ABSTRACT/BIO: Dr. Ibra (Drew) Fancher received his PhD from West Virginia University where he studied the role of smooth muscle voltage-gated K+ channels in the regulation of vascular tone. During his postdoctoral training at the University of Illinois at Chicago, he investigated how cardiovascular risk factors such as dyslipidemia, hypertension, and obesity impact the regulation of vascular tone, specifically focusing on the role of inwardly rectifying K+ channels and endothelial dysfunction. His present research program continues to focus on how different cardiovascular risk factors impair vascular function prior to life-threatening disease states, such as atherosclerosis and stroke, through distinct yet seemingly convergent cellular mechanisms. The long-term goal of Dr. Fancher's work is to identify novel targets in afflicted cellular and molecular pathways in order to improve vascular function as a means to prevent severe disease states.