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Background & Unmet Need

- Extracellular vesicles and particles (EVPs) (including exosomes) are secreted by both healthy and cancerous cells
- EVPs contain proteins, nucleic acids, lipids, and metabolites and can transfer their contents from one cell to another as a form of cell-cell communication
- EVPs are promising tools for use in detection, diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment decisions in cancer
- However, EVPs are heterogenous and separating them into distinct, meaningful populations has been difficult
- Unmet Need: Identification of distinct EVP subgroups for use as biomarkers in diagnosis and treatment of cancer

Technology Overview

- The Technology: The use of a newly identified class of particles, called exomeres, as biomarkers for diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of cancer
- The Discovery: The inventors used asymmetric field-flow fractionation techniques to identify and characterize EVPs by size
- They identified three sub-types with distinct proteomic, N-glycan, lipid, and nucleic acid compositions
- These classes were Exo-S, Exo-L, and a nanoparticle class called exomeres
- PoC Data: Exomeres were found to be enriched in metabolic enzymes and specific pathways, such as glycolysis and mTOR signaling, indicating that they may modify the metabolism of target cells
- Exomeres were also found to contain proteins related to hypoxia, microtubule function and coagulation

Inventors:

David Lyden Haiying Zhang

Patents:

US Patent Application Filed
EP Application Filed
CN Application Filed

Publications:

Zhang et al. Nat Cell Biol. 2018

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Cornell Reference:

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Technology Applications

- Use as a biomarker and diagnostic tool for the detection of cancer, metastasis or disease recurrence
- Use as a biomarker for prognosis and treatment decisions for cancer

Technology Advantages

- EVP sub-types yield more granular data on properties of cancer and metastasis
- Exomere separation protocol is highly reproducible, rapid, and simple

Supporting Data / Figures

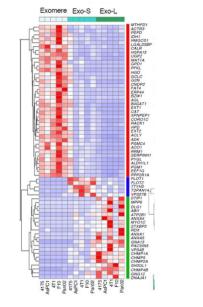


Figure 1: Heat map illustration of unique proteins specifically associated with different exosome sub-types.

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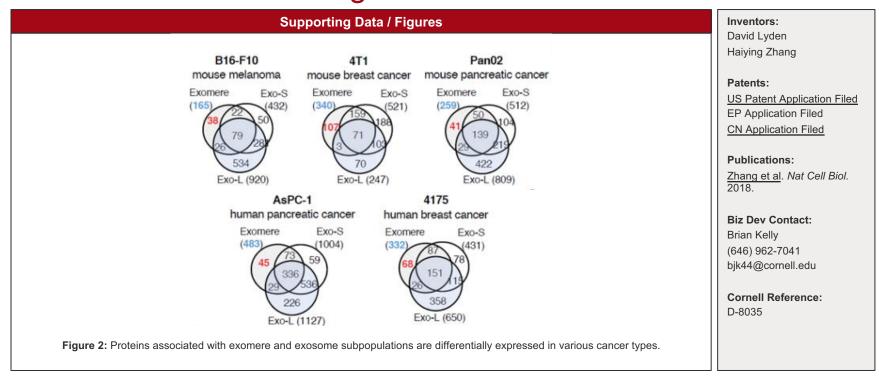
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