

Daniel J. Medina, PhD

Lymphoma Vaccine Development

[We will modify cells from patients with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma or chronic lymphocytic leukemia so that they will be recognized by their immune system and rejected.]

Many patients with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma or chronic lymphocytic leukemia can not be cured with chemotherapy. Treatment for those patients must incorporate novel therapies. This proposal describes pre-clinical studies designed to develop therapeutic vaccine for these patients. The approach will be to entice the malignant cell to change its surface so that it will be recognized by the immune system and rejected. We will obtain malignant cells from patients and manipulate the cells in the laboratory. We will study a variety of manipulations and select those anticipated to make the malignant cell most recognizable by the immune system. We will then test the capacity of these manipulated cells to stimulate an immune response in the laboratory. The capacity to stimulate the immune response will be compared to other techniques used to make vaccines. These pre-clinical studies are anticipated to lay the foundation for a clinical trial of vaccine therapy for patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia and some types of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.