The Department of Nutritional Sciences
Fall 2017 Seminar Series

Guest Speaker:

Sonia M. Najjar, PhD
John J. Kopchick PhD OHF Eminent Research Chair
Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences
Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine
Ohio University

“A novel mechanism linking insulin resistance to non-alcoholic fatty liver disease”

Host: Dawn Brusamare, PhD
The Department of Nutritional Sciences, Rutgers University

Wednesday, November 29, 2017, 2:30-3:30 PM
New Jersey Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health,
Conference Room 205, 61 Dudley Road

Insulin is the main regulator of metabolism. Insulin resistance constitutes the hallmark of type 2 diabetes. In insulin resistant obese patients, chronic hyperinsulinemia develops as a result of compensatory increase in insulin secretion. We will demonstrate how chronic hyperinsulinemia can also result from impairment of insulin clearance, which occurs mostly in the liver. Hyperinsulinemia is also associated with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) that is characterized by increased fat accumulation in liver (hepatic steatosis). This disease is rising at an epidemic rate. It can progress to non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), fibrosis, cirrhosis and ultimately, hepatic adenocarcinoma. NASH is quickly becoming a major risk factor for liver transplant in the Western world. Even though the use of insulin sensitizers is the mainstay of treatment, the role for insulin resistance in the pathogenesis of NAFLD/NASH remains controversial. We will revisit this issue and provide new insights on the mechanisms underlying the progression of NAFLD to NASH with the hope to provide insights on potentially novel therapeutic targets.

For more information about this seminar contact Laura Amador, Department of Nutritional Sciences, amador@sebs.rutgers.edu, 848-932-5425