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Academic interests: Reproductive toxicology/pharmacology and intersections with other physiological systems; natural products in human health

Research focus and techniques of expertise: Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a leading cause of death in postmenopausal women, and is a major public health concern. Important to CVD is atherosclerosis, which may in part be caused by elevated levels of serum cholesterol as well as inflammation events. Our goal in this project is to introduce plant-based diets containing modulators of inflammation and lipid imbalances to prevent the onset of atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease in our laboratory rodent models for menopause. Other research in our lab has focused on the mammalian reproductive system, particularly the positive and negative impacts of natural products such as phytoestrogens. We use large animal models such as sheep to study gamete responses to phytoestrogens; laboratory rodents to study endocrine and cardiovascular changes; and individual tissues and cells to study various processes from fertilization to inflammatory response. Collaborators include faculty and researchers from agriculture and pharmacology, in addition to colleagues in biotechnology fields.

(P3-210) Cardiovascular Response to Plant-Based Anti-Inflammatory Agents

PI: Latha Devareddy (UAF); **Co-PI:** Anne Grippo (ASU)

Postmenopausal women suffer increased risk of heart disease, due in part to atherosclerosis. Atherosclerosis, in turn, may be caused by elevated levels of blood cholesterol and other factors. Our project will investigate the role of compounds present in blueberries (anthocyanins) and grapes (resveratrol) in the prevention of heart disease in postmenopausal women.