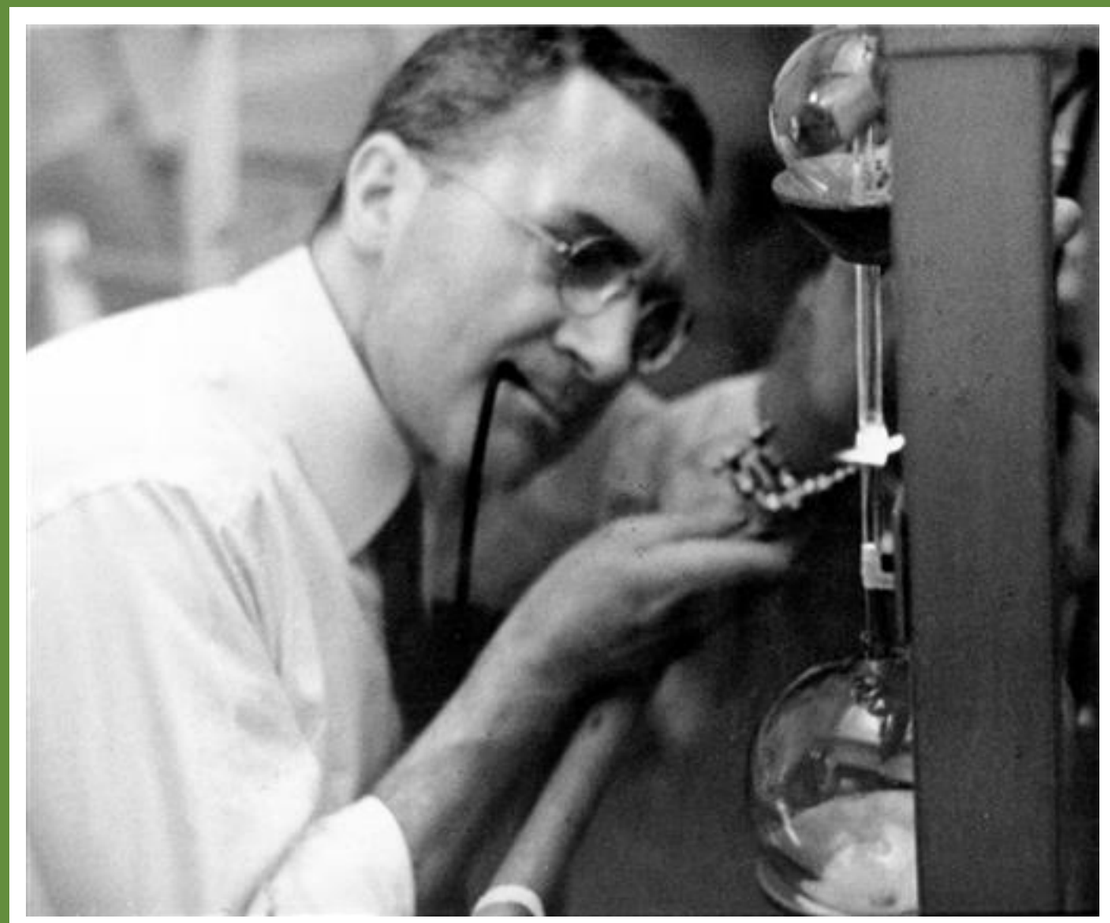
Gioacchino Failla *(1891-1961)*

Gioacchino Failla, one of the greatest pioneers in the fields of biophysics and radiobiology, began his career at New York's Memorial Hospital in 1915. Within a few years of joining the staff, he had established the first research program devoted to improving the medical applications of radiation. An early product of this research was the construction of a radon generator, the first in the United States. In 1921, Failla was the first to suggest that radiation doses be expressed as the amount of radiation energy absorbed and made the first dose estimates in radium therapy. With the arrival of an X-ray unit at his laboratory the following year, Failla constructed the first human phantom in the U.S. so that he could determine the effects of filtration and distance on X-ray fields in the body.

This counting system was built by Failla (ca. 1945-1950) at Columbia University to quantify beta sources.



Gioacchino Failla operating the radon plant at Memorial Hospital.

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