



Sayyed Shaho Alaviani Center for Advanced Power Systems (CAPS) & the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory (MagLab) Medical Microrobots to Treat Cancer

The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs The Graduate School | Florida State University



American Cancer Society: Cancer is the second most cause of death after heart disease in the USA.

In 2022: 1.9 million new cases were diagnosed, 609,360 death from cancer were reported (=1,670 death a day)



Microrobots offer new opportunities for cancer treatment

What is a microrobot? A microrobot is a very small robot (with dimension *less than 1 millimeter*) built to do specific tasks.



Why microrobots?



We need many (or *swarm*) of microrobots

My research: magnetic control of swarm of microrobots in a living organism for cancer treatment



My research

Do you know that **heat** can kill cancer cells?

Magnetic microrobots can generate heat in the cancer cells when activated using a alternating magnetic field.

When heated to temperatures ranging from **42 to 46 degree** Celsius, they can kill cancer cells.

This form of cancer treatment is a promising and developing method for cancer treatment, known as **magnetic hyperthermia**.

Has it been done on **human** body?

There have been successful preliminary clinical trials using magnetic hyperthermia to treat patients with *glioblastoma* and *prostate* cancer.





What are roadblocks on human body?

Effectively targeting magnetic microrobots to tumors that are *deep* inside the body and/or inaccessible tumors

(There is a successful method to overcome this challenge on mice but *not* on human body)

Low level of accumulation of microrobots in a tumor that are deep inside the body and/or inaccessible tumors (no method exists both on mice and human body)



What are challenges in **my** research?

The roadblocks yield two challenges in human blood vessels (= variable viscosity/thickness) for swarm of microrobots:

□ Path following (or following a desired path)

Resilient control



