



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UMSL chemists' discovery could lead to faster diagnostic medical tests

Scientists at the University of Missouri-St. Louis have developed technology that could create a faster and less expensive way to identify diseases like prostate cancer.

With a new simplified immunoassay, an analytical method that detects antigens or biomarkers, UMSL researchers can measure specific antigen-antibody interactions that indicate disease.

Using a sponge-like nanomaterial, they immobilize the antibodies so the measurement can be made in fewer steps than the commonly used enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay diagnostic test -- also known as ELISA .

"This is a new nanomaterial that could end up replacing the current test," said Keith Stine, professor of chemistry at UMSL and lead researcher on the project. "It's exciting to know we can see these molecular interactions in new ways."

In addition to diagnostic testing, this method can be applied to food allergen detection and immunology.