Linking Cellular Activity to Brain Tumors | College of Engineering

08/12/2019

Biological engineering faculty leads innovative study to better understand glioblastoma

Utah State University News Release — LOGAN, UTAH, Aug. 12, 2019 — A team of researchers at Utah State University is tackling one of the newest questions in cancer research: Is cellular blebbing associated with the development of tumors?

Blebbing is the formation of a balloon-like protrusion that emerges from a cell membrane. For years, blebbing was associated with cell death. However, recently, it has been observed during other normal cellular processes, including migration, proliferation, immune response and cell-to-cell communication. New evidence indicates Blebbing may also trigger the proliferation of cancer cells.

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“In May, Huang received a $435,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to further define the connection between blebbing and glioblastoma. The study will also help researchers understand how blebbing triggers a range of normal cell functions.”

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