

Report: How a U.S. University Helped China Develop Cutting-Edge Biotechnology

Overview

In January 2025, the Department of War (DoW) first designated Origincell Science and Technology Group (Origincell [原能细胞科技集团]) as a Chinese military company operating in the U.S.¹

Strategy Risks' research indicates that the relationship between Origincell and the leading public research institution the University of Washington (UW) could risk transferring sensitive, dual-use biotechnology to institutions affiliated with China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) and China's wider military-industrial complex. According to its website, the UW receives more "federal research dollars" than any other U.S. public institution: \$1.74 billion in FY 2025.^{2,3,4}

Using publicly available information, Strategy Risks has found:

- Origincell is affiliated with the PLA and Chinese government institutions that regulate China's defense industry and research.
- Origincell awarded an honorary title to a UW faculty member, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Dayong Gao [高大勇], and developed an ongoing, collaborative research relationship with him.
- Gao's research has received funding from U.S. government agencies, including the DoW and the National Science Foundation (NSF); he has also collaborated with Origincell and other entities with ties to China's military. Gao previously served as an honorary or guest professor

¹ U.S. Department of War, "DOD Releases List of Chinese Military Companies in Accordance with Section 1260H of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021," U.S. Department of War, January 7, 2025, observed September 9, 2026 at <https://www.war.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/4023145/dod-releases-list-of-chinese-military-companies-in-accordance-with-section-1260/>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909183948/https://www.war.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/4023145/dod-releases-list-of-chinese-military-companies-in-accordance-with-section-1260/>

² University of Washington, "Fast Facts (HTML Version) – Planning & Budgeting," University of Washington, undated, observed September 9, 2026 at <https://www.washington.edu/opb/uw-data/fast-facts/fast-facts-html-only/>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909185215/https://www.washington.edu/opb/uw-data/fast-facts/fast-facts-html-only/>

³ Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, "Biotech Companies of Concern Letter," U.S. House of Representatives, March 29, 2024, observed September 9, 2026 at https://chineselectcommittee.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/3.29.24%20Biotech%20Companies%20of%20Concern%20Letter_Final%20Text_.pdf and archived at https://web.archive.org/web/20260909183100/https://chineselectcommittee.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/3.29.24%20Biotech%20Companies%20of%20Concern%20Letter_Final%20Text_.pdf

⁴ On March 10, 2026, Representative John Moolenaar, the Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on China, sent a public letter to the interim director of the National Science Foundation (NSF), requesting that he pause and review the University of Washington (UoW)'s involvement in an NSF-funded project on assessing research-security risks. According to the letter, a key reason behind the committee's request was UW's "high-risk research relationships with [Chinese] military- and defense-linked institutions." Moolenaar's letter provides a list of relationships between UoW researchers and Chinese institutions that the Select Committee on China has deemed to be high-risk, but does not mention Origincell. John Moolenaar, "Letter to the Interim Director Mr. Brian Stone of the National Science Foundation Demanding Suspension of Award Funding for Texas A&M and the University of Washington," U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on China, March 10, 2026, observed August 5, 2026, at <https://files.constantcontact.com/f0eecb46901/5bc9b5e3-1c87-4c5b-a150-028d49045603.pdf>, unarchivable

at both the Academy of Military Medical Sciences (AMMS) and the PLA General Hospital (301 Hospital), two PLA institutions, and participated in the Hundred Talents program.⁵ The 301 Hospital treats top Chinese and military leaders.⁶ Strategy Risks found no English-language disclosures of Gao's Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and PLA ties: it is unclear whether Gao has disclosed his CCP and PLA ties to the U.S. government.

- After the DoW listed Origincell as a military company, the UW began deleting mentions of Gao's ties to Origincell. It is unclear if the UW actually cut ties with Origincell, or just deleted public mentions.

⁵ Yuan Feng [冯缘], "Seminar on Exchange and Cooperation between the School of Information and University of Washington (Seattle) [信息学院与华盛顿大学（西雅图）研讨交流合作]," Capital University of Economics and Business News [首都经济贸易大学新闻网], June 3, 2015, observed September 9, 2026 at

<https://news.cueb.edu.cn/xydt/yx/c2bf69114aed4002b6723f00cfb8c839.htm?>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909190331/https://news.cueb.edu.cn/xydt/yx/c2bf69114aed4002b6723f00cfb8c839.htm>

⁶ Cato T. Laurencin, "Visiting the 301 Military Hospital in Beijing China," The Cato T. Laurencin Institute for Regenerative Engineering, June 3, 2016, observed September 9, 2026 at <https://health.uconn.edu/regenerative-engineering-institute/2016/06/03/visiting-the-301-military-hospital-in-beijing-china/#>, and archived at <https://archive.ph/ymwlv>

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Origincell: A Department of War-Designated Chinese Military Company

Origincell was founded in 2014 by Qu Jianguo [瞿建国] and the Canature Health Technology Group Co. Ltd. (Canature Health [开能健康科技集团股份有限公司]), a publicly traded company also founded by Qu.⁷⁸ Based in Shanghai, Origincell focuses on developing standardized, smart, and industrialized cellular storage equipment to freeze and manage human matter and cells like stem cells and immune cells at ultra-low temperatures.⁹¹⁰ A 72-year-old serial entrepreneur and philanthropist from Shanghai, Qu provided water purification technology to the PLA's 301 Hospital.¹¹ Origincell has raised more than \$100 million, with annual revenue of around \$22 million in 2025.¹²

In a June 2026 addition to the *Federal Register*, the official journal of the U.S. federal government, DoW explained its identification of the Origincell Group as a CMC by stating that “Origincell is indirectly affiliated with MIIT, SASAC, SASTIND, and the PLA.”¹³ Those four entities are each key institutions in China's party-state, military, and defense sectors:

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) regulates and develops China's industrial, manufacturing, internet, telecommunications, and software sectors;

- The State Administration of Science, Technology, and Industry for National Defense (SASTIND), an agency within MIIT, manages defense manufacturing, space programs, and military-civil fusion research;
- The State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) manages and supervises state-owned enterprises (SOEs); and

⁷ Origincell, “About Us,” Origincell, undated, observed September 9, 2026 at <https://www.origincell.com/about>, and archived at <https://archive.ph/6r5nE>

⁸ Canature, “Company Introduction,” Canature, undated, observed September 9, 2026 at <http://www.canature.com/groupprofile/index.aspx>, and archived at <https://archive.ph/j9Y3h>

⁹ Origincell, “About Us,” Origincell, undated, observed September 9, 2026 at <https://www.origincell.com/about>, and archived at <https://archive.ph/6r5nE>

¹⁰ Shanghai Zhangjiang Science City Construction Management Office [上海市张江科学城建设管理办公室], “Overview of Zhangjiang Science City [张江科学城概况],” Shanghai Zhangjiang Science City Construction Management Office [上海市张江科学城建设管理办公室], undated, observed September 9, 2026 at <https://www.pudong.gov.cn/023004001/>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909233305/https://www.pudong.gov.cn/023004001/>

¹¹ Shanghai Canature Environmental Products Co., Ltd [上海开能环保设备股份有限公司], “2015 Annual Report [2015 年年度报告],” April, 2016, observed September 9, 2026 at <https://static.cninfo.com.cn/finalpage/2016-04-26/1202244971.PDF>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909193305/https://static.cninfo.com.cn/finalpage/2016-04-26/1202244971.PDF>

¹² Sina Finance [新浪财经], “Canature Health: 2025 Annual Audit Report [开能健康: 2025 年年度审计报告],” Sina Finance [新浪财经], April 29, 2026, observed on September 9, 2026 at https://vip.stock.finance.sina.com.cn/corp/view/vCB_AllBulletinDetail.php?id=12260871&stockid=300272, and archived at <https://archive.ph/CM3Uh>

¹³ U.S. Department of Defense, “Entities Identified as Chinese Military Companies Operation in the United States in Accordance with Section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283, Section 1260H, as amended (codified at 10 U.S.C. 113)),” U.S. Department of Defense, June 8, 2026, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://media.defense.gov/2026/Jun/08/2003945537/-1/-1/1/ENTITIES-IDENTIFIED-AS-CHINESE-MILITARY-COMPANIES-OPERATING-IN-THE-UNITED-STATES-IN-ACCORDANCE-WITH-SECTION-1260H.PDF>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909194250/https://media.defense.gov/2026/Jun/08/2003945537/-1/-1/1/ENTITIES-IDENTIFIED-AS-CHINESE-MILITARY-COMPANIES-OPERATING-IN-THE-UNITED-STATES-IN-ACCORDANCE-WITH-SECTION-1260H.PDF>

- The PLA, the military wing of the CCP and the main armed forces of China.

The DoW's June 2026 designation document contains little information on Origincell's affiliations. Indeed, Origincell's entry is thinner than its peers: For example, the entry for the Chinese genomics company BGI Group cites "science, technology, research, and industrial efforts" tied to the PLA.¹⁴ Of the entries, perhaps the closest comparison to Origincell is Novogene, a biotech company headquartered in Beijing that also received no elaboration beyond a statement that it is "indirectly owned by SASAC and indirectly affiliated with MIIT and the PLA."¹⁵

Elsewhere, this pattern has received pushback via litigation or public comment. Alibaba sued the DoW in June 2026 over the claim that it is "indirectly affiliated with SASAC,"¹⁶ while fellow biotech company WuXi AppTec filed its own suit that month, calling its listing "mistaken and baseless."¹⁷ Moreover, Novogene, which received a similarly limited public explanation, issued a statement saying it is an "independent, publicly listed enterprise" with no PLA ownership, control, or association in response.¹⁸

Strategy Risks examined the four alleged affiliations and found particularly substantial evidence supporting the PLA component. Origincell has partnered with, and supplied products to, institutions affiliated with the PLA and collaborated with institutions that also collaborate with MIIT. Additionally, although Origincell itself is not state-owned, a district-level SASAC entity does hold a minority stake in

¹⁴ U.S. Department of Defense, "Entities Identified as Chinese Military Companies Operation in the United States in Accordance with Section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283, Section 1260H, as amended (codified at 10 U.S.C. 113)), U.S. Department of Defense, June 8, 2026, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://media.defense.gov/2026/Jun/08/2003945537/-1/-1/1/ENTITIES-IDENTIFIED-AS-CHINESE-MILITARY-COMPANIES-OPERATING-IN-THE-UNITED-STATES-IN-ACCORDANCE-WITH-SECTION-1260H.PDF>, and archived at [web/20260909194250/https://media.defense.gov/2026/Jun/08/2003945537/-1/-1/1/ENTITIES-IDENTIFIED-AS-CHINESE-MILITARY-COMPANIES-OPERATING-IN-THE-UNITED-STATES-IN-ACCORDANCE-WITH-SECTION-1260H.PDF](https://web.archive.org/web/20260909194250/https://media.defense.gov/2026/Jun/08/2003945537/-1/-1/1/ENTITIES-IDENTIFIED-AS-CHINESE-MILITARY-COMPANIES-OPERATING-IN-THE-UNITED-STATES-IN-ACCORDANCE-WITH-SECTION-1260H.PDF)

¹⁵ U.S. Department of Defense, "Entities Identified as Chinese Military Companies Operation in the United States in Accordance with Section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283, Section 1260H, as amended (codified at 10 U.S.C. 113)), U.S. Department of Defense, June 8, 2026, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://media.defense.gov/2026/Jun/08/2003945537/-1/-1/1/ENTITIES-IDENTIFIED-AS-CHINESE-MILITARY-COMPANIES-OPERATING-IN-THE-UNITED-STATES-IN-ACCORDANCE-WITH-SECTION-1260H.PDF>, and archived at [web/20260909194250/https://media.defense.gov/2026/Jun/08/2003945537/-1/-1/1/ENTITIES-IDENTIFIED-AS-CHINESE-MILITARY-COMPANIES-OPERATING-IN-THE-UNITED-STATES-IN-ACCORDANCE-WITH-SECTION-1260H.PDF](https://web.archive.org/web/20260909194250/https://media.defense.gov/2026/Jun/08/2003945537/-1/-1/1/ENTITIES-IDENTIFIED-AS-CHINESE-MILITARY-COMPANIES-OPERATING-IN-THE-UNITED-STATES-IN-ACCORDANCE-WITH-SECTION-1260H.PDF)

¹⁶ Court Listener, "Alibaba Group Holding Limited v. United States Department of Defense (5:26-cv-06227)," Court Listener, undated, observed September 9, 2026 at <https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/73518992/alibaba-group-holding-limited-v-united-states-department-of-defense/>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909194731/https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/73518992/alibaba-group-holding-limited-v-united-states-department-of-defense/>

¹⁷ WuXi AppTec, "An Update on Our Legal Action Challenging 1260H Designation," WuXi AppTec, June 12, 2026, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://wuxiapptec.com/news/wuxi-news/mrcqpfago5nwhy5270oc58k>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909194930/https://wuxiapptec.com/news/wuxi-news/an-update-on-our-legal-action-challenging-1260h-designation>

¹⁸ Dr. Ruiqiang Li, "Statement on Novogene Erroneously Listed on 1260H List," Novogene, June 18, 2026, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.novogeneusa.com/about/news/statement-on-novogene-erroneously-listed-on-1260h-list>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909195058/https://www.novogeneusa.com/about/news/statement-on-novogene-erroneously-listed-on-1260h-list>

one of the group's subsidiaries. This indicates that state capital is present within at least one part of Origincell's corporate structure.

Origincell's Links to the PLA

Origincell's flagship achievement, repeatedly touted in its own promotional materials and in Chinese financial press, is "China's first million-level fully automated biological sample bank," announced in December 2016 as a joint undertaking with Shanghai Changzheng Hospital.¹⁹ This automated repository establishes infrastructure that can analyze and process genetic samples, and secures critical genetic assets while providing the uncorrupted, large-scale biological datasets necessary to drive national precision medicine initiatives.

Changzheng Hospital is part of the PLA under its official name: the Second Affiliated Hospital of the PLA Naval Medical University. The PLA has classified it as a "正师级" (division-leader-grade) military unit, with hospital leadership and staff holding formal PLA officer ranks and serving as active-duty military personnel.²⁰ An article in a Chinese financial website covering the establishment of the Origincell-Changzheng joint sample bank project describes it as being built "in active response to the national strategy of deepening military-civil fusion development," meaning that the Chinese military may utilize this technology.^{21,22,23}

A second, independent thread reinforces this picture. A January 2017 research report on Origincell's partner Canature Health by an analyst at Chinese financial services firm Xingye Securities Co., Ltd. states

¹⁹ Lujiazui Jinrong Wang [陆家嘴金融网], "China's First Million-Level Fully Automated Biobank Established at Shanghai Changzheng Hospital [国内首个百万级全自动生物样本库落户上海长征医院], " Lujiazui Jinrong Wang [陆家嘴金融网], December 6, 2016, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.ljzfin.com/news/info/35879.html>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909195543/https://www.ljzfin.com/news/info/35879.html>

²⁰ Haodafu Zaixian [好大夫在线], "Second Affiliated Hospital of Naval Medical University [海军军医大学第二附属医院], " Haodafu Zaixian [好大夫在线], undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.haodf.com/hospital/428.html> , and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909195715/https://www.haodf.com/hospital/428.html>

²¹ Lujiazui Jinrong Wang [陆家嘴金融网], "China's First Million-Level Fully Automated Biobank Established at Shanghai Changzheng Hospital [国内首个百万级全自动生物样本库落户上海长征医院], " Lujiazui Jinrong Wang [陆家嘴金融网], December 6, 2016, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.ljzfin.com/news/info/35879.html>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909195543/https://www.ljzfin.com/news/info/35879.html>

²² This is the project the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party cited in a March 2024 letter to the then-Secretary of Defense as the basis for describing Origincell as a supplier on a "Military-Civil Fusion" bio-sample storage bank project.

²³ Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, "Biotech Companies of Concern Letter," U.S. House of Representatives, March 29, 2024, observed September 9, 2026 at https://chinaselectcommittee.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/3.29.24%20Biotech%20Companies%20of%20Concern%20Letter_Final%20Text_.pdf, and archived at https://web.archive.org/web/20260909183100/https://chinaselectcommittee.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/3.29.24%20Biotech%20Companies%20of%20Concern%20Letter_Final%20Text_.pdf

that since late 2014 Origincell has pursued "strategic cooperation" with both the AMMS – a medical research institution operated by the PLA – and UW.²⁴²⁵

Origincell's Links to MIIT

Origincell has collaborated on two bio-banking innovation centers with the state-owned Shanghai Institute of Process Automation and Instrumentation (SIPAI, [上海工业自动化仪表研究院有限公司]), a system-integration and automation engineering company with a close relationship with MIIT.²⁶ SIPAI holds a number of formal MIIT-conferred designations, indicating its strategic value to the Chinese government:²⁷ it belongs to the national "Intelligent Manufacturing Expert Advisory Committee" and the deputy-leader unit of the "Intelligent Manufacturing Standardization Overall Group."²⁸²⁹

Origincell's collaborations with SIPAI also include a joint "AI (medical innovation) demonstration base" between SIPAI and an Origincell subsidiary, Shanghai Origincell Biological Cryogenic Equipment Co., Ltd. (Origincell Bio, [原能生物]).³⁰ Origincell Bio's corporate profile also describes a "5G Joint Innovation Center and Joint Innovation Laboratory" built together with four partners: state-owned telecom carrier China Telecom, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, SIPAI, and Swiss-Swedish multinational technology company ABB.³¹

²⁴ Yang Wang [汪洋], "With a Vast Untapped Potential in Whole-House Water Treatment, the Cell Storage Business is on the Verge of Explosive Growth [坐拥全屋水处理蓝海市场, 细胞存储业务正处 爆发前夜]," Industrial Securities Co., Ltd [兴业证券], January 20, 2017, observed on September 9, 2026 at https://pdf.dfcfw.com/pdf/H3_AP201701230288074958_1.pdf, and archived at <https://archive.ph/CKvr1>

²⁵ As established earlier in this report, UW professor Dayong Gao held an honorary role at AMMS, demonstrating another layer of connection to this PLA-affiliated institution.

²⁶ Shanghai Institute of Process Automation & Instrumentation Co., Ltd [上海工业自动化仪表研究院有限公司], "System Integration [系统集成]," Shanghai Institute of Process Automation & Instrumentation Co., Ltd [上海工业自动化仪表研究院有限公司], undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at https://sipai.inesa.com/shgyzdh_xjc/List/index.htm, and archived at https://web.archive.org/web/20260909200345/https://sipai.inesa.com/shgyzdh_xjc/List/index.htm

²⁷ Shanghai Institute of Process Automation & Instrumentation Co., Ltd [上海工业自动化仪表研究院有限公司], "Company Profile [公司简介]," Shanghai Institute of Process Automation & Instrumentation Co., Ltd [上海工业自动化仪表研究院有限公司], undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at https://sipai.inesa.com/shgyzdh_gsjj/List/index.htm, and archived at https://web.archive.org/web/20260909200725/https://sipai.inesa.com/shgyzdh_gsjj/List/index.htm

²⁸ It is also one of the earliest "Intelligent Manufacturing System Solution Providers" jointly designated by MIIT and the Shanghai municipal government, and MIIT's first-batch service provider for its "Two Integrations" [两化融合] management-system certification program. SIPAI also held a weapons-equipment R&D and production unity qualification certificate from at least 2018 through 2022.

²⁹ Shanghai Institute of Process Automation & Instrumentation Co., Ltd [上海工业自动化仪表研究院有限公司], "Company Profile [公司简介]," Shanghai Institute of Process Automation & Instrumentation Co., Ltd [上海工业自动化仪表研究院有限公司], undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at https://sipai.inesa.com/shgyzdh_gsjj/List/index.htm, and archived at https://web.archive.org/web/20260909200725/https://sipai.inesa.com/shgyzdh_gsjj/List/index.htm

³⁰ Origincell Group [原能细胞科技集团], "Introduction to Origincell Cell Bank [原能细胞库简介]," Origincell Group [原能细胞科技集团], undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.origincell.com/business/cell-bank>, and archived at <https://archive.ph/IbGBR>

³¹ Origincell Group [原能细胞科技集团], "Introduction to Origincell Biology [原能生物简介]," Origincell Group [原能细胞科技集团], undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.origincell.com/business/origincell-auto>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909202044/https://www.origincell.com/business/origincell-auto>

In short, one of Origincell's primary partners in these collaborations, SIPAI, is a company that MIIT has qualified and trusted for weapons-related engineering work. While SIPAI's connections do not prove military use for Origincell's technology, they do show that the company has strong connections with institutions operating within China's defense-industrial base.

Origincell's Links to SASAC

SASAC manages and supervises major non-financial SOEs on behalf of the Chinese government. Understanding the SASAC-Origincell connection requires distinguishing between different tiers of the corporate structure and different types of Chinese state relationships.

A Canature Health disclosure filed with the Shenzhen Stock Exchange in October 2025 lays out Origincell Group's ownership thusly: Canature Health held 43.70 percent, founder Qu (directly and through his "Gaosen" fund vehicles) held 53.75 percent and was named the company's "actual controller" [实控人], with the remaining 2.55 percent held by other private investors.³² In Canature Health's last annual report, filed in April 2026, Qu's direct ownership stake had increased to 31.83 percent.³³ No state-owned entity appears anywhere in this ownership structure.

At the level of the physical park Origincell occupies, however, a state connection exists. Origincell's headquarters sit within Zhangjiang Science City, developed by Shanghai Zhangjiang (Group) Co., Ltd. [上海张江（集团）有限公司], a company wholly owned by the Pudong New Area SASAC Commission [浦东新区国有资产监督管理委员会].³⁴³⁵³⁶ Space in locations like Zhangjiang Science City is often given to companies in sectors that Chinese industrial policy has designated as strategic priorities.

³² Canature Health Technology Group Co., Ltd [开能健康科技集团股份有限公司], "Indicative Announcement Regarding the Signing of a Framework for Equity Acquisition and a Related-Party Transaction[关于签署股权收购框架协议暨关联交易的提示性公告]," October 30, 2025, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://static.cninfo.com.cn/finalpage/2025-10-30/1224768785.PDF>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909212600/https://static.cninfo.com.cn/finalpage/2025-10-30/1224768785.PDF>

³³ Canature Health Technology Group Co., Ltd [开能健康科技集团股份有限公司], "Canature Health Technology Group Co., Ltd Summary of the 2025 Annual Report [开能健康科技集团股份有限公司 2025 年年度报告摘要]," April 29, 2026, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://static.cninfo.com.cn/finalpage/2026-04-29/1225239230.PDF>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909212308/https://static.cninfo.com.cn/finalpage/2026-04-29/1225239230.PDF>

³⁴ Shanghai Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park Development Co., Ltd [张江高科], "Summary of the Prospectus for the Public Issuance of Corporate Bonds (Tranche 1) in 2026 to Professional Investors by Shanghai Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park Development Co., Ltd [上海张江高科技园区开发股份有限公司 2026 年面向专业投资者公开发行公司债券（第一期）募集说明书摘要]," Shanghai Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park Development Co., Ltd [张江高科], June 18, 2026, observed on September 9, 2026 at https://static.sse.com.cn/disclosure/bond/announcement/company/c/new/2026-06-30/245518_20260630_4ETB.pdf, and archived at https://web.archive.org/web/20260909213710/https://static.sse.com.cn/disclosure/bond/announcement/company/c/new/2026-06-30/245518_20260630_4ETB.pdf

³⁵ Simin Ji [计思敏], "Zhangjiang Hi-Tech: 4.99% of State-Owned Shares Planned to be Transferred to Pudong SASAC, to be Contributed to Pudong Capital as Non-Monetary Capital [张江高科：4.99%国有股份拟划转至浦东国资委，将作为非货币出资注入浦东资本]," The Paper [澎湃新闻], June 19, 2026, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://m.thepaper.cn/detail/33411961>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909210245/https://m.thepaper.cn/detail/33411961>

³⁶ This is a district-level SASAC, rather than the central State Council body.

Tenancy there can provide access to perks such as government subsidies, tax incentives, and introductions to other state-linked entities. This creates a natural pathway for the government to exert influence over these companies in turn.

A modest but more concrete link exists at the subsidiary level. A March 2022 Canature Health disclosure on its investment in Origincell Bio, the Origincell subsidiary responsible for automated bio-storage equipment manufacturing, lists Shanghai Zhangjiang Torch Venture Capital Co., Ltd. [上海张江火炬创业投资有限公司] among its shareholders.³⁷ Zhangjiang Torch Venture Capital is wholly state-owned, by a Pudong government investment platform that makes early-stage seed fund investments into local technology companies.³⁸ Although it is a minority stake at the subsidiary tier rather than the parent entity, this is state capital sitting inside an Origincell subsidiary's ownership structure. SASAC therefore maintains tangible, if subtle, connections to Origincell's work through its minority stake and its ownership of the park in which the company is based.

Origincell's Partnership with the UW and Gao

On January 9, 2017, Origincell awarded Gao, a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the UW, the 'Origincell Endowed Professorship.'³⁹ High-ranking officials from both Origincell and the UW, including Origincell chairman Qu, Origincell president Helen Yang, Origincell Chief Technology Officer Xiaowen He, then UW Vice Provost Jeffrey Riedinger, and then College of Engineering Dean Michael Bragg, attended the ceremony.⁴⁰ For the professorship, Gao was to "work with Origincell to advance the methods, equipment and technology needed to safely and effectively store living cells for long-term cryopreservation — keeping them dormant but potentially alive at deep low temperatures of -196 C." Origincell has described its relationship with the UW as involving a "cooperation framework agreement,"⁴¹ implying that Origincell's ties to the UW go beyond simple honorary titles.⁴²

³⁷ Canature Health Technology Group Co., Ltd [开能健康科技集团股份有限公司], "Announcement Concerning the Company's Participation in Capital Increase and Related-Party Transactions of Origincell Biology [关于公司参与对原能生物增资暨关联交易的公告]," Canature Health Technology Group Co., Ltd [开能健康科技集团股份有限公司], March 15, 2022, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://static.cninfo.com.cn/finalpage/2022-03-15/1212567515.PDF>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909214205/https://static.cninfo.com.cn/finalpage/2022-03-15/1212567515.PDF>

³⁸ Shanghai Zhangjiang Torch Innovation Park Investment & Development Co., Ltd., <https://pitchhub.36kr.com/organization/1678206687949825>

³⁹ Mechanical Engineering Department, University of Washington, "Dayong Gao honoured with Origincell Endowed Professorship, elected as President of the Society for Cryobiology," January 17, 2017, observed on September 9, 2026, and archived at https://web.archive.org/web/20250331235116/https://www.me.washington.edu/news/gao_origincell

⁴⁰ Mechanical Engineering Department, University of Washington, "Dayong Gao honoured with Origincell Endowed Professorship, elected as President of the Society for Cryobiology," January 17, 2017, observed on September 9, 2026, and archived at https://web.archive.org/web/20250331235116/https://www.me.washington.edu/news/gao_origincell

⁴¹ Origincell Group [原能细胞科技集团], "Introduction to Origincell Cell Bank[原能细胞库简介]," Origincell Group [原能细胞科技集团], undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.origincell.com/business/cell-bank>, and archived at <https://archive.ph/IbGBR>

⁴² Mechanical Engineering Department, University of Washington, "Dayong Gao honoured with Origincell Endowed Professorship, elected as President of the Society for Cryobiology," January 17, 2017, observed on September 9, 2026, and archived at https://web.archive.org/web/20250331235116/https://www.me.washington.edu/news/gao_origincell

Strategy Risks' research demonstrates that the relationship between the UW and Origincell is ongoing, substantial, and primarily mediated through Gao. Notably, we have found evidence that:

- Origincell described Gao as a “chief scientist,” and he has co-authored research with the Origincell Chief Technology Officer and other Origincell-affiliated researchers.
- Gao has continued to use the title of “Origincell Endowed Professor” at least into early 2026.⁴³
- Gao has held honorary or guest professorships at the PLA’s AMMS and the PLA General Hospital.
- Gao has participated in two different Chinese state talent-recruitment programs, including the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ “Hundred Talents Program” – a program which has previously attracted concern from the U.S. government over the potential technology transfer risks.
- Gao has also held a professorship at the University of Science and Technology of China, a top Chinese research university.⁴⁴
- Gao has co-authored and presented alongside researchers from the Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT), an institute sanctioned by the U.S. in 2020 and prominently recognized as one of the “Seven Sons of National Defense,” a group of Chinese universities closely aligned with military research and the defense industry. This includes publishing an article co-authored with HIT researchers in 2021 – after HIT was sanctioned.⁴⁵ Gao’s Baidu Scholar ID further shows dozens of publications associated with the PLA General Hospital [解放军总医院].⁴⁶

Origincell CTO He’s relationship with Gao extends beyond that single ceremony.⁴⁷ The two are co-authors of “Effect of Warming Process on the Survival of Cryopreserved Human Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells,” published in *Biopreservation and Biobanking* (2021), alongside a roster of other Origincell-affiliated researchers including Origincell president Yang.⁴⁸ He was also a plenary speaker at

⁴³ Society for Cryobiology, “Dayong Gao Young Investigator Award,” undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.societyforcryobiology.org/dayong-gao-young-investigator-award>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909220901/https://www.societyforcryobiology.org/dayong-gao-young-investigator-award>

⁴⁴ University of Science and Technology of China Newspaper [中国科大报], “Alumnus Dayong Gao Honoured with ‘Asian American Engineer of the Year Award’ [校友高大勇荣获‘美国亚裔工程师奖’,]” March 15, 2013, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://zgkdb.ustc.edu.cn/ndetail/1201>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909221122/https://zgkdb.ustc.edu.cn/ndetail/1201>

⁴⁵ Tianhang Yang, “Numerical Modeling of Temperature-Dependent Cell Membrane Permeability to Water Based on a Microfluidic System with Dynamic Temperature Control,” Sage Journals, May 27, 2021, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/24726303211015199>, and archived at https://web.archive.org/web/20260909222611/https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/24726303211015199?__cf_chl_rt_tk=d3TwXdNAQERScMTrg6QxelPbqBlnihDPPGWqWbyXww-1788992771-1.0.1.1-hMVRK8rGQrXKncPQ1tGAjk3qPm2bQLhTQNx4CWH53nc

⁴⁶ Baidu Scholar [学术百度], “Dayong Gao [高大勇],” Baidu Scholar [学术百度], undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://xueshu.baidu.com/scholarID/CN-BH73Q4LJ>, unarchivable

⁴⁷ While He is omitted from the press release body, the release’s photo caption confirms his attendance at the event.

⁴⁸ Yanhong Xu, “Effect of Warming Process on the Survival of Cryopreserved Human Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells,” Sage Journals, May 28, 2021, observed on September 9 at <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1089/bio.2020.0058#tab-contributors>, and archived at <https://doi.org/10.1089/bio.2020.0058>

CRYO2017, the 2017 World Cryobiology and Biobanking Conference, presenting alongside Gao and senior figures from the Organ Preservation Alliance and ISBER.⁴⁹

Gao's relationship to Origincell appears more longstanding and institutionally embedded than his title may otherwise suggest. One Origincell subsidiary profile states he "worked as chief scientist in Origincell for joint construction of the industry's leading cryogenic bio-freezing technology platform"⁵⁰ – a leadership role, in other words, rather than merely a symbolic honor.

Gao has continued to use this connection as recently as early 2026. The Society for Cryobiology's award page for the "Dayong Gao Young Investigator Award," which had 2026 applications due April 15, 2026, states in Gao's official biography that he "is the ORIGINCELL Endowed Professor of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the Director of the Center for Cryo-Biomedical Engineering and Artificial Organs, the University of Washington."⁵¹

Gao's Relationship with China's Party-State and the PLA

Beyond the Origincell relationship itself, Gao's broader biography contains another set of Chinese government and PLA ties.

Gao has held a Chinese Ministry of Education Changjiang Scholar Distinguished Professorship, and was a supported expert under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)' "Hundred Talents Program,"⁵² both of which are official Chinese state talent-recruitment programs that have drawn sustained U.S. research-security scrutiny over concerns about undisclosed foreign funding and technology transfer.⁵³ Participation in these programs does not by itself establish improper technology transfer or disclosure violations, but it adds relevant context given longstanding U.S. government concerns regarding some Chinese talent-recruitment programs.

⁴⁹ Society for Cryobiology, "CRYO2017 Report," Society for Cryobiology, July 30, 2017, observed on September 9, 2026 at https://www.societyforcryobiology.org/index.php?day=29&id=15%3Acryo2017&month=07&option=com_dailyplanetblog&view=entry&year=2017, and archived at https://web.archive.org/web/20260909224325/https://www.societyforcryobiology.org/index.php?day=29&id=15%3Acryo2017&month=07&option=com_dailyplanetblog&view=entry&year=2017

⁵⁰ Orcella, "About Us," Orcella, undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.bio-bank.com/en/about/about-us>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909231023/https://www.bio-bank.com/en/about/about-us>

⁵¹ Society for Cryobiology, "Dayong Gao Young Investigator Award," undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.societyforcryobiology.org/dayong-gao-young-investigator-award>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909220901/https://www.societyforcryobiology.org/dayong-gao-young-investigator-award>

⁵² Yuan Feng [冯缘], "School of Information Signs Cooperation Agreement with the University of Washington's CEAO Center [信息学院与美国华盛顿大学 CEAO 中心签订合作协议]," Capital University of Economics and Business News [首都经济贸易大学新闻网], June 22, 2016, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://news.cueb.edu.cn/xydt/yx/0d7ff3be02de4a8aa34457bb35371ea9.htm>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909231304/https://news.cueb.edu.cn/xydt/yx/0d7ff3be02de4a8aa34457bb35371ea9.htm>

⁵³ U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, "2025 Report to Congress," U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, November 18, 2025, observed on September 9, 2026 at https://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/2025-11/2025_Annual_Report_to_Congress.pdf, and archived at https://web.archive.org/web/20260909231416/https://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/2025-11/2025_Annual_Report_to_Congress.pdf

Gao has also produced joint research with faculty from the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC), a top Chinese research university under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Gao's alma mater.⁵⁴⁵⁵ A ResearchGate compilation of Gao's co-authorship network lists Gang Zhao and Weiping Ding, both USTC-affiliated, among his research collaborators, alongside his UW-based students and postdocs and a University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (UESTC) collaborator.⁵⁶ UESTC sits under the joint supervision of the MIIT, SASTIND, and the China Electronics Technology Group Corporation (CETC). CETC's sanctions exposure is substantial: The DoW has designated it a Chinese Military Company under Section 1260H, citing its direct ownership by SASAC and direct affiliation with MIIT and SASTIND. Moreover, the U.S. Commerce Department has separately placed at least nine CETC research institutes on its Entity List since 2018 for activity supporting unauthorized military end-use and PLA reconnaissance programs.⁵⁷⁵⁸

Alongside the UESTC connection, the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences is a national center for blood-transfusion research which, despite its civilian designation, collaborates with the PLA's AMMS discussed earlier in this report. Moreover, a 2015 university news release lists Gao's additional honorary or guest professorships as including an adjunct role at Peking University, and, critically, honorary or guest professorships at the Academy of Military Medical Sciences and the PLA General Hospital (Beijing 301 Hospital).⁵⁹

⁵⁴ Gang Zhao, "Principles and advances of cell cryopreservation," SciEngine, February 26, 2024 and observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.sciengine.com/SSV/doi/10.1360/SSV-2023-0060>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260910131526/https://www.sciengine.com/SSV/doi/10.1360/SSV-2023-0060>

⁵⁵ University of Science and Technology of China's School of Computer Science and Technology [中国科学技术大学电子科学与技术系], "Dayong Gao [高大勇]," undated, observed on September 9, 2026 and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20200211152800/http://est.ustc.edu.cn/4637/list.htm>

⁵⁶ Research Gate, "Dayong Gao's research while affiliated with University of Washington and other places," undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.researchgate.net/scientific-contributions/Dayong-Gao-39173230>, and archived at https://web.archive.org/web/20260909232326/https://www.researchgate.net/scientific-contributions/Dayong-Gao-39173230?_cf_chl_rt_tk=sQ9FcFbHktZbA.kVTih0uTjuqgkiRW2hwC7MJ9znZUs-1788996206-1.0.1.1-TxfTaenXv_LRLi.CYfNDS6WtwRI0xaR4GJd1Jb6GWDU

⁵⁷ U.S. Department of Defense, "Entities Identified as Chinese Military Companies Operation in the United States in Accordance with Section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283, Section 1260H, as amended (codified at 10 U.S.C. 113)), " U.S. Department of Defense, June 8, 2026, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://media.defense.gov/2026/Jun/08/2003945537/-1/-1/1/ENTITIES-IDENTIFIED-AS-CHINESE-MILITARY-COMPANIES-OPERATING-IN-THE-UNITED-STATES-IN-ACCORDANCE-WITH-SECTION-1260H.PDF>, and archived at <https://web/20260909194250/https://media.defense.gov/2026/Jun/08/2003945537/-1/-1/1/ENTITIES-IDENTIFIED-AS-CHINESE-MILITARY-COMPANIES-OPERATING-IN-THE-UNITED-STATES-IN-ACCORDANCE-WITH-SECTION-1260H.PDF>

⁵⁸ Gao also co-authored "Microfiltration-based sequential perfusion: A new approach for improved loading/unloading of cryoprotectants," published in *Sensors and Actuators B: Chemical* (2020), with three UESTC Engineering researchers, two researchers from the Institute of Blood Transfusion, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, in Chengdu, and one from Harvard Medical School. Xiaoming Zhou, "Microfiltration-based sequential perfusion: A new approach for improved loading/unloading of cryoprotectants," ScienceDirect, June 1, 2020, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0925400520303051>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909232541/https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0925400520303051>

⁵⁹ Yuan Feng [冯缘], "Seminar on Exchange and Cooperation between the School of Information and University of Washington (Seattle) [信息学院与华盛顿大学（西雅图）研讨交流合作]," Capital University of Economics and Business News [首都经济贸易大学新闻网], June 3, 2015, observed September 9, 2026 at <https://news.cueb.edu.cn/xydt/yx/c2bf69114aed4002b6723f00cfb8c839.htm>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909190331/https://news.cueb.edu.cn/xydt/yx/c2bf69114aed4002b6723f00cfb8c839.htm>

These institutions have public connections with Origincell and Canature Health. The AMMS is the same body whose logo Origincell lists as a "cooperative user"⁶⁰ of one of its subsidiaries, and with which Origincell's corporate family reportedly pursued "strategic cooperation" since 2014.⁶¹ The PLA General Hospital (301 Hospital) is the same institution that received Canature Health's water-treatment products.⁶² This means Gao independently holds or held honorary faculty status at two PLA medical institutions already tied to Origincell through other channels.

Gao's Additional Commercial Ties:

Since 2022, Gao has served as an independent non-executive director of Cryofocus Medtech Co., Ltd [Cryofocus 康沣生物科技（上海）股份有限公司], a medical-device company specializing in minimally invasive cryotherapy and cryoablation.⁶³ Listed in Hong Kong, the board contains CCP members, such as Non-Executive Director Zhao Chunsheng [赵春生], a professor of physics and chemistry at Peking University.^{64,65}

Cryofocus has established "long-term cooperative relations" with the PLA General Hospital [中国人民解放军医院] and Changhai Hospital [长海医院], the First Affiliated Hospital of the Naval Medical University [中国人民解放军海军军医大学第一附属医院].⁶⁶ Details are limited, but cooperation seems to focus on clinical trials and research evaluation.

In 2022, Cryofocus received funding under the Shanghai Science and Technology Innovation Action Plan – Outstanding Academic/Technical Leaders Program [上海市 2022 年度“科技创新行动计划”优秀学术/技术带头人计划项目]. The award program is explicitly designed by the Shanghai Municipal Science

⁶⁰ Origincell Group [原能细胞科技集团], "Introduction to Origincell Biology[原能生物简介]," Origincell Group [原能细胞科技集团], undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.origincell.com/business/origincell-auto>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909202044/https://www.origincell.com/business/origincell-auto>

⁶¹ Med Valley [医谷网], "Canature Health Invests 100 Million Yuan in Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Research with the Academy of Military Medical Sciences [开能环保投资 1 亿元与军事医学科学院合作进行干细胞与再生医学的研究]," Med Valley [医谷网], November 18, 2014, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://m.medvalley.cn/article/225-0-9894>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260910005654/https://m.medvalley.cn/article/225-0-9894>

⁶² Shanghai Canature Environmental Products Co., Ltd [上海开能环保设备股份有限公司], "2015 Annual Report [2015 年年度报告]," April, 2016, observed September 9, 2026 at <https://static.cninfo.com.cn/finalpage/2016-04-26/1202244971.PDF>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909193305/https://static.cninfo.com.cn/finalpage/2016-04-26/1202244971.PDF>

⁶³ Sina Finance [新浪财经], "Cryofocus-B [康沣生物-B]," Sina Finance [新浪财经], undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://stock.finance.sina.com.cn/hkstock/info/06922.html>, and archived at <https://archive.ph/17oUT>

⁶⁴ Tonghuashun [同花顺], "Cryofocus-B Executives' Profile[康沣生物-B 高官简介]," Tonghuashun [同花顺], undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://basic.10jqka.com.cn/176/HK6922/manager.html>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260910010848/https://basic.10jqka.com.cn/176/HK6922/manager.html>

⁶⁵ Peking University, "Chunsheng Zhao," Peking University, undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at https://faculty.pku.edu.cn/zhaochunsheng/zh_CN/, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909233617/https://faculty.pku.edu.cn/zhaochunsheng/en/index.htm>

⁶⁶ Wenjuan Xu [徐文娟], "After 6 Years of Exploration, Cryofocus Develops Two Major Cryopreservation and Thawing Technologies, Breaking Foreign Enterprises' Monopoly [历经 6 年探索, 康沣生物研发两大冷冻消融技术, 打破国外企业垄断局面]," VCBeat [动脉网], September 24, 2019, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.vbdata.cn/44238>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260910010520/https://www.vbdata.cn/44238>

and Technology Commission (STCSM) to foster cooperation among industry, academia, and research hospitals as part of the Chinese government's broader efforts to integrate scientific research, industrial development and technological application within strategic sectors. Over a dozen military or military-affiliated institutions also received funding within the same innovation plan, suggesting Cryofocus is integrated into the national defense-innovation ecosystem.⁶⁷⁶⁸

Gao and the UW's Level of Transparency over China-Based Titles

While Gao's ties extend to both American and Chinese entities, his public professional identities differ based on the surrounding context. Several of the English-language biographies reviewed for this report, including his official UW Mechanical Engineering faculty page,⁶⁹ his biography with the Chinese Institute of Engineers (Seattle Chapter),⁷⁰ and his biography with the International Academy of Medical and Biological Engineering⁷¹ prominently listed his Origincell Endowed Professorship, highlighting it within the first line of his title. His UW faculty page also discloses that his research has been funded by, among others, the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, and National Science Foundation.

However, a strange thing has happened on his UW page over the past 18 months. Since Origincell's listing as a Chinese military company by the DoW, references to Gao's Origincell endowment have been removed from the UW pages.

⁶⁷ Shanghai Municipal People's Government [上海市政府], "List of Selected Personnel for the 2022 Shanghai 'Science and Technology Innovation Action Plan' Excellent Academic/Technical Leader Program [上海市 2022 年度“科技创新行动计划”优秀学术/技术带头人计划项目入选人员名单], " Shanghai Municipal People's Government [上海市政府], undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://stcsm.sh.gov.cn/cmsres/22/22dbe81c543e4fec9a5215c4ec219588/56c7f76779176120d4446306f33ad303.pdf>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260910011452/https://stcsm.sh.gov.cn/cmsres/22/22dbe81c543e4fec9a5215c4ec219588/56c7f76779176120d4446306f33ad303.pdf>

⁶⁸ Additionally, one of Cryofocus's subsidiaries, Ningbo SensCure Biotechnology (宁波胜杰康生物科技有限公司), develops cryoablation and endoscopic devices for respiratory, urological, and gastrointestinal applications. In April 2024, SensCure participated in a major Shanghai endoscopy forum where Professor Xia Yuting (夏玉亭) of the Shenyang-based PLA Northern Theatre General Hospital was listed among the presiding experts.

⁶⁹ Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Washington, "Dayong Gao," Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Washington, undated, observed on September 9, 2026 <https://me.washington.edu/facultyfinder/dayong-gao>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909234341/https://www.me.washington.edu/facultyfinder/dayong-gao>

⁷⁰ Chinese Institute of Engineers (Seattle Chapter), "Dr. Dayong Gao Bio," Chinese Institute of Engineers (Seattle Chapter), undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.cie-sea.org/dr-dayong-gao-bio/>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909234429/https://www.cie-sea.org/dr-dayong-gao-bio/>

⁷¹ International Academy of Medical and Biological Engineering, "Dayong Gao," International Academy of Medical and Biological Engineering, undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://iambe.ifmbe.org/fellow/dayong-gao/>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909234531/https://iambe.ifmbe.org/fellow/dayong-gao/>

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Biography

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Screenshot of Gao's UW profile from May 2025

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Biography

Dr. Dayong Gao is a Professor of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the

Screenshot of Gao's UW profile from July 2025

What is also absent from these pages is any mention of Gao's historic roles as a Chinese Ministry of Education "Changjiang (Yangtze River) Scholar" Distinguished Professor, his participation in the Chinese Academy of Sciences' "Hundred Talents Program," or his "Master Chair Professor" appointment at the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC). USTC's Chinese departmental website described him as someone who "currently serves as a tenured full professor at the University of Washington (Seattle)'s Department of Mechanical Engineering and, concurrently, Bioengineering, and is a USTC

Master Chair (Tier II) Professor."⁷² Moreover, a 2015 news release from the Capital University of Economics and Business in Beijing lists Gao's additional honorary or guest professorships as including an adjunct role at Peking University, and, critically, honorary or guest professorships at the Academy of Military Medical Sciences and the PLA General Hospital (Beijing 301 Hospital).⁷³ Gao's UW faculty page appears to be selective in the affiliations it discloses; while the above historic relations are omitted from his page, other U.S. and international affiliations are listed dating as far back as 1998.⁷⁴

This raises important questions about the level of transparency surrounding Gao's ties. On the one hand, his connections to Origincell are openly advertised. On the other, Gao and UW's English-language pages do not acknowledge the existence of state-conferred Chinese academic honors and a Chinese university appointment alongside his American one.

Conclusion

Origincell and Gao's entanglements with the Chinese party-state raise the risk that sensitive, military-use technology could be transferred to the PLA. The technology that both Gao and Origincell work on – cryopreservation and biobanking – is a long-standing U.S. defense research priority, with novel technologies for blood storage recognized as a key area of development for treatment of combat injuries.⁷⁵ Gao's research has received sustained funding from the DoW, NIH, and the NSF.⁷⁶ This federally funded work has included projects in cryopreservation, artificial organs, and biomedical diagnostics. Origincell and Gao's connections to PLA and the Chinese party-state more broadly raise the concern that U.S. government-funded research into a dual-use area could be used to benefit the PLA.

⁷² University of Science and Technology of China's School of Computer Science and Technology [中国科学技术大学电子科学与技术系], "Dayong Gao [高大勇]," undated, observed on September 9, 2026 and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20200211152800/http://est.ustc.edu.cn/4637/list.htm>

⁷³ Yuan Feng [冯缘], "Seminar on Exchange and Cooperation between the School of Information and University of Washington (Seattle) [信息学院与华盛顿大学（西雅图）研讨交流合作]," Capital University of Economics and Business News [首都经济贸易大学新闻网], June 3, 2015, observed September 9, 2026 at

<https://news.cueb.edu.cn/xydt/yx/c2bf69114aed4002b6723f00cfb8c839.htm?>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909190331/https://news.cueb.edu.cn/xydt/yx/c2bf69114aed4002b6723f00cfb8c839.htm>

⁷⁴ Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Washington, "Dayong Gao," Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Washington, undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://me.washington.edu/facultyfinder/dayong-gao>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909234341/https://www.me.washington.edu/facultyfinder/dayong-gao>

⁷⁵ Businesswire, "Cerus Corporation Announces Follow-on Award of U.S. Department of Defense Funding for Development of Pathogen Reduced, Lyophilized Cryoprecipitate," Businesswire, June 5, 2023, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20230605005325/en/Cerus-Corporation-Announces-Follow-on-Award-of-U.S.-Department-of-Defense-Funding-for-Development-of-Pathogen-Reduced-Lyophilized-Cryoprecipitate>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909234758/https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20230605005325/en/Cerus-Corporation-Announces-Follow-on-Award-of-U.S.-Department-of-Defense-Funding-for-Development-of-Pathogen-Reduced-Lyophilized-Cryoprecipitate>

⁷⁶ Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Washington, "Dayong Gao," Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Washington, undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://me.washington.edu/facultyfinder/dayong-gao>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909234341/https://www.me.washington.edu/facultyfinder/dayong-gao>

Gao's own UW biography and multiple secondary academic profiles, list the Department of Defense as one of his recurring funding sources, alongside the NIH, the NSF, and the Gates Foundation.⁷⁷ His UW faculty-finder page separately lists "Naval Medical Research" among the national and international panels and review boards he has served on.⁷⁸ Notably, his own USTC departmental bio page, written and hosted by a Chinese institution, states that he has received research funding from "美国国防部 (DoD)" among other U.S. agencies.⁷⁹

Cryopreservation and biopreservation research has been a standing U.S. defense research priority. The DoW has run dedicated organ- and tissue-cryopreservation grant programs since at least 2014–2015, described in trade press as the "first-ever government grant programs targeting organ cryobanking for transplants," intended to fund roughly 20 leading American research teams at \$3–3.5 million each. This was explicitly framed around advancing "the military's health goals."⁸⁰ Gao was one of more than 40 co-signatories on a 2017 Nature Biotechnology letter calling for a national "Apollo Program" in organ and tissue preservation research, which states plainly that improved preservation capability carries direct implications not just for global health and drug discovery but for "national defense" specifically.⁸¹ The same article reports the DoW had already committed \$14.8 million in preservation-focused small-business grants and launched a \$300 million tissue-biofabrication manufacturing institute with a preservation-research component.⁸²

Blood- and biologic-product shelf-life extension is an openly stated military trauma-medicine priority: DoW funding for a lyophilized cryoprecipitate product, for example, is explicitly framed around extending blood-product survivability "in far-forward austere combat environments" to improve the odds of combat casualties surviving massive bleeding.⁸³ Both Gao's core academic research and

⁷⁷ Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Washington, "Dayong Gao," Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Washington, undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://me.washington.edu/facultyfinder/dayong-gao>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909234341/https://www.me.washington.edu/facultyfinder/dayong-gao>

⁷⁸ Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Washington, "Dayong Gao," Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Washington, undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://me.washington.edu/facultyfinder/dayong-gao>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909234341/https://www.me.washington.edu/facultyfinder/dayong-gao>

⁷⁹ University of Science and Technology of China's School of Computer Science and Technology [中国科学技术大学电子科学与技术系], "Dayong Gao [高大勇]," undated, observed on September 9, 2026 and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20200211152800/http://est.ustc.edu.cn/4637/list.htm>

⁸⁰ CB Insights, "Organ Preservation Alliance," CB Insights, undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.cbinsights.com/company/organ-preservation-alliance>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909235007/https://www.cbinsights.com/company/organ-preservation-alliance>

⁸¹ Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Washington, "Dayong Gao," Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Washington, undated, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://me.washington.edu/facultyfinder/dayong-gao>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909234341/https://www.me.washington.edu/facultyfinder/dayong-gao>

⁸² Nature Biotechnology, "Buying time for transplants," Nature Biotechnology, September 11, 2017, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.nature.com/articles/nbt.3971>, and archived at https://web.archive.org/web/20260909235703/https://www.nature.com/articles/nbt.3971?error=cookies_not_supported&code=9d07bed1-d005-46de-88a9-0c305295ba8c

⁸³ Businesswire, "Cerus Corporation Announces Follow-on Award of U.S. Department of Defense Funding for Development of Pathogen Reduced, Lyophilized Cryoprecipitate," Businesswire, June 5, 2023, observed on September 9, 2026 at <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20230605005325/en/Cerus-Corporation-Announces-Follow-on-Award-of-U.S.-Department-of-Defense-Funding-for-Development-of-Pathogen-Reduced-Lyophilized-Cryoprecipitate>, and archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260909234758/https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20230605005325/en/Cerus->

the Origincell product line directly engage with the underlying science of cryoprotectant formulation and cold-chain stabilization of biological materials.

Gao's cryopreservation and biobanking work is not simply "dual-use" in a speculative sense. The U.S. defense establishment already funds this research area for battlefield blood and tissue preservation, and Gao's own funding history and panel service place him inside that funding ecosystem. Any transfer of his methods, cryoprotectant formulations, or automated-storage knowledge to a PLA-linked biobanking partner therefore goes beyond general biotech utility in adding to a research base with well-acknowledged, current military utility.

The evidence presented in this report details a concerning network of China-based research and commercial relationships which, given its connections to the U.S. research ecosystem, presents a research-security concern.

Origincell maintains publicly documented relationships with PLA-affiliated medical institutions and organizations operating within China's state-directed industrial and defense ecosystem. Its collaboration with Changzheng Hospital on a large-scale biological sample bank was presented as supporting China's national strategy of military-civil fusion. The company's links to MIIT and SASAC are less overt, but there is still evidence of collaboration with MIIT-linked institutions and state capital within an Origincell subsidiary.

Gao is a key part of these relationships: he has publicly held the Origincell Endowed Professorship since 2017, and has been described by the company as its chief scientist. His professional relationships extend to Chinese state and PLA-linked institutions, while his research received funding from the Department of War and other U.S. government agencies.

These connections risk creating multiple formal or informal pathways through which knowledge, expertise, technology or research relationships could reach China's defense ecosystem, even absent any evidence of deliberate technology transfer.

The March 2026 intervention by the House Select Committee on China shows that U.S. policymakers are already examining the research-security dimension of the UW's relationships with Chinese institutions. The evidence presented in this report makes clear that Origincell and the ecosystem within which it operates should form part of that examination. Regardless of the findings of such a review, Origincell's PLA-linked activities, Gao's continuing relationship with the company and his access to U.S.-funded research in a strategically sensitive field make treating the relationship as an ordinary academic collaboration difficult to justify.

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