

## Meet the First Authors

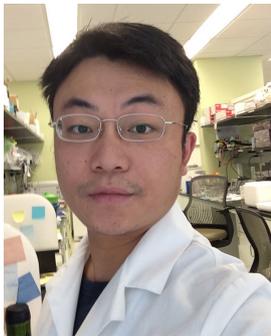
*Circulation Research*

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### **lncRNA HypERlnc Regulates Pericyte Function (p 368)**

**Florian C. Bischoff** is currently a medical student at the Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany, where he completed his MD thesis in the Institute of Cardiovascular Regeneration, led by Stefanie Dimmeler. His interest in cardiovascular medicine is based on the belief that vascular diseases are the foundation of many important medical conditions. Florian's work focuses on the function of noncoding RNAs in pericytes. Despite the rigors and struggle of a life in research, Florian remains fascinated by the work. When not conducting research or completing his medical studies, he plays an acceptable version of "Stairway to Heaven" on the guitar.



### **Omics Profiling of Early Cardiac Differentiation (p 376)**

**Dr Qing Liu** is currently a postdoctoral fellow in Michael Snyder's laboratory in the Department of Genetics, Stanford University School of Medicine. He started toxicology research as an undergraduate student in Nanjing University, China. He earned his PhD in Molecular Biology at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, where he focused on molecular toxicology using fish models. Currently, Qing's research focuses on understanding and delineating the mechanisms by which toxins affect early-life development using human stem cells as a model system. His approaches include both computational and experimental biology. His long-term goal is to become an independent investigator of molecular and systems toxicology. In his free time, he is enthusiastic about science fiction and soccer (a Juventus fan!).



### **hMSC Effects on Contraction and Arrhythmogenesis (p 411)**

**Joshua Mayourian** earned a combined BE/ME in Chemical Engineering at The Cooper Union in Chemical Engineering. Following two summers of undergraduate research fellowships in the Costa Laboratory at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, he was admitted to the MSTP program. He has since taken an unorthodox track, beginning full-time PhD work following his first year of medical school, under the mentorship of Dr Kevin Costa. Josh's work combines computational and experimental approaches to understand drug and stem cell effects on cardiac tissue. Outside of lab, Josh enjoys spending time with family, and playing/coaching basketball. He aspires to pursue a research residency in internal medicine.



### **Cox4i2 in Acute Pulmonary Oxygen Sensing (p 424)**

**Dr Natascha Sommer** works as a physician scientist in the Excellence Cluster Cardiopulmonary System, University of Giessen, as part of an international group focusing on bench-to-bedside research in pulmonary diseases under the mentorship of Norbert Weissmann. She received her MD in 2003 from Friedrich-Alexander University, Erlangen, and her PhD in veterinary medicine and medicine from Justus-Liebig-University, Giessen, Germany in 2011. Her research interests center on the role of mitochondria in physiological and pathological processes of the pulmonary vasculature, particularly related to hypoxia. Early in her medical education, she became fascinated by these complex cell organelles when performing spectrophotometric analyses on mitochondria during hypoxia. Since then, she has pursued her research passion as well as worked as clinical practitioner, made possible by strong personal and infrastructural support in her department.

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### Temporal Dynamics of Post-MI Tissue Composition (p 439)

**Dr Rodrigo Fernández-Jiménez** earned his MD from the University of Zaragoza, and his specialization in Cardiology at San Carlos University Hospital in Madrid, Spain. He also holds an MS in Research Methodology in Health Sciences. In 2012, he joined Dr Borja Ibanez's lab at the Spanish National Center for Cardiovascular Research (CNIC), completing a 4-year, full-time training program in translational research with a specialization on myocardial ischemia/reperfusion and imaging. In 2016, Rodrigo moved to New York to diversify his competences in the field of cardiovascular health promotion, and continues his reach under the mentorship of Dr Valentin Fuster at Mount Sinai Hospital. Rodrigo enjoys travelling and swimming. He strongly believes in motivation, and his favorite motto is "move on."

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