

International Atomic Energy Agency Scientific Forum

# A Decade of Action on **Cancer Control** and the Way Forward

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**17–18 September 2019**  
Vienna International Centre  
Board Room D, C Building, 4th Floor

## **PET Radiopharmaceutical Production in North Macedonia**

Ana Ugrinska

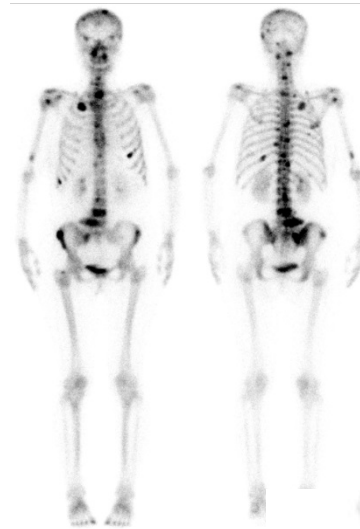
**University Institute of Positron Emission Tomography  
Republic of North Macedonia**



# Nuclear Medicine in Oncology

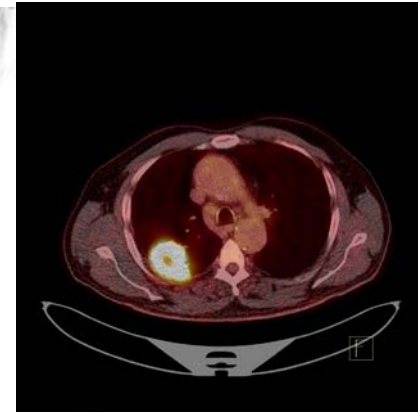
Nuclear medicine is a branch of medicine that uses radiopharmaceuticals to diagnose and treat diseases

One of its most common uses is diagnosing and treating cancer.



Conventional  
nuclear medicine

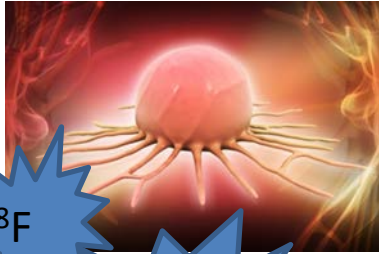
Positron Emission  
Tomography (PET)



# WHY & WHERE PET?

Lymphoma, Lung Cancer,  
Melanoma, Breast Cancer,  
Colon Cancer, Thyroid Cancer...

Staging , Restaging, Response  
evaluation, Detection of recurrence,  
Follow-up during or after cytostatic  
therapy....



$^{18}\text{F}$

Glucose  
analog

$^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG

**Image of the  
metabolism of the  
cancer cells**

**PERSONALIZED MEDICINE**



# Nuclear Medicine in North Macedonia

## Public health

- 2 departments of conventional nuclear medicine
- 1. PET/CT department with **unit for production of radiopharmaceuticals**

## Private hospitals

- 1 conventional n.m. department
- 2 PET/CT departments



## IAEA projects

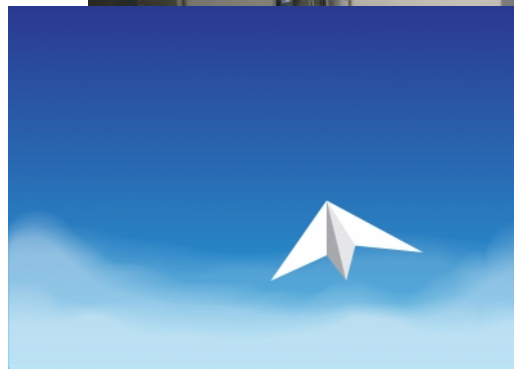
- Preparation of Radioimmunoassay Kits & Radiopharmaceuticals 1995 – 1997
- Local Production of Radiopharmaceuticals 1997 – 2001
- Local Production of Radiopharmaceuticals: Labelling of Monoclonal Antibodies 2001 – 2004
- Upgrading and Modernization of Nuclear Medicine Equipment 1997 – 2001
- Introduction of Radio-guided Lymphatic Surgery 2003 – 2007
- Rehabilitation of Nuclear Medicine Services in South-east Macedonia 2005 – 2010
- Upgrading In Vivo Diagnostic and Therapeutic Nuclear Medicine 2007 – 2010
- **Introducing Positron Emission Tomography (PET) in Clinical Practice 2009-2016**
- Establishing Nuclear Medicine to Improve Health Care of Patients Affected by Chronic Diseases 2012- 2016
- Improving the Practice of Nuclear Medicine by the Introduction of SPECT/CT Hybrid Imaging at the University Clinical Centre “Mother Theresa” 2016- 2018
- **Strengthening and Improving the Quality of Positron Emission Tomography Diagnostics of Oncological and Non-Oncological Patients with New Positron Emission Tomography Radiopharmaceuticals, 2018 – on going**



## PET radiopharmaceuticals have very short half life

- $^{18}\text{F}$  - 109.8 min
- $^{11}\text{C}$  - 20.3 min
- $^{13}\text{N}$  - 9.9 min
- $^{15}\text{O}$  - 2.03min

Cyclotron for production of PET radioisotopes



# National Center for Positron Emission Tomography - Project of the Government with IAEA support



**Cyclotron**



**Hot cells**



**Quality control**

Design of the  
radiopharmaceutical  
production facility according  
to GMP regulations



## IAEA support during all phases

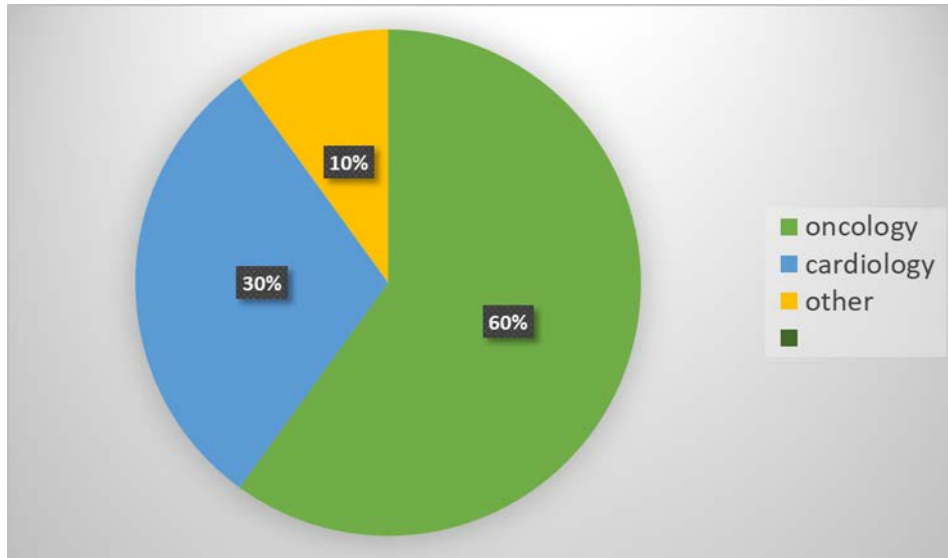
- Feasibility study
- Help & support from experts during planning and building
- Scientific visits from experts from various fields after start in 2016
- 20 long term fellowships
- Training courses

Part of the equipment for radiopharmaceutical production & quality control





## Nuclear medicine procedures in diagnostic nuclear medicine in public health institutions



12 000 conventional n.m. scans /year

2000 – 2500  $^{18}\text{F}$  FDG

PET/CT scans/year

PET/CT is supported by national health insurance fund



# On – going & future projects

- Introduction of other radiopharmaceuticals
- Introduction of PET/ CT in cardiology and neurology
- Scientific projects
- QUANUM – quality management audit
- Expanding the production of radiopharmaceuticals



THANK YOU



## Disclaimer

- Image on slide 3 “cancer cell” courtesy of rajcreationzs at FreeDigitalPhotos.net
- Image on slide 6 courtesy of mrkrich at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

