“Medial Vascular Calcification: Mechanisms, Complications and Treatments”

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Brief summary: Mineralization of bone and tooth extracellular matrix (ECM) is a physiologic process, while soft tissue mineralization, also known as ectopic mineralization (calcification), is a pathologic condition. Vascular calcification is common in aging and also in a number of genetic and metabolic disorders. The calcific deposits in the arteries complicate the prognosis and increase the morbidity in diseases such as atherosclerosis, diabetes and chronic kidney disease (CKD). The focus of the current workshop will be on the cause and complications associated with ectopic mineral deposits in the medial layer of the vascular wall. Three experts in the field will present a case describing medial calcification in humans and discuss possible mechanisms and molecular events underlying medial calcification. More specifically, the role of vitamin K metabolism and matrix Gla protein (MGP), a vitamin K-dependent protein and potent mineralization inhibitor, in the prevention of vascular calcification will be discussed and a brief review on the ongoing trials will be presented.

Wednesday April 20, 9-12 noon, followed by a light lunch
3640 University, Rm M/48
McGill University, Montreal, Quebec

Moderator: Dr. Richard Hovey, PhD, Associate Professor,
Oral Health and Society, Faculty of Dentistry, McGill University

All are welcome
Host: Dr. Monzur Murshed at (Monzur.murshed@mcgill.ca)