

# Introduction to Nuclear Chemistry

# Molecular Imaging - Why?

## AIM:

*Non-invasive elucidation of disease specific biochemical-, molecular-, physiological- and pathological processes*

Evaluation of molecular response

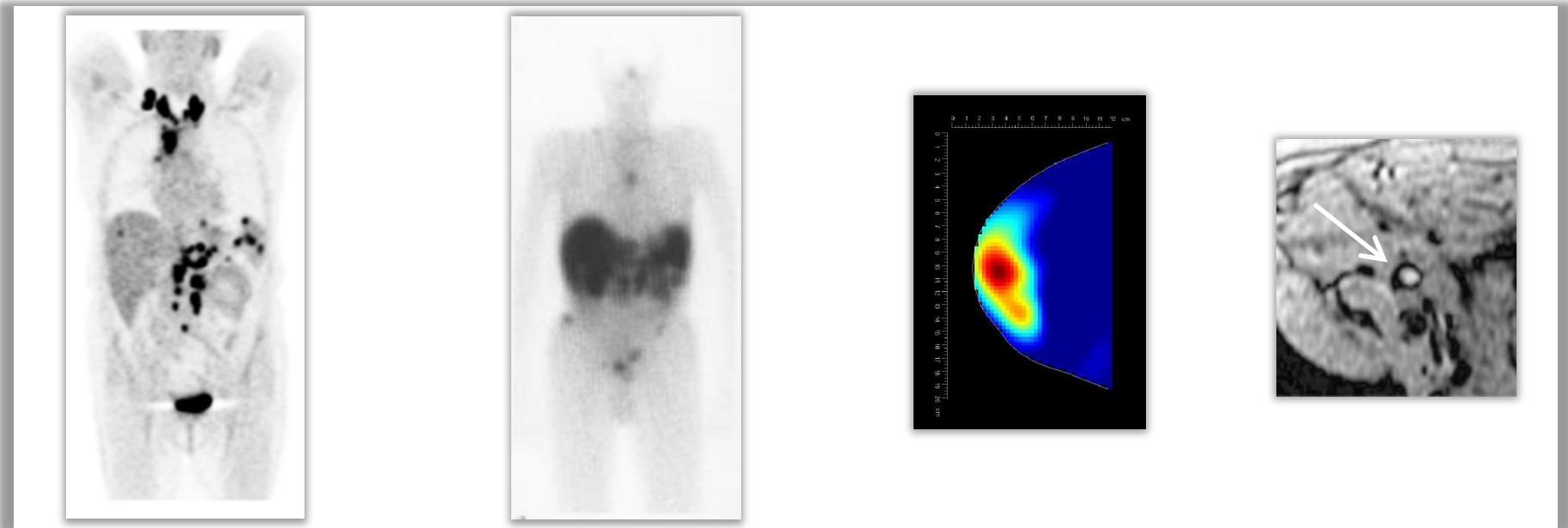
Disease detection as early as possible

Patient stratification –  
optimal and individual  
therapy for each patient

Monitoring of therapy efficacy

# Molecular Imaging: Definition and Examples

„*In-vivo*-characterization of biological processes at the molecular level“



**PET**  
Positron Emission  
Tomography  
(NHL; [<sup>18</sup>F]FDG )

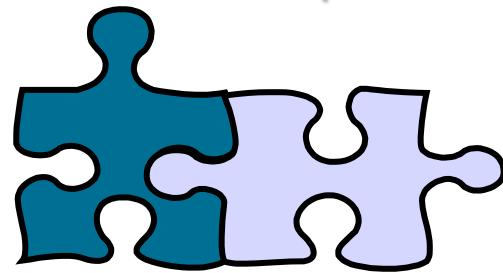
**SPECT**  
Single Photon Emission  
Computed Tomography  
(NET; <sup>111</sup>In-DTPA-  
Octreotid)

**Softscan**  
NIR  
Fluorescence Imager  
(Breast cancer;  
DeoxyHb)

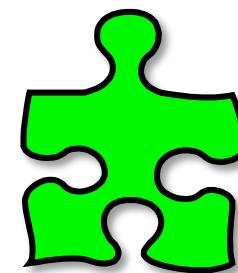
**MR**  
Magnetic Resonance  
(PCa, lymph node  
metastasis; Sinerem NT)

# Principle of molecular imaging

Targeting molecule  
(Vehicle)



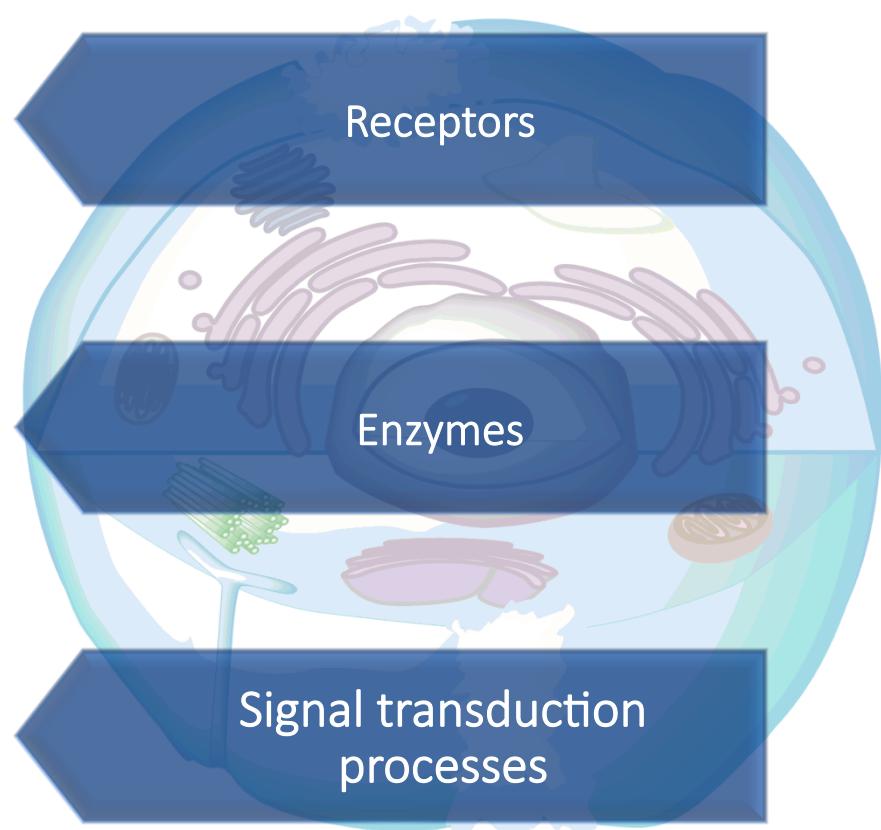
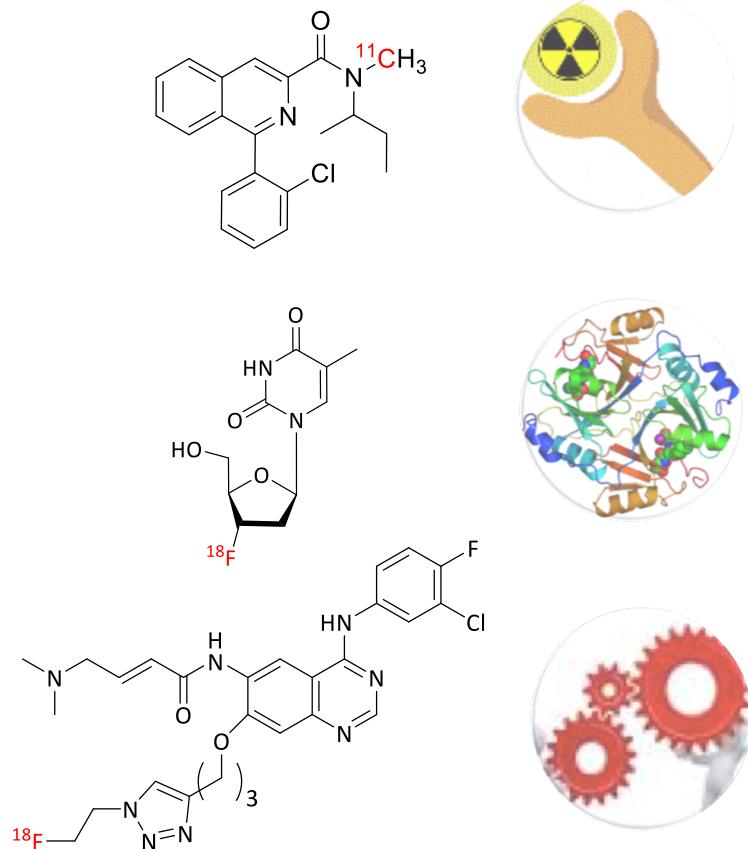
Reporter  
(Radionuclide,  
fluorescent dye or  
magnetic label)



Biological targets

# Disease detection

Visualization of molecular processes - measurement of molecular alterations  
**activation** or **inhibition** of



# Reporter systems and biological probes for molecular imaging

## Reporter systems:



PET

$^{18}\text{F}$  (109 min),  $^{11}\text{C}$  (20 min)  
 $^{68}\text{Ga}$  (68 min),  $^{18}\text{F}$ ,  $^{13}\text{N}$  (10 min)  
 $^{15}\text{O}$  (2 min),  $^{124}\text{I}$  (4.2 d)



SPECT

$^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$  (6.0 h),  $^{111}\text{In}$  (2.8 d)  
 $^{123}\text{I}$  (13 h)



MR

$\text{Gd}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}_n\text{O}_m$



Fluorescence:

Alexa Fluor, Cyanine dyes

## Biological probes:

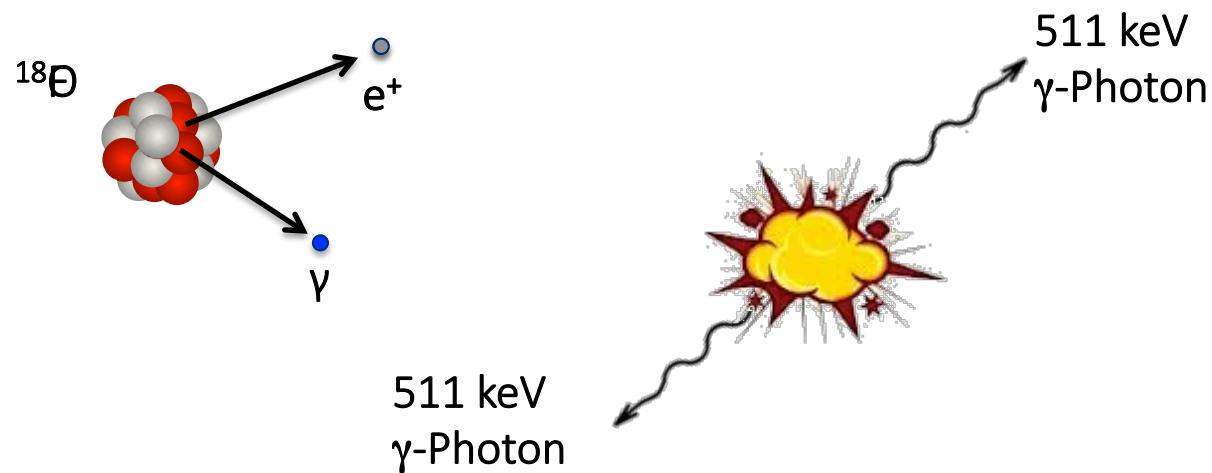
- Peptides
- Peptidomimetics
- Nucleosides
- Small molecules
- Antibodies
- Affibodies

## Corresponding targets:

- Cell surface receptors
- Transporters
- DNA/RNA
- Receptors
- Enzymes

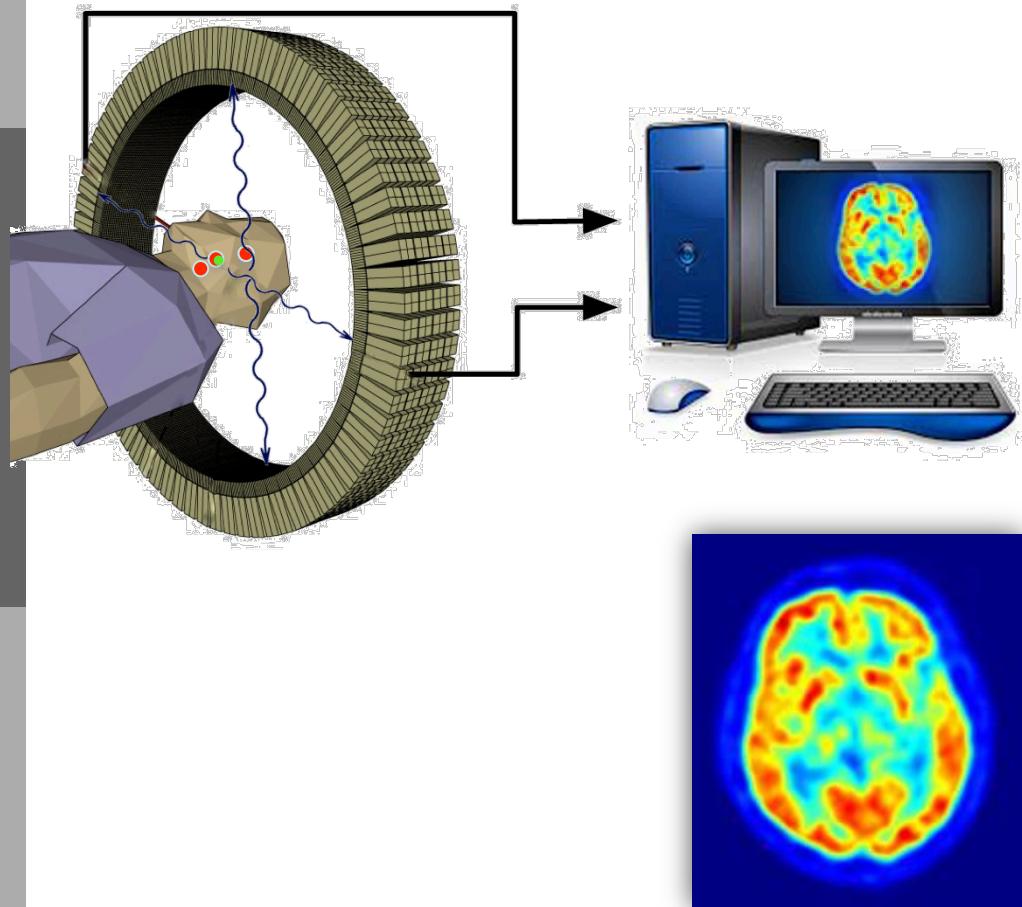
# PET: Physical background

Positron decay and positron-electron-annihilation (e.g. for  $^{18}\text{F}$ )



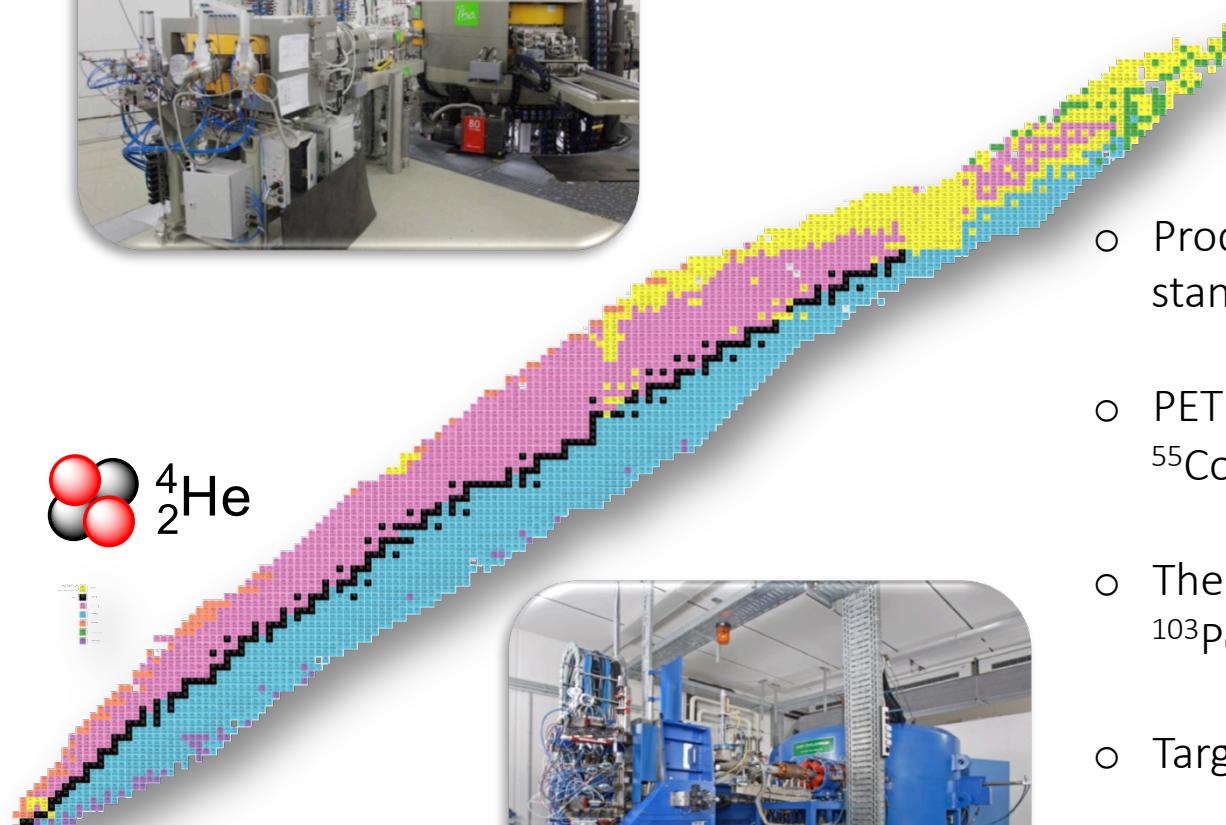
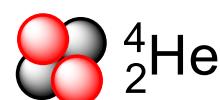
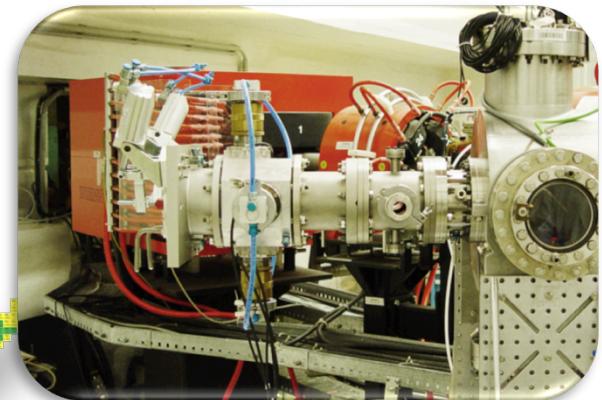
- Emission of a positron as a result of  $\beta^+$  decay
- Positron is thermalized and undergoes recombination with electron
- Conversion of mass into energy by  $E = m \cdot c^2$
- Emission of 2  $\gamma$ -quants in opposite directions ( $180^\circ$ )

# PET: Physical background



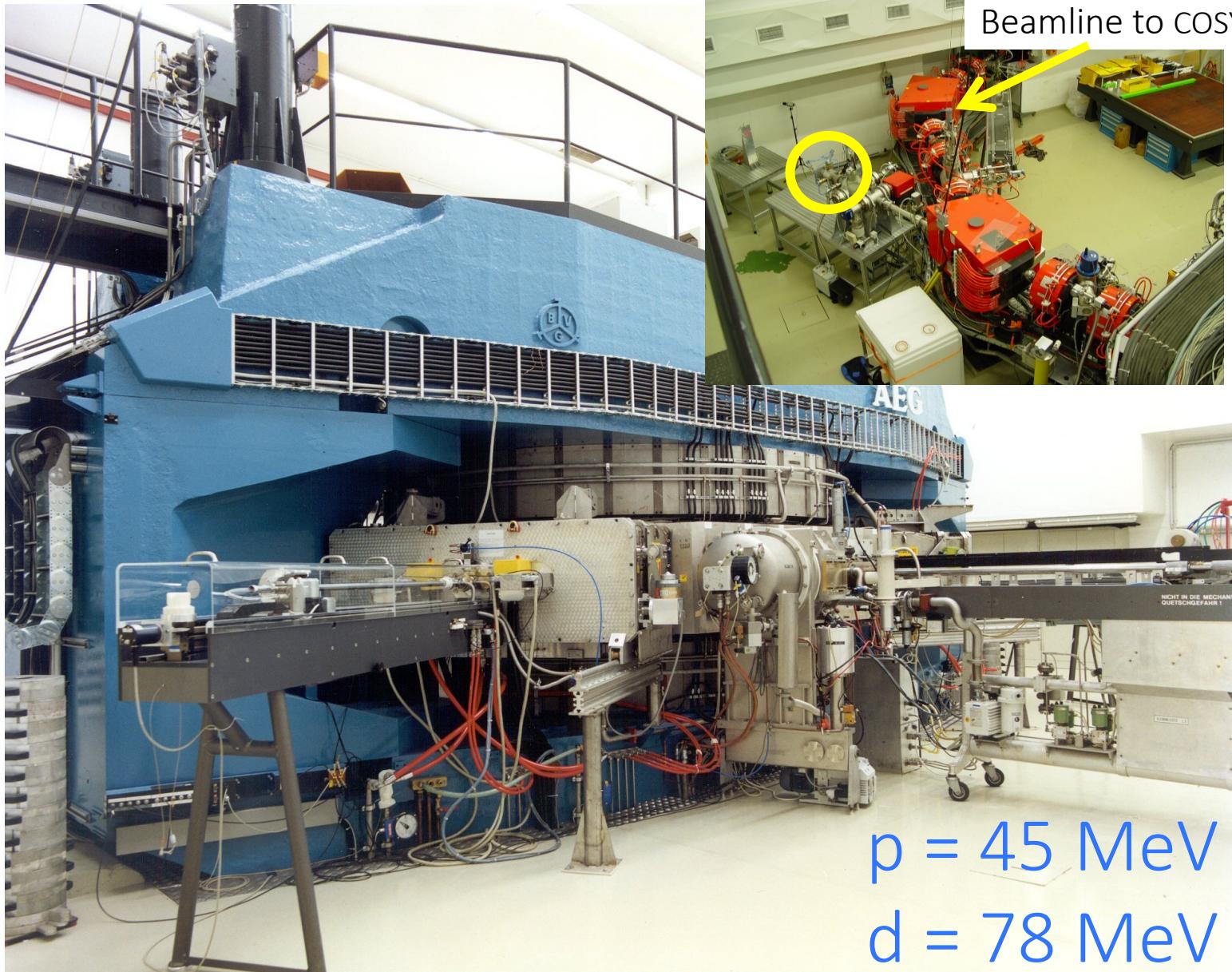
- Detection of coincident decay events
- Reconstruction of point of decay based on cross points of  $\gamma$ -photon trajectories
- Real-time reconstruction of 3D nuclide distribution by modern computer techniques

# Production of Radionuclides



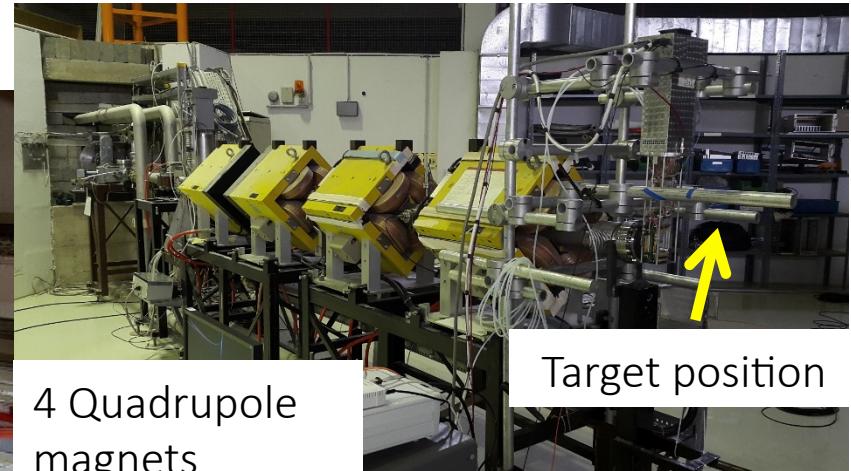
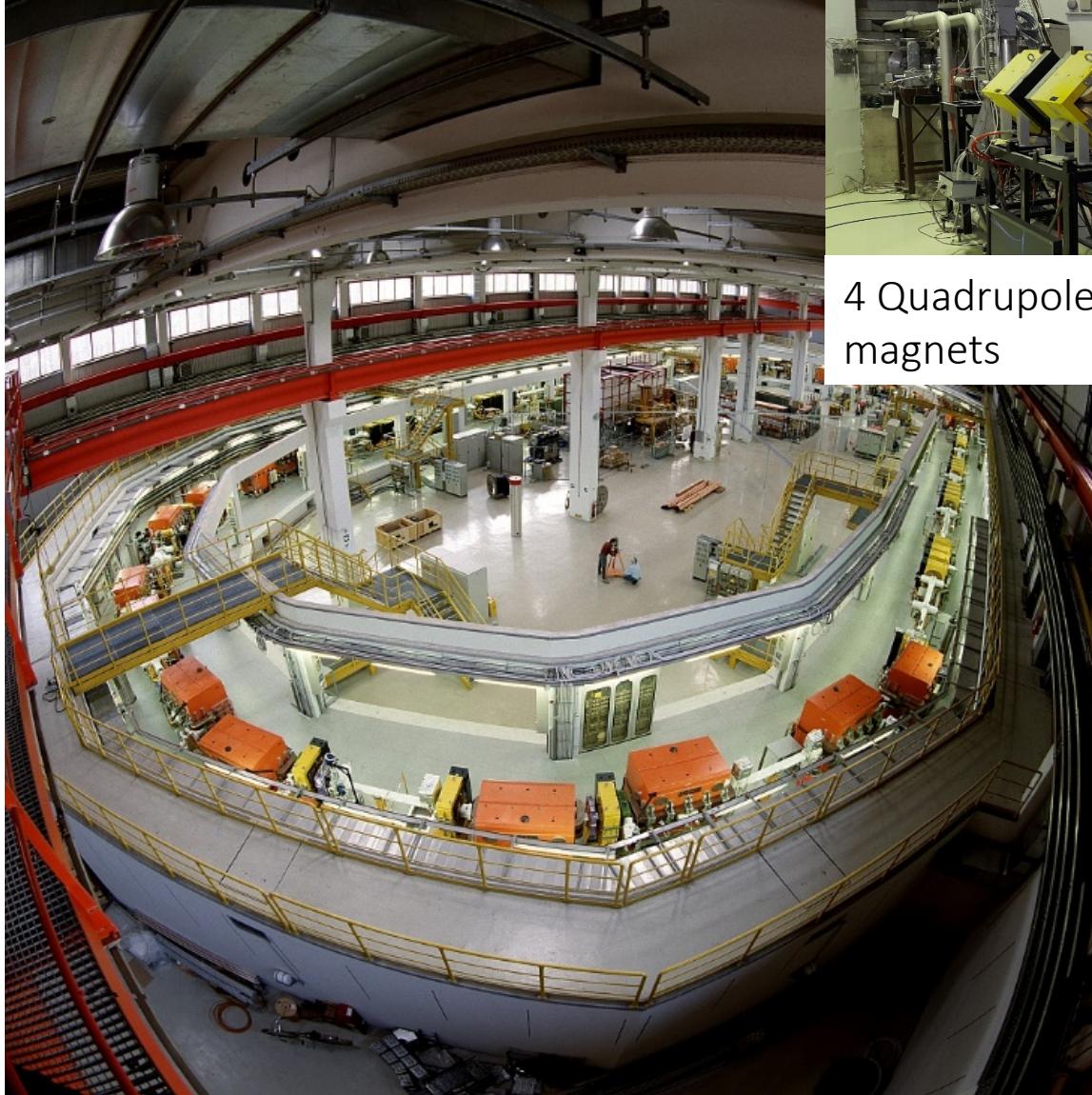
- Production of standard und non-standard radionuclides
- PET Nuclides (e.g.  $^{34m}\text{Cl}$ ,  $^{38}\text{K}$ ,  $^{51}\text{Mn}$ ,  $^{55}\text{Co}$ ,  $^{72}\text{As}$ )
- Therapeutic Nuclides (e.g.  $^{67}\text{Cu}$ ,  $^{103}\text{Pd}$ ,  $^{140}\text{Nd}$ ,  $^{167}\text{Tm}$ ,  $^{193m}\text{Pt}$ )
- Targetry
- Nuclear data

# High energy cyclotron Julic

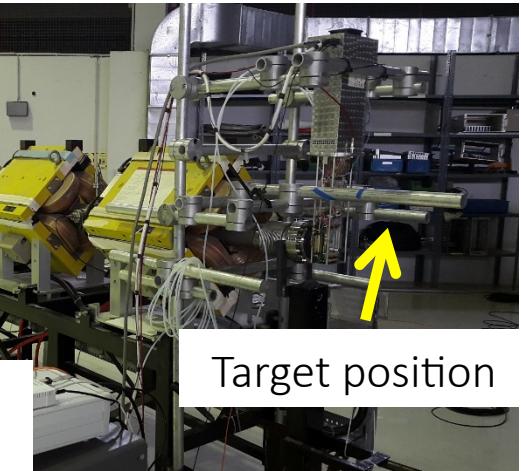


# High energy nuclear reactions COSY

2.88 GeV Cooler Synchrotron



4 Quadrupole  
magnets



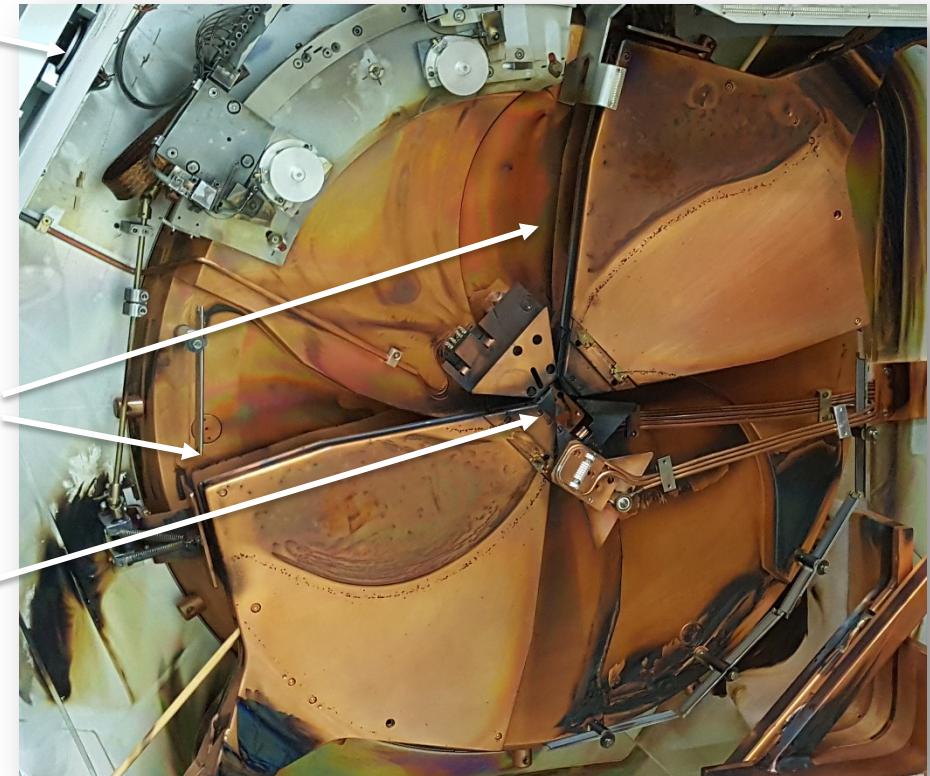
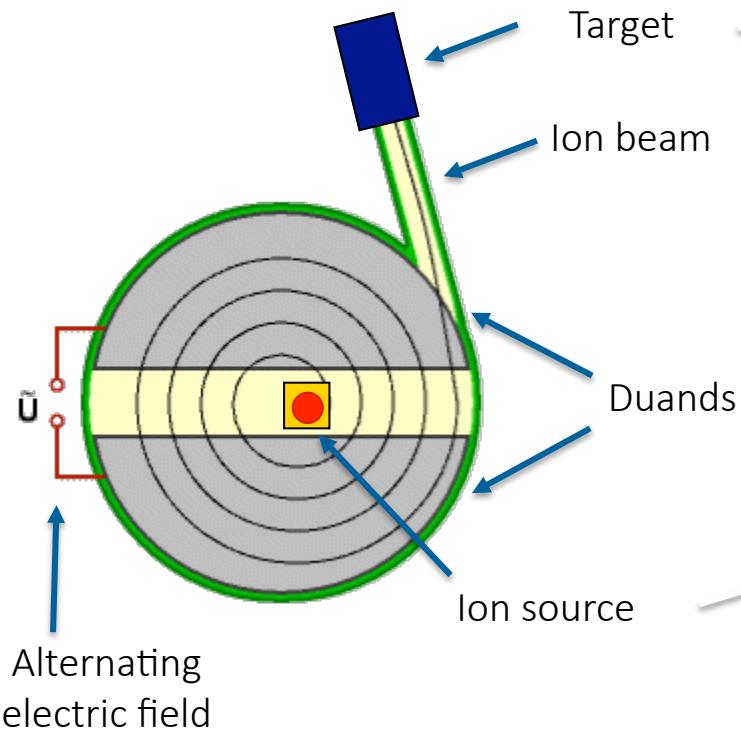
Target position

$p = 150 \text{ MeV}$

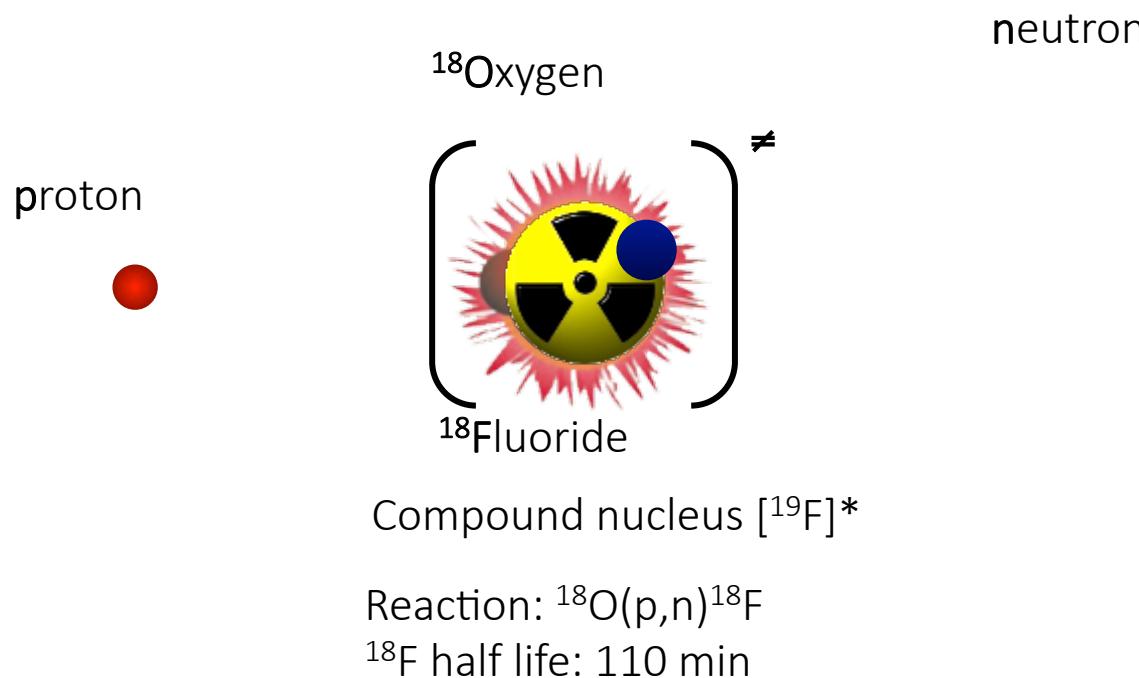
# Medically relevant radionuclides via high-energy reactions

Target	Reaction	Radionuclide	Usage	Remarks
$^{40}\text{Ar}$ , $^{\text{nat}}\text{Ar}$	(p, $\alpha$ 3n)	$^{34m}\text{Cl}$	PET	
$^{39}\text{K}$ , $^{\text{nat}}\text{K}$	(p, $\alpha$ n ) (p, $\alpha$ 2n), decay	$^{34m}\text{Cl}$	PET	
$^{\text{nat}}\text{V}$	(p, $\alpha$ p)	$^{47}\text{Sc}$	Therapy	$^{43}\text{Sc}/^{47}\text{Sc}$ theragnostic pair
$^{55}\text{Mn}$ (nat.)	(p,4n)	$^{52}\text{Fe}$	PET	Multimodal imaging,
$^{55}\text{Mn}$ (nat.)	(p,p3n)	$^{52}\text{Mn}$	PET	Multimodal imaging
$^{68}\text{Zn}$	(p, $\alpha$ n)	$^{64}\text{Cu}$	PET	
$^{68}\text{Zn}$	(p,2p)	$^{67}\text{Cu}$	Therapy	$^{64}\text{Cu}/^{67}\text{Cu}$ theragnostic pair
$^{\text{nat}}\text{Rb}$ , $^{85}\text{Rb}$	(p,xn)	$^{82}\text{Sr}/^{82}\text{Rb}$	PET	Generator
$^{88}\text{Sr}$	(p,3n)	$^{86}\text{Y}$	PET	$^{86}\text{Y}/^{90}\text{Y}$ theragnostic pair
$^{107}\text{Ag}$ , $^{\text{nat}}\text{Ag}$	(p, $\alpha$ n)	$^{103}\text{Pd}$	Therapy	
$^{197}\text{Au}$ (nat.)	(p, $\alpha$ n)	$^{193m}\text{Pt}$	Therapy	Alternative to $^{192}\text{Os}(\alpha,3n)$

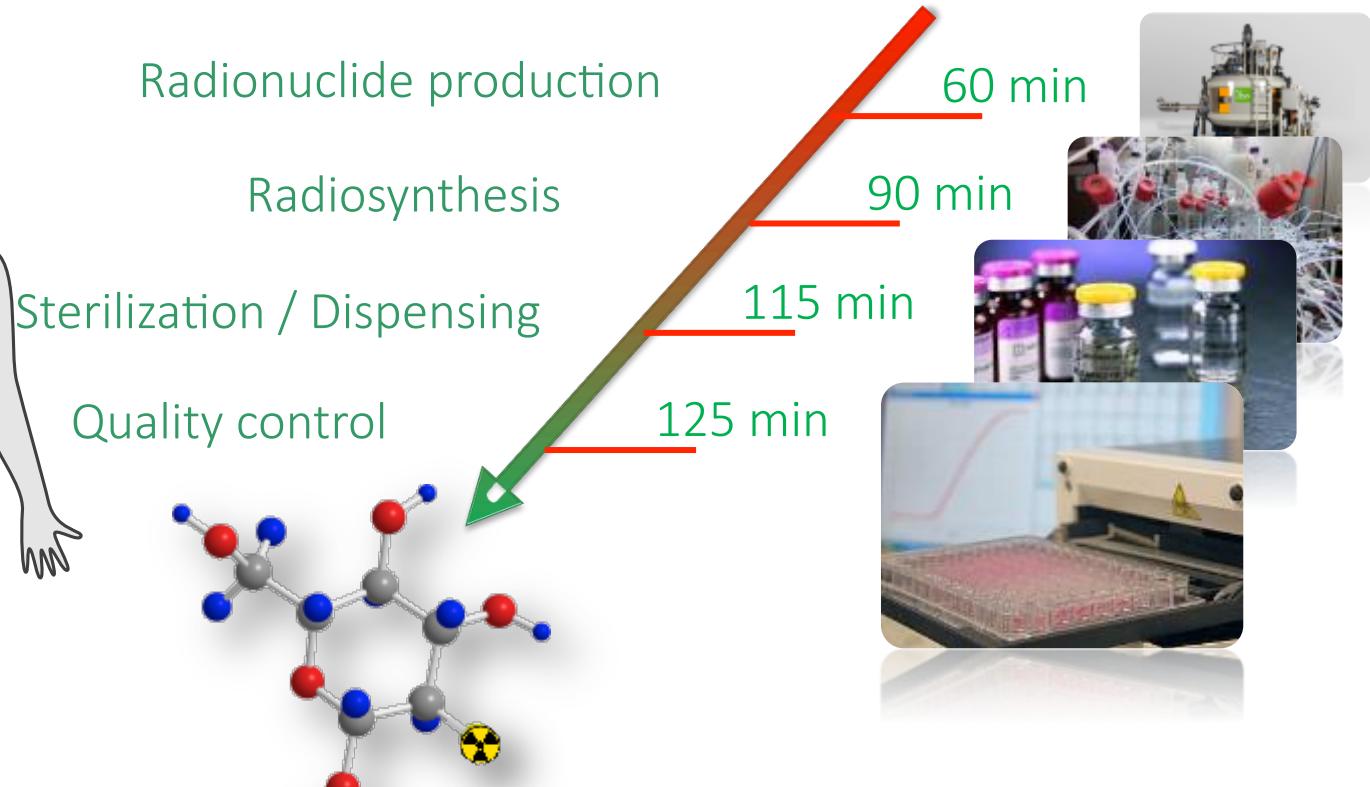
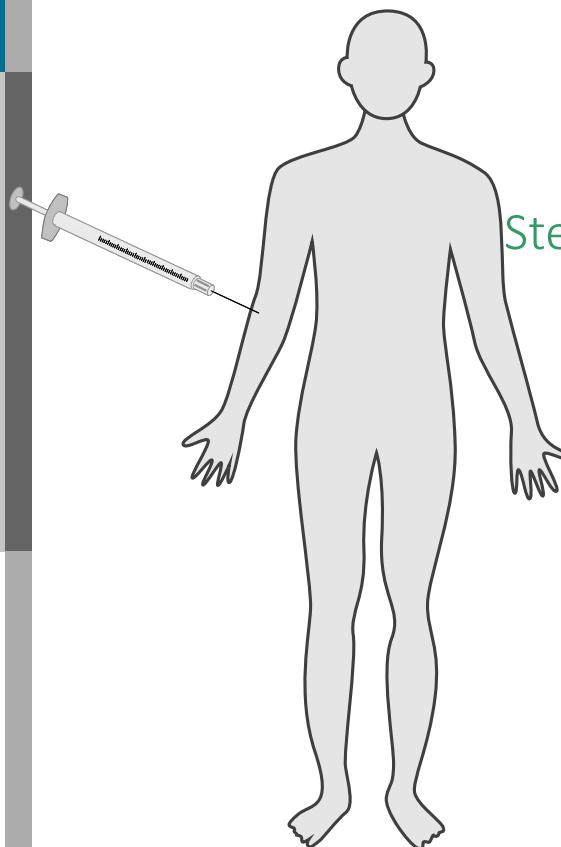
# Production of radionuclides at a cyclotron



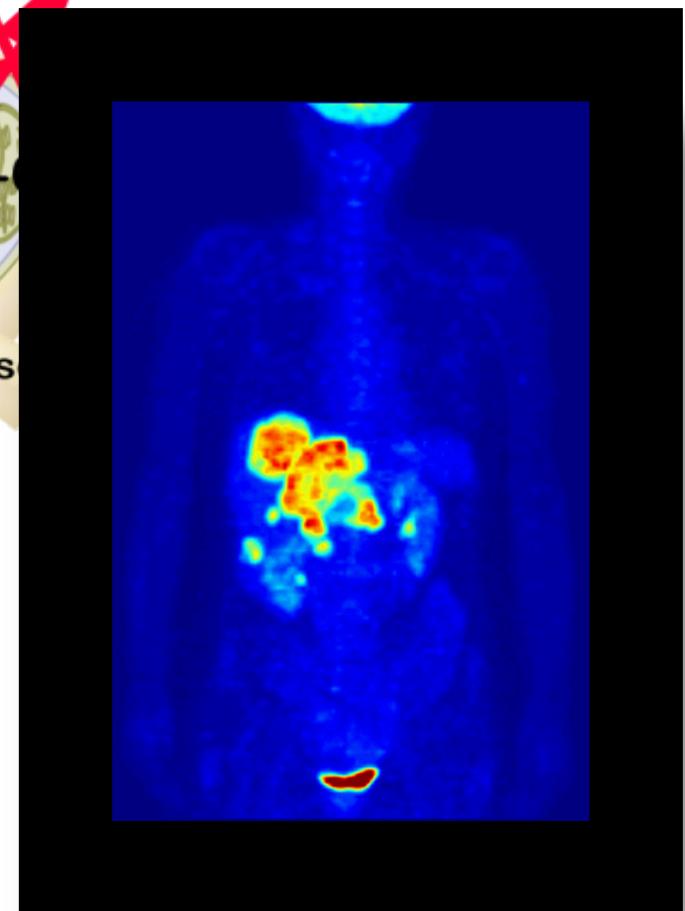
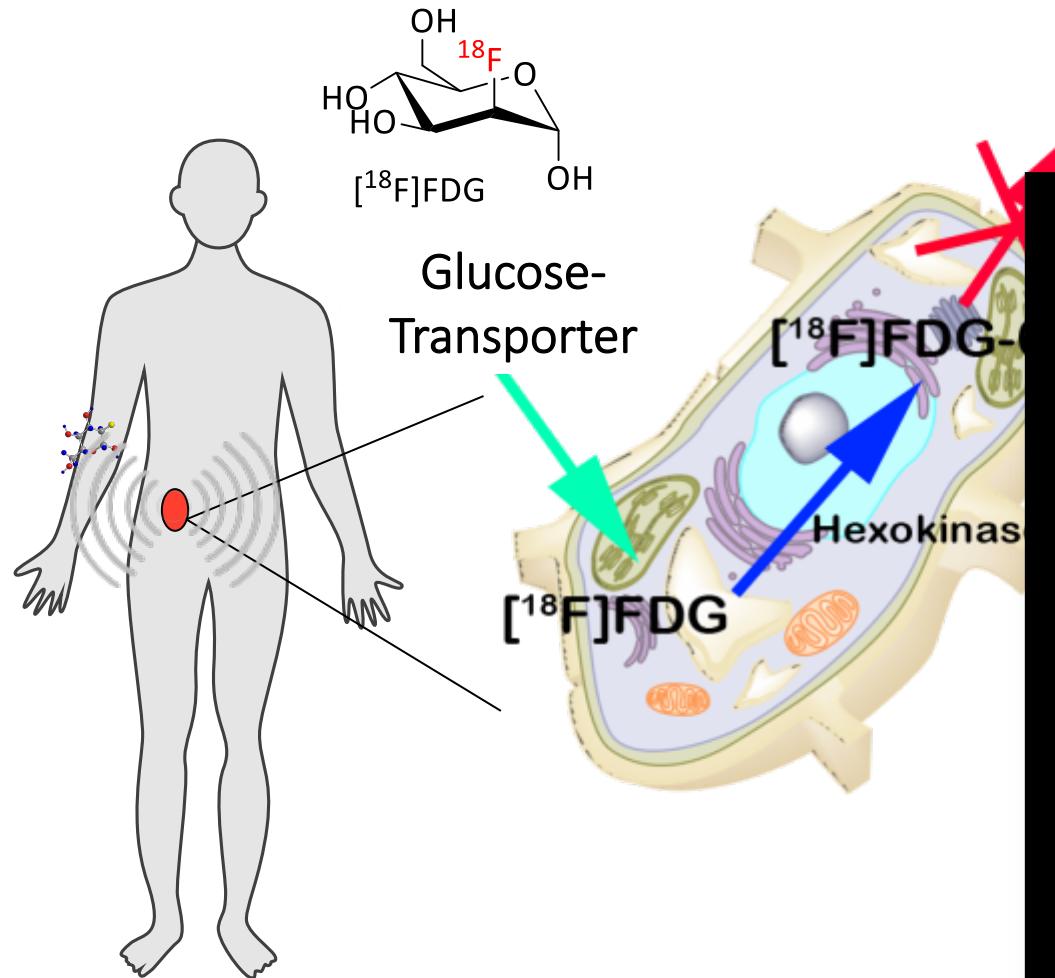
# The cyclotron-produced radionuclide $[^{18}\text{F}]$ fluoride



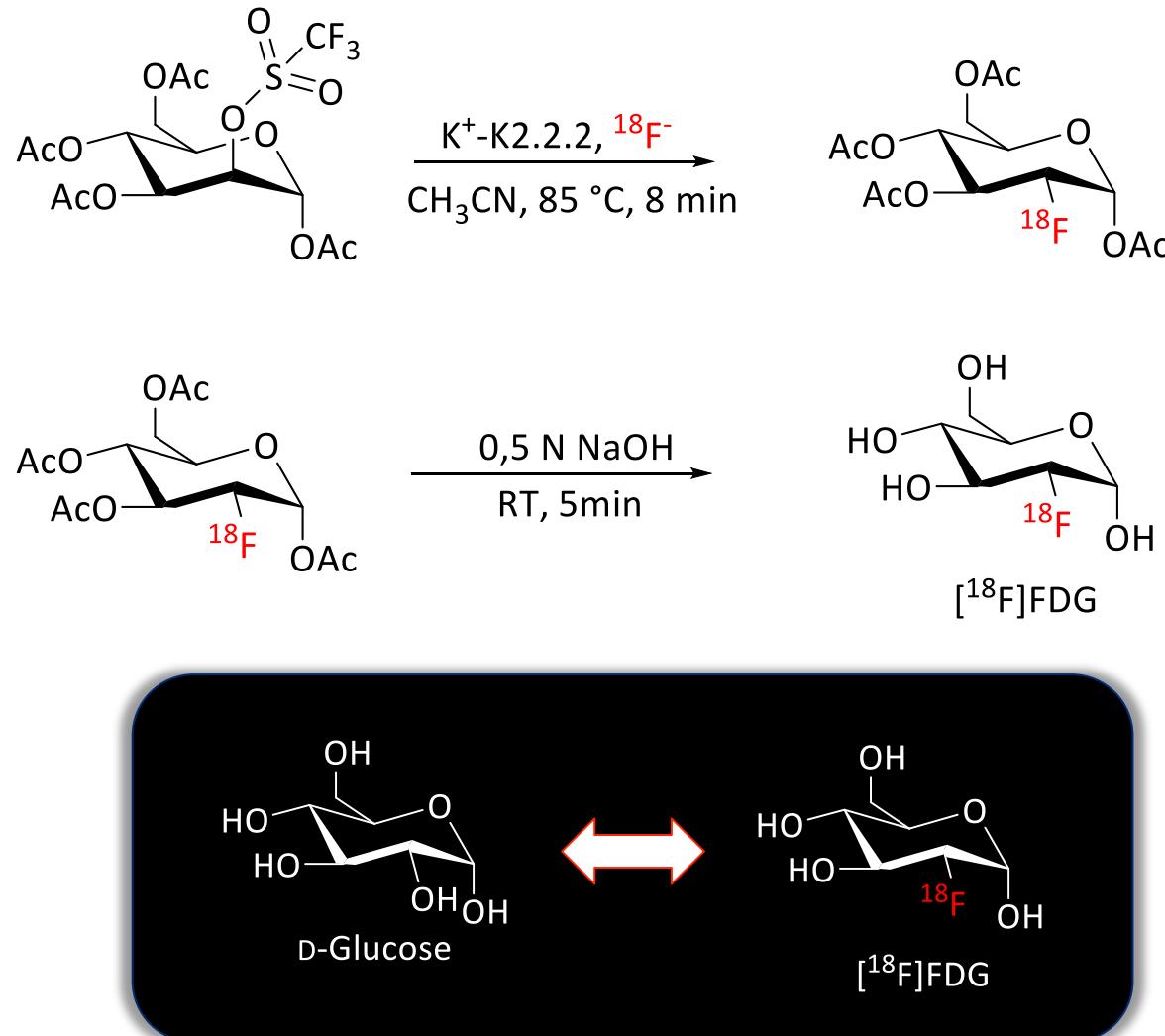
# Production of radiopharmaceuticals



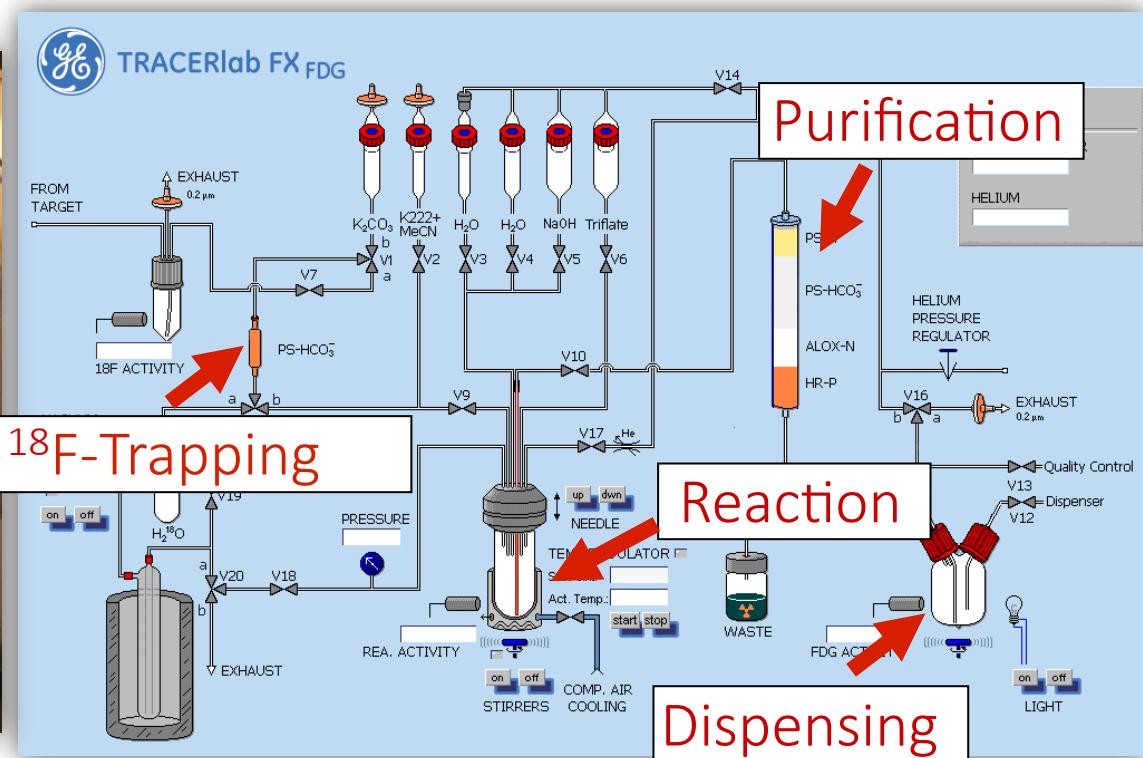
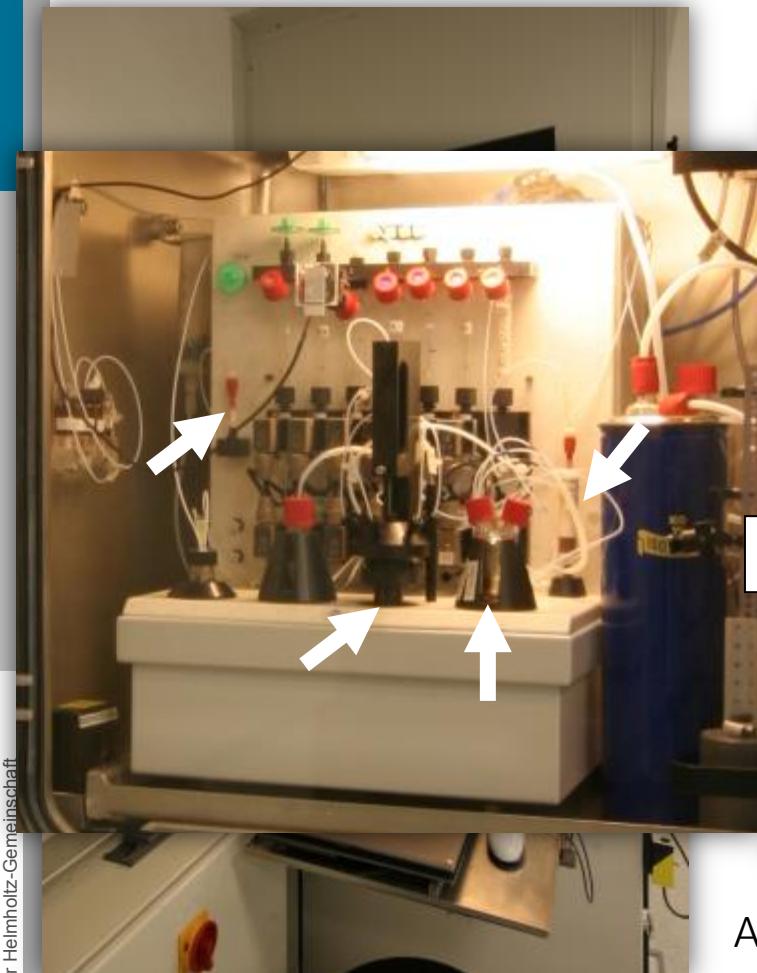
# PET Diagnostics with $[^{18}\text{F}]$ FDG



# Production of $[^{18}\text{F}]$ FDG

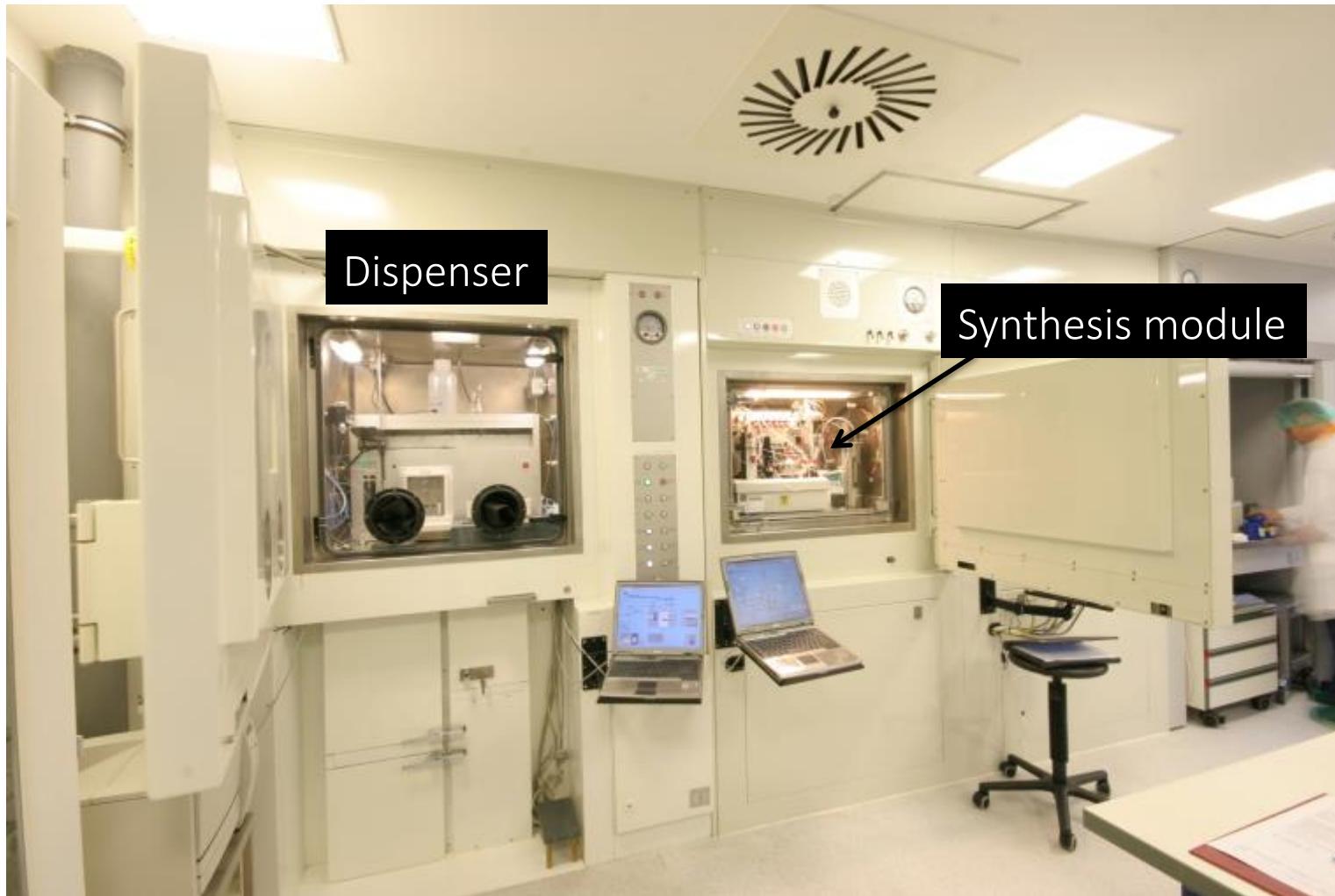


# Radiosynthesis in hot cells

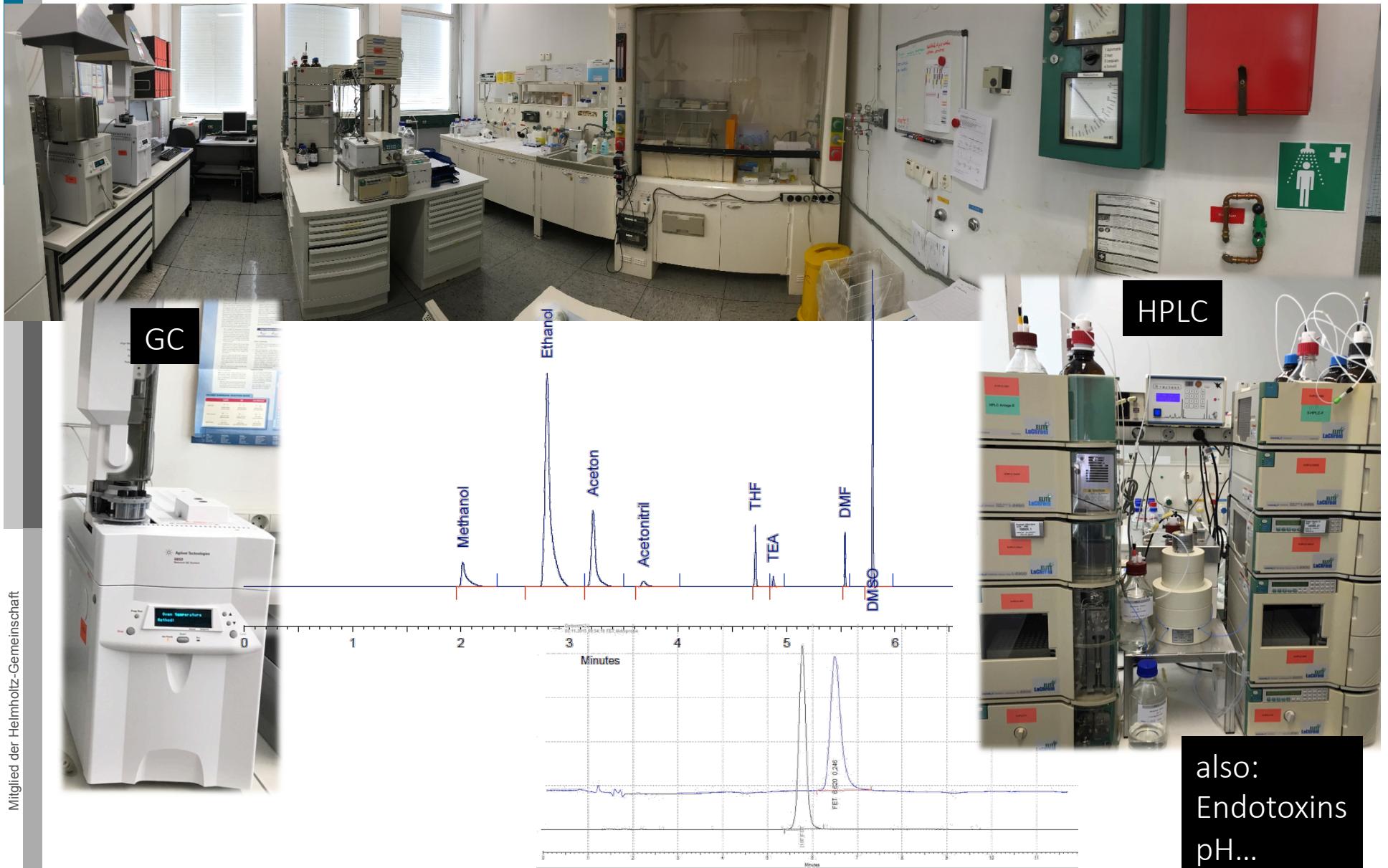


Automated and remotely controlled synthesis module

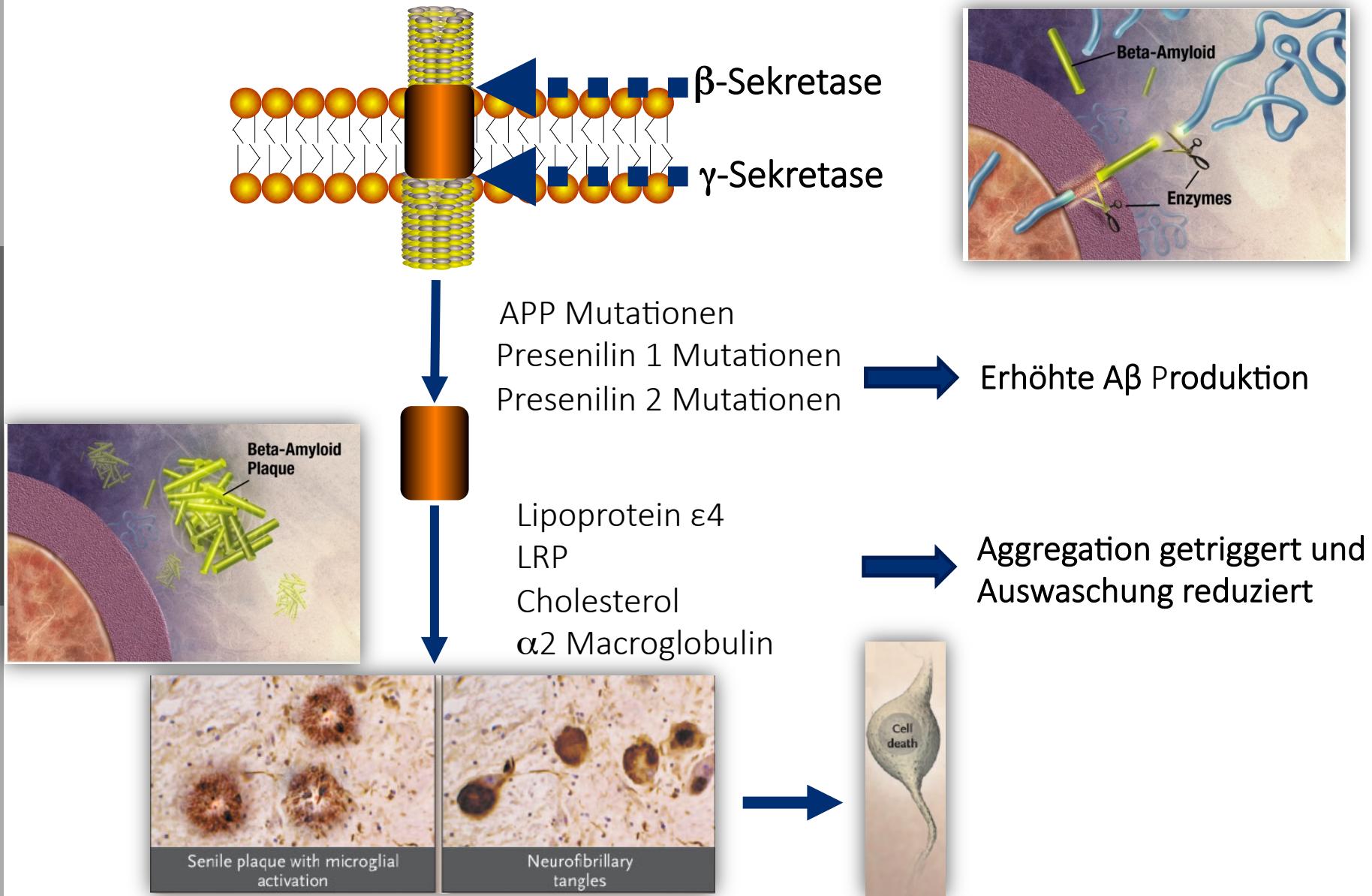
# Sterilisation and dispensing



# Quality control



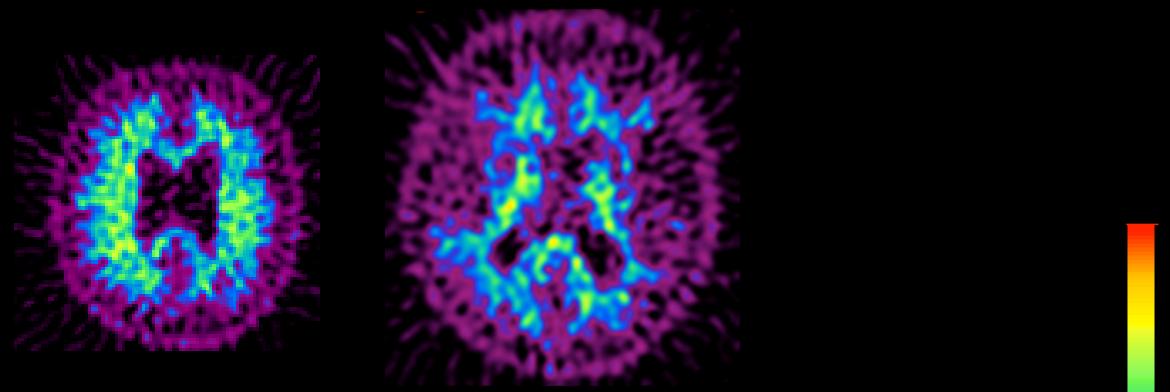
# Amyloid-Kaskaden-Hypothese



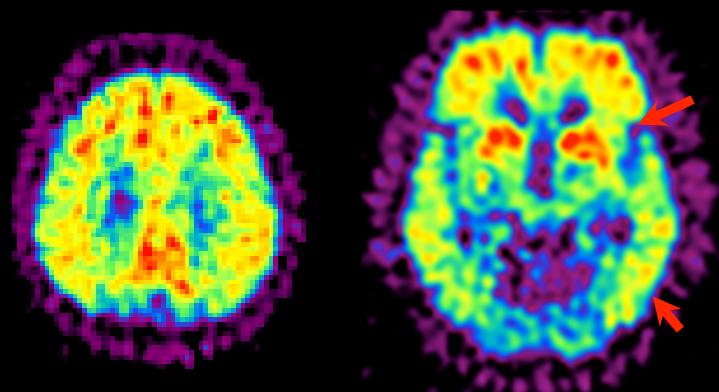
# Amyloid imaging by [<sup>11</sup>C]PIB-PET

Amyloid Plaque Imaging C-11 PIB  
40-70 min p.i.

Control

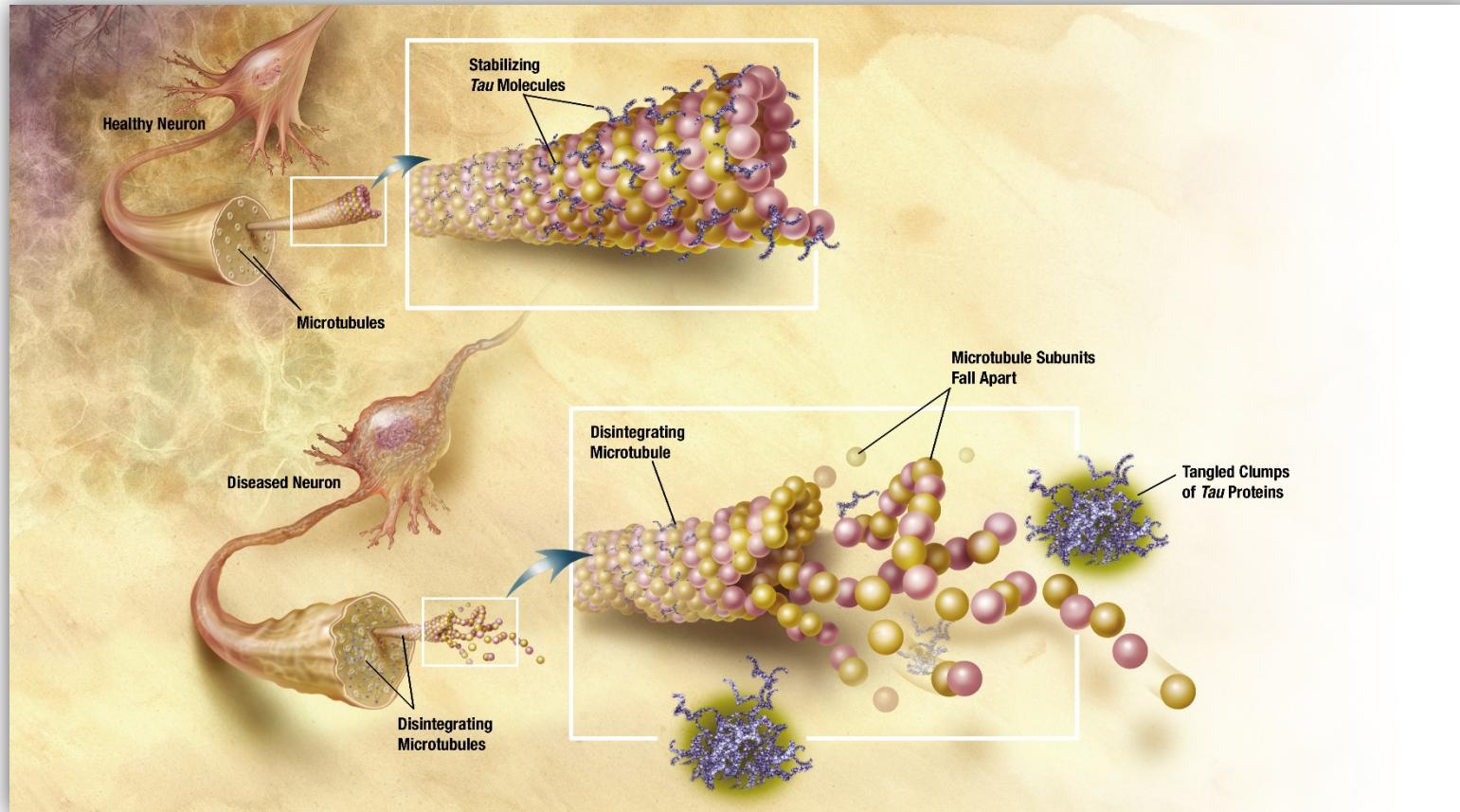


Alzheimer's  
disease



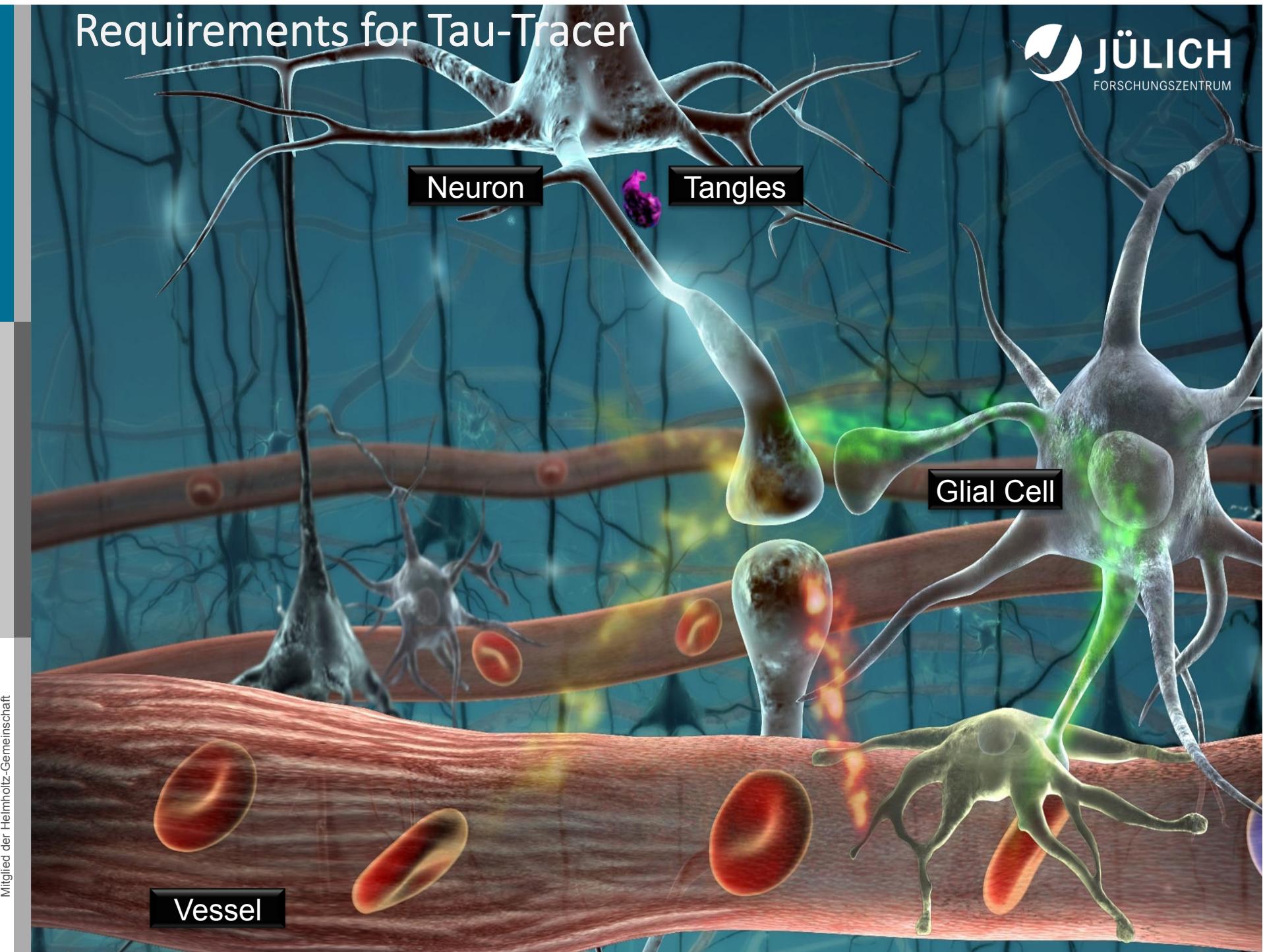
Axial slices  
caudal aspects

# Alzheimer's Disease: Tau-hypothesis



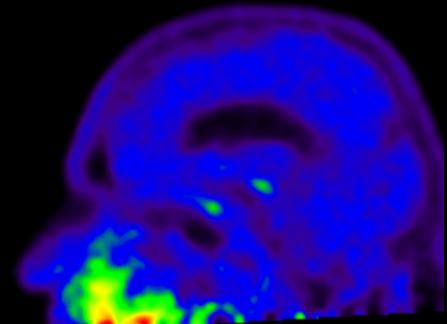
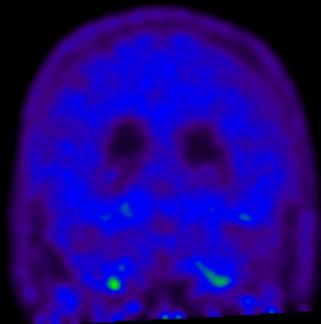
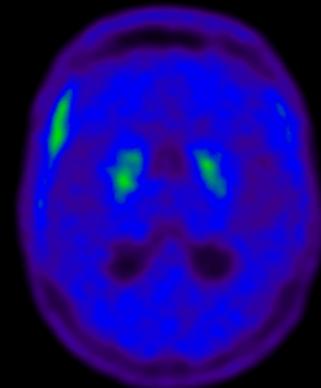
- Hyperphosphorylation of tau protein
- Disintegration of microtubules in brain cells
- Malfunctions and death of neurons
- AD pathogenesis development

# Requirements for Tau-Tracer

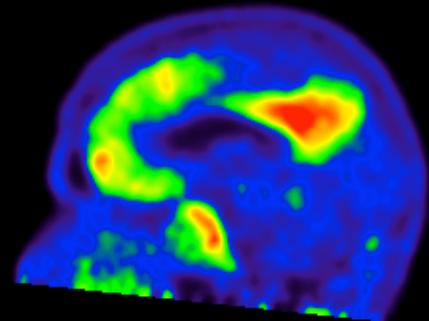
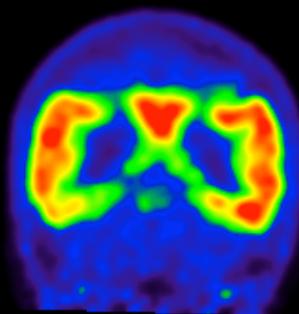
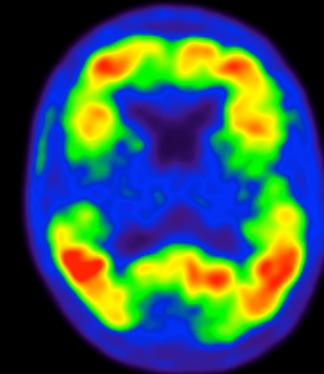


## Tau imaging by [ $^{18}\text{F}$ ]AV1451 (T807) PET

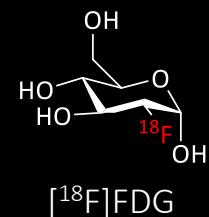
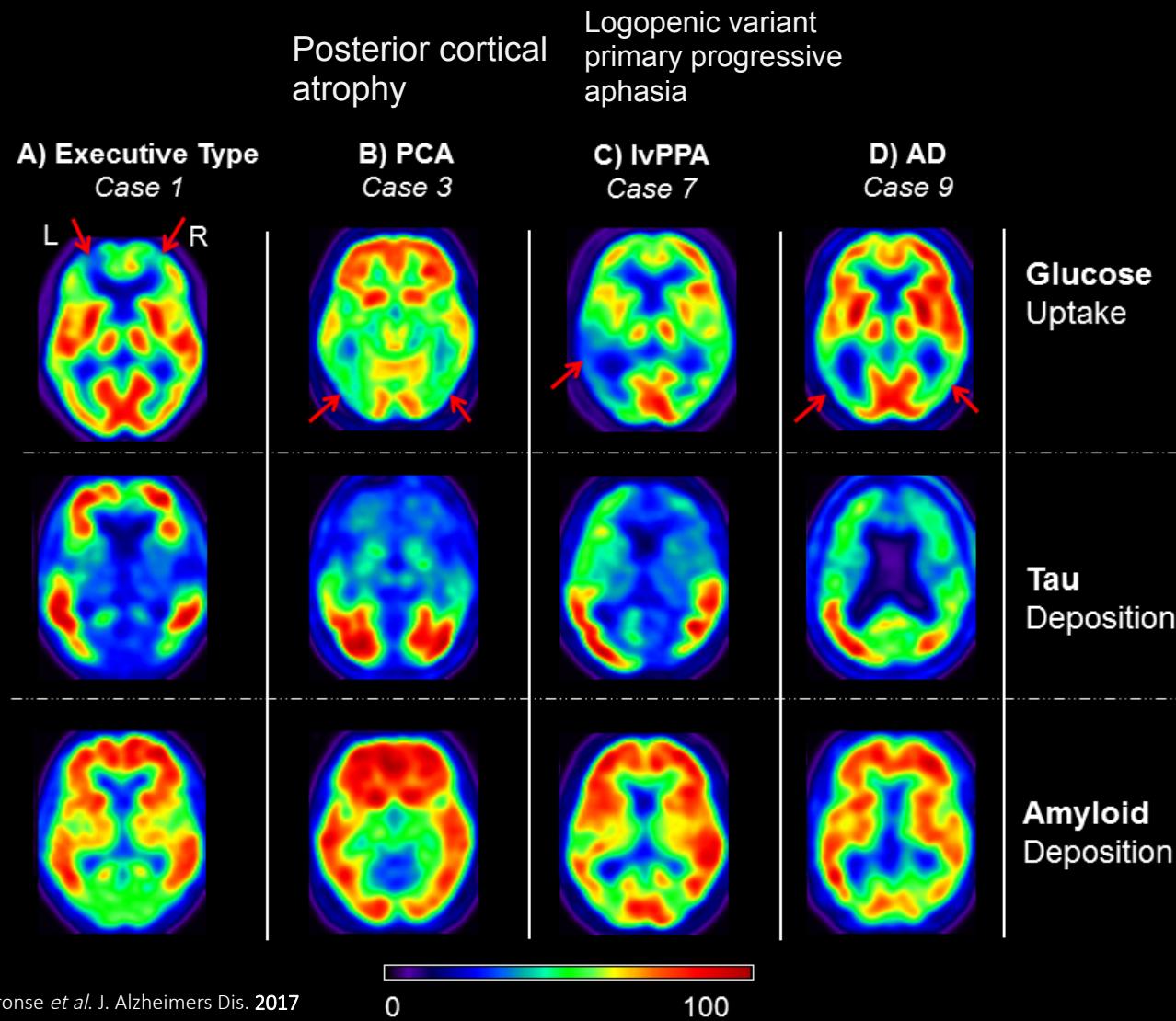
Healthy  
control  
person



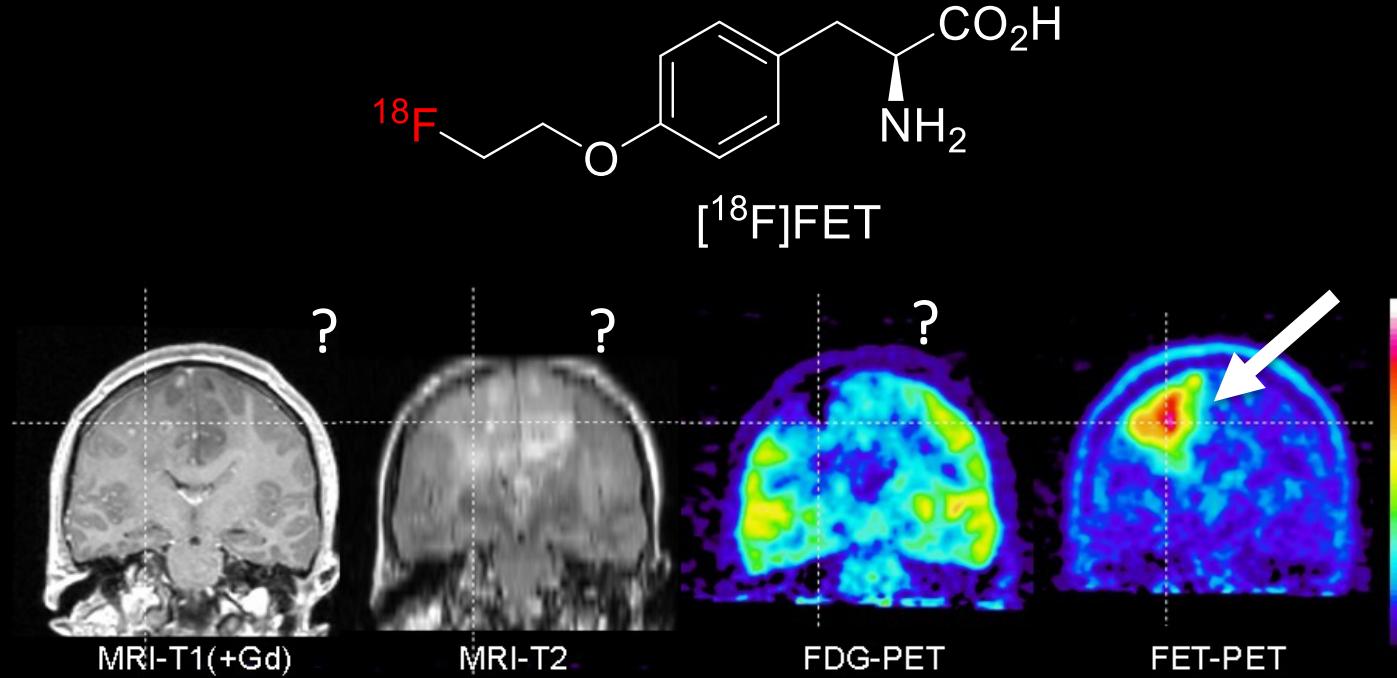
Alzheimer's  
disease



# Amyloid plaque and tau imaging of neurodegenerative diseases using $[^{11}\text{C}]$ PIB and $[^{18}\text{F}]$ T807 PET

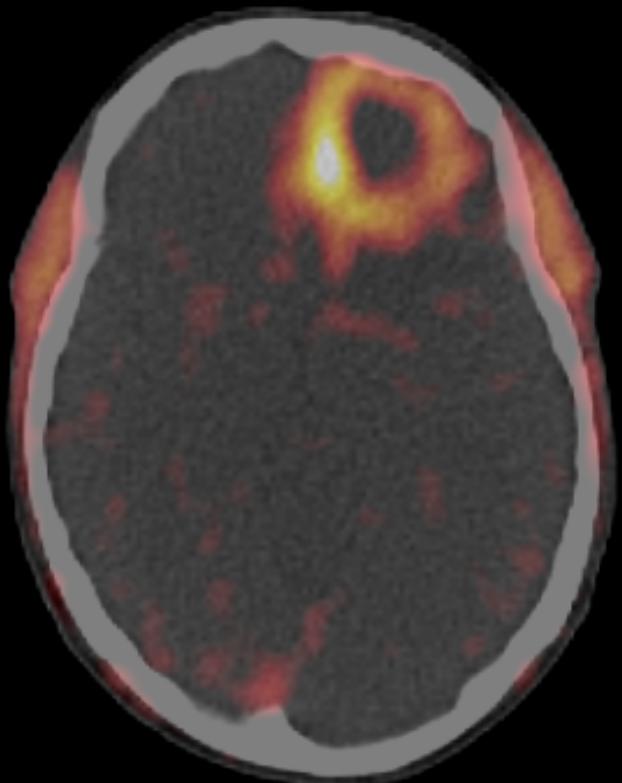


## Imaging of brain tumors with [<sup>18</sup>F]FET



- Anaplastic Astrozytom Grade III:
- T1-and T2 weighted MRI do not allow differentiation of the tumor
- FDG PET indicates decreased glucose-metabolism in the region of the tumor
- In contrast FET PET allows precise differentiation of the solid tumor

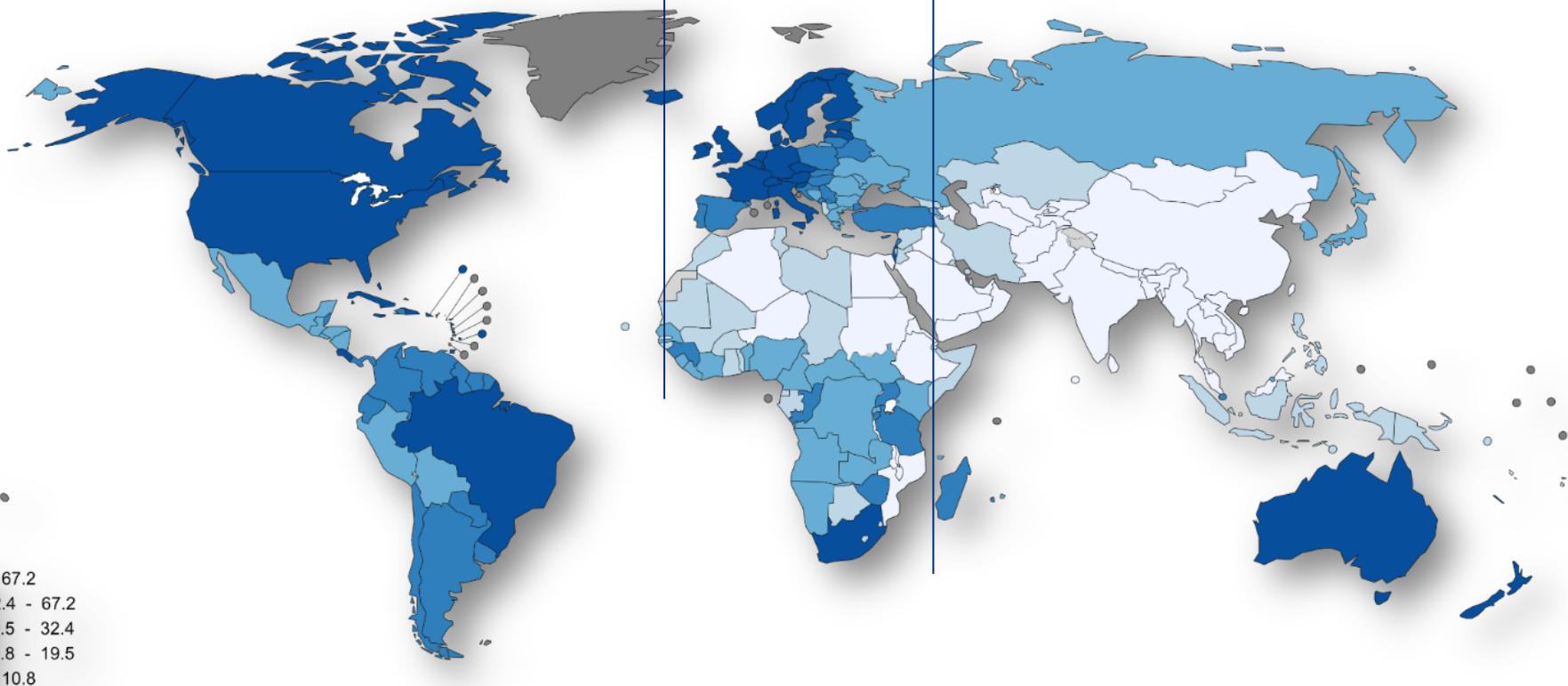
PET/CT imaging with high resolution and high lateral  
imaging with high resolution



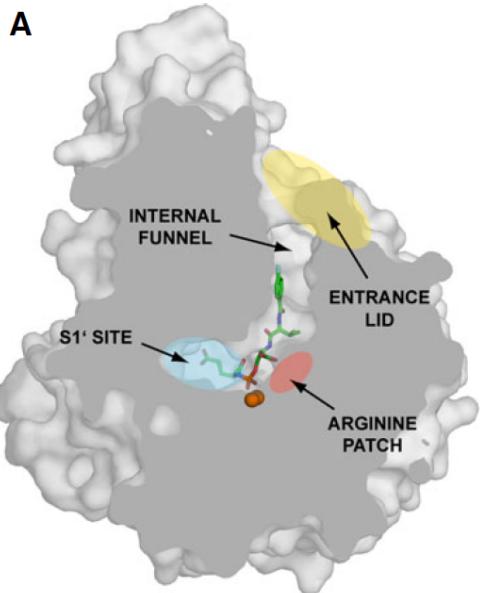
# Prostate carcinoma (PCa)

second most frequently diagnosed  
cancer worldwide

sixth leading cause of cancer  
death in males

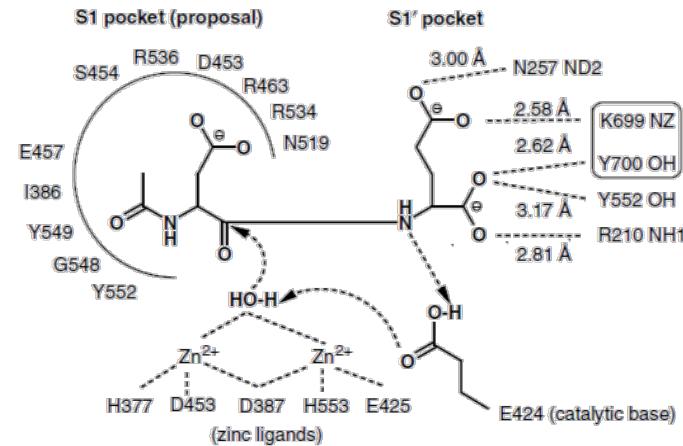


# Prostate Specific Membrane Antigen (PSMA)



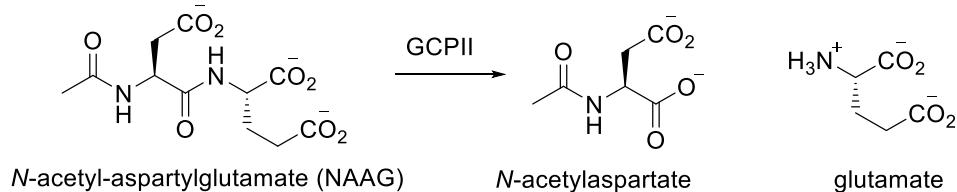
Navakova Z. et al. FEBS Journal, 2016

- 750 amino acids, ~84 kDa
- PSMA - zinc metalloenzyme that resides in membranes
- catalyzes hydrolysis of *N*-acetylaspartylglutamate (NAAG) to glutamate and *N*-acetylaspartate (NAA)
- up-regulated in prostate cancer cells

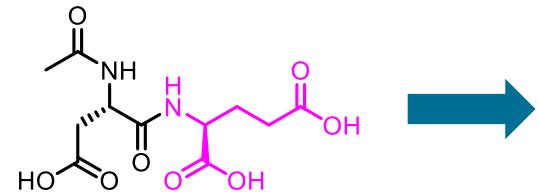


Mesters J.R. et al. EMBO Journal, 2006

In-vivo:

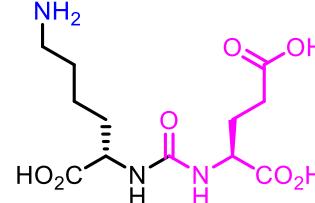


# [<sup>18</sup>F]DCFPyL, the novel [<sup>18</sup>F]PSMA-PET



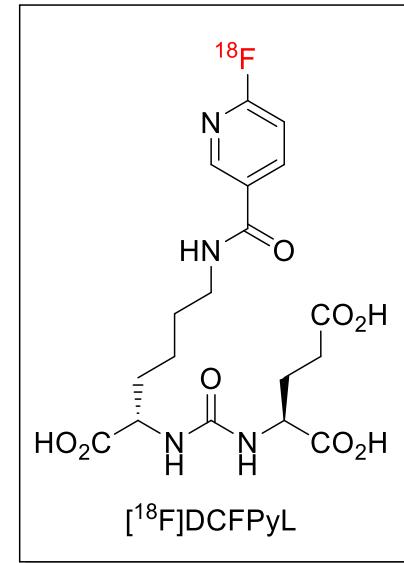
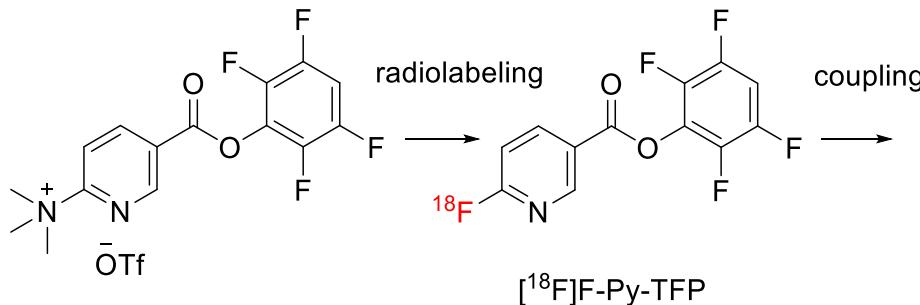
*N*-Acetylaspartylglutaminsäure (NAAG)

- Natural ligand of PSMA

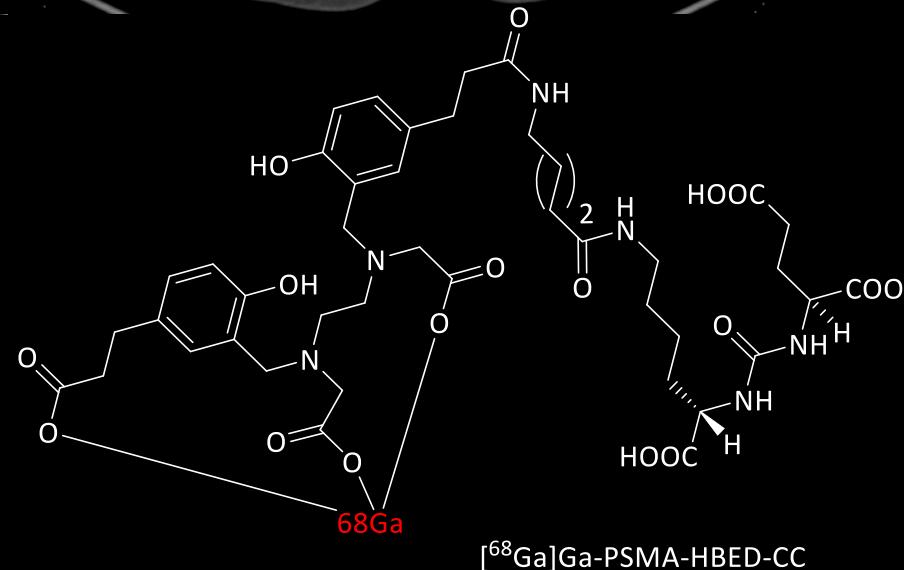
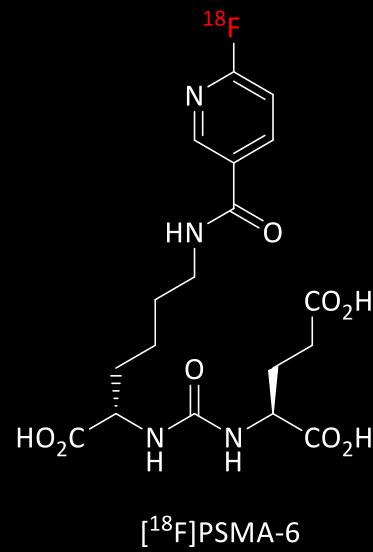
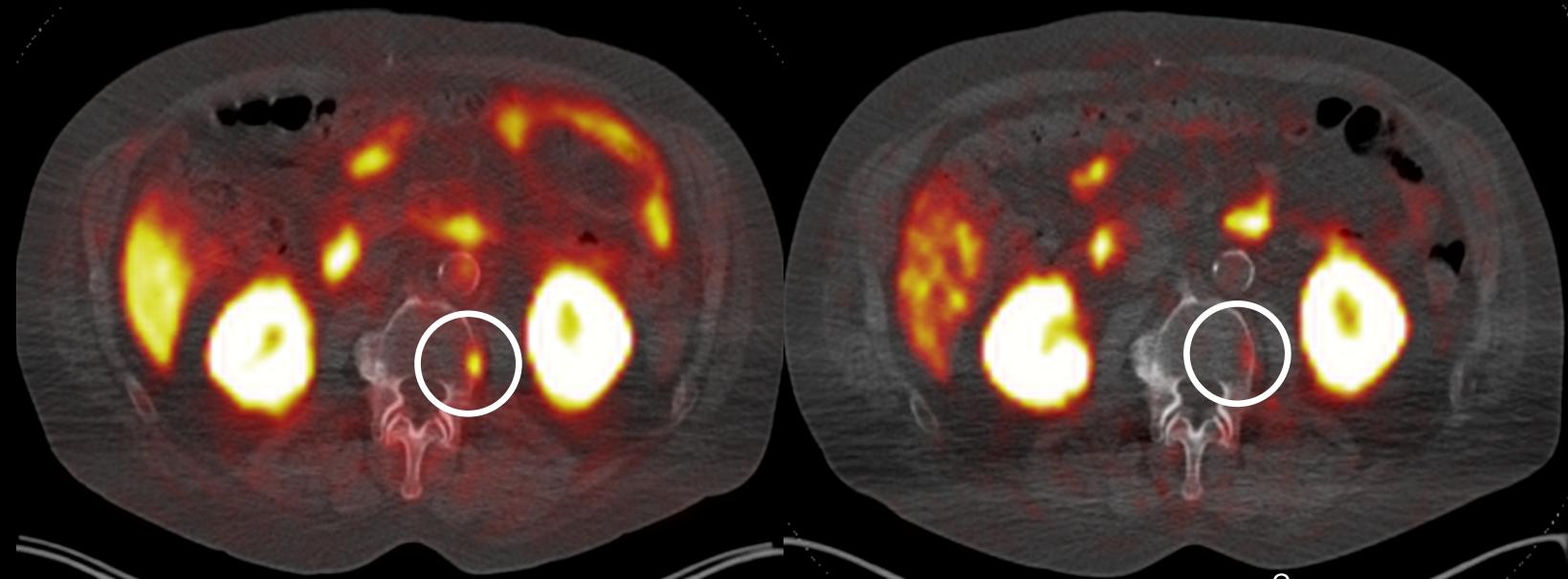


(S)Lys-Urea-(S)Glu

- High affinity for PSMA
- High metabolic stability
- Amenable for labeling



[<sup>18</sup>F]PSMA-6 vs [<sup>68</sup>Ga]PSMA-HBED-CC-BEPECT



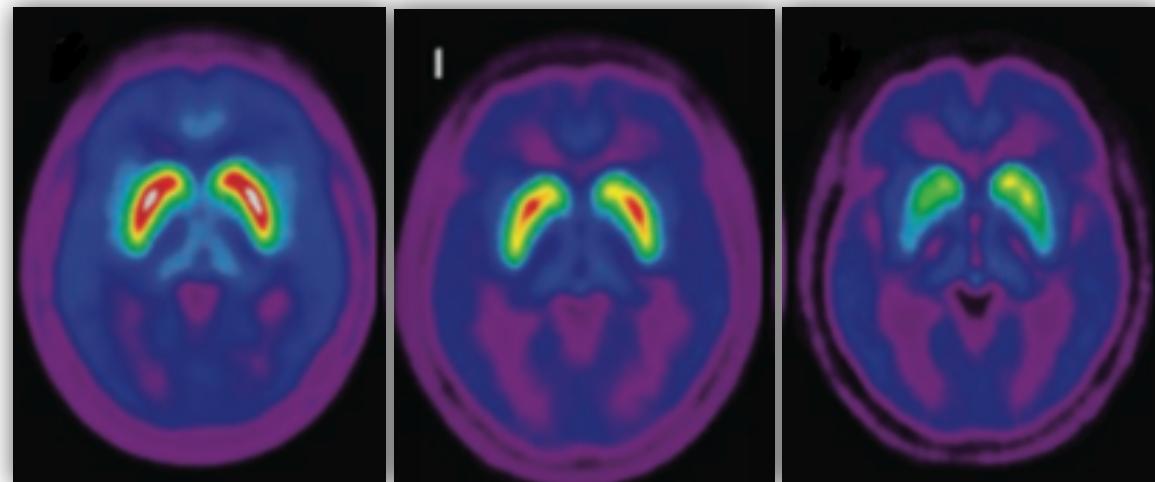
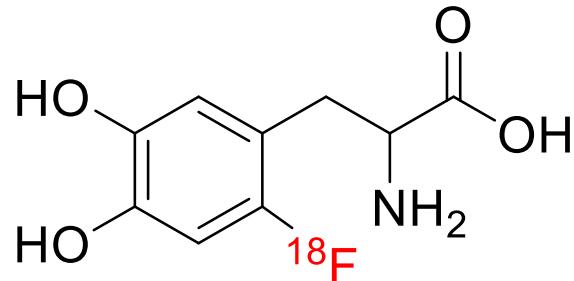
THANK YOU!

# Imaging of Parkinson's Disease with [<sup>18</sup>F]FDOPA

non-invasive assessment of the binding capacity of the cerebral D2 dopamine receptor



Early illustration of PD by Sir William Richard Gowers in *A Manual of Diseases of the Nervous System* 1886.



healthy young person

healthy aged person

Parkinson's disease