JAMES LAI (laix0041@gmail.com)

- **Current Position**—Research Associate Professor, Department of Bioengineering, University of Washington
- Educations—PhD in Chemical Engineering, NYU-Tandon, BS in Chemical Engineering, University of Minnesota

Research

- Material technologies drive the advances in healthcare by serving as an integral part of the foundation to interface with biology[1]
- Novel polymer technologies to enable clinical diagnostic assays, biologics manufacturing, and life science research[2-12]
- A. Stimuli-responsive ("smart") polymer-coated magnetic nanoparticles[2, 3]
 - Efficient biomarker recognition—rapid diffusion and high surface area of small nanoparticles
 - Rapid magnetic separation—high magnetophoretic mobility of by undergoing switchable aggregation
 - Capture diagnostic targets in a microfluidic device at a controlled time point and channel position
 - Bioseparations under continuous flow processing in a microfluidic device

B. *Microfludic devices for diagnostics*[5, 7, 8]

• Simple fluidic systems, used in conjunction with smart polymer reagents for biomarker detection

• A microreactor—rapidly purifies and enriches a prostate cancer biomarker, from human plasma within 30 minutes

• Highly sensitive biomarker detection—the limit of detection is 100-fold lower than that of enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

- C. Smart polymer binary reagent system[9-12]
 - Decouple the antibody and the magnetic particle during the binding step and recombine reagents via the polymer aggregate formation for separations
 - Rapid analyte recognition, improves biomarker detection, and processes higher sample volumes for biomarker enrichment
 - Disease diagnostics, biologics manufacturing, and cancer profiling.









