

Meet the First Authors

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EZH1 Promotes Heart Regeneration (p 106)

Shanshan Ai earned her BS at Huazhong Agricultural University and is a PhD candidate in Dr Aibin's laboratory at the Institute of Molecular Medicine of Peking University, China. Intrigued by the gradual loss in regeneration potential that occurs in the mammalian heart during development, she is currently focused on screening for epigenetic facilitators and barriers of heart regeneration. Particularly, she harnesses her understanding of epigenetic regulation of cell fate choices in early heart development to direct strategies of heart repair after injury, such as myocardial infarction. She hopes to unravel the detailed epigenetic mechanisms underlying spatiotemporally active enhancers governing cell lineage specification and conversion in various heart diseases. Her motto is, "Action is the proper fruit of knowledge." Outside the lab, she enjoys movies and traveling.



Concurrent Isolation of Human Cardiac Stem Cells (p 113)

Megan Monsanto grew up in the beautiful state of South Carolina where she obtained her BS in Genetics at Clemson University. Megan's desire to leave her mark on the world brought her to San Diego to pursue a PhD from San Diego State University. Megan and Dr Sussman's shared interest in cardiac research led her to join his laboratory to work alongside him to develop treatments for patients with heart disease. Her graduate project focuses on isolating novel human stem cells and combining these distinct cells into defined 3D structures termed "CardioClusters." When not working, Megan can be found hiking with her dog, Leia.



Role of STIM1 in Contractile Dysfunction (p 125)

Constantine Troupes earned his BS in finance from the University of South Carolina, but he developed a passion for patient care and basic science while working as a research technician at Duke University. He is now an MD/PhD student at Temple University in the last year of his training. His research focused on role of calcium signaling in both cardiac myocytes and stem cells. Constantine plans to enter residency with the hopes of becoming a physician–scientist in the future. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, skiing, playing the guitar, and spending time with his family.



Cyb5R3 and cGMP Signaling (p 137)

Dr Mizanur Rahaman is an American Heart Association Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He earned his BS and MS in Microbiology from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, and his PhD in Medical Science from Kumamoto University, Japan, in 2013, where he began working in the field of nitric oxide and redox signaling. His research focuses on understanding the basic molecular mechanisms of NO signaling in vascular system. Dr Rahaman is very enthusiastic about his research in vascular biology and interested in discovering novel therapeutics for cardiovascular diseases.

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