

# **IMPORTANCE AND ROLE OF ISOTOPES TO THE RADIOPHARMACEUTICAL AND INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITIES**

**Workshop on the Nation's Needs for  
Isotopes: Present and Future  
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# Background on CORAR

- CORAR is the North American Trade Association for the manufacturers and distributors of radionuclides & radiopharmaceuticals
- All of the major manufacturers are members of CORAR
- Members utilize radionuclides to produce radiopharmaceuticals and calibration sources for medical diagnosis and therapy, radionuclides for life science research, and industrial sources
- CORAR wants to assure a reliable supply of radioisotopes for Industrial, Medical, and Research applications



# CORAR Membership

- Bracco Diagnostics, Inc.
- Cell Therapeutics, Inc.
- Cardinal Health
- Collectar, LLC
- Covidien (formerly Tyco Healthcare/Mallinckrodt, Inc.)
- DRAXIMAGE, A division of DRAXIS Specialty Pharmaceuticals Inc.
- Eckert & Ziegler Isotope Products
- EUSA Pharma (formerly Cytogen Corporation)
- GE Healthcare
- GlaxoSmithKline
- International Isotopes Inc.
- Lantheus Medical Imaging (formerly Bristol Myers Squibb)
- MDS Nordion
- Molecular Insight Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- PerkinElmer Life and Analytical Sciences, Inc.
- PETNET Solutions, Inc./Siemens
- QSA Global, Inc.
- Radiopharmacy of Indianapolis



# Isotopes Marketed by CORAR Companies

Actinium-227	Chlorine-36	Iodine-123	Phosphorus-32	Silicon-32	Tin-113
Aluminum-26	Chromium-51	Iodine-125	Phosphorus-33	Silver-108m	Titanium-44
Americium-241	Cobalt-56	Iodine-129	Plutonium-236	Silver-110	Tritium-3
Americium-243	Cobalt-57	Iodine-131	Plutonium-238	Sodium-22	Tungstun-188
Antimony-124	Cobalt-58	Iridium-192	Plutonium-240	Sodium-24	Uranium-232
Antimony-125	Cobalt-60	Iron-55	Plutonium-241	Strontium-82	Uranium-233
Barium-133	Copper-64	Iron-59	Plutonium-242	Strontium-85	Uranium-234
Berylium-107	Curium-244	Krypton-85	Polonium-208	Strontium-89	Uranium-235
Bismuth-207	Europium-152	Lead-210	Polonium-209	Strontium-90	Uranium-236
Cadmium-109	Europium-154	Lutetium-177	Promethium-147	Sulfur-35	Vanadium-49
Calcium-45	Flourine-18	Manganese-54	Radium-224	Tantalum-182	Xenon-133
Californium-252	Gadolinium-148	Mercury-203	Radium-226	Technetium-95	Ytterbium-169
Carbon-11	Gadolinium-153	Molybdenum-99	Radium-228	Technetium-99	Yttrium-88
Carbon-14	Gallium-67	Neptunium-237	Rubidium-86	Thallium-201	Yttrium-90
Cerium-139	Germanium-68	Nickel-59	Ruthenium-103	Tellurium-123m	Zinc-65
Cerium-141	Gold-195	Nickel-63	Ruthenium-106	Thorium-228	Zirconium-95
Cerium-144	Gold-198	Niobium-93m	Samarium-151	Thorium-230	
Cesium-134	Holmium-166m	Niobium-95	Scandium-46	Thorium-232	
Cesium-137	Indium-111	Palladium-103	Selenium-75	Thullium-170	



# Background on Nuclear Medicine

- Nuclear medicine relies on the use of specialized drugs called radiopharmaceuticals, which are radioactive compounds or radioactive isotopes. These drugs are administered under the supervision of a physician typically intravenously, but sometimes also through inhalation or orally.
- The majority of nuclear medicine procedures are diagnostic, but there are also a number of therapeutic nuclear medicine treatments including for bone pain palliation related to Prostate Cancer, Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Liver Cancer and Thyroid Cancer.

# Background on Radiopharmaceuticals - Cont'd

- Nuclear medicine procedures are primarily performed in a hospital or independent imaging facility. Only physicians trained in nuclear medicine and licensed to handle radioactive materials can perform these procedures.
- The radiopharmaceutical concentrates in the area of the body to be examined where special cameras capture the nuclear particles or photons emitted by the radiopharmaceutical producing a visual image of the body system, organ or tissue providing physicians with physiological and physical information.
- Other modalities cannot provide this important functional information to physicians.

# Important Radionuclides in Nuclear Medicine

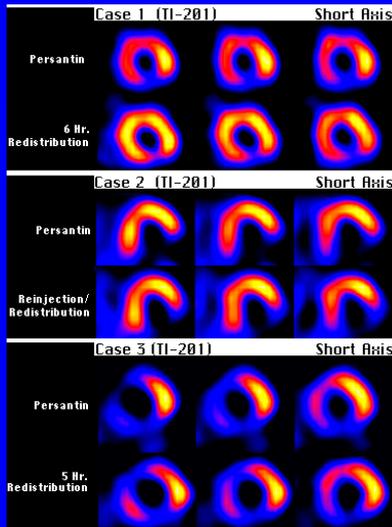
- Radiopharmaceuticals are used more than 100,000 times each day worldwide
- More than 100 diagnostics tests and therapeutic procedures:
  - Detection and staging of cancer
  - Detection of heart and thyroid diseases
  - Bone pain palliation from cancer, treatment of neuroendocrine tumors and liver cancer
  - Imaging of stress fractures
  - Treatment of prostate cancer with I-125 and Pd-103 seeds
- Many radionuclides are produced by radiopharmaceutical manufacturers (Tl-201, I-123, Ga-67, In-111)
- Many radionuclides are produced by non-power reactors (Mo-99, I-125, I-131, Xe-133, P-32)



Tc-99m Whole Body Scan



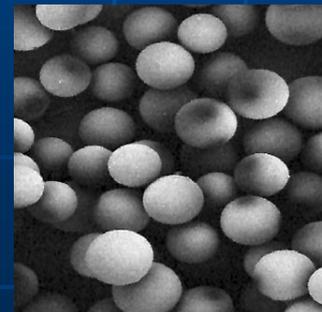
Implanted I-125 Brachytherapy Seeds



Cardiac Perfusion Study w/ Tl-201



Cardiac Imaging w/ Rb-82



Microspheres labeled w/ Y-90



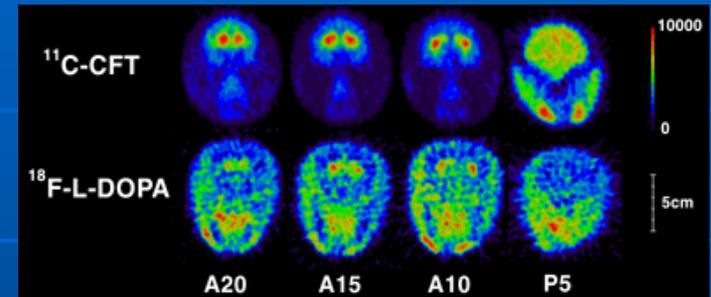
# Positron Emission Tomography (PET) in Nuclear Medicine

- PET Imaging is the fastest growing segment of Nuclear Medicine

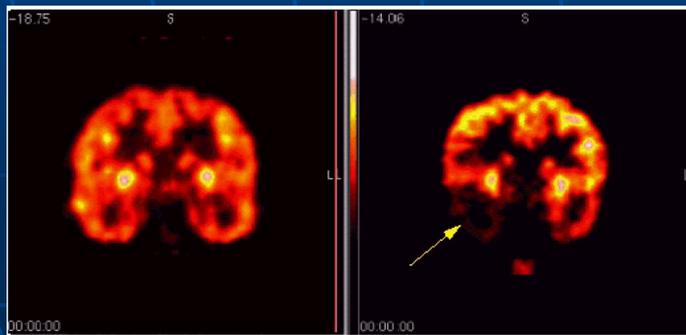
- **Uses of PET**

- Detection & staging of cancer
  - Detection of heart disease
  - Detection of thyroid disease
  - Study of brain function

- **PET radionuclides are produced in small cyclotrons at nuclear pharmacy or hospital (F-18, N-13, O-15) w/ stable isotopes**



Imaging of Parkinson's patient with C-11 & F-18



Imaging of Epilepsy patient with F-18 FDA



F-18 FDG Research sponsored by BER at UCLA



# Background on Commercial Sources

## ■ Process Control:

- Level/fill/density gauges – Cs-137, Co-60, Am-241, Am/Be, Cf-252, Kr-85, Pm-147, Sr-90, Tl-204, Ba-133, C-14



Industrial level & density gauges



Level/density measurement



Process control of thickness



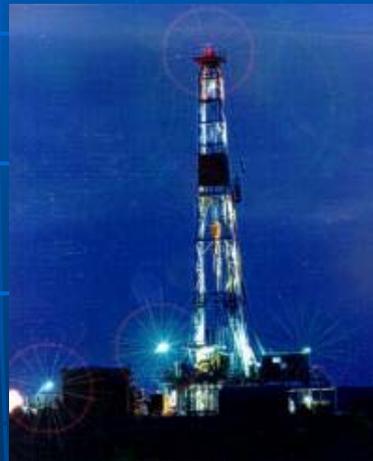
Paper thickness gauging

# Background on Commercial Sources – Cont'd

- Analytical Uses – Am-241, Co-57, Fe-55, Cd-109, Cm-244, Ni-63, H-3, Co-60, Cf-252, Am/Be, Cs-137



Weld quality assurance



Oil well logging



Bulk material analysis



Metals detection using x-ray diffraction



Road bed analysis



# Background on Commercial Sources – Cont'd

- Other Uses (non-destructive testing, geology, safety & quality, health physics, gamma sterilization) –  
Ir-192, Co-60, Se-75, Yb-169, Tm-170, Cs-137, Am/Be, Cf-252, Po-210, Co-57, Ge-68, Gd-153



Ge-68 check sources



Homeland security



Chemical agent detection



Ge-68 phantom



# Stable Isotopes Needed for Isotope Production

- Key enriched stable isotopes are needed for the production of medical & commercial isotopes

Stable Isotope	Used to produce	Product Used for:
Tl-203	Tl-201	Myocardial perfusion imaging
Cd-108	Cd-109	Calibration Sources
Cd-112	In-111	White blood cell labeling/infection localization
N-15	O-15	PET production of oxygen compounds
O-18	F-18 FDG	Cardiac/brain metabolic studies
Pd-104	Pd-103	Brachytherapy seeds
Te-123/124	I-123	Thyroid Imaging
Zn-68	Ga-67	Tumor & infection localization
Yb-168	Yb-169	Industrial radiography
Se-74	Se-75	Industrial radiography
Ni-60	Co-57	Gamma Camera Calibration sources



# Mo-99 Supply

- Mo-99/Tc-99m is the most used radionuclide in diagnostic nuclear medicine
- Patient needs for Tc-99m must be reliably met
- CORAR is supportive of conversion to LEU fuel and targets for isotope production
- CORAR members are embracing new technology and each company is evaluating new opportunities themselves
- Conversion to LEU will take significant time to resolve new processing and clear regulatory hurdles



# **DOE's Rich History of Technology Development & Routine Production**

- Initial development work on Tc-99m generator done at Brookhaven
- Tc-99m MAG3 developed by Brookhaven
- IPF at Los Alamos provides important Ge-68, Sr-82, As-73
- Oak Ridge has been a major source of Cf-252 used by the nuclear power industry, U.S. Navy and for commercial uses
- DOE BER has funded productive nuclear medicine research last several years



# Missed & Future Opportunities

- DOE was not able to start Mo-99 production in 1990's
- Shutdown of the calutrons have required U.S. industry to turn to Russian suppliers of stable isotopes
- Shutdown of Cf-252 production would leave industry without an alternative supply
- Shutdown of Am-241 production has caused problems for U.S. industry
- CORAR looks forward to working with the Office of Science on creating improvements in Isotope Production & Distribution at DOE



# What Industry Needs From DOE

- DOE has unique resources that cannot be easily duplicated
  - HFR at ORNL, ATR at INEL, LANSCE/IPF at LANL
  - Calutrons at ORNL, U-233 stockpile at ORNL
- These resources should be used to provide industry with isotopes that are not otherwise available to the U.S.
- Many key isotopes can only be acquired from DOE or imported from a very limited number of countries
- Industry representatives should be included in any DOE advisory committee to determine which isotopes will be produced and policies affecting isotope production
- Advisory committee should include industry reps, not just R&D reps



# Summary

- Industry is willing to work with DOE and pay fair prices for its radionuclides
- Industry is supportive of conversion to LEU, but it will take time
- Industry deserves a role in DOE advisory committees on isotope production, bringing their expertise on which isotopes will be needed
- Industry needs DOE's help for key stable and radioactive isotope production

