

# Discovery may help breast cancer treatment

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Researchers led by Dr. Debra Auguste, associate professor, biomedical engineering, in the Grove School of Engineering at The City College of New York, have identified a molecule that could lead to developing treatment for one of the most aggressive forms of breast cancer.

Triple negative breast cancers (TNBCs) have a high mortality rate owing to aggressive proliferation and metastasis and a lack of effective therapeutic options. However, Professor Auguste's team, discovered the overexpression of intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1) in human TNBC cell lines and tissues, and demonstrated that it is a potential molecular target and biomarker for TNBC therapy and diagnosis.

"No therapies are available to treat triple negative [breast cancer](#) cells and because of that patients have a poor prognosis," said Professor Auguste, the recipient of a 2014 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.

The Identification of ICAM-1 as a TNBC target and biomarker may lead to the development of a new strategy and platform for addressing a critical gap in TNBC patient care, she added.

**More information:** *PNAS*,  
[www.pnas.org/content/111/41/14710.abstract#aff-1](http://www.pnas.org/content/111/41/14710.abstract#aff-1)

Provided by City College of New York

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