

Please explain the biological agents and/or biohazardous substances used and how they will be stored, used and disposed of. Projects without this description will not be reviewed.

We will harvest and culture primary endothelial cells of mouse skeletal muscle origin. The cells will be grown in a standard incubator and passaged up to fifteen times. The cells will be grown into monolayers and treated with various noninfectious pharmacological agents. At the end of the experiment, cells, culture medium, glass and plasticware will be disposed of in the biohazardous waste container and sent to Stericycle for decontamination.

Please include a one page research summary or teaching protocol.

2008-2011 HSFO grant application summary
(note : a part of the work has been done)

Project title : Hypoxia/reoxygenation, systemic inflammation, and vascular cell coupling

The proposal deals with local microvascular blood flow control, focusing on intercellular coupling within the vascular wall. Although this coupling is a key component of vascular function, the effect of pathophysiology in general on this coupling is not known. We have shown that hypoxia (0.1% O₂, 1 h) followed by reoxygenation (H/R) rapidly reduces electrical coupling between microvascular endothelial cells (EC). However, the mechanism of this reduction has not been clarified. Further, our preliminary experiments suggest that low levels of inflammatory agents (lipopolysaccharide or TNF alpha) applied concurrently with H/R synergistically enhance this reduction in coupling, indicating that H/R + cytokines could greatly aggravate vascular function impairment during systemic inflammation. The proposal addresses the overall hypothesis that endothelial cell electrical coupling and vascular connexins play important role in the microvascular response to hypoxia/reoxygenation plus inflammatory cytokines.

Based on our models of mouse microvascular EC monolayer in vitro and of arteriolar conducted response in the mouse cremaster muscle in vivo, and on electrophysiological approach to assess EC coupling, the proposal consists of four Aims. Aims #1 and 2 address the molecular mechanism whereby PKA mediates the H/R-induced reduction in coupling in the monolayer. Here, I will collaborate with Dr. D. Laird, an expert in gap junction molecular biology, as well as with Drs. A Babwah and T. Peng (experts in transfection/infection of primary cells). We hypothesize that the gap junction protein connexin40 (Cx40) is chiefly responsible for this effect, involving one or more of the four PKA binding sites on the cytoplasmic tail of Cx40 (i.e., residues 345, 348, 349 and 353).

Aim #3 addresses the hypothesis that H/R applied concurrently with lipopolysaccharide (LPS) synergistically reduces the electrical coupling in EC monolayer in vitro, and that ischemia and reperfusion (I/R) plus LPS synergistically reduces the arteriolar conducted response in vivo. We have previously reported that LPS alone reduces coupling PKA- and Cx40-dependently. In the EC monolayer model in vitro, we will examine whether the synergistic effect is (i) inhibited by PKA activation, (ii) associated with Cx40 serine dephosphorylation, and (iii) inhibited by mutation at one or more of the four Cx40 residues. In the arteriolar model in vivo, we will determine whether the possible synergistic effect on the conducted response is PKA- and Cx40-dependent.

Aim #4 examines the generality of the H/R+cytokines synergistic effect on microvascular function. We will test the hypothesis that TNFalpha alone, and H/R together with TNFalpha, reduce vascular cell coupling. Using the EC monolayer model in vitro, we will determine whether the effect of TNFalpha alone is tyrosine kinase-, MAP kinase-, PKC- and PKA-dependent, and whether one or more EC connexins (i.e., Cx37, Cx40 or Cx43) are targeted by TNFalpha-induced intracellular signalling. We will also determine whether TNFalpha alone reduces the arteriolar conducted response. Finally, we will examine if concurrent H/R+TNFalpha, and I/R+TNFalpha, have synergistic effects on vascular cell coupling in vitro and in vivo, respectively.

Systemic inflammation (i.e., whole body inflammatory response to local insult) precipitates cardiovascular dysfunction. One of the prominent features of this dysfunction at the tissue level is impaired capillary blood flow, including micro-regional H/R (i.e., intermittent capillary blood flow). The present proposal will determine whether H/R+cytokines may lead to synergistic impairment of vascular function, and whether therapeutic strategies aimed at restoring capillary blood flow should be sought to minimize the life-threatening effects of systemic inflammation.

1.0 Microorganisms

1.1 Does your work involve the use of biological agents? YES NO
 (non-pathogenic and pathogenic biological agents including but not limited to bacteria and other microorganisms, viruses, prions, parasites or pathogens of plant or animal origin)? If no, please proceed to Section 2.0

Do you use microorganisms that require a permit from the CFIA? YES NO

If YES, please give the name of the species. _____

What is the origin of the microorganism(s)? _____

Please describe the risk (if any) of escape and how this will be mitigated:

Please attach the CFIA permit.

Please describe any CFIA permit conditions:

1.2 Please complete the table below:

Name of Biological Agent(s)* (Be specific)	Is it known to be a human pathogen? YES/NO	Is it known to be an animal pathogen? YES/NO	Is it known to be a zoonotic agent? YES/NO	Maximum quantity to be cultured at one time? (in Litres)	Source/ Supplier	PHAC or CFIA Containment Level
	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 2+ <input type="radio"/> 3
	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 2+ <input type="radio"/> 3
	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 2+ <input type="radio"/> 3
	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 2+ <input type="radio"/> 3

*Please attach a Material Safety Data Sheet or equivalent from the supplier.

2.0 Cell Culture

2.1 Does your work involve the use of cell cultures? YES NO

If no, please proceed to Section 3.0

2.2 Please indicate the type of primary cells (i.e. derived from fresh tissue) that will be grown in culture:

Cell Type	Is this cell type used in your work?	Source of Primary Cell Culture Tissue	AUS Protocol Number
Human	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		Not applicable
Rodent	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Mouse Endothelial Cells From Skeletal Muscle	2010-284
Non-human primate	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		
Other (specify)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		

2.3 Please indicate the type of established cells that will be grown in culture in:

Cell Type	Is this cell type used in your work?	Specific cell line(s)*	Containment Level of each cell line	Supplier / Source of cell line(s)
Human	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No			
Rodent	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No			
Non-human primate	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No			
Other (specify)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No			

*Please attach a Material Safety Data Sheet or equivalent from the supplier. (For more information, see www.atcc.org)

2.4 For above named cell types(s) indicate PHAC or CFIA containment level required 1 2 2+ 3

3.0 Use of Human Source Materials

3.1 Does your work involve the use of human source materials? YES NO

If no, please proceed to Section 4.0

3.2 Indicate in the table below the Human Source Material to be used.

Human Source Material	Source/Supplier /Company Name	Is Human Source Material Infected With An Infectious Agent? YES/UNKNOWN	Name of Infectious Agent (If applicable)	PHAC or CFIA Containment Level (Select one)
Human Blood (whole) or other Body Fluid		<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Unknown		<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 2+ <input type="radio"/> 3
Human Blood (fraction) or other Body Fluid		<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Unknown		<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 2+ <input type="radio"/> 3
Human Organs or Tissues (unpreserved)		<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Unknown		<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 2+ <input type="radio"/> 3
Human Organs or Tissues (preserved)		Not Applicable		Not Applicable

4.0 Genetically Modified Organisms and Cell lines

4.1 Will genetic modifications be made to the microorganisms, biological agents, or cells described in Sections 1.0 and 2.0? YES NO If no, please proceed to Section 5.0

4.2 Will genetic modification(s) involving plasmids be done? YES, complete table below NO

Bacteria Used for Cloning *	Plasmid(s) **	Source of Plasmid	Gene Transfected	Describe the change that results from transformation or tranfection

* Please attach a Material Data Sheet or equivalent if available.

** Please attach a plasmid map.

4.3 Will genetic modification(s) of bacteria and/or cells involving viral vectors be made?

YES, complete table below NO

Virus Used for Vector Construction	Vector(s) *	Source of Vector	Gene(s) Transduced	Describe the change that results from transduction

* Please attach a Material Safety Data Sheet or equivalent.

4.4 Will genetic sequences from the following be involved?

- ◆ HIV YES, please specify _____ NO
- ◆ HTLV 1 or 2 or genes from any Level 1 or Level 2 pathogens YES, specify _____ NO
- ◆ SV 40 Large T antigen YES NO
- ◆ E1A oncogene YES NO
- ◆ Known oncogenes YES, please specify _____ NO
- ◆ Other human or animal pathogen and or their toxins YES, please specify _____ NO

4.5 Will virus be replication defective? YES NO

4.6 Will virus be infectious to humans or animals? YES NO

4.7 Will this be expected to increase the containment level required? YES NO

5.0 Human Gene Therapy Trials

5.1 Will human clinical trials be conducted involving a biological agent? YES NO
 (including but not limited to microorganisms, viruses, prions, parasites or pathogens of plant or animal origin)
 If no, please proceed to Section 6.0

5.2 If YES, please specify which biological agent will be used: _____
 Please attach a full description of the biological agent.

5.2 Will the biological agent be able to replicate in the host? YES NO

5.3 How will the biological agent be administered? _____

5.4 Please give the Health Care Facility where the clinical trial will be conducted: _____

5.5 Has human ethics approval been obtained? YES, number: _____ NO PENDING

6.0 Animal Experiments

6.1 Will live animals be used? YES NO If no, please proceed to section 7.0

6.2 Name of animal species to be used _____

6.3 AUS protocol # _____

6.4 Will any of the agents listed in section 4.0 be used in live animals YES, specify: _____ NO

6.5 Will the agent(s) be shed by the animal: YES NO, please justify:

9.7 Do you use insects that require a permit from the CFIA permit? YES NO
If YES, Please attach the CFIA permit & describe any CFIA permit conditions:

10.0 Plants

10.1 Do you use plants? YES NO If no, please proceed to Section 11.0

10.2 If YES, please give the name of the species. _____

10.3 What is the origin of the plant? _____

10.4 What is the form of the plant (seed, seedling, plant, tree...)? _____

10.5 What is your intention? Grow and maintain a crop "One-time" use

10.6 Do you do any modifications to the plant? YES NO
If yes, please describe: _____

10.7 Please describe the risk (if any) of loss of the material from the lab and how this will be mitigated:

10.8 Is the CFIA permit attached? YES NO
If YES, Please attach the CFIA permit & describe any CFIA permit conditions:

11.0 Import Requirements

11.1 Will any of the above agents be imported? YES, please give country of origin _____ NO
If no, please proceed to Section 12.0

11.2 Has an Import Permit been obtained from HC for human pathogens? YES NO

11.3 Has an import permit been obtained from CFIA for animal or plant pathogens? YES NO

11.4 Has the import permit been sent to OHS? YES, please provide permit # _____ NO

12.0 Training Requirements for Personnel Named on Form

All personnel named on the above form who will be using any of the above named agents are required to attend the following training courses given by OHS:

- ◆ Biosafety
- ◆ Laboratory and Environmental/Waste Management Safety
- ◆ WHMIS (Western or equivalent)
- ◆ Employee Health and Safety Orientation

As the Principal Investigator, I have ensured that all of the personnel named on the form who will be using any of the biological agents in Sections 1.0 to 9.0 have been trained.

SIGNATURE _____ 

13.0 Containment Levels

13.1 For the work described in sections 1.0 to 9.0, please indicate the highest HC or CFIA Containment Level required. 1 2 2+ 3

13.2 Has the facility been certified by OHS for this level of containment?
 YES, date of most recent biosafety inspection: Unknown
 NO, please certify
 NOT REQUIRED for Level 1 containment

*Level 2 certified
MARCH 29, 2011
by GAIL RYAN
Michele*

13.3 Please indicate permit number (not applicable for first time applicants): BIO-LHRI-0069

14.0 Procedures to be Followed

14.1 Please describe additional risk reduction measures will be taken beyond containment level 1, 2, 2+ or 3 measures, that are unique to this agent.
All work will be conducted in a flow hood, waste will be disposed of in biohazardous waste

14.2 Please outline what will be done if there is an exposure to the biological agents listed, such as a needlestick injury or an accidental splash:
First aid and medical treatment will be provided if necessary, workspace will be cleaned

14.3 As the Principal Investigator, I will ensure that this project will follow the Western Biosafety Guidelines and Procedures Manual for Containment Level 1 & 2 Laboratories (and the Level 3 Facilities Manual for Level 3 projects). I will ensure that UWO faculty, staff and students working in my laboratory have an up-to-date Hazard Communication Form, found at <http://www.wph.uwo.ca/>

SIGNATURE *Karl Fyfe* Date: *May 1, 2011*

15.0 Approvals

1) UWO Biohazards Subcommittee: SIGNATURE: _____
Date: _____

2) Safety Officer for the University of Western Ontario
SIGNATURE: _____
Date: _____

3) Safety Officer for Institution where experiments will take place (if not UWO):
SIGNATURE: *Michele Ryan*
Date: *MAY 24, 2011*

Approval Number: _____ Expiry Date (3 years from Approval): _____

Special Conditions of Approval: