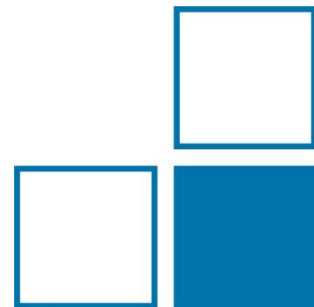


# UHDpulse Project: Overview and Current Status

Andreas Schüller

PTB Working Group 6.21 “Dosimetry for radiotherapy

2<sup>nd</sup> UHDpulse Stakeholder Workshop 26.-27.1.23, Prague





# Joint Research Project UHDpulse



**Titel:** Metrology for advanced radiotherapy using particle beams with ultra-high pulse dose rates

**Duration:** Sep/2019-**Feb/2023**

**Coordinator:** Andreas Schüller (PTB)

**Topic:** dosimetry for  
FLASH radiotherapy & proton therapy,  
VHEE and laser-driven beams

**Website:** <http://uhdpulse-empir.eu>



The EMPIR initiative is co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the EMPIR Participating States

enables European metrology institutes to collaborate with industrial and medical organisations, and academia

**Titel:** Metrology for advanced radiotherapy using particle beams with ultra-high pulse dose rates

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The screenshot shows the abstract page of a paper titled "The European Joint Research Project UHDpulse – Metrology for advanced radiotherapy using particle beams with ultra-high pulse dose rates" published in Physica Medica, Volume 80, December 2020, Pages 134-150. The paper is by Andreas Schüller et al. The abstract includes an outline, keywords, and a list of figures (15). The highlights section states: "Ultra-high dose rate reduces adverse side effects in radiotherapy (FLASH effect). Studies and implementation in practice requires accurate dose measurements. An European joint research project was started to develop a measurement framework. Tools for dosimetry of ultra-high pulse dose rate beams will be provided."

Schüller et al., Physica Medica 80 (2020), 134-150  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmp.2020.09.020>



# UHDpulse Partners and Collaborators



## Metrology Institutes



7 Metrology institutes

6 Hospitals

9 Universities

7 Research institutes

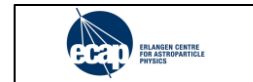
12 Companies

+ Inspire proton therapy network

## Irradiation facilities / providers



## Detector developers



# Work package structure

## WP1: Primary standards

- Definition of reference conditions
- Reference radiation fields
- Adapting primary standards (water calorimeter, Fricke dosimeter)
- Prototype graphite calorimeters

## WP2: Secondary standards, relative dosimetry

- Transfer from primary standards
- Characterizing established detector systems
- Formalism for reference dosimetry for future Code of Practice

## WP5: Impact, WP6: Coordination

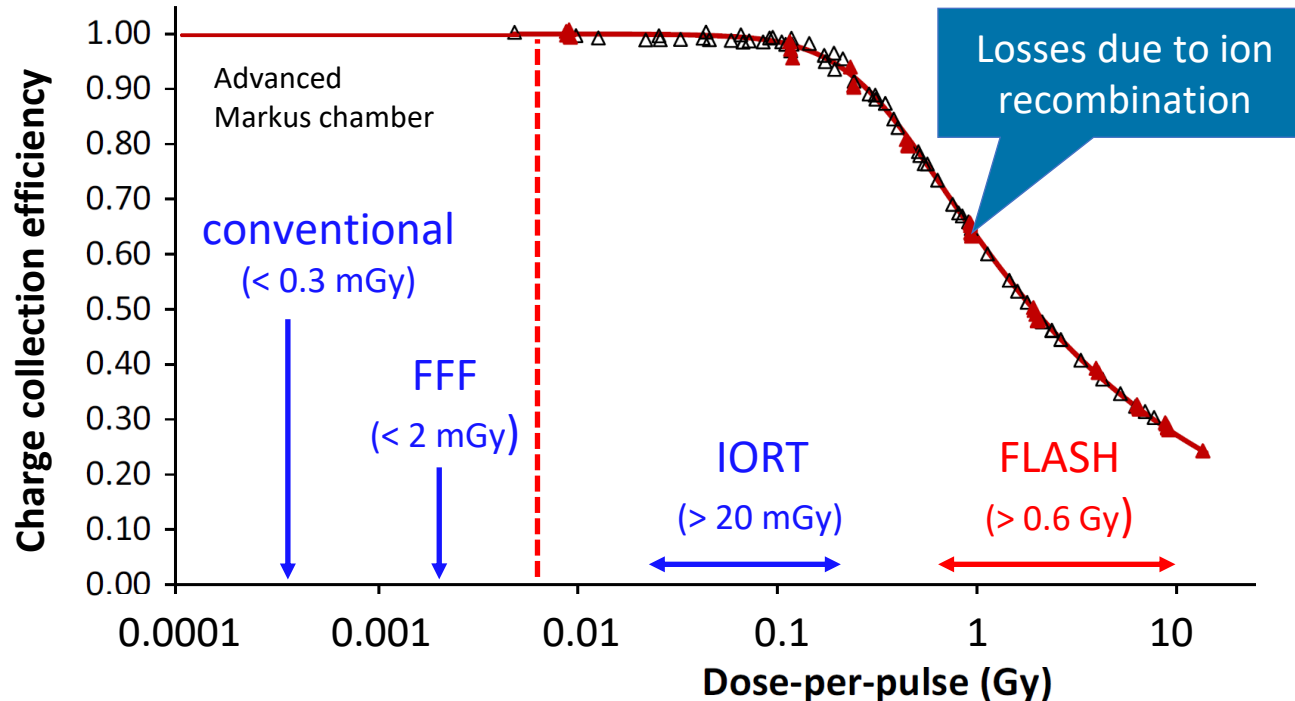
## WP4: Detectors and methods outside primary beam

- Active detection techniques for pulsed mixed radiation fields of stray radiation and pulsed neutrons
- Methods with passive detectors

## WP3: Detectors for primary beam

- Novel and custom-built active dosimetric systems
- Beam monitoring systems

- Typical performance of ionization chambers



Initial situation:

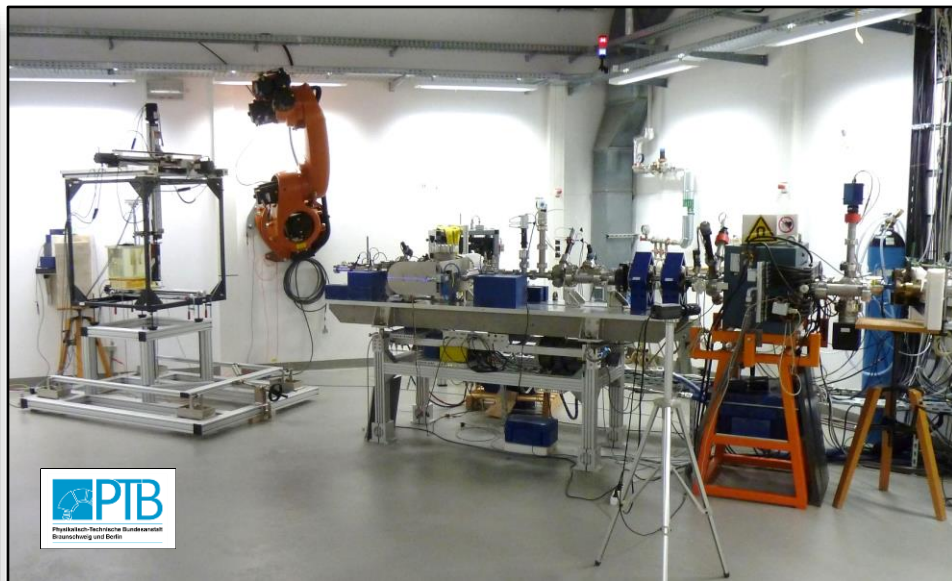
- **no** active dosimeters for real-time measurements
- **no** dedicated primary standard
- **no** formalism for reference dosimetry

# UHPDR reference electron beam (D1)



*PTB's Research electron accelerator*

$E = 0.5 - 50 \text{ MeV}$ ,  $t_{\text{pulse}} = 0.1 - 3 \text{ us}$   
up to **12 Gy per pulse** (SSD 0.7 m, 20 MeV)



*Beam line with water phantom*

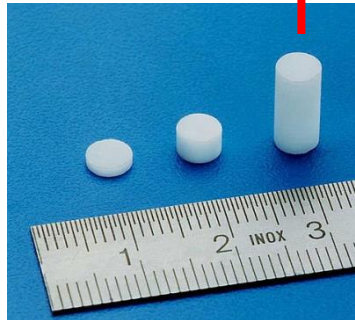
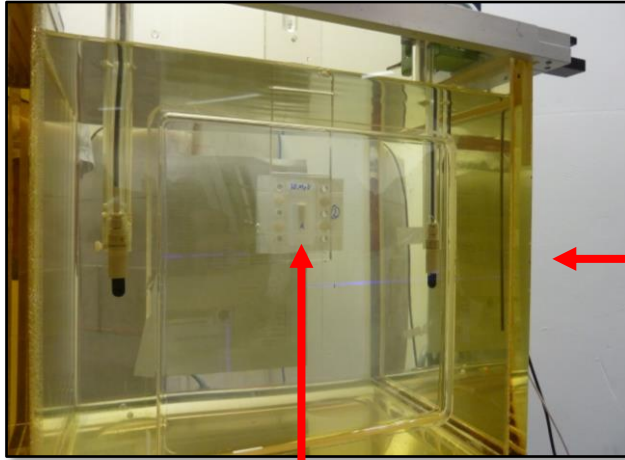
Alexandra Bourgouin (PTB), today WP1 and WP2

A. Bourgouin *et al.* "Characterization of the PTB ultra-high ..."  
*Phys. Med. Biol.* **67** (2022) 085013.

<https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6560/ac5de8>

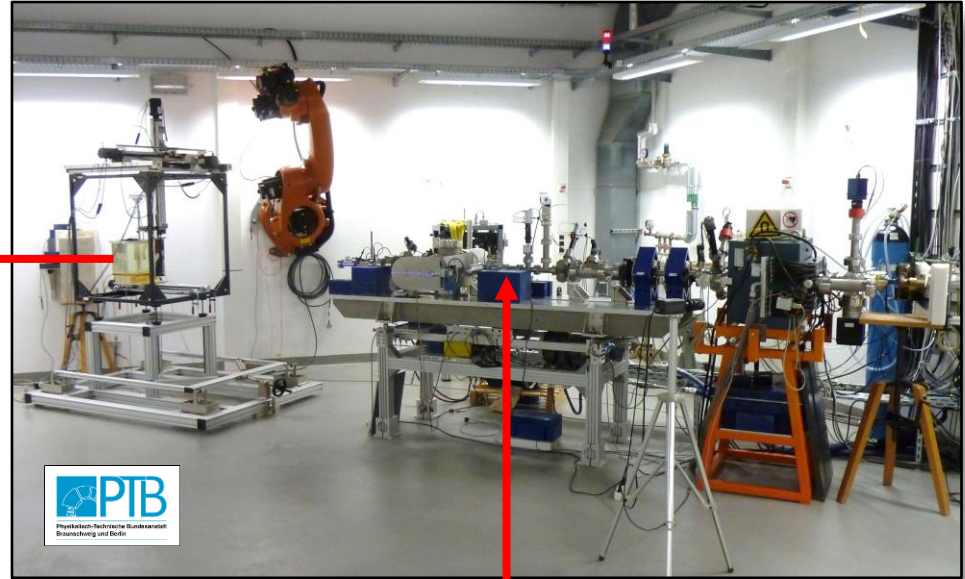


# UHPDR reference electron beam (D1)



*Alanine pellets at reference depth in water phantom*

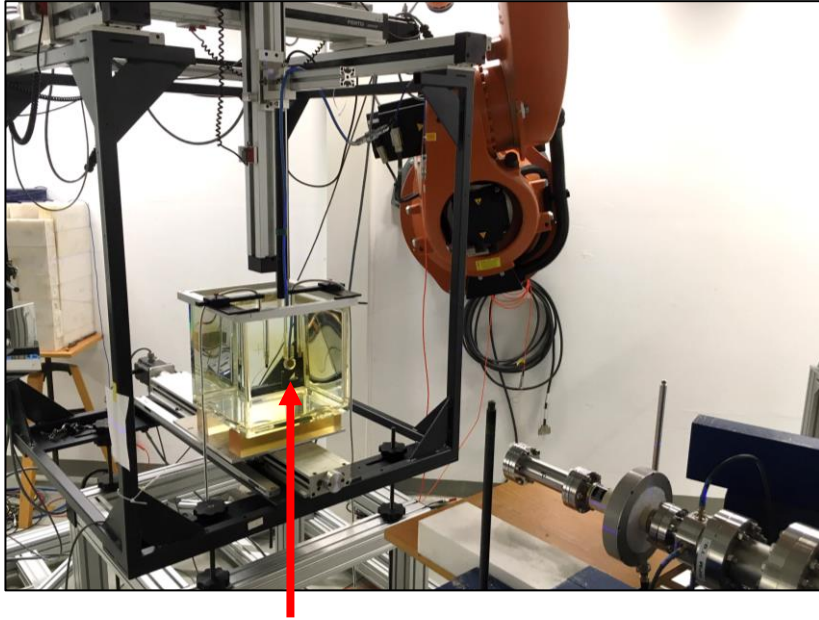
Dose traceable to PTB's primary standards



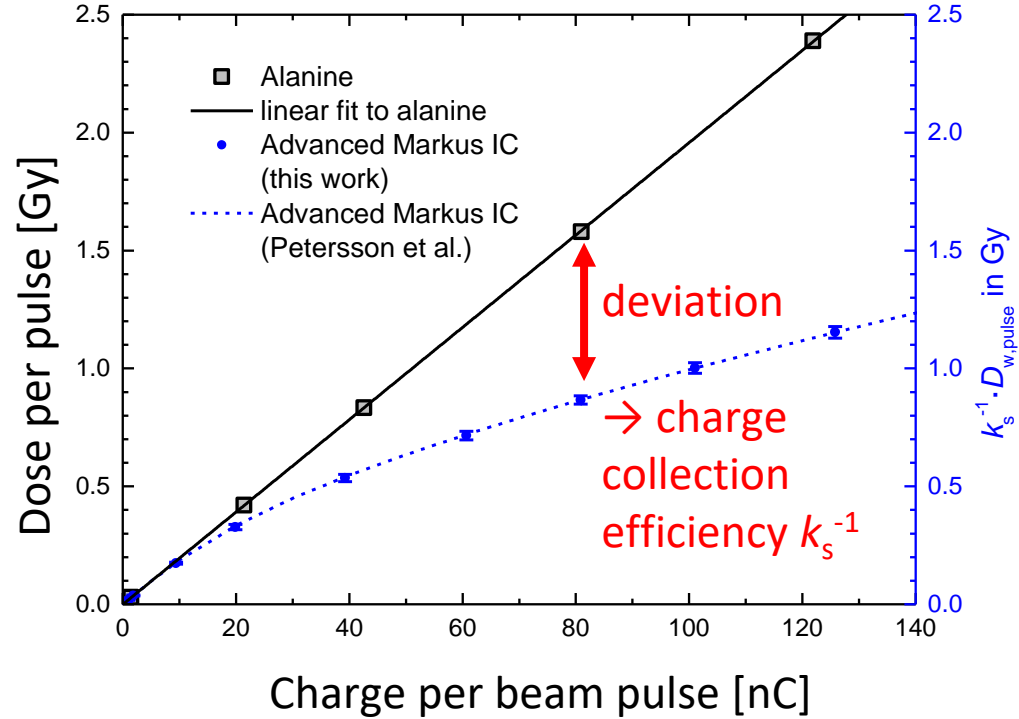
Current transformer (Bergoz ICT): Non-destructive absolute beam pulse charge measurement

A. Bourguin *et al.*, "Absorbed-dose-to-water..."  
Phys. Med. Biol. **67** (2022) 205011.  
<https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6560/ac950b>

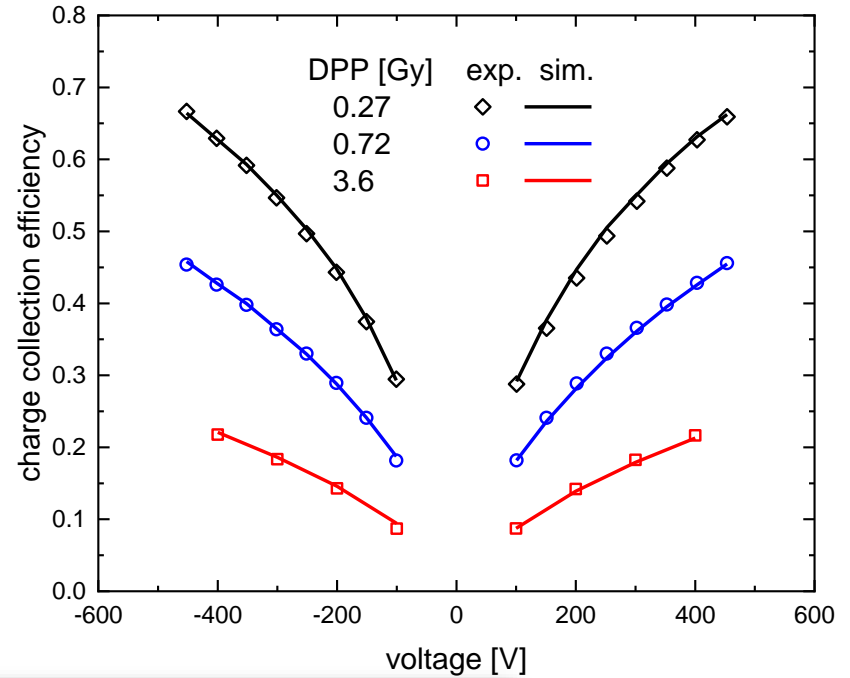
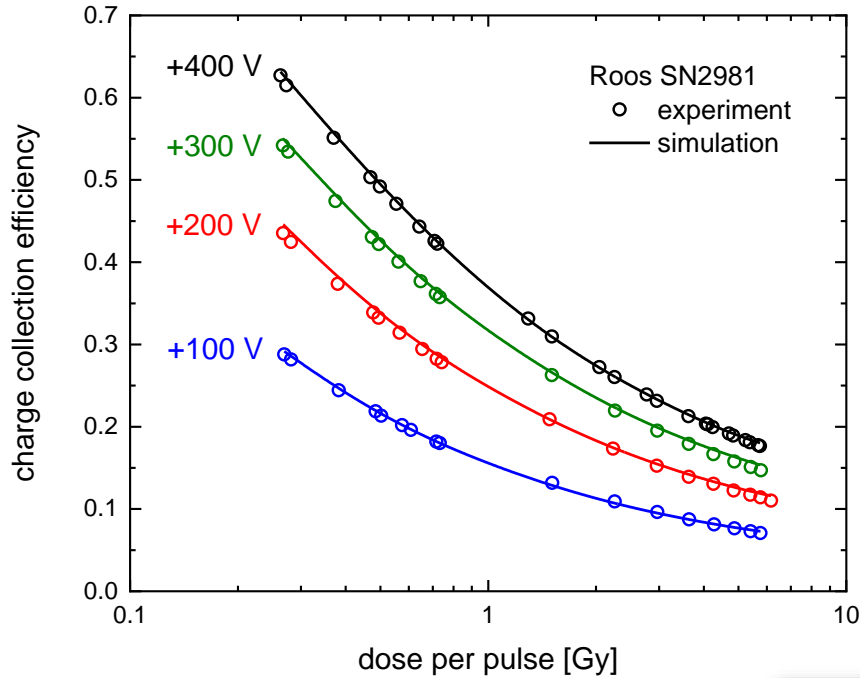




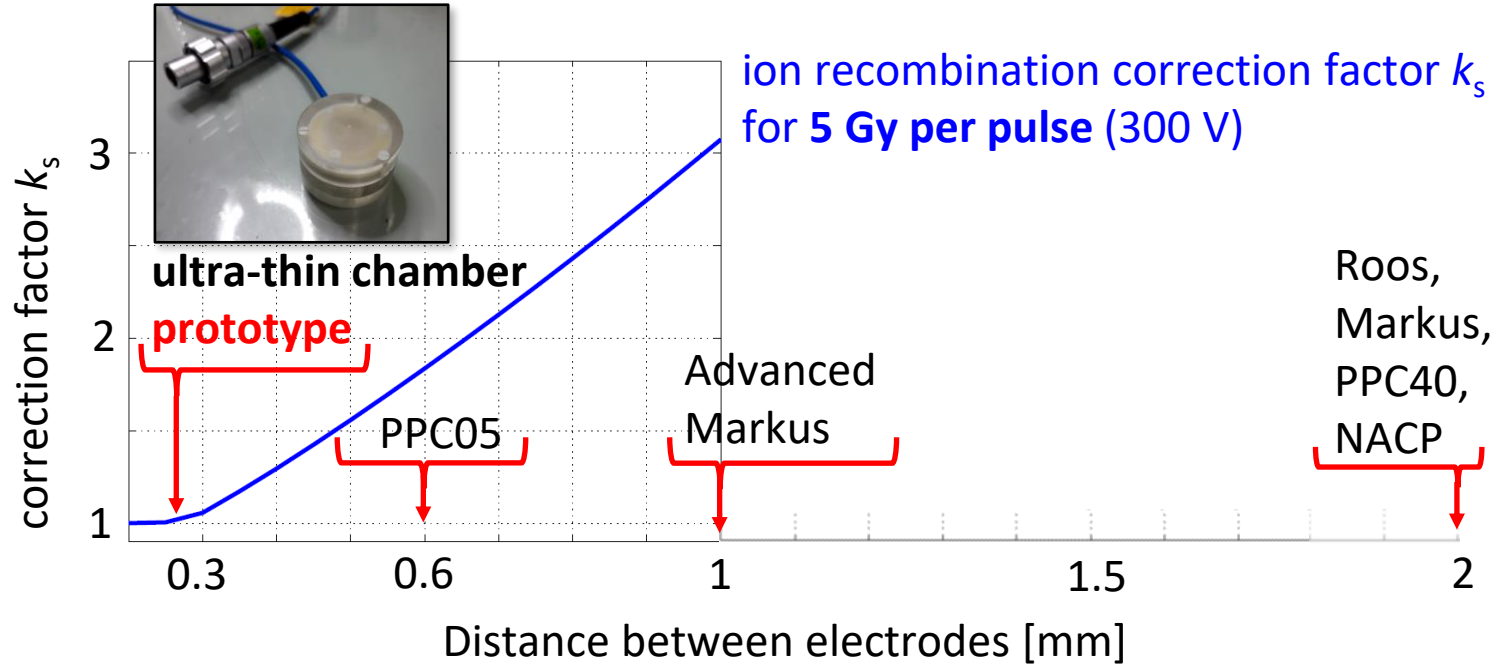
Detector under test at reference depth in water phantom



# Calculation of charge collection efficiency



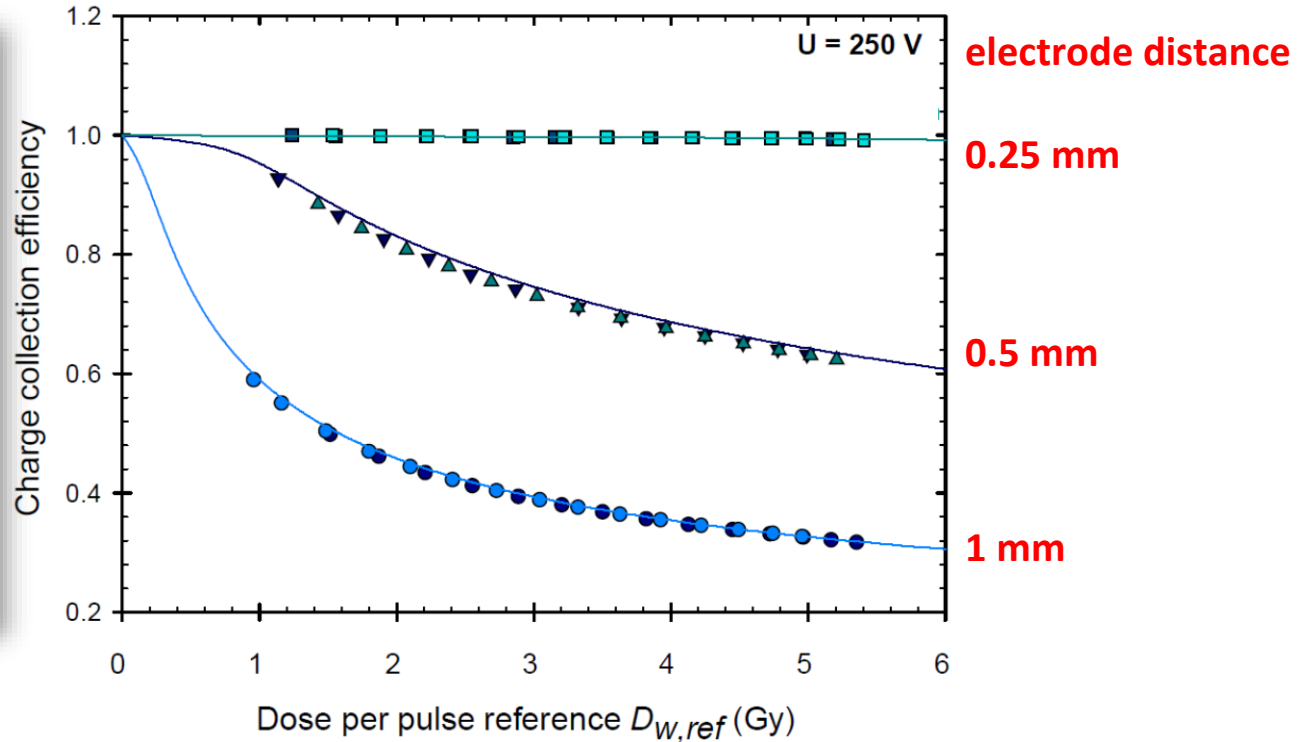
# Calculation of charge collection efficiency



Faustino Gomez (USC), today WP2

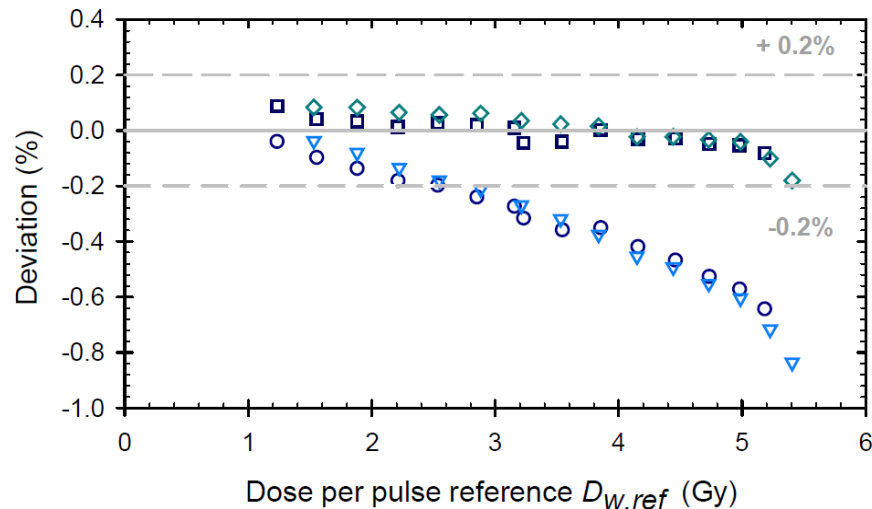
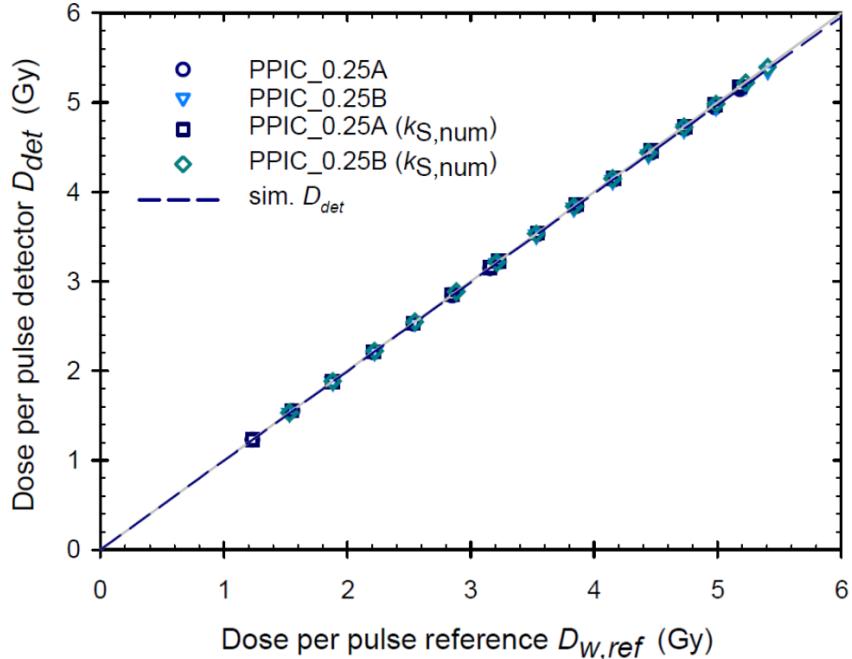
F. Gomez *et al.*, "Development of an ultra-thin ..." Med Phys. **49** (2022) 4705.  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/mp.15668>

# Ultra-thin ionization chamber for FLASH RT





# Ultra-thin ionization chamber for FLASH RT



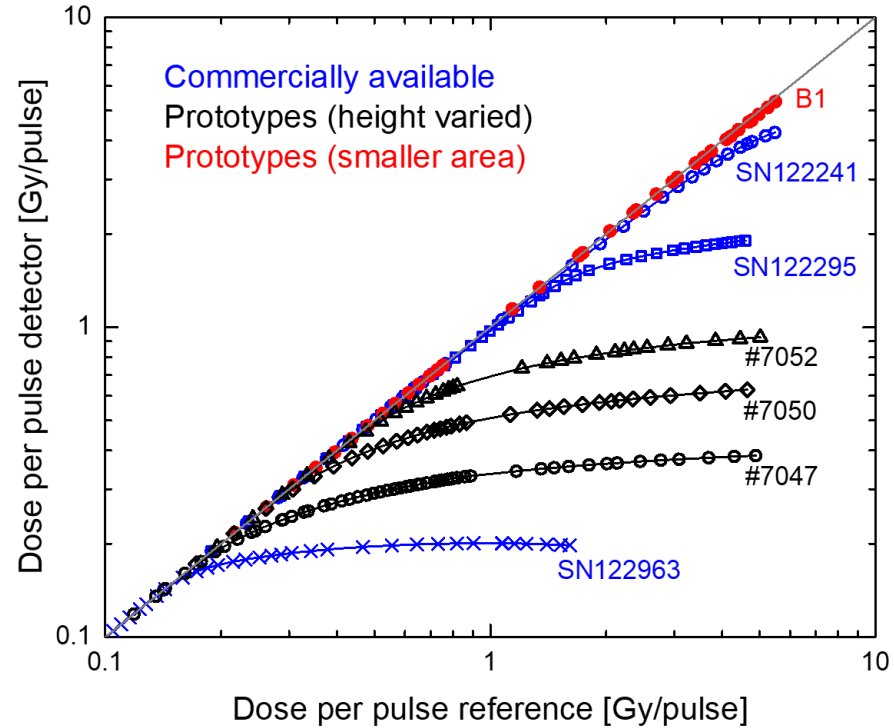
Faustino Gomez (USC), today WP2

R. Kranzer *et al.* "Charge collection efficiency ..." Phys Med **104** (2022) 10.

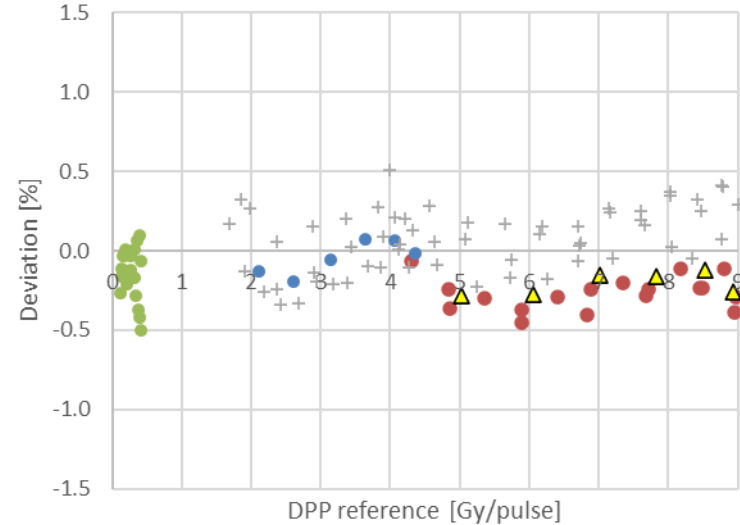
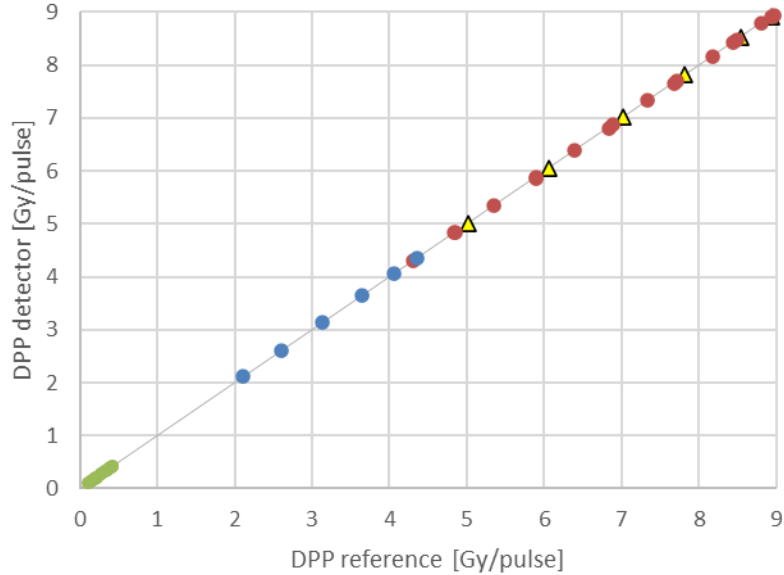
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmp.2022.10.021>



# microDiamond → flashDiamond







Gianluca Verona Rinati, today WP2

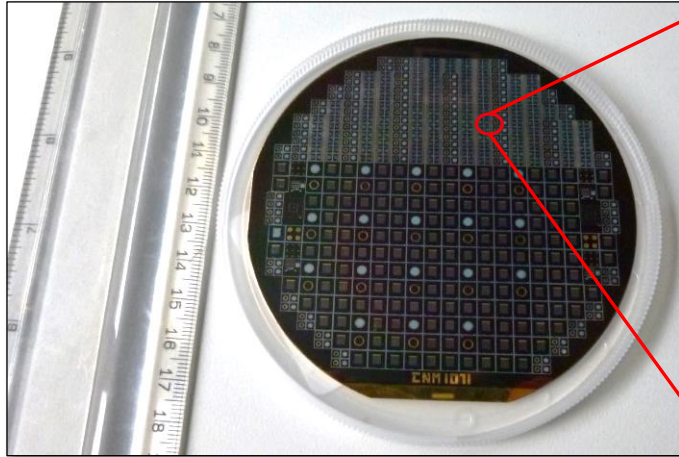
M. Marinelli et al.

“Design, realization, and ...”  
 Med. Phys. **49** (2022) 1902.  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/mp.15473>

G. Verona Rinati et al.

“Application of a novel diamond ...”  
 Med. Phys. **49** (2022) 5513.  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/mp.15782>

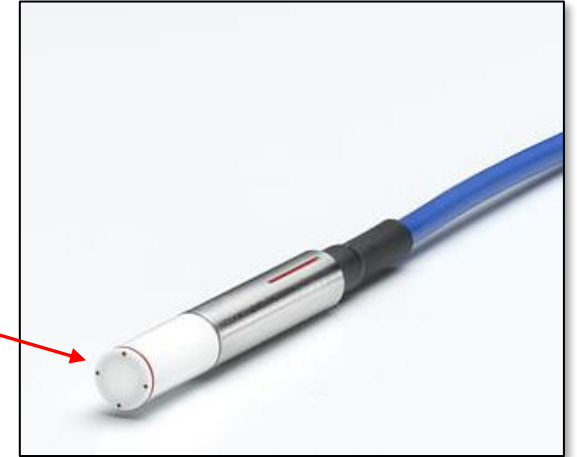
# SiC diodes for FLASH dosimetry



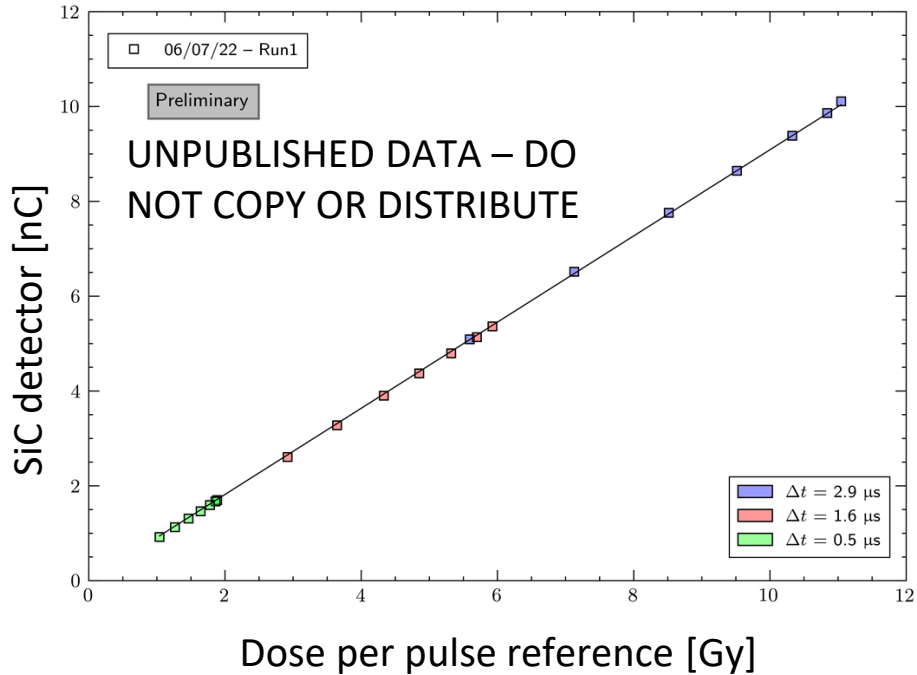
4" SiC wafer



1 mm diode



Encapsulation by PTW  
(microSilicon housing)



C. Fleta et al.

“Characterization of silicon carbide detectors in ultrahigh dose per pulse electron beams”, in preparation

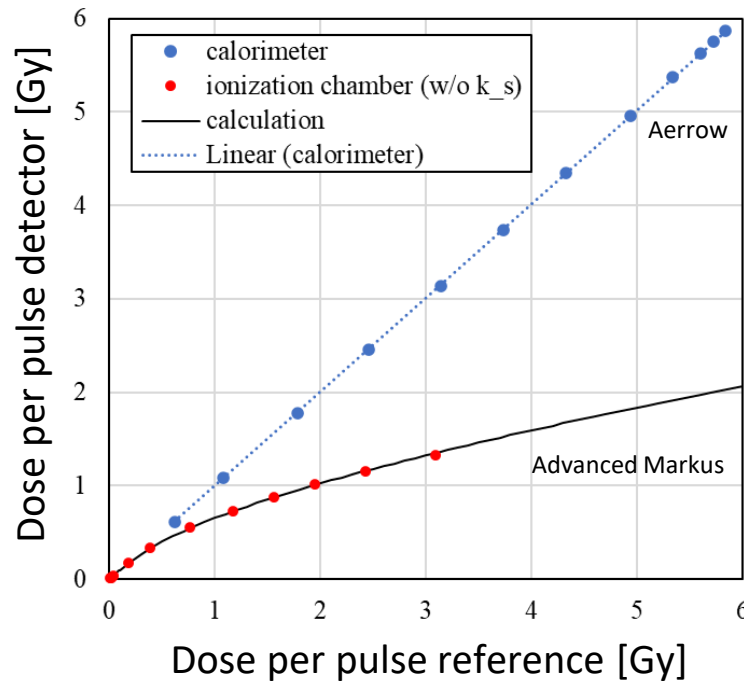
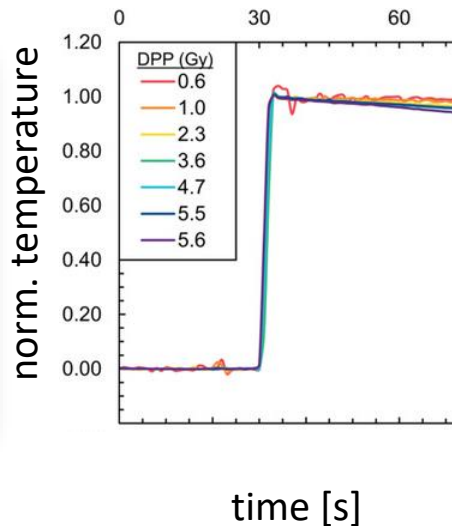
Celeste Fleta (CSIC), tomorrow WP3

Application for Patent EP22383168.6

# Graphite probe calorimeter “Aerrow”



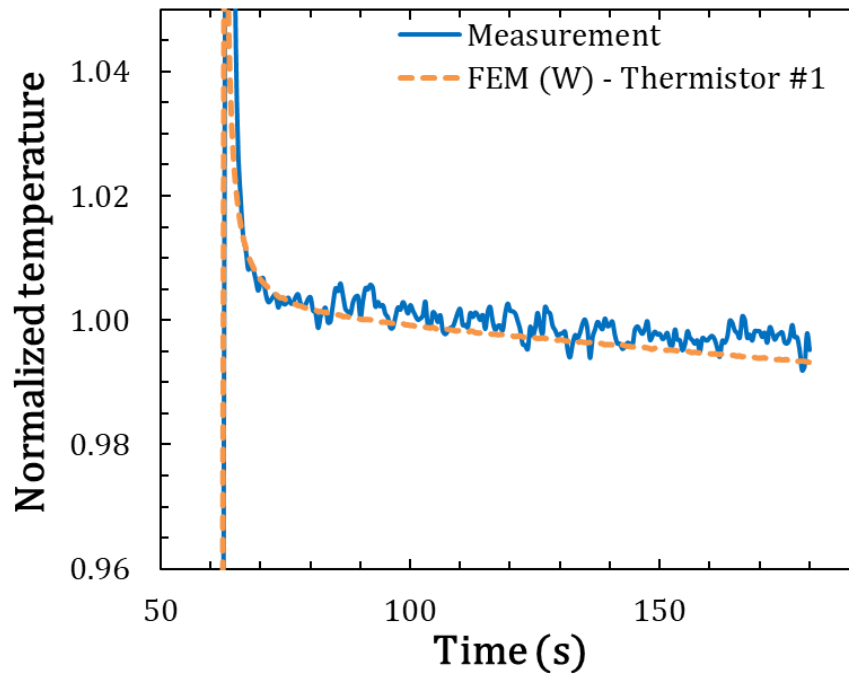
Calorimeter Aerrow  
(and ionization chamber)



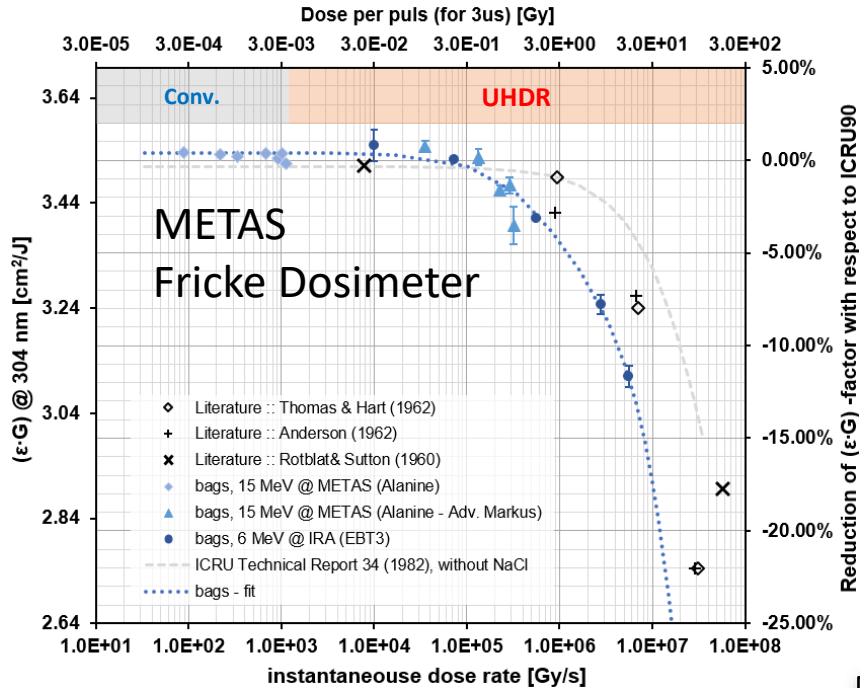
# Water calorimeter primary standard



*PTB's primary standard of the unit Gy*



# Comparison of primary standards (D3)

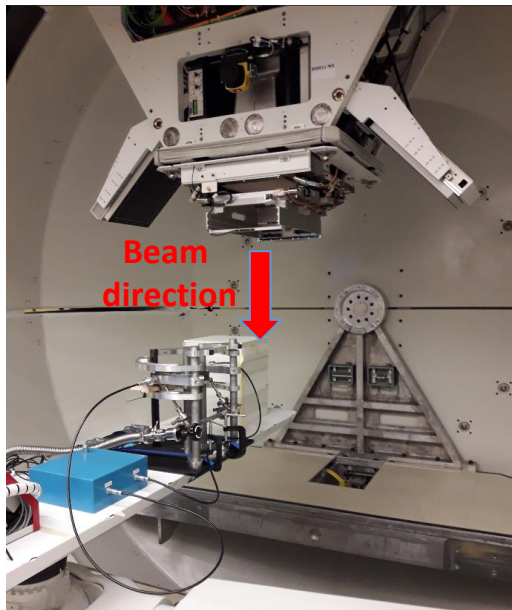


The ratio between the dose delivered by a calibrated ultra-high dose per pulse electron beam using the **METAS primary standard**, Fricke dosimeter, and the dose delivered by a calibrated ultra-high dose per pulse electron beam using the **PTB primary standard**, water calorimeter, was shown to be 1.002(12). Therefore, it can be concluded that both primary standards established in ultra-high dose per pulse electron beam **agree with each other** within the combined standard uncertainty.

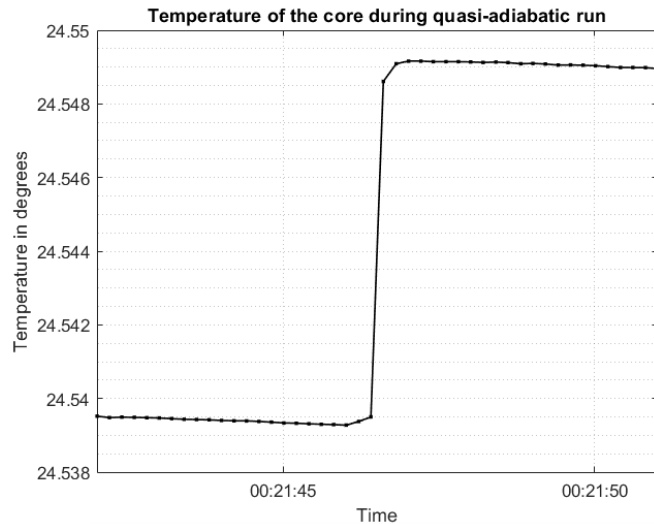
Alexandra Bourgouin (PTB), today WP1

Peter Peier (METAS), today WP1





*NPL's graphite calorimeter in FLASH proton beam*



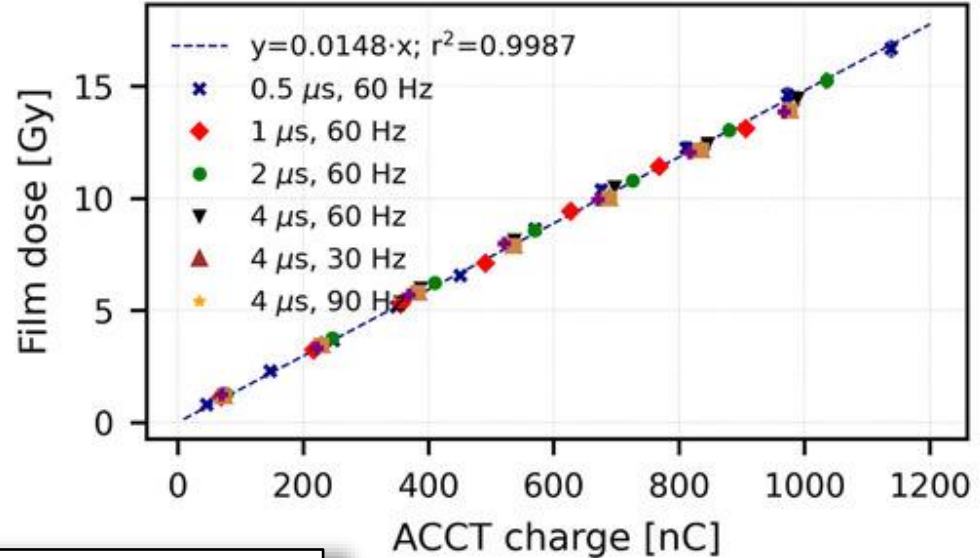
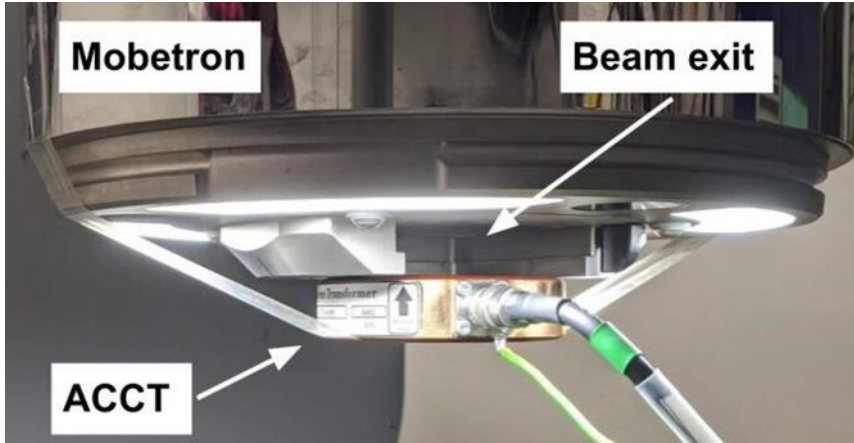
Anna Subiel (NPL), today WP1

→ **First ever calorimetry measurements in UHDR proton beam**

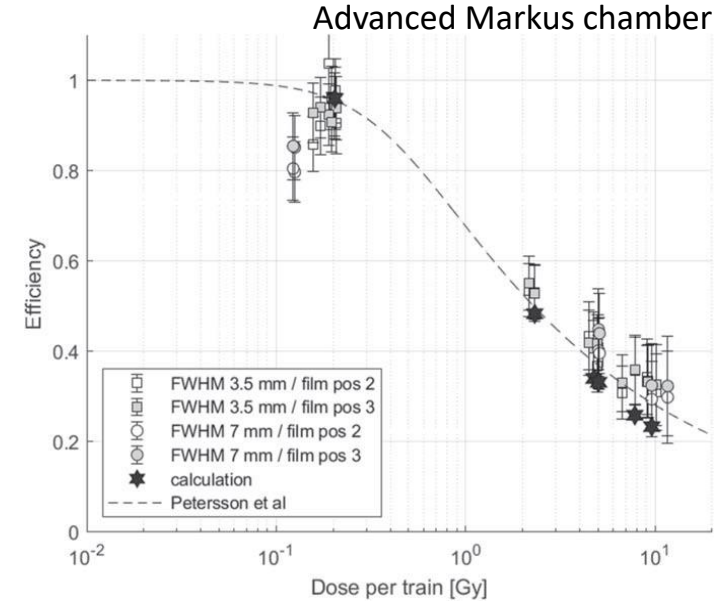
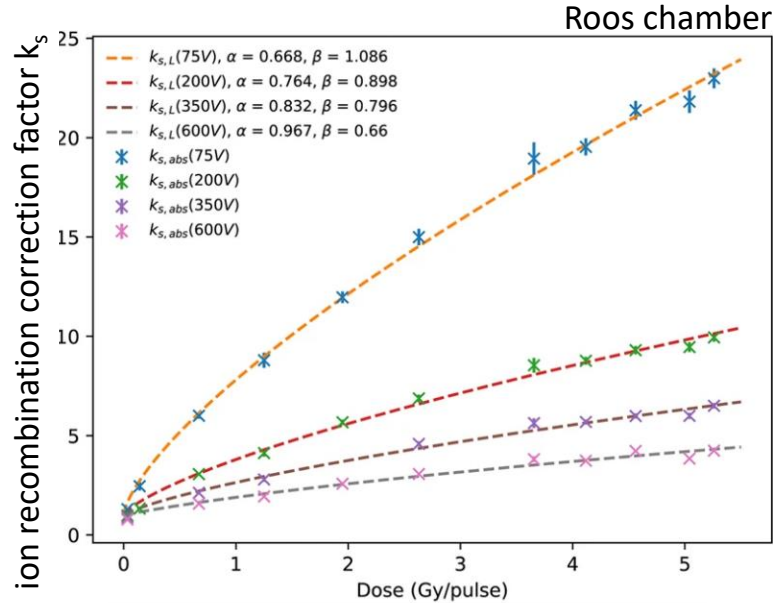
- Established the correction factors required for absolute dosimetry of FLASH proton beam radiotherapy
- Measurement uncertainty of 0.9% (k=1)
- **Underpinned the FDA approval and provided the hospital with confidence to commence clinical implementation**

A. Lourenco et al. "Absolute dosimetry for FLASH proton ..." Scientific Reports (2023), accepted.

E. Lee et al. "Ultrahigh dose rate pencil beam ..." Med. Phys. **49** (2022) 6171. <https://doi.org/10.1002/mp.15844>



Claude Bailat (CHUV), tomorrow WP3

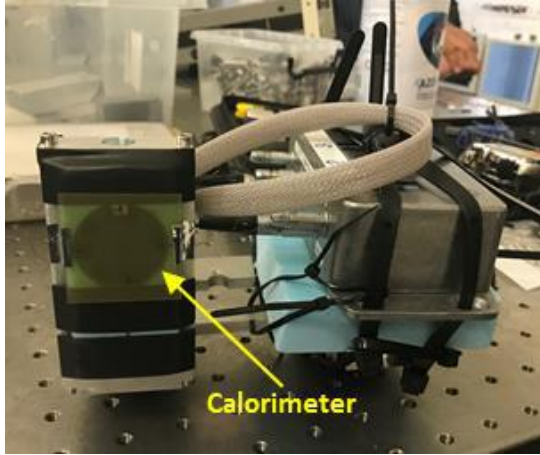


Anna Subiel (NPL), today WP2

M. McManus, et al. “The challenge of ionisation chamber...”  
 Sci Rep 10 (2020) 9089  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-65819-y>

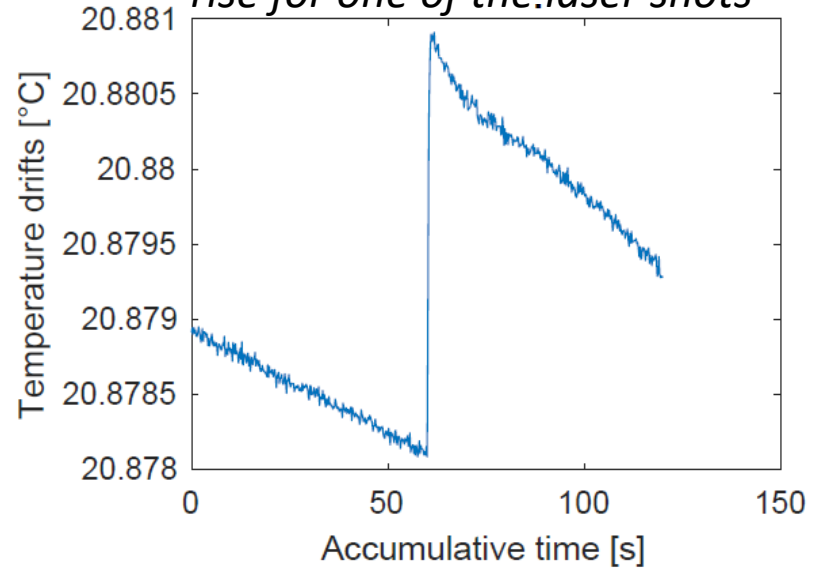
Daniela Poppinga et al. “VHEE beam dosimetry ...”  
 Biomed. Phys. Eng. Express 7 (2021) 015012  
<https://doi.org/10.1088/2057-1976/abcae5>

# Dosimetry for laser driven beams



Sean McCallum (QUB), today WP1

*Radiation induced temperature rise for one of the laser shots*

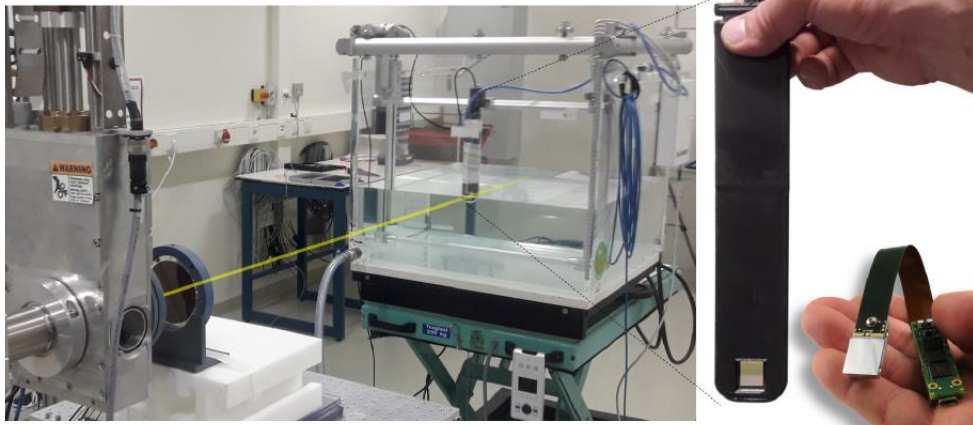


F. Romano et al., "Challenges in dosimetry ..."

J. Phys.: Conf. Ser. 1662 (2020) 012028

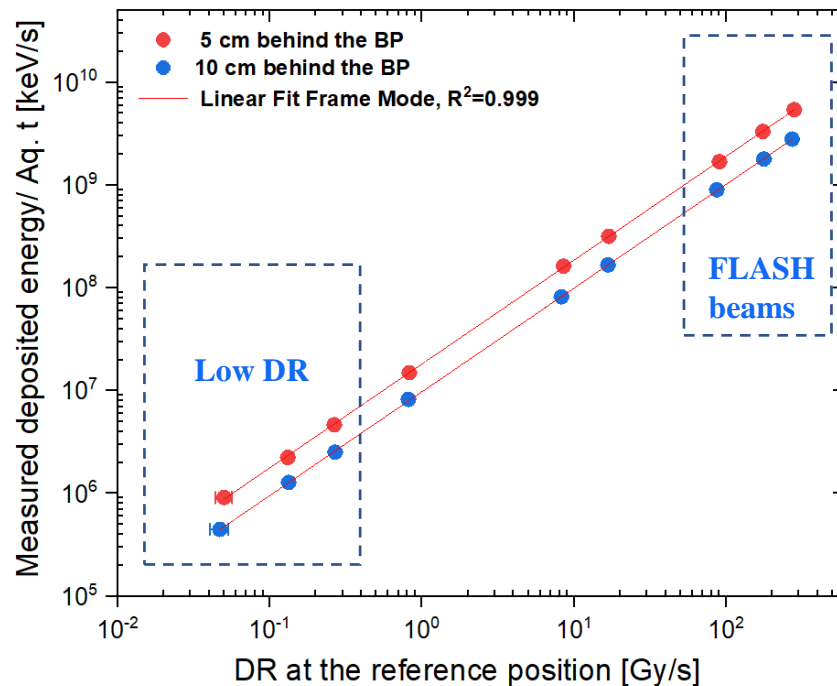
<https://doi.org/10.1088/1742-6596/1662/1/012028>

# Out-of-field measurements with TimePIX3



*MiniPIX TPX3 Flex in a water phantom in an ultra-high dose rate proton beam*

Cristina Oancea (ADVACAM), tomorrow WP4





# 1st UHDpulse stakeholder workshop



**> 700 Participants**



34 Contributions with UHDpulse Acknowledgement  
(25 oral presentations, 9 poster)  
all abstracts and 5 UHDpulse full papers published in FRPT  
special issue in "Physica Medica"





**> 650 Participants,  
~400 onsite**



to be  
discussed

15 UHDpulse Contributions  
(5 oral presentations, 10 posters)

Offer: “UHDpulse final paper” in FRPT special issue in “Radiotherapy & Oncology”



# AAPM TG 359 “FLASH radiation dosimetry”



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**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of PHYSICISTS IN MEDICINE**

Improving Health Through Medical Physics

Task Group No. 359 - FLASH (ultra-high dose rate) radiation dosimetry (TG359)

**AAPM COMMITTEE TREE**

**Charge**

1. Review the uncertainty in determining the dose and need for standardization in dosimetry for FLASH beams to be used in experiments, research and potentially in pre-clinical applications.
  - a. Assess the factors that would affect the beam dosimetric characteristics in FLASH mode, compared to standard delivery.
2. Assess the suitability of radiation measurement equipment (ion chambers, film, diodes, Faraday cap, etc) for FLASH mode.
3. Provide general guidelines on calibration, dosimetry and reporting of beams in FLASH mode.

**Bylaws:** Not Referenced. **Rules:** Not Referenced.

**Chair**  
Dimitris Mihailidis  
Task Group Chair

[https://www.aapm.org/org/structure/default.asp?committee\\_code=TG359](https://www.aapm.org/org/structure/default.asp?committee_code=TG359)

## UHDpulse members in TG359:



# Output of UHDpulse

No.	Report	No. of items reported	Previously reported	New items
1	STANDARDS & REGULATORY ACTIVITIES (STAN)	5	2	3
2	PEER REVIEWED OPEN ACCESS SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS (PUB)	33	9	24
3	CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS (CONF)	(72 Oral) 100	21	79
4	TRAINING (TR)	1	1	0
5	OTHER DISSEMINATION (OTH)	49	9	40
6	FOLLOW-ON COLLABORATIONS (FOLL)	1	0	1
7	END USER UPTAKE & EXPLOITATION (UP)	0	0	0
8	COLLABORATORS & STAKEHOLDERS (COLL)	28	16	12
9	APPLICATIONS FOR PATENTS, TRADEMARKS, REGISTERED DESIGNS, ETC (IP)	1	0	1
10	EXPLOITABLE RESULTS, ETC (RES)	1	0	1
11	FUTURE EVENTS (FUT)			
12	OPEN RESEARCH DATA (DATA)	0	0	0



# Acknowledgement



(in alphabetical order):

I. Ambrozova, U. Ankerhold, L. Archambault, R. Ashraf, C. Bailat, M. Borghesi, A. Boso, A. Bourgouin, P. Bruza, S. Busold, M. Caresana, A. Cimmino, L. De Marzi, V. Djonov, A. Douralis, M. Durante, M. Dutreix, F. Fausti, F. Kesztzi, G. Felici, C. Fleta, J.-M. Fontbonne, C. Fouillade, F. Frei, A. Gasparini, U. Giesen, L. Giuliano, F. Gomez, L. Grasso, T. Hackel, S. Heinrich, J. Jakubek, R.-P. Kapsch, K. Kirkby, A. Knyziak, R. Kranzer, C. Lahaye, M. Lavagno, A. Leite, V. Linhart, B. Lessard, H. K. Loe, C. Makowski, M. Marinelli, S. McCallum, M. McEwen, M. McManus, T. Michel, G. Milluzzo, S. Motta, C. Oancea, V. Olsovcova, H. Palmans, K. Parodi, J. Pawelke, J. Paz-Martin, P. Peier, K. Petersson, J. Pivec, B. Poppe, D. Poppinga, M. Pullia, J. Renaud, N. Roberts, F. Romano, S. Rossomme, K. Roškar, S. Safai, S. Salvador, C. S. Schmitzer, A. Schönfeld, B. Simon, J. Solc, F. Stephan, A. Subiel, F. Therriault-Proulx, R. A. Thomas, M. Togno, E. Touzain, M. Trachsel, F. Vanhavere, V. Vanreusel, D. Verellen, G. Verona Rinati, J. Seuntjens, R. Versaci, P. von Voigts-Rhetz, M. Zboril



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Braunschweig and Berlin**

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[www.ptb.de](http://www.ptb.de)

01/2023