# SPION-CCPMs: Iron nanoparticles as adjuvant lung cancer therapeutic



## Challenge

- Macrophages play a central role in • inflammatory processes but also in iron metabolism.
- The interplay of these two functions has • therapeutic value, as macrophages are activated by iron accumulation and thereupon exert beneficiary effects such as the killing of cancer cells.
- · However, the degree of iron-mediated physiological effects critically depends on the application form of iron.
- New forms of iron oxide nanoparticles • and their administration are needed as basis for therapy, e.g. to induce an antitumor phenotype in macrophages.

Before treatment After treatment



In an in vivo lung cancer mouse model SPION instillation reduced lung tumor burden.

## Technology

nanoparticles Novel iron-loaded (superparamagnetic iron oxide nanoparticles-loaded core cross-linked polymeric micelles; SPION-CCPMs) with several advantages:

- Redox-responsive
- Controlled iron release
- Triggering of higher inflammatory responses
- > Wide of conceivable range therapeutic applications (cancer, immunotherapy etc.)

Co-culture of Lewis lung carcinoma cells (LLCs) & primary murine bone marrowderived macrophages:

ROS NO SPION-CCPMs→ Activation of tumorassociated macrophages →secretion of inflammatory cytokines and reactive oxygen/nitrogen species (ROS/RNS)  $\rightarrow$ Induction of oxidative stress and DNA damage  $\rightarrow$  Reduction of tumor cell viability.

### Internal EMBLEM Reference

2019-038

#### **Key Inventors**

Natalie Horvat, University Hospital Heidelberg, Germany Prof. Martina Muckenthaler. Molecular Medicine Partnership Unit (MMPU) Heidelberg, Germany Prof. Matthias Hentze, EMBL Heidelberg, Germany Tobias Bauer / Prof. Matthias Barz, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany



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## **Commercial Opportunity**

We offer a technology with proof of concept in vitro (primary murine and human cells) and in vivo (C57BI/6N mouse model). A technology evaluation program is available as well as a licensing collaboration/co-development or opportunity.

## **Further Reading**

Costa da Silva et al. 2017



Bauer et al. 2021



## EMBLEM TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER GMBH

Boxbergring 107

D-69126 Heidelberg

Germany

(())

SPION micelle

SPION-loaded

Cancer cells

macrophage

Tel.: +49 (0) 6221 363 22 10

info@embl-em.de  $\bowtie$ 

www.embl-em.de

Dr. Julia Dieter dieter@embl-em.de