



ILLINOIS INNOVATION PRIZE

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Technology Entrepreneur Center
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Jamila Hedhli is the Co-Founder and Chairman of Imagosura Inc., a female-led biotechnology and molecular imaging company, that focuses on developing a novel RAGE (receptor for advanced glycation end products)-targeted imaging agent, and leverage it and other peptide-based probes to non-invasively monitor the dynamics of the tumor microenvironment in vivo. The probe, when used as part of a broader multimodal imaging strategy (including, as examples, PET, CT, ultrasound, IVIS system, laser Doppler flow imaging, etc.), will yield an unprecedentedly complete picture of the TME conditions within and around ovarian tumors (a killer who's symptoms often do not present until later stages). In addition, the team will investigate the use of RAGE (in conjunction with CA-125) as a pre-screening tool to help triage possible cancer patients for subsequent imaging-based evaluation. The hope is that when combined, these methods will enable earlier detection of ovarian cancer, and lead to better and more personalized patient outcomes.

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2018 FINALIST

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