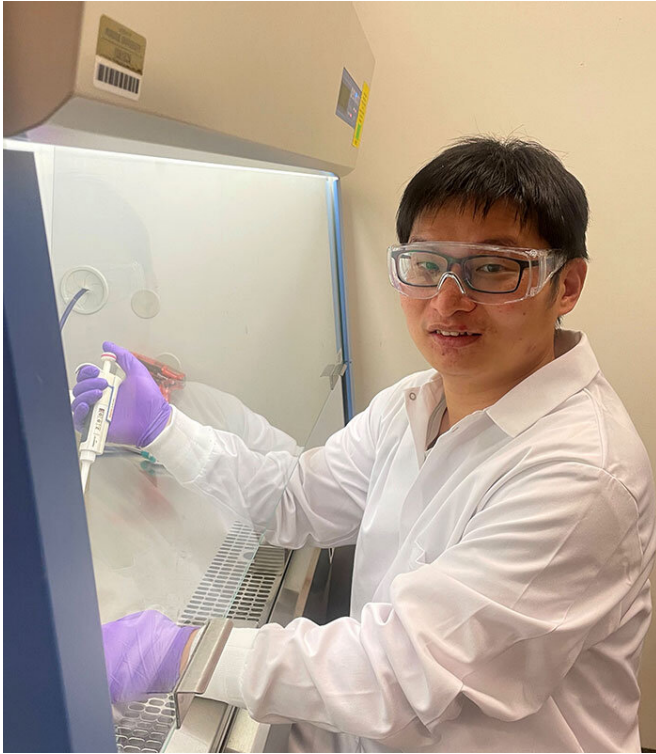


New method mass-produces antitumor cells to treat blood diseases and cancer

3 August 2022, by Steve Martin



Xiaoping Bao, Purdue University assistant professor from the Davidson School of Chemical Engineering. Credit: Xiaoping Bao

A Purdue University chemical engineer has improved upon traditional methods to produce off-the-shelf human immune cells that show strong antitumor activity, according to a paper published in the peer-reviewed journal *Cell Reports*.

Xiaoping Bao, a Purdue University assistant professor from the Davidson School of Chemical Engineering, said CAR-neutrophils, or chimeric antigen receptor neutrophils, and engraftable HSCs, or [hematopoietic stem cells](#), are effective types of therapies for blood diseases and cancer. Neutrophils are the most abundant white cell blood type and effectively cross physiological barriers to

infiltrate solid tumors. HSCs are specific progenitor [cells](#) that will replenish all blood lineages, including neutrophils, throughout life.

"These cells are not readily available for broad clinical or research use because of the difficulty to expand ex vivo to a sufficient number required for infusion after isolation from donors," Bao said. "Primary neutrophils especially are resistant to genetic modification and have a short half-life."

Bao has developed a patent-pending method to mass-produce CAR-neutrophils from human pluripotent stem cells (hPSCs), that is, cells that self-renew and are able to become any type of human cell. The chimeric antigen receptor constructs were engineered to express on the surface of the hPSCs, which were directed into functional CAR-neutrophils through a novel, chemically defined protocol.

The method was created in collaboration with Qing Deng at Purdue's Department of Biological Sciences, Hal E. Broxmeyer, now deceased, at Indiana University School of Medicine, and Xiaojun Lian at the Pennsylvania State University.

"We developed a robust protocol for massive production of de novo neutrophils from [human pluripotent stem cells](#)," Bao said. "These hPSC-derived neutrophils displayed superior and specific antitumor activities against glioblastoma after engineering with chimeric antigen receptors."

Bao disclosed the innovation to the Purdue Research Foundation Office of Technology Commercialization, which has applied for an international patent under the Patent Cooperation Treaty system of the World Intellectual Property Organization. The innovation has been optioned to an Indiana-headquartered life sciences company.

"We will also work with Dr. Timothy Bentley, professor of neurology and neurosurgery, and his

team at the Purdue College of Veterinary Medicine to run clinical trials in pet dogs with spontaneous glioma," Bao said.

More information: Yun Chang et al, Engineering chimeric antigen receptor neutrophils from human pluripotent stem cells for targeted cancer immunotherapy, *Cell Reports* (2022). DOI: [10.1016/j.celrep.2022.111128](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2022.111128)

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