

# The Opening Ceremony of the Radiopharmaceuticals Production and Research Centre at the Heavy Ion Laboratory of the University of Warsaw, May 15, 2012 Followed by an International Conference PETRAD2012

Two important events happened at the Heavy Ion Laboratory of the University of Warsaw in May this year. First, on May 15 the new Radiopharmaceuticals Production and Research Centre (RPRC) was inaugurated by the Rector Elect, Prof. Marcin Palys. The construction of this Centre, located on the premises of the Laboratory, was supported by grants from the Ministry of Sciences, International Atomic Energy Agency, Ministry of Health and European Structural Funds. General Electric Medical System Company was the main contractor for the adaptation of the building and the provision of the PETtrace proton/deuteron cyclotron together with the FDG production line.

The cyclotron of the RPRC is the second accelerator operated by the Laboratory, where the first machine, accelerating heavy ions, was launched in 1993 for fundamental research in nuclear physics and its applications. The existence of an excellent accelerator construction and operation team together with a nearby Nuclear Medicine Department at the Warsaw Medical University Clinical Hospital was the main rationale for the development of the Laboratory into the domain of medical radioisotope and radiopharmaceuticals production.

Besides the 100 micro-Amperes proton machine, the new Centre disposes of two adjacent laboratories equipped with hot cells, radiopharmaceutical synthesizers and dispensers. The first



**Figure 1.** Opening ceremony guests

Laboratory is devoted to the routine, every-day production of the most classic PET radiopharmaceutical: fluoro-deoxy-glucose (FDG) with the intention to be the supplier of at least the Warsaw PET cameras. The second Laboratory is intended to perform research on new innovative radiopharmaceuticals and to produce radiopharmaceuticals based on  $^{11}\text{C}$  for pre-clinical research at the neighboring Nuclear Medicine Department. The production of  $^{15}\text{O}$



Figure 2. Opening ceremony guests



Figure 3. GE PETtrace p/d cyclotron



Figure 4. Hot cells in the Research Laboratory [photos: Grzegorz Krzyżewski]

is also considered for perfusion research at this Department. To this end, however, a capillary underground connection between the two Laboratories will need to be constructed. The well equipped Quality Control Laboratory completes the RPRC facility.

During the opening ceremony, attended by more than a hundred of participants from Warsaw, elsewhere in Poland and abroad, group visits were organized, allowing our guests to become acquainted not only with the new Centre but also with the whole Laboratory with its large, heavy ion accelerator and experimental stations.

On the evening of the following day a Get Together party for the participants of the Positron Emission Tomography in Research

and Diagnostics (PETRAD2012) International Conference was organized in the Laboratory Building. The Conference was opened on May 17 and lasted till mid-day of May 19. 140 Conference participants came from 29 different countries, both within Europe and further afield. They heard 14 invited talks presented by world class specialists in Positron Emission Tomography and a number of contributed communications. They also could attend the Poster Session and select three best posters for the oral presentation. (see Nuclear Medicine Review Vol. 15, Supplement A for the Conference Abstracts). The Conference Proceedings will be published as a Supplement to NMR.

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