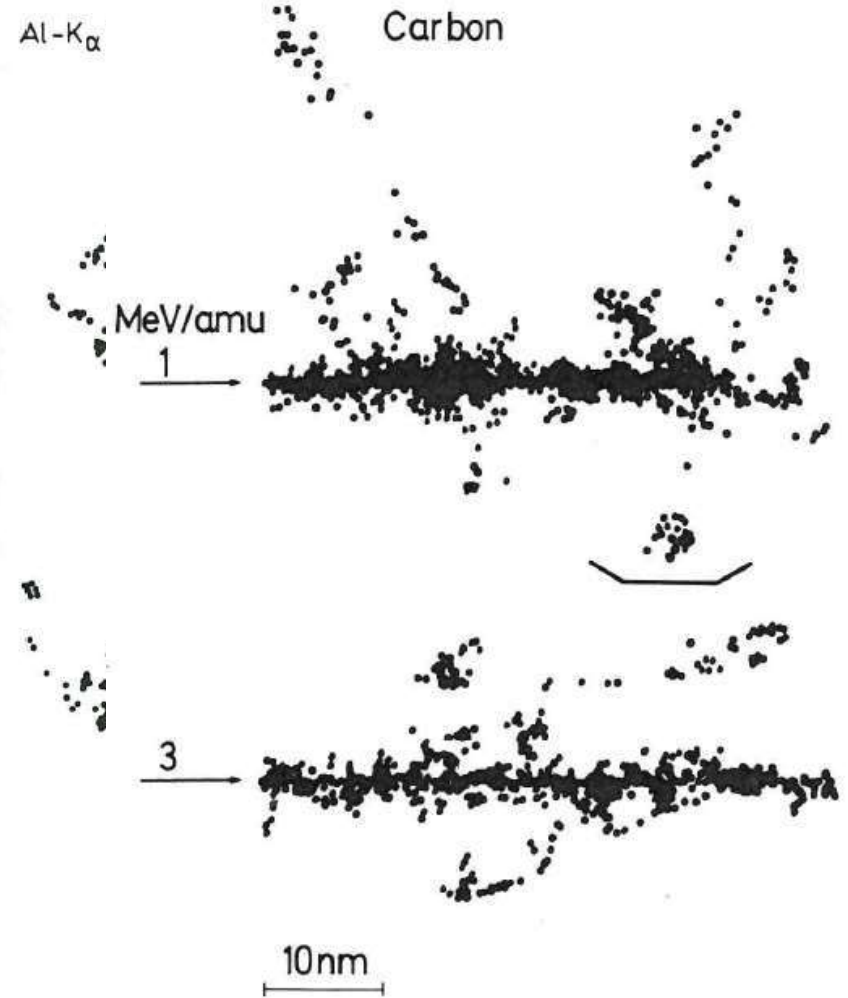
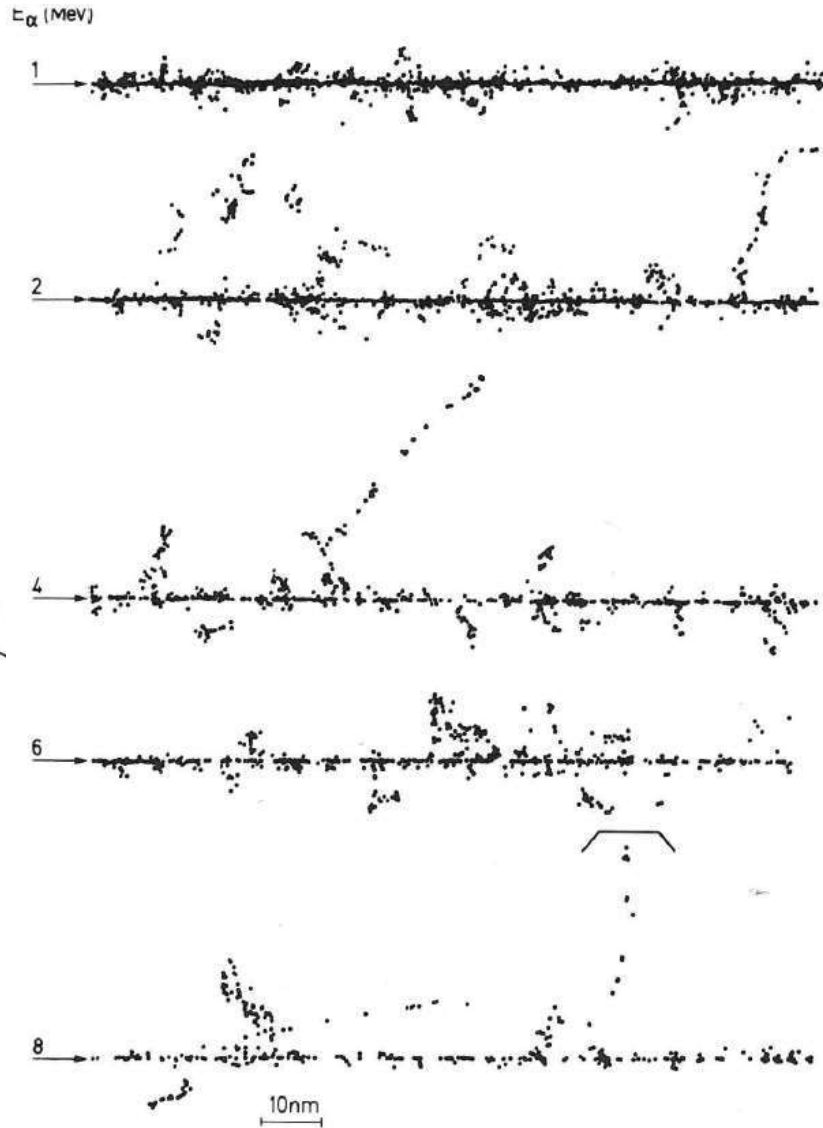
# Limitations of microdosimetric quantities

Simulation of DNA damage and chromosome aberration needs track structure and atomic structure of cell nuclei model



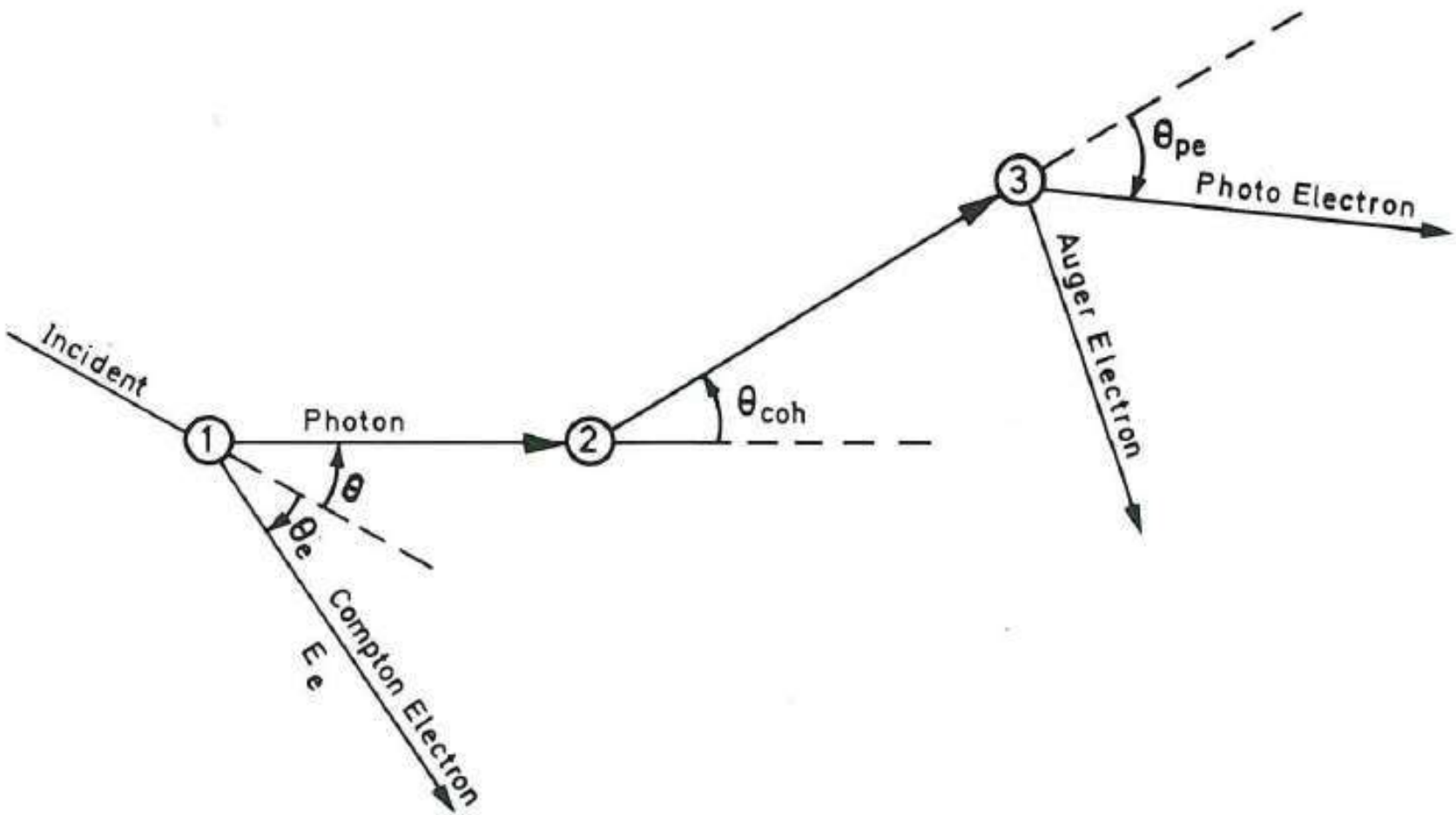
Lea, 1946; Goodhead, 1987; Paretzke, 1987

# Track structure calculations -> Nanodosimetry



Paretzke, Radiation track structure theory, 1987

# Interactions of radiation with matters



Bethe, 1930; Inokuti, 1971; Paretzke, 1987

# Cross sections in nanodosimetry

→ Cross sections for track structure calculation need the full knowledge of interaction of radiation with matter, especially biological material at low energy ranges:

- Low-energy electrons in vapor water – Paretzke, 88'
- Low-energy electrons in liquid water – Dingfelder, 98'
- Low-energy electrons in DNA moiety – Bernhardt, 03'
- Alpha-particles
- Protons
- Heavy ions

✓ For a full discussion, refer to  
**PENELOPE-2014**  
**GEANT4 v10.3 Physics Reference Manual**

Bethe, 1930; Paretzke, 1988; Dingfelder et al., 1998; Bernhardt and Paretzke, 2003  
PENELOPE-2014; GEANT4 v10.3 Physics Reference Manual

# Programs for track structure calculations

## → PARTRAC

- Developed based on MOCA code series
- Especially used for low-energy electrons
- Full simulations of molecular damage to cellular effects

## → PENELOPE

- Especially for low photons and electrons, 50 eV

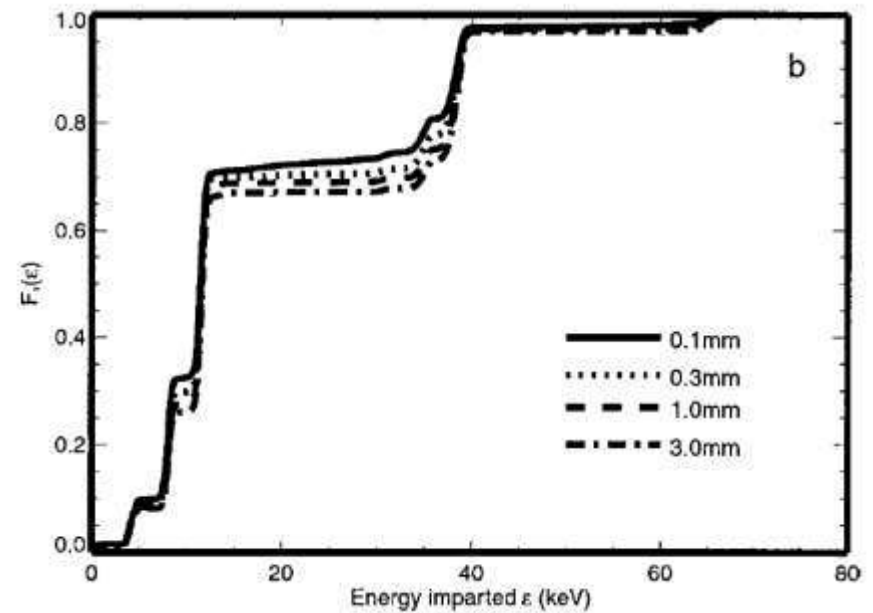
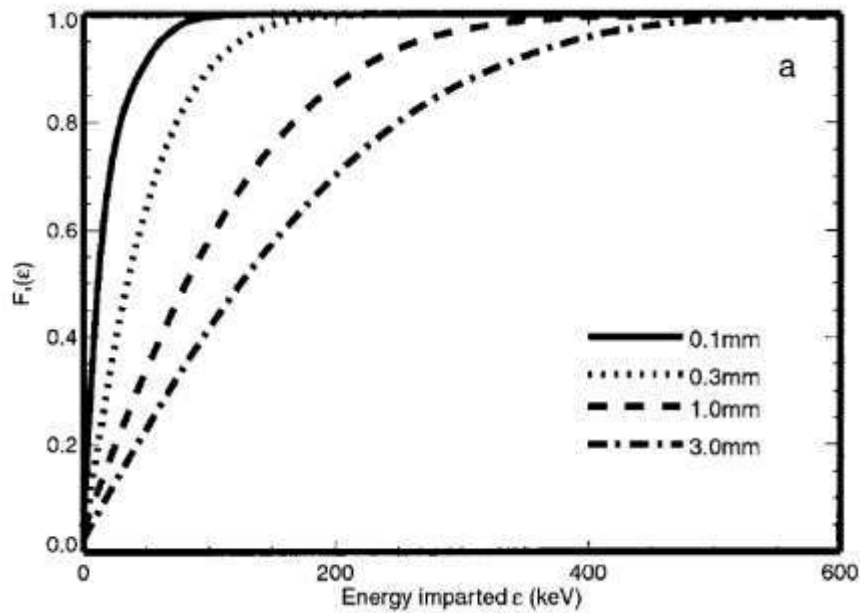
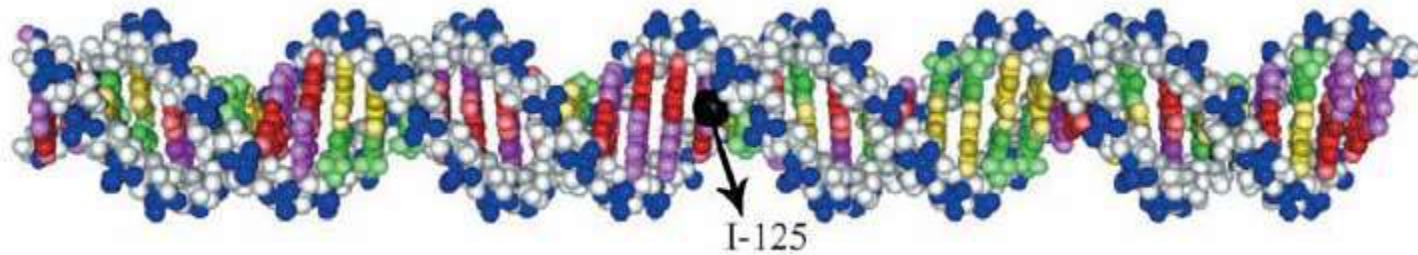
## → GEANT4-DNA

- Based on GEANT4
- Used for any radiation type
- Especially for very low energy of electrons
- Integrating chemical and biological modules

## → Other codes

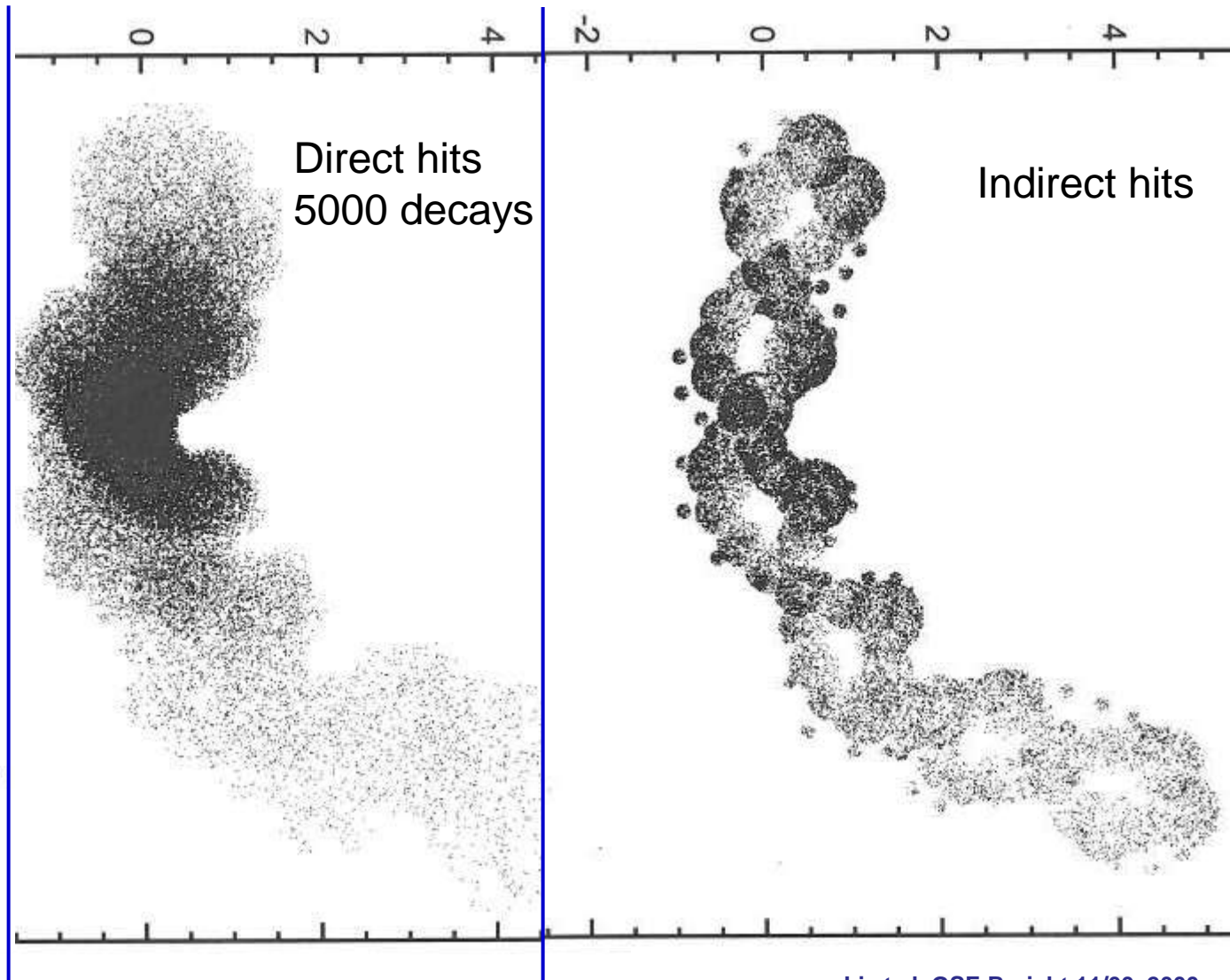
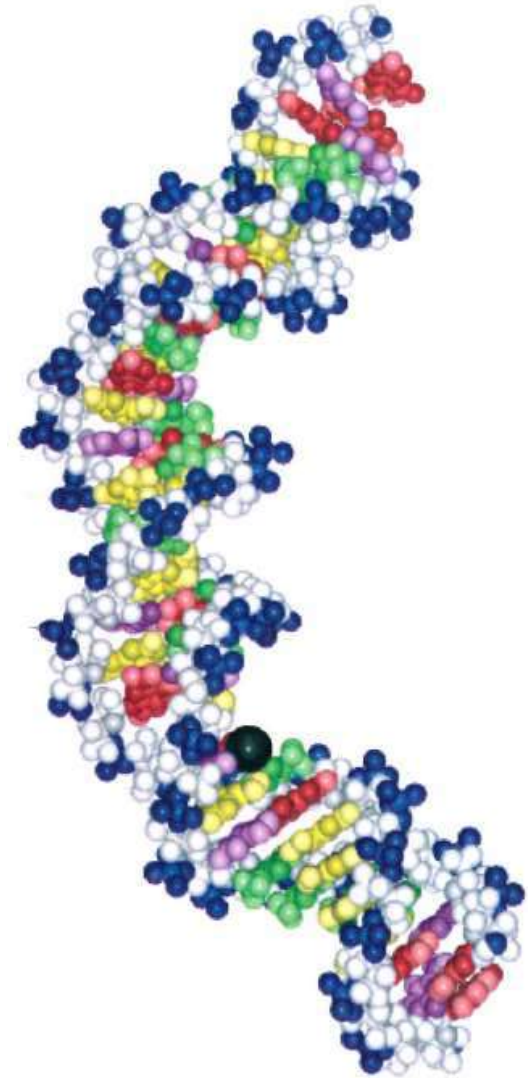
- MCNP6 (Los Alamos Natl. Lab.)
- NASIC (Tsinghua Uni., Beijing)

# Nanodosimetry – targeted radionuclides for molecular therapy



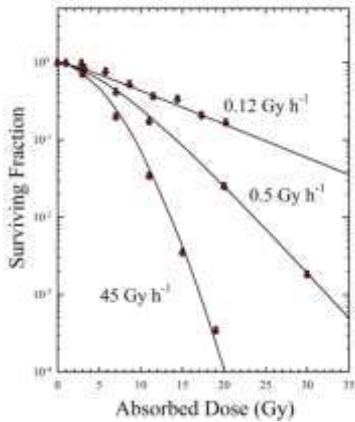
Li et al. 2001, 2004, Friedland et al. 2001

# Track structures – I-125 targeted molecular therapy

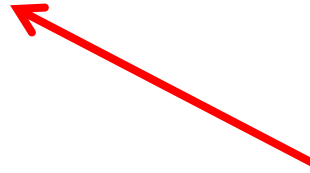


Li et al. GSF-Bericht 11/00, 2000

# Relationship of $D$ , $f(z)$ and tracks



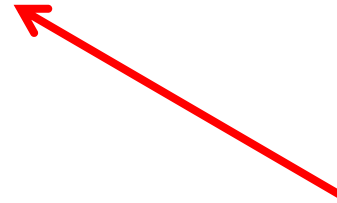
**Absorbed dose**



$$S(D) = \exp\{-\alpha D - \beta G D^2\} = \exp\left\{-\left(\theta \Sigma + \kappa \bar{z}_F \Sigma^2\right) D - \frac{\kappa}{2} \Sigma^2 G D^2\right\}$$

**Microdosimetry**

$$\bar{z}_D = \int z d_1(z) dz = \int z^2 f_1(z) dz / \bar{z}_F = \bar{z}_F^2 / \bar{z}_F$$



**Nanodosimetry**

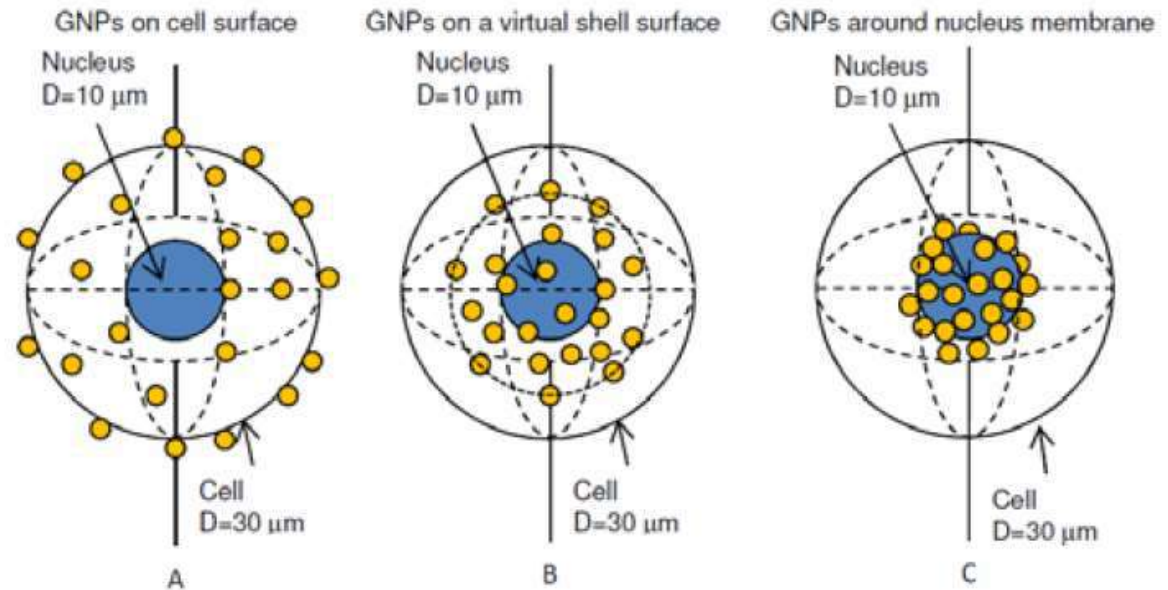
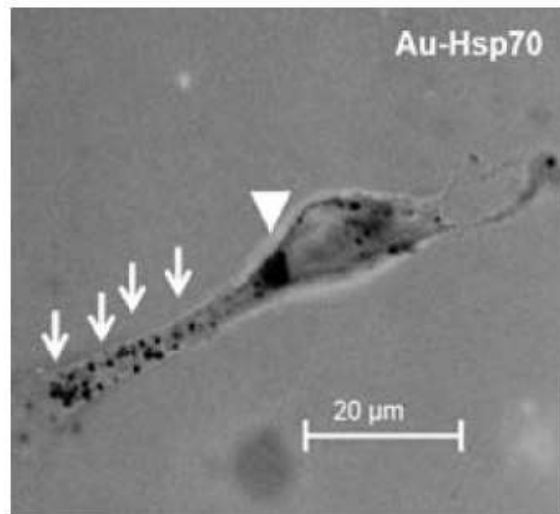




# Future development

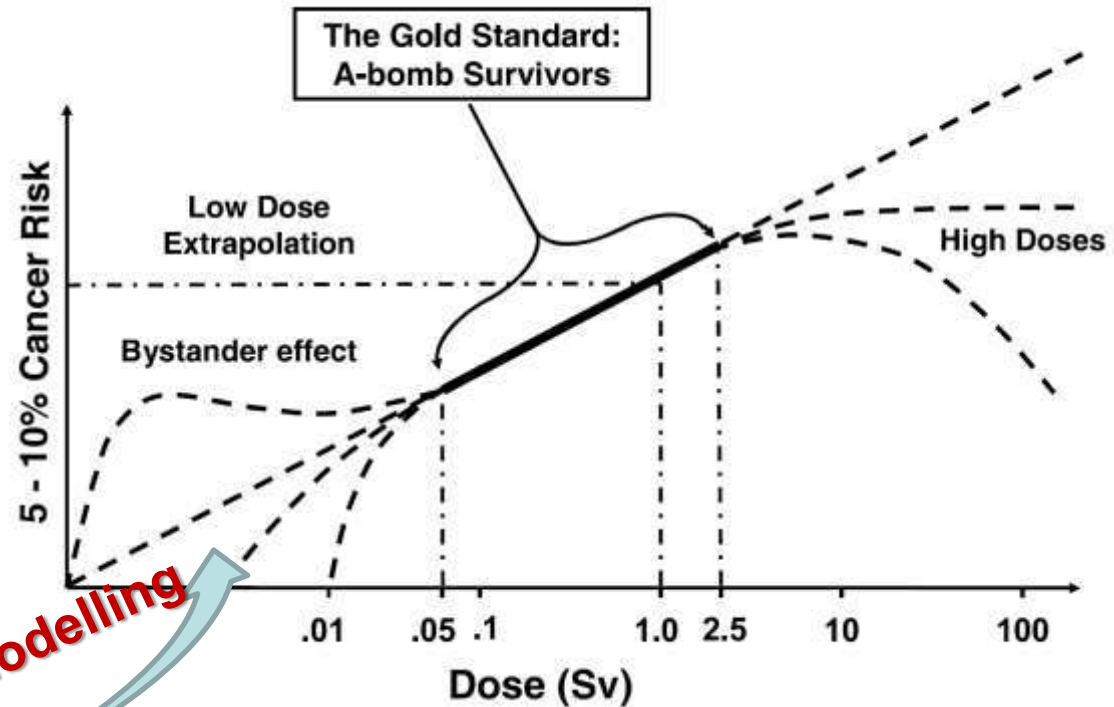
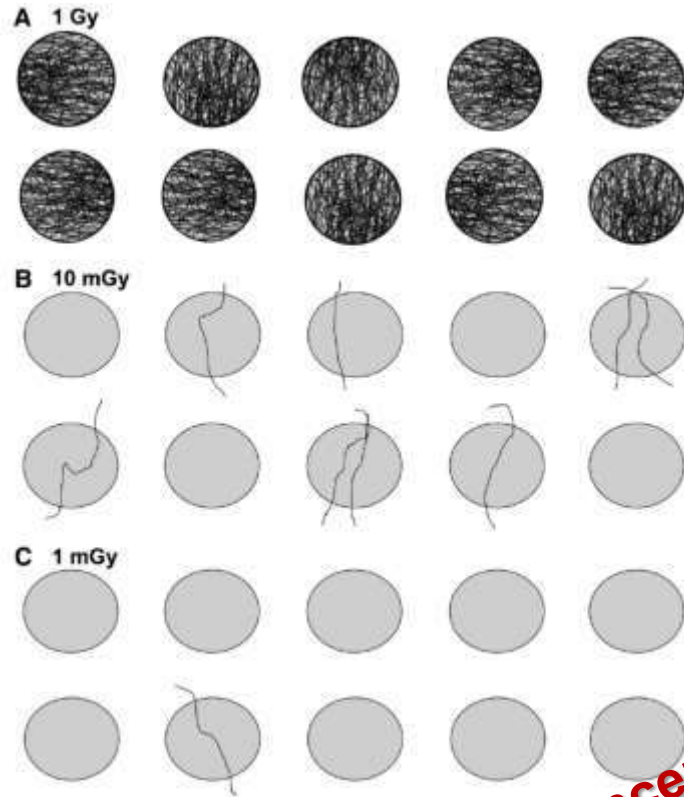
- Validating and improving **cross sections** in DNA moiety and other materials for low energy radiation **experimentally** and theoretically
- Strengthen applications of internal micro- and nanodosimetry in nuclear medicine and molecular targeted radiotherapy, radiation protection as well
- Contributions to reveal the dose-response relationship for low and very low dose, fit to **CONCERT Calls**
- **EURADOS nanodosimetry comparisons**
  - I-125 decays – Uncertainty of cross sections
  - Gold nanoparticles – molecular targeted radiotherapy

# Nanodosimetry – gold nanoparticle targeted for preclinical cancer radiotherapy



Multhoff /TUM and Li/HMGU, 2016

# Nanodosimetry – A tool for interpreting the dose-response of internal emitters



Tracks + cancer modelling

Hall, 2003; Brenner, 2009

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