



200 Innovation Boulevard  
State College, PA 16802

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**TechCelerator Graduate & Partners Featured in National Publication**  
*Congratulations Dr. Huang!*

**STATE COLLEGE, PA** - Dr. Tony Jun Huang, CTO, of Ascent Bio-Nano Technologies Inc., ([www.AscentBioNano.com](http://www.AscentBioNano.com)) and several research partners from Penn State University and the National Institutes of Health have developed a technology that uses acoustic waves to sort cells on a chip.

“Using sound waves for cell sorting is less likely to cause damage to the cells than other techniques.” In addition, Dr. Huang added, “Current methods also produce gases that require extra handling precautions.”

A recent graduate of Ben Franklin’s TechCelerator@ State College Program, which is an eight-week Boot Camp targeting potential entrepreneurs, Dr. Huang and his team are featured on the front cover of the current edition of Lab on a Chip. The device they developed acts like acoustic tweezers and efficiently sorts a continuous flow of cells on a dime sized chip. Labs will be able to use the device for various types of analysis, including blood and genetic testing.

By changing the frequency of the waves, according to Dr. Huang who is an Associate Professor of Engineering, Science and Mechanics at Penn State University, a researcher can alter the path of the cells and sort them into five or more channels. However, the device is not limited to just five channels. “We can do ten channels if we want,” Huang noted.

This breakthrough allows more cell types to be analyzed at the same time - paving the way for the development of much smaller, less expensive, and more efficient analytic devices.

Current methods of cell sorting are achieved on bulky, expensive devices which only allow sorting to be done in two channels at one time. Huang’s method will eventually lead to the use of portable, phone-sized devices which can be operated on batteries.

**About the TechCelerator@State College**

Located in the Technology Center at 200 Innovation Boulevard in State College, the **TechCelerator @ State College** is a partnership among several of the area’s economic development providers that offers budding entrepreneurs designated space, loan and investment programs, business support and mentoring services, and entrepreneurial training all housed in one location. For more information, go to <http://www.techceleratorstatecollege.org>

## About Ben Franklin Technology Partners



Ben Franklin Technology Partners/CNP, an initiative of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and funded by the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority, provides operational assistance, entrepreneurial support, and investment capital to emerging tech-based companies and small, existing manufacturers for the purpose of creating and retaining jobs in Pennsylvania. See <http://www.cnp.benfranklin.org>

