

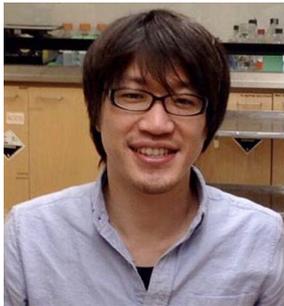
Meet the First Authors

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Hematopoietic Tet2, Dnmt3a, and Heart Failure (p 335)

Dr Soichi Sano is a research scientist at the University of Virginia, under the supervision of Dr Kenneth Walsh. He earned both his MD and PhD degrees at Osaka City University Medical School in Japan (mentor, Dr Minoru Yoshiyama). After working as a cardiologist in Japan with Dr Yoshiyama, he joined the Walsh Lab at Boston University in 2014 and moved to the University of Virginia when the lab relocated to Charlottesville in March 2018. Dr Sano's major research interest is in genome engineering, and he is currently applying CRISPR/Cas9 technology to hematopoietic stem cells to study the effects of hematopoietic mutant cells on cardiovascular disease. For him, science is a fascinating game rather than a job; he is consumed with it and can devote himself completely to the lab. Outside of the lab, he enjoys cooking and playing with his two lovely daughters, Riho and Rina. His personal life goal is to be a good father and to instill a love of cooking in his daughters.



Titin-Based Stiffness in Diabetic Hearts (p 342)

Dr Anna-Eliane Hopf earned her PhD in Physiology and Biomedical Sciences from the Heinrich-Heine University in Düsseldorf, Germany, in the laboratory of Dr Martina Krüger. She previously earned a BS in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Bonn, Germany, and the University of Aberdeen. She is currently a member of Dr Gudrun Rappold's lab at the University Clinic in Heidelberg, Germany. Anna's expertise is in molecular cardiology, most recently focusing on atrial fibrillation. In the lab, she likes to connect and collaborate with other scientists and have enthusiastic scientific discussion. Outside of the lab, Anna enjoys spending time with her family and (all the) food, except onions.



mROS Drive Sudden Death and Heart Failure (p 356)

Dr Swati Dey is currently a Research Associate Faculty member in the Division of Cardiology at the Johns Hopkins University. Dr Dey earned her PhD from the Ohio State University in Microbiology (mentor, Dr Robert Tabita) and transitioned to cardiovascular research during her postdoctoral training in the lab of Dr Brian O'Rourke at Johns Hopkins. She previously earned a BS in Biology from Patna University, India, and an MS in Biology from Banaras Hindu University, India. Her research is focused on dissecting the molecular and cellular mechanisms linking sudden cardiac death and heart failure. Her most recent work reveals how imbalances in oxidative stress, especially in mitochondria, play a pivotal mechanistic role in the pathogenesis of sudden death and heart failure. Her ongoing research employs an integrative systems biology approach to design and develop improved therapies for heart failure and sudden cardiac death, accounting for both cardiac and extracardiac regulation such as manipulation of the autonomic nervous system. Outside the lab, Swati is interested in exploring the connection between science and philosophy. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking and watching travel/food series. She practices yoga and is committed to finishing her yoga teacher training.

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mROS Drive Sudden Death and Heart Failure (p 356)

Dr Deeptankar DeMazumder is a physician-scientist in cardiac electrophysiology (EP). He earned his BS in Biochemistry from SUNY Stony Brook. His PhD dissertation under the mentorship of Dr James P. Dilger at SUNY Stony Brook on the kinetics and thermodynamics of ligand interactions was recognized for having “finally solved” a critical question posed by Dr Archibald V. Hill in 1909 on the Langmuir binding equation. His postdoctoral research under the mentorship of Dr Brian O’Rourke at the Johns Hopkins University was the first demonstration of the critical role of parasympathetic signaling in linking the pathophysiology and therapy of human and canine heart failure and sudden death risk. As an Assistant Professor of Medicine (Cardiology) and the Director of the Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence at the University of Cincinnati, Dr DeMazumder’s ongoing research is aimed at understanding fundamental issues in critical illness in the context of mechanism, systems integration, therapy, risk stratification, epidemiology, and prevention. As a basic scientist, practicing EP physician and clinical trialist, Dr DeMazumder’s research is centered on coming “full circle” from the bedside to the bench and back to the bedside, ie, by transforming clinical observations into testable research hypotheses, translating basic research findings into medical advances, and designing and evaluating patient treatment protocols in rigorous clinical trials. In addition to his academic pursuits, Dr DeMazumder has trained in various forms of martial arts since an early age and is a black belt in Shotokan Karate. His other hobbies include oil painting and the performing arts. He believes these add another dimension to his scientific and clinical pursuits, providing various conduits for viewing the external world as well as the internal world within us.



Vascular ADAM17 in Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm (p 372)

Dr Mengcheng Shen earned his BS in Animal Science (2009) followed by an MS in Nutrition (2012) at Nanjing Agricultural University, under the supervision of Dr Qiang Liu. Then he moved to Canada and started in the PhD program at the University of Alberta with Dr Zamanah Kassiri. Mengcheng’s main research interest is in understanding the roles of metalloproteinases in the pathogenesis of thoracic aortic aneurysm and identifying key cellular regulators of this disease. Aortic aneurysm is considered a “silent ticking time bomb” and usually is deadly if not discovered and treated before it ruptures. However, pharmacological treatments for aortic aneurysm are currently unavailable. Therefore, Mengcheng’s long-term research goal is to find druggable targets to treat this life-threatening vascular disease. Mengcheng defended his PhD in June and will be moving to Stanford University this fall as a postdoctoral fellow to conduct research on vascular regeneration therapy using iPSCs. Outside of the lab, Mengcheng enjoys painting, watching movies, cycling, and spending time with his family and friends.

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YAP Limits Endothelial Activation (p 389)

Dr Borjan Vrtovec is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Ljubljana and the Medical Director of the Advanced Heart Failure and Transplantation Program at the University Medical Center Ljubljana. After graduating from the University of Ljubljana Medical School, Dr Vrtovec went on to train in internal medicine, cardiology, and interventional cardiology at University Medical Center Ljubljana. He completed the Advanced Heart Failure and Transplantation Fellowship at the Texas Heart Institute in Houston and was a visiting professor at Stanford University School of Medicine. His research interests include novel therapeutic approaches to heart failure, heart transplantation, stem cell therapy, and mechanical circulatory support. Dr Vrtovec has been investigating the role of regenerative medicine in heart failure since 2003 and has conducted several clinical trials of cell therapy in patients with non-ischemic dilated cardiomyopathy. Due to significantly lesser amount of myocardial scarring when compared to patients with ischemic heart disease, the clinical effects of cell therapy in nonischemic dilated cardiomyopathy seem to be more pronounced. Thus, Dr Vrtovec aims to investigate whether or not such therapeutic approach would also benefit dilated cardiomyopathy patients with more advanced stages of the disease, including patients undergoing long-term mechanical circulatory support.