

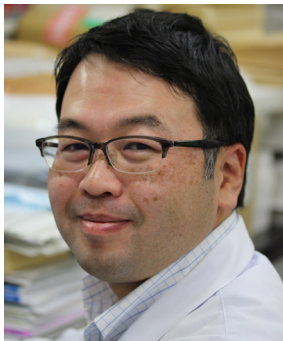
Meet the First Authors

Circulation Research ■ Vol. 122 ■ No. 8 ■ April 13, 2018



Role of ER Protein TXNDC5 in Cardiac Fibrosis (p 1052)

Ying-Chun Shih is 26 years old, born and raised in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. She earned her BS in microbial immunology and biopharmaceuticals from the National Chiayi University in Taiwan. She is currently a PhD student in Dr Kai-Chien Yang's lab in the Graduate Institute and Department of Pharmacology, National Taiwan University School of Medicine. She is fascinated by cardiovascular physiology and decided to join Dr Yang's lab to study molecular mechanisms leading to cardiac fibrosis and heart failure. As her thesis project, she identified TXNDC5 as an important player in the development of cardiac fibrosis and myocardial dysfunction, both in human and mouse. There have been ups and downs while she worked on this project, but she kept on pushing through it with patience and perseverance, no matter how much difficulty and pressure she was facing. When she is not doing experiments, she likes to go hiking, dancing, or play table tennis. As a young scientist, she is always eager to learn, never content with the status quo, and not afraid to take on new challenges.



Muse Cells Repair the Acute Myocardial Infarction (p 1069)

Dr Yoshihisa Yamada is an Assistant Professor of Cardiology at Gifu University Graduate School of Medicine in Japan. He earned a BS in Biology from Mie University of Japan, and then earned a PhD in Cardiology at Gifu University Graduate School of Medicine under the mentorship of Dr Minatoguchi, where he contributed to a variety of research projects. He previously reported that administration of erythropoietin-encapsulated liposomes reduced myocardial infarct size and improved LV remodeling and function using a rabbit model of myocardial infarction. He is interested in tissue repair after acute myocardial infarction through cytokines, such as G-CSF and erythropoietin, and stem-cell therapy. Currently, he is engaged in research on regenerative medicine involving Muse cells. Outside of science, his enjoys driving and watching movies. He spends holidays with his family and recently taught his children how to ride a bicycle.



Hyperpolarized MRI of Cardiac Inflammation (p 1084)

Dr Andrew J.M. Lewis is currently a Specialist Registrar in Cardiology and Internal Medicine at the Great Western Hospital, Swindon, UK. He completed his medical training at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 2008, with subsequent clinical training in London, Auckland, and Oxford prior to doctoral studies at the University of Oxford in 2017 under the mentorship of Drs Damian Tyler, Oliver Rider, and Stefan Neubauer. His major research interest is in molecular imaging of the cardiovascular system and, in particular, the applications of an emerging technology called hyperpolarized magnetic resonance to noninvasively understand metabolic and immunologic mechanisms in myocardial diseases. As a clinician-scientist in training, Andrew intends to pursue further translational cardiovascular research in hyperpolarized magnetic resonance, while undertaking specialist clinical training in cardiovascular imaging and devices. Outside of medicine, Andrew enjoys skiing, sailing, and cycling, and spending time with his wife and 1-year-old son.

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Renal Lymphatics and Hypertension (p 1094)

Catalina Lopez Gelston is a Research Assistant in Dr Brett Mitchell's laboratory at Texas A&M College of Medicine. She earned her BS in Biomedical Sciences from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. Her research focuses on understanding the inflammatory mechanisms underlying the development of hypertension, and the possible contribution of renal lymphatic vessels to the progression or regression of this disease. She is currently investigating the role that renal lymphatics play in renal immune cell accumulation and inflammation in hypertension and whether modulating renal lymphatics can improve kidney health and lower blood pressure. Growing up in Harlingen, Texas, she saw the devastating effects of cardiovascular disease and hypertension on the Hispanic population in South Texas, which motivated her to join the research team of Dr Mitchell. Their long-term goal is to develop a safe and effective therapy for hypertension that targets the renal lymphatics. Catalina aspires to become a physician and is currently applying to medical school. In her spare time, Catalina enjoys playing soccer, watching films, and spending time with her friends and family.



ST-Segment Elevation and Cardioprotection (p 1102)

Dr Petra Kleinbongard earned an MS in Biology from the Ruhr-University Bochum. She then completed her PhD thesis on NO metabolism and the function of erythrocyte NO-synthase with Dr Kelm in the Department of Cardiology at the University of Düsseldorf. Impressed with the more translational aspects of cardiovascular research, upon completing her PhD, she began a postdoctoral fellowship at Dr Gerd Heusch's Institute for Pathophysiology at the University of Essen, which is the prime institution for translational cardiovascular research in Germany. There, she became involved in studies on coronary vasomotion in myocardial ischemia/reperfusion and on cardioprotection. Dr Heusch is a tough boss to work for, and this is a mixed blessing. Whenever she does an experiment, he suddenly appears in the lab and is breathing down the back of her neck! Then again, during an experiment on remote ischemic preconditioning, he watches the ECG on the computer screen, which is only used for surveillance and heart rate calculation, and notices changes in the ST-elevation during the protocol. He then makes Dr Kleinbongard go back and look systematically for it—voilà. In the future, Petra hopes to become further involved in the translational interface of basic research and clinical medicine in the field of cardioprotection. In her spare time, Petra enjoys cooking fast, tasty, and healthy meals, and exercising in nature to burn off the calories!



NAC and Cardiac Hypertrophy and Fibrosis in HCM (p 1109)

Lily Tan, RN, BSN, runs the patient care service and the clinical research programs at Center for Cardiovascular Genetics at the Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center–Houston. Over the last several years, she has recruited several thousand patients for molecular genetic studies and has successfully completed clinical trials. For the HALT-HCM study, despite all shenanigans of the principle investigator, and despite spending all weekends on bike riding with her family, she successfully screened over 200 patients with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and used her charm to recruit and randomize the patients. During the course of this clinical trial, and while on the ski slopes of Winter Park, she learned that patients knew better than the principle investigator on the merit, or the lack thereof (mostly the latter!), of N-acetylcysteine in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

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