



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Pharmacy and
Pharmaceutical Sciences

U.S. Transuranium and Uranium Registries: 2010 – 2022 Research Accomplishments and Collaborative Efforts

Sergey Y. Tolmachev, Research Professor & Director

United States Transuranium and Uranium Registries

1845 Terminal Drive, Suite 201, Richland, WA 99354

www.ustur.wsu.edu



National Plutonium Registry: Blue Ribbon Committee (1968)



Standing left to right: Carlos E. Newton, Jr., W. Daggett Norwood, H.D. Bruner, Philip A. Fuqua
Seated left to right: Thomas F. Mancuso, J.H. Sterner, Robley D. Evans, Herbert M. Parker
Not photographed: Clarence C. Lushbaugh, Lloyd M. Joshel



USTUR Mission: Then and Now

- Initial mission was *“to protect the interests of workers, employees, and the public by ... the acquisition and provision of the latest and most precise information about the effects of the transuranic elements on man”*
- By the end of 1970s, the mission of the Registries moved away from epidemiology
- Today’s mission is to follow up occupationally exposed workers by studying the biokinetics and tissue dosimetry of the actinides



USTUR Registrants

Individuals with documented history of exposure to the actinides

- Selection criteria: ≥ 2 nCi (internal deposition) or ≥ 10 rem (external)
- Mainly former nuclear workers from DOE sites
- Voluntary tissue donors (posthumous):

whole- (48) and/or partial-body (317) donations

WANTED

UNITED STATES
ACTINIDE AND URANIUM REGISTRY

"GANG OF FOUR" NANOCURIES

Anyone who has potential for transuranium deposition ≥ 4 nCi

Health Physicists

To provide registry information to potential donors

The Registries

- ADMINISTERED BY HANFORD ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION
- FUNDED THROUGH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
- VOLUNTARY HUMAN TISSUE PROGRAM
- DOCUMENTED ACTINIDE DEPOSITIONS

Goals

- ESTABLISH NATIONAL DATA BANK
- COMPARE PREMORTEM ESTIMATES WITH TISSUE ANALYSIS
- EVALUATE BIODYNAMIC MODELS
- CORRELATE WITH EXPERIMENTAL DATA
- ASSESS RADIATION PROTECTION STANDARDS

Results

- IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN ACTINIDE METABOLISM
- ENHANCED OCCUPATIONAL RADIOLOGICAL SAFETY

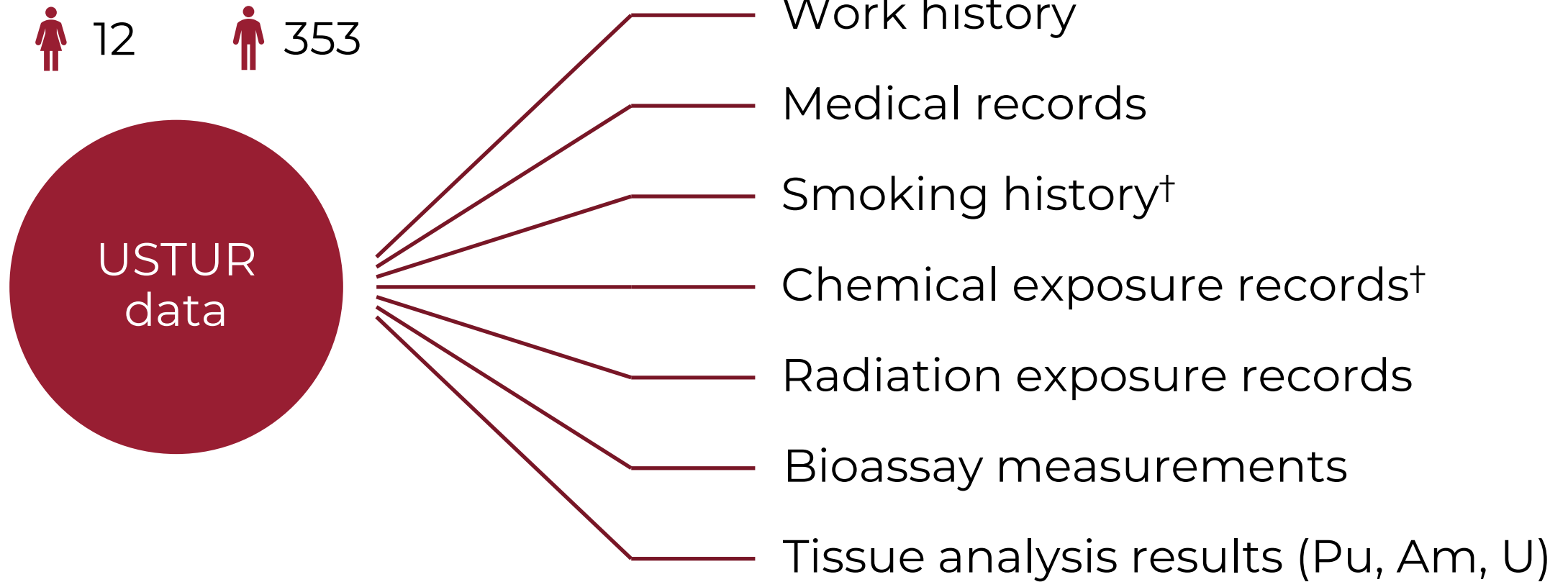
UR
UNITED STATES
URANIUM REGISTRY

We're Looking for URANIUM

Likely Sites:
LUNG-BONE-KIDNEY



Unique Data Resource



† - self-reported



Actinide Decorporation Modeling



- Bastian Breustedt (KIT): sabbatical at the USTUR (2011)

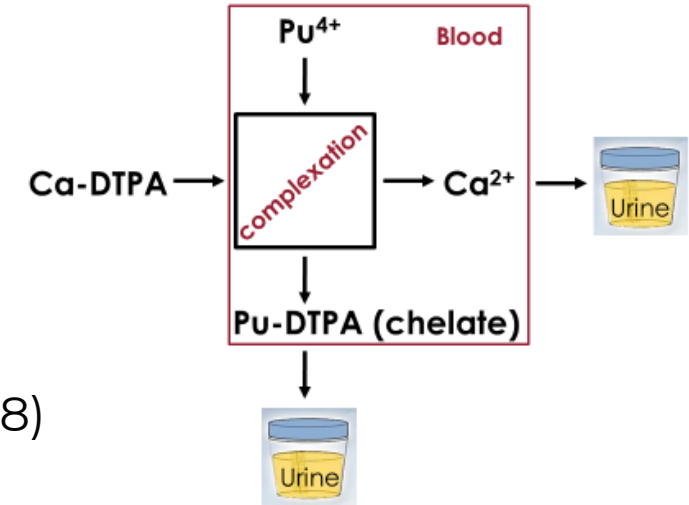
Paper

USTUR CASE 0846: MODELING AMERICIUM BIOKINETICS AFTER INTENSIVE DECORPORATION THERAPY

Bastian Breustedt,¹ Maia Avtandilashvili,² Stacey L. McComish,² and Sergei Y. Tolmachev²

Abstract—Decorporation therapy with salts of diethylenetriamine-pentaacetic acid binds actinides, thereby limiting uptake to organs and enhancing the rate at which actinides are excreted in urine. *International Commission on Radiological Protection, Protection of the Environment, Health Physics*, 117(2):168–178; 2019

Key words: ²⁴¹Am; biokinetics; Ca-DTPA; US Transuranium and Uranium Registries



- Sara Dumit (WSU): PhD at the USTUR (2015 – 2018)

Paper

EVALUATING PLUTONIUM INTAKE AND RADIATION DOSE FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE CHELATION TREATMENT

Sara Dumit, Maia Avtandilashvili, and Sergei Y. Tolmachev¹

Abstract—A voluntary partial-body donor (US Transuranium and Uranium Registries case 0785) was accidentally exposed to ²³⁹Pu via inhalation and wounds. This individual underwent medical treatment including wound excision and extensive chelation

approximately a 50% drop on day 5. The half-time of plutonium ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid complex removal in urine was evaluated to be 1.4 d.

Health Phys. 117(2):156–167; 2019

Radiation Protection Dosimetry (2018), Vol. 178, No. 2, pp. 160–169
Advance Access publication 7 July 2017

doi:10.1093/rpd/nex092

USTUR WHOLE-BODY CASE 0212: 17-YEAR FOLLOW-UP OF PLUTONIUM CONTAMINATED WOUND

Maia Avtandilashvili*, Sara Dumit and Sergei Y. Tolmachev
US Transuranium and Uranium Registries, Washington State University, 1845 Terminal Drive, Suite 201, Richland, WA 99354-4959, USA

Radiation and Environmental Biophysics (2019) 58:227–235
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00411-018-00773-y>

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

CrossMark

Validation of a system of models for plutonium decorporation therapy

Sara Dumit^{1,2} · Maia Avtandilashvili¹ · Stacey L. McComish¹ · Daniel J. Strom¹ · George Tabatadze¹ · Sergei Y. Tolmachev¹

RADIATION RESEARCH **191**, 201–210 (2019)
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DOI: 10.1667/RR15188.1

Improved Modeling of Plutonium-DTPA Decorporation

Sara Dumit,¹ Maia Avtandilashvili, Daniel J. Strom, Stacey L. McComish, George Tabatadze and Sergei Y. Tolmachev

U.S. Transuranium and Uranium Registries, Washington State University, Richland, Washington 99354-4959



Human Respiratory Tract Model: Plutonium Bound Fraction



Anthony C James (USTUR)

Radiation Protection Dosimetry (2007), Vol. 127, No. 1–4, pp. 449–455
Advance Access publication 28 January 2008

doi:10.1093/rpd/nem473

USTUR WHOLE BODY CASE 0269: DEMONSTRATING EFFECTIVENESS OF I.V. CA-DTPA FOR PU

A. C. James^{1,*}, L. B. Sasser¹, D. B. Stuit¹, S. E. Glover² and E. H. Carbaugh³
¹US Transuranium and Uranium Registries, College of Pharmacy, Washington State University, 1845 Terminal Drive, Suite 201, Richland, WA 99354, USA
²Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Nuclear Engineering, University of Cincinnati, 598 Rhodes Hall, Cincinnati, OH 45221, USA
³Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, PO Box 999, Richland, WA 99354, USA



Alan Birchall (PHE, UK)

Paper

THE IMPORTANCE AND QUANTIFICATION OF PLUTONIUM BINDING IN HUMAN LUNGS

Alan Birchall,^{1,4} Matthew Puncher,^{2,4} Alan Hodgson,² and Sergei Y. Tolmachev³

Abstract—Epidemiological studies have shown that the main risk arising from exposure to plutonium aerosols is lung cancer, with

Health Phys. 117(2):133–142; 2019

Key words: dosimetry, internal; inhalation; lungs, human;



Matthew Puncher (PHE, UK)

Radiation Protection Dosimetry (2017), Vol. 176, No. 1-2, pp. 50–61
Advance Access publication 24 April 2016

doi:10.1093/rpd/ncw083

THE MAYAK WORKER DOSIMETRY SYSTEM (MWDS 2013): A RE-ANALYSIS OF USTUR CASE 0269 TO DETERMINE WHETHER PLUTONIUM BINDS TO THE LUNGS

M. Puncher^{1,*}, A. Birchall² and S. Y. Tolmachev³
¹Department of Toxicology, Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards, Public Health England, Chilton, Didcot OX11 0RQ, UK
²Global Dosimetry, Didcot, Oxon, UK
³US Transuranium and Uranium Registries, College of Pharmacy, Washington State University, 1845 Terminal Drive, Suite 201, Richland, WA 99354, USA

Radiation Protection Dosimetry (2017), Vol. 176, No. 1-2, pp. 45–49
Advance Access publication 10 June 2016

doi:10.1093/rpd/ncw11

THE MAYAK WORKER DOSIMETRY SYSTEM (MWDS 2013): SOLUBLE PLUTONIUM RETENTION IN THE LUNGS OF AN OCCUPATIONALLY EXPOSED USTUR CASE

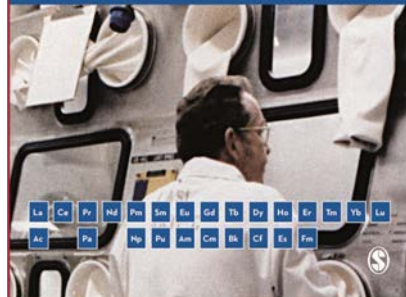
S. Y. Tolmachev^{1,*}, C. E. Nielsen², M. Avtandjashvili¹, M. Puncher³, F. Martinez¹, E. M. Thomas¹, F. L. Miller¹, W. F. Morgan^{4,†} and A. Birchall⁵
¹US Transuranium and Uranium Registries, College of Pharmacy, Washington State University, 1845 Terminal Drive, Suite 201, Richland, WA 99354, USA
²Mission Support Alliance, Richland, WA 99352, USA
³Department of Toxicology, Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards, Public Health England, Chilton, Didcot OX11 0RQ, UK
⁴Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, USA
⁵Global Dosimetry, Didcot, Oxon, UK

ANNALS OF THE
ICRP

PUBLICATION 141

Occupational Intakes of
Radionuclides: Part 4

VOLUME 48 NO. 2-3, 2019 ISSN 0145-6453 • ISBN 9780203700749



Human Respiratory Tract Model: Scar Tissue



Deepesh Poudel (LANL)

Paper

Long-term Retention of Plutonium in the Respiratory Tracts of Two Acutely-exposed Workers: Estimation of Bound Fraction

Deepesh Poudel,¹ Maia Avtandilashvili,² Luiz Bertelli,¹ John A. Klumpp,¹ and Sergei Y. Tolmachev²

Journal of Radiological Protection

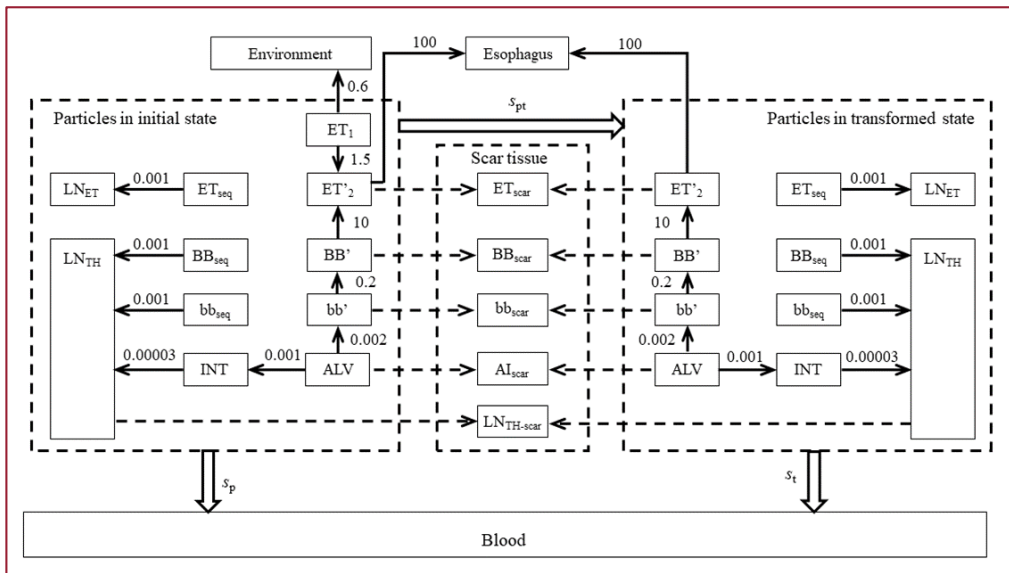
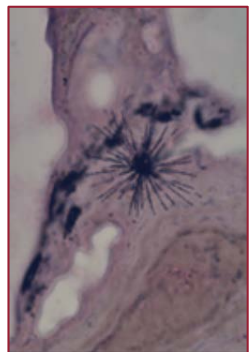
IOP Publishing | Society for Radiological Protection
J. Radiol. Prot. 41 (2021) 940–961 (22pp) <https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6498/abca49>

Modelling of long-term retention of high-fired plutonium oxide in the human respiratory tract: importance of scar-tissue compartments

Deepesh Poudel^{1,*}, Maia Avtandilashvili², John A Klumpp¹, Luiz Bertelli¹ and Sergei Y Tolmachev²

¹ Radiation Protection Division, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM, United States of America
² U.S. Transuranium and Uranium Registries, Washington State University, Richland, WA, United States of America

E-mail: dpoudel@lanl.gov



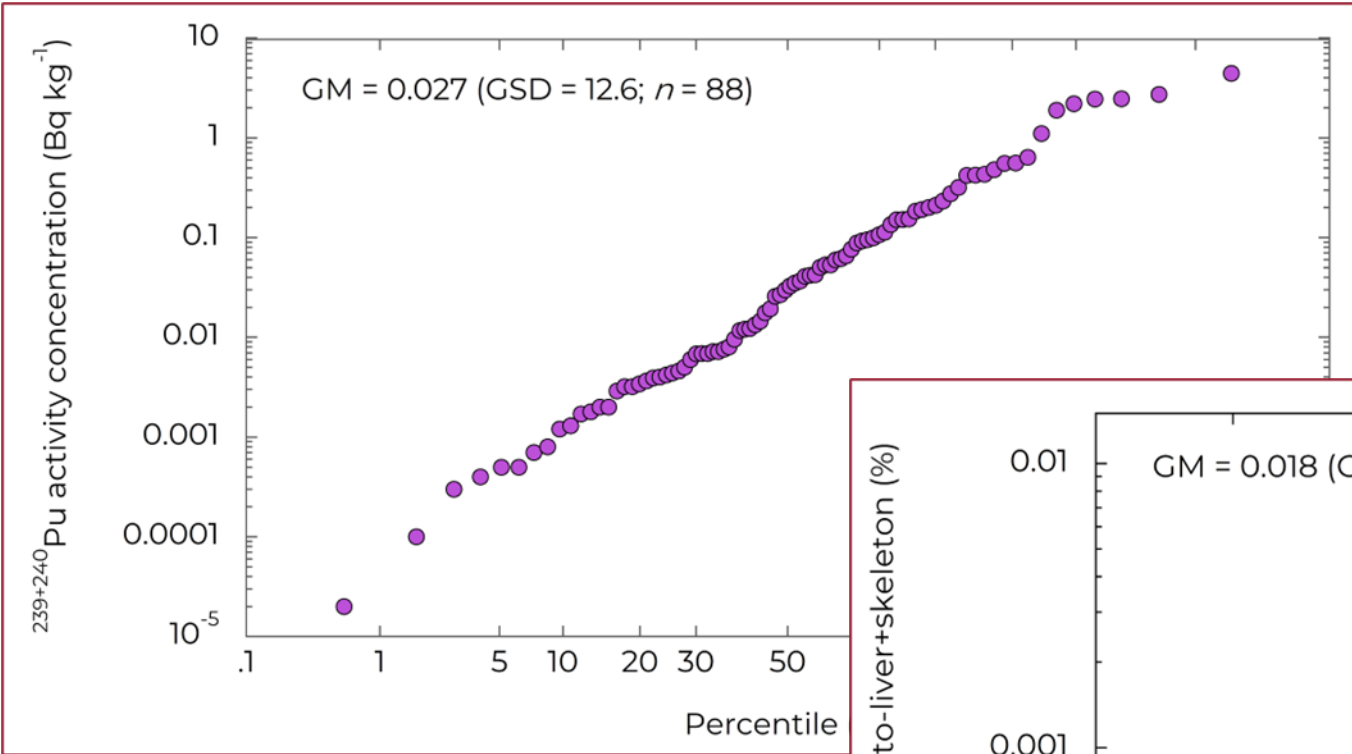
MODELING THE LONG-TERM RETENTION OF PLUTONIUM IN THE HUMAN RESPIRATORY TRACT USING SCAR-TISSUE COMPARTMENTS

Deepesh Poudel^{1,*}, Maia Avtandilashvili², John A Klumpp¹, Luiz Bertelli¹ and Sergei Y Tolmachev²
¹Radiation Protection Division, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM, USA
²United States Transuranium and Uranium Registries, Washington State University, Richland, WA, USA

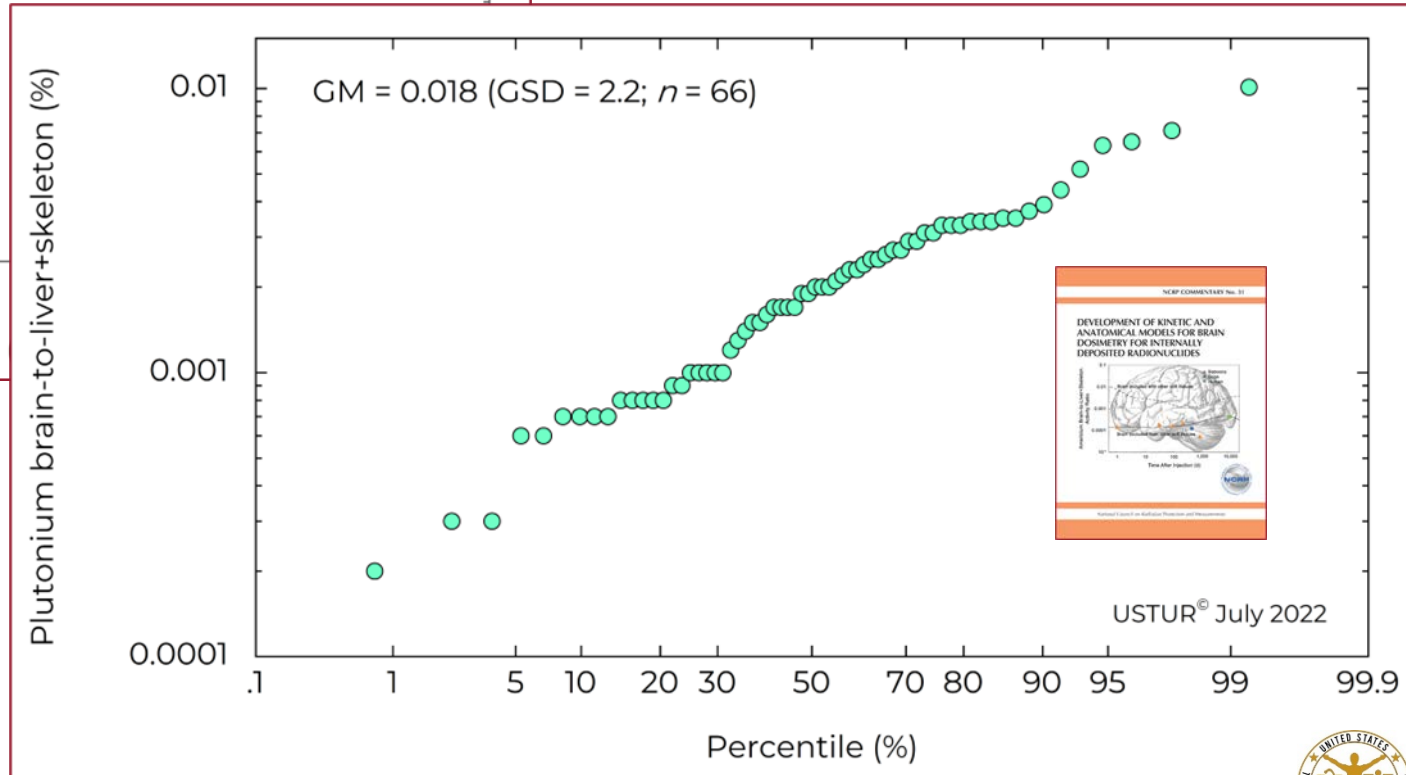
*Corresponding author: dpoudel@lanl.gov



Plutonium in Human Brain



National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RADIATION BIOLOGY
2022, VOL. 98, NO. 4, 644-656
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09553002.2018.1554923>

Taylor & Francis
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ORIGINAL ARTICLE Check for updates

Potential improvements in brain dose estimates for internal emitters

Richard W. Leggett^a, Sergei Y. Tolmachev^b, and John D. Boice, Jr.^{c,d}

^aOak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN, USA; ^bU.S. Transuranium and Uranium Registries, College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Washington State University, Richland, WA, USA; ^cNational Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, Bethesda, MD, USA; ^dDivision of Epidemiology, Department of Medicine, Vanderbilt Epidemiology Center and Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, Nashville, TN, USA



Plutonium Distribution in Human Heart

J. Radiol. Prot. 39 (2019) 950

D Borrego *et al*

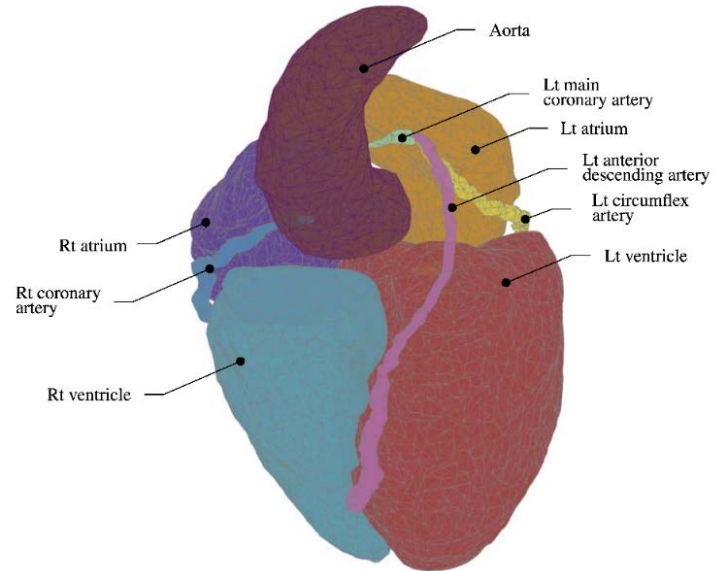


Figure 1. 3D rendering of the detailed cardiac model for male patients developed from contrasted CT images with 9 substructures delineated.



National Council on Radiation
Protection and Measurements



The
Million
Person Study

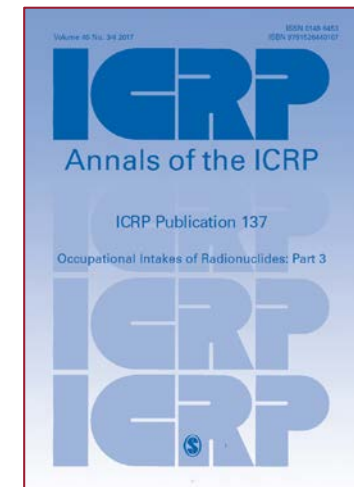
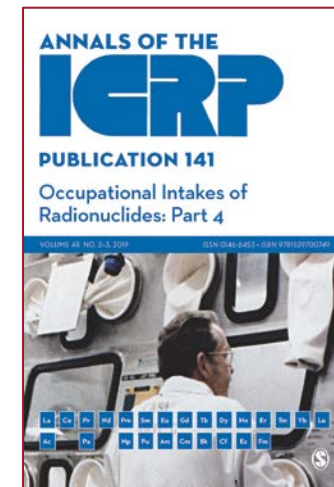
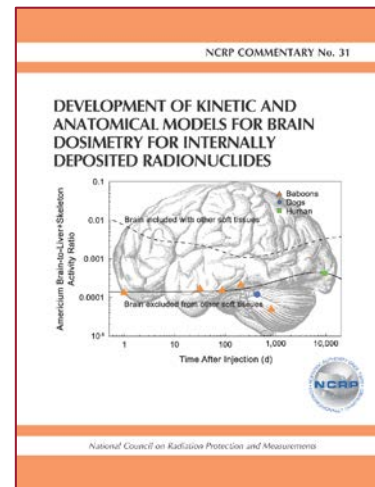
Seven registrant cases

- Systemic Pu deposition: $<2 - 33$ nCi

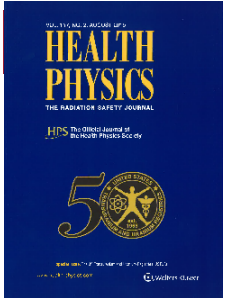


Recent Contributions to ICRP and NCRP

- NCRP Commentary 31: Development of Kinetic and Anatomical Models for Brain Dosimetry for Internally Deposited Radionuclides (2022)
- ICRP Publication 141: Occupational Intakes of Radionuclides - Part 4 (2019)
- ICRP Publication 137: Occupational Intakes of Radionuclides - Part 3 (2017)



4th Special Issue of Health Physics Journal



The United States Transuranium and Uranium Registries (USTUR): Five Decade Follow-up of Plutonium and Uranium Workers. Vol. 117(2); 2019

- Worthington. Introduction to the US Transuranium and Uranium Registries (USTUR) special issue
- Kathren and Tolmachev. The United States Transuranium and Uranium Registries (USTUR): A five-decade follow-up of plutonium and uranium workers
- Birchall *et al.* The importance and quantification of plutonium binding in human lungs
- Goans *et al.* The pseudo-Pelger Huët cell as a retrospective dosimeter: analysis of a Radium Dial Painter cohort
- Avtandilashvili and Tolmachev. Modeling the skeleton weight of an adult Caucasian man
- Dumit *et al.* Evaluating plutonium intake and radiation dose following extensive chelation treatment
- Breustedt *et al.* USTUR Case 0846: modeling americium biokinetics after intensive decorporation therapy
- Tabatadze *et al.* Mapping ²⁴¹Am spatial distribution within anatomical bone structures using digital autoradiography
- Zhou *et al.* A Monte Carlo t-test to evaluate mesothelioma and radiation in the U.S. Transuranium and Uranium Registries
- Lopez *et al.* Measurements and Monte Carlo simulations of ²⁴¹Am activities in three skull phantoms: EURADOS-USTUR collaboration
- Tolmachev *et al.* Estimation of total skeletal content of plutonium and ²⁴¹Am from analysis of a single bone
- Tolmachev *et al.* USTUR special session roundtable – US Transuranium and Uranium Registries (USTUR): a five-decade follow-up of plutonium and uranium workers



More on USTUR Research

- **TAM-A2.4:** Goans *et al.* The Neutrophil to Lymphocyte Ratio Shows Evidence for Chronic Inflammation in a Radium Dial Painter Cohort
- **TPM-D.1:** Strom *et al.* Revision of the ICRP 141 Pu Systemic Model to Incorporate the HAT Model and the Hepatic Portal Vein
- **TPM-D.2:** McComish *et al.* Misclassification of Causes of Death Among USTUR Registrants: Death Certificates vs. Autopsy Reports
- **WPM-B.2:** Šefl *et al.* Uncertainties in Radiation Dose Assessment for Internally Deposited Plutonium in Support of Radiation Epidemiology
- **WPM-B.3:** Avtandilashvili *et al.* Beryllium in Tissues of Former Nuclear Workers





Collaborative Network

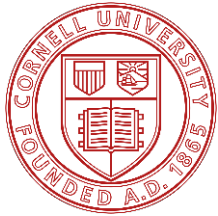


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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY



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Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



Pacific Northwest NATIONAL LABORATORY



World Health Organization



Thank You!

