### Production of Radiolanthanides for Medical Applications in the USA

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The PRISMAP Radiolanthanides Workshop Paul Scherrer Institute Villigen, Switzerland September 4, 2024

### Darleane Hoffman – pioneering radiolanthanide chemist



Louise Smith and Hoffman, J Inorg Nucl Chem 3: 243-247 (1956).

## Periodic Table of the Elements



## Periodic Table of the Elements



## Lanthanides and their homologues









## <sup>165</sup>Er at the University of Wisconsin





#### Article

#### A High Separation Factor for <sup>165</sup>Er from Ho for Targeted **Radionuclide Therapy**

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# Ho<sub>(m)</sub> target – cyclotron irradiations



#### <sup>nat</sup>Ho<sub>(m)</sub> 99.99995% purity from <sup>nat</sup>Er (0.5 ppm)



Diam (mm)	Ho Dimensions Thick. (mm)	Mass (mg)	E <sub>in</sub> (MeV)	E <sub>out</sub> (MeV)	<sup>165</sup> Er Physical Yield (MBq·μA <sup>-1</sup> ·h <sup>-1</sup> )	n
9.5	280-300	$174\pm 8$	12.5	7.5	$24.1\pm0.5$	5
9.5	200-240	$125 \pm 6$	12.5	8.4-9.1	$19.1 \pm 1.1$	3
7.9	270-280	$108 \pm 4$	12.5	7.8	$14.1 \pm 1.4$	3
7.9	190	$69\pm1$	12.5	9.3	$12.0\pm0.9$	4



After 40 µA

## Ho/<sup>165</sup>Er separation step 1: CX / αHIB





## Ho/<sup>165</sup>Er separation step 2: LN2 EXC



2.  $52 \pm 9 \text{ mL } 0.4 \text{ M}$ HNO<sub>3</sub> at 1 mL/min

3. 4 – 5 mL 1 M HNO3 at 1 mL/min



<u>570 ± 370 µg Ho</u>

2. (99.91 ± 0.06)% Ho, (23 ± 7)% <sup>165</sup>Er

3.  $(78 \pm 6)\%$  Er recovery, SF<sub>Ho/Er</sub> = 1020 ± 320

#### ▶ <u>380 ± 210 ng Ho</u>

## DGA EXC in practice and results

- 1. <sup>165</sup>Er in ∼6 mL 5 M HNO<sub>3</sub>
- 2. 15 mL 3 M HNO<sub>3</sub>
- 3. 2 mL 0.5 M HNO<sub>3</sub>
- 4. 1.5 mL 0.01 M HCI



- 1. No <sup>165</sup>Er
- Trace metal impurities (Fe, Cr, Co, Ni, Cu), no <sup>165</sup>Er
- Lower column acidity, no <sup>165</sup>Er
- 4. (98 ± 1)% <sup>165</sup>Er
  recovery, 1.5 ± 0.1 mL
  0.01 M HCI

<u>0.4 – 1.4 mL 0.01 M HCI</u>

<u>4 mL 1 M HNO<sub>3</sub></u>

Overall ~5 hour process: 64±2% <sup>165</sup>Er recovery, SF<sub>Ho/Er</sub> = (2.8±1.1)·10<sup>5</sup>

## Proof-of-concept [<sup>165</sup>Er]PSMA-617 synthesis



<sup>†</sup> Radioactivity and MA decay-corrected to end of bombardment.

# Positron-emitting <sup>86</sup>Y production and isolation

Applied Radiation and Isotopes 142 (2018) 28-31



Simplified and automatable radiochemical separation strategy for the production of radiopharmaceutical quality <sup>86</sup>Y using single column extraction chromatography



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Eduardo Aluicio-Sarduy

Jonathan Engle

U.S. Department of Energy

<sup>86</sup>Y work at UWisc has been supported by US DOE Isotope Program, managed by the Office of Science for Isotope R&D and Production grant DE-SC0020960.

Radionuclide is available to researchers through National Isotope Development Center at www.isotopes.gov



## Positron-emitting <sup>86</sup>Y production and isolation



Sr

HNO<sub>3</sub> - 0.5 M: Rinse (15mL)

DGA

~150 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> pressed  ${}^{86}$ SrCO<sub>3</sub> (or  ${}^{86}$ SrO) 5  $\mu$ A (20  $\mu$ A for SrO), 14 – 15 MeV protons **110 MBq·µA-1·h-1** <sup>86</sup>Y, >95% RNP at EoC





#### 50 ± 10 MBg/nmol DOTA radiolabeling 98 ± 1% <sup>86</sup>SrCO<sub>3</sub> recycling efficiency

Aluicio-Sarduy et al., Appl Radiat Isot 142: 28-31 (2018). Aluicio-Sarduy et al., Nucl Med Biol 126-127: 108780 (2023).

ARTICLES https://doi.org/10.1038/s41557-020-00598-7 nature chemistry

### Developing the <sup>134</sup>Ce and <sup>134</sup>La pair as companion positron emission tomography diagnostic isotopes for <sup>225</sup>Ac and <sup>227</sup>Th radiotherapeutics

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Veronika Mocko (LANL) Rebecca Abergel (UCB)

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Radionuclide is available to researchers through National Isotope Development Center at www.isotopes.gov



#### Motivation: <sup>134</sup>Ce/<sup>134</sup>La as imaging companion for $\alpha$ -radiotherapy

- Increased application of targeted alpha therapy <sup>225</sup>Ac (T<sub>1/2</sub> 9.9d), <sup>227</sup>Th (T<sub>1/2</sub> 18.7d)
- PET radiometals: <sup>68</sup>Ga (T<sub>1/2</sub> 67.7min), <sup>64</sup>Cu(T<sub>1/2</sub> 12.7h), <sup>132</sup>La(T<sub>1/2</sub> 4.8h), <sup>133</sup>La(T<sub>1/2</sub> 3.9h)
  - <sup>68</sup>Ga, <sup>64</sup>Cu different chemistry and coordination
  - All too short lived to track biological fate over several days



#### <sup>134</sup>Ce production

- natLa (p, 6n)<sup>134</sup>Ce
- 32 g of La metal (45.7 x 3 mm)
- Incident energy 77.9 MeV, Exit energy 67.8 MeV H<sup>+</sup>
- Beam current 100 μA, Cumulative charge ~3000 μA.h





#### La puck in target shell



#### **Irradiated target**





Baily, Mocko, Vermeulen, Kozimor, Abergel, et. al. NATURE CHEM 13. 284 (2021).

Slide provided courtesy of Veronika Mocko (LANL) – full presentation available at: https://www.isotopes.gov/sites/default/files/2023-11/DOE\_IP\_virtual-seminar-series\_Ce-134.pdf





Baily, Mocko, Vermeulen, Kozimor, Abergel, et. al. NATURE CHEM 13. 284 (2021).

Slide provided courtesy of Veronika Mocko (LANL) – full presentation available at: https://www.isotopes.gov/sites/default/files/2023-11/DOE\_IP\_virtual-seminar-series\_Ce-134.pdf





Product characterization: gamma spectroscopy & ICP-OES

- Radionuclidic purity >99.8% (excluding <sup>135</sup>Ce, <sup>137</sup>mCe, <sup>139</sup>Ce and daughters)
- <sup>135</sup>Ce < 1%, <sup>137m</sup>Ce < 5%, <sup>139</sup>Ce < 3%</li>
- Specific activity >4,000 Ci/g, typical 8,000-12,000 Ci/g on ship date
- Form: Ce(III) in 0.1 M HCl
- Concentration > 5 mCi/mL, typical 10-20 mCi/mL
- Total Ce 42-101 μg, total Ce concentration 1.4-10.4 μg/mL
- Total La 50-169 μg, total La concentration 1.7- 17.4 μg/mL



Slide provided courtesy of Veronika Mocko (LANL) – full presentation available at: https://www.isotopes.gov/sites/default/files/2023-11/DOE\_IP\_virtual-seminar-series\_Ce-134.pdf

~40 GBq <sup>134</sup>Ce available to ship ~10 days post EoB

~50 MBq/nmol (by ICP-OES)

Isotope Program

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## Radioterbium across the United States



### Terbium-149 @ Texas A&M University Cyclotron Institute

- The ragnostic: decay by  $\alpha$  and  $\beta +$  (TAT and PET)
- t<sub>1/2</sub> = 4.1 hours
- Cross section measurements
  - <sup>6</sup>Li, <sup>7</sup>Li, <sup>1</sup>H beams
  - Sm, Eu, Gd targets
  - 22 isotope cross sections measured
  - including 3 metastable states
- Hyperion (LLNL) allows <sup>148m</sup>Tb, <sup>149m</sup>Tb, <sup>150m</sup>Tb cross sections, thus ratio of metastable state to ground
- Future foil stack measurements → excitation function





"Cross sections for <sup>147–149</sup>Sm(<sup>6</sup>Li,x) for the Production of <sup>149</sup>Tb for Targeted Alpha Therapy" Bills, L.A. *et al.*, Manuscript in preparation.





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Sherry Yennello – Professor

### Universities of Missouri / Washington Tb collaboration

#### **University of Washington Clinical Cyclotron**

- Multiparticle (p, d,  $\alpha$ )
- Up to 50 MeV p, α, 70 μA





Professor Yawen Li

#### Anster Charles

#### University of Missouri Research Reactor

- 10 MW
- thermal flux:
  ~4·10<sup>14</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>·s<sup>-1</sup>





Professor Heather Hennkens



Madhushan Serasinghe

# $^{153}Eu(\alpha, 2n)^{155}Tb$

Energy window (MeV)	Production rate (MBq/μAh)	<sup>155</sup> Tb Purity, 100 h (%)
26-20	1.9, EOB	93.1
28-22	3.5, EOB	96.2
30-24	2.6 <i>,</i> EOB	93.9





UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

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### Eu debulking for Eu/Tb separation

- Eu to Tb mass ratio is significantly large (1 g : 0.5 μg)
- Debulking is desirable to reduce and recover <sup>153</sup>Eu excess mass
- Eu, Sm, Yb only lanthanides with accessible +2 oxidation states

 $Eu^{3+} + e^- \rightarrow Eu^{2+} (-0.43V)$ 

 $Tb^{3+} + 3e^- \rightarrow Tb(-2.28V)$  🗙

- Since Eu<sup>3+</sup> can be easily reduced to its +2 state, an electro-amalgamation approach was used for debulking
- 90-95% Eu<sup>3+</sup> debulking observed in 25-min run (86 mg Eu, 300 MBq of <sup>161</sup>Tb as <sup>155</sup>Tb surrogate)





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### Chromatographic polishing separation

- TrisKem columns used to isolate Tb from remaining Eu and formulate Tb product
- 84-90% overall recovery of Tb as  $TbCI_3$  in 0.05 M HCl with RCP >95%
  - labels DOTA at 4 MBq/nmol at ~0.07 MBq/µL
- 82% recovery of Eu as Eu<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (from processing of Hg layer following electrolytic reaction)



### **MURR production of <sup>161</sup>Tb**

- MURR is the University of Missouri Research Reactor, located in Columbia, Missouri, USA
- Highest power university-operated research reactor in the USA (10 MW)
- Produces various radiolanthanides via neutron irradiation
- High thermal neutron flux is desirable for indirect <sup>161</sup>Tb production from enriched <sup>160</sup>Gd



\*To simulate processing of large target masses, 200 mg of natGd is added prior to Gd/Tb separation



Slide provided courtesy of Patrick Bokolo and Heather Hennkens (University Missouri)



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### MURR processing of <sup>161</sup>Tb





### **Synergistic Solvent Extraction**

#### **1. Solvent Extraction Studies**

(Measure K<sub>d</sub>, Synergism, Separation Factors)

- ✓ Dibutyl N.N-Diethylcarbamylmethylenephosphonate (DBDECMP)
- ✓ 2-Thenoyltrifluoroacetone (HTTA)
- 0.05 M DBDECMP and 0.05 M HTTA • extractant in 1,2-Dichloroethane
- Maximum K<sub>d</sub> Ratio of 3.5 3.7



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#### DBDECMP

THE





$$SEC = Log_{10} \left[ \frac{K_{d_{(1,2)}}}{\left( K_{d_{(1)}} + K_{d_{(1)}} \right)} \right]$$

SEC = 1 = 10x increase in  $K_d$ SEC = 2 = 100x increase in K<sub>d</sub> SEC = 3 = 1000x increase in K<sub>d</sub>



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### **Novel Synergistic EXC Resins for Gd/Tb Separations**

#### 2. EXC Extraction Studies

(EXC Resin Preparation, Evaluate D<sub>w</sub>, Thermodynamics, Synergism, and Separation Factors)

- ✓ Prepare numerous EXC resins with differing wt. % of each ligand
- ✓ Synergism retained
- $\checkmark$  D\_w are functions of pH and ligand wt. %

#### 3. Column Experiments

(Study feasibility of Gd/Tb column separations)

- ✓ D<sub>w</sub> Ratio of 1.5 at pH 2 HNO<sub>3</sub>
- ✓ Load at pH 3 HNO<sub>3</sub>
- ✓ Separate at pH 2 HNO<sub>3</sub>

THE

 ✓ Proof-of-concept to design new EXC materials with multiple ligands to improve extraction and separation.

<u>Connor K. Holiski</u> et al. Novel Synergistic Extraction Chromatographic Materials for the Separation of <sup>161</sup>Tb from Enriched <sup>160</sup>Gd Targets. Submitted to Separation and Purification Technology.

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Flow Rate:  $\approx 0.22 \text{ mL/min}$  (Peristaltic pump) & Fraction Volume:  $\approx 2000 \mu \text{L}$ Column Type: 3 mL ( $\emptyset = 5 \text{ mm}$ ,  $\ell = 150 \text{ mm}$  BIORAD 7370517)2

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### Thank you for your attention





# Ho<sub>(m)</sub> target material selection

- Alfa Aesar 99.9% Ho(m) foils
  - ~100 ppm Er impurity
  - With 1 GBq in 100 mg Ho<sub>(m)</sub>
    - 10 µg = 60 nmol Er
    - AMA limit ≤ 17 MBq/nmol
- US DOE Ames Laboratory Materials
  Preparation Center discs
  - 0.5 ppm Er impurity
  - With 1 GBq in 100 mg Ho<sub>(m)</sub>
    - 50 ng = 0.30 nmol Er
    - AMA limit ≤ 3,300 MBq/nmol







# Ho<sub>(m)</sub> cyclotron target fabrication



**Materials Preparation Center** 

#### <sup>nat</sup>Ho<sub>(m)</sub> 99.99995% purity from <sup>nat</sup>Er (0.5 ppm)

#### **Rolled and punched**



#### Spot welded to 19 mm ø, 0.5 mm Ta





Ellison et al., Appl Radiat Isot 118: 350-353 (2016).

## Radiotherapeutic quality <sup>165</sup>Er in preclinical quantities

Ho

- **1 GBq** <sup>165</sup>Er per hour irradiation
- Isolation from up to **180 mg** Ho
  - (64 ± 2)% <sup>165</sup>Er recovery into ≤1 mL 0.01 M HCI
  - Ho/Er separation factor (2.8 ± 1.1)·10<sup>5</sup>
  - 4.9 ± 0.7 hour chemical processing time
- Successful ~50 MBq-scale DOTA-based radiopharmaceutical labelings performed at 10 – 50 MBq/nmol



Da Silva et al., Molecules 26: 7513 (2021).



<sup>165</sup>Er:

7x Ae-

.1 keV

·90 nm)





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# $^{155}$ Gd( $\alpha$ ,4n) $^{155}$ Dy $\rightarrow$ $^{155}$ Tb



#### \*Before chemical separation

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