

Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research

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Feature



Rebecca L. Hull, PhD

Rebecca L. Hull, PhD, is a Research Health Scientist at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System and a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Washington. She received her PhD from the University of Nottingham in 1999 and completed her postdoctoral training under the mentorship of Steven E. Kahn, MB, ChB, here at the VAPSHCS. Her research is currently funded through a National Institute of Diabetes Digestive and Kidney Diseases Mentored Scientist Development Award entitled "The Role of Perlecan in Islet Amyloid Formation". She has also received pilot and feasibility funding from the VA and from the University of Washington Diabetes and Endocrinology Research Center. Recently, Dr. Hull received an investigator-initiated award administered by SIBCR and funded by Merck & Co. Inc. entitled "Effect of Sitagliptin on Islet Amyloid Formation".

A major focus of her research is islet amyloid, a pathogenic feature of the islet that occurs in the majority of individuals with type 2 diabetes. Together with Dr. Kahn, she has demonstrated that islet amyloid formation in a mouse model is associated with decreased insulin secretion and loss of insulin-secreting beta cells from the pancreas. Further, she showed that increased dietary fat and genetic background are important mediators of islet amyloid formation. The effect of several anti-diabetic medications to reduce islet amyloid and its toxic effects is the focus of published and ongoing studies.

Her current and future work will focus on proteoglycans in the pancreas. These molecules are important components of blood vessel walls and the extracellular matrix between cells. She has shown that beta cells produce proteoglycans and that these are important in islet amyloid formation. Future studies will investigate the role of proteoglycans in other features of beta-cell function and dysfunction in diabetes.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

★ Mark your calendars for the upcoming 2008-2009 R&D Research Colloquia!

- October 22, 2008** – Dr. Rebecca Hull - Beta Cell Function; and Dr. George Ioannou – Chronic Liver Disease
- November 19, 2008** – Dr. Michael Klein - Macular Degeneration
- January 21, 2009** – Dr. Gail Jarvick - Genetics of Inflammation of the Vascular System
- March 19, 2009** – Dr. Hertzell Gerstein - Glucose Control and Cardiovascular Disease
- May 20, 2009** – Dr. David Flum - Bariatric Surgery

All the programs will be held in 100/BB-108 from 12:00 N - 1:00 pm. Lunch will be provided.

★ NIH News:

Effective on or after January 1, 2009, electronic grant submissions to NIH via grants.gov must use Adobe-based application forms. Visit www.nih.gov (notice number NOT-OD-08-117) for more information.

★ Reminder

Please contact SIBCR about any upcoming grant submissions, both to federal and non-federal sponsors. The SIBCR grants managers may be reached at either extension 6-6487 or 6-3971.

Welcome!

SIBCR is pleased to welcome the following new employees: Matthew Arbuckle, Laura Eggerichs, Sari Gold, Iana Ivanova, Sarith Keo, Thomas Kimmel, Michelle Martinez, Ivy Morgan-Taggart, Christina Rosenthal, Merrick Richmond, Kasse Rupp, Joseph Simpson, Judy Weston, and Jenny Wu.