Researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have developed a new method for the separation of the different esters of DTPA. These different esters are not currently commercially available, and this separation method would be useful for small or large scale production of the five different esters of DTPA for use in further experiments.

**Benefits**

- Can separate any of the esters of DTPA in milligram to kilogram quantities
- Method is easily preformed by lower level chemist
- Method lends easily to "Scale - up"
- Method can be automated
The Technology

Diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid (DTPA) has a high affinity for metal cations. It can be utilized as a decorporation agent in humans exposed to radioactive attacks. The United States government is interested in creating an orally available form of DTPA for easy delivery, however, only esterified forms of DTPA can be orally delivered. These esterified forms of DTPA are currently not commercially available for purchase, thus this method for the separation of the five different esters of DTPA would be useful for entities looking to market small or large amounts of these esters of DTPA.

This method of separation use column chromatography and an elution method that does not require a highly skilled organic chemist. This method can also be stopped after sample loading. The method is also easily scaled up to prepare milligram to kilogram quantities.

Opportunity

UNC's Office of Technology Development seeks to stimulate development and commercial use of UNC-developed technologies. UNC is flexible in its agreements, and opportunities exist for joint development, academic or commercial licensing (exclusive, non-exclusive, and field-of-use), publishing, or other mutually beneficial relationships. UNC is pursuing intellectual property protection for this innovation.