First human CRISPR trial to be conducted in China to treat lung cancer

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.

Chinese scientists are on the verge of being first in the world to inject people with cells modified using the CRISPR–Cas9 gene-editing technique.

A team led by Lu You, an oncologist at Sichuan University's West China Hospital in Chengdu, plans to start testing such cells in people with lung cancer next month. The clinical trial received ethical approval from the hospital's review board on 6 July.

Last month, an advisory panel of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) approved that project. But the trial also requires a green light from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and a university review board. The US researchers have said they could start their clinical trial by the end of this year.

The Chinese trial will enrol patients who have metastatic non-small cell lung cancer and for whom chemotherapy, radiation therapy and other treatments have failed. "Treatment options are very limited," says Lu. "This technique is of great promise in bringing benefits to patients, especially the cancer patients whom we treat every day."

Read full, original post: Chinese scientists to pioneer first human CRISPR trial