

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW SYSTEM FOUND IN THE HEART HAS IMPACT ON METABOLISM

Professor Eric Olson from UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas has found that by regulating certain genes in the heart that are involved in energy metabolism there is the surprising impact of changing the metabolism of fats and sugars in the whole body. Professor Olson will be presenting this important discovery at the Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Hypertension in Sydney this week.

This system exists only in the heart and when you change the way this system is regulated by increasing or decreasing metabolism it not only affects the heart but the whole body.

“Obesity, type 2 diabetes and heart failure are all associated with abnormal metabolism and this discovery may lead the way for new drug development in managing these diseases,” said Professor Olson.

“The system is very complex and is involved in regulating all the body’s energy metabolism particularly through the thyroid hormone and the way that it is regulated is through little genes called micro RNAs.

“Up until recently we thought that 98% of all material that makes up DNA was junk and that the other 2% was needed to make protein. As a result of work by a lot of scientists, we now know that much of the other 98% functions to regulate the activity of the genes that make proteins,” he concluded.

At the *International Society of Hypertension* meeting approximately 2000 delegates will hear from 60 invited speakers, including two Nobel Laureates. Themes include the effect of high blood pressure on different population groups, the brain and nervous system, the heart and vascular system, diabetes, the endocrine and renal systems as well as highlighting public health issues including high blood pressure in children, diagnosis and new and emerging treatments.

Hypertension, better known as high blood pressure, affects about one-third of our population. Many don’t know they have it, some are managed well with medicines while about 25 per cent don’t have the condition under control. High blood pressure is the single biggest contributor to death from a heart attack or stroke.

For further information about the meeting go to <http://www.ish2012.org>

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Fran Hagon on 0405066022 or franhagon.media@gmail.com.