

Meet the First Authors

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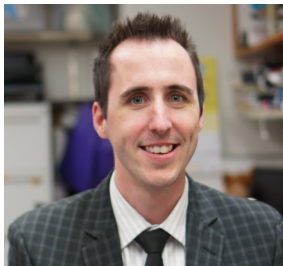
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Genome Editing Therapy for DMD Cardiomyopathy (p 923)

Dr Mona El Refaey earned her BS from Cairo University in Egypt and then she moved to the United States to pursue advanced training in research. She received her PhD in Molecular and Regenerative Medicine from Georgia Regents University (under the mentorship of Dr Carlos M. Isales), where she studied mesenchymal stem cells and the effect of aging on their major signaling pathways and environment. Then, she moved to The Ohio State University for postdoctoral training (in the Dorothy M. Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute under the leadership of Dr Peter J. Mohler). Currently, she is focusing on recent technologies like gene editing, their use in therapeutics and molecular mechanisms underlying heart diseases. Outside work, she likes reading and traveling. Her dream is to translate science to the bedside.



Resident MerTK Cleavage in Heart (p 930)

Dr Matthew DeBerge is currently a postdoctoral fellow in Edward Thorp's laboratory in the Department of Pathology in the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University. He completed his undergraduate studies at Illinois State University and obtained his PhD from the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College. Matt's current research focuses on the role of efferocytosis by cardiac macrophages in tissue repair and inflammation resolution after cardiac injury. He hopes this will lead to an independent research career investigating the evolutionary significance of inflammatory responses and their relationship to homeostasis and disease. Outside of the lab, Matt enjoys spending time with his wife and son, working out, and watching the defending World Champion Chicago Cubs.



Mast Cells Granule Contents Exacerbate DVT in Mice (p 941)

Dr Tatyana Ponomaryov earned her MSc in Organic Chemistry, and then completed her PhD in hematopoietic stem cells at the Weizmann Institute of Science with Dr Tsvee Lapidot. She is fascinated by niche signals that guide stem cells' fate. During her postdoctoral training at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston with Prof Rosalind Segal, she investigated how stem cells originating in brain tumors would respond to targeted therapy. Upon moving across the pond to the University of Birmingham, she returned to studying vascular stem cells, this time investigating their role in venous thrombosis. Her motto is, "go out of your comfort zone and bring a fresh vision," something she finds easy to do spending time with her family and three kids, changing countries and learning new things.



TLR2 Promotes Thrombosis in Hyperlipidemia (p 951)

Dr Sudipta Biswas earned her BS and MS in Biology from the University of Kalyani, India, and her PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. Currently she is working as a Research Associate in Dr Podrez's laboratory in the Department of Molecular Cardiology at Cleveland Clinic. Sudipta's current research focuses on the role of platelet innate immune signaling cascade in the prothrombotic phenotype associated with hyperlipidemia. Sudipta has been awarded a Postdoctoral Fellowship from the American Heart Association for her research. In the future, she wants to investigate the specific role of platelets in immunity. Besides science, she loves hiking, outdoor activities, photography, gardening, and experimental cooking.

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miRNAs as Biomarkers After Stroke (p 970)

Dr Steffen Tiedt earned his MD from Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich under the supervision of Dr Madgalena Götz investigating the stem cell capacity of reactive astrocytes. Intent on becoming a clinician-scientist, he is now a PhD candidate in the Graduate School of Systemic Neurosciences at the Institute for Stroke and Dementia Research under the supervision of Dr Martin Dichgans and a resident in neurology. His research focuses on using blood-based biomarkers in ischemic stroke patients to guide clinical decision-making in the future. Outside the lab, he loves to escape city life by running trails in the mountains, just thinking about the next step.

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