
Onconano Medicine Announces Expanded Research Collaboration with UT Southwestern Medical Center to Advance Development of New Cancer Therapies

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Expanded collaboration for multi-year translational research of novel cancer treatments. OncoNano has an exclusive option to license new technologies from the collaboration.

[OncoNano Medicine, Inc.](#), a clinical-stage company utilizing the principles of molecular cooperativity in drug design to exploit universal tumor and immune targets to diagnose and treat cancer, today announced a multi-year collaboration with The [University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center](#) (UTSW) to discover and conduct translational research of novel cancer therapeutics that leverage OncoNano's core nanotechnology platform. OncoNano will sponsor research efforts in the laboratory of Professor Jinming Gao of UTSW with the objective of uncovering new cancer therapies that can benefit from OncoNano's ultra pH-sensitive polymeric micelles. OncoNano will have an exclusive option to license new technology arising from the research conducted under this agreement.

"We are excited to expand our research collaboration with the UT Southwestern Medical Center and the prominent UTSW laboratory led by Dr. Jinming Gao," said Martin Driscoll, Chief Executive Officer of OncoNano Medicine, Inc. "UTSW's rich scientific discovery environment combined with world-class translational research capabilities presents a wonderful opportunity for our scientists to engage in a multi-year cooperative research effort to leverage our core technology platform and advance more novel cancer therapeutics into clinical development."

Dr. Gao and his team at UTSW invented the ultra pH-sensitive nanoparticle technology that represents the core of OncoNano's differentiated oncology research platform. OncoNano is currently advancing two development programs that utilize the ultra pH-sensitive nanoparticle technology. Pegsitacianine, a fluorescent nanoprobe for real-time surgical

imaging, is currently in Phase 2 clinical trials for multiple tumor types, and ONM-501, a novel dual-activating polyvalent STING agonist for immuno-oncology applications, is advancing toward a first in human study planned for early 2023.

“OncoNano’s multi-year support for basic research will broaden our capability to harness molecular cooperativity design that incorporates pathophysiological responses into the development of tumor-activatable compounds with increased therapeutic windows,” said Jinming Gao, Professor of Oncology, Pharmacology and Cell Biology in the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at UTSW and Chief Scientific Officer of OncoNano. “We are working to expand the micelle technology platform developed at UTSW so it can be used to deliver additional payloads, including protein therapeutics such as cytokines, checkpoint inhibitors and bispecific antibodies. We look forward to this research collaboration with OncoNano Medicine to continuously translate lab discoveries into potentially important clinical applications.”

Read the [original article](#) on Business Wire.