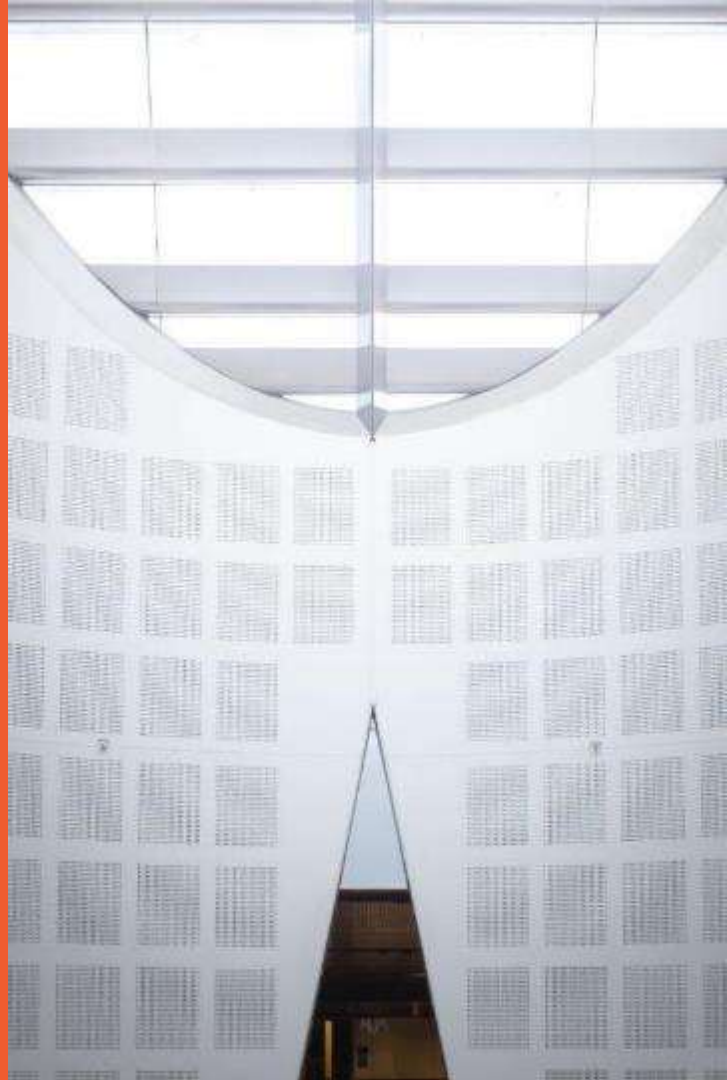


# Biofocussed prostate cancer RadioTherapy: The BiRT project

**Presented by**

**Professor Annette Haworth**  
Institute of Medical Physics,  
School of Physics

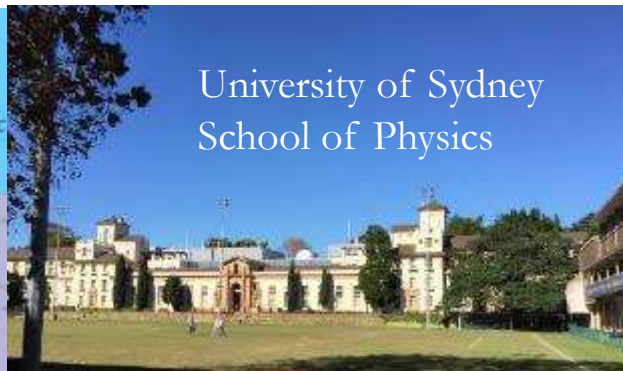


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author's permission. Please contact  
Annette.Haworth@Sydney.edu.au**

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital



University of Sydney  
School of Physics



# Biofocussed RadioTherapy

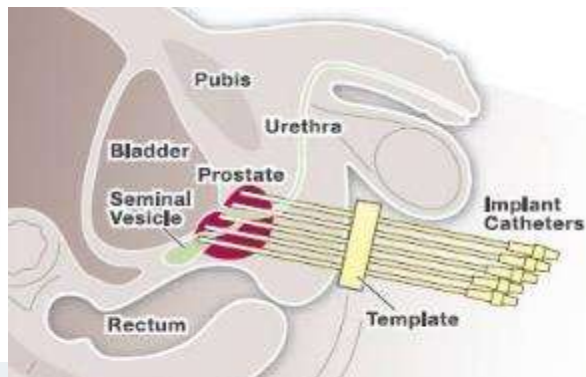
BiRT



# How do we treat prostate cancer?

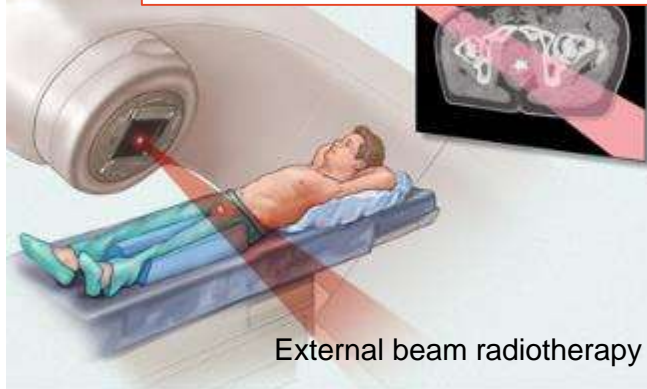


Surgery

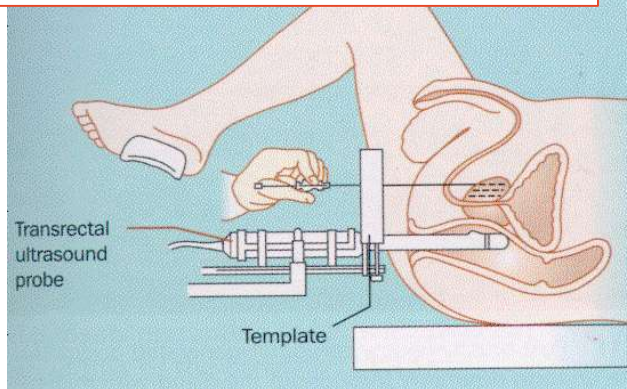


Brachytherapy

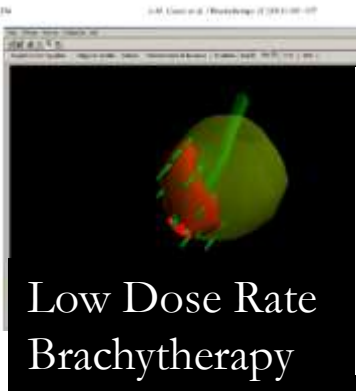
Note that in all cases we treat the **WHOLE** prostate



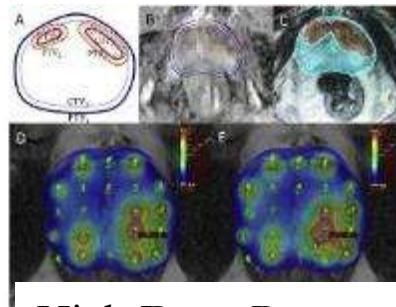
External beam radiotherapy



# Current approaches to focal / boost-focal approaches

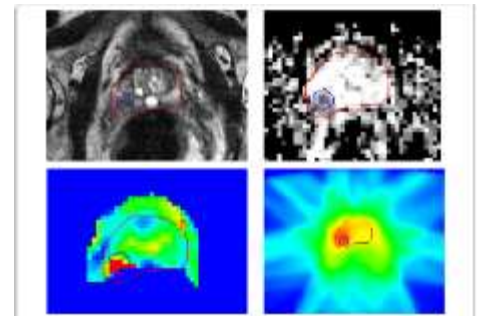


- › Cosset 2013
- › 145 Gy to MRI defined “focal volume”
  - Generous margin
  - $\sim 1/3$  prostate volume



## High Dose Rate Brachytherapy

- › Dankulchai et al Radiother Oncol 2014



## EBRT focal lesion

- › Lips et al *Trials* 2011 FLAME trial
- › 77 Gy whole gland vs 77 Gy+ 18 Gy microboost in 35 fractions

# Why focal therapy?

- Reduce the dose to OARs
  - Good for low risk disease
  - where Active Surveillance is now mostly indicated
- Dose escalation of the dominant lesion
  - Good for intermediate/ high risk disease
  - Where dose escalation has shown to benefit local control
- Improve the therapeutic ratio
  - I.e. maximise tumour control & minimise toxicity



# Starting a focal therapy program

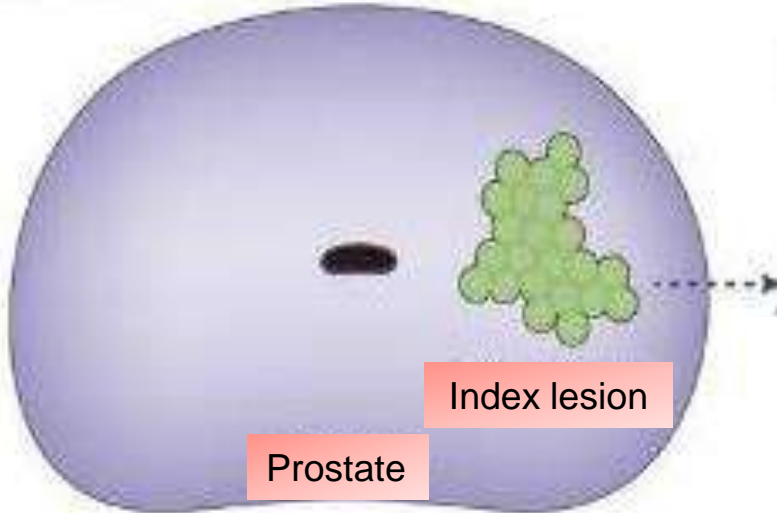
- No consensus on the volume (CTV) that should be treated
- No consensus on the prescribed dose
- No consensus on how to monitor treatment response





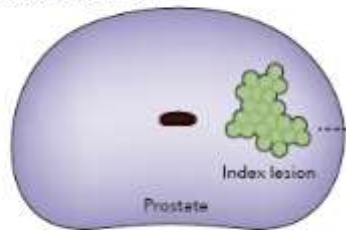
# What volume?

## We currently treat the whole prostate

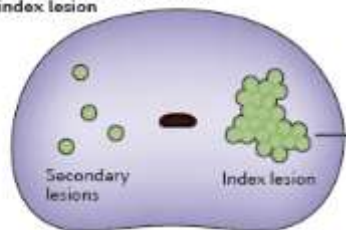


Because we don't know where the tumour is inside the prostate

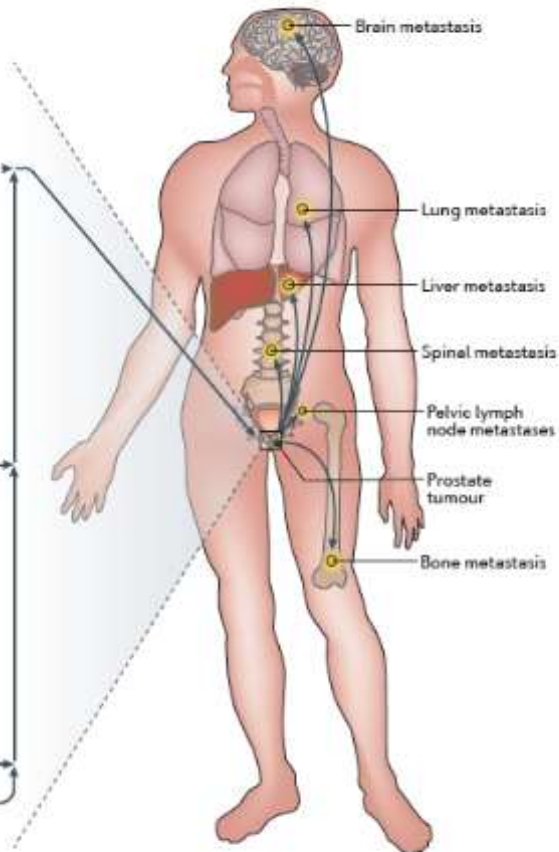
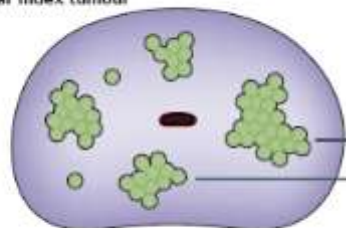
**a Unifocal prostate cancer**



**b Multifocal prostate cancer with clear index lesion**



**c Multifocal prostate cancer with unclear index tumour**



**Figure 1 | Metastatic properties of prostate cancer.** **a** | Unifocal prostate cancer. **b** | Multifocal prostate cancer with clear index lesion and one or more separate secondary tumour foci with smaller volumes (most common). **c** | Multifocal cancer with unclear index tumour.

# What volume?

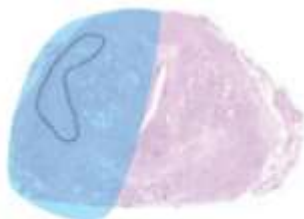
BJUI  
SUPPLEMENTS  
2012

## Report of a consensus meeting on focal low dose rate brachytherapy for prostate cancer

Stephen Langley<sup>1</sup>, Hashim U. Ahmed<sup>2</sup>, Bashar Al-Qaisieh<sup>3</sup>,  
David Bostwick<sup>4</sup>, Louise Dickinson<sup>2</sup>, Francisco Gomez Veiga<sup>5</sup>,  
Peter Grimm<sup>6</sup>, Stefan Machtens<sup>7</sup>, Ferran Guedea<sup>8</sup> and Mark Emberton<sup>2</sup>



Ultra-Focal Therapy



Focal Therapy



Focused Therapy

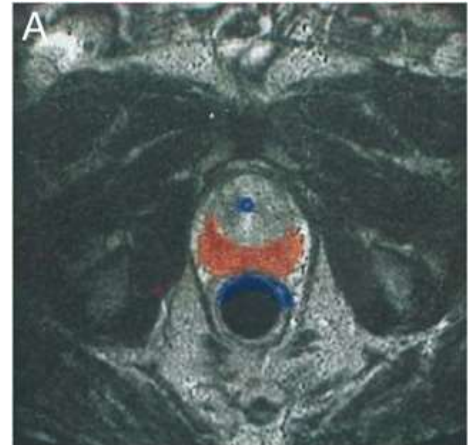
## What dose?

### Updated Results of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Guided Partial Prostate Brachytherapy for Favorable Risk Prostate Cancer: Implications for Focal Therapy

JOURNAL OF UROLOGY 2012

Paul L. Nguyen,\* Ming-Hui Chen, Yuanye Zhang, Clare M. Tempany, Robert A. Cormack, Clair J. Beard, Mark D. Hurwitz, W. Warren Suh and Anthony V. D'Amico

- I-125 **137 Gy** to peripheral zone or
  - EBRT 45 Gy prostate & SV plus I-125 PZ boost to **90 Gy**
- Low & favourable intermediate risk patients
- Median FU 5.1 years
- LR: FFbF 95%
- Favourable IR : FFbF 73%
- Was this dose insufficient?



# What dose?



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

## Radiotherapy and Oncology

journal homepage: [www.thegreenjournal.com](http://www.thegreenjournal.com)



### Prostate brachytherapy

#### MRI guided focal HDR brachytherapy for localized prostate cancer: Toxicity, biochemical outcome and quality of life



Metha Maenhout<sup>a</sup>, Max Peters<sup>a</sup>, Marinus A. Moerland<sup>a</sup>, Richard P. Meijer<sup>b</sup>, Maurice A.A.J. van den Bosch<sup>c</sup>, Steven J. Frank<sup>d</sup>, Paul L. Nguyen<sup>e</sup>, Marco van Vulpen<sup>a</sup>, Jochem R.N. van der Voort van Zyp<sup>a,\*</sup>

- 19 Gy single fraction to peripheral zone
- Favourable risk patients
- At 24-months 5/30 biochemical recurrence
- Was this dose insufficient?

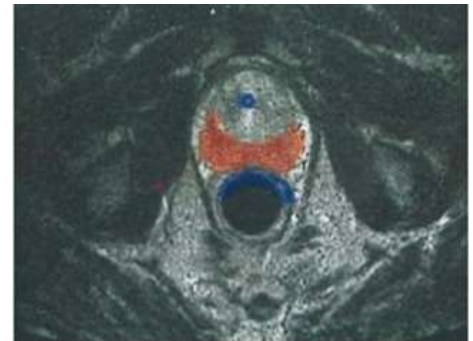


Image from Nguyen 2012 showing PZ

# Biofocussed RadioTherapy

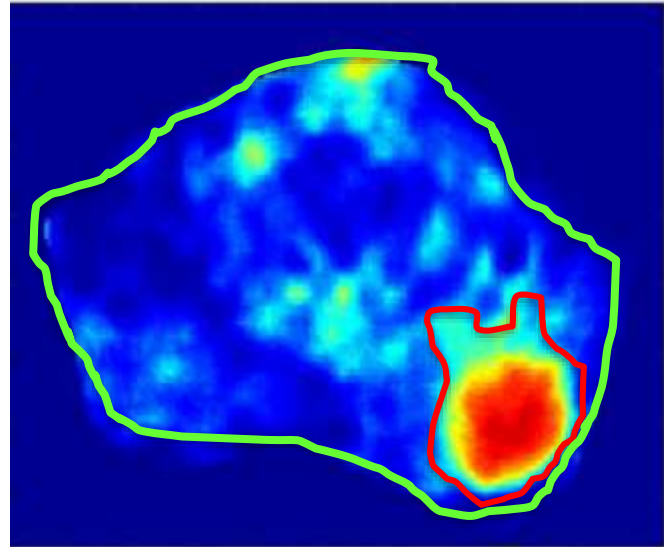
BiRT



# Hypothesis

With the use of imaging biomarkers we can:

- Identify **where** high doses of radiation should be delivered
- Quantitative imaging will tell us **how much** radiation

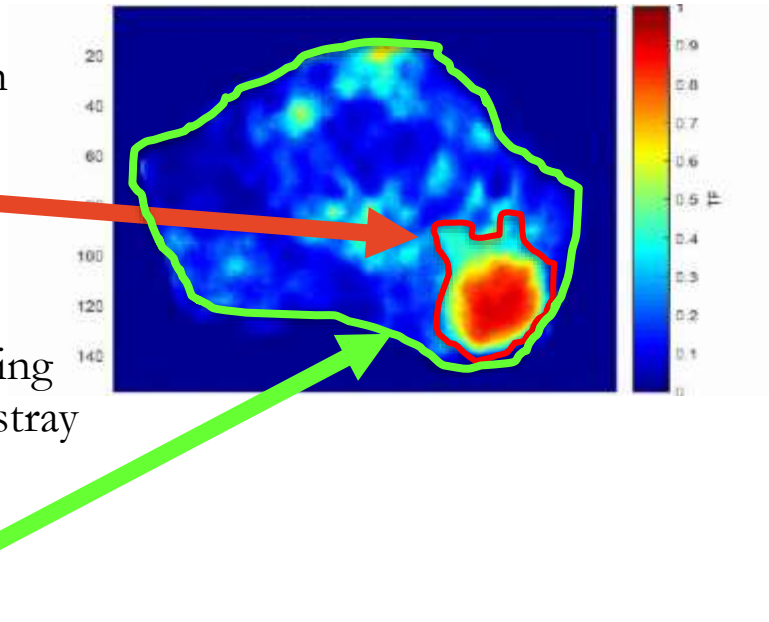




Our goal is to deliver a dose distribution  
customised to tumour biology

## ‘Biofocussed RadioTherapy’

- High dose to tumour
  - Actual dose depends on specific tumour characteristics
- Lower dose to surrounding prostate to mop up any stray cancer cells



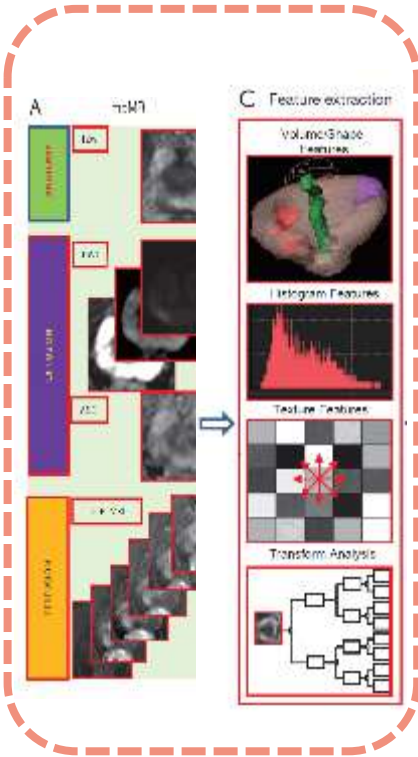
Our goal is to deliver the right  
dose to the right place

‘Biofocussed  
RadioTherapy’

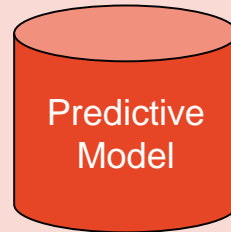
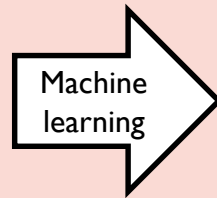
BiRT



# Building imaging biomarkers



## RADIOMICS

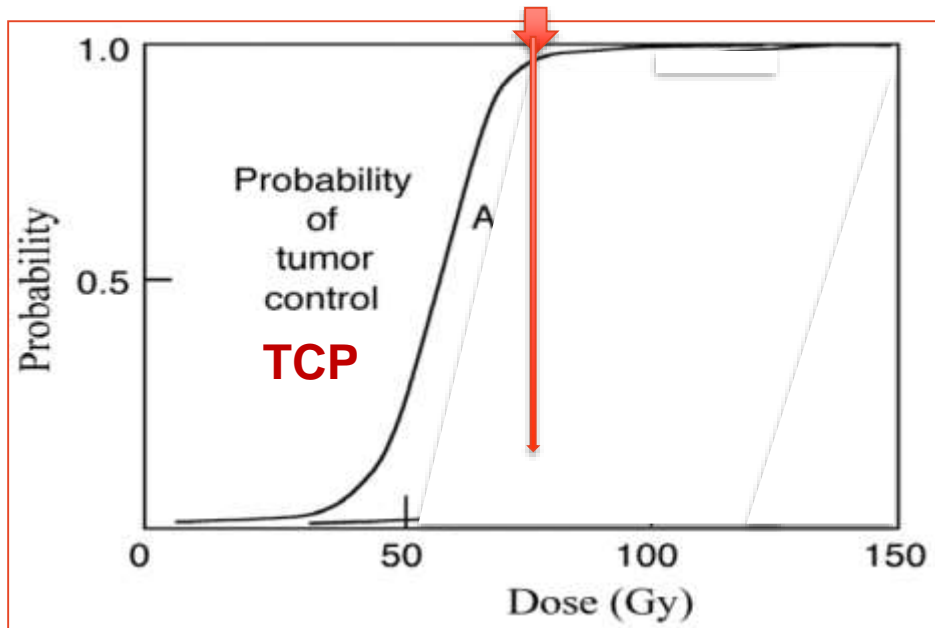


- Tumour location
- Tumour aggressiveness
- Tumour cell density
- Tumour hypoxia



... radiomics... extract quantitative features from medical images

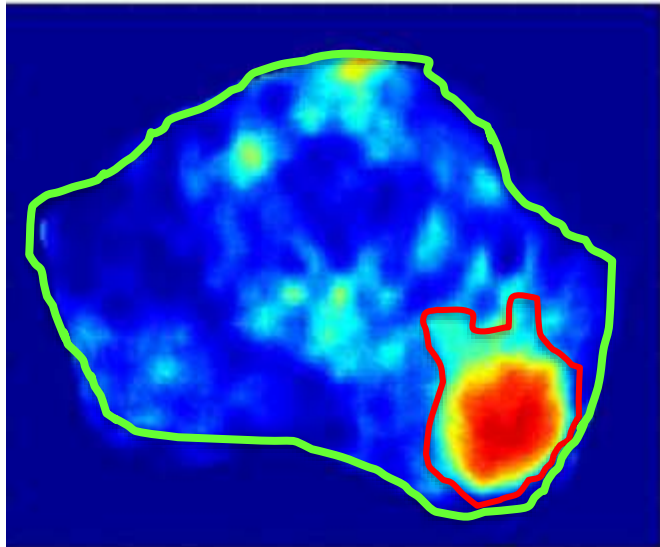
Our goal is to maximise the therapeutic ratio by delivering a dose distribution customised to tumour biology



Haworth et al PMB 2016

# Tumour Control Probability - TCP

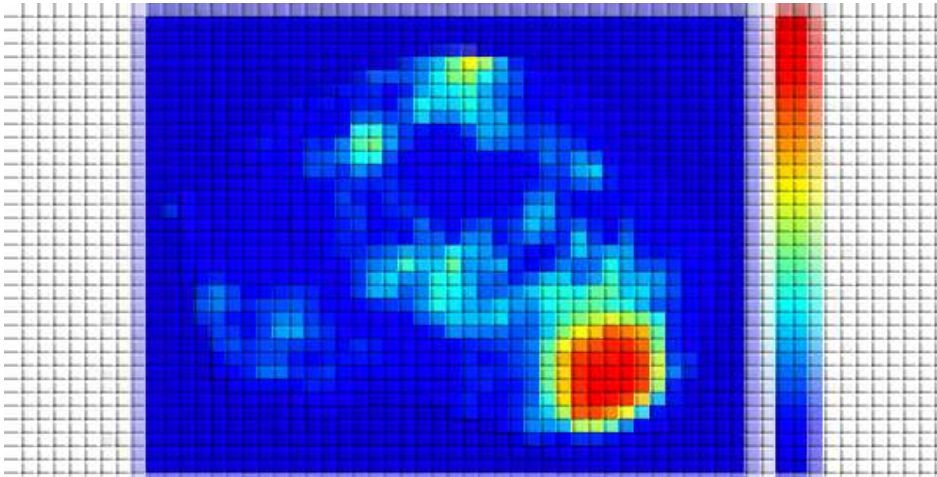
$$TCP = \prod_{i=1}^N TCP_i = \prod_{i=1}^N \exp \left[ -\rho_i V_i \exp \left( -\alpha d_i RE_i + \ln \left( 2 \left( \frac{T_{crit}^i}{T_{pot}} \right) \right) \right) \right]$$



# Tumour Control Probability - TCP

$$TCP = \prod_{i=1}^N TCP_i = \prod_{i=1}^N \exp \left[ -\rho_i V_i \exp \left( -\alpha d_i RE_i + \ln(2) \left( \frac{T_{crit}^i}{T_{pot}} \right) \right) \right]$$

To work out what dose goes where

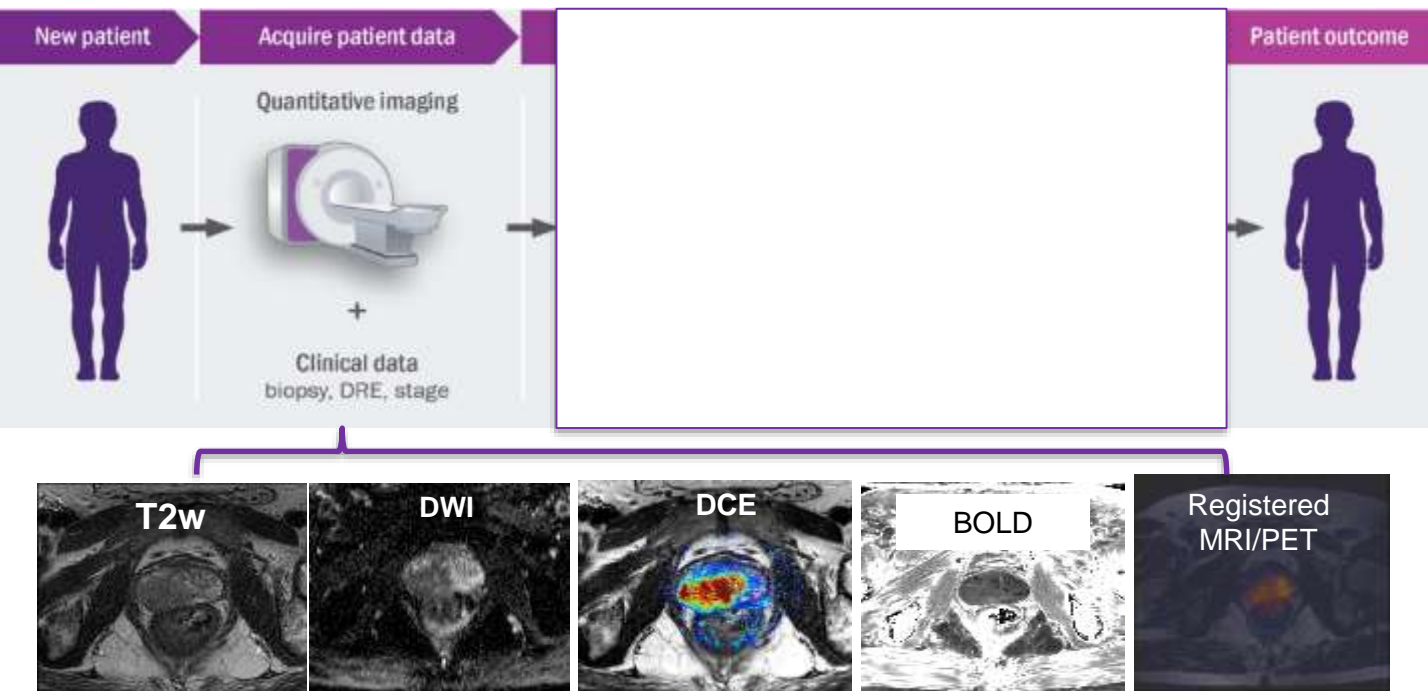


# The BiRT Project

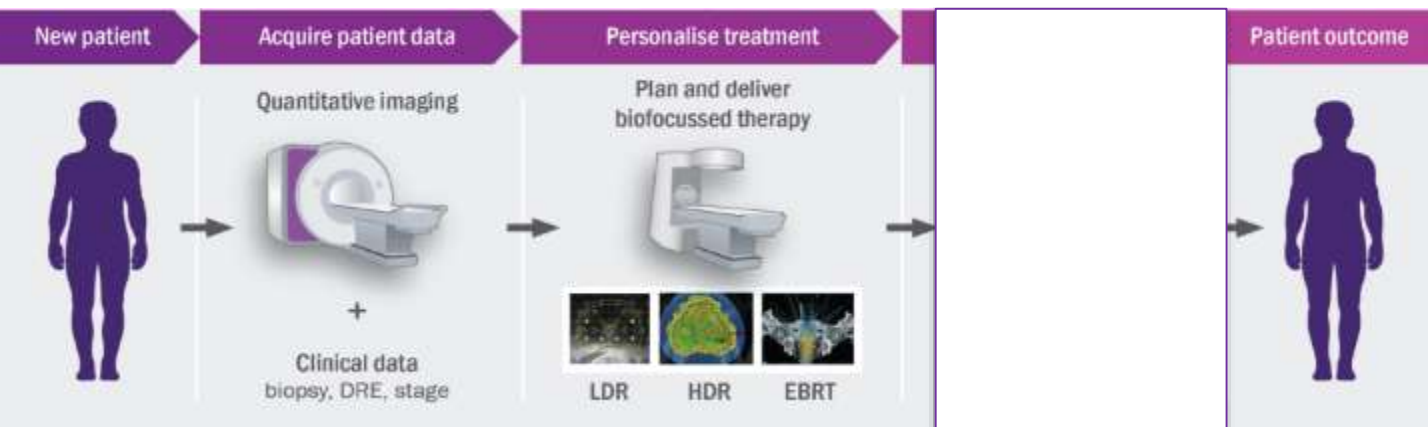




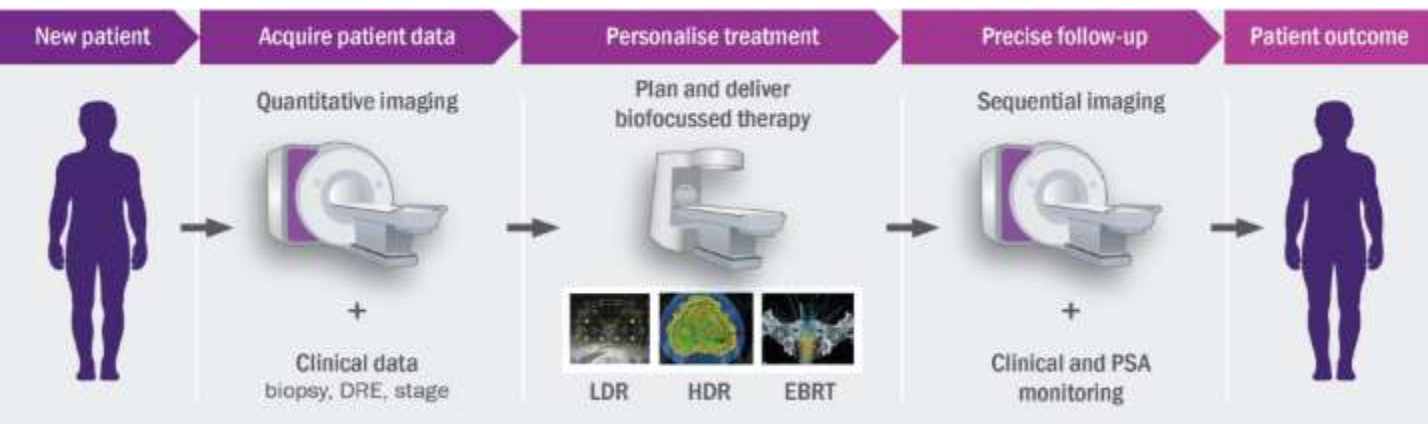
# The BiRT Project (overview)



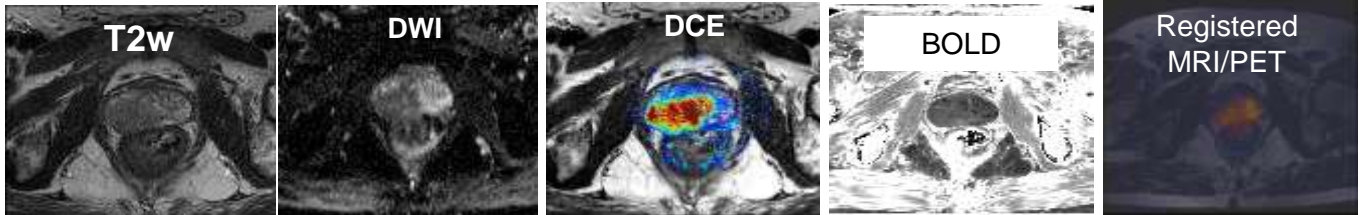
# The BiRT Project (overview)



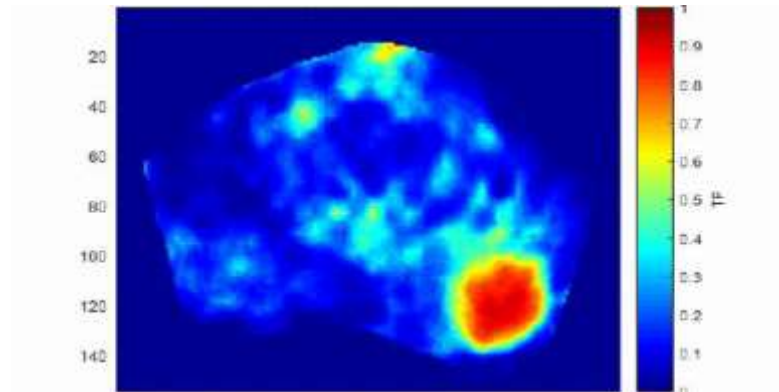
# The BiRT Project (overview)



# So how do we develop imaging biomarkers



So that we can deliver a non-uniform dose distribution



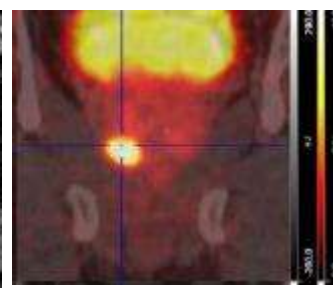
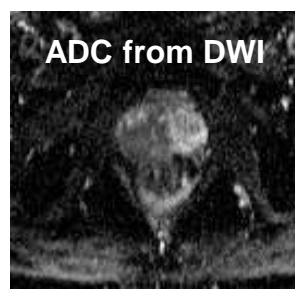
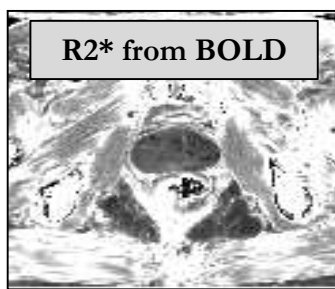
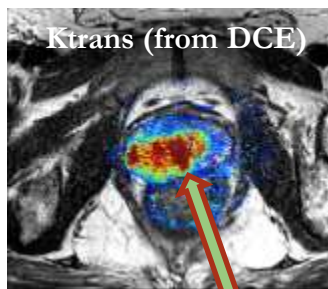
# mpMRI, PSMA PET and Quantitative Imaging (Radiomics)

Angiogenesis

Hypoxia

Proliferation

Metabolism



Ktrans, Ve, etc

R2\*

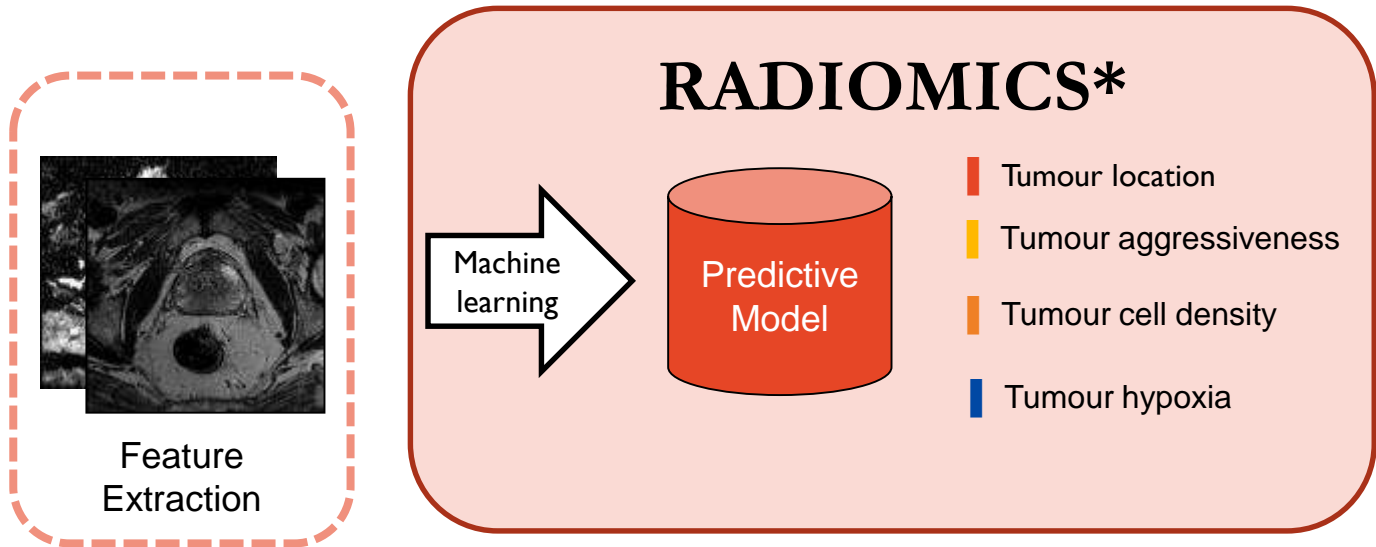
ADC

PSMA PET

180	120	480	350
250	50	25	300
0	0	200	250
0	200	350	400

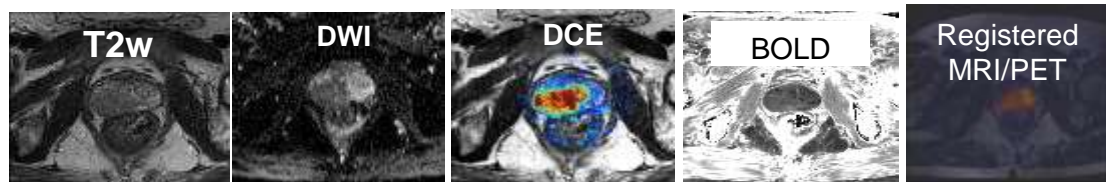
Kim 2016; Zelhof 2009; Hoskin 2007; Schiller 2017

# Building predictive models

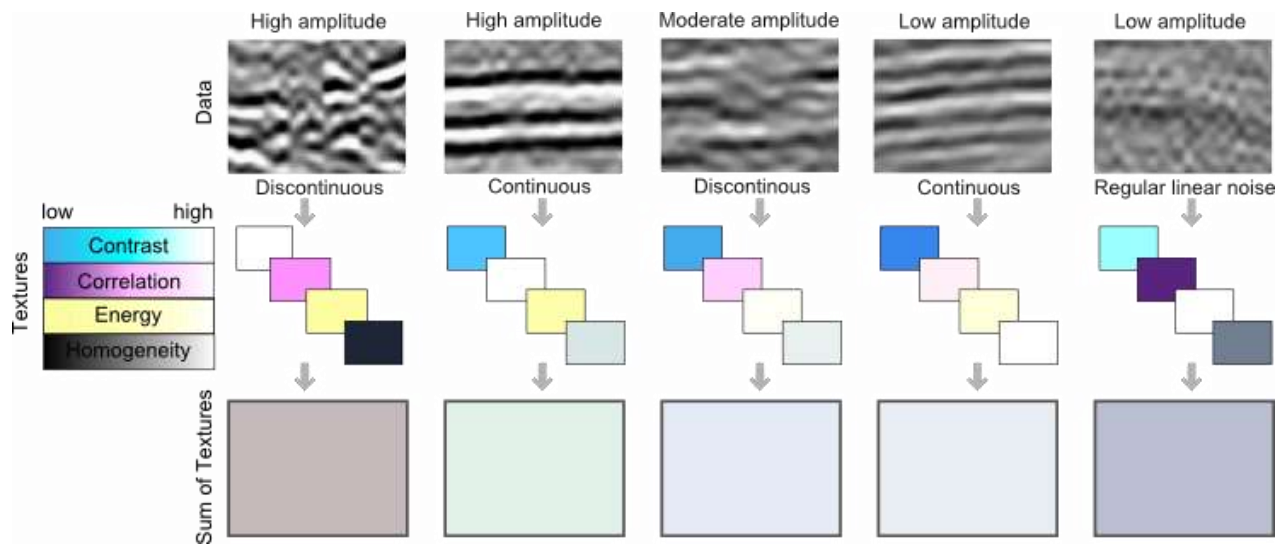


... radiomics... extract quantitative features from medical images

# How do we build biology models from MRI + PET?

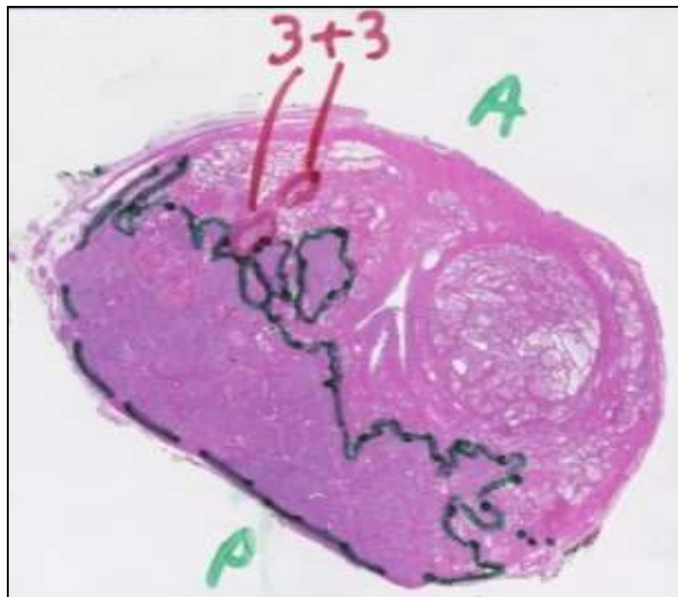
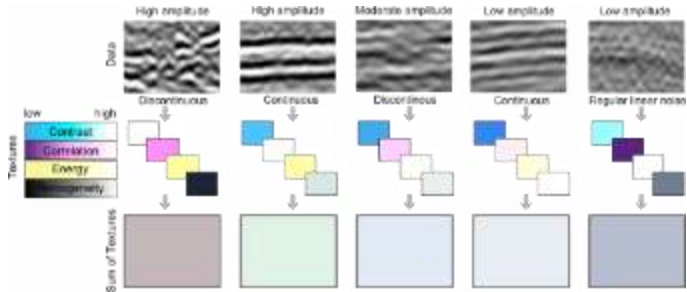


## First step “feature extraction”

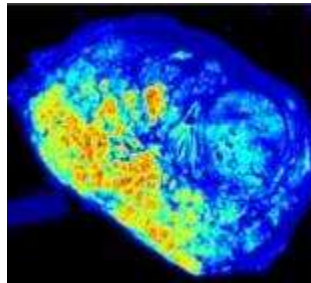
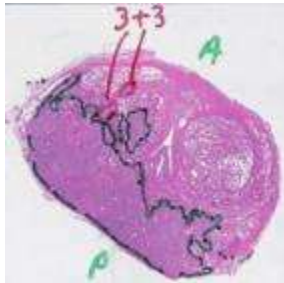
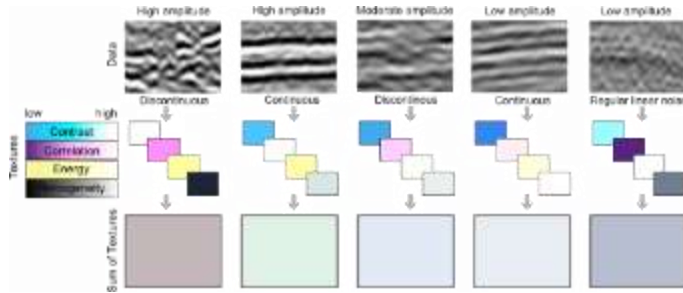




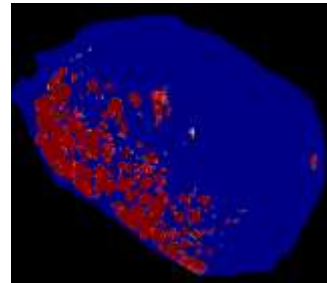
# We then correlate these features with pathology



# We then correlate these features with pathology

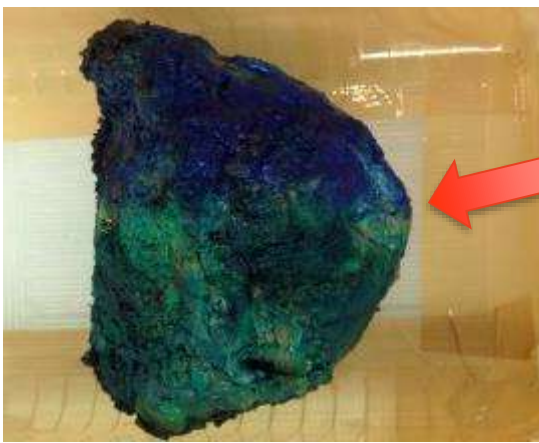


Cell density map  
(1)

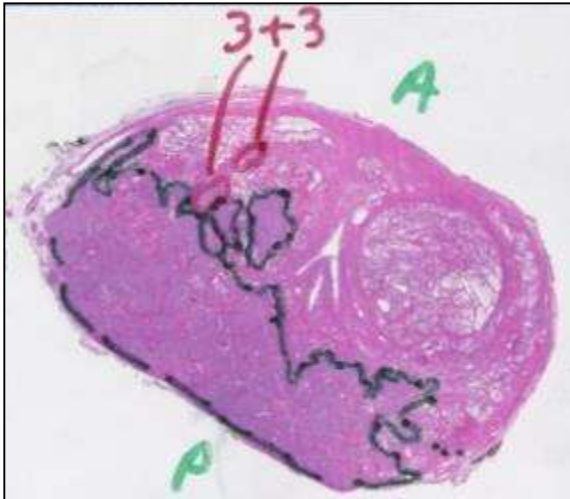


Prediction of  
high grade  
tumour location  
(2)

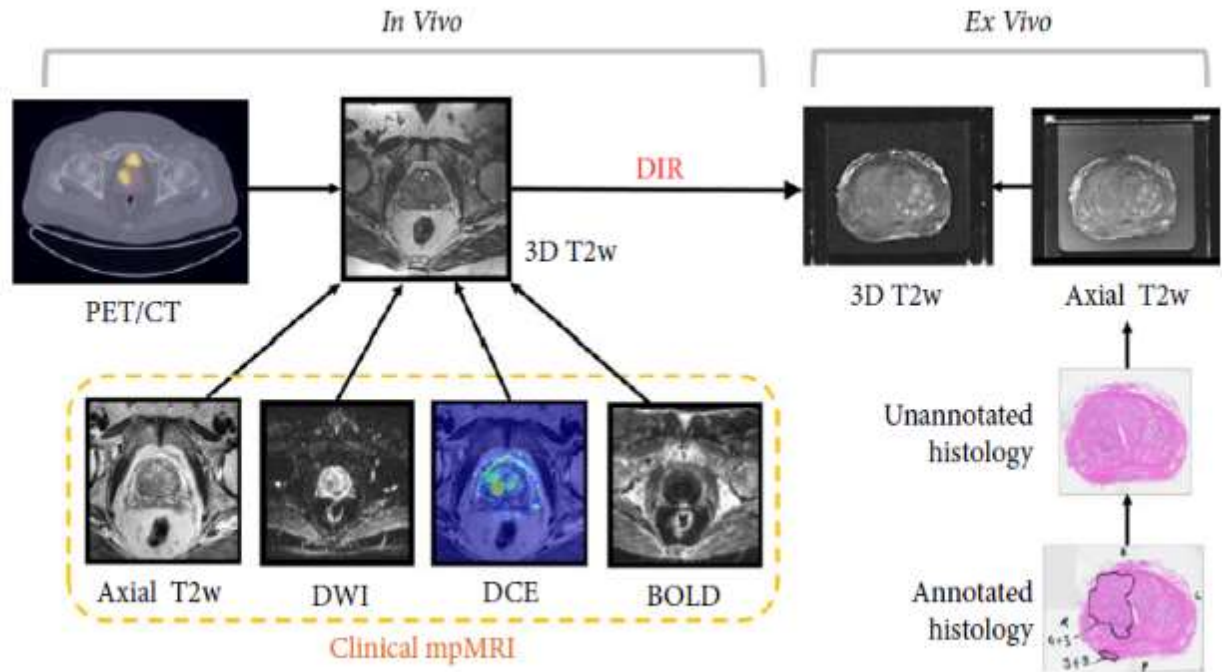
1. Reynolds H, et al (2014) Proc. SPIE Medical Imaging
2. DiFranco MD, et al (2015) SPIE Medical Imaging



Prostate after  
it has been  
removed  
from the  
patient

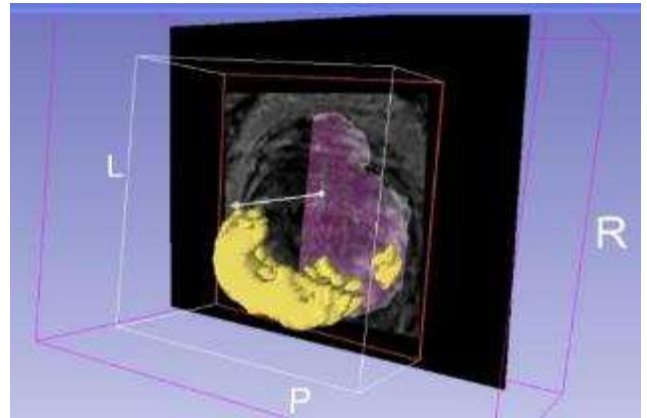
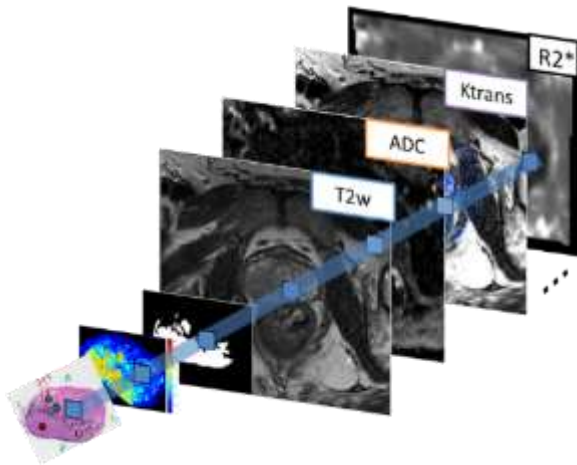


# Co-registration of “ground truth” histology and imaging



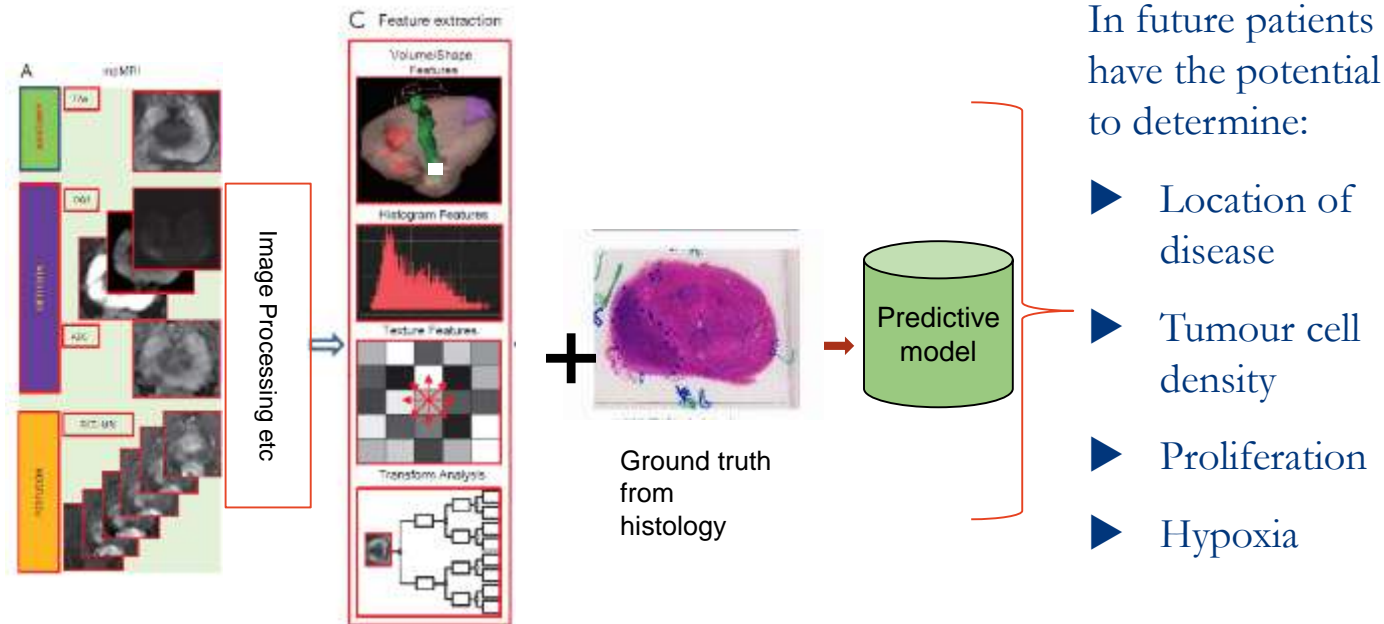
Reynolds et al Med Phys 2015, BJUI 2018

# Co-registration of “ground truth” histology and imaging



Reynolds et al Med Phys 2015

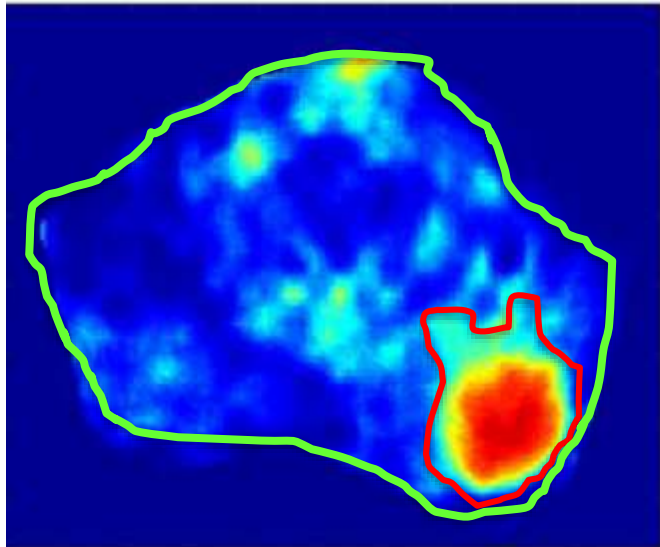
# Quantitative mpMRI - Radiomics



Stoyanova et al. Transl Cancer Res 2016

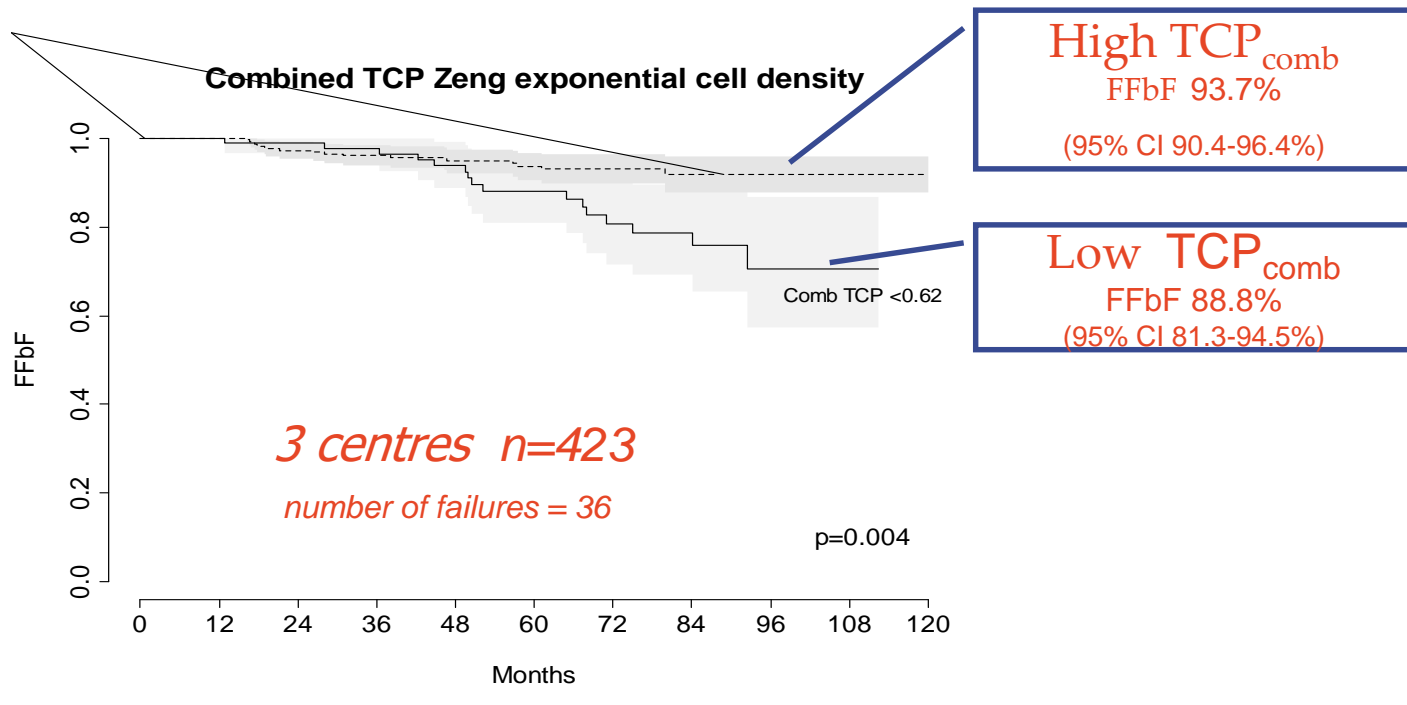
# Tumour Control Probability - TCP

$$TCP = \prod_{i=1}^N TCP_i = \prod_{i=1}^N \exp \left[ -\rho_i V_i \exp \left( -\alpha d_i RE_i + \ln \left( 2 \left( \frac{T_{crit}^i}{T_{pot}} \right) \right) \right) \right]$$

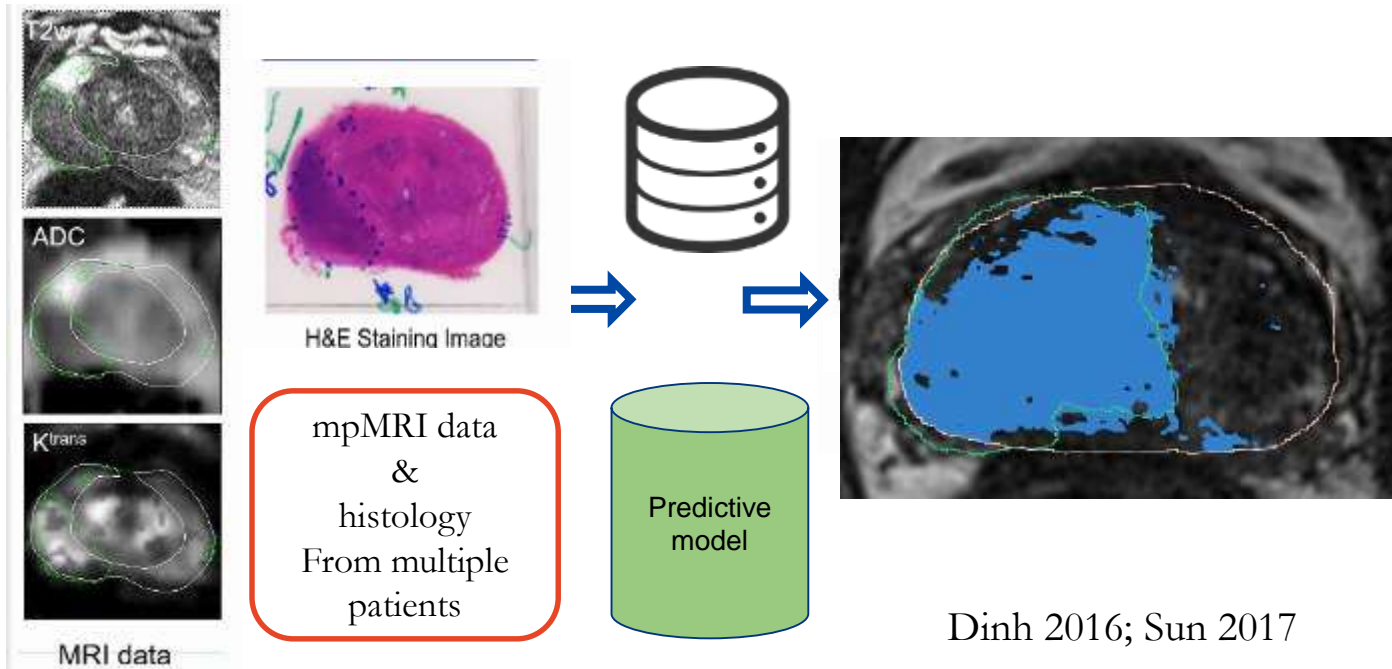




# What TCP value predicts for treatment failure?



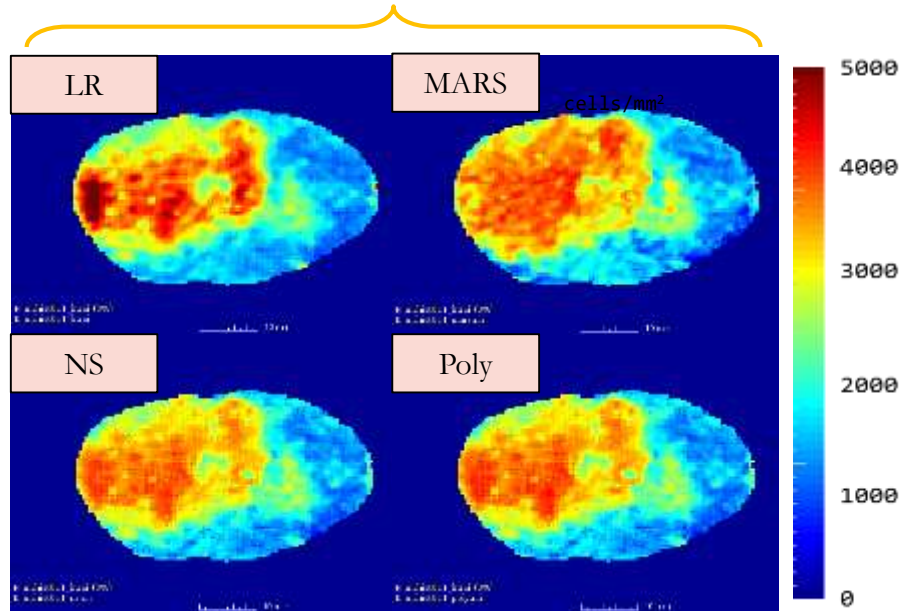
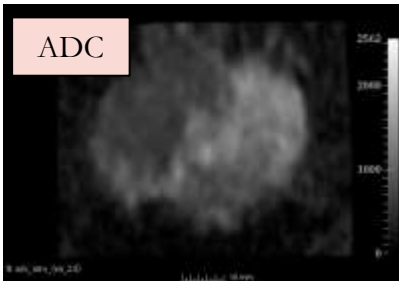
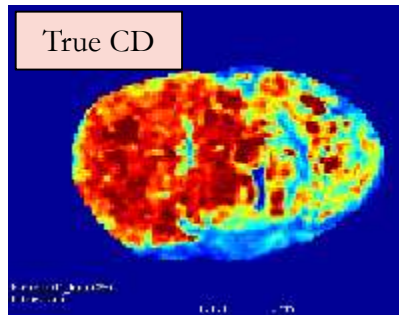
# Machine Learning to generate Predictive Model



# Predicting Cell Density from mpMRI

True cell density from histology

Predicted cell density from mpMRI



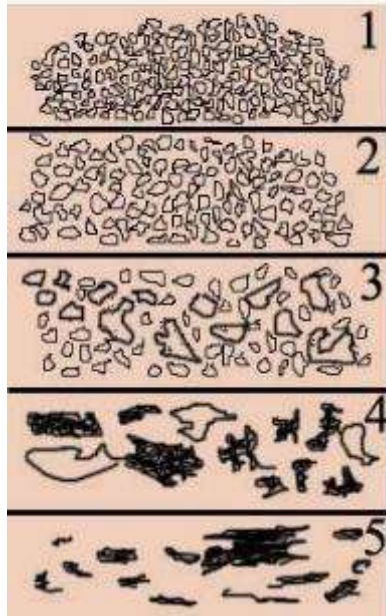
Multivariate adaptive regression splines: Region-wise linear regressions. Generalised additive model (GAM): Extends linear models to non-linear models; functions of *natural splines (NS)* or *polynomials (poly)*

RMS error:  
 $1.06 \times 10^3 \text{ cells / mm}^2$   
 (relative error 13%)

# Correlating imaging with tumour grade

## Gleason Scale

Well differentiated



1 Small, uniform glands

2 More space between glands

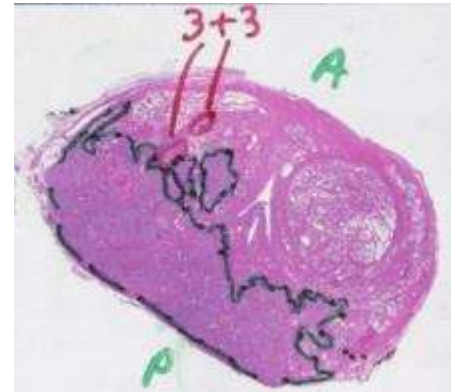
3 Infiltration of cells from glands at margins

4 Irregular masses of cells with few glands

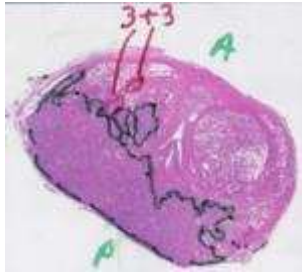
5 Lack of glands, sheets of cells



Poorly differentiated

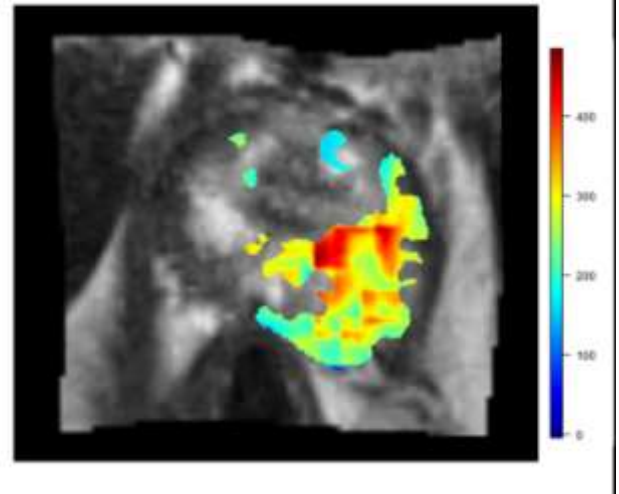
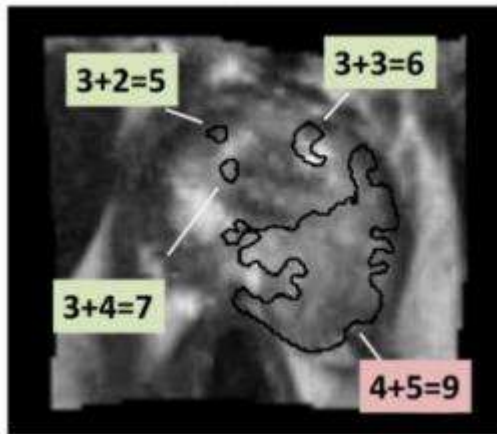


# Correlating imaging with tumour grade



(not the same patient!)

Our model predicts  
tumour grade



Courtesy Yu Sun

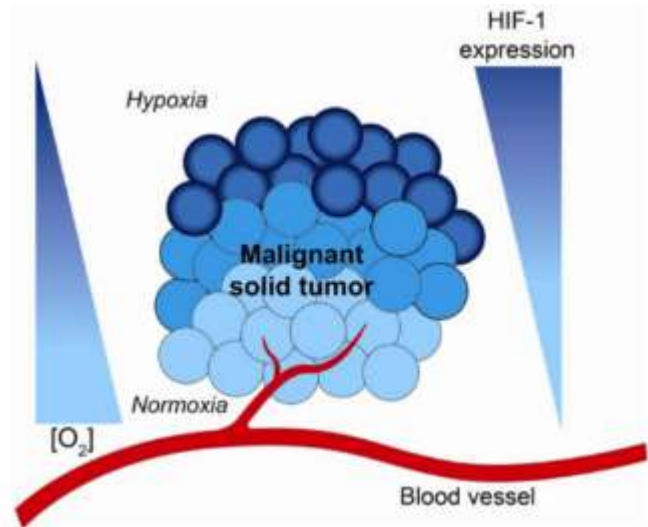
Sun et al Acta Oncol  
accepted Mar 2019

## But now we are exploring hypoxia

### Tumor Hypoxia Predicts Biochemical Failure following Radiotherapy for Clinically Localized Prostate Cancer

Michael Milosevic<sup>1,5</sup>, Padraig Warde<sup>1,5</sup>, Cynthia Ménard<sup>1,5</sup>, Peter Chung<sup>1,5</sup>, Ants Toi<sup>2,6</sup>, Adrian Ishkanian<sup>1,5</sup>, Michael McLean<sup>1,5</sup>, Melania Pintilie<sup>3</sup>, Jenna Sykes<sup>3</sup>, Mary Gospodarowicz<sup>1,5</sup>, Charles Catton<sup>1,5</sup>, Richard P. Hill<sup>4,5,7</sup>, and Robert Bristow<sup>1,4,5,7</sup>

- Higher potential to metastasize
- Higher resistance to RT
- Not well understood in prostate cancer





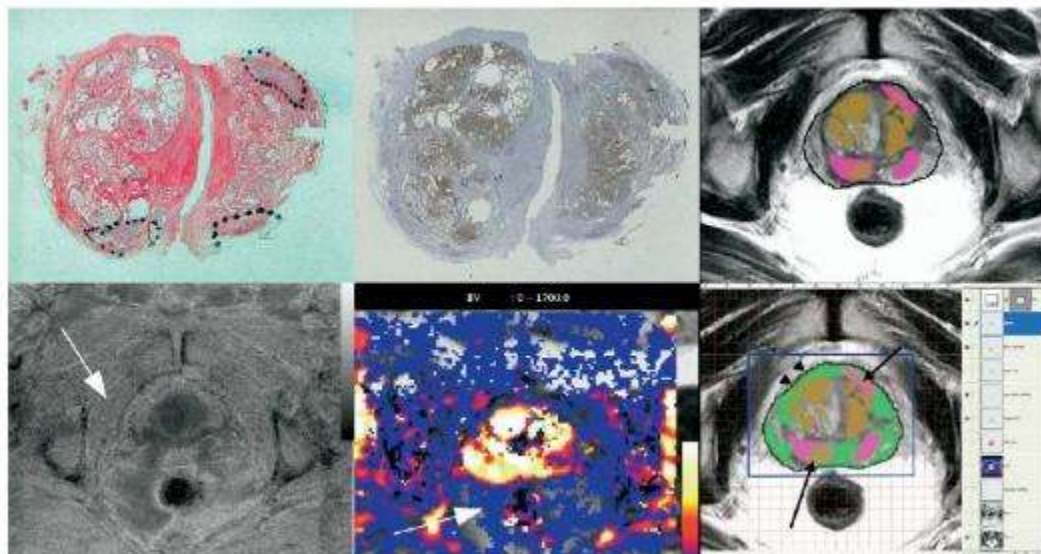
# HYPOXIA IN PROSTATE CANCER: CORRELATION OF BOLD-MRI WITH PIMONIDAZOLE IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY—INITIAL OBSERVATIONS

PETER J. HOSKIN, M.D., F.R.C.R.,\* DAWN M. CARNELL, F.R.C.R.,\*‡ N. JANE TAYLOR, PH.D.,†  
ROWENA E. SMITH, M.R.C.PATH.,§ J. JAMES STIRLING, M.Sc.,† FRANCES M. DALEY, M.Sc.,‡  
MICHELE I. SAUNDERS, M.D., F.R.C.R.,\* SØREN M. BENTZEN, PH.D., D.Sc.,||  
DAVID J. COLLINS, B.A.,|| JAMES A. D'ARCY, M.Sc.,|| AND ANWAR P. PADHANI, F.R.C.P., F.R.C.R.†

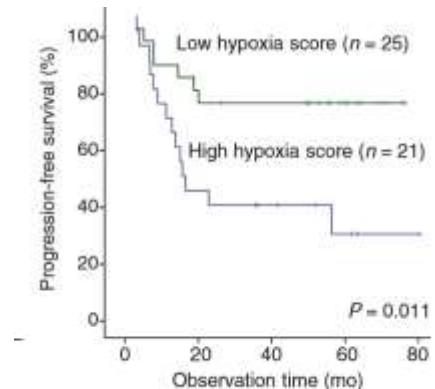
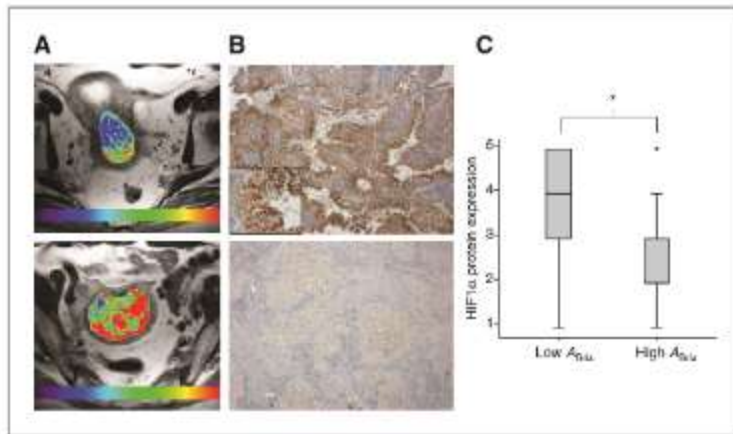
1068

I. J. Radiation Oncology • Biology • Physics

Volume 68, Number 4, 2007



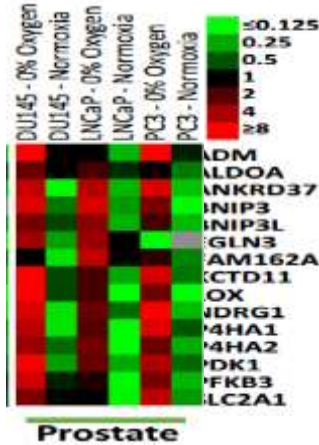
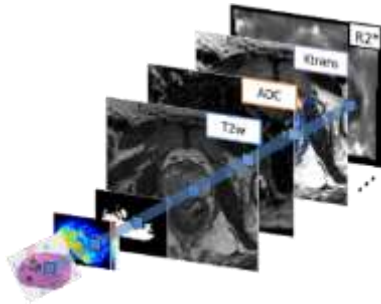
# Hypoxia – correlation of DCE with genetic signatures for hypoxia in cervix



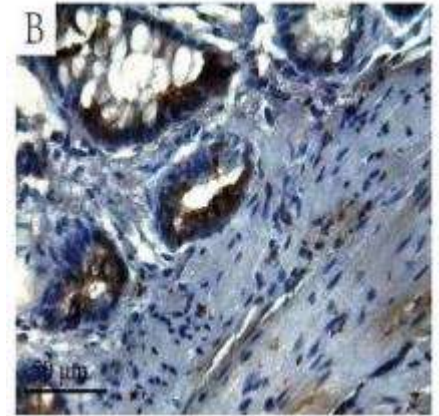
Lyng et al Cancer Research 2012



# An alternative to pimonidazole



Method 1: Genetic signatures for hypoxia

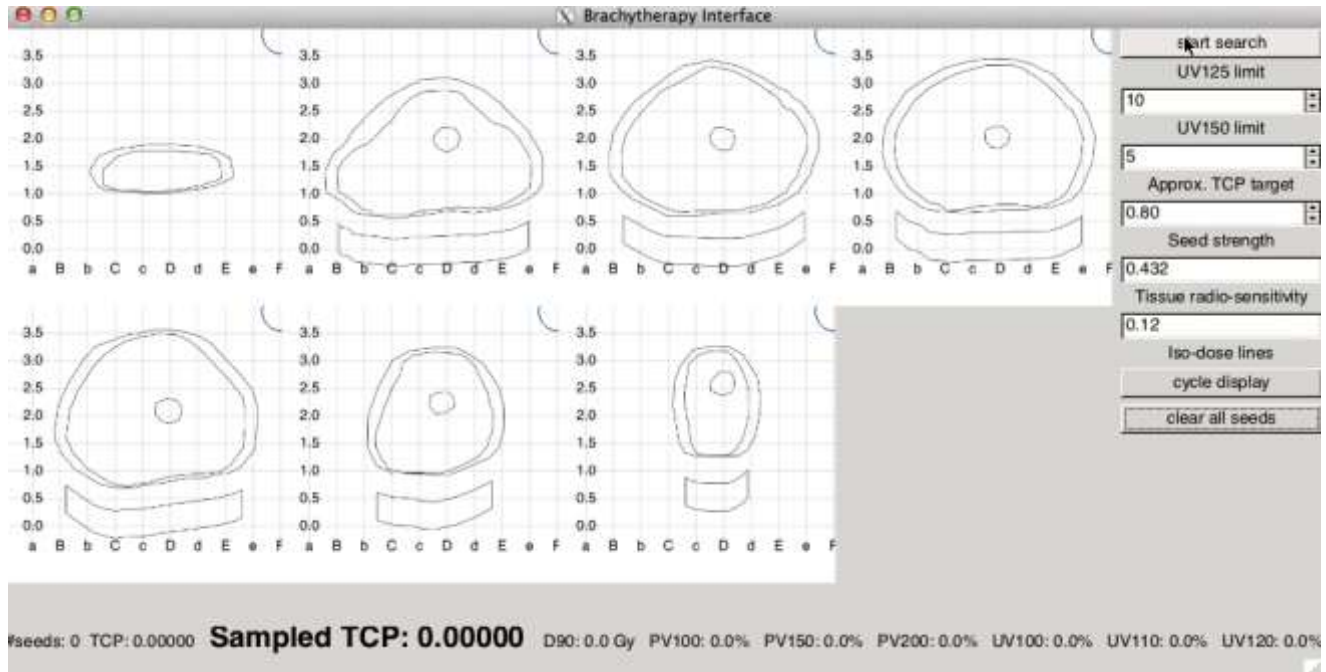


Method 2: IHC  
(Immunohistochemistry\*)  
Hypoxia-related markers HIF-1 $\alpha$ ,  
GLUT-1, CAIX

## RADIOGENOMICS

# Translating to clinical practice

## Creating a plan using biological optimisation



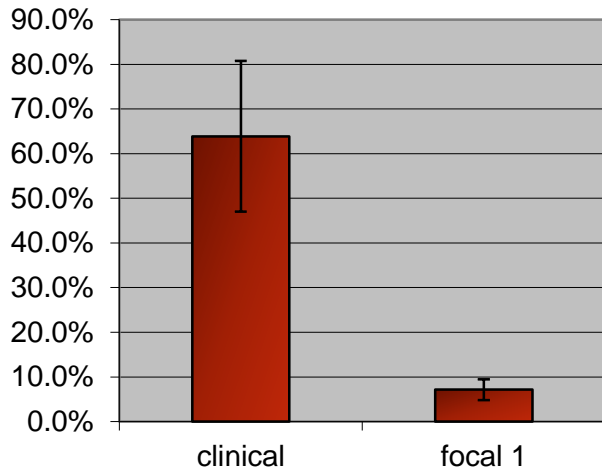
## Low Dose Rate Brachytherapy Approach

Credit to Chris Mears & team at Monash University, Haworth et al PMB 2015

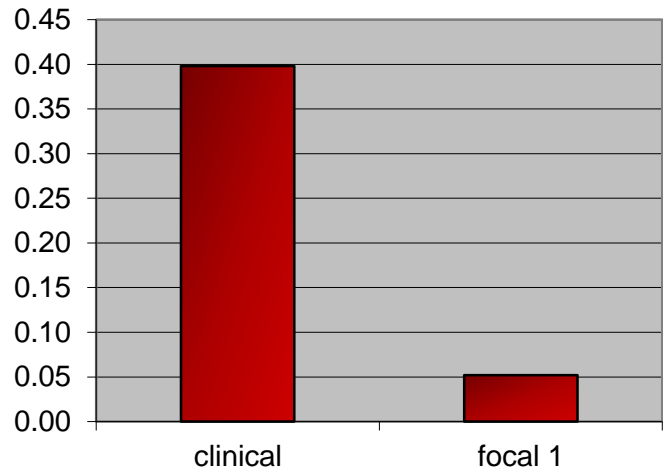
# Translating to clinical practice

## Creating a plan using biological optimisation

### Urethral Doses



### Rectal Doses



Low Dose Rate Brachytherapy Approach

## Treatment response: DCE looks promising

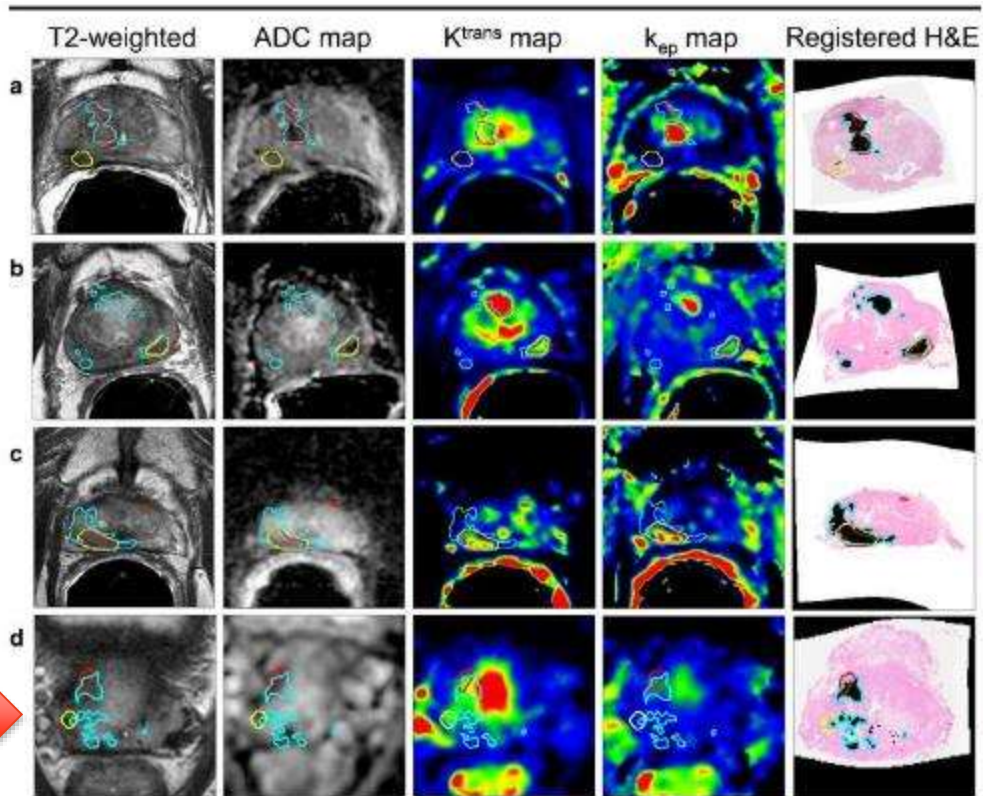


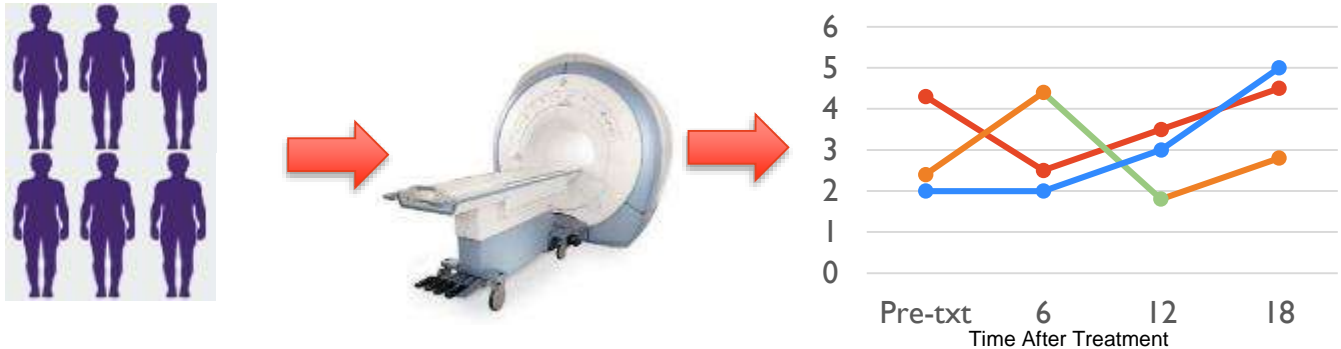
Fig. 2 Example patients treated with primarily EBRT (a-c) and LDR brachytherapy (d) with histopathology delineations propagated to MRI (in blue) and tumor-suspected regions delineated by the experienced uro-radiologists (in yellow and red).

## Mason et al J Contemp Brachytherapy 2018



**Fig. 1.** Mp-MRI images for a patient whose original treatment was I-125 seeds, anterior tumor is visible as increased enhancement on DCE-MRI. In the DWI ADC map there are possible darker areas of restricted diffusion, but artifacts generated by the implanted seeds make this image hard to interpret. The tumor is not visible on the T2W images. Targeted biopsy confirmed presence of tumor in anterior cores only

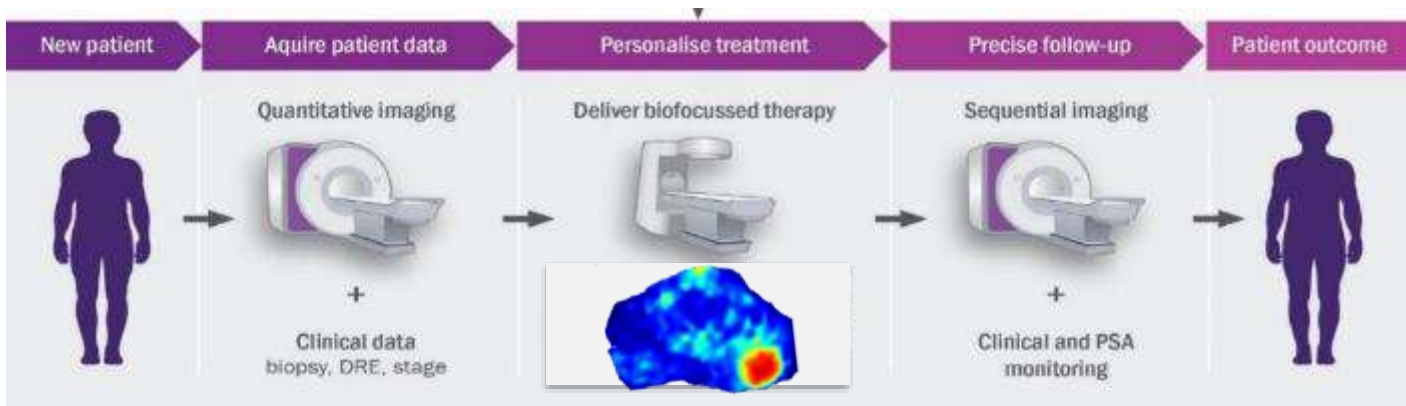
# Our planned study: mapping biological changes to predict treatment response



1. Multi-centre Clinical trial (ANZCTR UTN U1111-1221-9589)
2. Phantom studies for inter- intra-scanner variability

# The BiRT Project

## Biofocussed radiotherapy: delivering personalised medicine



Using MRI + PET to guide  
treatment and monitor treatment  
response





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**Australian Government**

**Department of Health and Ageing**



My former colleagues at  
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