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# Nuclear cross section measurements of the $^{48,49,50}\text{Ti}(p,x)^{47}\text{Sc}$ reactions: Preliminary results of the REMIX project

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Responsible of the “Radioisotope Service for Medicine and Applications”, Research Division

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18<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Targetry and Target Chemistry (WTTTC18)- Whistler, BC – 22-26 August 2022

# Medical Radionuclides @ INFN-LNL

“Radioisotope Service for Medicine and Applications”



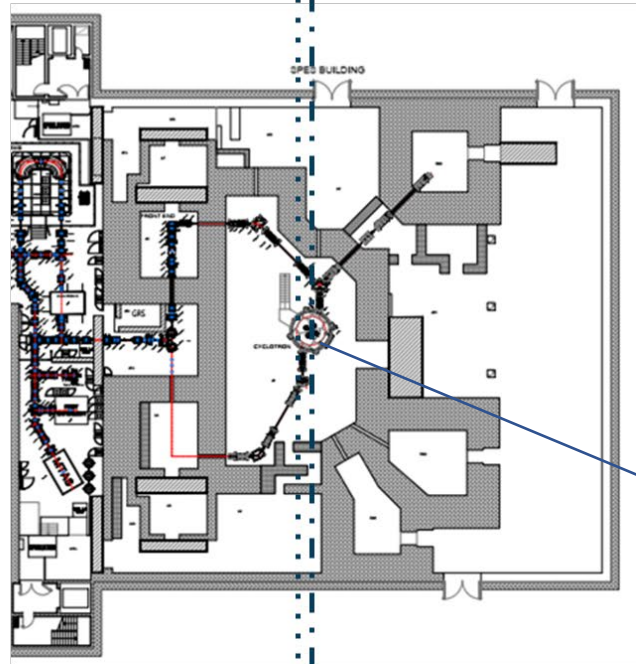
**SPES- $\gamma$**

The production of radionuclides for applications

**ISOLPHARM**  
SPES exotic beams for medicine

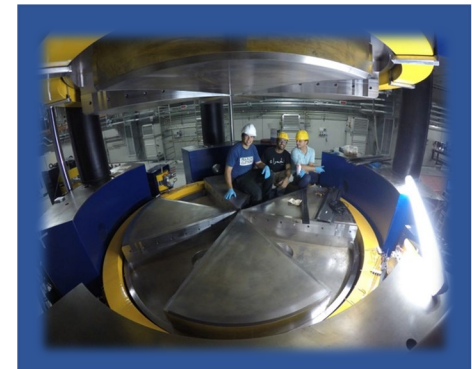
ISOL technique  
A. Andrighetto  
Resp. ISOLPHARM

<https://isolpharm.pd.infn.it/web/>



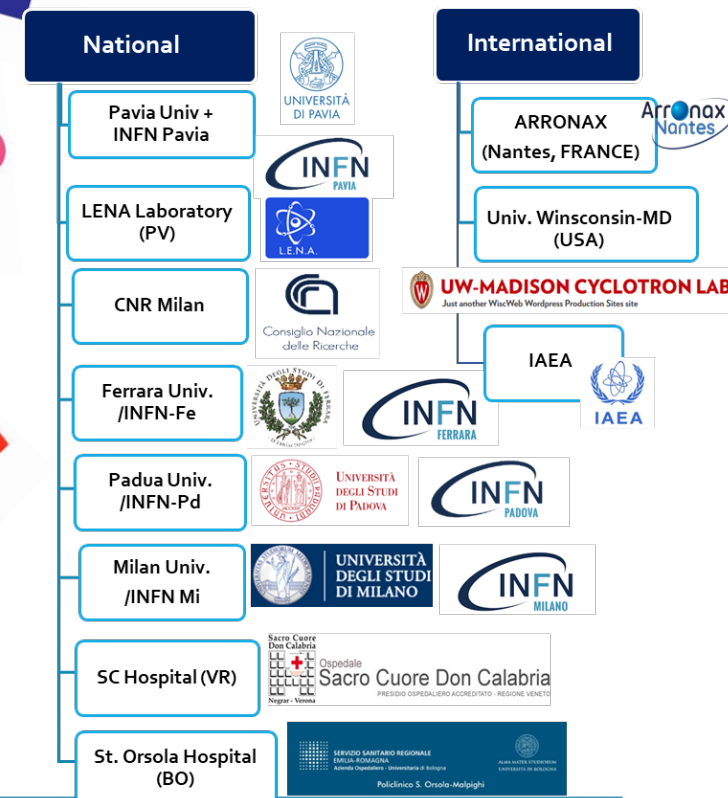
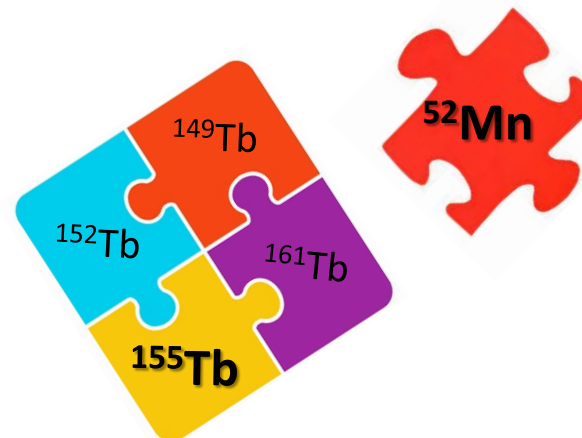
Direct activation  
J. Esposito  
Resp. LARAMED

<https://www.lnl.infn.it/en/spes-laramed-range>



# Medical Radionuclides of interest for LARAMED

Research lines and international projects	Years
Accelerator $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ direct production route through hospital cyclotrons	APOTEMA (2012-2014) TECHNOSP (2015-2017)
“Alternative, non HEU-based, $^{99m}\text{Tc}/^{99}\text{Mo}$ supply”	IAEA CRP (2011-2015)
Copper MEasurement: $^{70}\text{Zn}(p,x)^{67}\text{Cu}$	COME (2016)
Production with Accelerator of $^{47}\text{Sc}$ for Theranostic Applications	PASTA (2017-2018)
“Radiopharmaceuticals Labelled with New Emerging Radionuclides ( $^{67}\text{Cu}$ , $^{186}\text{Re}$ , $^{47}\text{Sc}$ )”	IAEA CRP (2016-2019)
High Power Target concepts R&D	TERABIO (2016-2019)
High intensity vibrational powder plating (HIVIPP)	E_PLATE (2018-2019)
Multimodal pET/mRi Imaging with Cyclotron-produced $^{52/51}\text{Mn}$ and stable paramagnetic Mn iSotopes	METRICS (2018-2021)
Research on Emerging Medical radionuclides from the X-sections: $^{47}\text{Sc}$ e $^{149}\text{Tb}$ , $^{152}\text{Tb}$ e $^{155}\text{Tb}$ (and therapeutic $^{161}\text{Tb}$ )	REMIX (2021-2023)
TOTEM (magneTron sputtering cyclotrOn TargEt Manufacturing)	TOTEM (2021-2022)



J. Esposito et al, Molecules 24(1), 20 DOI:10.3390/molecules24010020 (2019)

# REMIX Research on Emerging Medical radionuclides from the X-sections



REMIX is funded by INFN-CSN5 for the years 2021-2023  
With the goals:

Arronax  
Nantes

- New XS measurements for cyclotron-based production of  $^{47}\text{Sc}$ ,  $^{149}\text{Tb}$ ,  $^{152}\text{Tb}$ ,  $^{155}\text{Tb}$  and  $^{161}\text{Tb}$

[N.B. the  $^{49}\text{Ti}(p,x)^{47}\text{Sc}$  is unexplored!]

- Nuclear codes are used to estimate yield & purity of the produced radionuclides, also considering the experimental data

- Computational dosimetric studies with radiopharmaceuticals labelled with the produced RN (and contaminant isotopes) are performed to find out the best production routes



- $^{155}\text{Tb}$  Thick Target Yield (TTY) measurement of the  $^{155}\text{Gd}(p,n)^{155}\text{Tb}$

reaction @ the SCDC hospital 19 MeV cyclotron (solid target station)

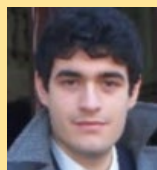


# REMiX

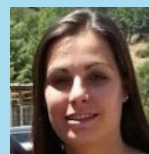


**WP1. Production and target characterization**

Sara Cisternino (INFN-LNL & UniPD)



**WP7. Devices for INFN-LNL beam-line**  
Gabriele Sciacca (INFN-LNL & UniPD)



**WP2. XS measurements with  $^{49}\text{Ti}$  e  $^{50}\text{Ti}$**   
Liliana Mou (INFN-LNL)



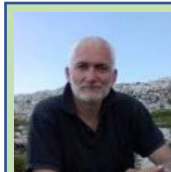
**WP6.  $^{155}\text{Tb}$  TTY production @ The SCDC hospital**  
Petra Martini (UniFE & INFN-FE)



**WP3. XS measurements with  $^{\text{nat}}\text{Dy}$ ,  $^{159}\text{Tb}$ ,  $^{\text{nat}}\text{Eu}$**   
Simone Manenti (UniMI & INFN-MI)



**WP5. Dosimetric calculations**  
Laura De Nardo (UniPD & INFN-PD)  
Laura Melendez-Alafort (IOV)



**WP4. Nuclear codes (TALYS, EMPIRE, FLUKA)**  
Luciano Canton (INFN-PD)  
Andrea Fontana (INFN-PV)

# REMIX: WP1 Target manufacturing and characterization

HIVIPP depositions

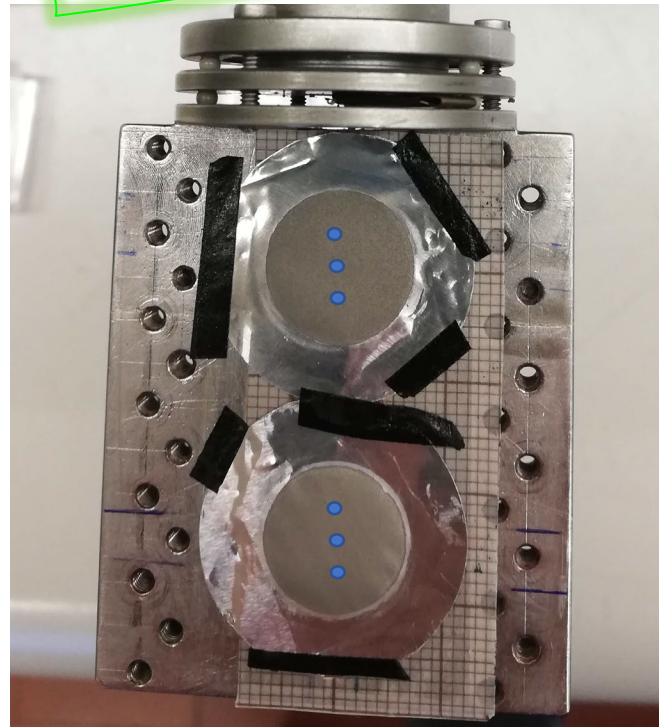
No. 20  $^{49}\text{Ti}$  targets

Mass thickness  
measured by weigh  
 $486 \pm 110 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$   
(n=20)

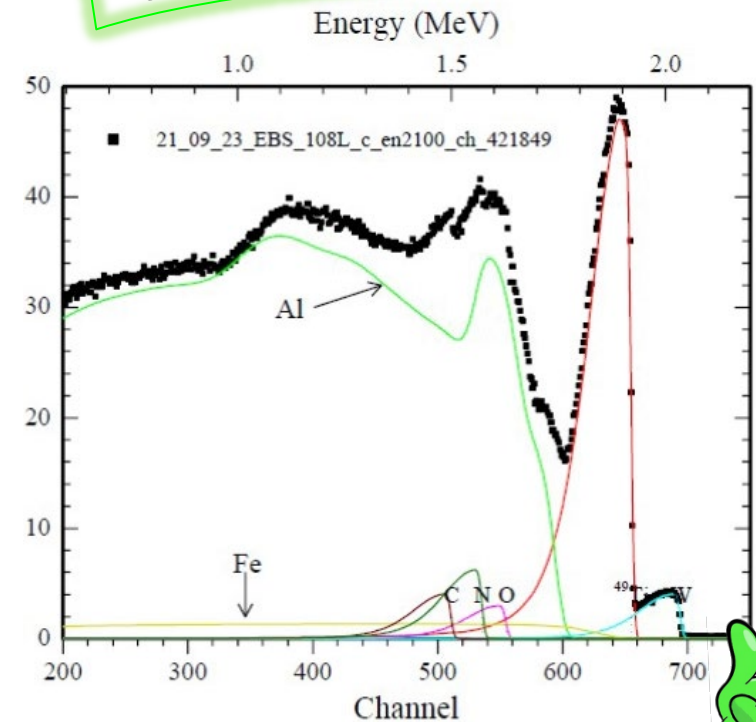
No. 20  $^{50}\text{Ti}$  targets

Mass thickness  
measured by weigh  
 $637 \pm 200 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$   
(n=20)

Uniform thickness



Low contamination  
traces (about 10s ppm)



S. Cisternino et al., Upgrade of the HIVIPP deposition apparatus for nuclear physics thin targets manufacturing, Instruments (2022)

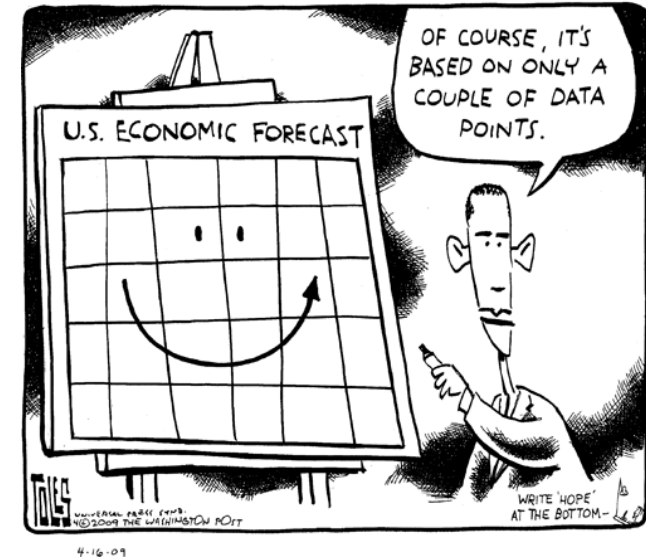
# REMIX: WP2 Nuclear xs measurements for $^{47}\text{Sc}$ production

Interesting targets for **proton**-induced reactions

47V 32.6 m $\epsilon = 100.00\%$	48V 15.9735 d $\epsilon = 100.00\%$	49V 330 d $\epsilon = 100.00\%$	50V > 2.1E+17 y 0.250% $\epsilon \approx 92.90\%$ $\beta^- < 7.10\%$	51V STABLE 99.75% ✓	52V 3.743 m $\beta^- = 100.00\%$
46Ti STABLE 8.25%	47Ti STABLE 7.44%	48Ti STABLE 73.72%	49Ti STABLE 5.41%	50Ti STABLE 5.18%	51Ti 5.76 m $\beta^- = 100.00\%$
45Sc STABLE 100%	46Sc 83.79 d $\beta^- = 100.00\%$	47Sc 3.3492 d $\beta^- = 100.00\%$	48Sc 43.67 h $\beta^- = 100.00\%$	49Sc 57.18 m $\beta^- = 100.00\%$	50Sc 102.5 s $\beta^- = 100.00\%$
44Ca STABLE 2.09%	45Ca 162.61 d $\beta^- = 100.00\%$	46Ca > 2.8E+16 y 0.004% $\beta^- = 100.00\%$	47Ca 4.536 d $\beta^- = 100.00\%$	48Ca > 5.8E22 y 0.187% $2\beta^- = 7.00\%$	49Ca 8.718 m $\beta^- = 100.00\%$

PASTA project, funded in 2017/2018 by INFN-CSN5

Only few literature data on enriched  $^{xx}\text{Ti}$ ..



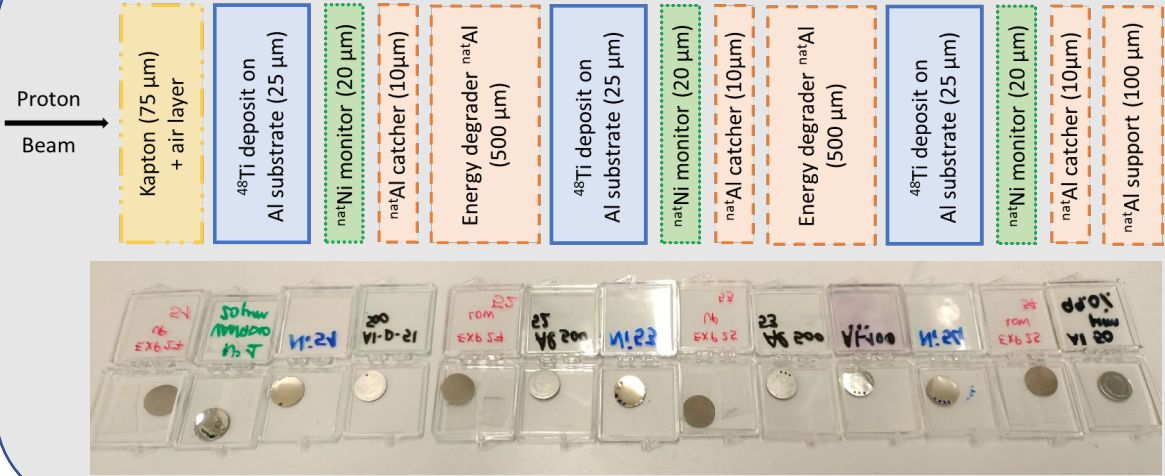
.. I am going to show you the xs results obtained with **proton**-beams and **enriched Ti** targets irradiated at the ARRONAX facility!

G. Pupillo et al., Journal of Radioanalytical and Nuclear Chemistry 297, 3 (2019) doi: 10.1007/s10967-019-06844-8

F. Barbaro et al., Physical Review C (2021) arXiv:2107.13773, doi: 10.1103/PhysRevC.104.044619

# REMIX: WP2 $^{47}\text{Sc}$ nuclear cross section measurements

Scheme of a typical stacked-foils target



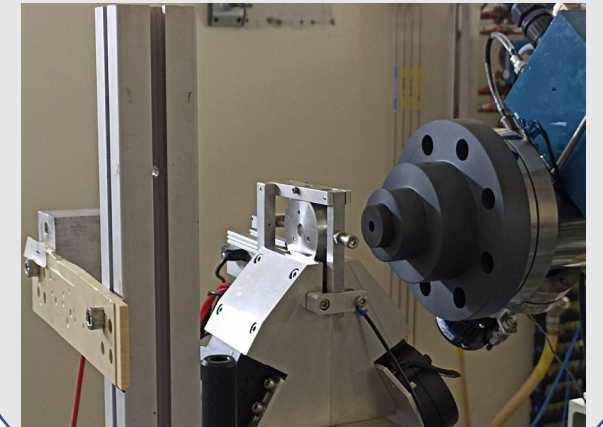
Stacked-foils target assembly



Beam setting with alumina



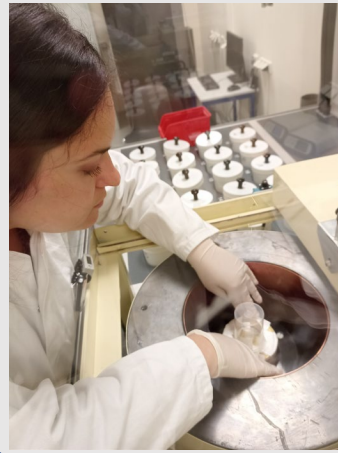
Irradiation runs on the AX3 beam-line



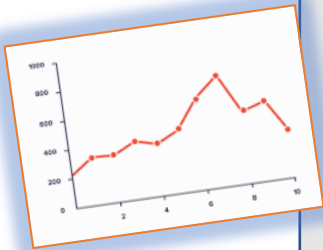
Target disassembly



$\gamma$ -spectrometry

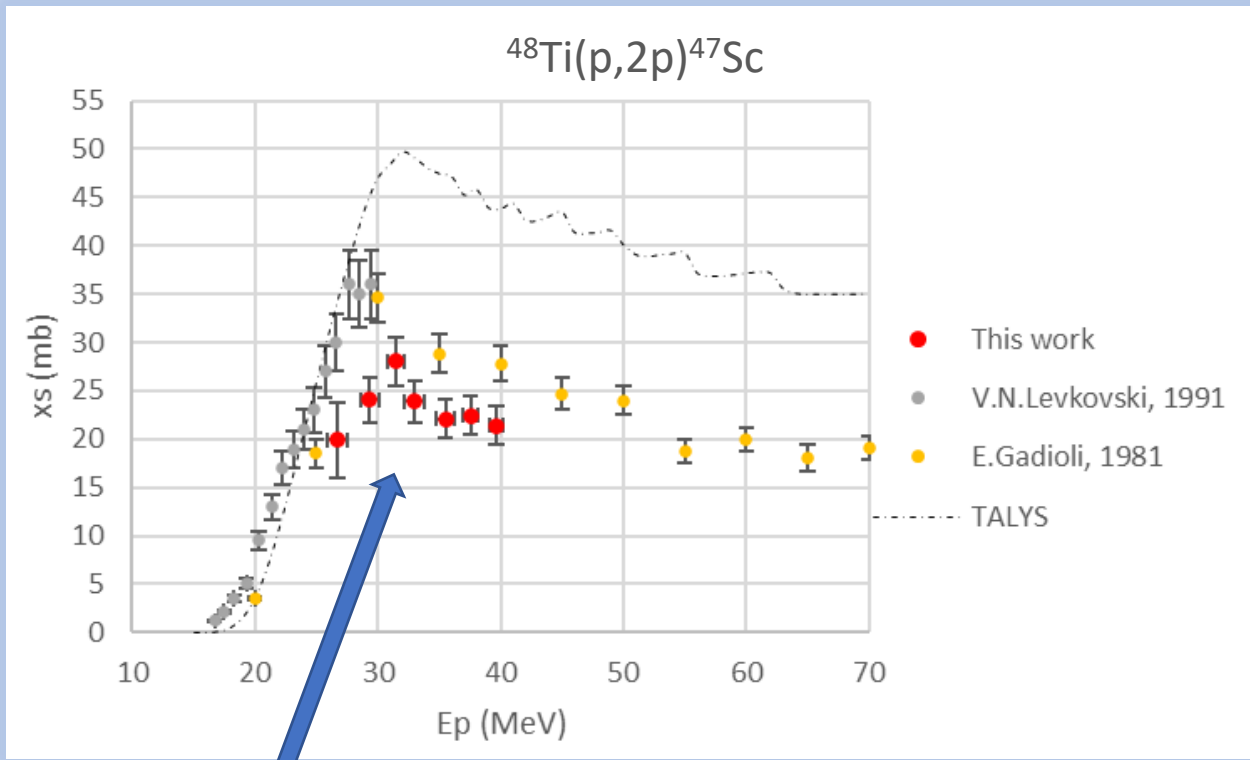


Data analysis





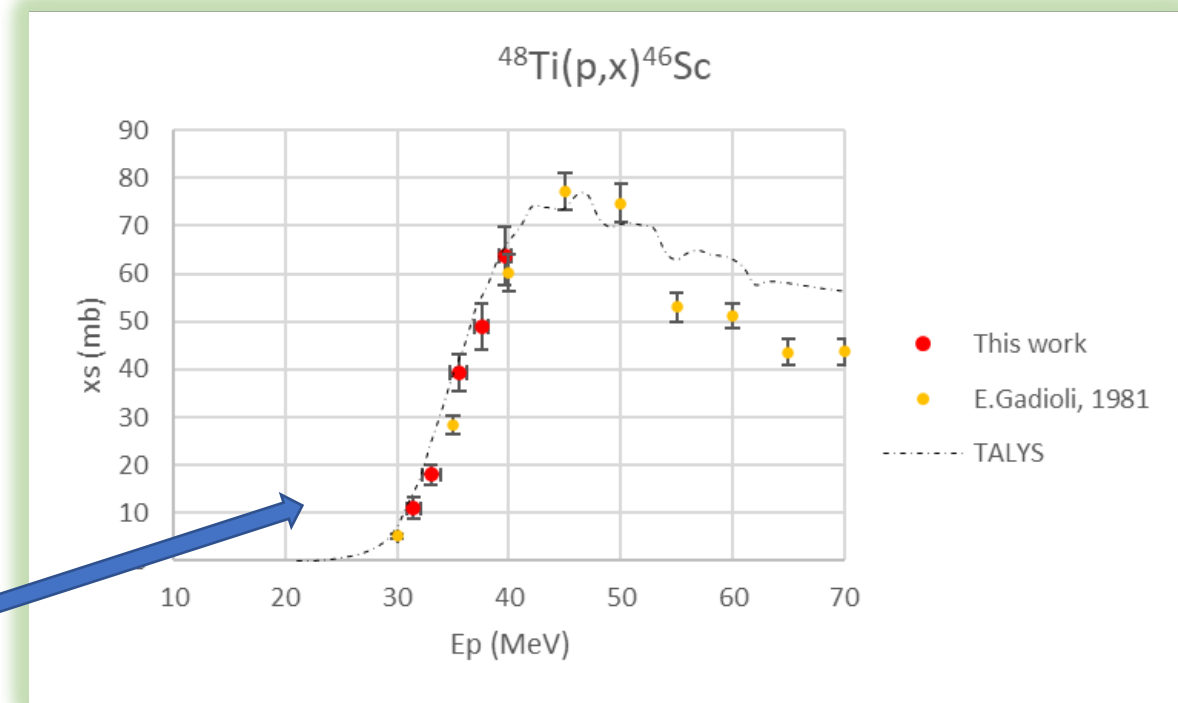
# Proton-induced reactions on $^{48}\text{Ti}$ targets: $^{47}\text{Sc}$ and $^{46}\text{Sc}$



Up to 20% discrepancy  
with literature data



Good agreement

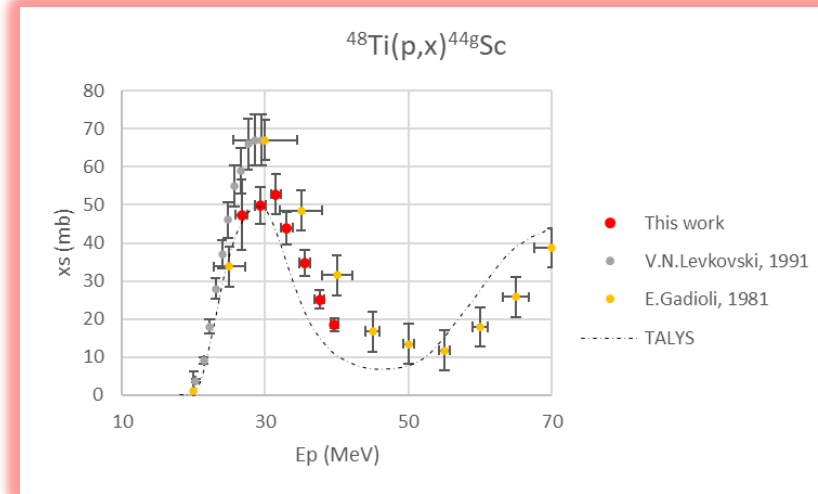
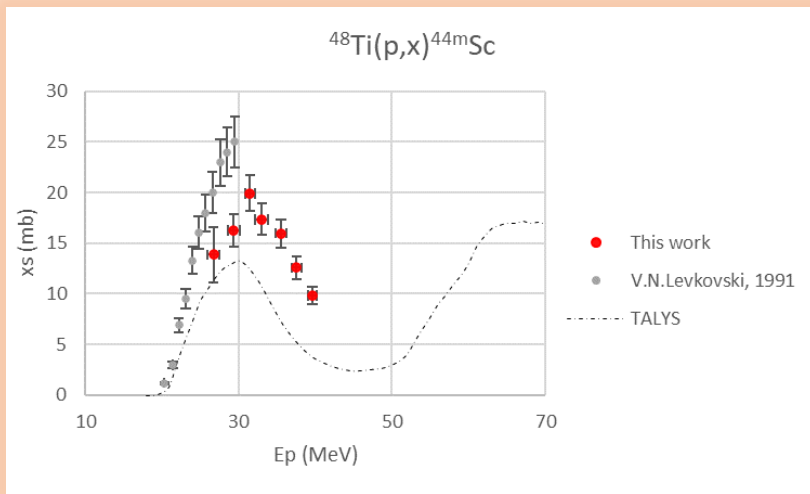


$^{47}\text{Sc}$  half-life 3.3492 d

$^{46}\text{Sc}$  half-life 83.79 d

L. Mou et al., Nuclear cross sections of proton-induced reactions on enriched  $^{48}\text{Ti}$  targets for the production of the theranostic  $^{47}\text{Sc}$  radionuclide (...) (2022) Submitted

# Proton-induced reactions on $^{48}\text{Ti}$ targets: $^{44\text{m}}\text{Sc}$ , $^{44}\text{Sc}$ , $^{43}\text{Sc}$ , $^{48}\text{V}$

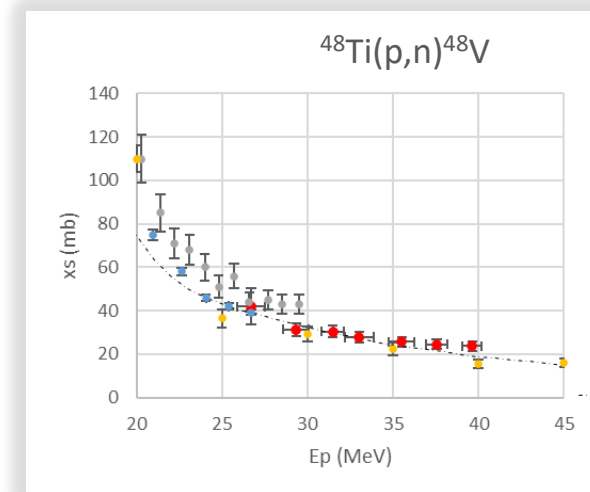
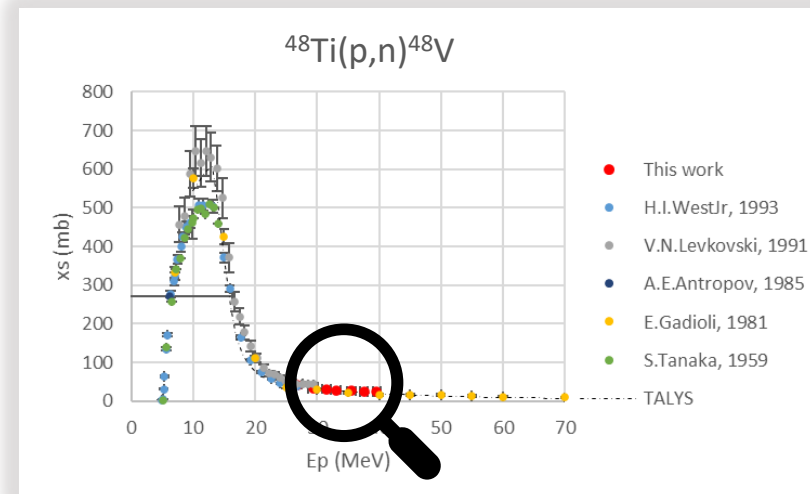
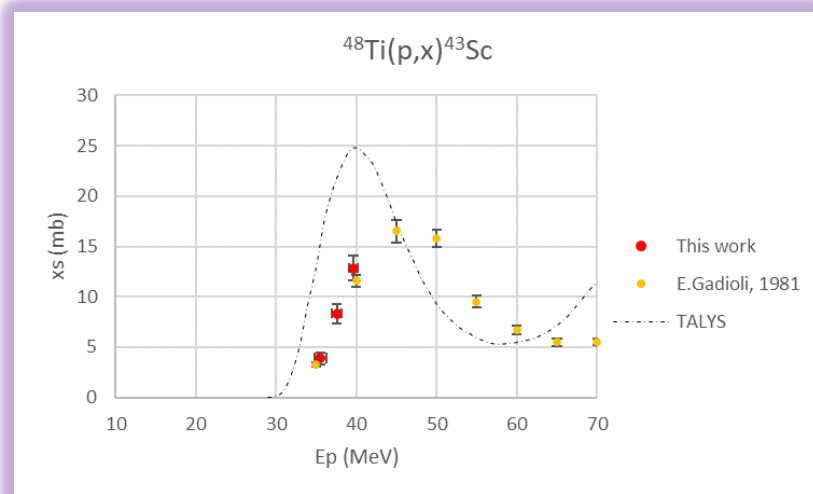


$^{44\text{m}}\text{Sc}$  half-life **58.61 h**

$^{44}\text{Sc}$  half-life **3.97 h**

$^{43}\text{Sc}$  half-life **3.891 h**

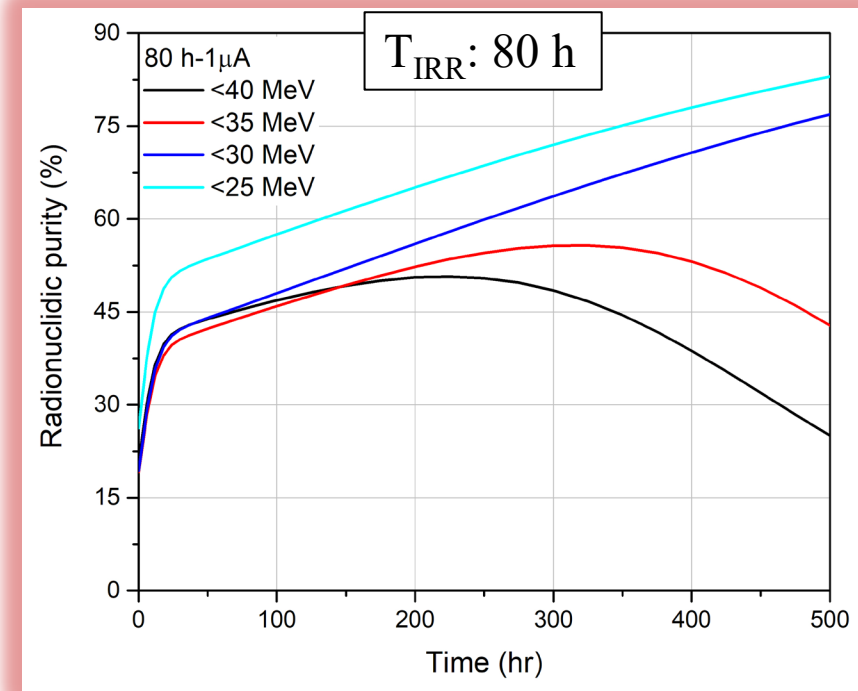
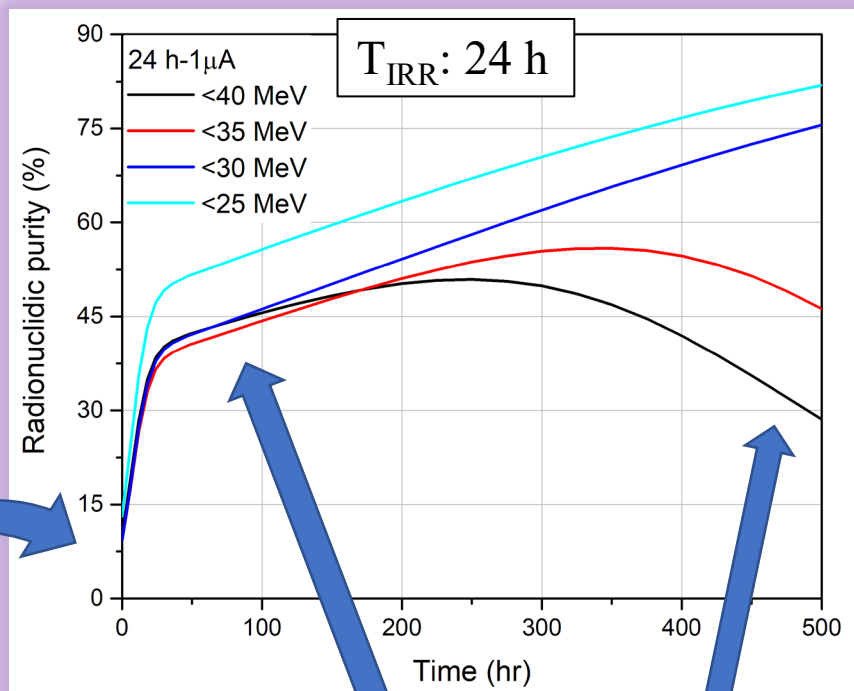
$^{48}\text{V}$  half-life **15.974 d**



L. Mou et al., Nuclear cross sections of proton-induced reactions on enriched  $^{48}\text{Ti}$  targets for the production of the theranostic  $^{47}\text{Sc}$  radionuclide (..) (2022) Submitted

# The $^{47}\text{Sc}$ Radionuclidic Purity (RNP) with $^{48}\text{Ti}$ targets

$E_p < 30 \text{ MeV}$ , co-production of  $^{44\text{m}}\text{Sc}$  and  $^{44}\text{Sc}$ ;  $E_p > 30 \text{ MeV}$  co-production of  $^{43}\text{Sc}$ ,  $^{44\text{m}}\text{Sc}$ ,  $^{44\text{g}}\text{Sc}$  and  $^{46}\text{Sc}$



Decay of the short half-time impurities  $^{43}\text{Sc}$  and  $^{44\text{g}}\text{Sc}$

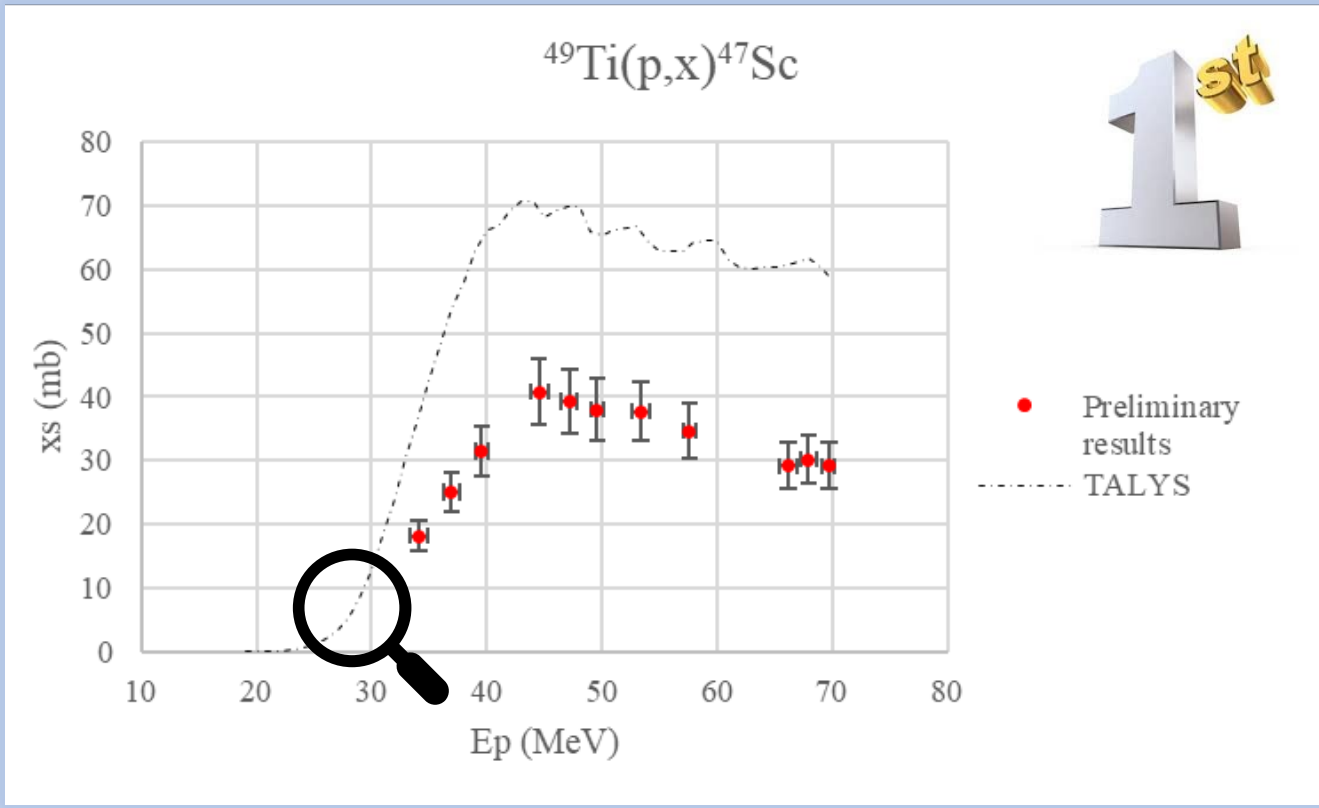
Decay of  $^{44\text{m}}\text{Sc}$   $^{46}\text{Sc}$  activity

$^{48}\text{Ti}$  targets are **not suitable** for a p-induced  $^{47}\text{Sc}$  production!

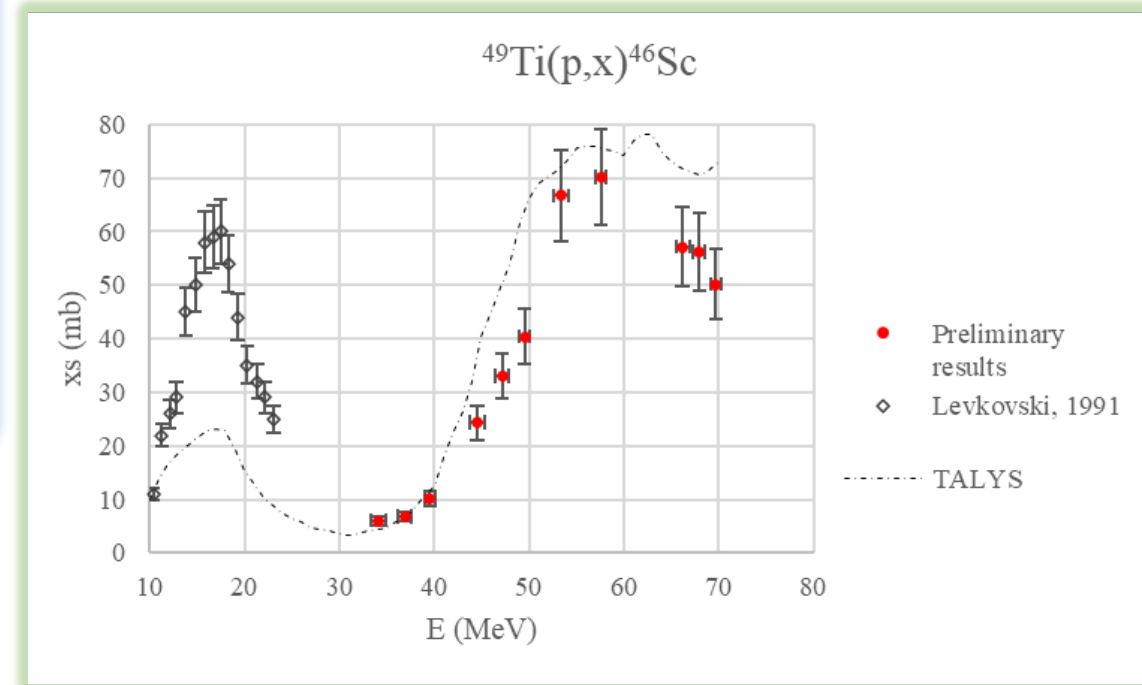


L. Mou et al., Nuclear cross sections of proton-induced reactions on enriched  $^{48}\text{Ti}$  targets for the production of the theranostic  $^{47}\text{Sc}$  radionuclide (..) (2022) Submitted

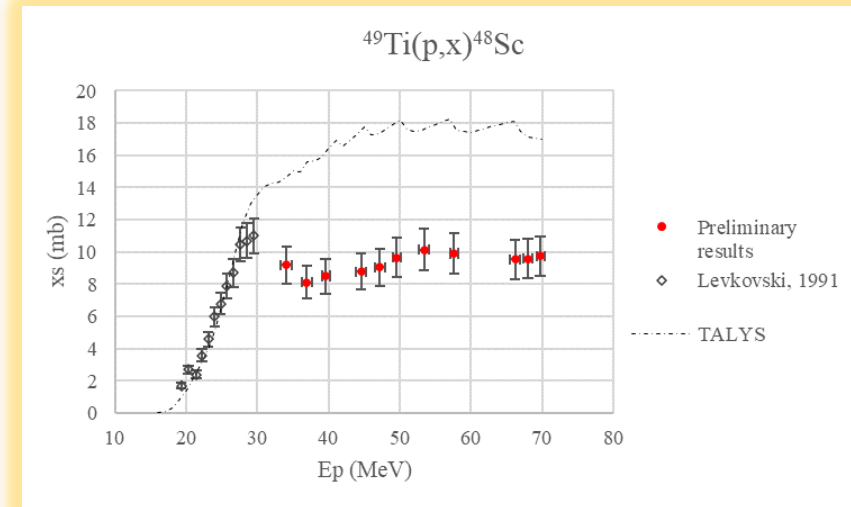
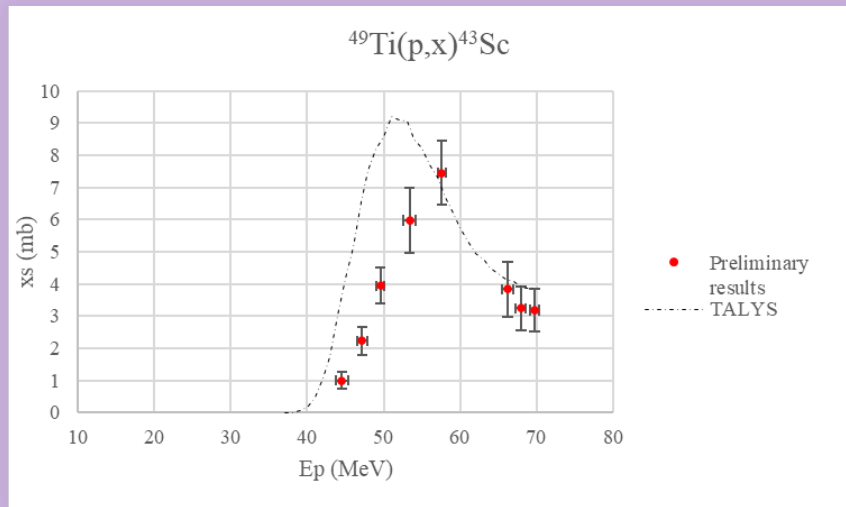
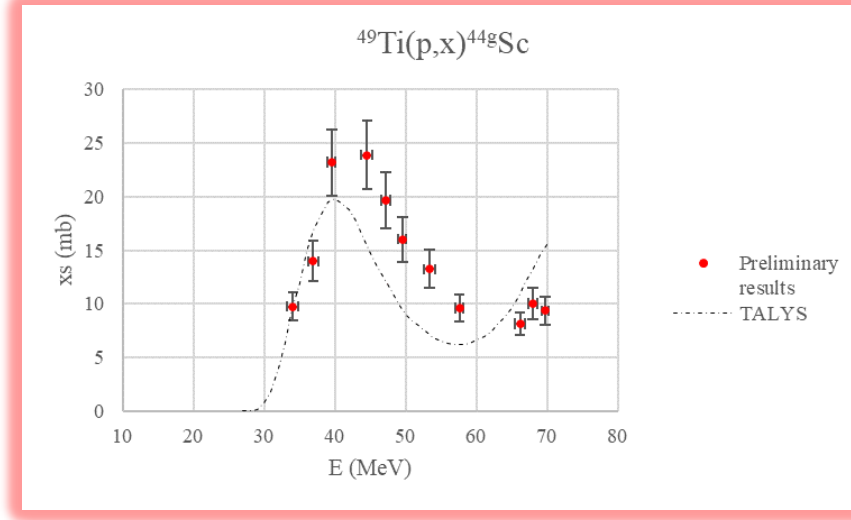
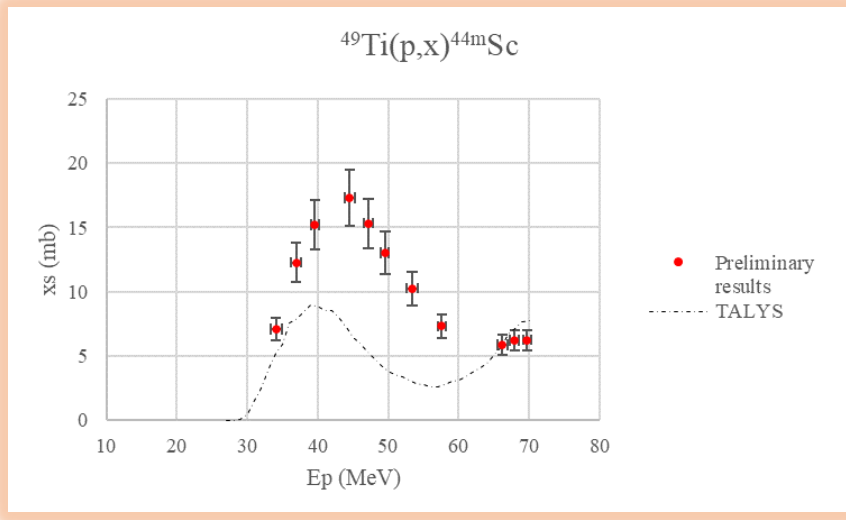
# Proton-induced reactions on $^{49}\text{Ti}$ targets: Preliminary results



**Preliminary data** since we used the weighting values, but soon the  $^{49}\text{Ti}$  EBS values will be available!



# Proton-induced reactions on $^{49}\text{Ti}$ targets: Preliminary results

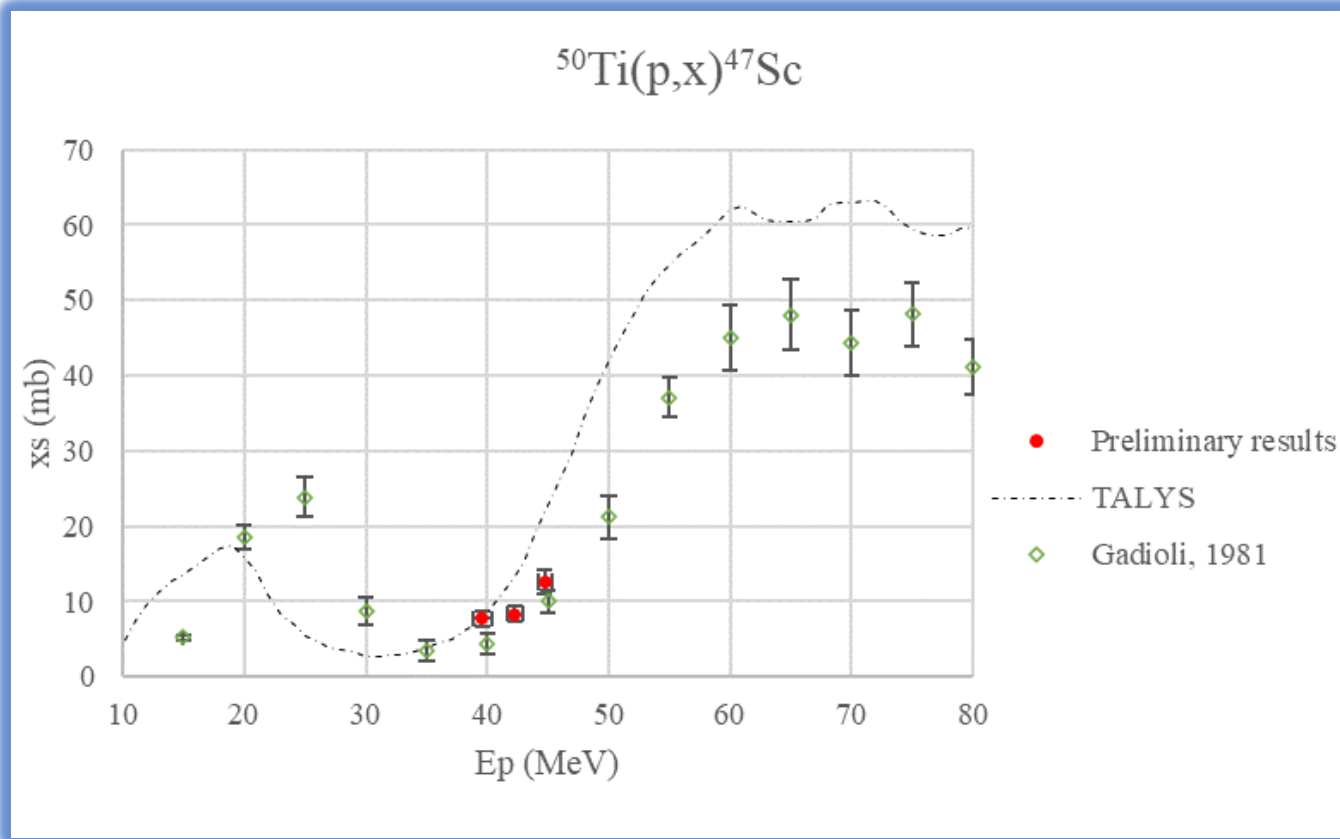


$^{44\text{m}}\text{Sc}$  half-life **58.61 h**  
 $^{44}\text{Sc}$  half-life **3.97 h**  
 $^{43}\text{Sc}$  half-life **3.891 h**  
 $^{48}\text{Sc}$  half-life **43.67 h**

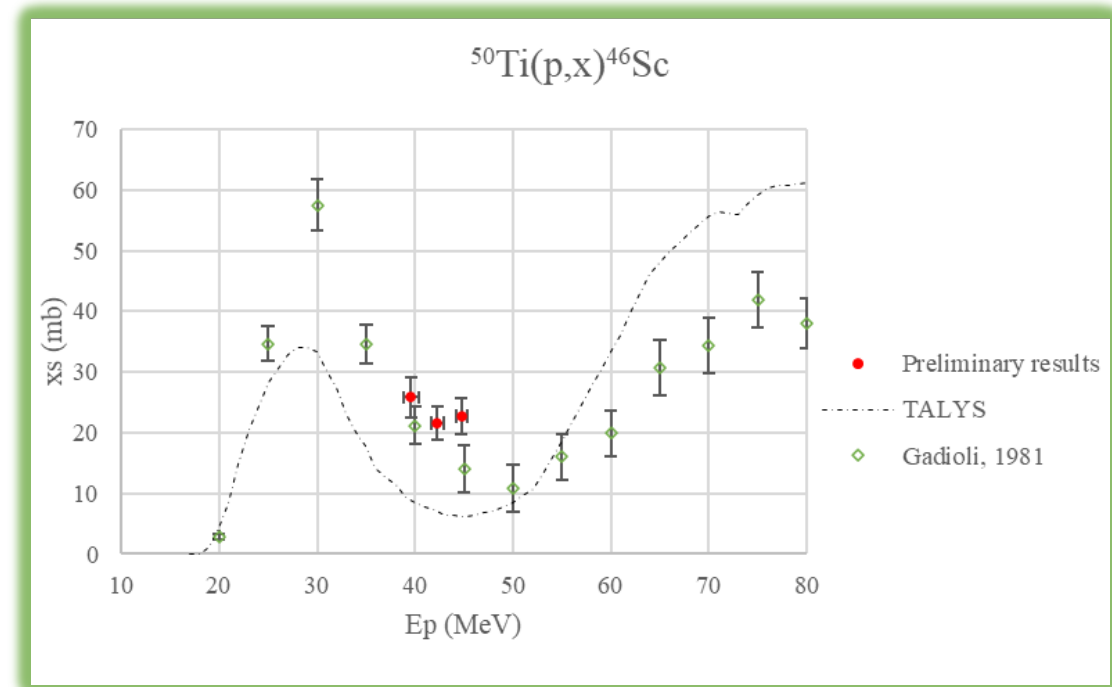
Since the most interesting energy range with  $^{49}\text{Ti}$  targets is **below 40 MeV**, before RNP calculations we would **measure the xs also at  $E_p < 35$  MeV**



# Proton-induced reactions on $^{50}\text{Ti}$ targets: Extra preliminary data

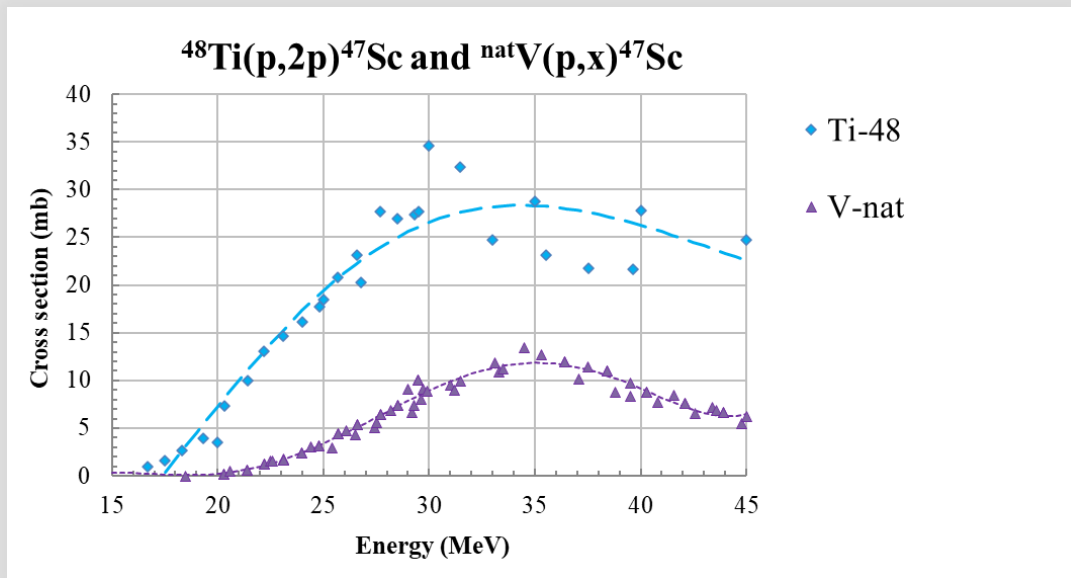


Extra preliminary data because  
the irradiation runs are  
ongoing!



Weighting values for the  $^{50}\text{Ti}$  deposit thickness

# Comparison of $^{47}\text{Sc}$ production: $^{48}\text{Ti}$ vs $^{\text{nat}}\text{V}$ targets



The use of  $^{48}\text{Ti}$  targets gives a larger  $^{47}\text{Sc}$  yield in comparison to  $^{\text{nat}}\text{V}$ , however the RNP is too low for medical applications!

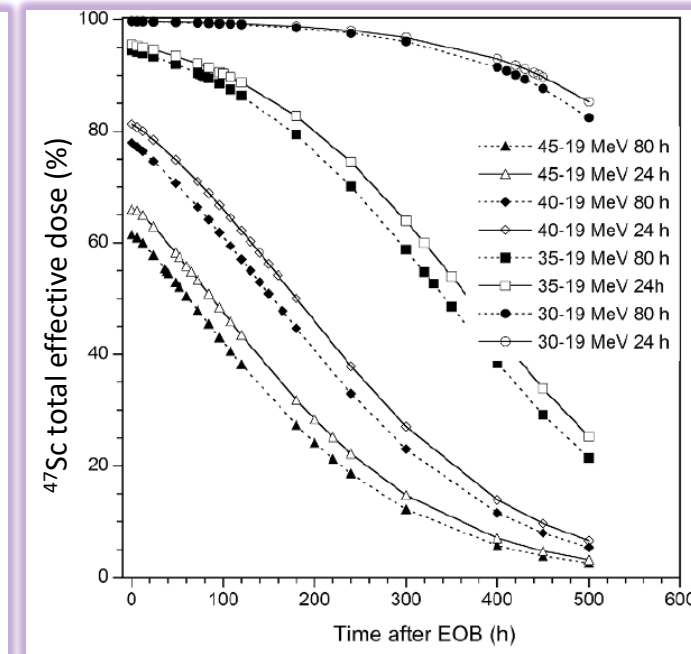
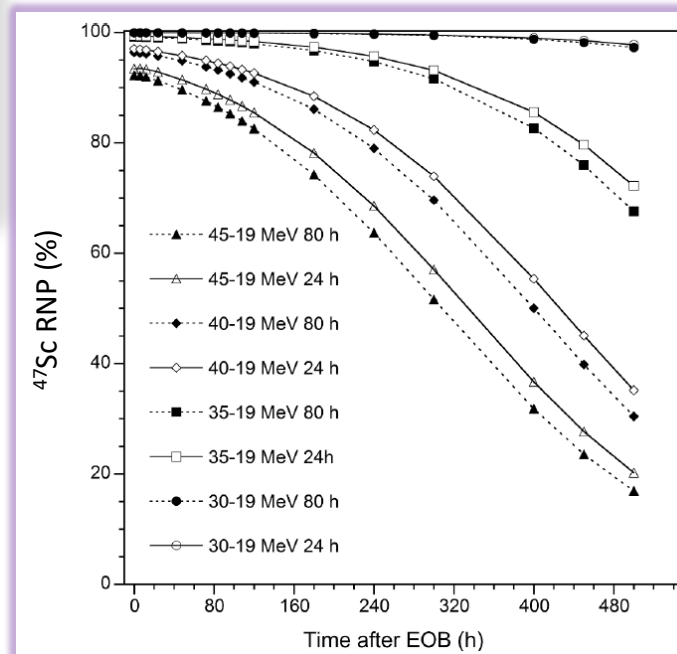
Considering  $^{\text{nat}}\text{V}$  targets, low  $^{46}\text{Sc}$  co-production for  $E_p > 30$  MeV but at  $E_p > 35$  MeV also  $^{48}\text{Sc}$  is co-produced!

$^{47}\text{Sc}$  produced with  $^{\text{nat}}\text{V}$  (100  $\mu\text{A}$ , 80 h) RNP > 99% :

$E_p = 35\text{-}19$  MeV ;  $t_{\text{MAX}} = 30$  h ; ca. 28 GBq

$E_p = 30\text{-}19$  MeV ;  $t_{\text{MAX}} = 375$  h ; ca. 11 GBq

As expected, higher the  $^{47}\text{Sc}$  purity  
lower the yield!



L. De Nardo et al., Physics in Medicine and Biology DOI:10.1088/1361-6560/abc811 (2021)

# Future works and conclusions



- ✓ Thin homogeneous enriched metallic  $^{xx}\text{Ti}$ -**targets** manufactured and characterized (WP1)
- ✓ **Irradiation runs** ongoing at ARRONAX to measure the xs for  $^{47}\text{Sc}$  (and contaminant) production (WP2)
- ✓ Cross sections always show a regular trend and a **general agreement** with few literature data



- **Modeling** with nuclear codes to find out the best parameters to describe the xs of interest (WP4)
- **Dosimetric calculations** to find out the best irradiation conditions for  $^{47}\text{Sc}$  production (WP5)
- **New irradiation runs @ ARRONAX** to describe the nuclear xs using enriched  $^{49}\text{Ti}$  and  $^{50}\text{Ti}$  targets (WP2)

- During 2023 it is expected to perform the **first tests @ INFN-LNL** for xs measurements (WP7)



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# Dosimetric calculations of $^{47}\text{Sc}$ -cm10 using $^{\text{nat}}\text{V}$ targets

- Calculation of the  $^{47}\text{Sc}$  and  $^{\text{xx}}\text{Sc}$ -contaminants production for different scenarios with  $^{\text{nat}}\text{V}$  targets
  - $E_p < 35 \text{ MeV} \rightarrow$  only  $^{46}\text{Sc}$  low amount & low  $^{47}\text{Sc}$  yield
  - $E_p > 35 \text{ MeV} \rightarrow$   $^{46}\text{Sc}$ ,  $^{48}\text{Sc}$  contaminants & high  $^{47}\text{Sc}$  yield
- Biodistribution considered for  $^{\text{xx}}\text{Sc}$ -cm10 (literature data: Müller et al., 2014) rescaled to the human case
- OLINDA code to estimate the total effective dose and the absorbed dose to each organ due to  $^{47}\text{Sc}$  and  $^{\text{xx}}\text{Sc}$ -contaminants
  - Irradiation parameters suitable for medical use of  $^{47}\text{Sc}$ -cm10!

**Table 6.** Calculated absorbed dose in the main organs (Gy) after a therapeutic treatment with  $^{47/46}\text{Sc}$ -cm10 radiopharmaceutical (11.625 GBq) performed at  $t_{\text{max}}$  and comparison with the absorbed dose limits values (Gy).

Organs	Absorbed dose per unit administered activity at $t_{\text{max}}$ (Gy/GBq)	Absorbed dose (Gy) per treatment (11.625 GBq)	Dose limits (Gy)
Kidneys	0.750	8.719	23–40
Salivary glands	0.110	1.279	25–35
Liver	0.078	0.907	30
Bone marrow	0.013	0.151	2
Whole body	0.021	0.244	2



$^{47}\text{Sc}$  produced for 80 h irradiation with 100  $\mu\text{A}$  of 35-19 MeV protons on  $^{\text{nat}}\text{V}$  targets should be enough for **2-6** treatments with  $^{47}\text{Sc}$ -cm10!