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## RESEARCH AREA

Acute pancreatitis is a sudden inflammation of the pancreas which can have mild or severe course. Unfortunately, the latter form still has an unacceptably high mortality. The reason for this is, at least in part, due to the facts that the pathomechanism of acute pancreatitis is unclear and we have no specific treatment of the disease. The main aims of our group are to investigate the roles of various inflammatory factors, mitochondria and the recently identified pancreatic ductal cells in the development of acute pancreatitis. Our hope is to eventually open up new therapeutic possibilities in acute pancreatitis.

## TECHNIQUES AVAILABLE IN THE LAB

Induction of acute pancreatitis in animals, isolation of pancreatic acinar and ductal cells, measurement of enzyme (amylase, trypsin, myeloperoxidase, lactate dehydrogenase) activities, confocal microscopy, histological analysis, ELISA, microspectrofluorimetry (intracellular H<sup>+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration), microperfusion of pancreatic ducts, measurement of pancreatic ductal fluid secretion, Western blot analysis, RT-PCR.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Biczó, G., Végh, E.T., Shalbueva, N., Mareninova, O.A., Elperin, J., Lotshaw, E., Gretler, S., Lugea, A., Malla, S.R., Dawson, D., Ruchala, P., Whitelegge, J., French, S.W., Wen, L., Husain, S.Z., Gorelick, F.S., Hegyi, P., **Rakonczay Jr., Z.**, Gukovsky, I., Gukovskaya, A.S. (2018) Mitochondrial dysfunction, through impaired autophagy, leads to endoplasmic reticulum stress, deregulated lipid metabolism, and pancreatitis in animal models. **Gastroenterology** **154**: 689-703.

Pallagi, P., Hegyi, P., **Rakonczay Jr., Z.** (2015) The physiology and pathophysiology of pancreatic ductal secretion: the background for clinicians. **Pancreas** **44**: 1211-1233.

Pallagi, P., Balla, Z., Singh, A.K., Dósa, S., Iványi, B., Kukor, Z., Tóth, A., Riederer, B., Liu, Y.J., Engelhardt, R., Jármay, K., Szabó, A., Janovszky, Á., Perides, G., Venglovecz, V., Maléth, J., Wittmann, T., Takács, T., Gray, M.A., Gácser, A., Hegyi, P., Seidler, U., **Rakonczay Jr., Z.** (2014) The role of pancreatic ductal secretion in protection against acute pancreatitis in mice. **Crit Care Med** **42**: e177-88.

Biczó, G., Hegyi, P., Dósa, S., Shalbuyeva, N., Berczi, S., Sinervirta, R., Hracskó, Z., Siska, A., Kukor, Z., Jármay, K., Venglovecz, V., Varga, I.S., Iványi, B., Alhonen, L., Wittmann, T., Gukovskaya, A., Takács, T., **Rakonczay Jr., Z.** (2011) The crucial role of early mitochondrial injury in L-lysine-induced acute pancreatitis. **Antioxid Redox Signal** **15**: 2669-81.

**Rakonczay Jr., Z.**, Hegyi P., Takács T., McCarroll J., Saluja A.K. (2008) The role of NF-κB activation in the pathogenesis of acute pancreatitis. **Gut** **57**: 259-267.