

Fever induction reduces tumors

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Peregrine Laziosi (1265–1345), an Italian priest, became the patron saint of cancer patients when the tumour in his left leg miraculously disappeared after he developed a fever. Although it is known since a long time that elevated body temperature can cause tumours to regress, the underlying molecular mechanisms are still largely enigmatic.

Thomas Turner, a recent Cancer Biology graduate from Bangor University, and Dr Thomas Caspari, a researcher based in the School of Biological Sciences at Bangor University published one of the first comprehensive reviews of this topic in the Royal Society Journal *Open Biology*.

Dr Thomas Caspari says: "The induction of a fever by injecting patients with inactivated bacteria, which became known as Coley's Toxin, was a very successful anti-cancer therapy in the 19th century. The healing power of heat has now been re-discovered and is used to treat patients with [prostate cancer](#) to great effect. This review article summarises our current scientific understanding of how heat kills cancer cells. It is also great to see the work of an undergraduate student published in a scientific journal with high international reputation. This is a good example of how Bangor University incorporates research into teaching."

More information: "Thomas Turner and Thomas Caspari, When heat casts a spell on the DNA damage checkpoints." *Open Biol.* March 2014 4:140008; [DOI: 10.1098/rsob.140008](https://doi.org/10.1098/rsob.140008) 2046-2441

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