

Meet the First Authors

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miR-210 Enhances Atherosclerotic Plaque Stability (p 633)

Suzanne Eken is a PhD student at the Karolinska Institute under the supervision of Lars Maegdefessel. She received her MD degree from Leiden University. Her main interest is vascular surgery, and her PhD thesis revolves around cardiovascular non-coding RNA therapies. Performing vascular (micro)surgical techniques in animal models also helps her to acquire the dexterity needed for a future career in vascular surgery. As for all young scientists with families, combining this occupation with children is currently her major challenge—she managed to successfully revise this manuscript just 3 days before her youngest child was born!



Intramyocardial CD133⁺ Cells in Refractory Angina (p 670)

Wojciech Wojakowski, MD, PhD, FESC, graduated from Medical University of Silesia, Poland, and completed training in internal medicine and cardiology. He is currently chief of 3rd Chair and Division of Cardiology, Medical University of Silesia and president-elect of the Polish Cardiac Society Association for Cardiovascular Interventions. His main focus is interventional cardiology, in particular, structural heart disease and intravascular imaging. He was awarded the Thomas J. Linnemeier Spirit of Interventional Cardiology Young Investigators Award by the Cardiovascular Research Foundation. He is married and the father of two sons. Plans for the future include innovation in cardiovascular devices and a wreck-diving expedition.



Impella Is Renal Protective During High-Risk PCI (p 692)

Michael Flaherty's academic career began at Franklin College (BA, biology) and continued at Purdue University (MS, molecular biology). His next 4 to 5 years were spent as a junior basic scientist at the University of Louisville under the mentorship of Drs Roberto Bolli and Buddhadeb Dawn (he obtained an MD and a PhD in Physiology & Biophysics). As a fellow at Johns Hopkins University, Dr Flaherty experienced a philosophical transformation and newfound admiration for clinical research. As first author of his work published in this issue of the Journal, Dr Flaherty has “grown to appreciate some of the obstacles facing young scientists trying to build academic careers, chief among them protected time, coordinating collaborative efforts of authors, and barriers to funding.”



Pediatric CPC-Derived Exosome Therapy (p 701)

Udit Agarwal: After completing his medical degree from Kasturba Medical College, India, he studied cardiac regeneration under Marc Penn, MD, PhD, during his PhD training at Kent State University/Cleveland Clinic, Ohio. Next, he completed an Internal Medicine residency at Akron General Medical Center, Ohio, and joined the Cardiology Fellowship program at Emory University where he is training to be a cardiologist and also studying new stem cell-based therapies for heart failure under his research mentor, Michael Davis, PhD. He aspires to be a physician–scientist in the future, and his research interest is in developing novel therapeutics for congestive heart failure/myocardial infarction.

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