

**1. SUMMARY OF THE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (March – April 2005)****Paper in press in March – April 2005 (IF = impact factor)**

1. Gupta A, Aberle II NS, Kapoor R, Ren J, Sharma A. Bigendothelin-1 via p38-MAPK dependent mechanism regulates adult rat ventricular myocyte contractility in sepsis. *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta (BBA) - Molecular Basis of Disease* in press.
2. Li SY\*, Fang CX\*, Aberle NS II\*, Ren BH, Ceylan-Isik AF, Ren J. Inhibition of PI-3 kinase/Akt/mTOR but not calcineurin signaling reverses insulin-like growth factor I-induced protection against glucose toxicity in cardiomyocyte contractile function. *J. Endocrinol.* acceptable (\*equal first authorship).
3. Li SY, Ren J. Assessment of protein glycooxidation in ventricular tissues. In “Vascular Biology Protocols, Editors: N. Sreejayan & J. Ren, Methods in Molecular Medicine, Humana Press Inc, New York, 2005”
4. Ren J. Lessons from the leptin paradox in cardiac regulation - too much versus too little. *J. Physiol* in press.
5. Dong F, Zhang X, Culver B, Chew, HG, Jr., Kelley RO, Ren J. Dietary iron deficiency induces ventricular dilation, mitochondrial ultra-structural aberrations and cytochrome C release: Involvement of nitric oxide synthase and protein tyrosine nitration. *Clin Science* in press.

**Manuscript submitted in March – April 2005**

6. Yang XP, Zhu MJ, Sreejayan N, Ren J, Du M, Angiotensin II promotes smooth muscle cells proliferation and migration through EGF-receptor pathway. *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta (BBA)*
7. Dong F, Zhang X, Yang X, Yang H, Zhang Z, Culver B, Ren J. Impaired cardiac contractile function in ventricular myocytes from leptin deficient ob/ob obese mice. *J. Endocrinol* in review.
8. Li SY, Yang X, Ceylan-Isik AF, Du M, Ren BH, Sreejayan N, Ren J. Cardiac contractile dysfunction in ob/ob obesity is accompanied with oxidative modification of sarco(endo)plasmic reticulum  $Ca^{2+}$ -ATPase and myosin heavy chain isozyme switch. *Diabetologia* in review.
9. Yang X, Thomas DP, Zhang X, Culver B, Ren J, Tulis DA, Sreejayan N. Curcumin inhibits PDGF-stimulated vascular smooth muscle cell function and injury-induced neointima formation. *Circulation* in review.
10. Ren J, Wu S. A Burning Issue: Do sepsis and systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) directly contribute to cardiac dysfunction? *Frontier in Bioscience* in review.

**Meeting presentation and abstract submitted in March – April 2005**

Cindy Fang and Shan Wu attended the Experimental Biology Meeting 2005 in San Diego, CA.

Drs. Sreejayan, Culver, Yang and Ren all presented during the 2005 CHS Research Day (4/22/2005)

Sara and Chris presented during the 2005 UW Undergraduate Research Day, 4/2005.

**Proposal funded:**

1. Dr. Sreejayan: "Insulin Resistance and Muscle Wasting in Space flight: the Role of Insulin and Insulin-like Growth Factor 1 Signaling" funded by the Wyoming NASA Space Grant Consortium for \$10,000.
2. Dr. Catherine Li, "The Function of Regenerative Cardiomyocytes Derived from GFB-bone Marrow Cells in Infarcted Myocardium", CHS Research Grant, \$5000.

**2. LABORATORY ISSUES:** Please pay extra attention to your lab habit (which is getting better). Please help to cut down the experimental cost by sharing supplies and reuse antibodies if possible. Our lab supply cost has gone beyond the credit limit in each of the recent 3 months. We wish good luck to Chris Wilbert, Shan Wu and Rajiv. Congratulations to Jihye for getting into our Pharm.D. program in School of Pharmacy. Miss Jackie Maris, a junior to be, joined our group to work with Xiaoping.