OBJECTIVE: To improve existing tools for surgical treatment of cardiac arrhythmias. We aim to develop new generation of diagnostic/treatment catheters that deliver and acquire light through fiberoptic bundle within body of ablation catheter. This information can be then used for a real time feedback guidance.

SPECIFIC AIM: To determine the most sensitive optical ranges for characterizing thermal injury by comparing spectral information from different areas of the heart before and after radiofrequency (RF) ablation.

METHODS: Light was delivered and acquired through a fiberoptic bundle pressed against excised pieces of porcine heart using FluoroMax 3 spectrofluorometer. Excitation emission matrices (EEMs) from ventricular muscle, endocardial surface of left atria, and aorta were acquired from 300-600 nm range. Values from different pieces of porcine tissue were averaged to reveal the differences with p<0.05 considered significant.

Each type of tissue exhibited distinct EEMs with reproducible changes in fluorescence and diffuse reflectance as shown in the graphs and corresponding figures (n=7). The latter was particularly noticeable in ventricular tissue but was also significant in the left atrial tissue. The major changes caused by RF ablation of ventricular tissue are shown on the bottom right. After deriving an average EEM values from 4 unablated and 4 ablated sites of the ventricular tissue, fluorescence mask was applied and difference EEM was then plotted (note different LUT scale with blue being no change).

Financial support from the NIH (STTR 1R36170), LuxCath-GWU Research Agreement and intramural GW funds is gratefully acknowledged.