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Primary Research Interest:	Internal Medicine
Description of Research:	The Hart lab focuses on pathobiological mechanisms of vascular disease. We are particularly interested in developing novel strategies for intervention that might permit more effective treatments for vascular disease. For example, our work has demonstrated that loss of function of the nuclear hormone receptor, peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma (PPAR $\gamma$ ), plays a critical role in the pathogenesis of pulmonary hypertension, whereas stimulating PPAR $\gamma$ attenuates pulmonary hypertension in experimental models. These findings indicate that targeting the PPAR $\gamma$ receptor may provide a novel strategy to treat pulmonary hypertension.
Relevance to VA:	Vascular disorders are a major cause of morbidity and mortality in veteran patients. This research program seeks to better define basic mechanisms of vascular disease as well as new interventions that can prevent or treat vascular disease.