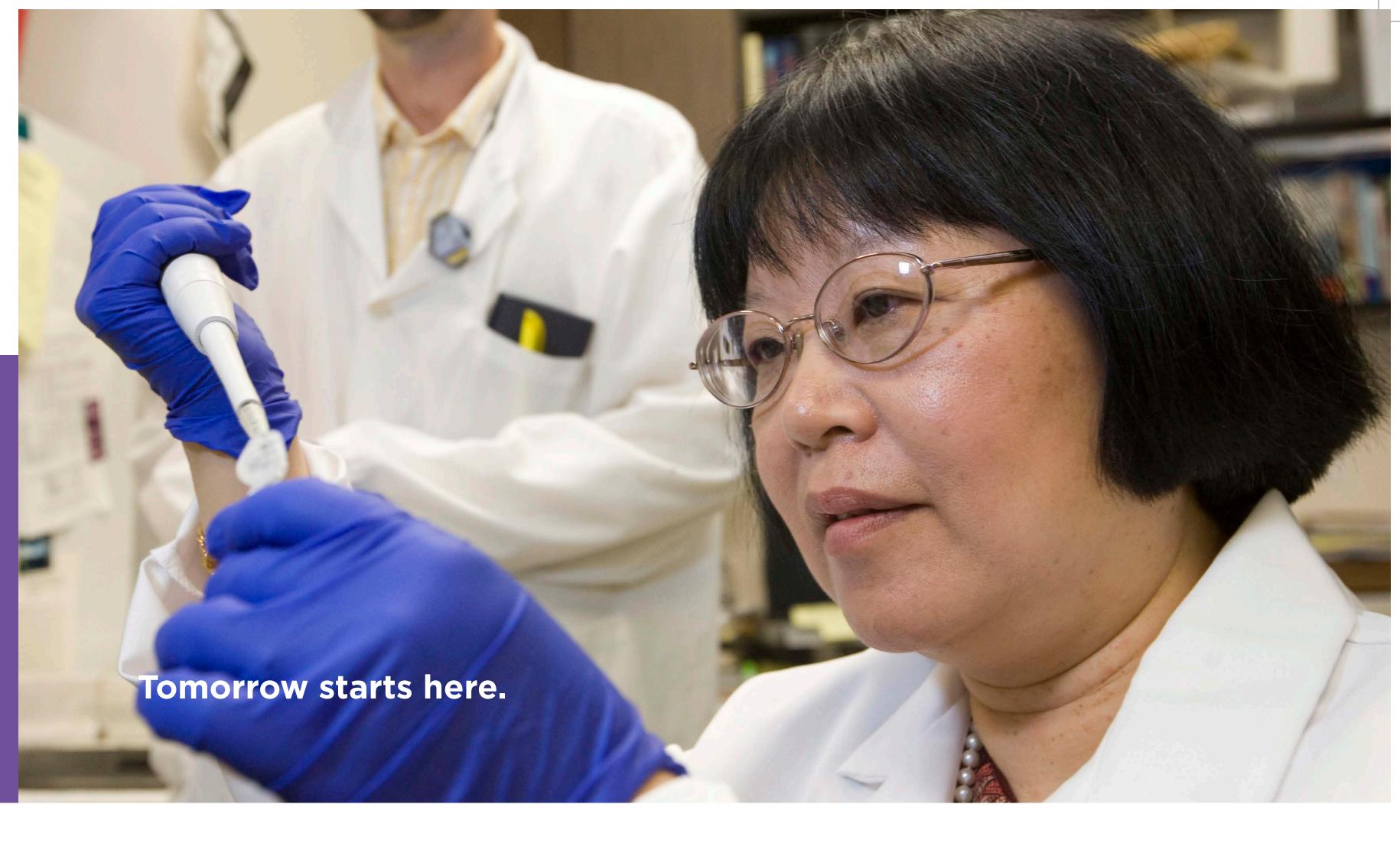
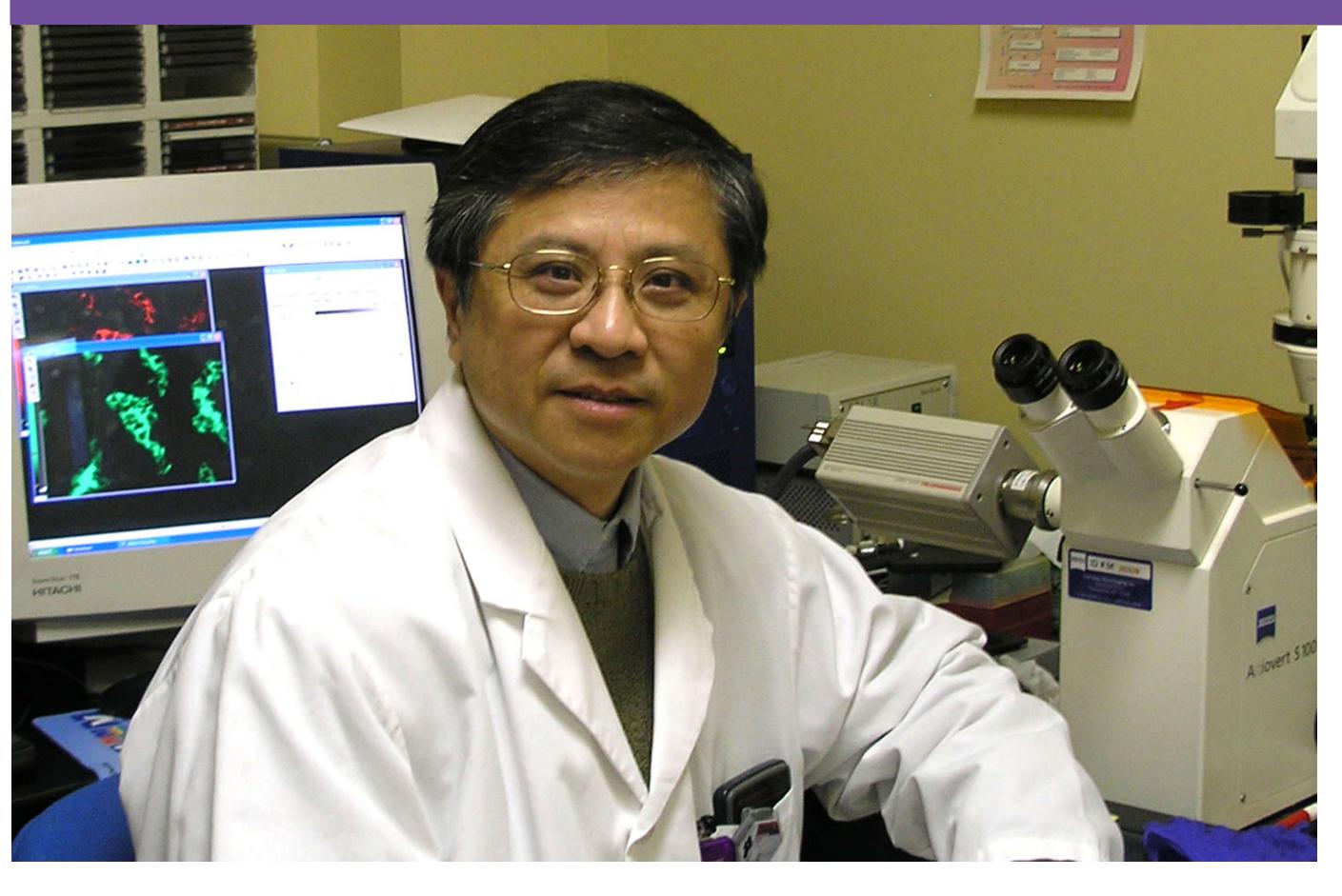


CHANGING CANCER DIAGNOSTICS:





Office of Technology Transfer www.ecu.edu/ott

DR. QUN LU AND DR. YAN-HUA CHEN

Discoveries by Dr. Qun Lu and Dr. Yan-Hua Chen will improve the field of cancer diagnostics and possibly give physicians a new detection tool in the form of non-invasive clinical tests for the screening of multiple forms of cancer. Members of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology in the Brody School of Medicine, Dr. Lu and Dr. Chen have found that the protein delta-catenin can distinguish between prostate cancer, one of the most common forms of cancer in men, and benign prostate hyperplasia. This distinction is a significant improvement to current PSA/biopsy tests. Delta-catenin-based tests have the potential to greatly reduce the number of false-positive test results, reducing the need for unnecessary expensive and painful biopsies. The protein will be detectable with simple urine tests, providing a noninvasive testing method easily integrated into regular checkups and normal urine work. Deltacatenin was originally thought to express itself only in brain tissue, but Dr. Lu and Dr. Chen found that it also is expressed by prostate tumors. These discoveries have been confirmed in some other forms of cancer including lung cancer, opening the way for "multiple" test formats to be marketed to the medical community. The odds of surviving prostate cancer and other cancers may be improved thanks to the impact of delta-catenin discovery by Dr. Lu and Dr. Chen on early detection and diagnostics.