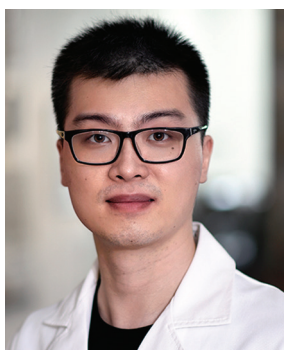


MEET THE FIRST AUTHORS



Fasting Restructures Microbiota and Lowers BP (p 1240)

Huanan Shi is a PhD candidate in the lab of Dr David Durgan at Baylor College of Medicine. He graduated with a BS in Physics from the Renmin University of China. He is passionate about innovation and discovering the unknown, which has been the main driving force behind his pursuit of science. In this project, he learned to integrate machine-learning techniques to address the basic science question at hand. His dissertation work will continue to focus on understanding the role of the gut microbe-host interaction in blood pressure regulation.



Dr Bojun Zhang is a postdoctoral associate in the lab of Dr David Durgan at Baylor College of Medicine. He graduated with a BS in Biology from Wuhan University. He earned his PhD in Biomedical Science at the University of New Mexico. He is enthusiastic about understanding the mechanisms leading to the development of cardiovascular disease. In this project, Bojun identified the role of bile acids in the development of hypertension. He continues to focus on understanding the mechanism of bile acid-mediated TGR5 signaling in blood pressure regulation.



CARMN Regulates Atherosclerosis via SMC Modulation (p 1258)

Dr Francesca Vacante is originally from Italy, where she earned her BS in Biology and MS in Functional Genomics, in Dr Mauro Giacca's lab. Fascinated by the molecular mechanisms underlying vascular pathology, she then pursued a PhD at the University of Edinburgh with Dr Andrew Baker, where she characterized the role of the long non-coding RNA/microRNA axis, CARMN, in atherosclerosis. Francesca is also a member of Edinburgh's Athena-SWAN SAT Committee and 500 Women in Science to empower women in academia, inspire the next generation, and promote equality and inclusion in science. Francesca enjoys trekking, kayaking and running, and believes aperitivo-time with friends should always be a priority! She can be found on Twitter@Fran_Vacante.



Dr Julie Rodor earned her PhD from the Université of Perpignan in France in the lab of Dr Manuel Echeverria, then moved to the University of Edinburgh as a post-doctoral fellow in Dr Javier Caceres' lab. Dr Rodor is currently a senior scientist in the lab of Dr Andrew Baker. Her research interests revolve around gene regulation and RNA biogenesis, including non-coding RNAs, in different contexts and models, with current work focusing on vascular biology and disease. Dr Rodor is particularly interested in using computational approaches to study endothelial and smooth muscle cells transcriptomes in physiological and pathological conditions. She can be found on Twitter @julie_rodor.



Cardiac Neuronal Control of the Sinoatrial Node (p 1279)

Dr Peter Hanna is a cardiology fellow and PhD candidate in Molecular, Cellular and Integrative Physiology at the UCLA. He earned his MD at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University, where he studied the genetics of atrial fibrillation with Drs Mina Chung and David Van Wagoner. After completing internal medicine residency at UCSF, he joined the UCLA Specialty Training and Advanced Research (STAR) program to study how the autonomic nervous system controls cardiac function with Drs Kalyanam Shivkumar and Jeffrey Ardell. He will soon begin advanced training in cardiac electrophysiology at UCLA on his path to becoming a physician-scientist. Outside of the lab, he enjoys cycling and spending time with his wife and dog. He can be found on Twitter @PeterHannaMD.



XPOI Inhibition and Heart Valve Calcification (p 1300)

Dr Punashi Dutta earned her BS and MS in India before relocating to the University of South Florida where she completed her PhD studies in 2015. She then joined Dr Joy's Lincoln as a postdoctoral fellow and obtained a 2 year AHA postdoctoral fellowship to investigate mechanisms underlying calcific aortic valve disease (CAVD). Dr Dutta is currently a Senior Research Scientist in the Lincoln lab and continues to explore mechanistic-based therapeutics for the treatment of CAVD in the setting of tri- and bi-cuspid aortic valves that, in the future, can be translated to the clinic.



S Protein Downregulation of ACE2 (p 1323)

Dr Jiao Zhang earned her MD from Xi'an Jiaotong University and conducted her PhD and postdoctoral training in Dr John Shyy's laboratory in University of California, San Diego. Her research has been focusing on the roles of AMPK and ACE2 in endothelial biology with an emphasis on pulmonary hypertension and atherosclerosis. She was awarded a "Young Investigator Award" from *ATVB* in 2018. To date, she has published 4 first-author papers in *AJRCCM*, *Circulation* and *Circ Res* and 13 co-author papers. As a young scholar, Dr Zhang's career goal is to seek opportunities in both industry and academics. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends.