

# Hybrid Imaging PET/MR

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# Outline

- PET, MR, PET/MR
- Technical Challenges
- Clinical and Preclinical Perspective
- Final Remarks

# Molecular Imaging Scenario

## Optical imaging

Advantages:

- High-throughput screening for target confirmation and compound optimization
- High sensitivity

Disadvantages:

- Limited clinical translation
- Low depth penetration



## PET imaging

Advantages:

- Clinical translation
- High sensitivity with unlimited depth penetration

Disadvantages:

- Cost



## Magnetic resonance imaging

Advantages:

- Clinical translation
- High resolution and soft-tissue contrast

Disadvantages:

- Costs
- Imaging time



## SPECT imaging

Advantages:

- Clinical translation
- Unlimited depth penetration

Disadvantages:

- Limited spatial resolution



## Ultrasound imaging

Advantages:

- Clinical translation
- High spatial and temporal resolution
- Low costs

Disadvantages:

- Operator dependency
- Targeted imaging limited to vascular compartment



## CT imaging

Advantages:

- High spatial resolution (bone/lung)
- Clinical translation

Disadvantages:

- No target-specific imaging
- Radiation
- Poor soft-tissue contrast

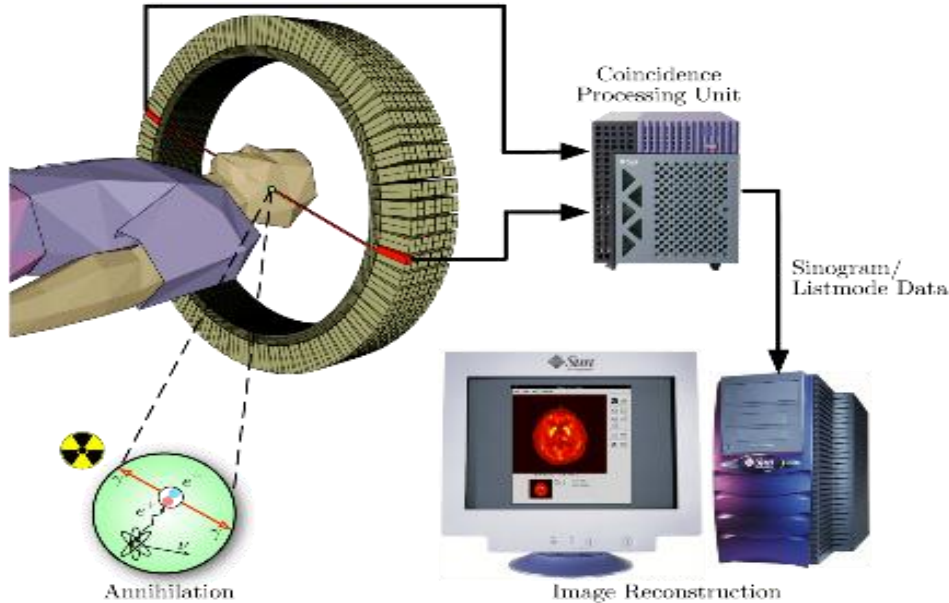


Nature Reviews | Drug Discovery

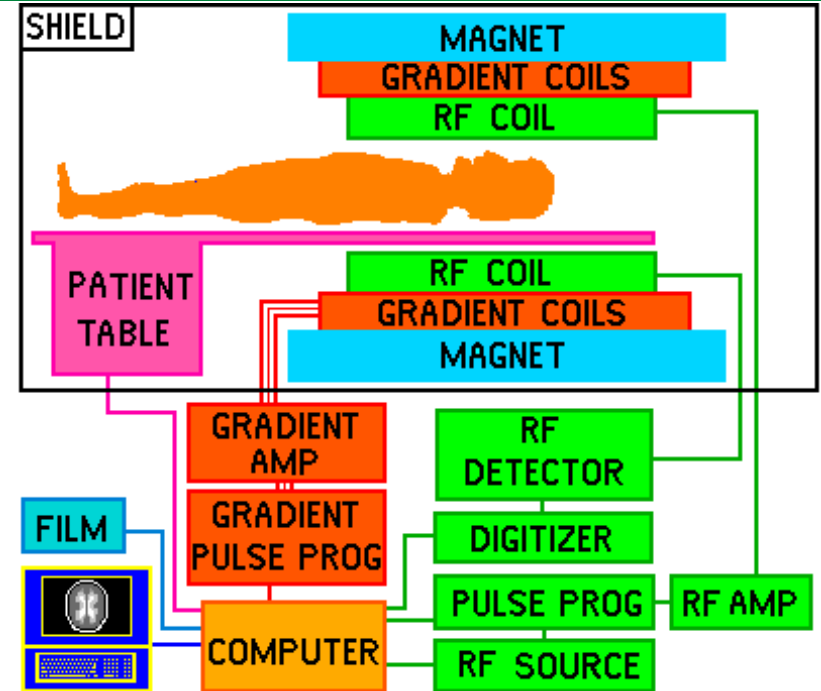
[Molecular imaging in drug development](#)

Jürgen K. Willmann et al. Nature Reviews Drug Discovery 7, 591-607 (July 2008)

# PET



# MR



- Limited space of MR gantry
- Ferromagnetic components
- Magnetic Field Inhomogeneity
- Interference between PET electronics and MR coils
- Photomultipliers MR incompatible
- Cost-effectiveness

1997

2007

2008

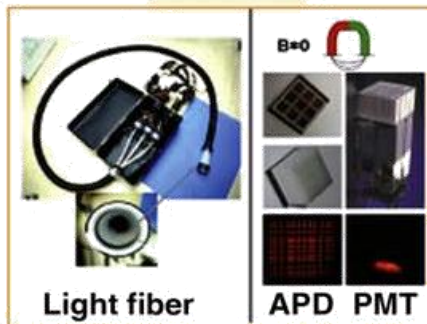
2009

2010

Technology



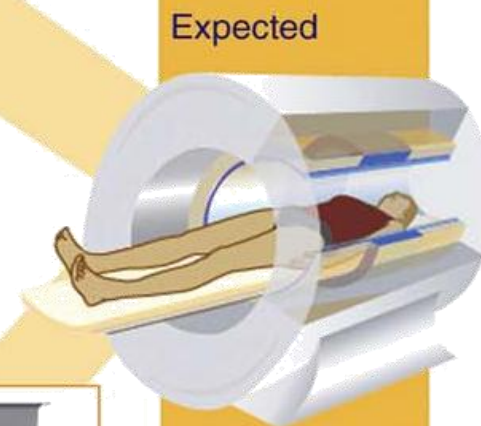
Siemens  
brain  
MR-PET



Light fiber

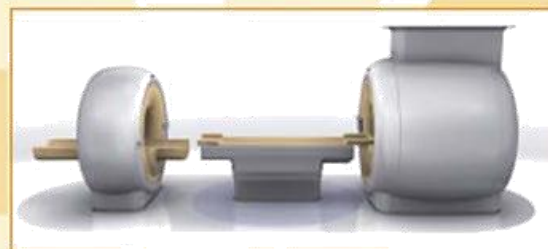
APD PMT

Small  
animal  
PET/MR



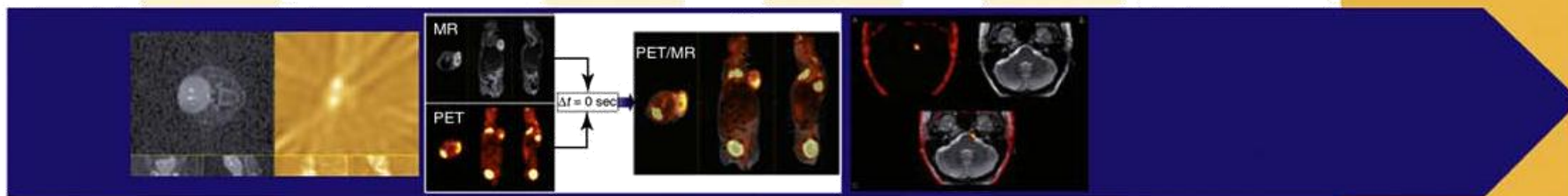
Expected

Fully integrated  
whole body  
PET/MR system



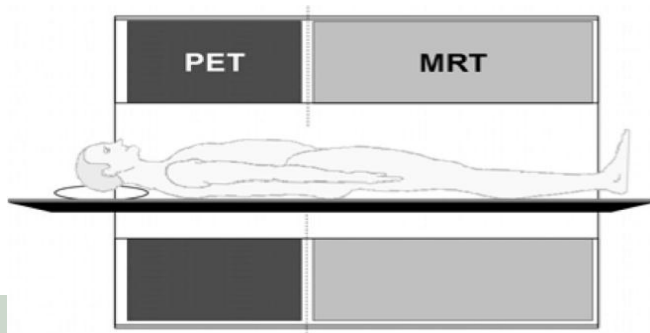
Philips  
gemini TF  
PET/MR

In vivo imaging



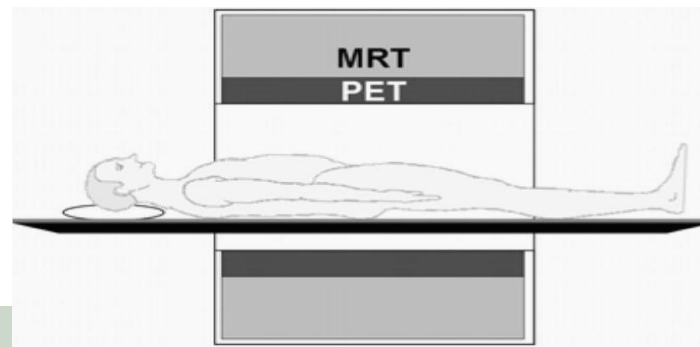
# MR- PET Scanner Configurations

## Sequential



- Spatial Coregistration
- Fusion software
- Motion Correction with external trigger
- PET TOF

## Integrated



- Spatial and Temporal Coregistration
- Automatic Fusion
- MoCo with external trigger and MR-based
- Pharmacokinetic PET-MR
- PET non TOF (...waiting for SiPM)

# Clinical PET/MR Scanners

## PHILIPS INGENUITY TF

- Coplanar rotating bed
- FDA (11/2011) CE(12/2010)
- Actually working on SiPM integration



## GE DISCOVERY PET/CT + MRI

- Shuttle bed PET, RM e TC.

## GE SIGNA PET/MR (2015?)

- Simultaneous PET/MR
- SiPM-based (TOF)
- FDA clearance pending)



# Integrated PET/MR

## SIEMENS BIOGRAPH mMR

- PET and MR acquired simultaneously
- FDA (06/2011) CE(05/2011)

### Upgrade B20P (2014)

- Improved AC
- More PET compatible coils
- PSF Pet recon
- Brain PET MOCO (compass)

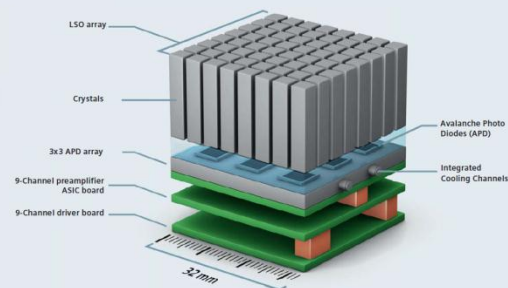
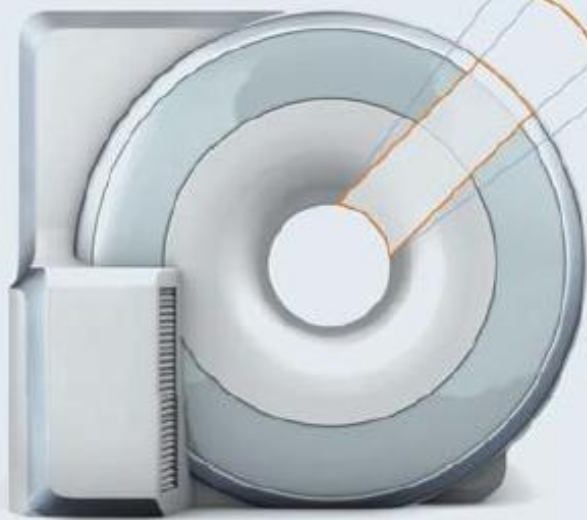




# Inside the scanner



- MR
- PET
- Air/Vacuum



# Early Adopters

## North America

- MGH, Boston, USA
- NIH, Bethesda, USA
- Washington Univ., St. Louis, USA
- Univ. of N. Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA
- Mt. Sinai Medical Center, New York, USA
- Indiana University, Indianapolis, USA
- Lawson Health Research Institute, London, Canada
- UPMC, Pittsburgh, USA
- NYU, New York, USA
- Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, USA
- Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, USA
- Weill Cornell Imaging, New York Presbyterian, NY, USA (2x)
- Cedar-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, USA
- UHN Toronto, Canada

## Europe

- IMP Erlangen, Germany
- Klinikum r. d. Isar, Munich, Germany
- Univ. Hospital Tübingen, Germany
- Univ. Hospital Leipzig, Germany
- CEMODI Bremen, Germany
- Univ. Hospital Essen, Germany
- Univ. College London Hospitals, UK
- SDN, Naples, Italy
- DKFZ, Heidelberg, Germany
- Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark
- St. Olav Hospital, Trondheim, Norway
- DLRZ, Bonn, Germany
- University of Padua, Italy
- CERMEP/Univ. of Lyon, France
- AKH/MUW, Vienna, Austria
- OAO RZD, Moscow, Russia
- King's College London, UK
- Centr. Onkologii, Bydgoszcz, Poland

## Asia

- PLA 301 Hospital, Beijing, China
- Parkway Mt. Elizabeth Novena Hospital, Singapore
- CIRC/NUS/A\*Star, Singapore
- Yeungnam Univ. Hospital, Daegu, Korea
- SNUH, Seoul, Korea
- Apollo Hospitals, Delhi, India
- Fukushima Medical Univ, Fukushima, Japan
- TNUH, Taipei, Taiwan
- NIMHANS, Bangalore, India
- HKSH, Hong Kong, China

Università Magna Graecia, Catanzaro (2015?)

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# Technical Challenges: Open Issues

## Before:

- Limited space of MR gantry
- Ferromagnetic components
- Magnetic Field Inhomogeneity
- Interference between PET electronics and MR coils
- Photomultipliers MR incompatible
- Cost-effectiveness

## Now:

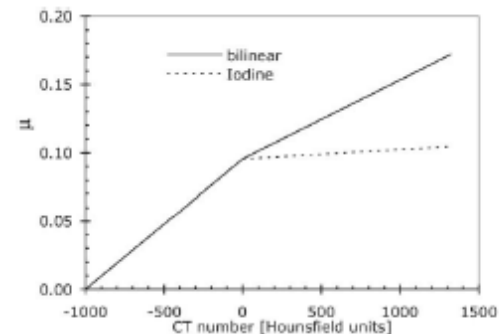
- Higher Performance PhotoMultipliers
- **Attenuation Correction**
  - Motion Correction
  - Partial Volum Effect Correction

# MR-based AC

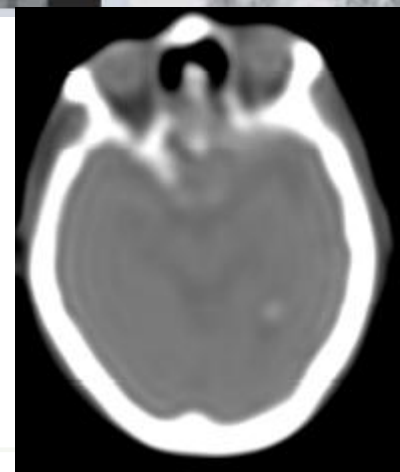
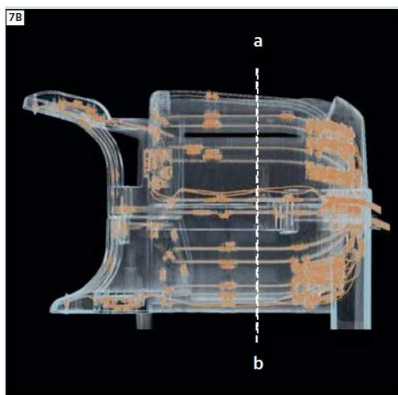
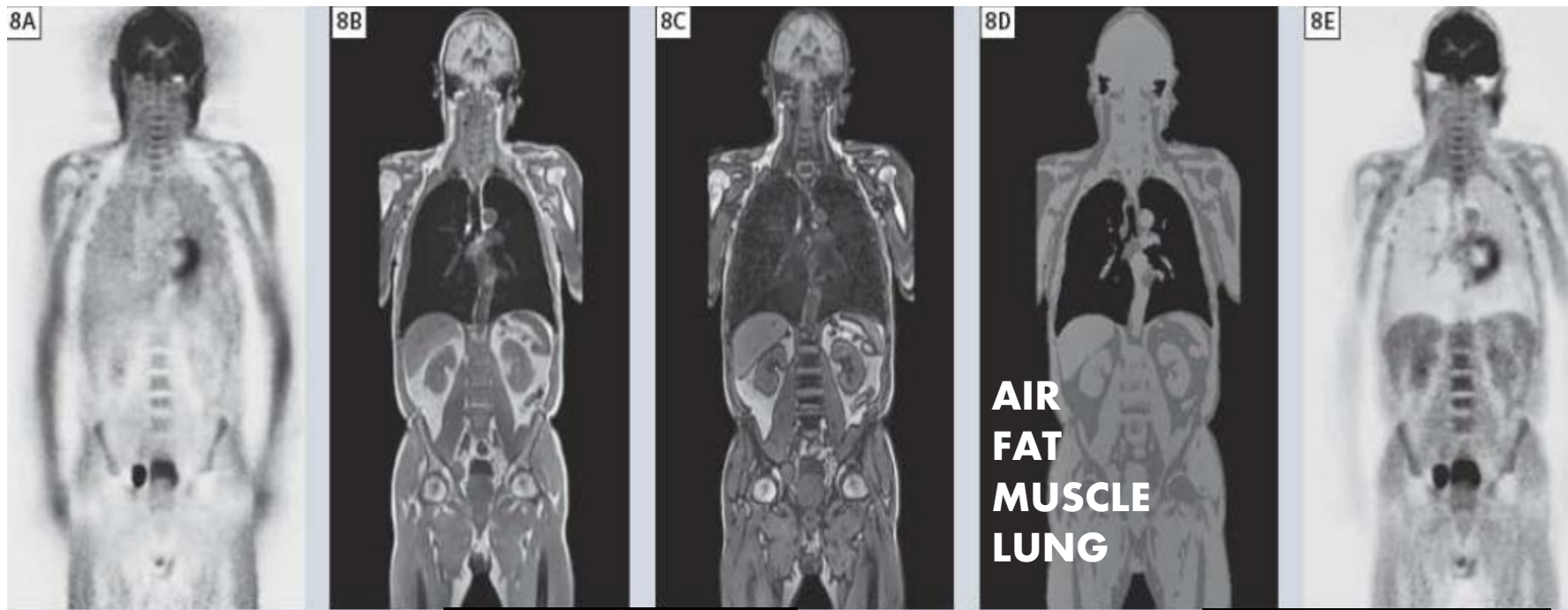
- Attenuation: Electrons density of the tissues
- RM signal : Proton density and relaxivity
- There is no direct relationship

Solutions:

- Segmentation of MR images and tissues recognition
- Bones MR imaging (UTE)
- Template based Approaches

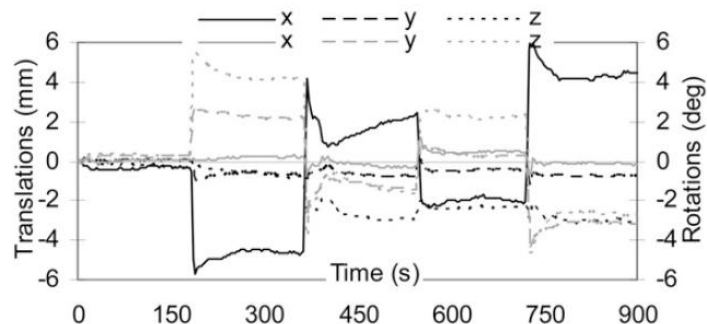


# Dixon AC (Soft Tissues segmentation)

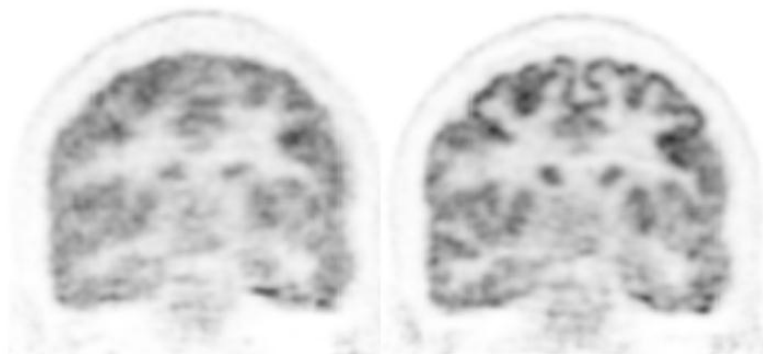


# Motion Correction

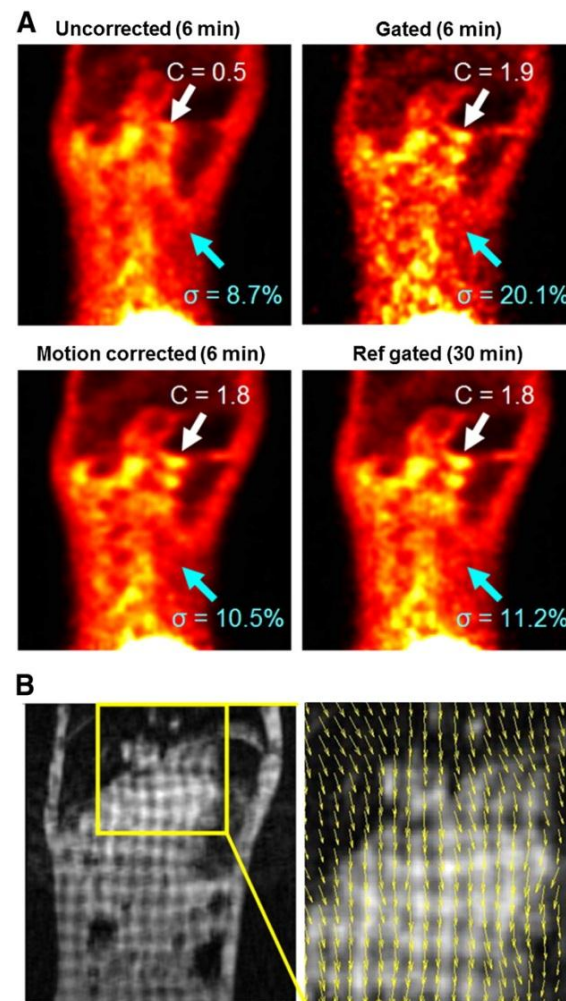
- Registration Based MoCo



MRI-derived motion estimates



PET before (left) and after (right) MRI-assisted motion correction

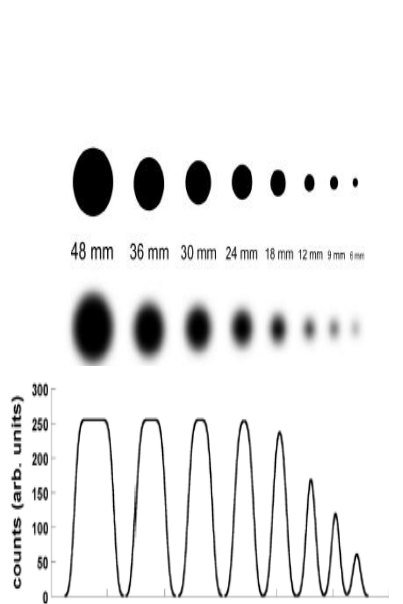


[J Nucl Med.](#) 2012 Aug;

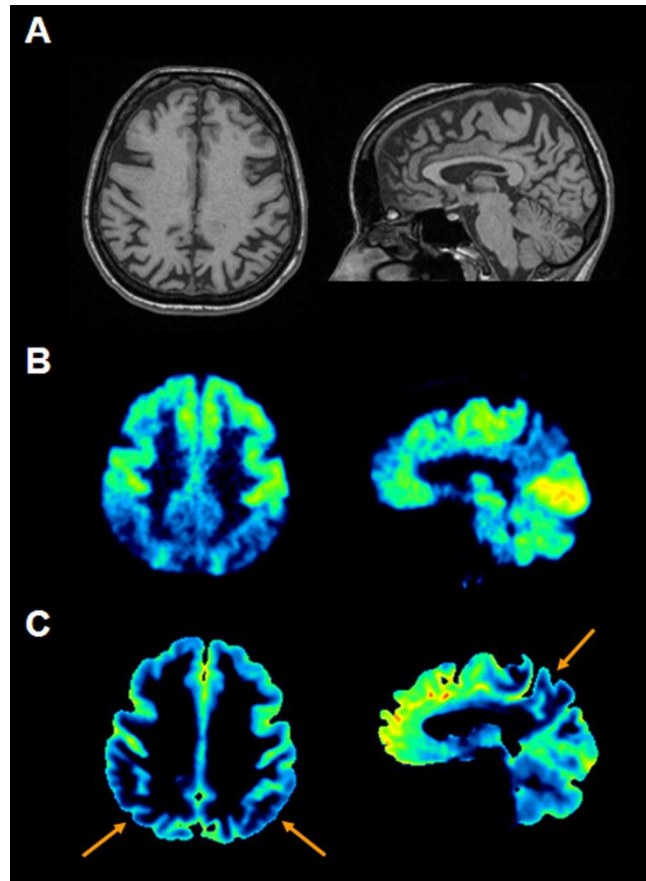
Chun. MRI-based nonrigid motion correction in simultaneous PET/MRI.

# MRI-guided Partial Volume Correction

Assuming that radioactivity is uniformly distributed in the GM and WM regions and that the mean radioactivity of WM is known



(Cherry SR et al., *Physics in Nuclear Medicine*, 3rd ed.)



Original T1-weighted MRI

PET image before partial volume effect correction

PET image after partial volume effect correction

M Shidahara Neuroimage. (2009).

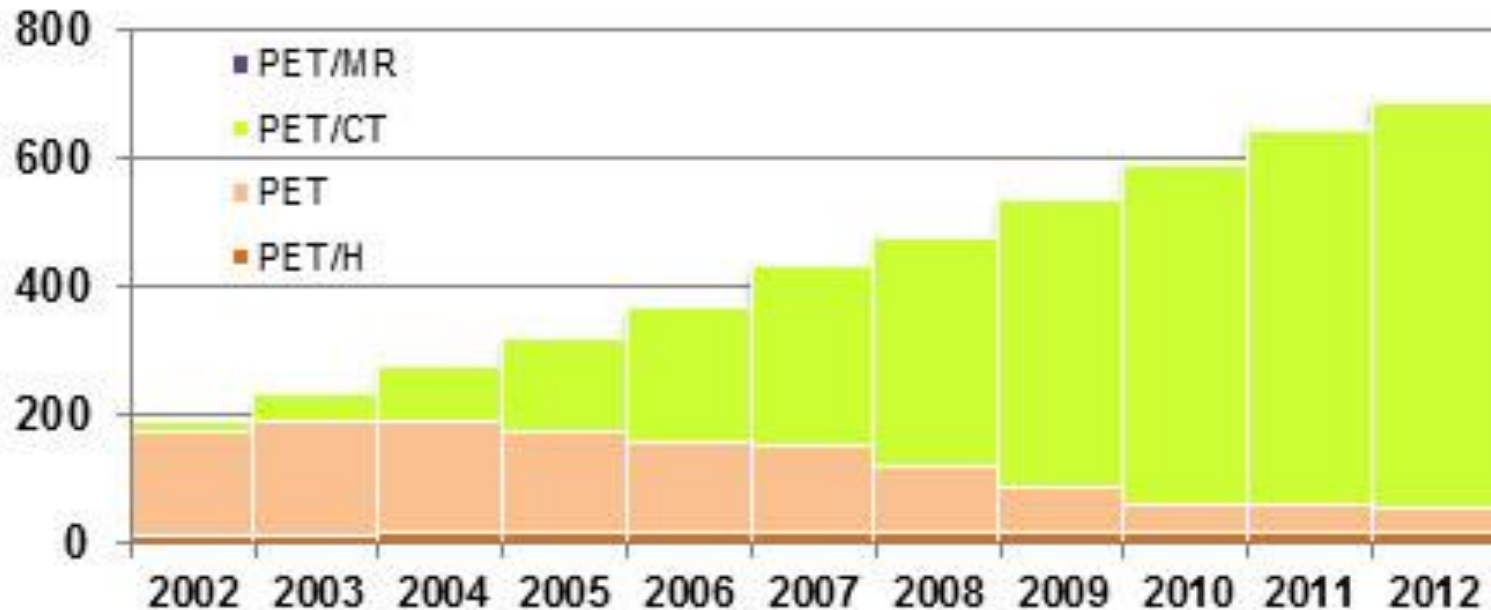
# CLINICAL PERSPECTIVE



# PET/MR Vs PET/CT

## PET CT Killer Application: Oncological Staging and Follow-up

### Evolution of Cameras

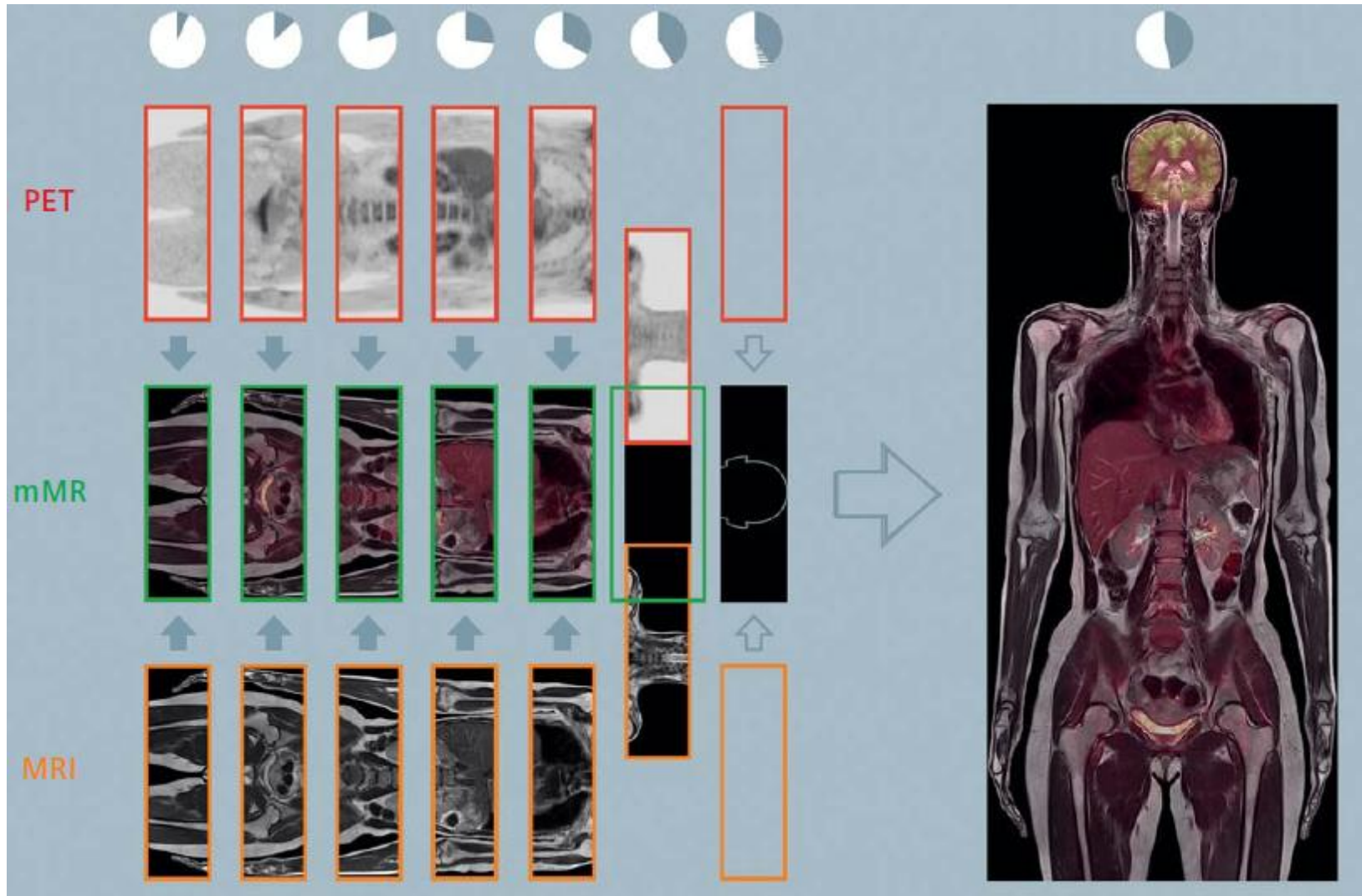


<http://www.auntminnieeurope.com/index.aspx?sec=sup&sub=cto&pag=dis&ItemID=608896>

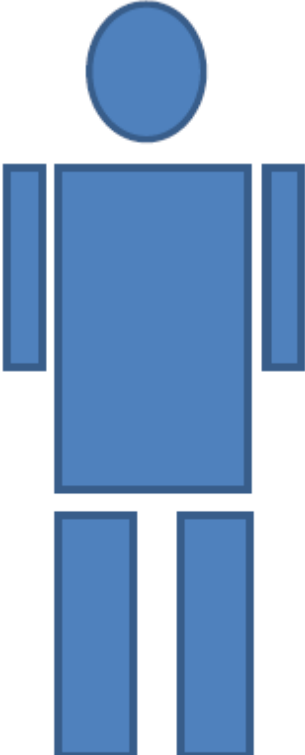
# PET/MR Vs PET/CT Summary

- Over 2000 **single injection dual PET/MR – PET/CT** examined in 16 articles (IF>3)
- Integrated PET/MR hybrid imaging is **feasible** in a clinical setting with similar detection rates as those of PET/CT.
- Tracer uptake in lesions and background **correlated well** between PET/MR and PET/CT
- Despite differences in attenuation correction PET/MR, including diagnostic T1-weighted TSE sequences, was superior to PET/CT for anatomic delineation and allocation of **bone lesions**.
- PET/MR imaging alone contributed to **clinical management** more often than did PET/CT alone. PET/MR imaging provides information that affects the care of patients with cancer and is unavailable from PET/CT (24/134 patients) [Catalano, Salvatore et al, Radiology 2013]
- **Improved attenuation-correction** algorithms and a PET/MR-specific healthy control database are recommended for reliable and consistent application of PET/MR for clinical **neuroimaging** [Hitz et al., JNM2013].
- **KILLER APPLICATION?** (pelvis, abdomen, head/neck?)

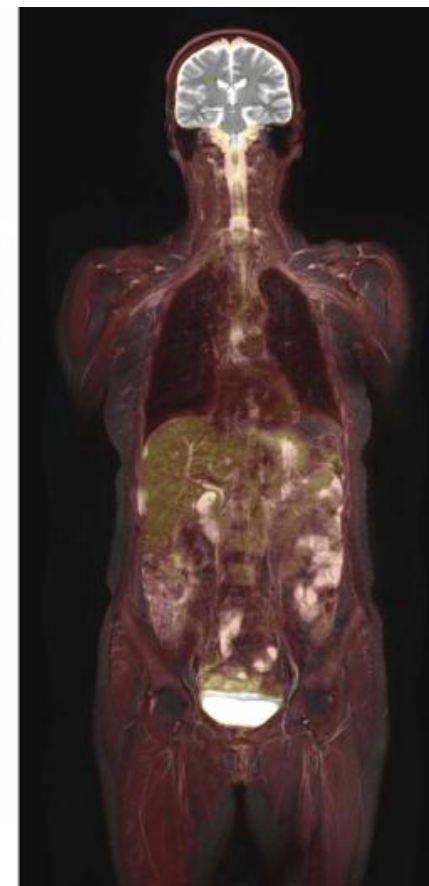
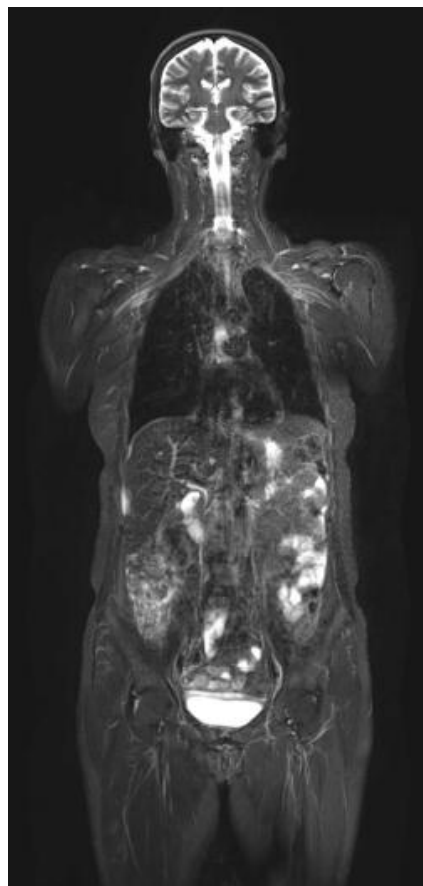
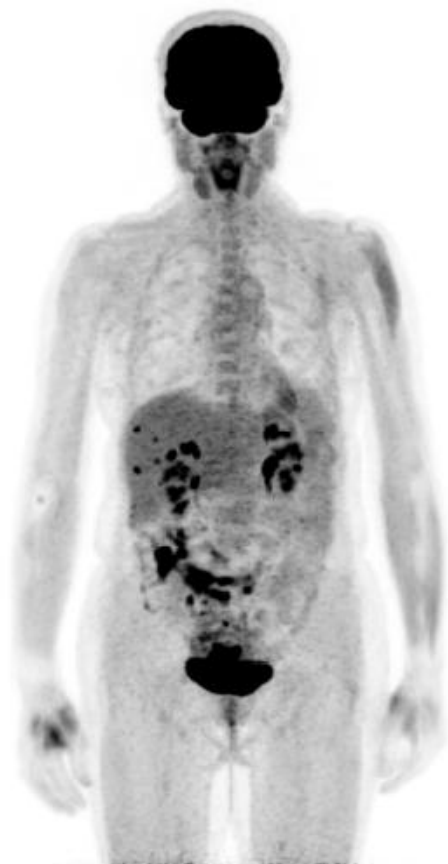
# PET/MR acquisition



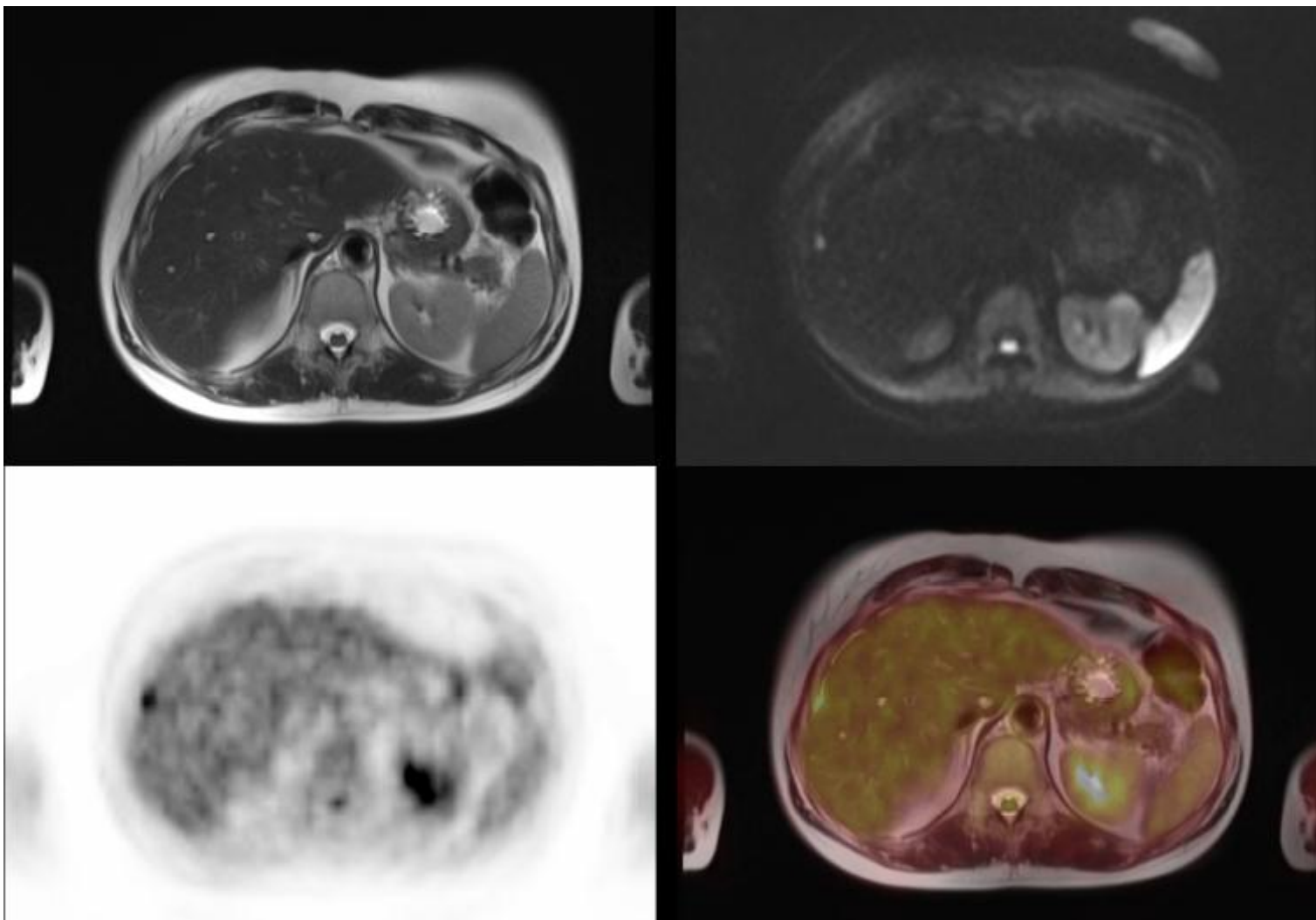
# Total Body protocol

SIMULTANEOUS WHOLE BODY MR/PET 3 Tesla					
PROTOCOL NAME : WB_Abdomen_Pelvi_MDC					
PET (AC)		STIR cor DWI ax HASTE ax			
PET (AC)		STIR cor DWI ax HASTE ax	T2 HASTE ax		
PET (AC)		STIR cor DWI ax HASTE ax	T2 HASTE ax T2 HASTE ax T1 DUAL ax	T2 TSE ax fat sat MRCP Vibe pre	VIBE ax dyn VIBE cor tard
PET (AC)		STIR cor DWI ax HASTE ax	T2 TSE sag T2 TSE ax T2 TSE cor	T1 TSE ax T2 TSE ax fat sat T1 TSE ax fat sat Spectroscopy	VIBE ax VIBE sag
PET (AC)		STIR cor DWI ax HASTE ax			
Basic examination			ADVANCED		CONTRAST
<b>Simultaneous acquisition</b>			<b>MR - ONLY</b>		
<b>Examination time= 50 min</b>			<b>Examination time= 60 min</b>		

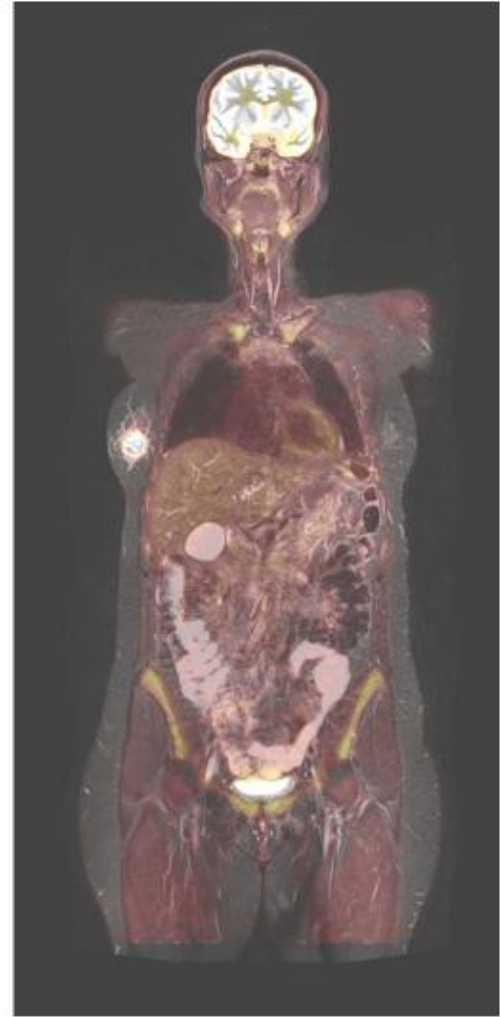
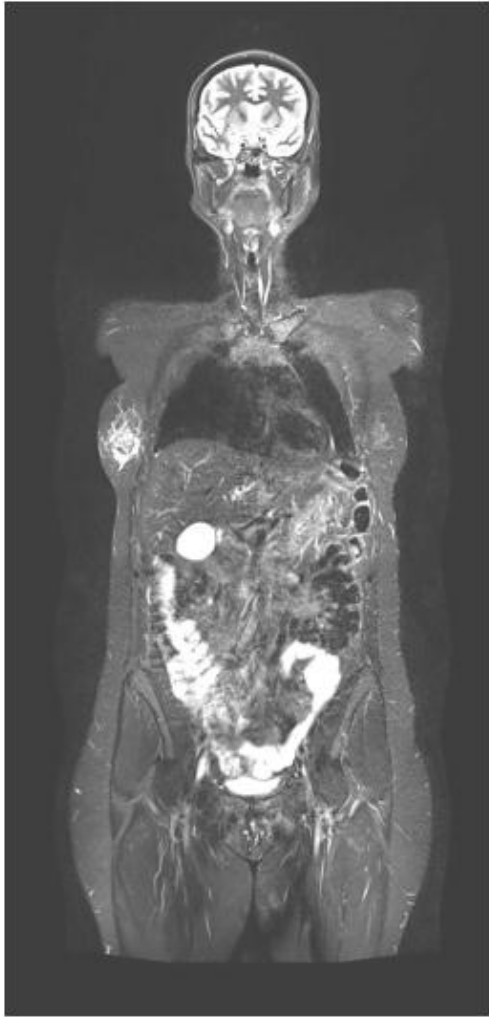
# Clinical case



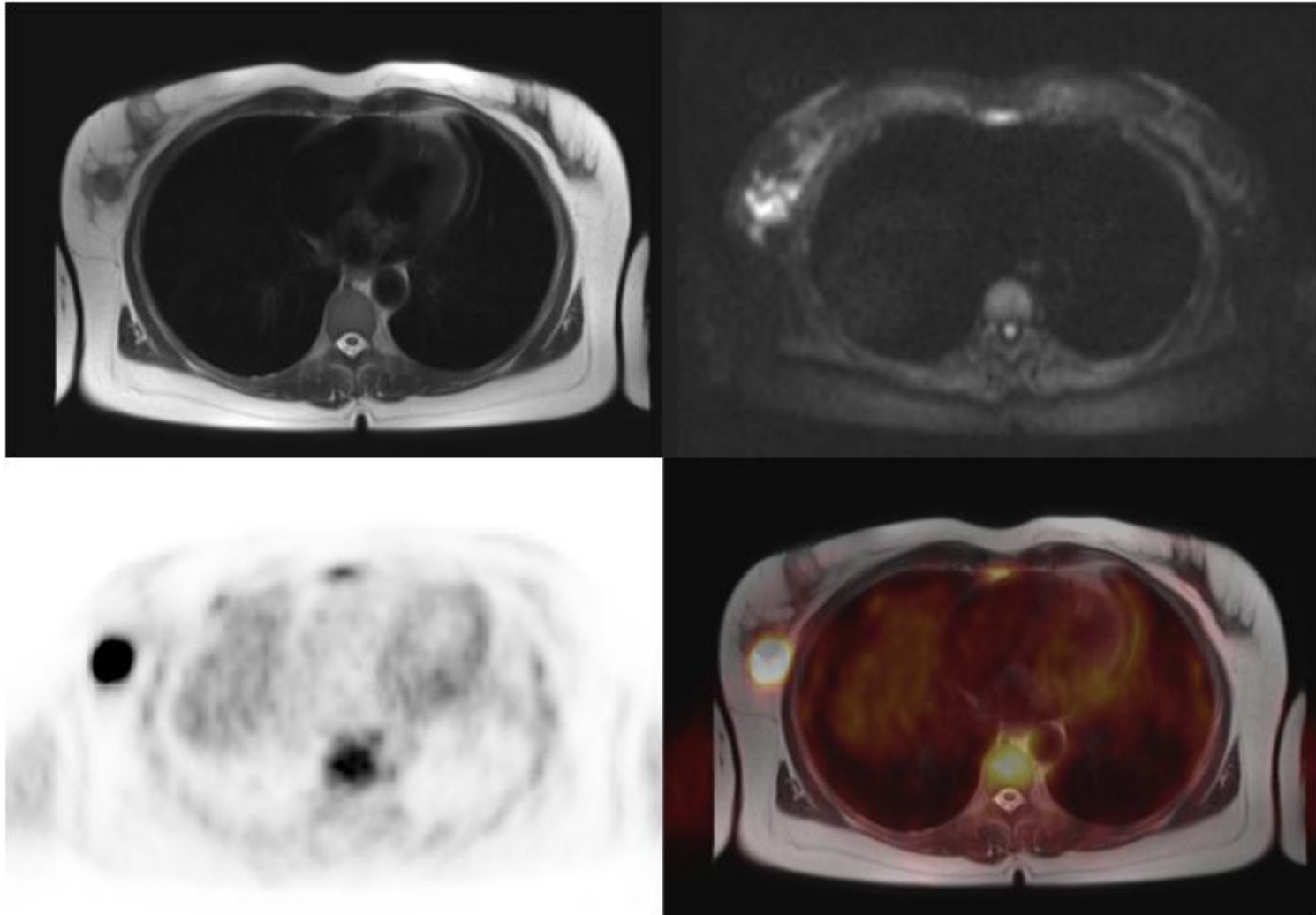
# Clinical case



# PET/MR Fusion

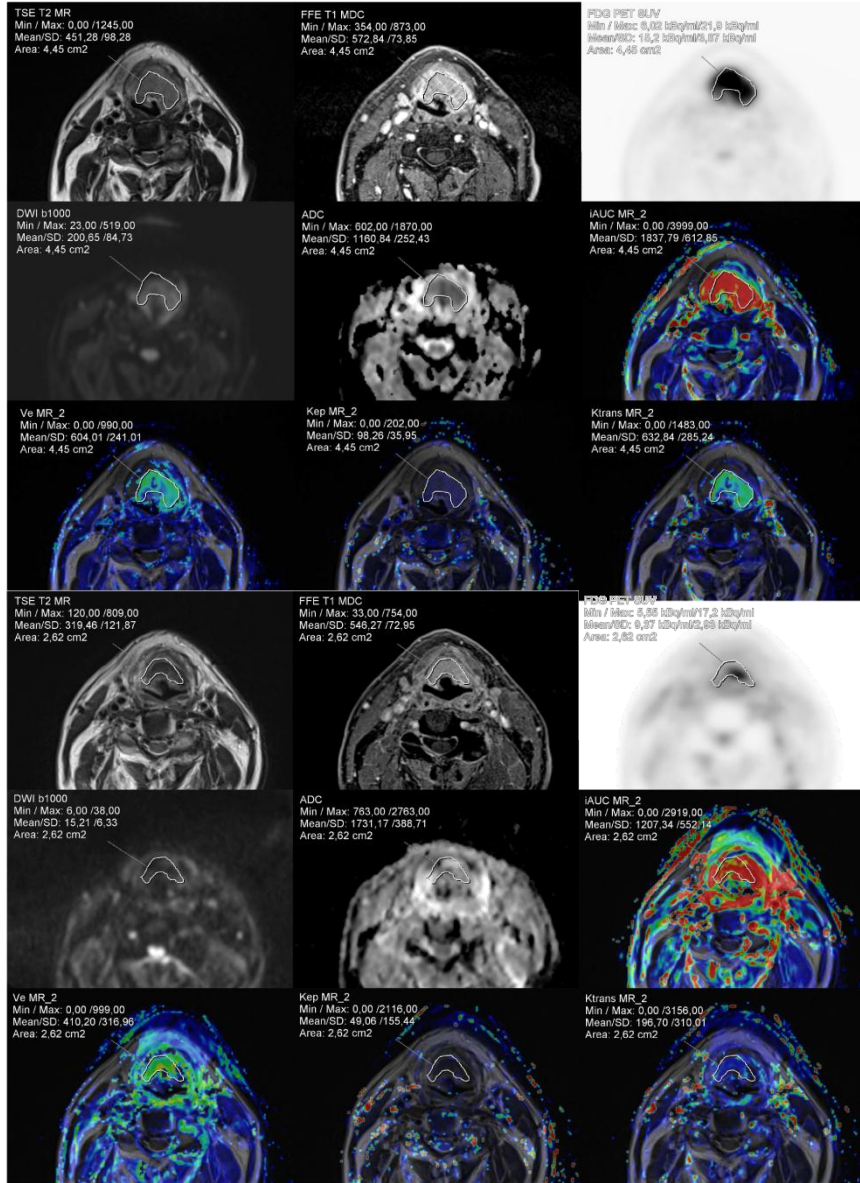


# PET/MR Fusion





# PET/MR Multi-Parametric Evaluation



**ADC:** Apparent Diffusion Coefficient

**SUV:** Standardised Uptake Value

**MTV:** Metabolic Tumour Volume

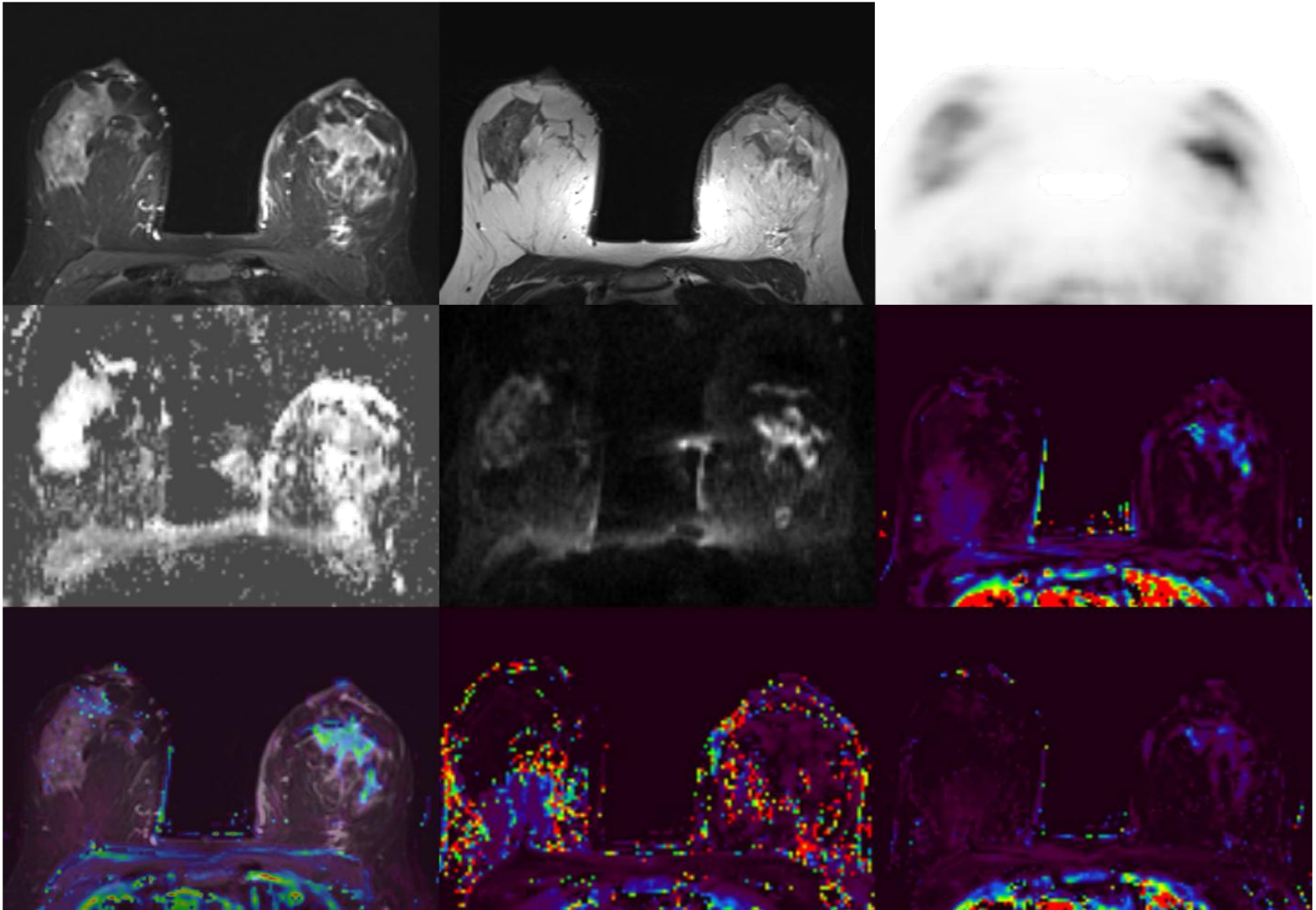
**Ktrans:** Volume transfer constant between plasma and extracellular extravascular space

**Kep:** Rate constant between extracellular extravascular space and plasma

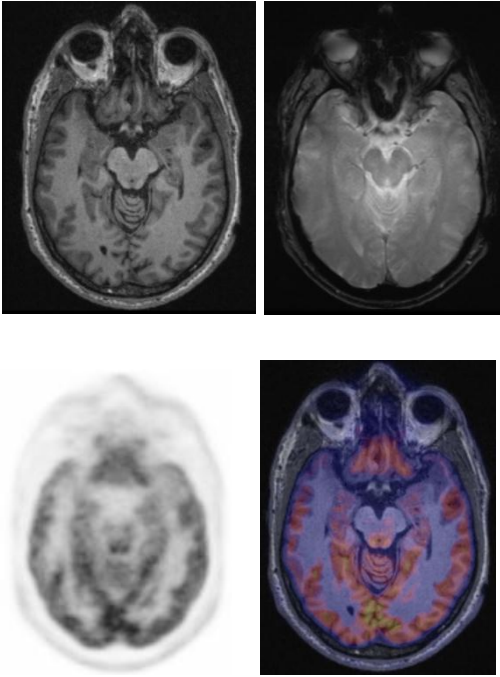
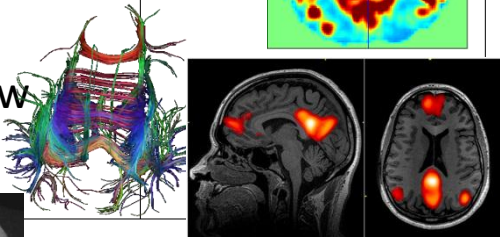
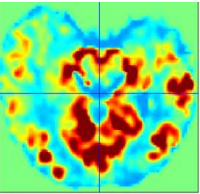
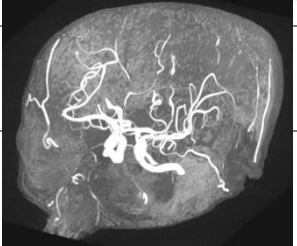
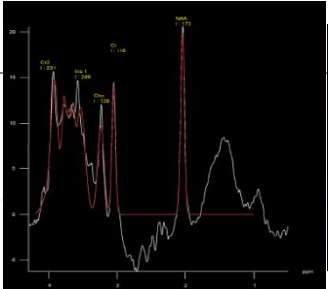
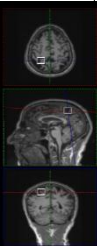
**Ve:** Volume of extracellular extravascular space per unit volume tissue None

**IAUC:** Initial area under gadolinium contrast agent concentration–time curve

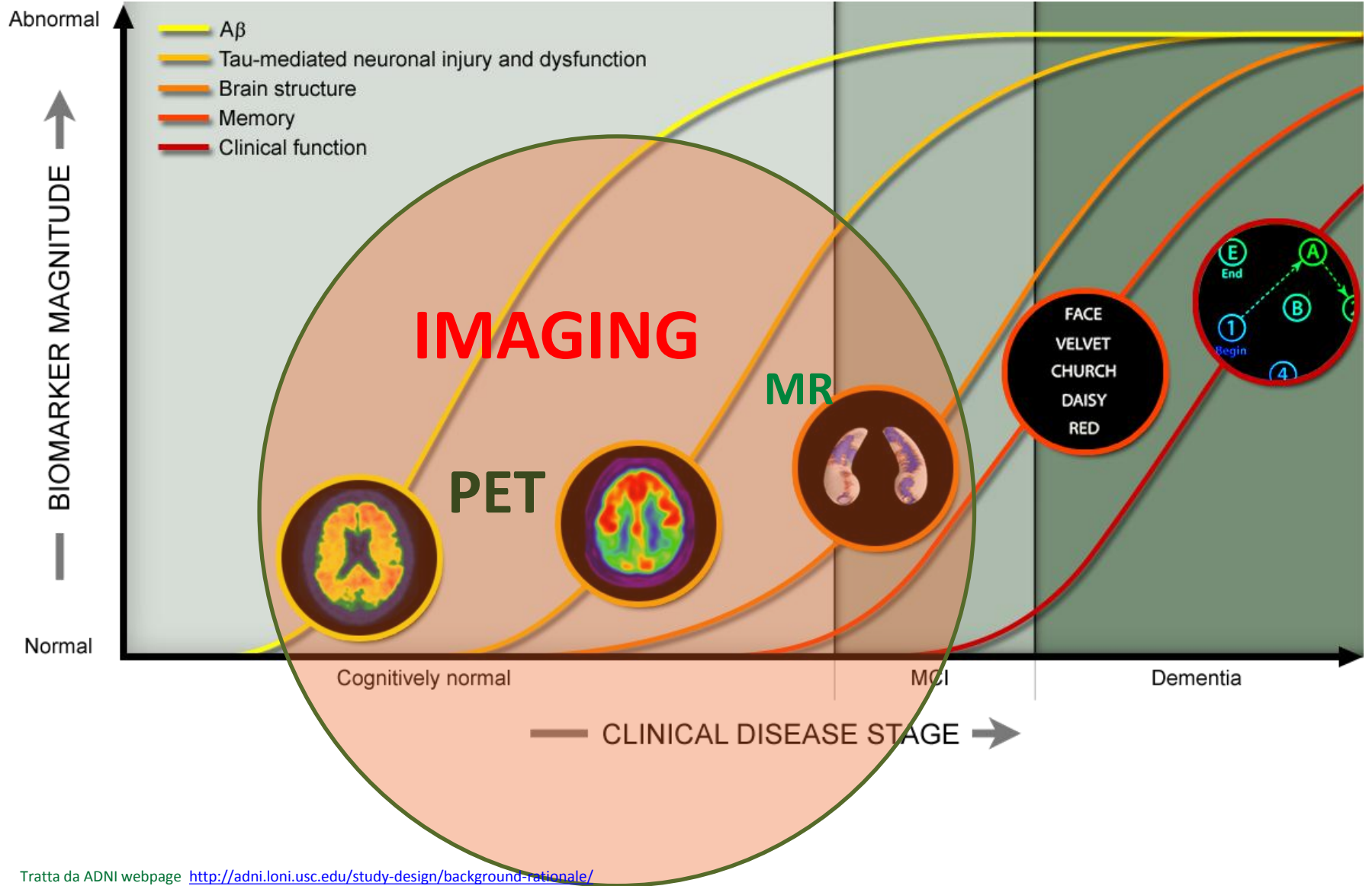
# PET/MR Multi-Parametric Evaluation



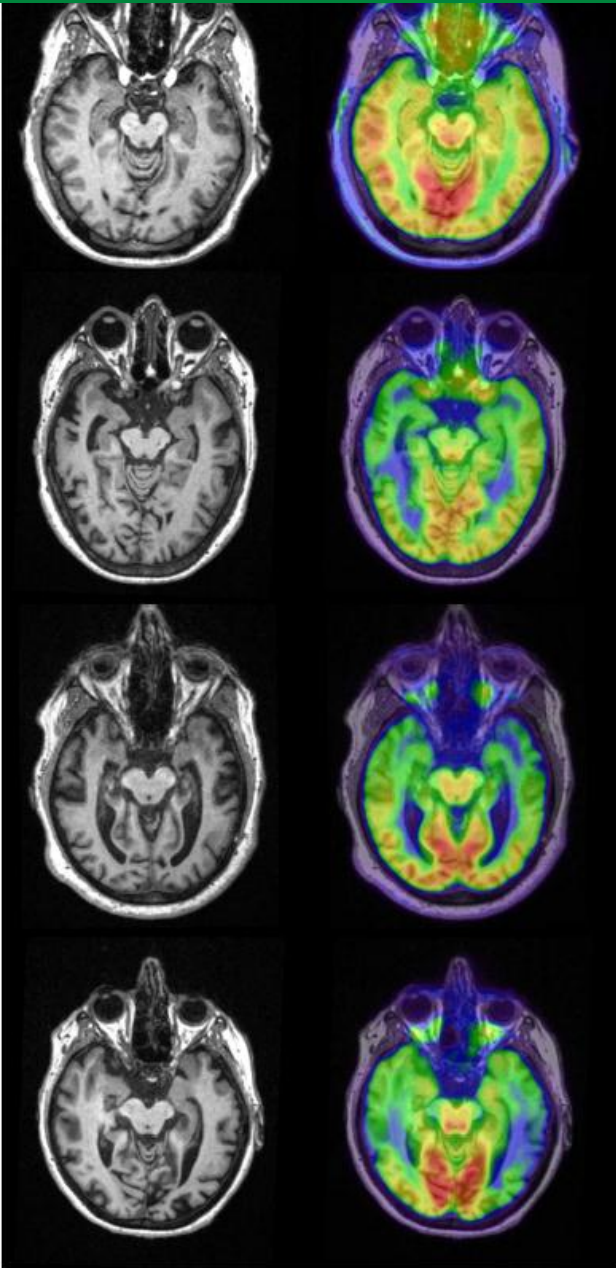
# Brain protocol

PET		STRUCTURAL	ADVANCED	EV CONTRAST
<p>List Mode 15-20 min 344x344</p>		<p>T2 FLAIR COR T1 MPRAGE T2 AX</p>	<p>ASL SWI DWI DTI spectroCSI spectroSVS TOF3D_art PC_venoso BOLD CSF Flow</p> 	<p>T1MPRAGe Perfusion DCE -T1 DCE -T2*</p> 
<p>Simultaneous Acquisition 15-20 min</p>   				

# PET/MR in AD



# PET/MR in AD



COGNITIVELY NORMAL - M 77 yo, MMSE= 29

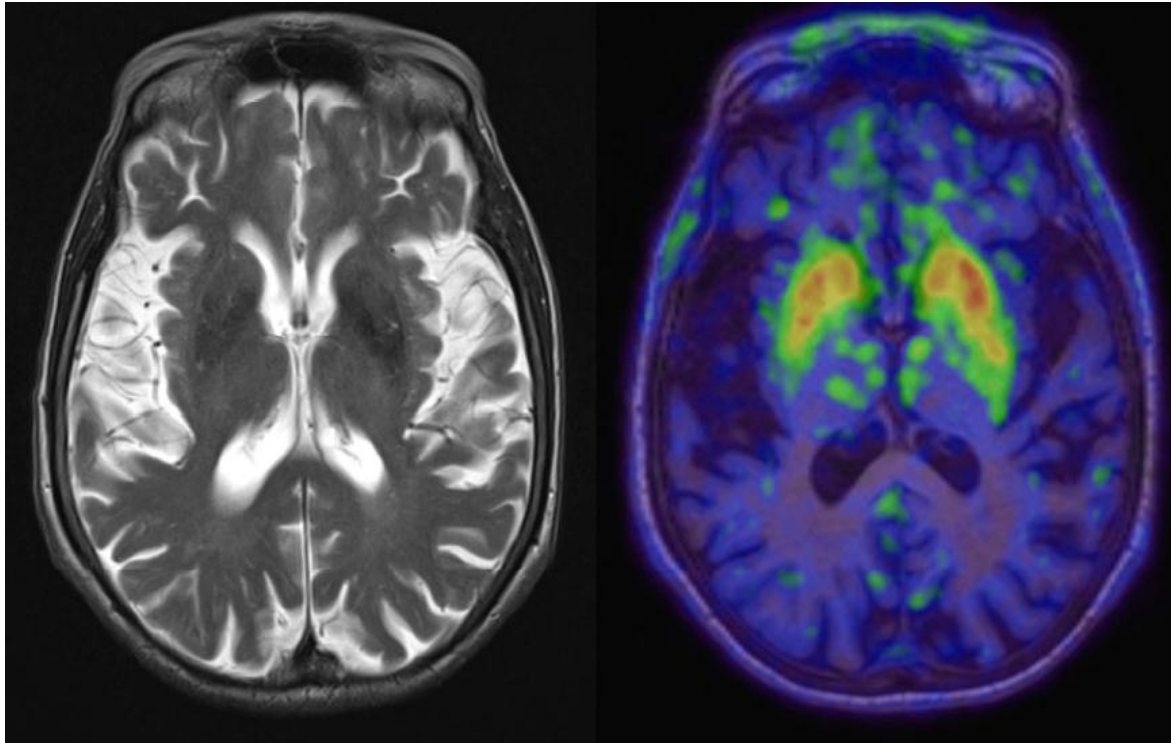
MCI - F 73 yo, MMSE= 24,4

MILD AD - F 66 yo, MMSE=21,7

SEVERE AD - F 65 yo, MMSE= 8,5



# 18F-DOPA-PET/MR



# PET/MR Neuroimaging

Sensory, motor and cognitive processes

rs-  
fMRI

Integration and signaling in ensembles of neurons

DTI

ATP consumption by neurons and astrocytes

PET

↑ Glucose

Blood Flow

↑ Oxygen

ASL /  
PET

Displacement of deoxyhemoglobin

BOLD  
signal



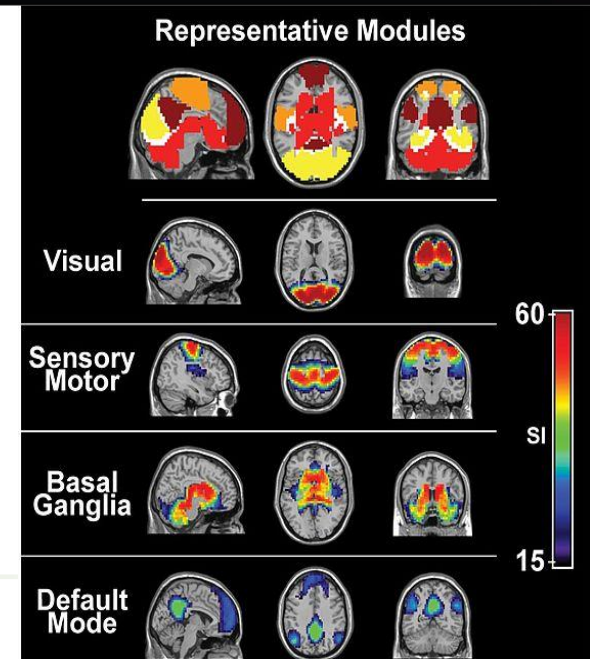
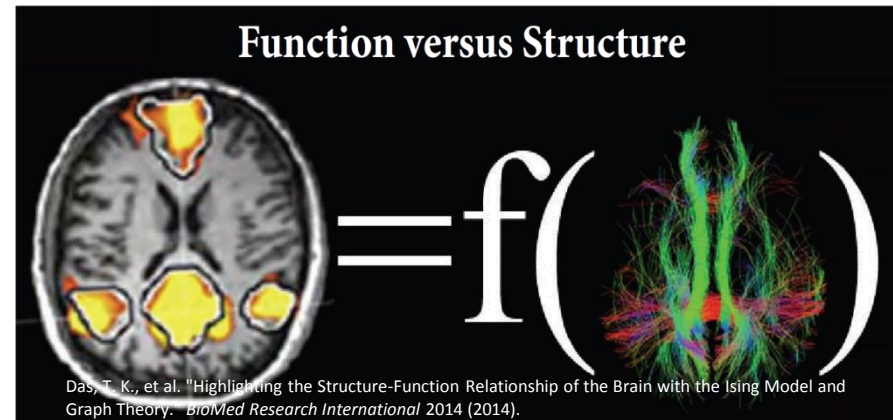
# PET/MR and Connectomics

A connectome is a comprehensive map of neural connections in the brain

PET/MR imaging can evaluate:

- Functional Connectivity (MR)
- Structural Connectivity (MR)
- Metabolic Connectivity (PET)

Post-processing and analysis methods play a key role!!





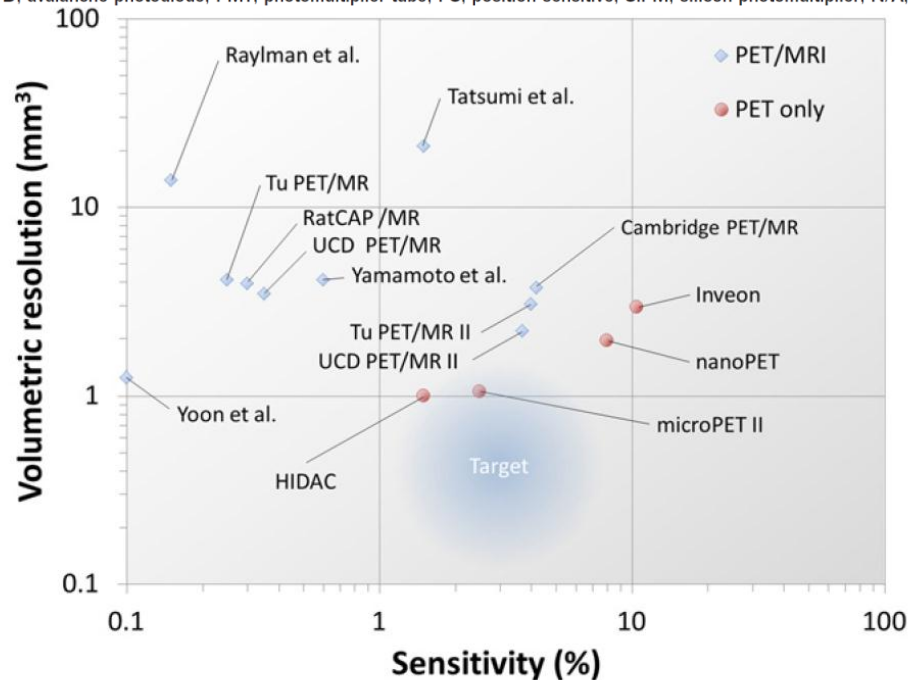
# PRE-CLINICAL PERSPECTIVE

# Preclinical PET/MR

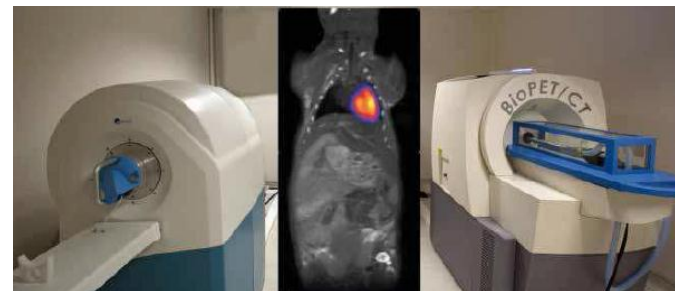
Table 1 List of current stand-alone PET and PET/MRI systems

System	MRI Field Strength	Remarks
Raylman et al	3 T	2-detector system/PMT
Tatsumi et al	0.3 T	PS-PMT
Yamamoto et al	0.15 T	SiPM
Tübingen PET/MR	7 T	APD
RatCAP/MR	9.4 T	APD
UC Davis PET/MR	7 T	PS-APD
Cambridge PET/MR	1 T	PS-PMT
Tübingen PET/MR Generation II	7 T	APD—under development
UCD PET/MR Generation II	7 T	PS-APD—under development
Yoon et al	3 T	SiPM
HIDAC	N/A	PET only
microPET II	N/A	PET only
nanoPET	N/A	PET only
Inveon	N/A	PET only

APD, avalanche photodiode; PMT, photomultiplier tube; PS, position-sensitive; SiPM, silicon photomultiplier; N/A, n



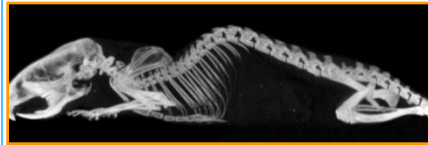
(listing based on publicly available data – July 2012)



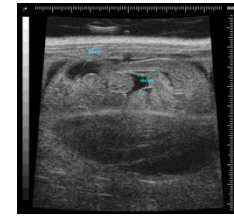
Judenhofer, Martin S., and Simon R. Cherry. "Applications for preclinical PET/MRI." *Seminars in nuclear medicine*. Vol. 43. No. 1. WB Saunders, 2013.



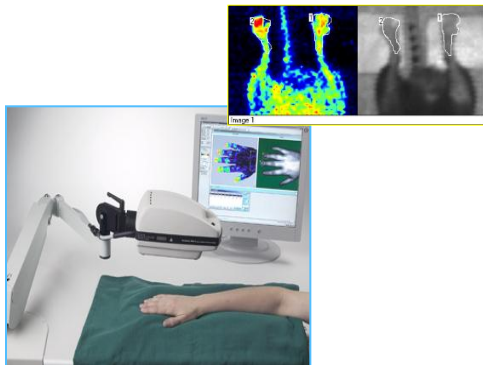
Karolinska Institutet in March 2011



Micro-TC



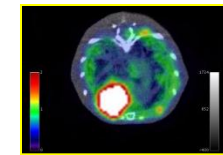
Ecografia ad altissima risoluzione



Laser doppler



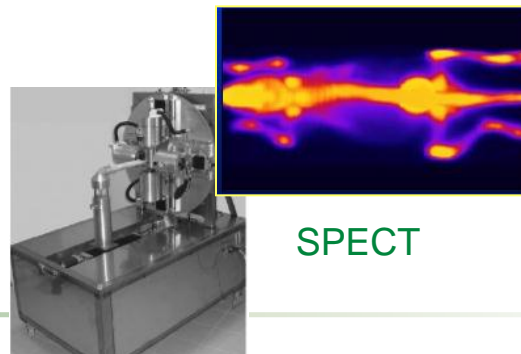
MRI



PET/TC

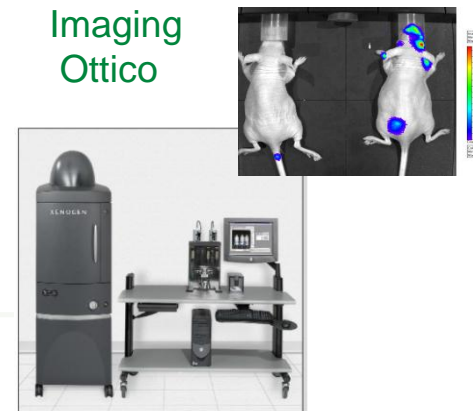


Densitometro osseo

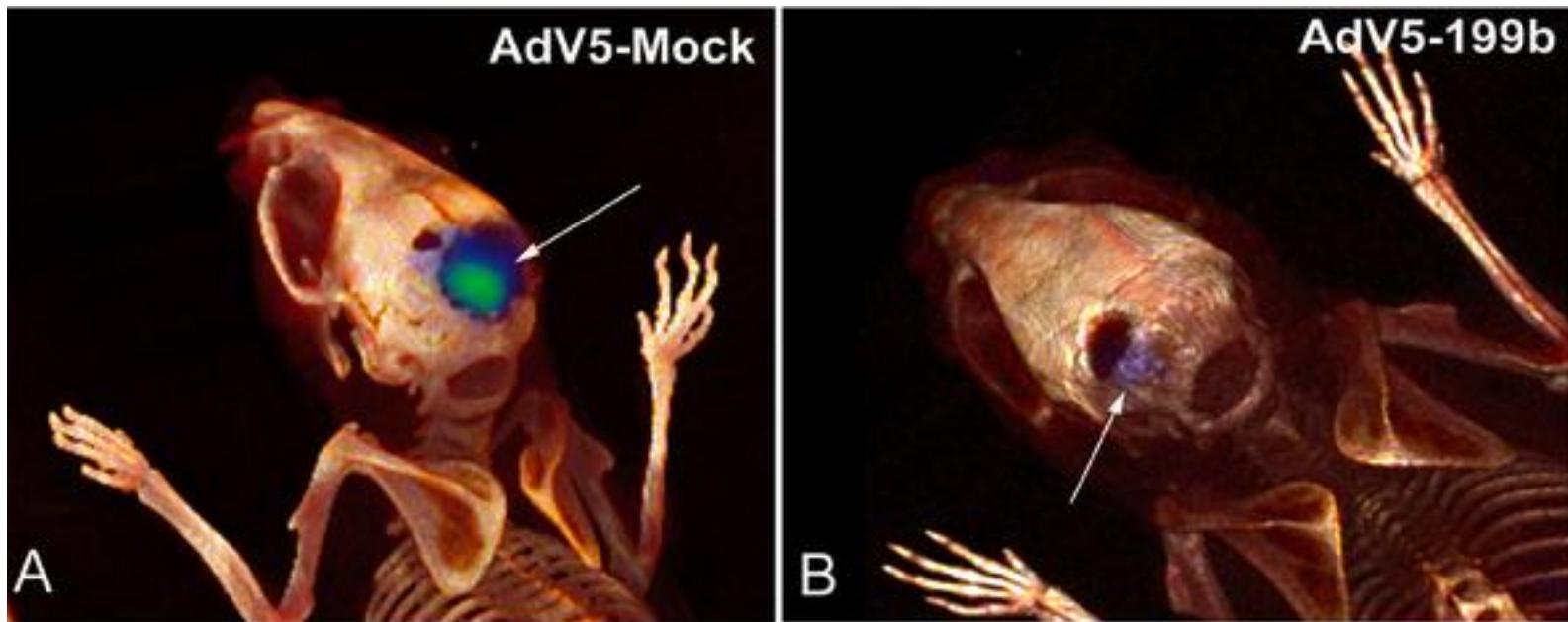


SPECT

Imaging Ottico

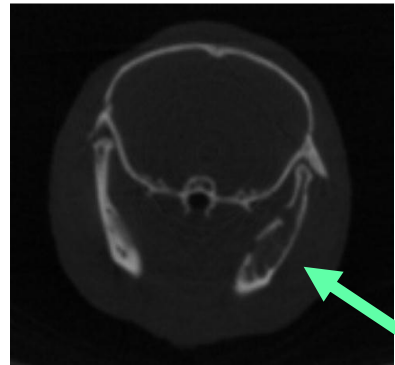
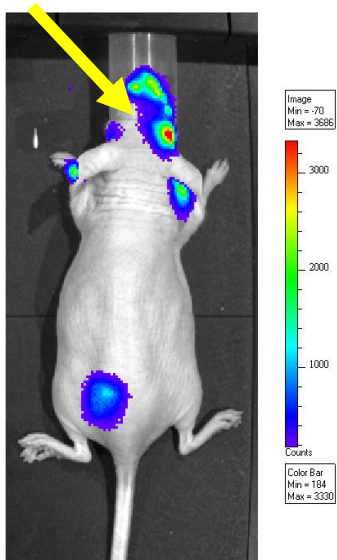


# $^{18}\text{F}$ -FLT PET/CT: Mice model of medulloblastoma



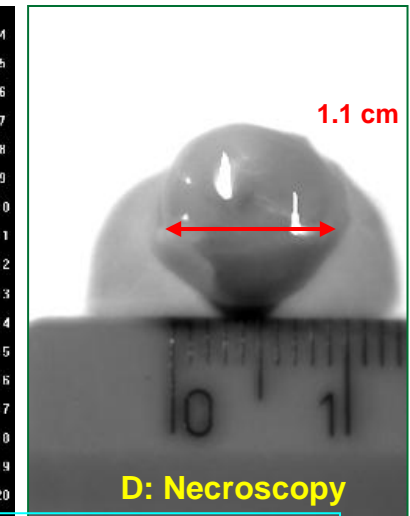
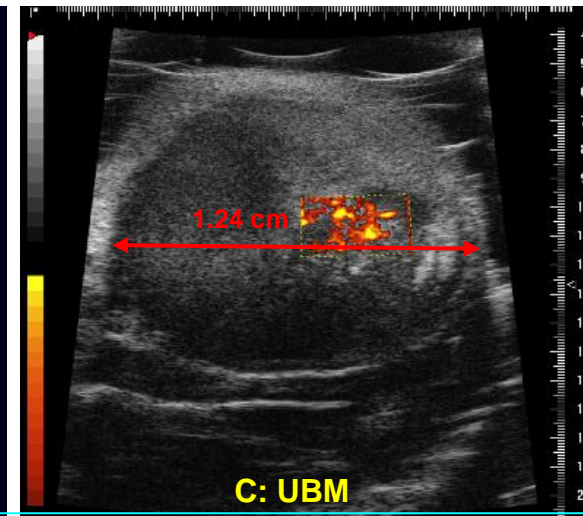
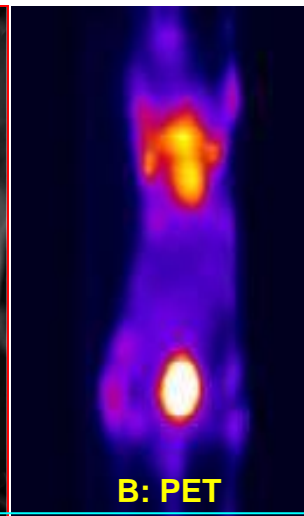
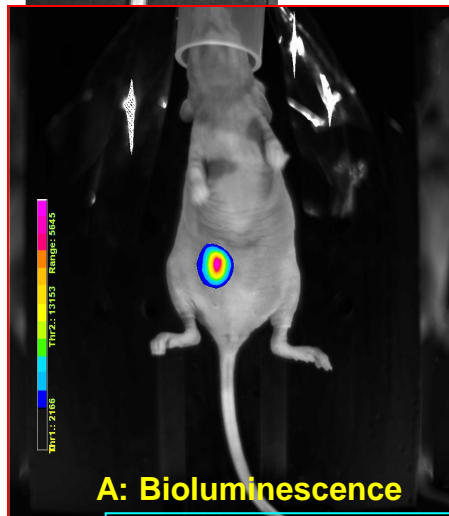
*Garzia L et al MicroRNA-199b-5p impairs cancer stem cells through negative regulation of HES1 in medulloblastoma. PLoS One 2009*

# Multimodality Preclinical Imaging



Bioluminescence and CT:  
mandibular metastasis of  
mammary carcinoma

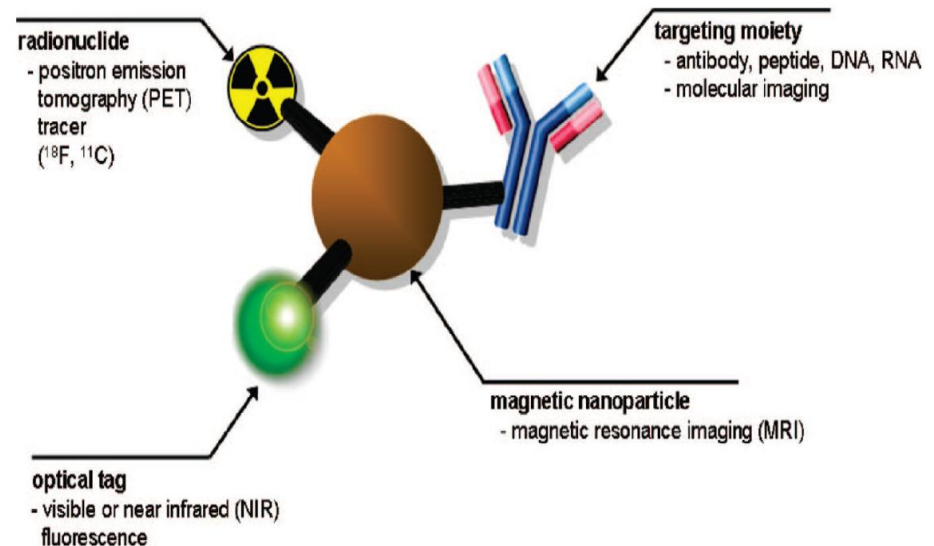
Mammary carcinoma



A. Greco, M. Mancini, S. Gargiulo, M. Gramanzini, P.P. Claudio, A. Brunetti and M. Salvatore. Ultrasound Biomicroscopy in small animal research: applications in molecular and pre-clinical imaging. Journal of Biomedicine and Biotechnology 2011

# Preclinical PET/MR

- Simultaneous PET/MR allows access to new fields of physiological investigation
- PET as reference for the assessment and validation MR techniques (ASL Vs  $^{15}\text{O}$ -labeled water)
- Evaluation of concurrent physiological phenomena (brain metabolism / perfusion)
- Bimodal Tracers (*Frullano et al (2010) Bimodal MR-PET agent for quantitative pH imaging*)



Cheon and Lee, ACCOUNTS OF  
CHEMICAL RESEARCH Vol. 41, 2008  
1630-1640

# Final Remarks

## MR to PET

- ROIs for AIF selection or reference for semi-quantitative analysis
- Prior for iterative reconstruction
- Motion Correction
- Partial Volume Effect Correction

## PET to MR

- Metabolic detection and characterisation of the lesion
- Early metabolic response (DOPA, FDG, FLT, FET, etc)
- In general, PET can supply “molecular power” to MR

Emerging clinical applications

Bimodal Pharmacokinetic modelling

Synergistic approach in multiparametric evaluation

# PET/MR WorkGroup in Naples

- IRCCS SDN:

Prof. Marco Salvatore, MD

Prof. Andrea Soricelli, MD

Prof. Onofrio A Catalano, MD

Emanuele Nicolai, MD

Mario Covello, MD

Carlo Cavaliere, MD

Marco Aiello, PhD

Serena Monti, PhD Student

Ernesto Forte, PhD Student

Marianna Inglese, PhD Student



- Istituto Biostrutture e Bioimmagini CNR

- Università di Napoli Federico II

- International Collaborations: Massachussets General Hospital, Coma Group Liegi, Western Ontario University, KCL, UCL,



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*Thank you!*