



# THRCE

TULANE HYPERTENSION & RENAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Winter 2007

Volume 6, Issue 3

## Distinguished Awards

At the 2007 annual **National Kidney Foundation** meeting, Dr L Lee Hamm received the prestigious **Donald Seldin Award for Excellence in Clinical Nephrology**. The Donald W. Seldin Lecture was established to recognize excellence in clinical nephrology in the tradition of one of the foremost teachers and researchers in the field, Dr. Donald W. Seldin.



Dr. L. Lee Hamm

From the **Sydenstricker Society of the Medical College of Georgia**, Dr. Hamm was also awarded the **2007 Humanitarianism in Medicine Award**.

We congratulate Dr. Hamm on such notable accomplishments.

## 2007 Mayerson-Di Luzio Lecture



Dr. Mordecai P. Blaustein

**The Mayerson DiLuzio Lecturer** is an honorable tribute co-sponsored by Tulane Hypertension & Renal Center of Excellence, Louisiana State University, the Department of Physiology at Tulane, and the American Physiology Society's Inspirational Speaker Series. On October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the Mayerson DiLuzio Lecturer Honor was awarded to **Mordecai P. Blaustein, MD, PhD**.

Dr. Mordecai P. Blaustein is the Professor of Physiology and Medicine at the University of Maryland of Baltimore School of Medicine, in Baltimore, Maryland. He served as chair of the Physiology department from 1979 to 2003, has been the director of the Maryland Center for Heart, Hypertension, and Kidney Disease since 1987, and is Affiliate Professor of the Biotechnology Center at the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute. Dr. Blaustein received his medical degree at Washington University in St. Louis in 1962 and did his postdoctoral training at Cambridge University in England.

Dr. Blaustein major research interest include the essential roles that calcium ions play in most cellular activities, including fertilization, cell division, motility and contraction, excitability and secretion. His work has led to the publication of several renowned and heavily cited papers. Indeed, his classic review, "Sodium ions, calcium ions, blood pressure regulation and hypertension: a reassessment and a hypothesis," published in the American Journal of Physiology (232:C165-C173, 1977), is among the most cited papers in the history of the journal.

Dr. Blaustein has made major contributions to several nationally academic organization such as the American Physiological Society (APS) and the Association of Chairs of

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Physiology Departments (ACDP), and has received many, highly prestigious, awards, including the Pasarow Foundation Award for Cardiovascular Research, the Alexander Von Humboldt-Stiftung Senior U.S. Scientist award, the Distinguished Service Award from ACDP in 2001, and the Research Lecturer of the Year from the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

### THRCE representation at the Physiological Society of India and the South Asian Association of Physiologists

In December, 2007, Dr. DSA Majid, a THRCE affiliated faculty, was invited to attend the **XIXth Conference of the Physiological Society of India (PSI)** at **Faridabad, India**. Dr. Majid was invited as an honorable speaker to present a Plenary Lecture entitled 'Nitroso-Redox Imbalance and Salt-sensitive hypertension' and to chair a scientific session on 'Neurophysiology and Oxidative stress'.



Reception at Faridabad, India by PSI officials

In Faridabad, India, Dr. Majid also participated in the first **Advisory Committee Meeting** of the recently formed organization, the **South Asian Association of Physiologists (SAAP)**. SAAP is represented by the members of the Physiological societies of seven South Asian Countries (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Srilanka, Maldip and Bhutan), and has been established under the charter of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) to promote the greater interaction amongst the physiology community at the regional level.

### Dr. Edward D Frohlich awarded the 2007 William Harvey Award



Dr. E. D. Frohlich

A THRCE affiliated faculty and Alton Ochsner Distinguished Scientist at the Ochsner Clinic Foundation, **Edward D. Frohlich, MD**, was awarded the **Distinguished Scientist Award, the 2007, William Harvey Award, during the 22nd Annual Scientific Meeting and Exposition of the American Society of Hypertension (ASH)**. The purpose of the award is to honor a scientist or physician for outstanding achievements in the field of hypertension. The William Harvey Award is named for scientist William Harvey (1578- 1657) who developed the first accurate account of how the heart and circulatory system operated.

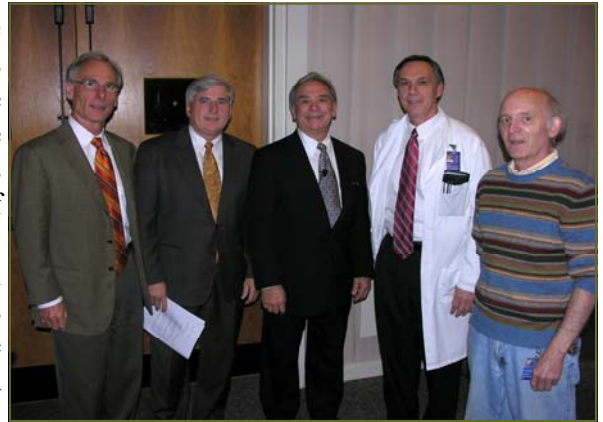
Internationally recognized for investigative work in clinical and experimental hypertension, he was Editor-in-Chief of *Hypertension*, from 1994 until 2002 and Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Laboratory and Clinical Medicine*. He has served on the editorial boards of many peer-reviewed scientific journals, is the author of over 1100 peer-reviewed scientific papers, and editor of several renowned textbooks.

Doctor Frohlich was presented the Okamoto International Award for his "outstanding contributions to the study on the pathogenesis, pathophysiology and treatment of hypertension." He has been awarded numerous nationally and internationally recognized awards such as the Distinguished Achievement Award of the American Heart Association (AHA), Lifetime Achievement Award by the AHA's Council for High Blood Pressure Research and the Inter-American Society of Hypertension for outstanding contributions to the field of hypertension research, patient care and education.

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### **Dr. Navar presented the Distinguished Alumni Lecture at the University of Mississippi Medical Center's SGSHS**

Dr. L Gabriel Navar, the Co-director of the Tulane Hypertension and Renal Center of Excellence, was honored at the Inaugural School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences (SGSHS) as the Distinguished Alumni Lecturer. The event was held on October 26, 2007 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMC). His lecture, "Adventures in Physiology: From Renal Hemodynamics to Hypertension," focused on his research interests. Prior to his presentation, he spoke warmly of his experiences at UMC and as a student under the mentorship of the world renowned Physiologist, Dr. Arthur Guyton. He recalled that it was while reading one of Dr. Guyton's textbook, the best-selling and most cited Physiology textbook world-wide, that he was influenced from discarding his planned career path of becoming a veterinarian to pursuing the scientific research field of physiology.



*Faculty greeting Dr. Navar before the reception are, from left, Dr. Thomas E. Lohmeier, professor of physiology and biophysics; Dr. Joey P. Granger, dean of the School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences and Billy S. Guyton Distinguished Professor of physiology and biophysics; Dr. John E. Hall, Arthur C. Guyton Professor and chair of physiology and biophysics; and Dr. Thomas G. Coleman, professor emeritus of physiology and biophysics.*

Dr. Navar received the BS from Texas A&M University in 1962 and the PhD in 1966 from the University of Mississippi Medical Center under Guyton's direction in the Department of Physiology. He served as faculty member at UMC until 1974, then spent time as special research fellow at Duke University, and faculty member at University of Alabama at Birmingham before being appointed as Professor and Chair of the Physiology Department at Tulane University Medical School in 1988.

### **Tulane mourns the loss of Dr. Akira Arimura**

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Tulane lost a great friend, scientist, and educator, Dr. Akira Arimura, Emeritus Professor of Medicine, after his long battle with multiple myeloma.

Dr. Arimura received his M.D. and Ph.D. from Nagoya University School of Medicine, Nagoya, Japan and performed his post-doctoral studies at Yale and the NIH. He joined the VA Hospital, New Orleans, in 1965 as the chief physiologist and a research physician, and later joined Tulane as Professor of Medicine and founding Director of Tulane University's Hébert Research Center. This laboratory, donated by the Japanese Government, was named the US-Japan Cooperative Biomedical Research Laboratories for promoting the international collaboration in research. His recent studies focused on the PACAP peptide, which he had discovered, and its effects on various tissues, including pituitary, neurons, astrocytes, intestines, cardiovascular system, adrenals, immune cells, through its action as a neurotransmitter and neuromodulator.

Dr. Arimura was one of Tulane's most prolific investigator with over 1000 publications and is recognized as one of the preeminent scientists in the field of neuroendocrinology. Tulane University, as well as medicine in general, is richer for having had Dr. Arimura's dedication, expertise, and contributions to science. We send our deepest condolence to his family; Dr. Arimura will be greatly missed at Tulane.

## Waist-to-hip Ratio, a possible indicator of coronary artery disease.

Obesity affects one third of US adults, and is linked to diabetes, hypertension, heart diseases, and dyslipidemia. A new study is questioning whether these obesity-related health diseases are caused by calcium deposit in the coronary arteries (atherosclerosis), or whether atherosclerosis is triggered by the diseases (<http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=4440>.) The study has revealed that the waist to hip ratio (WHR) measurement is a greater indicator of the possibility of calcium deposit in the coronary arteries than the previous measures of obesity, such as body mass index (BMI), or waist circumference (WC) alone. Although BMI has been used in studies as the key measure for obesity-related health effects, alternative measures such as WC and WHR have demonstrated better correlations with cardiovascular risk than BMI. This evidence along with the findings of the study led Senior Investigator, Dr. James de Lemos (University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX) to conclude that "These data confirm ... that these measures of body shape – waist and waist-to-hip ratio – predict not just clinical events but also an atherosclerotic burden." The result of the study was published in the August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 issue of *Journal of American College of Cardiology* <http://content.onlinejacc.org/cgi/content/short/50/8/752?eaf>.

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The following news were obtained from **inCirculation.net**.

*MedWire News:* **Vitamin D deficiency has been linked to an increased risk for cardiovascular disease**, particularly in people with hypertension, reports scientists at Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts. Thomas Wang and colleagues studied 1739 offspring of Framingham Heart Study participants, with an average age of 59 years, who were free of cardiovascular disease at baseline.

It was discovered that those with lower vitamin D levels in their blood had twice the risk of myocardial infarction (MI), heart failure, or stroke in the next 5 years of those with higher levels. Based on the evidence, Dr Wang stated, "A growing body of evidence suggests that low levels of vitamin D may adversely affect the cardiovascular system ... Vitamin D receptors have a broad tissue distribution that includes vascular smooth muscle and endothelium, the inner lining of the body's vessels. Our data raise the possibility that treating vitamin D deficiency via supplementation or lifestyle measures could reduce cardiovascular risk." More information on this health news can be read at <http://www.incirculation.net/NewsItem/Vitamin-D-deficiency-linked-to-cardiovascular-dise.aspx>.

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**Bazzano LA, Gu D, Reynolds K, Wu X, Chen CS, Duan X, Wildman RP, Klag MJ, He J.** Alcohol consumption and risk of stroke among Chinese men. *Annals of Neurology*, 2007 [Epub ahead of print].

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**Chen J, Gu D, Whelton SP, Chen CS, Wu, X, Reynolds K, Hamm L, Whelton PW, He J.** Blood pressure and mortality among a group of Chinese patients with cardiovascular disease. *J. of Hypertension*, 2007 [Epub ahead of print].

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**Feng MG, Navar LG.** Adenosine A<sub>2</sub> receptor activation attenuates afferent arteriolar autoregulation during adenosine receptor saturation in rats. *Hypertension*, 50(4):744-9, 2007.

**Frohlich ED.** The salt conundrum: a hypothesis. *Hypertension*, 50(1):161-6, 2007.

**Graciano ML, Nishiyama A, Jackson KE, Seth DM, Ortiz RM, Prieto-Carrasquero M, Kobori H, Navar LG.** Purinergic Receptors Contribute to Early Mesangial Cell Transformation and Renal Vessel Hypertrophy during Angiotensin II-Induced Hypertension. *Am. J. Physiol. Renal Physiol.*, 2007 [Epub ahead of print]

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## Continued...

intrarenal angiotensinogen in gene-targeted mice. *Am. J. Physiol. Renal Physiol.*, 293(3):F938-45, 2007.

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**Sukhanov S, Higashi Y, Shai SY, Vaughn C, Mohler J, Li Y, Song YH, Titterington J, Delafontaine P.** IGF-1 reduces inflammatory responses, suppresses oxidative stress and decreases atherosclerosis progression in ApoE-deficient mice. *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology*, 27(12):2684-90, 2007.

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**Zhang R, Florman S, Devidoss S, Zarifian A, Yau L, Paramesh A, Killackey M, Alper B, Fonseca V, Slakey D.** The Comparison of Long-Term Survivals of Simultaneous Pancreas-Kidney Transplant between African American and Caucasian Recipients with Basiliximab Induction Therapy. *Am. J. Transplant*, 7:1815-1821, 2007.

## ***AHA High Blood Pressure Research Conference, Tucson, Arizona, September, 2007***

- ◇ **Feng MG, Navar LG.**  $\alpha$  1-adrenergic vasoconstriction involves store-operated channel activation in efferent arterioles. Proceedings from the AHA High Blood Pressure Research Conference, P121, *Hypertension*.50:e75-e155, 2007.
- ◇ **Gonzalez-Villalobos RA, Seth DM, Satou R, Tran DV, Rauv M-L, Kobori H, Navar LG.** Intrarenal angiotensinogen augmentation in angiotensin-II infused mice. *Hypertension*, 50:e101(P30), 2007.
- ◇ **Ihara G, Kobori H, Nagai Y, Hitomi H, Kiyomoto H, Kohno M, Nishiyama A.** Strict angiotensin blockade causes remission of overt proteinuria and glomerular injury in type 2 diabetic rats. *Hypertension*, 50:e121, 2007
- ◇ **Matavelli LC, Kadowitz PJ, Majid, DSA.** The effects of Peroxynitrite administration on renal hemodynamics and excretory function in rats. *JASN*, 18: 21A, 2007
- ◇ **Prieto-Carrasquero MC, Botros FT, Kobori H, Casarini DE, Pagan J, Seth DM, Navar LG.** Reciprocal changes in ACE/Ang II and ace2/Ang 1–7 are associated with enhanced collecting duct renin in the renal medulla of Goldblatt hypertensive rats. *Hypertension*, 50(4):e75-e155(P19) , 2007.
- ◇ **Satou R, Gonzalez-Villalobos R, Miyata K, Katsurada A, Tran DV, Rauv M-L, Navar LG, Kobori H.** Interleukin 6 is required for the positive feedback of angiotensinogen by angiotensin II in cultured human proximal tubular epithelial cells. *Hypertension*, 50:e75-e155, 2007
- ◇ **Zhao D, Navar LG.** Acute angiotensin II infusions elicit pressure natriuresis in mice and reduce distal nephron sodium fractional reabsorption. LB09, *Hypertension*. 50:e75-e155, 2007.

## ***American Society of Nephrology, San Francisco, CA., Nov. 2-5, 2007***

- ◇ **Matavelli LC, Kadowitz PJ, Majid DSA.** The effects of Peroxynitrite administration on renal hemodynamics and excretory function in rats. *JASN*, 18: 21A, 2007
- ◇ **Ohashi N, Katsurada A, Miyata K, Satou R, Kobori H.** Activated reactive oxygen species - renin angiotensin system axis in immunoglobulin A nephropathy model mice. . *JASN*, 18:404A, 2007.
- ◇ **Satou R, Gonzalez-Villalobos RA, Miyata K, Ohashi N, Katsurada A, Navar LG, Kobori H.** Interleukin-6 stimulates angiotensinogen expression in a renal proximal tubular cell line. *JASN*, 18:152A, 2007.
- ◇ **Yosypiv I.V., Boh M.K., Spera M., El-Dahr S.S.** Angiotensin (ANG) II AT1 receptor-Sprouty (Spry) 1 cross-talk regulates ureteric bud (UB) branching morphogenesis. *JASN*, 18: 21A, 2007

**Continued...**

**American Heart Association Scientific Sessions 2007, Orlando, FL, Nov. 3-7, 2007**

- ◇ **Sukhanov S, Higashi Y, Shai SY, Vaughn C, Titterington J, Delafontaine P.** IGF-1 reduces inflammatory responses, suppresses oxidative stress and decreases atherosclerosis progression in ApoE-deficient mice. **Abstract 1212** *Circulation*, 116 (16), II-246, 2007.
- ◇ **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. **Abstract 779.** *Circulation*, 116 (16), II-150, 2007.

**Omitted from previous newsletter issue:**

**Prieto-Carrasquero MC, Botros FT, Kobori H, Casarini DE, Cooper S, Seth D, Navar LG.** Reciprocal changes in intrarenal angiotensin II and angiotensin 1-7 levels in Goldblatt hypertensive rats. *Hypertension*. 2007;49:P156. (IASH in Miami Beach, FL)

# Invited speakers

- ◇ **Dr. Bazzano** was invited to give a presentation entitled “**Micronutrients in Cardiovascular Disease: Current Recommendations.**” at the **48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American College of Nutrition**, in **Orlando, FL** from **September 27-30<sup>th</sup>**. There, Dr. Bazzano was elected a **Fellow of the American College of Nutrition**.
- ◇ **Dr. Delafontaine's** was an invited speaker for **Grand Rounds at MD Anderson in Houston** on December 12, 2007. The title of his talk was, “**Insulin-like Growth Factor-1 & Cardiovascular Disease.**”
- ◇ **Dr. D.S.A. Majid** was invited as an **Honorable Speaker** at the **2007, XIXth Annual Conference of Physiological Society (PSI)**, at **Faridabad, India**. The **Plenary Lecture**, titled, “**Nitroso-Redox Imbalance and Salt Sensitive Hypertension,**” was presented on **December, 2007**.
- ◇ **Dr. L. Gabriel Navar** was invited to speak at the **Mexican Physiological Society Meeting** that was held in **Puebla, Mexico** on September 12, 2007. The title of his talk was, “**Science Education and Advocacy – An APS Case Study.**”
- ◇ **Dr. Navar** was an invited Speaker at the **15<sup>th</sup> Congress of Argentina Society of Nephrology Meeting** held in **Rosario, Argentina** on September 20, 2007. His talk were titled, “**Intrarenal Renin Angiotensin System in Hypertension**” and “**Renal Hemodynamics and Mechanisms of Renal Injury in Hypertension**”
- ◇ **Dr. Navar** was invited as a **Distinguished Alumni Lecturer** at the **University of Mississippi** , in **Jackson, Mississippi**. His talk, titled “**Adventures in Physiology: From Renal Hemodynamics to Hypertension,**” was presented on October 26, 2007.
- ◇ **Dr. Minolfa Prieto-Carrasquero** was an invited to speak at the **Workshop on New Developments in the renin Angiotensin System: the (Pro)Renin Receptor, Renin Inhibition and ACE2**. The talk titled, “**Tubular Renin in Ang II-dependent hypertension,**” was presented at the **61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting American Heart Association and Council High Blood Pressure** at **Tucson, AZ** on **Sept 26, 2007**.

# Calendar of Events

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

October 11	<p><b>Tino M. Unlap, Ph.D.</b>  Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology,  Tulane University School of Medicine  <i>“What Role Does the Na<sup>+</sup>/Ca<sup>2+</sup> Exchanger Play In  Mediating the Effects of Oxidative Stress in Hypertension?”</i></p>
October 25	<p><b>Eric D. Lazartigues, Ph.D., FAHA</b>  Asst Professor, Dept of Pharmacology &amp; Experimental Therapeutics  Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - School of Medicine  <i>“ACE2 in the central regulation of cardiovascular function: a matter of balance.”</i></p>
November 8	<p><b>Dinko Susic, MD, PhD</b>  Hypertension Research Lab, Division of Research,  Ochsner Clinic Foundation, New Orleans, LA  <i>“Role of AGEs in cardiovascular aging.”</i></p>
November 22	<p><b>No Seminar; Closed for Thanksgiving</b></p>
December 6	<p><b>Efrain Reisin, MD,</b>  Chief, Section of Nephrology, Professor of Medicine,  Louisiana State University Health Science Center.  <i>“Metabolic Syndrome, Obesity and the Kidney Connection.”</i></p>
December 20	<p><b>No Seminar; Closed for Christmas and New Years</b></p>
January 10,	<p><b>S. Michal Jazwinski, PhD</b>  Professor of Medicine  Director of the Tulane Center for Aging  Tulane University School of Medicine  <i>“From Hypertensive Yeast to Vascular Status and Healthy Aging.”</i></p>
January 24	<p><b>Edward W. Inscho, PhD</b>  Professor of Physiology, Department of Physiology  Director of the MD/PhD Program, School of Medicine  Medical College of Georgia  <i>“Renal vascular impairment in hypertension.”</i></p>
February 7	<p><b>No Seminar; Week of Mardi Gras</b></p>
February 21	<p><b>Jeff M. Sands, MD</b>  Juha P. Kokko Professor of Medicine and Physiology,  Director, Renal Division  Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Research,  Emory University Renal Division  <i>“Regulation of Renal Urea Transporters.”</i></p>
March 6	<p><b>TBA</b></p>
March 10:	<p><b>Jia Long Zhuo, MD, PhD</b>  Associate Prof of Physiology, Wayne State University School of Medicine  Senior Staff Investigator, Laboratory of Receptor &amp; Signal Transduction  Division of Hypertension and Vascular Research  Department of Medicine-Henry Ford Hospital  <i>“Novel Roles of Intracellular Angiotensin II in Kidney Proximal Tubule Cells.”</i></p>

Joint Seminar:  
HRCE &  
Physiology Dept

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

## *New Appointments & Promotions*

**Professor L. Lee Hamm, MD**, has been appointed the **Executive Vice-Dean of Tulane Medical School**. Dr. Hamm will also continue to serve as the **Chairman of the Department of Medicine and co-director of Tulane Hypertension and Renal Center of Excellence**. We congratulate Dr. Hamm and wish him continual success.

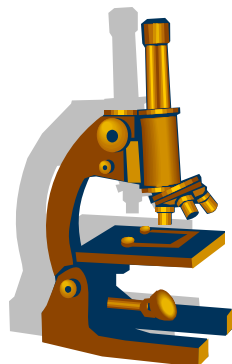
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**Dr. Dewan Syed Abdul Majid**, THRCE affiliated faculty member, has been recently promoted to **Professor of Physiology with Tenure** at Tulane University School of Medicine.

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Tulane Medical School has appointed **Dr. Jeff Wiese** to the position of **Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education** and as such will be the **DIO (Designated Institutional Official, in ACGME terms)** for Tulane. **Dr. Wiese** experiences include that of Internal Medicine Residency Program Director for the Tulane Medical School and leadership responsibilities in several national organizations.

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## *Recent awards*

We are pleased to announce that **Dr. L. Gabriel Navar**, in December, 2007, was awarded a one year funding from **Merck and Co, Inc** to support the research titled, “**The Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System (RAAS) in Mediating Salt-Induced Cardiovascular Injury.**”

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Tulane has been awarded the **Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health (BIRCWH) Award**, in 2007. The **director** for the 5-year, NIH-funded program is **Dr. Jeanette Magnus**, and the **Principle Investigator** for this award is **Dr. L Lee Hamm**.

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The five year program will support research activities of several Tulane faculties including THRCE associated faculty members, **Dr. Alper, Dr. Chen, Dr. DeSalvo, and Dr. Reynolds**. We congratulate Dr. Magnus, and all faculty and staff, who worked diligently to attain this great accomplishment.

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**Dr. Gerald Bernstein**, a THRCE affiliated research professor of Epidemiology, medicine and pediatrics at Tulane University, was awarded **\$140,000 grant** for the **Health Ahead/Heart Smart program**, to continue the early childhood, health education curriculum currently being used in for 7,000 elementary school children in Bogalusa and Washington, in Louisiana. The grant was awarded by the **Southeast Louisiana Area Health Education Center (AHEC)**, and funded by the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration, Office of Rural Health Policy**

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## *New Appointments & Promotions, cont...*

### Tulane Welcomes two new faculty members, Dr. M. Tino Unlap and Dr. Khalid Matrougui

During the fall of 2007, THRCE saw the appointment of two faculty members, Dr. M. Tino Unlap and Dr. Khalid Matrougui. Both Drs. Unlap and Matrougui have been appointed by the Physiology Department as Research Assistant Professors and will be involved in COBRE research projects. Since joining Tulane, Dr. Matrougui's research project has been approved by NIH/NCRR to allow him to be appointed as junior faculty investigator for COBRE, and Dr. Unlap will soon forward his application for approval.

Dr. Unlap studied at Western Kentucky University, Kentucky, earning his BS in Chemistry in 1981, his MS in Biology in 1983, and his PhD from the department of Biochemistry in 1990. After his post-doctorial training at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Dr. Unlap remained at UAB as Assistant Professor to the department of Medicine, and consultant to several of UAB's medical centers.

Dr. Matrougui graduated from the University of Paris VI, France, earning his MS in Animal Biology in 1995, and his PhD in the field of Vascular Biology in 1998. He had his post-doctoral trainings at the Aarhus University, Denmark, the University Paris VII, France, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, USA. Dr. Matrougui was soon promoted from Post-Doc to Faculty Instructor at UAB's department of Biophysics & Physiology, and in 2004, he was appointed as faculty member to Louisiana State University Health Science Center.

THRCE welcomes Dr. Unlap and Dr. Matrougui to Tulane University Medical School and wish them continual success.

# Announcements

The Hypertension Center would like to recognize the generous support from **Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America, Inc.**

Through an Educational Grant, Takeda sponsors both the out-of-town guest speakers to present at the THRCE Seminar Series and the publication of the THRCE newsletters.

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

#### **TULANE HYPERTENSION AND RENAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**

1430 Tulane Avenue, SL39  
New Orleans, LA 70112

#### **Comments are welcome:**

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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, Nina Majid 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.*