

Next-Generation Enabling Clinical MRI Technologies



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Ed Chekmenev

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Wayne State University
Academy of Scholars



CANCER INSTITUTE
Wayne State University



Biography & Disclosures

- 1994-1998** B.S., Department of Chemistry, Perm State University, Perm, Russia
- 1998-2003** Ph.D., Department of Chemistry, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY
Physical Chemistry, solid-state Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) with Richard J. Wittebort
- 2003-2005** Postdoctoral Fellow, National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, Tallahassee, FL
Solid-state NMR spectroscopy of transmembrane proteins (Influenza A) with Tim Cross
- 2006-2009** Postdoctoral Fellow (James G. Boswell fellowship and NCI K99 award),
California Institute of Technology & Huntington Medical Research Institutes (HMRI), Pasadena, CA
with Dan Weitekamp (Caltech) and Brian D. Ross, MD, Oxon (HMRI)
Hyperpolarized NMR and MRI
- 2009-2015** Assistant Professor of Radiology and Radiological Sciences at Vanderbilt University Institute of
Imaging Science (VUIIS), VUMC, Vanderbilt University
- 2016-2018** Associate Professor of Radiology and Radiological Sciences at Vanderbilt University Institute of
Imaging Science (VUIIS), VUMC, ~~Vanderbilt University~~
- 2017** Co-founded XeUS Technologies, LTD, Nicosia, Cyprus
Instrumentation for MRI contrast agents production
- 2018-now** Associate Professor (promoted to full in 2021) of Chemistry and Oncology
Department of Chemistry, Karmanos Cancer Institute (KCI), Integrative Biosciences (Ibio)
Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
- 2022-now** Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of Vizma Life Sciences, Durham, NC
Instrumentation for MRI contrast agents production

Acknowledgements

Wayne State University

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- Isaiah Adelabu
- Mohammad Kabir
- Clementinah Oladun
- Md Firoz Ahmed
- Anna Samoilenko, Pharm D
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- Wayne State University, Department of Chemistry Rumble PhD Fellowship (Nantogma & Adelabu)

External Collaborators & Contributors

- Prof. Boyd Goodson & team: (SIUC, Carbondale, IL)
- Dr. Kirill V. Kovtunov, Prof. Igor V. Koptug, Dr. Nikita Chukanov, Dr. Larisa Kovtunova & Dr. Oleg Salnikov from International Tomography Center, Novosibirsk/Russia
- Prof. Matthew S. Rosen (MGH, Harvard)
- Prof. Yi-Fen Yen (MGH, Harvard)
- Prof. Thomas Theis & team (NCSU, Raleigh, NC)
- Prof. Warren S. Warren & team (Duke University, Durham, NC)
- Prof. Stephan Appelt (RWTH Aachen University, Germany)
- Prof. Chunqi Qian (Michigan State University, Lansing, MI)
- Prof. Rahim Rizi and Prof. Stephen Kadlecsek (Upenn)
- Dr. Jessica Ettetdgui (NHLBI)
- Dr. Rolf Swenson & team (NHLBI)
- Dr. Murali Cherukuki & team (NCI)
- Prof. Roman V. Shchepin (South Dakota School of Mines and Technology)
- Dr. Michael J. Barlow (University of Nottingham, UK)
- Prof. W. Michael Snow (Indiana University Bloomington, IN)
- Prof. Wellington Pham (Vanderbilt University Institute of Imaging Science)
- Dr. Andreas Schmidt & team (University of Freiburg, Germany)

Motivation

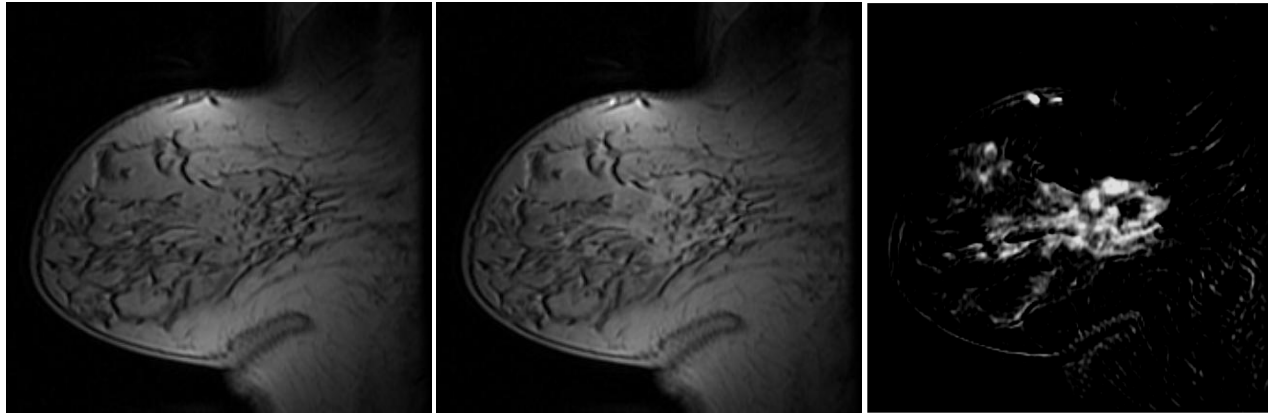
- ✓ Develop new ways to image organ function and disease
- ✓ Current focus areas: cancer and lung diseases

Ways to Get There

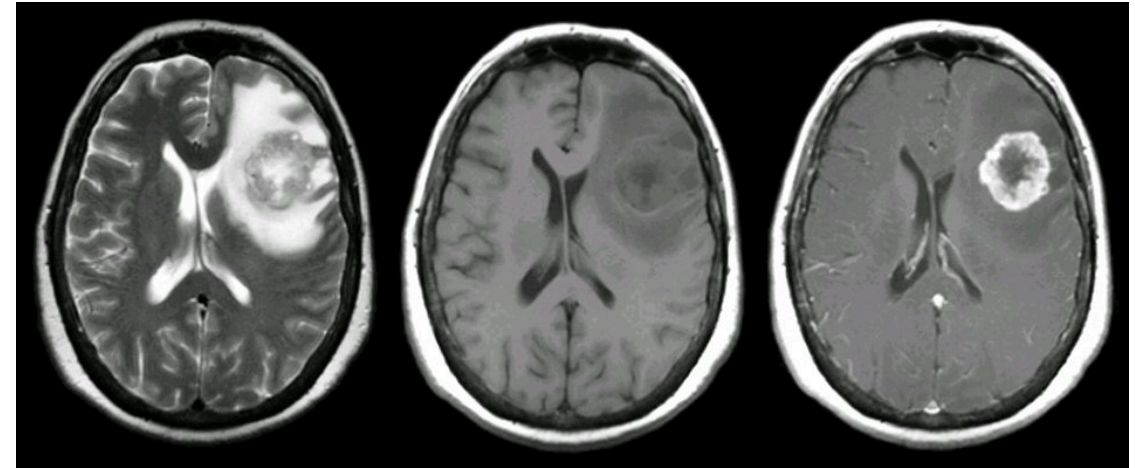
- ✓ Develop new *hyperpolarized* molecular imaging MRI probes
- ✓ Develop cheap, disposable, small (ideally handheld) technologies for production of *hyperpolarized* molecular imaging MRI probes
- ✓ Develop new sensing approaches

MR Imaging (MRI) and Spectroscopy (MRS) of Cancer

DCE MRI of Breast Cancer with Contrast Agent



MRI of Metastatic Disease - Breast Cancer



Pre-contrast

Post-contrast

Subtraction

DCE Images Courtesy of Prof. Yankeelov (UT Austin)

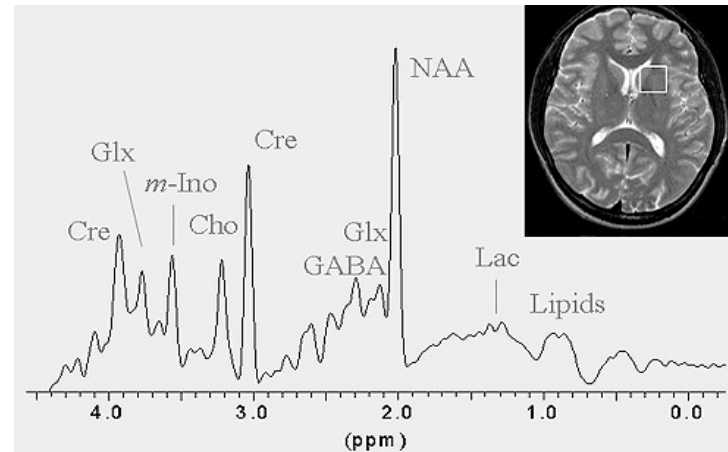
T₂ MRI

T₁ MRI

T₁ with Gd contrast

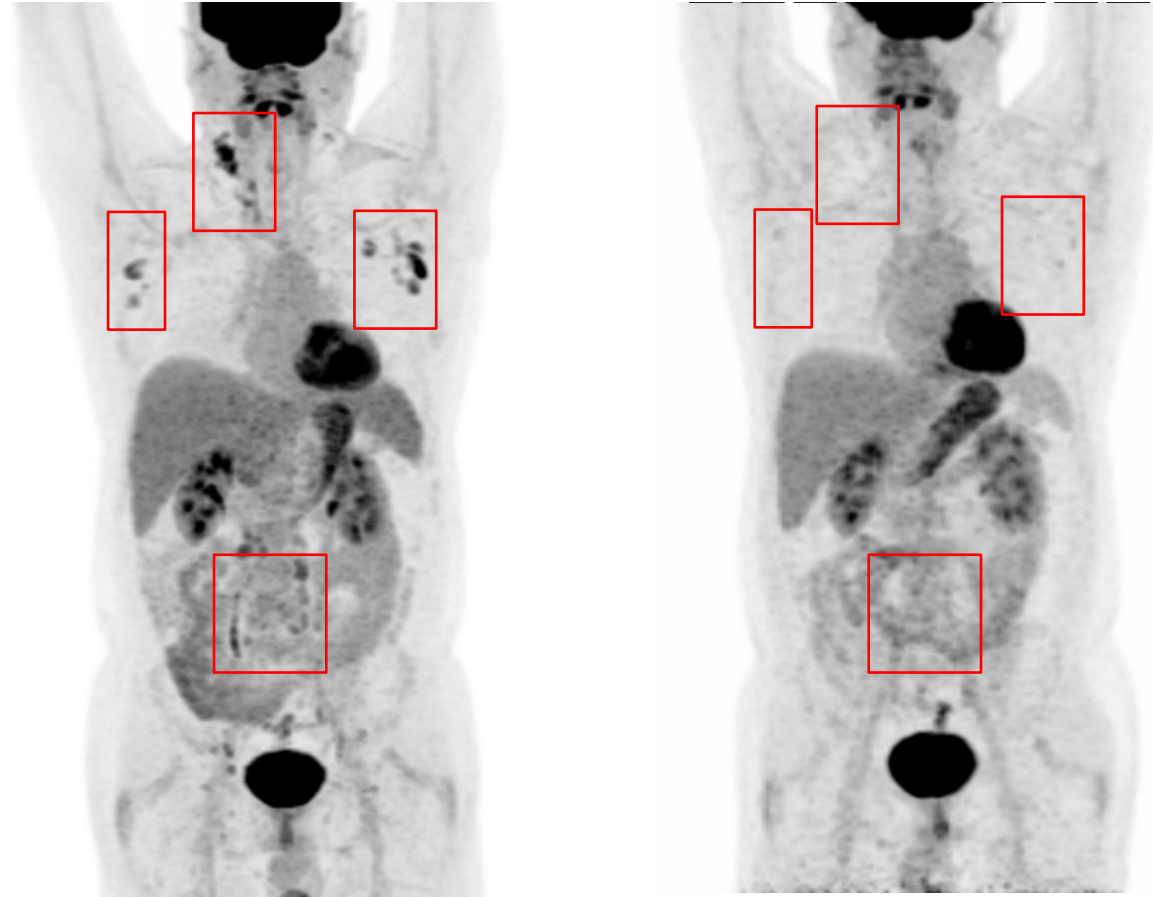
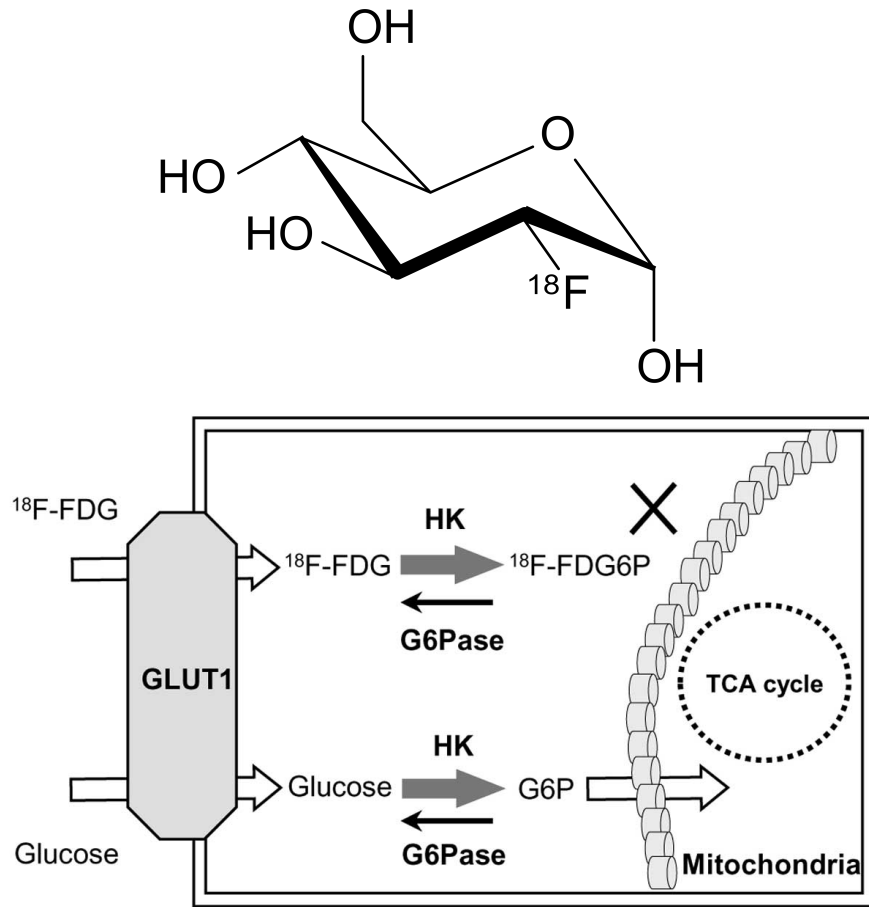
<https://case.edu/med/neurology/NR/breast%20ca4.htm>

MRS of Brain Cancer



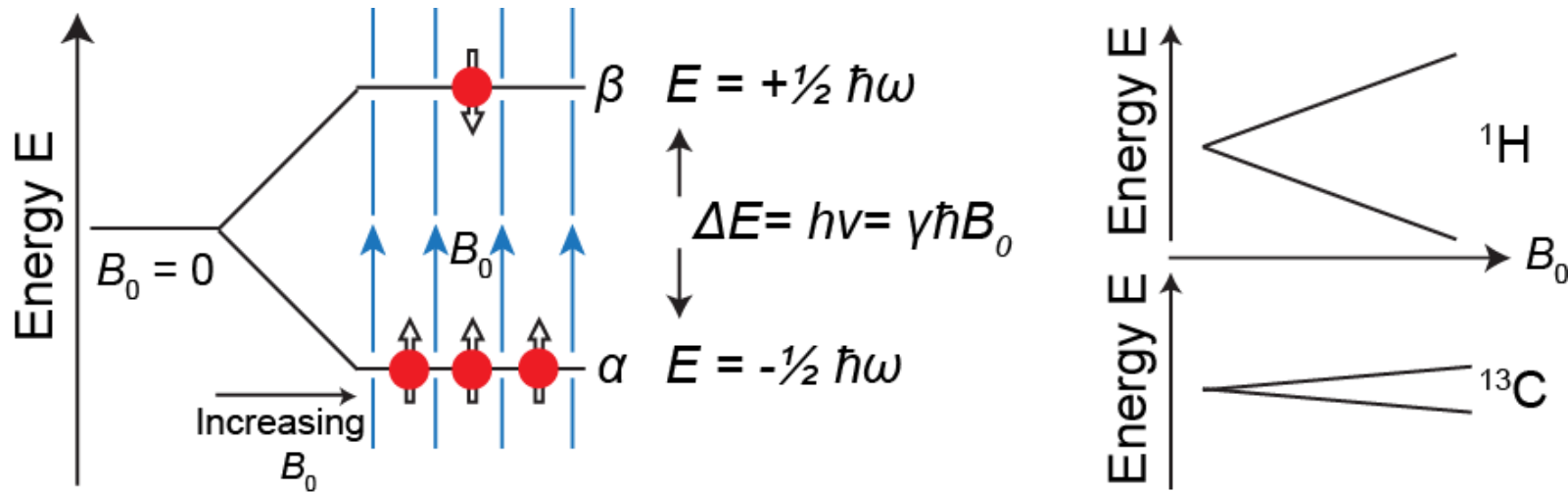
Croall ID, et al, (2014) 83, 494–501.

Modern Clinical Molecular Imaging: ^{18}F -FDG-PET



Clinical whole-body FDG-PET scan of 43-y.o. male patient with stage-3 low-grade Follicular lymphoma. **(left)** FDF-PET scan at the time of the diagnosis showing the presence of metastatic disease; **(right)** FDG-PET scan performed 3 months later after completion of targeted therapy with monoclonal antibody, showing complete metabolic remission, which manifests as the disappearance of FDG metabolic activity in the metastases. Note the physiological background signal in the brain, heart, bowel, liver and prostate.

Nuclear Spin Polarization



Zeeman splitting of nuclear spin states (spin $I = \frac{1}{2}$ nuclei) in a magnetic field

Boltzmann population statistics for thermal equilibrium state yields the nuclear spin polarization P :

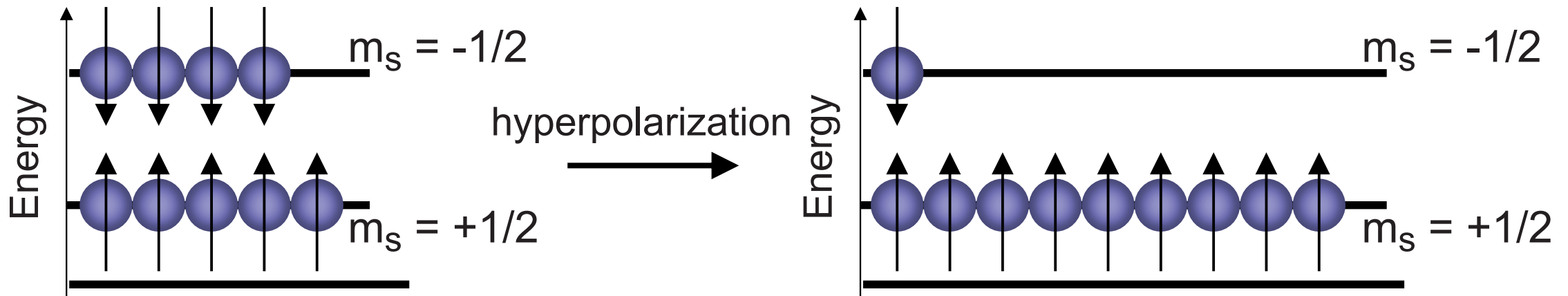
$$P \equiv \frac{N_{1/2} - N_{-1/2}}{N_{1/2} + N_{-1/2}} \approx \frac{\gamma \hbar B_0}{2kT}$$

NMR Hyperpolarization

Definition

Hyperpolarization, *noun*.

Temporarily increased nuclear spin polarization of nuclei (far) beyond the Boltzmann thermal equilibrium conditions



$$P \equiv \frac{N_{1/2} - N_{-1/2}}{N_{1/2} + N_{-1/2}} \approx \frac{\gamma \hbar B_0}{2kT}$$

- ❑ For example, ^{13}C polarization = 2.5×10^{-6} or 2.5 ppm at 3 T
- ❑ $P \approx 1$ or 100% can be achieved by several methods
- ❑ Enhancement Factor, $\mathcal{E} = P_{\text{HP}}/P_{\text{Thermal}}$

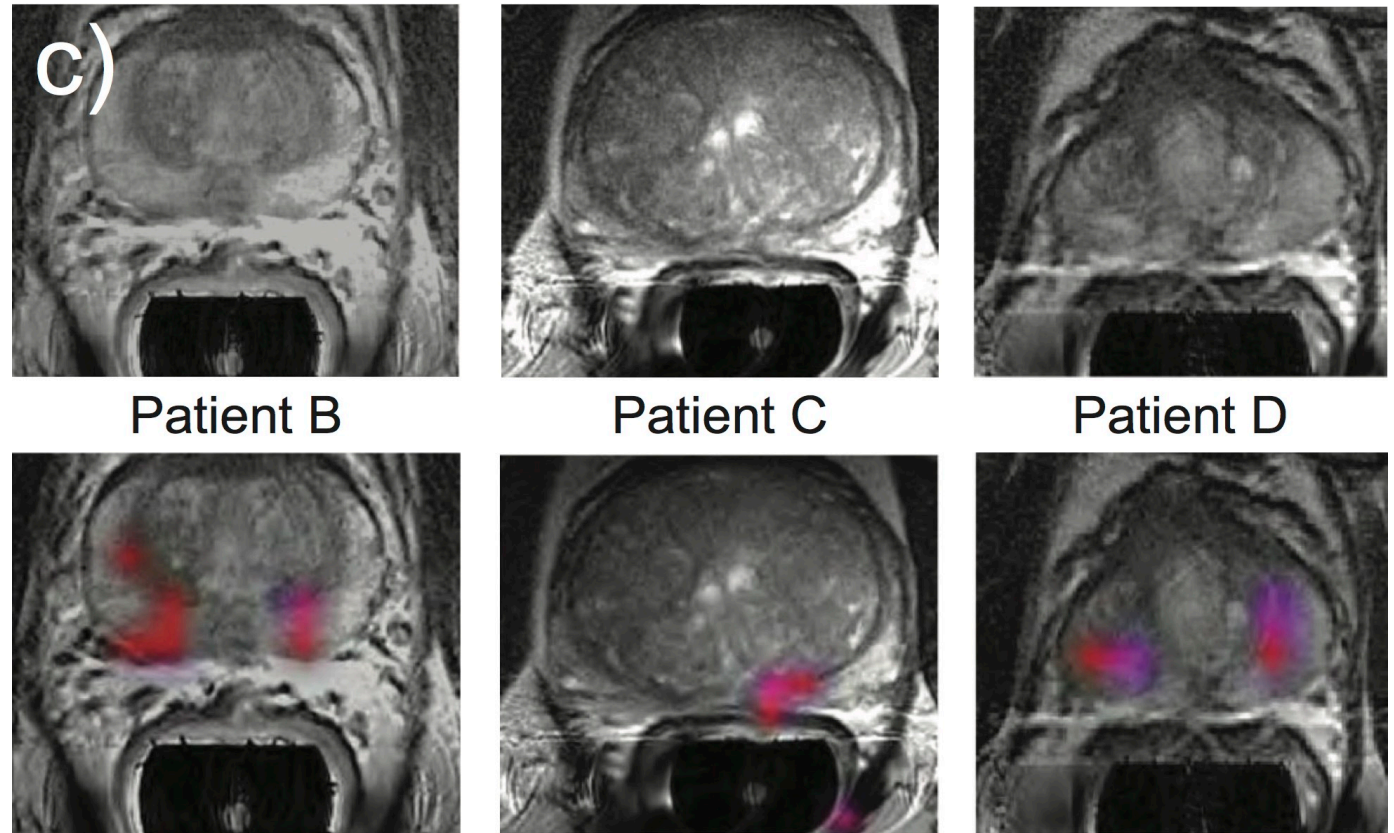
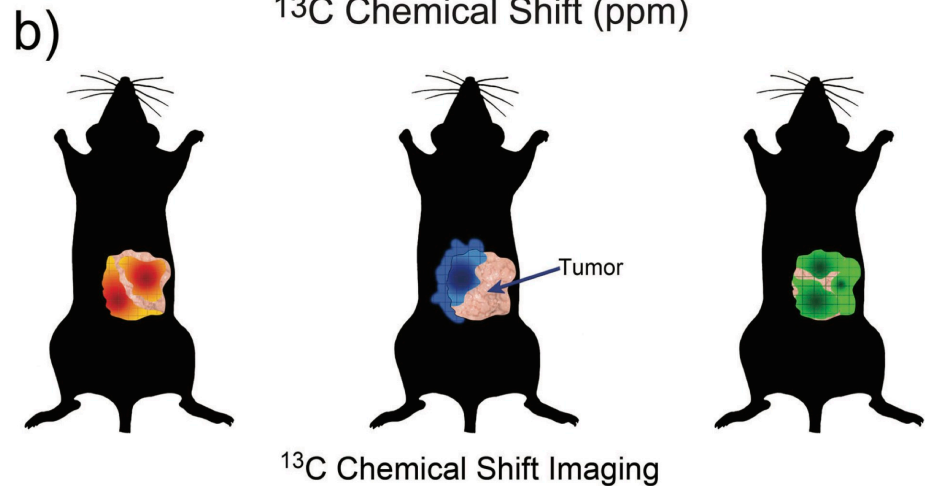
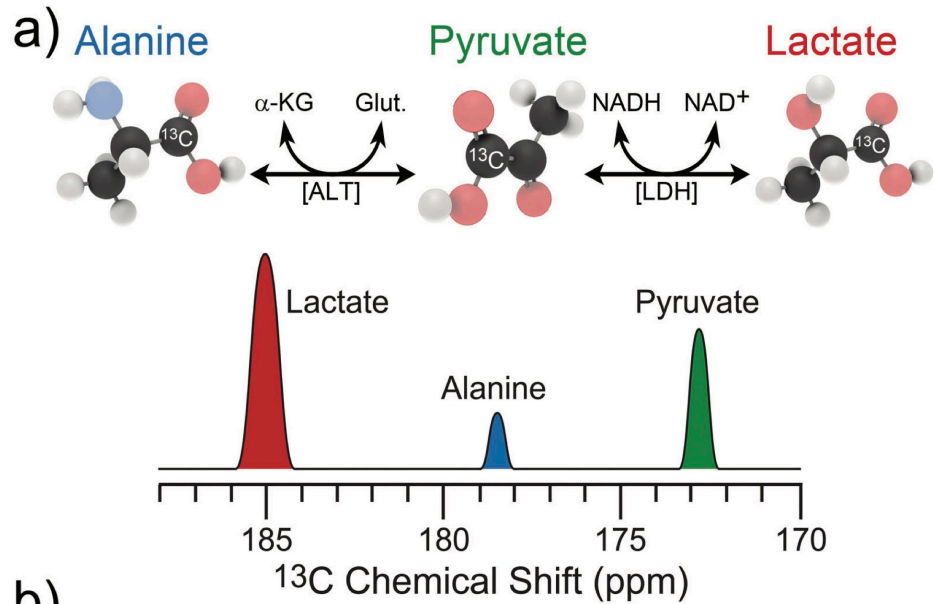
Benefits of Hyperpolarization

- Enhanced MR Sensitivity (by orders of magnitude)
- Improved Spatial and Temporal Resolution: scan time – few seconds to 1 min
- Detection Sensitivity (SNR) No Longer Depends on the Main Magnetic Field B_0



Kurhanewicz, J.; Vigneron, D. B.; Brindle, K.; Chekmenev, E. Y.; Comment, A.; Cunningham, C. H.; DeBerardinis, R. J.; Green, G. G.; Leach, M. O.; Rajan, S. S.; Rizi, R. R.; Ross, B. D.; Warren, W. S.; Malloy, C. R. *Neoplasia* **2011**, *13*, 81.

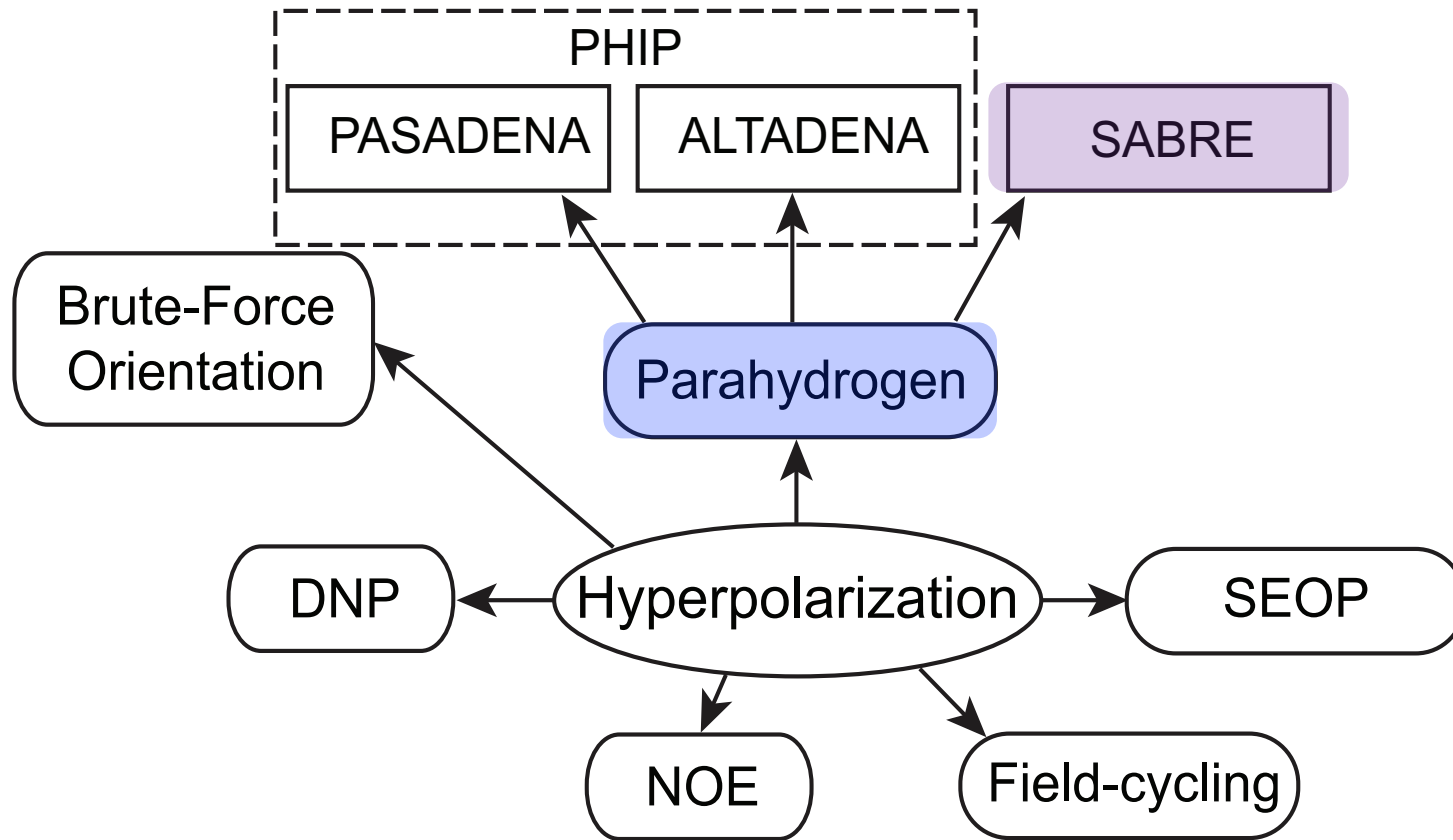
Metabolic Imaging Using Hyperpolarized [1-¹³C]Pyruvate



c) Representative examples of 3D single-time-point magnetic resonance spectroscopic imaging (MRSI) data of three prostate cancer subjects after IV injection of HP [1-¹³C]pyruvate. The axial T₂-weighted images and false-color overlays of hyperpolarized [1-¹³C]lactate/[1-¹³C]pyruvate ratio are from the three patients labeled as B, C, and D.

1. Nikolaou, P.; Goodson, B. M.; Chekmenev, E. Y. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2015**, *21*, 3156-3166.
2. Nelson, S. J.; Kurhanewicz, J.; Vigneron, D. B.; Larson, P. E. Z.; et al. *Sci. Transl. Med.* **2013**, *5*, 198ra108.

Methods of Hyperpolarization



DNP: Dynamic Induced Polarization;

PHIP: Parahydrogen Induced Polarization;

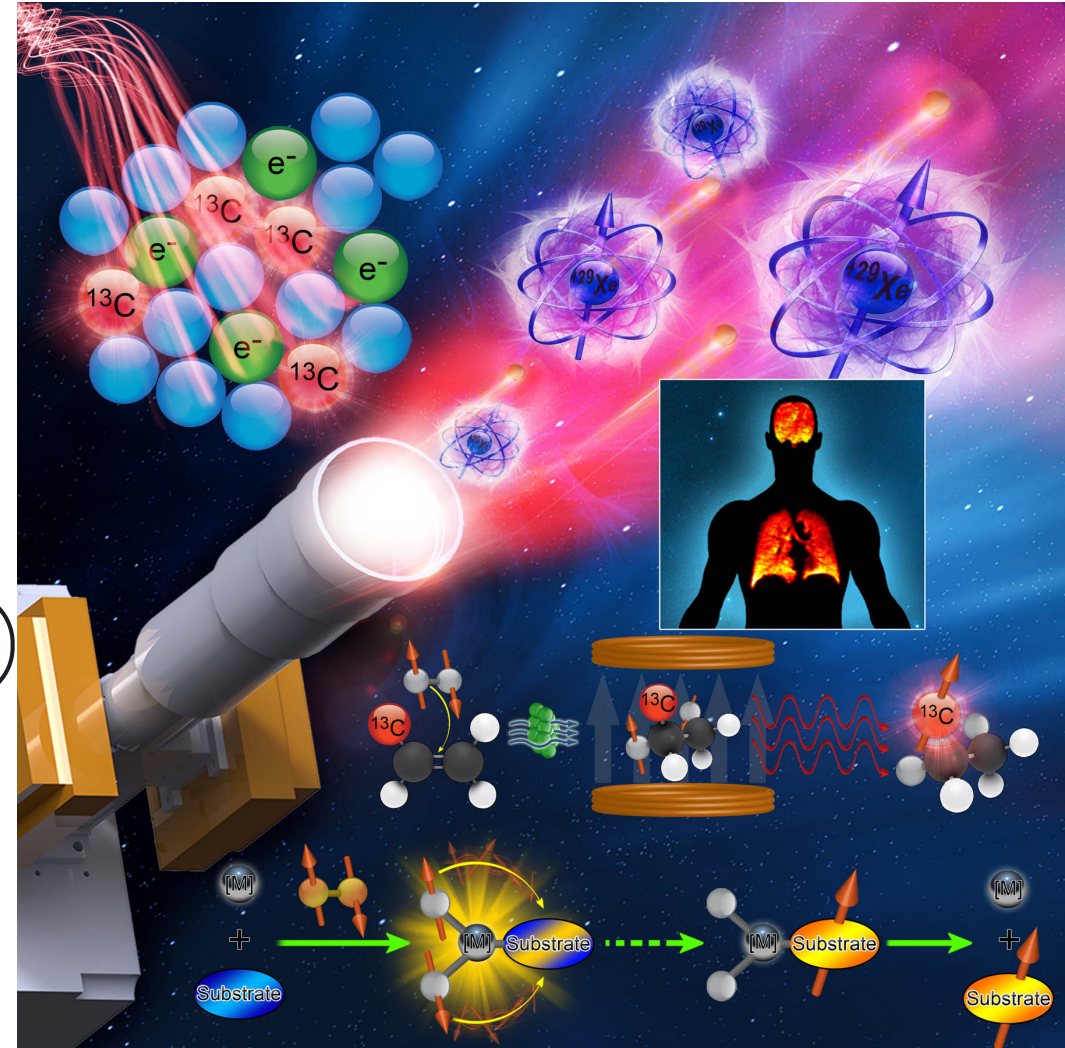
PASADENA: Para-Hydrogen and Synthesis Allow Dramatically Enhanced Nuclear Alignment;

ALTADENA: Adiabatic Longitudinal Transport After Dissociation Engenders Net Alignment;

SABRE: Signal Amplification by Reversible Exchange;

SEOP: Spin-Exchange Optical Pumping;

NOE: Nuclear Overhauser Enhancement.



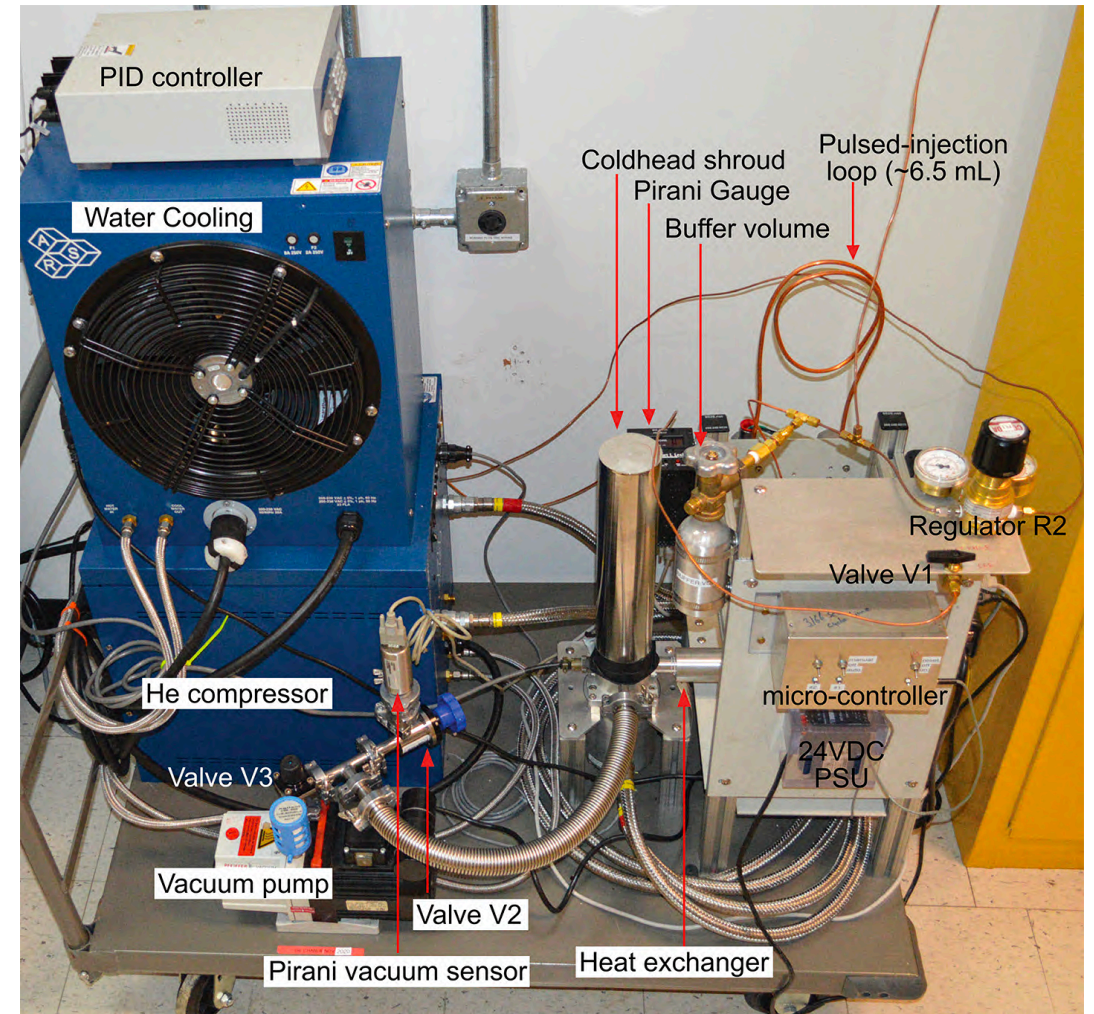
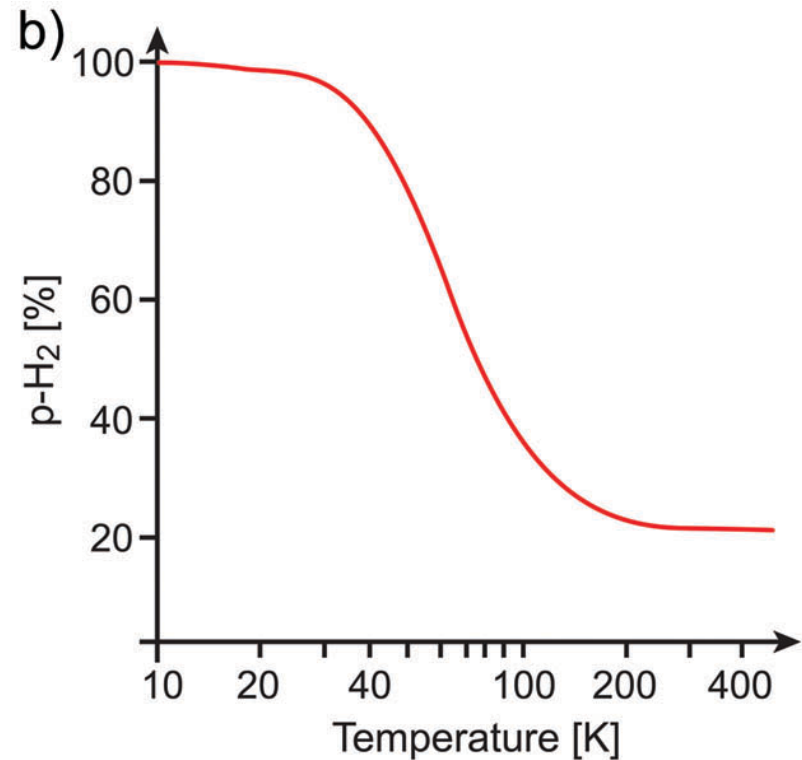
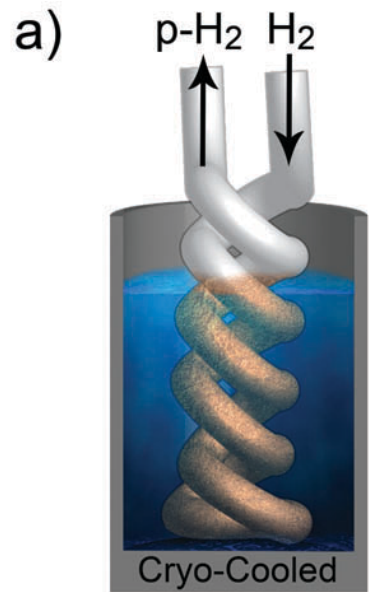
How HP [1-¹³C]Pyruvate Is Produced Today In >30 Clinical Trials

- HP [1-¹³C]pyruvate is prepared via dissolution Dynamic Nuclear Polarization (d-DNP)
- HP [1-¹³C]pyruvate and its metabolites are detected using Research MRI scanner equipped with ¹³C capability (fewer than 100 installed globally)



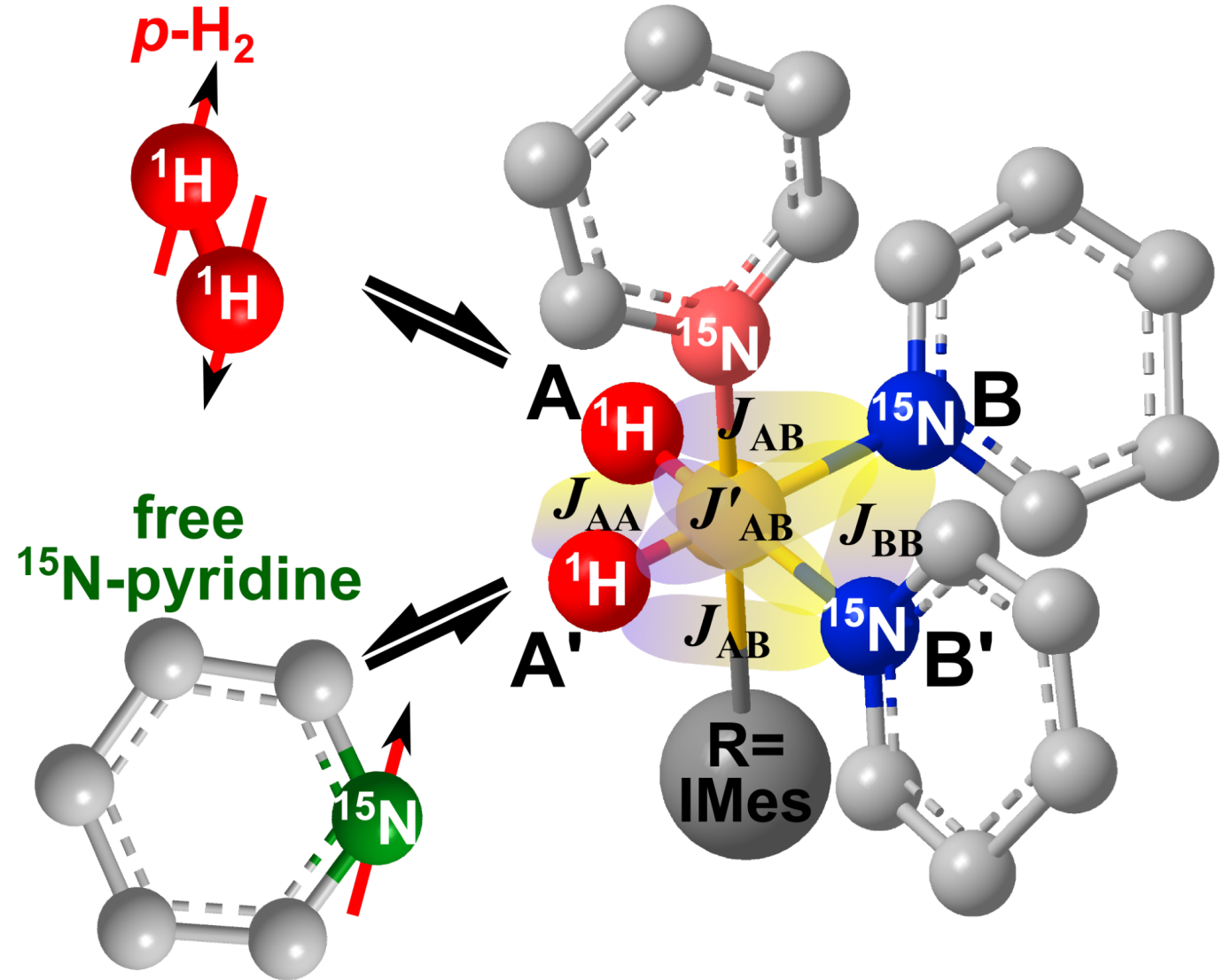
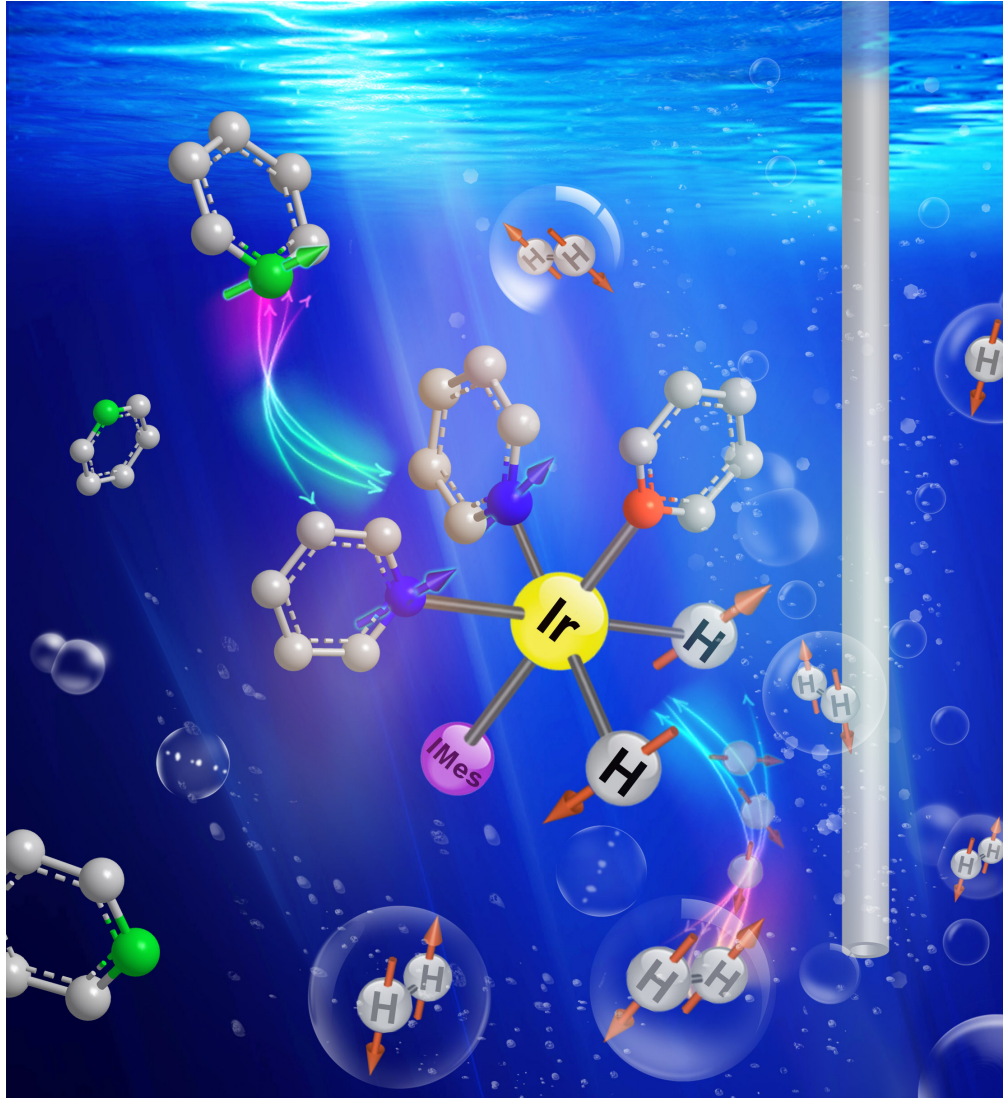
Parahydrogen Induced Polarization

...of any sort requires parahydrogen that acts as a source of nuclear spin polarization



Nantogma, S.; Joalland, B.; Wilkens, K.; Chekmenev, E. Y. Clinical-Scale Production of Nearly Pure (>98.5%) Parahydrogen and Quantification by Benchtop NMR Spectroscopy. *Anal. Chem.* **2021**, *93*, 3594–3601.

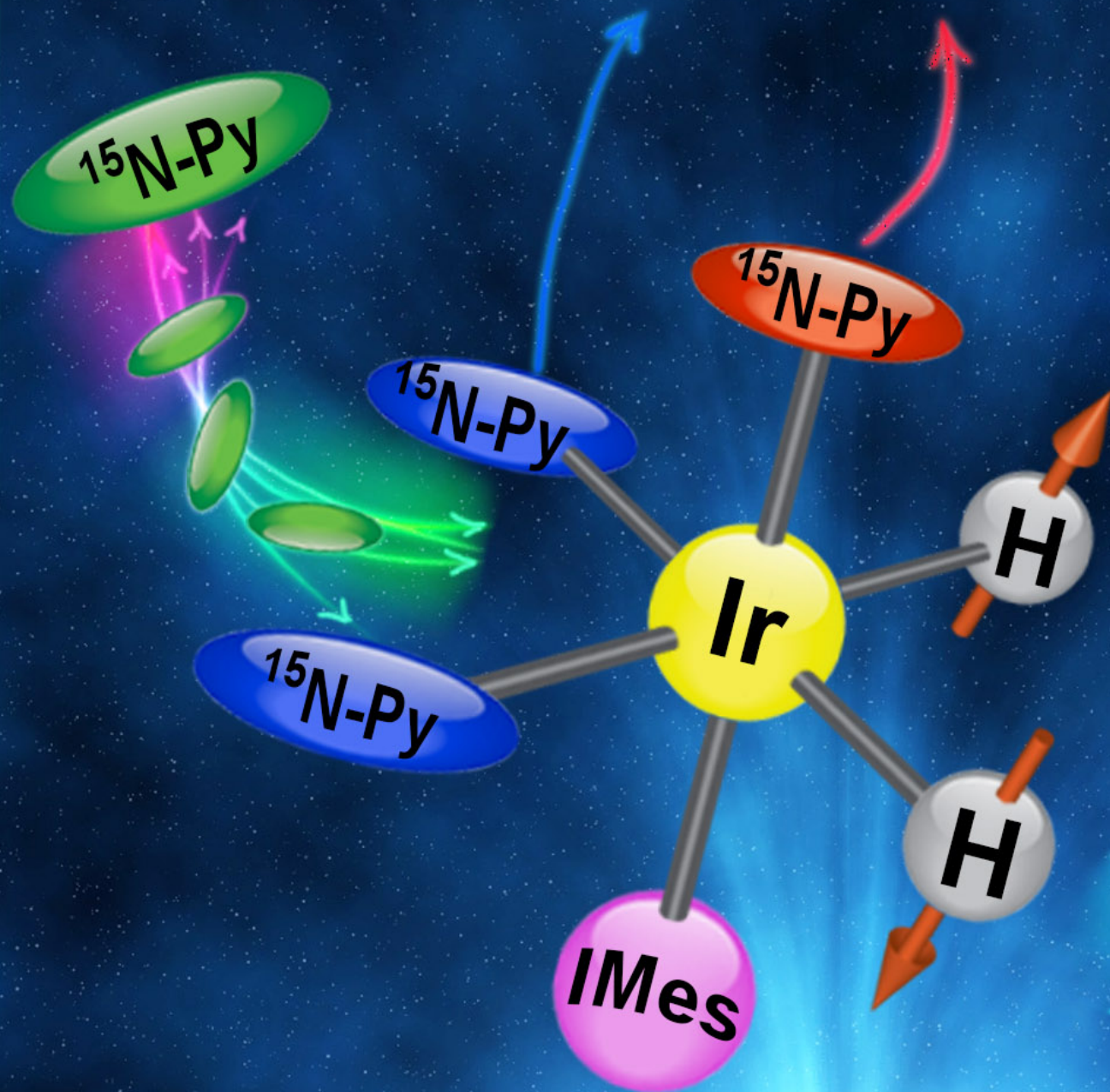
^{15}N and ^{13}C Signal Amplification By Reversible Exchange (SABRE)



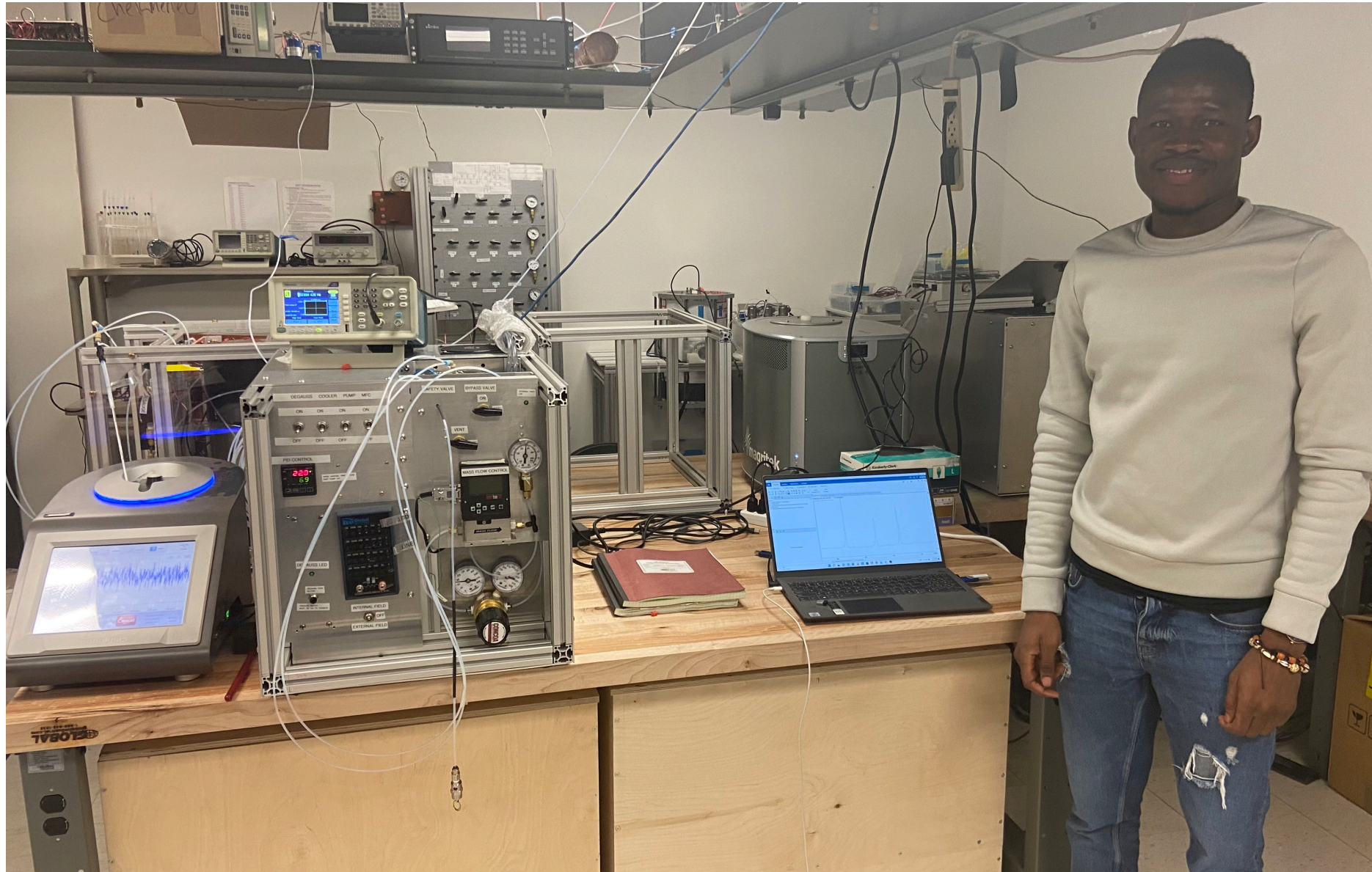
1. Theis, T.; Truong, M. L.; Coffey, A. M.; Shchepin, R. V.; Waddell, K. W.; Shi, F.; Goodson, B. M.; Warren, W. S.; Chekmenev, E. Y. Microtesla SABRE Enables 10% Nitrogen-15 Nuclear Spin Polarization. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2015**, *137*, 1404-1407.
2. Truong, M. L.; Theis, T.; Coffey, A. M.; Shchepin, R. V.; Waddell, K. W.; Shi, F.; Goodson, B. M.; Warren, W. S.; Chekmenev, E. Y. ^{15}N Hyperpolarization By Reversible Exchange Using SABRE-SHEATH. *J. Phys. Chem. C* **2015**, *119*, 8786-8797.

^{15}N -Pyridine (^{15}N -Py) Exchange in Magnetic Shield

$\epsilon \sim 30,000$ @ 9.4 T



Bench-Top Polarizer for Liquid-State SABRE

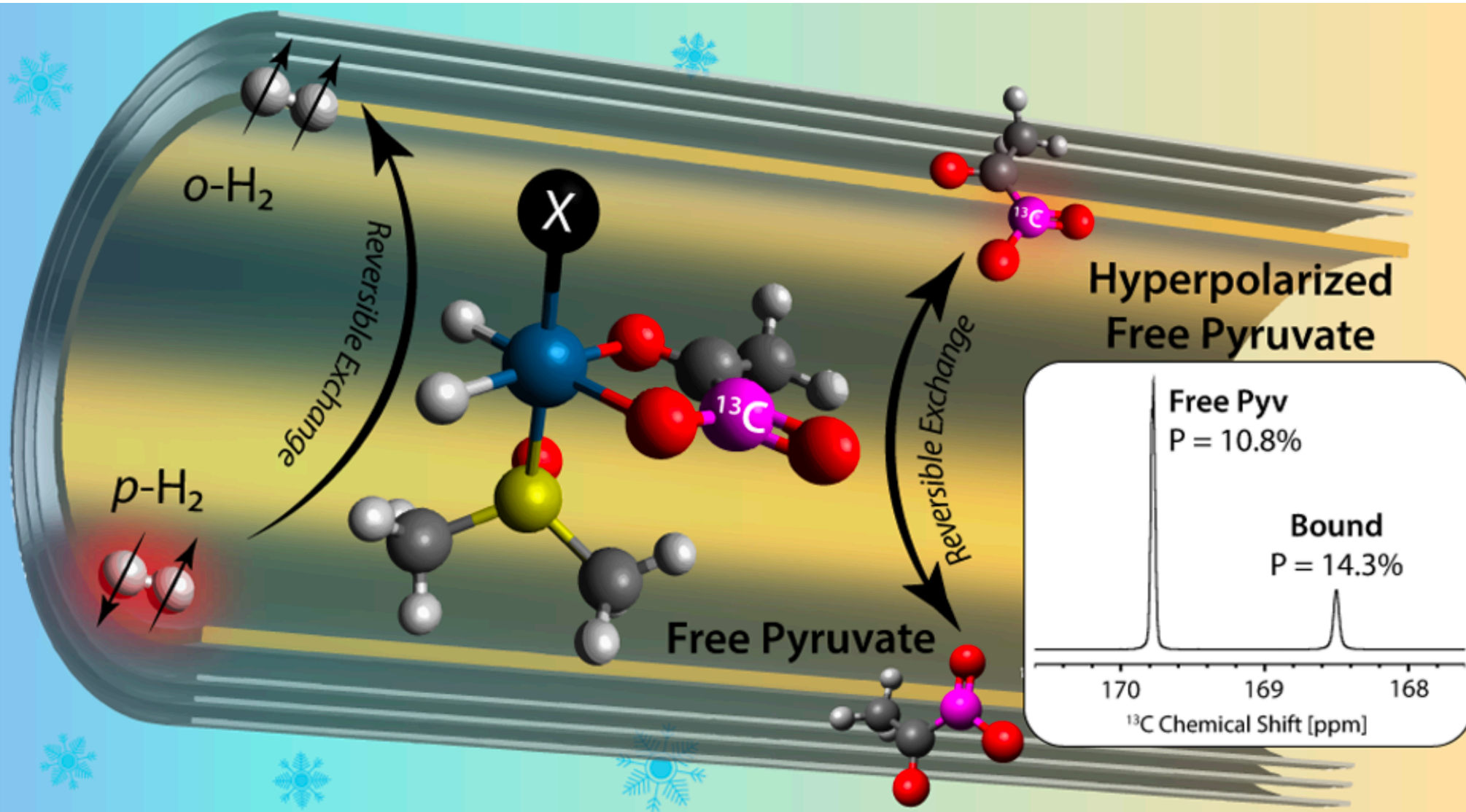


Shiraz
Nantogma
(Chemistry
Dept. Rumble
fellowship)

SABRE Hyperpolarization of [1-¹³C]Pyruvate

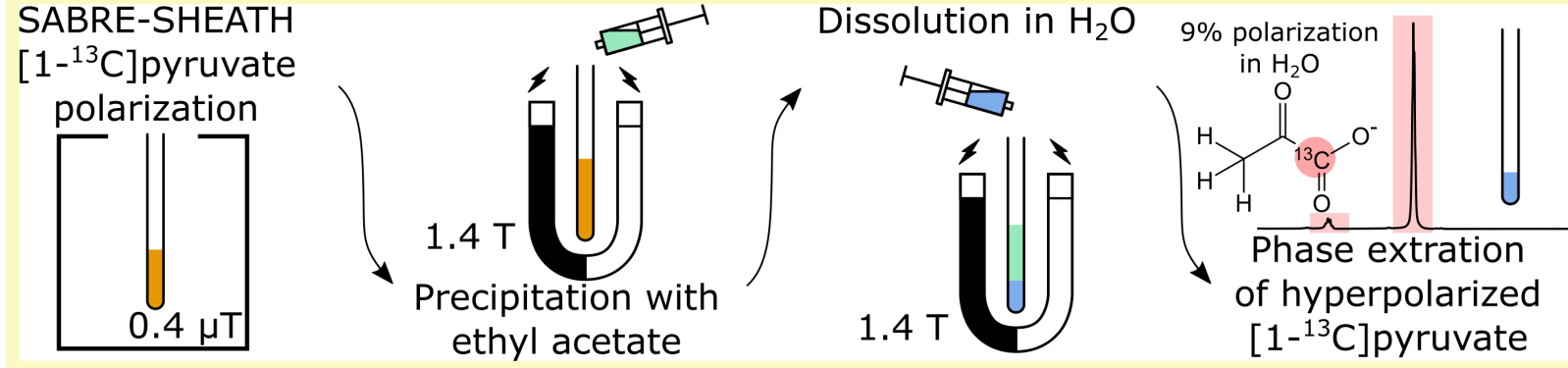


Isaiah Adelabu
(Chemistry Dept. Rumble fellowship)



1. TomHon, P.; Abdulmojeed, M.; Adelabu, I.; Nantogma, S.; Kabir, M. S. H.; Lehmkuhl, S.; Chekmenev, E. Y.; Theis, T. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2022**, *144*, 282–287.
2. Iali, W.; Roy, S. S.; Tickner, B. J.; Ahwal, F.; Kennerley, A. J.; Duckett, S. B. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2019**, *58*, 10271.
3. Adelabu, I.; TomHon, P.; Kabir, M. S. H.; Nantogma, S.; Abdulmojeed, M.; et al. *ChemPhysChem* **2022**, *23*, 131–136.

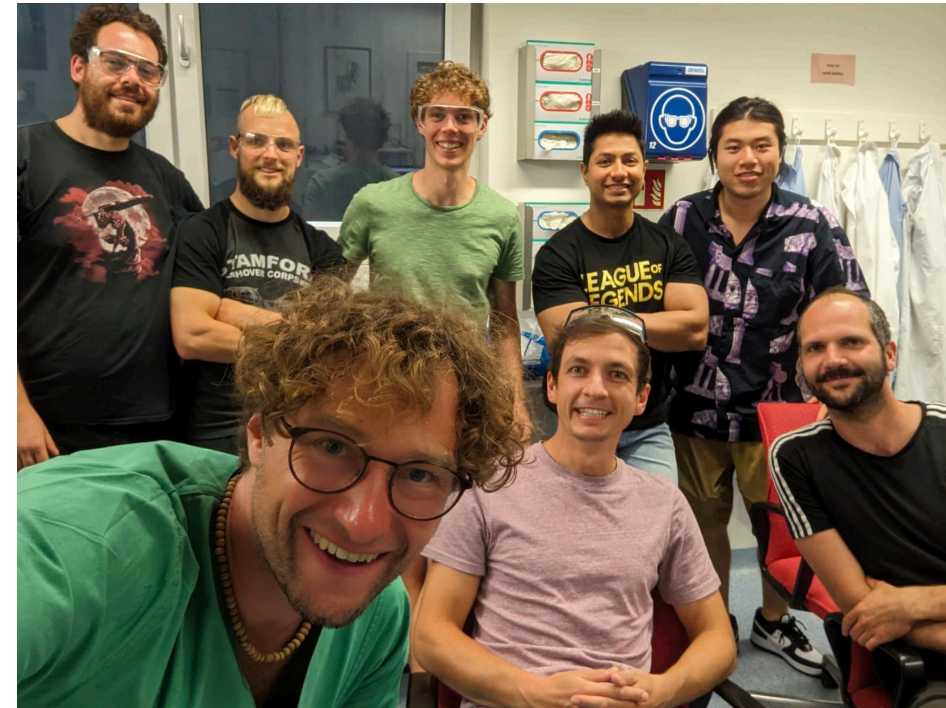
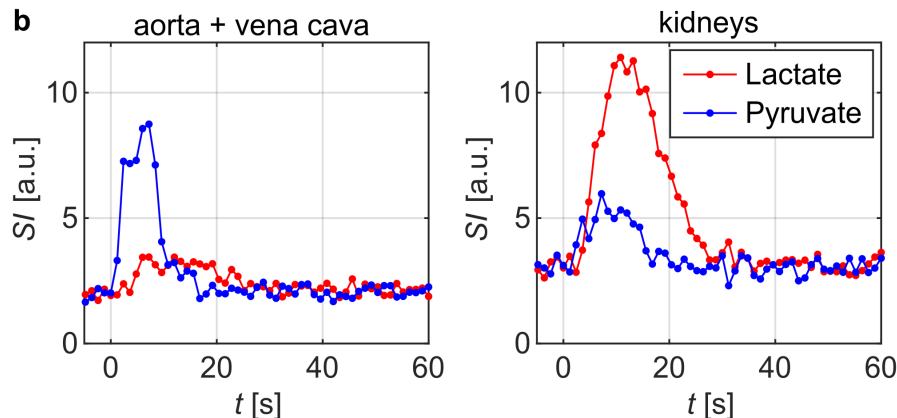
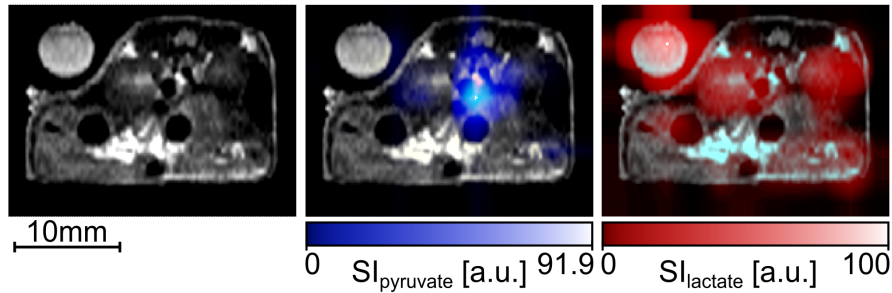
Preparing Biocompatible Solutions via Re-Dissolution SABRE



Schmidt, A. B.; de Maissin, H.; Adelabu, I.; Nantogma, S.; Ettetdgui, J.; TomHon, P.; Goodson, B. M.; Theis, T.; Chekmenev, E. Y. Catalyst-free aqueous hyperpolarized [1-¹³C]pyruvate obtained by re-dissolution signal amplification by reversible exchange. *ACS Sensors* **2022**, 7, 3430-3439.

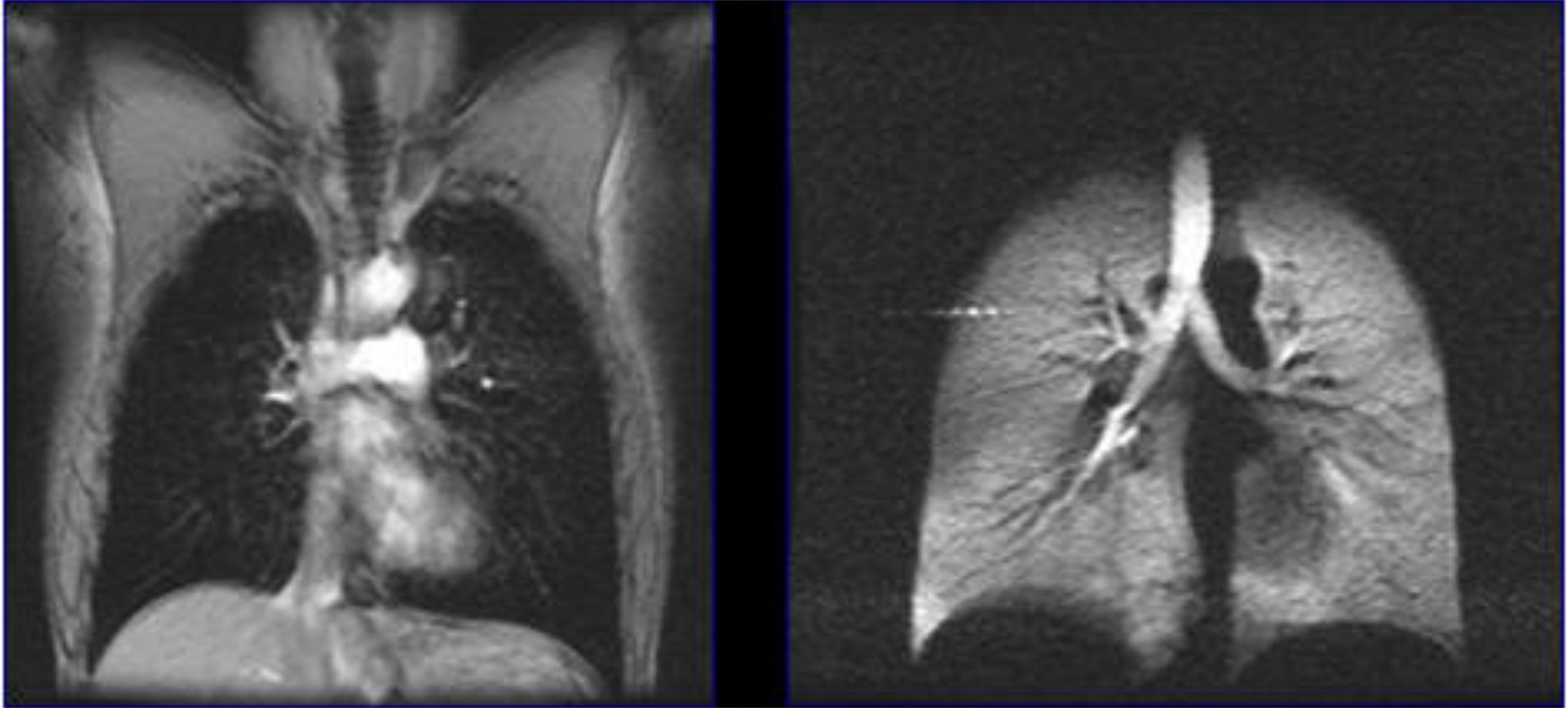
Andreas Schmidt, PhD

WSU PD Fellow → Group Leader, University of Freiburg, Germany)



de Maissin, H.; Groß, P. R.; Mohiuddin, O.; Weigt, M.; Nagel, L.; Herzog, M.; Wang, Z.; Willing, R.; Reichardt, W.; Pichotka, M., et al. In Vivo Metabolic Imaging of [1-¹³C]Pyruvate-d₃ Hyperpolarized By Reversible Exchange With Parahydrogen. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2023**, e202306654. ¹⁸

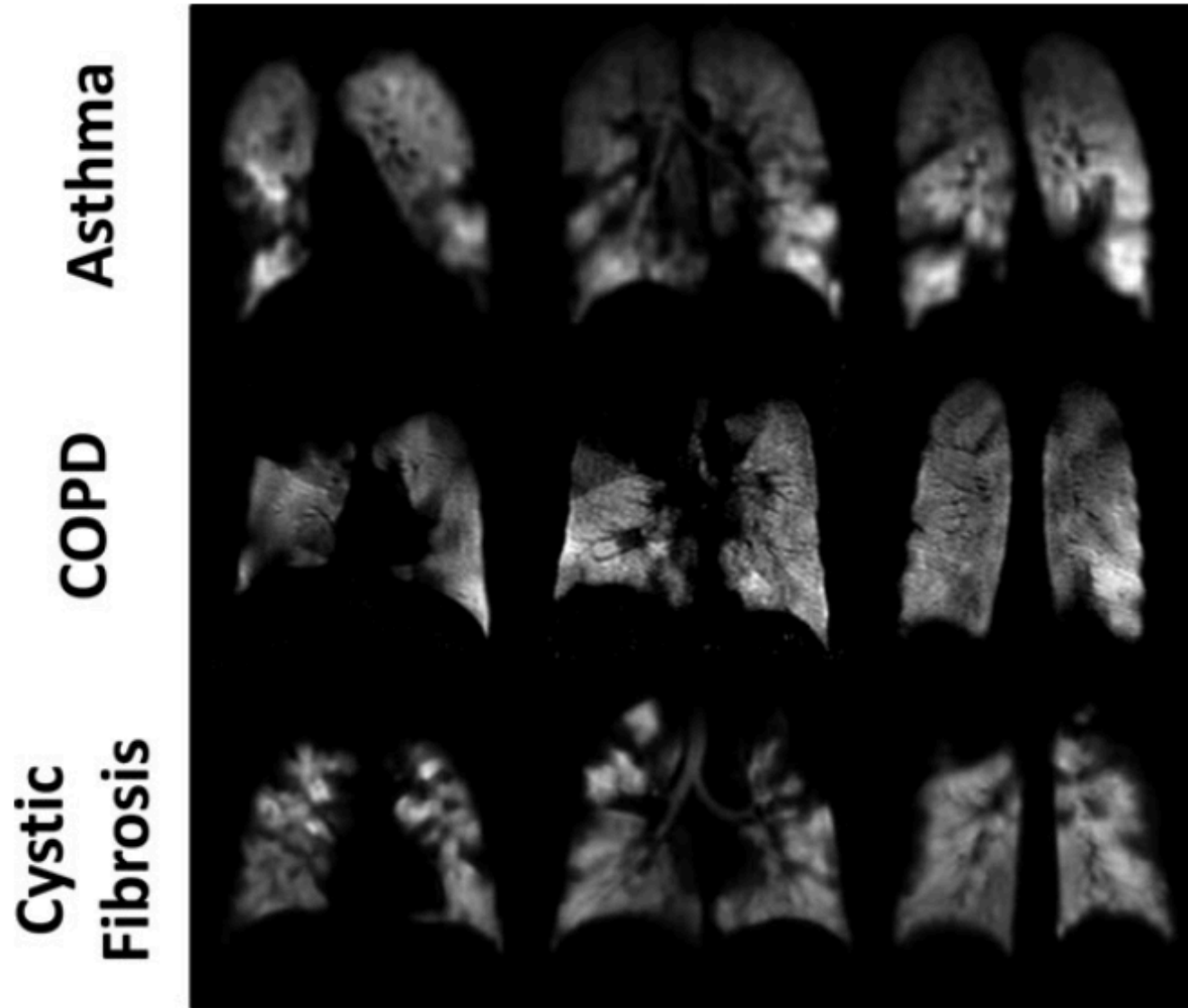
Pulmonary Imaging of Inhaled Hyperpolarized Gas



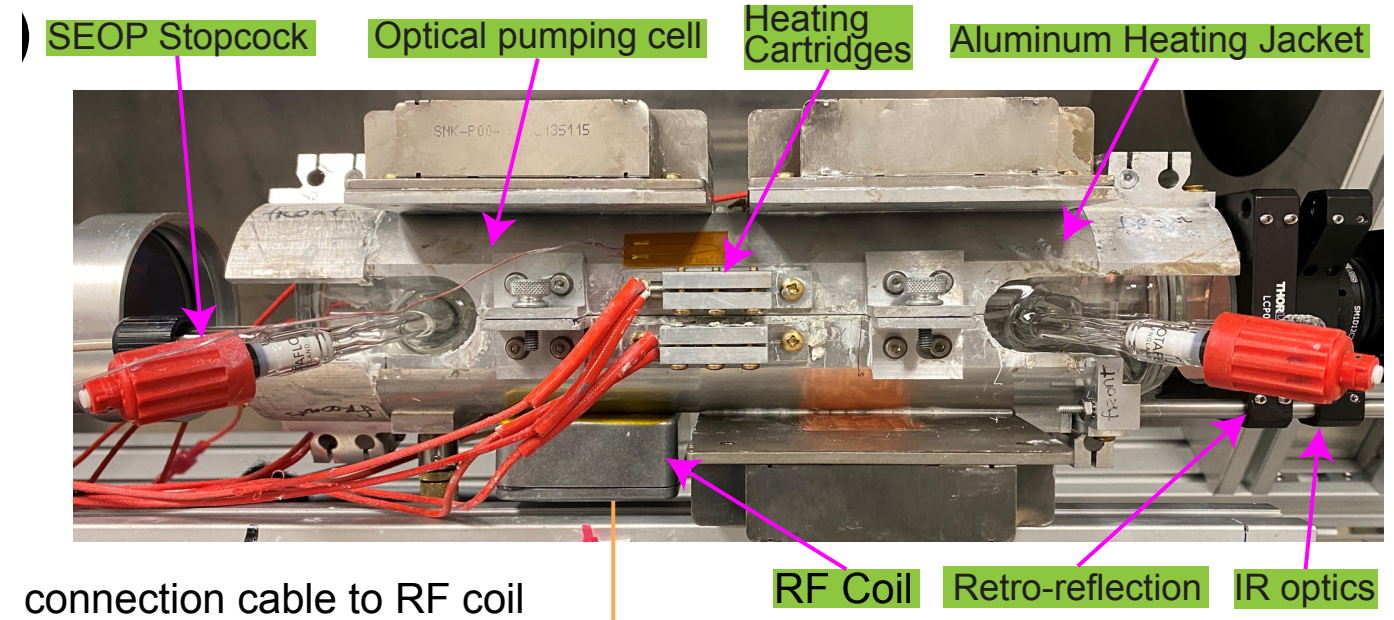
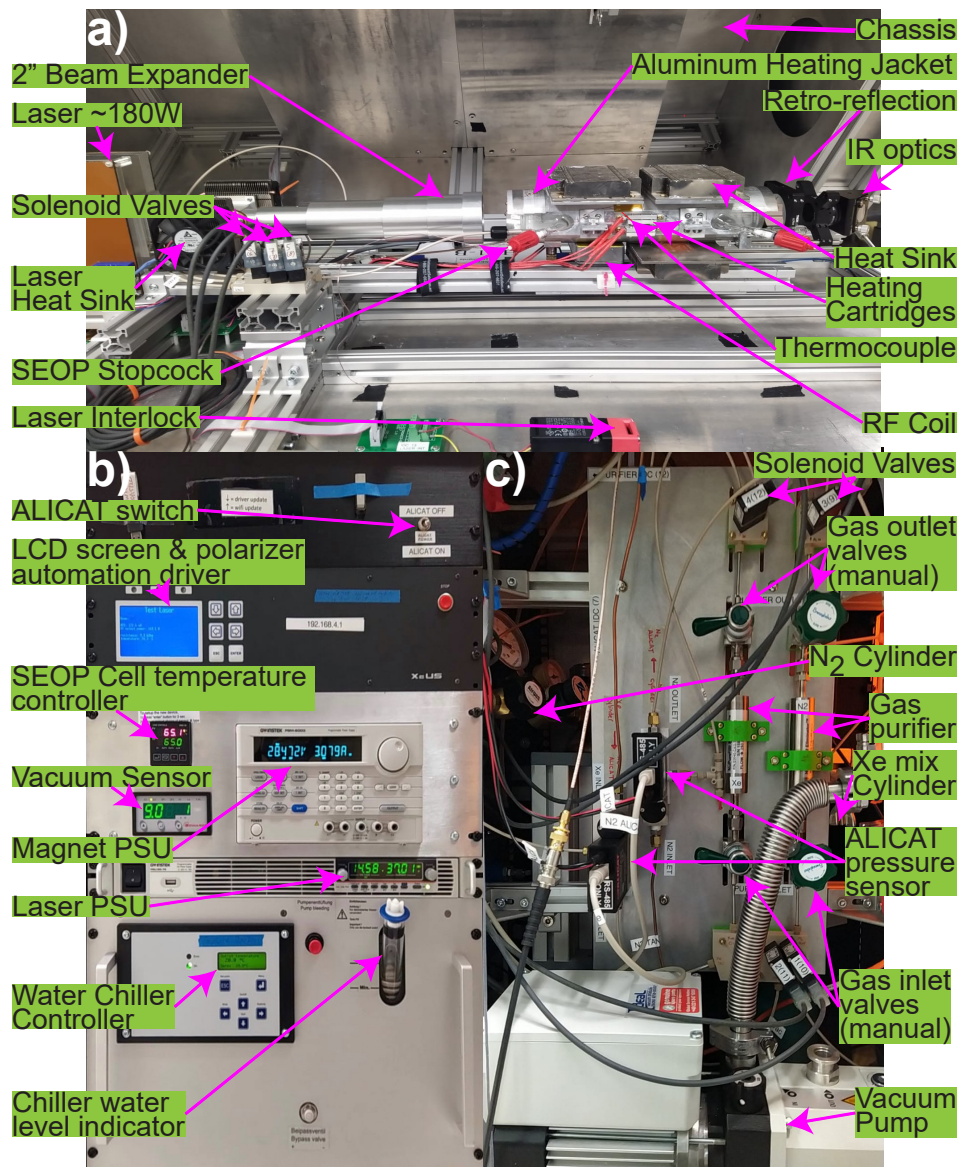
Conventional (Proton)
MRI

Hyperpolarized Gas
MRI

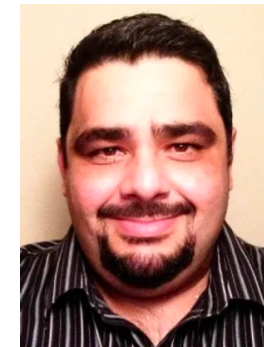
Functional Lung Imaging of Disease



Spin-Exchange Optical Pumping: Batch-Mode Clinical-Scale XeUS (XE Ultimate Spin-Exchange)



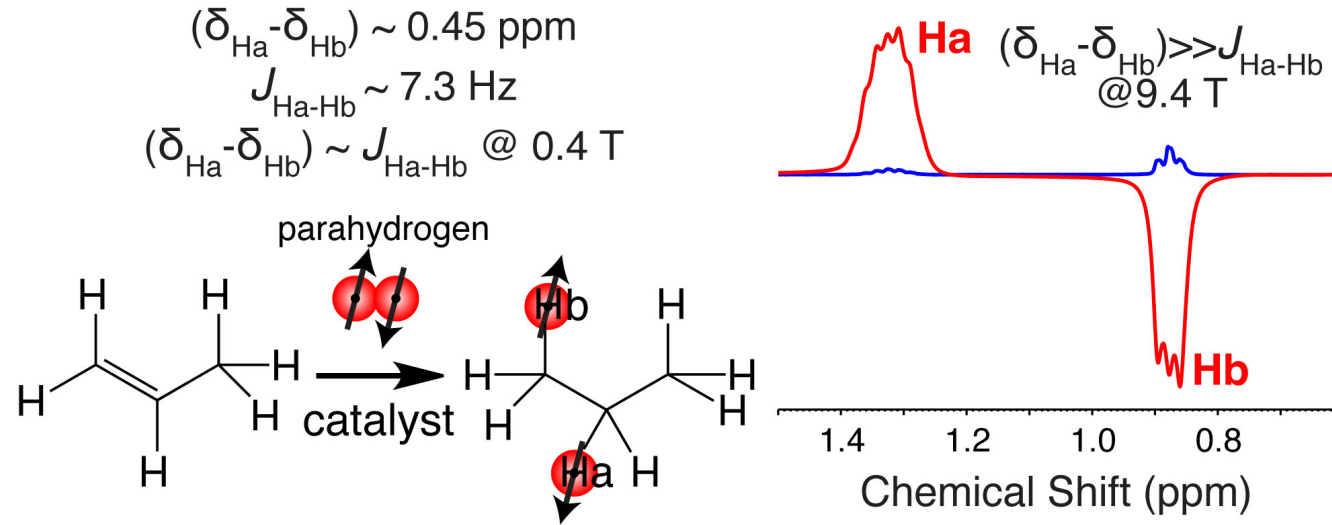
Jonathan Birchall, PhD
PD fellow (now University of Cambridge)



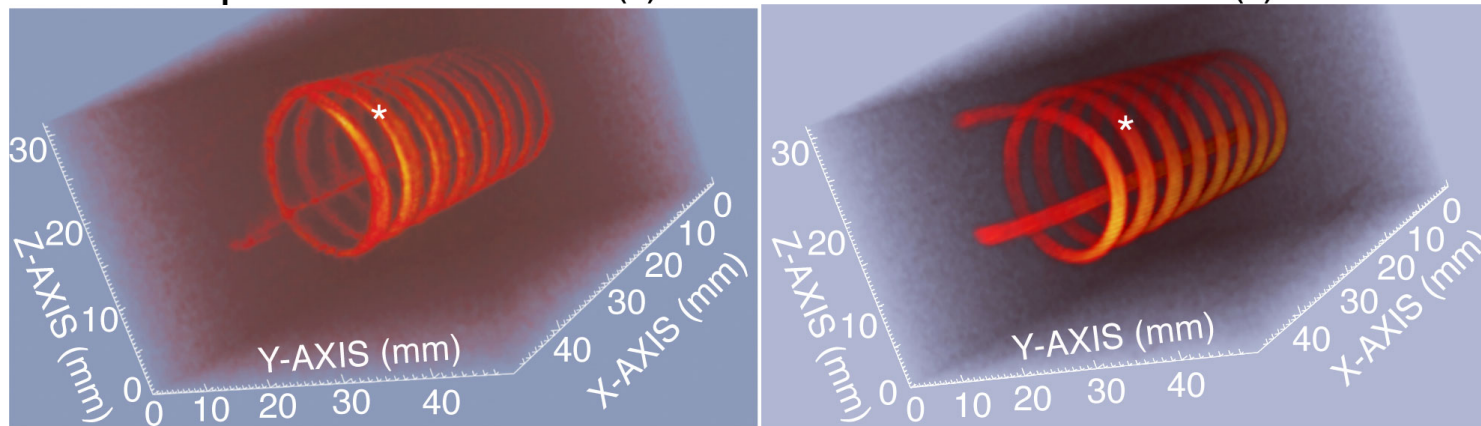
Peter Nikolaou, PhD
PD fellow (now in XeUS Technologies)

- 1) Birchall, J. R.; et al. *Anal. Chem.* **2020**, 92, 4309-4316.
- 2) Birchall, J. R.; et al. *Molecules* **2022**, 27, 1327.

Heterogeneous Parahydrogen Induced Polarization (HET PHIP)



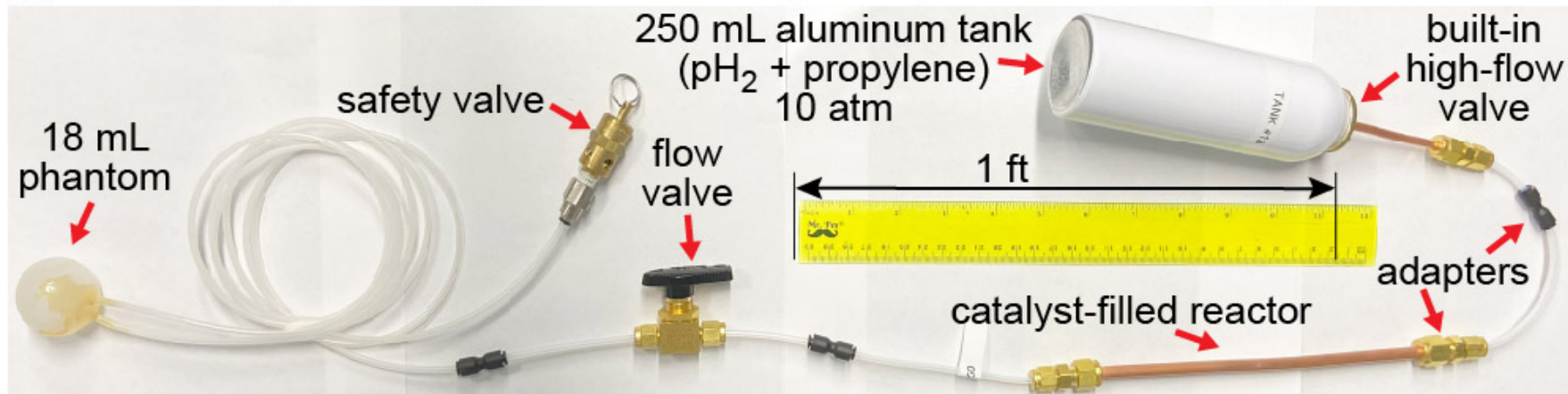
3D MRI at 4.7 T of **flowing propane gas** ($\%P_H \sim 1\%$): $0.5 \times 0.5 \times 0.5 \text{ mm}^3$ spatial resolution in 21 s
 HP Propane: 20 mM SNR(*)=15 Water: 55 M SNR(*)=30



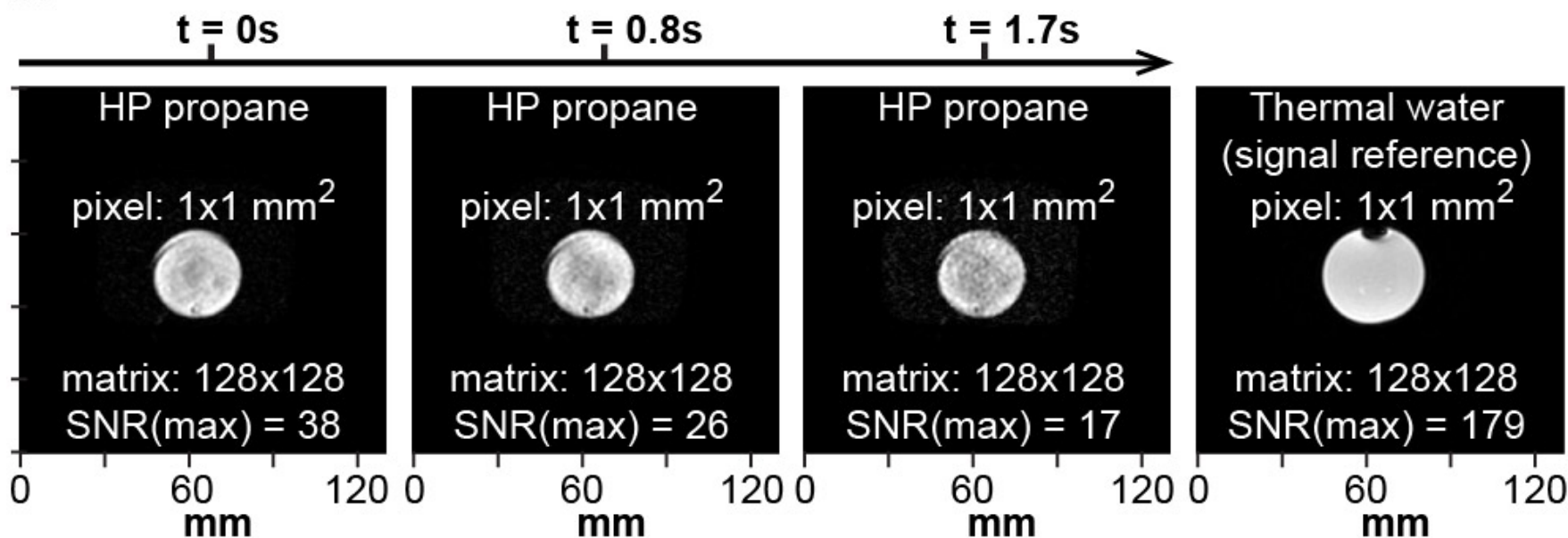
Kovtunov, K. V., et al. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2014**, *20*, 11636–11639.

Hand-Held Disposable Clinical-Scale Propane Hyperpolarizer

a portable polarizer design for phantom imaging

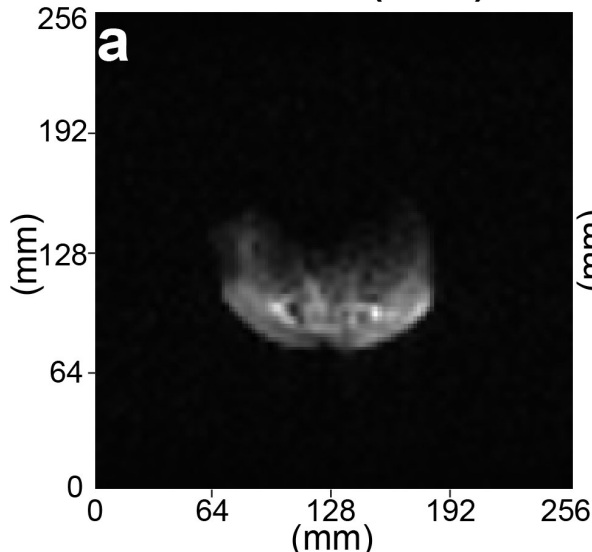


b 2D GRE images of HP propane gas filled phantom

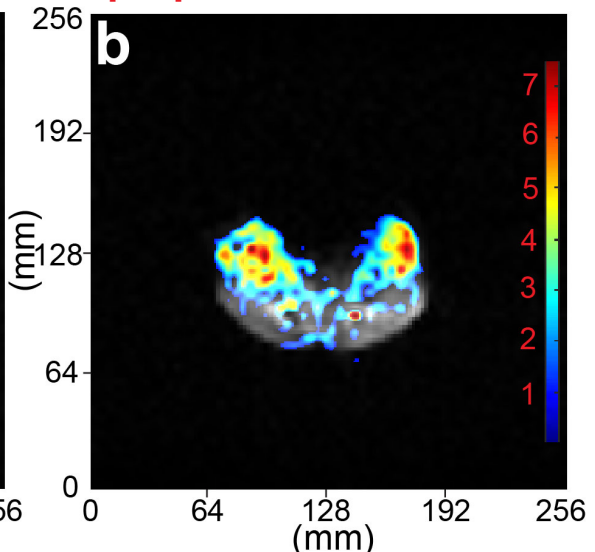


Pilot Imaging in Excised Pig Lungs

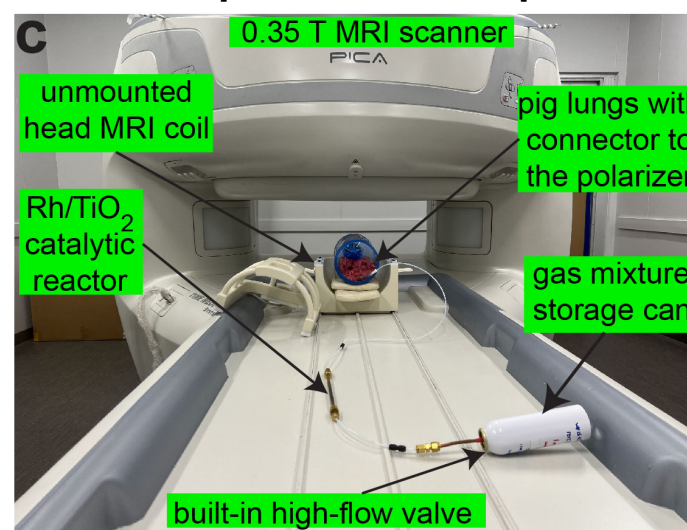
anatomical (axial)



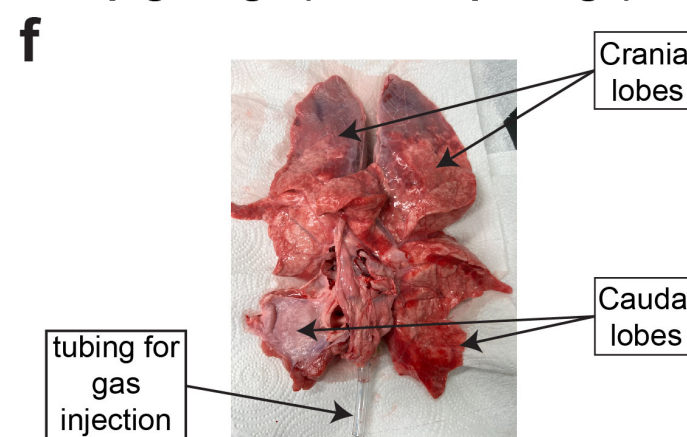
HP propane over anatomical



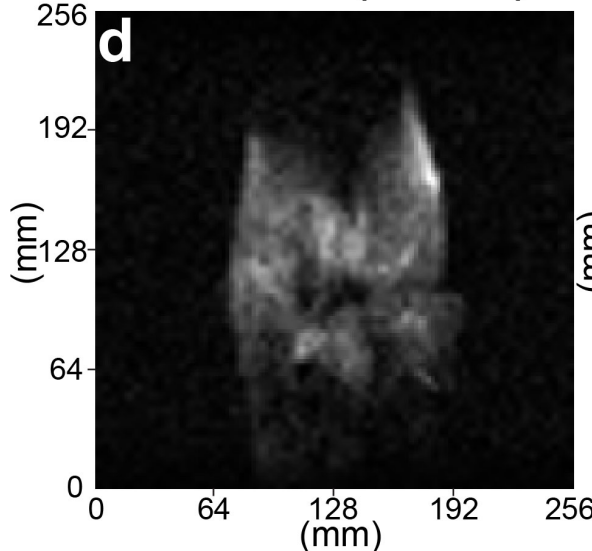
experimental setup



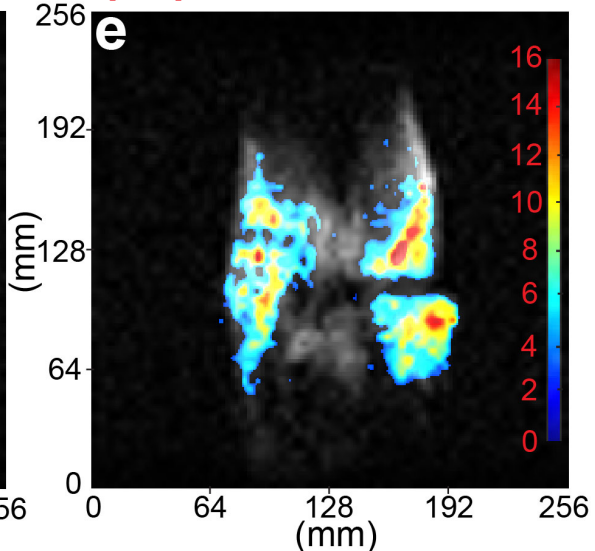
pig lungs (benchtop image)



anatomical (coronal)



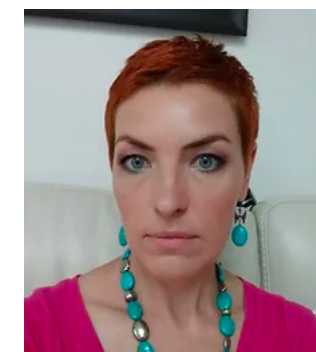
HP propane over anatomical



Nuwandi Ariyasingha
PhD
F32 NHLBI fellowship



Raduan Chowdhury



Anna Samoilenko,
Pharm D

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CURRENT:

DOD CDMRP PRMRP W81XWH-20-10576
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NHLBI F32 HL160108
NHLBI R21 HL154032
NIBIB R21 EB033872

PENDING:

NIH OFFICE OF DIRECTORS R01 OD035097
NIBIB R01 EB034197-01A1
NHLBI R01 HL172946
DOD CDMRP BRP BC230221
DOD CDMRP PRMRP PR231743

COMPLETED:

DOD CDMRP PRMRP W81XWH-15-1-0271
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NCI 1U01CA202229
DOD CDMRP BRP BC112431 (career award)
NSF CHE-1416268
NIBIB 1R21EB020323
NIBIB 1R21EB018014-01A1
NCI K99/R00CA134749 & 3R00CA134749-02S1
(career award and administrative supplement)
PREVENT CANCER FOUNDATION
NHLBI 1R01HL096471-01A1
NINDS 1R01NS072497-01A1
NIBIB F32EB021840
EXXON MOBIL KNOWLEDGE BUILD
UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM CONTRACT
NIBIB 1 R01 EB029829