

Day Topics (preliminary schedule)

1	Welcome	Course presentation
	Radiation Physics	Interaction radiation-matter
2	Biology	DNA & cellular structures
	Modelling Radiation Biophysics	Time & space evolution of radiobiological damage (I)
	Radiation Physics	Cross sections for track structure simulations Nuclear interactions (introduction)
3	Modelling Radiation Biophysics	Time & space evolution of radiobiological damage (II)
	Radiation Physics	Interaction neutron-matter Visit to the nuclear reactor
	Laboratory Sessions	- Physics laboratory @ clinical facility - Radiobiology laboratory
4	Modelling Radiation Biophysics	Track structure simulation, temporal evolution of track structure, pre-chemical phase, chemical phase, biological phase
	Radiation Physics	Radiation transport codes
	Laboratory Sessions	- Physics laboratory @ clinical facility - Radiobiology laboratory
5	Model Testing	Statistical methods for model testing
	Radiation Biology	DNA damage and repair I
	Physics and Biophysical Mechanisms,	Space Radiation Risk Assessment and Countermeasures
6	Radiation Biology	Survival models
		DNA damage and repair II
		Non-targeted effects
7	Complex systems	Systems Radiation Biology (I)
	Models & epidemiology	Cancer risk from human cohorts: from epidemiology to models of carcinogenesis (I)
8	Models & epidemiology	Cancer risk from human (III)
	Complex systems	Systems Radiation Biology (II)
	Radiation Therapy	Modelling in radiotherapy Clinical radiobiology, TCP, NTCP
9	Radiation Therapy	Treatment plans and optimization
	Biological response to radiation	- Individual radiosensitivity - Radiation as a probe to study the response of biological systems to external stimuli
	Radiation Therapy	Hadrontherapy Second cancer in radiotherapy
10	Complex systems	Systems Radiation Biology (III)
	Short presentations by participants	
	Summary and Final test	Final test and Questionnaire

CONCERT is a EURATOM-funded Horizon 2020 European Joint Programme set up to promote and integrate European research into the risks of exposure to low doses of ionising radiation. In addition, **CONCERT** (<http://www.concert-h2020.eu/>) is facilitating and promoting training and education in support of the research programmes within the project, and also making training opportunities more widely available, in order to help attract top-level students into the field. As part of this initiative, a short course of two weeks duration on **Modelling radiation effects from initial physical events** has been organized at the University of Pavia.

Information for applicants:

There is no course fee. A limited number of free lodgings in Pavia colleges will be available. No financial support will be provided. A certificate will be issued to each participant.

People wishing to apply should submit preferably by email the following documents

- A letter of application
- A CV with a description of the scientific career
- A supporting letter from the supervisor/head of laboratory

to the Directors of the course:

Andrea Ottolenghi and Giorgio Baiocco
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The deadline for applications is:

April 8th, 2020 (information confirming the acceptance will be sent to the applicant).

For any questions please write an email to:
concert.training@unipv.it



A two-week course on

Modelling radiation effects from initial physical events

Learning modelling approaches and techniques in radiation biophysics and radiobiology research, from basic mechanisms to applications

May 18th to May 29th, 2020

**Physics Department, University of Pavia,
Via Bassi 6, Pavia, Italy**

The course is open to:

- students (e.g. MSc, PhD and specialization students),
- young investigators,
- continuing professional education,

in particular with interest in scientific disciplines related to:

- Radiation biophysics
- Radiobiology
- Radiation protection.

Course aims:

The general objective of the course (in its tenth edition, organized by UniPv Radiation Biophysics and Radiobiology group - <http://radbiophys.unipv.eu/>) is to provide the theoretical bases for designing radiobiological research and to integrate experimental and theoretical activity, including experimental design and models.

In particular, at the end of the course, the students will be able to understand the basics relative to:

- the principal mechanisms of interaction between radiation and matter, with attention to irradiation methods and dosimetry;
- the processes leading to the formation of radiobiological damage, starting from physical early events, to DNA and chromosomal damage;
- the Monte Carlo method, with the examples of radiation transport and track structure codes;
- different modelling approaches to investigate radiobiological damage at different levels, such as:
 - DNA damage and repair
 - Mutation
 - Chromosomal aberration
 - Transformation
 - Cell survival
 - Non-targeted effects
- models developed in the context of radiotherapy, such as:
 - TCP and NTCP
 - Models to estimate the RBE of mixed fields
 - Secondary cancers
- modelling radiation risks with human cohorts;
- modelling systemic response with a systems biology approach and bioinformatic insights;
- statistical model testing and best fit methods.

Course topics and contents

The course will introduce students **to mechanisms and theoretical modelling** approaches relative to the physical, chemical and biological effects of radiation at sub-cellular, cellular, and organism level. The course will start with an introduction on atomic and nuclear structures, DNA structure and general features of radiobiological damage. The interaction of radiation with matter (ions, electrons, photons and neutrons) will be described in detail, with the support of a **laboratory session on irradiation techniques and dosimetry**. A parallel laboratory session is planned in the **radiobiology laboratory**, to support the coordination between experimental and theoretical research.

After this preliminary description of the physical stage of radiation-matter interaction, the early occurrence of radiobiological damage will be explained **during the first week**, including the chemical (radiation chemistry of water and DNA solutions) and biological effects (radiation damage to DNA in a cellular environment).

In parallel, during these lectures, **the problem of modelling the biological phenomena** induced by irradiation will be introduced, focusing in particular on the different approaches and methods adopted, *e.g.* Monte Carlo vs deterministic, discrete vs continuous, macroscopic vs microscopic, predictive vs exploratory etc. The Monte Carlo techniques and the track structure simulation codes will be presented as examples of the possible models developed to theoretically investigate physico-biological processes. Modelling radiation transport on a macroscopic scale will also be introduced to build the bridge between cellular effects and applications as *e.g.* medical applications or radiation protection (also specifically for space radiation). Statistical methods of general interest for model testing will also be addressed.

During the second week, more specific lectures will be given on modelling radiation-induced biological processes at molecular, cellular and systemic levels.

Modelling Radiation Biology. Lectures will focus as an example on models of DNA damage (and repair) with different approaches: Monte Carlo (*e.g.* PARTRAC) or phenomenological (based on differential equations). Damage evolution will be studied with mechanistic (such as radiation perturbed cell communication, adaptive response), and phenomenological (such as models for optimizing medical uses) approaches.

Modelling Radiation Therapy. During this session an introduction to the basic modelling approach adopted in radiation therapy will be presented. In particular a detailed description of Tumour Control Probability (TCP) and Normal Tissue Control Probability (NTCP) models will be given, with also a general introduction on the approaches adopted to model secondary tumour formation. The modelling activity to include the different radiation qualities within the radiation therapy framework will be presented (*e.g.* RBE quantification for mixed fields)

Modelling Radiation Risks. Methods and models to establish cancer risks from human cohorts with epidemiology studies will be presented.

Modelling systemic responses. An introduction to systems biology (and systems radiation biology) and their methods (*e.g.* top-down vs bottom-up approach) will be presented. Definitions of complexity, robustness, and modularity of the biological systems will be given and discussed.

A multi-scale approach will be a characteristic feature of the modelling methods covered by the course. During the last session of the course the general and theoretical questions arising from modelling activity will be presented, focusing on the general features of the models developed so far.