



# ELIMED at ELIMAIA

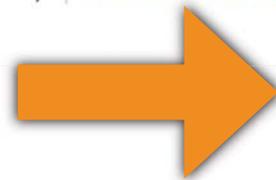
## A Users' open beam line for laser-accelerated ions

*GAP Cirrone,  
INFN-LNS , Italy  
and  
ELI-Beamlines project, Czech Republic*

## Charged particle therapy—optimal challenges and future directions

Jay S. Loeffler & Marco Durante 

*Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology* **10**, 411–424 (2013) | [Download Citation](#)



Research and development in the field of accelerators should be towards a reduction of costs, while maintaining or improving the performances of the current machines. Possible new accelerators for CPT<sup>122</sup> include synchrocyclotrons, rapid cycling synchrotrons, fixed-field alternating gradient rings, cyclotron–linac combinations, dielectric wall accelerators, and laser-driven plasma accelerators.<sup>123</sup> These options are at very different stages of design maturity, but all offer promising design features to offset the shortcomings of current synchrotrons, including fast scanning capabilities, reduced size, complexity and power consumption, increased dose rate capability, and ultimately a lower cost and a shorter treatment time.<sup>14</sup>

# Motivations for laser-accelerated ions in therapy

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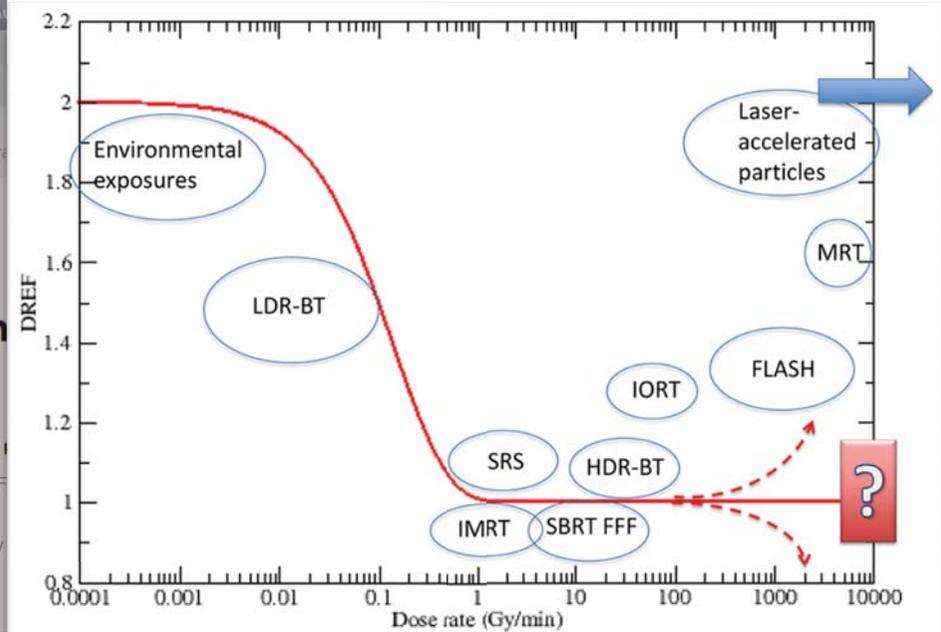
## COMMENTARY

### Faster and safer? FLASH ultra-high dose rate in radiotherapy

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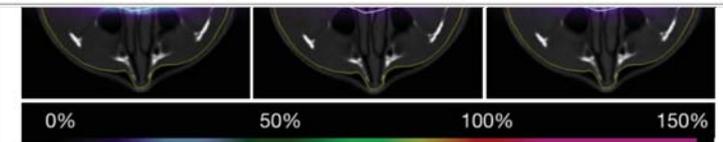
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# Motivations for laser-accelerated ions

4

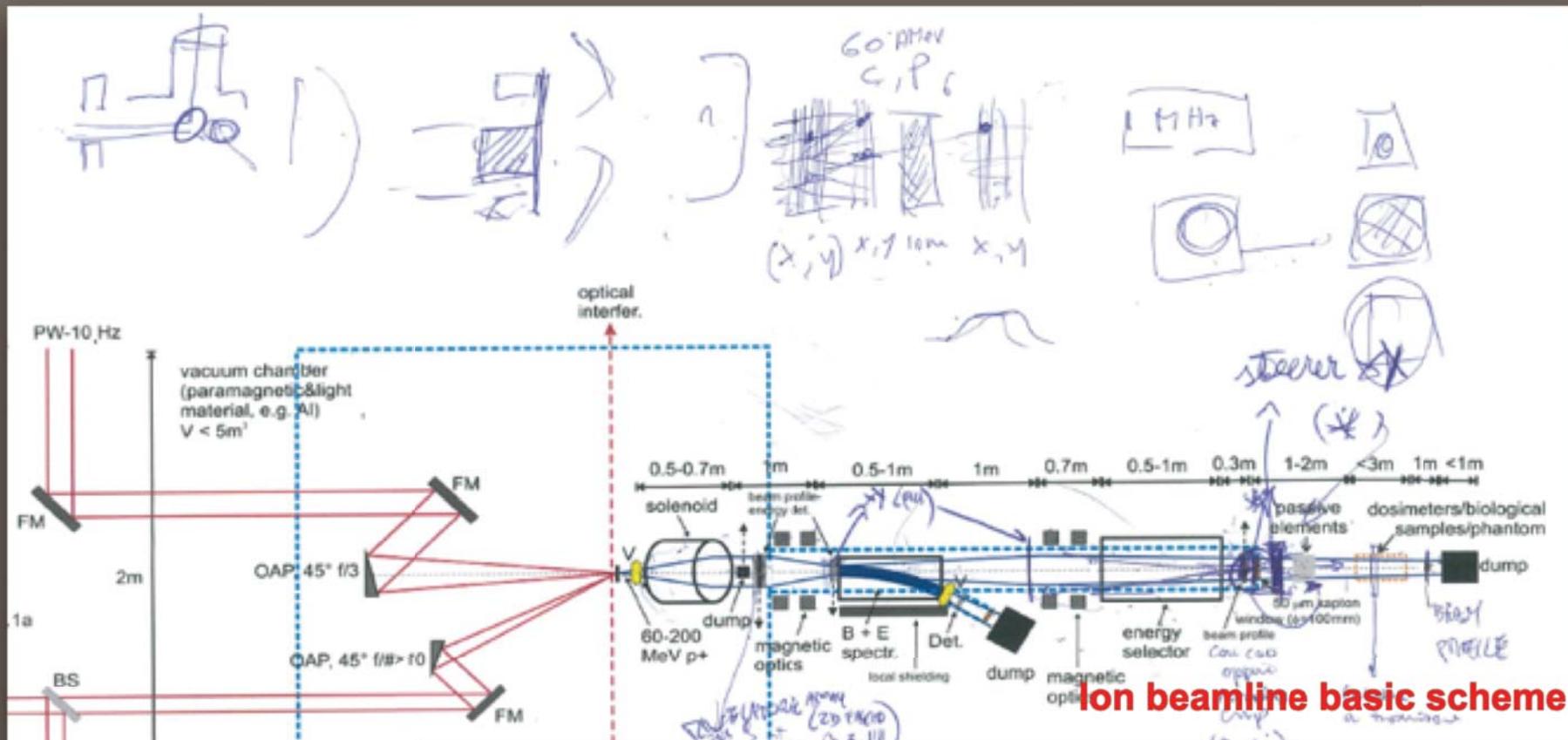
- Potential reduction of dimensions and costs (more for  $Z > 1$  ion beams)
- Study of unprecedented irradiation regimes
- Multi ions irradiation
- Space applications
- New schemes and approaches for radioisotope productions
- Cultural heritage (project funded by ELI)



**Figure 4.9.:** Biologically optimized four-field  $^{16}\text{O} + ^4\text{He}$  plan for a partially hypoxic skull base chordoma (scenario 1). The tumor and brainstem are marked with white and yellow lines, respectively. The scale represents the relative dose received by the tissue, compared to the prescribed biological dose of 2 Gy. (a) - total biological dose, (b) and (c) - contributions of  $^{16}\text{O}$  and  $^4\text{He}$ , (d) - total physical dose, (e) and (f) - contributions of  $^{16}\text{O}$  and  $^4\text{He}$ .

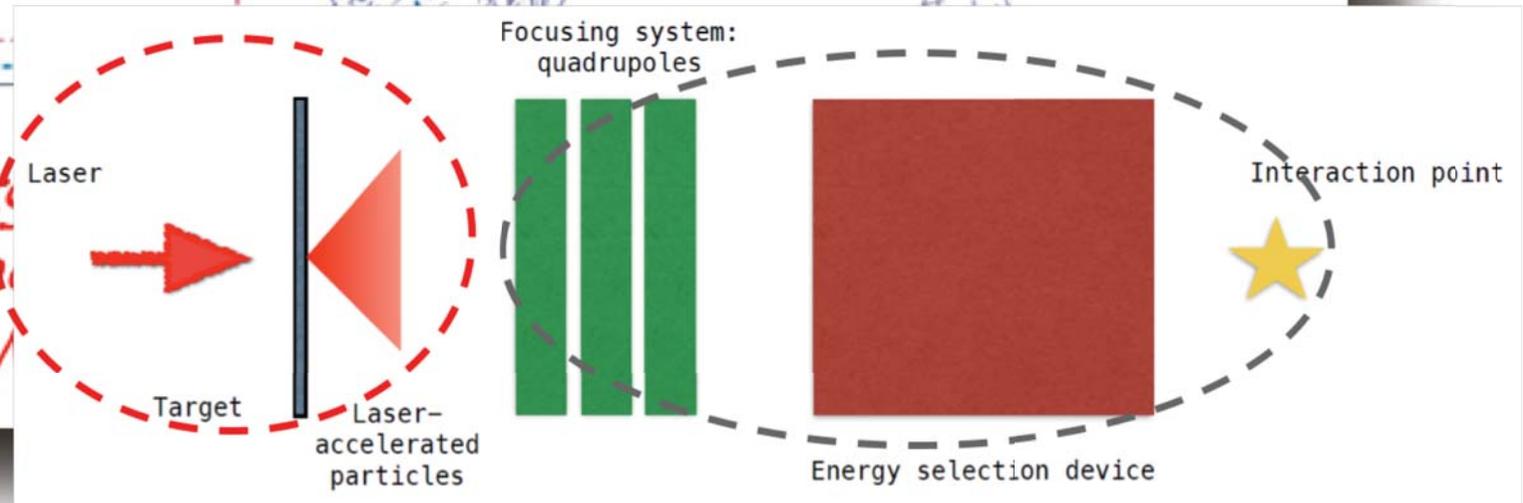


# ELIMED beam line at ELIMAI A



**Ion beamline basic scheme**

*by Daniele Maffei  
& Pablo Cirrone  
PALS, Prague, 2010*



# ELIMAIA and ELIMED mission



7

➤ **The ELIMAIA beamline (*ion accelerator + user station*)**  
**ELI Multidisciplinary Applications of laser-Ion Acceleration**

Dual bid:

- provide an experimental platform to users who want to develop laser driven ion accelerators using multi-PW, high rep. rate lasers
- provide laser driven ion beams with unique features to a broad user community for applications in biomedicine, chemistry, material science

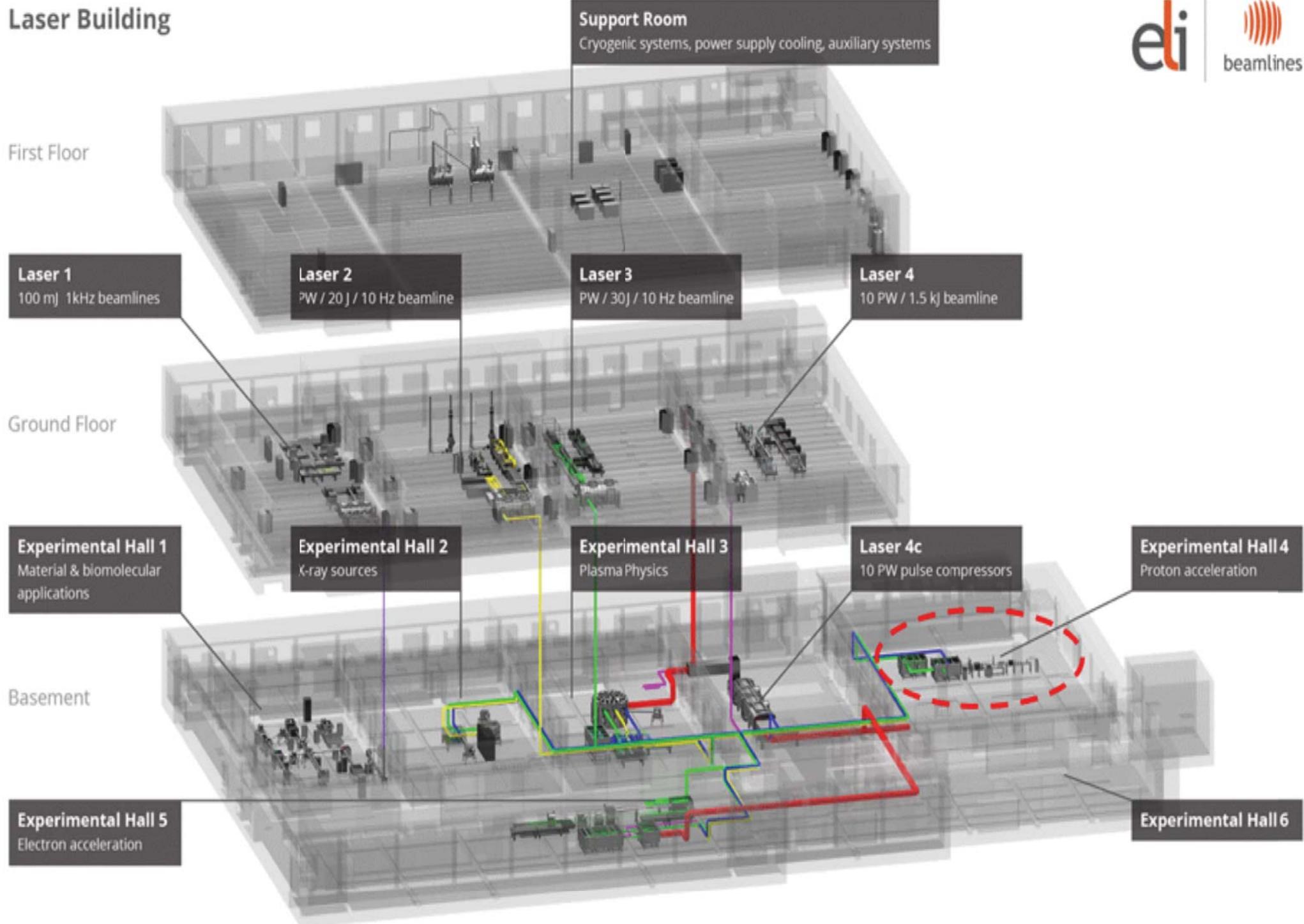
➤ **The ELIMED line (*transport and dosimetry*)**  
**ELI MEDical applications**

Dual bid:

- carry out transport and absolute dosimetry of laser-accelerated ion beams with ultrahigh dose rate
- gather a user community with future goal of clinical applications using a compact approach to cancer therapy (radiobiologists, medical doctors)



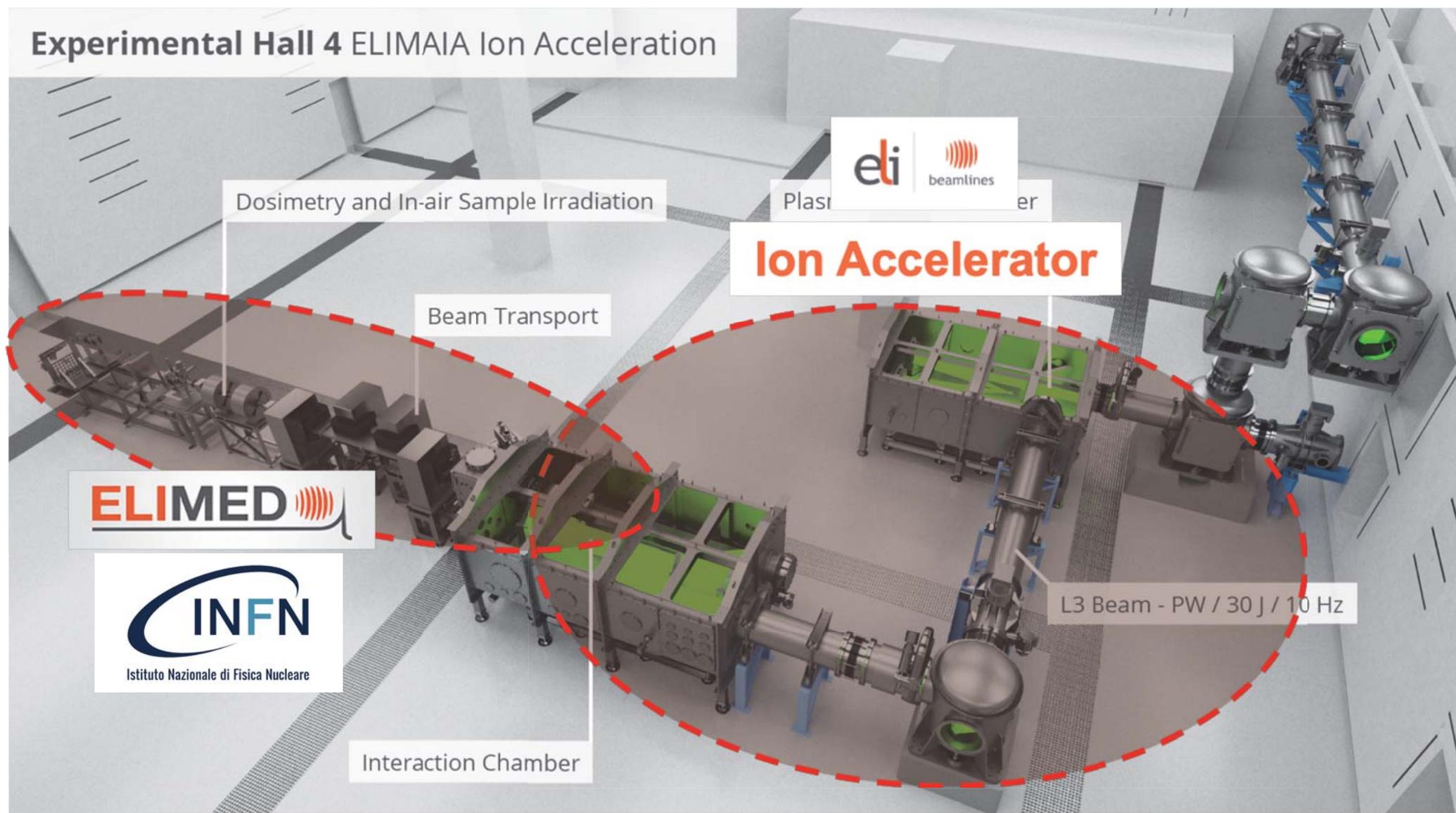
# Laser Building



# ELIMAIA: a Users' beam line

9

## Experimental Hall 4 ELIMAIA Ion Acceleration



See the invited talk by Dr Daniele Margarone Laser-driven ion acceleration and applications at the Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI) Session 8, Wednesday 8

Let focus on the ELIMED  
section of ELIMAIA  
(transport and dosimetry)

# ELIMED installation time-elapse

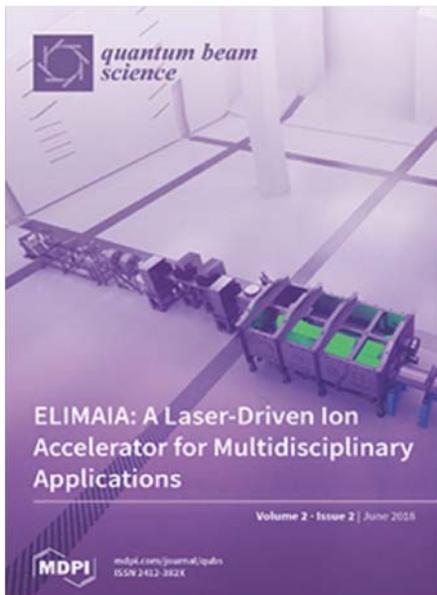
11



Proton and carbon beams up to 250 MeV and 70 AMeV, respectively



The beamline installation was completed in July 2018



*D. Margarone, G.A.P. Cirrone et al.,*

*“ELIMAIA: A Laser-Driven Ion Accelerator for Multidisciplinary Applications”, Quantum Beam Sci. 2 (2018) 8*

Luciano Allegra  
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Nino Amato  
Simona Argentati  
Renato Avolio  
Luciano Calabretta  
Giacomo Candiano  
Carmelo Caruso  
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Enzo Lo Vecchio  
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Daniele Rizzo  
Francesco Romano  
Francesco Schillaci  
Valentina Scuderi  
Salvatore Vinciguerra  
Emilio Zapallà

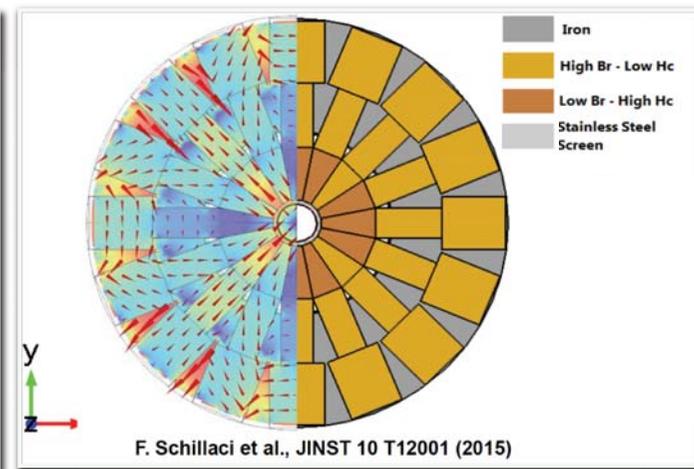
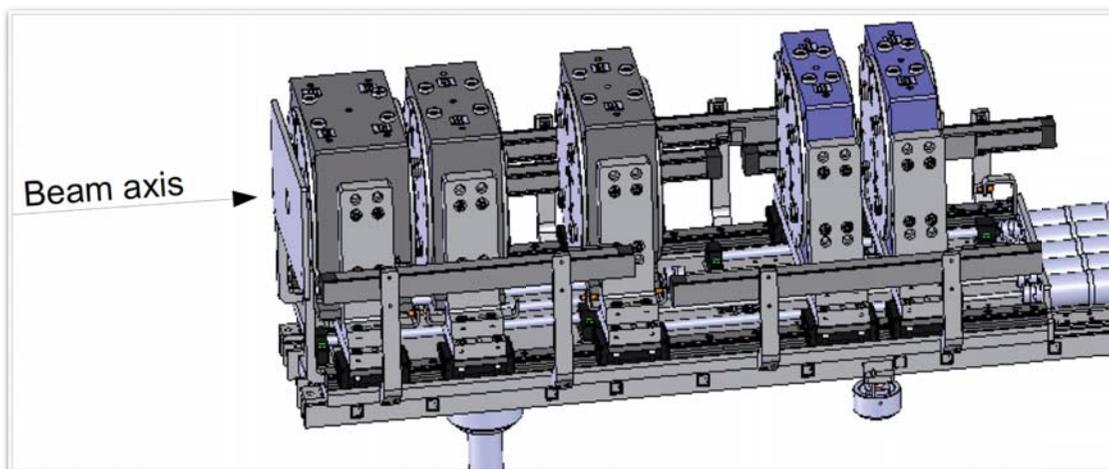
Proton and carbon beams up to 250 MeV and 70 AMeV, respectively



See work by Francesco Schillaci on the Wednesday poster session:  
*Advanced beam transport solutions for ELIMAIA: a user oriented laser-driven ion beamlines*

Focusing and collecting

five permanent magnets quadrupoles, 100 T/m gradient

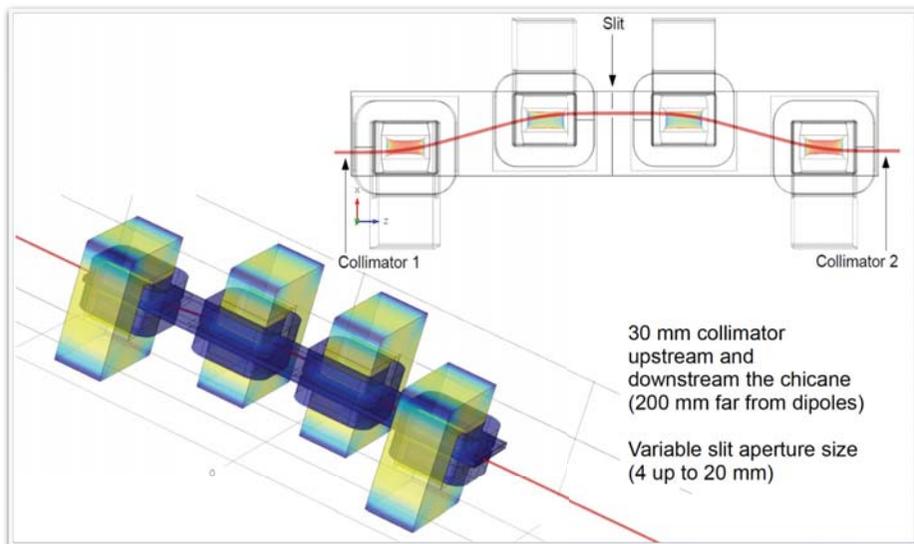


Proton and carbon beams up to 250 MeV and 70 AMeV, respectively

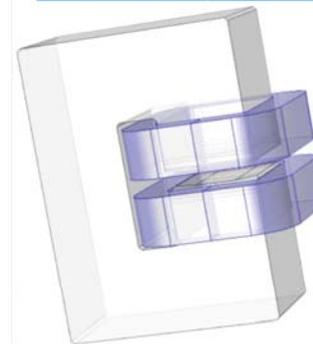


See work by Francesco Schillaci on the Wednesday poster session:  
*Advanced beam transport solutions for ELIMIA: a user oriented laser-driven ion beamlines*

## Energy selection



n° of Dipoles	B field	Geometric length	Effective length	Gap
4	0,085 – 1,2 T	400 mm	450 mm	59 mm
Good Field region (GFR)	Field uniformity	Curvature radius	Bending angle	Drift between dipoles
100 mm	< 0,5 %	2,5293 m	10,10° (176,3 mrad)	500 mm



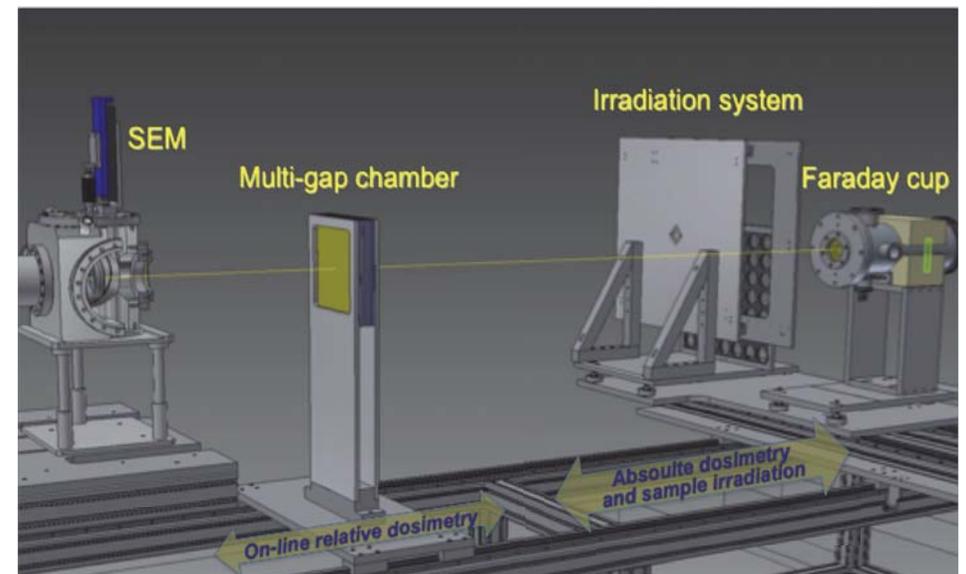
- 400 mm length
- 300 mm pole width
- 59 mm gap
- 100 mm GFR
- Magnet efficiency 98%
- 115.5x168 coil section (11x16turns, 0,5 mm of insulator, 6 mm water channel)
- Max current ~200 A/turn
- Total weight ~3 Tons

Proton and carbon beams up to 250 MeV and 70 AMeV, respectively



## Relative and absolute dosimetry

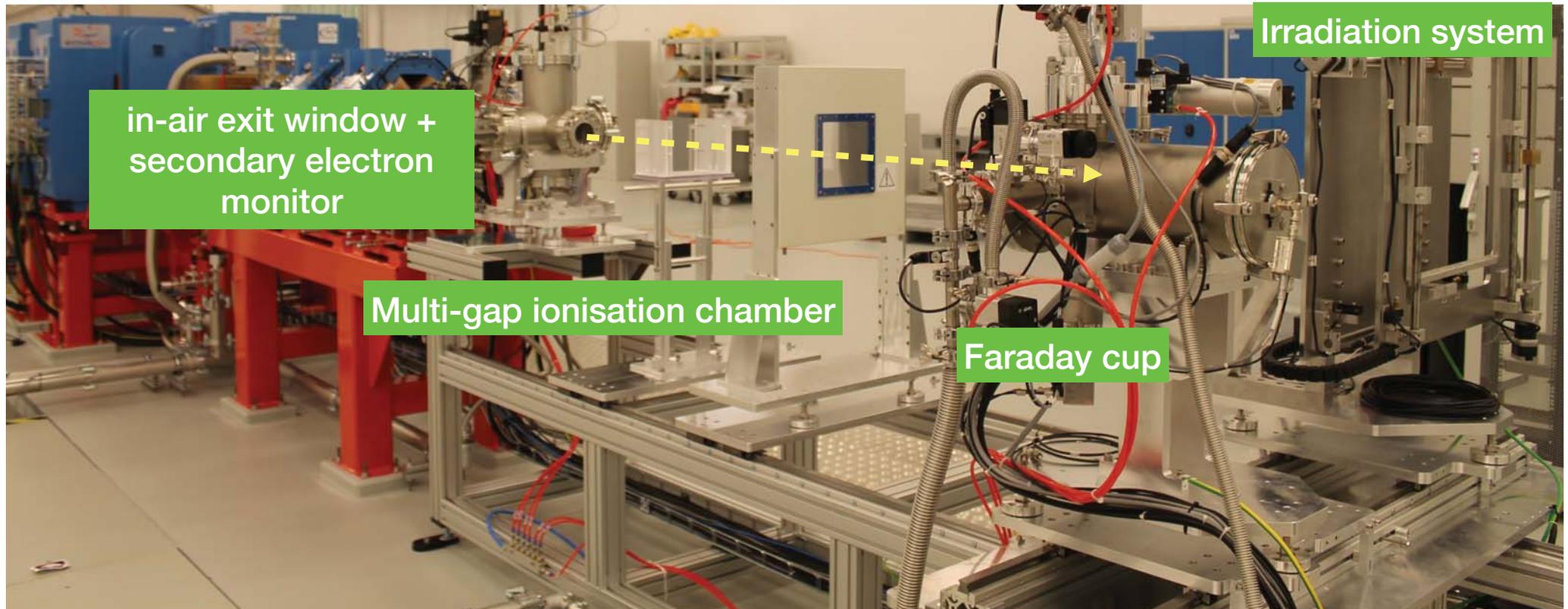
- D**ose-rate independent approaches
- C**orrection of recombination effects
- O**ff-line and real-time measure of depth dose distributions
- N**o code of practice available, at moment



# Dosimetric approaches at ELIMED

# Dosimetric section in-air

18

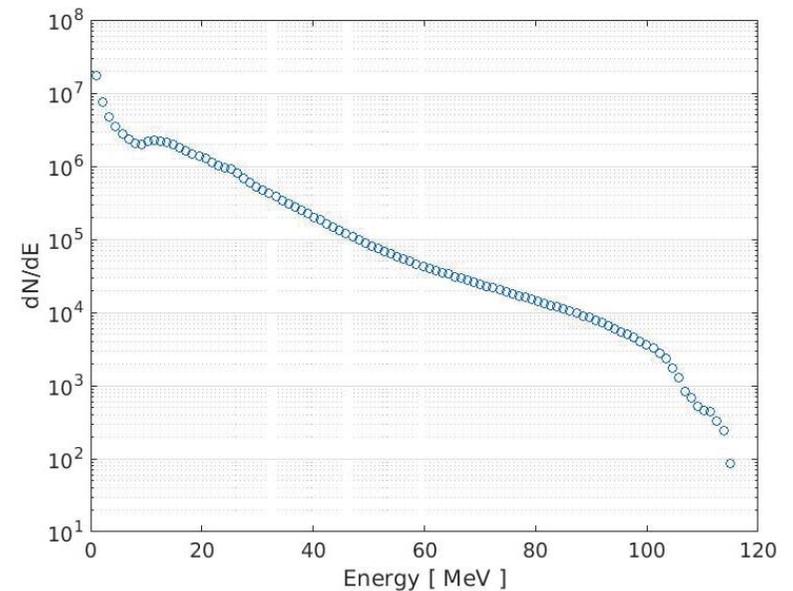


Particle fluence and spectroscopy with CR39 (first phase, low-energy)

Energy spectra with Gafchromic films (calibrated with protons between 15 and 100 MeV)

Silicon Carbide telescope for real-time, shot-to-shot measure of the Bragg peak

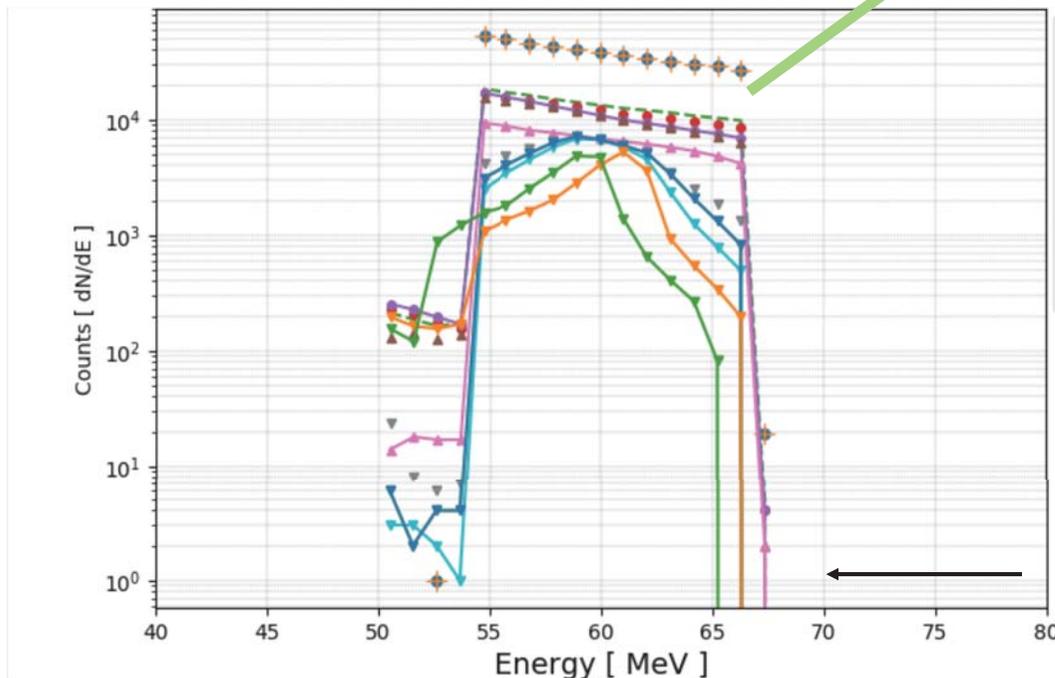
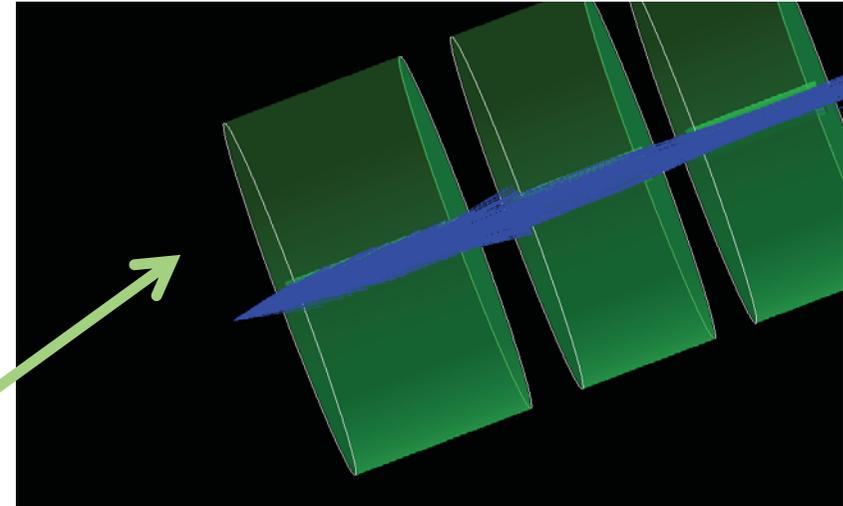
Flat plastic 300 nm thick target  
3D PIC simulation by Martina Zakova (ELI-Beamlines)  
Space and time profile: gaussian  
Pulse duration 30 fs  
Beam width (FWHM) 3  $\mu\text{m}$   
Intensity  $5E21 \text{ W/cm}^2$   
Laser wavelength 800 nm  
Laser incidence  $15^\circ$



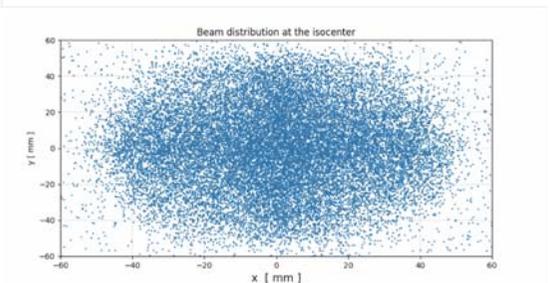
# Phase I, playing with PIC simulations, 60 MeV case

20

More than 80% is loss on the first quadrupole  
Around than 10 % in the rest of beamline  
10 % total transmission  
In the worst simulated conditions: 0.1 Gy per shot



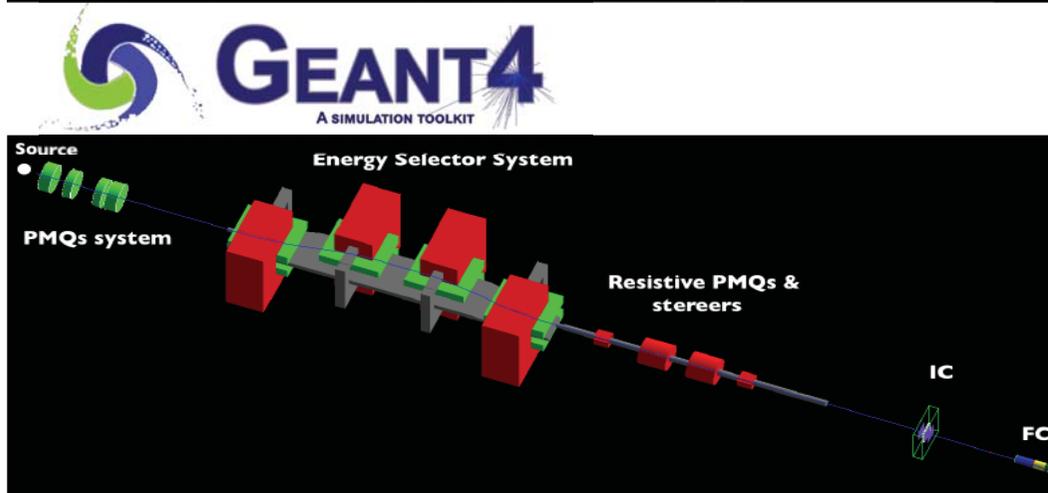
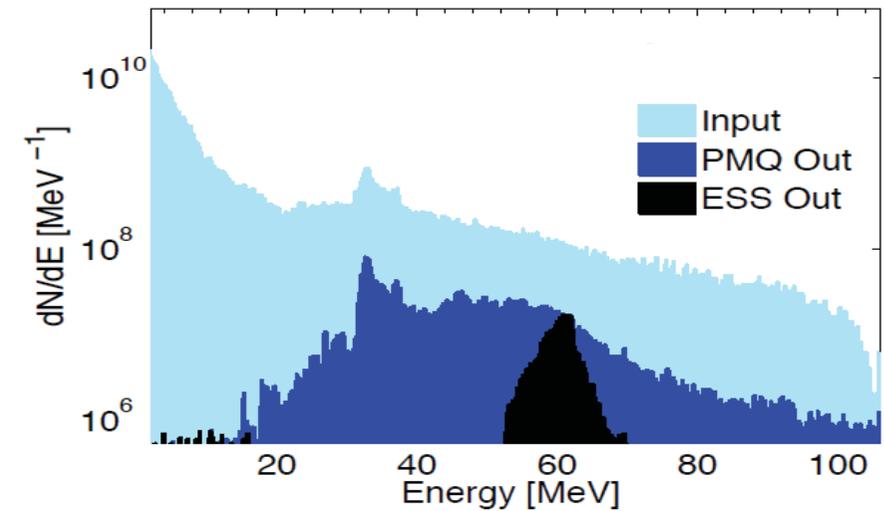
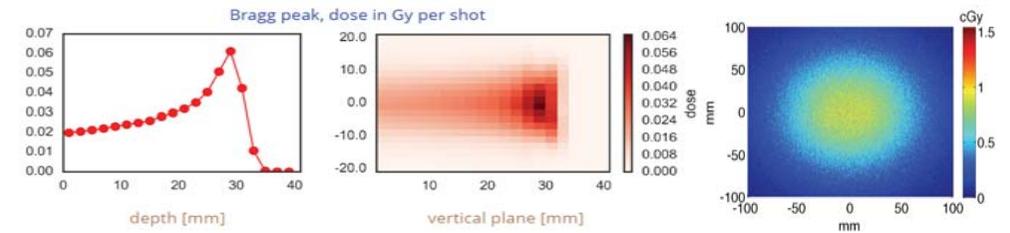
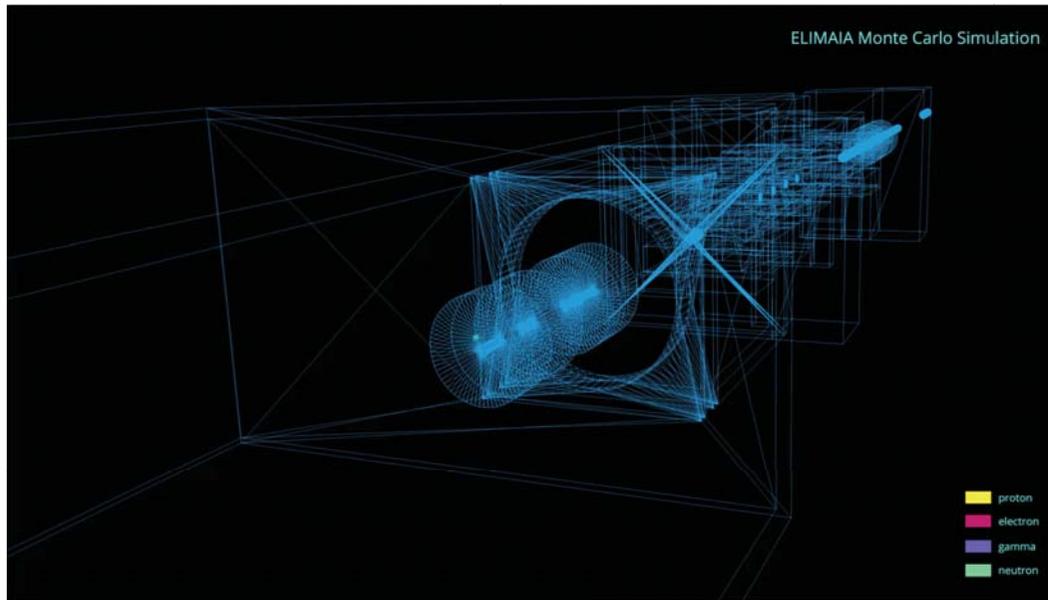
- Source - Virtual plane 1
- Before the PMQ1 - Virtual plane 2
- Before the PMQ2 - Virtual plane 3
- Before the PMQ3 - Virtual plane 4
- Before the PMQ4 - Virtual plane 5
- Before the PMQ5 - Virtual plane 6
- Before the ESS first collimator - Virtual plane 7
- After the ESS slit - Virtual plane 8
- After the ESS second collimator - Virtual plane 9
- After the first conventional PMQ - Virtual plane 10
- After the second conventional PMQ - Virtual plane 11
- At the Kapton window - Virtual plane 12
- At the isocenter - Virtual plane 13



Example: case of 60 MeV protons selected

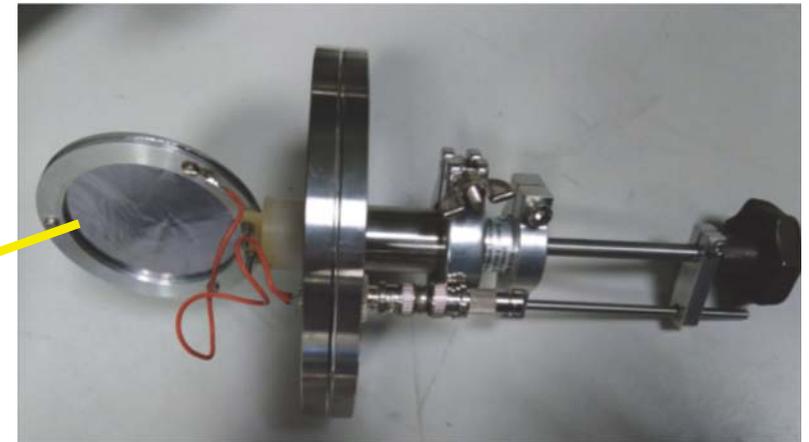
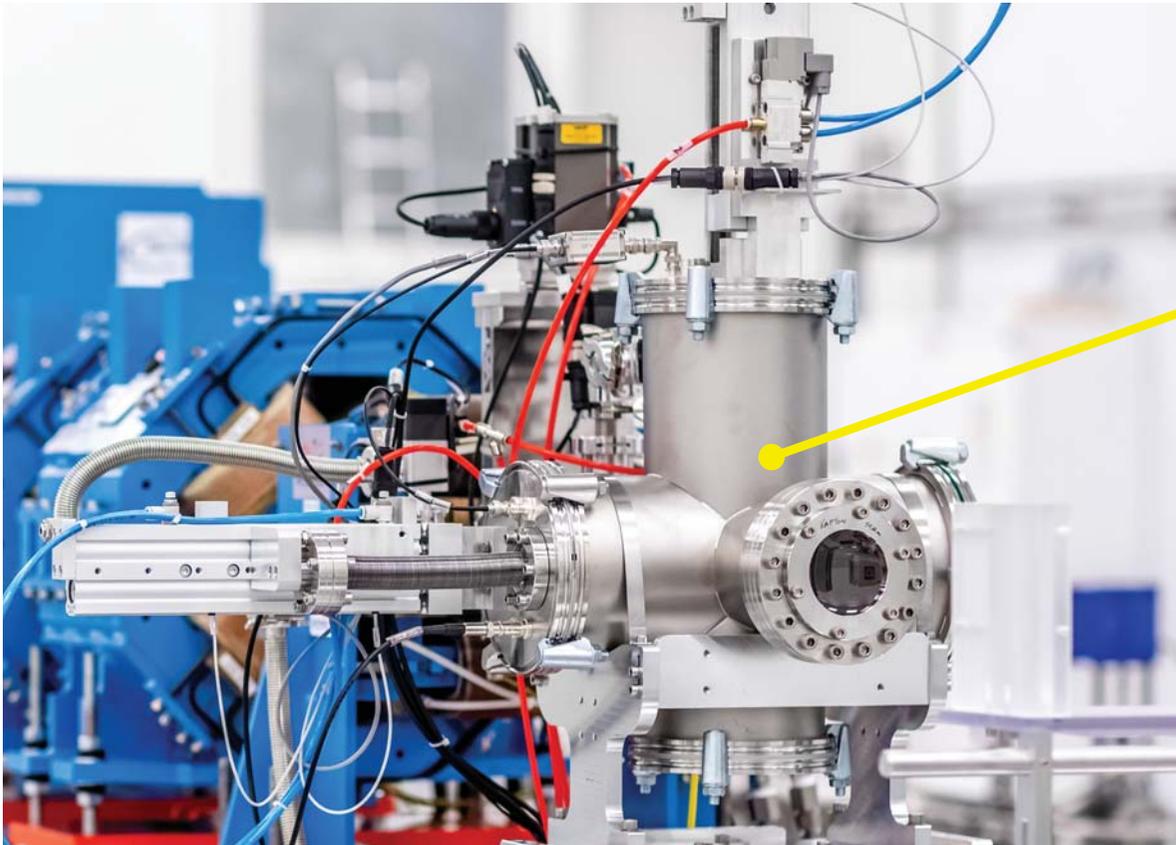
# Coupling PIC with Monte Carlo

21



# Secondary Electron Monitoring (SEM)

22



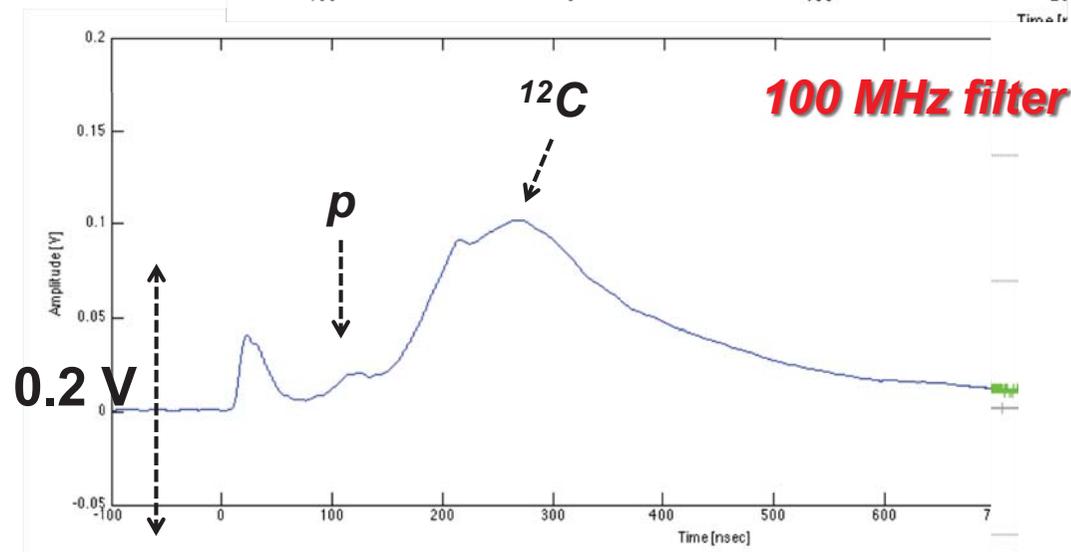
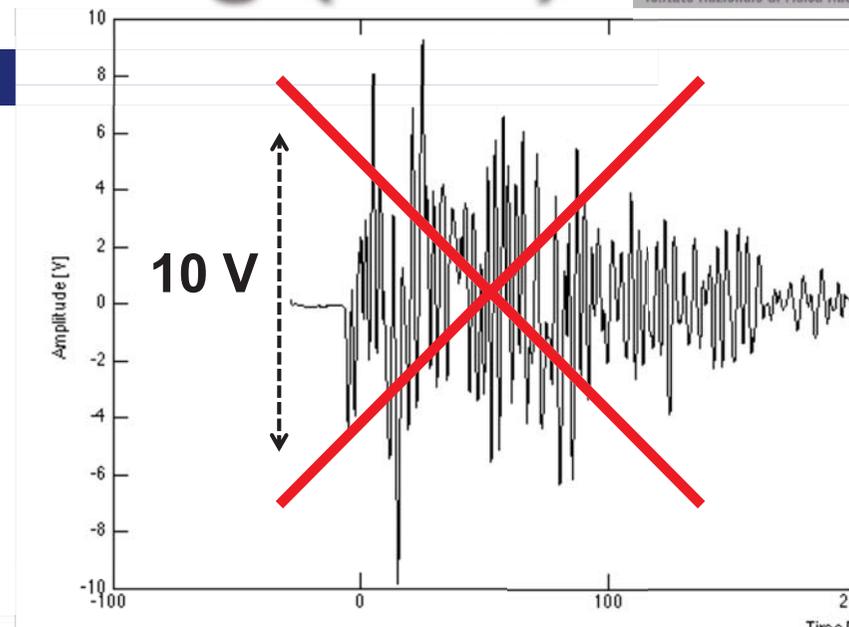
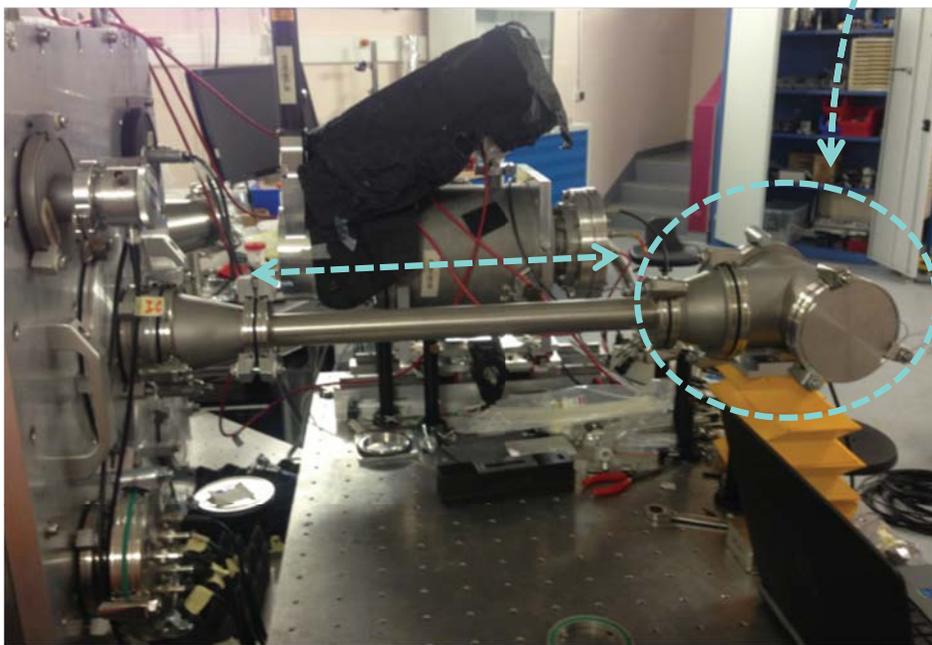
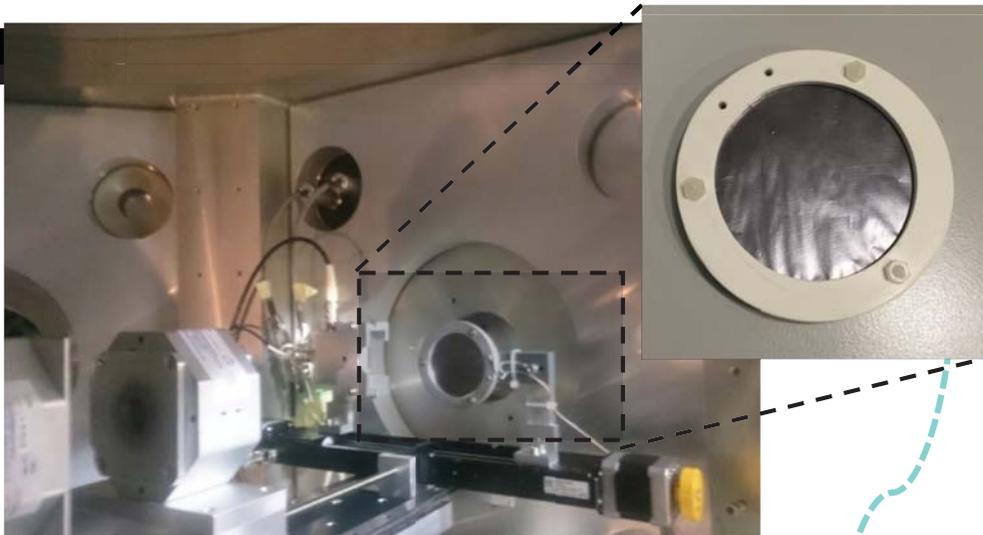
15 um Tantalum foil; it will act:

Time Of Flight configuration

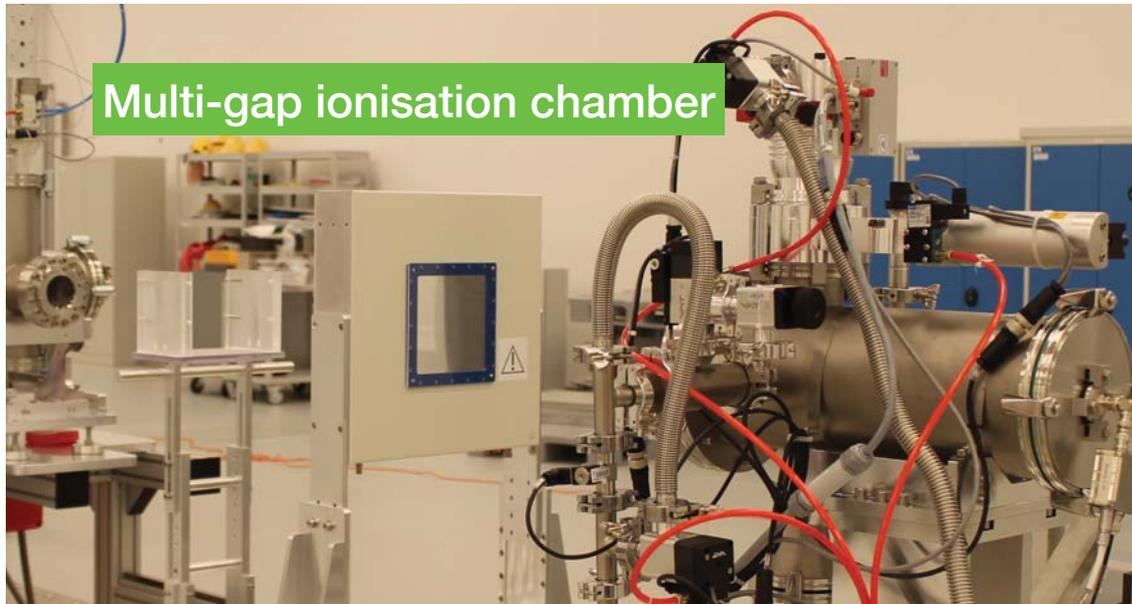
Charge integration for normalisation purposes

Scattering foil for beam diffusion

# Secondary Electron Monitoring (SEM)



# Multi-gaps chambers + Faraday cup

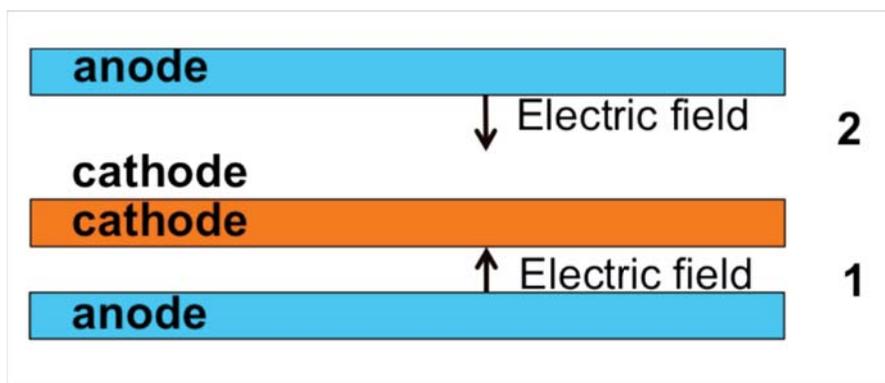


Multi-gap ionisation chamber

$$f_1 = \frac{Q_1}{Q_1^{sat}} \quad f_2 = \frac{Q_2}{Q_2^{sat}}$$

$$\frac{f_1}{f_2} = \frac{Q_1}{Q_1^{sat}} \cdot \frac{Q_2^{sat}}{Q_2} = \frac{Q_1}{Q_2} \cdot \frac{Q_2^{sat}}{Q_1^{sat}} = \frac{Q_1}{Q_2} \cdot const$$

$Q_1^{sat}$  and  $Q_2^{sat}$   
are derived from a fit of the  
Boag-theory for pulsed beams



$$f = \frac{1}{u} \ln(1+u)$$

$$u = \frac{\alpha/e}{K1+K2} \frac{n_0 d^2}{V}$$

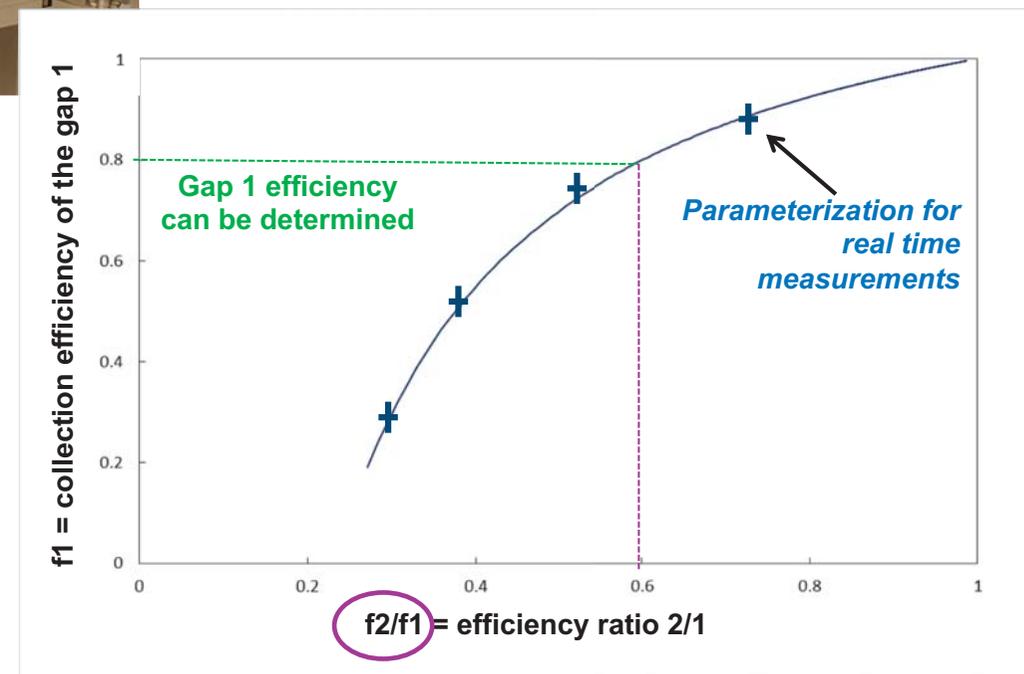
# Multi-gaps chambers + Faraday cup

25



Once  $f_1$  is calculated  
 $Q_1$ , for that shot, is evaluated  
And  $f_1$  is connected to an absolute  
dose thanks to the Faraday cup  
measure

This curve is experimentally  
derived for different beam dose-  
rates



# FC preliminary test with the VULCAN PW laser @ RAL (UK)

## VULCAN Laser parameters

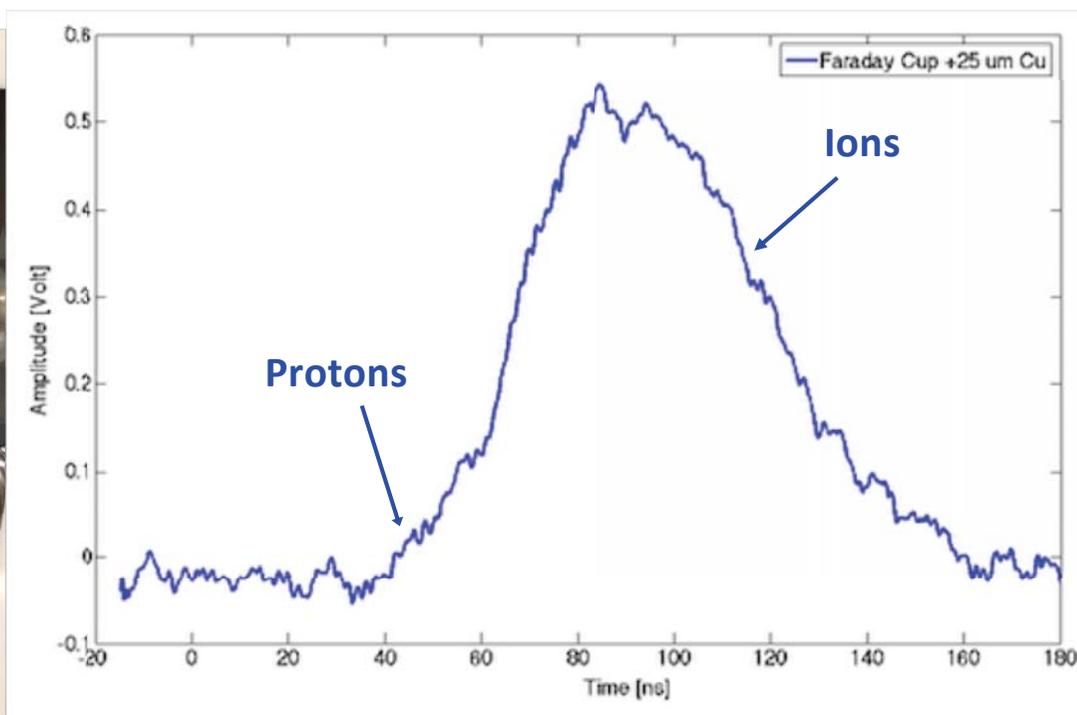
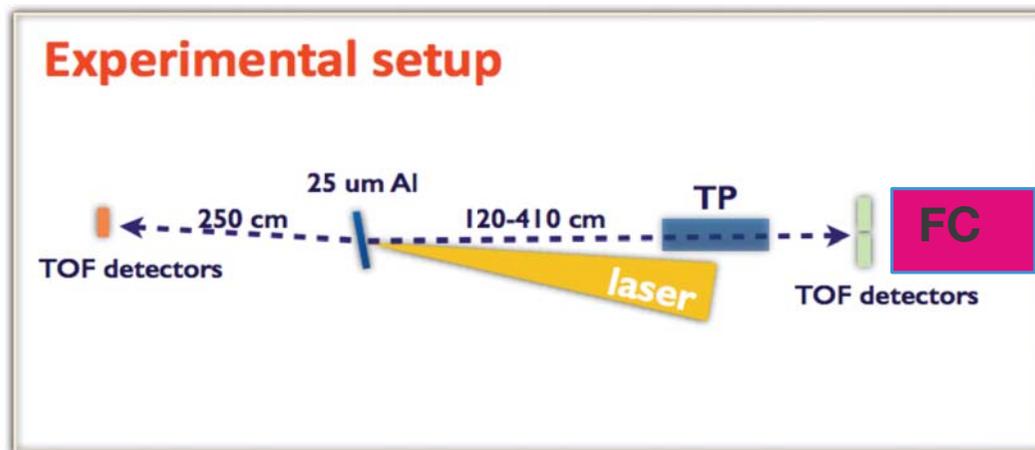
Power: 1 PW

Intensity:  $10^{21}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>

Energy: 650 J

Time pulse: 500 fs

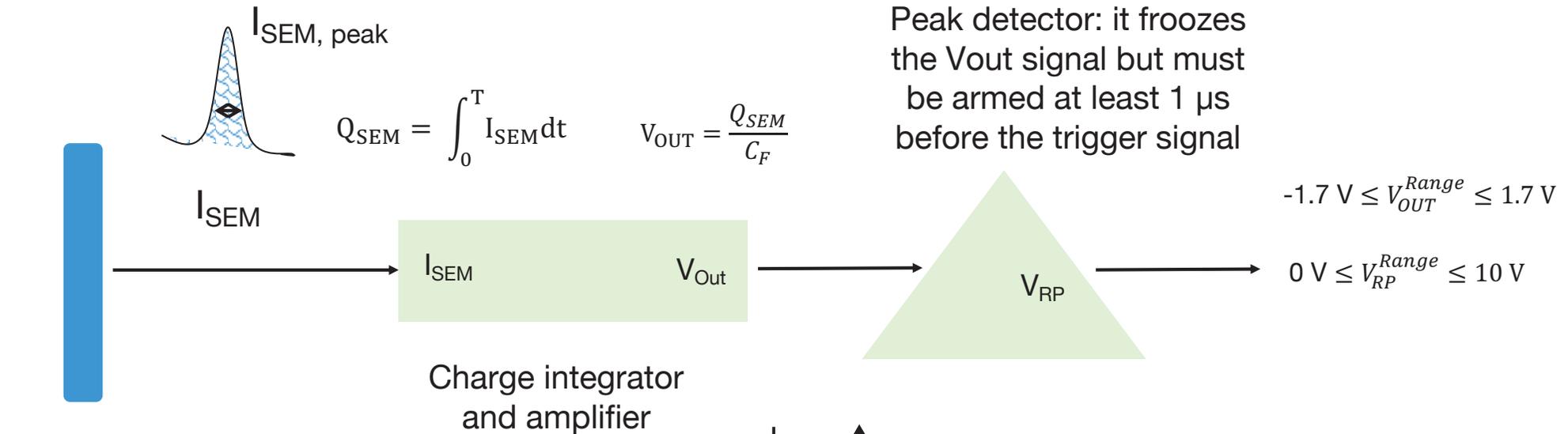
Target: 25  $\mu$ m Al



# Data acquisition for absolute dosimetry

27

$\Delta t$  must be  $< 1 \mu s$

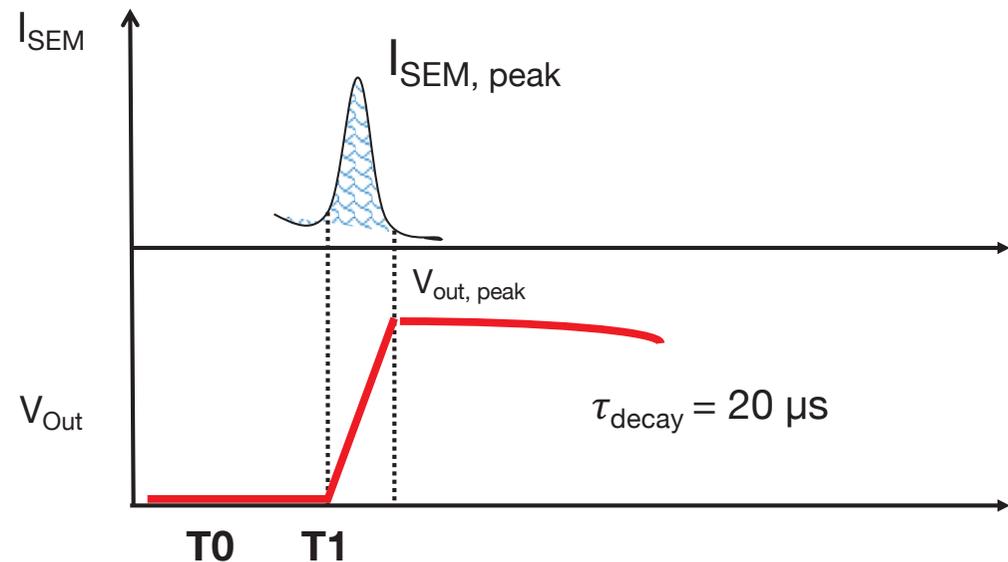


SEM or Faraday cup

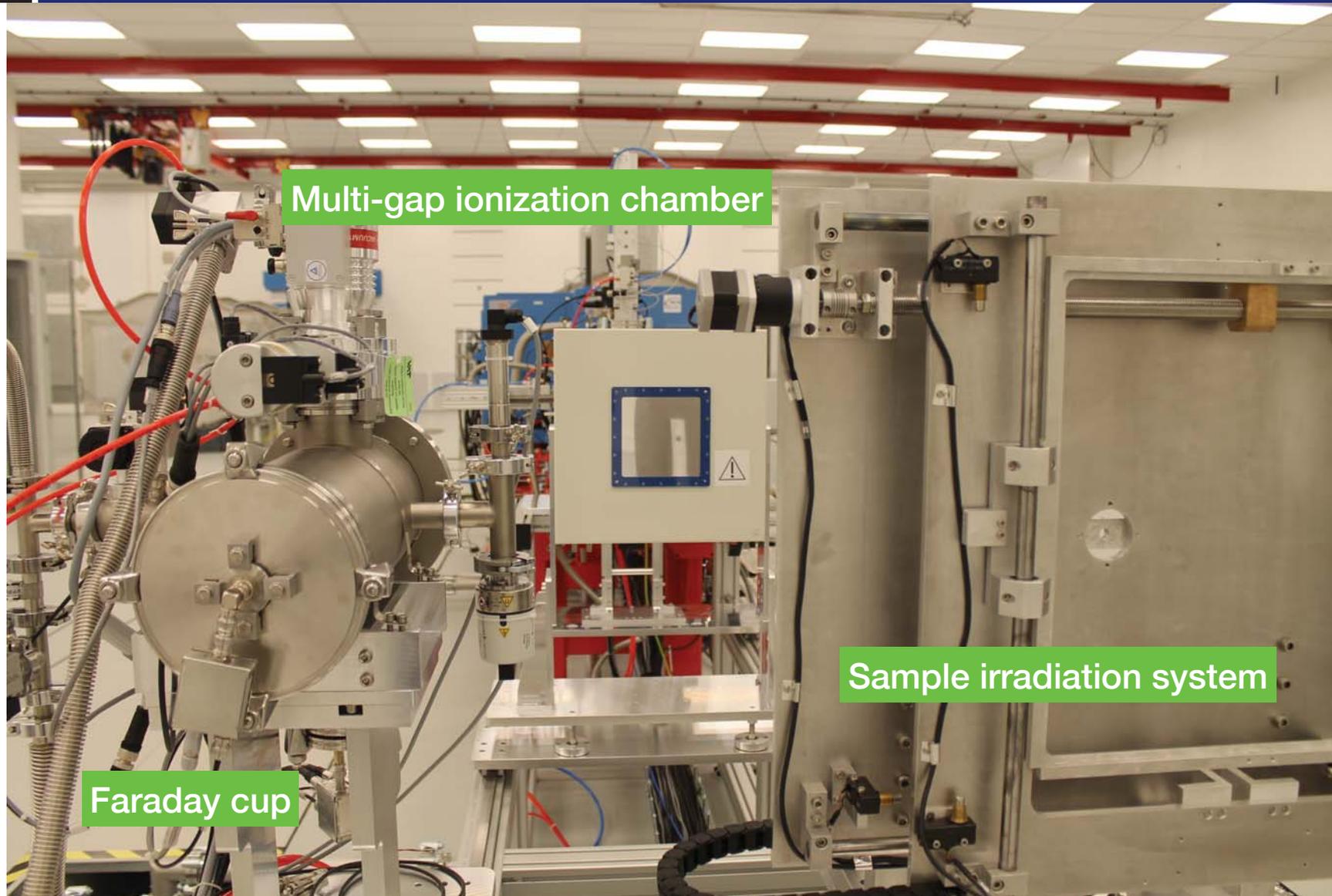
The available nominal  $C_F$  are: 1pF, 1.5pF, 15pF, 150pF, 1.5nF and 15 nF

The measured  $C_F$  are: (1.16pF and 1.22pF), (1.77pF and 1.78pF), (15.40pF and 15.40pF), (149.51pF and 153.55pF), (1.73nF and 1.73nF), and (14.28 nF and 15.82 nF)

The error on CF is of 2%



# Summarising the dosimetric procedure



In preparation of the first  
radiobiological measure

# Minimal irradiation conditions

Energy 20 MeV, at minimum (Range in water: )

Best: 30 MeV

Bragg peak-plateau ratio: 4, at least

Energy spread:  $< 7 \%$

Beam spot size: circular,  $1 \text{ cm}^2$ , at minimum

Trasversal dose homegeneity:  $< 10\%$

Lateral penumbra:  $< 1 \text{ mm}$

Dose accuracy  $< 5\%$

Dose statbility  $< 5\%$

Dose per bunch  $\geq 10 \text{ cGy}$

## DUAL GAP CHAMBER & FARADAY CUP IRRADIATION

Dosimetric study and characterization with proton beam of 35MeV,  $D= 5$  Gy.

A. Study of the response of the DG according to the voltage variation:

$$I_{FC1} = 0,74 \text{ nA}$$

$$-20 \text{ V} \leq V (ICh1) \leq 1800 \text{ V}$$

$$-10 \text{ V} \leq V (ICh2) \leq 900 \text{ V}$$

B. Study of the response of the DG according to the dose rate variation, in two configurations:

$$1. V (ICh1) = 1200 \text{ V}, V (ICh2) = 600 \text{ V}$$

$$2. V (ICh1) = 140 \text{ V}, V (ICh2) = 600 \text{ V}$$

$$I_{FC1} = 0,21 - 0,41 - 1,2 - 1,8 - 2 \text{ nA}$$

C. Study of the response of the CF according to the voltage variation:

$$V (ICh1) = 1200 \text{ V}, V (ICh2) = 600 \text{ V}, I_{FC1} = 0,73 \text{ nA}$$

$$-2000 \text{ V} \leq V_{FC}^{external} \leq 0 \text{ V}$$

$$-2000 \text{ V} \leq V_{FC}^{internal} \leq 2000 \text{ V}$$

D. Study of the response of the FC according to the dose rate variation:

$$V (ICh1) = 1200 \text{ V}, V (ICh2) = 600 \text{ V}$$

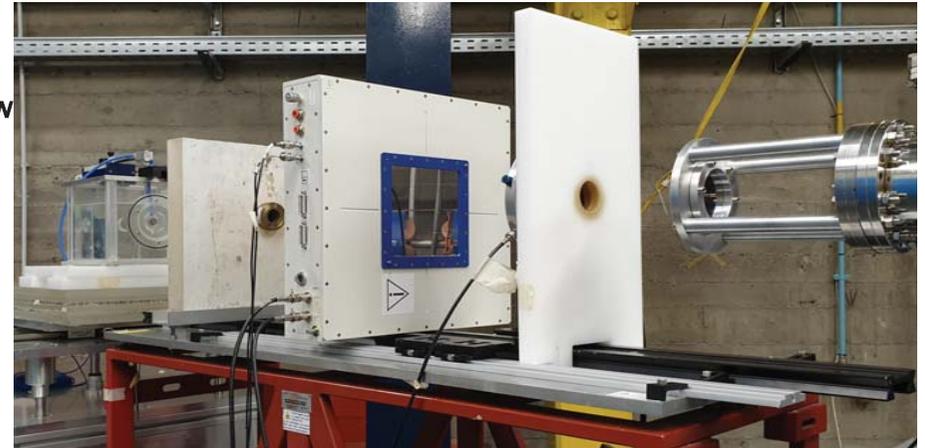
$$V_{FC}^{external} = -800 \text{ V}, V_{FC}^{internal} = 0 \text{ V}$$

$$I_{FC1} = 0,22 - 0,44 - 1,15 - 1,75 - 1,85 \text{ nA}$$

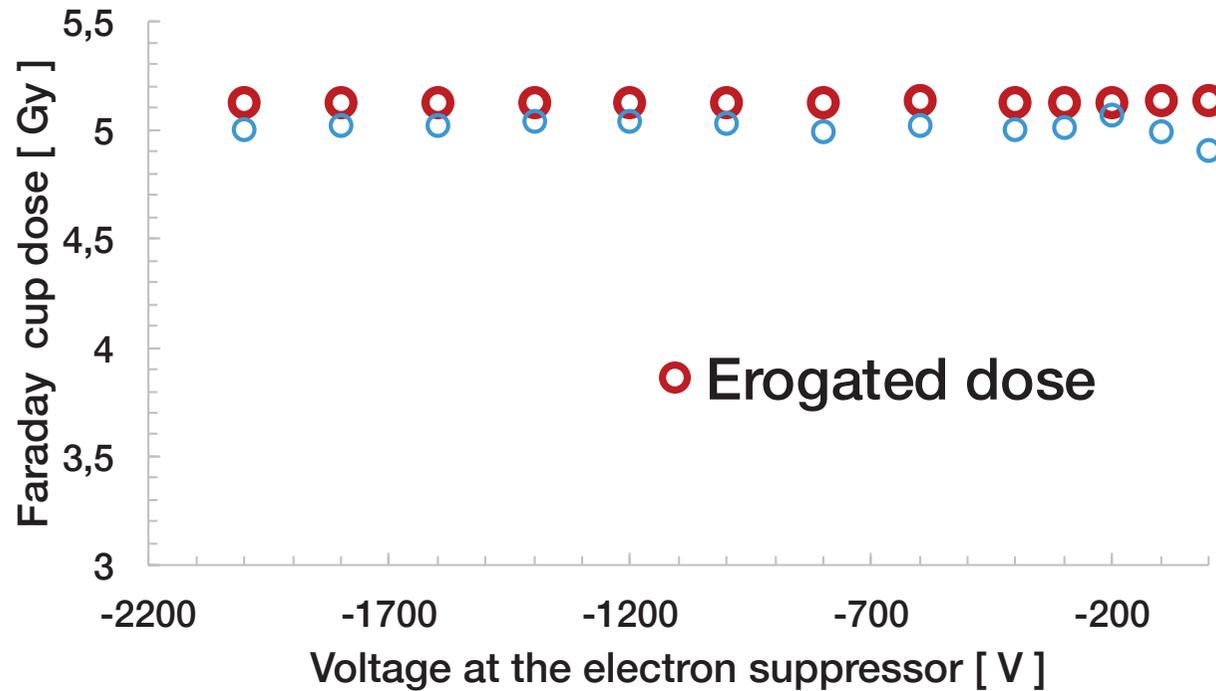
Next tests:

Very high dose rates (up to 200 Gy/min)

Pulsed beams



# FC absolute dose, continuous beam



35 MeV proton beam, arojnd  
20 Gy/min

○ Erogated dose



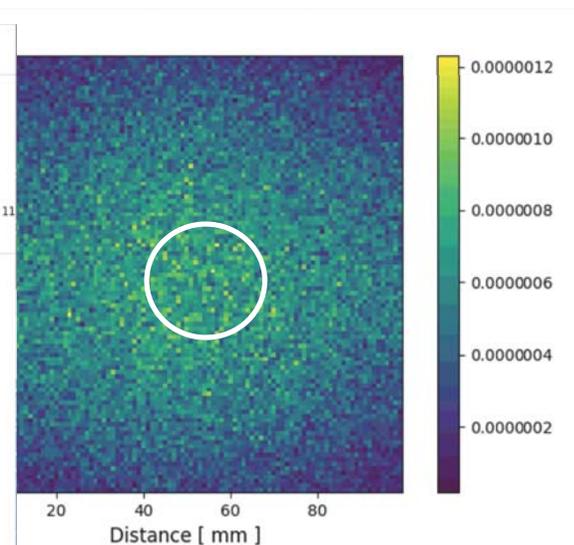
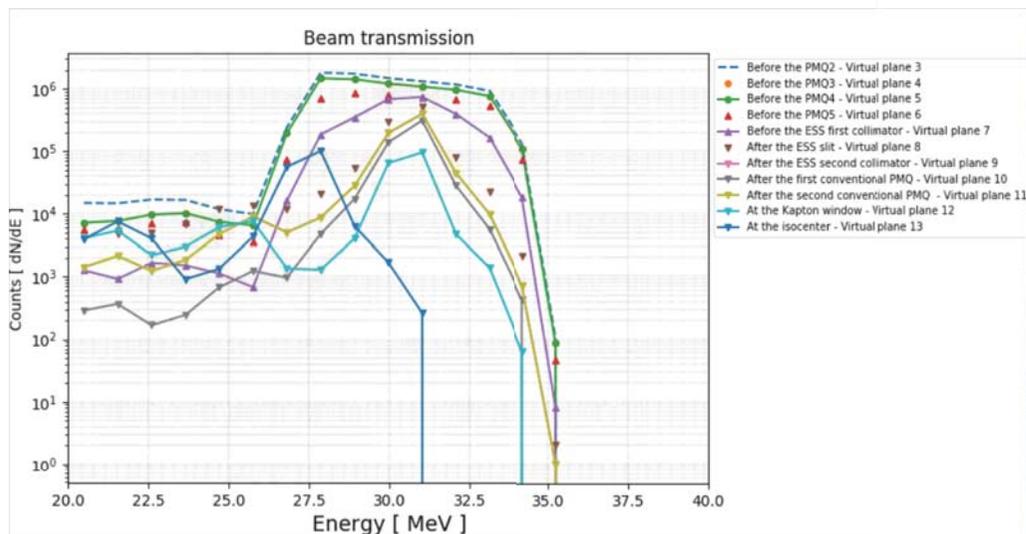
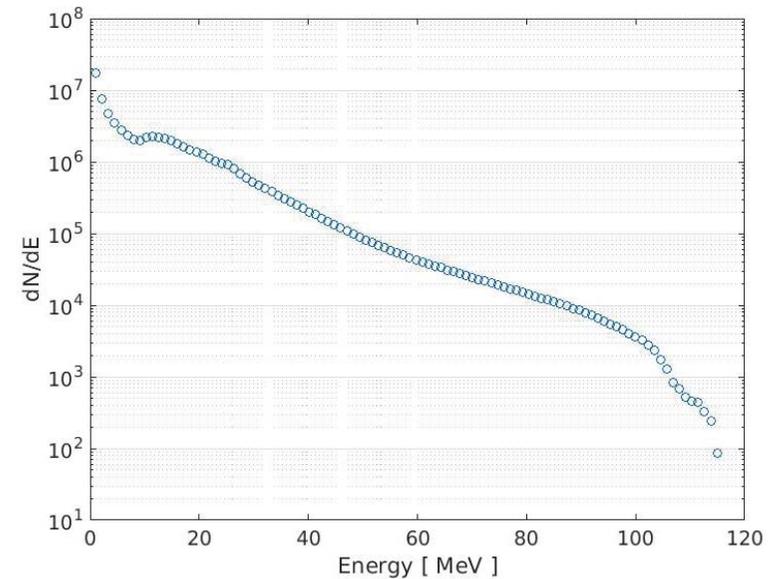
Max difference in dose 2.4 %  
Test in pulsed beam, high dose rates in  
the next months

# Monte Carlo work, selecting 30 MeV protons

33

Flat plastic 300 nm thick target  
3D PIC simulation by Martina Zakova (ELI-Beamlines)  
Space and time profile: gaussian  
Pulse duration 30 fs  
Beam width (FWHM) 3  $\mu\text{m}$   
Intensity  $5 \times 10^{21}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>  
Laser wavelength 800 nm  
Laser incidence 15°

Example: case of 30 MeV protons selected  
5% transmission



**0.58 cGy per bunch**  
**12 % homogeneity**  
**in 1.0 cm diam. spot**

# Thoughts on radiobiology of laser-driven particle beams



Biological action of ionizing radiation is driven by the interaction of DNA lesions in spatial and temporal proximity

In radiation biology, a dose-rate effect is well known to occur when dose is administered below 0.1 Gy per min, leading to increased cell survival because of concomitant repair

Little is known at the exceedingly high dose rates allowed by optical beam acceleration: It is postulated that oxygen depletion may become significant under such regimes leading to cell radioresistance

This may be the mechanism(s) underlying the apparent enhanced sparing effect on normal tissues observed with very high-dose rate photons/electrons (FLASH RT)

However, therapeutically meaningful applications of laser-driven particle beams require to verify that cancer cell death occurs at the same levels per dose as observed with conventionally accelerated beams. This is in fact what existing data seem to indicate thus far.

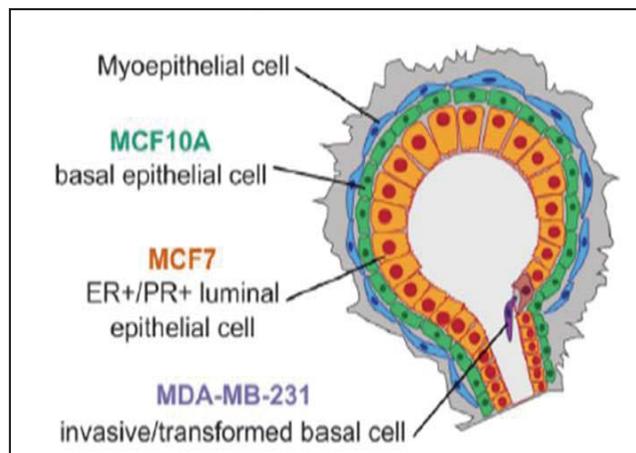
# First radiobiological experiment at ELIMED

- **Breast cancer** is currently explored as a possible target for protontherapy because of expected reduction of cardiovascular damage due to its greater precision.
- Irradiation of **Breast Cancer and normal cell lines previously irradiated with conventionally accelerated beams** (x-rays and proton).

## AIMS

Radiobiological characterization of the ELIMED beam line in terms of:

- Quantification of cancer cell death
- Study of sublethal cytogenetic damage in normal cells
- Possible reduction of normal cell damage while efficiently killing cancer cells?



## Conventional



## Laser-driven protontherapy



VS

## Hadrontherapy

# Preliminary tests in 2019

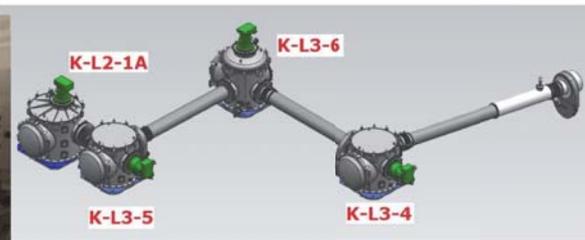


## TERESA in L2

TESTbed for high REpetition-rate Source of Accelerated particles

### ➤ Ion and Electron Acceleration tests

- ✓ innovative Target delivery solutions (high rep. rate)
- ✓ Ion/Plasma Diagnostics solutions
- ✓ Ion beam transport
- ✓ Alignment procedures wavefront control with adaptive mirror and focusibility of laser
- ✓ Local Laser Diagnostics solutions to be tested for implementing it for large BT and focusing
- ✓ Data acquisition, transfer, analysis solutions (user friendly)
- ✓ Machine safety....



20. 04. 2016<sup>0</sup>

EUROPEAN UNION  
European Structural and Investing Funds  
Operational Programme Research,  
Development and Education

MI  
MINISTERO DELL'ISTRUZIONE  
UNIVERSITÀ E SCIENZE



INFN quadrupoles, 30 T/M field

.... finally

37

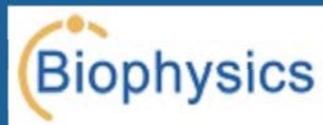


First dosimetry and radiobiology irradiation with laser-driven fast beams

Within June 2020, 30 MeV, 20 ns protons

We are discussing the participation of ELI with ELIMED in the next ENSAR program

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1st International Biophysics Collaboration Meeting

20-22 May 2019  
GSI  
Europe/Berlin timezone



**ALGHERO**  
Hotel Porto Conte  
**26** <sup>2</sup> **>** <sup>2</sup> **31**  
MAY 9 MAY 9

The Seminar offers lectures to PhD students, Postdoctoral scholars and young researchers working at Universities or Research Institutes.

The Seminar is organized in didactic units on software developed and used in fundamental and applied physics, theoretical and experimental.

A full official Geant4 school is offered with theoretical and practical sessions.

A basic course on Python programming language will be proposed.

The school lectures will be dedicated to Machine Learning fundamentals and application in physics

For interested people, a test examination will be performed at the end of the school and a written certificate with grade will be issued.

A limited number of grants is available for young students wishing to attend the seminar to cover fee and accommodation.

# 16<sup>th</sup> SEMINAR ON SOFTWARE FOR NUCLEAR, SUBNUCLEAR AND APPLIED PHYSICS

## Scientific Committee

Tommaso Boccali  
Massimo Carpinelli  
G.A. Pablo Cirrone  
Giacomo Cuitane  
Domenico D'Urso  
Giovanni Marbioni  
Piericola Oliva  
Luciano Pandola  
Giada Petringa  
Pietro Pisciotta  
Valeria Sipala  
Arnaldo Stefanini  
Alessia Tricomi

Letizia Giuffrida (Secretary)  
Daniele Mura (Network Assistant)

**INFORMATIONS**  
<http://agenda.infn.it/event/AlgheroSeminar2019>



# VII International Geant4 School



THE HENRYK NIEWODNICZAŃSKI  
INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS  
POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



**July 1-5, 2019**



Maximum 50 participants will be admitted  
Krakow university students will be admitted with a reduced fee

## ORGANIZERS

Pablo Cirrone (LNS-INFN)  
Luciano Pandola (LNS-INFN)  
Giada Petringa (LNS-INFN)

Antoni Rucinski (IFJ PAN)  
Jakub Baran (IFJ PAN)  
Jan Gajewski (IFJ PAN)  
Magdalena Garbacz (IFJ PAN)  
Monika Pawlik-Niedźwiecka (IFJ PAN)

## TOPICS

Basic overview on the main aspects of the Geant4 Monte Carlo toolkit

Lectures on the Geant4 code complemented by hands-on practical sessions

Basic course on C++

<http://www.facebook.com/softwareandGeant4School/timeline>

<http://agenda.infn.it/event/VIIInternationalGeant4School>

Thank you



Left to right: Roberto Catalano, Giovanni Manno, Emilio Zappalà, Antonio Russo, Gustavo Messina, Pablo Cirrone, Milene Ficarra, Gaetano Savoca, Cristina Guarrera, Giusi Larosa, Antonio Amato, Giada Petringa, Giacomo Cuttone, Ruhani Khanna, Giuseppe Fustaino, Beatrice Cagni, Chidera Opara, Daniele Rizzo, Giuseppe Pastore, Salvo Tudisco, Nelly Puglia, Marco Calvaruso, Luigi Minafra, Francesco Cammarata, Giorgio Russo, Piero Lojacono