

**SOFIE**  
From start to clinic

# **Fibroblast Activation Protein (FAP)- a promising target for radiopharmaceuticals**

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# Learning Objectives

1. Explain what is FAP and what role it plays in oncology
2. Identify key radiopharmaceuticals involved in FAP targeting
3. Describe the current state of clinical development for FAP Inhibitors (FAPI)



# Theranostics

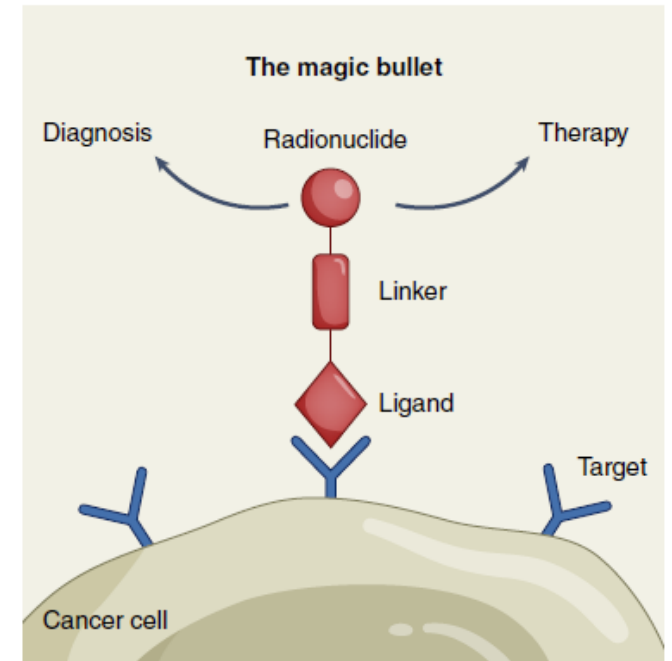
**Diagnostic:** PET imaging to Select patients whose cancer cells have the targeted protein. Short-lived radionuclide  $^{68}\text{Ga}$  or  $^{18}\text{F}$

**Treatment:** Molecular targeted radio-ablation of cancer cells. Long-lived radionuclide  $^{177}\text{Lu}$  ,  $^{225}\text{Ac}$  or other beta or alpha particle emitters

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## WHY?

- *See where the drug is going and how it is cleared from the target and the rest of the body*
- *Select patients based on having a specific target protein for therapy*
- *Monitor treatment response*



**The magic bullet.** Theranostics target unique properties of cancer cells using different radionuclides for diagnosis and treatment. Credit: Marina Spence/Nature Medicine

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Carrie Arnold Nature News 2022



# Theranostics- Neuroendocrine Tumors- First example

## $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTATATE PET imaging

**Question:** Does the patient have the protein target?

**Answer:** **Yes**

**Question:** Have the cancer cells been ablated?

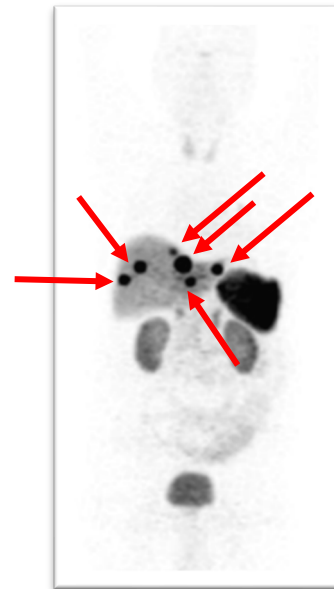
**Answer:** **Yes**

**Target:** Somatostatin Receptor

**PET Imaging Probe is  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTATATE**

**Treatment Probe is  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -DOTATATE**

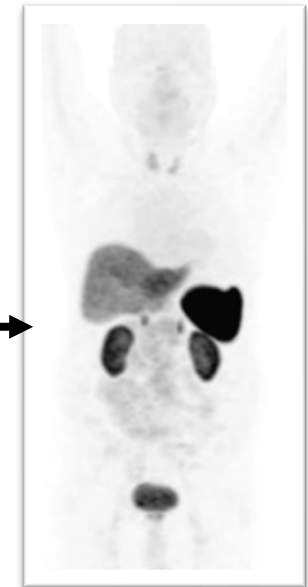
The DOTATATE probe is a small peptide



**BEFORE  
TREATMENT**

Neuroendocrine tumors

$^{177}\text{Lu}$ -DOTATATE to  
ablate cancer cells



**AFTER  
TREATMENT**

# Theranostics- PSMA target in prostate cancer- Second example

(Castrate resistant late-stage prostate cancer patients who have failed all accepted treatments)

## $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -PSMA-11 PET scans

**Question:** Does the patient have the protein target?

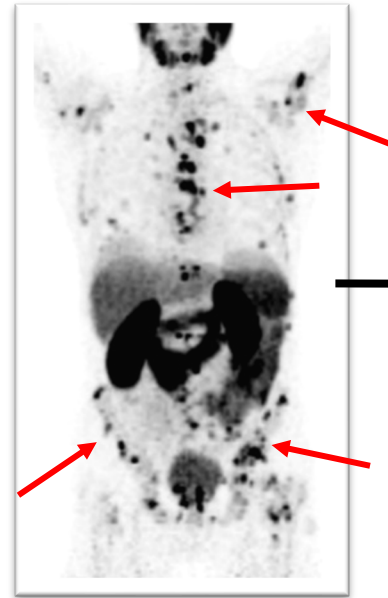
**Answer:** Yes

**Question:** Have the cancer cells been ablated?

**Answer:** Yes

**Target** - Prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA)

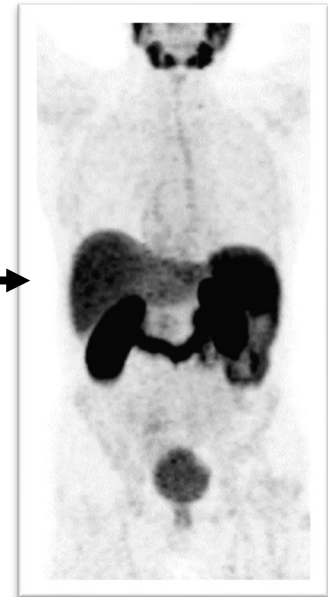
**PET Imaging:**  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -PSMA-11  
**Treatment:**  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -PSMA-617



BEFORE  
TREATMENT

PSA = 2,923 ng/ml

$^{177}\text{Lu}$ -PSMA-617  
Treatment



AFTER  
TREATMENT

PSA < 0.1 ng/ml

Some of the tumors

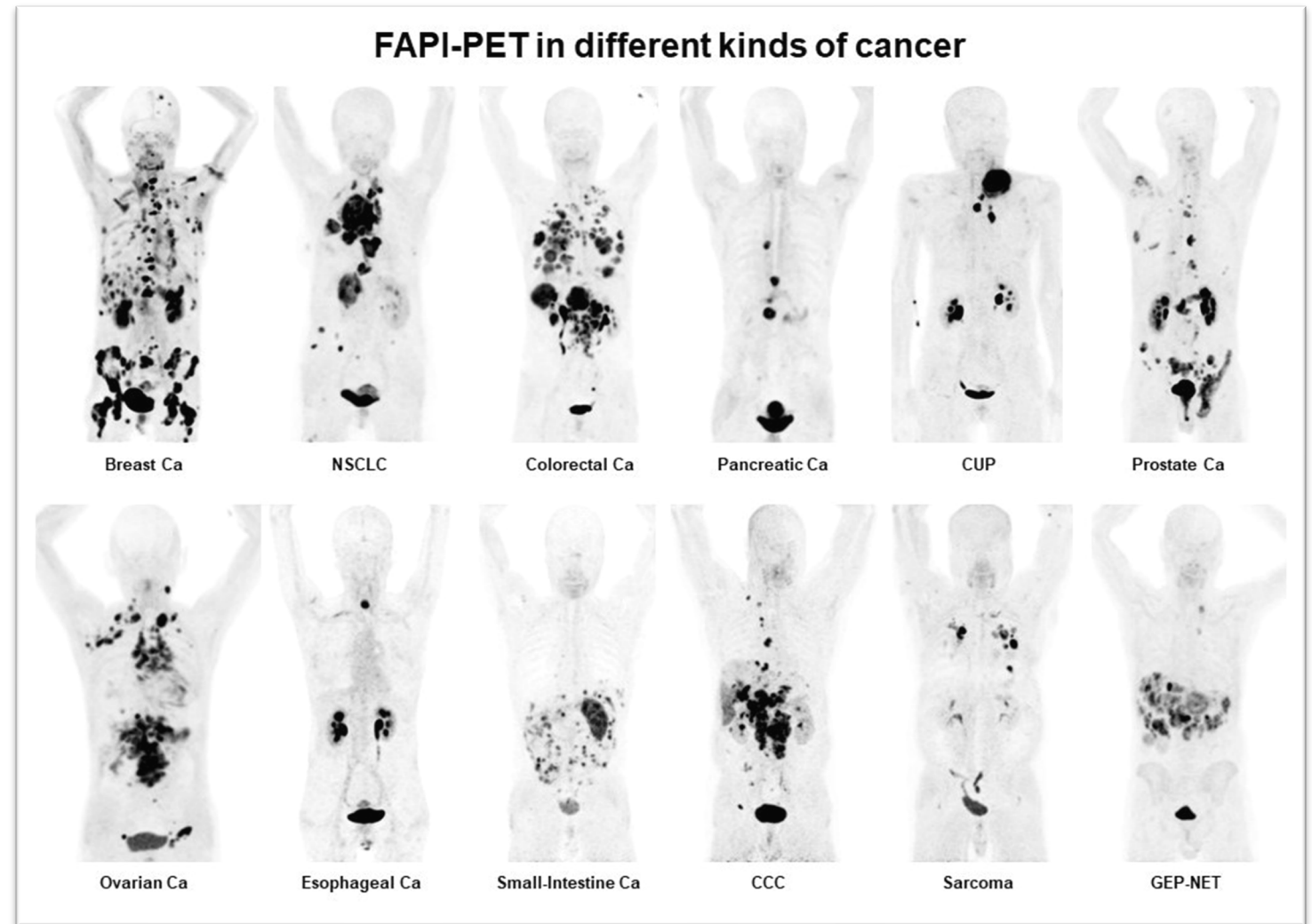


F. Giesel (U of Heidelberg), K. Herrmann (U of Essen), W. Fendler (UCLA), J. Czernin (UCLA)

# FAP target as the next theranostic breakthrough

SNMMI Image of the Year 2019

"A single radiotracer can identify nearly 30 types of cancer, allowing for new applications in noninvasive diagnosis, staging and treatment, according to research presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI). This honor goes to a team of researchers at University Hospital Heidelberg, Germany, showcasing the efficacy of the FAPI radiotracer."

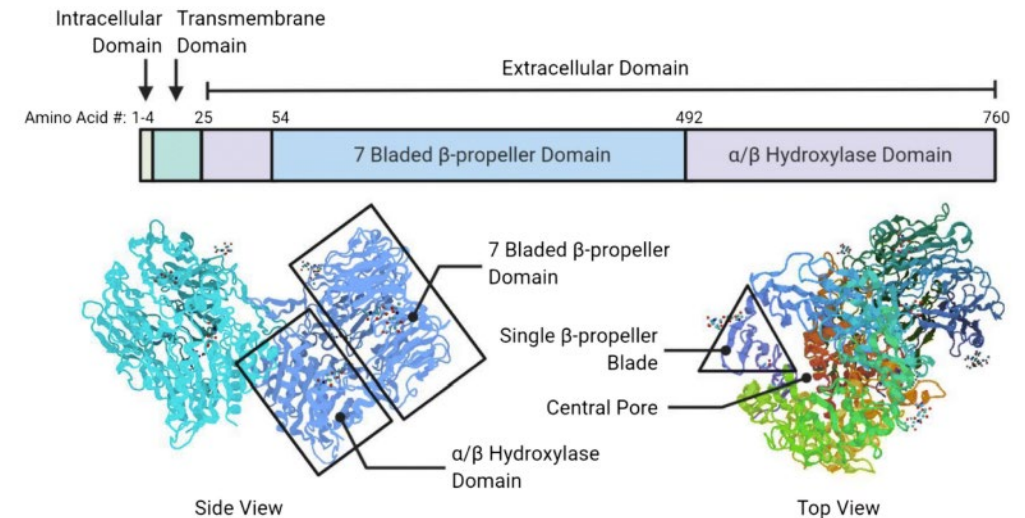


1. Explain what is FAP and what role it plays in oncology

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# What is FAP?

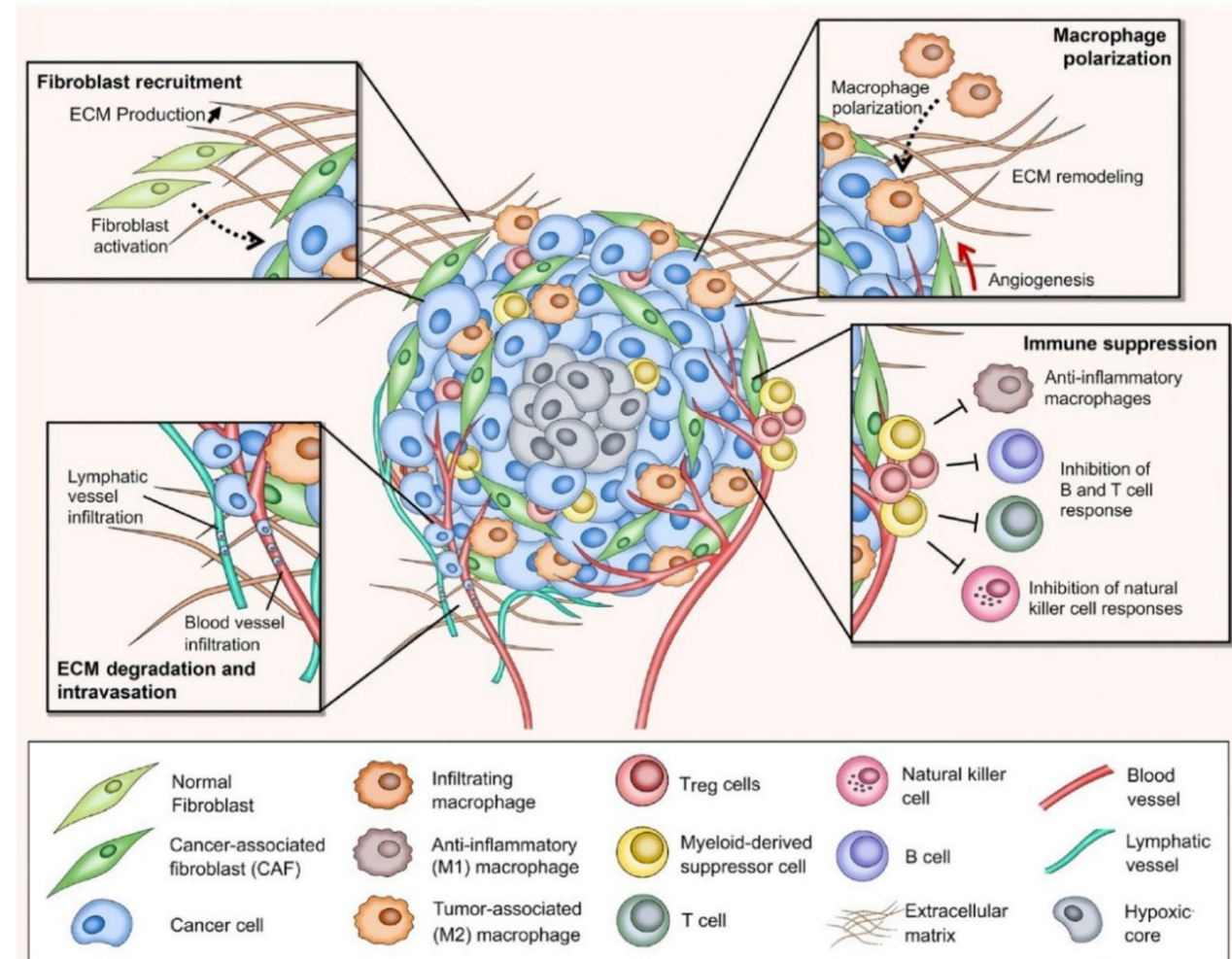
- Fibroblast activation protein (FAPa or FAP)
- A Type II membrane-bound serine protease. Contains 2 enzymatic activities: dipeptidyl peptidase and endopeptidase
- Associated with fibrosis, tissue repair, inflammation, and extracellular matrix (ECM) degradation
- Through enzymatic and non-enzymatic activities, FAP demonstrates **pro-tumorigenic activity** involved in migration, invasion, and proliferation of cells in the tumor microenvironment, resulting in ECM degradation, tumor angiogenesis, invasiveness, and evasion of immune response





# FAP and CAFs

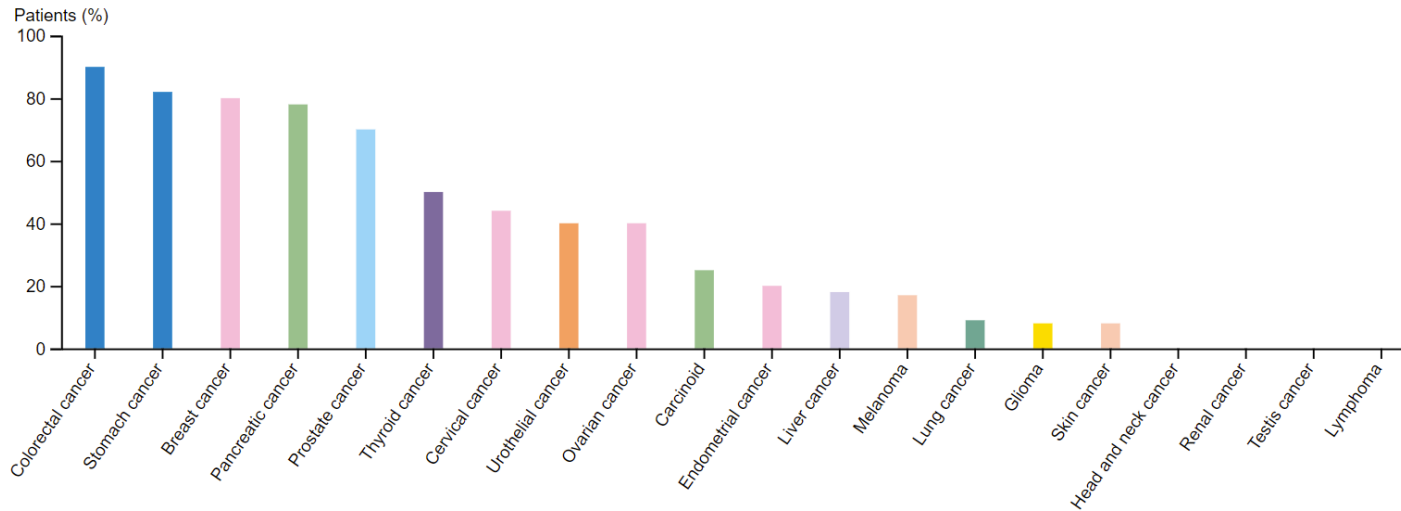
- Among all the stromal cells, **cancer-associated fibroblasts (CAFs)** are dominant populations in the tumor microenvironment
- Fibroblasts become activated during wound repair and regeneration. Malignant tumors are recognized as **“wounds that do not heal”**
- **FAP** is highly expressed on the surface of CAFs
- When looking at markers of CAFs, FAP has received interest as a potential biomarker for CAF identification
- FAP is a great target due to its overexpression in most of the cancer types (90%)



Imlimthan S et al. 2021. *New Frontiers in Cancer Imaging and Therapy Based on Radiolabeled Fibroblast Activation Protein Inhibitors: A Rational Review and Current Progress*. Pharmaceuticals (Basel).



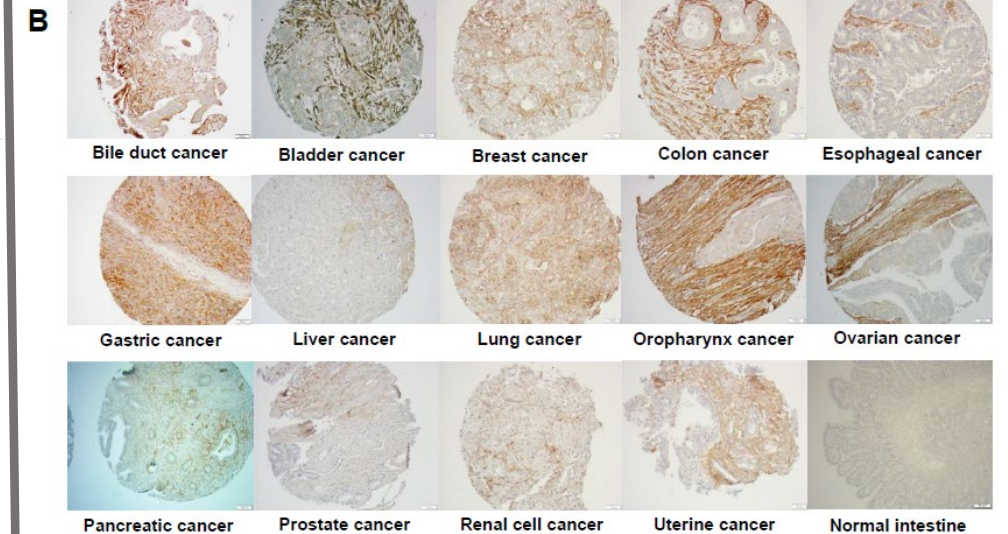
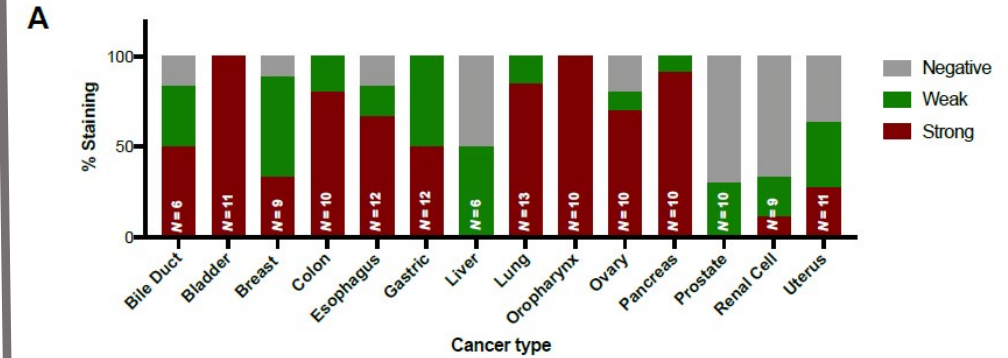
# FAP expression levels in different cancers



Several breast, colorectal, prostate, stomach and pancreatic cancers along with a few squamous cell carcinomas, ovarian and urothelial cancers displayed moderate to strong cytoplasmic and membranous positivity for FAP. Remaining cancer tissues were weakly stained or negative. Human Protein Atlas: <https://www.proteinatlas.org/ENSG00000078098-FAP/pathology>

- FAP is highly expressed in an array of different solid tumors (ECM/stroma)
- Noteworthy: Colorectal, GI/stomach, Thyroid/Oropharynx, Pancreas, Ovarian, Lung and Bladder/Urothelial show high expression of FAP in data displayed here
- FAP expression is detected in the tumor cells of sarcomas

Note: inconsistency in FAP expression levels between these studies displayed could be due to sample size, sub-type of disease and stage of disease.



Mona et al. doi: 10.2967/jnumed.121.262426



# Select examples of FAP targeted therapies- non RLT

Note: this is not meant to be a comprehensive list of all FAP targeted non RLT

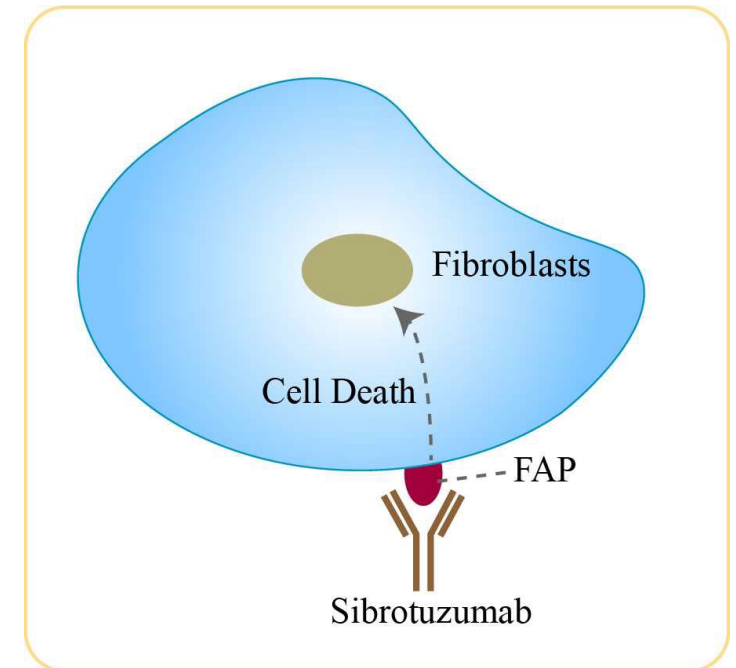


# Targeting FAP

## Antibody

Example: Sibrotuzumab (also known as BIBH 1) is a humanized monoclonal antibody (mAb) with high affinity to bind to fibroblast activation protein (FAP)

- Developed by Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma KG for the treatment of cancer
- Studied as a drug therapeutic for colorectal, non-small cell lung, breast, as well as head and neck cancers
- Results did not show sufficient efficacy in 2003 Phase II study



# Targeting FAP

## Small molecule inhibitors

- Examples include Talabostat and Linagliptin
- Dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitors
- **Talabostat** blocks dipeptidyl peptidases, such as fibroblast activation protein (FAP), resulting in induction of cytokine and chemokine.  
**Promoting immune response.** Studies have been conducted in Phase 2, which demonstrated some clinical response, but safety concerns have halted further investigation
- **Linagliptin** is an approved drug, which has been shown, along with diet and exercise, to lower blood sugar levels in patients with type 2 diabetes





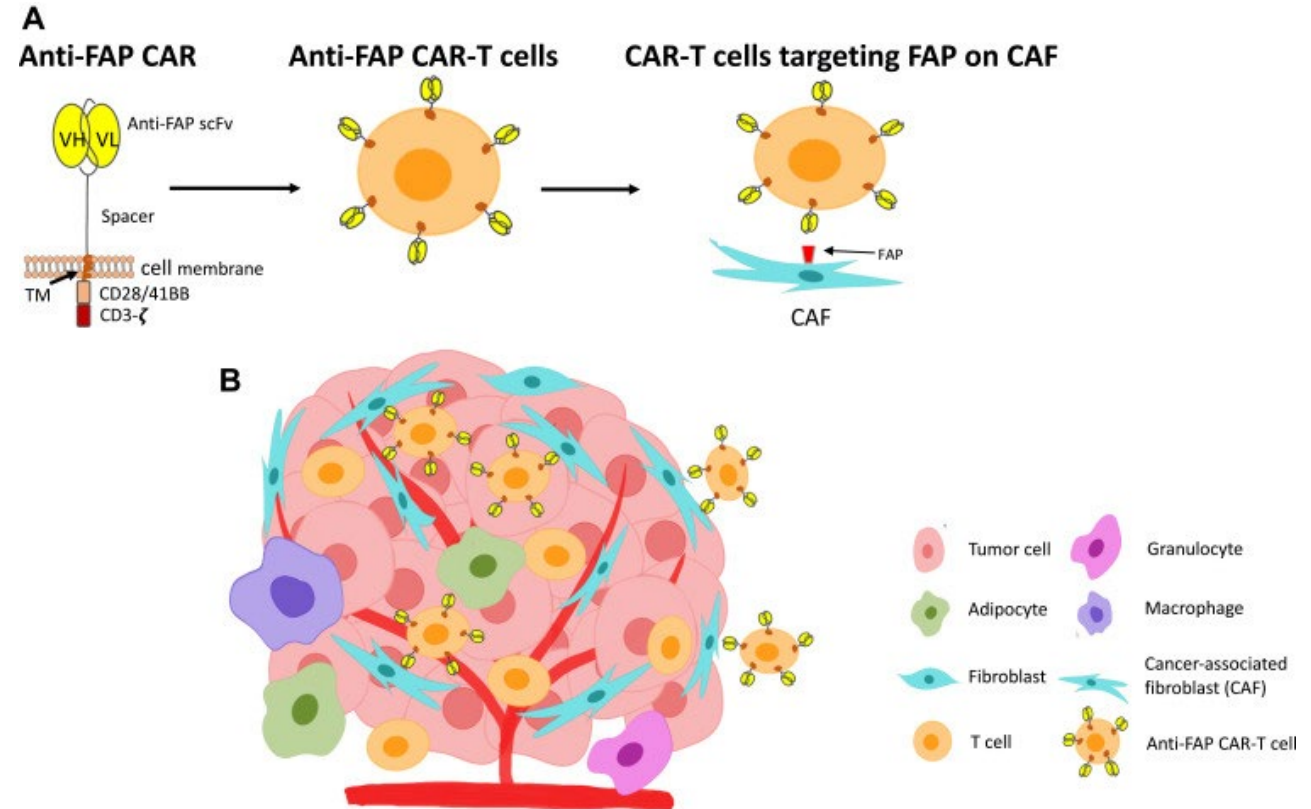
# Targeting FAP

## CAR T cell therapy

FAP-targeting CAR-T cells have been genetically engineered to target CAFs in various solid cancers, such as mesothelioma, lung and pancreatic cancers

Clinical trials are in early stages.  
Examples:

- The Sixth Affiliated Hospital of Wenzhou Medical University
- University of Zurich



10.2147/ITT.S291767

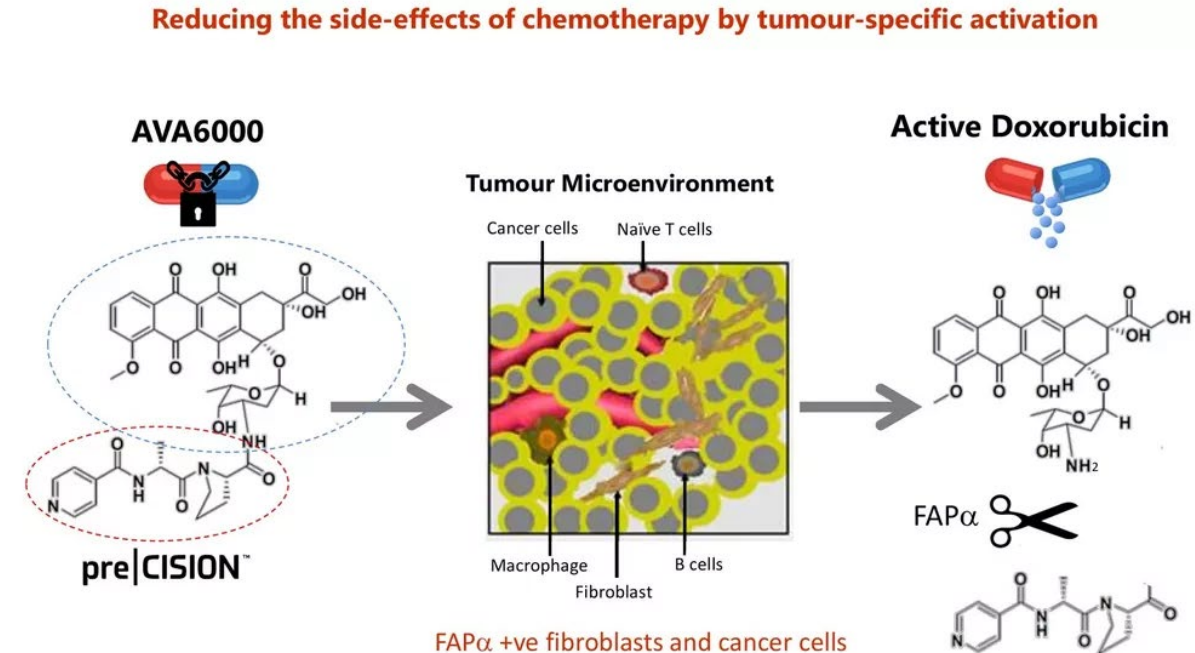


# Targeting FAP

# Prodrugs

Prodrugs are inactive medications that chemicals or enzymes provide targeting by their activation after the medication enters the body.

- Example: AVA6000 – FAP $\alpha$ -Activated Doxorubicin by Avacta Life Sciences
- In its FAP $\alpha$  activated form, the doxorubicin drug moiety is not cell permeable
- In the tumor microenvironment, where the level of the enzyme FAP is substantially higher than elsewhere in the body, the FAP substrate is cleaved and the active doxorubicin drug is released causing a significant differential targeting of tumor compared with healthy tissue
- Phase 1 study- currently active



<https://www.voxmarkets.co.uk/articles/avacta-announces-dose-escalation-in-the-phase-i-clinical-study-of-ava6000-pro-doxorubicin-0c53383/>



## **2. Identify key radiopharmaceuticals involved in FAP targeting**

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# A Tumor-Imaging Method Targeting Cancer-Associated Fibroblasts

Anastasia Loktev\*<sup>1-3</sup>, Thomas Lindner\*<sup>1</sup>, Walter Mier<sup>1</sup>, Jürgen Debus<sup>4,5</sup>, Annette Altmann<sup>1,2</sup>, Dirk Jäger<sup>6</sup>, Frederik Giesel<sup>1</sup>, Clemens Kratochwil<sup>1</sup>, Philippe Barthe<sup>7</sup>, Christian Roumestand<sup>7</sup>, and Uwe Haberkorn<sup>1,2,8</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Nuclear Medicine, University Hospital Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>2</sup>Clinical Cooperation Unit Nuclear Medicine, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>3</sup>Faculty of Biosciences, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>4</sup>Department of Radiation Oncology, University Hospital Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>5</sup>Clinical Cooperation Unit Radiation Oncology, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>6</sup>Department of Medical Oncology, National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT), Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>7</sup>Centre de Biochimie Structurale, Université de Montpellier, CNRS, INSERM, Montpellier, France; and <sup>8</sup>Translational Lung Research Center Heidelberg (TLRC), German Center for Lung Research (DZL), Heidelberg, Germany

**2018-** Identification of **FAP-02** with enhanced binding and uptake in human FAP expressing cells in vitro and mouse models

# Development of Quinoline-Based Theranostic Ligands for the Targeting of Fibroblast Activation Protein

Thomas Lindner\*<sup>1</sup>, Anastasia Loktev\*<sup>1-3</sup>, Annette Altmann<sup>1,2</sup>, Frederik Giesel<sup>1</sup>, Clemens Kratochwil<sup>1</sup>, Jürgen Debus<sup>4,5</sup>, Dirk Jäger<sup>6</sup>, Walter Mier<sup>1</sup>, and Uwe Haberkorn<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Nuclear Medicine, University Hospital Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>2</sup>Clinical Cooperation Unit Nuclear Medicine, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>3</sup>Faculty of Biosciences, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>4</sup>Department of Radiation Oncology, University Hospital Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>5</sup>Clinical Cooperation Unit Radiation Oncology, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany; and <sup>6</sup>Department of Medical Oncology, National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT), Heidelberg, Germany

**2018-** Identification and proof of concept of **FAP-04** with enhanced tumor retention and tumor to blood ratio

# Development of Fibroblast Activation Protein–Targeted Radiotracers with Improved Tumor Retention

Anastasia Loktev<sup>1,2</sup>, Thomas Lindner<sup>1</sup>, Eva-Maria Burger<sup>1</sup>, Annette Altmann<sup>1,2</sup>, Frederik Giesel<sup>1</sup>, Clemens Kratochwil<sup>1</sup>, Jürgen Debus<sup>3,4</sup>, Frederik Marmé<sup>5</sup>, Dirk Jäger<sup>6</sup>, Walter Mier<sup>1</sup>, and Uwe Haberkorn<sup>1,2,7</sup>

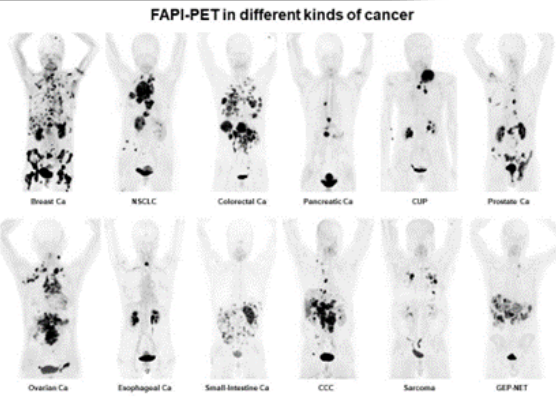
<sup>1</sup>Department of Nuclear Medicine, University Hospital Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>2</sup>Clinical Cooperation Unit Nuclear Medicine, German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>3</sup>Department of Radiation Oncology, University Hospital Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>4</sup>Clinical Cooperation Unit Radiation Oncology, German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>5</sup>Department of Gynecologic Oncology, National Center for Tumor Diseases and Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University Women's Clinic, University Hospital Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>6</sup>Department of Medical Oncology, National Center for Tumor Diseases, Heidelberg, Germany; and <sup>7</sup>Translational Lung Research Center Heidelberg, German Center for Lung Research, Heidelberg, Germany

**2019-** Identification and characterization of **FAP-46** as the lead FAPI theranostic compound with improved tumor to background ratio and tumor retention

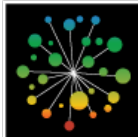
# <sup>68</sup>Ga-FAPI PET/CT: Tracer Uptake in of Cancer

Clemens Kratochwil\*<sup>1</sup>, Paul Flechsig\*<sup>1,2</sup>, Thomas Lindner<sup>1</sup>, Labidi Abderr Sebastian Adeberg<sup>4,5</sup>, Hendrik Rathke<sup>1</sup>, Manuel Röhrich<sup>1</sup>, Hauke Winter<sup>2,6</sup>, Matthias Lang<sup>10</sup>, Hans-Ulrich Kauczor<sup>2,11</sup>, Dirk Jäger<sup>12,13</sup>, Jürgen Debus<sup>4,5</sup>, Frederik L. Giesel<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Nuclear Medicine, University Hospital Heidelberg, Heidelberg, G Heidelberg, German Center for Lung Research, Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>2</sup>Clinical ( Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>3</sup>Department of Radiation Oncology, Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>4</sup>Heidelberg Institute for Radiation Oncology, Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>5</sup>L Hospital Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>6</sup>Department of Otorhinolaryngology,



**2019-** First study of FAPI biodistribution in **eighty patients** with 28 different tumor entities



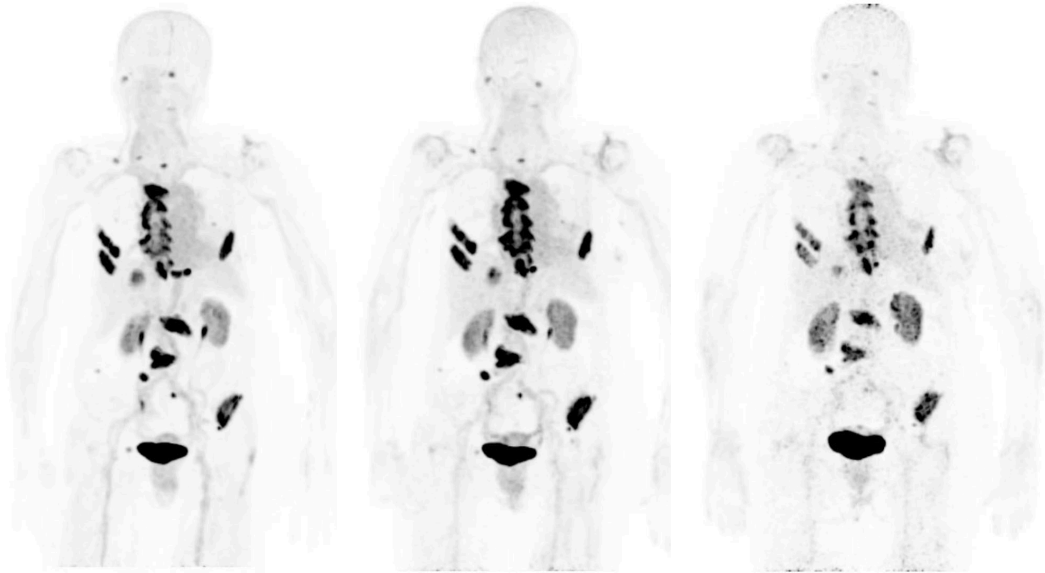
# Kinetics of FAP targeting ligands

Kinetic study with  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -FAPI-02 in a breast cancer patient

10 min

1h

3h



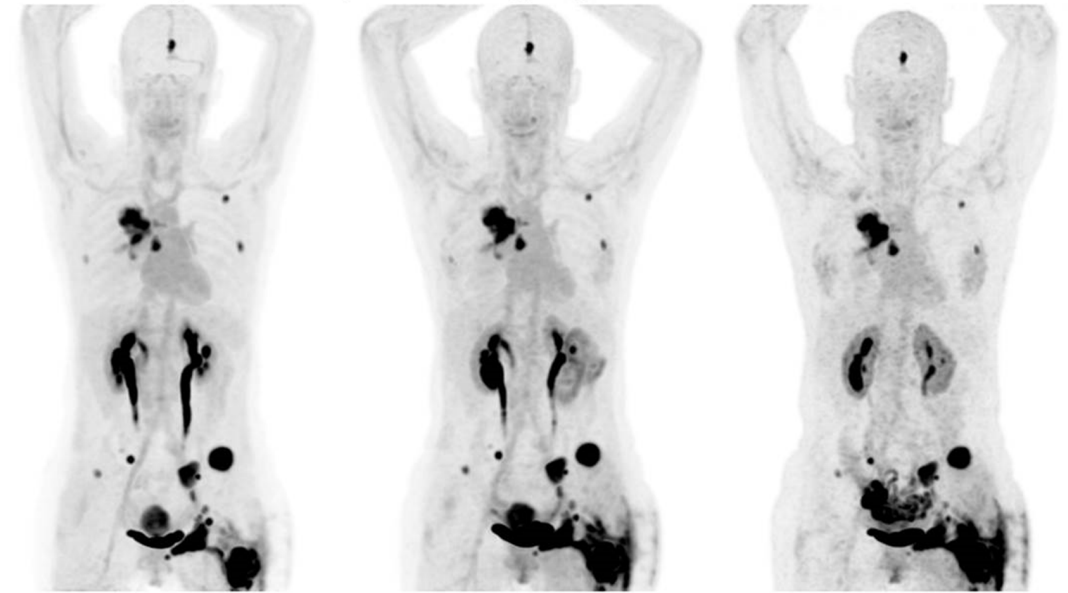
Loktev et., al., JNM 2018, 59: 1423-14209 (Uwe Haberkorn lab, Univ. of Heidelberg)

Kinetic study with  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FAPI-74 in a lung cancer patient

10 min

1h

3h

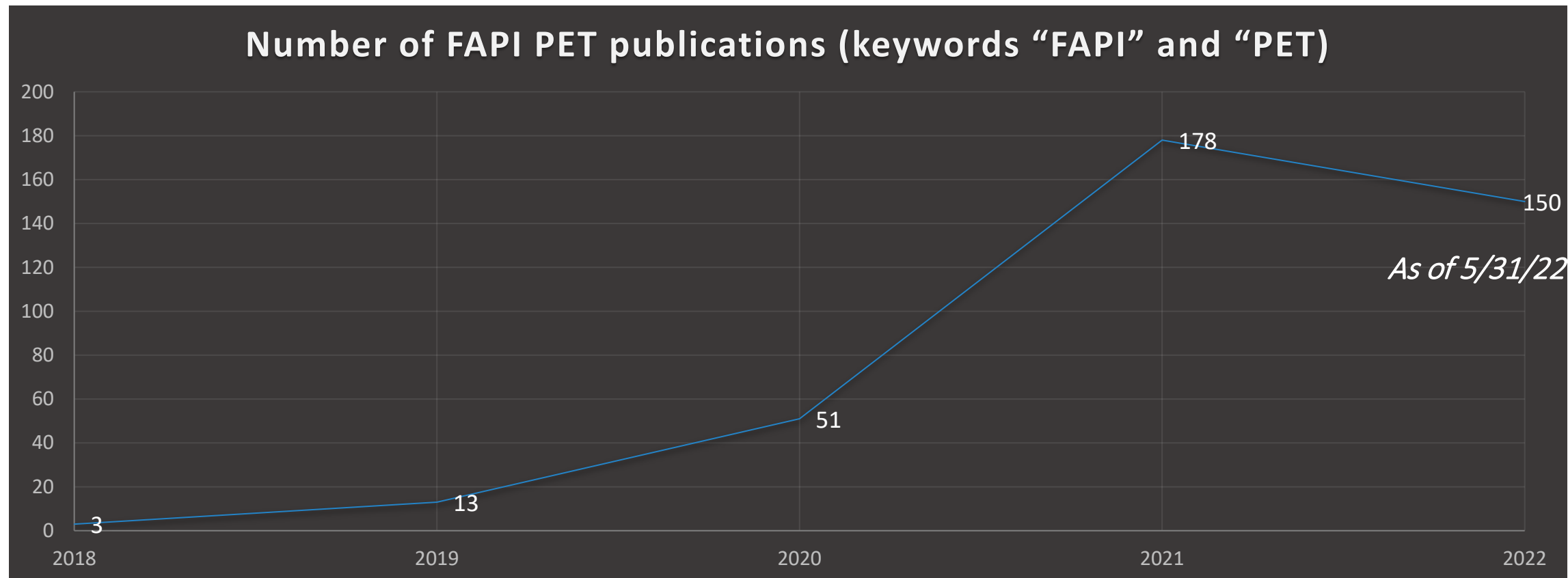


Unpublished. Courtesy of Prof. Giesel. University Hospital Dusseldorf, Germany

Images and publications illustrate the rapid binding of the probe to FAP and rapid clearance from off target tissues



# Mounting interest in FAP targeted radiopharmaceuticals



# Current state of publications

## STATISTICS\*

- Publications: 326
- Oncology
  - Publications: 217
  - Patients reported: 4,915
- Non-oncology
  - Publications: 109
  - Patients reported: 856

## COMPOUNDS

- FAPI family of compounds
- FAPI derivatives
- OncoFAP
- \*\*SA.FAPI compounds
- FAP-2286
- RPS-209

\* Publications as of 5/20/22. Excluding reviews. Using “FAP”, “FAPI” and “PET” as combination of keywords

\*\* SA: squaramide (SA) linker



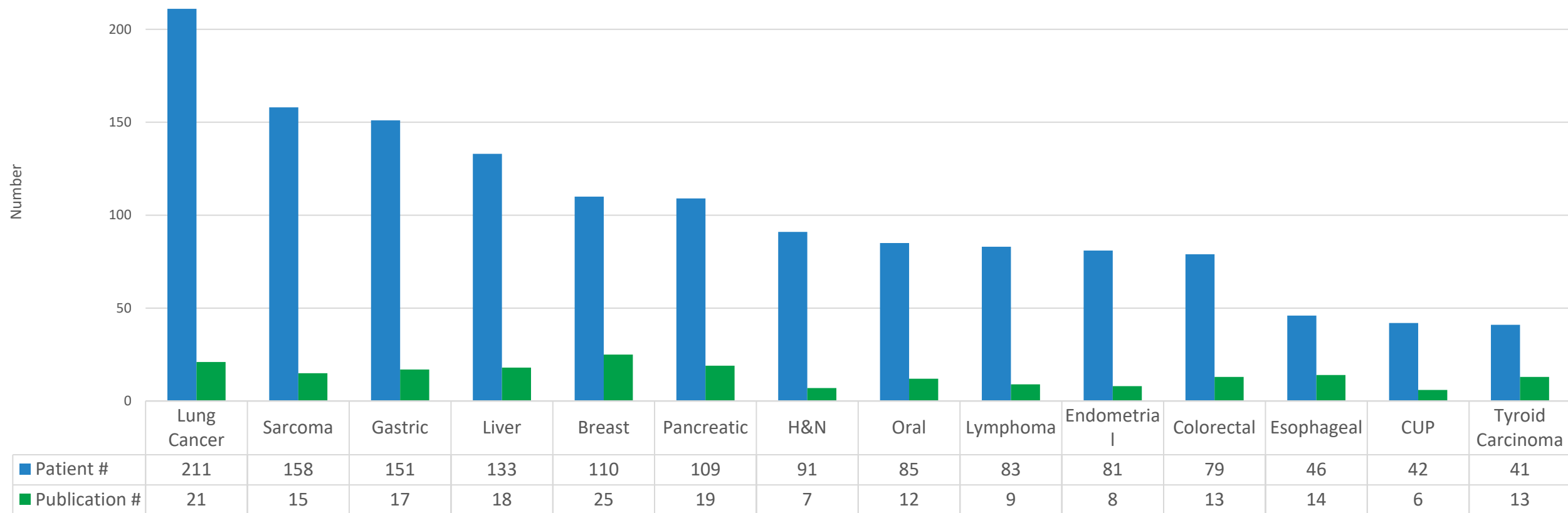
# List of **DIAGNOSTIC** radiopharmaceuticals under investigation & published

## Compounds used for Imaging with published clinical data

- FAPI family
  - $^{68}\text{Ga}$ : FAPI-04, FAPI-46 and FAPI-74
  - $^{18}\text{F}$ : FAPI-74
  - $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ : FAPI-34
- DOTA.(SA.FAPI)<sub>2</sub>
- OncoFAP
- FAP-2286
  - listed under therapy but also has  $^{68}\text{Ga}$  version for imaging

Radionuclide	Inhibitor	Quality of Radiation		Evaluation Phase
		Imaging	Radiotherapy	
$^{18}\text{F}$	FAPI-74	PET	-	Clinical: patients with lung cancer
	Glc-FAPI-04			Preclinical: fibrosarcoma and glioblastoma xenografts
$^{68}\text{Ga}$	FAPI-02	PET	-	Clinical: various cancers
	FAPI-04			Clinical: various cancers
	FAPI-20			Preclinical: fibrosarcoma xenograft
	FAPI-21			Clinical: various cancers
	FAPI-22			
	FAPI-31			Preclinical: fibrosarcoma xenograft
	FAPI-35			
	FAPI-36			
	FAPI-37			Clinical: various cancers
	FAPI-46			
	FAPI-74			Clinical: patients with lung cancer
	DOTA.SA.FAPi			Preclinical: colorectal adenocarcinoma xenograftClinical: various cancer patients
	DATA <sup>5m</sup> .SA.FAPi			Preclinical: in vitro modelsClinical: restaging of tumor manifestation, liver tumor and metastases imaging
	DOTA.(SA.FAPi) <sub>2</sub>			Clinical: patient with thyroid and pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors
	DOTAGA.(SA.FAPi) <sub>2</sub>			
	RPS-309			Preclinical: liposarcoma xenograft
$^{68}\text{Ga}$	Onco-FAP	PET		Clinical: patients with various cancers primarily breast cancer
$^{111}\text{In}$	QCP02	SPECT	-	Preclinical: glioblastoma xenograft
$^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$	FAPI-34	SPECT	-	Clinical: patients with ovarian metastasis and pancreatic cancer

# Cancer indications with more than 40 patients published with FAP radiopharmaceuticals

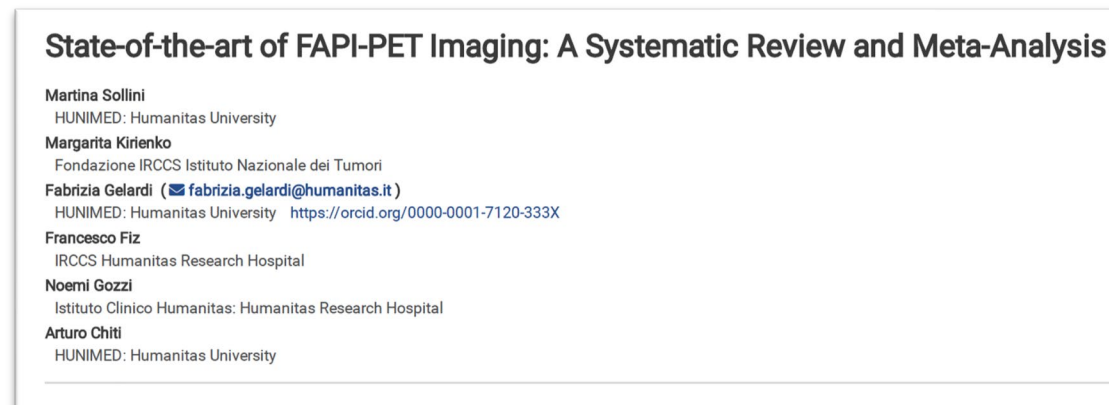
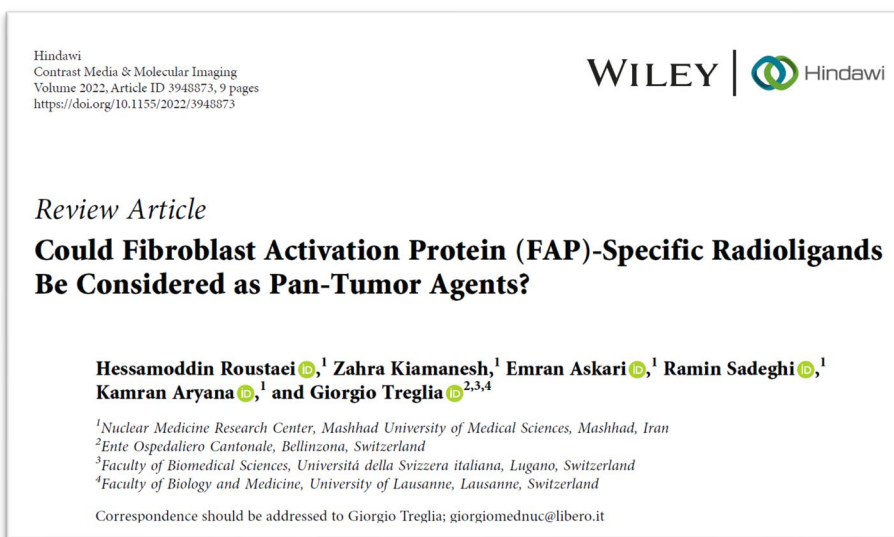
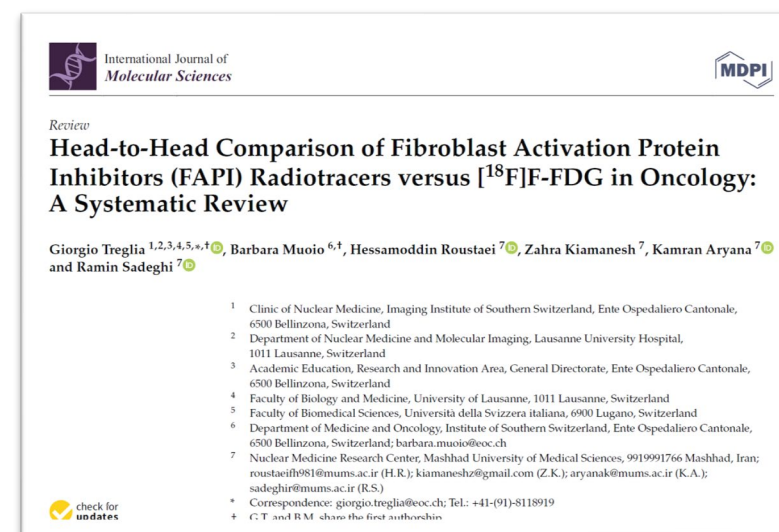
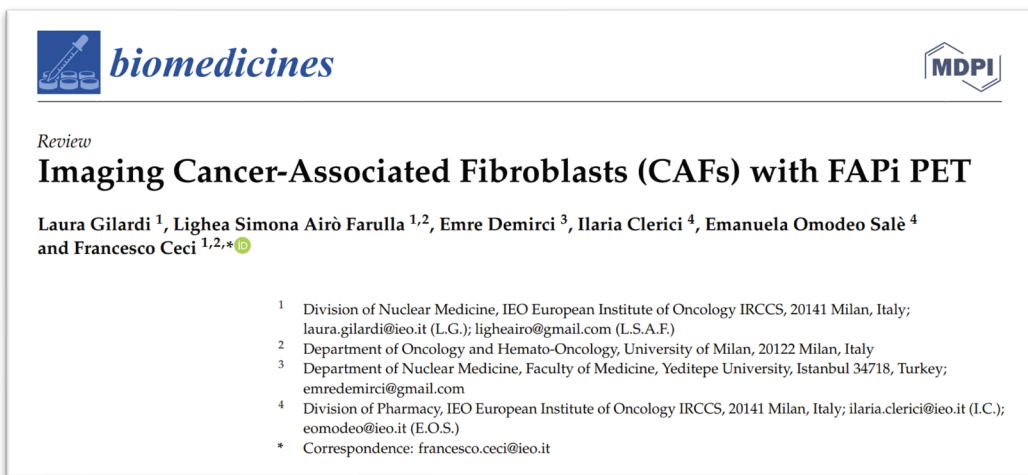


Publications as of 3/18/22. Excluding reviews. Using “FAP”, “FAP” and “PET” as combination of keywords





# Reviews of findings with FAP targeted tracers



Publication review highlights FAPI’s performance compared to FDG in a number of indications (including: **GI, nasopharyngeal**) in primary and metastatic lesion detection

**Table 2.** Oncological setting: Gliomas, primary liver cancer and gastro-entero-pancreatic cancers.

Authors	n of Patients	Tumor Type	Clinical Setting	Injected Activity	Acquisition Timing	Image Analyses	Reference Standard	<sup>68</sup> Ga-FAPI Performance	<sup>18</sup> F-FDG Performance	MRI Performance
Röhrich M et al. [23]	18	Gliomas	Staging, Restaging	150–250 MBq	30 min (FA-Pi04); 10, 60 and 180 min (FAPi-02)	S	MRI	SE 83.3%	-	SE 100%
Windisch P et al. [24]	13	GBM	RT planning	150–250 MBq	30 min	S	MRI	SE 100%	-	SE 100%
Guo W et al. [26]	34	Hepatic nodules	Staging	148–259 MBq	60 min	V, S	HP, imaging follow-up	SE 87.4%	SE 64.9%	-
Şahin E et al. [27]	31	GEP	Staging and follow-up after treatment	2–3 MBq/Kg	45 min	V, S	Imaging follow-up, tumor biomarker findings, HP	SE 93.5% (patient based)	SE 71% (patient based)	-
								SE 95.9% (lesion based)	SE 79.6% (lesion based)	-
								SE 100%	SE 43.8%	-
Pang Y et al. [28]	35	GI tract	Staging, Restaging	1.8–2.2 MBq/Kg	60 min	V, S	HP	T: SE 100%	T: SE 52.6%	-
								N: SE 78.6%, SP 82.1%	N: SE 53.6%, SP 89.3%	-
								M: SE 88.6%, SP 28.6%	M: SE 57.1%, SP 85.7%	-
Jiang D et al. [29]	38	Gastric cancer	Staging	111–185 MBq	60 min	S	HP	T: SE 100%	T: SE 75%	-
								N: SE 60%, SP 92.9%	N: SE 50%, SP 92.9%	-

V, visual analyses; S, semi-quantitative analyses; HP, histopathology; T, primary tumor; N, lymph node(s); M, distant metastases; SE, sensitivity; SP, specificity; GBM, glioblastoma; GEP, gastro-entero-pancreatic; GI tract, gastro-intestinal tract.



Publication review highlights FAPI’s performance compared to FDG in a number of indications (including: **GI, nasopharyngeal**) in primary and metastatic lesion detection

Table 3. Oncological setting: Head and neck cancers.

Authors	<i>n</i> of Patients	Tumor Type	Clinical Setting	Injected Activity	Acquisition Timing	Image Analyses	Reference Standard	<sup>68</sup> Ga-FAPI Performance	<sup>18</sup> F-FDG Performance	MRI Performance
Zhao L et al. [30]	45	Nasopharyngeal carcinoma	Staging, Restaging	1.8–2.2 MBq/Kg	40 min	V, S	HP, imaging follow-up	T: SE 86.7%	T: SE 84.4%	-
								N: SE 95%	N: SE 75.2%	N: SE 97.5%
Qin C et al. [31]	15	Nasopharyngeal carcinoma	Staging, Restaging	1.85–3.7 MBq/Kg	30–60 min	V, S	MRI	T: SE 100%	T: SE 100%	-
								N: SE 48%	N: SE 100%	-
								M: SE 100%	M: SE 0%	-
Chen H et al. [32]	68	Various cancer (13 types)	Staging, Restaging	1.8–2.2 MBq/Kg	60 min	V, S	HP, imaging and clinical follow-up	T: SE 86.4%	-	-
Chen H et al. [33]	75	Various cancer (12 types)	Staging, Restaging	1.8–2.2 MBq/Kg	60 min	V, S	HP	T: SE 98.2%	T: SE 82.1%	-
								N: SE 86.4%, SP 58.8%	N: SE 45.5%, SP 76.5%	-
								M: SE 83.8%, SP 41.7%	M: SE 59.5%, SP 58.3%	-

V, visual analyses; S, semi-quantitative analyses; HP, histopathology; T, primary tumor; N, lymph node(s); M, distant metastases; SE, sensitivity; SP, specificity.

**Table 3.** Main results of the included studies about the comparison among [<sup>18</sup>F]F-FDG and FAPI radiotracers.

Authors	Cancer Evaluated	Significant Higher Uptake of Radiolabeled FAPI Compared to [ <sup>18</sup> F]F-FDG	Significant Higher TBR of Radiolabeled FAPI Compared to [ <sup>18</sup> F]F-FDG	Comparison in the Detection of Primary Tumors	Comparison in the Detection of Metastases
Ballal et al. [10]	Various cancers	only for brain metastases	only for brain metastases	NR	NR
Chen et al. [11]	Various cancers	yes	yes	FAPI > FDG	FAPI > FDG
Chen et al. [12]	Various cancers	yes	yes	FAPI > FDG	FAPI > FDG
Dendl et al. [13]	Gynecological cancers	no	only for distant metastases	NR	NR
Elboga et al. [14]	Breast cancer	yes	NR	FAPI > FDG	FAPI > FDG
Giesel et al. [15]	Various cancers	no	only for liver and bone metastases	NR	NR
Guo et al. [16]	Liver cancer	yes	yes	FAPI > FDG	FAPI > FDG
Jiang et al. [17]	Gastric cancer	no	yes	FAPI > FDG	FAPI = FDG
Kessler et al. [18]	Sarcoma	no	yes	FAPI = FDG	FAPI = FDG
Kömek et al. [19]	Breast cancer	yes	yes	FAPI > FDG	FAPI > FDG
Kreppel et al. [20]	Liver metastases of NETs	yes	NR	NR	FAPI > FDG
Kuten et al. [21]	Gastric cancer	no	yes	FAPI > FDG	FAPI > FDG
Lan et al. [22]	Various cancers	yes	no	FAPI > FDG	FAPI > FDG
Linz et al. [23]	Oral cancer	no	NR	FAPI = FDG	FAPI = FDG
Pang et al. [24]	Gastrointestinal cancers	yes	NR	FAPI > FDG	FAPI > FDG
Qin et al. [25]	Gastric cancer	yes	yes	FAPI > FDG	FAPI > FDG
Qin et al. [26]	Nasopharyngeal cancer	no	NR	FAPI = FDG	FAPI > FDG
Qin et al. [27]	Bone metastases or bone and joint lesions	no	NR	NR	FAPI > FDG
Sahin et al. [28]	Liver metastases of gastrointestinal cancers	no	yes	NR	FAPI > FDG

Authors	Cancer Evaluated	Significant Higher Uptake of Radiolabeled FAPI Compared to [ <sup>18</sup> F]F-FDG	Significant Higher TBR of Radiolabeled FAPI Compared to [ <sup>18</sup> F]F-FDG	Comparison in the Detection of Primary Tumors	Comparison in the Detection of Metastases
Serfling et al. [29]	Suspicious tonsillary tumor or CUP	no	yes	FAPI = FDG	FAPI < FDG
Shi et al. [30]	Liver cancer	yes	yes	FAPI > FDG	FAPI > FDG
Wang et al. [31]	Various cancers	no	yes	FAPI = FDG	FAPI > FDG
Wang et al. [32]	Liver cancer	no	yes	FAPI > FDG	FAPI > FDG
Zhao et al. [33]	Esophageal cancer	yes	NR	NR	NR
Zhao et al. [34]	Peritoneal carcinomatosis	yes	NR	NR	FAPI > FDG
Zhao et al. [35]	Nasopharyngeal cancer	yes	NR	FAPI = FDG	FAPI > FDG

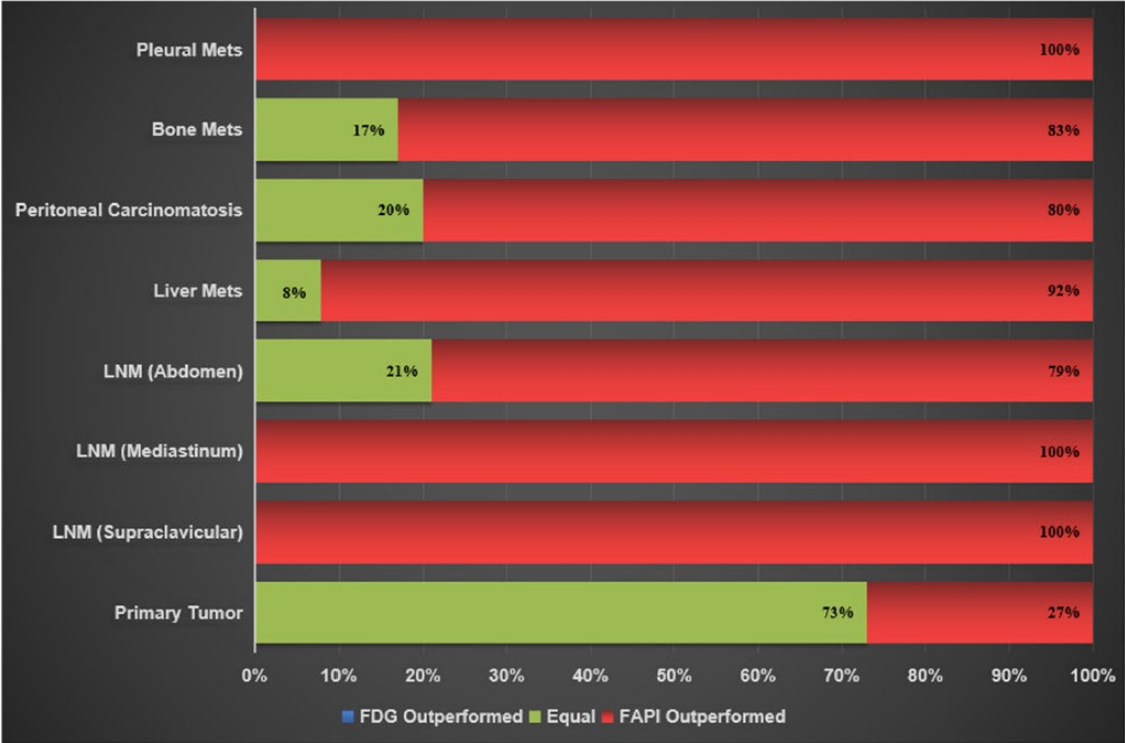
Legend: [<sup>18</sup>F]F = fluorine-18; CT = computed tomography; FAPI = fibroblast activation protein inhibitor; FDG = fluorodeoxyglucose; NR = not reported; PET = positron emission tomography; TBR = tumor-to-background ratio.

- Equal or superior detection performance of FAP targeted radioligands compared to FDG in various cancers
- Preliminary results in the following cancers look promising for detection FAP targeted radioligands:
  - Gastrointestinal (liver, pancreatic, colorectal, gastric etc)
  - Esophageal
  - Head and Neck/CUP
  - Breast
  - Lung
- Seeing superior performance compared to FDG in metastatic lesion detection



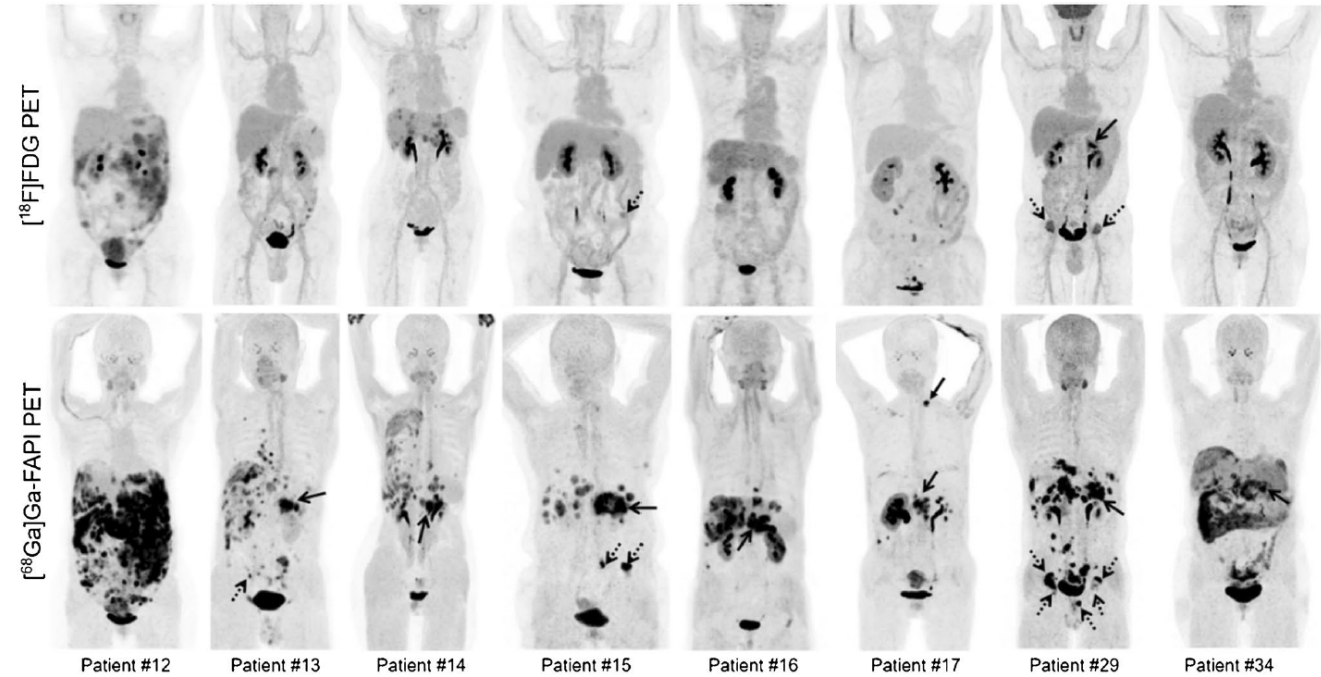
# Examples

# Pancreatic Cancer



Parameters	Primary Tumor	LNM (Supraclavicular)	LNM (Mediastinum)	LNM (Abdomen)	Liver Mets	Peritoneal Carcinomatosis	Bone Mets	Pleural Mets
FAPI Outperformed	7	1	1	11	11	8	5	2
Equal	19	0	0	3	1	2	1	0
FDG Outperformed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Pang et. al, 2021- Positron emission tomography and computed tomography with [68Ga]fibroblast activation protein inhibitors improves tumor detection and staging in patients with pancreatic cancer*



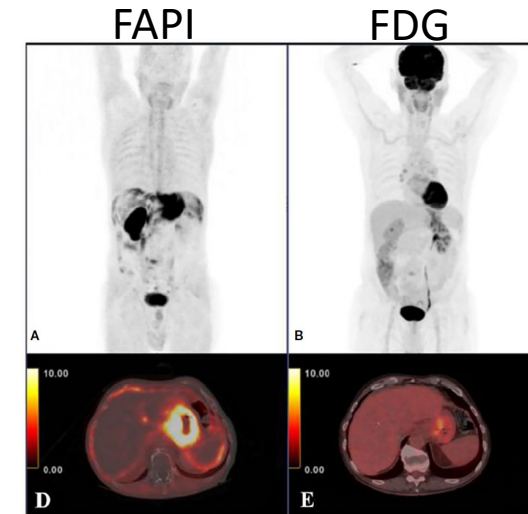
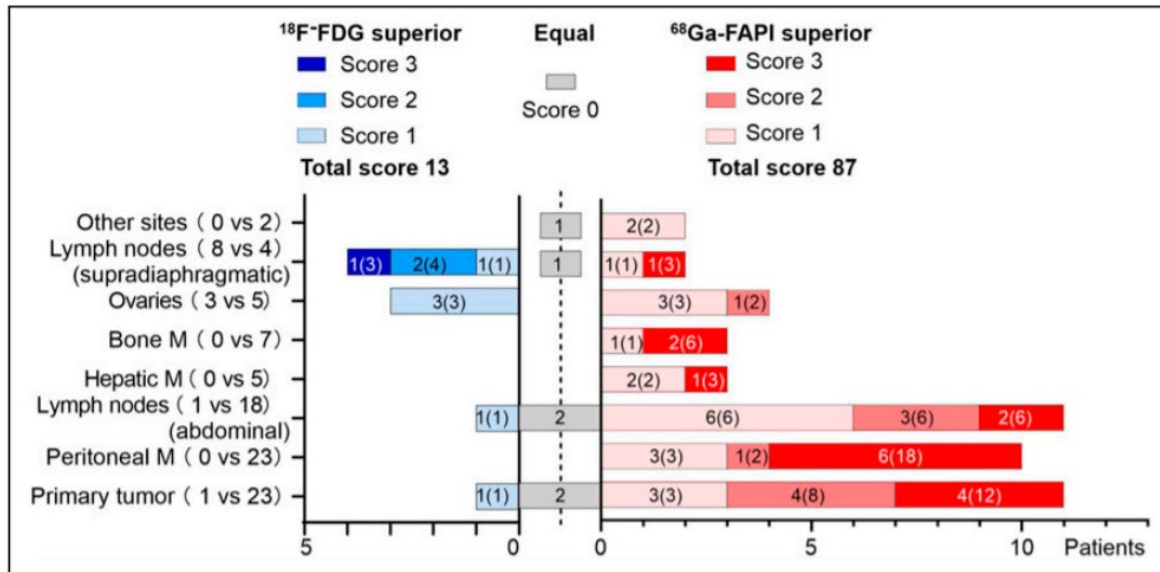


# Gastric Cancer

*Qin et al.  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTA-FAPI-04 PET/MR in the Evaluation of Gastric Carcinomas: Comparison with  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET/CT*

FAPI PET was superior to FDG PET in both patient-based and lesion-based evaluation in primary and metastatic (1 exception highlighted below)

*Kuten et al. Head-to-head comparison of  $[^{68}\text{Ga}]\text{Ga}$ -FAPI-04 and  $[^{18}\text{F}]\text{-FDG}$  PET/CT in evaluating the extent of disease in gastric adenocarcinoma*



Poorly differentiated gastric adenocarcinoma and peritoneal carcinomatosis.



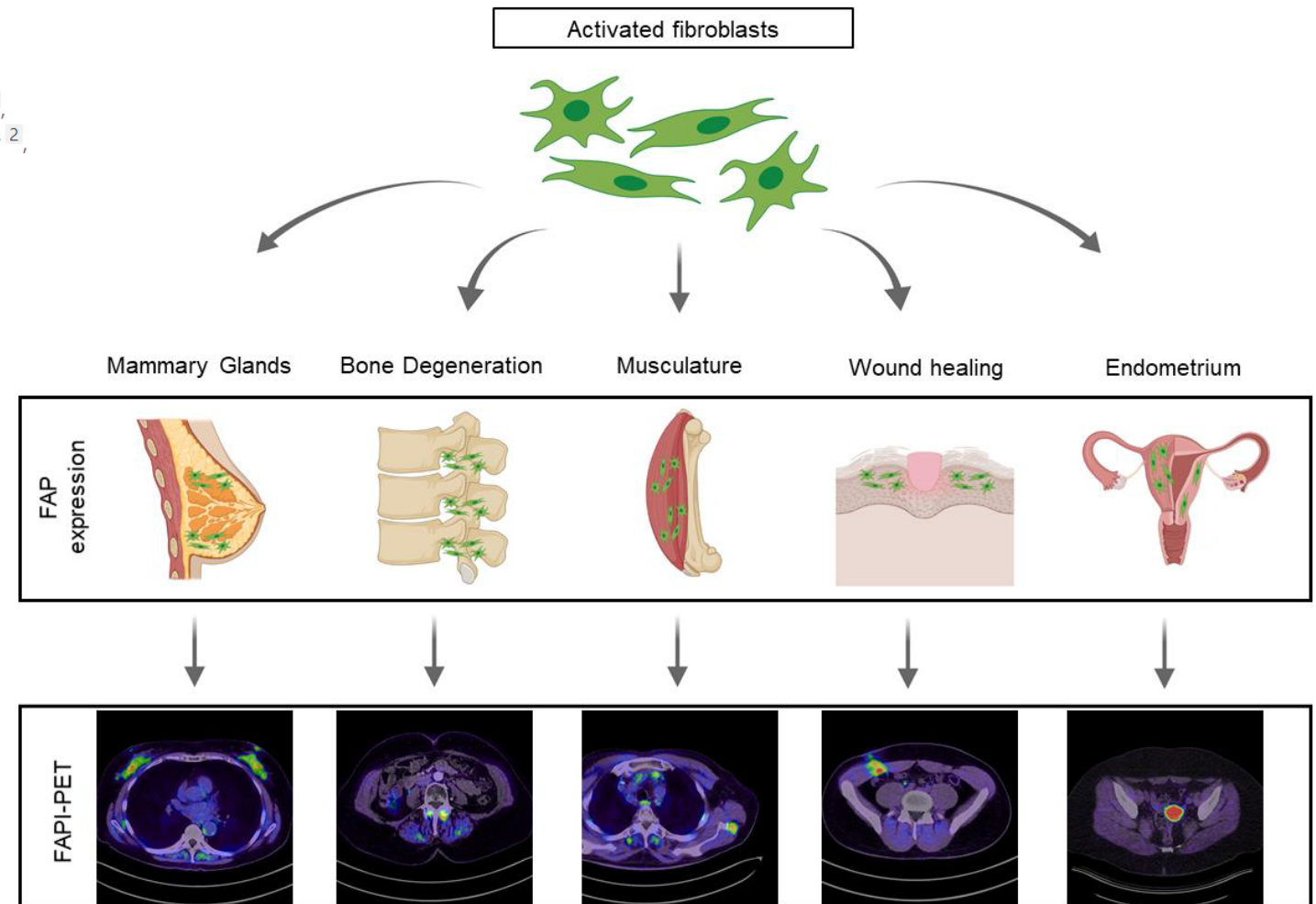
# Pitfalls- Considerations to be made in FAP targeting image interpretations

## Pitfalls and common findings in $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -FAPI-PET – A pictorial analysis

Lukas Kessler<sup>1</sup>, Justin Ferdinandus<sup>1</sup>, Nader Hirmas<sup>1</sup>, Fadi Zarrad<sup>1</sup>, Michael Nader<sup>1</sup>, David Kersting<sup>1</sup>, Manuel Weber<sup>1</sup>, Sandra Kazek<sup>1</sup>, Miriam Sraieb<sup>1</sup>, Rainer Hamacher<sup>2</sup>, Katharina Lueckerath<sup>1</sup>, Lale Umutlu<sup>3</sup>, Wolfgang P Fendler<sup>1</sup>, Christoph Rischpler<sup>1</sup>

### University Hospital Essen

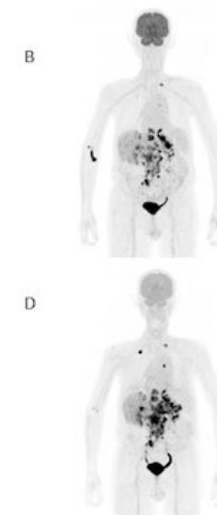
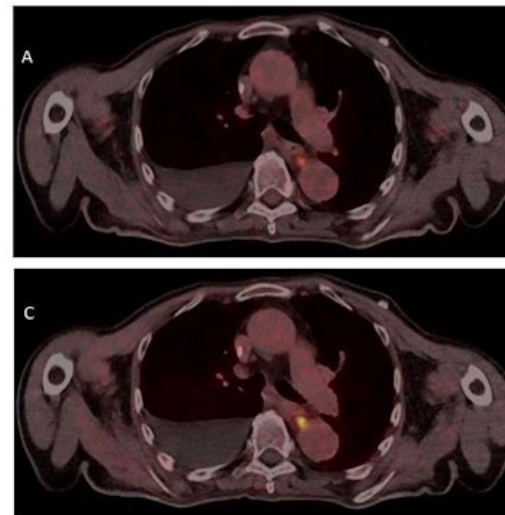
- 91 patients underwent whole-body PET/CT. Findings were rated in a consensus session of two experienced readers
- Non-tumor specific [ $^{68}\text{Ga}$ ]-FAPI uptake in degenerative lesions, muscle, head-and-neck, scarring, mammary glands or uterus
- Common pitfall findings were **degenerative lesions** mostly associated to joints and vertebral bones



# What is to come for FAP targeting in Diagnostics?

- Utility of FAP radiotracers will need to be evaluated in specific indications and tumor state (primary, nodal and distant metastasis) under prospective trials
- Identifying unmet clinical need
- FDG and FAP targeted radiopharmaceuticals image different critical biological processes in tumorigenesis. Each add respective value informing us of biology of disease. Important to focus on biology of disease information provided by each probe

*"We hereby introduce a practicable single session/dual-tracer protocol combining the strengths of two tracers without losing any diagnostic information relevant to cancer staging," wrote first author Dr. Katrin Roth of University Hospital Cologne and colleagues."*



Single-tracer PET/CT with F-18 FDG

Transverse section of fused dual-tracer F-18 FDG and Ga-68 FAPI-46 PET/CT of the same patient





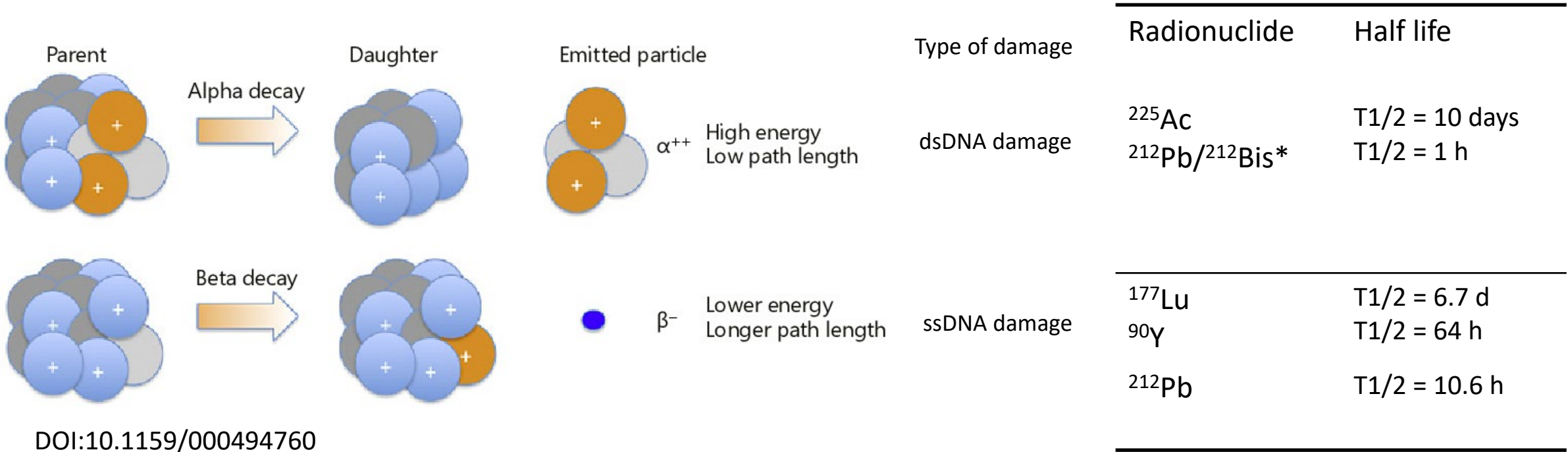
# List of **THERAPEUTIC** radiopharmaceuticals under investigation & published

Compounds used for Radiotherapy with published clinical data

- FAPI family
  - FAPI-46
- FAP-2286
- [177Lu]-DOTAGA.(SA.FAPi) (Nov 2021 publication)

Radionuclide	Inhibitor	Quality of Radiation		Evaluation Phase
		Imaging	Radiotherapy	
<sup>177</sup> Lu	FAPI-02	SPECT	Yes	Preclinical: glioblastoma xenograft
	FAPI-04			Fully automated radiosynthesis unit
	FAPI-46			Preclinical: liposarcoma xenograft
	RPS-309			Preclinical: renal carcinoma and fibrosarcoma xenografts
	OncoFAP			Preclinical: HEK-FAP tumor bearing animalsClinical: Patients with diverse adenocarcinomas
	FAP-2286			
<sup>153</sup> Sm	FAPI-46	Scintigraphy	Yes	Clinical: Patient with lung metastatic, fibrous spindle cell soft tissue sarcoma
<sup>90</sup> Y	FAPI-04	-	Yes	Clinical: metastatic breast cancer patient
				Clinical: patient with metastasized breast and colorectal cancers
	FAPI-46			Clinical: patients with metastatic soft tissue or bone sarcoma, and pancreatic cancer
<sup>225</sup> Ac	FAPI-04	-	Yes	Preclinical: pancreatic cancer xenograft
<sup>64</sup> Cu	FAPI-04	PET	Yes	

# Radioligand therapy: Considerations to be made



DOI:10.1159/000494760

\*<sup>212</sup>Pb, by itself is a β-emitter, but acts as an in vivo generator for its short-lived α-emitting daughters.

- Assessment of RLT utility of FAP targeted radioligands is in early clinical investigation
- Alpha vs beta emission vs both
- Monotherapy vs Combination therapy (RLT followed by non RLT)
- Patient disease state and best course of treatment for the patient

3. Describe the current state of clinical development for **FAP Inhibitors (FAPi)** in diagnostic and companion diagnostic use

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# Evolution of FAPI Family of compounds

To Date

145 studies

88 unique institutions

34 countries

$^{18}\text{F}$ -FAPI-74 and  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -FAPI-46

Development of  
**FAPI-02** and **FAPI-04**  
compounds by University  
Clinic Heidelberg (UKHD)

Investigation of  
FAPI compounds  
in **20+ cancers**

Launch of the  
SOFIE **Global  
Outreach  
Program** for  
FAPI precursor

SOFIE obtained  
an **IND for  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -  
FAPI-46** in PDAC

SOFIE schedules **Pre-  
IND meeting** with FDA  
for  **$^{18}\text{F}$ -FAPI-74** in GI  
cancers

Apr  
2018

Mar  
2019

Apr  
2019

June  
2019

July  
2019

Mar  
2021

Nov  
2021

May  
2022

June  
2022

Development of  
**FAPI-46** with  
improved tumor  
retention as a  
theranostic agent

**SOFIE licensed  
FAPI** compounds  
from UKHD

**Novartis** acquired  
**therapeutic**  
global rights for  
FAPI compound.  
**SOFIE** retained  
**diagnostic** global  
rights

**NYU** as first clinical trial  
site activated for  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -  
FAPI-46 in US under IND

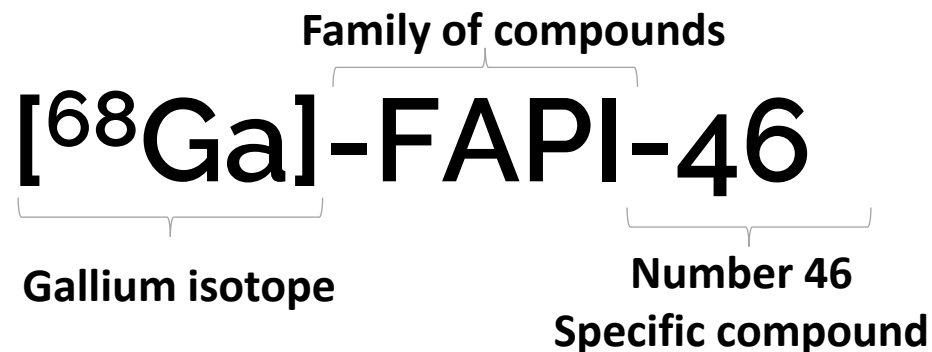


# SOFIE's Product Pipeline

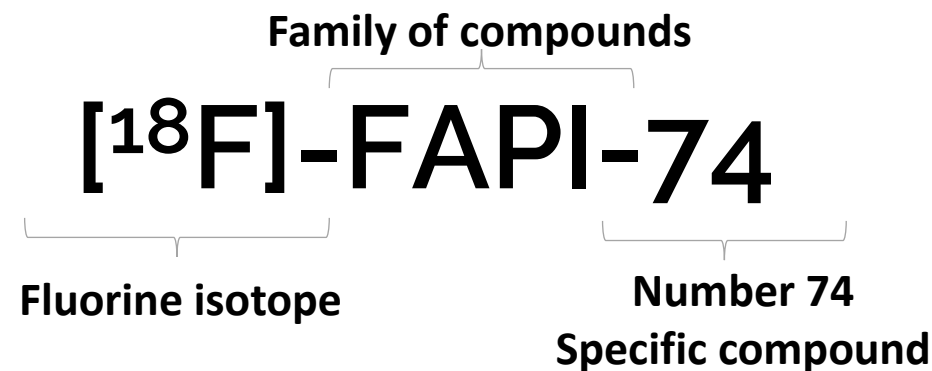
Product	Indication	Pre-Clinical	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
SOFIE Sponsored Clinical Research program					
[ <sup>18</sup> F]-FAPI-74	Gastrointestinal Cancers	Pre-IND in support of Phase 2 scheduled			
[ <sup>68</sup> Ga]-FAPI-46	Pancreatic Cancer	Phase 2 initiated			

SOFIE FAPI Global Outreach Program: 140+ Investigator Initiated Studies being conducted by 80+ sites globally					
[ <sup>18</sup> F]-FAPI-74	Oncology	✓	✓	✓	
[ <sup>68</sup> Ga]-FAPI-46					
[ <sup>18</sup> F]-FAPI-74	Non-Oncology: Fibrosis Inflammation Cardiovascular	✓	✓	✓	
[ <sup>68</sup> Ga]-FAPI-46					





- Lead **gallium** labeled compound.
- DOTA chelator in the molecular structure allows coupling of the FAPI molecules for theranostic use
- SOFIE has obtained an **IND** for [<sup>68</sup>Ga]-FAPI-46 for a Phase 2 study
- A **Phase 2**, Multicenter, Single Arm, Open Label, Non-Randomized Study of [<sup>68</sup>Ga]FAPI-46 PET in Patients with Resectable or Borderline Resectable **Pancreatic Ductal Carcinoma**
- Total number of patients: **60**
- Study launch: **May 2022**
- First site activated: **NYU**



- Lead **Fluorine 18** compound
- Allows for broader applicability of FAPI PET through 18-F radiolabeling
  - Established supply chain with higher level of supply capacity with convenience to imaging practices
  - Provides advantage of a longer half life (2 hours)
  - Meeting the capacity to support larger studies with high patient throughput
- **Automated synthesis** consumables available through Trasis for MiniAIO and AIO
- Pre-IND meeting scheduled with FDA for **July 2022**
- IND enabling data completed



## SOFIE's FAPI Global Outreach Program

- 34 Countries
- 140+ research studies
- Studies include: Chemistry, pre-clinical, clinical, oncology and non-oncology
- 80+ unique institutions
- Compounds: [ $^{18}\text{F}$ ]-FAPI-74 and [ $^{68}\text{Ga}$ ]-FAPI-46

# SOFIE's FAPI Global Outreach Program

Gain access to GMP grade precursor and reference standard in support of investigator-initiated trial

Technical manufacturing assistance to get the sites started

Cross Reference to SOFIE's IND(s) or IND content to pursue investigator-initiated trial

Allows sites to expand their research program and grant opportunities

## Process for access to FAPI precursor

Introductory Call



Application Completion



Application Approval



MTA Signature



Material Shipment







**Advancement drives us.  
Purpose compels us.**

SOFIE's vision is to improve patient outcomes by developing and delivering molecular diagnostics and therapeutics (theranostics).

With our robust radiopharmaceutical production and distribution network, mature contract manufacturing services in a new, 20,000 ft<sup>2</sup> facility in New Jersey and FAPI intellectual property, we are poised to deliver on the promise of theranostics.





# SNMMI Annual Meeting 2022

## June 11 - June 14

6:30–8:30 pm PDT



### FAP Ligands for Imaging and Therapy

FAP (fibroblast activation protein) as a diagnostic and therapeutic target for radiopharmaceuticals has seen many advances in recent years. This special session will bring together researchers and industry sponsors to discuss the latest progress in this space.

[Click here for SOFIE FAPI Flyer.](#)

#### **Moderators:**

*Professor Ken Herrmann, MD, MBA, University Hospital Essen*

*Professor Johannes Czernin, MD, University of California, Los Angeles*

#### **Speakers:**

*Professor Frederik L. Giesel, MD, MBA, University Hospital Düsseldorf, Germany*

*Associate Professor Jeremie Calais, MD, MSc, University of California, Los Angeles*

*Professor Thomas Hope, MD, University of California, San Francisco*

*Robin Hallett, PhD, VP Discovery and Translational Sciences, POINT Biopharma*

*Sherly Mosessian, PhD, Chief Scientific Officer, SOFIE Biosciences*

*Elcin Zan, MD, Director, Nuclear Theranostics, New York University*

*Curt Wolfgang, PhD, VP, Clinical Development, Clovis Oncology*

Visit SOFIE at the upcoming meeting from June 11 – 14, 2022 in Vancouver, Canada at Booth #319.

FAP Satellite Symposium at SNMMI – Sunday, June 12, 2022 from 6:30–8:30 pm PDT

Questions? Reach out to me at [Sherly.Mosessian@sofie.com](mailto:Sherly.Mosessian@sofie.com)

