

# Crafting a better T cell for immunotherapy

February 22 2016

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Riddell and his team describe the approach, and its effect on human [cancer](#) cells in the laboratory and on a mouse model of lymphoma, in a study publishing Monday in the journal *Nature Biotechnology*.

Although not yet tested in humans, the researchers believe this new approach could improve on current T-cell therapy methods in several ways:

- by boosting the cells' potency,
- by growing larger numbers of cancer-fighting T cells,
- by adding a potential "kill switch" to quickly deactivate the [cells](#) in patients' bodies in the event of toxic side effects and
- by cutting down the immune cell processing time from the current 14 to 20 days before reinfusion to 9 days or less.

Juno Therapeutics, a biotechnology company initially formed on technology from researchers at Fred Hutch, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Seattle Children's Research Institute, has an exclusive license to the tag technology for uses related to oncology (as well as a

non-exclusive license for other purposes).

**More information:** Inclusion of Strep-tag II in design of antigen receptors for T-cell immunotherapy, [DOI: 10.1038/nbt.3461](https://doi.org/10.1038/nbt.3461)

Provided by Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

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