Congratulations to these authors with wonderful piece of work, especially to those who sacrificed your most deserved summer vacation time, to those spent evenings and weekends – we all remember that and appreciate your great effort.

Summary of the summer professional activities (July – September 2005)

A. Paper in press or acceptable during July – Sept 2005: (highlight = 1st draft writer)

1. Ceylan-Isik AF, LaCour KH, Ren J. Gender disparity of streptozotocin-induced intrinsic contractile dysfunction in murine ventricular myocytes: Role of chronic activation of Akt. Clin Exp Pharm Physiol. in press.


3. Ceylan-Isik AF, LaCour KH, Ren J. Impact of metallothionein on gender disparity in intrinsic and diabetes-influenced cardiomyocyte function: Role of Akt and c-Jun. J. Appl Physiol. minor revision required.


12. Ren J, Relling DP. Interaction between tumor necrosis factor-α and leptin-induced inhibition of cardiac contractile function in isolated ventricular myocytes. Cytokine. in press.


Manuscript submitted in July – September 2005


20. **Li SY**, Babcock SA, Xu PS, Shen Y, Ren J. Advanced glycation endproducts (AGEs) is linked to cardiomyocyte contractile dysfunction in streptozotocin-induced diabetic mice. *Diabetologia* in review.

21. **Li SY**, Yang X, Ceylan-Isik AF, Du M, Sreejayan N, Ren J. Cardiac contractile dysfunction in ob/ob obesity is accompanied with NADPH Oxidase Activation, oxidative modification of sarco(endo)plasmic reticulum Ca2+-ATPase and myosin heavy chain isoyme switch. *Diabetologia* revision submitted.


23. Ren J, Relling DP. Leptin-induced suppression of cardiomyocyte contraction is amplified by ceramide. *Int. J. Obesity* in review.


29. Yang X, Li SY, Dong F, Ren J, Sreejayan N. Chromium (phenylalanine)3 improves insulin-sensitivity and lowers plasma cholesterol In obese mice. *Biochem Biophys Res Comm*


Meeting presentation and abstract submitted in July – September 2005


Proposal submitted or funded:
Du, Ford, Hess and Ren, Mechanisms for the down-regulation of mTOR Signaling in Fetal skeletal Muscle under Nutrient Deficiency. $60,000, Agency – AES; submitted 9/2005.
**CRAM & Laboratory issues:**

(1). Congratulations to Dr. Sreejayan for the Inaugural CRAM Research Award. An award certificate and a check ($100) were given to Sree in honor of this award. Next one will be awarded on 1/2006.

(2). Welcome new members Kris Schamber (graduate student), Jamie Hexem (pre-pharmacy) and Kieley (Pharmacy) who joined Dr. Culver’s lab. Jackie Maris (pre-pharm) who joined Sree’s lab.

(3). 2005 Fall EPSCoR Applications: **Dave Bruch** “Mechanisms underlying Benzyl-N-Methylthylamine enhanced Methamphetamine-Neurotoxicity-The Role of Cytochrome P450”; **Olalekan** “An investigation into the effects of stress on BDNF levels and hippocampal neurogenesis in an Animal Model of Depression”; **Jennifer Nunn** and **Jackie Maris** also submitted an application each.

(4). Please pay extra attention to your lab habit. Put thing back to where it belongs – clean things after use – bottom line - Your mom does not work here.

(5). From 1/1/2006, we will be very strict on meeting travel in accordance with our school’s rule. No travel if you are not the first or senior author on a meeting presentation (oral or poster). We will have a sharp decline in travel fund from next year. Amount: $1500 for faculty, $1400 for research scientist and postdocs; $1300 for PhD students (since registration is lot less for trainees). We cover the extra expense with our packet money like other faculty in the school (unless you have other source such as travel award or fellowship). To help out with our travel budget, I (J. Ren) will not attend any meeting next year unless I am an invited speaker or I have a travel award from another source. I have never attended a meeting without a poster or oral presentation in my 18 years of scientific career.

(6). Lab duties: (A). Make sure pipette tips are filled; (B) Distilled H2O is filled (can do two at the same time); (C). Dish wishing; these things should be the top priority if you are on duty on a given day.