

Kynurenine is a novel vascular relaxation factor

Host School/Institute: Bosch Institute, School of Medical Science

Project Code: SMS8

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Description of Project:

Hypertension increases the risk for heart disease and stroke, and is hence a major cause for morbidity and mortality in society. The mechanisms contributing to the regulation of vascular tone are complex and not yet fully elucidated. We showed recently that tryptophan metabolism along kynurenine path is a novel way in which vascular tone is regulated during systemic inflammation, such as experimental malaria and septic shock. A summer scholar is being sought to take part in the experiments to confirm the role of kynurenine pathway in the regulation of vascular tone in other situations of inflammation such as experimental atherosclerosis, as well as in physiological conditions, such as in placental blood flow during pregnancy. The significance of the project is that it may provide the potential for completely new therapeutic interventions aimed at restoring abnormal blood vessel tone. Findings of the study will be reported in peer-reviewed publications.

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