

Martha Stipanuk

Web Bio

Information

Biography

Biographical Statement

Martha Stipanuk is the James Jamison Professor in Nutrition in the Division of Nutritional Sciences at Cornell University, where she has been a faculty member since 1977. She received her B.S. from the University of Kentucky, her M.S. from Cornell University, and her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in nutritional biochemistry.

Dr. Stipanuk's professional career has focused on the study of amino acid metabolism, particularly the metabolism of the sulfur-containing amino acid cysteine. Her work has contributed to an understanding of the intermediary pathways of cysteine metabolism in mammalian cells and of the role of various tissues in cysteine metabolism within the whole body. The Stipanuk laboratory is currently investigating the molecular mechanisms involved in regulation of levels of two key regulatory enzymes of cysteine metabolism, cysteine dioxygenase and glutamate-cysteine ligase in response to dietary protein or amino acid levels. These enzymes play a crucial role not only in regulating cysteine levels but in regulating the synthesis of taurine, sulfate, glutathione, and hydrogen sulfide, compounds that are necessary for health. A genetic lack of adequate levels of functional cysteine dioxygenase has been shown to be an important factor in the development of many cases of rheumatoid arthritis. Because the regulation of these two enzymes occurs specifically in response to cysteine levels, the Stipanuk laboratory is also interested in elucidating the mechanism(s) by which the concentrations of cysteine and other amino acids are sensed by cells and how cells respond to changes in amino acid availability.

Dr. Stipanuk has a long-standing interest in teaching and course development in the area of nutrient metabolism. She has developed a multi-authored advanced textbook entitled "Biochemical, Physiological and Molecular Aspects of Human Nutrition" published by Saunders/Elsevier with the 3rd edition expected to be released in spring 2012. Most recently, she has led efforts to develop and teach a graduate course on "Regulation of Macronutrient Metabolism." She also teaches a specialized graduate course on "Nutritional Regulation of Mammalian Protein Synthesis and Degradation."

Professional

Current Professional Activities

Cornell University Graduate Field Membership: Nutrition

Member of American Society for Nutrition

Member of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Member of the American Society for Physiology

Research

Current Research Activities

Mechanisms of molecular regulation of key enzymes of cysteine metabolism in response to dietary changes; development and characterization of tissue-specific cysteine dioxygenase "knockout" mice; structure-function studies of thiol dioxygenases (cysteine dioxygenase, cysteamine dioxygenase); tissue-specific expression and function of enzymes in taurine and hydrogen sulfide biosynthetic pathways; amino acid deprivation and response to stress; role of amino acids in sensing of nutrient deprivation and activation of stress response pathways.

Extension

Education

Education

- PhD 1977 - University of Wisconsin, Madison; Nutrition and Biochemistry
- MS 1972 - Cornell University, Nutrition and Biochemistry
- BS 1970 - University of Kentucky, Home Economics/Education

Courses

Courses Taught

NS 6100 - Proteins and Amino Acids - Nutritional Regulation of Mammalian Protein Synthesis and Degradation

NS 6320 - Regulation of Macronutrient Metabolism

Guest lecture for NS 3980

Mentor for graduate student NS 7030 presentation

Research mentor for undergraduate research

Research mentor for graduate research

Websites

Related Websites

[DNS Home Page](#)

[Stipanuk Lab](#)

Administration

Publications

Selected Publications

Ueki, I., Roman, H.B. Valli, A. Fieselmann, K., Lam, J., Peters, R., Hirschberger, L.L., and Stipanuk, M.H. (2001) Knockout of the murine cysteine dioxygenase gene results in severe impairment in ability to synthesize taurine and an increased catabolism of cysteine to hydrogen sulfide. *Am. J. Physiol. Endocrinol. Metab.* 301: E688-E684.

Stipanuk, M.H., Simmons, C.R., Karplus, A. P., Dominy, J.E. Jr. (2011) Thiol dioxygenases: unique families of cupin proteins. *Amino Acids* 41:91-102.

Stipanuk, M.H., Ueki, I. (2011) Dealing with methionine/homocysteine sulfur: cysteine

metabolism to taurine and inorganic sulfur. *J. Inherit. Metab. Dis.* 34:17-32.

Sikalidis, A.K., Stipanuk, M.H. (2010) Growing rats respond to a sulfur amino acid-deficient diet by phosphorylation of the alpha subunit of eukaryotic initiation factor 2 heterotrimeric complex and induction of adaptive components of the integrated stress response. *J. Nutr.* 140:1080-1085.

Stipanuk, M. H. (2009) Macroautophagy and its role in nutrient homeostasis. *Nutr. Rev.* 67:677-689.

Ueki, I. and Stipanuk, M.H. (2009) 3T3-L1 adipocytes and rat adipose tissue have a high capacity for taurine synthesis by the cysteine dioxygenase/cysteinesulfinate decarboxylase and cysteamine dioxygenase pathways. *J. Nutr.* 139:207-214..

Stipanuk, M.H., Ueki, I., Dominy, J.E. Jr., Simmons, C.R., and Hirschberger, L.L. (2009) Cysteine dioxygenase: a robust system for regulation of cellular cysteine levels. *Amino Acids* 37:55-63.

Stipanuk, M.H., Dominy, J.E., Jr., Ueki, I., and Hirschberger, L.L. (2008) Measurement of cysteine dioxygenase activity and protein abundance. *Curr. Prot. Toxicol.* 6.15.1-6.15.25.

Simmons, C.R., Krishnamoorthy, K., Granett, S.L., Schuller, D.J., Dominy, J.E. Jr., Begley, T.P., Stipanuk, M.H., and Karplus, P.A. (2008) A putative Fe²⁺-bound persulfenate intermediate in cysteine dioxygenase. *Biochemistry* 47:11390-11392.

Dominy, J.E. Jr., Hwang, J., Guo, S., Hirschberger, L.L., Zhang, S., and Stipanuk, M.H. (2008) Synthesis of amino acid cofactor in cysteine dioxygenase is regulated by substrate and represents a novel post-translational regulation of activity. *J.*

Biol. Chem. 283:12188-12201.

Lee, J-I., Dominy, J.E., Jr., Sikalidis, A. K., Hirschberger, L.L., Wang, W., and Stipanuk, M.H. (2008) HepG2/C3A cells respond to cysteine-deprivation by induction of the amino acid deprivation/integrated stress response pathway. *Physiol. Genomics* 33:218-229.

Dominy, J. E. Jr., Simmons, C.R., Hirschberger, L.L., Hwang, J., Coloso, R.M., Stipanuk, M.H. (2007) Discovery and characterization of a second mammalian thiol dioxygenase: Cysteamine dioxygenase. *J. Biol. Chem.* 282:25189-25198.

Ueki, I., and Stipanuk, M.H. (2007) Enzymes of the taurine biosynthetic pathway are expressed in rat mammary gland. *J. Nutr.* 137:1887-1894.

Dominy, J.E., Jr., Hwang, J., and Stipanuk, M.H. (2007) Overexpression of cysteine dioxygenase reduces intracellular cysteine and glutathione pools in HepG2/C3A cells. *Am. J. Physiol. Endocrinol. Metab.* 293:E62-E69.

Stipanuk, M.H., Dominy, J.E. Jr., Lee, J-I., and Coloso, R.M. (2006) Mammalian cysteine metabolism: new insights into regulation of cysteine metabolism. *J. Nutr.* 136:1652S-1659S.

Dominy, J.E. Jr., Simmons, C.R., Karplus, P.A., Gehring, A.M., and Stipanuk, M.H. (2006) Identification and characterization of bacterial cysteine dioxygenases: a new route of cysteine degradation for eubacteria. *J. Bacteriol.* 188:5561-5569.

Simmons, C.R., Liu, Q., Huang, Q., Hao, Q., Begley, T.P., Karplus, P.A., and Stipanuk, M.H. (2006) Crystal structure of mammalian cysteine dioxygenase: A novel mononuclear iron center for cysteine thiol oxidation. *J. Biol. Chem.* 281:18723-18733. [Issue cover is CDO structure]

Stipanuk, M.H. and Dominy, J.E. Jr. (2006) Surprisi