Meet the First Authors

Pathways from Telomeres to Heart Disease (p 214)

Yiqiang Zhan is a PhD student in the Molecular Aging Epidemiology group under the supervision of Dr Sara Hägg at Karolinska Institute, Sweden. He earned his MD in Preventive Medicine from Shandong University and MS in Epidemiology from Fudan University. He is interested in the intersection of telomere, cardiovascular disease, and aging. His current work is focused on telomere length shortening and its role in cardiovascular diseases and neurodegenerative disorders. Yiqiang intends to pursue further training and research in aging epidemiology, particularly from molecular and clinical perspectives. He enjoys reading and running (physical activity is beneficial for both telomere and cardiovascular diseases).

DRP1 Regulates Cardiovascular Calcification (p 220)

Dr Maximillian (Max) Rogers, a Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School Research Fellow, works in Dr Elena Aikawa’s lab at the Center for Interdisciplinary Cardiovascular Sciences at Harvard Medical School. Max earned his BS and BA degrees at the University of Washington, and his PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Dartmouth. His research focuses on cardiovascular calcification, atherosclerosis, mitochondria, inflammation, and lipids. The Aikawa lab motto is, “Think outside the box,” which encouraged Max to look at cardiovascular calcification and DRP1, a mitochondrial dynamics protein also associated with neurological disorders. In his limited free time, Max enjoys traveling, reading, and watching Red Sox games.

PVM and Aβ-Induced Neurovascular Dysfunction (p 258)

Dr Laibaik Park is an Assistant Professor in the Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute at Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY. He earned his BS in Biology at Chosun University in South Korea and his PhD in neurophysiology at the University of Saskatchewan (Canada). He completed his postdoctoral training at Weill Cornell. His research is focused on the neurovascular mechanisms underlying Alzheimer disease and vascular dementia, with the ultimate goal of developing new therapeutic strategies to ease the burden of dementia. When not in the lab, he loves spending time with his wife and two kids and exploring New York City.

T Cell-Dependent Antibodies Limit Atherosclerosis (p 270)

Dr Andrew Sage earned his BS in Biochemistry at the University of Manchester and stayed to do his PhD on vascular calcification with Professor Ann Canfield. He continued this work at UCLA in the lab of Dr Linda Demer before returning to the UK to join the newly established lab of Dr Ziad Mallat at the University of Cambridge, working on adaptive immune responses in atherosclerosis. He quickly became focused on B-cell biology and is now pursuing this fulltime after obtaining independent funding from the British Heart Foundation. In his free time, he loves to travel and is slowly moving up his squash league.
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