

# METHODS of RADIONUCLIDE PRODUCTION for MEDICAL ISOTOPE USABILITY

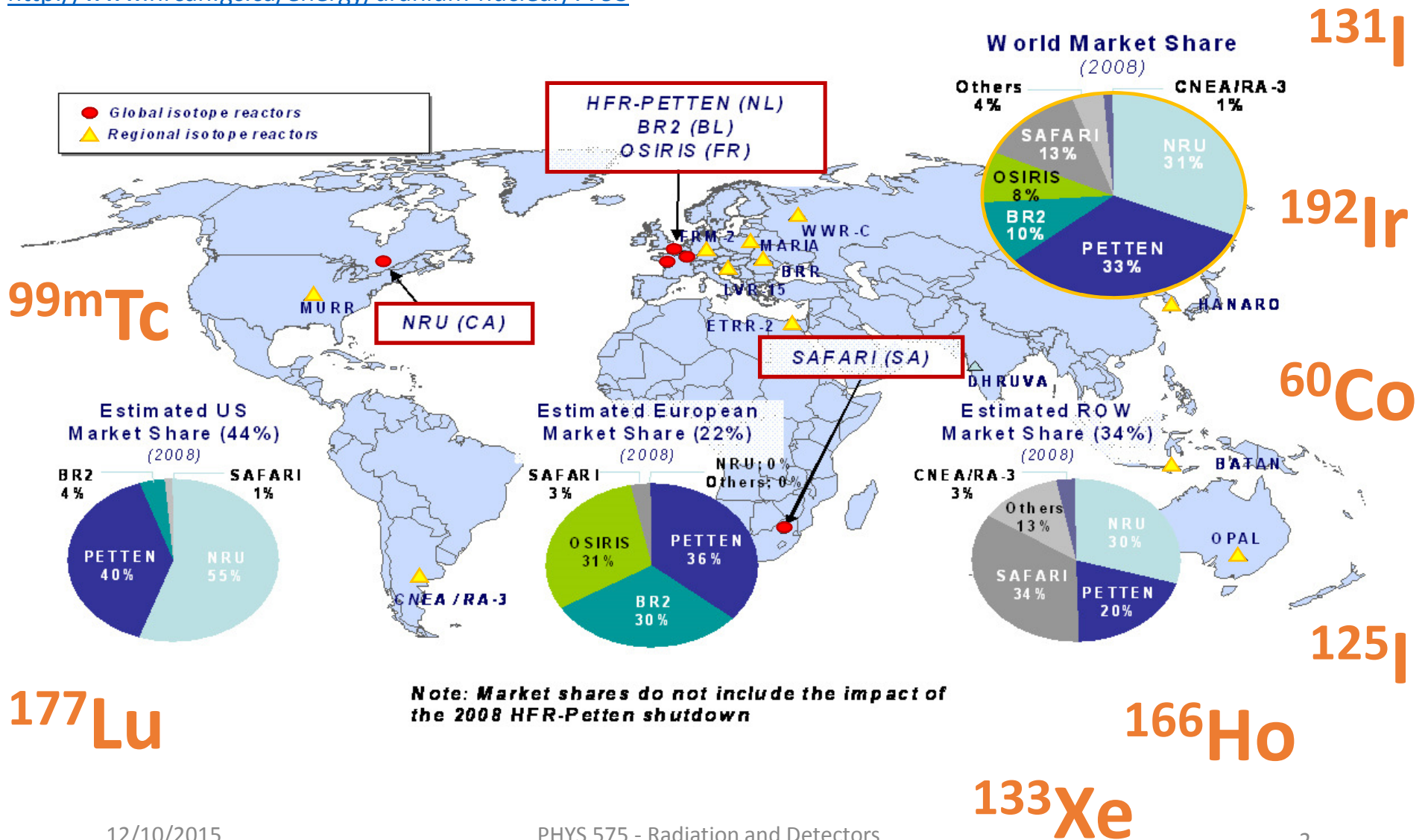
<< MEETING THE DEMAND >>

Nathan S. Hicks

# Introduction

## A Global Crisis

<http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/uranium-nuclear/7795>



# Introduction

## Existing Infrastructure

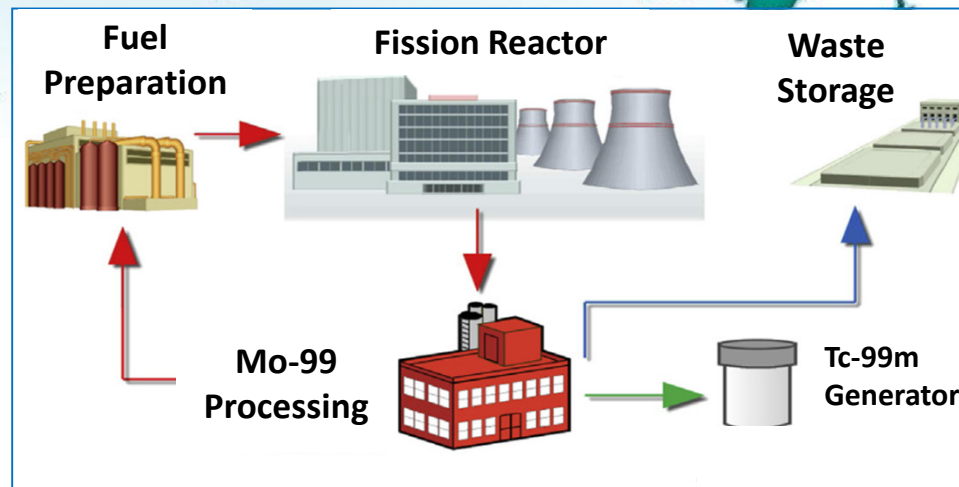
<http://www.nature.com/news/2009/090715/full/460312a.html>



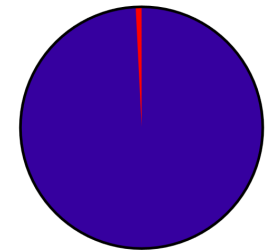
### Other Production Methods

- Heterogeneous reactors
- **Accelerators**
- Sub-critical assemblies
- Neutron capture
- Spallation

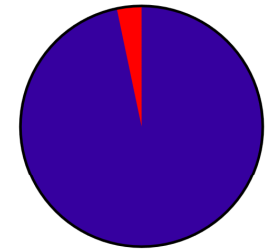
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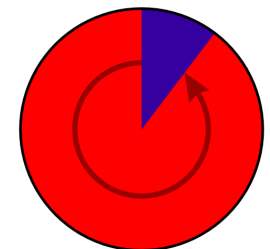
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Natural uranium  
> 99.2% U-238  
0.72% U-235



Low-enriched uranium  
(reactor grade)  
3-4% U-235

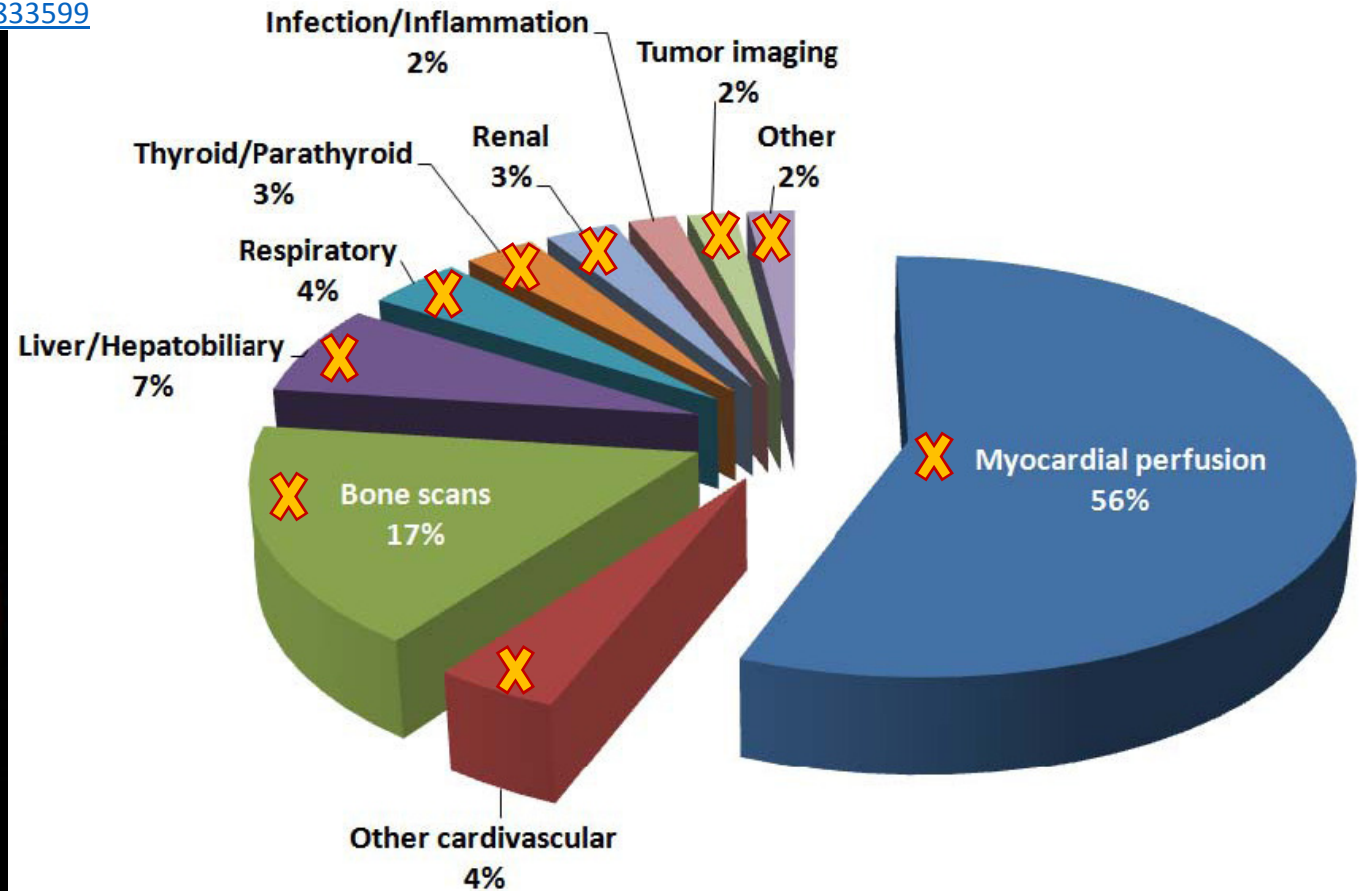


Highly enriched uranium  
(weapons grade)  
90% U-235

# Introduction

## The Nuclear Medicine Market

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-32833599>

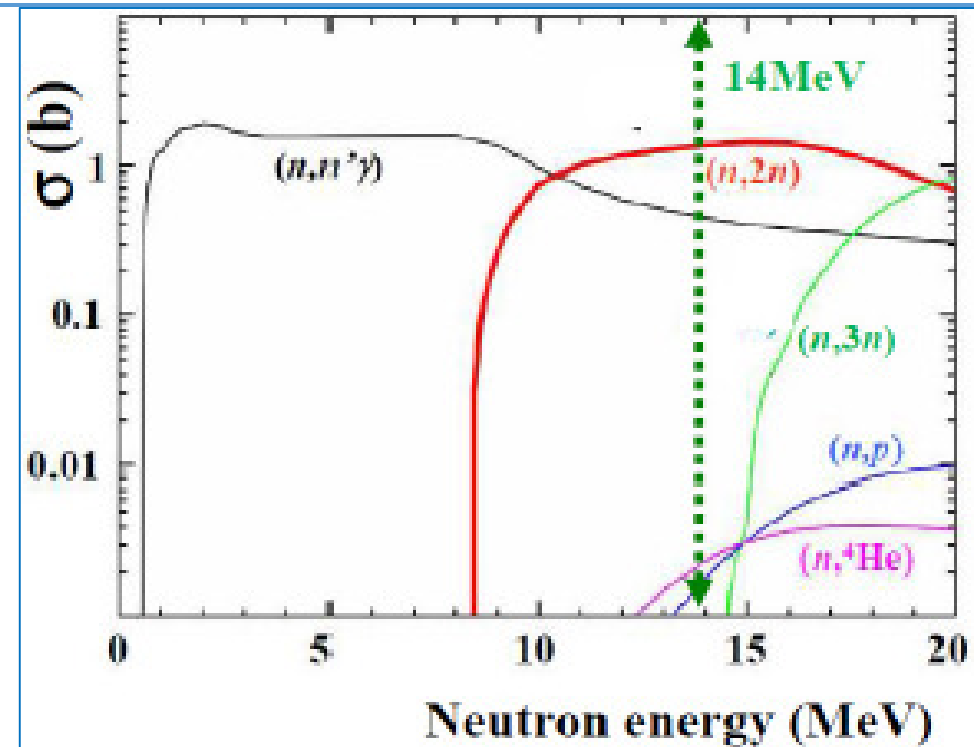
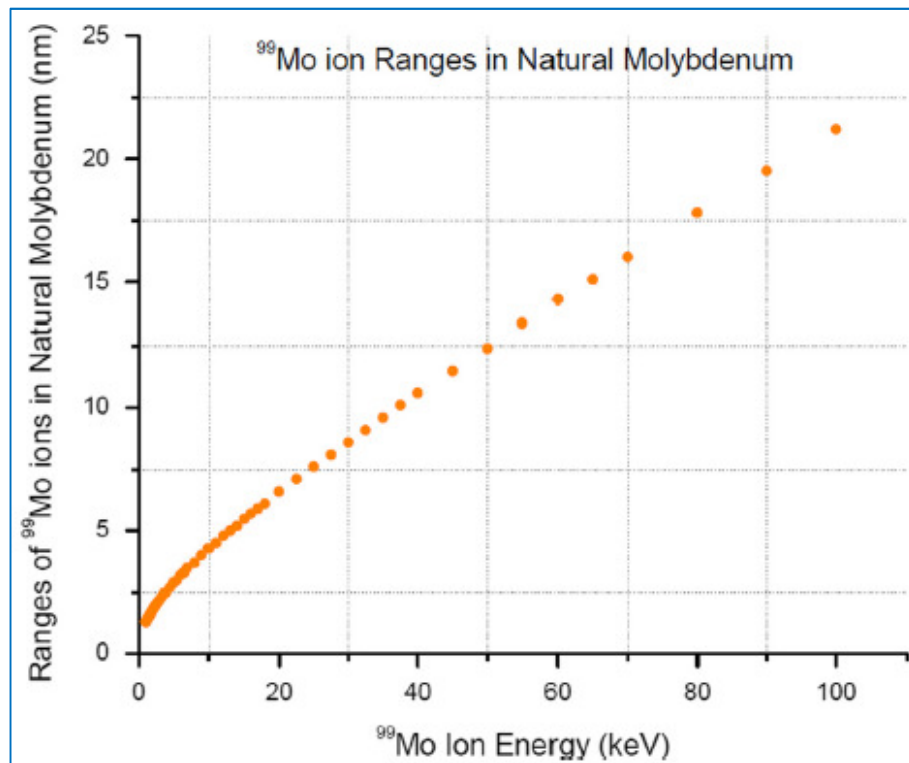


### X Technetium-99m

Brain, Thyroid, Parathyroid, Heart, Lungs, Liver, Kidney, Spleen, or Bone Marrow

# Cross Sectional Energies Molybdenum-100 / Molybdenum-99 Conversions

- Neutrons
- Protons
- Deuterons



- Electrons
- Photoneutrons and Photoprotons

# Medical Radioisotopes

## Technetium-99m from Molybdenum-99

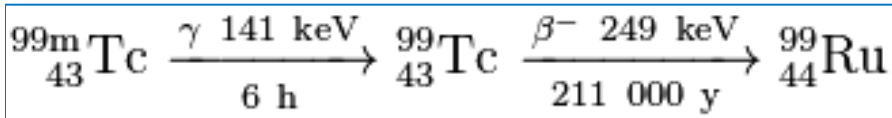


[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technetium-99m\\_generator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technetium-99m_generator)

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-32833599>

nuclide symbol	Z(p)	N(n)	isotopic mass (u)	half-life <sup>[n 1]</sup>	decay mode(s) <sup>[3][n 2]</sup>	daughter isotope(s) <sup>[n 3]</sup>	nuclear spin
	excitation energy						
<sup>99m</sup> Mo <sup>[n 6][n 8]</sup>	42	57	98.9077119(21)	2.7489(6) d	β <sup>-</sup>	<sup>99m</sup> Tc	1/2+

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isotopes\\_of\\_molybdenum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isotopes_of_molybdenum)



# Fission Reactors

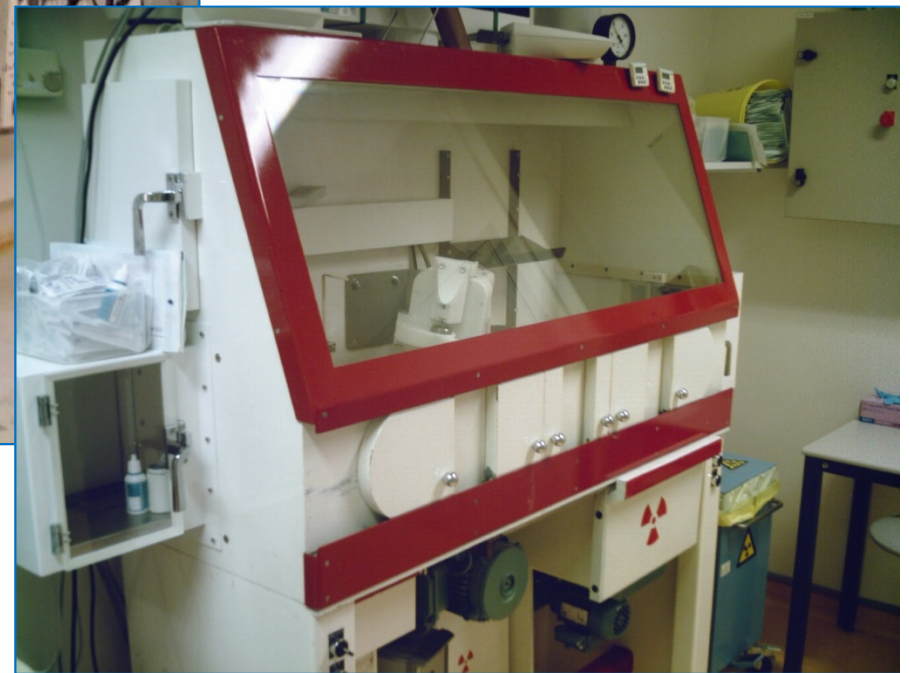
## Molybdenum Processing



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hot\\_cell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hot_cell)

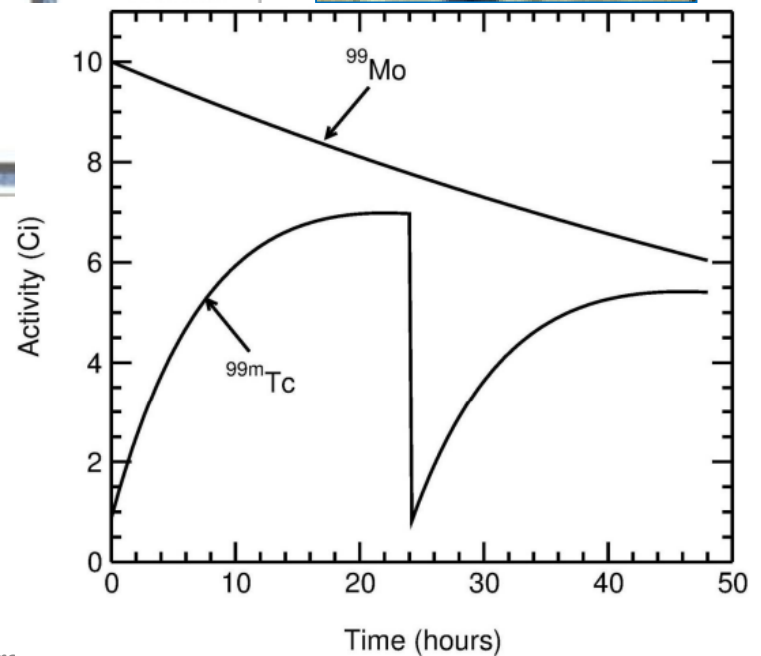
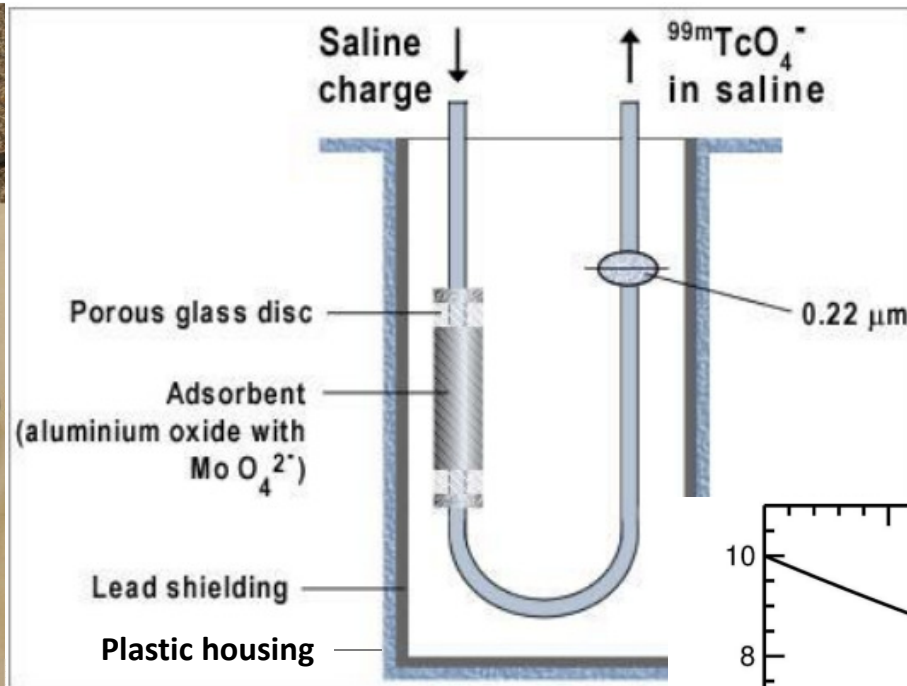


<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uranium-235>



# Fission Reactors

## Technetium Processing



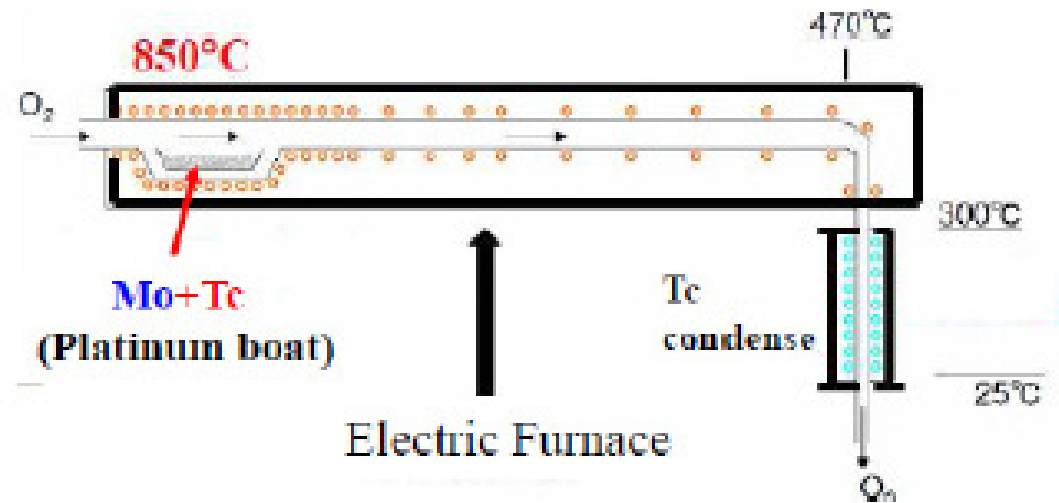
### Specific Activity

$$A = \phi \cdot n \cdot \sigma \cdot (1 - e^{-\lambda t})$$



# Accelerator Reactors

## Technetium-99m Separation



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technetium-99m>

- **Elution of pertechnetate solution (1958).**
- **Thermal Chromatographic Separation** via vapor pressure.
- **Organic Solvent Extraction (MEK Process)** via aqueous solution.
- **Chromatographic Column (ABEC)** via immiscible liquids.
- **Nuclear kinetic recoil** via photonuclear reactions.

# Accelerator Reactors

## Technetium-99m Separation - Commercialization

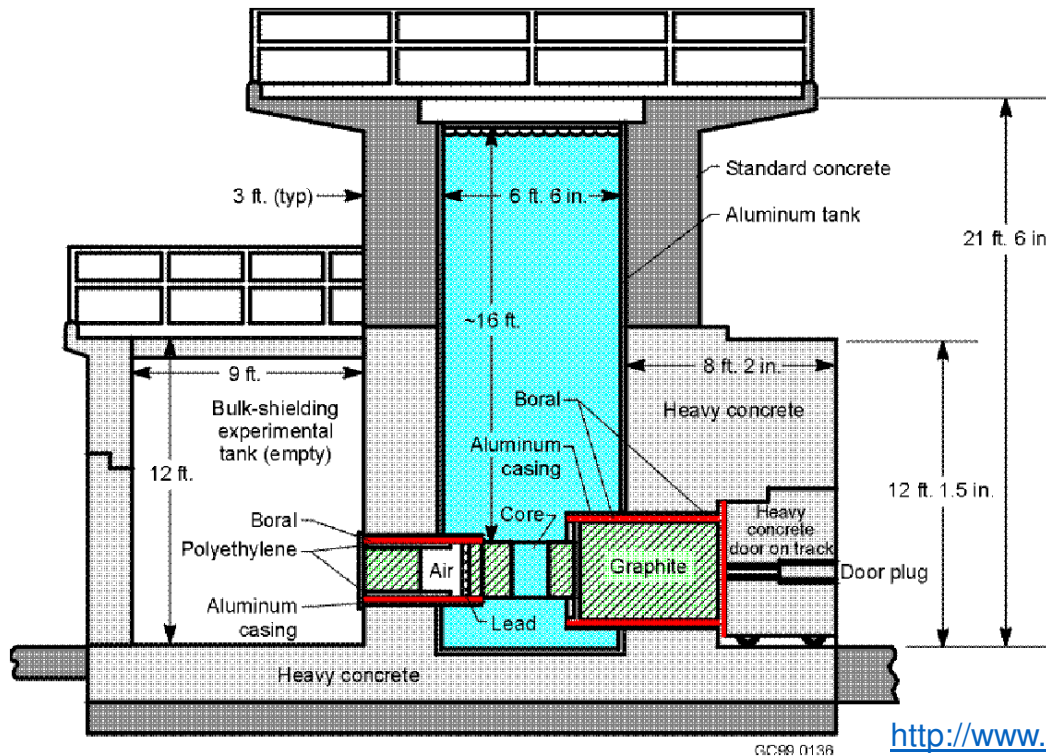


<http://www.northstarm.com/radiogenix-technology>



# Fission Reactors

## General Overview – Typical Construction



<http://www.rcp.ijs.si/ric/description-a.html>

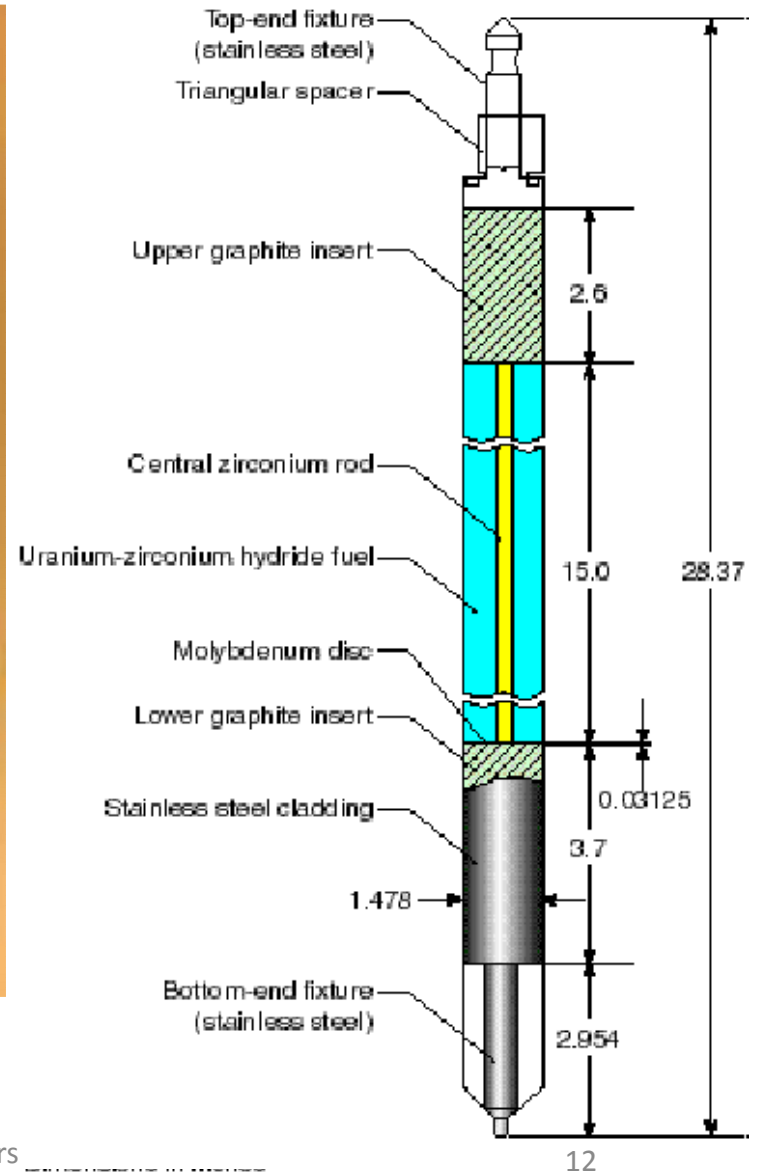
### High flux reactors (TRIGA)

energies  $> 1.10^{14}$  neutrons/cm<sup>2</sup>/s

- Research
- Operational purposes
- Radioisotope production

# Fission Reactors

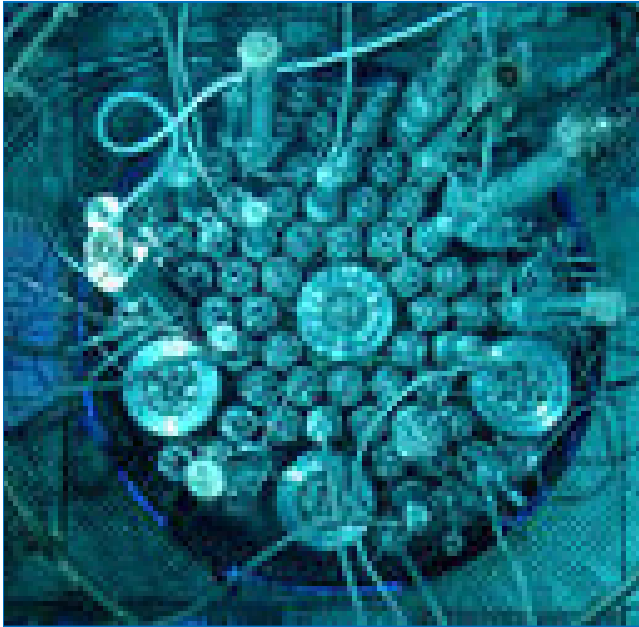
## General Overview – Fuel Rods



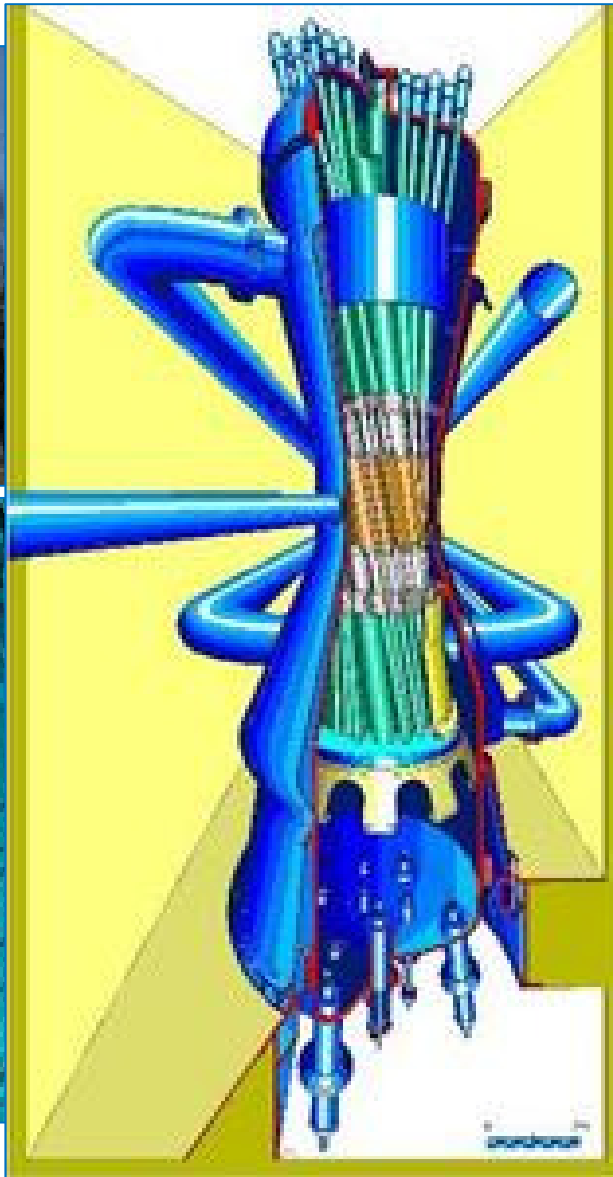
# Fission Reactors

## Radioisotope Production

<http://science.sckcen.be/en/Facilities/BR2>



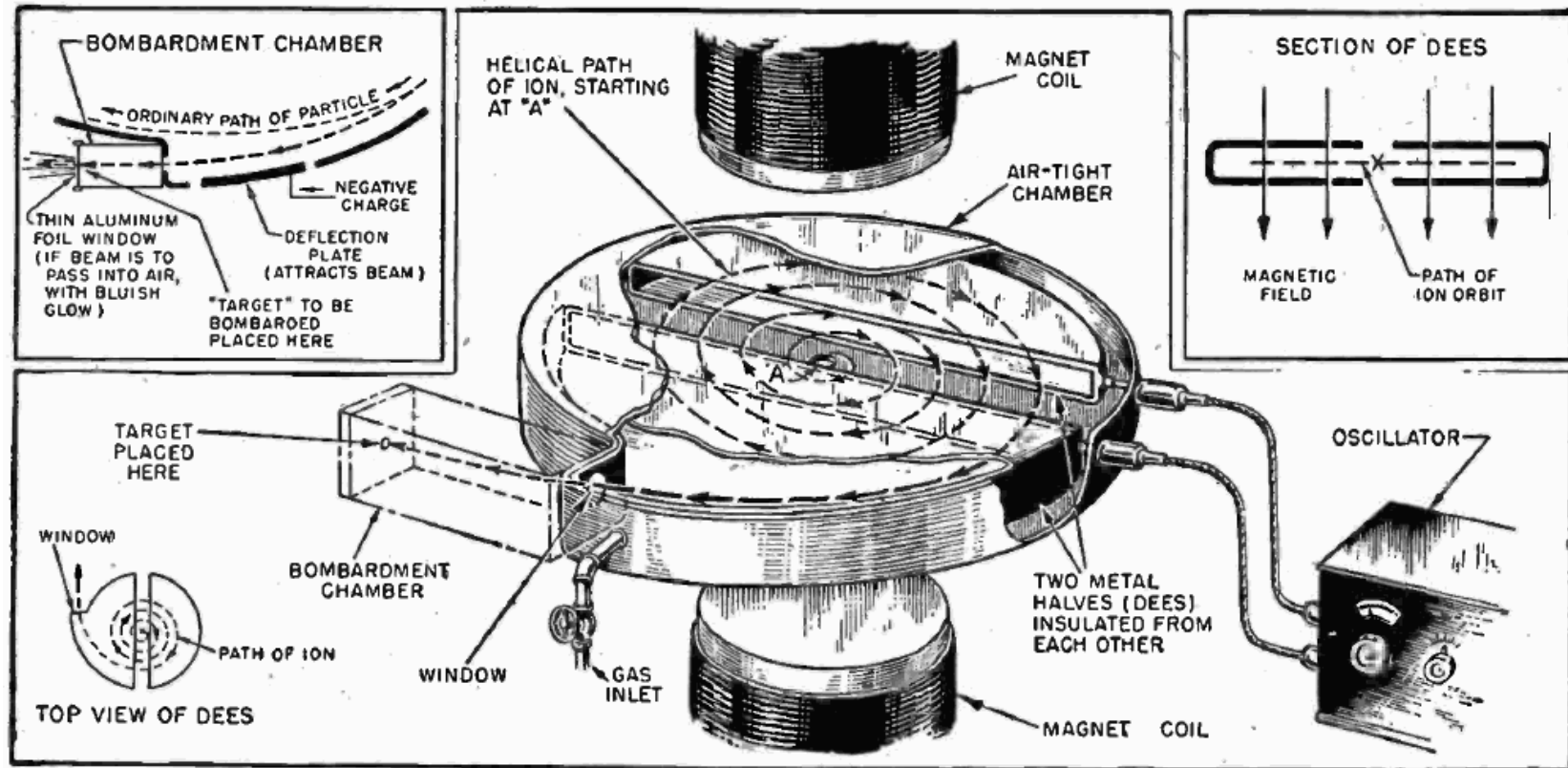
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<http://www.ansto.gov.au/AboutANSTO/OPAL/DevelopmentofOPAL/index.htm>

# Accelerator Reactors

## Cyclotron Production



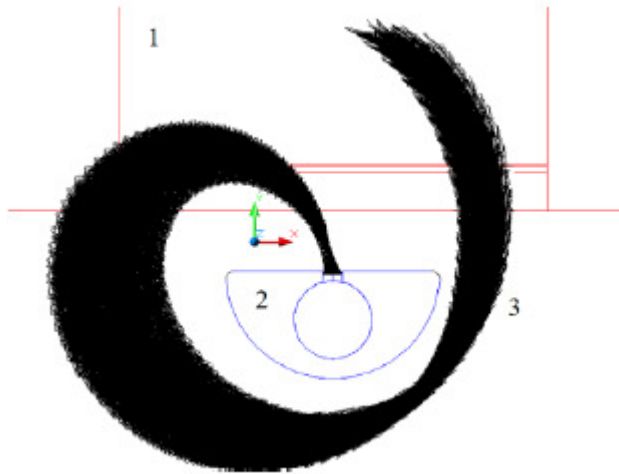
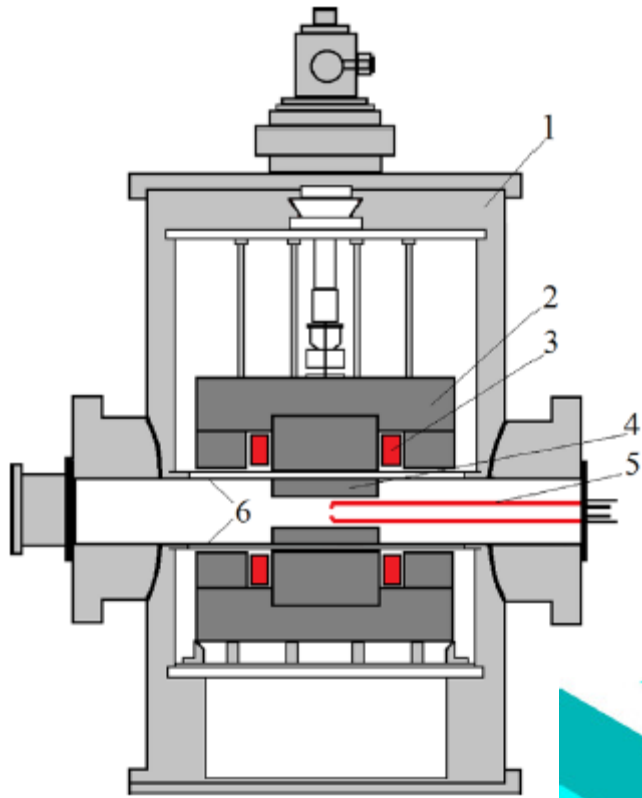
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyclotron>

## Medium flux reactors

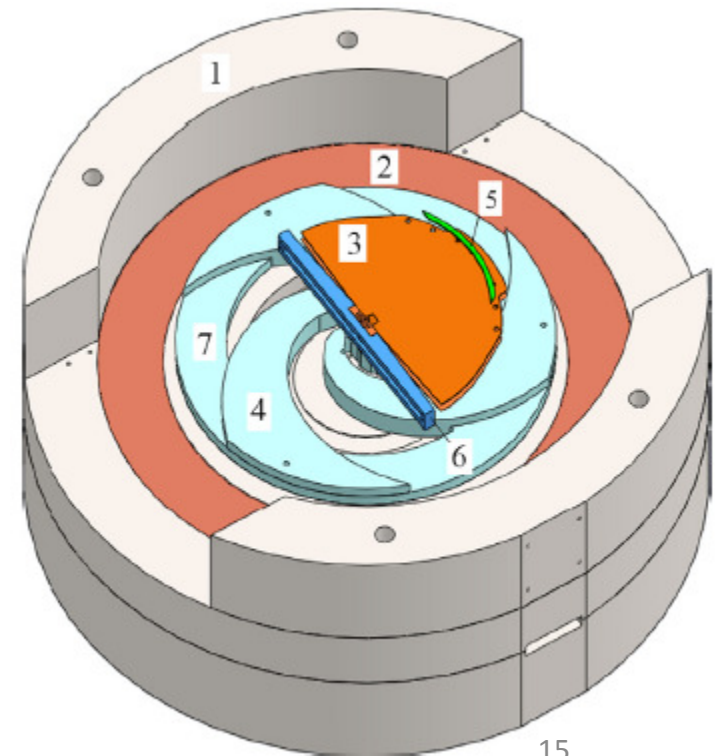
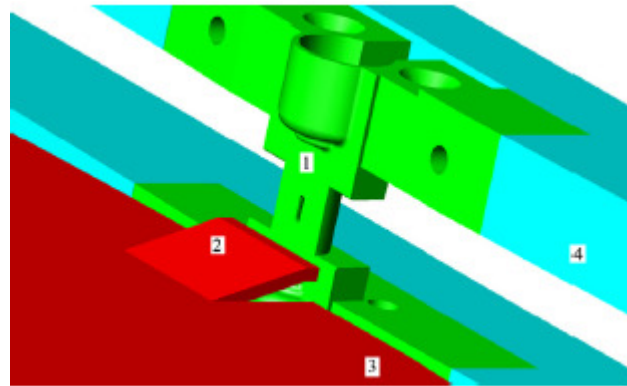
energies between  $1.10^{12}$  and  $1.10^{14}$  neutrons/cm<sup>2</sup>/s

# Accelerator Reactors

## Cyclotron Production – Compact Designs

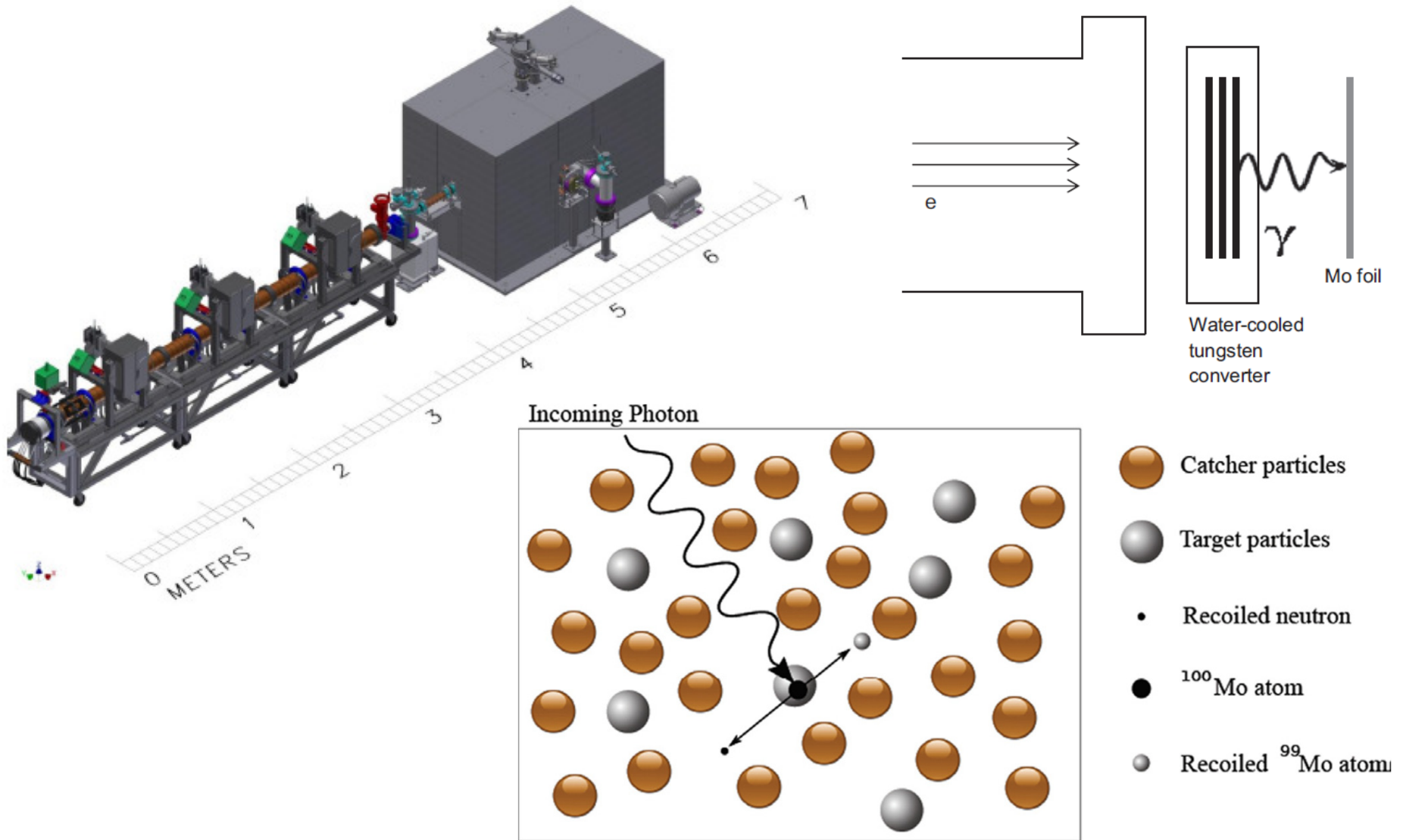


**Lorentz Force**  
$$\mathbf{F} = q[\mathbf{E} + (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})]$$



# Accelerator Reactors

## Linear Particle Accelerator Production





# Comparison Fission vs. LINAC Produced Isotopes

Comparison shows nearly identical diagnostic images.

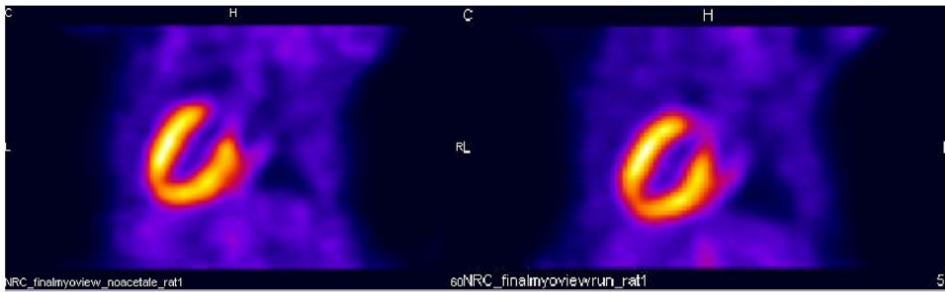


Fig. 1. Cardiac SPECT images of a rat injected with LINAC-Tc-99m (left) and fission-Tc-99m (right) for the same rat.

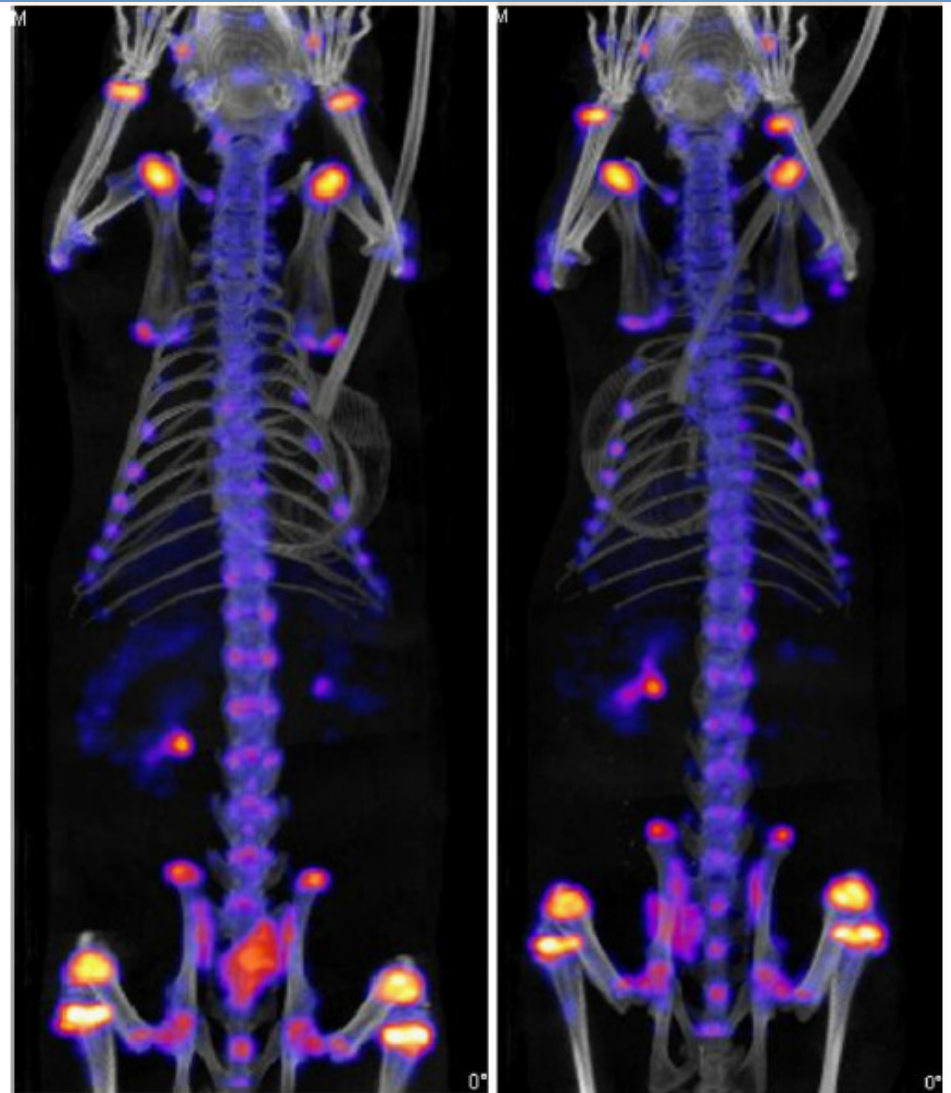


Fig. 2. Bone SPECT images of a rat injected with LINAC-Tc-99m (left) and fission-Tc-99m (right) for the same rat.

# Meeting Global Demand New Models for Technetium Supply

<http://www.northstarm.com/streamlined-distribution>



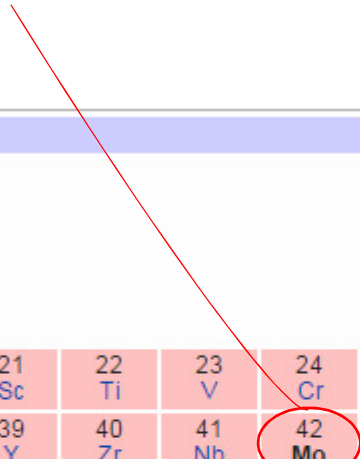
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18

# Molybdenum

The Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything...?



V·T·E Isotopes of the chemical elements [hide]																	
1 H																	2 He
3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne
11 Na	12 Mg											13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar
19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr
37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe
55 Cs	56 Ba	*	72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn
87 Fr	88 Ra	**	104 Rf	105 Db	106 Sg	107 Bh	108 Hs	109 Mt	110 Ds	111 Rg	112 Cn	113 Uut	114 Fl	115 Uup	116 Lv	117 Uus	118 Uuo
		*	57 La	58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu
		**	89 Ac	90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No	103 Lr

Table of nuclides · Categories: Isotopes · Tables of nuclides · Metastable isotopes · Isotopes by element

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isotopes\\_of\\_molybdenum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isotopes_of_molybdenum)

# Citations

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Peng Hong Liem, Hoai Nam Tran, Tagor Malem Sembiring, Design optimization of a new homogeneous reactor for medical radioisotope Mo-99/Tc-99m production, Progress in Nuclear Energy, Volume 82, July 2015, Pages 191-196, ISSN 0149-1970, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.pnucene.2014.07.040>.

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(<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1875389215001996>)