

# Diseases that Involve Lipid Metabolism



Peter Tontonoz  
Professor, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

## CURRENT RESEARCH

### Identifying therapeutic targets for heart diseases and diabetes

High cholesterol, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease are the leading causes of death in industrialized societies, and the common denominator between these disorders is that they all involve problems related to too much lipid in the blood and abnormal lipid metabolism. Dr. Peter Tontonoz, Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at University of California, Los Angeles, is trying to identify potential new targets to intervene in diseases that involve lipid metabolism -- namely, atherosclerosis and diabetes, which also has significant ties with obesity as obesity increases the risk for Type 2 diabetes. By deciphering links between lipid metabolism, inflammation, and immunity, and identifying novel mechanisms that control cholesterol metabolism, Dr. Tontonoz will develop strategies to therapeutically target these new pathways for the treatment of heart disease, obesity and diabetes.

A physician scientist himself, Dr. Tontonoz manages a talented team of 17 researchers including graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and technicians -- some with M.D.s and some others with both Ph.D.s and M.D.s. Having initially started his career with the goal of understanding biology so that he could harness that understanding to improve existing treatment of diseases, Dr. Tontonoz truly values the importance of understanding both scientific and clinical settings and builds a robust group of researchers who possess basic science expertise and strong clinical history. Together, they are working on several molecules they are interested in as potential drug targets, and will continue to work towards translating basic research into human medicine.

Current research goals include:

- [To identify...](#)

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## AFFILIATION



University of California, Los Angeles

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Genetics 1996, Harvard University
- M.D. in Medicine 1996, Harvard Medical School
- B.A. in Molecular Biology 1989, Wesleyan University

## AWARDS

- Gerald D. Aurbach Award, The Endocrine Society, 2014
- Elected to the Association of American Physicians, 2014
- President, American Society For Clinical Investigation, 2013
- Jeffrey Hoeg Award for Atherosclerosis Research, American Heart Association, 2010
- Richard E. Weitzman Memorial Award, The Endocrine Society, 2005

## RESEARCH AREAS

Life Science, Cardiovascular, Metabolic / Diabetes, Cardiovascular

## FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the continued research of Dr. Peter Tontonoz at the University of California, Los Angeles as he combines efforts with his team to identify pathways to target for atherosclerosis and diabetes treatments. Donations will help fund the \$300K/year required to perform screens for new drugs that target the novel lipid regulating pathways that Dr. Tontonoz has identified. Partner with Dr. Tontonoz to translate incredible basic science discovery into clinical applications!