May 20, 2015 – It was a meeting of East and West on Wednesday morning at the Innovation Campus where a new deal was signed by USU researchers that could help bring fresh answers in the fight against cancer, diabetes and other diseases.

Representatives from the university and Department of Biological Engineering signed an official research agreement with SORAM Bio-Medicine Research Institute of Seoul, South Korea. The research agreement ultimately aims to improve combined radiotherapy and chemotherapy cancer treatments through the use of naturally-occurring compounds found in ginseng.

Agblevor and his team at the BioEnergy Center at the USU Innovation Campus will extract Korean red ginseng using benign solvents and characterize the properties of the extractives. They also plan to cultivate ginseng hairy roots that will be extracted and characterized. The properties of the two extracts will be compared and evaluated in combined radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatments in clinical trials at the SORAM Bio-Medicine Institute.

The research effort will initially be a two-year, $250,000 project.

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Media Contact
Matt Jensen
College of Engineering
office: 435-797-8170, cell 801-362-0830
matthew.jensen@usu.edu
@EngineeringUSU