# Imaging for Target Engagement in Oncology

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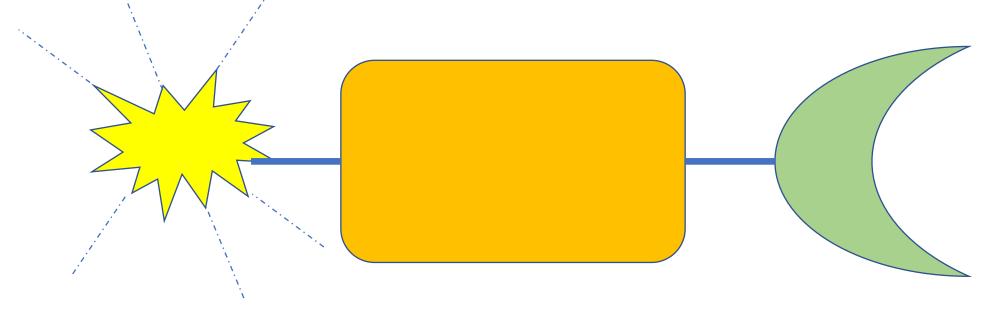
## Disclosures (None relevant to lecture)

- Patents: unrelated to lecture content
  - MR-US fusion biopsy system
  - Computer aided diagnosis
  - Photoimmunotherapy
  - Various devices for measuring radioactivity
  - Method to measure GFR with Gadolinium chelates
- Cooperative Research Agreements:
  - Philips, Aspyrian, General Electric, Scan Med

## Imaging for Target Engagement in Oncology

- Past mistakes and lessons learned (Antibodies)
- Current use of molecular imaging (FDG)
- Leading edge developments (Small Molecules)
- Opportunities and Challenges
- Kidney as a target for molecular imaging

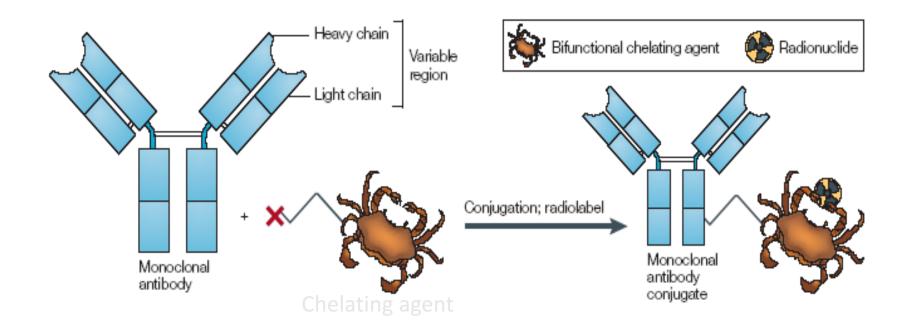
#### Molecular Imaging PET Agent Anatomy



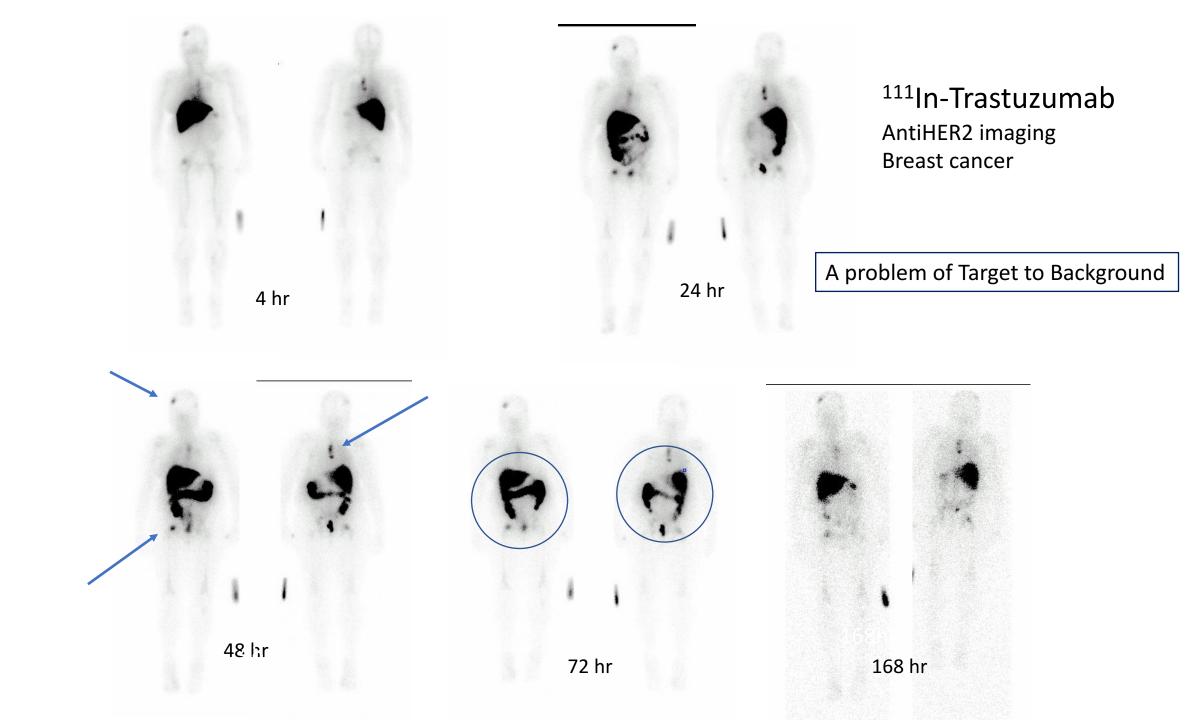
Beacon

Carrier or Bifunctional binder

**Targeting Moiety** 



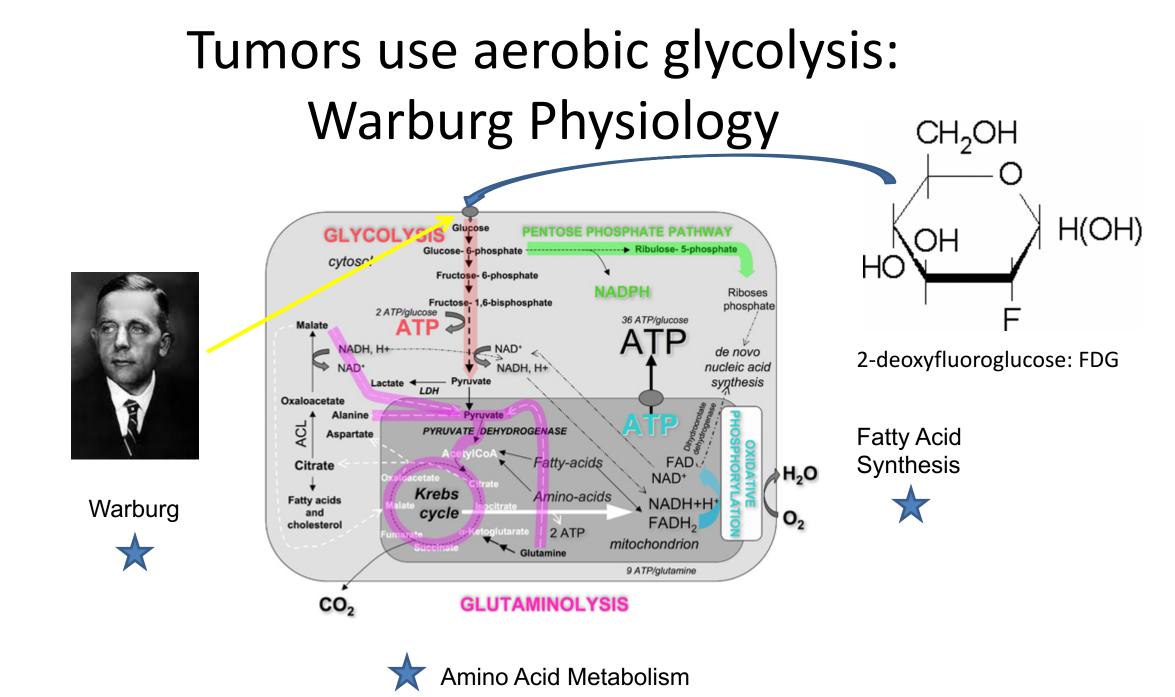
Milenic, Brady, and Brechbiel Nature Rev Drug Disc 2004



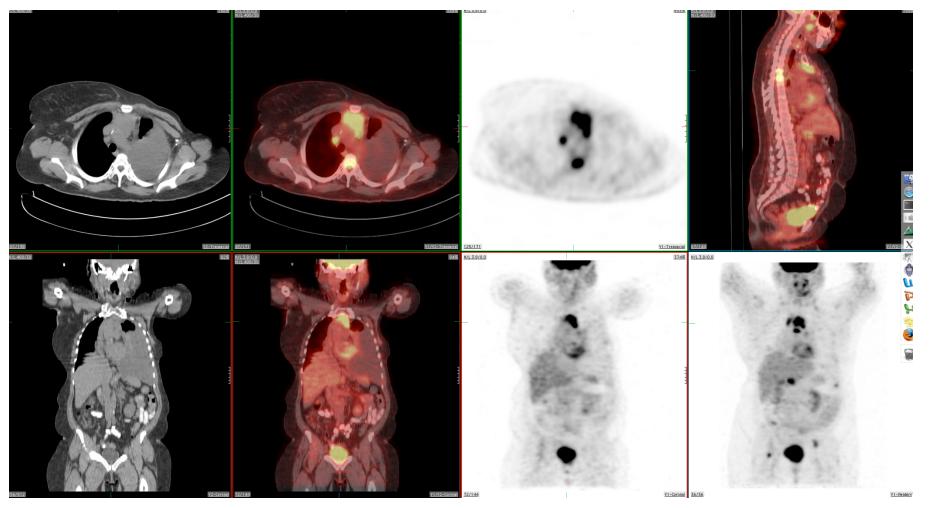
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#### Lessons Learned

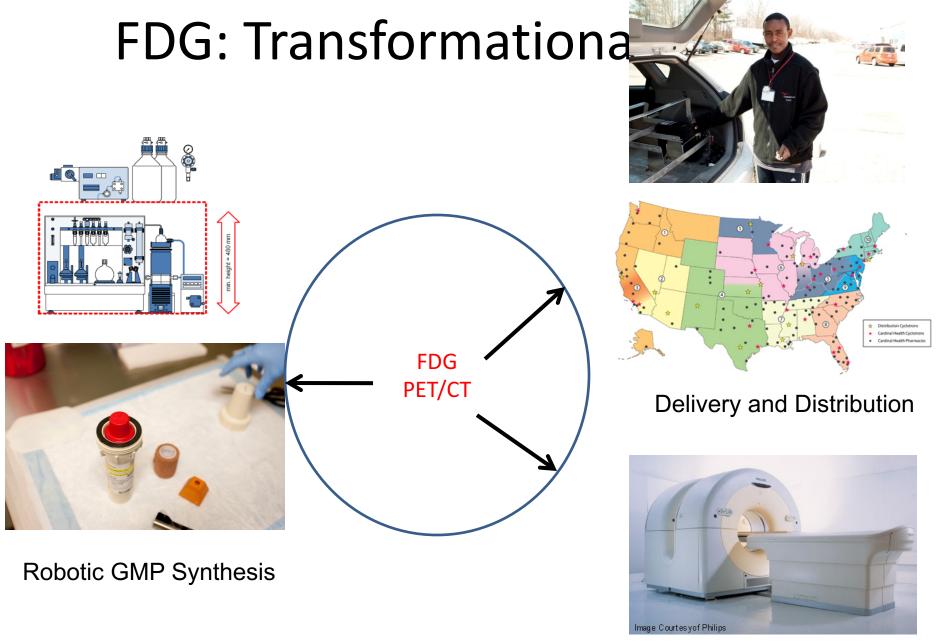
- High affinity is not enough
- Target to background ratio is critical (TBR)
- TBR is determined by
  - High affinity
  - Fast clearance
- Affects diagnostic imaging
- Affects therapeutic targeted therapy



## **PET/CT** Fusion Imaging

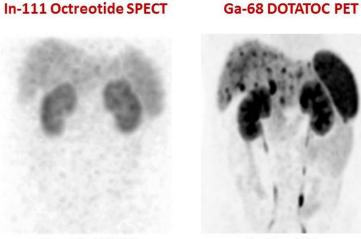


Metastatic Breast Cancer

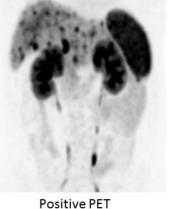


**PET/CT** Equipment

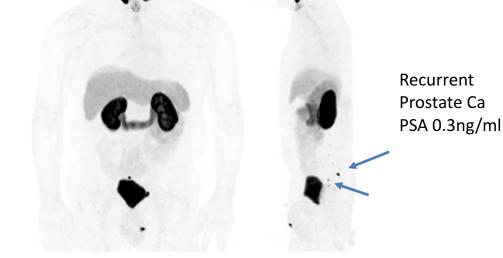
## New Oncologic PET Probes Entering Practice



**Negative SPECT** 



Metastatic Carcinoid Ca



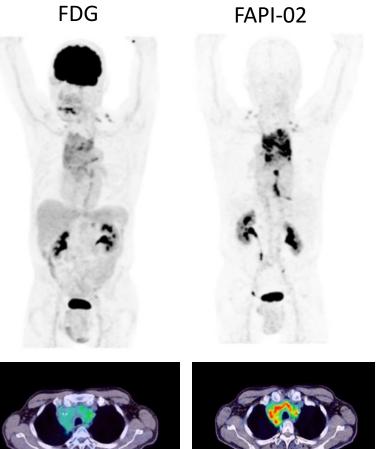
PET tagged somatostatin receptor ligands for neuroendocrine tumors

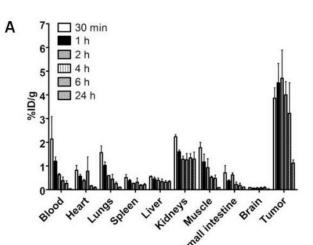
PET tagged PSMA binding ligands for prostate cancers

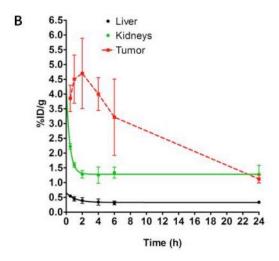
Hallmarks: High sensitivity and specificity for cancer Revealing completely new aspects of natural history

#### Fibroblast activating protein (FAPI) PET

AdenoCa Lung-

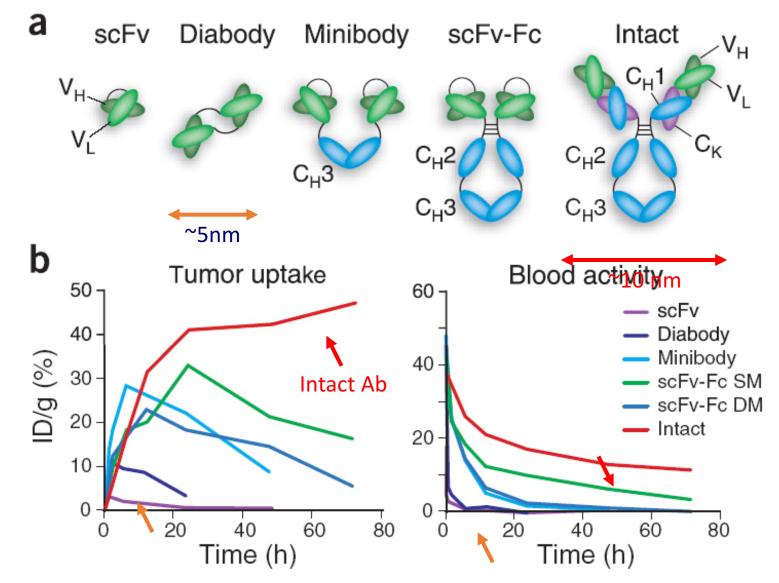






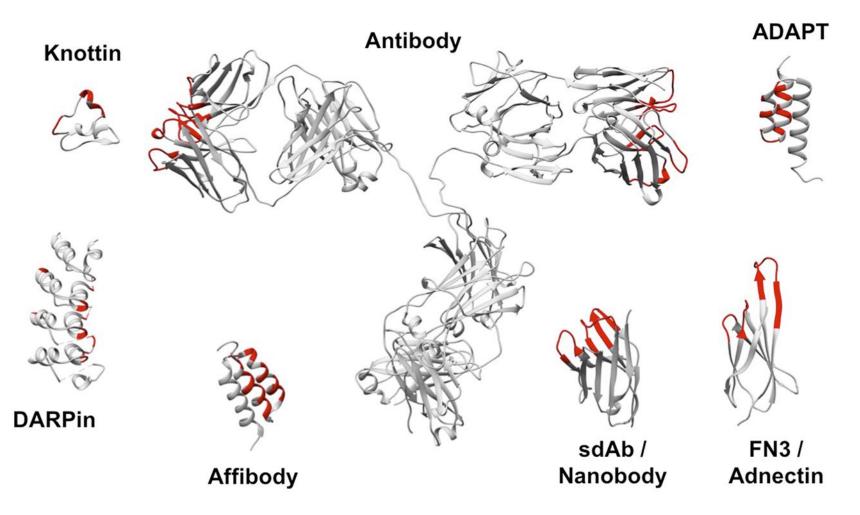
Loktev et al JNM 2018 (Heidelberg)

## Size of Probe



(Wu AM, Nature Biotech. 2005)

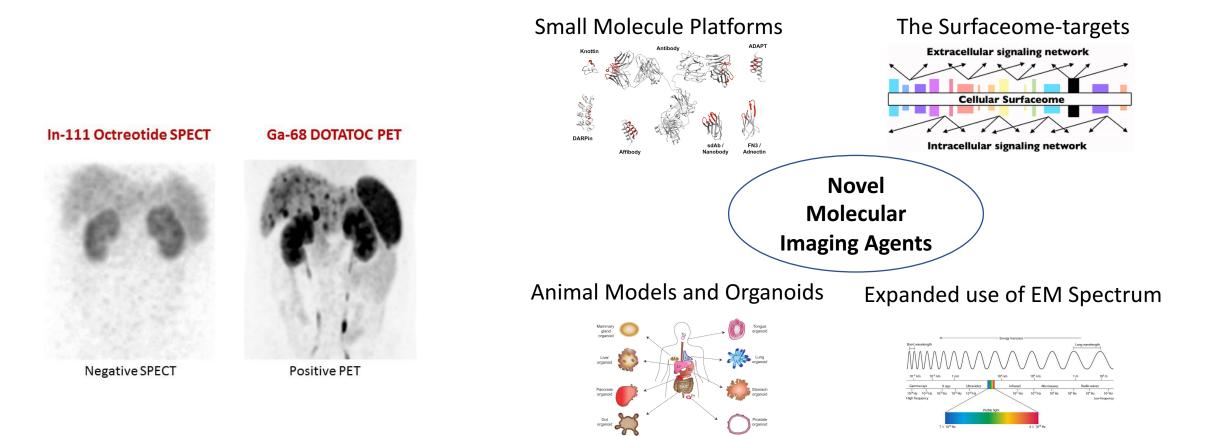
#### New Small Molecule Platforms





. Ahmet Krasniqi et al. J Nucl Med 2018;59:885-891

#### Molecular Imaging: Opportunities in the field



## A few words about MI of the kidney

- Challenge: Most small molecules are excreted thru the kidney so TBR will be a problem.
  - By tweaking PK, one can get small molecules to be hepatically excreted.
- Challenge: Kidney is a high blood flow, dynamic organ, subject to changes in hydration, cardiovascular status etc.
  - Careful control of imaging conditions will be necessary
- Huge opportunities for developing MI for the kidney:
  - Need to solve an important and actionable problem
  - Good cell surface or interstitial targets (high abundance, accessible target)
  - Modify excretory route

#### Conclusions

- Molecular Imaging in Oncology is poised to make dramatic gains in the next decade
  - Rewrite the natural history of many cancers
  - and lead to earlier interventions
- The major breakthrough is in small molecule chemistry where
  - High affinity ligands with high clearance rates lead to high TBR
  - New platform technologies exist to further this effort
- Huge opportunities in Nephrology
  - Need to find viable targets with meaningful endpoints
  - Same strategy of small molecules but tweak the excretory route

#### How to Screen All These People?



Imaging or Blood-Urine testing?

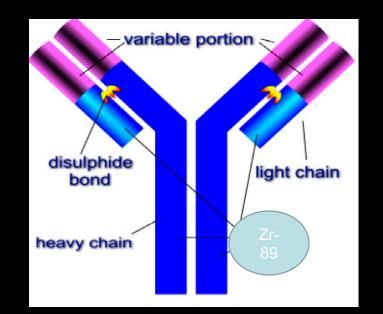
## Which is more practical?



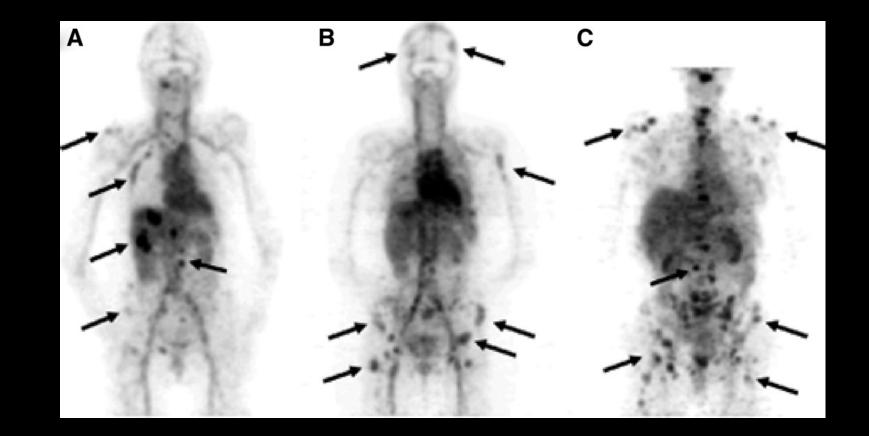


## **Radiolabeled Antibodies**

- Very high affinity (nM) even after labeling
- >30 approved human monoclonal Abs
- But...
  - Slow clearance
  - Delayed Imaging



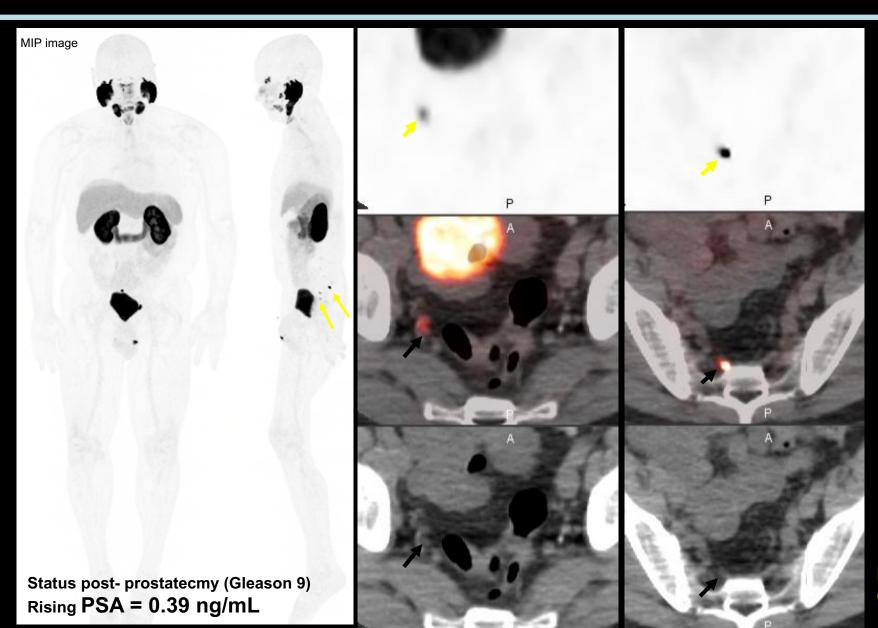
#### Zr-89 Trastuzumab



Dijkers EC., et al. Biodistribution of 89Zr-trastuzumab and PET imaging of

HER2-positive lesions in patients with metastatic breast cancer. Clin Pharmacol Ther 87:586-592, 2010.)

#### **Detecting Nodal Metastases**



 ✓ <sup>18</sup>F-DCFPyL PET imaging was able to detect positive findings at range of low PSA values ( < 0.5 ng/mL)</li>





Ravi Madan James Gulley GUMB

Right internal iliac (3 mm) and presacral (5 mm) lymph nodes – SUVmax 12.2 and 45.3