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*Department of Pediatrics
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*2001 Program
Investigator Initiated (2-year project)*

Title: The role of a novel Ca⁺⁺-binding protein, tescalcin, in normal cardiac function and in hypoxia

Summary: Smoking leads to reduced oxygen in heart muscle cells. This lowered oxygen causes an increase in calcium ions and in the enzyme, GAPDH. The recently discovered protein, tescalcin, binds calcium ions and interacts with GAPDH. This research seeks to elucidate the specific role of tescalcin in both normal and oxygen-starved hearts. Such information can lead to improved treatments of cardiovascular diseases.