

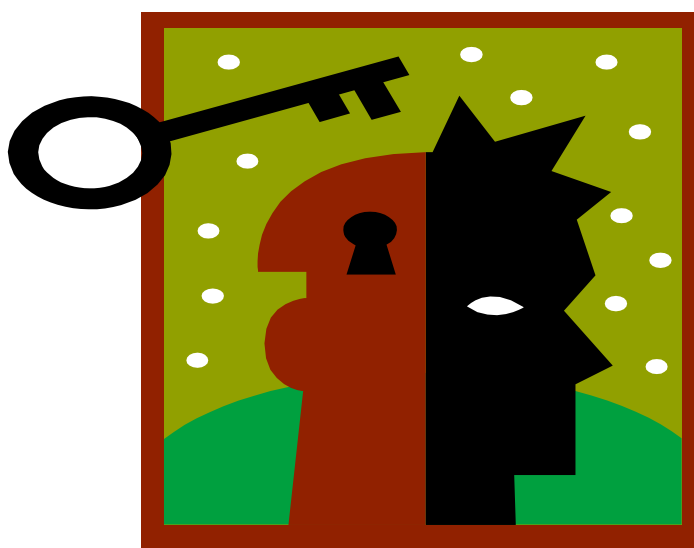


A Quarterly Report of the Vascular Biology Center of Excellence

## The Stroke Working Group: A New Collaboration Between The Vascular Biology and Neurobiology Centers of Excellence

The Vascular Biology Center of Excellence, in collaboration with the Center for Neurobiology of Brain Diseases, has established a Stroke Working Group to focus on new areas of research in stroke and neurovascular diseases.

research in vascular disorders of the brain. Recent statistics place Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi 49<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup>, respectively, in incidence of stroke, which makes the mid-south region an ideal location for studying new therapies.



Participants in the Working Group from the Vascular Biology Center and TAM Clinical Research Consortium include Dr. Lisa Jennings, Melanie White and Mary Jacoski. The Neurobiology Center is represented by Drs. Bill Pulsinelli, Mike Jacewicz, and Elias Giraldo, as well as Annette Payne, a Research Nurse Coordinator. Also participating are Drs. Rongling Li from the Department of Preventive Medicine and Center for Genomics and Bioinformatics, and Surya Shah from the Department of Occupational Therapy.

The goal of the Stroke Working Group is to initiate new areas of translational

Working Group participants have backgrounds ranging from clinical practice, basic and translational research, epidemiology, genotyping, functional assessments, and pharmaceutical industry experience. “We are in a unique situation right now, in that we have a broad scope of expertise in our working group,” noted Dr. Jennings. “With this combination of strengths and experience, I feel we can truly make a difference in the care of the acute stroke patient.”

The group has submitted a proposal to the pharmaceutical industry which proposes to examine the use of

(Continued on page 2)

### In This Issue:

Stroke Working Group	1
Honors	2
Girls, Inc.	3
Black Tie and Blue Jeans	3
Science Fair	3
Journal Club	4
Manuscripts	4
TAM Consortium	4

### Program Advisory Board:

Timothy Fabian, M.D.  
 Marshall B. Elam, M.D., Ph.D.  
 Gadiparthi Rao, Ph.D.  
 KU Malik, Ph.D., D. Sc.  
 Charles W. Leffler, Ph.D.  
 Alan Mast, M.D., Ph.D.  
 Tarun B. Patel, Ph.D.  
 Chunxiang Zhang, M.D., Ph.D.  
 Lawrence Pfeffer, Ph.D.  
 Rajendra Raghov, Ph.D.  
 Lee Schwartzberg, M.D.  
 Xin Zhang, M.D., Ph.D.

### Associate Directors:

Aviv Hassid, Ph.D.  
 William Pulsinelli, M.D., Ph.D.

Vascular Biology  
Center of  
Excellence  
Key Collaborative  
Initiatives

Graduate Education

Training Programs

Recruitment of Faculty

Incentives for  
Existing Faculty

TAM Cardiovascular  
Research Consortium

Symposia and  
Specialized Programs

Shared Research  
Facilities

*(Continued from page 1)*

antiplatelet therapy for treatment of acute stroke. A second study which will examine aspirin resistance in a stroke population is in the planning stages.

The first study proposed by the Stroke Working Group will be

presented for IRB review in the next month, and will hopefully begin patient recruitment by the end of the summer.

If you are interested in participating in the Stroke Working Group, or in learning more about the goals and upcoming projects planned by the

## UTCI Basic Science Planning Meeting



Pictured above Left to Right: Dr. Lawrence

### The Vascular Biology Center of Excellence

956 Court Ave  
Coleman, H300  
Memphis, TN 38163  
FAX (901)448-7181  
Phone (901)448-5067

**Center Director**

Lisa K. Jennings, Ph.D.

**Assistant to the Director**

Cori Grant, M.S.

**TAM Associate Director**

Mary Jacoski, M.S.

**Center Coordinator**

Peggy McKnight, M.S.

**Sr. Admin. Assistant**

Charlett Golden

**Experimental Biology 2003**  
*Translating the Genome*  
2003 Friday, April 11 - Tuesday, April 15 • San Diego, CA



## Girls, Inc. Honors Community Leaders

**D**r. Lisa Jennings was among three women honored by Girls, Inc. with the "2003 She Knows Where She's Going Award." The award honors women in the Memphis community who serve as positive role models for young girls.

Girls Inc. is a non-profit social agency created to help girls confront subtle societal messages about their value and potential, and prepare them to lead successful and fulfilling lives.

Girls Inc. provides academic, family, career and financial counseling to over 1,600 Memphis City School students and

assists Memphis students who have dropped out of high school in completing their education.

Dr. Jennings was honored along with Gayle Powelson, Sr. VP and Chief Financial Officer for Buckeye Technologies Inc. and LaVerne Reid, Manager, Memphis Airports District Office of the Federal Aviation Administration. During their visit, the honorees participated in an economic literacy session designed to educate young women on managing budgets and basic accounting procedures.

Girls, Inc. has many opportunities for the community to offer its support, to find out

how you can get involved please contact Ebony at 523-0217.



Pictured with Dr. Jennings (left) are Gayle Powelson and LaVerne Reid

## AHA Research Grants Awarded to VBCE Investigators

Xin Zhang, M.D., Ph.D. American Heart Association-National

Jean-Huges Parmentier, Ph.D. American Heart Association, Southeast Affiliate. Beginning Grant-in-Aid. Name of grant. 07/01/03-06/30/05. \$110,000.

Lisa K. Jennings, Ph.D. American Heart Association, Southeast

## Bruce Elementary Career Day 2003



**Vascular Biology Data Club—Every Thursday 8:30 a.m.**  
**Vascular Biology Journal Club — 2nd and 4th Monday of the Month 12:00**  
**Coleman F306—for more information contact Dr. Xin Zhang (448-3448)**

## Select Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts by VBCE Collaborating Faculty

Norepinephrine-induced stimulation of p38 Mitogen-activated protein kinase is mediated by arachidonic acid metabolites generated by activation of cytosolic phospholipase A2 in vascular smooth muscle cells. Kalyankrishna S and Malik KU. *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics* 304:761-772, 2003.

CaM kinase II alpha mediates norepinephrine-induced translocation of cytosolic phospholipase A2 to the nuclear envelope. Fatima S, Yaghini FA, Ahmed A, Khandekar Z and Malik KU. *Journal of Cell Science* 116:353-365, 2003.

ATF-1 mediates protease activated receptor-1 (PAR-1) but not receptor tyrosine kinase-induced DNA synthesis in vascular



## TAM Cardiovascular Clinical Research Consortium Notes

The TAM Network worked with a group of medical students from the class of 2005 on a Longitudinal Community Project (LCP). The LCP goal was to provide medical students with a community experience during their first two years of medical training. Students participated in health-related community projects in order to learn more about specific populations or conditions that they might encounter later in their professional careers.

Eight medical students worked on a



program to educate people on the hazards of smoking. The students worked under the preceptorship of Dr. G. Jose Guerra and Ms. Kay Sims, MSN, RN at St. Francis Hospital in Memphis. Students included: Arindam Chatterjee, Ben Cousins, Clay Cauthen, Matt Bernard, Metee Comkornruecha, Todd Seabrook, Svetang Desai, and Terry Sanders. The students presented a smoking cessation seminar to the public on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2003 at 7:00 at St. Francis Hospital in Memphis. The team presented an excellent review of the physical and social ramifications of smoking, and provided an informative review of the many options available for smoking cessation, from over the counter and prescription pharmacological agents to support groups and individual counseling.

If you would like more information on TAM Network activities, or are interested in joining the TAM Network or becoming involved in clinical trials, please contact Mary V. Jacoski at 901-448-1597, or email at [mjacoski@utmem.edu](mailto:mjacoski@utmem.edu).



**For more information  
 about the Vascular Biology  
 Center of Excellence call  
 (901) 448-4350 or visit  
 us on the Web at  
[www.utmem.edu/vascular](http://www.utmem.edu/vascular)**



The University of Tennessee Health Science Center is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA employer. R07-3380-001-003-03.