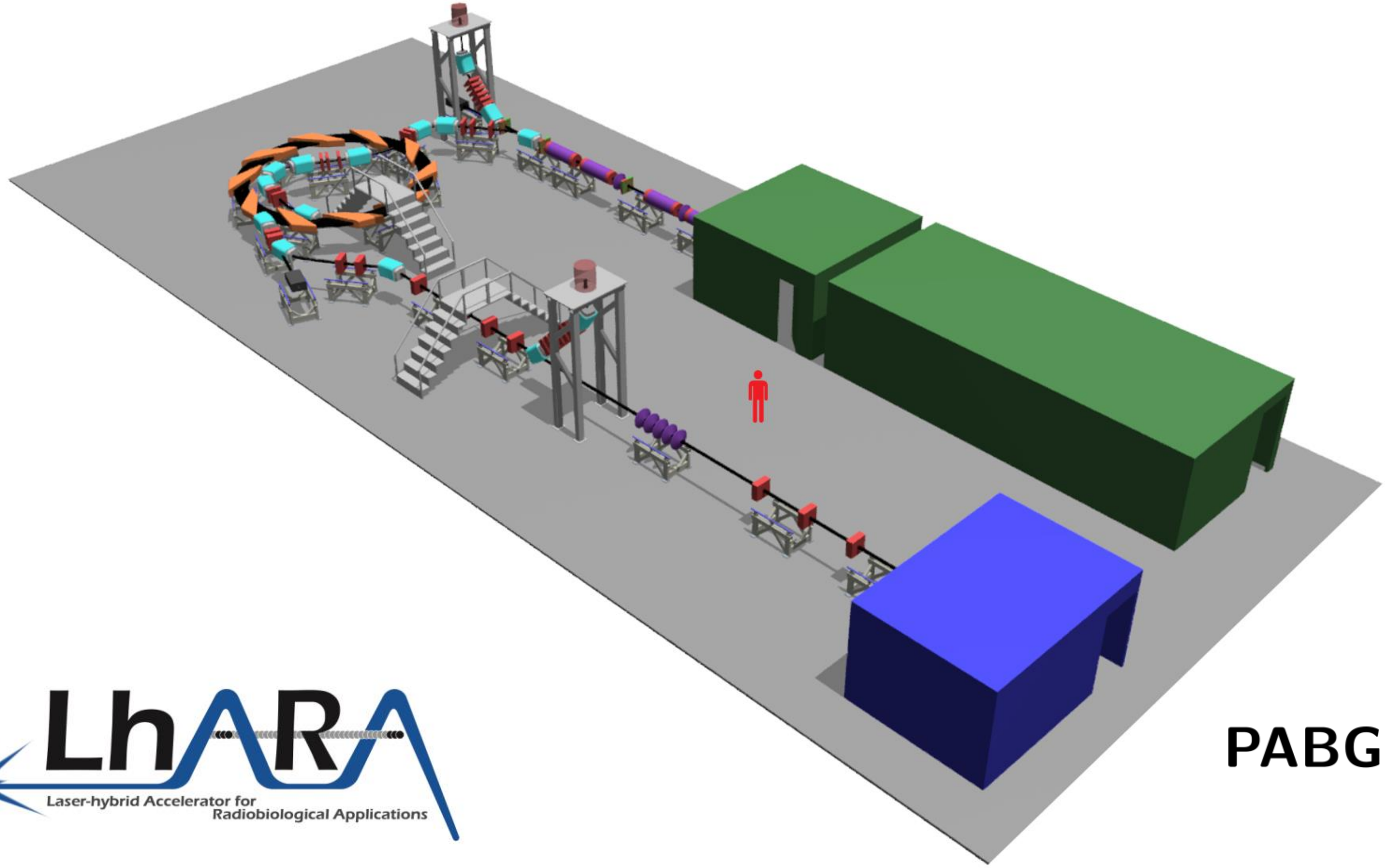
Imperial College London

Centre for the Clinical Application of Particles

The Laser-hybrid Accelerator for Radiobiological Applications (LhARA)



Titus-Stefan Dascalu
for the LhARA collaboration

Imperial College London
t.dascalu19@imperial.ac.uk

LhARA Laser-hybrid Accelerator for Radiobiological Applications

PABG Annual Conference, *25th July 2022*

The collaboration

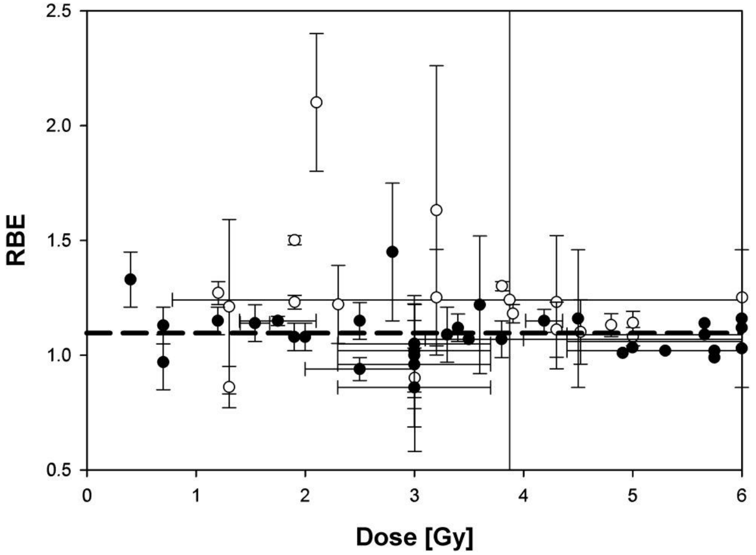
Mission

- **Deliver a systematic radiobiology programme**
- **Prove the laser-hybrid approach**
- **Lay the foundations for transformative ion-beam therapy**
  - Highly automated, patient-specific treatment

Motivation: strong case for...

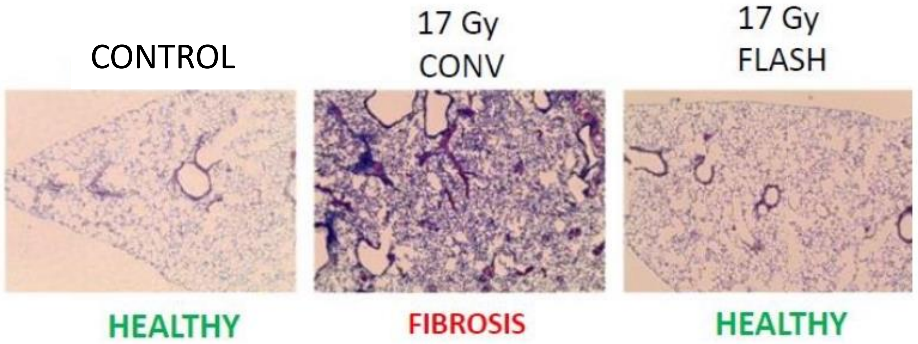
Systematic study of radiobiology

Paganetti and van Luijk, Sem. Rad. Oncol. 23, 77-87 (2013)

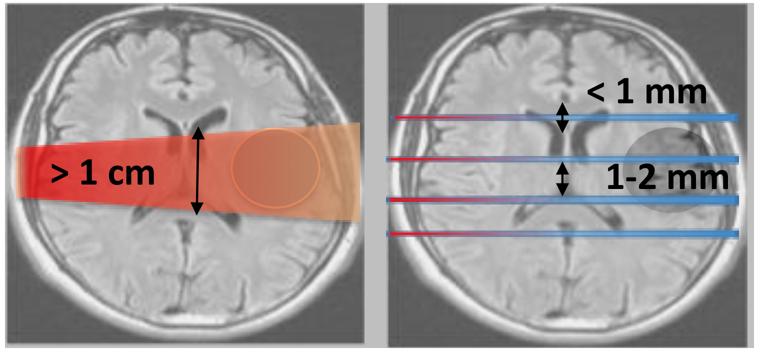


Novel beams for radiobiology

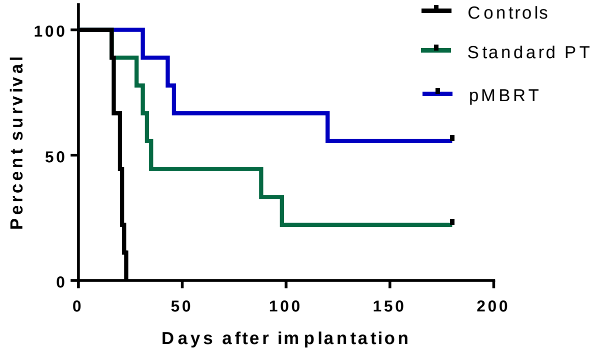
Favaudon et al., Sci. Transl. Med. 6, 245 (2014)
Prezado et al., Red Journal 2, 104 (2019)



FLASH



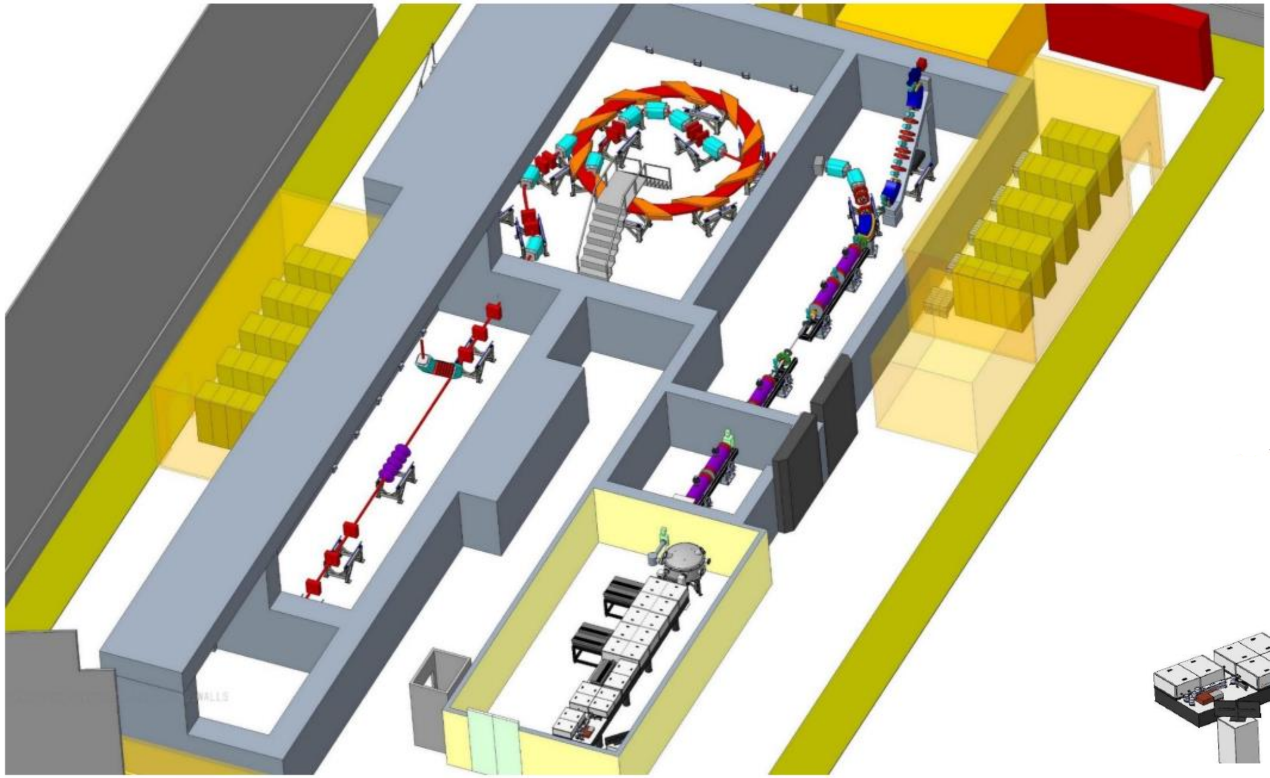
minibeams

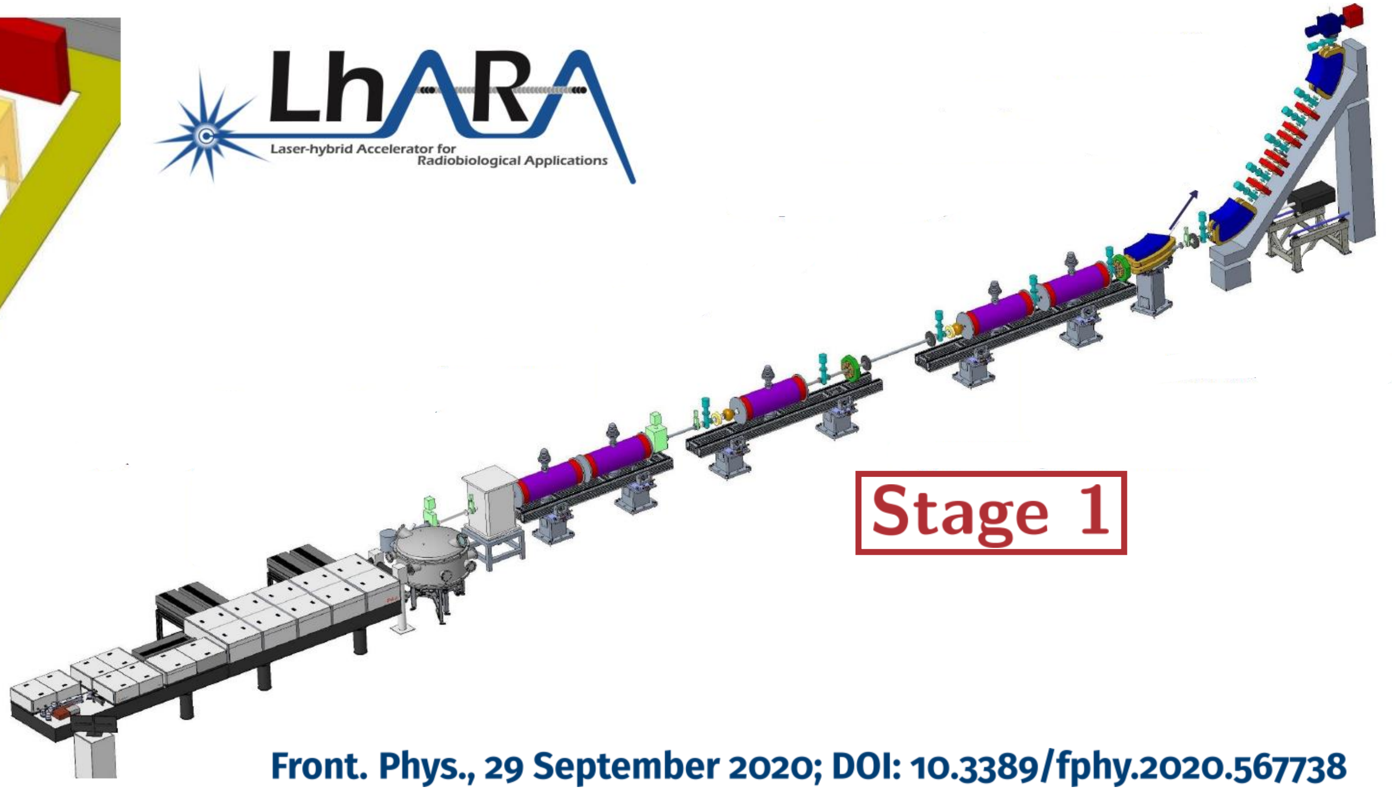


Transformative ion-beam therapy

- Radiotherapy (RT) used in $\sim 50\%$ **of cancer patients** and involved in 40% **of cancer cures**
- **17 million new cases per year** at present $\Longrightarrow$ **27.5 million new cases per year by 2040**
- Nearly 70% of patients globally do not have access to RT (facilities predominantly located in high-income countries)

Laser-hybrid approach





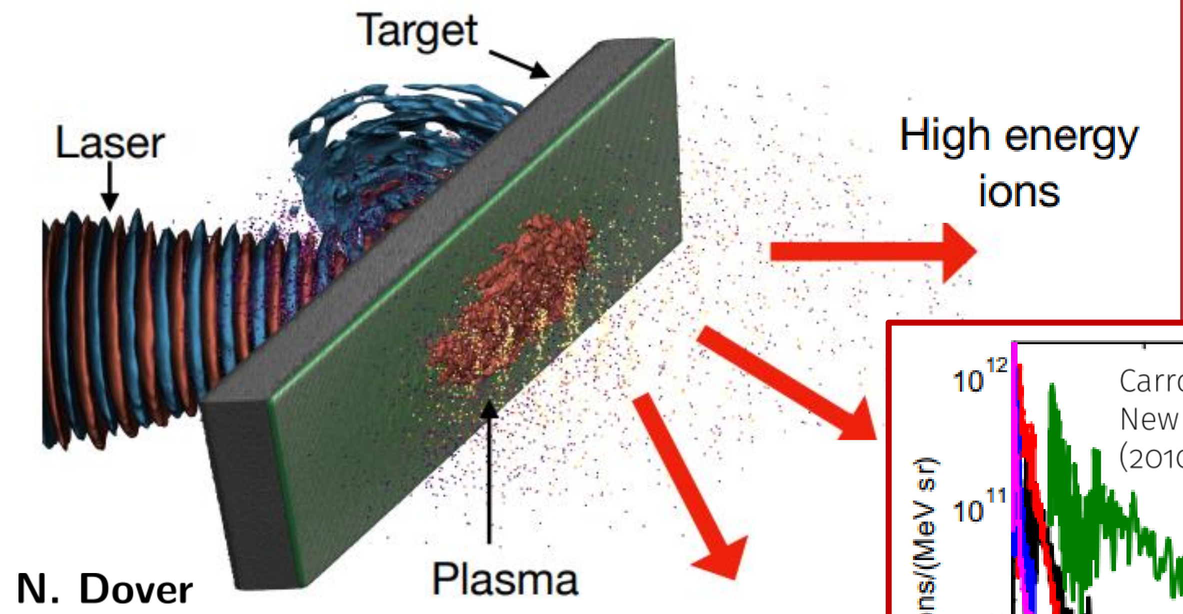
Front. Phys., 29 September 2020; DOI: 10.3389/fphy.2020.567738

LhARA: R&D proposal for the preliminary, pre-construction phases (link)

- **Laser-driven, high-flux proton/ion source**
  - multiple ion species & ultra-high dose rate
- **Electron-plasma lenses for capture and beam focusing**
- **Fast, flexible post-acceleration with an FFA**
  - Variable energy
    * Protons: 15–127 MeV
    * Ions: 5–34 MeV/u

The laser-driven source

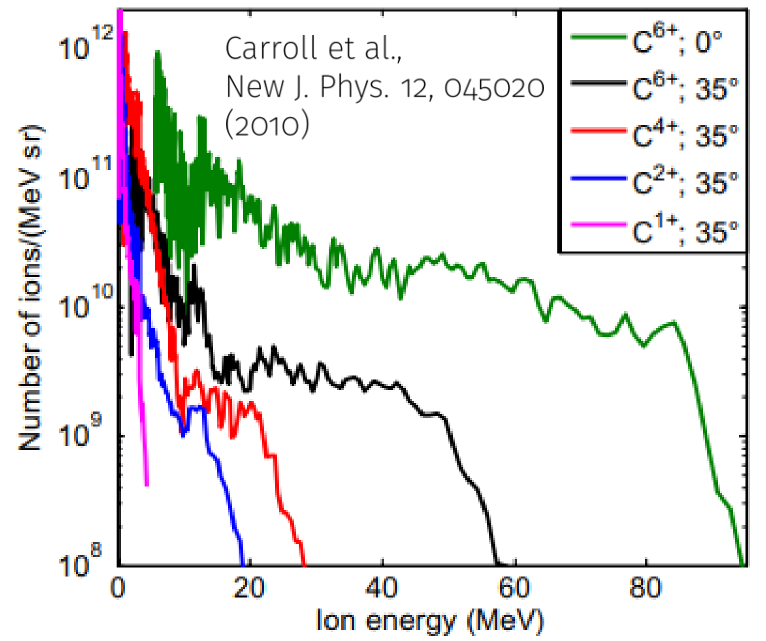
target normal sheath acceleration (TNSA)

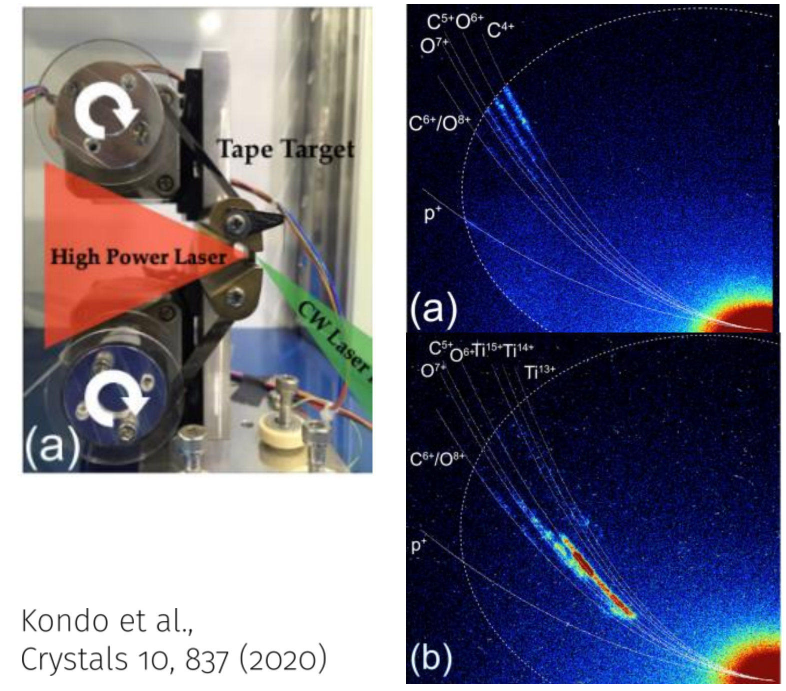


Initially approximately charge neutral

Protons (and ions) produced at "high energy"

reduce impact of space-charge → **high instantaneous dose-rate**





High brightness

$10^{11} - 10^{13}$ particles/shot

Small emittance & short duration

rms emittance $\sim 0.01\pi$ mm-mrad

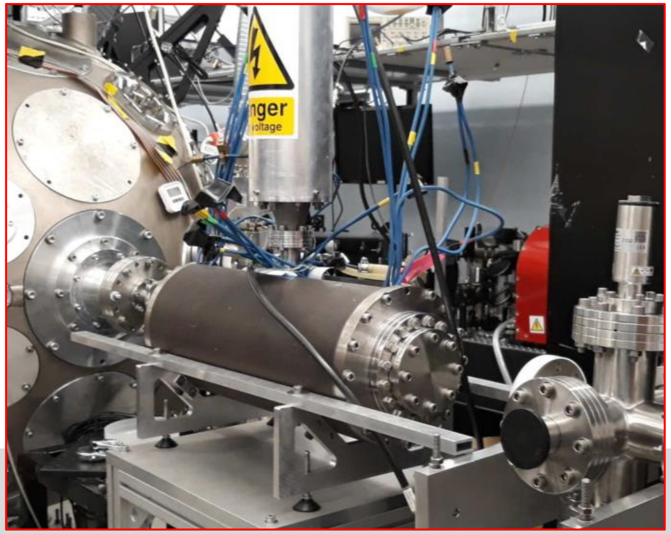
ps at source

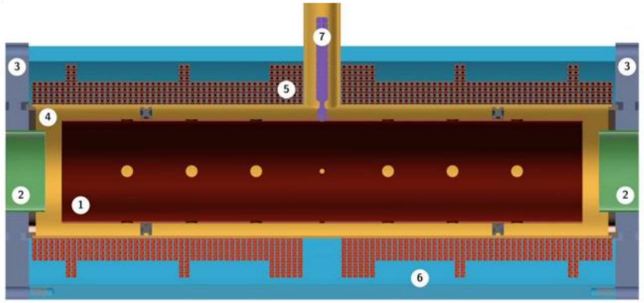
Triggerable and on-demand

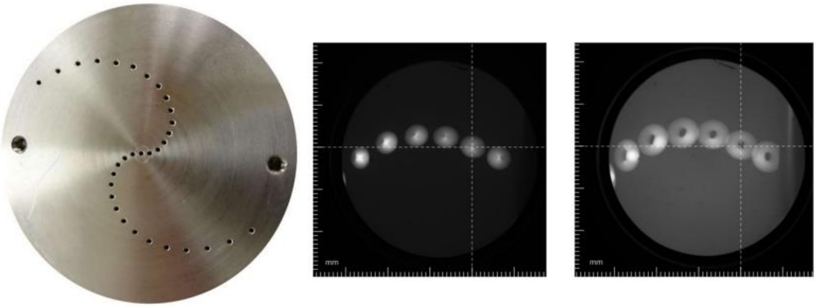
Typically broadband energy

Highly divergent ($>10°$)

Development of a plasma lens for LhARA

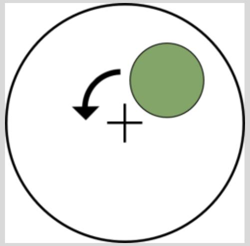




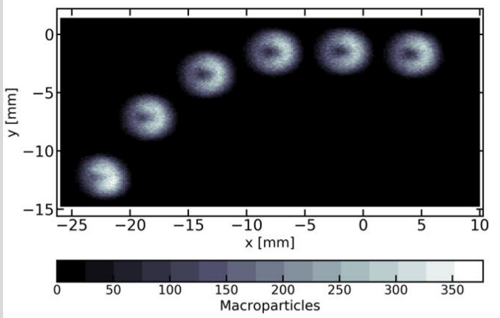


Nonnenmacher et al., Appl. Sci. 11(10), 4357 (2021)

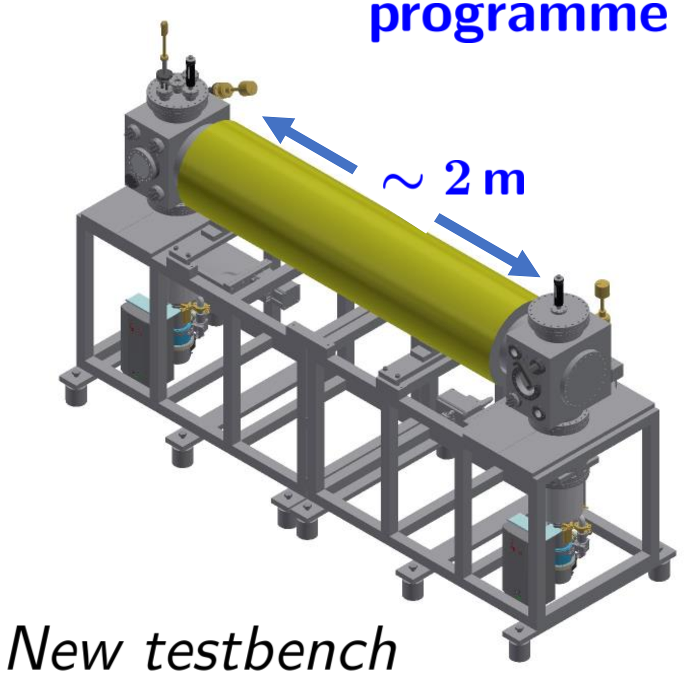
Plasma coherent rotation



+ beam-tracking



"Preliminary Phase" programme



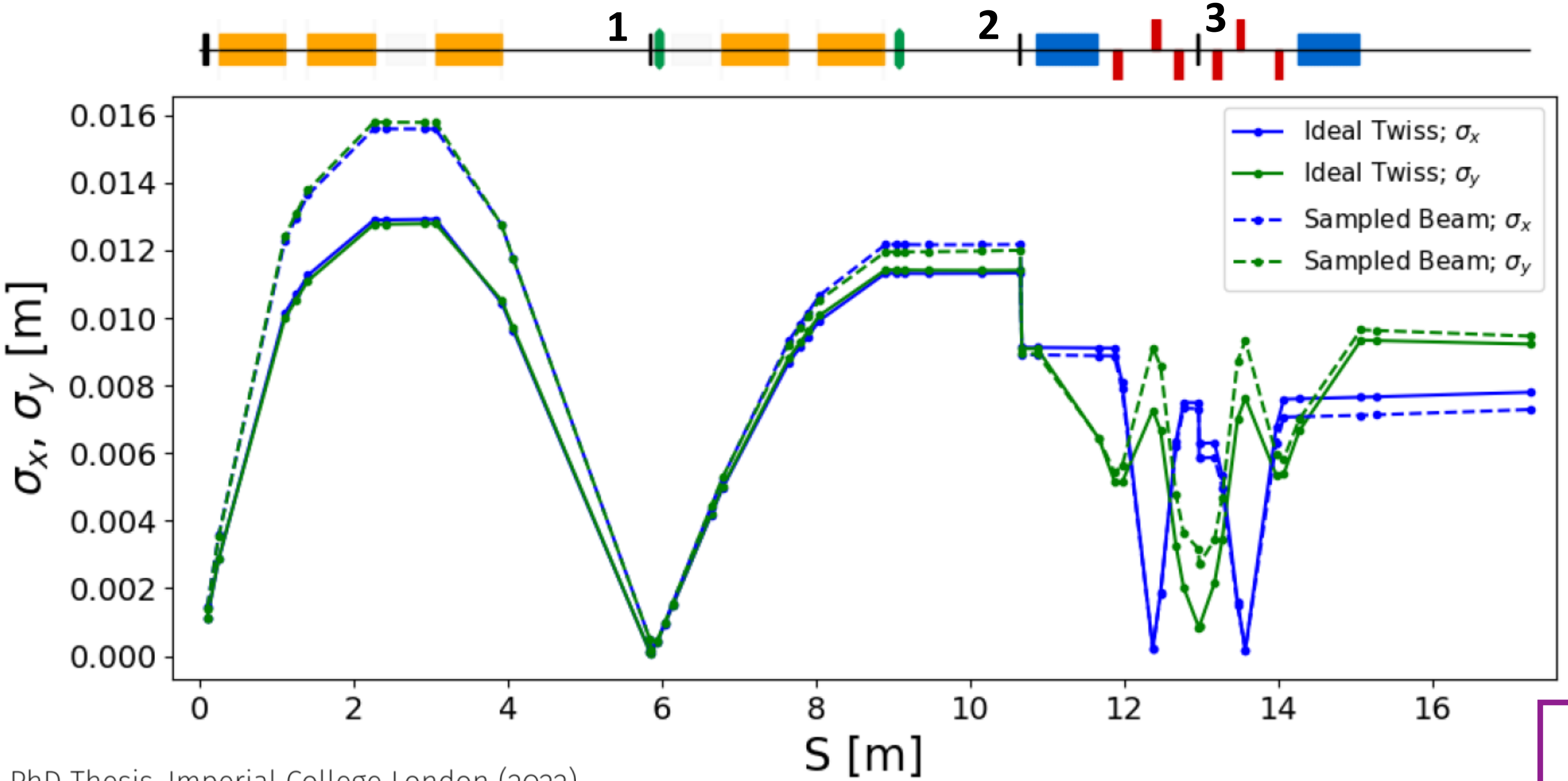
New testbench

produce & study larger plasmas

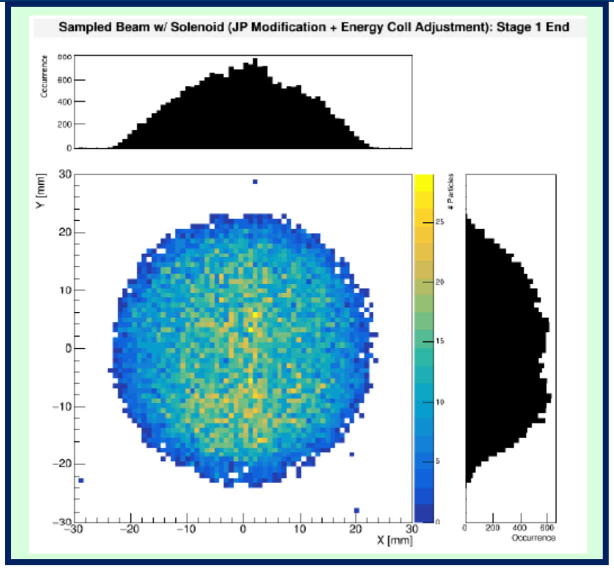
$r_w = 10\,\text{cm}$ $\quad L_p \sim 1\,\text{m}$

$\phi_{sc} \sim 2\text{–}10\,\text{kV}$

LhARA Stage 1 for *in-vitro* studies

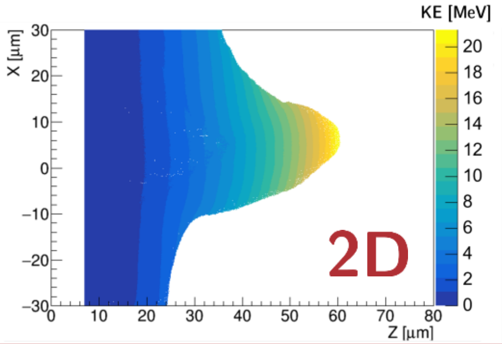


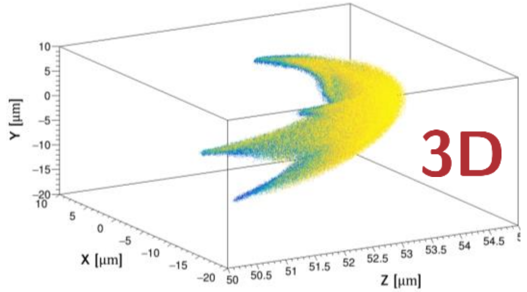
H.T.Lau, PhD Thesis, Imperial College London (2022)



Dose uniformity at end station

Protons at source

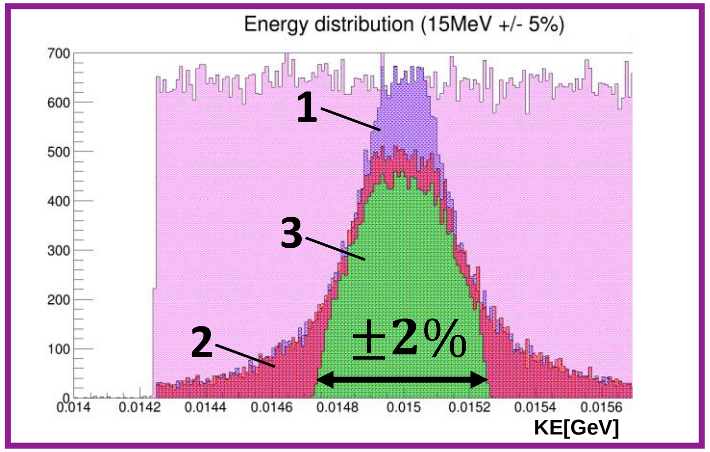




Smilei)

BDSIM
Beam Delivery Simulation

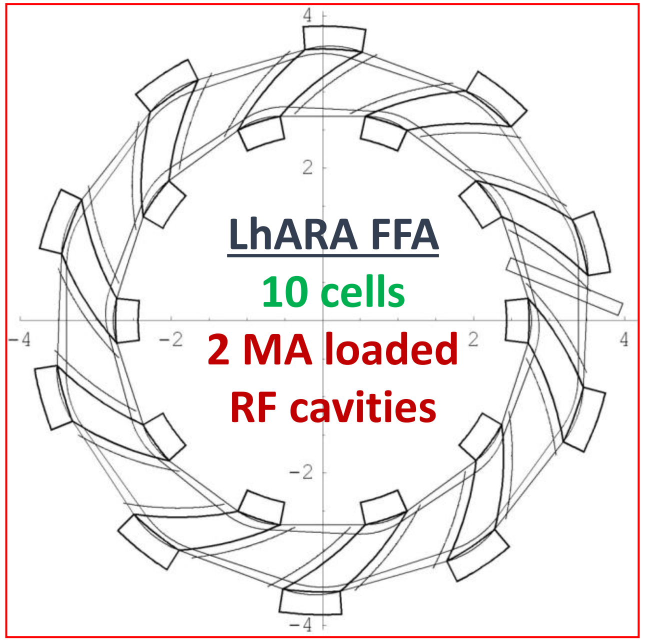
Energy collimation

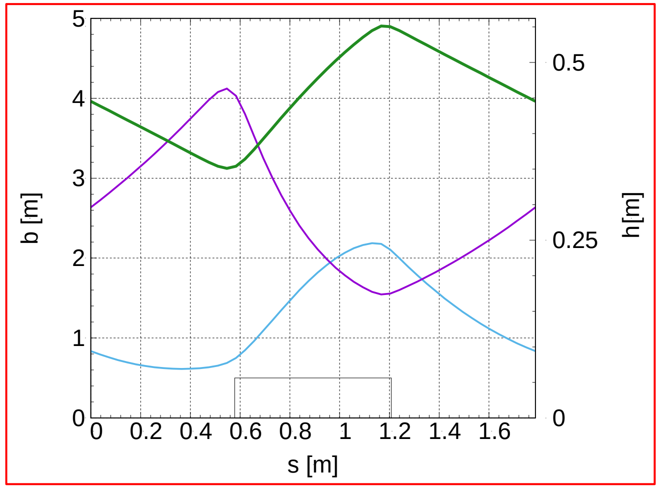


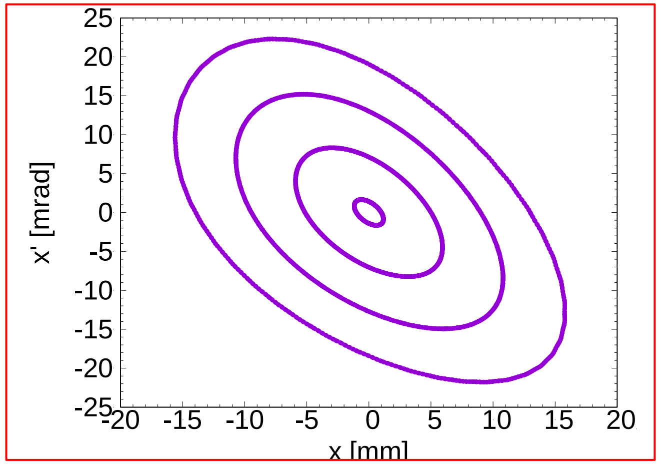
Rapid, flexible acceleration for Stage 2

Aymar et al., Frontiers in Physics, 432 (2020)

- **Fixed-field alternating-gradient accelerator (FFA):**
  - Compact, flexible solution:
    - Multiple ion capability
    - Variable energy extraction
    - High repetition rate (10–100 Hz)
    - Large acceptance
  - Single scaling spiral FFA:
    - Baseline lattice type
    - Single magnet per lattice cell
    - Spiral magnet needed





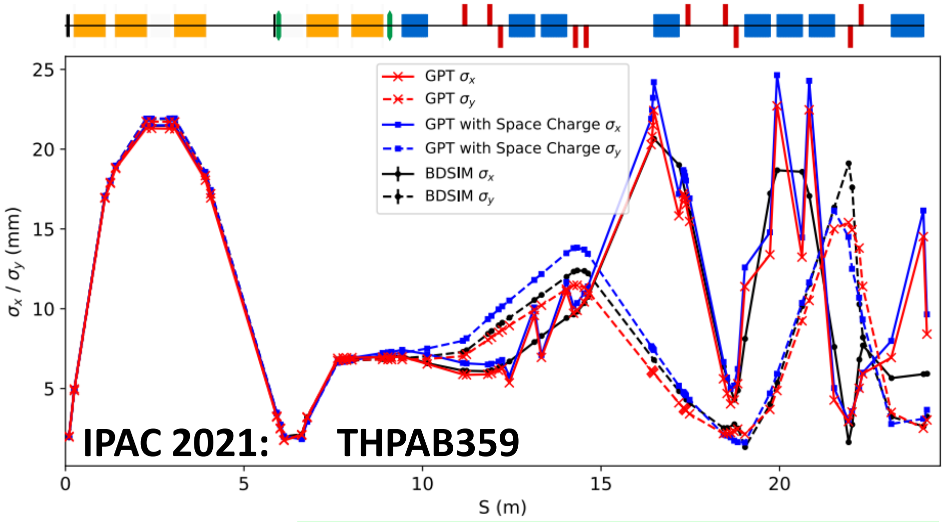


- Spiral scaling FFA shows a good performance in tracking studies.
  - Dynamical acceptances much larger than physical ones
  - FFA model with space charge in development

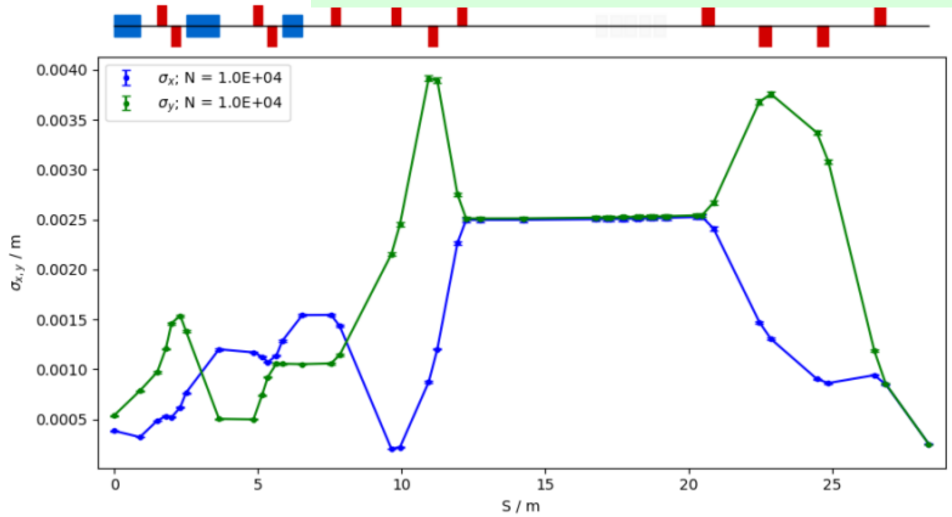
FFA in LhARA Stage 2

- **Baseline: $\times 3$ increase in momentum:**
  - 15 MeV protons accelerated to 127 MeV
  - 3.8 MeV/u carbon 6+ ions accelerated to 34 MeV/u
- Feasible ring injection, extraction and beam transport to the end stations have been designed.
- Preliminary ideas for slow extraction drafted

Injection into FFA



To in vivo end-station



<u>Essential R&D</u>:

– finalisation of lattice design

– main FFA magnet (parallel gap, distributed windings)

– technology transfer for Magnetic Alloy (MA) loaded RF cavities

LhARA performance

Aymar et al., *Frontiers in Physics* (2020):432

Doses and dose rates

LhARA performance summary

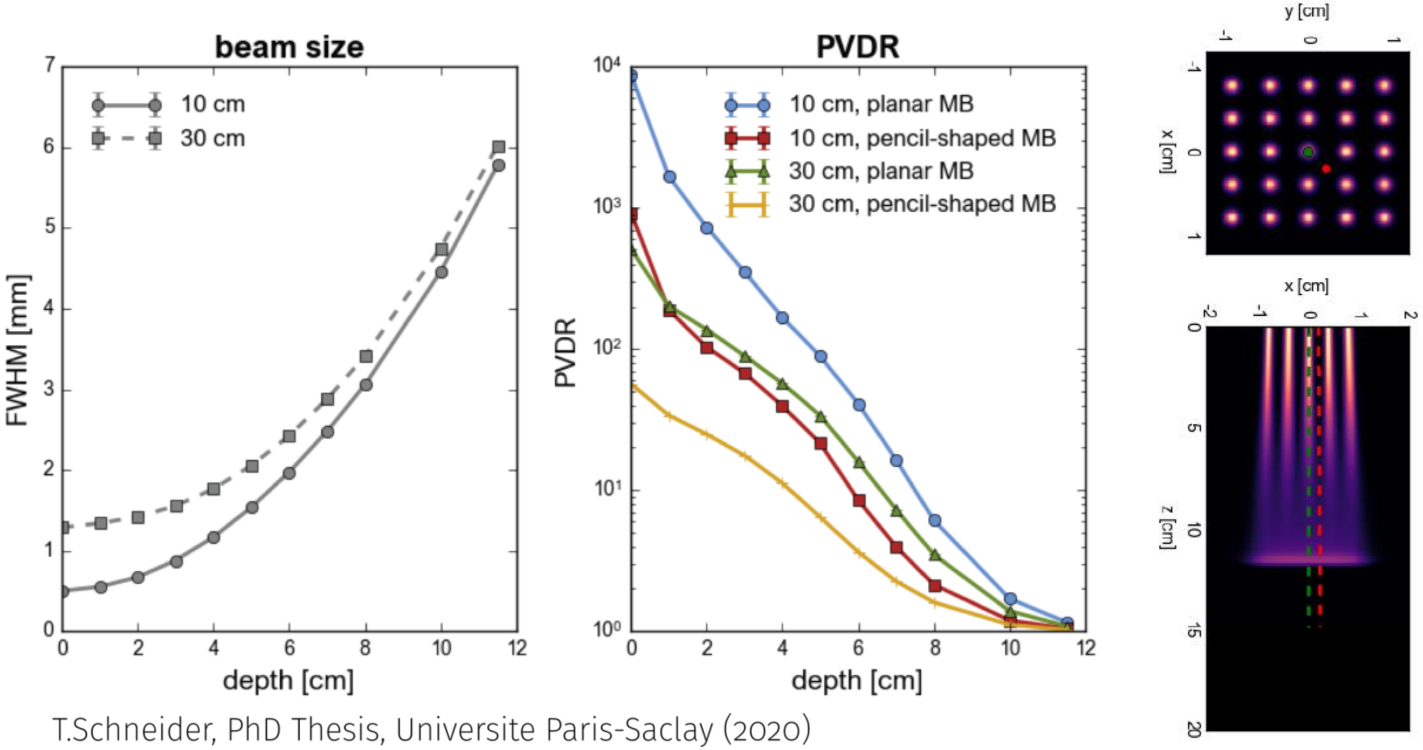
	12 MeV Protons	15 MeV Protons	127 MeV Protons	33.4 MeV/u Carbon
Dose per pulse	7.1 Gy	12.8 Gy	15.6 Gy	73.0 Gy
Instantaneous dose rate	1.0×10^9 Gy/s	1.8×10^9 Gy/s	3.8×10^8 Gy/s	9.7×10^8 Gy/s
Average dose rate	71 Gy/s	128 Gy/s	156 Gy/s	730 Gy/s

Worked example: FLASH

Conventional regime: ~ 2 Gy/min
FLASH regime: ≥ 40 Gy/s

Worked example: minibeams

LhARA + clinical nozzle for magnetically focused proton minibeams



T.Schneider, PhD Thesis, Universite Paris-Saclay (2020)

Conclusions

- **Laser-driven sources are disruptive technologies...**
  - with the potential to drive a step-change in clinical capability.
- **Laser-hybrid approach has potential to:**
  - Overcome dose-rate limitations of present proton and ion beam therapy sources.
  - Deliver a uniquely flexible facility:
    - **Range of ion species, energy, dose, dose-rate, time and spatial distribution**
- **LhARA design is flexible and compact.**
  - Good performance in tracking studies.
  - Feasible FFA ring, injection, extraction, and beam transport designed.
- **Funding from the UKRI Infrastructure Fund has recently been announced**
  - 2-year "Preliminary Activity"
  - deliver a CDR for the Ion Therapy Research Facility served by LhARA