

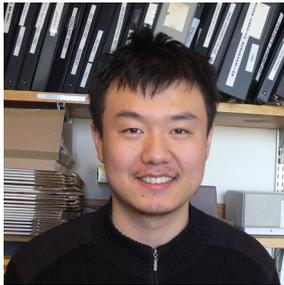
Meet the First Authors

Circulation Research

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Cardiac Myocyte Maturation In Vivo (p 1874)

Dr Yuxuan Guo earned his BS in Biological Technology from Peking University, and a PhD in Biology from the Johns Hopkins University, where he studied the role of nuclear lamins in nuclear lamina and mitotic spindle assembly. In 2015, he joined Dr William Pu's lab at Boston Children's Hospital to investigate cardiac myocyte maturation during heart development. Dr Guo's area of expertise is cytoskeleton biology. He believes that understanding the intricate interplay between cytoskeletal dynamics and transcriptional regulation is critical to uncover the principles governing cardiomyocyte maturation. His research goal as a postdoctoral trainee is to establish skills and tools to generate knowledge that can guide the engineering of mature iPSC-CMs. In his free time, Dr Guo enjoys basketball and playing with his daughter.



Nampt and Thoracic Aortic Degeneration (p 1889)

Alanna Watson is a PhD candidate in the Department of Biochemistry studying under the supervision of Dr J. Geoffrey Pickering at the Robarts Research Institute, Western University in London, Canada. She previously earned her BS and MSc in Microbiology and Immunology from Western University where she developed an interest in the intersection of cell metabolism, and tissue health and longevity. Her current work is focused on NAD⁺ regeneration and how it is important for resisting catastrophic failure in blood vessels, such as aortic aneurysms and dissections. Alanna believes that understanding such mechanisms will provide people with tools that could help maintain a long and vibrant health span.



Social Integration and Coronary Heart Disease (p 1927)

Dr Shun-Chiao Chang is an Instructor and Associate Epidemiologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. She received her BS in Public Health from National Taiwan University and earned her ScD in Epidemiology at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Her research focuses on understanding risk and protective factors underlying mental disorders and other chronic diseases, and how mental health and physical health interact with each other. Dr Chang enjoys spending quality time with family and friends, travel, cooking, and painting outside of research. Her favorite motto is "do what you love, and love what you do."



Methodological Rigor in Preclinical Research (p 1916)

Dr F. Daniel Ramirez is a cardiology fellow and MSc candidate in the clinical investigator track at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute, Canada. He obtained his BSc in biochemistry from the University of Ottawa, his MD degree from Queen's University in Kingston, and his internal medicine residency training at The Ottawa Hospital. His research interests include translational research methodology, evaluating percutaneous cardiovascular therapeutics, and most recently, atrial fibrillation diagnostics at a population-level. Dr Ramirez intends to pursue further training in clinical cardiac electrophysiology with the goal of becoming a clinician-scientist. Much of his and his wife's spare time is spent keeping up with their hyperactive dog, Maverick, and debating whether getting a second dog named Goose is as good of an idea as it sounds.

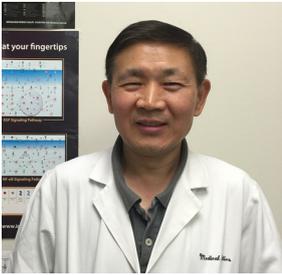
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NF- κ B Signaling and AngII Sensitivity in *Acta2*^{-/-} SMCs (p 1903)

Dr Jiyuan Chen earned his PhD in Molecular Biology at Shanghai Jiaotong University and his MD from Xuzhou Medical College in China. His post-doctoral training was done with Dr Joseph Miano at the University of Rochester School of Medicine, where his research focused on the identification of the mechanisms underlying retinoid-induced changes in smooth muscle cell and vessel wall phenotype and the signaling mechanism that control smooth muscle cell differentiation. In 2012, he joined Dr Dianna Milewicz's lab at UTHealth McGovern Medical School as a Research Associate to study mouse models of thoracic aortic aneurysms and dissections. His research focuses on the signaling mechanism of aortic dilatation associated with loss of smooth muscle α -actin. In his free time, Dr Chen loves to play soccer, and his favorite motto is "Research is what I'm doing when I don't know what I'm doing."



Peripheral Blood Cytokines After Acute MI (p 1947)

Dr Mahan Shahrivari earned her medical degree from Tehran Azad University in Iran. She then joined the University of Florida as a research associate and shortly after was selected for an NIH-T32 post-doctoral fellowship award (main mentor: Dr Carl J Pepine). She was awarded the most outstanding Research Award by University of Florida. Her main areas of research are regenerative medicine, and endothelial progenitor cell's role in endothelial repair. She aspires to be a physician-scientists in the future. Her favorite motto is "never give up. Today is hard, tomorrow will be worse, but the day after tomorrow will be sunshine."

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