

Campus notes

Oct. 21, 2013

\$1 million NIH grant fuels cancer research

An FSU researcher's study of the mechanics of cell division may one day help put the brakes on cancer. Yanchang Wang, associate professor in the College of Medicine, received a four-year, \$1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue his ongoing study. To help nonscientists better understand his work, Wang compared it to the troubleshooting conducted by a car mechanic. The specific question he's asking in this project is: After the mistakes in the attachment process have been corrected, exactly how is the brake released, thereby allowing cell division to continue? Timing is everything, since a premature "brake release" also results in chromosome missegregation. The completion of this NIH-sponsored project, Wang said, will provide the first detailed view of the process of checkpoint silencing or "brake releasing."