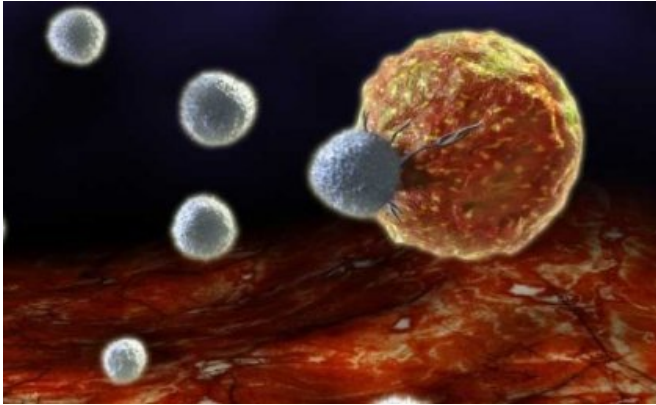


# Technology holds personalised cancer vaccine breakthrough

10 April 2018, by Kate Zischke



The attack of a tumour cell made by white blood cells of the patient (lymphocytes) generated by cancer vaccines. Credit: University of Queensland

University of Queensland researchers have developed a vaccine delivery technology that enables treatment to be tailored precisely for different cancers.

UQ's Professor Ranjeny Thomas said the technology had the potential to improve the precision of cancer immunotherapy, leading to better cancer outcomes and reduce harmful side-effects.

"Flexible cancer vaccines are a long-sought treatment strategy in cancer immunotherapy," Professor Thomas said.

"Cancer vaccines represent a precision cancer treatment strategy which stimulates the immune system to attack [cancer cells](#) without affecting other cells in the body.

"While a new class of immunotherapy drugs, called checkpoint inhibitors, has promising results in previously untreatable cancers, they are only effective in a limited proportion of cases, and may

have inflammatory side-effects.

"Current cancer vaccines have limited flexibility and effectiveness."

The solution, tailored NanoEmulsion technology, results from a new approach to cancer vaccination.

"NanoEmulsions are tiny carrier packages that encapsulate proteins made only by cancer cells," Professor Thomas said.

"They are designed to target specific immune cells, which educate the immune system about cancer proteins."

UQ researcher Professor Riccardo Dolcetti said the process accelerated a precise immune attack on [cancer cells](#).

"The versatility and efficacy of the new NanoEmulsion-based vaccines in mice are particularly promising building blocks to tailor vaccines to individual patients and improve personalised [cancer immunotherapy](#) in the future," he said.

The paper has been published in *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*.

**More information:** Bijun Zeng et al. Self-adjuvanting nanoemulsion targeting dendritic cell receptor Clec9A enables antigen-specific immunotherapy, *Journal of Clinical Investigation* (2018). [DOI: 10.1172/JCI96791](https://doi.org/10.1172/JCI96791)

Provided by University of Queensland

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