

## LCRC's Biospecimen Core Lab's Role in Cancer Research



Zhe Wang, PhD is working to develop a simple blood test to diagnose certain types of lung cancer in its earliest stages, before it can be detected by CT scan or MRI. Such a test would make a tremendous difference in a patient's ability to beat the disease.

Dr. Wang is a Xavier University researcher and member of the Louisiana Cancer Research Center (LCRC) faculty. The LCRC is supporting Dr. Wang's project in two ways. First, by contributing important research funding and by providing clinical samples from the LCRC Biospecimen Core Laboratory.

The Biospecimen Core Laboratory is a repository of thousands of tumor samples. With patient consent, tumor samples, blood, and other relevant materials are collected during surgery or clinic visits. At present, the largest number of cases in the library include prostate, kidney, breast and colorectal samples.

LCRC scientists, like Dr. Wang, can request a specific tumor sample and utilize them in their research, such as to determine the genetic independent underpinnings for precision medicine treatments – being able to tailor a treatment to a patient's unique DNA.

"I'm a chemist," Dr. Wang explains, "so I don't have access to patient tissues and other necessary data. The LCRC Biospecimen Core Lab has been very impressive in supporting my research. I began receiving samples within two to three weeks of my request." Without the samples, Dr. Wang says he would be unable to conduct extensive testing for biomarkers and data analysis to confirm the clinical results. In addition, Dr. Wang says the LCRC has been helping him locate suitable collaborators and build his local research network. "It has been a wonderful resource for me," Dr. Wang says.