

Meet the First Authors

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Cardiomyopathy TALEN Knockout Library (p 1561)

Dr Ioannis Karakikes is an Assistant Professor in Cardiothoracic Surgery at Stanford University School of Medicine. He earned his undergraduate and PhD at the University of Essex, England, and completed his postdoctoral training at the Cardiovascular Research Center at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Stanford University. His research is focused on studying the molecular mechanisms underlying the pathogenesis of heart failure, and ultimately aims to develop new precision therapies. In his free time, he enjoys cooking, spending time with his wife and two kids, and basking in the Californian sun!



GNB2 Is a Disease Gene for Familial SND and AVB (p e33)

Dr Birgit Stallmeyer is a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Genetics of Heart Diseases at the University Hospital Muenster, Germany, in the lab of Prof Eric Schulze-Bahr. She earned her BS and PhD in Biological Sciences from the Technical University Braunschweig, Germany. Birgit's current research focuses on inherited heart diseases and especially on genes and cellular mechanism involved in cardiac conduction disturbances. She is married and has two children. In her free time Birgit loves to go hiking and to spend time with her family.



T-Cell MR Regulates Blood Pressure (p 1584)

Xuenan Sun is currently a PhD student at Shanghai Institute for Biological Sciences, University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. She concentrates on the function of immune system in cardiovascular disease, and her PhD research is on T-cell function in hypertension. During her PhD training, she studied the role of mineralocorticoid receptor (MR) in T cells under the supervision of Dr Sheng-Zhong Duan. She believes that persistence and curiosity help her attain her goals. In the future, she hopes to find feasible novel strategies to treat cardiovascular disease. In her free time, she likes swimming, reading, yoga, and playing the electronic piano.



T-Cell MR Regulates Blood Pressure (p 1584)

Chao Li is a PhD student at Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences, University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. During his PhD training, he was interested in exploring the pathophysiological mechanisms of cardiovascular disease and metabolic disease. After graduation, he intends to pursue a scientific career. For the next step, he hopes to find a postdoctoral fellowship in cardiovascular biology. His leisure interests include playing badminton, running, and traveling.

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Intravenously Delivered Mesenchymal Stem Cells (p 1598)

Dr Dror Luger is a research scientist in Dr Stephen Epstein's lab in Cardiovascular Research, Washington Hospital Center, in Washington DC. He earned his PhD in Physiology and Endocrinology at Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and received training as an immunologist in Dr Moses's lab, at the Weisman Institute, Israel, where he explored therapeutic agents affecting T-cell-mediated autoimmune diseases in models of Lupus. Dr Luger received postdoctoral training at the National Eye Institute, under the direction of Dr Caspi, and Dr Wakefield's lab, at the National Cancer Institute. His main research focus is on the role on inflammation in the deterioration of cardiac function following cardiac disorders and the therapeutic effect of mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs).



Childhood Body Weight and Cardiac Enlargement (p 1614)

Dr Huijie Zhang received his MD and PhD from Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, and completed training in internal medicine and endocrinology in China. He earned a postdoctoral research fellowship in the Department of Epidemiology at Tulane University, where his research focused on chronic disease epidemiology and clinical trials under the supervision of Drs Jiang He and Wei Chen. Dr Zhang has received the Scott Grundy Award for Excellence in Metabolism Research of American Heart Association and the Young Investigator Award of American Society for Preventive Cardiology. He aspires to be a physician-scientist, and his research interest is in developing novel therapies for diabetes mellitus, obesity, and cardiovascular disease. In his spare time, he enjoys playing badminton, traveling, and listening to music.

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