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## RESEARCH AREA

Cardiovascular diseases and especially acute myocardial infarction are among the leading causes of death worldwide. Although prevention and the therapy of myocardial infarction have been significantly improved in the last decades, mortality is still unacceptably high. Therefore, development of new therapies aiming to attenuate infarct size is very relevant. Thus, our research group investigates the molecular mechanisms of infarction as well as the adaptive responses of the myocardium to ischemic stress (pre- and postconditioning) to develop novel potential therapies for the treatment of myocardial infarction. Since the risk of myocardial infarction is increased by the presence of several co-morbidities and risk factors including high cholesterol level, diabetes, obesity, hypertension, smoking, lack of exercise, kidney failure, etc., we also look at the effects of certain risk factors on the myocardium as well as on adaptive mechanisms of the heart.

## TECHNIQUES AVAILABLE IN THE LAB

Induction and treatment of disease models (e.g. diabetes, hypercholesterolemia) in experimental animals, echocardiographic assessment of cardiac morphology and function, surgical interventions to induce disease models (myocardial infarction, heart failure, kidney failure, etc.), isolated heart perfusion, determination of infarct size, induction and maintenance of cell culture, viability assays, transfection, general biochemical methods to determine metabolites, proteins and nucleic acids (spectroscopy, western blot, ELISA, flow cytometry, histochemistry, PCR, etc.).

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Sárközy, M., Szűcs, G., Fekete, V., Pipicz, M., Éder, K., Gáspár, R., Sója, A., Pipis, J., Ferdinandy, P., Csonka, C., **Csont, T.** (2016) Transcriptomic alterations in the heart of non-obese type 2 diabetic Goto-Kakizaki rats. **Cardiovasc Diabetol** **15**: 110.

Pipicz, M., Varga, Z.V., Kupai, K., Gáspár, R., Kocsis, G.F., Csonka, C., **Csont, T.** (2015) Rapid ventricular pacing-induced postconditioning attenuates reperfusion injury: effects on peroxynitrite, RISK and SAFE pathways. **Br J Pharmacol** **172**: 3472-83.

Varga, Z.V., Kupai, K., Szűcs, G., Gáspár, R., Pálóczi, J., Faragó, N., Zvara, A., Puskás, L.G., Rázga, Z., Tiszlavicz, L., Bencsik, P., Görbe, A., Csonka, C., Ferdinandy, P., **Csont, T.** (2013) MicroRNA-25-dependent up-regulation of NADPH oxidase 4 (NOX4) mediates hypercholesterolemia-induced oxidative/nitrative stress and subsequent dysfunction in the heart. **J Mol Cell Cardiol** **62**: 111-21.

Kocsis, G.F., Sárközy, M., Bencsik, P., Pipicz, M., Varga, Z.V., Pálóczi, J., Csonka, C., Ferdinandy, P., **Csont, T.** (2012) Preconditioning protects the heart in a prolonged uremic condition. **Am J Physiol Heart Circ Physiol** **303**: H1229-36.

**Csont, T.**, Görbe, A., Bereczki, E., Szunyog, A., Aypar, E., Tóth, M.E., Varga, Z.V., Csonka, C., Fülöp, F., Sántha, M., Ferdinandy, P. (2010) Biglycan protects cardiomyocytes against hypoxia/reoxygenation injury: role of nitric oxide. **J Mol Cell Cardiol** **48**: 649-52.