Hypertension and Renal Center of Excellence Goes to Washington, DC

The Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Program held its first Biennial Symposium in Washington, D.C. on July 20-22, 2006. The Symposium brought together IDeA Program participants to showcase their accomplishments, exchange ideas, foster collaborations, encourage educational opportunities, and demonstrate the Program’s progress in developing biomedical resources and research capacity in IDeA states. Scientific sessions and poster presentations were held to highlight areas of research that were supported by the IDeA’s Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) and Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE). These sessions were held to strengthen skills in the latest technologies. Workshops were held to assist our young investigators in developing their careers. Several of our Center members attended the sessions of this meeting and presented posters of their progress in their respective research projects. Details of each Center member involved in the symposium can be found in the “presentation” section of this newsletter.

Dr. Gerald Berenson Wins Research Honor for Studies Tracing Early Origins of Heart Disease in Children

The American Heart Association awarded its Population Research Prize to Dr. Gerald Berenson, Professor of Epidemiology and Director of the Tulane Center for Cardiovascular Health for his contributions to cardiovascular epidemiology during its Scientific Sessions meeting held in Chicago on November 12, 2006. Dr. Berenson’s research demonstrates the early emergence of heart disease and hypertension in children and traces the diseases’ origins to a complex relationship between genetics and environment. The award was presented by the American Heart Association’s President, Dr. Raymond Gibbons, who noted that Dr. Berenson’s findings had dramatically expanded our understanding of the origins of coronary and vascular disorders which solidifies the need to identify the increasing signs of cardiovascular and metabolic abnormalities in children. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Berenson for receiving this highly prestigious award.
News cont’d

Dr. L. Gabriel Navar presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award from Consortium for South-eastern Hypertension Control (COSEHC)

Dr. L. Gabriel Navar was selected by the COSEHC Awards Committee to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. He was presented with the award at a special awards dinner during COSEHC’s annual meeting which was held in Litchfield, SC on Thursday, September 14, 2006. This award is given to an individual exhibiting a lifetime of outstanding achievement in the field of hypertension research and who has served as a role model through service, research and teaching over a career spanning at least 25 years. We extend our congratulations to Dr. Navar on receiving this well deserved award.

Recent Publications


Tulane Investigators Participate in International, National, and Regional Meetings


FT Botros and LG Navar. Role of Endogenous Carbon Monoxide in Regulation of Renal Microcirculation. NCRR presenter

MG Feng and LG Navar. Activation of adenosine A2a receptors diminishes afferent arteriolar autoregulatory efficiency in rats. IDEA Meeting, NCRR poster presentation

RA Gonzalez-Villalobos, CB Baker, PL Allen, H Kobori, TG Hammond and LG Navar. Megalin mediates the uptake of angiotensin II in proximal tubule cells. NCRR poster presentation

KS Hering-Smith, J Coleman-Barnett, FR Schiro, AM Pajor, LL Hamm. Regulation of Renal Proximal Tubule Citrate Transport by Chronic Acidosis In Vitro. NCRR poster presentation

KE Jackson, W Durante, KJ Peyton, RA Johnson, LG Navar, FK Johnson. L-Arginine Restores Coronary Endothelial Function in Male Obese Zucker Rats. NCRR presenter

KD Mitchell, SJ Bagatell, CS Miller, AL Opay, and ME Patterson. Genetic clamping of renin gene expression induces elevation of intrarenal angiotensin II levels and hypertension of graded severity in Cyp1a1-Ren2 transgenic rats. NCRR poster presentation


B Shen LM Harrison-Bernard, AJ Fuller, V Vanderpool, Z Saifudeen and SS El-Dahr. Bradykinin B2 Receptor (B2R) Gene is a Physiological Target for the Angiotensin Type 1 Receptor (AT1R). NCRR poster presentation

The Annual Consortium for Southeastern Hypertension Control (COSEHC) Scientific Sessions, Charlotte, VA, September 13-16, 2006

LG Navar, Ph.D., Session Chair, “Anti-Inflammatory Drugs and Cardiovascular Disease”, September 15, 2006.

R Gonzalez-Villalobos, Ph.D., R Sato A Katsurada, H Kobori, TG Hammond and LG Navar "Megalin mediates the uptake of angiotensin II in proximal tubule cells", Poster presentation

60th Annual Fall Conference and Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association High Blood Pressure Research Council Meeting, San Antonio, TX, October 4-7, 2006

J Chen, D Gu., SP Whelton , X Wu, CS Chen, X Duan, K Reynolds, LL Hamm, PK Whelton, J He. Blood Pressure and Mortality in Men and Women with Cardiovascular Disease. Oral Presentation

A Fuller and LG Navar. Angiotensin II enhances intracellular calcium responses to ATP in renal vascular smooth muscle cells. Poster presentation
Presentations cont’d


P Kumar, KK Arise and KN Pandey. Regulation of natriuretic peptide receptor-A gene(Npr1) transcription by cooperative interactions of Ets-1 and p300. Poster Presentation

LG Navar, Ph.D., Session Chair, “Sex and Steroid Hormones, receptors and Signaling” and Moderator, Arthur C. Corcoran Memorial Lecture, The Harry Goldblatt New Investigator Award, and Late-Breaking Abstracts.


E Vellaichamy, D Zhao, NK Somanna, KN Pandey. Stimulation of cytokines gene expression in hypertrophi ed hearts of mice lacking guanylyl cyclase/natriuretic peptide receptor-A. Oral presentation

D Zhao, NK Somanna, LC Binford, KN Pandey. Disruption of Natriuretic Peptide Receptor A Gene Increases Adrenal Angiotensin II and Aldosterone Levels. Oral presentation

21st Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Hypertension (ISH), Fukuoka, JAPAN, October 15-19, 2006


H Kobori, M.D, Ph.D. “Intrarenal renin-angiotensin system and renoprotective effects of Olmesartan”. Presenter


Sendai Symposium in Conjunction with the ISH Meeting, Fukuoka, JAPAN, October 20-21, 2006

L. Gabriel Navar, Ph.D., “Intrarenal renin-angiotensin system in hypertension: The spillover hypothesis”,

Invited Speakers:

Fady T. Botros, Ph.D., “Interaction between endogenously-produced carbon monoxide and nitric oxide in regulation of renal afferent arterioles” Pharmacology Department, New York Medical College, Valhalla, NY. July 24, 2006
Presentations continued


L. Lee Hamm, M.D., “Personal Observations from Katrina”, University of Texas Southwestern, Dallas, TX, July 2006

L. Lee Hamm, M.D., “Cardiovascular disease in CKD”, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, August 2006


Dewan S.A. Majid, Ph.D., “Nitric Oxide-Superoxide interaction in the Kidney” Kagawa Medical University, Hamamatsu, Japan, July 2006

Dewan S.A. Majid, Ph.D., “Salt sensitive hypertension: Research bench to bedside” Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka, Bangladesh, July 2006

Dewan S.A. Majid, Ph.D., “Oxidative stress and salt sensitivity: Bridge between diabetes and essential hypertension” Bangladesh Institute for Rehabilitation and Research in Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolic Disorders (BIRDEM), Dhaka, Bangladesh, July 2006

Dewan S.A. Majid, Ph.D., “Salt intake and hypertension” Allied Health Sciences Department, North-South University, Dhaka, Bangladesh, July 2006

Dewan S.A. Majid, Ph.D., “Nitroso-Redox imbalance—tilting scales toward salt-sensitive hypertension” LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA, July 2006

L. Gabriel Navar, Ph.D., “High Blood Pressure, Cardiovascular Health and Kidney Function”, American Physiological Society meeting on Explorations in Biomedicine-Undergraduate Physiology Exploration Retreat, Dallas, TX, June 2006

L. Gabriel Navar, Ph.D., “Intrarenal renin-angiotensin system in hypertension: The spillover hypothesis”, Nagoya, Japan, October 2006

L. Gabriel Navar, Ph.D., “Intrarenal renin-angiotensin system in hypertension: The spillover hypothesis”, Kawasaki Medical School, Okayama, Japan, October 2006

L. Gabriel Navar, Ph.D., “The intrarenal intratubular renin angiotensin System” Ochsner Clinic Foundation, New Orleans, LA, November 2006

Paul Whelton, MD, MSc. “From Recovery to Renewal at the Tulane University Health Sciences Center” Keynote presentation to celebrate the opening of the Memorial Show Chwan Hospital Jugong, Chunghua County, Taiwan, June 2006

Paul Whelton, MD, MSc. “Tulane University School of Medicine and Health Sciences Center Post Katrina” Lafayette Parish Medical Society, Lafayette, LA, August 2006
T.H.R.C.E. Conferences

June 29
Jing Chen, MD, MSc
Tulane University Health Sciences Center
“Endothelial Dysfunction and Chronic Kidney Disease”

July 13
Minolfa Prieto-Carrasquero, PhD
Ponce School of Medicine, Puerto Rico
“Collecting Duct Renin Regulation in Angiotensin II-Dependent Hypertension”

July 27
Zubaida Saifudeen, PhD
Tulane University Health Sciences Center
“p53 Gene Function in the Renal Epithelium is Required to Repress Accessory Budding from the Ureter”

August 10
Kristi Reynolds, PhD, MPH
Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
“Risk Factors for End-Stage Renal Disease: A Prospective Cohort Study of 169,871 Men and Women in China”

August 24
Katie Hering-Smith, PhD
Tulane University Health Sciences Center
“Citrate Transport in the Proximal Tubule: Tales from the ‘Other’ Category”

September 7
Keith Jackson, PhD
Tulane University Health Sciences Center
“Role of Carbon Monoxide in Ang II Dependent Hypertension”

September 21
Ihor Yosypiv, MD
Tulane University Health Sciences Center
“Role of the Renin-Angiotensin System in the Development of the Renal Collecting System”

October 12
NO CONFERENCE

October 26
Julia Cook, PhD
Ochsner Clinic Foundation
“Intracellular Signaling and Trafficking of the AT₁ Receptor”

November 9
Richard Re, MD
Ochsner Clinic Foundation
“Intracrine Physiology”

November 23
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

December 7
Hiroyuki Kobori, MD, PhD
Tulane University Health Sciences Center
“Urinary Angiotensinogen as a Novel Biomarker of Intrarenal Renin-Angiotensin System”

December 21
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Conferences are held every other Thursday at 4:00 pm in the Medical School Building, room 4700
Recent awards and other announcements

Recent awards

Dr. Romer Gonzalez-Villalobos was a recipient of the 2007 COSEHC Cardiovascular Postdoctoral Fellowship. He attended COSEHC’s annual meeting which was held from September 14-17, 2006 in Litchfield, SC where he was recognized for this award.

Dr. L. Lee Hamm was elected as the Chair of the Tulane University Medical Group Board of Directors.

Dr. Katie Hering-Smith received a VA Merit Review Entry Program grant for her project entitled "Citrate Transport in the Proximal Tubule." (10/1/06-9/30/09)

The American Physiological Society Awards Committee awarded Dr. Minolfa Prieto-Carresquero with the APS Research Career Enhancement Award. This award will allow Dr. Prieto-Carresquero to travel to Tulane University in order to train in the use of the Laser Dissecting Microscope and in laser controlled microdissecting techniques in the Center for Gene Therapy. She was also chosen to receive the 2006 Merck Latin America New Investigator award from the AHA High Blood Pressure Council. An awards dinner was held during the annual meeting on October 5, 2006. In addition, Dr. Prieto-Carrasquero received a Young Investigator Excellence in Research Travel award to attend and present at the ISH meeting in Japan.

Dr. Zubaida Saifudeen, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics/Nephrology and a new member of the COBRE, received a Career Development Award from the American Society of Nephrology (7/1/06-6/30/08).

Dr. Elangovan Vellaichamy received a Merck New Investigator Award at the 60th Annual AHA meeting of the Council for High Blood Pressure Research held at San Antonio, TX, October 2006

Dr. Paul Whelton received the 2006 Senior Leadership Katrina Recognition Award—Survival, Recovery, Renewal from Tulane University. He also received the 2006 Golden Wings award for contributions to research in nephrology at the V International Conference on Hypertension and the Kidney which was sponsored by the Spanish Society of Nephrology in Madrid, Spain.

Tulane Enhancement Awards: Phase II Research Enhancement Awards were received by Dr. Dewan S.A. Majid (Physiology) for his application entitled “Superoxide- nitric oxide interactions and salt-sensitivity”. In addition, Dr. Ihor Yosipiv (Pediatrics) and Dr. Patrice Delafontaine (Cardiology) also received Phase II Research Enhancement Awards.

Other announcements

Javier Pagen, a summer student that Dr. Navar mentored, presented his research results at the symposium for the Louis Stokes-Louisiana Alliance for Minority Participation (LS-LAMP) Summer Research Training Program held on August 2, 2006. This program is designed to encourage minority students to pursue graduate education and careers in the sciences. There were presentations in the areas of chemical and biomolecular engineering, chemistry, biochemistry, physiology, cell and molecular biology and in pharmacology.

T.H.R.C.E.

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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 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.