



# Tulane Hypertension & Renal Center of Excellence

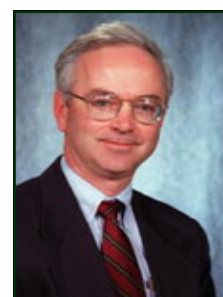
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## Dr. L. Lee Hamm appointed Interim Dean of the School of Medicine

Dr. Hamm, Professor and Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine and Co-Director of the Tulane Hypertension and Renal Center of Excellence, has been appointed Interim Dean of the School of Medicine. Dr. Hamm is an internationally recognized clinician-scientist for his work in basic renal physiology and cell biology focused on acid-base transport, citrate transport, and sodium transport.



Dr. Hamm has served as Associate Project Director for the Clinical Research Curriculum Award Training (CRCA) Program and Chief of the Section of Nephrology and Hypertension. He is an established, productive scientist in both basic investigation and clinical studies. He has received many awards for his work including a Merit Award from the NIH, an Established Investigator Award from the American Heart Association. He recently finished a six year term on the Nephrology Board of the American Board of Internal Medicine and currently is funded by a VA Merit Research Grant.



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## Dr. L.G. Navar presented the Robert W. Berliner Award for Excellence in Renal Physiology



Dr. L. Gabriel Navar was awarded The Robert W Berliner Award during the 2007 Experimental Biology meeting held in Washington DC in May. This is the most prestigious award of the Renal Section of the American Physiology Society, and recognizes distinguished lifetime contributions to the field of renal physiology and includes contributions in research, mentoring and service to the APS.

## Dr. Samir El Dahr appointed as Chairman of the Pediatrics Department

Dr. Samir El Dahr has been appointed as Chairman of the Tulane School of Medicine's Pediatrics Department. Dr. El Dahr graduated in 1982 with a medical degree from Aleppo University School of Medicine in Syria. After arriving in the US in 1983, he completed his residency in general pediatrics at the Medical Center of Delaware in 1986 and a clinical and research fellowship in pediatric nephrology at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville in 1990. He joined



# News continued

## Dr. El-Dahr appointment cont...

Tulane University School of Medicine in 1990 as assistant professor of pediatrics. Since 2001, he has served as the vice-chair for research in the department of Pediatrics and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Nephrology. He is highly recognized for his work on development nephrology. A very active and successful clinician, educator, and researcher, Dr. El Dahr has served on numerous national committees and organizations. Dr. El Dahr is a senior scientist in the Hypertension and Renal center of Excellence, and a mentor on the COBRE.

## Formation of New Orleans Consortium in Hypertension and Renal Biology

Currently under development is a consortium that includes investigators from Tulane HSC, Ochsner Clinic Foundation, and LSU HSC to centralize and coordinate research activities related to cardiovascular, renal, and hypertension diseases. Hypertension, heart failure, myocardial infarction, peripheral vascular disease, stroke, kidney failure and diabetes are Louisiana's primary health care issues. Such diseases not only reduce the quality of life for individuals but also increase the costs of medical care.

The Consortium will seek to obtain institutional, state and national research support. The Consortium hopes to provide training and recruitment programs for qualified basic science and clinical fellows in the renal, hypertension, and cardiovascular fields. It would coordinate a state-wide network of investigators and physicians involved in such research, establish city-wide research conferences, enhance research infrastructure, establish a therapeutic and translational research unit that would focus on the development of novel therapeutics, biomarkers, and medical devices as well as translate benchwork discoveries through joint ventures with industry. Any suggestions and contributions regarding the development of the Consortium would be greatly appreciated.

## Notification of an NIH grant award

The **National Institute of Health** has notified **Dr. Ihor V. Yosypiv** of an **ROI grant** to support his project titled: Renin-ANG System in Morphogenesis of renal Medulla. Congenital abnormalities of the kidney and urinary tract (CAKUT) are the major cause of renal failure in childhood. Prior findings imply that UB-derived epithelia are targets for ANG II actions during metanephric kidney development. The project will test the overall hypothesis that angiotensin (ANG) II regulates multiple steps of renal collecting system development. Dr. Yosypiv is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Tulane University and a Junior Faculty investigator of the Tulane COBRE in Hypertension and Renal Biology.



## Recent Publications

# publications

Bazzano LA, Reynolds K, Holder KN, He J. Effect of folate supplementation on risk of cardiovascular diseases: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *JAMA* 296:2720-2726, 2006.

Galassi A, Reynolds K, He J. Metabolic syndrome and risk of cardiovascular disease: a meta-analysis of observational studies. *Am J Med* 119:812-819, 2006.

Gu D, Wildman RP, Wu D, Reynolds K, Huang J, Chen CS, He J. Incidence and predictors of hypertension over 8 years among Chinese men and women. *J Hyperten* 25:517-523, 2007.

Graciano ML, Mouton CR, Patterson ME, Seth DM, Mullins JJ, Mitchell KD. Renal Vascular and Tubulointerstitial Inflammation and Proliferation in CYP1A1-REN2 Transgenic rats with inducible ANG II-Dependent Malignant Hypertension. *Am J Physiol Renal Physiol*, 2007; [Epub ahead of print]

Krane NK, Hamrahian M. Core Curriculum: Pregnancy – Kidney Diseases and Hypertension. *Am J Kidney Dis* 49:336-345, 2007.

Menke A, Muntner P, Wildman RP, Reynolds K, He J. Measures of adiposity and cardiovascular disease risk factors. *Obes* 15:785-795, 2007.

Mitchell KD, Botros FT, Navar LG. Intrarenal renin-angiotensin system and counteracting protective mechanisms in angiotensin II-dependent hypertension. *Acta Physiologica Hungarica* 94(1-2): 31-48, 2007.

Ortiz RM, Graciano ML, Seth D, Awayda MS, Navar LG. Aldosterone receptor antagonism exacerbates intrarenal angiotensin II augmentation in Ang II-dependant hypertension. *Am J Physiol Renal Physiol*, 2007; [Epub ahead of print]

Ozawa Y, Kobori H, Suzaki Y, Navar LG. Sustained renal Interstitial macrophage infiltration following chronic angiotensin II infusions. *Am J Physiol Renal Physiol* 292(1):F330-F339, 2007.

## Publications continued

# publications

Park S, Bivona BJ, Harrison-Bernard LM. Compromised renal microvascular reactivity of angiotensin type 1 double null mice. *Am. J. Physiol. Renal Physiol*, 2007; [Epub ahead of print]

Reynolds K, Chin A, Lees K, Nguyen A, Bujnowski D, He J. Effect of soy protein supplementation on serum lipids: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *Am J Cardiol* 98:633-640, 2006.

Reynolds K, Gu D, Whelton PK, Wu X, Duan X, Mo J, He J. Prevalence and risk factors of overweight and obesity in China. *Obes* 15:10-18, 2007.

Shen B, Harrison-Bernard LM, Fuller AJ, Vanderpool V, Saifudeen Z, El-Dahr SS. The bradykinin B2 receptor gene is a target of angiotensin II type 1 receptor signaling. *J. Am. Soc. Nephrol* 18:1140-1149, 2007.

Swafford, AN Jr, Harrison-Bernard LM, Dick GM. Knockout mice reveal that the angiotensin II type 1b receptor links to smooth muscle contraction. *Am J Hypertens* 20(3):335-337, 2007.

Sukhanov S, Higashi YH, Shai SH, Ono K, Itabe H, Parthasarathy S, Delafontaine P. A novel effect of oxidized low density lipoprotein: ATP depletion via downregulation glyceraldehydes-3-phosphate dehydrogenase. *Circulation Research* 99(2):191-200, 2006.

Weiner ID, Hamm LL. Molecular mechanisms of renal ammonia transport. *Annu Rev Physiol* 69: 317-340, 2007

Zhao D, Vellaichamy E, Somanna NK, Pandey KN. Guanylyl Cyclase/Natriuretic Peptide Receptor-A Gene Disruption Causes Increased Adrenal Angiotensin II and Aldosterone Levels. *Am J Physiol Renal Physiol*, 2007; [Epub ahead of print]

# Investigators Participate in International, National, and Regional Meetings

## presentations

### ***Annual American Society of Nephrology (ASN) Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 14-19, 2006***

- ◇ Chen J, Gu D, Cashell JE, Chen CS, Rao DC, Reynolds K, Hixson JE, Hamm LL, Whelton PK, He J. Kidney function and salt-sensitivity of blood pressure in the GenSalt Study. Abstract #PO208.
- ◇ Harrison-Bernard LM, Park S. Augmented renal renin and neuronal nitric oxide synthase (nNOS) protein expression in angiotensin type 1 receptor (AT1) double null mice (DKO). *J. Am. Soc. Nephrol.* 17:503A, 2006 (Poster Presentation).
- ◇ Kobori H, Katsurada A, Rauv M-L, Satou R, Shoji T. Enhanced intrarenal expression of hemoxygenase (HO)-1 and angiotensinogen (AGT) in IgA nephropathy (IgAN) patients.
- ◇ Kopkan, L., Awayda, M., Majid, DSA. Cholesterol induces renal vasoconstrictor and antinatriuresis by reduction in nitric oxide production.
- ◇ Takamatsu M, Kondo S, Urushihara M, Shimizu M, Morioka T, Oite T, Kobori H, Kagami S. Glomerular angiotensinogen (AGT) protein is enhanced in IgA nephropathy.
- ◇ Yosypiv IV, Schroeder M, Boh MK, El-Dahr SS. Angiotensin (ANG) II Stimulates Preferential Proliferation of Ureteric Bud (UB) Tip Cells. Oral presentation
- ◇ Townsend RR, Reynolds K, Fogelfeld L, Feldman HI, the CRIC Study Investigators. Renal function, proteinuria, prevalent vascular disease and metabolic syndrome in CKD. Abstract #PO144.
- ◇ Navar LG. President's Special Symposium: Disaster and Nephrology; Lessons from Katrina. "Salvaging & Restoring Academic & research programs after a Disaster."

### ***American Heart Association Scientific Sessions, Chicago, IL, November 11-14, 2006***

- ◇ Bazzano LA, Gu D, Reynolds K, Wu X, Chen CS, Duan X, Wildman RP, He J. Alcohol consumption and risk of myocardial infarction among Chinese men. Abstract #P48.
- ◇ Chen J, Gu D, Jaquish CE, Chen CS, Rao DC, Reynolds K, Hixson J, Hamm LL, Whelton PK, He J. Blood pressure response to cold pressor predicts salt sensitivity in the GenSalt study. Abstract #P13.
- ◇ Sukhanov S, Semprun-Prieto L, Higashi Y, Delafontaine P. (2006) Novel pro-atherogenic effect of highly oxidized low density lipoprotein: inhibition of smooth muscle cell migration, potential implications in atherosclerotic plaque stability.
- ◇ Wildman RP, Gu D, Reynolds K, Wu X, Chen CS, Bazzano LA, He J. Changes in modifiable cardiovascular risk factors over 9 years in Chinese adults. Abstract #P24.

## Presentations continued

### ***Annual American Society of Hypertension (ASH) Gulf Chapter Meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 26-28, 2007***

- ◇ Navar, LG. The Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System and Hypertension.

### ***Eighteenth Annual Tulane Health Sciences Research Days, New Orleans, LA, February 28—March 1, 2007***

- ◇ Bodegom DV, El Dahr S. The Polycystic Kidney Disease-1 Gene is a target for P53-Mediated Transcriptional Repression.
- ◇ Botros F, Navar LG. Renal heme oxygenase induction with tin chloride attenuates afferent arteriolar responses to angiotensin II and increases in renal perfusion pressure.
- ◇ Bhuiyan AR, Chen W, Srinivasan SR, Rice J, Mock N, Tang R, Bond MG, Boerwinkle E. G-6A Polymorphism of Angiotensinogen Gene modulates the effect of Blood Pressure on Carotid Thickness: The Bogalusa Heart Study.
- ◇ Hess AE, Kopkan L, Castillo A, Majid DSA. Enhanced Superoxide Activity Induces Salt Sensitivity in Enos Knock-Out Mice.
- ◇ Matavelli LC, Zhou X, Varagic J, Susic D, Frohlich ED. Salt Loading Produces Severe Renal Hemodynamic Dysfunction Independent of Arterial Pressure in Spontaneously Hypertensive Rats.
- ◇ Ming-Guo Feng, Navar LG. Activation of Adenosine A2A Receptors Diminishes Afferent Arteriolar Autoregulatory Efficiency in rats.
- ◇ Shen B, Harrison-Bernard LM, Fuller AJ, Vanderpool V, Saifudeen Z, El-Dahr SS. The Bradykinin B2 Receptor Gene is a target of Angiotensin II Type 1 Receptor Signaling.
- ◇ Somanna NK, Pandey KN. Analysis of Guanylyl Cyclase/Atrial Natriuretic Peptide Receptor-A Internalization by Polycistronically Expressed Microrna.
- ◇ Titterington J, Sukhanov S, Tabony M, Bowers C, Delafontaine P. (2007) Anti-atherogenic effects of growth hormone releasing peptide-2.
- ◇ Tripathi S, Pandey KN. Regulation of Mitogen-Activated Protein Kinase Activity by Atrial Natriuretic Peptide in Mouse Mesangial and Leydig Tumor Cells.
- ◇ Vellaichamy E, Somanna NK, Pandey KN. Blocking the Nuclear Factor- $\kappa$ B Signaling Attenuates Cardiac Hypertrophic Growth in mice lacking Natriuretic Peptide Receptor-A.

### ***Southern Society of Clinical Investigation (SSCI)/American Federation for Medical Research (AFMR) Meeting, New Orleans, LA February 8-10, 2007***

- ◇ Bhuiyan AR, Srinivasan SR, Chen W, Sultana A, Bhutto E, Berenson GS. Influence of Serum Bilirubin on Pulsatile Arterial Function in Asymptomatic Young Adults: The Bogalusa Heart Study.

# Presentations continued

# presentations

- ◇ Chen W, Srinivasan SR, Berenson GS. Parental Coronary Heart Disease Increases Vulnerability of the Arterial Wall to Metabolic Syndrome and Aging: The Bogalusa Heart Study.
- ◇ Chen W, Srinivasan SR, Boerwinkle E, Berenson GS. B1-Adrenergic Receptor Gene Modulates the Effect of Heart Rate on Arterial Stiffness: The Bogalusa Heart Study.
- ◇ Chen W, Srinivasan SR, Berenson GS. Path Analysis of the relationships among metabolic syndrome components in black versus white children, adolescents, and adults: The Bogalusa Heart Study.
- ◇ Dreisbach AW, Japa S, Newman JW, Sigel A, Gill RS, Hess AE, Hammock BD and Lertora JJ. Salt Loading Increases the Urinary Excretion of Linoleic Diols and Triols in Healthy Human Subjects.
- ◇ Hamm L. Regulation of Sodium Transport in the Collecting Duct. *State-of-the-Art Speaker*
- ◇ Hess A, Kopkan L, Castillo A, and Majid DS. Enhanced Superoxide Activity Induces Salt Sensitivity in Endogenous Nitric Oxide Synthase Knockout Mice.
- ◇ Higashi Y, Sukhanov S, Parthasarathy S, Delafontaine P. Oxidized Low-Density Lipoprotein Downregulates Insulin-Like Growth Factor-1 Receptor via Enhanced Generation of Nitric Oxide and Reactive Oxygen Species in Human Aortic Smooth Muscle Cells.
- ◇ Higashi Y, Sukhanov S, Shai SY, Titterington J, Delafontaine P. Insulin-like Growth Factor I Prevents Atherosclerosis Progression in Aged Apolipoprotein E Deficient Mice.
- ◇ Higashi Y, Sukhanov S, Shai SY, Titterington J, Delafontaine P. Influence of Serum Bilirubin on Pulsatile Arterial Function in Asymptomatic Young Adults: The Bogalusa Heart Study.
- ◇ Kopkan L, Castillo A, Francis J, and Majid DS. Renal Responses to Angiotensin II in Mice Lacking the Gene for Tumor Necrosis Factor  $\alpha$ .
- ◇ Kumar, P. and Pandey, K.N. Ets-1 and p300 synergistically up-regulate natriuretic peptide receptor A gene (Npr1) transcription.
- ◇ Li M, Hering-Smith K, Simon EE, Batuman V. Myeloma Light Chains Induce Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition in Human renal Proximal Tubule Epithelial Cells: A Potential Role in Renal Fibrosis and Possible Intervention by Bone Morphogenetic 7 and Pituitary Adenylate Cyclase-Activating Polypeptide.
- ◇ Nakhoul NL, Abduhnour-Nakhoul SM, Doetjes RS, and Hamm LL. Transport Properties of Renal RHBG.
- ◇ Patel DA, Srinivasan SR, Xu J, Chan W, Boerwinkle E, and Berenson GS. Apolipoprotein E Polymorphism Modulates the Associations of Obesity and Insulin Resistance with C-Reactive Protein in Young Adults: The Bogalusa Heart Study.
- ◇ Patel DA, Srinivasan SR. Impact of Metabolic Syndrome on Left Ventricular Mass and Geometry in Young Adults: The Bogalusa Heart Study.
- ◇ Sanne S, Muntner P, Kawasaki L, Hyre A, and DeSalvo KB. Hypertension Knowledge Among Urban Blacks.

## Presentations continued

- ◇ Semprun-Prieto L, Sukhanov S, Higashi Y, Titterington J, Delafontaine P. Identification of 5-, 12/15-Lipoxygenase and NADPH Oxidase as Key Mediators of Oxidized LDL-induced Apoptosis of Human Aortic Smooth Muscle Cells: Implications for Atherosclerotic Plaque Destabilization.
- ◇ Somanna, N.K., Arise K.K., and Pandey, K.N. Analysis of Natriuretic Peptide Receptor A Internalization by Ribonucleic Acid Interference.
- ◇ Sukhanov S, Semprun-Prieto L, Huang J, Akao M, Delafontaine P. Increased oxidative stress via activation of NADPH oxidase mediates angiotensin II-induced skeletal muscle wasting: potential mechanism of cachexia in congestive heart failure.
- ◇ Susic S, Zhou X, Krousel-Wood MA, Frohlich ED. Partial Adherence to Antihypertensive Therapy Fails to Achieve Cardiovascular Benefits in Rats with Malignant Hypertension.
- ◇ Vellaichamy, E., Somanna, N.K., and Pandey, K.N. Inhibition of nuclear factor kB induces regression of cardiac hypertrophy in mice lacking natriuretic peptide receptor A.
- ◇ Zhao, D., Somanna, N.K., and Pandey, K. N. Disruption of natriuretic peptide receptor A gene increases adrenal angiotensin II and aldosterone levels.

### **Awards—SSCI/AFMR**

- ◇ Drs. Perna Kumar, Naveen Somanna, Elangovan Vellaichamy, and Di Zhao received Trainee Travel Awards and Laura Semprun-Prieto received the Student Research Award.
- ◇ Dr. David W Ploth, was presented the SSCI Founder's Medal at the 2007 Southern Regional Meeting by Dr. Gabriel Navar. Dr. Ploth is the Professor of Medicine and the Director of the Nephrology Division at the Medical University of South Carolina

### ***47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention of the American Heart Association. Orlando, FL, February 2007.***

- ◇ Bazzano LA, Gu D, Reynolds K, Wu X, Chen CS, Duan X, Wildman RP, Whelton PK, He J. Alcohol consumption and risk of myocardial infarction and coronary heart disease among Chinese men. Abstract #P67. *Circulation* 2007;115(8):e237.
- ◇ He J, Gu D, Chen J, Wu X, Duan X, Chen CS, Reynolds K, Bazzano LA, Whelton PK, Klag MJ. Mortality and hypertension in China: a prospective study of 169,871 men and women. Abstract #P153. *Circulation* 2007;115(8):e254.
- ◇ He J, Gu D, Wu X, Chen CS, Duan X, Bazzano LA, Chen J, Reynolds K, Klag MJ, Whelton PK. Mortality and smoking in China: a prospective study of 169,871 men and women. Abstract #P276. *Circulation* 2007;115(8):e280.
- ◇ Kelly T, Yang W, Reynolds K, McCarroll R, He J. Global burden of obesity. Abstract #P93. *Circulation* 2007;115(8):e242.
- ◇ Reynolds K, Gu D, Bazzano LA, Wildman RP, Wu X, Chen CS, Duan X, He J. Alcohol consumption and mortality among men and women in China. Abstract #P272. *Circulation* 2007;115(8):e279.

## Presentations continued

- ◇ Wildman RP, Gu D, Muntner P, Reynolds K, Wu X, Chen CS, Bazzano LA, Duan X, He J. Trends in the prevalence of hypertension in Chinese adults: 1990-1991 to 1999-2000. Abstract #P157. *Circulation* 2007;115(8):e255.

### *Annual 56th American College of Cardiology (ACC) meeting, New Orleans, LA March 24-27, 2007*

- ◇ Higashi Y, Sukhanov S, Parthasarathy S, Delafontaine P. (2007) Oxidized Low-Density Lipoprotein Downregulates Insulin-Like Growth Factor-1 Receptor via Enhanced Generation of Nitric Oxide and Reactive Oxygen Species in Human Aortic Smooth Muscle Cells.
- ◇ Higashi Y, Sukhanov S, Shai SY, Titterington J, Delafontaine P. (2007) Insulin-like Growth Factor I Prevents Atherosclerosis Progression in Aged Apolipoprotein E Deficient Mice.
- ◇ Semprun-Prieto L, Sukhanov S, Higashi Y, Titterington J, Delafontaine P. (2007) Identification of 5-, 12/15-Lipoxygenase and NADPH Oxidase as Key Mediators of Oxidized LDL-induced Apoptosis of Human Aortic Smooth Muscle Cells: Implications for Atherosclerotic Plaque Destabilization.
- ◇ Sukhanov S, Semprun-Prieto L, Huang J, Akao M, Delafontaine P. Increased oxidative stress via activation of NADPH oxidase mediates angiotensin II-induced skeletal muscle wasting: potential mechanism of cachexia in congestive heart failure.

## Invited Speaker

**Dr. L. Gabriel Navar**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Physiology, Tulane University was invited as the distinguished guest lecturer by the University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Medicine. His lecture titled: **“The Intrarenal / Intratubular Renin- Angiotensin Systems in Hypertension”** was presented at the **Training Program in Cardiac and Vascular Cell Biology at the Maryland center for Heart, Hypertension & Kidney Disease and the Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiology.** Former distinguished lecturers invited to the Training Program included Arthur C. Guyton, Bjorn Folkow, Derek Denton, and other internationally renowned names.

# T.H.R.C.E. Conferences

January 4

*HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

January 18

**L. Lee Hamm, MD, FACP**

Tulane University Health Sciences Center

“Regulation of Sodium Transport from the Collecting Duct Lumen”

February 1

**Thomas D. Giles, MD**

Tulane University Health Sciences Center

“Redefining Hypertension”

February 8\*

**Robert W. Schrier, MD**

University of Colorado, School of Medicine

“Renal & Cardiovascular Complications in Type-2 Diabetes Mellitus:  
Role of Blood Glucose, RAS & Blood Pressure”

February 15

*HAPPY MARDI GRAS!*

March 1

No Meeting– 18th Annual Tulane HSC Research Day

March 29

**Dewan SA Majid, MD, PhD**

Tulane University Health Sciences Center

“Nitroso-Redox Imbalance: Tipping the Scale toward Salt-Sensitive Hypertension”

April 12

**Philip Kadowitz, PhD**

Tulane University Health Sciences Center

“Analysis of Responses to Angiotensin (1-7)”

April 26

**Vecihi Batuman, MD**

Tulane University Health Sciences Center

“Salt and Hypertension: Is There a Controversy?”

May 17

**Wenzheng Zhang, PhD**

Tulane University Health Sciences Center

Dot1a-AF9-SGK1 Regulate ENaC $\alpha$  Transcription in Aldosterone Signaling

May 24

**Samir El-Dahr, MD, PhD**

Tulane University Health Sciences Center

“Chromatin remodeling and renal development”

*Conferences are held every other Thursday at 4:00 pm in the Medical School Building, room 4700*

calendar

## Recent awards

## Appointment of the New T.H.R.C.E. Program Coordinator

- ◇ **Bing Shen, Ph.D.**—Basic Research Award in Molecular Bioscience for his research titled: The Bradykinin B2 Receptor Gene is a Target of Angiotensin II Type 1 Receptor Signaling.
- ◇ **Fady Botros, Ph.D.**—was awarded the Basic Research Award in Integrated Biology for his research titled: Renal Heme Responses to Angiotensin II and Increases in Renal Perfusion Pressure.
- ◇ **Drs. Perna Kumar, Naveen Somanna, Elangovan Vellaichamy and Di Zhao** received Trainee Research Awards during the American Federation of Medical Research meeting in February 2007 in New Orleans.
- ◇ **Drs. N.K Somanna, K.K. Arise and K.N Pandey** received the SAFMR/SSCI Trainee Research Award. For their research.
- ◇ **Dr. Lisa Harrison-Bernard** has been awarded a grant from the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive, and Kidney Diseases. This award is an Administrative Supplements to Grants Located in New Orleans Affected by Hurricane Katrina.
- ◇ Dr. Harrison-Bernard was also appointed to Council for High Blood Pressure Research Membership Committee.
- ◇ She was selected as Abstract Reviewer for both the 2007 American Heart Association and the Council for High Blood Pressure meetings.
- ◇ For the APS Physiology Fun Week (PhUn Week), Dr. Harrison-Bernard conducted a Tenth Grade Science Class at Archbishop Rummel High School entitled, “What Effects Does Exercise Have on You?”, and a Fifth Grade Science Class at St. Benilde Elementary School entitled, “The Heart is a Pump”

Tulane Hypertension and Renal Center of Excellence has appointed a new program coordinator. Nina R Majid has joined THRCE in May and will be the new contact person for matters concerning the Hypertension Center and the COBRE.

Nina and the THRICE would like to give a special note of thanks to Debbie Olavarrieta for her tremendous support in administrating the HRCE since Katrina. Prior to Nina’s appointment, Debbie not only took care of her own administrative duties as Office Manager to the busy Physiology Department, but also ensured that the THRCE newsletters were published on time. Other individuals who we thank are Amelia Chaisson, Bridget Harbor, and Cindy Stewart for pulling double-duties before Nina’s appointment by taking care of their own work-responsibilities and that of THRCE

### T.H.R.C.E.

#### TULANE HYPERTENSION AND RENAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

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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](mailto: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.**