Prof. Mary Ellen received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry at the University of Ottawa in 1991 and she was a post-doc fellow at Cambridge University (1991 to 1993) and at Ottawa University (1993-1995). From 1995 to 2003 she was an assistant professor in Biochemistry, and from 2003 to 2010 she was an associate professor at Ottawa University.

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She got numerous academic honors for her research concerning diabetes, obesity, and mitochondrial bioenergetics.

She published numerous manuscripts (about 200) in prestigious journals, among these Diabetologia, American Journal of physiology, BBA Bioenergetics; Biological Reviews; Cellular and Molecular Biology; J. Appl. Physiol.; J. Biol Chem; J. Clin. Invest; J Physiol, Nature; Nature Medicine; Nature Reviews, Nature Metabolism; Obesity; International Journal of Obesity; PLoS Medicine; Proc Nat Acad Sci Diabetes. Actually, she is editor of J. Appl Physiol Nutr Metab, Cardiovascular Metabolism, Frontiers in Cardiovascular Medicine; American journal of physiology.

Prof. Harper's publications have a great impact since they have been cited more than 16,600 times, and have an H index of 66 (Google Scholar: April 7, 2022).