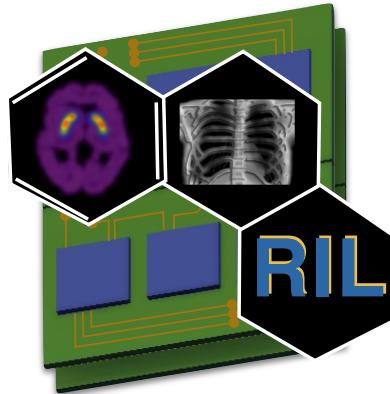


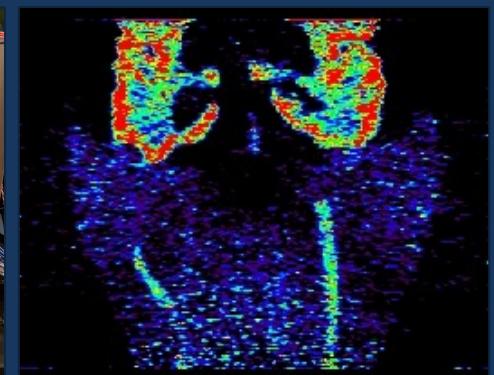
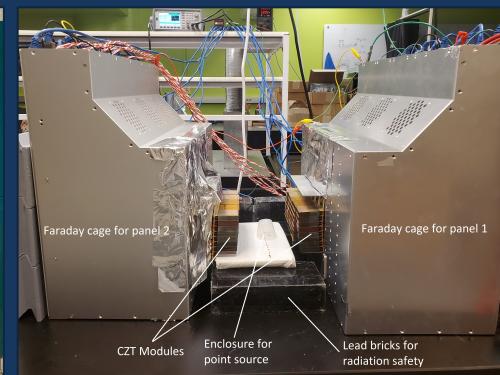
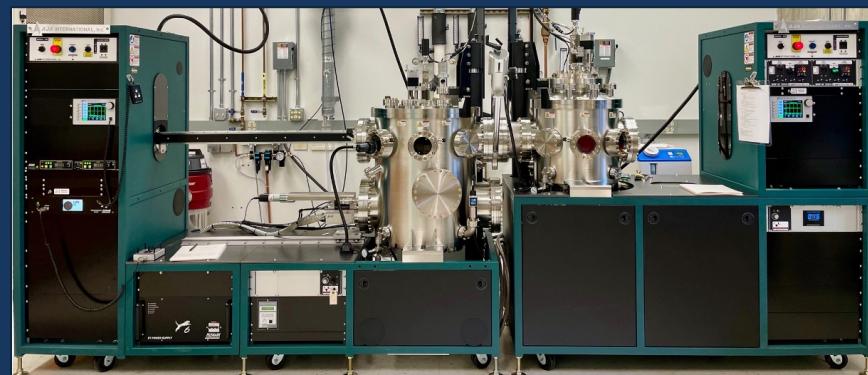
# *Cameras, Detectors for Internal Diagnostic Imaging – SPECT, PET, and beyond*

## **State-of-the-art Challenges and Emerging Technologies**



**Shiva Abbaszadeh**

Radiological Instrumentation Laboratory  
*Electrical and Computer Engineering*  
*University of California, Santa Cruz*  
[ril.soe.ucsc.edu](http://ril.soe.ucsc.edu)



# Detectors:

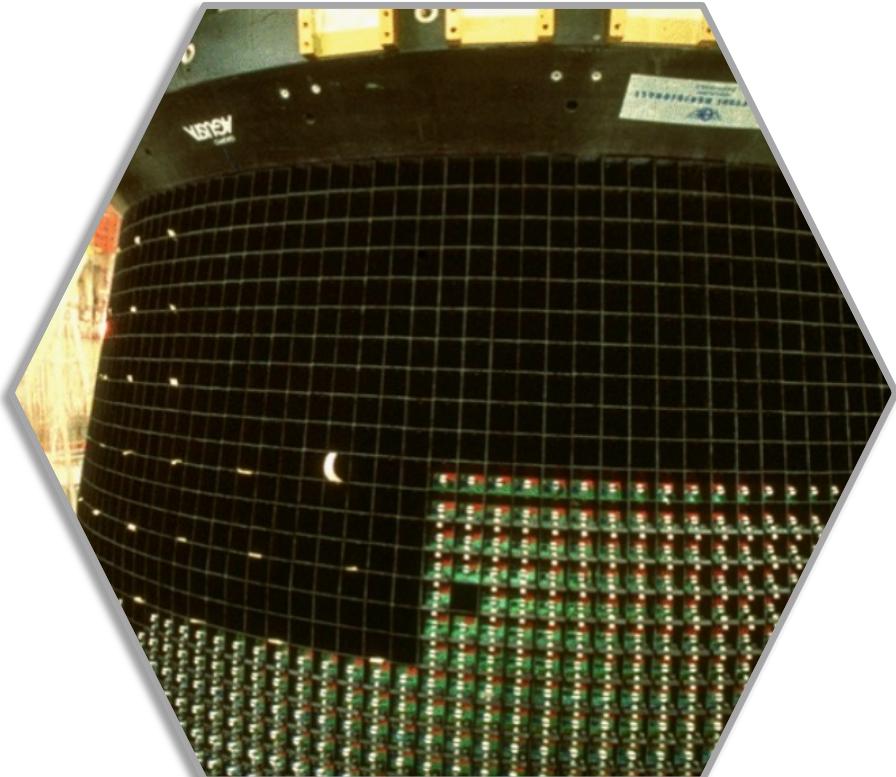
## A tool with many applications

The image consists of six hexagonal panels arranged in a grid-like pattern, each containing a different application of detector technology:

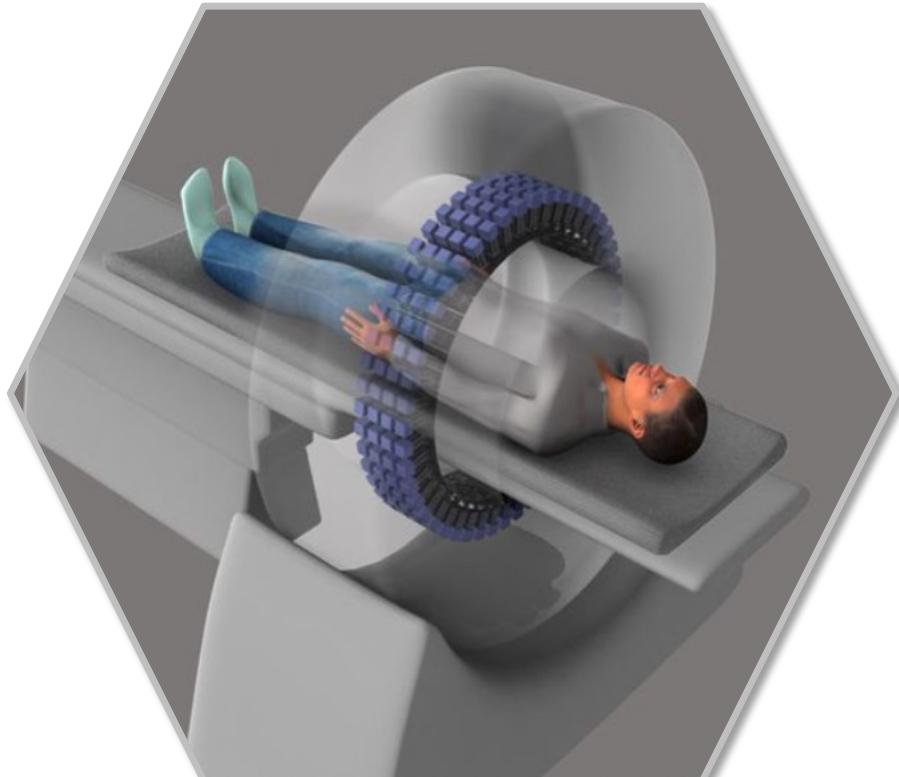
- Medical imaging applications include SPECT and PET**: Shows two axial slices of a human brain with color-coded regions of interest.
- Plant and soil imaging for rhizosphere discoveries**: Shows a close-up image of plant roots with blue and green fluorescence patterns.
- Personal security and surveying**: Shows two individuals in protective gear using handheld radiation detectors on a tarmac.
- Cosmic imaging and astronomical phenomena monitoring**: Shows a map of the sky with various celestial objects and a plot of signal intensity versus energy.
- Source identification**: Shows a plot of signal intensity versus energy with multiple curves for different radioactive sources.
- Understanding the building blocks of matter**: Shows a large circular particle accelerator detector with complex internal structures.

A red diagonal line from the bottom-left corner points towards the "Source identification" panel.

# Detectors: From Particle Physics to Medical Imaging



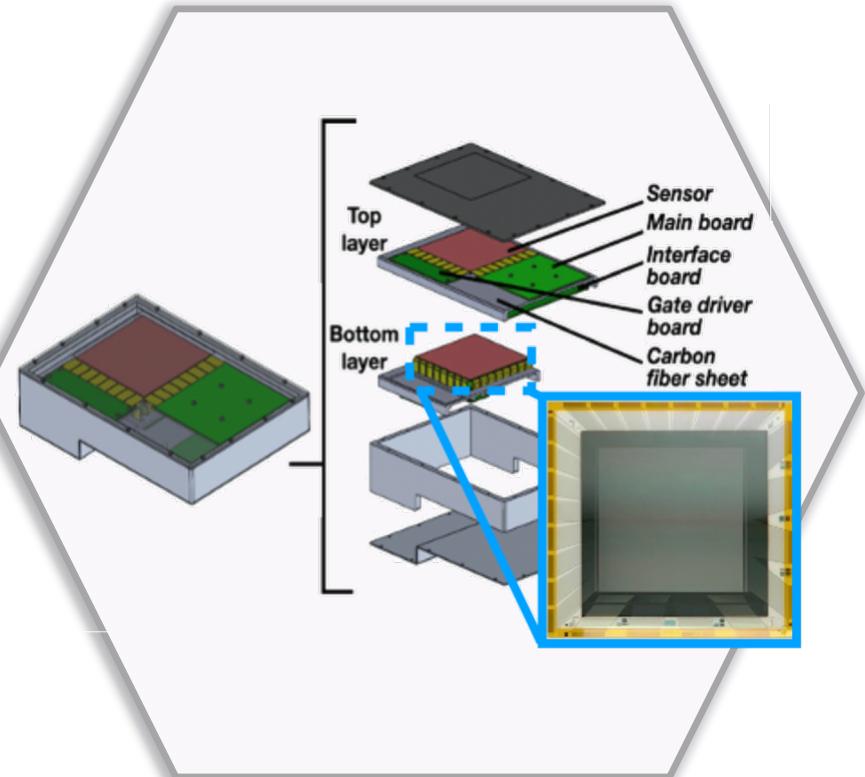
BGO crystals in calorimeter of L3 experiment at LEP collider at CERN



Advancement of PET scanners

Fleming, B., and I. Shipsey. "Basic Research Needs for High Energy Physics Detector Research & Development." (2019).

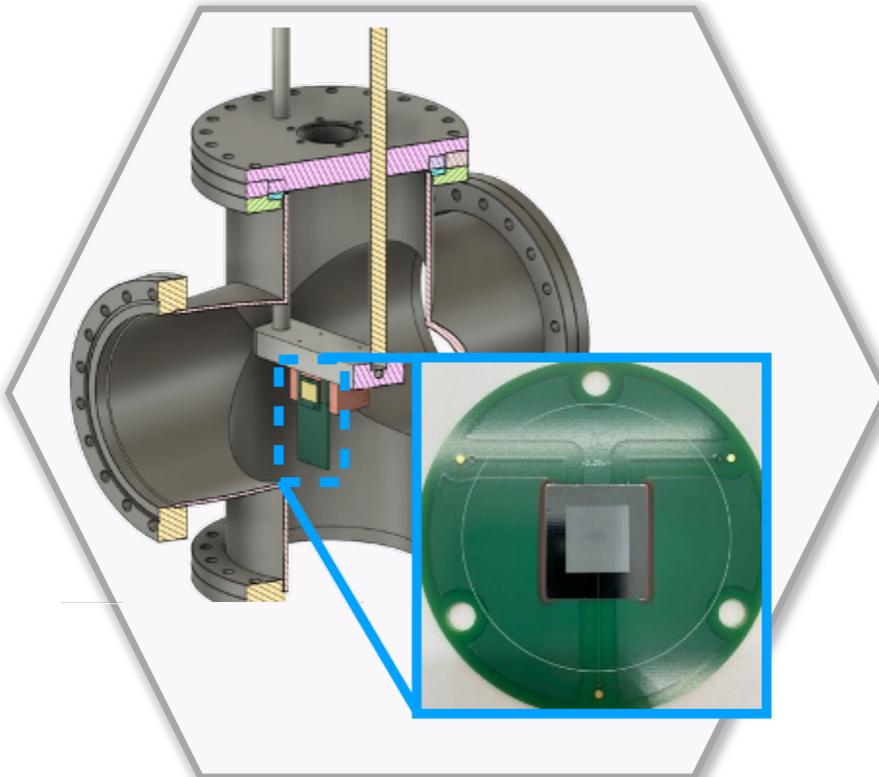
# Detectors: From Medical Imaging to Particle Physics



a-Se flat panel detector

W. Zhao et al, *Medical Physics* 30, 254-263 (2003)

Hellier et al, SPIE Medical Imaging (2023)

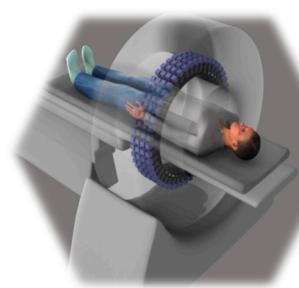


a-Se detector for use in liquid noble detector (PI: Jonathan Asaadi)

Rooks, M., et al, *Journal of Instrumentation* 18, P01029 (2023).

The collaborative approach helps to democratize access to advanced imaging technologies.

# State-of-the-art: PET



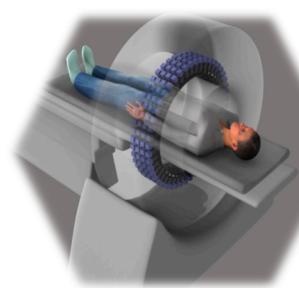
Time-of-Flight (TOF) PET hardware technology was enabled by the advancements and widespread commercial availability of SiPM photodetectors.

Product Name	Manufacturer	Diameter (cm)	Axial FOV(cm)	Scintillator/Det Dim (mm)	Energy Res (%)	Time Res (ps)	Spatial Res (mm) Trans/Axial	Sensitivity (cps/KBq)
Biograph Vision	Siemens	78	26.1	LSO/ SiPM 3.2 x 3.2 x 20	3.5/3.6	214	3.55/3.5	16.4
uMI 550 uMI 780	United Imaging	76.0	24 30	LYSO/ SiPM 2.76 x 2.76 x 16.3		372	2.95/2.97	10.2
Discovery MI PET/CT	GE	74.4	20	LYSO/. SiPM 3.95 x 5.3x 25	9.4	375.4	4.49/6.0 ring) @ 10cm	13.7
Vereos	Philips	76.4	16.4	LYSO/ SiPM 3.86 x 3.86 x 19	11	332	4.0/3.96	5.7
Cartesion Prime	Canon	78	27	LYSO/SiPM 4.1 x 4.1 x 20		258		13.5
Omni Legend	GE		32	Digital BGO				

Hsu et al, J Nucl Med, 58:1511–1518 (2017)

Sluis et. al, J Nucl Med, 60:1031–1036 (2019)

# State-of-the-art: PET



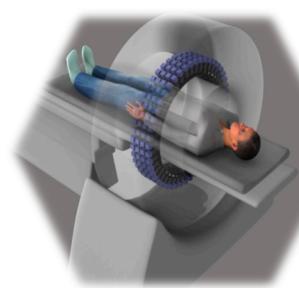
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Hsu et al, J Nucl Med, 58:1511–1518 (2017)

Sluis et. al, J Nucl Med, 60:1031–1036 (2019)

# State-of-the-art: PET



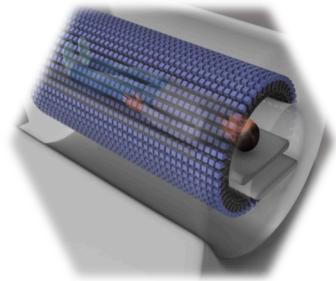
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Hsu et al, J Nucl Med, 58:1511–1518 (2017)

Sluis et. al, J Nucl Med, 60:1031–1036 (2019)

# State-of-the-art: PET



Product Name	Manufacturer	Diameter (cm)	Axial FOV(cm)	Scintillator/Det Dim (mm)	Energy Res (%)	Time Res (ps)	Spatial Res (mm) Trans/Axial	Sensitivity (cps/KBq)
Biograph Vision Quadra	Siemens	82	106	LSO/ SiPM 3.2 x 3.2 x 20	9.8-10.1	228/230	3.4/3.8	83 (MRD 85) 176 (MRD 322)
uEXPLORER	United Imaging	68.6/78.6	194.8	LYSO/ SiPM 2.76 x 2.76 x 16.3	11.7	505	3.0/3.5	191.5@ 0cm
Penn PET Explorer	Philips Vereos	70/81	70/140	LYSO/ SiPM 3.86 x 3.86 x 19	10	250 (cooled)	4.0/4.0	55/ 83

Daube-Witherspoon et al, Br J Radiol 10.1259/bjr.20220357 (2022)

G. A. Prenosil, et al, J Nucl Med, 63:476–484 (2022)

S. R. Cherry, et. al, J Nucl Med, 59:3–12 (2018)

Vandenbergh et al, EJNMMI Physics 7:35 (2020)

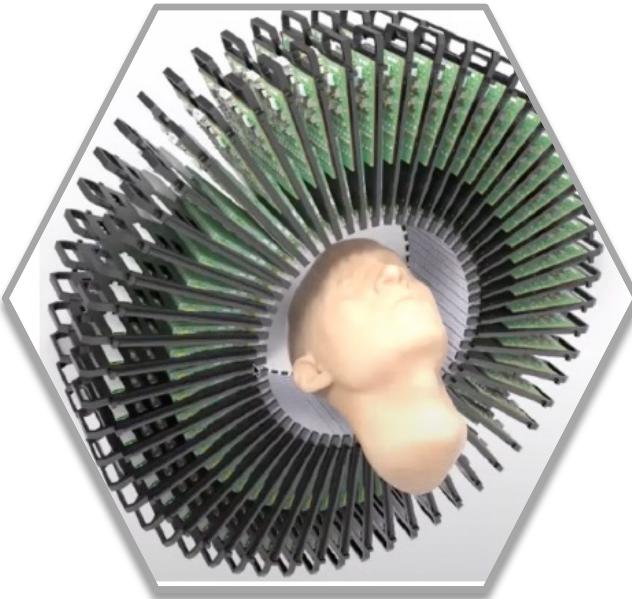
# State-of-the-art: Dedicated Systems



**BPET\_DBT**

University of Pennsylvania

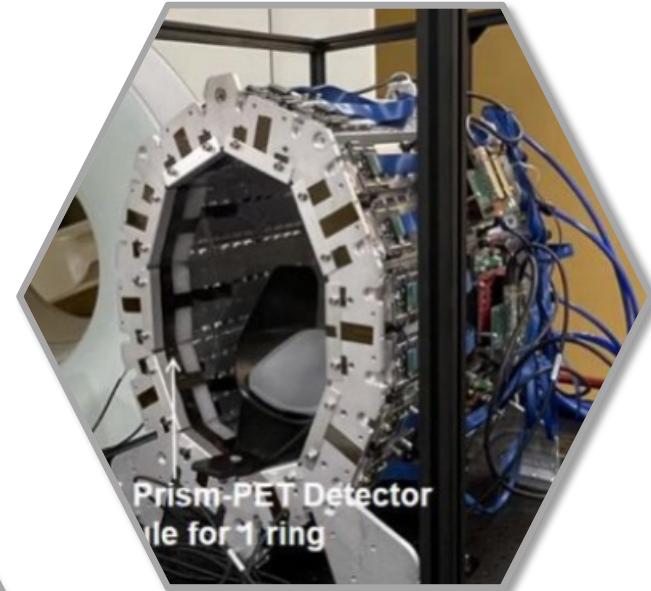
S. Krishnamoorthy et al , *IEEE MIC* (2021)



**SAVANT**

MGH

R. Lecomte et al, *JNM* (2022)

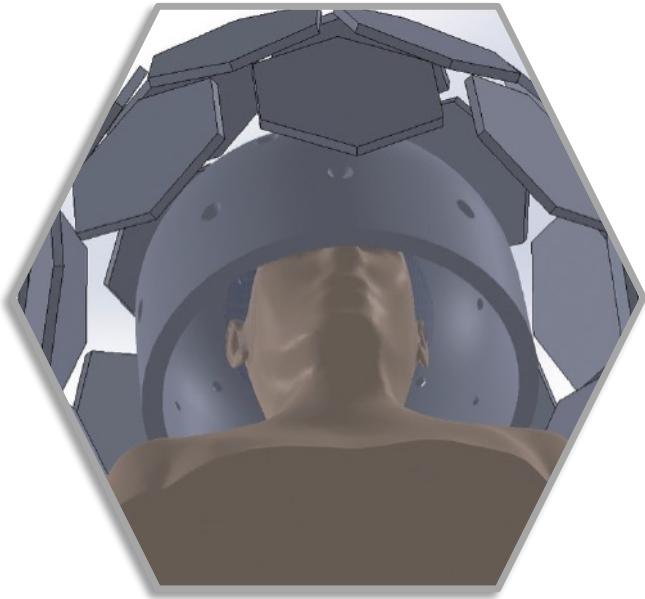


**Prism-PET Brian Scanner**

Stony Brook University

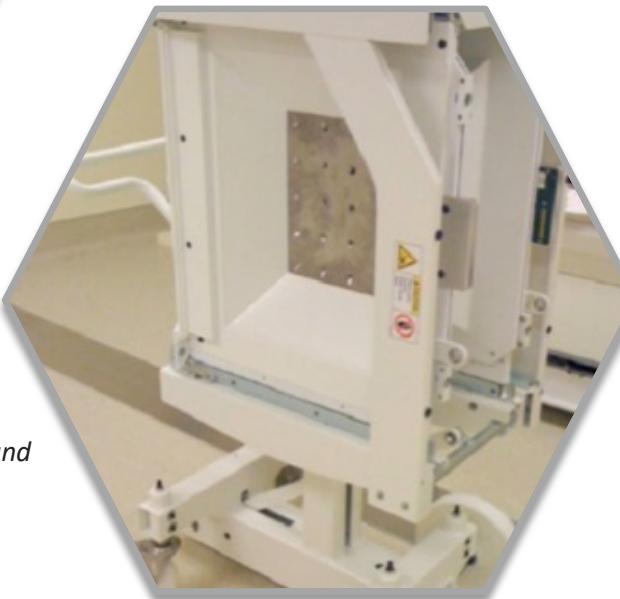
X. Zeng, *JNM* (2022)

# State-of-the-art: Dedicated Systems



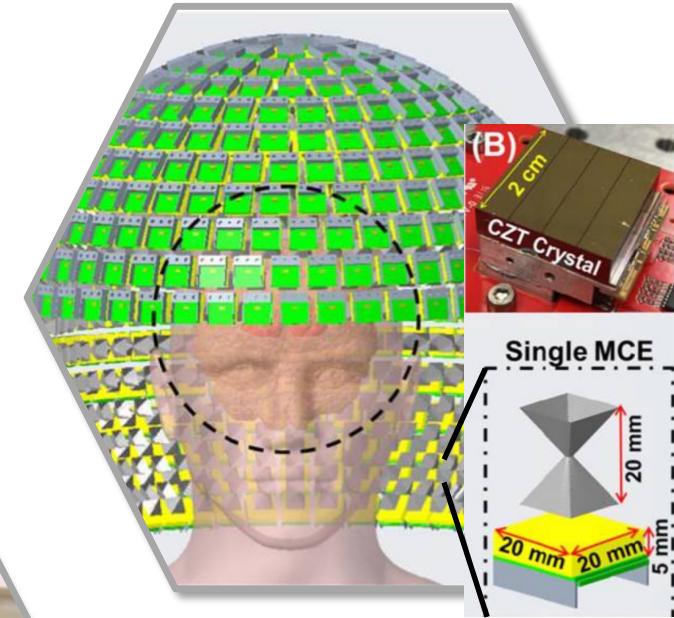
**AdaptiSPECT-C**  
Umass Medical School &  
University of Arizona

I. Ozsahin, et al, *Quantitative Imaging in Medicine and Surgery* 10.10 (2020)



**20-pinhole aperture Plate (GE Infinia Hawkeye 4)**  
University of California, San Francisco

TC Lee et al, *Medical Physics*, 41, 112501 (2014)



**Compound-Eye Brain SPECT**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

E.M. Zannoni et al, *IEEE TMI*, 40, 3711 (2021)

# Challenges

Increase sensitivity

# Challenges

Increase sensitivity

Temporal resolution

# Challenges

Increase sensitivity

Temporal resolution

Spatial resolution

# Challenges

Increase sensitivity

Temporal resolution

Spatial resolution

Multiple scales

# Challenges

Increase sensitivity

Temporal resolution

Spatial resolution

Multiple scales

Workflow standardization

# Challenges

Increase sensitivity

Temporal resolution

Spatial resolution

Multiple scales

Workflow standardization

R&D cost, commercial cost, market

# High Sensitivity

## Gaps & Needs

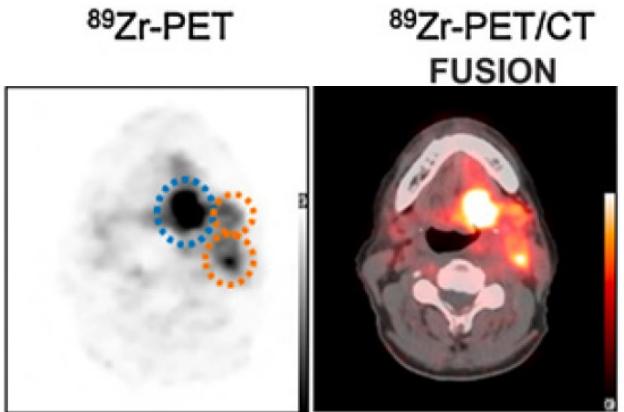
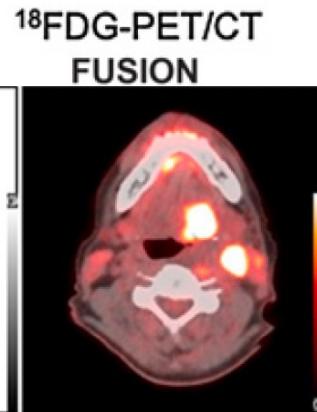
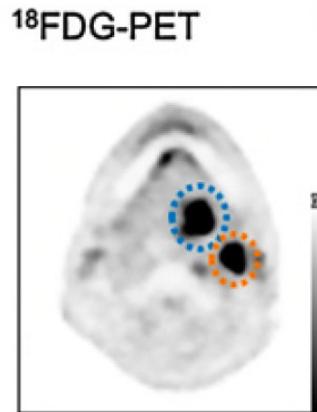
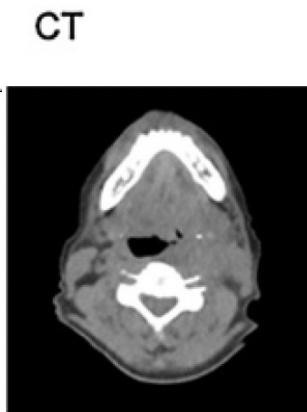
- To increase temporal resolution for dynamic imaging of body function
- To improve the tradeoffs between sensitivity and resolution gains
- To enable new therapeutic strategies (e.g., image-guided therapies for more effective treatment)

# High Sensitivity

## Gaps & Needs

- To increase temporal resolution for dynamic imaging of body function
- To improve the tradeoffs between sensitivity and resolution gains
- To enable new therapeutic strategies (e.g., image-guided therapies for more effective treatment)

**Example of high-quality images for low dose by increasing acquisition time**



Lee et al, Clinical Cancer Research, 28, 4425-2234 (2022)

Zr-89 Pan: 20 mins

89Zr-pan PET/CT is highly specific for HNSCC on whole body imaging

# High Sensitivity

## Gaps & Needs

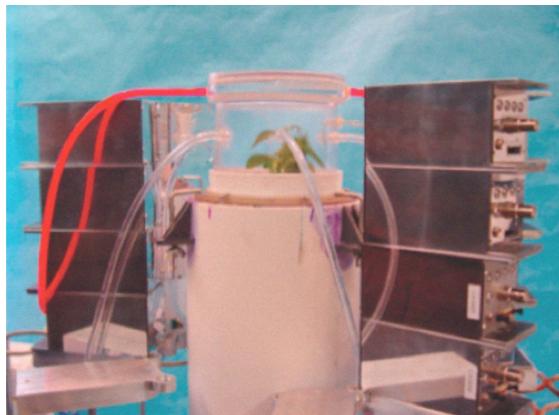
- To provide longitudinal studies and better pediatric imaging
- To perform imaging with empathy
- To disseminate and democratize technologies for basic discoveries

# High Sensitivity

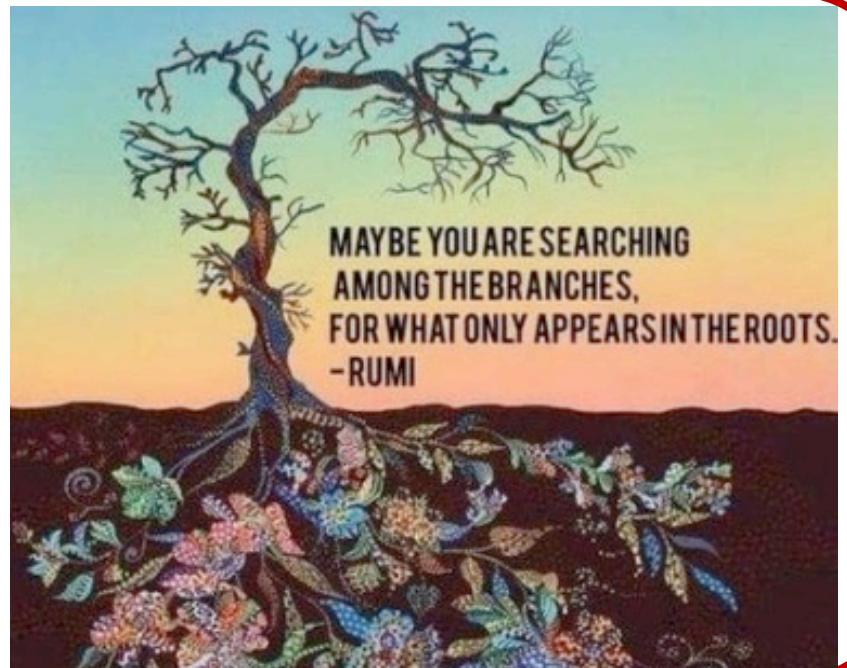
## Gaps & Needs

- To provide longitudinal studies and better pediatric imaging
- To perform imaging with empathy
- To disseminate and democratize technologies for basic discoveries

**Finding clarity through imaging: Why the answer may lie in the roots**



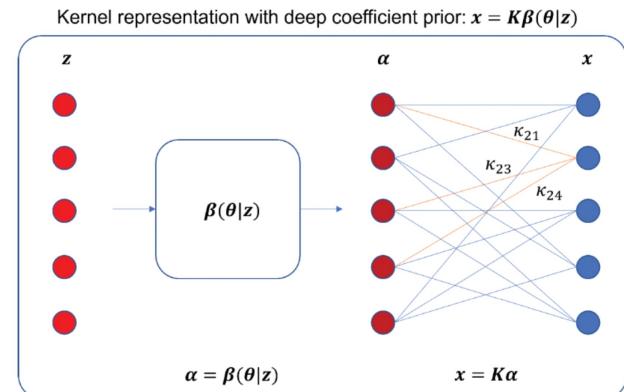
AG Weisenberger et al, *IEEE NSS-MIC* (2011)  
Swaby et al, *Proceeding of SPIE*, vol. 12304, 302 (2022).  
Sergey, and Tai, *High-Throughput Plant Phenotyping: Methods and Protocols*, pp. 97-118., 2022.  
Ariño-Estrada, *Scientific Reports* 9, no. 1 (2019): 18626.



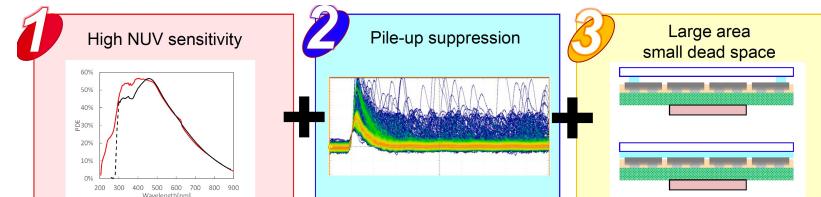
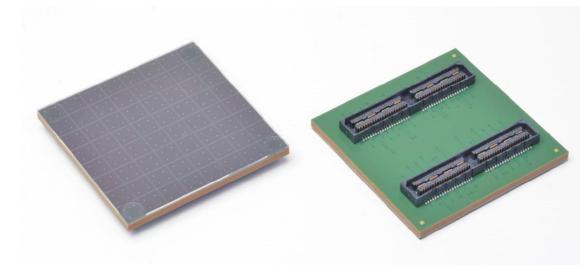
# High Sensitivity

## Opportunities

- Deploying machine-learning with domain knowledge (biology, physics, biochemistry) and regularized reconstruction to enhance value for the investment.
- New hardware that significantly improves signal-to-noise ratio (pushing for the timing performance and detector efficiency)
- Combining multiple approaches to maximize benefits



S. Li et al, *IEEE TMI*, V42, 785 (2022)



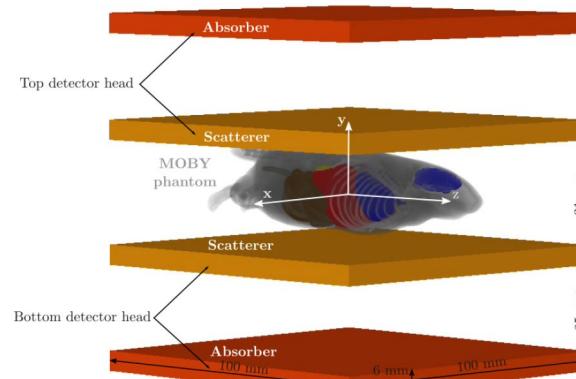
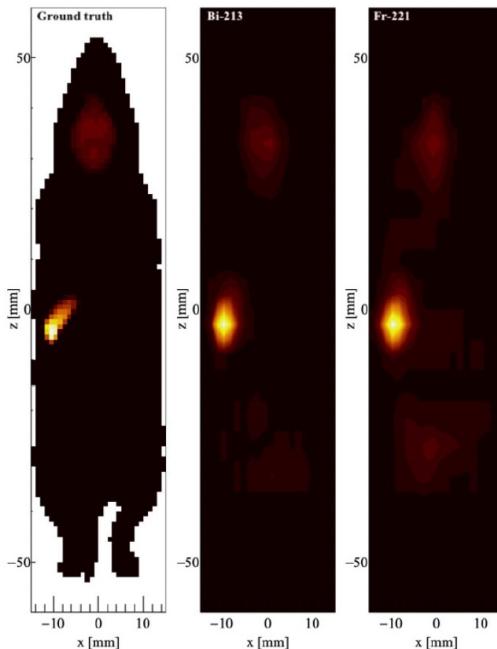
R. Yamada et al, *IEEE NSS/MIC/RSTD* (2022)

# Emerging Technology

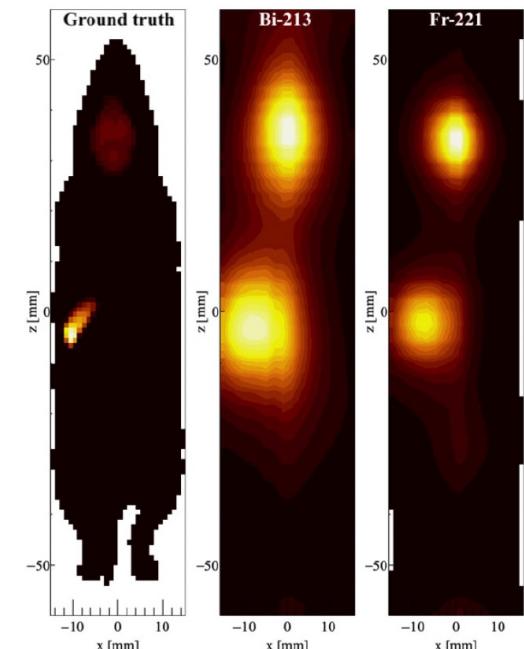
Combining multiple approaches to maximize benefits

Compton Imaging and Proximity Imaging enables imaging of low activity radionuclide for alpha emitter radiopharmaceutical development.

Compton images of a simulated mouse phantom with 0.5 uCi of Actinium ( $^{225}\text{Ac}$ ) for 15 min.

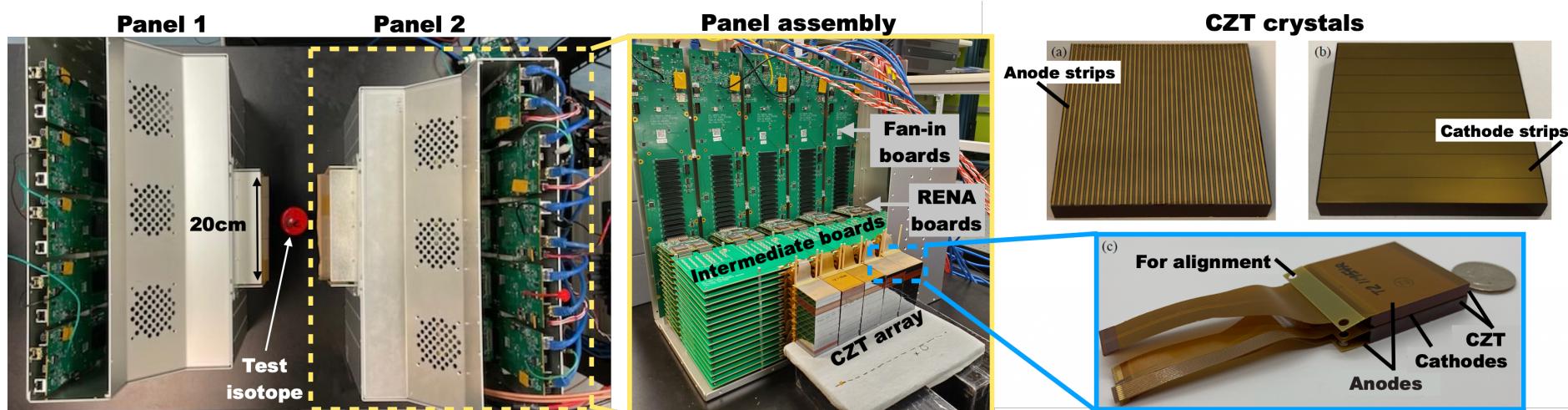


Proximity images of a simulated mouse phantom with 0.5 uCi of  $^{225}\text{Ac}$  for 5 min.



# Emerging Technology

- Combining multiple approaches to maximize benefits
- Harnessing the properties of annihilation photons



Abbaszadeh et al, *Phys Med Biol* 63: 025012 (2018)

Wang et al, *IEEE Trans Rad Plasma Med Sci*, 6; 517 (2021)

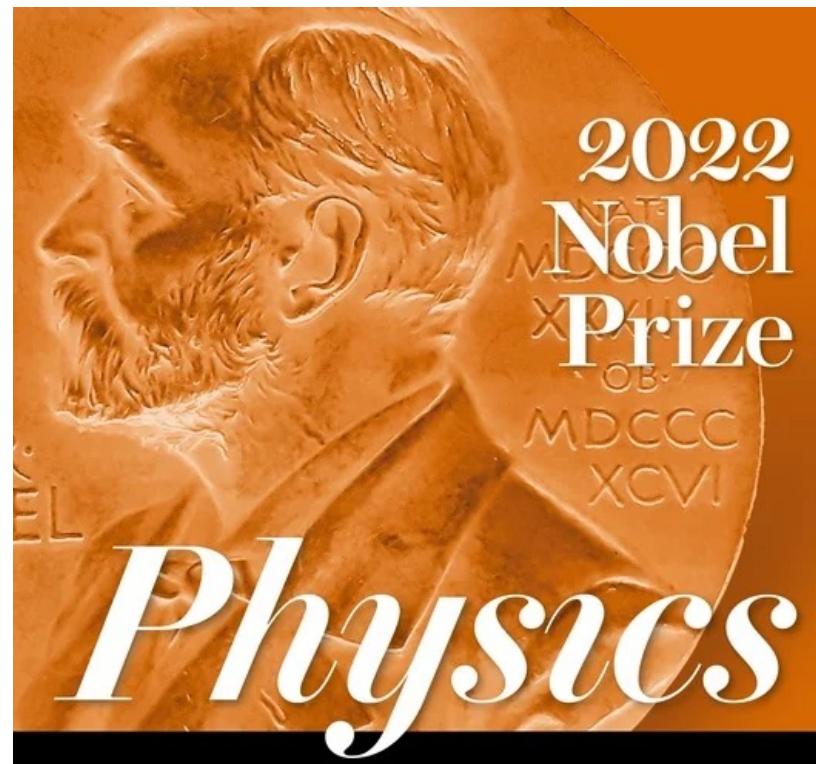
Enlow et al, *IEEE Trans Rad Plasma Med Sci*, in press.

# New Physics-based Approaches for Random and Scatter Rejection

The two positron-electron annihilation photons are predicted to be produced in a quantum-entangled state.

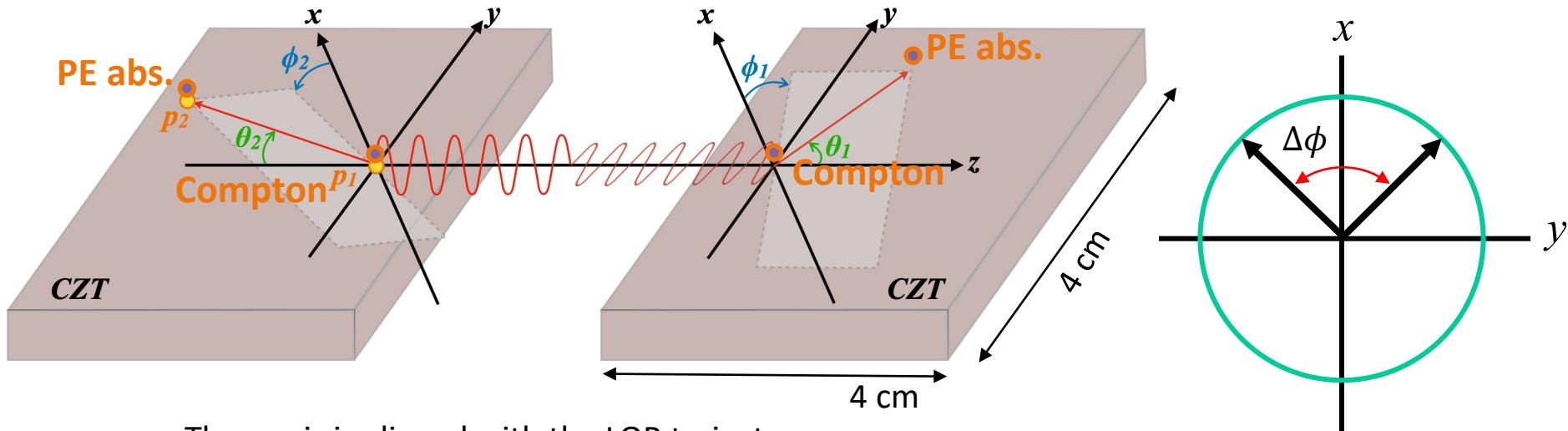
“**Entanglement**” implies correlations in the photon properties:

- Polarization
- Spatial/momentum
- Time/Frequency



Billings, Lee. “Explorers of Quantum Entanglement Win 2022 Nobel Prize in Physics.” Scientific American. Oct. 4, 2022

# Emerging Technology

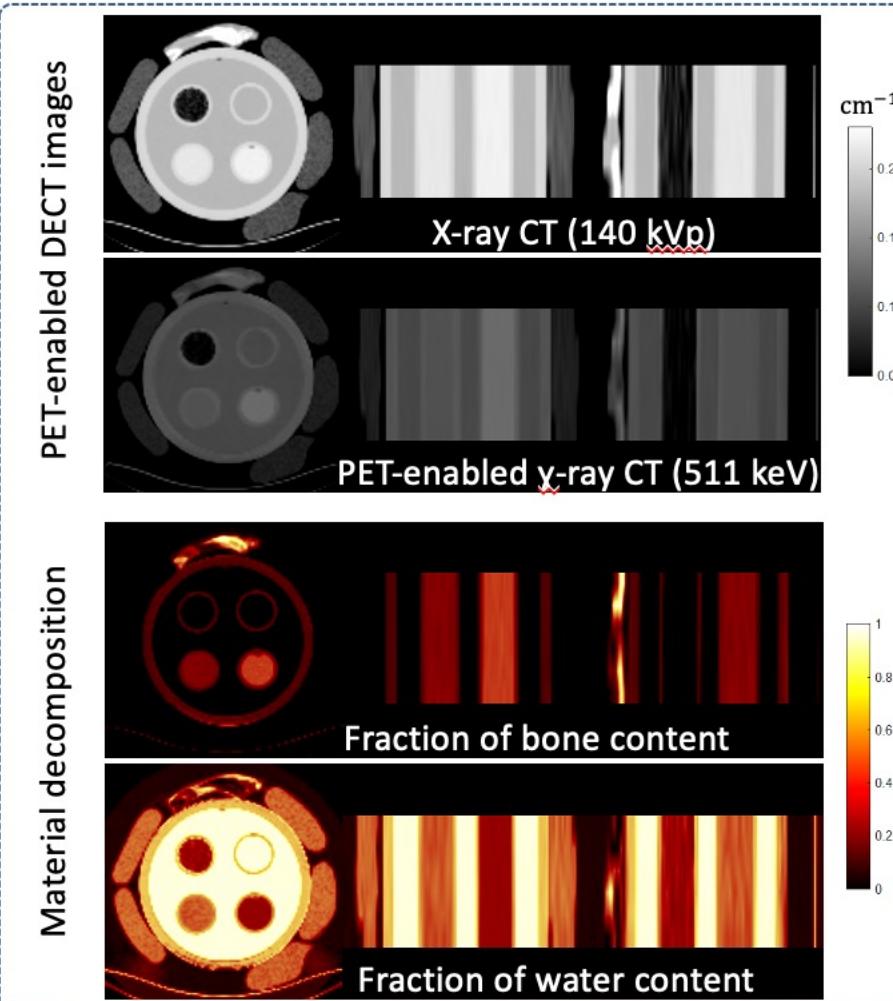
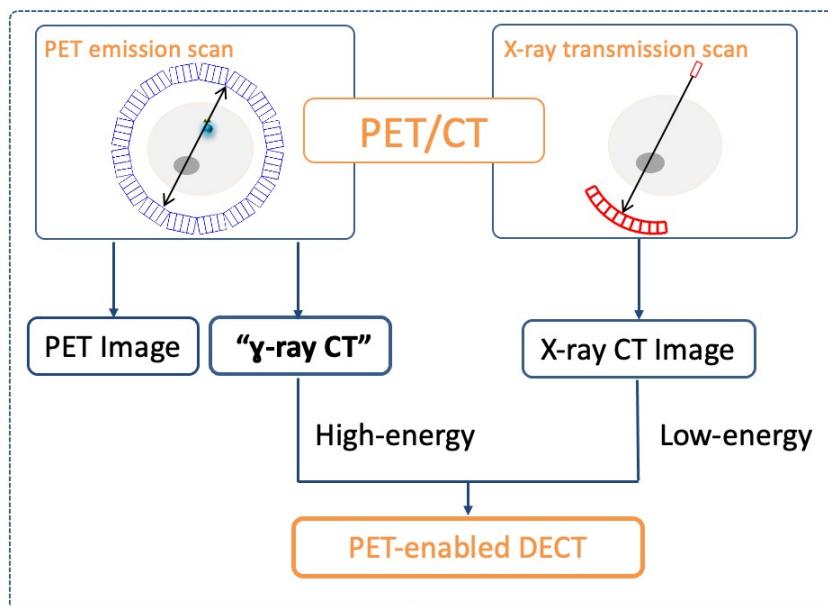


- The z-axis is aligned with the LOR trajectory
- $\theta$  is the classical polar scattering angle off the z-axis
- $\phi$  is the azimuthal scattering angle in the x-y plane
- $\Delta\phi$  favors  $90^\circ$  for entangled gammas

Abbaszadeh et al, SNMMI (2023)

# Emerging Technology

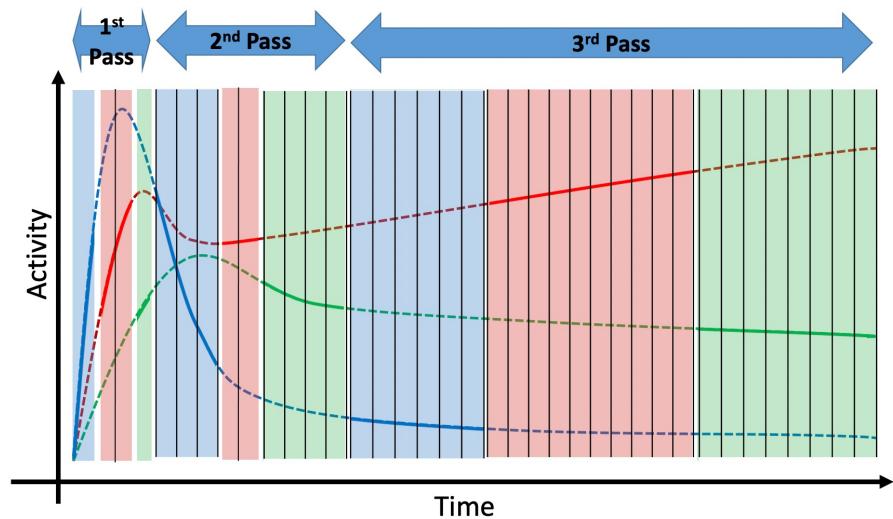
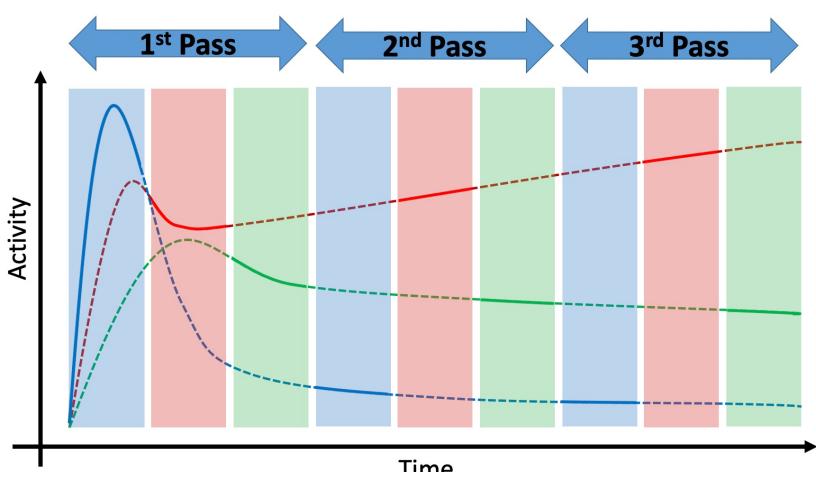
## PET-enabled dual-energy CT Imaging



Wang GB, *Phys. Med. Biol.* 2020.

# Emerging Technology

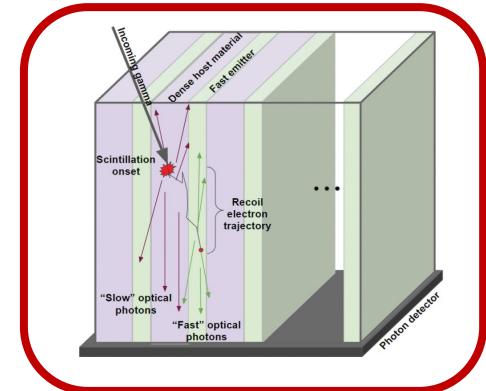
Temporally optimized dynamic step and shoot protocol using limited field of view enable quantitative multi-organ PET imaging to support systems biology imaging research



# Emerging Technology

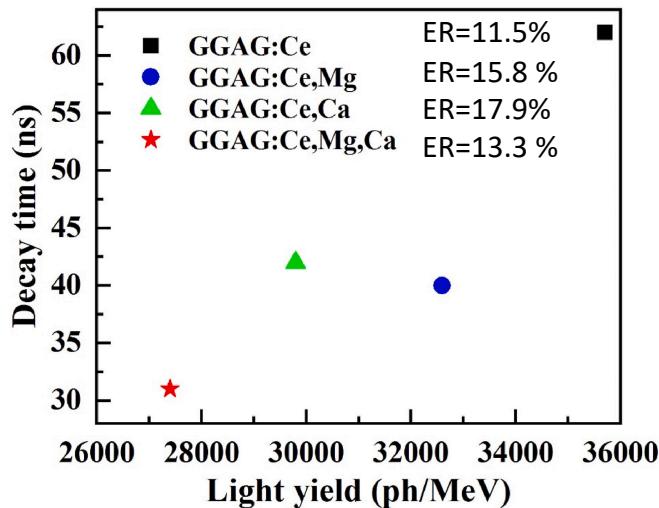
Indirect conversion:

- Materials engineering
- Photonic crystal cavities



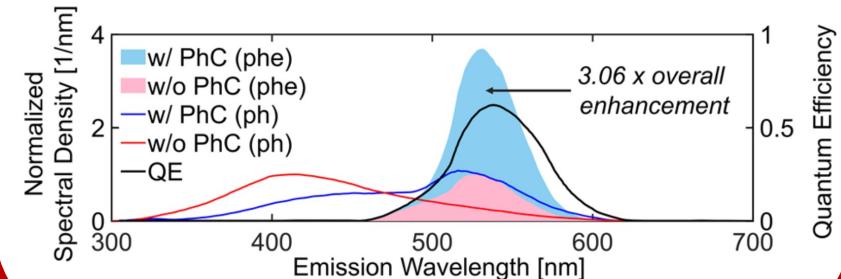
Konstantinou G. *IEEE Transactions on Radiation and Plasma Medical Sciences*. 6(1):5-15, (2021).

Co-doping of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  &  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  maintain good energy resolution ( $^{137}\text{Cs}$ ) and decay time



X. Huang et al, *Ceramics International* 48, 23571 (2022)

Photonic crystal      Scintillator      Photonic crystal



W. Ye, et al, *ACS Photonics*, 9 (12), 3917 (2022)

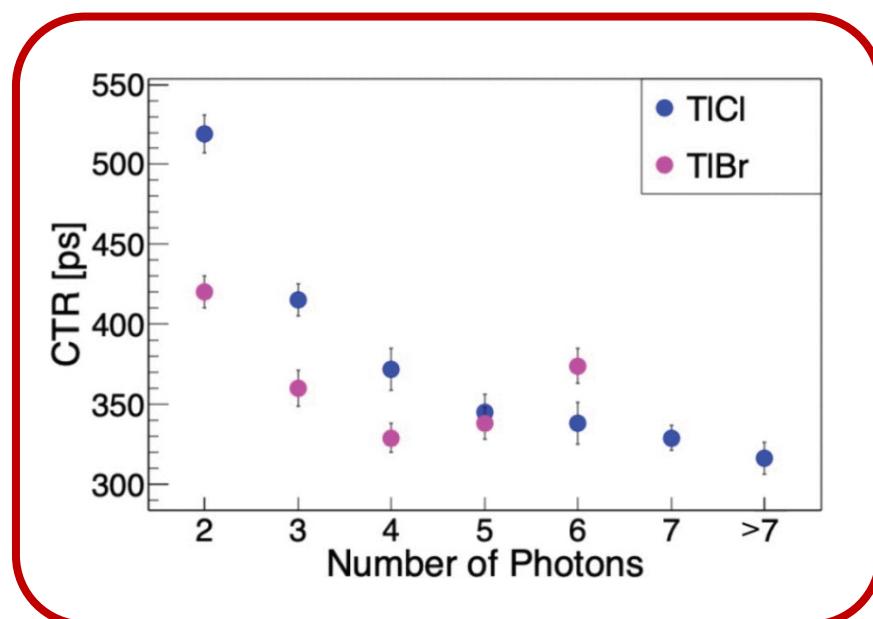
# Emerging Technology

Indirect conversion:

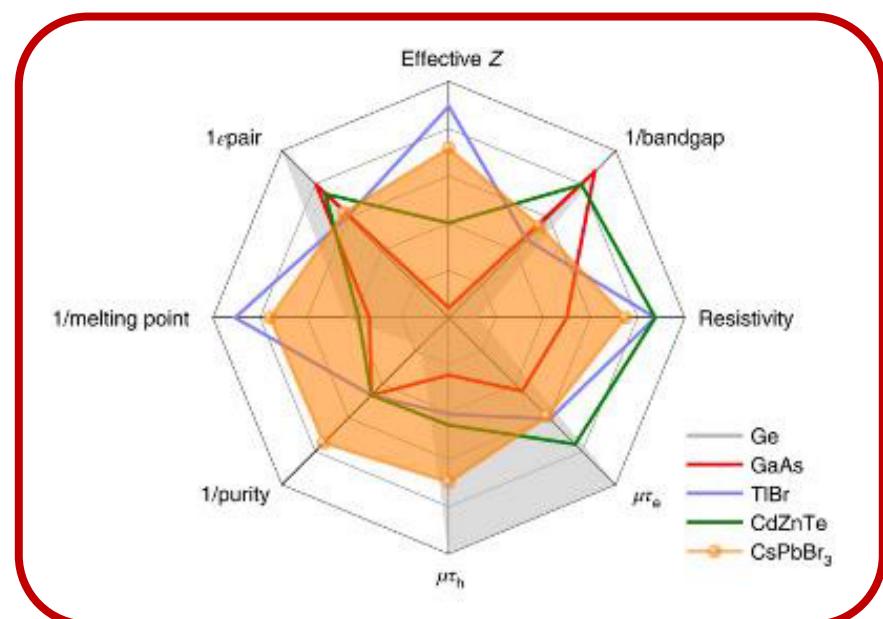
- Crystal engineering
- Photonic crystal cavities

Direct conversion:

- Improved growth yield (e.g., CZTS)
- Improved mobility-lifetime product (e.g., TlBr)
- Emerging metal halide perovskite (e.g.,  $\text{CsPbBr}_3$ )



Ariño-Estrada G. *IEEE Transactions on Radiation and Plasma Medical Sciences*. 5(5):630 (2020).



He Y. *Nature Photonics*. 16(1):14 (2022).

# Summary

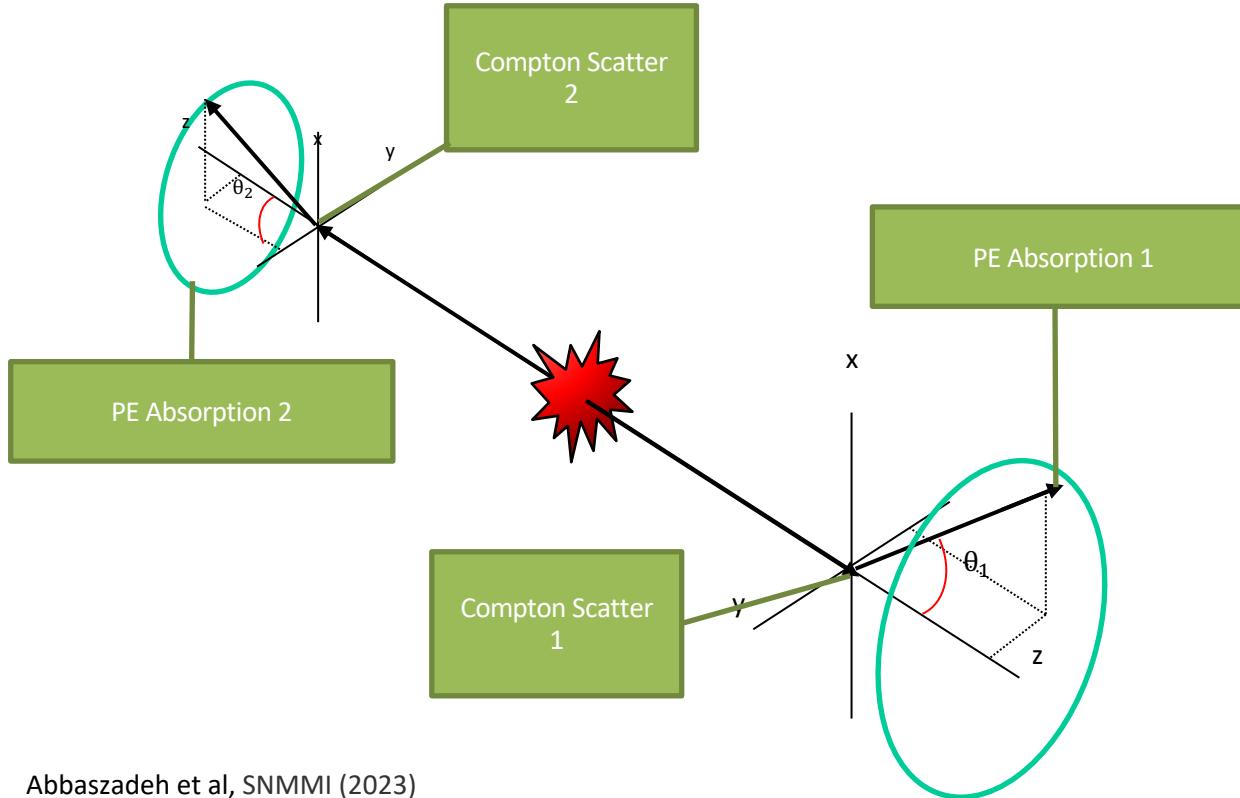
Every single photon with accurate energy/time of interaction and position matters!

- Challenges:
  - Improving SPECT, PET, etc. to support wide range of application needs
- Ongoing research and solutions:
  - Advances in the application of machine learning, hardware development, and combining modalities/approaches to leverage their complementary benefits
  - Quantum entanglement route to improved timing & resolution
  - PET-enabled dual energy, dynamic step and shoot
  - Improvements in detectors & new materials leading to higher temporal and spatial resolution, lower cost
  - ... and many more

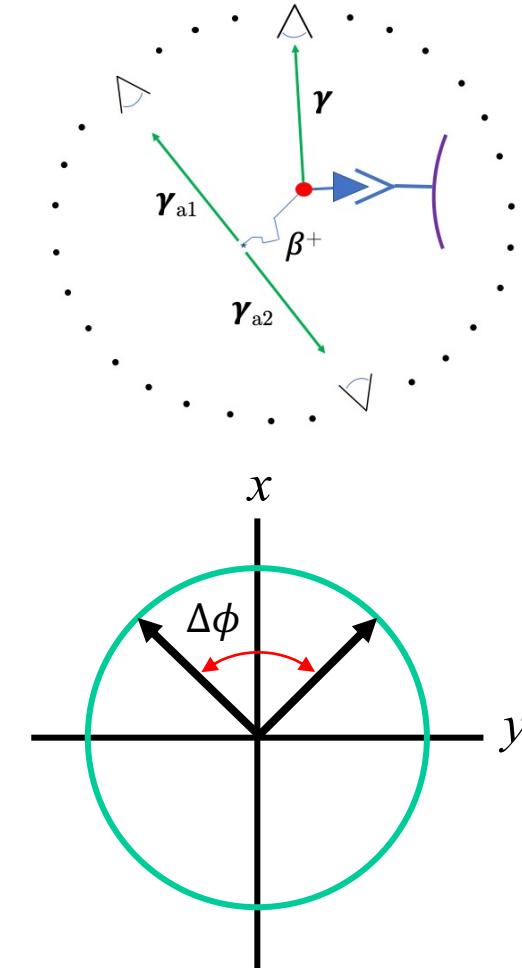
# Emerging Technology

Gamma-positron Imaging promises to overcome:

- Increase sensitivity of single gamma-photon imaging
- Distinguishing between two positron-emitting isotopes
- The positron-range spatial resolution limit



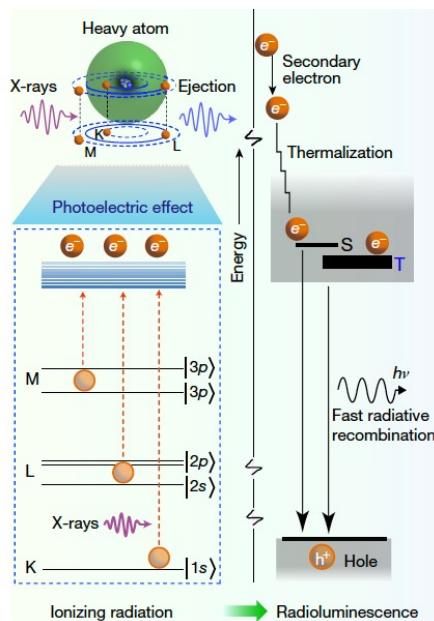
Abbaszadeh et al, SNMMI (2023)



# Emerging Technology

Perovskite crystals for higher emission, increased resolution, low cost gamma & X-ray scintillation

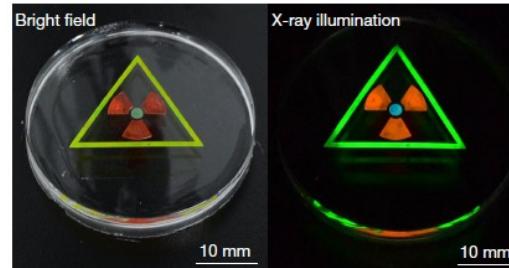
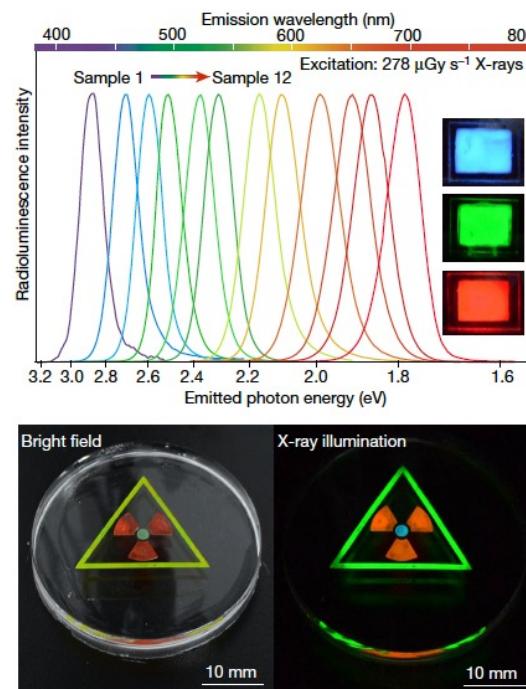
Inorganic, low cost materials



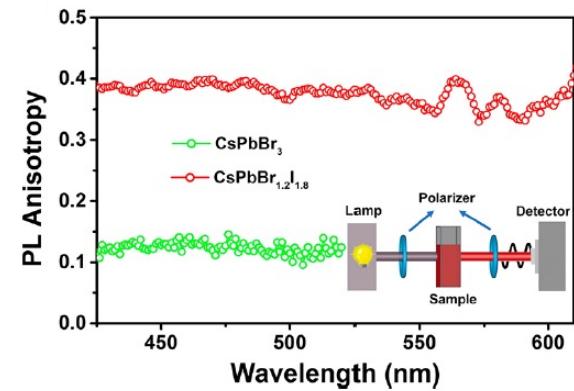
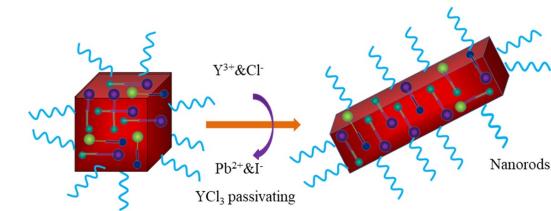
Chen et al, Nature 561: 88 (2018)

Pan et al, Nano Energy 81: 105615 (2021)

High emission, tunable wavelength



High resolution, anisotropic emission



# State-of-the-art: SPECT



Product Name	Manufacturer	FOV (cm)	Scintillator/Det Dim (mm)	Energy Res (%) UFOV FWHM	Max Count (Kcps)	Spatial Res (mm) UFOV FWHM	Sensitivity (cpm/µCi) @100 mm
BrightView XCT	Philips	40.6 x 53.9	9.5/19.1 mm thick NaI crystal 59 PMT	9.6/9.8 Range: 56 - 920 keV	350	3.2/4.0	277/311 (LEGP)
Symbia Evo Excel	Siemens	53.3 x 38.7	9.5/15.9 mm thick 59.1 x 44.5 NaI crystal 59 PMT	9.9 Range: 35 - 588 keV	460	3.9/4.6	202/225 (LEHR)
NM 830	GE	54 x 40	9.5/15.9 mm thick NaI crystal 59 circular PMT	9.5 Range: 40 - 620 keV	460	3.8/4.6	160/165 (LEHR)
NM/CT 870 CZT	GE	51.17 x 39.36	39.36 x 39.36 x 7.25 module <b>CZT</b> crystals 130 CZT modules	6.3 Range: 40 - 250 keV	650	2.46	190 (WEHR)

LEGP = Low Energy General Purpose

LEHR = Low Energy High Resolution

WEHR = Wide Energy High Resolution

[www.gehealthcare.com](http://www.gehealthcare.com)

[www.siemens-healthineers.com](http://www.siemens-healthineers.com)

[www.philips.ie](http://www.philips.ie)