



## Inventors

### Yung Chang

Associate Professor  
The Biodesign Institute  
Arizona State University

### Hao Yan

Professor  
The Biodesign Institute  
Arizona State University

## Intellectual Property

### Status:

*Patent Pending*

## Contact

*Jack Geltosky, PhD*

Senior Vice President  
Business Development, Life  
Sciences

Arizona Technology  
Enterprises, LLC (AzTE)

P: 480.884.1989

F: 480.884.1984

[JGELTOSKY@AZTE.COM](mailto:JGELTOSKY@AZTE.COM)

[HEALTHSCIENCES@AZTE.COM](mailto:HEALTHSCIENCES@AZTE.COM)

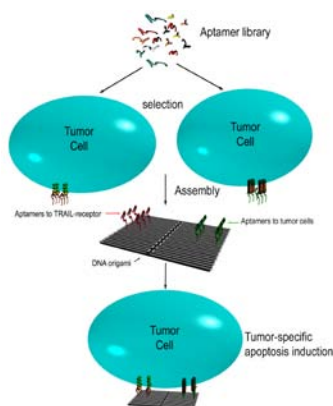
# Tumor-Targeted Killing with Aptamer-Nucleic Acid Nanostructures

AzTE Case # M09-108

## Invention Description

Despite decades of research, cancer remains one of today's most pressing health concerns. Traditional treatment approaches such as radiation therapy and chemotherapy can cause systemic toxicity and become ineffective when resistant tumors emerge. Recently, anticancer strategies have focused on drugs which specifically target tumor-related biological molecules. Recognizing cancer cells and inducing apoptosis is a promising approach to tumor therapy.

Researchers at the Biodesign Institute of Arizona State University have developed a selection method for ligands to tumor cell-specific markers and death receptors on the tumor cell. The two ligands are screened from an aptamer library for high affinity and specificity to their targets. Multimeric structures of both aptamers are then synthesized and assembled to coordinate presentation to the cell and induce cell death.



## Potential Applications

- Cancer diagnostic
- Anticancer therapeutic

## Benefits and Advantages

- Lower systemic toxicity due to targeted delivery
- Assembly provides spatial organization of binding aptamers and increased avidity to target
- Scalable feature of the DNA-nanostructure platform makes it possible to incorporate additional biomolecules enhance tumor-targeted killing