

## Meet the First Authors

*Circulation Research*

■ Vol. 122

■ No. 5

■ March 2, 2018



### Infections, Trained Immunity, and Atherosclerosis (p 664)

**Dr Jenneke Leentjens** completed both her undergraduate degrees and her MD at the Leuven Catholic University in Belgium. She earned her PhD in the field of immunomodulation in severe infections in 2016, under the mentorship of Mihai Netea and Peter Pickkers, and is currently finishing her residency in vascular internal medicine at the Radboud University Medical Center in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. While working in the laboratory of Dr Niels Riksen and Dr Mihai Netea (Radboud University), she shifted her research focus from the field of immunomodulation in infections towards investigating the role of innate immune memory (“trained immunity”) in atherosclerosis. She is married and a mother of a son and a daughter. When time allows, she enjoys playing volleyball and cooking, and she likes to listen to music that makes her happy.



### Clonal Expansion of Endothelial Cells (p 670)

**Dr Yosif Manavski** is a postdoctoral fellow in Stefanie Dimmeler’s lab, working at the Institute for Cardiovascular Regeneration, Goethe University, Frankfurt. Yosif went to high school in Bulgaria. He obtained his BS in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology at the University of Hamburg, and then moved to Frankfurt for his PhD, where he joined the integrin signaling group headed by Dr Chavakis. Since 2014, he has been working in the field of cardiovascular research and vascular regeneration and is searching for new molecular mechanisms for treatment of cardiovascular disease. In his current study, by using the lineage tracing “confetti” mouse, he is trying to elucidate a certain source of endothelial cells, which have the possibility to proliferate under hypoxic/stress conditions. He was chosen as a finalist for the *ATVB* Early Career Investigator Award during the AHA Scientific Sessions 2017 in Anaheim, California. During his leisure time, he enjoys triathlons and loves cooking good and healthy food.



### Improved Survival Upon Suppression of FOXO TFs in Laminopathies (p 678)

**Dr Gaëlle Auguste** is a postdoctoral fellow in the Center for Cardiovascular Genetics, directed by Dr Marian at the Institute of Molecular Medicine at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. She became interested in cardiovascular diseases when she was an undergraduate student at the University of Poitiers. After completing a PhD at Paris-Sud University (mentor, Dr J.P. Benitah), she overcame her fears of cowboys (and of her new PI, Dr Marian), and joined the Center as a fresh postdoctoral fellow. Her research is focused on understanding the underlying mechanisms responsible for cardiomyopathies caused by Lamin A/C mutations. Despite the lack of croissants, baguettes, and cheese, she succeeded in finding FOXO transcription factors as major regulators of the cardiac phenotype in laminopathies. Though she is seldom far from the lab, Dr Auguste enjoys traveling with her French husband. As expected from any honorable French person, she tries to take advantage of every holiday and vacation.

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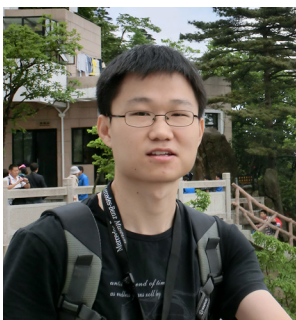
### TRAF-1 Dissects Inflammation and Metabolism (p 693)

**Dr Nathaly Anto Michel** grew up in Mexico, studied biomedical sciences at Universidad Autonoma del Estado de México, and moved to the Atherogenesis Research Group at the University of Freiburg, Germany, to pursue her MS in Biology, where she helped develop a peptide inhibitor to block leukocyte recruitment into atherosclerotic lesions. Inspired by the work of her mentors, Dr Andreas Zirlik and Dennis Wolf, she decided to stay in Freiburg, earning her PhD in 2017. She continues to work on inflammatory signaling in cardio-metabolic disease. Nathaly enjoys the challenge of solving puzzles, both in the lab and for fun. She is thrilled to understand how disease develops, and she loves the practical aspects of her work in the lab, especially when work becomes super stressful. In her free time, she loves reading books, watching movies, and dancing, although her supervisor keeps telling her that if there was any time left at the end of day, she could always ask for more work to do! Maybe that is why her scientific motto has become, “There is always something to do.”



### E2F1 Suppresses EPC Metabolism and Differentiation (p 701)

**Dr Shiyue Xu** is currently a postdoctoral fellow in Dr Gangjian Qin’s lab in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr Xu earned his MD and PhD from Sun Yat-sen University in China. His PhD thesis work was completed in Dr Qin’s lab, where he was a visiting student and awarded an AHA predoctoral fellowship for his study on the role of SDF-1/CXCR4 axis in stem cell calcium signaling and cell trafficking. After PhD training, Dr Xu returned to China and completed his Internal Medicine Residency. In 2017, he rejoined Dr Qin’s lab for postdoctoral training. Dr Xu’s long-term research interest is stem cell biology and regenerative medicine. Outside of the lab, he enjoys travelling and hanging out with his friends.



### AMPK $\alpha$ 2 Increases Mitophagy in HF (p 712)

**Dr Bei Wang** is 30 years old and grew up in Wuhan, a famous and beautiful city located in central China. He earned a BS in Clinical Medicine from Tongji Medical College of Huazhong University of Science and Technology in 2006. Then in 2012, he became fascinated with the heart and selected cardiology as his major for an MS degree, mainly focusing on pathophysiological mechanisms of cardiac hypertrophy and heart failure. In 2017, he completed his PhD training with Dr Dao Wen Wang in the department of Cardiology at Tongji Hospital Affiliated to Tongji Medical College of Huazhong University of Science and Technology. He is currently a fellow in the department of Rheumatology, in Tongji Hospital, Wuhan, and hopes to pursue further postdoctoral research in America in the next 2 to 3 years. His motto is, “Nothing is impossible to a willing heart!” No matter what difficulties are encountered in scientific research or clinical work, he will try to find a solution. He strives to make a contribution to the field in his future scientific work. Like most young people, he enjoys sports and listening to music. He dreams of traveling around the world in the future, if time and energy allows.

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### (Pro)renin Receptor Regulates Lipid Metabolism (p 730)

**Liwei Ren** is a PhD candidate at the Erasmus Medical Center in the Netherlands under the supervision of Dr A.H. Jan Danser and Dr Xifeng Lu. She earned a BS in Traditional Chinese medicine at Shandong University of Traditional Chinese Medicine and an MS in Pathology and Pathophysiology from Jinan University. Liwei's primary research interest focuses on atherosclerosis and metabolic syndromes. She is very handy with mouse surgery, but she hopes that, in the near future, we can use animal-free models to study how to treat human disease. Her favorite food is mushrooms (as long as they aren't poisonous!), and her favorite movie is *Central do Brasil*. She enjoys playing badminton and volleyball, and making handicrafts, such as pottery, cross stitch, and Chinese knots.



### (Pro)renin Receptor Regulates Lipid Metabolism (p 730)

**Yuan Sun** is a PhD student at the Erasmus Medical Center in the Netherlands, under the supervision of Dr A.H. Jan Danser and Dr Xifeng Lu. She earned a BS in Biotechnology from Shenzhen University. After earning her MS from Newcastle University, she enrolled in the joint PhD program between Shenzhen University and Erasmus Medical Center, and since then has been studying lipid metabolism and cardiovascular diseases. Yuan is interested in understanding protein degradation control by Vacuolar H<sup>+</sup>-ATPase and E3 ubiquitinase. After work, she likes jogging with her lovely Golden Retriever named "Diandian." She also enjoys traveling around the world, and loves taking photos.



### Therapeutic Potential of Osteocrin for MI (p 742)

**Dr Takahiro Miyazaki** earned his MD in 2010 from the Hamamatsu University School of Medicine, Shizuoka, followed by 4 years of training in Internal Medicine at Chigasaki Municipal Hospital. In April 2014, he moved to the National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center Research Institute, Osaka, and he has been a PhD student in Dr Naoki Mochizuki's laboratory. Takahiro's current research is focused on the therapeutic effect of natriuretic peptides on ischemic heart disease. He is also interested in the contribution of immune systems in the cardiac diseases. His dream is to translate science to the bedside. His favorite phrase is, "if you can dream it, you can do it"; hence, "if he can do science, he can save the patients." Outside the laboratory, Takahiro enjoys swimming, traveling, watching airplanes at the airport, and spending time with his family and friends.

# Circulation Research

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION



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*Circ Res.* 2018;122:640-642

doi: 10.1161/RES.0000000000000200

*Circulation Research* is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231

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Print ISSN: 0009-7330. Online ISSN: 1524-4571

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World Wide Web at:

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