

Carmen Halabi, M.D., Ph.D.

Present Position: Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Nephrology, Washington University School of Medicine

Education: B.S. in Biochemistry, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA (2001), M.D./Ph.D. (MSTP), The University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine (2009), Postdoctoral fellowship training at Washington University in St. Louis (2015).

Honors and Awards:

- 2005 Predoctoral Training Program in Genetics, NIH, 5T32 GM008629, PI: Jeffrey Murray, M.D.
- 2007 Caroline tum Suden/Frances A. Hellebrandt Professional Opportunity Award, American Physiological Society
- 2007 Merck New Investigator Award, American Heart Association - Council on High Blood Pressure
- 2010 Dean's Distinguished Dissertation Award, The University of Iowa
- 2012 Postdoctoral Developmental Cardiology and Pulmonary Training Program, NIH, 5T32 HL007873, PI: Robert Mecham, Ph.D.
- 2014 Trainee Research Award in Pediatric Nephrology, American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
- 2014 Physician Scientist Training Program, NIH, 2T32 HD043010, PI: Alan Schwartz, Ph.D., M.D.
- 2014 Travel Award, American Society for Matrix Biology
- 2014 Pediatric Physician-Scientist Training Program Fellowship Support, Mallinckrodt Foundation
- 2015 - 2017 Scholar of the Child Health Research Center at Washington University School of Medicine, NIH, K12-HD076224

Current Funding: K08: NIH/NHLBI K08 HL135400 (PI) - Vascular extracellular matrix in arterial development and disease.

Peer Review: American Journal of Human Genetics, American Journal of Pathology, Cardiovascular Research, Clinical Medicine Insights: Case Reports, Frontiers, Journal of Cellular Physiology, Matrix Biology, Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting, Physiological Genomics, PLOS One, Science Advances, Scientific Reports.

Editorial Board: Frontiers in Pediatrics, Pediatric Nephrology.

Professional Societies: American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society for Matrix Biology, The Microcirculatory Society, North American Vascular Biology Organization, American Society of Nephrology, American Society of Pediatric Nephrology, International Pediatric Nephrology Association.

Current Research Interests: Extracellular matrix, vascular development, hypertension, aneurysms.

Personal Statement: My graduate studies in Dr. Curt Sigmund's laboratory examining the role of the transcription factor peroxisome proliferator activated receptor gamma (PPAR γ) in the regulation of blood pressure and vascular function sparked an interest in vascular biology and vascular disease. This interest was solidified during my postdoctoral fellowship training in Dr. Robert Mecham's laboratory where I studied the role of the vascular extracellular matrix (ECM) in cardiovascular development and disease, specifically hypertension and aneurysms. An exciting observation I made during my postdoctoral work is that mutations in ECM genes affect large elastic arteries differently than resistance arterioles. Based on this observation, the current focus of my lab is to understand differences in large versus small artery development and to determine how ECM gene mutations affect resistance arterioles both structurally and functionally, particularly in hypertensive models, as blood pressure is mainly regulated by the microcirculation. As I began to work on small vessels, I became a member of the Microcirculatory Society, which has helped me form collaborations and further my research. It is evident from the interactions I have had with members of the Society that everyone is supportive and devoted to the field. As I have and continue to learn from members of the Society, I believe that promoting interactions between senior and junior investigators from diverse backgrounds is important for the advancement of the field. In addition, it is imperative to recruit/capture the minds of young scientists, not only to grow the Society, but also to secure the future of the field.