

Meet the First Authors

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Insulin Sensitivity and NO Availability (p 784)

Dr Hema Viswambharan, PhD, AFHEA, is a British Heart Foundation Research Fellow at the University of Leeds. She received her BSc from the University of Malaya and her PhD from University of Fribourg, Switzerland. Her research interests include mechanisms of insulin resistance and endothelial dysfunction. Dr Viswambharan believes that the most challenging aspect of pursuing a successful career in academia is finding the perfect balance between the needs of her family and her children and pursuing a long-standing dream in science. Remarkable flexibilities in work–life balance provided by her mentors, Drs Mark Kearney and Helen Picton, have given her the best possible support to achieve high standards in both family and academia.



KLF5 Regulates Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Formation (p 799)

Dr Dong Ma is an Associate Professor at the School of Public Health, North China University of Science and Technology. He received his PhD from Hebei Medical University and an MS and BS from Shaanxi University. His research focuses on the molecular mechanism of atherosclerosis and aneurysms and novel functions of *Klf5* gene in cardiovascular diseases. Dr Ma is passionate about his research in vascular biology and discovering new therapeutic targets in vascular disease.



CXCR7 and EPC Functions in Diabetes (p e7)

Dr Xiaozhen Dai grew up in a rural area of southern China and is now an associate professor at the Chengdu Medical College in China and a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Louisville. Her research focuses on endothelial progenitor cell (EPC) biology and their role in endothelial repair. After receiving her PhD degree from Chongqing University, China, she was appointed as a lecturer at the Chengdu Medical College. She recently received a Visiting Scholarship from the China Scholarship Council to conduct research on the role of EPCs in diabetic vascular disease in Dr Yi Tan's laboratory at the University of Louisville.



Human Neonatal and Adult CPCs (p 816)

Dr Sudhish Sharma obtained his PhD from the Laboratory of Mammalian genetics at the Center for DNA fingerprinting and Diagnostics, India, where he worked with Dr Sanjeev Khosla to identify epigenetic marks within Neuronatin. In 2009, he joined Dr Sunjay Kaushal's lab at the University of Maryland to investigate cardiac regeneration and tissue repair using cardiac stem cell therapy. Dr Kaushal's lab has discovered that human neonatal heart-derived cardiac progenitor cells have therapeutic potential for heart regeneration because of the composition of their secretome. Currently, Dr Sharma is developing a stem cell-derived-cell-free-off-the-shelf product enriched with beneficial proteins and miRs.

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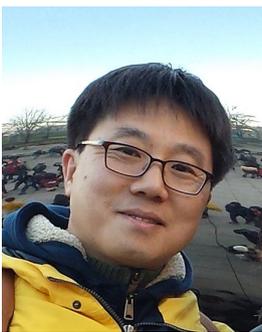
Human Neonatal and Adult CPCs (p 816)

Dr Rachana Misra earned her PhD from Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, India under the supervision of Dr George Thomas. During her doctoral studies, she elucidated diversity among Psidium Species. Attending a lecture of Dr Sunjay Kaushal in 2009 was a turning point in her career, where he mentioned the challenges faced by children suffering from heart diseases and the great potential of cardiac stem cells to treat these children. She joined Dr Kaushal's lab with the aim to treat heart disease in children using stem cells. Her goal is to find a way to repair damaged hearts with neonatal stem cells.



MiR-33 Promotes Cardiac Fibrosis (p 835)

Dr Masataka Nishiga graduated from Kyoto University Medical School in 2007, followed by a residency in Tenri Hospital. He then pursued a fellowship in cardiology at the same institution. During his cardiology fellowship, he became interested in fundamental mechanisms of heart failure, since there are still very few treatment options for this disorder. Dr Nishiga then pursued a PhD degree at the Kyoto University, where he studied the research that led to the current paper. Dr Nishiga's research goal is to investigate the molecular basis of heart failure, with the hope of devising new therapies for this disease.



ER71/ETV2-Mediated Reprogramming of HDF to ECs (p 848)

Dr Sangho Lee is a postdoc in the Department of Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine (Advisor: Young-sup Yoon, MD, PhD). He earned his BS and MS degrees in Chemistry and Biochemistry, respectively, from Korea University, South Korea. He obtained his PhD from University of California, Davis (Advisor: Martin Privalsky, PhD). His main area of interest is regenerative medicine. Since he dreamt of making "artificial blood" at the age of 13, Dr Lee has dedicated himself to life sciences. Dr Lee's long-term goal is to develop the precursor cells for both hematopoietic and endothelial cells, bringing him one step closer to fulfilling his childhood dreams.



ATF6 Links ER Stress and Oxidative Stress (p 862)

Dr Jung-Kang Jin received a BS degree in Botany from National Chung Hsing University in Taiwan, and an MS degree in Cell and Molecular Biology from San Diego State University, in Dr Glembotski's laboratory. In 2014, Dr Jin received his PhD in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where he studied the molecular basis of prostate cancer. He rejoined Dr Glembotski's laboratory at the SDSU Heart Institute as a postdoctoral fellow in 2014. Dr Jin has received an American Heart Association Postdoctoral Fellowship. His research focuses on ER stress and gene therapy strategies for treating cardiovascular disease.

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