- Bees / Lung cancer



Honeybees capable of sensing lung cancer

Scientists have discovered that honeybees can detect the subtle scents of lung cancer in the lab and even the faint odour of the disease from a patient's breath. In the study, bees' brains were connected to electrodes and exposed to different scents. It's clear whether a bee responds to a chemical or not, with different odours triggering distinct brain activity patterns. A device delivered puffs of air containing mixed odours to the insects' antennae, including scents from healthy people and the distinct odours of lung cancer patients. Scientists used electrical signals from the bees' brains to distinguish between the two breath types with at least 93 per cent accuracy. The bees could also accurately distinguish between air samples from healthy cells and those from small-cell lung cancer and non-small-cell lung cancer cells.Honeybees could one day be used in cancer clinics as living sensors for disease detection.
Source: Biosensors and Bioelectronics