Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) is an X-chromosome-linked genetic disease that is caused by a mutation in the dystrophin gene and affects 1 in every 3500 boys. DMD patients suffer progressive muscle wasting and eventual cardiorespiratory failure that results in an early death in the second or third decade of life. Although extensive research effort has been invested, lack of a good mouse model that mimics the cardiac failure hinders research. We have developed a novel mouse model that exhibit all the symptoms found in DMD patients and our research is aimed at understanding the cardiac failure in DMD for future therapeutic interventions. Our mouse model fully recapitulates the DMD symptoms because we also took into account of the size of human protection DNA on chromosomal ends (telomere) compared to
mouse. We would like to study the cause of cardiac failure in our mouse model by 1) determine if telomere shortening is specific to cardiomyocytes, 2) evaluate the level of cellular damage caused by oxidative stress and 3) identify the source of oxidative stress. These experiments will help us to better understand cardiac failure in DMD patients and allow testing of therapeutic interventions.

PROJECTS
• Role of Telomere Erosion in Lethal Cardiomyopathy in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy - Stanford University
• Development of Biomarkers for Duchenne Dilated Cardiomyopathy

Publications

PUBLICATIONS
• Human induced pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes recapitulate the predilection of breast cancer patients to doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity. NATURE MEDICINE
  2016; 22 (5): 547-556

• A Notch-dependent transcriptional hierarchy promotes mesenchymal transdifferentiation in the cardiac cushion. Developmental dynamics : an official publication of the American Association of Anatomists
  2014

• Notch activation augments nitric oxide/soluble guanylyl cyclase signaling in immortalized ovarian surface epithelial cells and ovarian cancer cells. CELLULAR SIGNALLING
  2013; 25 (12): 2780-2787

• Notch-Dependent Regulation of the Ischemic Vasodilatory Response-Brief Report. ARTERIOSCLEROSIS THROMBOSIS AND VASCULAR BIOLOGY
  2013; 33 (3): 510-?

• Twist1 Transcriptional Targets in the Developing Atrio-Ventricular Canal of the Mouse. PLOS ONE
  2012; 7 (7)

• Co-ordinating Notch, BMP, and TGF-# signaling during heart valve development. Cellular and molecular life sciences : CMLS
  2012

• Notch Initiates the Endothelial-to-Mesenchymal Transition in the Atrioventricular Canal through Autocrine Activation of Soluble Guanylyl Cyclase. DEVELOPMENTAL CELL
  2011; 21 (2): 288-300

• RUNX3 Maintains the Mesenchymal Phenotype after Termination of the Notch Signal. JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY
  Fu, Y., Chang, A. C., Fournier, M., Chang, L., Niessen, K., Karsan, A.
  2011; 286 (13): 11803-11813

• Genomic analysis distinguishes phases of early development of the mouse atrio-ventricular canal. PHYSIOLOGICAL GENOMICS
  Vrljicak, P., Chang, A. C., Morozova, O., Wederell, E. D., Niessen, K., Marra, M. A., Karsan, A., Hoodless, P. A.
  2010; 40 (3): 150-157

• Differential Regulation of Transforming Growth Factor beta Signaling Pathways by Notch in Human Endothelial Cells. JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY
  Fu, Y., Chang, A., Chang, L., Niessen, K., Eapen, S., Setiadi, A., Karsan, A.
  2009; 284 (29): 19452-19462

• Probing the structure and function of an archaeal C/D-box methylation guide sRNA. RNA-A PUBLICATION OF THE RNA SOCIETY
  Omer, A. D., Zago, M., Chang, A., Dennis, P. P.
PRESENTATIONS

- Telomere and mitochondrial dysfunction in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. - 2014 EMBO conference on Telomeres, Telomerase and Disease (April 20, 2014)
- Telomere and mitochondrial dysfunction in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. - AHA - Basic Cardiovascular Sciences 2015 Scientific Sessions (7/13/2015)
- Telomere shortening as a hallmark of lethal dilated cardiomyopathy. - Weinstein Heart Conference 2016 (5/21/2016)
- Telomere shortening as a hallmark of lethal dilated cardiomyopathy - Stanford-Karolinska Cardiovascular Symposium (October 20, 2016)