KUDOS

Congratulations to Dr. Robert S. Schwartz and his group of investigators (Dwight J Klemm, Rebecca Boxer, Janet Snell-Burgon and David Goff) for being selected by our internal research review committee to submit a proposal to the American Heart Association Strategically Focused Obesity Research Network. Their proposal is entitled "Epicardial and pericardial adipose tissue cellularity and its response to exercise" and consists of four components: 1. A basic science project: Exercise Effect on BMP Adipocytes in Epi/Peri Adipose Tissue in Obese Mice, 2. A clinical project: The Impact of Cardiac Rehabilitation on Epi/Peri Fat and Cardiac Function, 3. A population project: Epi/Peri Fat in the CARDIA Study, and 4. A training component.

Epicardial and/or pericardial (epi/per) fat is linked to cardiovascular health. This group recently reported a novel subpopulation of adipocytes in mice generated from bone marrow (myeloid) progenitor (BMP) cells. These BMP adipocytes possess a highly detrimental phenotype, and the highest concentration occurs in epi/per fat, especially in female mice and after high fat feeding. Chimerism experiments in their laboratory demonstrates that BMP adipocytes are also produced in humans. This Center will explore the relationship between epi/per fat and cardiovascular pathology across the life span and between sexes, linking the cellular characteristics of epi/per fat to mechanisms that affect cardiac structure/function and inflammatory/fibrogenic markers. They will investigate the ability of exercise to regulate the characteristics of epi/per fat in both humans and mice.

Basic Science Disappearing From Medical Journals: Decline Could Affect Physicians' Understanding of and Interest in The Basic Mechanisms of Disease and Treatments

A recent study has found a steep decline in the number of scholarly papers about basic science published in leading medical journals in the last 20 years. This rapid decline in basic science publications is likely to affect physicians' understanding of and interest in the basic mechanisms of disease and treatments. If the decline continues, could basic science actually disappear from the pages of specialty medical journals? Basic science is research that examines cells and molecules to better understand the causes and mechanisms of disease. It differs from clinical research, which includes clinical trials of drugs and epidemiological studies that review information from charts and health databases.

A research team did a search on PubMed, the main database of medical research, to identify articles on basic science published from 1994 to 2013 in the highest-impact journals in cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, infectious diseases, nephrology, neurology, oncology and pulmonology. While there was no decline in two of the journals, Diabetes Care and the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology, in the remaining six journals, the amount of basic science fell by 40 to 60 percent.

In contrast, there was no decline in the number of basic science articles published in three well-known, non-clinical journals dealing with biological sciences -- the Journal of Biological Chemistry, the Journal of Clinical Investigation and Cell.

The reasons for the decline in the coverage of basic science articles by medical journals are unclear, but it may be due in part to the fact that papers about clinical research are cited by other researchers more often. The number of times a paper is cited contributes to a journal’s "impact factor," which indicates its relative importance.

The fading of basic science from medical journals also parallels the rise of other forms of research by clinicians, such as epidemiology and more recently medical education, quality of care, and ethics. The decline of basic science in these journals is worrisome because if medical residents and clinicians are never exposed to basic science, they are going to think that it is unimportant or irrelevant, and it has become a bit of a vicious cycle. If residents think that basic science research is irrelevant, they will not consider pursuing it as part of their training or their career. Ironically, scientific advances mean that we are on the threshold of what has been called "precision" or "personalized medicine," where doctors will be able to understand exactly what is wrong with each patient and tailor the therapy accordingly. But all of that depends on understanding the underlying science behind the disease. Scientific discovery forms the underpinning of medical advances, and clinicians and medical students need to be part of that.

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE (IBC)

We are currently recruiting additional members for the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC). The IBC provides review of all recombinant DNA research conducted at UCDenver. We are looking for additional MD members for the IBC to assist with the review and approval of human subjects clinical trials involving recombinant DNA, viral vectors, or DNA vaccines. We are also looking for basic science researchers, in particular those who use rDNA, Select Agent Toxins, or infectious agents. The IBC meets once per month; treats are provided! If you are interested in this opportunity for University community service, please contact Mark Douse at 303-724-1057.

DR. T’S CORNER

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**OFFICE OF REGULATORY COMPLIANCE**

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure Period**

The next Conflict of Interest (COI) disclosure period begins on **Thursday, August 18** and runs through **Monday, October 31, 2016**. In order to prepare for the new disclosure period, the Conflict of Interest module in InfoEd will be down from **August 5 at 4 PM-August 17**; this means that new disclosures or existing relationships cannot be updated during this time. Existing COI disclosures will be valid until August 17, 2016 and will need to be updated as soon as possible on or after August 18, 2016. As a reminder, a conflict of interest disclosure must be filed by faculty, officers, and others as further outlined in the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus Conflict of Interest Policy. Don’t forget, persons involved in research are required to submit a COI disclosure as noted below:

- For applicable sponsors -
  http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/fdp/PGA_070596 - the COI disclosure must be submitted before a grant proposal may be sent to the funding entity;
- For persons included on an IRB protocol, the disclosure must be submitted before the protocol will be reviewed.

Remember, disclose early, and often, as needed.

Questions? Visit the COI Website http://www.ucdenver.edu/research/ORC/COI/Pages/default.aspx or contact the COI staff at COI@ucdenver.edu.

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**RESEARCH CORNER**

Dr. Bruce Mandt is the Director of the Postdoctoral and Career Development Office within the CU Denver/Anschutz Graduate School. His primary mission in his role is to assist graduate students and postdoctoral fellows on both the Denver and Anschutz campuses in growing their careers and entering the job market. Bruce provides individual career counseling, facilitates and leads career development workshops, and advocates on behalf of postdoctoral fellows. He also serves as a resource for faculty and administrators, and can provide guidance on all issues related to postdoctoral fellows. Currently, Bruce is establishing a structured career-development program that will focus on proficiency in the areas of communication, leadership and management, and professionalism. He believes that, in addition to scientific expertise, these are the requisite skills for success in today’s job market. Dr. Mandt’s philosophy on career-building and professionalism are largely shaped by his own recent experiences navigating the current occupational landscape. Bruce brings to this position a B.A. in psychology from the University of Wisconsin - Madison and a Ph.D. in pharmacology from CU Anschutz, where he trained with Dr. Nancy Zahniser. He conducted a postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Richard Allen in the Psychology Department on the Denver Campus and had an active role in the CU Denver/Anschutz Postdoctoral Association. He also served as a Research Assistant Professor at CU Denver, where he was interested in understanding the factors that increase susceptibility to the development of drug addiction. Bruce also taught undergraduate courses in the Psychology Department and had an opportunity to work as the program coordinator for a T34 undergraduate training grant. Bruce is eager to use all of his professional experiences in helping our trainees transition to the next step in their careers, and he looks forward to engaging our campus community in this effort.

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**NIH/HHS OFFICE OF RESEARCH INTEGRITY**

"From the NIH and HHS ORI -

Five tips that supervisors can take to promote research integrity in their workplaces

Notice especially item #2. A major reason for retracted papers is that the raw data has been manipulated. Trust, but verify. Help your trainees understand and to correctly apply the data produced."

https://ori.hhs.gov/blog/new-infographic-5-ways-supervisors-can-promote-research-integrity