

## **ATTP-KO mice: in vivo models for discovering neuroprotective phytochemicals.**

Epidemiological data show that populations that consume diets rich in fruits and vegetables have low incidences of chronic diseases. However, intervention studies with antioxidants such as alpha tocopherol, vitamin C or beta-carotene, which have been conducted in middle-aged humans, have shown little or no benefit. Dr. Gohil's research group has developed a hypothesis that may help to explain this discrepancy. This group has hypothesized that dietary phytochemicals exert their protective effects very early in development. If true, this could account for the data from studies showing that people who eat diets high in fruit and vegetables since childhood have lower rates of chronic disease and for the failure of dietary antioxidant supplement interventions in adults. Dr. Gohil's research group is testing this hypothesis in a special mouse model that will allow them to determine the molecular and cellular mechanisms for the protective effects.