Characterizing Avian Vasoreactivity

High levels of blood sugar (mainly glucose) in mammals cause oxidative stress, which negatively affects vasodilation pathways, resulting in high blood pressure. Birds are novel models to investigate because of their naturally high blood glucose levels and resistance to oxidative stress. The blood vessels of mourning doves will be examined to see the reactivity of specific substrates, which can give a better understanding of vasodilation pathways and resistance to oxidative stress in the vasculature of birds.

The selected SOLUR student will assist with the proposed project in the laboratory. This will include helping with experiment set-up, capturing birds and assisting with the vascular studies. It is anticipated that if the student stays in laboratory for more than one year, they will gain increasing independence in a research project.

Applicants will need to have taken general courses in chemistry and biology or physiology, and will be expected to work 10-20 hours per week.

For further information, please contact:
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