

Scientists identify new marker of arthritis in mice

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Researchers have discovered a new marker of arthritis in mice that can be used non-invasively to both identify joints with established arthritis and to predict subsequent joint swelling. The finding is published in *Arthritis & Rheumatology*.

The investigators note that imaging tests with the marker—called Ratiometric thrombin-Activatable Cell Penetrating Peptide—might help clinicians monitor the development and progression of arthritis and other [inflammatory diseases](#).

"This new imaging tool should allow researchers to localize very early events in [arthritis](#) to enable translational advances," said senior author Dr. Maripat Corr, of the University of California San Diego. Image: topically applied Ratiometric thrombin-Activatable Cell Penetrating Peptide to a cryosection from a paw of a mouse injected with K/BxN serum demonstrating areas of cleavage in the warmer colors (red/orange).

More information: Beth Friedman et al, A thrombin receptor - derived imaging agent detects subclinical arthritis in mice, *Arthritis & Rheumatology* (2017). [DOI: 10.1002/art.40316](https://doi.org/10.1002/art.40316)

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