



Defining the future of lung cancer treatment

Kentucky has one of the highest rates of lung cancer incidence and death in the country. Newly-recruited department of medicine chair **Jesse Roman, M.D.**, and colleagues in his lab are working to fight lung cancer by investigating it at its molecular level, with the hope of one day translating their findings into new agents for combating the disease.

Armed with the knowledge that up to 90 percent of lung cancers are characterized by a predisposing chronic lung condition in which the tissue has too much of a protein called fibronectin, researchers in the Roman lab discovered that by altering this cellular characteristic, they could stop the growth of lung cancer cells in mice. Further research will be aimed at investigating how this knowledge could be translated into a treatment that might perhaps make lung cancer more susceptible than it currently is to chemotherapy.

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