

Summary of May – June 2006 professional activities**A. Paper in print/in press: (highlight = 1st draft writer)**

1. Dong F, Taylor MM, Samson WK, Ren J. Intermedin (Adrenomedullin-2) enhances cardiac contractile function via a protein kinase C and protein kinase A-dependent pathway in murine ventricular myocytes. **J. Appl. Physiol.** in press.
2. Fang CX, Yang X, Sreejayan N, Ren J. Acetaldehyde promotes rapamycin-dependent activation of p70S6K and glucose uptake despite inhibition of Akt and mTOR in dopaminergic SH-SY5Y human neuroblastoma cells. **Exp. Neurol.** acceptable.
3. Guo KK, Ren J. Cardiac overexpression of alcohol dehydrogenase alleviates aging-associated cardiomyocyte contractile dysfunction: Role of intracellular Ca²⁺ cycling proteins. **Aging Cell** 5: 259-265, 2006.
4. Ren J. Cardiac health and diabetes mellitus in women – problems and prospects. **Minerva Cardioangiologica** 54:289-309, 2006.
5. Wu S, Li Q, Du M, Li SY, Ren J. Cardiac specific overexpression of catalase prolongs lifespan, attenuates aging-induced cardiomyocyte contractile dysfunction and protein damage. **Clin. Exp. Pharm. Physiol.** in press.
6. Xu P, Li SY, Li Q, Ren J, Van Kirk EA, Murdoch WJ, Radosz M, Shen Y. Biodegradable cationic polyester as an efficient carrier for gene delivery to neonatal cardiomyocytes. **Biotechnology and Bioengineering** in press.

B. Paper submitted or in revision: (highlight = 1st draft writer)

7. Li Q, Fang CX, Nunn JM, Zhang J, LaCour KH, Ren J. Characterization of cardiomyocyte excitation-contraction coupling in the FVB/N-C57BL/6 intercrossed “chocolate” brown mice. **Comp. Biochem. Physiol.** in review.
8. Li Q, Ren J. Cardiac overexpression of metallothionein attenuates chronic alcohol intake-induced cardiomyocyte contractile dysfunction. **Cardiovasc. Toxicol.** in review.
9. Li Q, Ren J. Cardiac overexpression of metallothionein rescues chronic alcohol intake-induced cardiomyocyte dysfunction: Role of Akt, mammalian target of rapamycin and ribosomal p70s6 kinase. **Alcohol Alcoholism** in review.
10. Stratton MS, Yang X, Sreejayan N, Ren J. Impact of insulin-like growth factor I on migration, proliferation and Akt-ERK signaling in early and late-passages of vascular smooth muscle cells. **Aging Cell** in revision.

Proposal submitted: None.

Meeting Abstract Submission and Presentations:

The following abstracts were submitted to American Heart Annual Meeting in Chicago (November 2006):

11. Ren J, Guo KK, Liao S-J, Privratsky JR, Carlson EC, Chen AF. Metallothionein attenuates GTP cyclohydrolase I inhibition-induced cardiac contractile and morphological abnormality: Role of eNOS uncoupling and oxidative stress.
12. Dong F, Ren J. Fidarestat (SNK-860) improves cardiomyocyte contractile function of db/db diabetic obese mice through Sir-2 pathway.
13. Doser TA, Li SY, Epstein PN, Ren J. Transgenic overexpression of mitochondrial aldehyde dehydrogenase (ALDH-2) alleviates chronic alcohol ingestion-induced cardiomyocyte contractile dysfunction and oxidative damage.

Dr. Sreejayan presented “Insulin potentiating properties of Novel chromium complexes” by Sreejayan N, Yang X, and Ren J at the 4th Annual Congress of International Drug Discovery Science and Technology, May 25 -28, 2006, Dalian, PRC. Dr. Culver attended WWAMI meeting held during June 4-6 in Seattle, WA. Catherine, Shi-Yan, Bonnie and Jun will (or has already) travel to China to attend international meetings in June/July with multiple presentations. Shan Wu, a former visiting scientist of C-CRAM, will meet with Jun and Bonnie in Hangzhou.

Other business and miscellaneous:

- (1). Welcome our high school summer SRAP students [Jessica Capps](#) from North Carolina and [Katharine Bierman](#) from Wyoming. They are working with Dr. [Sreejayan](#) and Dr. [Feng Dong](#) respectively. [Jennifer Nunn](#) serves as their student assistant/mentor on projects related to diabetes and hypothermia.
- (2). [Michael Burnett](#), a McNair Scholar, [Lindsay Hueckstaedt](#) and [Jamie Hexem](#), EPSCoR summer research fellows are working here at C-CRAM this summer with Drs. S-Y Li, Ren and Culver, respectively.
- (3). [Feng Dong](#) and [Susan Zhang](#)'s family welcomed their second child, a baby girl [Sarah](#) on May 19, 2006. Congratulations!
- (4). [Bruce](#) and [Cheryl](#) welcomed their granddaughter [Caylee Culver](#) on 6/6/06, what a special date (triple 6)!
- (5). [Cindy Fang](#) & [Matt Stratton](#) both graduated with a M.Sc. in May and June 2006, pending on final paper work.
- (6). C-CRAM was featured/highlighted again in June's issue of CHS newsletter written by Virginia Cole.