Dr. Huan Xie, Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Science, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences was recently awarded the most coveted Research Starter Grant in Pharmaceutics by the prestigious Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Foundation. Dr. Xie has a research background in Nanomedicine delivery and collaboration with M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and AM Biotechnologies, Inc. She will use the one year $60,000 grant to study Thermal Ablation as an alternative interventional technique for the treatment of cancer cells.

According to Dr. Xie, “each year millions of American lives are taken by cancer which counts for 13% of all deaths in the U.S. Currently, the standard treatment modality for cancer includes surgeries and systemic therapies such as radiation, chemotherapy and immunotherapy”. “Each method has its unique strength and limitations. While surgery is highly effective, it is limited by the health of the patient and the location of the tumor. Radiation can be highly effective on certain cancer types, but is commonly not effective against all cells in tumors resulting in recurrence. Chemotherapy generally has a level of toxicity designed to destroy cancer cells but the dosage is often limited because of such toxicity”.

As a result of these limitations, Dr. Xie will study and develop a multifunctional nanoformulation for the targeting and treatment of tumors by using gold nanorods as a scaffold as well as an imaging and photo-thermal ablation agents. This project will be very valuable in Dr. Xie’s effort to help find a cure for cancer that significantly affect minority populations and the project will serve to train graduate and Pharm.D. students and foster TSU’s collaborations with other academic and research institutes in the Texas Medical Center and pharmaceutical companies in Houston. The Office of Research and entire TSU research constituent congratulates Dr. Xie on this prestigious award.

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Texas Southern University was founded in 1926 and became a state institution in 1947. Texas Southern possesses an impressive array of undergraduate and graduate programs, a diverse faculty, more than 80 student organizations, and an alumni network comprised of educators, entrepreneurs, public servants, lawyers, pilots, artists, and more, many of whom are change agents on the local, national and international stage. Nestled upon a sprawling 150-acre campus, Texas Southern has served as a cornerstone for developing the greatest potential in leaders from various socioeconomic, cultural, and racial backgrounds. Texas Southern is located in the heart of the city, giving its students and faculty easy access to the Museum District, neighboring educational institutions, the Texas Medical Center, downtown Houston, two major airports and all of the city’s major freeways. More than 9,487 students, along with nearly 1,500 faculty and staff comprise the University’s community making it one of the nation’s largest Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU’s). For more information, visit www.tsu.edu.