Meet the First Authors

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CELF1 Downregulates Cx43 mRNA in Cardiomyopathy (p 1140)

Kuei-Ting Chang is a PhD candidate in the Molecular Medicine at National Yang-Ming University and Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan, under the mentorship of Dr Guey-Shen Wang. She earned her MS in Nutrition at Chung Shan Medical University. She is currently engaged in research investigating the cardiac pathogenesis of myotonic dystrophy (DM). While Kuei-Ting was studying the causal mechanism for heart failure, one of the major DM heart features, she wondered if the pathogenic mechanism could be common to other cardiovascular diseases. In addition, she thought it could be her own niche if she worked on “understanding the disruption of gene regulation at the post-transcriptional level in cardiovascular disease.” Her favorite motto is, “doubt is the key to knowledge.” In her free time, she enjoys rock music and movies.

Monocyte PKCδ Deletion Accelerated Atherosclerosis (p 1153)

Dr Qian Li earned his PhD at Peking University of China under the supervision of Dr Ruiping Xiao in 2006. He continued his training with Dr Paul Huang at the Cardiovascular Research Center of Massachusetts General Hospital conducting research on eNOS. He is currently a member of Dr George L. King’s laboratory at Joslin Diabetes Center and is an instructor at Harvard Medical School. Qian is interested in how diabetes accelerates atherosclerosis through effects on endothelial cells, macrophages, and vascular smooth muscle cells. Qian believes that life is beautiful and his passion in science is uncovering the mechanisms underlying this beautiful life. His passion for science has also enabled him to overcome obstacles in his career, including learning to speak and write English. In his spare time, Qian enjoys entertaining his twin daughters, who bring him so much happiness.

CRISPR/Cas9 Postnatal Cardiac Gene Editing (p 1168)

Dr Anne Katrine Johansen is a postdoctoral fellow studying cardiac regeneration in the lab of Dr Eva van Rooij at the Hubrecht Institute in the Netherlands. She earned both her BS in Pharmacology and her PhD on estrogen metabolism in pulmonary arterial hypertension at the University of Glasgow. Anne Katrine likes to incorporate state-of-the-art techniques to answer fundamental biological questions. Her current research is focused on the application of CRISPR/Cas9 to study gene function and cell turnover, understanding the mechanisms that regulate cardiomyocyte proliferation and novel targeting strategies. Her overarching goal is to see her research go from bench-to-bedside. She will soon relocate to Cincinnati to work with Dr Jeffery Molkentin at the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital in order to gain more scientific expertise before establishing her own lab. Outside of the lab, Anne focuses on her sausage dog, Toby, her transatlantic long-distance relationship, and, of course, her nomadic family. She thinks the world should be more vegetarian and use less plastic. Yoga and wine with friends keep her calm and sane.
γ2-AMPK Protects Against Stress in the Heart (p 1182)

Dr Yang Cao is currently a postdoctoral fellow in Rong Tian’s laboratory at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Yang received her BS in bioscience from Anhui University and PhD in cell biology from the University of Science and Technology of China, where she worked on energy metabolism in pluripotent stem cells. Her research interests are in the field of cell fate decisions under both physiological and pathological conditions, with a particular focus on the roles of AMPK and metabolism in cardiac diseases. She decided to pursue science because she enjoys the sense of achievement that experimental results have given her. As a young scientist, she feels so lucky to have met incredible mentors that have provided invaluable guidance. Like many female scientists, she finds the biggest obstacle in her career is finding a work–life balance, but she believes that great persistence is the key factor for success. In her spare time, Yang enjoys traveling, hiking, and photography.

Umbilical Cord MSCs for Heart Failure (p 1192)

Dr Jorge Bartolucci is a specialist in Internal Medicine, Cardiology and Electrophysiology at the University of los Andes in Santiago, Chile. He has served as the Director of the Division of Cardiology at the Hospital G. Fricke and Santa Maria Clinic, and as President of the Chilean Society of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery and the Chilean Foundation of Cardiology. His interest in the development of cardiovascular regenerative therapy dates to 2005, when he began to collaborate with teachers and researchers from the University of los Andes to create a multidisciplinary team of regenerative medicine, with a solid infrastructure of laboratories and professional technical staff. The first studies were with bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) intracoronary, and were presented at the 2011 European Congress of Cardiology in Paris and during the 19th ISCT meeting, 2013, Auckland, NZ, and were also published in national journals. His current work is focused on the follow-up of the patients treated in these studies, and new investigation protocols in patients with marked deterioration of left ventricular function treated with umbilical cord MSC. Dr Bartolucci is married and has three daughters. He enjoys long walks, classical music, and jazz. He also enjoys playing the saxophone, but not all share his feelings since Bichón, his poodle, invariably hides under the bed when the music starts.
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