

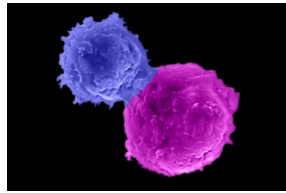
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Novel Technology Positions “Off-the-Shelf” Cancer Immunotherapy for the Clinic

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UCLA scientists develop new method to engineer immune cells (invariant natural killer T cells) that could treat multiple patients.



A microscopy image shows an enhanced natural killer T cell (blue) attacking a human multiple myeloma cell (magenta).
(Credit: Lili Yang lab/UCLA).

Immunotherapies have revolutionized cancer treatment by harnessing the body’s own immune system to attack cancer cells and halt tumor growth. However, these therapies often need to be tailored to each individual patient, slowing down the treatment process and resulting in a hefty price tag that could soar well into the hundreds of thousands of dollars per patient. To tackle these limitations, UCLA researchers have developed a new, clinically guided method to engineer more powerful immune cells called invariant natural killer T cells, or iNKT cells, that can be used for an “off-the-shelf” cancer immunotherapy in which immune cells from a single **cord-blood** donor can be used to treat multiple patients.

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