







Broader Impacts - 2

Collaboration with Mayo Clinic Florida



Sergio Almaraz-Calderon NSF Site Visit, John D. Fox Laboratory, Florida State University



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Clinical Profile

Consultant, Department of Radiation Oncology Vice Chair, Division of Medical Physics, Department of Radiology

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Collaboration between Mayo Clinic and FSU

MAYO

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Clinical Profile

Consultant, Department of Radiation Oncology Chair, Division of Medical Physics, Department of Radiation Oncology

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BS - Physics and Mathematics New Mexico State University

https://www.mayo.edu/research/faculty/furutani-keith-m-ph-d/bio-00092546 https://www.mayo.edu/research/faculty/beltran-chris-j-ph-d/bio-00092647



Started with a visit by Keith Furutani to the J.D. Fox lab at FSU in May 2023

- Mayo Clinic Florida is currently building an advanced cancer radiotherapy center in Jacksonville, FL.
- This facility will include a first-in-America carbon ion clinical beam.





Figure by K. Furutani.



Mayo Clinic Florida has developed a new microdosimetric kinetic model for fast and accurate calculations of linear energy transfer (LET) for heavy ions aimed at cancer radiotherapy treatment planning with accelerated carbon ions.

A collaboration between the John D. Fox laboratory at FSU and Mayo Clinic for the experimental validation of the microdosimetric simulations.



As part of the collaboration, FSU grad student Eilens Lopez-Saavedra led the experimental project at FSU and participated in an internship program at Mayo clinic.

Full support of FSU (M. Riley - Dean of Graduate School, E. Pritchard - Provost Office) **and Mayo Clinic** (C. Johnson – Director Strategic Alliances) **administrations**.

4



- Eilens Lopez-Saavedra did An internship at Mayo Clinic Florida working with the radiation oncology group.
- Setup and initial tests of Encore. Encore was filled with methane-based tissue-equivalent gas mixture. Needed to operate at much lower pressures than those usually used in nuclear physics experiments.
- Experiments with Heavy ions from the Tandem accelerator at the John D. Fox laboratory. Special focus in the 'Bragg peak' of the distribution.
- Data Analysis on Linear Energy Losses for understanding the interaction of Carbon ions with tissue-equivalent materials at a micrometer scale.
- Validation of Microdosimetric Model for Radiotherapy Applications.









 Table IV.2

 Elemental Composition (percent by weight), components (percent by partial pressure) of tissue equivalent gases and (pl)/kP.cm*

	Elemental Composition					Components			(pl) _c
	Н	С	N	0	CH4	C_3H_8	CO ₂	N ₂	
Methane based	10.2	45.6	3.5	40.7	64.4	0	32.5	3.1	74.6
Propane based	10.3	56.9	3.5	29.3	0	55	39.6	5.4	43.7

*Product of pressure (torr) and distance (cm) in the gas that is equivalent to 1 micrometer of tissue.

H.H. Rossi and M. Zaider. Microdosimetry and Its Applications, 2012.





50 Torr of methane-based tissue equivalent gas mixture in Encore for 1 μ m of tissue per strip!

TOPAS Simulation of a 25 MeV ¹²C beam passing through Encore's active region filled with methane-based tissue equivalent gas.

The scope of the experiments was expanded, we measured energy losses of ¹²C, ¹⁶O and ²⁸Si beams at several energies. Protons and alphas were not measured.





Experimental Setup in TR1. Encore was filled with 50 Torr of methanebased tissue-equivalent gas mixture.

> The results of this collaboration are included in Eilens' PhD dissertation.

Moving forward ... Proposal by the Mayo Clinic



 Significantly expand cancer research capacity in Florida.
 Improve both research and treatment through greater pediatric and adult participation in clinical trials networks.
 Reduce the impact of cancer on disproportionately impacted individuals

Bankhead-Coley Cancer Biomedical Research Program

James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program

Live Like Bella Pediatric Cancer Biomedical Research Program

Advancing Cancer Therapy and Space Radiation Research: Building Infrastructure for High-LET Biological Experiments



NSI)

"This proposal aims to establish the infrastructure at FSU to conduct high-LET based biological experiments with a platform dedicated to studying the biological effects of charged heavy particles in both the context of radiotherapy and space radiation protection." The following types of grants are available to pursue the above seven research priorities. Applications for Research Infrastructure grants that are reviewed and assigned exceptional scientific merit will be considered for preferential funding.

Grant Mechanism	Maximum Amount (Including direct and indirect costs)	Maximum Duration	
Discovery Science	\$600,000	36 Months	
High-Risk, High- Reward Discovery	\$300,000	36 Months	
Ccience			
Research Infrastructure	\$1,500,000	36 Months	
Chinical Trials/ \$1,500,000		48 Months	
Socio-behavioral Interventions			
High-Risk, High- Reward Clinical Research	\$750,000	48 Months	
Bridge	\$100,000	6 months	
Equipment	\$100,000	12 months	
Non-typical Clinical rials/Socio-behavioral Research	\$250,000	36 months	
New Investigator Research (NIR)	\$300,000	36 months	

Research with heavy ions is needed to precisely characterize healthy tissue responses and optimize tumor cell killing ... There is "currently" no facility in Florida capable of facilitating biological experiments with high-LET radiation beams.



Advancing Cancer Therapy and Space Radiation Research: Building Infrastructure for High-LET Biological Experiments

- Dedicated radiobiology lab space will be created at FSU for biology-driven studies.
- Establish a state-wide network of cross-disciplinary expertise in nuclear physics, ion beam delivery, (micro)dosimetry, and radiation biology to support vigorous validation of experimental parameters for radiobiological assays.



• Benchmark studies to ensure accurate cell targeting, with biological assays including DNA damage repair and cell survival to evaluate successful radiation delivery.



Osama Mohamad, Brock J. Sishc, Janapriya Saha, Arnold Pompos, Asal Rahimi, Michael D. Story, Anthony J. Davis † and D.W. Nathan Kim *,†



ARUNA

Advancing Cancer Therapy and Space Radiation Research: Building Infrastructure for High-LET Biological Experiments

What does it mean for the John D. Fox lab?

Several technical adjustments will be made to the existing accelerator facility to establish the necessary infrastructure for radiobiological experimentation.

- 1. In the ion source area, beam production and delivery will be upgraded with the addition of a multi-cathode ion source.
- 2. A beam line in target room 2 will be dedicated to cell irradiation.
- 3. The beams from the accelerators need to be extracted to atmosphere from the vacuum tube used for beam transport. A two-chamber setup will be built for this purpose.
- 4. A fast beam deflector is needed to stop the beam and ensure proper dose delivery to the cells as well as vacuum integrity through all other beam components of the laboratory.
- 5. Dedicated data acquisition as well as detectors for beam and dose monitoring will be available for this project.



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Beam control and monitor, accurate dose delivery, 3D remote control of the sample, keep vacuum integrity.





Set up for cell irradiation at Warsaw cyclotron.



- Summary
- We have established a collaboration with Mayo Clinic Florida to experimentally validate microdosimetric models for carbon therapy.
- Experiments were carried out at the John D. Fox lab to measure energy losses around the Bragg peak for ¹²C, ¹⁶O and ²⁸Si beam from the tandem accelerator in the Encore detector which was filled with a methane-based tissue-equivalent gas mixture, operated at 50 Torr.
- A proposal **submitted by Mayo Clinic** to create a research infrastructure at FSU to perform high-Linear Energy Transfer (LET) biological experiments with a platform dedicated to studying the biological effects of charged heavy particles for radiotherapy was submitted to FDH.
- Strong support from FSU and Mayo Clinic administrations.

Thank you!

