



# Production and Application of Radiolanthanides at TRIUMF

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PRISMAP Workshop  
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## Disclosure

- I am a full-time employee of TRIUMF
- I am compensated by ARTMS, Inc. as Chief Technology Officer
- I am a listed inventor on patents in technology licensed to ARTMS

- Topics for today's presentation:

Background: TRIUMF, Infrastructure and Capabilities

Discussion:  
Radiolanthanide work @ TRIUMF  
(Production, Radiochemistry, Radiopharmaceutical Development)

Summary, Conclusions



# TRIUMF's Research Programme

TRIUMF's work **addresses the most compelling challenges in contemporary science** and connects fundamental scientific research through to commercialisation.

TRIUMF is a hub of excellence centred on a **core of expertise in accelerator technology, detector development and isotope research.**

From supporting Nobel-prize winning research to delivering life-saving breakthroughs in health and technology, **TRIUMF is a major asset in Canada's high-tech landscape delivering economic and societal benefit to Canadians.**

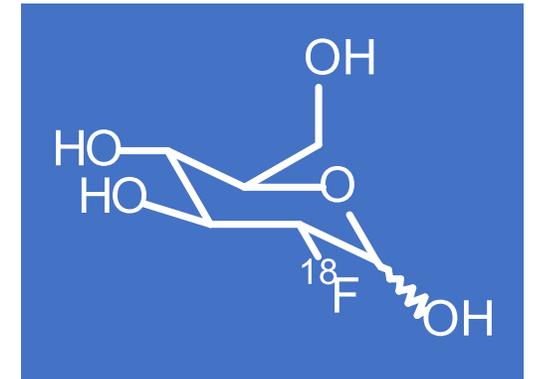
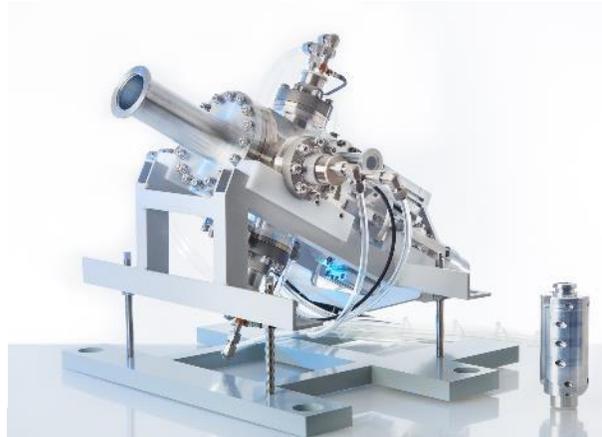


# Life Sciences at TRIUMF

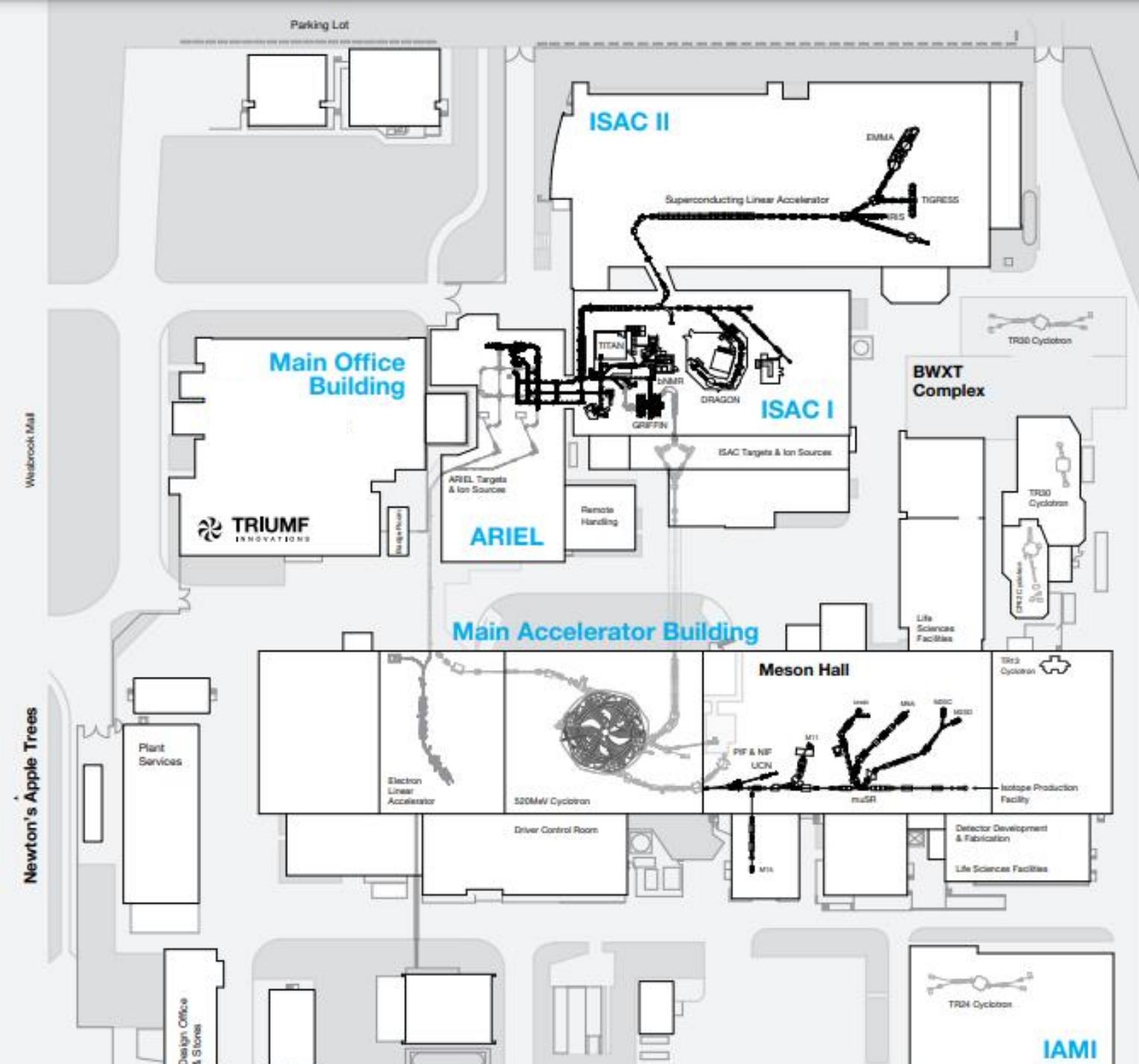
Applied Ion Beams

Nuclear Chemistry

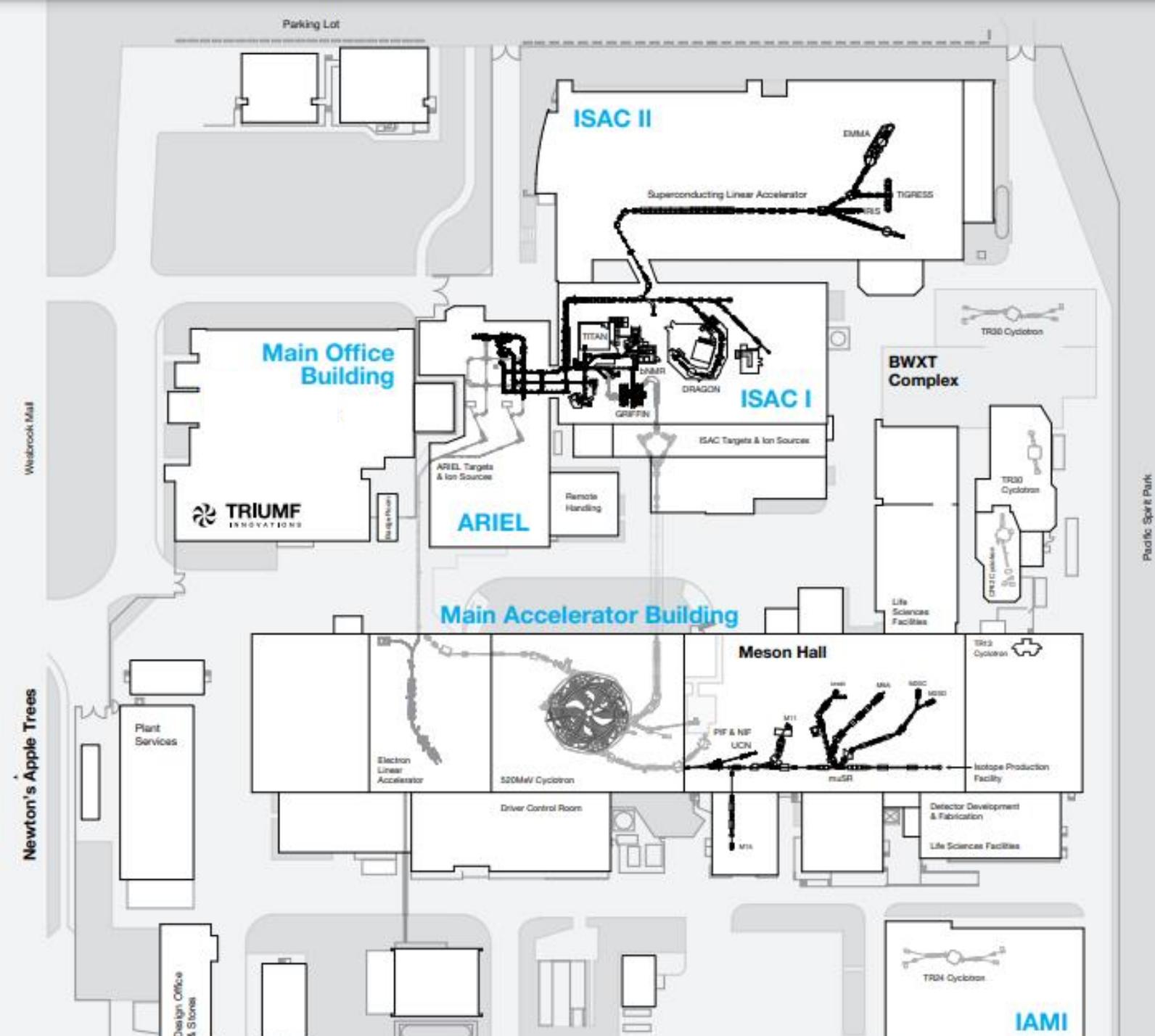
Applied Isotopes



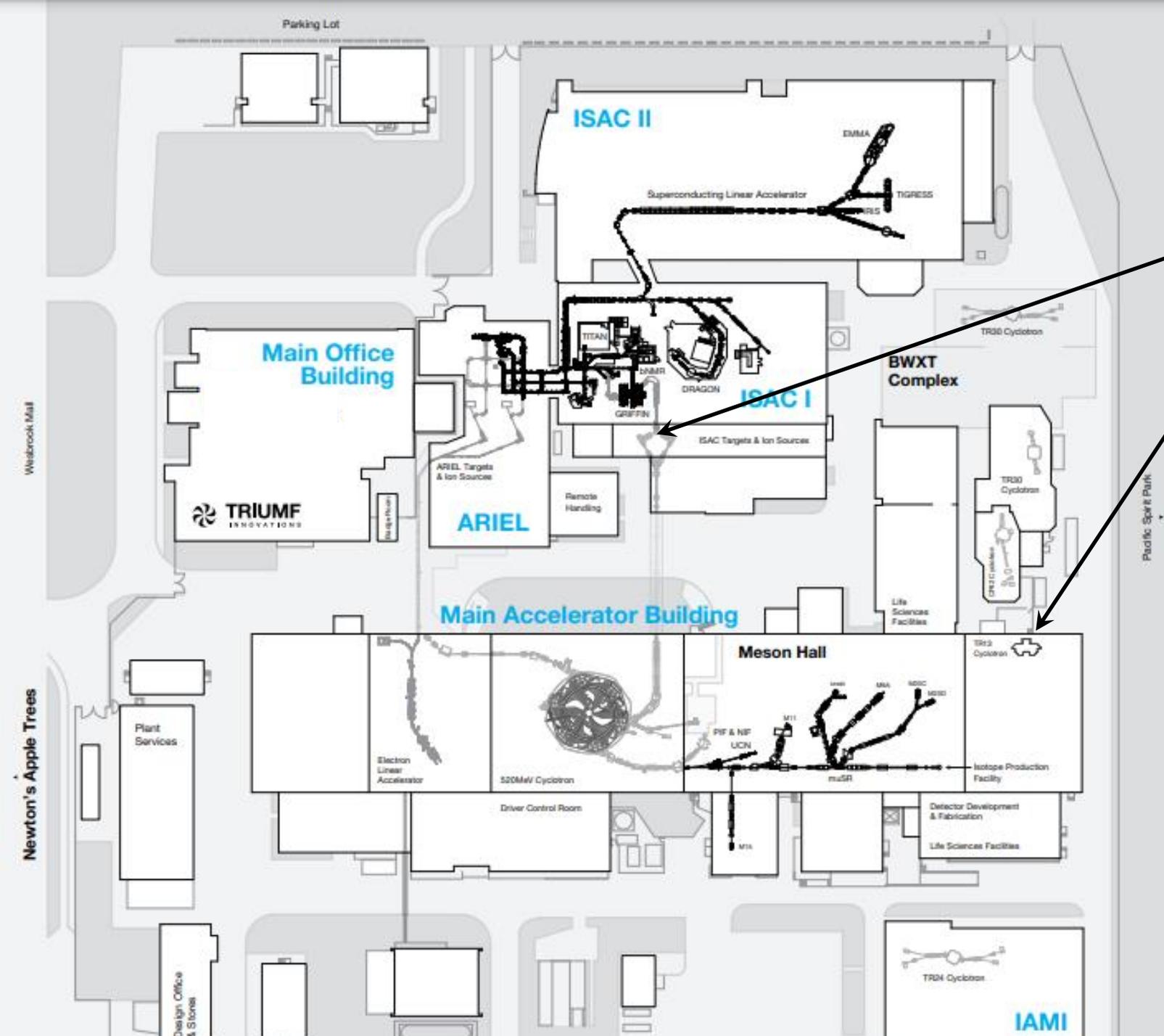
TRIUMF Life Sciences focuses on advancing accelerator-based technology for the development of isotopes that can improve life



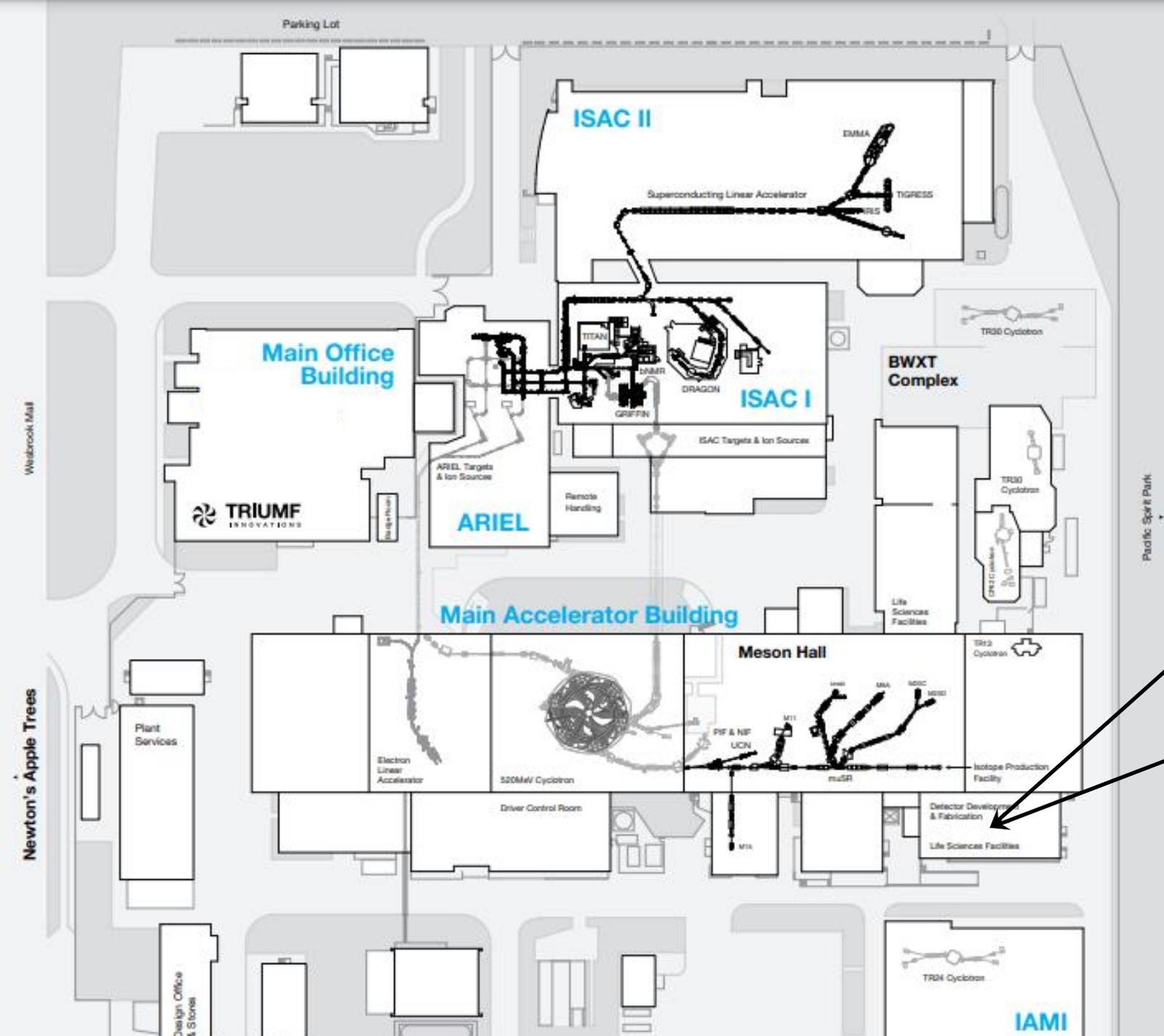
- Six (soon to be seven) cyclotrons & two linear accelerators on site
- Over 1-kilometer of beamlines; accelerating sub-atomic and rare-isotope beams
- Users and collaborators from over 40 countries
- Over 1000 visitors per year (2019)



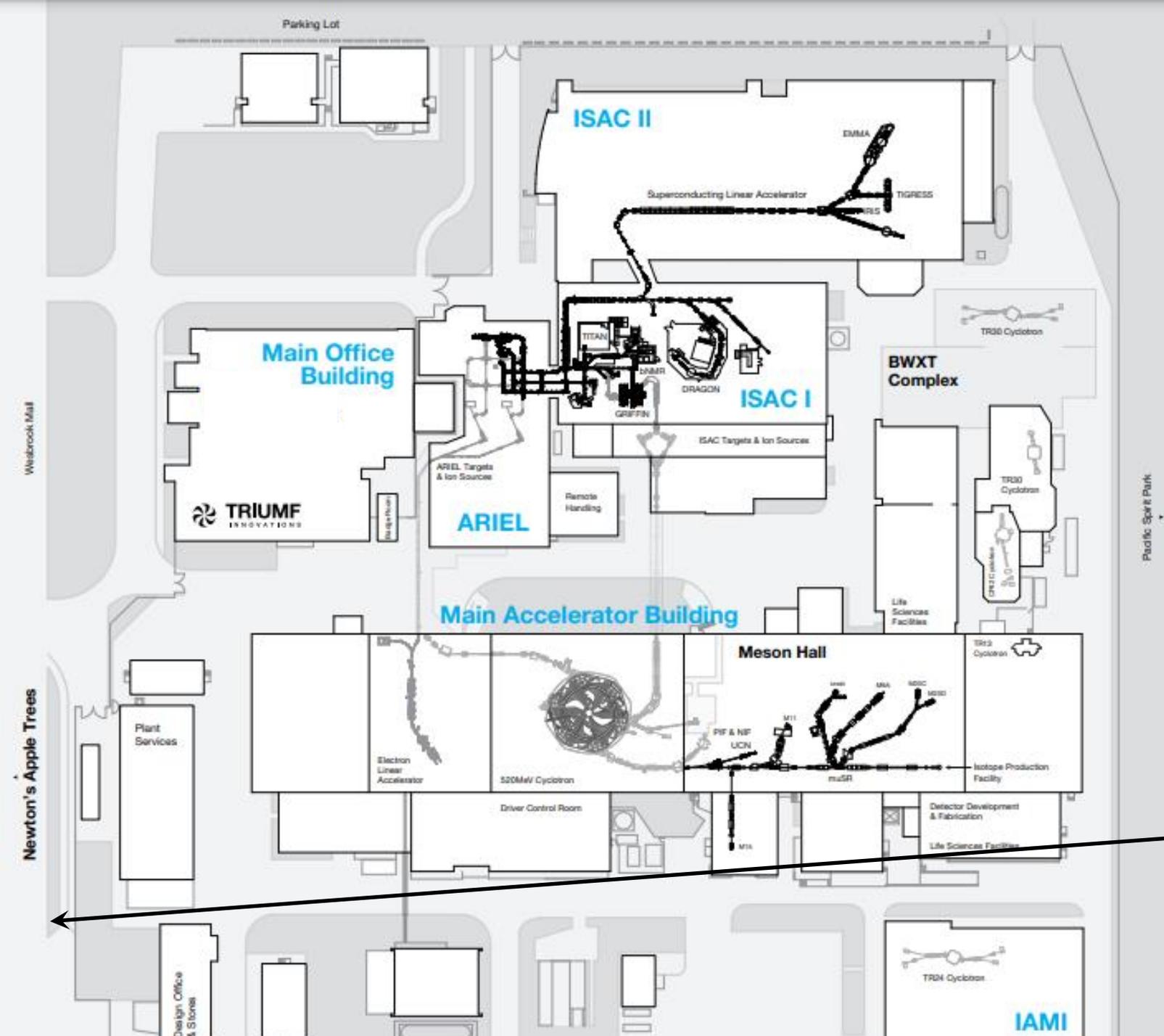
- Six (soon to be seven) H- medical cyclotrons:
  - Energy range: 13 to 520 MeV
  - Intensity:
    - 25  $\mu\text{A}$  @ 13 MeV
    - $\sim 1\text{mA}$  @ 30 MeV (BWXT)
    - 350  $\mu\text{A}$  @ 520 MeV
  - Isotope production
  - Radiochemistry
  - Proton Therapy
  - Bio- $\beta$ NMR
- Other drivers:
  - ARIEL, ISAC



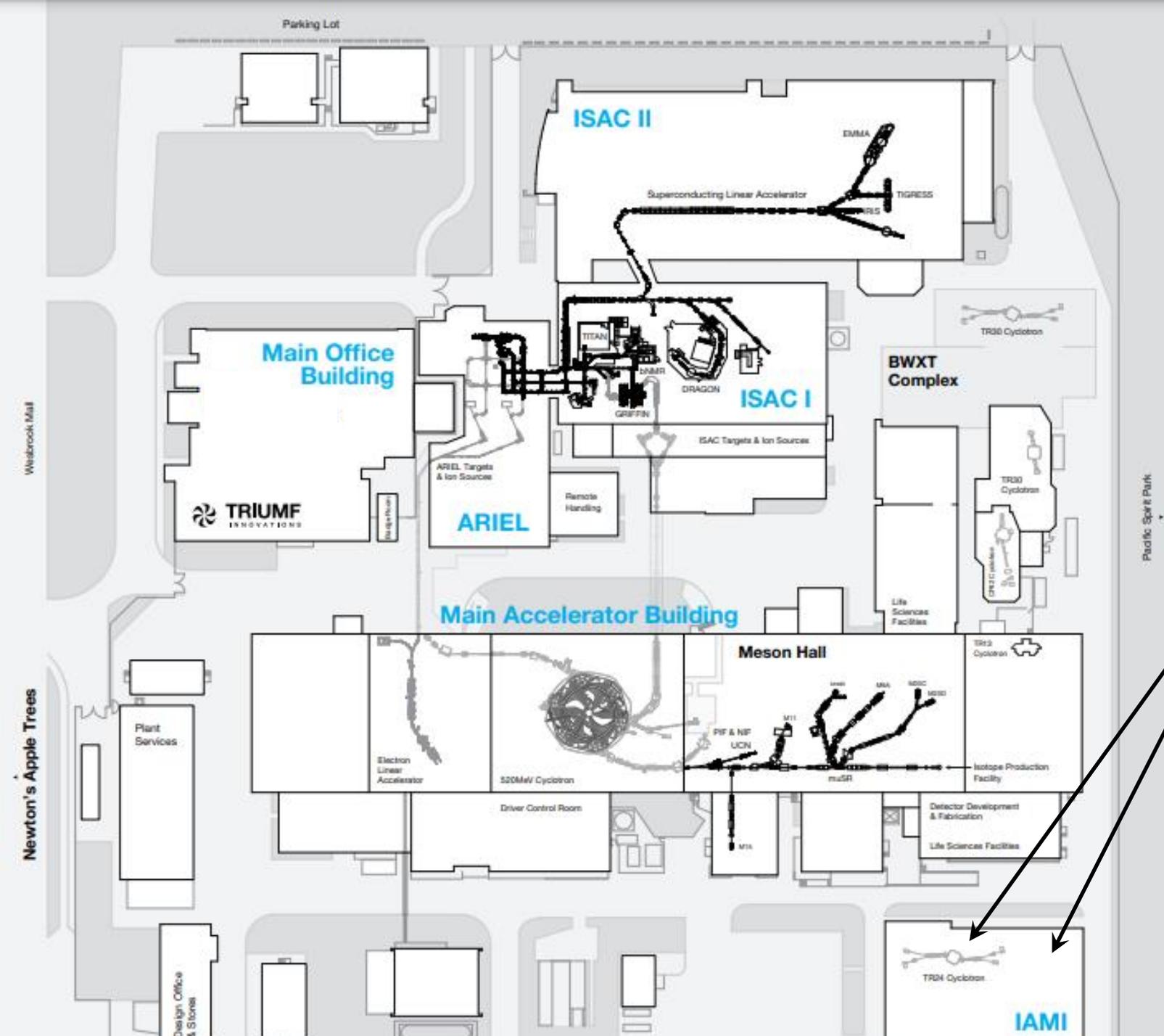
- Radiolanthanide work:
  - ISAC:  $^{149,155}\text{Tb}$  via ISOL
  - TR13:
    - $^{nat}\text{Ba}(p,x)^{132}\text{La}$
    - $^{165}\text{Ho}(p,n)^{165}\text{Er}$
    - $^{nat}\text{Gd}(p,x)^{155}\text{Tb}$
  - outsource:  $^{161}\text{Tb}$  (SCK)
  - TR24/PETTrace: future
  - Radiochemistry
    - Purification
    - Chelate development
  - *In vitro* testing
  - *In vivo* testing
    - UBC Centre for Comparative Medicine



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# Life Scientists at TRIUMF

Applied Ion Beams

Nuclear Chemistry

Applied Isotopes



Cornelia  
Hoehr



Valery  
Radchenko



Paul  
Schaffer



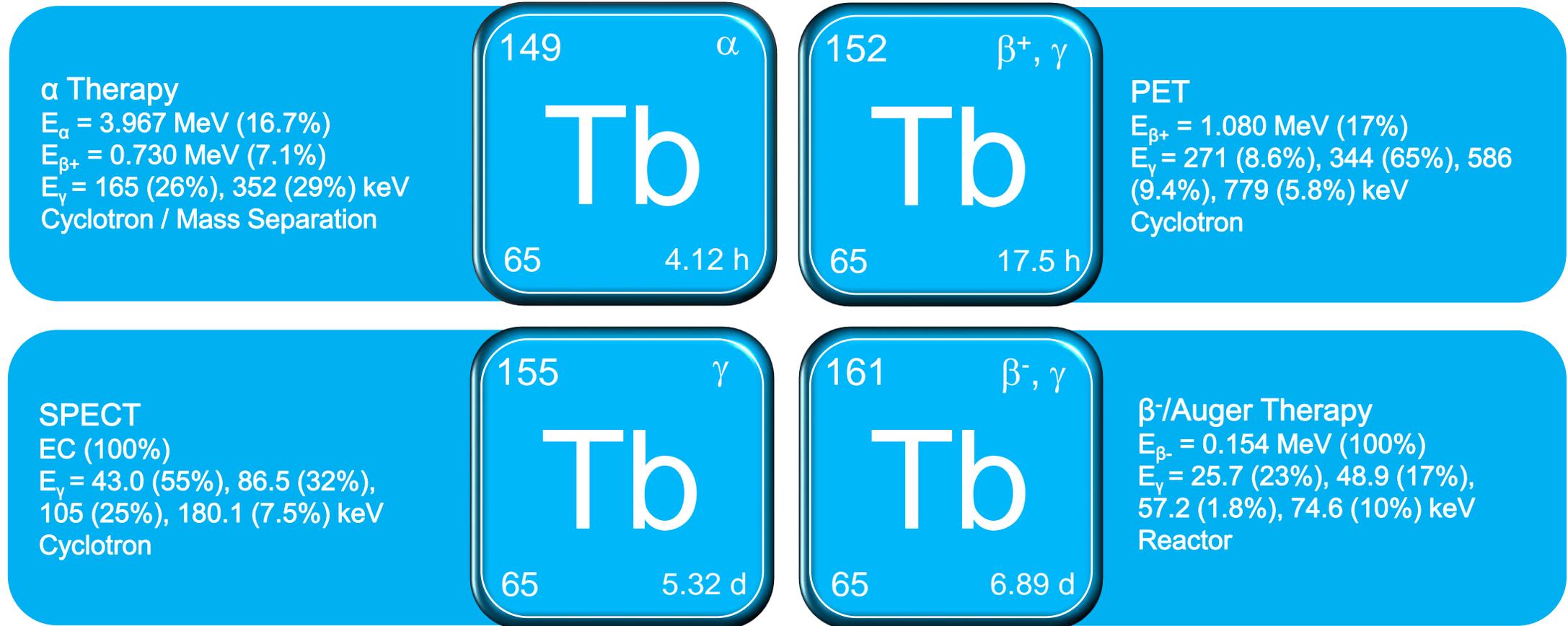
Hua  
Yang



Caterina  
Ramogida  
(joint SFU)

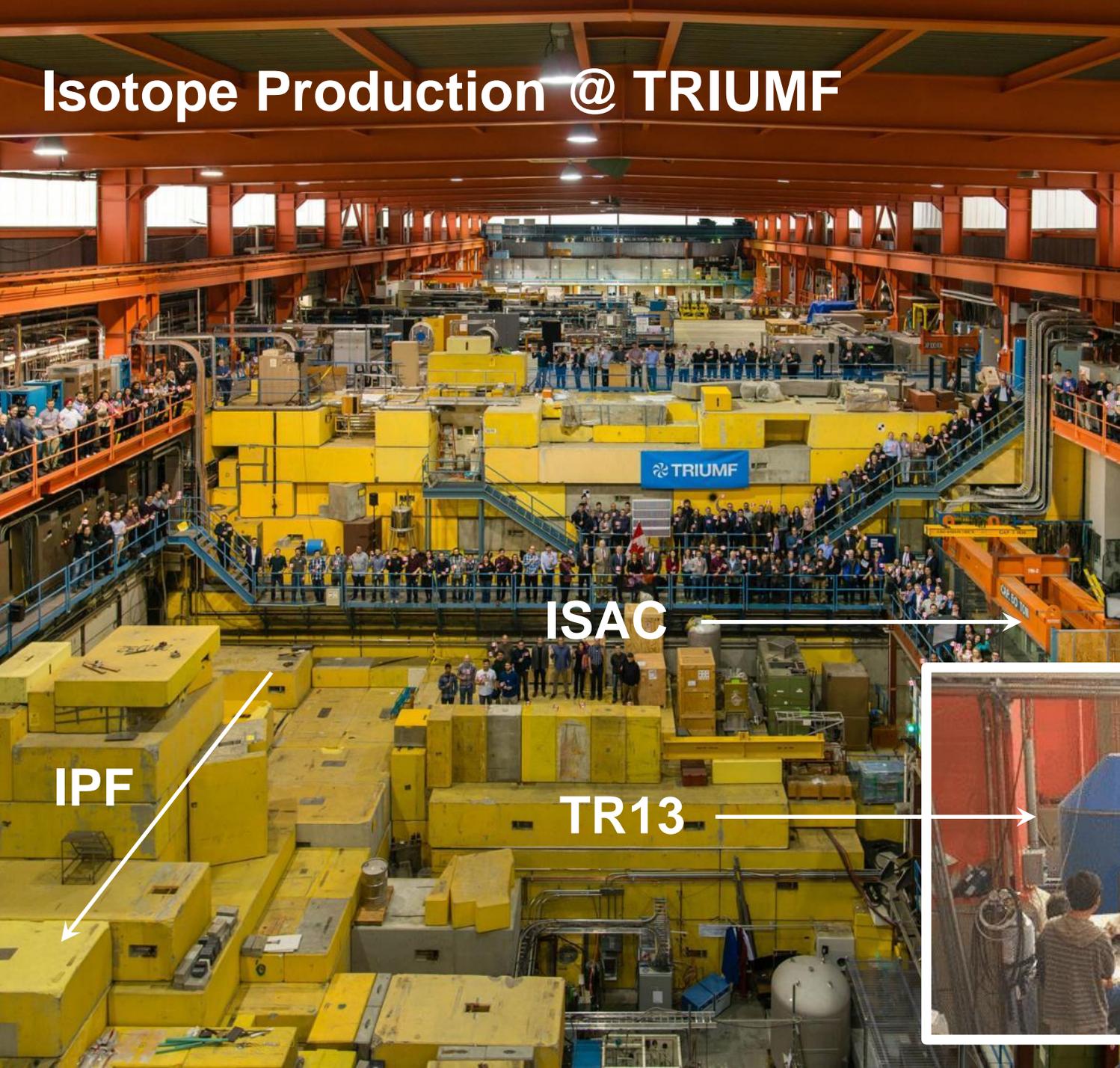
Production (at ISAC-ISOL)

# Terbium radioisotopes



- Tb has four medically relevant isotopes, covering all major nuclear medicine modalities
- Enable theranostics with chemically identical radiopharmaceuticals
- For most,  $^{155}\text{Tb}$  and  $^{161}\text{Tb}$  are more available

# Isotope Production @ TRIUMF



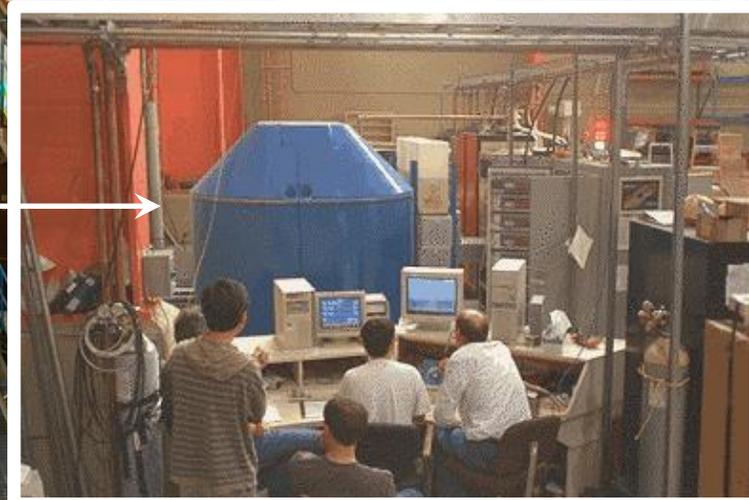
ISAC

TR13

IPF



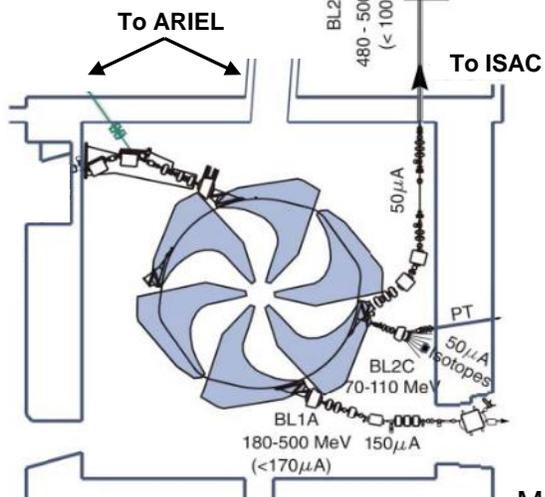
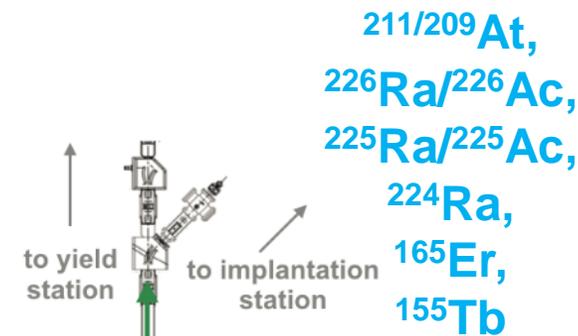
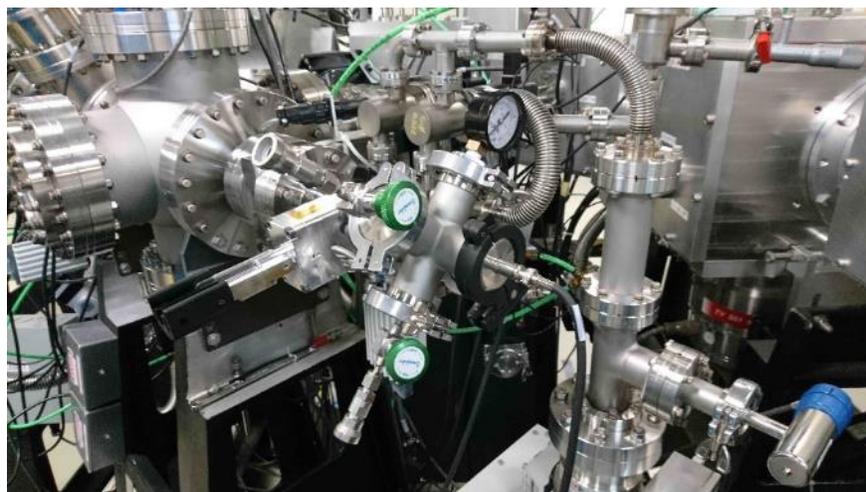
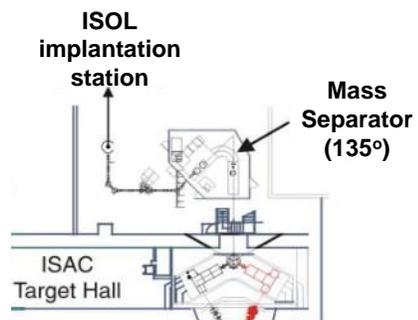
IPF



# TRIUMF ISAC-ISOL



ISOL yield database



Various targets:  
Th, U, Ta...



M Dombsky, P Bricault. Nucl. Instrum. Methods Phys. Res. B **2008**;266:4240–6.

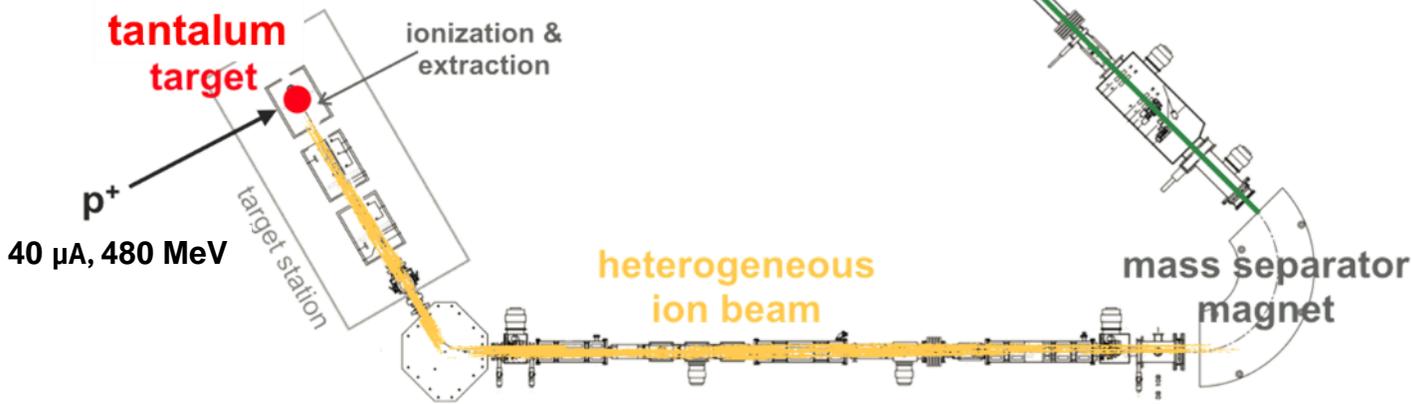
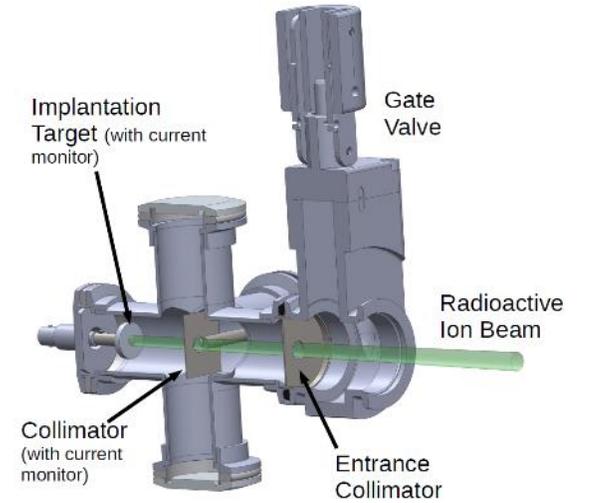
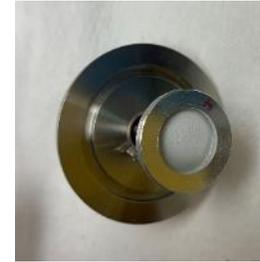
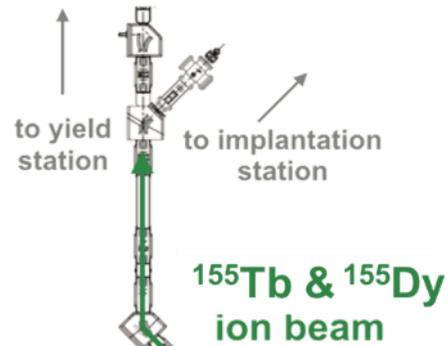
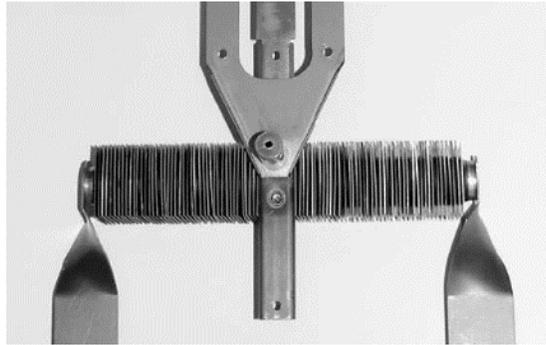
P Kunz, C Andreoiu, P Bricault, et al. Review of Scientific Instruments, **2014**, 85, 053305.

P Kunz, C Andreoiu, V Brown, et al. EPJ Web Conf **2020**;229:06003.

# Isotope Separator and Accelerator (ISAC)

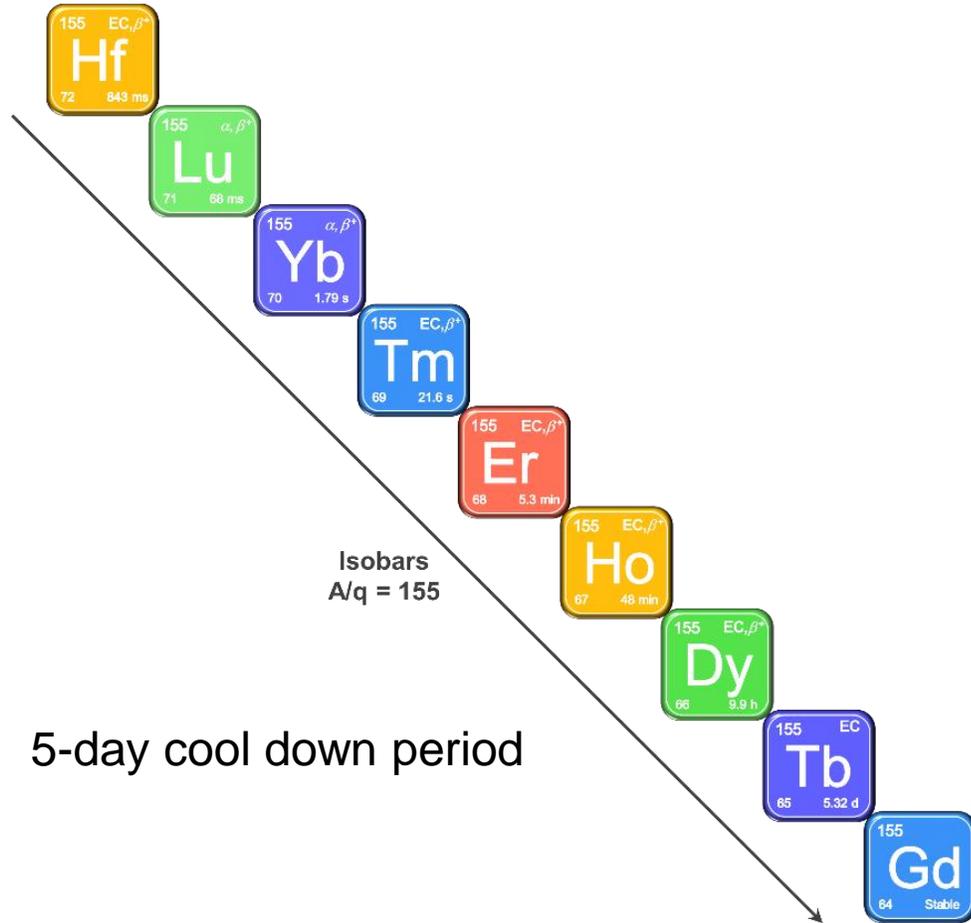
## Isotope Separation On-line (ISOL)

Tantalum: 0.14 mol/cm<sup>2</sup>



# Isotope Separator and Accelerator (ISAC)

## Isotope Separation On-line (ISOL) of $A/q = 155$



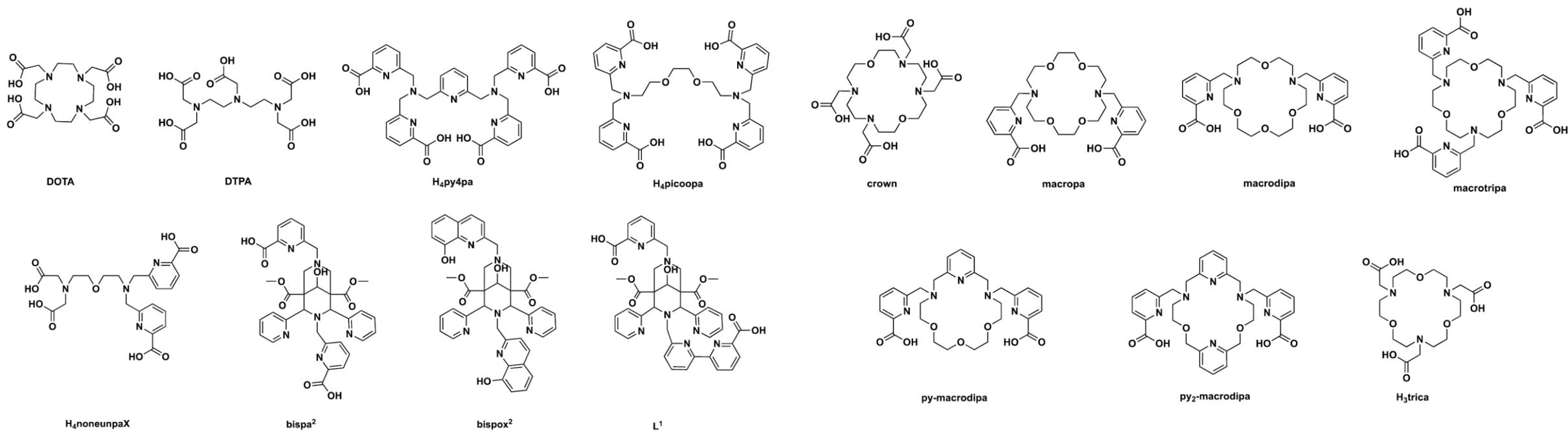
Yield estimates based on GEANT4 simulations.

Produced Isotope	Half-life	Production Rate [isotopes/sec]	Yield (after 5 day cool down)
<sup>155</sup> Sm	22.18 min	$3.49 \times 10^6$	n/a
<sup>155</sup> Eu	4.753 y	$6.44 \times 10^7$	$5.09 \times 10^{11}$ atoms (2.35 kBq)
<sup>155</sup> Gd	Stable	$1.11 \times 10^9$	$\sim 8.78 \times 10^{12}$ atoms
<sup>155</sup> Tb	5.32 d	$1.05 \times 10^{10}$	$\sim 2.45 \times 10^{14}$ atoms (370 MBq)
<sup>155</sup> Dy	9.9 h	$5.07 \times 10^{10}$	n/a
<sup>155</sup> Ho	48 min	$1.33 \times 10^{11}$	n/a
<sup>155</sup> Er	5.3 min	$1.77 \times 10^{11}$	n/a
<sup>155</sup> Tm	21.6 s	$6.72 \times 10^{10}$	n/a
<sup>155</sup> Yb	1.79 s	$4.46 \times 10^9$	n/a
<sup>155</sup> Lu	68 ms	$1.55 \times 10^8$	n/a
<sup>155</sup> Hf	843 ms	$7.00 \times 10^5$	n/a

# Radiochemistry

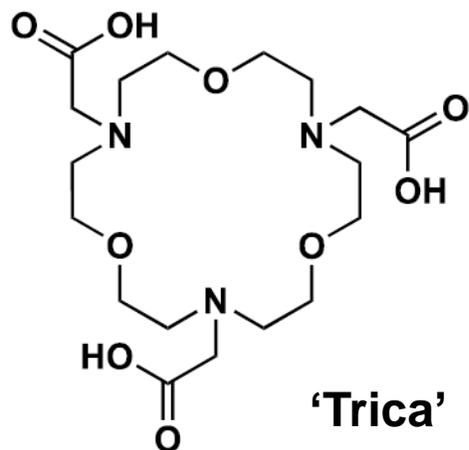
# Designing chelators capable of binding emerging isotopes of clinical importance

- Various chelates have been developed to enable radioactinide and radiolanthanide complexation for targeted radiopharmaceutical development
- High-denticity, acyclic and cyclic chelators



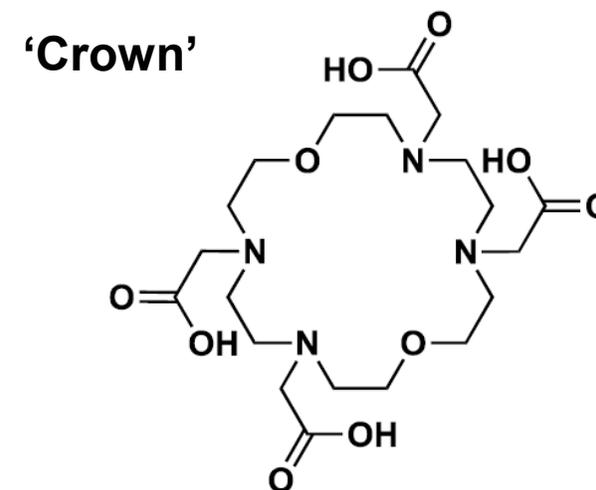
# Designing chelators capable of binding emerging isotopes of clinical importance

- Commercially-available chelates may not exhibit chemical behaviour needed for widespread use, on-site formulation of radiopharmaceuticals (temperature, pH, concentration)
- High-denticity chelator for large metals
- Understand selectivity for various isotopes
- Enable kit-like formulation
- Enable multi-isotope incorporation (i.e. theranostic applications)



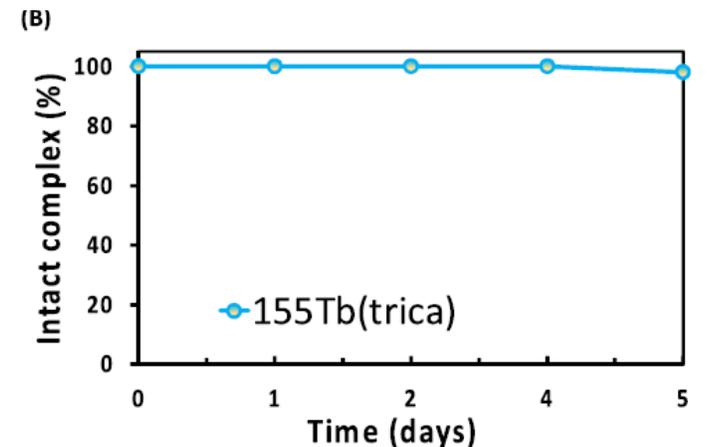
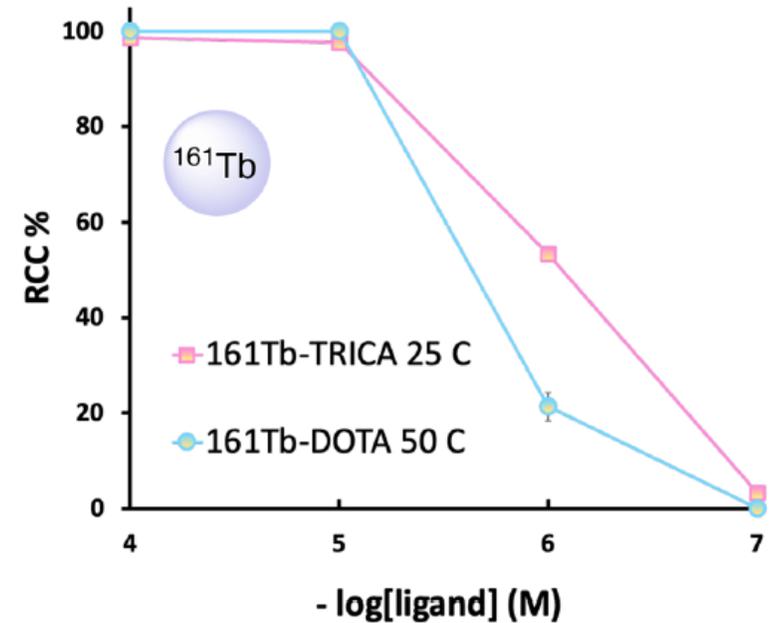
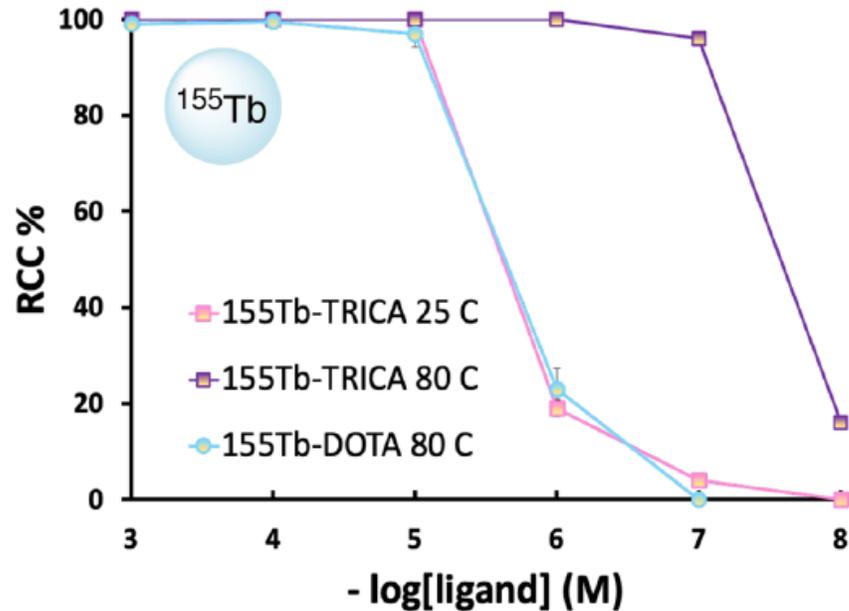
## Ideal properties:

- Fast complexation
- Mild conditions
- Selectivity/versatility
- High thermodynamic stability
- High kinetic inertness
- High molar activity



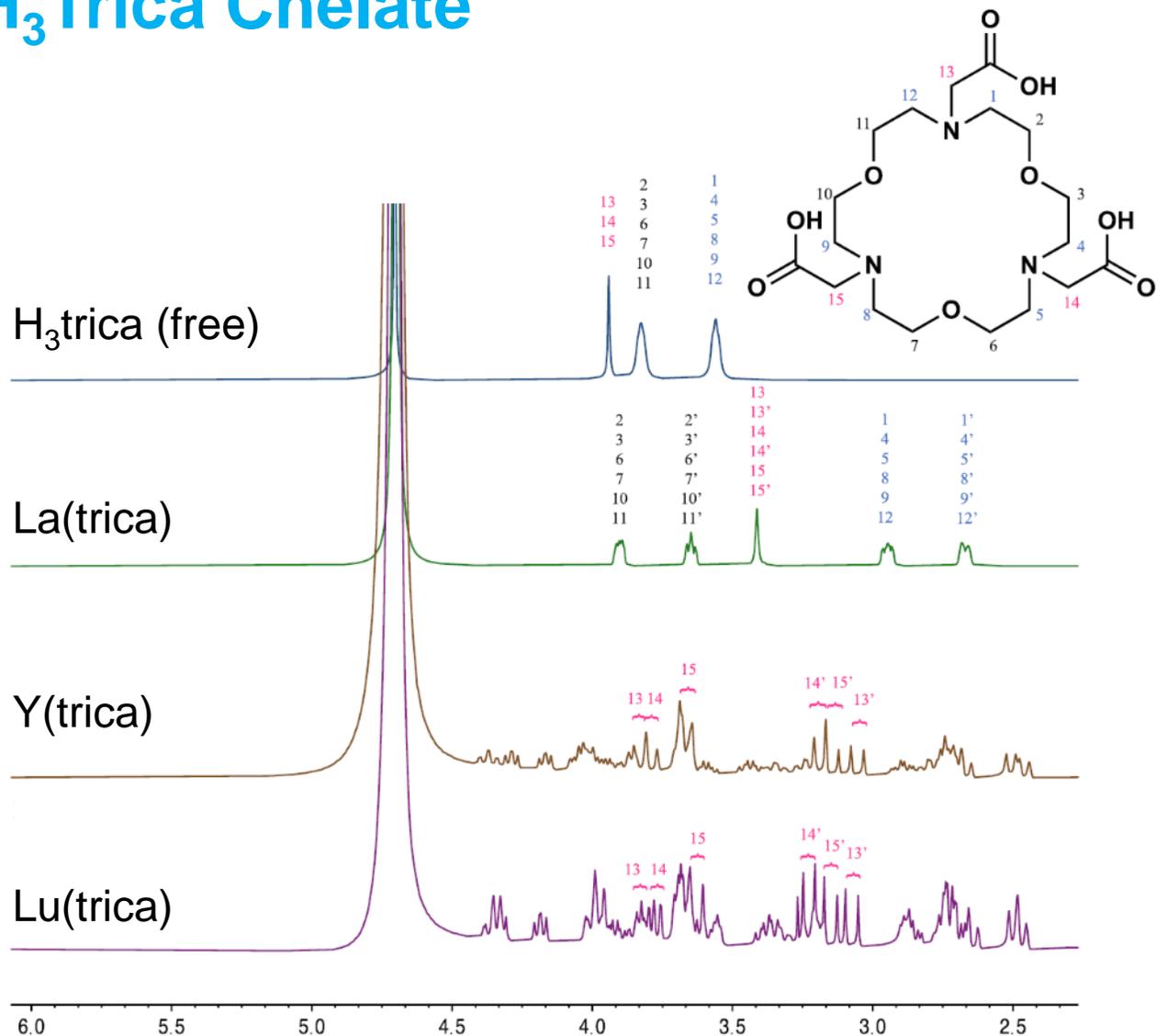
# H<sub>3</sub>Trica Chelate

Concentration-dependent radiolabeling studies of H<sub>3</sub>trica and DOTA with [<sup>155</sup>Tb]Tb<sup>3+</sup>, and [<sup>161</sup>Tb]Tb<sup>3+</sup>, (100 kBq) in NH<sub>4</sub>OAc (0.5 M, pH 6).\*\*



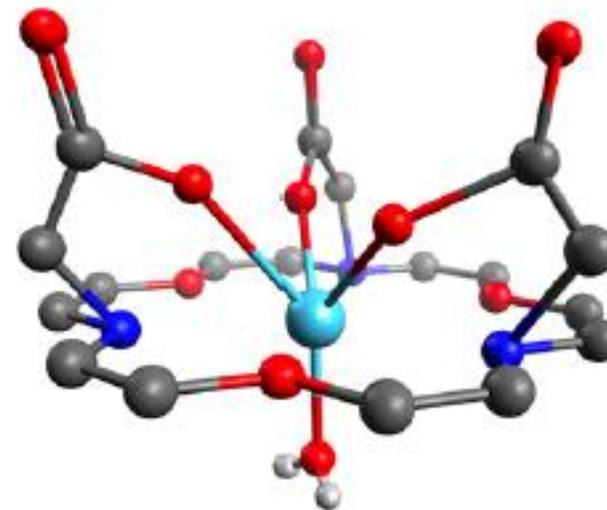
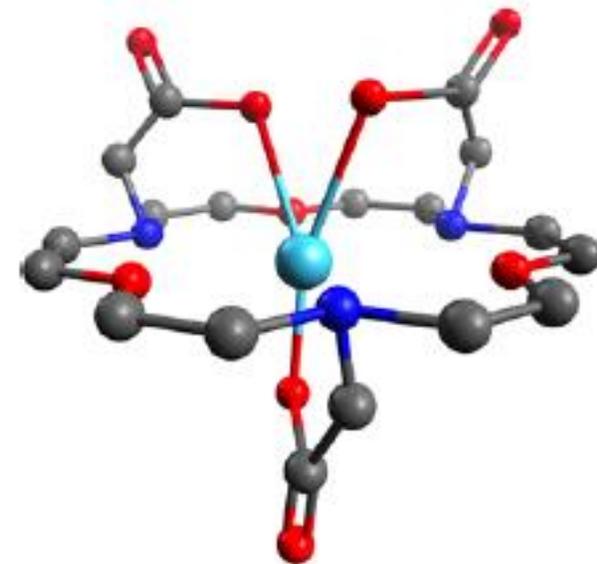
H<sub>3</sub>Trica-TATE radiolabeling study just completed, data forthcoming

# H<sub>3</sub>Trica Chelate



<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, 298 K, pD 7)

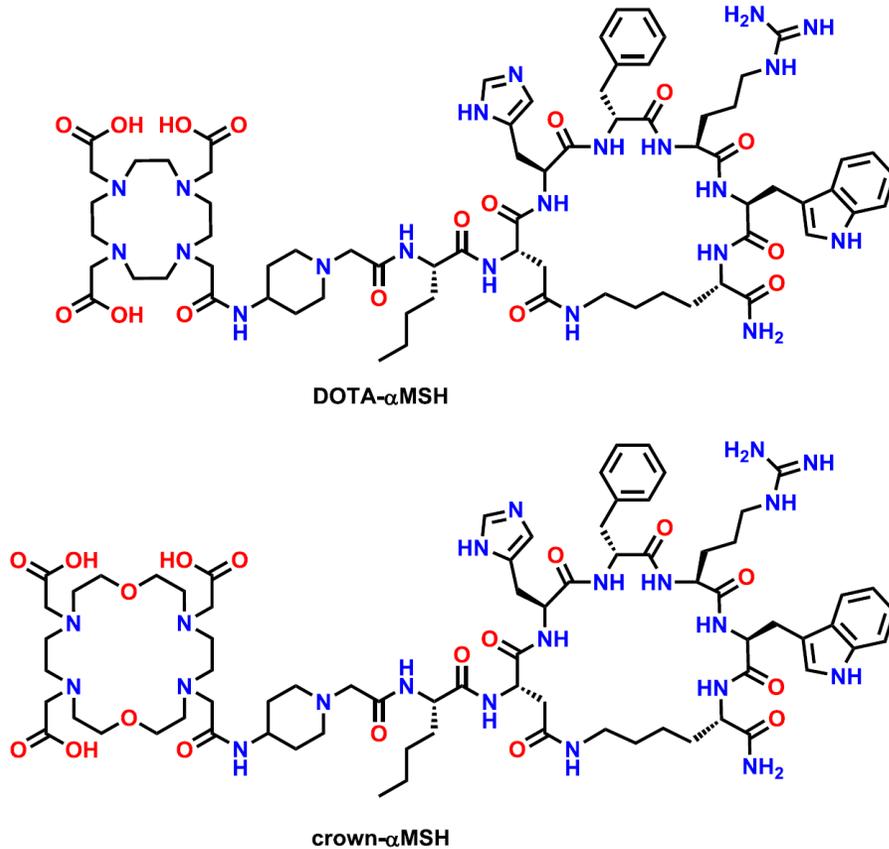
## Conformation 'A'



## Conformation 'B'

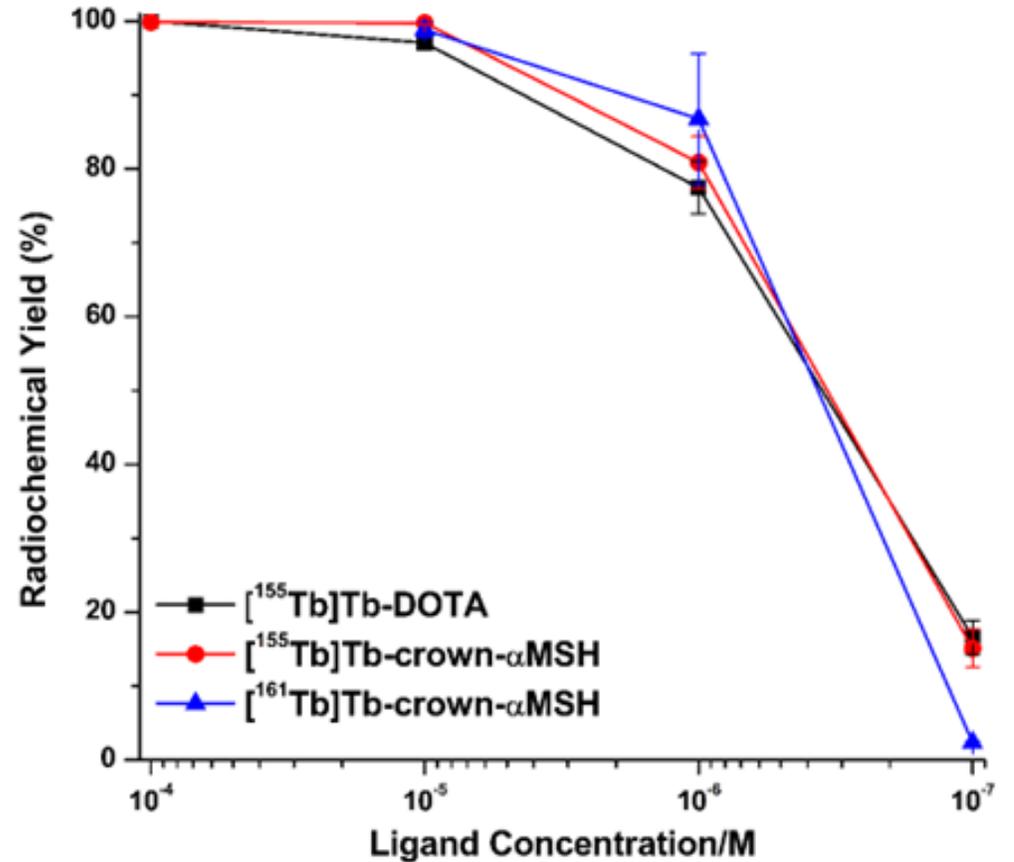
# Radiopharmaceutical Development

# [<sup>155/161</sup>Tb]Tb-crown- $\alpha$ MSH



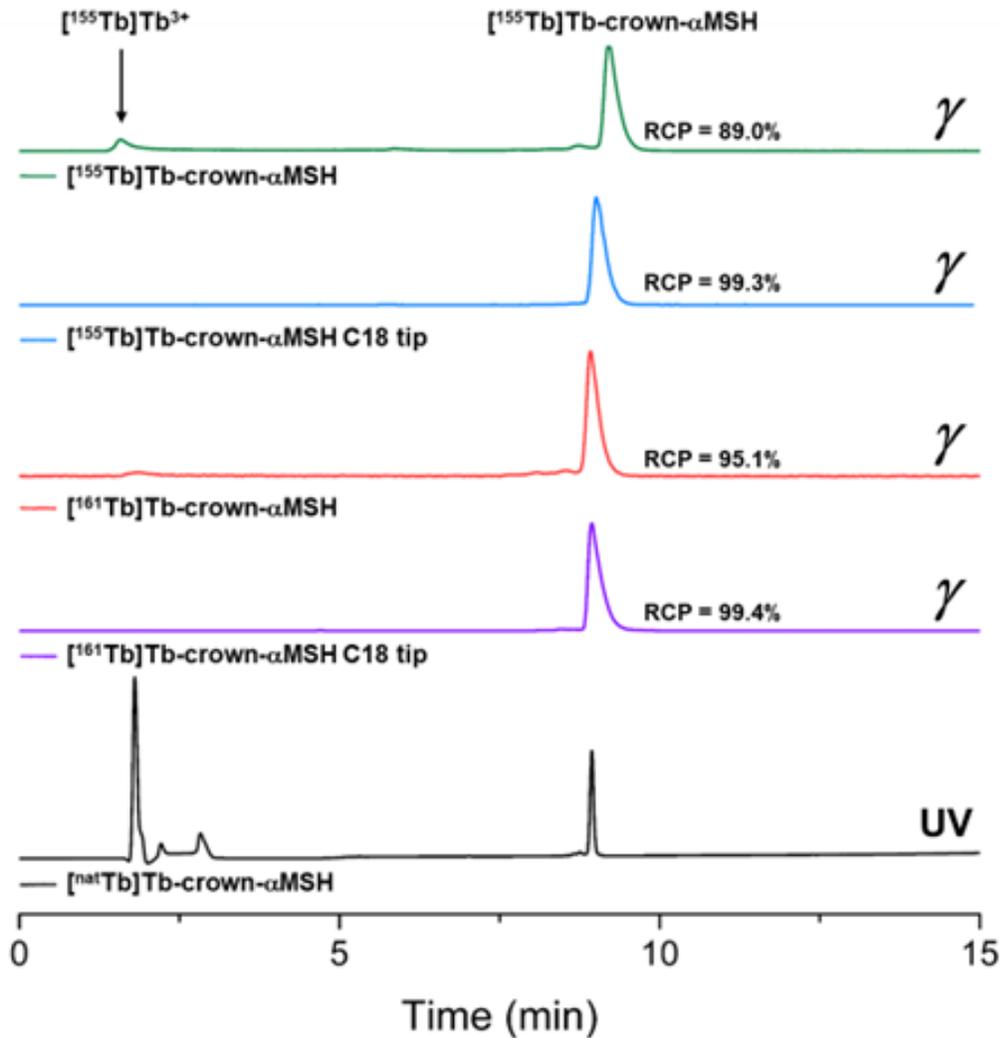
## Concentration-dependent radiolabeling studies with:

- [<sup>155</sup>Tb]Tb<sup>3+</sup> (100 kBq) or [<sup>161</sup>Tb]Tb<sup>3+</sup> (100 kBq),
- DOTA (90 °C, 30 min) and crown- $\alpha$ MSH (RT, 15 min)
- NH<sub>4</sub>OAc (0.5 M, pH 6.0)

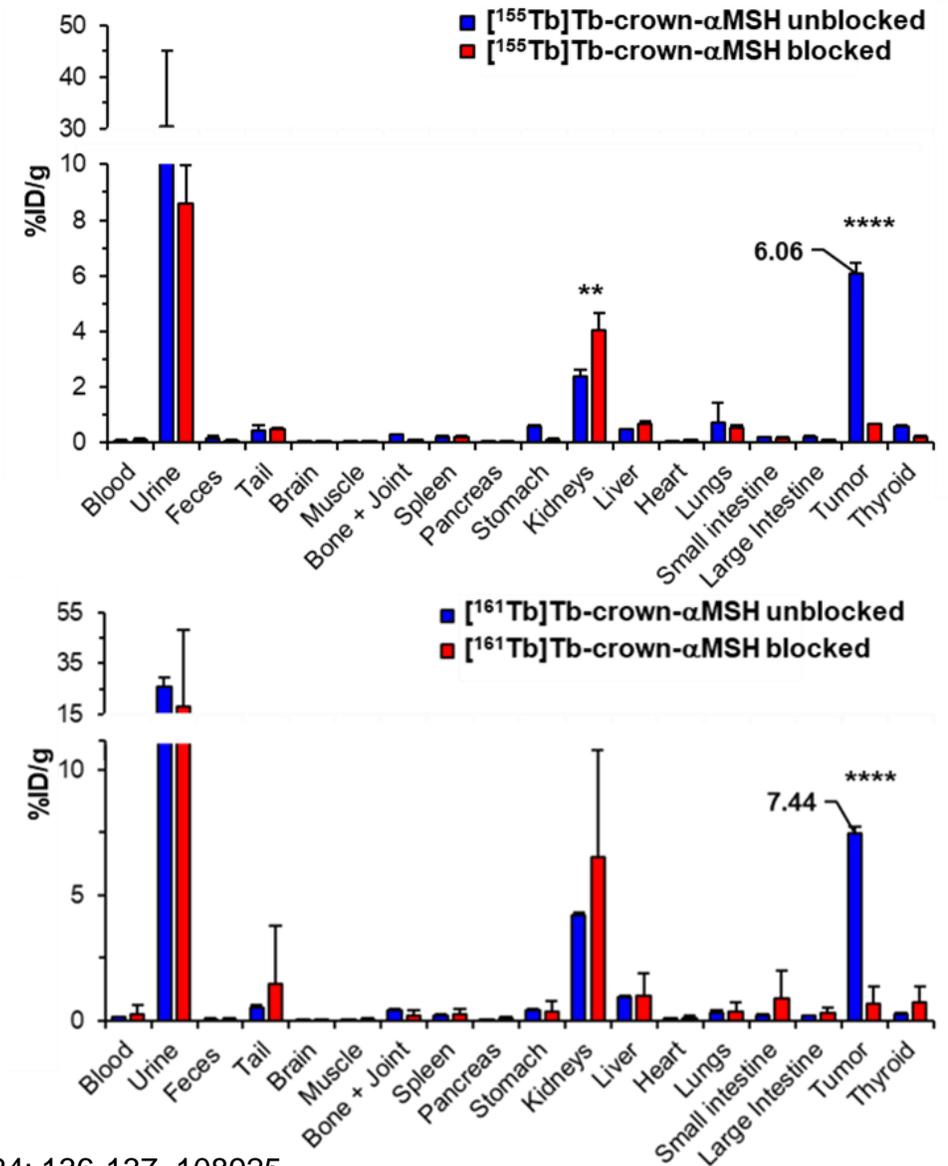


# [<sup>155/161</sup>Tb]Tb-crown-αMSH

HPLC chromatograms for [<sup>155/161</sup>natTb]Tb-crown-αMSH



Biodistribution studies in male C57BL/6J mice bearing B16-F10 tumors performed at 2 h post administration



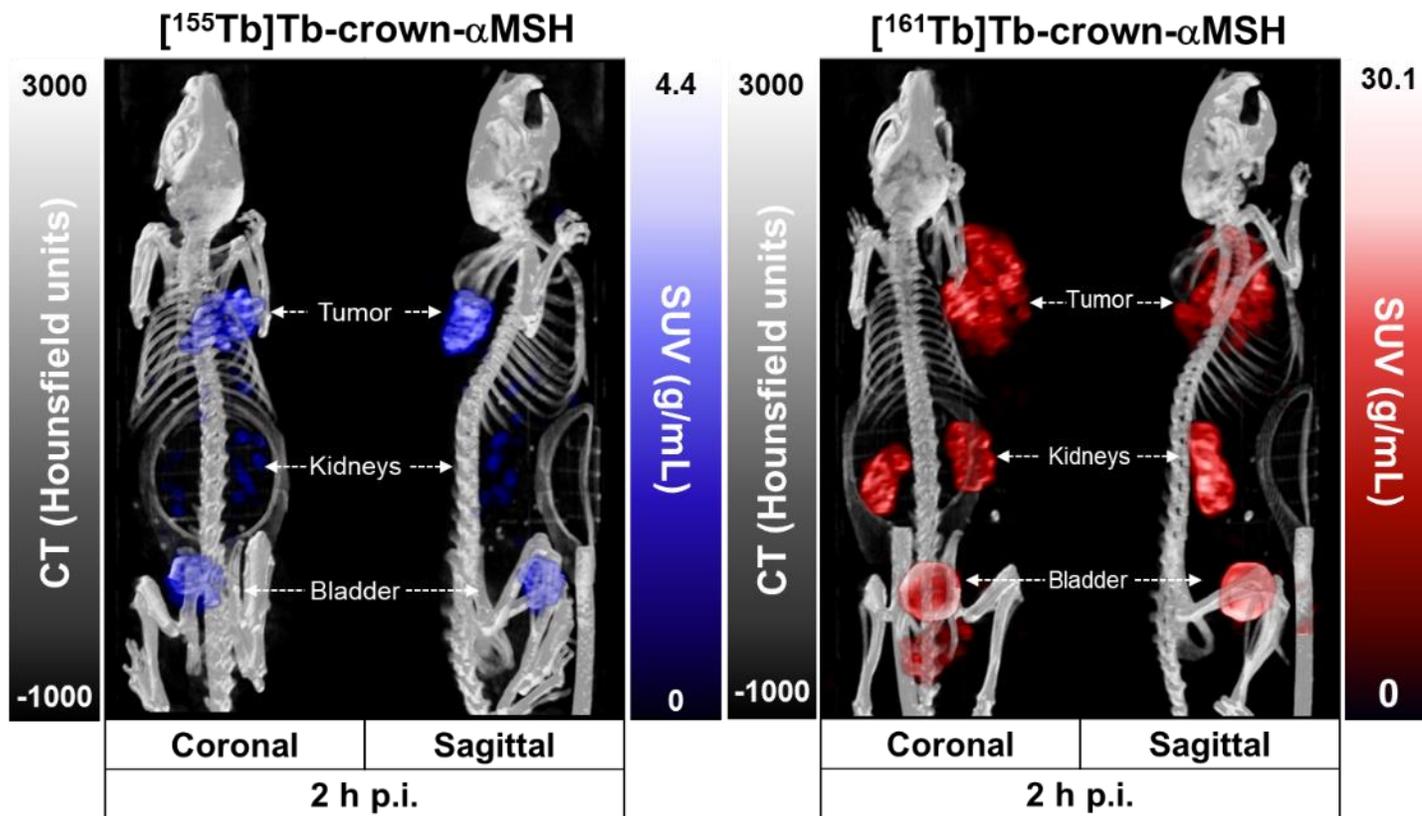
Credits to: Hua Yang, Luke Wharton, Peter Kunz, Michiel Van de Voorde

\*[<sup>161</sup>Tb] supplied by SCK CEN

L Wharton et al. Nuc. Med. Biol 2024; 136-137, 108925

# Quantitative SPECT with [<sup>155/161</sup>Tb]Tb-crown-αMSH

SPECT imaging in C57BL/6J mice bearing B16-F10 melanoma tumors at 2 h post administration



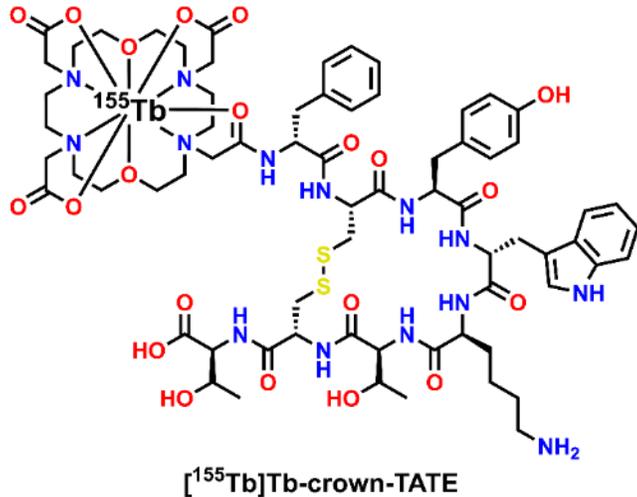
	[ <sup>155</sup> Tb]Tb-crown-αMSH		[ <sup>161</sup> Tb]Tb-crown-αMSH	
	SPECT %ID/g	BioD %ID/g	SPECT %ID/g	BioD %ID/g
Tumor	8.2	9.3	3.3	3.3
Kidney (L)	2.9	4.0	6.5	6.2
Kidney (R)	3.6		6.0	
Bladder	18.9	21.8	109.8	136.8

[<sup>155</sup>Tb]Tb-crown-αMSH (~196 kBq/subject, 21.7 MBq/nmol)

[<sup>161</sup>Tb]Tb-crown-αMSH (~3.30 MBq/subject, 39.6 MBq/nmol)

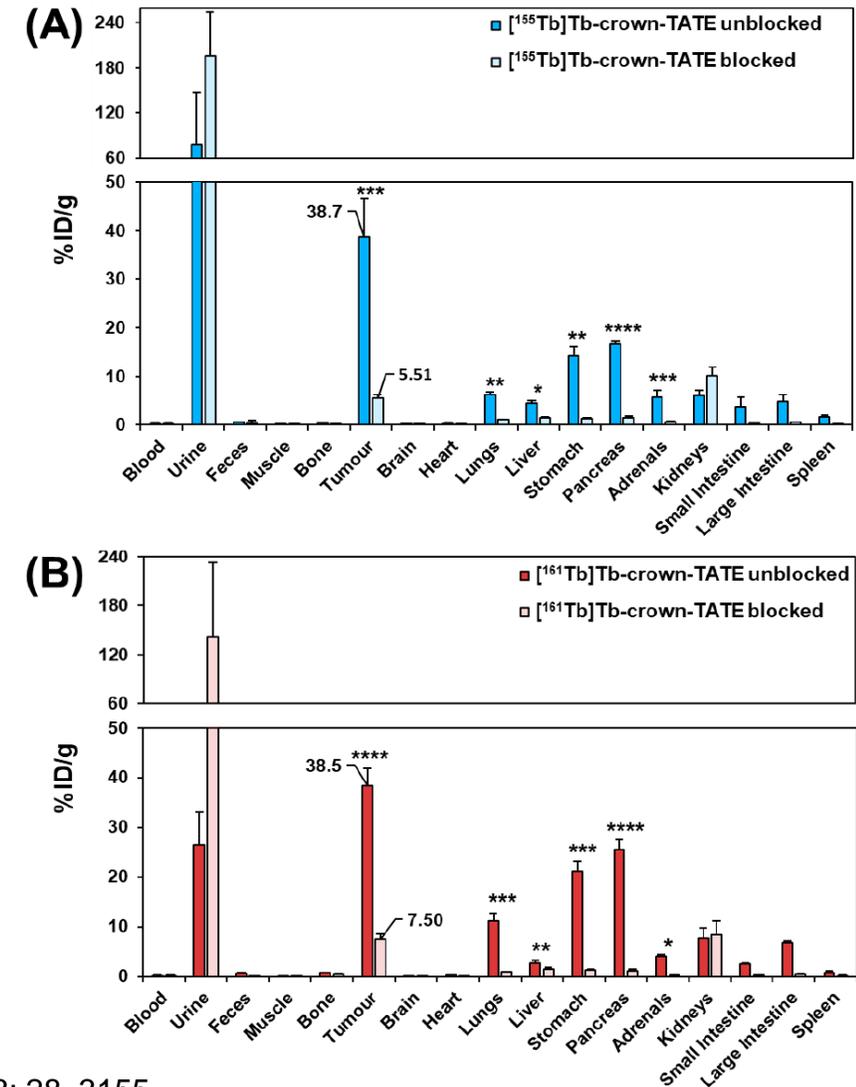
# Biodistribution of [<sup>155</sup>Tb]- and [<sup>161</sup>Tb]Tb-crown-TATE

- [<sup>155</sup>Tb]Tb-crown-TATE was prepared with high molar activity and radiochemical purity.

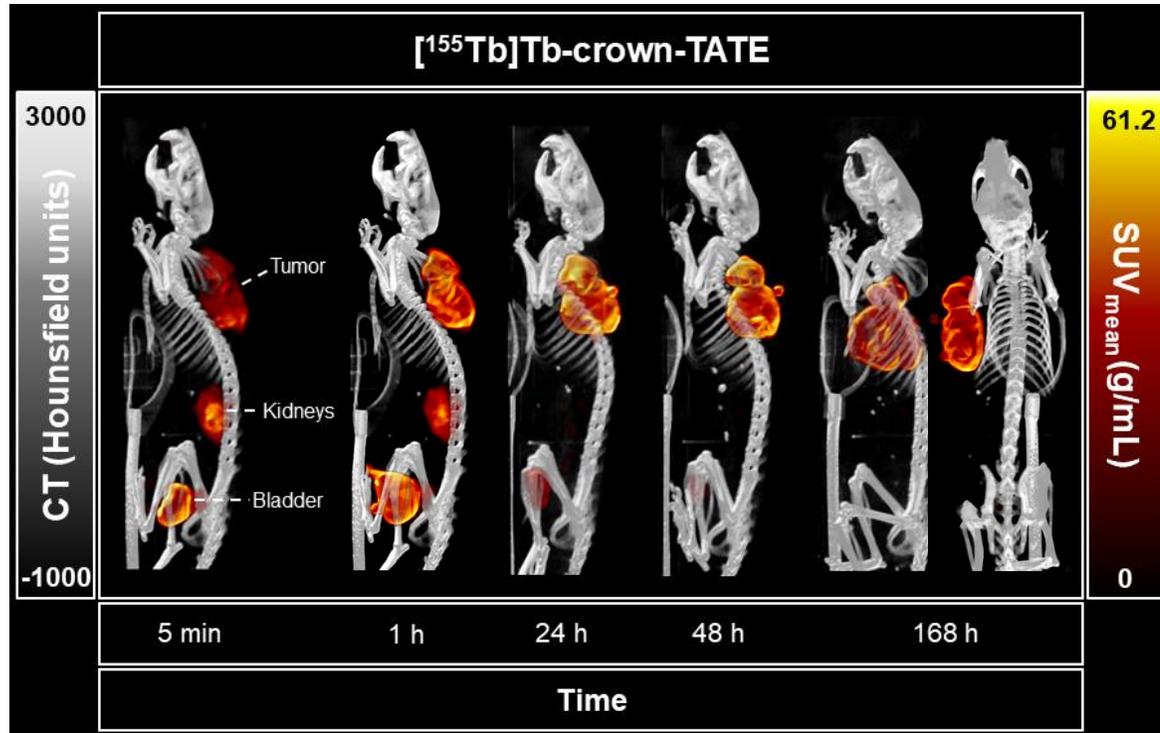


- Radiolabeling conditions:
  - 37 °C, 30 min, NH<sub>4</sub>OAc (0.5 M, pH 6.0)
- Molar activity: 9.74 MBq/nmol
- Administered dose: 330 kBq/animal

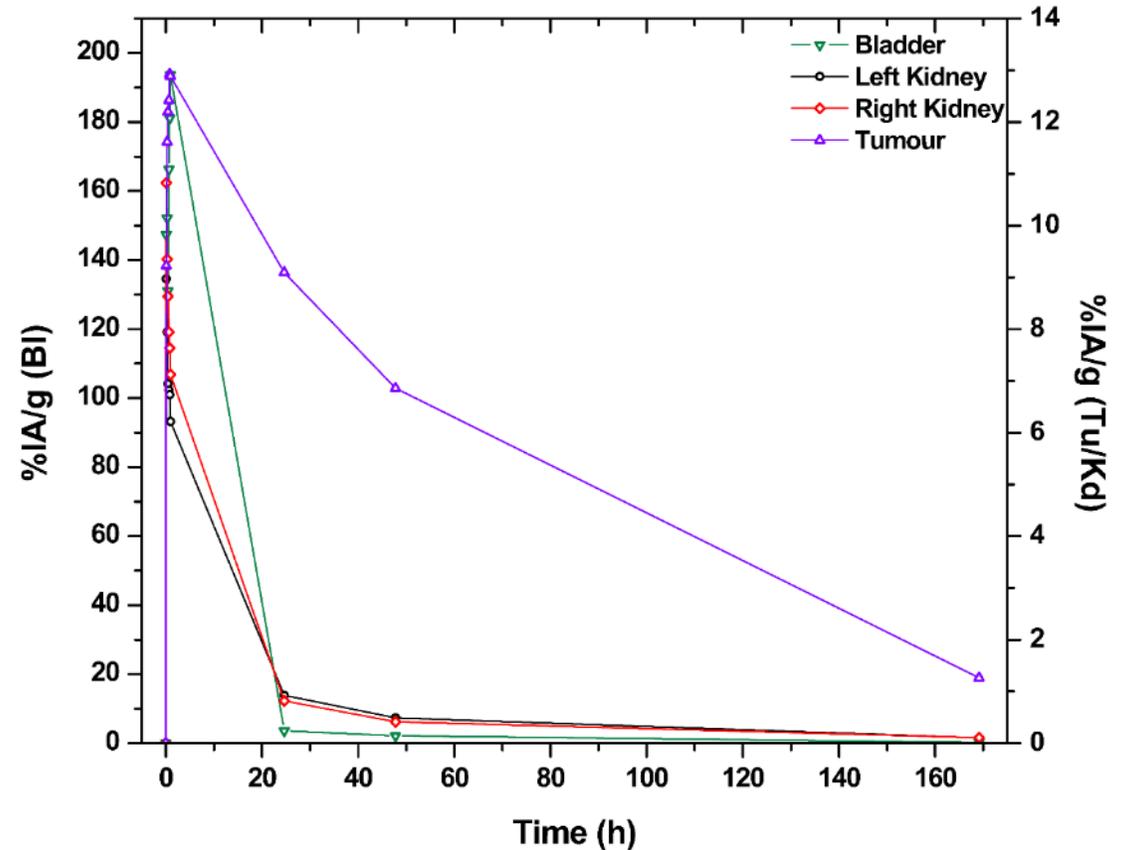
- Biodistribution in NRG mice bearing AR42J tumours; 2 hrs p.i. ~175kBq [<sup>155</sup>Tb]- and ~850 kBq [<sup>161</sup>Tb]Tb-crown-TATE.



# Longitudinal [ $^{155}\text{Tb}$ ] SPECT/CT Imaging



Maximum intensity projections from quantitative static SPECT/CT scans of [ $^{155}\text{Tb}$ ]Tb-crown-TATE (11.1 MBq, 613 pmol) from 0-to-168 h post-administration in male NRG mice bearing AR42J tumour xenografts on left-shoulder.



Credits to: H Yang, L Wharton, D Zhang, M Osooly, C Rodríguez-Rodríguez

# Terbium-149

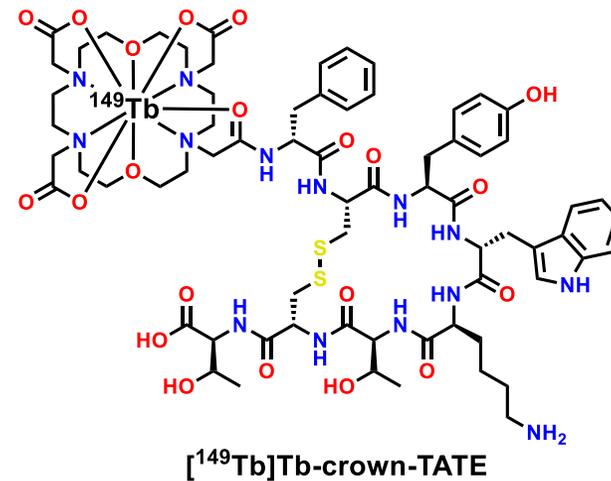
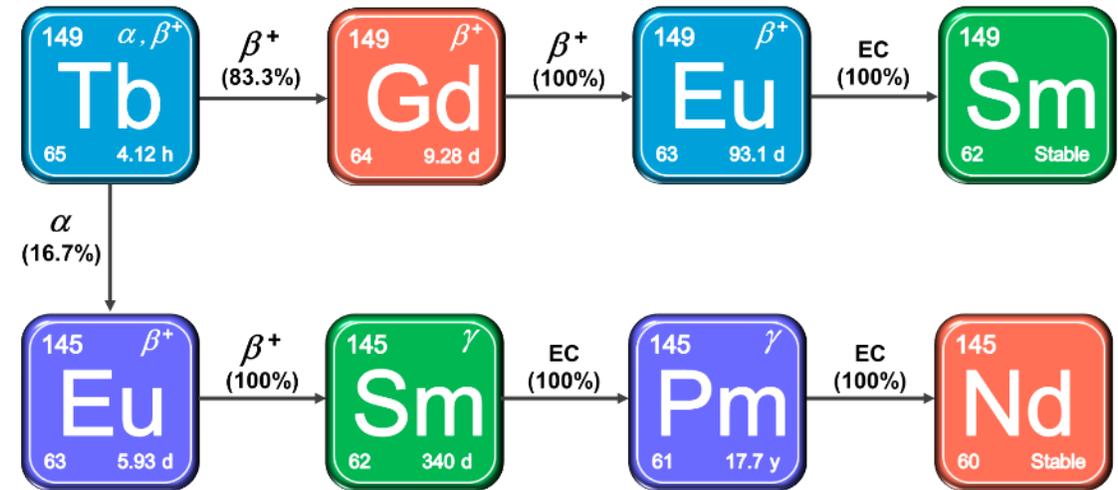
Unpublished results

- Overview:

- $^{149}\text{Tb}$  ( $t_{1/2} = 4.12$  h) is a short-lived  $\alpha$  and  $\beta^+$ -emitter; potential for theranostics involving alpha-therapy and PET imaging (dosimetry).

- Goals:

- First-time production of  $^{149}\text{Tb}$  at TRIUMF using ISAC/ISOL.
- Isolate and quantify activity.
- Perform radiolabelling studies with crown-TATE.
- Undertake preliminary biodistribution and PET imaging at BCCA.

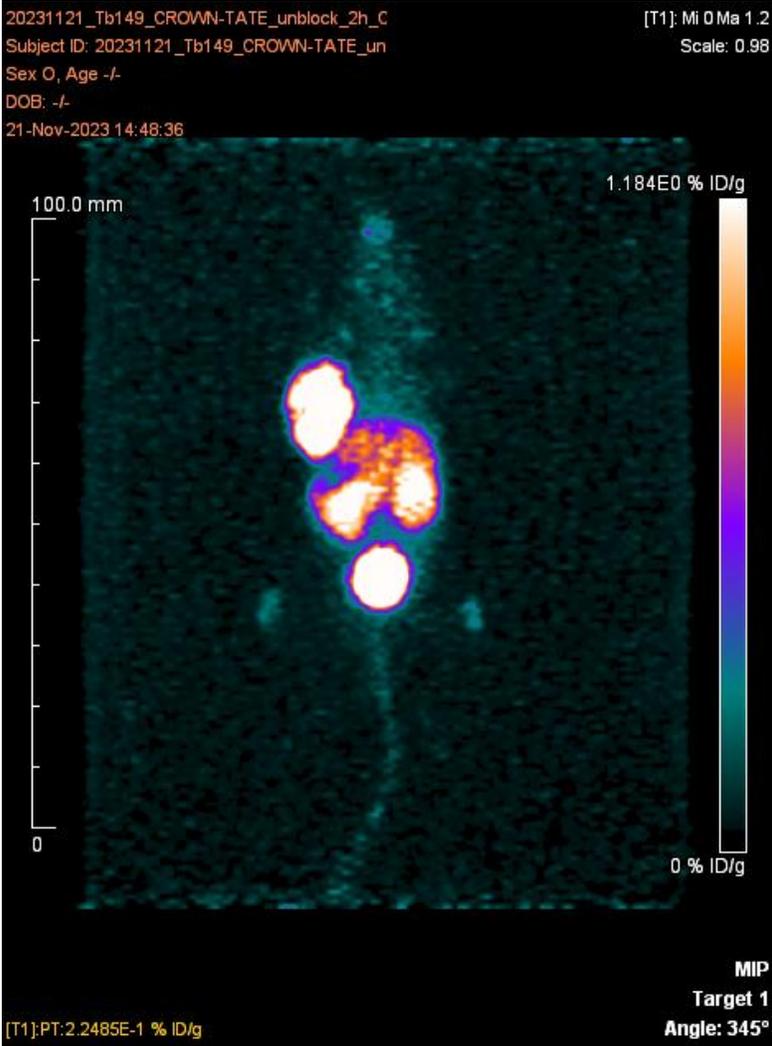


$\alpha$  - therapy

PET - imaging

# Terbium-149

- Goals:
  - ~ First-time production of  $^{149}\text{Tb}$  at TRIUMF using ISAC/ISOL.
    - 4 h implantation time, 30 min cool down.
    - 2 production runs.
    - 680  $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$  (shielded).
  - ✓ Isolate and quantify activity.
    - ~ 65 MBq  $^{149}\text{Tb}$  in 87  $\mu\text{L}$  water.
  - ✓ Perform radiolabelling studies with crown-TATE.
    - 100% RCY (RT, 30 min).
    - Molar activity: 53.6 MBq/nmol.
  - ✗ Undertake preliminary biodistribution and PET imaging at BCCA.
    - No prior calibration of PET scanner or gamma counter.
    - Too much activity injected per animal (10 MBq/animal).
    - Wrong energy windows for gamma counting.

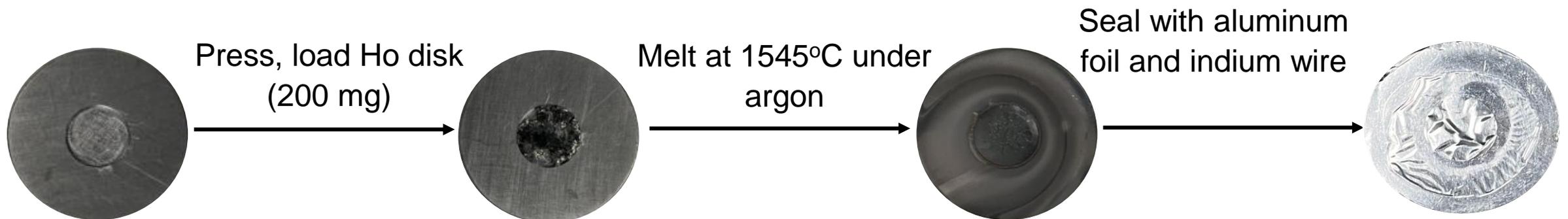
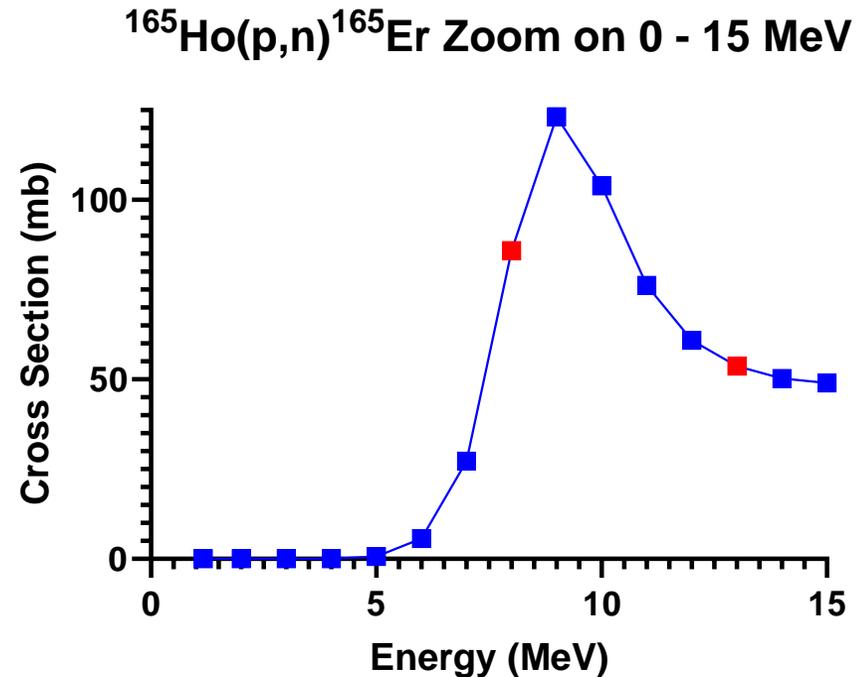


# $^{165}\text{Ho}(p,n)^{165}\text{Er}$ at 13 MeV Cyclotron

- Production via low-energy (13 MeV) cyclotron
- $^{165}\text{Ho}(p,n)^{165}\text{Er}$ ;  $^{165}\text{Ho}$  is monoisotopic, available
- Pure Auger  $e^-$  emitter
- Therapy potential: 7 Auger  $e^-$  per decay
- Preclinical SPECT imaging: 47.1 keV (59.4%) and 54.3 keV (14.3%)

## $^{165}\text{Ho}$ Target Production

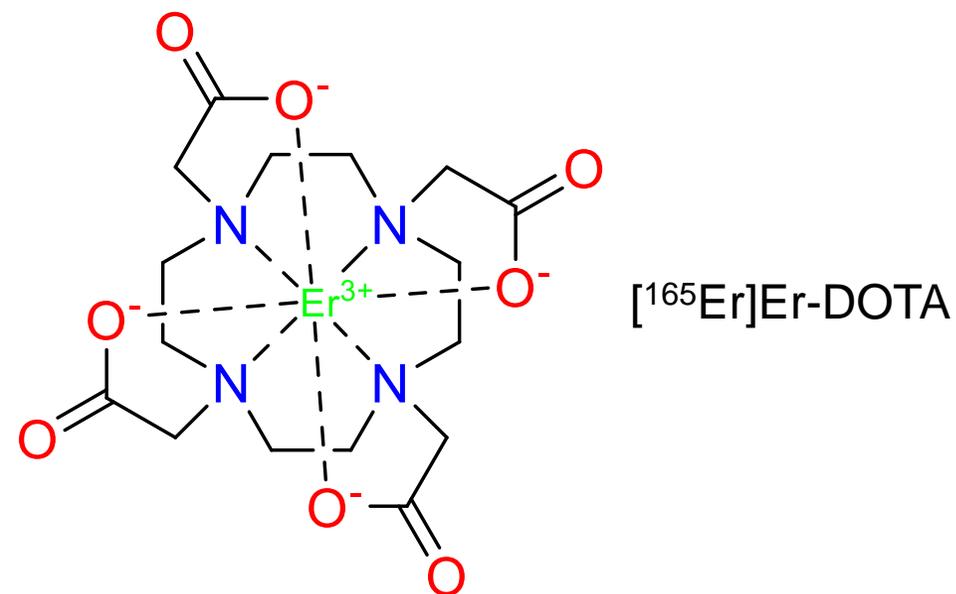
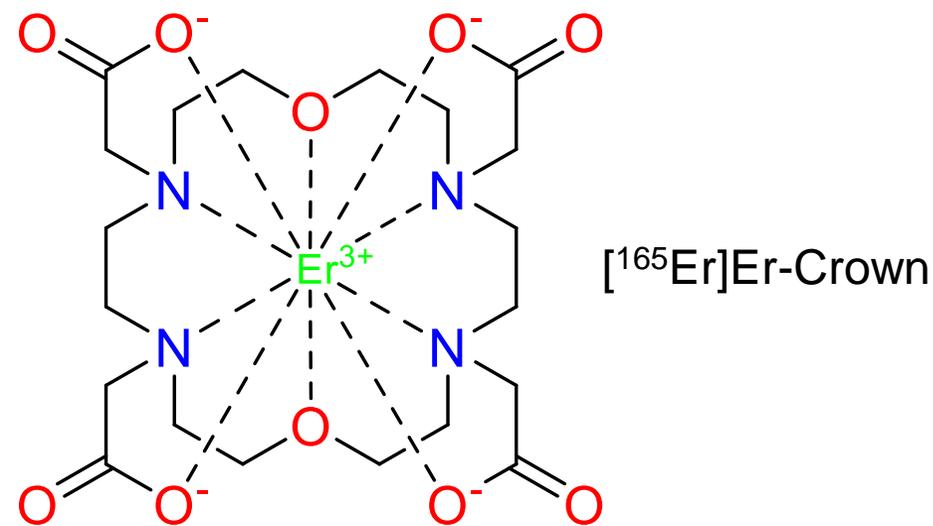
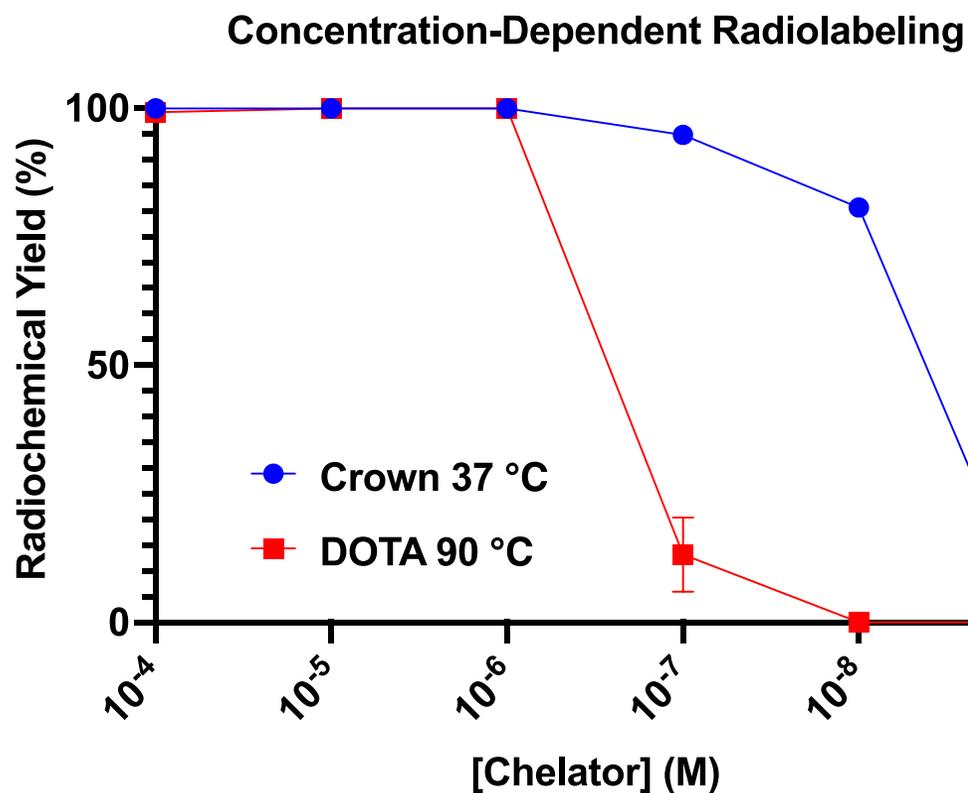
- 200 mg  $^{165}\text{Ho}$
- 250 mg·cm $^{-2}$  or 0.29 mm of thickness
- 8 MeV exit energy
- 25 MBq· $\mu\text{A}^{-1}\text{h}^{-1}$





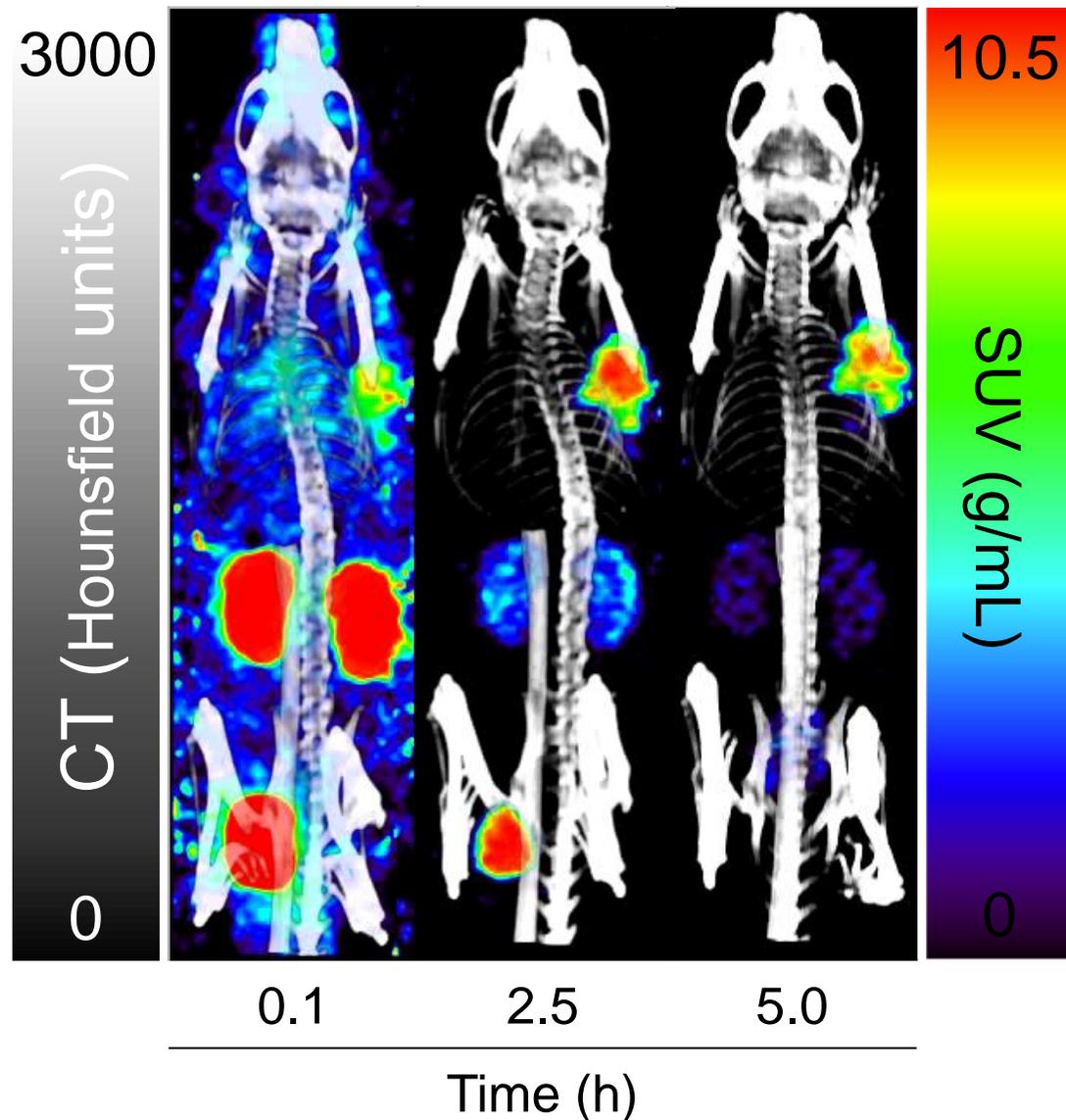
# $^{165}\text{Er}$ Radiolabeling

- 0.5 M  $\text{NH}_4\text{OAc}$  buffer (pH 5.5)
- 500 kBq  $^{165}\text{Er}$  at EoS
- 50  $\mu\text{L}$  total volume

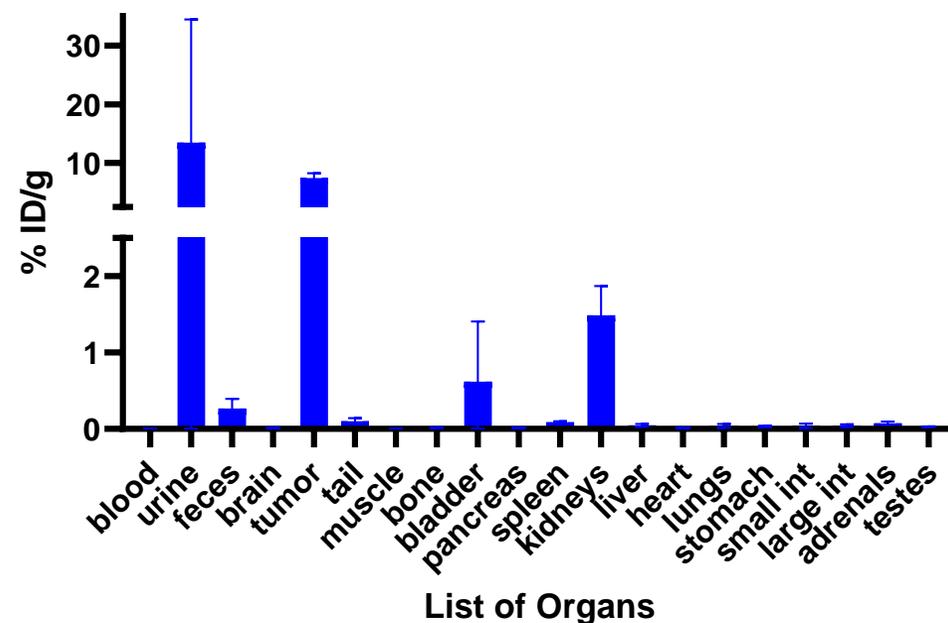


# $^{165}\text{Er}$ -PSMA-617 SPECT and *ex vivo* Biodistribution

MIPs for LNCaP tumor bearing mice injected with  $^{165}\text{Er}$ -PSMA-617 (21 MBq, 0.2 nmol)

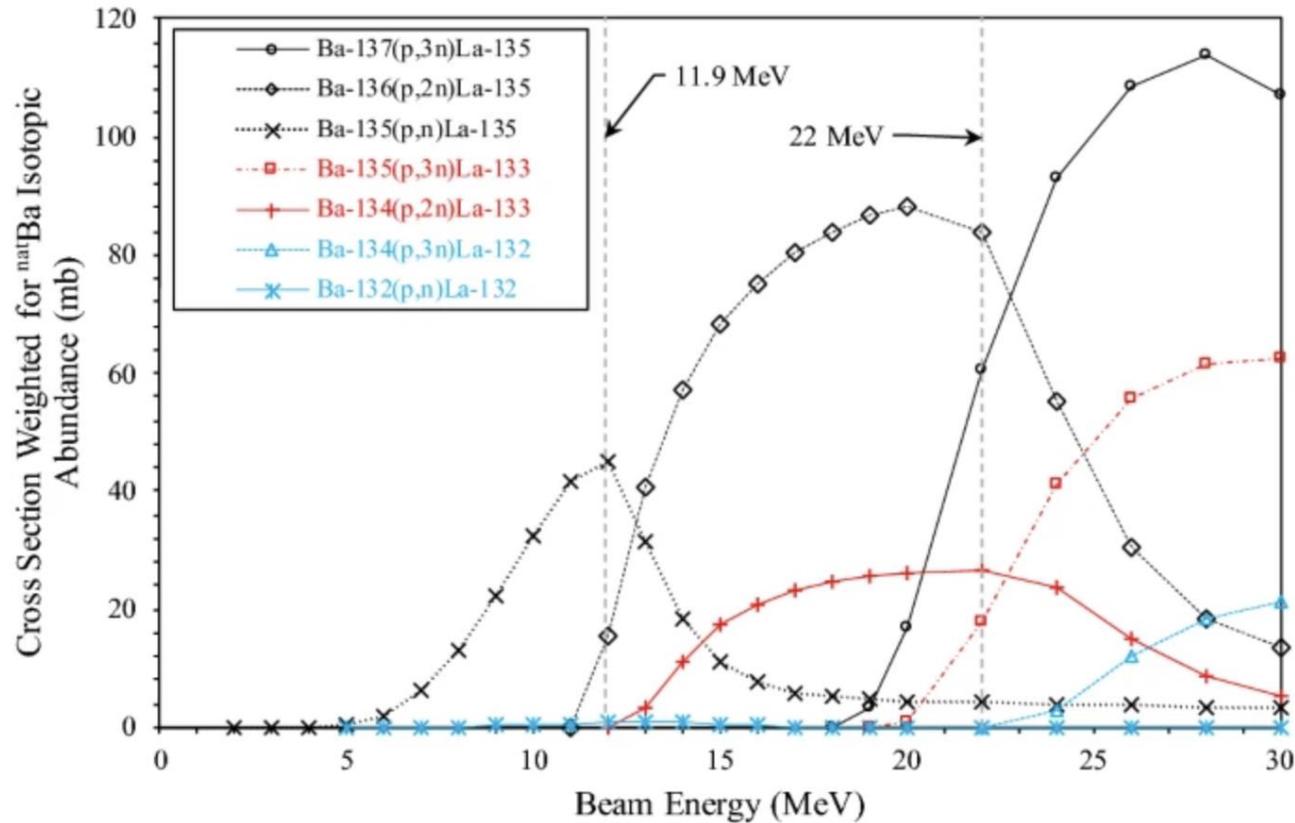


$^{165}\text{Er}$ -PSMA-617 Ex Vivo Biodistribution (5h)



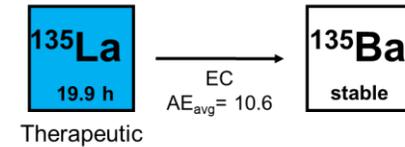
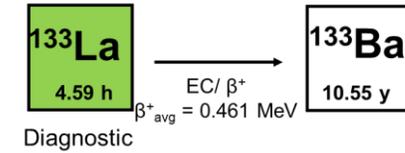
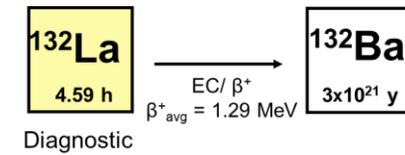
Organ	Density (g/mL)	5.0 h SPECT		5.0 h BioD
		SUV (g/mL)	%ID/mL	%ID/g
Tumor	1	3.86	9.14	8.14
Kidneys	1.06	0.28	0.92	1.25
Bladder + Urine	1.03	0.47	1.57	2.55

# Radiolanthanum as an $^{225}\text{Ac}$ Surrogate



Nelson, B., *et al.* *Sci. Rep.* 2020, 10, 22203.

$^{132}\text{Ba}$  abundance = 0.1%       $^{136}\text{Ba}$  abundance = 7.85%  
 $^{134}\text{Ba}$  abundance = 2.42%       $^{137}\text{Ba}$  abundance = 11.2%  
 $^{135}\text{Ba}$  abundance = 6.59%       $^{138}\text{Ba}$  abundance = 71.7%

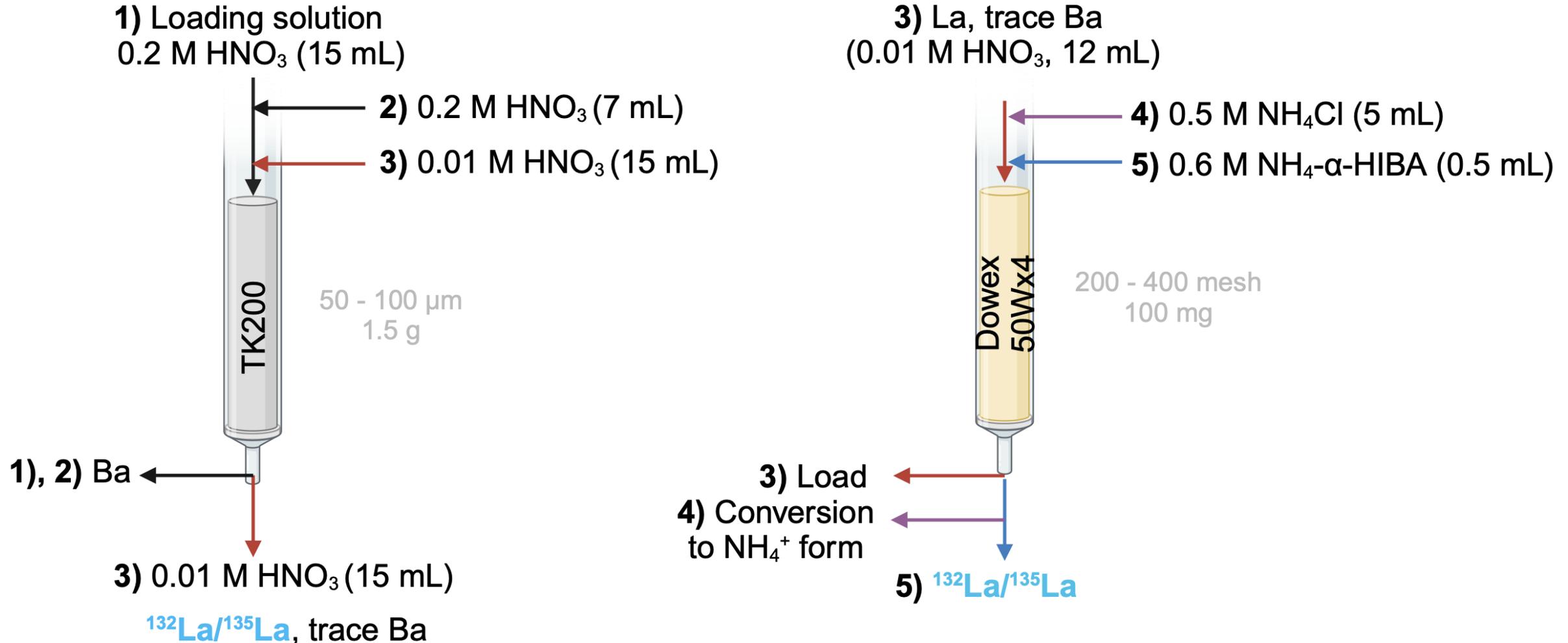


Sealed coin target (In wire) to prevent oxidation during transport, installation, removal

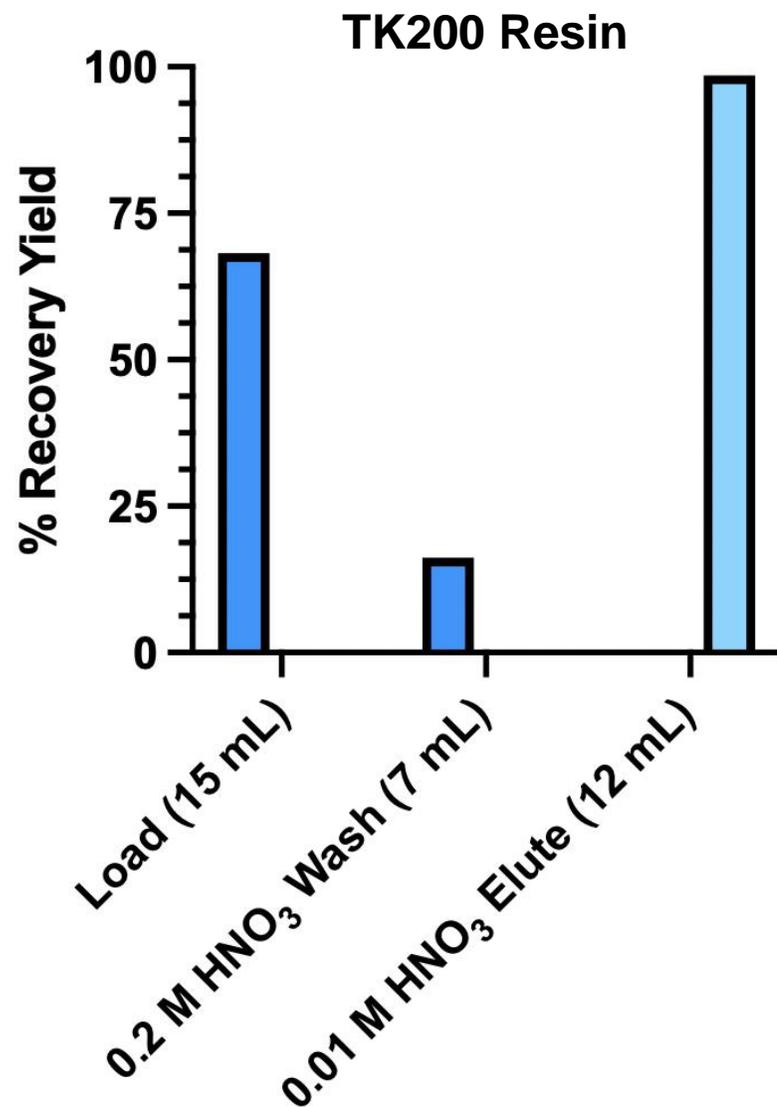
2-hour irradiation at 10  $\mu\text{A}$  (n= 3):

$^{132}\text{La} = 4.9 \pm 0.8$  MBq  
 $^{135}\text{La} = 112.8 \pm 18.3$  MBq

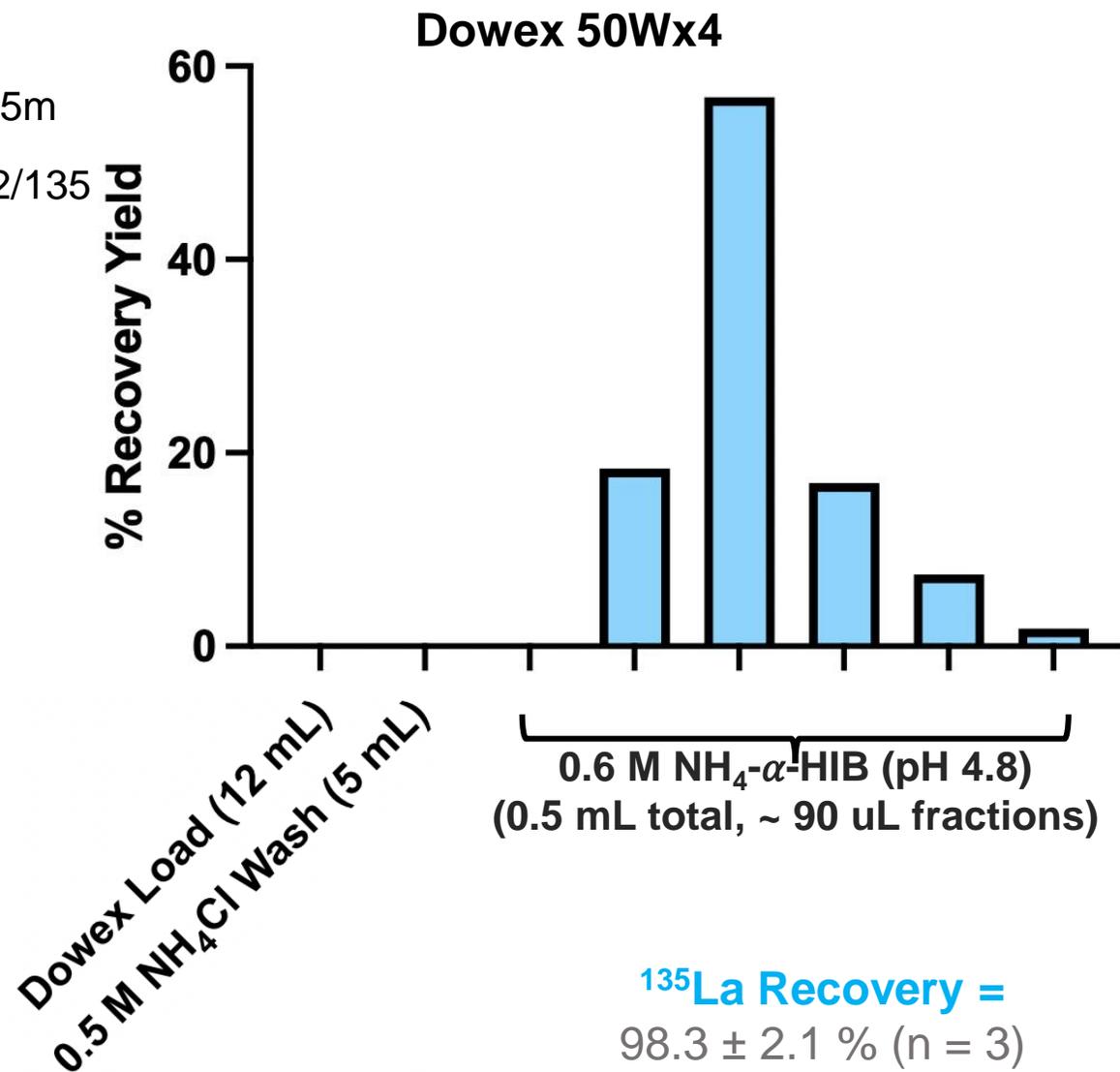
# Proposed La Purification Method



# La Elution Profile

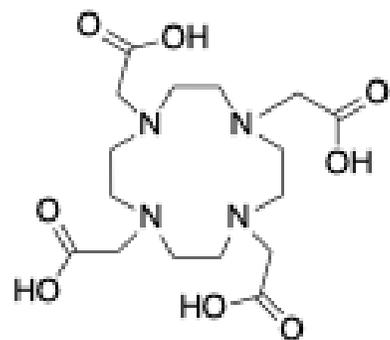


■ Ba-135m  
 ■ La-132/135

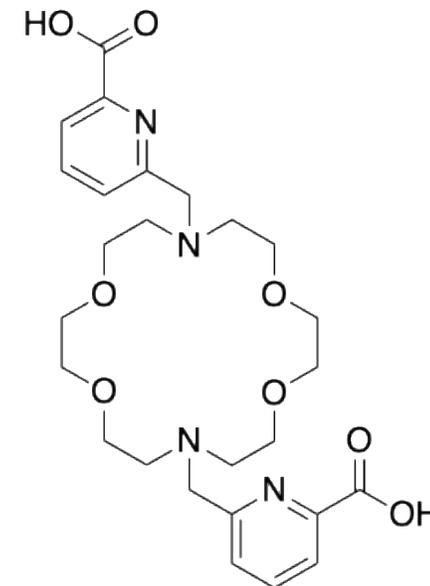
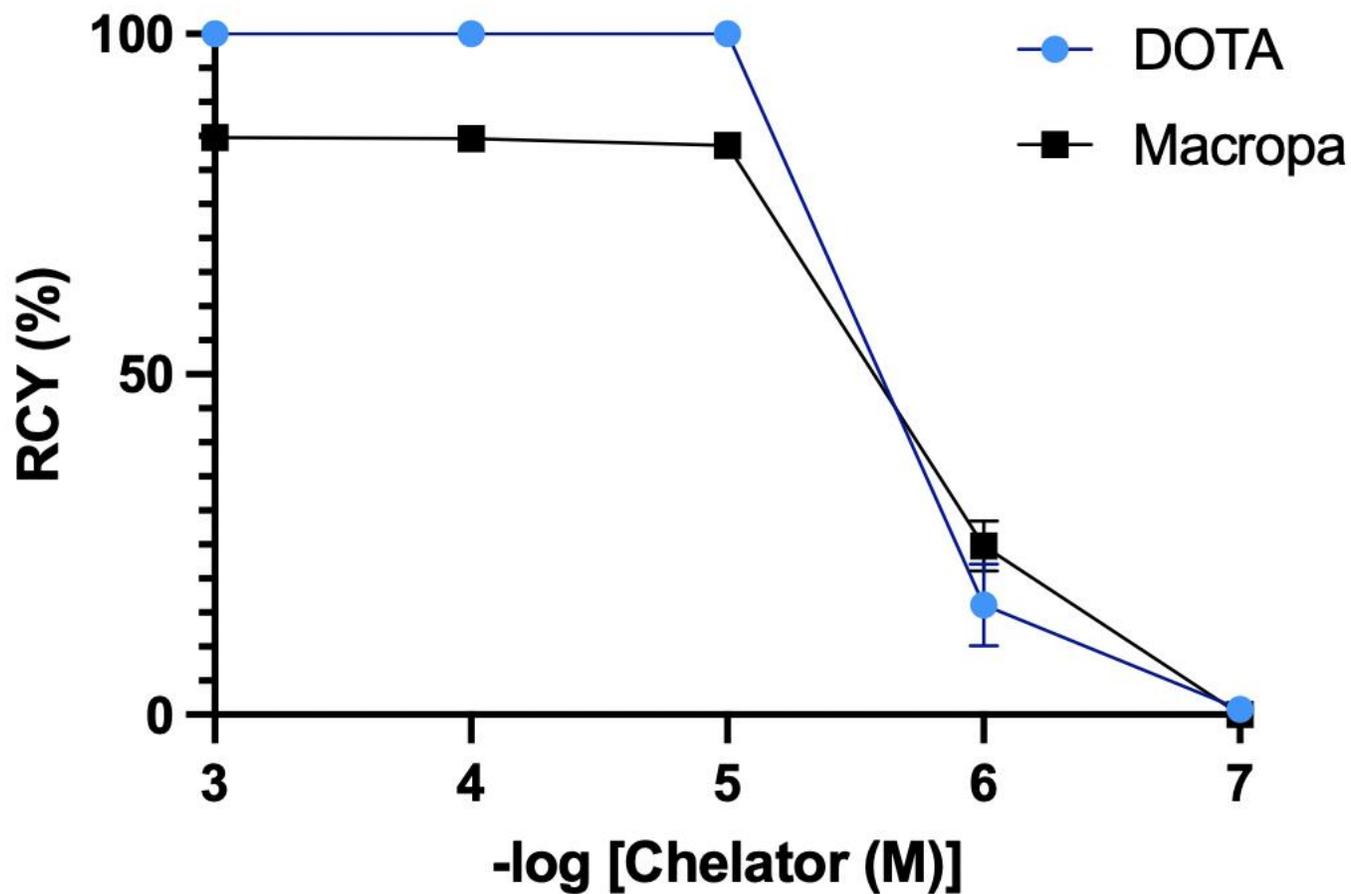


**<sup>135</sup>La Recovery =**  
 98.3 ± 2.1 % (n = 3)

# $^{135}\text{La}$ Radiolabeling



DOTA



Macropa

(740 kBq  $^{135}\text{La}$ , 0.2 M  $\text{NH}_4\text{-}\alpha\text{-HIB}$  pH ~5, 80 °C, 30 minutes, n = 6)

# Summary

- ISAC-ISOL can produce certain isotopes in sufficient yield and purity to allow radiochemistry and radiopharmaceutical development
  - Important for development of isotopes such as  $^{149}\text{Tb}$
- With advancements in solid-target technology, low energy cyclotrons can produce an increasing repertoire of radiolanooids (and radioactinides)
- Macrocyclic chelates are proving to be powerful enablers of radiolanthanides (and radioactinides)
- Several radiolanthanide radiopharmaceuticals were produced and used as imaging- and/or therapy tools for melanoma and neuroendocrine tumor models.
- Applications in other tumour models, and therapy response studies are ongoing



# New Infrastructure: Institute for Advanced Medical Isotopes (IAMI)

- New >\$70M facility
- Building substantially complete
- TR24 installed
- PETTrace procurement underway
- 6 GMP-capable hot labs
- 1 standard chemistry labs
- 2 QC laboratories
- Quarantined storage
- 2 floors of office space
- Hot Commissioning 2025



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Thank you  
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