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Episode 75

Hello Mollie Medcast listeners and welcome back! Mollie Medcast is the podcast for the biomedical journal, *Molecular Medicine*. My name is Margot Puerta; I'm the Managing Editor here at *Molecular Medicine* and your host for this podcast episode. This week we will be going over papers from our July/August 2010 issue which include: "Improving The Success Of Pancreas Transplants", "HCV and Alcohol Interaction In Cirrhotic Tissues" and "Upregulation Of SPRR3 In Colorectal Cancer". Let's quickly review our goal here at *Molecular Medicine*. Since 1994 our mission has been to publish novel work that's concerned with understanding the pathogenesis of disease at the molecular level, which may lead to the design of specific molecular tools for disease diagnosis, treatment and prevention. If you're interested in submitting a manuscript to the journal, please visit our website for information: [www.molmed.org](http://www.molmed.org). Now, on to the podcast.

**Improving The Success Of Pancreas Transplants**

Patients with type 1 diabetes often face complications such as nephropathy, neuropathy, retinopathy and cardiovascular disease. A successful pancreas transplant provides almost normal glucose homeostasis, but the patients require lifelong immunosuppressive medication. Dr. Yu-Mee Wee and colleagues from Korea investigated the effect of the T-cell apoptosis compound tautomycetin on rat islet transplantation both alone and in combination with cyclosporine A. The title of the paper is: "The Synergistic Effect of Tautomycetin on Cyclosporine A-Mediated Immunosuppression in a Rodent Islet Allograft Model." In this paper the authors demonstrate that tautomycetin inhibits T-cell proliferation without effecting islet or splenocyte viability. The authors also found that islet allograft survival could be prolonged through a combination of tautomycetin and subtherapeutic doses of cyclosporine A. Furthermore, the same experimental doses of either immunosuppressive agent alone did not result in any beneficial effect on islet allografts. This interesting combination of known agents may lead to greater long-term success of pancreas transplants in those suffering with diabetes.

**HCV And Alcohol Interaction In Cirrhotic Tissues**

Alcoholic liver disease and chronic hepatitis C virus infection are jointly the most frequent chronic liver diseases in the western world and they frequently coexist in the same individual. The mechanism by which alcohol consumption accelerates liver disease in chronic hepatitis C virus, or HCV, is not well understood. To identify characteristic molecular pathways affected by alcohol in HCV, Dr. Valeria Mas and colleagues from Virginia modeled gene expression in alcoholic cirrhosis and HCV cirrhosis. The title of the paper is: "Molecular Mechanisms Involved in the Interaction Effects of Alcohol and HCV in Liver." Cirrhosis profiles from tissues exhibiting an additive effect of HCV and alcohol show an increase in fibrosis development, apoptosis inhibition and decreased immune response. A better understanding of the underlying molecular mechanism could help to develop new, targeted treatment options. Last up for this podcast episode is:

**Upregulation Of SPRR3 In Colorectal Cancer**

The occurrence of colorectal cancer has gradually increased over the last decade and while several oncogenes and tumor-suppressor genes are known to be involved in the progression of hereditary colorectal cancer, the molecular changes associated with sporadic colorectal cancer are not well understood. Small proline rich repeat protein, called SPRR3 for short, is associated with molecular changes and clinicopathological features

of sporadic colorectal cancer. In this work, Dr. Cho and colleagues from Korea show SPRR3 is upregulated in colorectal cancer and an overexpression of SPRR3 is associated with lymphovascular invasion. The title of their paper is: “Upregulation of SPRR3 Promotes Colorectal Tumorigenesis.” In it, a mechanism involving AKT activation of p53 degradation is proposed. These results indicate that SPRR3 promotes cell proliferation and may be a candidate biomarker for colorectal cancer.

And that’s it for this week’s episode of the Mollie Medcast. Join us next time when we take a look at: a plan for personalized smoking cessation, Niemann Pick disease and severe burn injury. If you have a suggestion for a future podcast topic, please send me an e-mail at: [margot@molmed.org](mailto:margot@molmed.org), that’s m-a-r-g-o-t-(at)-m-o-l-m-e-d-(dot)-o-r-g. You can also keep up with the journal by following us on Facebook and Twitter (@mol\_med). This podcast is available on [molmed.org](http://molmed.org) and is up in iTunes. Just type “Mollie Medcast” in the search bar. If you’ve enjoyed this podcast, leave us a review or rate it in iTunes. *Molecular Medicine* is published bimonthly by The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research.

From New York, this is [margot@molmed.org](mailto:margot@molmed.org), thanks for listening!

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