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One-Day Symposium

Fast Field-Cycling MRI – a New Imaging Modality

Aberdeen, UK, Friday 16th March, 2018

Venue: Suttie Centre for Teaching & Learning in Healthcare
Medical School Campus, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB25 2ZD

Fast Field-Cycling MRI (FFC-MRI) is a novel magnetic resonance imaging technique, pioneered at the University of Aberdeen, which involves breaking one of the fundamental “laws” of MRI - that the applied magnetic field must be held constant during image acquisition. By deliberately switching the magnetic field during the collection of MR images, FFC-MRI is able to gain access to radically new types of endogenous contrast. It is already showing strong potential in the diagnosis and monitoring of a wide range of conditions, including stroke, osteoarthritis and cancer, and the world’s first patients have recently been scanned using a prototype scanner at the University of Aberdeen.

The aim of the “IDentIFY” project is to conduct research that will bring FFC-MRI closer to widespread use in hospitals and research centres. The project’s nine-team consortium is working on diverse aspects of FFC-MRI, including theory, modelling, technology, contrast agents, magnetics and clinical applications. It has received €6.60 million from the EU’s Horizon-2020 science funding scheme and runs from January 2016 to December 2019.

This one-day Symposium is being held to mark the mid-point of the IDentIFY project. Its objective is to inform stakeholders and potential beneficiaries about the current status of FFC-MRI and to indicate its future direction and potential capabilities for enhancing the diagnosis and staging of disease, as well as the monitoring of treatment. In addition, lectures will be given by the leaders of three other Horizon-2020 projects related to magnetic resonance.

Please see overleaf for the Symposium schedule.

Attendance at the Symposium is free of charge. However, attendees do need to register so that we can gauge numbers for catering. If you would like to attend the symposium, please register at this web page:

www.abdn.ac.uk/events/conferences/ffc-mri-symposium-2018/index.php

If you would like to enquire about any aspect of the symposium, please email the IDentIFY project manager, Derek Turner, at derek.turner@abdn.ac.uk



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Morning session: FFC-MRI methods, technology and applications		
09:00-09:30	Arrival & Registration	
09:30-09:45	Welcome & Introduction	Prof Steven Heys Head of School of Medicine, Medical Sciences & Nutrition University of Aberdeen
09:45-10:30	Overview of FFC-MRI and the IDentIFY Horizon 2020 project	Prof David Lurie Chair in Biomedical Physics; Co-ordinator of IDentIFY project University of Aberdeen
10:30-11:00	FFC-MRI: Technical challenges and solutions	Dr Lionel Broche University of Aberdeen Postdoctoral Research Fellow, IDentIFY project
11:00-11:30	Refreshments	
11:30-12:15	FFC-MRI: What does the new information mean?	Prof Silvio Aime Head of Dept of Molecular Biotechnologies & Health Sciences Centre of Molecular Imaging University of Torino, Italy
12:15-14:00	Lunch	Posters and visits to FFC-MRI labs
Afternoon session: Complementary H2020 projects and the way forward		
14:00-14:45	The Horizon-2020 GLINT project: “Promises and pitfalls in the translation of GlucoCEST into clinical practice: Early results from the GLINT Consortium”	Prof Xavier Golay Professor of MR Neurophysics and Translational Neuroscience UCL Institute of Neurology Queen Square, London
14:45-15:30	The H2020 HyperDiamond project: “Diamond Quantum Technologies for Hyperpolarised MRI”	Prof Martin Plenio Professor and Director of the Institute of Theoretical Physics University of Ulm, Germany
15:30-16:00	Refreshments	
16:00-16:45	The H2020 CONQUER project: “Quadrupole enhanced relaxation: A concept for novel magnetic resonance imaging contrast agents”	Prof Hermann Scharfetter Institute of Medical Engineering Graz University of Technology, Austria
16:45-17:30	FFC-MRI: FFC-MRI: is this the technology breakthrough that patients and neuro-oncologists have been waiting for?”	Prof François Berger Chair of Neuro-oncology and Director of INSERM Unit 1205 Grenoble, France
17:30	Closing remarks	Prof David Lurie
Evening		
19:00	Symposium Dinner	For all pre-registered Symposium attendees.