

# Oxidative Stress in Applied Basic Research and Clinical Practice

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Donald Armstrong

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## **Note from the Editor-in-Chief**

All books in this series illustrate point-of-care testing and critically evaluate the potential of antioxidant supplementation in various medical disorders associated with oxidative stress. Future volumes will be updated as warranted by emerging new technology, or from studies reporting clinical trials.

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# Studies on Atherosclerosis

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# Preface

Oxidative stress is a product balance between pro-oxidants and antioxidants. Reactive oxygen species are normally generated by cells and a certain level of oxidative stress plays an important role as second messenger under physiological conditions. However when oxidative stress is increased, whether due to blunted antioxidant defenses or increased generation of reactive oxygen species, it can have a deleterious effect on almost any organ/system in the human. Increased oxidative stress has been shown to promote vasoconstriction, vascular remodeling, inflammation, and fibrosis in different organs. Specifically, as a result of the “oxidative stress modification hypothesis” increased oxidative stress has been directly related to the development of atherosclerosis and vascular disease. Abundant evidence mainly from experimental studies supported a pathophysiological role of increased oxidative stress on the development and progression of vascular disease, which have served as the impetus for many clinical studies to assess the impact of reestablishing oxidant balance in different vascular disease conditions. However, most of them have not provided conclusive or consistent results. Therefore, the relevance of oxidative stress as therapeutic target has been put into question as its pathophysiological role revised.

Many areas of research beyond oxidative stress have had trouble in translating preclinical studies to clinical studies. It is important to make sure that studies, both preclinical and clinical, have the intended hypothesis and are properly designed. Only then, accurate conclusions could be drawn. The goal of this book is to describe a roadmap of the knowledge in the area of oxidative stress and the development of vascular disease and to put in perspective where the scientific field is regarding the translation of preclinical knowledge to clinical trials.

In the first chapters of this book, we will examine the role of oxidative stress under physiological conditions. Subsequent chapters will address the relationship between oxidative stress and the development of vascular disease, and identify and discuss the background that led to clinical trials. The last part of the book will be dedicated to the clinical data that is currently available regarding interventions or

attempts to preserve oxidant stress under different conditions. The intention of this last section is to put into perspective the previous clinical studies, what answers they attempted to answer and why they may/may not have tested the intended hypothesis.

It is the hope of the Editors that this book will inspire scientists of many backgrounds to be involved in the field of oxidative stress and vascular disease.

Rochester, MN, USA  
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**Alastair M. Buchan** Professor Buchan is Head of the Medical Sciences Division, Dean of Medicine, Fellow of Corpus Christi College, and Professor of Stroke Medicine at the University of Oxford. He trained at Cambridge, Oxford, and Cornell before moving to Calgary, where he became Director of the Stroke Program. He returned to Oxford in 2005 to establish the thrombolysis service at the John Radcliffe Hospital. His research interests include the role of hamartin in endogenous neuroprotection and pericyte function in models of stroke. Professor Buchan is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and an Honorary Member of the American Neurological Association, among other professional accolades.

**Sophocles Chrissobolis, Ph.D.** is currently an Assistant Professor of Pharmacology in the Department of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences in the College of Pharmacy at Ohio Northern University (ONU). At ONU, his research is focused on mechanisms that promote hypertension and vascular dysfunction in experimental models of hypertension. His Ph.D. studies at the University of Melbourne focused on mechanisms regulating cerebral vascular function in health and disease. His postdoctoral studies at the University of Iowa, USA, and Monash University, Australia, were supported by fellowships and focused on mechanisms promoting, and protecting against, oxidative stress, vascular dysfunction, and inflammation in experimental hypertension.

**Quynh N. Dinh** is currently completing her PhD at Monash University. Her research focuses on the roles of aging, inflammation, oxidative stress, and vascular

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**Frank M. Faraci** received a Ph.D. in Physiology from Kansas State University. He is currently Professor of Internal Medicine and Pharmacology at the University of Iowa. His laboratory focuses on defining molecular mechanisms that underlie large and small vessel disease in brain, with an emphasis on the impact of risk factors for vascular disease—particularly hypertension and aging. He has published over 280 journal articles, served as Associate Editor for *Stroke* and *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology (ATVB)* and is currently on the editorial board of the *American Journal of Physiology*, *Circulation Research*, *Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism*, *ATVB*, and the *Journal of Neuroscience*. Dr. Faraci's laboratory is funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Fondation Leducq.

**Gina Hadley** Dr. Hadley is an academic clinician with an interest in geriatrics and stroke at the point of submitting her PhD “Mechanisms underlying the endogenous neuroprotection of hamartin in ischaemic stroke” with Professor Alastair Buchan. She has a B.Sc. (Hons.) in Pharmacology with Industrial Experience, spending a year at Queen's University, Canada. She studied Graduate Entry Medicine at the University of Oxford, completing a Wellcome-funded elective project at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). Dr. Hadley is a Tutor in Clinical Medicine at Harris Manchester College, Oxford. She has recently completed a Masters in Evidence Based Medicine and has membership of the Royal College of Physicians.

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**Joy Lincoln, Ph.D.** is a Principal Investigator at Nationwide Children's Hospital and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at The Ohio State University. Her research program is focused on defining the mechanisms underlying the onset and progression of congenital and acquired heart valve disease. This interest stems from her postdoctoral training under the mentorship of Dr. Katherine Yutzey at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Dr. Lincoln obtained her undergraduate degree in Biomedical Sciences from Durham University in the United Kingdom and graduated with a Ph.D. in Molecular and Developmental Biology from the same institution.

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**Ain A. Neuhaus** obtained his B.A. in Medical Sciences from Somerville College, University of Oxford (1st Class, 2012). He subsequently started a D.Phil. in Medical Sciences with Prof. Alastair Buchan at the Radcliffe Department of Medicine in Oxford, using in vivo and in vitro models of stroke to investigate pericyte contractility and regulation of cerebral blood flow following ischemia and reperfusion, and is now in his final year of D.Phil. studies.

**T. Michael De Silva** received a PhD in Pharmacology from Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. He completed his postdoctoral training with Dr. Frank M. Faraci at the University of Iowa. Following his postdoctoral training, Dr. De Silva returned to Monash University to establish his own research program. He is the recipient of a National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia Early Career Fellowship. Dr. De Silva's research aims to understand mechanisms that regulate cerebral microvascular function and the impact that microvascular dysfunction has on cognition. Dr. De Silva is an emerging young investigator in the field of cerebrovascular disease and has published 14 journal articles to date.

**Chris Sobey, Ph.D.** Professor Chris Sobey's research has focused on vascular diseases involving oxidative stress and inflammation, especially in the brain and cerebral circulation. He obtained his Ph.D. at the University of Melbourne for his studies of coronary vascular function following myocardial ischemia. He then completed a postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Iowa where he gained expertise in the study of cerebral artery function in vivo, and returned to Australia where he is an NHMRC Senior Research Fellow with an established research program in experimental cerebrovascular disease and stroke. His research is now investigating the inflammatory mechanisms occurring in the brain after stroke in order to identify and develop novel approaches to ultimately treat stroke patients.

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