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Primary Research Interest:

Description of Research:

My research explores the mechanisms involved in post transcriptional regulation of critical mediators involved in proliferation of pulmonary vascular wall cells. Specifically, I explore the contribution of hypoxia-induced expression of microRNA 21 on diminished expression of antiproliferative mediators PTEN, BMPR2, PDCD4. We have previously demonstrated that peroxisome proliferator activated receptor gamma ligands such as rosiglitazone attenuate hypoxic proliferation of pulmonary artery smooth muscle cells. Additional aims include the investigation of mechanisms through which PPARg ligands modulate miRNA-21 expression. I also aim to explore the influence of long noncoding RNA on PTEN expression in hypoxic environments and in response to thiazolidinedione therapy.

Relevance to VA: I am a full time staff physician at the Atlanta VA Medical Center. I perfom both Clinical and Research duties