

Meet the First Authors

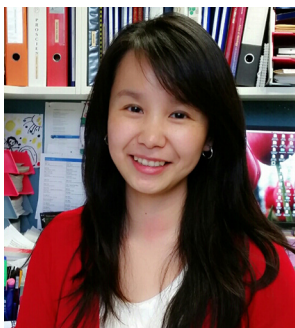
Circulation Research

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Deletion of Nox1 Rescues Microvascular Function (p 502)

Dr Jennifer Thompson is a newly appointed Assistant Professor with the Libin Cardiovascular Institute in the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary. She earned her BS in Kinesiology and PhD in Physiology from Western University, Ontario. Her PhD project focused on the influence of intrauterine growth restriction on cardiovascular development and later cardiovascular function. Her postdoctoral work, supported by the NIH Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00) and the American Heart Association, was undertaken at Augusta University. Dr Thompson's current research aims to understand how the maternal metabolic state acts through the intrauterine environment to shape disease risk in succeeding generations, an emerging concept with implications for the treatment and prevention of heart disease. Dr Thompson has 2 children and enjoys spending time with her family when she is not in the lab.



ARHGAP18 Protects Against Aneurysm Formation (p 512)

Dr Renjing Liu earned her BS in Biochemistry from the University of Sydney and her PhD at the same institution in 2010. She completed her postdoctoral training at the Yale Stem Cell Center with Dr In-Hyun Park studying iPSC and DNA methylation, and later at the Yale Cardiovascular Research Center with Dr Kathleen Martin, exploring mechanisms involved in vascular smooth muscle cell plasticity. Dr Liu was recruited to the Centenary Institute in Sydney in 2013 to head her own laboratory that focuses on epigenetic regulation in the cardiovascular system. Dr Liu is also a Senior Lecturer at the University of Sydney, and is passionate about training the next generation of young scientists. She has a penchant for chocolate and enjoys fishing.



Allele Specific Silencing for Dominant CPVT (p 525)

Dr Rossana Bongianino earned her PhD in Genetics, Molecular and Cellular Biology at the University of Pavia in 2015 and is now a postdoctoral fellow in the Lab of Dr Silvia Priori. She received her MS in Molecular Biology and Genetics from the University of Pavia. Her research interest is focused on molecular genetics and inherited arrhythmias. The curiosity and the pleasure of discovery have always characterized her life and led her to propose a molecular strategy for the treatment of the dominant form of CPVT. She is a passionate young scientist who believes that, although the life of a researcher can be hindered by sacrifices and challenges, participating in scientific progress is always the best reward. When not exploring her passion for science, Rossana loves to watch nature documentaries, garden, and travel with friends.

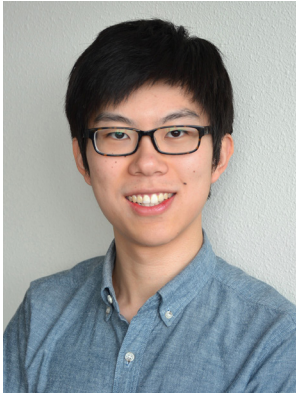


Notch and Sick Sinus Syndrome (p 549)

Catherine Lipovsky is a PhD student in Developmental, Regenerative, and Stem Cell Biology at Washington University in St. Louis in the lab of Dr Stacey Rentschler. She received her BS in Biology with double minors in Philosophy and Psychology from Bradley University in 2013. Her fascination with cardiovascular research began when she was 9 years old and her father received a successful heart transplant. She is interested in understanding the molecular mechanisms underlying cardiac development and disease and utilizing this information for regenerative medicine and therapeutics. When not in the lab, she enjoys running and hiking with her husband, Philip, and spending time with her 2 cats, Mr Miogi and Zoe.

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Notch and Sick Sinus Syndrome (p 549)

Yun Qiao is a PhD candidate in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Washington University in St. Louis, and is coadvised by Dr Stacey Rentschler and Dr Igor Efimov. He previously earned his BS in Biomedical Engineering with a minor in Chemistry from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Believing in the power of interdisciplinary research and collaboration, Yun has diverse research interests in areas of cardiac arrhythmia mechanisms, novel devices for drug screening, and enabling technologies for cardiovascular research. Outside the lab, he loves cycling, hiking, and spending time with his family.



Inactivation of Sirt3 and SOD2 in Hypertension (p 564)

Dr Anna Dikalova is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Clinical Pharmacology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN. She received her PhD from the Institute of Cytology and Genetics of Russian Academy of Science. In 1999, she completed a postdoctoral training in NIEHS in the free radical laboratory of Dr Ronald P. Mason. She does multidisciplinary research using EPR, molecular biology, and physiology. Her research is focused on the regulation and targeting of oxidative stress in hypertension. Anna is very enthusiastic about her research and interested in discovering novel mitochondria-targeted therapeutics for cardiovascular diseases. Outside of the lab, she loves gardening, flowers, opera, and classical music.



Inhibition of Meg3 Prevents Cardiac Remodeling (p 575)

Maria-Teresa Piccoli is a PhD candidate at the Hannover Medical School and works at the Institute of Molecular and Translational Therapeutic Strategies under the supervision of Dr Thomas Thum. After studying classical music for 12 years, she obtained a Master's degree in Medical Biotechnology from the University of L'Aquila (Italy), where she first developed her interest in noncoding RNAs. As a Master's student, she investigated the expression of microRNAs in a mouse model of diet-induced progressive hepatic injury. Her current work is focused on the role of long noncoding RNAs in the development of cardiac fibrosis and on their potential as therapeutic targets for the treatment of cardiovascular pathologies. She is interested in science communication and believes in the power of education to transform lives. When she is not in the laboratory, she enjoys spending time with her family, writing, reading, and dancing Argentine tango.

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