2012 Excellence Award for Hypertension Research

Dr. L. G. Navar, was the recipient of the 2012 Excellence Award for Hypertension Research, sponsored by Novartis. This is the American Heart Association’s Council of High Blood Pressure Research (HBPR) most prestigious award and recognizes researchers who have had a major impact in the field of hypertension and whose research has contributed to improved treatment and greater understanding of high blood pressure. The award was presented during the HBPR 2012 Scientific Sessions on September 21, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

As an Excellence Award for Hypertension Research recipient, Dr. Navar presented the lecture, “Complexity of the Intratubular RAS in Pathophysiology of Hypertension.”

Also receiving the prestigious award was Professor Robert Carey of the University of Virginia.
Dr. L. Gabriel Navar was awarded the following honors:

- The Excellence Award for Hypertension Research, sponsored by Novartis on September 21, during the 2012 High Blood Pressure Research Scientific Meeting held in Washington, DC.
- The 9th Thomas E. Andreoli Lectureship, from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, on November 14, 2012
- This year Dr. Navar attended the Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology (ACDP) Annual Meeting in the Dominican Republic, November 29th through December 2nd. There were some very interesting sessions which included discussions on the biomedical research workforce, credentialing, addressing challenging colleagues and situations, and reaffirming academic research’s social contract in fiscally perilous times.
- Dr. Navar is also a mentor on the COBRE grant received by the Center for Aging.

The following honors were presented at the American Heart Association (AHA) Council for High Blood Pressure Research (CHBPR) Meeting held in Washington DC in September, 2012:

- **Dr. Dewan S. A. Majid** chaired a Scientific Session for Oral Presentation on “Oxidative Stress.”
- **Dr. Yumei Feng** was a finalist for the Harry Goldblatt New Investigator Award.
- **Dr. Wencheng Li** (mentor: Dr. Yumei Feng) received the 2012 New Investigator Award to attend the AHA CHBPR meeting.
- **Dr. Hua Peng** (mentor: Dr. Yumei Feng) was offered the Fall Postdoctoral Travel Grant from Tulane University School of Medicine, 2012 to assist her in her travel to the AHA CHBPR meeting.
- **Dr. Purnima Singh** (mentor: Dr. Dewan Majid) received an Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies (OGPS) Travel award to attend the AHA CHBPR meeting.
- **Dr. Alexis A. Gonzalez** (mentor: Dr. Minolfa Prieto) received the Kidney Council New Investigator Award at the Hypertension meeting.
- Graduate student **Catherina Cuevas** (mentor: Dr. Minolfa Prieto) was recipient of a Best Presented Poster Certificate.
Louisiana in News: Nation’s Unhealthiest State!

United Health Foundation’s 2012 America’s Health Rankings have been released. According to the report, "Americans are living longer due to several medical advances, but unhealthy behavior and preventable illness threaten quality of life. While premature, cardiovascular and cancer deaths have declined since 1990 by 18.0 percent, 34.6 percent and 7.6 percent, respectively, Americans are experiencing troubling levels of obesity (27.8 percent of the adult population), diabetes (9.5 percent of the adult population), high blood pressure (30.8 percent of the adult population) and sedentary behavior (26.2 percent of the adult population)." The report finds that for the sixth year in a row, "Vermont is the nation’s healthiest state. Hawaii is ranked second, followed by New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Minnesota. The five least healthy states are South Carolina (46), West Virginia (47), Arkansas (48), and Mississippi and Louisiana, which tied for the 49th slot."

You may access further detail on this report at http://www.americashealthrankings.org/.

THRCE participates in the 2012 Heart Walk sponsored by the American Heart Association

Representatives of THRCE participated in the 2012 Heart Walk sponsored by the American Heart Association on Saturday, November 17th at Audubon Park. Nina Majid was this year’s Team Captain for Tulane School of Medicine (TSOM) and responsible in recruiting team leaders throughout the medical school. THRCE & COBRE affiliate Dr. Yumei Feng was the team leader and faculty representative of TSOM-Department of Physiology. Other TSOM-departmental team leaders were Gayle Evans (Medicine), Dr. Alvaro Alonso (TSOM-Heart & Vascular Institute), Ashleigh Wolf (OB/GYN), Lauren Dickerson (Surgery), Barbara Valo (Matas Library), Mallory Heath (Pathology), and Rhonda Pentney (Ophthalmology). These team leaders helped TSOM raise over $7,310 for the AHA fundraising campaign. Overall, the AHA Heart Walk, with the fundraising support from Tulane and other companies in New Orleans, raised over $452,042; this fund will be used in accomplishing the AHA mission of building healthier lives free from cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

Donations were collected until December 31, 2012, and a Heart Walk Awards Party was held in January, 2013 where top participants were formally recognized. Other awards presented at the party were T-shirts to all walkers who raised over $100 and incentive prize certificates to everyone who raised over $250.
March 14, 2013 is World Kidney Day! A joint initiative of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF), World Kidney Day is a global health awareness campaign that focuses on the importance of kidneys and the mechanisms that reduce the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide. Chronic Kidney Diseases, if detected early, can be treated—thereby reducing other complications and dramatically reduce the growing burden of deaths and disability from chronic renal and cardiovascular disease worldwide.

World Kidney Day started in 2006 and has not stopped growing ever since. The campaign is celebrated every year on the second Thursday of March in more than 100 countries on 6 continents. Every year, the campaign focuses on a theme. The 2013 theme is: Kidneys for Life - Stop Kidney Attack!. This year’s campaign aims to increase awareness of Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) and demystify this dangerous condition and make ‘kidney attack’ recognizable to the public in a similar way that heart attack and stroke campaigns have done. For more information, please see www.worldkidneyday.org.

As in previous years, the National Kidney Foundation of Louisiana will be celebrating World Kidney Day with a Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP). In honor of the World Kidney Day, Tulane Hypertension and Renal Center of Excellence will participate in KEEP health screening event conducted by the National Kidney Foundation of Louisiana. The goal is to screen at least 100 participants during the 6 hour period that are at increased risk for developing kidney disease. If anyone is interested in volunteering their time and services for a couple of hours towards the KEEP health screening event, please contact Nina Majid at htnctr@tulane.edu.
THRCE sponsor
Local, National & International Speakers

THRCE regularly sponsors bi-weekly seminars by scheduling nationally and internationally recognized investigators and clinicians in the field of hypertension research, treatment and education. From September through December, 2012, the center invited the following speakers to present THRCE seminars:

- **Ming-Hui Zou, MD, PhD**
  *Professor, Paul H. & Doris Eaton Travis Chair in Endocrinology, Director, Vascular Biology Program, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, OK.*

On September 13, 2012, **Dr. Ming-Hui Zou** presented “AMP-activated protein kinase, stress responses, and cardiovascular diseases.” The AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK) is a serine/threonine protein kinase involved in the regulation of cellular and organismal metabolism. AMPK has been proposed as a candidate target for therapeutic intervention in the treatment of type-2 diabetes and the metabolic syndrome due to its central role in the regulation of energy balance, and it may also have a role in weight control. Beside its traditional roles in energy metabolism, work done in Dr. Zou’s laboratory has demonstrated that AMPK is a key player in maintaining cardiovascular homeostasis and AMPK becomes dysfunctions in various cardiovascular diseases. The lab has also shown that physiologically relevant concentrations of peroxynitrite (ONOO-) increased AMPK activity as well as its downstream enzymes such as eNOS and acetyl Co-A carboxylase (ACC). In addition, Dr. Zou and his co-workers have demonstrated that ONOO--dependent AMPK activation is operative in hypoxia-reoxygenation, metformin-stimulated endothelial cells, and nicotine-treated adipocytes, thromboxane receptor-stimulated vascular smooth muscle cells, etc. In his recent publication, Dr. Zou’s group demonstrate that nicotine, a major constituent of cigarette smoke, activates AMPK resulting in the initiation and progression of abdominal aortic aneurysm, a common degenerative disease with life threatening implications. His findings, published in Nature Medicine, have important clinical impact because not only does it explain why abdominal aortic aneurysm are increased in smokers but also challenge current clinic practice in smoking cessation therapy. Dr. Zou’s concept that AMPK is a redox sensor and a modulator is now well accepted by other leaders in these fields. In his seminar, he discussed the roles of AMPK in stress responses and how AMPK provides an interface between oxidant stress and energy metabolism and how AMPK regulates cardiovascular homeostasis.
Dr. Maria Barnes presented “Neural regulation of blood pressure by leptin” on September 27, 2012. Leptin is a hormone that is secreted by adipocytes and was initially described as a hormone that regulates energy homeostasis by decreasing the expression of orexigenic peptides and increasing the expression of anorexic peptides within the hypothalamus. However, our understanding that leptin is only involved as a satiety hormone has changed; we now know that leptin is an integrative hormone that responds to and regulates various endocrine pathways with direct metabolic effects on peripheral tissues. It is also known that leptin’s actions differ in lean versus obese animal models. In obese models, leptin’s effect on pathways such as feeding behavior and reproduction are attenuated, suggesting that obese models develop leptin resistance. However, the resistance observed in obese models appears to be selective. Administering leptin to obese animals continues to demonstrate an increase in cardiovascular dynamics (i.e. an increase in blood pressure, heart rate and sympathetic nervous activity to the kidneys). It is unknown how leptin retains its ability to regulate cardiovascular dynamics in the obese model. The data presented in Dr. Barnes’s presentation identified the phenotype of neurons in the obese model that retain their responsiveness to leptin. Future studies will identify the mechanisms which allow these neurons to retain their sensitivity to leptin after the development of obesity. Identification of these mechanisms could provide a potential target to attenuate the role that leptin plays in the development of obesity induced hypertension.

On October 11, 2012, Dr. Ihor V. Yosypiv presented “Prorenin receptor is essential for ureteric bud branching morphogenesis.” Congenital birth defects of the kidney (called CAKUT) are the major cause of kidney failure in children. Yet, the underlying molecular mechanisms are largely undefined and no specific
treatments or preventive interactions are available. Dr. Yosypiv’s laboratory investigates the role of the prorenin receptor (PRR) in the pathogenesis of CAKUT. Specifically, they have investigated whether targeted inactivation of the PRR gene in the ureteric bud (UB) epithelia is essential for normal kidney development. Normally, UB undergoes repeated rounds of branching and elongation to form the renal collecting system (from collecting ducts to the ureters). The PRR is the cell-surface receptor for renin and prorenin, and an accessory subunit of the vacuolar proton pump H+ -ATPase. Investigators used enzyme Cre driven by a promoter of the gene expressed only in the UB and UB-derived structures (Hoxb7) to delete PRR genetically in the kidney of the mouse model. They’ve demonstrated that UB branching is decreased leading to decreased number of nephrons, small kidney size and presence of collecting duct cysts. To determine the cellular and molecular mechanisms by which lack of PRR in the UB causes these changes in the mature kidney, they determined proliferation and death rate of UB cells and expression of genes that are critical for normal kidney development (Ret, Wnt11). Results show that more UB and collecting duct cells are dying and less of them are proliferating in the absence of PRR. This is accompanied by reduced expression of Ret and Wnt11 in the UB tip cells which normally drive UB branching. Together, Dr. Yosypiv’s work is providing novel and important insights into control of normal kidney development and into the mechanisms that may account for congenital birth kidney defects.

Continued...

- **Heather A. Laguardia, MD**  
  *Chief Fellow,*  
  *Department of Medicine, Section of Nephrology,*  
  *Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA.*

Dr. Heather LaGuardia presented “**Inhibition of renin-angiotensin system improves the long-term graft survival of single pediatric donor kidneys transplanted in adult recipient**” on October 25, 2012. Transplantation is the best form of therapy for patients with end-stage renal disease, in terms of survival and quality of life. Unfortunately, the demand for kidney transplantation far exceeds the supply. Novel techniques for increasing potential donors for the large pool of adult recipients have included utilization of en-bloc baby donor kidneys. The excellent outcomes of en-bloc method has led to studies looking at using single baby kidneys in adult recipients. This procedure is highly specialized and required a specialized skill set but overall the outcomes have been promising. Unfortunately, some limitations have included hyperfiltration post transplant that lead to
proteinuria, focal segmental glomerulosclerosis and graft loss. The discovery of angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors (ACEi) and angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) inhibitors has led to a new approach in management of HTN that is critical in the case of patients with chronic kidney disease and proteinuria. The use of ACEi/ARB therapy has a well described renoprotective effect when used in populations of CKD patients to manage HTN and proteinuria. However its role in transplant patients has been more controversial and it is not approved for graft protection in previous studies. The research presented by Dr. LaGuardia postulated that ACE/ARB use in the setting of single pediatric kidney donations to adult recipients could reduce hyperfiltration injury and prolong graft survival. With the data obtained from the Tulane Hospital and Clinic between 1996-2009, the transplant nephrology group examined the outcomes of ACEi/ARB on adult patients receiving a single pediatric kidney. Their research suggested that in this unique group of transplant recipients ACEi/ARB inhibition is safe to use. The use was not associated with graft dysfunction or higher incidence of biopsy. Dr. LaGuardia’s study also suggests that ACEi/ARB therapy may provide better long-term patient survival. Both univariable and multivariable analyses found that persistent proteinuria was a risk factor of graft loss and the use of ACEi/ARB therapy had a protective effect on the transplant and improved graft survival. Analysis of the seven year death censored graft survival have shown a better outcome for the group on ACEi/ARB therapy.

- **Andrei V. Derbenev, PhD**  
  *Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology, Tulane University, School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA.*

Dr. Andrei Derbenev presented “The Ventrolateral Medulla and Sympathetic Outflow” on December 6, 2012. Dr. Derbenev’s research focuses on neuronal mechanisms of hypertension. Hypertension, also known as chronic elevation of blood pressure, is a major human health problem. The “central neuron imbalance” hypothesis of hypertension suggests that hypertension may result from an imbalance between the activity of sympathetic vasomotor neurons and those cells that inhibit them. The rostral ventrolateral medulla (RVLM) is a critical component of the sympathetic nervous system regulating homeostatic functions including arterial blood pressure. Collective action of many synapsis and neuronal circuits determine the tone of sympathetic nervous system and thus arterial blood pressure. Obesity, inflammation, chronic stress and high sodium intake are all risk factors for
hypertension and increase plasma endocannabinoid (eCB) levels. Some eCBs (e.g., anandamide) act as putative endogenous ligands at cannabinoid type-1 receptor (CB1R) and transient receptor potential vanilloid type 1 (TRPV1), both of which are expressed in the RVLM. The functions of CB1R and TRPV1 in the RVLM have yet to be identified.

Dr. Derbenev’s laboratory employs multi-disciplinary approaches including retrograde labeling of kidney-related RVLM neurons, patch-clamp recordings of synaptic currents of viral tracer-identified kidney-related RVLM neurons, and immunohistochemistry. The studies focus on mechanisms by which eCBs control synaptic activity to kidney-related RVLM neurons through activation of CB1R located on inhibitory inputs and TRPV1 located on excitatory inputs. Delineating these mechanisms will provide important insights for understanding the cellular mechanisms of eCBs in the RVLM.
Recent Publications


From September through December, 2012, investigators and physicians affiliated with T.H.R.C.E. participated in many regional, national, & international meetings.


- **Bourgeois CR, Satou R, Rands VF, Prieto MC.** Effects of high salt on the sexual dimorphism of genes encoding epigenetic chromatin modification enzymes in the Sprague-dawley rat kidney. #P641.

- **Cuevas CA, Gonzalez AA, Inestrosa NC, Vio CP, Prieto MC.** (pro)Renin receptor stimulates the expression of fibrotic genes in mouse collecting ducts via Wnt/β-catenin signaling, independently of angiotensin II, #P214.

- **Galan M, Kassan M, Trebak M, Matrouigui K.** Endoplasmic reticulum stress impairs vascular function through enhanced NADPH Oxidase activity and reduction in ENOS activity. #P143.

- **Gao H, Krantz A, Derbenev AV.** Electrophysiological properties of kidney-related neurons in the rostral ventrolateral medulla, #P412.


- **Feng Y, Li W, Peng H, Ichihara A.** Prorenin elevates blood pressure via the (pr)renin receptor: Who needs renin when you have Prorenin in the brain. #O25.

- **Gonzalez AA, Leach D, Navar LG, Prieto MC.** Prostaglandin E2 stimulates renin synthesis in mouse collecting duct M-1cells via Ep1 receptor through PKC/CAMP/CREB pathway. #P401.

- **Kuczeriszka M, Seth DM, Prieto MC, Navar LG.** Blood pressure, renal function and hemodynamic responses to systemic Ang 1-7 in rats infused chronically with Ang II: Does the Ang 1-7 natriuretic effect depend on renal hemodynamics? #P240.

- **Kumar P, Pandey KN.** Overexpression of class 1 histone deacetylases repress NPR1 gene transcription in mouse mesangial cells. #P654.
• Li W, Peng H, Eisenberg RL, Ichihara A, Feng Y. Neuron-specific (pro)renin receptor deletion attenuates neurogenic hypertension and is associated with improvement of autonomic function, #P213.
• Liu L, Lara L, Gonzalez AA, Bourgeois CR, Seth D, Prieto MC. Angiotensin II stimulates renin synthesis and secretion in mouse collecting duct M-1 cells via a PKCa-mediated cAPM stimulation mechanism, #P217.
• Maiti AK, Islam MT, Satou R, Majid DSA. Involvement of peroxynitrite formation in angiotensin II induced changes in Na⁺K⁺ATPase activity in HK2 cells. #P196.
• Peng H, Li W, Feng Y. High salt and aldosterone increase (pro)renin receptor expression through ENaCα activation in neuronal cells, #P249.
• Satou R, Zsombok A, Derbenev AV. TRPA1 mediates Angiotensinogen augmentation in renal proximal tubular cells. #P385.
• Zubcevic J, Shan Z, Li W, Feng Y, Raizada MK. Elevated sympathetic drive to the bone marrow contributes to the inflammatory response and dysfunctional endothelial progenitor cells in the spontaneously hypertensive rat. #P111.

International Society of Hypertension, Sept. 30-Oct. 4, 2012, Sydney, Australia

• Majid DSA, Singh P, Johnson TR, Castillo A, Title of presentation: Suppression of plasma and renal tissue levels of interleukin-10 during infusion of nitric oxide synthase inhibitor in anesthetized mice.
American Society of Nephrology: Kidney Week, Oct. 30-Nov. 4, 2012, San Diego, CA

- Anderson AH, Yang W, Townsend RR, Chen J, Hamm LL, Robinson BM, Feldman HI, Chronic Renal Insufficiency Cohort (CRIC) Study Group. Insulin Resistance Is Not Related to Development of Renal or Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Outcomes or Death in Non-Diabetic Chronic Kidney Disease: Findings from the Chronic Renal Insufficiency Cohort (CRIC) Study. #SA-PO205.

- Chen J, Hamm LL, Xie D, Townsend RR, Wright JT, Budoff MJ, Nessel LC, Pan Q, Steigerwalt SP, Garimella PS, He J. Ankle Brachial Index Predicts Cardiovascular Disease Risk and Mortality among Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease: A Prospective Analysis from the CRIC Study. #SA-PO178.

- Chen S, Yao X, El-Dahr SS. Histone Deacetylases 1 and 2 Target p53 and Lhx1 to Regulate Nephron Progenitor Cell Renewal and Differentiation # FR-PO576.


- Khan AM, Li M, Toliver HL, Gullo KE, Cai AW, Maderdrut JL, Coy DH, Simon EE, Batuman V. Pituitary Adenylate Cyclase-Activating Polypeptide38 Is a Potential Therapeutic Agent for Contrast-Induced Nephropathy in Human Kidney Cells and eNOS-Deficient Mice. #TH-PO053.


• Song R, Preston G, Ichihara A, Yosypiv IV. Targeted Inactivation of the Prorenin Receptor (PRR) in the Ureteric Bud (UB) Inhibits UB Branching Morphogenesis and Collecting Duct Development. #TH-OR042 (Oral).
Invited Lectures

**L Gabriel Navar, PhD, Chairman and Professor of Physiology, presented:**
- “Complexity of the Intratubular RAS in Pathophysiology of Hypertension” on September 21 at AHA HBPR meeting in Washington, DC.
- “The Regulation of Intrarenal/Itrnatubular RAS in Hypertension” on October 16, 2012 at the Fundación Cardiologica de Cordoba para la Asiseencia, Docenica e investigación Médica, Cordoba, Argentina.
- “Intrarenal RAS in Pathogenesis of Hypertension” at the Hypertension Summer School conference, Salta, Argentina on October 20, 2012.
- “Intrarenal RAS and glomerular hemodynamics” on November 3, 2012 at the American Society of Nephrology meeting in San Diego, CA.
- “Intrarenal Renin Angiotensin System” on November 10, 2012 at the 2012 Gulf Coast Chapter of the American Society of Hypertension in New Orleans, LA.
- The 9th Thomas E. Andreoli Lecture titled “The Kidney Renin-Angiotensin System in Hypertension” on November 14, 2012, at the Medical Grand Rounds held at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

**Dewan S. A. Majid, PhD, Professor of Physiology, presented:**
- “Nitric oxide regulation of inflammatory cytokines in the kidney” on 8th October, 2012, at the Department of Physiology at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.

**Yumei Feng, PhD, Assistant Professor of Physiology, presented:**
- “Pivotal role of (pro)renin receptor in central regulation of blood pressure and cardiovascular function” at the Department of Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado on November, 2012.
- The Harry Goldblatt Award Lecture “Prorenin elevates blood pressure via the (pro) renin receptor: Who needs renin when you have prorenin in the brain” at the American Heart Association HBPR Council Meeting in Washington, DC on September 20, 2012.

**Kailash N. Pandey, PhD, Professor of Physiology:**
- Was invited to attend the Indo-US Symposium, Industry-Academia Interaction in Diabetes & Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Drug Discovery. On December 4th, he presented “Genomic & Molecular Mechanisms of Npr1 Gene Function in Hypertension and Cardiovascular Regulation” at the Department of Medicinal Chemistry, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India.
# THRCE Seminars

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<tr>
<td>January 3, 2013</td>
<td>Damir B. Khismatullin, PhD</td>
<td>“Role of macrophage- and mast cell-derived inflammatory mediators in endothelial dysfunction and circulating cell adhesion.”</td>
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<td>January 17, 2013</td>
<td>Orson Moe, MD</td>
<td>“A Nephrocentric View of the Klotho-FGF23 Network.”</td>
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<td>January 31, 2013</td>
<td>Dewan S.A. Majid, MD, PhD</td>
<td>“Nitric oxide in the regulation of inflammatory cytokines in the kidney.”</td>
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<td>February 14, 2013</td>
<td>No Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14, 2013</td>
<td>No Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 28, 2013</td>
<td>Bysani Chandrasekar, DVM, PhD</td>
<td>“TRAF3IP2 in Angiotensin-II-induced cardiomyocyte hypertrophy in vitro and in vivo.”</td>
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**Conferences are held alternative Thursdays at 4:00pm in the Tulane Medical School, Pharmacology Library, Room 4700**

**Denotes the seminar date is not our normally scheduled day.**
Awards and Acknowledgment

Grants & Funding awards

Dr. Andrea Zsombok received a pilot project grant from the Center for Aging COBRE Mentoring Research Excellence in Aging & Regenerative Medicine for her project titled “Central regulation of glucose homeostasis by SIRT1.”

Dr. Minolfa Prieto received a second pilot grant from UAB Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences for her project titled “Soluble Form of the Prorenin Receptor in the Urine of Diabetic Patients.” Her first pilot award was received earlier in 2012 for her project titled “Relevance of Urinary Renin, Prorenin, and TGF-beta in Patients with Diabetes and Hypertension: Impact of Gender.”

Departures

- Associate Professor and past COBRE investigator Dr. Khalid Matrougui, and postdoctoral fellows Drs. Modar Kassan and Maria Galan Arroyo have left Tulane to join Eastern Virginia Medical School.
- Dr. Rafael Rubio Garcia completed his year as Visiting Professor and has returned to San Luis Potosi, Mexico. He will continue to visit from time to time.
- Postdoctoral fellows Drs. Soo-Kyoung Choi and Mahendra Pratap Singh, respectively mentored by Drs. Navar and Pandey, have completed their training and left Tulane for other institutions.
- Dr. Arpan Maiti, Fulbright Scholar and Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow in Dr. Majid’s laboratory, returned to his home country, India.
- Catherina Cuevas, who was a visiting graduate student in Dr. Prieto’s laboratory for 6 months, has returned to her home country, Chile.

T.H.R.C.E.

Tulane Hypertension And Renal Center of Excellence

Announcement

The directors invite faculty members interested in participating in the activities of the T.H.R.C.E. to submit your name, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address to the Program Coordinator, Nina Majid by e-mail at htnctr@tulane.edu or regular mail to the address provided. Also, please forward all information (awards, publications, presentations and other news items) to this email address for inclusion in the next newsletter.