Nearly 1,800 research projects are for rare diseases. Hundreds more are for disorders with no new treatments in many years.
TALLAHASSEE Fla.-- The National Institutes of Health is giving a Florida State College of Medicine scientist nearly $2 million dollars for his research.

The Institute believes his research could provide more insight into diseases like cancer.

David Meckes, an Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences, is researching the signals that are sent by damaged cells in our body, which could be a possible source for the spread of cancer and other diseases.

This theory could provide more effective and less harmful ways to treat diseases, like cancer.

Meckes says, the field of research is still young and rapidly expanding, he says he plans to use the grant will help him further examine his theory.

"More recent evidence that these vesicles are important players in cell communication and can result in enhanced cancer or tumor growth or tumor spread. So if we can understand how these changes occur we can better theoretically treat cancers," said Meckes.

Meckes received the 1.7-million dollar grant from the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health.