



Paul Y. Liu, MD

Chief of Plastic Surgery, Lifespan/Alpert Medical School of Brown University

**Project Title:** Devising a Cost-Effective Approach to Utilizing Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy in Treatment of Diabetic Foot Ulcers

**Year Awarded:** 2015

**What do you hope to learn through this research?** We postulate that there is a pattern to the proteomic and genetic response to hyperbaric oxygen therapy that separates responders from non-responders. This may serve as a rational basis to determine the optimum patients to use this very expensive modality on.

**How can this research help patients, clinicians and/or scientists?** This work may help us target those patients who will benefit the most from HBOT.

**How did this award help your career?** It's always good to get peer-reviewed funding!

**How did you get interested in wound healing and this area in particular?** I did a research fellowship in Elof Eriksson's lab at the Brigham many years ago, and have been active in wound research ever since.

**Tell us about some of the outcomes of your research you are most proud of and what it means for patients, clinicians and/or scientists.** I was one of the first people to use gene therapy techniques in the wound healing field, and we are trying to translate that to a clinical trial in tendon healing. I have also collaborated with mathematicians to publish a paper on modeling diabetic healing. And way back when, I was a coauthor on the first published therapeutic success for stem cells of any kind in a human, and it was to heal a wound!

**Who do you consider your mentors and your close associates in this project?** I am collaborating with Lisa Gould, a past president of the WHS on this work.