UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA H E A T I N S T I T U T E INSTITUT DE CARDIOLOGIE DE L'UNIVERSITÉ D'OTTAWA

Emerging Pathways in Cardiovascular Disease

The Ottawa Heart

Research Conference



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Dr. Koschinsky obtained her PhD in Biochemistry from the University of British Columbia and subsequently joined the Cardiovascular Research Group at Genentech, Inc. in San Francisco, California, as a Medical Research Council-funded post-doctoral fellow.

It was during her post-doctoral studies that she developed a research interest in structure/function analyses of lipoprotein(a), which had been characterized at Genentech, Inc., and identified in population studies as a risk factor for coronary heart disease. Funded by a salary award from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Dr. Koschinsky accepted a position at Queen's University as an Assistant professor in 1991, and initiated a research program focused on analysis of the mechanism of action of emerging risk factors for the development of atherothrombotic disease including lipoprotein(a) and thrombin-activatable fibrinolysis inhibitor (TAFI). Dr. Koschinsky has received salary support from the Heart & Stroke Foundation in the form of a Research Scholarship Award (1995-2000), and subsequently held a Career Investigator Award from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario (2001-2011). She was the Director of the Queen's University Cardiac, Circulatory and Respiratory Research Group from 2002-2008.

In 2008, Dr. Koschinsky was appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Science at University of Windsor where she is also a professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. She also holds an adjunct appointment in the Department of Biomedical and Molecular Sciences at Queen's University, and in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University.

Funding for Dr. Koschinsky's research has come from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario as well as from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR). Dr. Koschinsky has received numerous awards and invited lectureships in recognition of her contributions to lipoprotein(a) (Lp(a)) and TAFI research. Amongst her research accomplishments are characterization of Lp(a) assembly, elucidation of a role for Lp(a) in promoting endothelial dysfunction, defining the mechanisms underlying the antifibrinolytic effect of Lp(a), and discovery and characterization of the gene encoding TAFI. She actively collaborates with pharmaceutical companies as well as basic and clinical research groups throughout the world. In addition to her research program, Dr. Koschinsky has served in many administrative capacities including membership on the Board of Directors of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario and on the Advisory Board for the CIHR Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Heath. Most recently she has been appointed to the Advisory Board for the Cardiovascular Research Institute at Wayne State University in Michigan and to the Board of Directors for WE-Tech Alliance, a technology accelerator serving the Southwestern Ontario region.